

Read John 20:29 & 30.

Restless Hearts – A Constant God



People ask what God is like. This is the answer: “God is like Jesus in all respects.”

God is constant. People change every few years. Adolescent faith is real faith. It is also incomplete. There is more to know. There is more to do. There is more for God to do. So, adolescent faith sustains and feels incomplete at the same time.

The faith of adults, the young parent, the empty-nester, and the elderly sustains us as nothing else, and always feels incomplete. (I Corinthians 13:12) At every stage of life the believer will have an uncomfortable and completely honest question: “Is this all there is?”

One of the best teachers of the Christian faith put it this way: “Our hearts are restless until they rest, O Lord, in thee.”

It is our faith not to settle for anything second best. Easy answers are attractive especially at first, but our hearts eventually become restless again. Even on our best days, we know that there is more to know.

After Easter we can say with confidence and utter finality that there is always more to life than we are aware of. Yes, He is risen. Yes, death is defeated. Yes, the promise of everlasting life is made to us. The Good News of Easter has never been fully appreciated, and never will be. Yes, we know God, but we know in part. Our faith sustains us, and keeps us wanting more.

One thing we do know with certainty is that even with restless hearts and the nagging feeling that there is more to life, God blesses us who put faith in him.

Easter faith is more than enough to live on, come what may.

In Christ,
Pastor John Golv

Easter - 2012

April 4 - Wednesday of Lent

No Supper or Service

April 5 - Maundy Thursday

6:00 PM - Seder Meal for First Communicants & Family

7:00 PM - Worship/ Zion

April 6 - Good Friday

7:30 PM - Worship

April 8 – Easter Sunday, Resurrection of our Lord

6:30 AM – Easter Sunrise Service/Holy Communion

7:15 AM – Breakfast – Served by Zion Youth

8:30 AM – Easter Worship/Holy Communion

10:00 AM – Silver Creek Worship

10:30 AM – New Traditions Worship

Fourth Annual Good Friday Prayer Vigil



April 6, 2012

Zion's Evangelism would like to invite everyone to our fourth annual Good Friday Prayer Vigil to be held on April 6, 2012. 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 ended 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 were you can pick a slip that will have 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 a string to tie the prayer request so that that it will be closed and hang it on the cross sitting on the table.

For those that took part last year, it was a *very* moving experience! Come and join us and be part of something 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.

Deb Holtan
Chairperson of Zion's Evangelism and Lay Ministry Board

Of Death and Resurrection

I saw a rose bedecked in bloom,
Few days ago or so it seems.
Her petals soft in pink and white,
Her green leaves done in artists' schemes.

Life for her was light and gay,
As summer winds blow softly now
And butterflies and bees fly down
To rest their wings upon her brow.

But summertime has troubles, too,
With thunderstorms and wind-whipped rain
To test the very faith she has,
That roots, set deep, can stand the strain.

Yet certain as the summer ends,
The prairie winds turn harsh and cold;
In endless sweeps across the plains.
Her strength must stay; her roots must hold.

The prairie rose is silent now;
Her leaves lie dead upon the ground.
The winds blow through her barren boughs
With a strange and lonesome whistling sound.

Though winter's death consumes her now,
Like waters rushing to the sea,
The prairie rose will bloom again;
And so shall we - and so shall we.

John Hulteen

Zion Lutheran Church
Parish Planning Council Minutes
March 20, 2012



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

Pastor John began our meeting with devotions.

Bonnie Yost moved to accept the secretary's minutes as corrected, seconded and carried. Correction being; insert Muriel Olin's name in the Thank You from the New Traditions worship board.

Treasurer Ginny Armstrong reviewed the budget. Lyle Paulson moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded and carried.

Custodian, Dick Johnson met with the board and asked that his position be considered as a contract position and not as staff. The board members discussed this proposal with questions being answered by guest Dave Olin. The personnel committee will meet and consider this proposal.

Fellowship Board: Bonnie Yost reports April 15th will be new member Sunday with cake and coffee served after the 8:30 service to welcome the new members.

Worship Board: Marijo Nabben reports Lenten Services are going well.

Properties Board: Lyle Paulson reports they are researching options for obtaining chair pads for chairs in the fellowship hall.

Evangelism/Lay Ministry Board: Deb Holtan handed out the printed time and talent sheets. She also led a discussion on our outdoor signs. Signs will be discussed at a future board meeting.

Christian Education/Youth Board: Amber Holtan reports they are reviewing options for the upcoming summer Bible School activities.

Public Relations: Remember to view the website and it was noted more youth news will be added.

Silver Creek: Penny Nelson reports they will be submitting an article for our newsletter. She also extended an invitation for Zion to join them for a joint service on Sunday, June 10th.

Youth Director: Sarah Knopf reports 5th graders are preparing for their first communion. April 21st will be the rummage sale at Zion. April 28th is a Post Prom Party at Zion and she has doughnuts for sale to support the activity. She continues to remain busy with youth activities.

Pastor Ale: Working with the fifth graders as they will be participating in the Seder Meal activity on Maundy Thursday prior to taking their first communion. May 11th and 12th is the Synod Assembly and delegates are needed.

Pastor John: Reviewed the upcoming Church schedule and activities. He reports the staff is considering a new curriculum and altered schedule for confirmation ministry. The entire program with curriculum and schedule will be proposed the Education Board committee next month. He stated Johnson Funeral Service delivered a gift to Zion of two usher's seating ropes. He reports he would like to attend two more continuing education events this year. The first is Synod's Theological Day on April 19th. The second is the St. Olaf Conference on Worship, Theology, and the Arts on July 16-20th. It was also noted Pastor John as been staffing the office on Saturday mornings.

Chris Ueland moved to extend the money from the continuing education fund for Pastor John to attend the two continuing education events as requested; seconded discussed and carried.

Guests Winton Forsberg and Rich Jorde met with the board with concerns regarding the last annual meeting. After discussion it was decided that at the next annual meeting; a count of members be taken and the statement be made that a quorum according to our constitution is present prior to the start of business for the meeting. Also after a motion is made and seconded, the floor will be open for discussion prior to the call for vote.

There was also a discussion on salaries for the staff. It is noted that guidelines for our meetings will be the Church Constitution along with Robert's Rules of Order. Marijo Nabben moved to amend the wording of the motion made at the annual meeting. The motion should state that a bonus be given to the youth director instead of a housing allowance be given to the youth director; seconded, discussed and carried.

Lyle Paulson moved to disburse four of the pianos; seconded, discussed and carried.

Chris Ueland is looking into a fax that would meet the needs for the office.

St. Pauli has been issued a new contract to consider.

Discussion on searching for more organists for the church.

Ginny Armstrong moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 P.M. followed by the Lord's Prayer. Next Parish Council Meeting will be April 17, 2012.

Leisure Fellowship

Wednesday, April 4 - 2:00 PM
Lenten Theme: Guest speaker - Kathy Rokke
Devotions: Ardelle Hjelle
Singing Lenten Hymns

CHRIST DIED ON THE CROSS FOR YOU!!

Silver Creek News

The Silver Creek council decided that we needed a forum to keep our congregation informed about upcoming events. Zion was gracious enough to let us have a section of their monthly newsletter.

Our Spring Annual Clean Up is scheduled for April 12th beginning with a potluck supper at 5 p.m. We need to get the church in tip top shape so all members are encouraged to come for an evening of fellowship and cleaning.

With Spring in the air it is time to think about the lawn mowing schedule. Please consider a time that will work for you to mow the churchyard. It is up to the members to see that the mowing is done so we all need to take our turn. Please sign up on bulletin board for a week that will work for you and your family.

At our annual meeting it was decided that it will no longer be feasible to continue our fall supper. The state laws for food safety was the major factor in this decision. A letter to the congregation will be forthcoming with more details.

We hope to see you all at our Easter Sunday Service at 10 a.m.

Thank you to Pastor Henry Moyer for his donation of the pictures that are in the new frames in the narthex. He has graciously donated several of them so that they can be changed. I hope that everyone will take notice of them and watch for the changes. The pictures are indescribably beautiful!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Deb Holtan
Chairperson of Zion's Evangelism and Lay Ministry Board

Contract Cleaning Service Opening at Zion

Hours - part time weekly with some work on weekends

Specific duties will be defined in the contract awarded to the selected bid.

Interested parties for this position should provide an hourly rate.

For a list of specific duties - contact the office at Zion.

Application deadline - Tuesday, April 10, 2012



President's Message

Connie Hamre

"For he has risen" This is the proclamation of Easter morning. It is a profound statement, of our Lord's demonstration, of his victory over death. A death that was for all our sins.

Both Palm Sunday and Easter are coming up in this month. With all the celebration that us Christians hold dear. In addition to the sunrise service on Easter morning. We will be having both the traditional service at 8:30, and the New Traditions at 10:30. It will be the recommendation to the council, to return to one 8:30 service for the summer. Due to the low attendance, plus obligations of the pastors, and our youth director, in the summer, it seems appropriate.

On Sunday April 15th, we will be welcoming new members. We have a continuing influx of people to our area. In a large part for jobs, but also for family, school, and into town. I encourage you to invite people to worship with us, and possibly join our membership. A lady recently told us about visiting other churches, but when she came to our church, she was welcomed, and even given a hug. Let's be mindful of anyone new coming into our church.

There have been several people that would like to change the chairs in the basement fellowship hall. As a cost saving measure, the heat in the basement/church is turned down. Unfortunately metal chairs do not warm that quickly. Area facilities have replacement these with heavy duty plastic chairs. I would like your input, and possible fund sources to accomplish this possible replacement, if that is the wish of the congregation.

We have been blessed with an early spring. It is indeed a treat to have the windows in one's home, open in March. I find that our trees have budded out, and the flowers have coming through. On the day I am writing this letter, we have a good soaking rain. It not only encourages our botanical growth, but lessens our concern for fire danger. We can all recall an Easter, with snow on the ground, and on occasion a snow storm. So this intensifies the blessing of the great outdoors. Ahhhhh, weather in northern Minnesota!!

Blessings in Christ
Connie Hamre, President



Lutheran Marriage Encounter

The last Spring Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend for Minnesota will be May 4-6 in Walker. Dates coming up in the Fall are October 19-21 in Brooklyn Center and November 16-18 in Duluth. Register early to guarantee your place.

A Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend begins at 8:00 pm on Friday and ends at 5:00 pm on Sunday. It includes two nights in a comfortable hotel and five delicious meals plus engaging presentations by four Lutheran couples, including a clergy couple. Presentations are followed by exercises and questions the two of you discuss in the privacy of your hotel room. There is no counseling or required sharing.

For more information, contact Dick & Judy Dehnel at 952-432-3105, Pete & Phyllis McMahon at 763-561-1575

<<http://www.godlovesmarriage.org/>>