



Gratitude - Philippians 4:11

"... I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty."

Wow. If ever there was a statement of faith to take one's breath away, that is it.

This verse registers with Christian people. It makes sense to us. In our time, when a person's worth is so often measured by what he or she possesses, this phrase by Paul in Philippians may not make sense at all.

Thomas (not his name) had three daughters. He was not wealthy by any standard. One day he introduced me to all three, and I said "What a rich man you are!" He agreed with that. He knew that he was blessed by God.

Are you rich?

It's a spiritual principal. Some who have no money to speak of nonetheless feel wealthy, and are in fact wealthy by spiritual standards. Some with a great deal of money feel poor, and are in fact poor by spiritual standards.

The Lutheran preachers rented a convent for a meeting. We all knew that the sisters who lived there had taken a vow of poverty. We all wondered if they had enough to live on. We learned later that the sisters were wondering the same thing about us.

Christians know blessings when they see them. Unconditional love is a great blessing. Forgiveness is a great blessing. The promises of God are great blessings. Add up all the blessings of Christian faith and it amounts to nothing less than a life of contentment.

Christians have more reasons to be content than any of us could ever count.

This Christmas season can be overwhelming. So much is going on. Far too much of the hoopla is simply noise. What matters most is the Christ-child, born for each of us.

That one gift means that all of us are in fact rich, wealthy beyond all counting.

Pastor John

- December 3 – Spirit of Giving
- December 4 – New Members – 10:30 service followed by pot luck
- December 4 – Christmas Caroling
- December 11 - Sunday School Christmas Program – 8:30 service
- December 12 – Holiday Train – 7:30-8:30 PM
- December 18 – K-5 Happy Birthday Jesus party – 11:30–1:30 – Fellowship Hall
- December 18 – Senior Choir sings for Call to Worship
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Services – 4:00 and 10:00
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Service – 5:30 – Silver Creek



President's Message

Millie Reiersen

God's blessings to all of you! Advent is the time we prepare for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are truly blessed that God sent His only Son to atone for our sins.

December 3rd is the Spirit of Giving (8th year); December 4th is new member Sunday at the 10:30 service with potluck to follow. There is caroling that day in the late afternoon followed by a light supper.

December 11th is the Sunday School Christmas program at 8:30 service. K-5 will have a Happy Birthday Baby Jesus party on December 18th from 11:30 to 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

December 24th will have services at 4:00 and 10:00 PM at Zion and 5:30 PM at Silver Creek.

December 31st is the last day to get your 2016 contributions into the office. Please don't wait until the last minute - get them in early! If you can afford to increase your giving because God has blessed you this year, it would be greatly appreciated.

See you in Church!

See you in Church!
Millie Reiersen



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

New Member Sunday

- December 4 at 10:30 service
- Potluck dinner to follow
- Orientation - Thursday, December 1, at 7:00 in the lounge
- Call church office for more information
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REMINDER that any offering for 2016 must be in to the church by Friday, December 30 December 31, 2016. Any 2016 offering turned in or postmarked January 1, 2017, or later will



or postmarked no later than go on 2017 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. Thank you.

December – Food Shelf Month

Grocery carts are located in the narthex or by the northeast door for collecting the food. Monetary donations may be put in the offering. Make checks out to Thief River Falls food Shelf. Thank you for your help.



HERE WE GO A-CAROLING

Come with Christmas joy and join us in caroling to Zion's shut-ins. On Sunday, December 4, meet at 4:30 PM at Zion in the fellowship hall. Dress warm for outdoors. We will return to Zion after for a light supper.

ZLCW NEWS

The December meeting of Women of Zion will be our Christmas Tea on Tuesday, December 13, at 2:00 PM.



Duties for December

- Program: Executive Board
- Hostess: All circles (Each member bring six goodies to share, and each circle provide two kitchen workers.)
- Hospitality: Executive Board
- Visitation: Send Christmas cards.



Lutheran World Relief pick-up was on Saturday, November 5. We shipped 78 personal care kits, 10 baby care kits, 25 school kits and eight quilts. That brings the total for 2015 to: 181 personal care kits, 66 baby care kits, 24 school kits and 49 quilts. We also gave two quilts to fire victims. GOOD WORK, LADIES! Thank you to all who worked on kits and to all who donated items.

The Holiday Train will be in TRF Monday, December 12.

Beginning in January, Women of Zion will meet at 10:00AM instead of noon and will include the Bible study. The executive board will meet at 9:00AM.

The Syttende Mai dinner will be May 17, 2017

*****ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS*****

We need your help, please! We are looking for donations of baked goods, candies, muffins, bars, donuts, breads, puppy chow, etc. for the Treat Walk at the *Happy Birthday Jesus* party on December 18, in the Fellowship Hall for Little Lambs - 5th Grade. Please package baked goods in groups of three, for example: three cookies, three muffins, etc., and drop them off on December 18, between 8:00 and 11:30 AM. There will be a table in the fellowship hall by the kitchen on which to place your items. If you have questions, please contact Becky Fredrickson at 686-5563. January 3 to Kristi Housey or Roger Rupprecht.



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 of getting our hearts and homes ready for Christmas.

We will have our regular Christmas program following church services on December 11 with a congregational potluck dinner to follow. A short council meeting will be held following the program.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight service is scheduled for 5:30 PM on December 24. Please note the time change from previous years. It is so fun to visit with extended families that worship with us on this special Holiday.

We will not have church services on Sunday, December 26.

Reminder to those who need to do annual reports to turn them in by January 3 to Kristi Housey or Roger Rupprecht.

Bev Ruprecht



Parish Planning Council Minutes November 15, 2016

The Parish Planning Council was called to order by President Millie Reiersen at 5:30 PM. In attendance: President Reiersen, Pastor John Golv, Pastor Ale Tulu, Deb Holtan, Connie Hamre, Tim Numedahl, Deb Holtan, Ken Kalsnes, Deb Howe, Penni Nelson, Berta Kalsnes, Amber Holtan and Barbara Overbye.

Pastor John gave devotions.

The minutes from the previous month were read and approved by a motion from Deb Howe and seconded by Connie.

The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

Cookie informed us that the state has changed our MN State Tax Exempt Identification Number.

Amber reported the schedule for Noisy offering: Nov - Food Shelf, Dec - Spirit of Giving, Jan - Little Brother/Sister program. The Sunday School Christmas concert is December 11th at the 8:30 service. The Happy Birthday Baby Jesus party will be December 18th from 11:30 - 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Penni reported there will be a baptism at Silver Creek on November 20th.

Property Board reported the purchase of 510 N Knight is on hold to clear up some issues by the attorney.

Deb Holtan reported that the initial meeting for the Faith Mentor Program will be Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 6 PM. Prayer Shawl group is on break until January.

Connie brought discussion about presenting more information about Simply Giving.

Pastor Ale mentioned the Holiday Train will be in TRF on December 12th.

Pastor John reminded us that new member Sunday will be December 4th at the 10:30 service.

The next Parish Planning Council will meet December 20th at 5:30PM.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40PM after the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Millie Reiersen, President



Happy Birthday, Jesus

The Zion Lutheran Church Youth Board invites Little Lambs - 5th grade and their parents to attend Zion's 1st annual Christmas celebration, *Happy Birthday Jesus*, on Sunday, December 18, from 11:30-1:30 in the church Fellowship Hall. There will be carnival games, prizes, a treat walk, ornament decorating and much more. We will be serving pizza, pop and birthday cupcakes for lunch. There is no charge for this event. Please encourage your children to attend. You won't want to miss this event!!!

Sunday School News

The **Sunday school Christmas program** for Little Lambs – Grade 5 will be Sunday, December 11, at the 8:30 service.

There will be no Sunday school on December 25 or January 1. See you back January 8.



Have a blessed and Merry Christmas!

Thank you to everyone that packed a **Christmas Child** shoe box or donated to Operation Christmas Child through Noisy Offering or a general donation. With your generous donations, our confirmation small groups were able to pack 40 boxes, and as a congregation we were able to ship out a total of 75 boxes!



Noisy Offering for December - Spirit of Giving



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.

