



Advent Before Christmas

Read Isaiah 2:1-5

If we're not careful, we could change the church year.

It may seem that Christmas is the next season after Thanksgiving is over. Advent seems to have been replaced by the countdown of shopping days until Christmas.

There is no Christmas without Advent.

Advent places our hope where hope is found.

It is in Advent that we hear the angel speaking to Mary, "Do not be afraid." Into the ordinary, all too predictable flow of her life came words which spoke of real hope. Are we different? Couldn't it be that in our predictable lives, that the routine is not as predictable as we thought?

It is the Gospel to say that God has acted to save and will act again. It is for us to be ready.

"The kingdom of heaven is near," Jesus said. In other words, there is hope even in crisis. There is light even in the deepest darkness. The sense of expectation that God will act to save is received as the good news that it is when we understand that God will act to save us.

In the Advent hymns, in the Holy Scripture, in Advent praying, in Christian proclamation, in acts of service, the Church will prepare us, and we will be ready. Advent will help us to be ready for the Nativity of our Lord.

Advent blessings,

Pastor John

2nd Annual Spirit of Giving



**Saturday, December 4
Zion Lutheran Church**

Gently used clothing, shoes, bedding, household items, Christmas items and boxes of diapers are needed. Please drop articles off starting Wednesday, December 1. Help is also needed to set up Friday, December 3 and work Saturday, December 4, 8:00 – 2:00.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 12

8:30 – Little Lambs - Grade 1

10:30 – Grades 2 - 5

Choir Concerts

Sunday, December 19

10:30 Worship Service

Senior Choir - Diane Johnson - Director
Campana Jubilante - Missy Borgan - Director
Chosen - Rebecca Houske – Director
God's Joy - Mandi Bothum - Director
Narrators: Carol Narverud and Dan Narverud



Christmas Eve Worship Services

Friday, December 24

4:00 – Worship Service

10:00 – Communion Service



Zion Lutheran Church Parish Planning Council Minutes November 16, 2010

The Parish Planning Council was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President, Connie Hamre. In attendance were: Pastor John, Pastor Ale', Connie Hamre, Chris Ueland, Ginny Armstrong, Marijo Nabben, Kristi Rood, Deb Howe, Bonnie Yost, Tim Numedahl, Lyle Paulson, Deb Holtan, Sarah Harper and Karen Thygeson. Responding at roll call with reasons why we are thankful.

Devotions were led by Bonnie Yost and at our next meeting will be given by Chris Ueland.

Marijo Nabben moved to accept the secretary's report as written, seconded and carried. Ginny Armstrong presented the treasurer's report. She reminded the board chairmen that their 2011 budget requests are due by December 1st. Bonnie Yost moved to accept Pastor John's housing, seconded and carried. Marijo Nabben moved to budget \$30,000 for the 2011 budget earmarked for the Synod; the same as this year; seconded and carried. Marijo Nabben moved to remove Oak Grove from the 2011 budget, seconded and carried. Chris Ueland moved to keep Lutheran Social Services 2011 budget at \$3,000; seconded and carried. Bonnie Yost moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented; seconded and carried.

Lay Ministry/Evangelism Board: Deb Holtan reports 8 adults and 3 children were welcomed as new members.

Public Relations: Deb Howe and Darlene Hulteen reported on their meetings with church directory groups. They presented directories as well as options and choices to make for the new church directory. After review, Ginny Armstrong moved to use Life Touch to make our new church directory. More information will be coming regarding this project in the near future. Deb reminded us that Zion has December as our month to aid our local food shelf.

Fellowship Board: Bonnie Yost presented a letter that will be going out regarding the Spirit of Giving to be held on December 4th. She reported on the past two pot luck dinners that had been held. February Fling will be held on February 13th this year.

Christian Education/Youth Board: Youth Director, Sarah Harper reports that the Christmas program for the Sunday School will be on December 12th; Little Lambs thru 1st grade will participate at the 8:30 A.M. service and 2nd thru 5th grade at the 10:30 A.M. service. They are reviewing and implementing a fire escape plan to use while the children are in attendance at Sunday School.

Youth Director: Sarah Harper reported on the youth activities at Zion. She has been pleased at the response for the activities as well as the attendance. She encouraged our attendance for Flapjacks for Faith coming up this next Sunday.

Worship Board: Kristi Rood reported on their committee activities.

Properties Board: Lyle Paulson reported work is in progress for our sound system. The Christmas wreaths will be hung on November 27th for the holiday season.



Pastor's Report: Pastor Ale' suggested having confirmation every Wednesday next year so that there is time to cover the information they need to cover. He also stated that the 2nd graders will receive bibles next year. He suggested putting a large wall TV with a DVD in the meeting room for permanent use. He stated that 8 adults are going on the Ethiopia trip; of which 5 are members of Zion. They will begin the trip by flying to W.D.C. on January 16th and flying out the next morning from there.

Pastor John reports he has established goals and suggests ways we can reach them. He reviewed our stewardship goals and what we still need to do to reach them. He reminded us that the staff meets at 9:30 am on Tuesdays and that phone calls are usually not answered during that time.

Chris Ueland will look into obtaining and placing name plates on the Pastor's doors.

Ginny Armstrong moved to adjourn at 8:20 P.M.; seconded and carried and followed by the Lord's Prayer. Next Parish Council Meeting will be December 21, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted: Karen Thygeson, Secretary

ZLCW Christmas Tea

**Tuesday, December 14
2:00 Fellowship Hall**

Program – Executive Board
Hostesses – All Circles – 6 treats each
Hospitality – Esther
Visitation – Sending Christmas cards

Installation of new officers.



President's Message:

Connie Hamre

"For unto us a child is born, for unto us a child is given"

He is the reason for the season. What a wonderful gift from God. He made his son mortal, so he could walk among us. Now that's a reality show in the extreme.

This time of year is so special. It is a great time for family and friends to get together, and celebrate. How you will celebrate? I look forward to gathering with fine meals, and reconnecting with loved ones. The special music, especially the pagentry of the Christmas programs, at church. There is something about the children speaking of the birth of Jesus that makes it so precious. The chance to brighten the day for our fellowman. The opportunity to share, with others less fortunate. To pray for those in their time of need. These are all activities that brings out the joy in others.

Our boards have been busy with "The Spirit of Giving" project. It was so successful last year, that it has been expanded. They are gathering clothes (especially winter clothes), and toys so others can have a better Christmas. If you have things that you can donate, I am sure it would be appreciated. They will be having the giving, on December 4th.

On December 12th, we will be blessed with children's Christmas programs, for both services. The children and their teachers have something special lined up for us. To "have faith like a child", is one of God's many blessings.



As I look outside my window, I see the snow falling, and everything looks so clean and new. A fresh start, that glistens in the sun. The sparkle that seems to twinkle, as the star did on the night of Jesus' birth. The beginning of a fantastic life, that would have a huge influence around the world, and for the many ages to come for mankind.

As the year of 2010, comes to a close, I would like to reflect on the many blessing received. It is with a heartfelt THANK YOU!!! to all the boards and the council, for all their help and support in this time of change and growth. We could not have accomplished all the things we did, with out you! Most of all, I appreciate all of the members of the congregation for their many kindnesses, and words of encouragement. When things were especially tough, their faith helped bring us through. God bless you all!

My hope for you, is to have a truly blessed and Merry Christmas, and Happy 2011!

Courage in Christ,
Connie Hamre
President

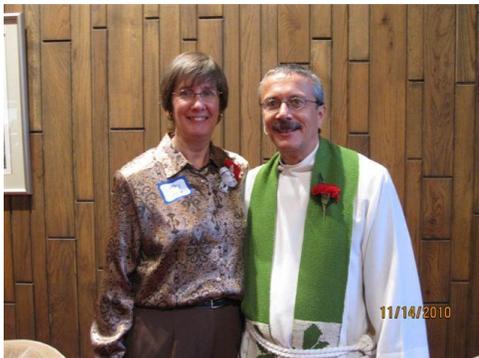
Save the Date

Can you believe it has been 6 years since our last directory? Think of the changes in our congregation. We have selected Lifetouch Church Directories to produce our new directory and are excited to announce photography dates for our new pictorial directory.

Please mark these photography dates on your calendar:

- Tuesday to Saturday – March 1 – 5
- Tuesday, March 8
- Thursday – Saturday March 10-12
- Tuesday to Saturday – September 14 to 18
- Tuesday – Wednesday May 2-3 for those who will be gone over the winter.

Watch for additional information in the future newsletters and the bulletin.



New Members

Pastor John and Cathy Golv

have three children., Michael age 24, Sarah age 22 and Chris age 21, and are trying to get used to being "empty nesters." Pastor John was serving as an interim Senior Pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in Fargo. Cathy's last job was as a lead teacher at Room for Growing, a commercial day care center in Forest Lake, MN.



Steven and Shaun Muzzy are transferring from Silver Creek. They have three children Kelli is 29, Kristin is 27 and Nathaniel is 26. Steven works at Central Boiler Inc. and Shaun is a homemaker. They love gardening and relaxing at the lake. Their sponsor is Steve's aunt, Delores Laliberte.



Terry and Dawn Hawk have been attending Bethany Lutheran Church in Red Lake Falls but are members of United Lutheran Church in Gonvick, MN where they were married and the kids were baptized. They currently live in Red Lake Falls but plan to build in Thief River. Pictured are Amanda 14 who has started confirmation in Zion and Travis 12. Terry also has a daughter Courtney who attends Lincoln High School. Terry is employed at Eickhof Columaria in Crookston, and Dawn is employed at Digi-Key. The family keeps busy with the kids' school activities which include band and sports. Sally Mumm is their sponsor.



Chris and Kathy and Adrianna Olson. Adrianna is seven and has been attending Zion's Sunday School. She likes music, science, art and fashion. Chris is employed at Sanford Pharmacy, and Kathy is employed at Wal-Mart's pharmacy. They enjoy spending time at the lake, ice fishing and the Vikings and Twins. Chris is a previous member of Kingo Lutheran Church in Fosston, MN, and Kathy was a member at Zion Lutheran in Harwood, ND. Deb Holtan is their sponsor.



CHRIST IS BORN!

When the song of the angel is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost--To heal the broken--To feed the hungry--
To release the prisoner--To rebuild the nations--
To bring peace among brothers and sisters--
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman



Who Hears the Angels Sing?

Who saw the star of Bethlehem
Those many years ago.
Who heard the angels sing their songs
To shepherds meek and low.

'Twas not the crowds who walked the streets
Of Bethlehem that night.
Who heard the choir of angels sing
Their song of man made right.

Nor was it king or highest priest
Who saw the brilliant star,
But wise men from a distant land
Who worshipped from afar.



He hears the angels sing their song
 Their voices loud and clear
Who hears his neighbor weep in pain
 And says, "My friend, I'm here."

He sees the star of Bethlehem
 This lovely Christmas Day
Who sees the hurt on someone near
 Who knows not how to pray.

So journey not to Bethlehem
 With gifts of myrrh and gold,
But touch your heart for someone near
 And Christ's great gift behold.

For Christ is born again today
 While angels sing above,
Each time we help a sorrowing heart
 Or teach someone to love.

John Hulteen