



**Vol. 14**

**April 2014**

**No 4**

### **Natural Church Development (NCD)**

After a careful deliberative process, Zion's Parish Planning Committee has chosen a program of church renewal called Natural Church Development.

The Institute for Natural Church Development has completed:

- 12 years of research in
- 70 countries including
- 56,500 churches with over
- 1,500,000 participants who provided more than
- 136,000,000 answers about their churches.

We have started.

Pastor Keith Zeh from the Northwestern Minnesota Synod office will be our guide and coach throughout. The next step for us is to have 30 of our members complete a survey which will give us solid information about 8 important aspects of our congregation.

These aspects are:

1. Empowering leadership
2. Gift-based ministry
3. Passionate spirituality
4. Effective structures
5. Inspiring worship
6. Holistic small groups
7. Need-oriented evangelism
8. Loving relationships

When the survey results are computed, we will have a clear idea of where to put our efforts.

Churches that have completed three or more surveys have experienced an 85% success rate in improving the health of their church.

This is a biblical program. It is based on what Jesus said in Mark 4:26-29. The author of the program puts it this way, "The release of God's growth forces is the strategic secret of growing churches."

This program will be a major focus at Zion for the foreseeable future. You will hear all about it in the newsletter, in Temple Talks, and in special events.

Here is what you can do now: pray for the leaders of our congregation; learn all you can about Natural Church Development; participate when you are asked, and, look to the future with hope and anticipation of what God is doing at Zion Lutheran Church.

Pastor John Golv



## Silver Creek News

Thanks to the ladies who have been working on quilts. At last count we have completed over 20 and will continue to make more. If you have any kits to turn in please leave at church by the end of April. Church council will meet Sunday, April 13th following services. Remember our Congregational Spring cleaning and potluck is scheduled for Thursday April 10th at 5 PM. This is for everyone and hope to get a good turn out so we can get the church sparkling clean.

## President's Message Millie Reiersen



Greetings!

I share a special warm greeting and thank you from Bishop Wahrabe and the Synod Council for helping our synod meet or exceed our budget goals for 2013!

Ash Wednesday is just around the corner to start our Lenten season. We will be having supper followed by services each week. We again will use Holden Village Evening Prayer and each week we will have a different pastor. Please plan on attending these services as we prepare our hearts and minds for Easter and celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

God's Blessings to each and every one of you!  
Millie Reiersen

Valentines carnations were delivered to thirty-two of Zion's shut-ins at nursing homes or their private residence. Also, nine Valentine cards were mailed to those out-of-town. Appreciation is expressed to the ladies that delivered them.

Our Lenten suppers begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Please come & enjoy the meals & fellowship with worship to follow. The offerings from the suppers assist our youth with Bible camps costs.

Please keep May 3 marked on your calendar as this is the date for our Daughters of Zion brunch at 10 a.m. We will be honoring Zion's ladies over 80 years of age & also our senior girls that will graduate from high school this spring. Tickets will be available closer to the event. (Ladies over 80, please remember to turn in your forms!)

Our next ZLCW meeting will be March 11 with our youth director, Jay Krogstad, telling us some of the youth activities. Hostess is Elizabeth Circle; hospitality is Sarah Circle; and visitation is Lydia Circle @ Valley Home.



## Sixth Annual Good Friday Prayer Vigil

April 18, 2014

Zion's Evangelism-Lay Ministry boards would like to invite everyone to our sixth annual Good Friday Prayer Vigil to be held on April 18, 2014. 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 previous years, 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.



### Prayer Shawls

Women of Zion will be meeting on Thursdays at 1:30 to knit or crochet prayer shawls. If you want to participate in the prayer shawl project and do not knit or crochet, you can make a monetary donation for buying yarn.

For more information, call Deb Holtan at 449-4645 or 686-3758.

**Zion Lutheran Church  
Parish Planning Council Minutes  
March 18, 2014**



The Parish Planning Council was called to order by President Millie Reiersen at 7:00 PM. In attendance: President Reiersen, Pastor John Golv, Pastor Ale Tulu, Deb Holtan, Connie Hamre, Deb Howe, Karen Thygeson, Jay Krogstad, Bob Nelson, Penni Nelson, Ken Kalsnes, Amber Holtan and Joel Rude.

Pastor John began the meeting with devotions. The secretary's report was approved with the correction to the Pastor's Report of St. Pauli instead of St Hilaire participating in the round robin Lenten services. Joel Rude made the motion to accept with correction and Ken Kalsnes seconded, motion carried.

The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

The New Traditions committee requested the Council approve a Wednesday evening worship service during the summer months beginning June 4th and concluding August 27th. The service would start with a meal at 5:30 PM with worship to follow. The service would be New Traditions with communion. Ken Kalsnes made the motion to approve and Deb Howe seconded, motion carried.

Connie Hamre volunteered to lead the March 26th Lenten Service.

Penni Nelson reported that Siver Creek will hold their board meeting Sunday, March 23rd.

Deb Holtan reported that the second Ladies night for movie and fellowship will be Mar 21st. Thursday afternoons will still be used for making prayer shawls for anyone.

Pastor Ale reported that First Communion classes will begin on March 30th.

Pastor John showed a DVD about Natural Church Development. The NCD committee has met with Pastor Keith Zeh and had a separate meeting to start the journey of revitalizing our congregation and developing a plan for the future of Zion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM after the Lord's Prayer.

Millie Reiersen, President

### **Natural Church Development (NDC)**

In the next days, weeks and months we are going to be hearing a lot about the Natural Church Development. A committee has been formed to explore the health of our church and the Natural Church Development is the resource that has been chosen to help us with this. The first step is to identify what our strengths and weaknesses are. To do this we will be using a survey that was developed by the Institute of Natural Church Development in

Germany. This survey has come out one of the most extensive studies of church growth ever conducted, involving over 1000 churches in 32 countries. The study showed that there is a clear positive connection between eight Quality Characteristics and church growth, or a healthy church.

We have obtained the survey to identify these strengths and weakness. To do this profile 30 members and the senior pastor will fill out the questionnaire. The questionnaire is then analyzed by computer and compared to 4.2 million answers. A special “global formula” is used to calculate the scores. The results will then help the committee to focus on what needs to be done to accomplish the better health of our church, which will result in growth.

The committee has prayerfully taken on this challenge and commitment and prays that you will do the same.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Deb Holtan

Ken Kalsnes

Chris Ellison

Brent Smith

Corie Erickson

Lora Rantanen

Tyler Mekash

## **Youth Newsletter**

### **Lent Clean Up**

April 2 – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade

April 9 - - 9th grade

April 16 – No supper

April 17 - Seder Meal – 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Maundy Thursday**

6 pm Seder Meal

7:30 Holy Communion

First Communion for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

8<sup>th</sup> Graders will help serve and clean up. After they finish, they will set up the tables for Easter Breakfast.

### **Easter Day Schedule**

6:30 Easter Sunrise Service

Senior High leads

7:15 Easter Breakfast

Middle School Youth and Parents

### **Sunrise Service**

Senior High this is your thing we need readers, greeters, ushers, singers.

Sign up outside Jay's Office

Need Parental Help

### **Easter Breakfast Schedule**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade and Parents arrive at 6:30 to cook and serve

6<sup>th</sup> Grade and Parents arrive at 7:00 to serve and clean up

### **Rummage Sale**

April 26

8:00 – 1:00

Set Up Starts Wednesday, April 23

Make money for your IFA Account

### **K-5 Event**

When: April 12, 2014

What: Easter Egg Hunt

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 PM

### **NYG Meeting**

**Mandatory parent and youth meetings:**

Must attend either April 28 or May 5 at 5:30 PM in Sanctuary.

### **Calendar of Events for Youth K-12**

April 2 - Lent Supper (10-12)

April 6 - 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Class

April 9 - Lent Supper (9<sup>th</sup> grade)

April 12 - K-5 Event @ Zion

April 13 - Palm Sunday

First Communion Class

Kids Sabbath

Flapjack For Faith (Last of Year for IFA Money)

April 16 - NO SUPPER

April 17 - Maundy Thursday (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

7:30 Holy Communion/First Communion

April 18 - Good Friday Service 7:30

April 20 - 6:30 Sunrise Service

7:15 Easter Breakfast

April 23 -26 - Rummage Sale Set-up

23<sup>rd</sup> - Set Up Tables and Posters

April 24 - Set Up- All Day- 8 pm

April 25 - Set Up- All Day-9

Baking Day

April 26 - Rummage Sale 8-1

Clean Up 1- ?

April 28 - National Youth Gathering Meeting 5:30

Youth Group will meet at designated time like usual. Junior High 3-5 and Senior High 7:30-9:30