

**THANKSGIVING – 2012**

Look up First Thessalonians 5:12-28

I hear this every now and then: “Count your blessings.” This is wise spiritual advice. It helps us see what we are able to see of God’s generosity. It helps us to see that there is more to give thanks for than we are normally aware of. We might even misperceive our circumstances, and decide that when we feel cheated, or let down, or ignored, we actually have been cheated, let down, or ignored

Thanksgiving takes on meaning when we realize that we have been blessed by God in the extreme.

I hear this every now and then: “God is good, every day.” This is more than the glass half full or half empty talk. For Christians, the glass is neither half full nor half empty, but always overflowing (read Psalm 23). All we need do is sharpen our perceptions. God’s actions are more than coincidence. God’s actions are better than simple good luck.

God’s actions are plainly seen in the work Christians do every day.

I hear this every now and then: “No one knows the will of God.” Sometimes the will of God is hard to see. Other times it is plain. First Thessalonians 5:18 tells us plainly what the will of God is. So does John 6:39. God’s will is not always a mystery, beyond our comprehension. Very often we can understand the will of God. We may not always be able to do it. This Thanksgiving, give thanksgiving to God a real try.

We have many, many reasons to give thanks to God.

This past week I got a letter which quoted this verse from Philippians 1:3: “I thank my God every time I think of you.” It was a letter from the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. One magnificent way to give thanks this year is to give, so everyone can eat.

Thanksgiving blessings,  
Pastor John



## President's Message Millie Reiersen

Greetings, fellow members of Zion! God's blessings have been bestowed on us-through no merit of our own. We like to take credit for our accomplishments but, everything we have and who we are are gifts from God. We as a nation and as a church celebrate our good fortune with a day of Thanksgiving. At Zion we take a day to give back to the community with our Spirit of Giving. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year of our giveaway and this year it will be on Saturday, December 1st. Donations of gently used or new items will be accepted the week after Thanksgiving. We also need you to give some time for sorting and set up. We are also looking for donations of baked goods or money to buy diapers, wipes, etc the response in the past has been phenomenal so let's keep up the good work!

We are sad to say good-bye to one of our member families - Duane and Robyn Morey as they move onto Barnesville. We wish them all the best in their new endeavors and will keep them in our prayers.

Blessings in Christ and see you in church!

Millie Reiersen  
President

## ZLCW News



ZLCW will meet November 13 at noon with a Thankoffering program. We remind the ladies to bring their offering in a container that will be returned to them. You may use your container again for the coming year as a reminder whether it is daily, weekly, or monthly. (Remember when we used to receive the little boxes for our Thankoffering.)

Duties for the month are Dorcas Circle - program; Elizabeth Circle - hostess; Sarah Circle - hospitality; and Visitation is Rebekah at Oakland Park Communities.

Also, bath-sized (4 – 5 oz) soap bars are needed for the Health Care kit & Baby Care kit. Lutheran World Relief shipment is November 3.

## **The Spirit of Giving**



The Spirit of Giving will be held on December 1st in the Fellowship Hall. We are asking for gently used clothing, bedding and household items. We will be taking donations the last week of November.

We have been blessed with so much and need to give to those who are in need.



## **New Member Sunday**

November 18th at the 10:30 worship service

Potluck dinner following service

If you are interested in joining Zion, contact the church office or one of the pastors



## **Zion Lutheran Church Parish Planning Council Minutes September 18, 2012**

The Parish Planning Council was called to order by President Millie Reiersen at 7:00 P.M. In attendance: President Reiersen, Pastor John, Joel Rude, Deb Howe, Deb Holtan, Amber Holtan, Sarah Knopf, Karen Thygeson, Connie Hamre, Marijo Nabben, Ginny Armstrong, Bonnie Yost, Clark Nelson, and Tim Numedahl.

Pastor John began our meeting with devotions.

The secretary's minutes were presented. Connie Hamre made a motion to accept the secretary's minutes. The minutes were seconded and carried.

Treasurer's report was given by Ginny Armstrong. She reported that a CD is due the end of September. After discussion, Marijo Nabben made a motion to renew the CD for another year. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented and filed for audit.

**Stewardship Board:** Connie Hamre presented minutes from the board. She reported that Consecration Sunday will be on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>. Connie also reported that Pastor Arland Hermanson will present a program on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at the Black Cat for all council and board members with their spouses. She said help is needed for decorating and set up at 2:00 on Thursday. She said RSVP's will be mailed out and must be returned by Oct. 3.

**Public Relations Board:** Deb Howe presented minutes from their meeting and reported that posters for the New Traditions service have been updated and are being run in the Watch and the Times. They will also be included in the TRF Visitors Guide.

**Silver Creek:** Clark Nelson said there was no report this month.

**Christian Education/Youth Board:** Amber Holtan reported that Rally Sunday went well. She said they still need a couple more Sunday school teachers – 1<sup>st</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup> grade or Senior High. Installation of teachers was missed on Rally Sunday so installation will be done Sunday, Sept. 23. Amber requested getting some of the rooms cleaned and decorated to brighten them up for the kids. A sign will be put up by her office indicating where each classroom is located.

She said September's Noisy Offering will go to the Malaria Campaign. October's Noisy Offering will go to Operation Christmas. Amber reported that Operation Christmas will begin in October. The Christmas program will be held December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Vacation Bible School will be held Aug. 4–8, 2013 with Redeemer.

**Youth Director:** Sarah Knopf commented on how busy things are. She said Flapjacks for Faith did not bring in as much as hoped. Youth Group started last week. Confirmation starts this week.

**Worship Board:** Marijo Nabben reported the formation of a music committee to make sure the music needs are covered each Sunday. The committee will meet once every two months. The board minutes have been submitted.

**Evangelism/Lay Ministry:** Deb Holtan reported that New Member Sunday will be on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 service followed by a potluck dinner.

**Properties Board:** Joel Rude presented the board minutes and reported that a risk survey was completed by Zion's insurance company, Church Mutual. Eight items have been recommended.

Joel said the handicapped door opener at the northeast entrance has been serviced. The Youth Director's nameplate has been updated. He said the carpenter board recommended that high quality shingles be used on the roof to last the longest time.

He also said he has been talking to Kezar Music regarding the portable sound system prices for wireless microphones.

There was some discussion with the Council members regarding how to get rid of some of the unused pianos in the church.

**Fellowship Board:** Bonnie Yost reported that the Spirit of Giving will be held Dec. 1. She said local stores will be contacted personally and presented a letter in hopes of expanding the giving. Discussion was generated regarding what to do with the left over items.

**Pastor John:** He presented the pastor's report. Pastor John reviewed the upcoming Church schedule and activities. Pastor John commented that the 3-year confirmation program will begin Sep. 19. Pastor Ale will teach the first year on the Bible, Pastor John will teach the second year on Catechism, and Sarah will teach the third year on Life Application.

Millie reminded everyone that the board meetings will be held Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 followed by the Lord's Prayer. Next Parish Council Meeting will be Oct. 16, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.

Pam Cwikla, Secretary

### Zion Quiz

1. When was Zion founded? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where was Zion's first permanent home? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When was Zion (at 5<sup>th</sup> and Main) built? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Whose was the first wedding in Zion? \_\_\_\_\_

*(Answers elsewhere in newsletter)*



**Zion Lutheran Church  
Parish Planning Council Minutes  
October 16, 2012**

The Parish Planning Council was called to order by President Millie Reiersen at 7:00 P.M. In attendance: President Reiersen, Pastor John, Joel Rude, Deb Howe, Deb Holtan, Amber Holtan, Sarah Knopf, Karen Thygeson, Connie Hamre, Ginny Armstrong, Bonnie Yost, Penni Nelson, and Tim Numedahl.

Pastor John began our meeting with devotions.

The secretary's minutes were presented. A correction to the spelling of Clark Nelson's name was made and Connie Hamre made a motion to accept the secretary's minutes. The minutes were seconded and carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Ginny Armstrong. Ginny reported that we are behind on our income and that expenses have exceeded our income. There was discussion regarding how to encourage and increase giving. Consecration Sunday was not as successful as we had hoped. She also reported that committee budgets need to be submitted in November and approved in January. The Treasurer's report was presented and filed for audit.

**Evangelism/Lay Ministry:** Deb Holtan reported the committee did not meet. She reminded everyone that New Member Sunday will be on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 service followed by a potluck dinner.

**Youth Director:** Sarah Knopf reported that confirmation has started and confirmands are served dinner. She also reported that 220 students participated in the Middle School homecoming party. Bibles will be presented to second graders on October 28<sup>th</sup>. She also reported that new member Sunday and the senior Thanksgiving dinner will be held November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Fellowship Board:** Bonnie Yost reported that next Sunday, October 21, the Synod Stewardship meeting will be held at Zion starting at 1:00. There will be a dinner at 5:30. Help is needed in the kitchen at 12:30 and 4:30. They also need help cleaning up. (#1 – Zion was founded in 1890)

She also reported that the Spirit of Giving will be held Dec. 1. She presented letters that will be presented to local stores in hopes of expanding the giving. Discussion was generated regarding what to do with the left over items.

**Stewardship Board:** Connie Hamre reported that the dinner for Consecration Sunday on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> went well. However, the pledge card response was not very good. They will be reevaluating the event for next year.

**Public Relations Board:** Deb Howe reported that the proof for the New Traditions service in the TRF Visitors Guide is ready.

**Christian Education/Youth Board:** Amber Holtan reported that the committee did not meet. She said they do not need any more Sunday school teachers. Amber reported that Operation Christmas is going well.

**Properties Board:** Joel Rude reported that repairs are being made to Zion's snow blower. (*#4 – The first wedding in Zion's unfinished basement was Gordon and Jeanette Reiersen – Millie's parents in 1949.*) He also said that the non-working baseboard heaters are now working. Also, the furnace has been checked over. A donation was made for new windows for the patio room and they have all been installed.

**Silver Creek:** Penni Nelson reported that they have scheduled a turkey dinner for members.

**Worship Board:** Marijo Nabben was not in attendance so no report was submitted.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor John presented the pastor's report. He said he is very happy with the New Traditions service and recommends no changes at this time. (*#2 Zion's first permanent home was at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Horace.*) They will reevaluate at a later time. Pastor John reviewed the upcoming Church schedule and activities. He reported that Bishop Wohlrabe will be speaking at both services on Sunday, 10/21, and he will have dinner at Silver Creek.

All-Saints Day is Sunday November 4.

Millie reminded everyone that the committee meetings will be held November 6<sup>th</sup>.  
Next Parish Council Meeting will be November 20, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Pam Cwikla, Secretary

## Silver Creek News

The women will begin our quilting projects on Nov. 8th at 4 p.m. We look forward to all getting together to work on this project again this year! Supper and our monthly meeting will follow. REMINDER: We will also be collecting our Thankoffering at this meeting. \*\*\*\*

Trinity will be sponsoring the Community Thanksgiving service Wednesday, November 21st at 7 pm. We have all been invited to attend.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 16th! Our annual Family Christmas program and potluck will be held following regular church service. Since we no longer have a Sunday School Program, this is our opportunity to carry-on the tradition of fellowship we have become a custom to in our congregation. (*#3 Zion moved into the basement church at 5<sup>th</sup> and Main in 1949.*)

## Zion History

As a fundraiser for the new church at 5<sup>th</sup> and Main, “Mr. Taxeras bought a 4-H calf, cut up the steaks (to be used in the \$10 a plate dinner) and traded the rest to Joppru’s for more steaks. Walt Beedy, a retired army chef, grilled them. It was a storm, fall evening, people preferred to stay at home. Mr. Taxeras went outside and recruited people to come to the dinner. Word spread by the grapevine, and soon 250-300 people arrived and were served, netting a neat sum for the building fund.”