

What Did You Receive for Christmas This Year?

Read Luke 2:25-40

Christmas passes so quickly. The New Year's celebration seems to come right after Christmastime. Let's linger at Christmastime for another moment. There are two other people who by rights ought to be as famous as Mary and Joseph.

Of all the faithful people in the Bible, to me, Simeon is a standout. He was looking for the Messiah, as everyone was, and he had been told by the Spirit of God that he would not die before he saw the Lord's Messiah.

Simeon did live to see the Christ-child. He did not live to see the man. So he saw none of the miracles, heard none of the words, and seemed to know that Mary would not be exempt from a mother's pain. It was Simeon who was chosen by God to see that of all the people in the Temple, and all the babies, the baby Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus was a poor child, from a poor town. Simeon's reaction to this baby was to give words to his faith, and to bless Mary and Joseph.

Anna the prophet also saw Jesus in the Temple. It was given to her also that she saw Jesus for who he was and would become. She also knew enough to praise God for "the redemption" of Jerusalem.

The world received "salvation" (Simeon) and "redemption" (Anna) in Jesus.

What did you get for Christmas? I could make a long list of the many kindnesses shown to us not only at Christmastime but all through the year. There were presents and wrapping paper and many, many cards under our tree. For many of us there have been any number of wonderful gifts, which have good wishes and love behind them. The best gift of all of them is Jesus our Lord. We get to see the child. We get to see him as a teenager in the Temple. We get to know the man, the miracles, the words, and the salvation he brought to give as his gift to us.

In other words, whatever else we received for Christmas, we get what Simeon and Anna got.

Christmastime blessings,
Pastor John Golv



President's Message

Millie Reiersen

Happy 2013! I want to say you to all the many members of our congregation who made 2012 a successful year for Zion. I can't name everyone by name because the newsletter doesn't have that much space but, I hope you know who are. You are the ones that volunteered your time or your talents to help out in some way. You are the ones who returned a portion of the riches God has blessed you with. I know we are not supposed to worry about the future because God will provide but being human it can't be helped. I pray that God will continue to work through all the members of our congregation to share the good news of His love and grace that He so freely gives to us. Let us continue to be good stewards of all that He has provided.

Blessing in Christ! Millie Reiersen



**Zion Lutheran Church
Parish Planning Council Minutes
November 20, 2012**

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

Pastor Ale began our meeting with devotions.

The secretary's minutes were presented. Ginny Armstrong recommended a correction to the Treasurer's Report. Connie Hamre made a motion to accept the secretary's minutes as corrected. The minutes were seconded and carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Ginny Armstrong. Ginny reported that our expenses have significantly exceeded our income. A low percentage of pledge cards were returned by our members. Ginny suggested looking into other methods of collecting pledge cards. She also recommended sending a letter to all members informing them of our financial status. The Stewardship Board will draft a letter to the congregation.

President Millie suggested that the Parish Planning Council thoroughly review the Treasurer's Report and be prepared to make recommendations for budget cuts at the next meeting. Committee budgets need to be submitted in November and approved in December.

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

Evangelism/Lay Ministry: Deb Holtan reported that there were 10 adults and 4 children who became members of Zion on New Member Sunday, Nov. 18th

Public Relations Board: Deb Howe reported that the board did not meet. She reported that ads are running for Spirit of Giving which will be held Dec. 1st. Millie suggested contacting WDAZ to post the event on the Community Bulletin Board and to request TV coverage of the event. Deb reported that December is Food Shelf month.

Worship Board: Marijo Nabben had not attended the meeting so Millie reviewed the upcoming calendar:

Dec. 2 – 1st Sunday in Advent (Dec 16 & Dec 23 – still need families to light the Advent candle)

Dec. 9 – Sunday School Christmas Programs

Dec. 16 – Flap Jacks for Faith – between services

Choirs Concert – 10:30 service

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Services

4:00 pm – Zion

6:00 pm – Silver Creek

10:00 pm - Zion Communion Service

Jan. 8 – Board Meetings

Stewardship Board: Connie Hamre submitted meeting minutes. Connie reported that changes will be made to Consecration Sunday for next year.

Christian Education/Youth Board: Amber Holtan reported that practice for the Sunday School Christmas Program will be held Dec. 8th. On Dec. 16th, there will be a Christmas party for the children. There will be no Sunday School the following two Sundays. She also reported that December is Food Shelf month and January is for the Humane Society.

Youth Director: Sarah Knopf reported on the Middle School youth gathering which was held last weekend. There were over 800 who attended the gathering and they donated \$4500 to the Malaria Foundation. Sarah also reported that the seniors served 125 people at the “Over 70” Thanksgiving dinner held Nov. 18th.

Silver Creek: Penni Nelson reported that they will be having a congregational Christmas gathering but the date has not been set.

Pastor Ale reported that Silver Creek will be holding their council meetings the second Sunday of each month after worship services. He said their Christmas Eve service will be held at Dec. 24th at 6:00 pm.

Properties Board: Joel Rude reported that the board has not met yet but they will be meeting Nov. 28th at 6:00 pm to set up the Christmas trees and decorations. He reported that the snow blower is working. Joel reported that we’re getting a new piano moving cart. Sarah reported that a seat in the church van needs repair.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Ale encouraged everyone to recognize and support members of our congregation who are in the ministry. John Mickelson is one of Zion’s members who is in the ministry.

Next Parish Council Meeting will be December 18th, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.

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

Pam Cwikla, Secretary

ZLCW News

Zion ladies held their Christmas Tea Dec. 11 with shared goodies. Pastor Golv installed our officers for the coming year with co-presidents: Sharon Wagner & JoAnn Offerdahl; secretary: Jeanne Williams; treasurer: Ginny Armstrong. We sent out 43 Christmas cards to our shut-ins. Our booklets for the coming year are ready & can be picked up at the church.

All the items for the 2012 budget were met & we had \$8500 we gave toward Zion’s budget which is very much appreciated with the higher costs of everything.

Our January duties include program – Elizabeth circle; hostess – Dorcas circle; hospitality – Anna circle; visitation – Sarah circle at TR Care Center. We will meet Jan 8 at noon. Please join us as all ladies are welcome!