



Vol. 17

February 2017

No. 2



The Spirit and the Letter
Read Psalm 119

Reading this Psalm took awhile, did it not? This is the longest Psalm in the book of Psalms, at 176 verses.

On Sunday, February 12, we will read part of this Psalm in church, verses 1-8.

This Psalm is written in the “acrostic” style. In Hebrew the first letter of each word in verses 1-8 begins with the Hebrew letter “aleph.” The first letter of the first words in 9-16 is the second letter in the Hebrew alphabet: “beth” (pronounced “bait”) and so on until the last eight verses of the psalm. In the last eight-line stanza the first letter of the first words begins with the twenty-second (and last) letter of the Hebrew alphabet (“tav”). This works out to be 22 eight-line stanzas, or 176 verses.

The first three verses might be called, “Realization.” The Psalm says that the person who knows God’s ways, and keeps them, is “Happy.” We could paraphrase the first three verses by saying, “The person who realizes that to know God is to know God’s law, is joyful, satisfied, and well rewarded.”

The life worth living acknowledges God and God’s ways.

Verses 5-8 build on the first three. “Shame” is not part of life when our eyes are fixed on God’s commandments. Worthy “praise” happens when our hearts are “upright,” and when we “learn” God’s law. All this clearly is good news. It is enough to build a strong but not completely rewarding spiritual life.

Most of us are only too aware of the times when our hearts and eyes and minds are right in appearance only. When we are not right with God other approaches may become attractive. One such attraction is this: the “do-it-yourself” approach. Some try indulging. Some try deprivation. Some try extra-hard work. Some try extra-demanding ethics. None of this works. All of this can become dangerous if an alternate approach takes first place in our lives. With God in second place (or lower), even the good things in life can become disappointing.

The do-it-yourself approach will always fail us. The nagging feeling that there must be more to life than indulging ourselves, or depriving ourselves, or working hard, or behaving well, may well bring us back to God. When that happens we come to know God’s forgiveness.

There is more to God than God’s law.

There is more to the Christian life than living right.

“Realization” often happens twice. Eventually we realize that it is only by the grace of God that any life is well-lived. We learn, if we learn, that God forgives us even when we know what is good and right, and do the opposite instead.

It is forgiveness which makes the Christian spiritual life possible. When we realize that we are forgiven we realize who Jesus is, and what Jesus did.

On Sunday February 12, we will also hear Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew (5:21-37) tell us how much more there is to the law of God. Unchanged hearts can keep the letter of the law. Keeping the letter of the law is not enough, even though it may seem to be enough. The spirit of the law is what counts the most.

So when you read Psalm 119, make sure you also read Matthew 5, and II Corinthians 3.

Pastor John



President's Message

Millie Reiersen

God's blessings to all of you!

Are you getting those mid-winter blahs? Come to church! There are so many things happening at Zion that will lift your spirits and occupy your time - choirs, youth activities, quilting, prayer shawls, Bible studies, Men's Breakfast, circles, ZLCW, Sunday school, boards, and Sunday worship. I'm sure I missed a lot of other opportunities for you to serve your church, but you get the idea. I am very thankful for all the folks that do volunteer their time and energy to make all these activities happen.

Remember to pray for our staff, our Parish Planning Council and all the members of Zion as we share God's love and grace with those around us.

See you in Church!
Millie Reiersen

ZLCW NEWS



The February meeting of the Women of Zion will be February 14 at 10:AM with Bible study at 10:30. The executive board will meet at 8:30Am with a short meeting to follow the Bible study.

Duties for February: Program (if desired) – Elizabeth, Hostess – Rebekah, Hospitality – Sara, Visitation – Carnation delivery. We need two women from each circle.

Donation to Zion general fund for 2016 was \$2500.

A new coffee maker for the kitchen in the Fellowship Hall has been ordered and should be in soon.

Silver Creek

- The Silver Creek annual meeting was held on January 15. Thank you to the following officers for accepting their duties for the coming year: President – Roger Rupprecht, Vice President – Mike Torgerson, Secretary – Kristi Housey, Treasurer – Virginia Swanson, Deacons – Clark Nelson, Roger Nelson, Connie Stock, Trustees – Leland Nelson, Mark Swanson, Ray Fuller. The report for 2016 is available at the church.
- It was decided to continue our fundraising for the year with the quilt raffle.
- The church council will meet following church services on February 12.
- The women of the church will meet following church services on February 12.
- The women of the church will meet to quilt on February 9, at 3:00 with a light supper at 5:30. A business meeting will follow.
- The Bible study will be *God's Severe Mercy*, Lesson #1 in the booklet, *Meeting God*.
- Special thanks to all the ladies who helped decorate and take down our Christmas decorations. Once again, the church was beautiful.
- Program booklets for the year are on the table in the back of the church. Please remember to take one.



Bev Rupprecht



Parish Planning Council Minutes January 17, 2017

The Parish Planning Council meeting was called to order by President Millie Reierson at 5:30 pm. In attendance: President Millie Reierson, Pastor Golv, Pastor Ale Tulu, Tim Numedahl, Connie Hamre, Deb Holtan, Amber Holtan, Ken Kalsnes, Joel Rude, Deb Howe, Glenice Johnson, Robert Kalsnes, Barbara Overbye, and Pam Cwikla.

Pastor Golv gave devotions.

The minutes from the December 20, 2016 Council meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Connie Hamre and seconded by Deb Howe to accept the minutes as resented. The motion carried.

Barbara Overbye presented the Treasurer's Report. It was filed for audit.

CHURCH PROPERTIES: Joel Rude reported that the Christmas trees and wreaths have been taken down. He said the mirror has been replaced in the men's restroom. Joel reported that he spoke to police regarding the unauthorized use of Zion's parking lot. The issue has gotten better. Joel said he has taken care of utilities and insurance for the Knight property.

CHRISTIAN ED/YOUTH: Amber Holtan reported that the board reviewed their budget. She said Bible camp signup is in February. Day Camp dates are 7/30 – 8/3. Amber reported that "Flapjacks for Faith" went well.

Upcoming **events:**

January 22	K-5 sledding at Hartz Park
February	3 rd -5 th Grades - Swimming
March	Bowling
	Middle School - Lock-in
March 11-12	6 th -12 th Grades - Ski Trip
July 30-August 3	Vacation Bible School

WORSHIP: Roberta Kalsnes reported that they are handling services well.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Deb Howe reminded everyone that this Friday is the deadline for the newsletter. Deb asked for volunteers to deliver "Falls Delivered Meals" January 30-February 3. She said three drivers are needed each day.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP: Glenice Johnson reported that the pie auction went very well. They raised \$2400 for the youth trip. She said that the Christmas carolers had a good time singing to the rest homes on December 4 followed by supper at the church.

PASTORS' REPORT: Pastor Ale reported that plans are being made for Lenten Services and doing a round-robin is looking good. He also commented that the 500th anniversary of the Reformation is October 25th.

Pastor Golv's report was submitted. He reported that the ELCA has requested additional funds in January, if possible. He presented a printout for review from ELCA titled "Where Does My Offering Go?"

President Millie asked for volunteers to review the Annual Report. She presented information on a 2-day workshop, "Always Reforming", which will be held at Zion February 18th with Bishop Larry Wohlrabe. Anyone interested in attending should contact the church office for registration.

Barbara Overbye reported that Banco quit doing Zion's payroll service. Linda Hamrick is handling it now but other options are being looked into.

The Council then moved to reviewing the 2017 budget. After much discussion, Glenice Johnson made a motion to accept the budget for presentation to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 29. Deb Holtan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

After the Lord's Prayer, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Pam Cwikla, Secretary



Always Reforming Equipping Congregation Day

Join us for a day of learning as we come together as a church, both clergy and laity, to equip ourselves for the complexity that is ministry.

A daylong workshop is scheduled for Saturday, February 18, at Zion in TRF and for Saturday, February 28, at Calvary Lutheran in Perham from 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM.

Keynote address, *Back to the Future*, by Bishop Larry Wohlrabe.

Workshop Sessions:

1A: Council Training – Rev Paul Erdal

2B: Treasure – Bishop Larry Wohlrabe

3C: Faithful Stewards, Lasting Impact – Amy Bigot

4D: Secrets of Internet Communication: Websites, Facebook and Algorithms – John Bell

5E: Data-Driven Look: Building a Thriving Ministry in a Shifting Culture – Richard Bauer

6F: Collaborative Conversation – Rev. Karla Mickelson

7G: Moving Ahead with Purpose: Strategic Planning for the Parish – Rev Nancy Eldredge Hess

8H: Milestone Ministries – Rev. Mark Asleson

9I: Engaging Youth and Family Ministry – Kristina Johnson

10J: Disaster Response and Resilience: Clergy, Faith Community and Congregation – Rev. Brad Skogen

11:K Ministers Wanted: Moving from Volunteers to Disciples – Rev. Cassie Anderson

12L: Moving Beyond the “Welcome Sign” – Rev. Laurie Natwick

Registration is available online at nwmnsynod.org/equip

If you have questions, please call Pastor John or Pastor Ale at the church – 681-3296.

Resources for the Enrichment of African Lives

2233 University Avenue W, #338 – St. Paul, MN 55114 – 612-724-2096 – www.realafrica.org

January 20, 2017

Dear Zion Lutheran Church

Thank you for renewing your sponsorship of three girls – your support means so much!

It has been a difficult year in Ethiopia. The government declared a six-month State of Emergency beginning October 1, 2016. What this means to us and our girls is that



communication by telephone and Internet is significantly restricted. Our Nekempt, Bodji, Ayira Guliso and Nedjo sites are the most affected. Fenan Tolessa our in-country coordinator lives in Nekemt and is finding it challenging to be in contact with all the sites. Happily Tschai has talked to her recently, all of our girls are safe, and we have received written reports from six of the sites and verbal reports from two. At some of the sites, school was disrupted at the end of the last school year. The mentors continued to meet with the girls to encourage them to study and read, but it has been a hard year. For the first time we have 3 girls who completed the 12th grade but didn't earn enough points on the final exam to enter university because of the school year disruption. The situation seems to have stabilized, so we are cautiously optimistic. Fenan has letters from the girls to their sponsors from most of the sites and is mailing them to us. We will send you the letters when we receive them. We do know that in Ayira Gulisso we have six girls who are leaving our program, four of whom have completed their studies and two who had to leave early because of difficult family situations.

I am pleased to update you on the three girls you have been sponsoring: Alami Lamesso completed her study of Information Technology and has received her diploma. Amalawarki Kebede was promoted to the tenth grade and Sara Melkamu had to leave the program because of family difficulties. Your two new girls are Hana Itala and Sara Shora, both sixth graders. Tschai and I are planning to travel to Ethiopia next summer to visit the sites. Our primary goal is to bring the girls from all 8 sites to Addis Ababa to celebrate their success and inspire them with the strong and vibrant community they are now part of. We don't have exact dates, but it would be wonderful if some of our amazing REAL sponsors traveled to Ethiopia with us. Please let Tschai (twdf2a@gmail.com) or me (kac1122@aol.com) know if you are interested in going, and we will be in contact with you as the plans evolve.



Thank you for supporting Amalawarki, Hana, and Sara. Your sponsorship and belief in them means more than you will ever know.

Sincerely,
Kathy Coftran

Kathy Coftran from the REAL board

Youth news:

Flapjacks for faith:

Thank you Bregier Family and David Lee for hosting Flapjacks for Faith!

We are still in search of a host family for Flapjacks for Faith in February! It would take place on Sunday the 19th. Let Kelsey know if you are interested to host this. Email at ziontrfy@gmail.com.

We always welcome donation for flapjacks! Donations can be dropped off at the church's office or Kelsey's office.

Pathway Sunday is February 12th! Pathway camp counselors will be speaking during the services and education hour about what our youth will enjoy during camp this summer. Also, if you register and pay your deposit by March 1st, the church will pick up the rest of your camper's tuition.

Confirmation:

Meals for February:

2/1: Chicken Alfredo & breadsticks

2/8: No Confirmation

2/15: Hot ham & cheese sandwiches with chips

2/22: Chili & cheese biscuits

All meals \$3.00 and soda .50 cents. Second helping \$1.00

Thank you Kami for making these delicious meals for the youth!

Starting February 15th, Kelsey will be working with the 10th graders during confirmation hour. She is very eager to start working with this group and continuing to work towards their confirmation.

Thank you Berta and helpers with teaching Wednesday night. It's a privilege to have you a part of this group!

Youth Group: Wednesdays 7:30-9:00 pm

February schedule

2/1: Day 1 "Play with Fire"

2/8: No Youth Group

2/15: Movie Day *Woodlawn* or *Do you Believe?*

2/22: Day 2 "Play with Fire"

Lent clean up:

3/1: 5th & 6th grade

3/8: 3rd & 4th grade

3/15: K-2nd grade

3/22: 7th grade

3/29: 10th-12th grade

4/5: 9th grade

4/13: 8th grade service event

K-5 Event:

Swimming at the Grandstay from 3:00-5:00 pm. Cost is \$5 per swimmer. A parent must be present.

March event will be bowling on the 19th at 3:00 pm. Cost per bowler is \$3.75 per game and \$3.50 for shoes.

6th-12th grade Ski Trip: Buena Vista Ski Area

February 17th and skiing Friday evening and all day Saturday at Buena Vista in Bemidji. Price: Lift only (have own skis/board) \$70, Tubing only \$65, Renting skis + lift ticket \$80, Renting snowboard + lift ticket \$100. ***\$50 non-refundable deposit due February 2nd*** with balance due February 9th. Supper Friday night and Breakfast Saturday morning are included in the price. You will be responsible for lunch Saturday, and we will be home in time for supper. This event is with Angie at Redeemer. See Kelsey for your forms to fill out.

6th-12th grade Northern Air Trip: Trampoline Dodge Ball

We will be leaving Saturday, March 11th, at Northern Air to play trampoline dodge ball and later eat at Pizza Ranch. Cost for this event, 1.5 hour of dodge ball is \$17, buffet at Pizza Ranch is \$10.76 with drink. Parents must go online and sign waivers for Northern Air at <http://northernairffc.com/>. We will leave the Zion parking lot at 1:00 pm and should arrive back at Zion 6:00 pm. Please sign up for this event on the Youth Activity Board.



Sunday School News

Upcoming Events:

February 12th: Camp Sunday with Pathways! Join us at the 10:30 service for singing and learning all about summer camp!

February 12th: K-5 Event...Swimming @ Grand Stay from 3-5

March 5th: Sunday school students will be singing.

April 9th: Sunday school students will be singing.

April 16th: Easter Sunday no Sunday school

May 14th: Mother's Day.....Sunday school students will be singing.

May 14th: Last day of Sunday school

Register by March 1st and all you will have to pay is the \$100 deposit and the Christian Ed/Youth Board & ZLCW Ladies will pick up the rest!

June 11th-16th Elementary Classic 4th & 5th Grade

June 18th-23rd Middle School Classic 6th & 7th Grade

June 25th-June 30th Junior High Classic 8th & 9th Grade

July 9th-14th High School Classic 10th-12th grade

July 12th-14th Elementary Mini 2nd-3rd grade

July 14th Half Pint Day K-2nd grade



These are the dates that the church will be providing transportation to and from camp. Other dates are available if these dates don't work for you and your youth



Pathways Day Camp July 31st-August 3rd 2017

FYI

With ski trips and summer and day camps coming up, we have opportunities for you as an individual/family to raise money to help pay for these events. One way is FFF (Flapjacks for Faith). This is where the youth and parents cook, serve pancakes and sausage, and clean up. The event is held in between services and any age can help! The next FFF is Sunday February 19th. If you are interested in helping talk to Kelsey or Amber!

Noisy Offering for February will go Pathways Bible Camp (Camp Emmaus) Camp Emmaus is located just outside of Menahga, MN. Emmaus offers year-round retreat and conference facilities for groups of all types in a peaceful and pristine setting. Camp Emmaus is ideal for retreats, family reunions, banquets, and meetings. The Challenge Course at Camp Emmaus also opens up possibilities for team building retreats.

Lenten Clean-Up Schedule

March 1st – Ash Wednesday – 5th & 6th Grade

March 8th – 3rd & 4th Grade

March 15th– Kindergarten- 2nd Grade

March 22nd – 7th Grade

March 29th – 10th-12th grade

April 5th – 9th Grade

April 13th – Maundy Thursday – 8th Grade

More details to come....watch for your postcard.

First Communion Classes for 5th Graders will be March 26th, April 2nd, and April 9th during the Sunday school hour until 10:00 in the patio room. Students will remain in the patio room for Sunday school until 10:20. Parents are welcome to come down to fellowship hall for coffee and fellowship.



Flap Jacks for Faith will be Sunday, February 19, between services. The youth will be serving pancakes, sausage and juice!



Celebrating the 500th Year Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation

Included in Martin Luther's Small Catechism - A Morning Prayer

In the morning, when you rise you shall make the sign of the holy cross, and you shall say: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then, kneeling or standing, you shall say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Then you may say this prayer:

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray You to protect me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

And then you should go with joy to your work, singing a hymn, or the Ten Commandments or whatever your devotion may suggest.