



### Why So Many Bibles?

Read John 14:18

Mark Twain liked to say that the difference between the right word and the wrong word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug. Words change in usage and even in meaning. This is clear in the translations of the Bible.

I suggested John 14:18 as one example of how translations matter when using the Bible. In the RSV John 14:18 is translated “I will not leave you desolate...” The Greek word translated “desolate” is pronounced “orphanous.” If that makes you think of the word “orphan” you are exactly right. The NRSV (from which we read each Sunday) translates John 14:18 as “I will not leave you orphaned...”

This sort of thing matters to us who use the Bible so seriously.

The old joke goes “If the King James Version was good enough for Jesus, it’s good enough for me.”

Some retain the KJV for the beauty of its language. The KJV has had a profound and positive effect on the English language. Some go much further and suggest that it is “the” Bible, or that it has some sort of official standing against which all others are measured. It does not.

To me the language of the KJV gets in the way of understanding what the Bible is about. No one spoke that way in 1611. The KJV relies on newer manuscripts. Many, many of the words have changed meaning completely.

Check in the five volume Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible (not the twelve volume Interpreter’s Bible) under “O.” for “Obsolete Words.” That article lists over 500 English words in KJV that require further definition, such as Psalm 22:20 where the word “darling” means “life,” or Genesis 44:6 where “earing” means “plowing.”

Lutherans are well-known for placing a readable Bible into everyone’s hands. It is for us the written Word of God. It is and will be the revelation of God’s promises.

We are neither desolate nor orphaned.



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### On the Road Again?

Have you been “on the road again” this winter?

Don’t forget to have your photos taken for Zion’s new directory. Sign up online. Go to Zion’s website – [ziontrf.org](http://ziontrf.org) and click on the PORTRAIT SIGN-UP button. Most dates are in March, but if you will not be back to your “cold Minnesota home” until later, you can sign up for May 3 or 4 - Or send a digital or print photo to the church. If it is a professional photo, you must have written permission from the photographer.



## Zion Lutheran Church Parish Planning Council Minutes January 18, 2010

The Parish Planning Council was called to order by President Connie Hamre at 7:00 P.M. In attendance: Pastor John, President Hamre, Marijo Nabben, Ginny Armstrong, Bonnie Yost, Sarah Harper, Chris Ueland, Lyle Paulson, Deb Howe, Kristi Rood and Karen Thygeson. Roll call was responded with our favorite Winter activity.

Devotions were led by Chris Ueland and next month will be given by Marijo Nabben.

Bonnie Yost moved to accept the secretary's minutes as corrected, seconded and carried. Correction was made stating the Fellowship board thanked all those that had made Zion's Spirit of Giving a huge success and not the Simply Giving program as had been reported in the previous minutes.

Chris Ueland moved to accept the treasurer's report and the 2011 budget as presented, seconded and carried.

**Properties Board:** Lyle Paulson moved to purchase a 50 inch TV and DVD for the patio room, seconded and carried. Discussion held how to make this purchase secure. Working on a table for the sound system upstairs. Looking into the problem of a hum upstairs. Will also research obtaining new music stands.

**Public Relations Board:** Deb Howe reports progress on sign-ups for our new church directory. Reminded us of the Lifetouch link on Zion's website. Researching how to improve Zion's website to keep information current. Suggestion made to put weekly Sunday bulletins on the website. Zion has Falls Delivered Meals in February.

**Worship Board:** Kristi Rood is researching getting music students to provide music for our Lenten Services.

**Youth Director:** Sarah Harper reports great participation from Junior High students. Reminds us February 20th will be the next Flapjack for Faith. Sarah will be taking time this month for additional training and will also be taking some personal time off.

**Christian Education/Youth Board:** Sarah reports students are back in Sunday school after the holiday recess.

**Fellowship Board:** Bonnie Yost reported February Fling will be held on February 13th and tickets are available for sale at \$10.00 each.

**Pastor Golv:** Silver Creek Parish will hold their annual meeting this coming Sunday. Bible study will be seven sessions beginning in February; states it is a wonderful study and encourages participation. He continues to encourage all to enroll in the Simply Giving program. He will be reviewing staff job descriptions. Looking into establishing a grief support group for Zion. Stresses we should be reviewing the budget quarterly.



**Call Committee:** Chris Ueland reports the call committee and pastors had recently met for dinner followed by a meeting and discussed the future needs for Zion. Chris reports he is working on obtaining name plates for the staff's offices. The sale of daffodils for cancer is welcomed at Zion and there will be a table available on Sunday for those wishing to order them.

**President Hamre** reminds all of the annual meeting to be held between Sunday services on January 30th and welcomes all to attend. President Hamre also reported the Personnel Committee had met and are in the process of reviewing the Staff, their responsibilities, along with means of balancing our budget.

Ginny Armstrong moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 P.M. followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Next Parish Council Meeting will be February 15th at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted: Karen Thygeson, Secretary

## **Bible Study Begins February 1**

**Thursday - February 1 – March 15 - 2:00  
No Cost**

The study is called: *How Lutherans Interpret the Bible*. The format will be to view a video presentation by Rev. Dr. Mark Alan Powell, followed by discussion.

Mark Alan Powell is a Lutheran pastor and Bible professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary. He has the gift of clear communication. People who have heard him once wish to hear him again. There will be seven sessions:

1. The Word of God
2. What Lutherans say about the Bible
3. Where the Bible Comes from
4. Interpreting the Bible in Context
5. Determining Right From Wrong
6. The Many Meanings of the Bible
7. Devotional Bible Reading

Each session stands on its own. It is not necessary to view them all for maximum benefit.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY PICTURES

Tuesday to Friday – March 1-4 – 2:30-9:00 PM

Saturday – March 5 – 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Tuesday, March 8 – 2:30-9:00 PM

Thursday – Friday - March 10 -11 – 2:30-9:00 PM

Saturday – March 12 – 10:00-4:30 PM

Tuesday – Wednesday May 3 - 4 – 2:30-9:00 PM for those who will be gone over the winter or can't make a March photo session.



## ONLINE SIGNUP

1. Go to: **ziontrf.org**
2. Click on the **image to the right**.
3. Select the **number of people** to be photographed.
4. Click on the **day** you would like.
5. Click on the **time** you would like.
6. Enter your **name and phone number**. You can add your **email** if you would like.
7. Create a **login name** and **password**.
8. Click **Finalize** to complete.

## QUESTIONS?

Darlene Hulteen – 681-1047 or 689-8921

Email – [dhulteen@mncable.net](mailto:dhulteen@mncable.net)

# February Fling

**Sunday, February 13 - 5:30 PM**  
**Tickets - \$10.00**

## **Menu**

Veal Parmesan over noodles, California blend vegetables, dinner salad, garlic toast and cheese cake

**Entertainment** – Tabernacle Trio from Karlstad

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## **President's Message**

**Connie Hamre**



"Love one another"

There are those who believe, that this is one of the unofficial commandments. For if we truly love one another, that is what the last 8, of the ten commandments, are really all about.

With Valentine's Day, February is our hearts and flowers month. What neat way to show our caring spirit, and to brighten someone's day, with an act of kindness. It reminds me of the fun we had in school, with cards and treats, to share. Seems a shame, to just do this when we are young!

Our Fellowship board are planning the February Fling, on February 13th. They are busy lining up the food and fun, to make it a special evening.

Our PR board is very busy, getting the new church directory scheduled. This is a huge task. They will need to contact people for scheduling, and will need help during the photo sessions. Any cooperation, or help will be well received.

February is the time the pastors have planned, to start, a new series of lessons for our congregation. The program, on dvd, sounds so very interesting, and has a lot to say about the Bible and it's teachings.

The group that traveled to Ethiopia, will be returning soon, and I am looking forward to hearing about their adventures. The once in a lifetime trip, is sure to have some very meaningful moments.

Blessings in Christ

Connie Hamre, Pres

It's Cold outside!

That means Comfort Food Time!

## Microwave Caramel Corn

### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 brown paper bag air popped popcorn (or plain popcorn)
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup white corn syrup
- 1 stick margarine or butter
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda

### DIRECTIONS

1. Combine brown sugar, butter, corn syrup, and salt in 2 quart glass dish.
2. Microwave for 2 minutes.
3. Stir.
4. Microwave for 2 more minutes.
5. Remove and stir in baking soda (it will foam).
6. Pour over popcorn in bag.
7. Stir to coat with long spoon.
8. Fold bag down and microwave for 2 minutes.
9. Cool on waxed paper.



## February Trivia

The Roman Catholic Church celebrates February 2 as Candlemas Day. The candles used in the church during the rest of the year are blessed on Feb. 2.

Shrove Tuesday comes from the custom of making confessions and receiving forgiveness on the last day before Lent which was known as being shriven.

On February 25th, 1928, a U.S. federal government commission issued the very first Television Broadcast License.

February is National Cherry and Chocolate Month, which explains all those Valentine's Day gifts of chocolate-covered cherries.

In February 1847, the United States Post Office introduced adhesive stamps, which simplified post office operations along with one's mailing process for Valentine's Day, February 14th.

## Uff Da

“Uff Da” is not in the dictionary, but for many Scandinavians, it is an all-purpose expression covering a variety of circumstances such as:

### Uff Da is:

- Looking in the mirror and discovering – you’re not getting better – you’re just getting older.
- Trying to dance the polka to rock and roll music.
- Losing your wad of gum in the chicken yard.
- Eating hot soup when you’ve got a runny nose.
- Waking yourself in church with your own snoring.
- Sneezing so hard that your false teeth end up in the bread plate.
- Walking way downtown and then trying to remember what you wanted.
- Getting swished in the tail with a cow’s tail.
- Trying to pour two buckets of manure into one bucket.
- Eating a delicious sandwich and discovering the spread is cat food.
- Arriving late at a lutefisk supper and getting served minced ham instead.
- When your two “steady” girl friends find out about each other.
- Looking in your rear view mirror and seeing flashing red lights.
- The same as Charlie Brown’s “Good grief.”
- Pushing the light switch and suddenly remembering you forgot to pay the electrical bill.
- Opening the latest real estate tax bill.

## 2010 Bishop’s Report to the Northwestern Minnesota Synod For Annual Meetings of the Congregations

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7*

These cheerful, stirring words were written by a man languishing in prison. We need to remember that. Though Paul was literally “in the dumps,” he did not hesitate to invite others to “Rejoice in the Lord always.” Such is the nature of the Christian life. Aware of our sin, confronting scarcity, facing manifold obstacles...we nonetheless walk in the hope, confidence and joy that comes from following the Crucified and Risen One. The roadblocks in our path are trifling compared to the surpassing kindness and mercy of God in Jesus Christ

This was certainly true of life in our synod during the year 2010. Walking in God's amazing grace, I offer some end-of-the-year reflections on our ministry together in the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

During 2010 we engaged with congregations struggling with their affiliation with the ELCA, seventeen of which departed from our fellowship. We also lamented the loss of individual members from some of our congregations. We rejoiced, however, in decisions by fifteen of our congregations (who also took disaffiliation votes) to remain in the ELCA. In these and many other parishes God's renewing activity is being experienced in fresh ways. In 2011 we will work at restoring health and unity for the sake of mission in these congregations, starting with a Rebuilding the Remnant conference at Concordia College, January 28-30.

During 2010 our synod council had to make tough decisions (in April and November) in response to reduced synodical income. We regretted how budgetary cutbacks diminished our capacity to serve God's mission in partnership with the ELCA churchwide organization and valued ministry partners. We rejoiced, however, in the generosity of congregations and individuals who made "over and above" gifts toward our ministry together. And we were excited to welcome 300 congregational leaders to two Rethinking Stewardship conferences this past autumn—conferences that illuminated the major cultural shifts that are impacting how we fund the mission and ministry to which God calls us. You can expect to hear much more about this critical topic in the year to come.

During 2010 we operated with a synod staff that had been reduced (through attrition and elimination of two positions) by one-third below our 2009 staffing level. We rejoiced, however, in all the ways the remaining synod staff members stayed committed to their work, in the growing partnership between the synod pastoral staff and our ten conference deans, and in the fruitful efforts by two (very part-time) contracted staff persons—Kristina Johnson in youth ministry and Genesis Gaule in maintaining our synod website and our weekly e-letter, Northern Lights.

During 2010 we witnessed a significant redesign of the ELCA churchwide office, in response to reduced mission support income, along with the loss of many churchwide staff positions. We rejoiced, however, in the ways the ELCA churchwide organization maintained its strong commitment to supporting global missionaries, global partner churches, the Directors of Evangelical Mission in our 65 synods (Pr. Keith Zeh of the ELCA staff is shared 50/50 by our synod and the Eastern ND Synod), as well as new ministry startups across America. At our 2010 synod assembly we received Peoples Church as a congregation of the ELCA, were updated on The Project F-M (soon to be calling a mission developer to work with young adults) and commissioned Pastor Phil Johnson to begin mission development work at Waters of Grace Lutheran Church, the new mission startup in the Frazee-Vergas area.

During 2010 people on our territory again dealt with natural disasters—springtime flooding along the Red River and a devastating tornado that swept through Wadena and Ottertail Counties in June. We rejoiced, however, that the flood produced surprisingly little damage to our communities. And we were cheered by the outpouring of prayers, volunteer help and financial assistance for the survivors of the tornado.

Note: As I write this report, we are aware of the need for an additional \$850,000 (above the \$400,000 that has been raised from around the state) to address the unmet needs of individuals/families hurt by the tornado. You and your congregation can find out more about ways you can help at [www.wadena-ottertailcountyrecovery.com](http://www.wadena-ottertailcountyrecovery.com)

In these and other challenges we faced in 2010, God continued to lead and bless us. We thank God for continued, strong synod youth events—like the Middle School Gathering that recently brought some 900 participants to Grand Forks. We delight in seeing synod "mission tables" springing up to provide

vision, imagination and leadership in areas such as stewardship, faith practices, new and renewing ministries, Lutheran Men in Mission, and global mission. We applaud our synod's candidacy committee for their good work and sponsorship of a Candidacy Retreat (thanks to a generous grant from Thrivent) for those from our synod who are preparing for rostered ministries in the ELCA. We treasure partnerships with our ELCA churchwide organization, Luther Seminary, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Concordia College, Luther Crest and Pathways Bible Camps, and a host of social ministries and other church agencies.

Looking ahead to 2011 we anticipate exciting ministries in our synod to help your congregation thrive:

- A Building Men for Christ retreat at Luther Crest Bible Camp, Alexandria, January 28-30;
- A Fabric of Mutual Ministry retreat for newly-ordained pastors in early February;
- A Vibrant Faith Ministries conference in late February;
- Equipping events for congregational officers and council members in February and March;
- Re-Rooting in God's Mission, a congregational renewal process beginning on March 5;
- Our annual synod assembly, May 14-15, at Concordia College, Moorhead under the theme: Awe-filled Worship: Doing Acts 2 with ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and Pr. Susan Briehl as our resource persons.

Thank you, dear partners in the gospel, for your prayers, your ideas, your energy and your generosity. You encourage me and my colleagues on the synod staff as you face challenges and obstacles with the faith, hope and love that God in Christ continually bestows. God grant us a New Year in which, with Paul the imprisoned apostle, we will "rejoice in the Lord always!"



Lawrence R. Wohlrahe Bishop,  
Northwestern Minnesota Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

To find out more about the ministries that we share through our Northwestern Minnesota Synod, or to subscribe to Northern Lights (our weekly e-letter) check out the synod website: [www.nwmnsynod.org](http://www.nwmnsynod.org).