

“What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, there is nothing new under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 1:9

Dear friends in Christ,

Those are the words of King Solomon written three thousand years ago. Today the world seems quite different from the world of King Solomon. For example, back then people were using oxen to plow the land, but today we farm with tractors that could do what hundreds of oxen would do. Back then the best means of transportation had been horses, but today we do have planes which travel faster than the speed of sound. Back then people were using primitive medicine to treat their sick people, but today our physicians are using science and technology which helps them do wonders. Back then the world was uncivilized, but today we live in a very civilized and fascinating world.

The interesting thing however is this. Even though we have the best farming equipment, we still aren't able to provide enough to eliminate hunger. Even though we have fascinating transportation systems, we still have problems getting to our destination on time. Even though we have advanced medical technology, we still can't control death. Even though we have a well organized political and government system, we still can't end war. So what is new under the sun?

King Solomon was right when he said there is nothing new under the sun. What happened then is still happening and will happen in the years to come. Hunger, sickness, war and death have been part of human experience and will continue to be so. It seems that there is no way out of this cycle of life.

But thanks be to God! He has promised us to do new things which we couldn't do for ourselves through our own effort. He said, “I am making all things new...death will be no more, mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have been passed away.” Rev. 21:4-5

What a wonderful day it will be when that time comes. We the people of God are looking forward to this new era with great anticipation because it is our destiny. Thanks be to God for this wonderful promise. Amen.

Have a nice spring season.

Pastor Ale

LEISURE FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, (during Lent) April 7 at 2:00 PM

Wednesday, May 4 at 2:00 PM

Wednesday, June 1 at 2:00 PM

Program - Pastor Ben Carlson from Redeemer and his wife, Pia
“Training Dogs to be Service Dogs”



**Zion Lutheran Church
Parish Planning Council Minutes
March 15, 2011**

The Parish Planning Council was called to order by President Connie Hamre at 7:00 P.M. In attendance: Pastor John, Pastor Ale, President Hamre, Marijo Nabben, Ginny Armstrong, Chris Ueland, Lyle Paulson, Deb Holtan, Amber Holtan, Bonnie Yost, Darlene Hulteen, Tim Numedahl, Janelle Hoffer, Barbara Champ from Silver Creek and Karen Thygeson.

Roll call response was where our youngest sibling was born.

Devotions were led by Ginny Armstrong.

Bonnie Yost moved to accept the secretary's minutes as printed, seconded and carried. Lyle Paulson moved to accept the treasurer's report as printed and discussed; seconded and carried.

Church Properties Board: Lyle Paulson reports two monitors have been added.

Board of Evangelism/Lay Ministry: Deb Holtan reported new member Sunday will be on April 10.

Discussion as to the best placement for the outside Zion sign. The new time and talent sheets are now available. Deb will also research starting a Grief Support Group at Zion. Leisure Fellowship was also discussed.

Board of Public Relations: Darlene Hulteen reported on the response for the new church directory and stated Lifetouch was excellent to work with. She discussed the lost and found articles that have been accumulating for quite sometime. Items not picked up soon will be placed on the Zion rummage sale this Spring. She also reminded all to pick up your pans that have been accumulating in the kitchen. We will soon advertise for a church historian.

Worship Board: Janelle Hoffer reports that beginning on March 20, announcements will be given during the time of offering instead of the beginning of our service.

Board of Christian Education and Youth: Amber Holtan reported Sunday School remains busy. VSB will be June 5-9, 2011. She also reported for Youth Director, Sarah Harper. May 15 will be Senior Student Sunday and May 7 will be the rummage sale. They are considering a fundraiser for youth activities on April 10th.

Fellowship Board: Bonnie Yost reported on the February Fling and they will be researching other possibilities to replace this activity for next year. They have started work on the new Sharing Servants Booklets.

Pastors Report: Pastor Ale stated First Communion classes will begin on April 3rd for three Sundays prior to their first communion. Confirmation retreat will be on March 27th. The Synod Assembly will be May 14-15, 2011.



Pastor John requested his housing allowance be changed. Chris Ueland moved to change the housing allowance for Pastor John; seconded and carried. Marijo moved to change Pastor John's health insurance from family to single member only because his spouse is insured at her place of employment; seconded and carried. Even if you have pledged, you are encouraged to consider AFT as your way of giving to the ministries of Zion. He encourages all to use the Simply Giving Program and enjoy the convenience of electronic giving.

Marijo Nabben moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 P.M. followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Next Parish Council Meeting will be April 19th at 7:00 P.M.
Karen Thygeson, Secretary

Third Annual Good Friday Prayer Vigil

April 22, 2011



Zion's Evangelism-Lay Ministry would like to invite everyone to our third annual Good Friday Prayer Vigil to be held on April 22, 2011. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. If you don't have a chance to sign up, come anyway. The time slots start at 12:00 noon and go for half hour increments. We will break for the Good Friday Service and then start again ending with the last time slot at 9:30. Please feel free to stay longer than your half hour slot. You will find the time will be gone before you know it. But what a wonderful half hour it will be!

F.Y.I. This is a time of meditation, prayer and silence. The board is providing a booklet for you to use during this time if you wish. No one is expected to speak up in front of anyone. It is just a time to sit and reflect and pray. We also have a prayer suggestion box where you can pick a slip with a prayer request on it. If so moved, take one with you into the sanctuary and pray for what is on the slip. When you are done with your time, take your booklet and prayer request slip back to the narthex, there will be string to tie the prayer request so that it will be closed and hang it on the cross sitting on the table.

For those that have taken part in the last two, it has been a *very* moving experience! Come and join us and be part of some thing that will be a lasting impression in your heart. What a wonderful way to celebrate Easter! Feel free to bring a friend! They do not have to be a member of Zion.

Grief Support Group

We are looking for anyone that would be interested in starting a grief support group at Zion.

If you are interested please call Deb Holtan at 449-4645 or 686-3758.



New Members

New Member Sunday

New members will be received on April 10th. New Member Orientation will be Thursday, April, at 7:00 pm. If anyone is interested or knows anyone wanting to become a member of Zion, please contact one of the pastors, or call the office (681-3296) and leave your name and number. There will be a potluck dinner to welcome the new members after the second service.

Free Pictures

8 X 10's Have Arrived

Your free 8 X 10 may be in the church office.

If you had your portrait taken the first or second week in March and did not order extra pictures, your free portrait may be in the church office ready for you to pick up. Call the church office to verify that your picture is there.

Church Directory Update

- There are only two days of church directory photos left, **Tuesday, May 3, and Wednesday, May 4, from 2:30-9:00.**
- There are only three time slots left, one on May 3 and two on May 4.
- If you need to cancel an appointment, **please** call me the day before or earlier so someone else can be scheduled into that time.
- **We had 55 no-shows and last minute cancellations in March. That means 55 slots could not be refilled.**
- Darlene Hulteen – 681-1047, dhulteen@mncable.net

Submitted Photos

- You may submit a photo for the church directory. The first 30 submitted will be free. After that, there is a \$10 charge.
- **Deadline – April 15**
- Send print photos to Zion.
- Email digitals with a resolution of 300 ppi to dhulteen@mncable.net
- Pictures should be vertical/portrait orientation
- **Must have written release from professional photographer**

- Lifetouch does not provide free directories to families they do not photograph.
- Lifetouch does not charge the church for directories. They are free to families who have portraits taken. So is an 8 X 10 photo.
- To publish a directory as large as ours would cost between \$6,00 and \$8,000 or about \$25 per photographed family.
- **If you email a photo and do not receive a return email, please call Darlene Hulteen at 681-1047 to make sure the photo arrived.**



President's Message

Connie Hamre

"He is risen, He is risen."

Thank you, Lord, for the sacrifice, of your death, and resurrection. In this act of affirmation of our faith, it is truly a time of celebration for us Christians.

In this area, spring is the awakening. The weather begins to modify, and the flowers of the field, putting emphasis on rebirth. After the sleep of winter, we have the chance to see green grass, and watch the fresh leaves coming on the trees. God's artwork in action!!!

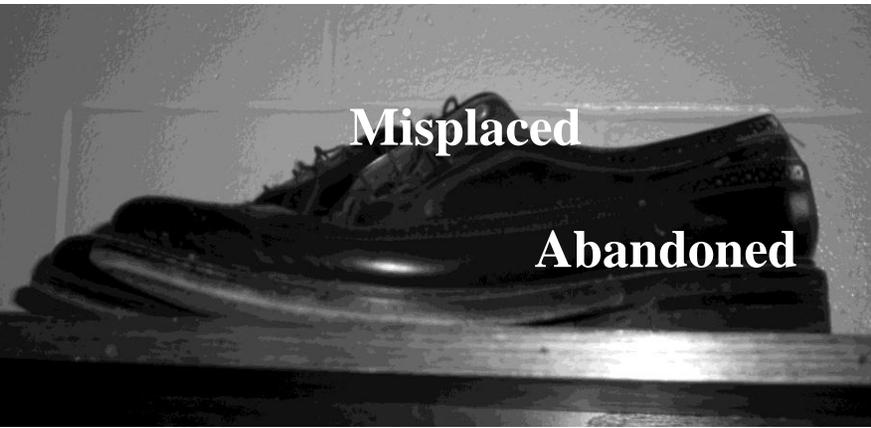
The Public relations board has had a huge undertaking, with the church directory. They are continuing to work with Lifetouch, and will have more scheduled pictures, in May. I am so glad, we have such helpful, capable people, in our church. This is a blessing!!!

The Council has been approached, about starting a grief support group. We are currently looking into it, and I would like feedback from anyone who has an interest in this type of group.

On April 10th, we are having the New Member Sunday. I encourage you, to invite anyone looking for a church home to come and join us. With the potluck meal, after the service, we will get the chance to welcome our newest members. This will be a great opportunity to get to know them.

Palm Sunday, on April 17th, Easter on April 24. In our observance of these days, help us to know God, through his great love of us, and all mankind.

Courage in Christ
 Connie Hamre,
 President



The coat rack across from the patio room has become home to several lonely pieces of clothing, among them a man's black suit, several girls' jackets, some sweatshirts and a couple of hats. Please check to see if one of these grieving items of apparel is yours. If not claimed by May 1, they will be donated to the youth rummage sale.

Also check on the **many** casseroles, cake pans and food containers that have been left in the church.

30 Books of the Bible Hidden Below! Enjoy!!

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the books names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the book in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, *The Chronicle*, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly put it, "The books are all right there in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without the numbers. Also, keep in mind that punctuation and spacers in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in the paragraph waiting to be found.

Answers in the May newsletter

