



December 2015

No 10



Advent Before Christmas

Read Isaiah 2:1-5

If we're not careful, we could change the church year.

It may seem that Christmas is the next season after Thanksgiving is over. Advent seems to have been replaced by the countdown of shopping days until Christmas.

There is no Christmas without Advent.

Advent places our hope where hope is found.

It is in Advent that we hear the angel speaking to Mary, "Do not be afraid." Into the ordinary, all too predictable flow of her life came words which spoke of real hope. Are we different? Couldn't it be that in our predictable lives, that the routine is not as predictable as we thought?

It is the Gospel to say that God has acted to save and will act again. It is for us to be ready.

"The kingdom of heaven is near," Jesus said. In other words, there is hope even in crisis. There is light even in the deepest darkness. The sense of expectation that God will act to save is received as the good news that it is when we understand that God will act to save us.

In the Advent hymns, in the Holy Scripture, in Advent praying, in Christian proclamation, in acts of service, the Church will prepare us, and we will be ready. Advent will help us to be ready for the Nativity of our Lord.

Advent blessings,  
Pastor John

## President's Message Millie Reiersen

God's blessings to each and every member of our congregation! As we start the season of Advent, we remember the greatest gift ever given, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Thanks be to God!



I hope you will participate in some of the many activities taking place during this Christmas season - Spirit of Giving, caroling, Sunday School program, choir concert, Christmas Eve services at 4:00 and 10:00 PM to name a few.

Our search for a youth director is still ongoing. The Personnel Committee sent out notices to the Synod office, Luther Seminary and Concordia College with a deadline for resumes by December 10th. Keep us in your prayers.

Once again, we are at the end of our fiscal year. We would like to have your 2015 contributions no later than noon on December 31st. Ideally, we would love to have them early.

God bless each and every person who contributes to our mission of spreading the Gospel to the world.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

See you in church!

Millie Reiersen

## December Worship and Activity Schedule

- December 5 (Saturday) – Spirit of Giving
- December 6 - Sunday School Christmas Program at 10:30
- December 6 (Sunday) – Christmas Caroling at 4:30 – Light supper after
- December 20 (Sunday) - All choirs in concert at 10:30
- December 24 (Thursday) - Christmas Eve Worship at 4:00, 6:00 and 10:00
- December 27 (Sunday) - One Service only at 8:30

## Reminder – Reminder – Reminder - Reminder

- Any **offering for 2015** must be turned in to the church by noon, Thursday, December 31, or postmarked no later than December 31, 2015. Any 2015 offering turned in or postmarked January 1, 2016 or later will go one 2016 giving.
- **BOARD CHAIRS, TREASURERS, ETC.** of organizations – please have your annual report in by January 11, typed and ready for printing. You can email them to Linda at [ziontrf@mncable.net](mailto:ziontrf@mncable.net) if you would like.
- December is **food shelf month.** Grocery carts are located in the narthex and by the northeast door.
- **THE HOLIDAY TRAIN** will arrive in TRF on December 13, at 8:30 PM, at the Depot/City Hall, marking the 18th year the train has taken to the rails for local food banks with its message of hope and community support. The CP Rail Holiday Train will include a boxcar stage and entertainers Willy Porter and Sydney Grigg. The event admission free. Everyone is encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item for the Food Shelf Collection

## ZLCW NEWS



The women of Zion will meet on December 8, at 2:00PM for their Christmas Tea and installation of officers.

### Duties:

- Program: Executive Board
- Hostess: All Circles (10 goodies from each member; two kitchen workers per circle)
- Hospitality: Lydia
- Visitation: send Christmas cards to shut-ins.

The Executive Board will meet at 1:00PM; the Leaders Bible Study will meet after the meeting, and the 2016 Circle Books will be ready for pick-up before the meeting.

The schedule for Lenten Suppers is as follows:

- February 10 - Ash Wednesday - Anna circle
- February 17 – Dorcas
- February 24 – Catered
- March 2 – Elizabeth
- March 9 – Sarah
- March 24 - Seder Supper- Lydia Circle.

The Syttende Mai Supper is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18.



### **Zion Lutheran Church Parish Planning Council Minutes November 17, 2015**

President Millie Reiersen called the Parish Planning Council meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. In attendance: President Millie Reiersen, Pastor John Golv, Pastor Ale Tulu, Barbara Overbye, Amber Holtan, Deb Holtan, Tim Numedahl, Kristi Numedahl, Connie Hamre, Deb Howe, Sharon Jorde, Joel Rude, Karen Thygeson and Penny Nelson from Silver Creek Church.

Pastor Ale gave devotions.

A motion was made by Barbara Overbye to accept the Council minutes of October 20, 2015 as printed; seconded and carried.

Barbara Overbye presented a printed treasurer's report; discussed and filed for audit. A letter will be going out shortly asking members to help us balance the budget prior to the end of the year.

**Evangelism and Lay Ministry:** Deb Holtan reports on November 15th 13 adults and 9 children were welcomed into Zion as new members. They are still working on prayer shawls.

**Youth and Christian Education:** Amber Holtan reports that the Confirmation reception went well. All Sunday school classes have teachers assigned and are going well with help for the K-5<sup>th</sup> grades assigned to Jana Erickson; Jr. High groups are assigned to Tami Spears and the Sr. High assigned to Janae Hoffert. They are now handing out a Bible at baptism. December 6<sup>th</sup> will be Flapjacks and with the assistance of David Lee they will be serving French toast and sausage.

**Church Properties:** Joel Rude announced that on November 27<sup>th</sup> they would be putting up the trees and decorating for Christmas.

**Silver Creek:** Penny Nelson reports all is going well and will share upcoming dates for Zion with the Silver Creek Congregation.

**Worship:** Sharon Jorde reminds us that the First Sunday in Advent is November 29<sup>th</sup>. She also stated that Thanksgiving Service will be held at Trinity Church this year. A mass choir from the three churches will perform.

**Stewardship:** Connie Hamre reports she is working on the letter that will be sent out shortly requesting funds to balance the budget for this fiscal year. This letter will replace the Miracle Sunday that is held in the fall of the year.

**Parish Fellowship:** Kristi Numedahl stated there will be a pie auction on November 22. December caroling will be December 6<sup>th</sup>. They are reviewing the length of sharing service duties.

**Public Relations:** Deb Howe discussed pictures for our Pictorial Directory. Goal of 325 families participating and it was stated no pets to be included in the pictures.

**Youth Director:** President Reierson stated that December 10<sup>th</sup> is the final date to apply for the Youth Director position. Applications have been received.

**Pastors Report:** Pastor Ale reminded us of the upcoming Thanksgiving Service to be held at Trinity Lutheran.

Pastor John shared his monthly calendar with us. He stated that we now have gluten free wafers for communion when asked. He shared the following December dates with us:

- Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> - Spirit of Giving
- Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> - Sunday School Christmas Program at 10:30
- Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> - All choirs in concert at 10:30
- Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve Worship at 4, 6 and 10
- Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> - One Service only at 8:30



Tim Numedahl discussed our website. He wants to make sure it continues to stay current and would like to see a way to review how many clicks to each site is visited.

President Reiersen stated that they are working on a Sunday in January to have a farewell for past Youth Director Jay Krogstad. She also reminds us that only the North doors will be open for the Spirit of Giving activities on December 5<sup>th</sup>. She thanked everyone for their continued support of the church by sharing their time and talents.

Meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 6:25 P.M. Next meeting December 15, 2015 at 5:30 P.M.

Karen Thygeson, Acting Secretary

## Silver Creek

Advent is a time for preparing for the birth of Jesus. Let's try to remember this as we start the hustle and bustle getting our hearts and homes ready for Christmas. We will have our regular Christmas program following church services on December 13<sup>th</sup> with a potluck dinner to follow for the congregation. We will draw for the Deer Quilt at the potluck.

We are hoping that our church flags will be here for our Christmas Eve service at 6:00 PM. It is so fun to visit with extended families that worship with us on this special Holiday.

The church council will not meet in December unless any important business is brought to council's attention. Reminder to those who need to do annual reports to turn them in by January 4.



Bev Rupprecht

## Church Directory

Lifetouch representatives will be taking family portraits for our church directory on the following dates.

- Tuesday, **January 19**, Wednesday, **January 20**, Thursday, **January 21** and Friday, **January 23** from 2:00 - 9:00 PM
- **Saturday, January 24** from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- **Tuesday, February 9**, Wednesday, **February 10**, Thursday, **February 11** and Friday, **February 12** from 2:00 – 9: 00 PM,
- **Saturday, February 13**, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
- **Thursday, April 28** and **Friday, April 29** from 1:00 – 8:00
- **Saturday, April 30** from 9:00 AM– 4:00 PM.

**The April dates are reserved for those that will be gone during the January and February photo sessions.**

Members will be able to sign up for photo dates in the church narthex from 8:00 - 10:30 on November 29, December 6, and December 13.



Online registration will begin December 4. Just go to the church website [ziontrf.org](http://ziontrf.org), find the LifeTouch button and follow the directions.

If you can help calling members to register for photo sessions or register people during the photography sessions, please call:

Darlene Hulteen – 681-1047 or 689-8921

Email – [dhulteen@mncable.net](mailto:dhulteen@mncable.net)

## Sunday School News:

Sunday School Christmas Program Sunday December 6th at the 10:30 service. We will have Sunday school at 9:30.

No Sunday School December 27th or January 3rd....Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We'll see you back on January 10th when we will start of the new year with The Lord's Prayer!

December 14th: K-5 Christmas Party from 3-5. The church van will pick the youth up at Challenger and bring them back to Zion for activities. If your youth would like to attend please let Amber or Janae know by December 11th. No cost for this event.



### December 2nd:

Jr. High Youth Group 1-5

Sr. High Youth Group (9th-12th grade) & Janae will be decorating for Christmas from 7-9!

Jr Hi ...Join us for Gallery on the go with Amanda Bjerken.....there are 12 available spots! Hope to see you there! If you are able to attend please contact Amber. The cost will be \$9 per painter.

What is Gallery on the Go with Amanda? It's a fun painting party for you and your friends, and she brings all the supplies. Amanda will instruct a fun and easy artwork selection from the Gallery. You can check it out on Facebook "Gallery on the go with Amanda Bjerken" or [www.galleryonthego.net](http://www.galleryonthego.net)

**December 6th:** French Toast and Sausage from 9:30-10:30, and again after the Sunday School Christmas Program. We are looking for a couple of families to help set up, cook and serve.....a great IFA fundraiser. David Lee will also be helping us out, please see Amber if you're able to help!

**December 9th:**

Jr High Youth Group 3-5 the church van will pick youth up at FMS and bring them back to Zion  
Sr High Youth Group 7:30-9:30....come meet Janae!

**December 14th:** K-5 Christmas Party from 3-5. The church van will pick the youth up at Challenger and bring them back to Zion for activities. If your youth would like to attend please let Amber or Jana know by December 11th. No cost for this event.

**December 16th:**

Jr High Youth Group 3-5 the church van will pick youth up at FMS and bring them back to Zion  
Sr High Youth Group 7:30-9:30....come meet Janae!

**December 23:**

No Jr High Youth Group.....Merry Christmas!  
No Sr High Youth Group.....Merry Christmas!

**Confirmation:**

December 2nd: **No Confirmation**  
December 9th: Large Group Christmas Party  
December 16th: Small Group  
December 23rd: No Confirmation  
December 30th: No Confirmation



## Flapjacks for Faith

Next Flapjacks for Faith will be Sunday December 6th with French Toast and Sausage. The youth will be serving in between services from 9:30-10:30 and then again after the 10:30 service.



Operation Christmas Child was once again a great success! Zion delivered 79 boxes; the youth helped pack 20 of the boxes with noisy offering and donations. Thank you to everyone!

## Noisy Offering for December will go to our local VIP

Violence Intervention Project (VIP) History Violence Intervention Project (VIP) was originally conceived in May 1990 by two groups of concerned local citizens: the Martha Ripley Alliance and Project Safe. The Martha Ripley Alliance established in 1978 was a group of dedicated women from various backgrounds. Their purpose was to provide alternatives to women who, like themselves, were living in an environment of domestic violence. Project Safe, began in 1979 and its primary focus was to serve victims of sexual assault. VIP is a private non-profit agency that serves victims of domestic violence in Pennington County and Red Lake County.” Victims of domestic violence who are in Minnesota or anywhere in the United States may be served via a call to VIP’s crisis line (1-800-666-6667). Shelter may be provided to victims coming from any location. Victims from outside Pennington County and Red Lake County may also access advocacy services at VIP’s office in Thief River Falls on a 24/7 basis. VIP has an office in Thief River Falls, MN that also serves as administrative center. VIP shelter serves a population of approximately 1,000.

Services Offered:

- Supportive staff (advocates) are available to listen and present alternatives and options.
- A safe, confidential place for victims to share their experiences and receive non-judgmental support.
- Support groups for women that provide education and support for victims of abuse. Childcare is provided.
- Emergency housing for battered women and their children.
- Legal advocacy for clients including assistance in completing orders for protection or harassment order, accompaniment to court hearings, law enforcement, or attorney appointments.



- 24-hour toll-free crisis line for all victims.
- Emergency transportation and emergency financial assistance for all victims.
- Information and referrals to other service agencies.
- Written material and video education resources.

