

Merry Christmas

Vol. 13

December 2013

No. 10

“Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people. To you is born this day near the city of David a savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” – Luke 2:10-11

Christmas is a time of joy and good will, a time when people everywhere celebrate God’s love. In Ethiopia, where I was born and grew up, this is the way we used to celebrate Christmas in our little village.

When the day approached we would go into the woods and cut down a tree, then take it home. We would bend it, polish it and try to shape it into a hockey stick for the game we would play on Christmas day.

On Christmas morning we would get dressed up in our nice costumes and go to church. After church we came home and ate a nice traditional Christmas meal with our family, not only at home, but we would go from house to house and enjoy a meal with our neighbors. Then in the afternoon all the people would go out to the field to play or watch a hockey game between the villages. Usually the men played while the ladies and children watched and cheered for their village or team. Then there would be a celebration and dance. This was how we used to spend Christmas in Ethiopia.

This is quite different from the way people celebrate Christmas here. In our country we didn’t have Christmas trees to decorate, no gifts to exchange and no Christmas lights decorating our houses. Yet Christmas was a happy time when the family and community came together to celebrate the day. It seems that even though we celebrate Christmas in different ways, we all have one thing in common. We all celebrate God’s love and enjoy the blessings of the season. Thanks be to God for his love.

May this Christmas season bring us closer to Him and to our families. May God Bless You All!!!

Merry Christmas
Pastor Ale and Family



Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 15 – 9:30 - **Sunday school meet in sanctuary**

Sunday, December 15 – 10:30 - **Sunday School Program**

Sunday, December 15 – 1:00 – **Christmas Concert**

Sunday, December 22 – **No Sunday school**

Tuesday, December 24 – 4:00 – **Christmas Eve Service – Zion**

Tuesday, December 24 – 6:00 – **Christmas Eve Service – Silver Creek**

Tuesday, December 24 – 10:00 – **Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion – Zion**

Sunday, December 29 – **No Sunday School**

Sunday, January 5 – **Sunday School resumes**



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who filled a box or made a donation to Operation Christmas Child. Zion delivered 104 boxes.

Sixth Annual “Spirit of Giving”

Saturday, December 7, 2013

7:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

(Please use the North door)

The “Spirit of Giving” is an annual holiday event intended to assist families in need and brighten their Christmas.

Items include clothing, toys and household items.

Volunteers are needed to help set up and pack up what is left. Contact the church office or Bonnie Yost to volunteer your help.

Donations for slightly used winter clothing, boots, gloves, household and holiday items may be dropped in the church basement December 2-6.



Silver Creek News

Silver Creek will continue the tradition of having a Christmas program at the close of our 10 AM church services on December 15. This gives everyone a chance to get together and greet one another and keep the Christmas spirit going. We are asking each family to bring a dish to pass as we will have a potluck following services. A great time to enjoy a meal and visit with our friends and neighbors during the Advent Season. This is open to anyone who would like to join us.

Church council will meet on December 8 following services.

Silver Creek Christmas Service will be held on December 24 at 6 PM with a candlelight service



ZLCW NEWS

Women of Zion will meet December 10, 2013, at 2:00 pm for our Christmas Tea and installation of officers. Bring six goodies to share.

Duties for December - Program; Executive Board, Hostess; All circles, Hospitality; Dorcas, and Visitation; sending Christmas cards to shut-ins.

The 2014 Circle books will be ready for pick-up at that time.

Lutheran World Relief items shipped out in November included-34 quilts, 42 school kits, 21 baby care kits, and 12 health kits. Thank you to everyone who helped with these projects.

Events coming up - Holiday Train December 16, 2013, Daughters of Zion- May 3,2014, Settende Mai dinner - May 14, 2014, Spring Cluster 2 meeting - April 26, 2014 at St. Pauli Lutheran Church, and the Fall Cluster meeting will be September 27, 2014, hosted by Zion Lutheran Church, TRF.

To Women of Zion 80 years plus:

Every one has a story to tell; each is special and unique. Coinciding with our Bible study, "Women of the Bible," we invite you to share your story with us. Our intent is to print a booklet with all the stories we receive. We'll also feature some of your stories as part of our Daughters of Zion Spring Brunch.

Please accept this invitation to share your story. Don't be bashful. We want to hear from you. Printed forms are available to help get you started. Pick one up in the church office or ask your circle chairwoman for one.

Thank you!

P.S. We'd like your story by February 1.

Who Hears the Angels Sing?

Who saw the star of Bethlehem
Those many years ago.
Who heard the angels sing their songs
To shepherds meek and low.

'Twas not the crowds who walked the streets
Of Bethlehem that night.
Who heard the choir of angels sing
Their song of man made right.

Nor was it king or highest priest
Who saw the brilliant star,
But wise men from a distant land
Who worshipped from afar.

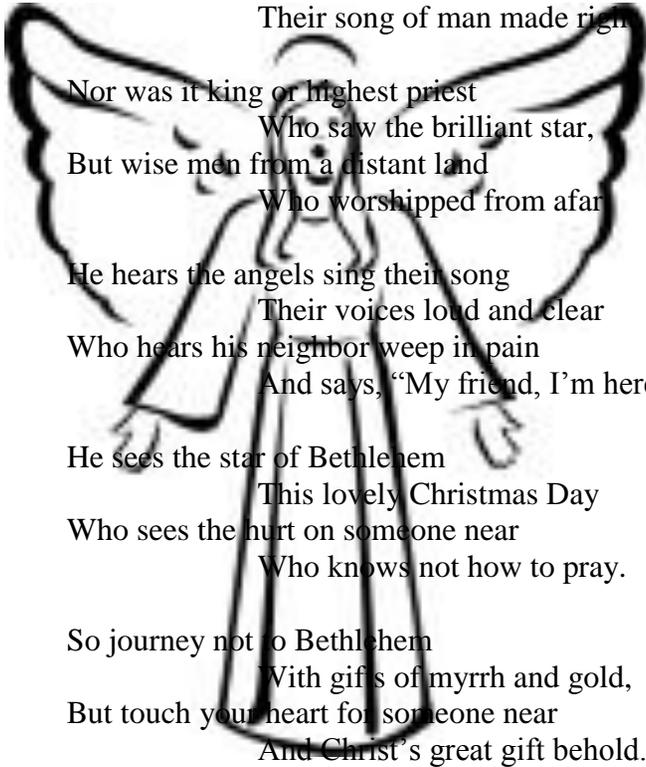
He hears the angels sing their song
Their voices loud and clear
Who hears his neighbor weep in pain
And says, "My friend, I'm here."

He sees the star of Bethlehem
This lovely Christmas Day
Who sees the hurt on someone near
Who knows not how to pray.

So journey not to Bethlehem
With gifts of myrrh and gold,
But touch your heart for someone near
And Christ's great gift behold.

For Christ is born again today
While angels sing above,
Each time we help a sorrowing heart
Or teach someone to love.

John Hulteen





**Zion Lutheran Church
Parish Planning Council Minutes
November 19, 2013**

The Parish Planning Council meeting was called to order by President Millie Reiersen at 7:00 pm. In attendance: President Millie Reiersen, Pastor John Golv, Pastor Ale Tulu, Jay Krogstad, Ginny Armstrong, Amber Holtan, Deb Holtan, Sharon Jorde, Deb Howe, Connie Hamre, Penni Nelson, Kristie Numedahl, Tim Numedahl, and Joel Rude.

President Millie called the meeting to order and Pastor Ale gave devotions.

The October 15, 2013 secretary's minutes were presented. Ginny Armstrong made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Sharon Jorde seconded the motion and it was approved and carried.

Ginny Armstrong presented the Treasurer's Report which was accepted and filed for audit. She reminded the board members that their budgets are due December 3rd. Ginny also reported that only 80 pledge cards have been turned in.

Youth and Education Board: Jay Krogstad reported that Sunday school has completed the second rotation and are starting the next which is "Jesus' Birth".

11/24 – 70+ dinner

11/23 – Youth gathering in Alexandria at Arrowwood (10 attending)

Amber reported that there were 182 who attended the Kids Sabbath at the New Traditions service on November 17th. The attendance was more than the 8:30 service. Noisy offering was \$248 so Amber and Jay purchased some items for the Christmas boxes.

12/15 – Sunday School program at 10:30 service

Evangelism & Lay Ministry: Deb Holtan reported that 7 new members will be joining Zion on November 24th.

Worship Board: Sharon Jorde reported that the choir concert will be at 1:00 on December 15th. She requested that the offering be used to pay for the music. Sharon also reported that families are needed for lighting the Advent Wreath.

Public Relations Board: Deb Howe reported they are working on the newsletter. She also reported that December is Zion's month for the food shelf. Deb said the advertising will be in the Times for the Spirit of Giving which will be held December 7th.

Stewardship Board: The minutes for the November board meeting were submitted. Connie Hamre thanked everyone who brought bars and helped out when Pastor Zeh was here.

Silver Creek: Penni Nelson reported that their Council meeting will be held Sunday, November 24th, after their service.

Fellowship Board: Kristi Numedahl reported that the booklets are completed. She also reported that 2 individuals have volunteered to be funeral chairmen.

Properties Board: Joel Rude the Christmas trees will be set up on November 29th at 1:00. He also reported that a new fridge has been donated for the

communion wine and a TV has been donated for the kitchen. He said furniture for the narthex is expected tomorrow.

The Advent wreath and the baptismal banners need to be moved to accommodate the new screen. It was suggested that these banners be displayed on stands.

Joel said the new video equipment is ready. The large screen TV in the basement may be mounted on a table on wheels so it can be moved to a storage area.

He also reported that Johnson Funeral Home donated a DVD player to Zion for use at funeral and weddings.

A motion was made by Connie Hamre to charge a \$100 technology fee for the use of the new equipment. \$50 will be given to the person operating the equipment and \$50 will be put into a maintenance fund. The motion was seconded by Deb Howe. The motion carried.

Pastors Report: Pastor Ale reported that he will be visiting nursing homes this month. He also reported that he is finishing the adult Bible study.

Pastor Golv submitted the schedule for November. He reported that the broadcast signal has been fixed and lights are being used so the broadcast has been enhanced.

Pastor John said he is very concerned that the two different service formats may divide the congregation. He requested that the Council choose a program from Pastor Zeh and he hopes that the program will keep us as one congregation who worships in two different manners.

Pastor John reported that the adult Bible study group wants to study the book of Romans for their next session.

President Millie asked the Council to consider the Pastor Zeh's "Natural Church Development" survey. After discussion, a motion was made by Sharon Jorde to explore Pastor Zeh's "Natural Church Development" program. The motion was seconded by Connie Hamre. The motion carried.

Pastor Ale reported that Pastor Mark Helgeland will be the speaker for the Thanksgiving Eve service at Zion. He also inquired if candles can be lit for the Christmas Eve service? It will be checked into.

The next board meetings will be December 3rd and the next Parish Planning Council meeting will be held December 17th.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
Pam Cwikla, Secretary

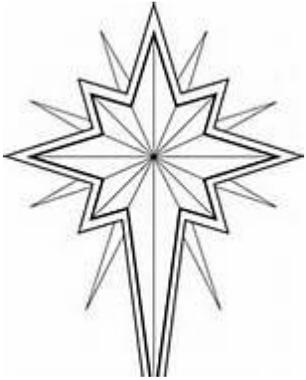
December 2013 Youth Events

Youth Group

December 4 –

Junior High – 3:00 - Decorate at TRCC

Senior High – 3:00 – Decorate church



December 11 –
Junior High – NOOMA
Senior High – NOOMA

December 18 –
Junior High – Christmas Party
Senior High – Christmas Party

December 25 – January 1
No youth groups. Have a great Christmas break.

Confirmation

December 4 – Early Release
Confirmation - 1:30-2:30 – Ride provided after with signed permission slip

December 11 – Large group Christmas party

December 18 – Small Group Night – Caroling with Senior Choir

January 8 – Early Release
Confirmation – 1:30-2:30 – Ride provided after with signed permission slip

Flapjacks for Faith

December 15 – Sign up if you would like to make money for your IFA accounts. Big things are coming Zion’s way – NYG, Camp, Ski Trip, Lock-In
If you would like to donate Krusteaz Box/Bag pancake mix, syrup, butter pads/sticks sausage links, orange/apple/cranberry concentrate, contact Jay.

“If we don’t get volunteers, this will be the last Flapjacks for Faith.” - Jay

K-5 Christmas Party

December 14 – 2:00 – 4:00 - At Zion Hot chocolate, apple cider, crafts



Sunday School Christmas Program
Sunday, December 15 at 10:30
Meet in sanctuary at 9:30

I would like to send a special THANK YOU to the following: Laura Rude and Beth Nelson for their gift of music. Jamie Bakken for her talent with the skits. Koni Johnson for her creativity with Crafts, and Mary Berzinski, and Michelle Bennit helping with the cooking/snack sessions. Along with ALL the Shepherds guiding our children through the first half of our journey at Sunday School. They are the following: Kathy Selvig and Family, Jana Erickson, Mariah Misson, Laura Rantanen, Deanna Alby, Mandi Lund, Kay Tishler, Jared Lunsetter, Mary Berzinski, Chad Lavalier, Kami Spears, Amanda Hawk. Berta Kalsnes and Carna VonHoltum. When you see any of these individuals please take time to say "Thank you." Without them our Sunday School Program wouldn't work

Amber Holtan



Muffin Makers

Zion's Christian Ed/Youth Board is asking every family with youth in grades K-12 to donate two dozen muffins, doughnuts, rolls, banana bread, coffee cake, etc. just one Sunday out of the whole year. Your family has been randomly assigned to bring muffins on the Sunday listed below. Please bring your muffins, etc. to the church basement by 9:00 am on your Sunday.

December 1st – Mike & Carla Hruby, Michelle Erickson, Michelle Benitt, Michael and Kelsy Blowers, Michael & Kelly Taggart

December 8th – Melissa Beier, Meghan Semrud, Matthew and Amy Petrovich, Matt and Jana Erickson, Marty and Deanna Peterson

December 22nd – Lynsey Forsberg, Loren and Lisa Pittman, Lora Rantanen, Lee and Kristi Lilja, Kristen Hanson, Kim Genereux

**December 29th – Kevin and Regina Sanders, Kelly and Kelsey Brateng, Kelly and Lani Druta, Kelley Baune, Keith Iverson,
Kay Tischler**