

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

8:30 a.m. Worship Service Only

Zion will have only one worship service

From November 1, 2009 – March 28, 2010

GOD'S BLESSING AND GOD'S SPEED!

Dear Members and Friends of Zion,

It has been amazing and wonderful for my family and me to receive all the cards and gifts and well wishes and especially the prayers over the past months since I suffered my stroke.

The end of August we finally discovered the cause of this stroke was a rare genetic disease called CADASIL, for which there is no treatment or cure.

Since then I have fought hard to return to my old self as your Sr. Pastor. As hard as it is, it is time for me to admit to myself and to all of you, I am no longer able to do the job necessary to be your pastor. To continue to try would be harmful to my health; and you deserve a pastor who can give his all to the congregation.

I leave Zion, not on a sad note, but rejoicing in all the wonderful memories I take with me. So many of you have blessed my life and my family's lives, and for that I will always be thankful. My resignation will be effective November 15 at which time the ELCA will grant me disability benefits.

Again, thank you all for giving me what have been the greatest years of my life. May God continue to richly bless you.

In the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ,

Your Fellow Servant,

Pastor Gary





PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

"I will not leave you or forsake you". These words from our Lord are very powerful for us at this time. We at Zion are facing changes, and as we all know, change is not easy for any of us. Change is especially difficult for a person facing a change in ones health. As a "stroke victim" (I will not be a "stroke survivor" until I can make one whole day without thinking about having had a stroke) I know the difficulty of having to change ones habits and style of life. We are now called upon to change our "old habits" to help our senior pastor who is also having to make changes in his life. We as children of God and congregation of Zion Lutheran Church are asked to make these changes and we do so with love, hope, and concern. We not only are thinking and praying for Pastor Gary and his family but also Pastor Ale as he takes over the helm and leads us through these choppy waters. We have a sister church to minister to and so we make these changes out of love, for all concerned, but mainly to our Lord Jesus Christ.

We will now be going to one service starting November 1 and will continue through the month of March. We will ask our sister church if they can change their service to either 15 or 30 minutes later, to give Pastor Ale more time to get there, especially now that the weather will be getting "winter and ice". The upside of this; the Sunday School will have more needed time to do justice to their lessons, they won't feel hurried and adults at forum will have more time for discussions on different issues and we may now have the needed time to bring in guest speakers or have a mini Bible Study on "What does the Bible say? In all difficult situations, comes good situations and this could be just that.

We are all ready seeing the glory of God's call to help others; the senior high students are going to help with home communion. All you "seasoned" Stephen Ministers", dust off your manuals and volunteer to help visit the homebound and nursing homes. We saw first hand what a congregation does in a time of crisis; the help that immediately went to Pastor Gary, the arms around each other, comforting and wiping away tears, our church stood shoulder to shoulder with such an outpouring of love and compassion; we need to carry this out now, more then ever.

I thank God daily for each of you, each one brings different gifts to the table and don't be afraid to let your light shine; you may think you have no special gifts to share, you are a gift, your life is the greatest gift you have, share it, be proud of it, maybe you can't make quilts or arrange beautiful bouquets, but you can wipe off a table, make coffee, put muffins on a plate; these are gifts and they are gifts from your maker and He has given them to you with no strings attached.

Let us go into these changes with a smile on our face and a song in our heart. God is in charge, He knows what He has planned; be a friend to those around you, thank God for all He has given us and continue to pray, pray, pray, it does a body and soul good. He put Pastor Gary into God's capable hands, as the rest of us. He will provide.

God's Blessings to each and everyone.

Judy Melby – President
681-7194 – melby16@q.com

ZION LUTHERAN ELCA SURVEY

Please complete survey and return it to basket in back of church or send it to:
Zion Parish Planning Council 505 Main Ave N., TRF

1) Do you agree with the recent changes in the ELCA Ministry Policies towards more open acceptance of homosexuality?
YESNO

2) Do you feel that more information is required as to the specific Ministry Policies changes?
YESNO

3) Do you feel that it is important for Zion Lutheran to establish a public position on the Ministry Policies?

4) Do you support the idea of pursuing other options outside of being an ELCA Lutheran Church?
YESNO

5) Would you be present at a congregational meeting to further discuss the ELCA changes, and options for our congregation to pursue?
YESNO

6) Do you feel that the Ministry Policies changes have any affect on the future direction of the Lutheran Church?
NO

7) Do you feel that this issue has been discussed enough already and no further discussion or action is needed?
YESNO

8) Do you feel that it is important to know where future pastors stand on the issue of the Ministry Policies?
YESNO

9) Are you considering finding a church not affiliated with the ELCA because of the Ministry Policies?
YESNO

Additional comments:

The Senior High Youth of Zion would like to invite all member of Zion (who are 70 years & older) and their spouses to

The 29th Annual Senior Citizen's Thanksgiving Dinner
Sunday evening, November 23 at 5 PM
In Zion's Fellowship Hall

We will have roast turkey and all the trimmings.

There is no cost but please call the church office at
681-3296 by Tuesday, Nov. 17 as we need numbers.

Please let us know if you will need a ride.

If you are unable to attend, but would like a meal delivered, please let us know.

Your Brothers & Sisters in Christ,
The Zion Senior High Youth

INN KEEPERS

By John Hulteen

“I WILL REPAY YOU.” Let's hope that person is talking to the friendly banker and not a loan shark. Seriously, I want you to put these first four words in the back of your mind and remember them.

Many years ago, when television was first available to the general public, Saturday mornings had many cartoons such as *Jellystone Park*, *Road Runner*, etc. These were the days of black and white, more correctly black, white and lots of snow. In one of the cartoons the author took a familiar stories, *Aesop's Fables*, for example, and fractured them. That made the stories more relevant to the present times but did not change the moral of the story.



I find myself often reading the stories that Jesus told and changing the names of the characters and still ending with a story that didn't change the thought that Jesus was trying to convey. One of the stories that Jesus told makes an interesting fractured parable. It is probably the best-known story in the Gospels. Many states have laws that use the story title. You are right; it is the story of the Good Samaritan.

Let me simply relate the high points of the story. The Good Samaritan is walking down a seemingly familiar road when he sees a person lying in the ditch. He goes down to help the person who is wounded, probably robbed and beaten. Binding the wounds, the Good Samaritan carries the person back to what seems to be a familiar inn. He tells the innkeeper to give him the best of care and then leaves a good amount of money for the innkeeper to use to provide that care. As the Samaritan gets ready to leave the inn, he says, "I am coming back this way, and when I do, if you have spent more money on this wounded person than I left, I will repay you."

OK. Let's change the characters a bit. I'm certain that you have already decided that Jesus is the Good Samaritan. The wounded Jew in the ditch is now all of the hurting, wounded hungry of the world. Jesus, the Good Samaritan, takes them all in His arms and carries them to the inn.

You and I are the innkeepers. Jesus says to us, the innkeepers, "I bring all the disadvantaged, the maladjusted, wounded people to you, and I leave these thoughts, 'I was hungry and you fed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was discouraged and you comforted me.'"

Remember when Jesus said, "If you have two coats and meet someone who doesn't have a coat..... (Allow me to paraphrase a bit), don't say to that person, 'Get a job, or there's a sale at Penney's'. Go buy a coat, but give it to the person who has none."

Remember the story of the widow who gave not from her surplus but from her poverty? Jesus says, "I'm giving you the responsibility of taking care of the poor, the hurting, the disadvantaged. I'm going to be gone for a while. I have a date with a cross, but I will be back this way, and when I come back, if you have done more for those that I left with you, those who needed help, those who were crying because they were hungry, those who were avoided because they were different, all those hurting people, then **I WILL REPAY YOU.**"

Frightening words, aren't they? Think about them again, Jesus saying, "If you the innkeepers have done more for all in this world who are hurting than I asked, **I WILL REPAY YOU.**"

What if Jesus, the Good Samaritan, came to your inn or to my inn today, would he owe us anything?

Women of Zion

Our next meeting will be a noon luncheon on Tuesday, November 10, 2009.

Rebekah Circle will have the program which will be our Thankoffering meeting. Sarah Circle will be hostess



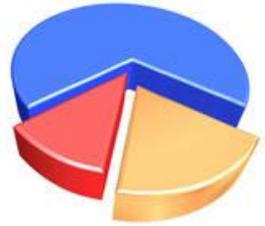
Zion Lutheran Church Parish Planning Council Minutes October 20, 2009

The Parish Planning Council was called to order by President Judy Melby at 7:00 P.M. In attendance: Judy Melby, Ginny Armstrong, Denny Minks, Sharon Hoglo, Deb Holtan, Amber Holtan, Bonnie Yost, Marijo Nabben, Sarah Harper, Chris Ueland, Connie Hamre, Jim Dalager and Karen Thygeson.

Devotions were led by Connie Hamre.

Secretary's Report: Ginny moved to accept the Secretary's report, seconded and carried.

Treasurer's Report: Ginny reminded all boards to have their budgets submitted by November 4th. Sharon Hoglo moved to transfer funds from the \$50,000 CD to pay for the general fund bills that were now due; Namely the balance of the parking lot expenses and the canopy. Denny moved to purchase a new copier for the office from Tony Dorn's. This is a Cannon IR 505 for \$11995. This will fulfill the needs for a copy machine in the office. Denny moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented, seconded, carried and filed for audit.



Deb Holtan reported there would be no prayer vigil this coming Saturday.

Amber Holtan reported Operation Christmas would be starting the first Sunday in November. She also asked to have clocks put into all Sunday school classrooms. Amber will be ordering Sunday school supplies for the winter classes. The Sunday school program will be on December 13th.

Chris Ueland reported there will be a recognition supper for Pastor Moyer and Florence shortly after the 1st of the year. He also stated that it is so important that we all make an extra effort to help our pastors with their daily duties.

President Judy extended sympathy to Deb and Amber in the loss of their Dad and Grandfather. She also asked us to continue our prayers for the Gina Anderson family.

The personnel board approved the continuing education time along with the sick leave and vacation time for Pastor Gary. Therefore Pastor Gary will be on leave for four weeks of excused absence. President Judy has asked us all to keep Pastor Gary in our prayers. Denny Minks stated that he has seen a great love of compassion, love and caring among the congregation and the desire to help where needed.

A motion was made and rescinded by Jim Dalager that a letter of content be sent to the Synod stating Zion Lutheran church of Thief River Falls will not be calling or accepting any gay pastor. Chris Ueland moved that a letter of content be sent to the Synod stating Zion Lutheran Church of Thief River Falls will not be calling or accepting any gay pastor or any pastor that supports the gay issue that was passed at National. Motion seconded and carried.

The carpet in the basement was discussed and tabled because there is asbestos under the carpet and the project at this time would be too costly. Sharon Hoglo moved to accept the offer from members Brad Buck and Roger Meunier to volunteer their time to professional clean the church. We would pay for the supplies and find helpers for them in helping move the furniture.

President Judy informed us that they are still looking into a phone system.

Bonnie Yost moved to hold one service each Sunday beginning with the first Sunday in November and continuing with one Sunday service until the end of March. There would be a second service for special church events when needed. Motion seconded, discussed and carried. Chris Ueland will inform the congregation on Sunday regarding this change.

Sarah Parker stated she would be teaching confirmation this week. She stated she is looking into summer trips for our youth closer to home, perhaps the Twin Cities area. She is looking for help of the 70 plus dinner to be held on November 22nd. The Synod Junior High gathering will be held on November 20th and 21st in Alex. This is for grades 6-8.

President Judy stated there will be a Prayer Gathering at Zion Lutheran Church of Thief River Falls at 7:00 P.M. on October 26th for Pastor Gary on his birthday.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next Parish Council Meeting will be November 17th at 7:00 P.M. with Bonnie Yost giving devotions.

Respectfully submitted: Karen Thygeson, Secretary

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THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who attended my birthday open house and to all of you who sent cards. Thanks for celebrating with me. God's blessing to you!

Doris Runger

Worship Board Minutes October 6, 2009

Present: Kristi Rood, Chris Ueland, Pastor Ale, Junelle Hoffer, Judy
Melby, Connie Peoples

Absent: Van Swanson, June Swanson

Devotions: Given by Chris

Old Business:

Altar Committee: Carol Waswick and Sandi Lubitz

Church Environment: Judy and Erika Melby were kind enough to take this endeavor for us, we truly appreciate the help !

Communion Assistants: June Swanson

Music: Chris

Acolytes: Junelle

Lay Readers: June and Junelle will take turns calling for lay readers

Feedback on Rally Sunday activities: ' Fun and nice ',,, next year need to do more advertising regarding timing of service and activities

Tentative date for a recognition supper for Pastor Moyer and Florence is set for 01/10/2010.

It was mentioned that all of us in the congregation may need to “step up” and help our pastors - if they feel there is a need for assistance. Next month the Worship Board will discuss Henry’s Communion List for the shut-ins, and how the congregation may help with that.

Meeting adjourned,
Closed with the Lord’s Prayer

From the Editor

“.....Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.” Psalm 81:10

Here God is talking to the Israelites and promising food during their 40-year journey in the wilderness. I didn’t know this promise was going to be fulfilled so delightfully for me. The day after I returned home after my hip replacement, a tasty meal of lasagna, bread sticks and apple pie was delivered to my house courtesy of Zion’s Meal in a Box.

I want to thank Zion and especially chef Judy Melby for this meal. My first reaction when Judy called and asked if I would like a meal delivered after my surgery was the typical Scandinavian one. “Thank you, but you rally don’t need to do that.”

It was, however, a most comforting gift. While my husband Jim is more than adequate as a cook, I kept him busy with my list of “go-fers” when I was confined to travel with a walker.

If you are returning home after a hospital stay, I suggest you contact the church. They Meal in a Box chefs will be more than happy to cook you a meal from your list of favorites.

Call Ione Poole at – 681-5998



Darlene Hulteen

Cook' s Corner

Nut Hash – circa 1918



Ingredients

2 tablespoons bacon drippings
2 tablespoons peanut butter
1 quart chopped cooked potatoes
1 cup broken nut meats
Salt and pepper to taste

2 tablespoons minced onion
1 cup milk
1 cup chopped celery
1 shredded green pepper

Directions

1. Put the drippings in a frying pan. Add the minced onion and fry until it is a deep yellow.
2. Add your peanut butter and milk next stirring constantly until everything comes to a boil.
3. Add potatoes, celery, nutmeats and green pepper. Season with salt and pepper then mix thoroughly.
4. Cook for 30 minutes over low flame stirring occasionally. Serve hot over noodles.