



From the Senior Pastor:

December, 2018

“... he gave gifts...” Ephesians 4:8

One Christmas in Wahpeton, ND the largest present under the tree had no name tag, and my folks would not tell my sister and I whose it was. In the days leading up to Christmas Eve, she and I could think of nothing else.

I don't remember now what was inside that box, other than the fact that it was abnormally large, and it was for her.

God's ongoing generosity is clearly seen in God's gift-giving. It is always good spiritual advice to “count our blessings.” We can say the same thing this way, “count your gifts.”

What has God given you?

In confirmation class we always start this way: “thank you Lord for dying for me and thank you for...” The confirmands complete this sentence to offer prayer in the hope that they learn to be grateful for the gifts in their lives. They give thanks to God for family, friends, school, church, food, shelter.

If they become overwhelmed they consider this question, posed by Paul in I Corinthians 4:7: “What do you have that God did not give you?” That opens up everything in the world. Now they include the rule of law, freedom of expression, and freedom of religion in their prayers.

There is more for us to be grateful for than we will ever know. Saying prayers of gratitude builds and re-builds faith.

In December we know that God's greatest gift is Jesus our Savior.

When you count your blessings, or count your gifts, always name Him first.

In Christ,
Pastor John Golv



Reminders from the Church Office

Poinsettias: If you wish to bring a Poinsettia for Christmas Eve services in memory or in honor of someone, please let the church office know by Monday, December 17.

Annuals Reports: Please turn in by January 11, 2019 typed and ready to print.

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

© Can Stock Photo



End of Year Donations: Any donation received after Sunday, December 31, will be credited to 2019 giving.

- December 1 – 8:00 – 12:00 - Spirit of Giving – 8:00-12:00 - Invitation Only – 10:00 - 12:00 – Open to Public
- December 2 - 1st Sunday in Advent
- December 9 –8:30 AM - Sunday School Christmas Program
- December 9 – 4:30 - Christmas Caroling – light lunch afterwards
- December 13 – Holiday Train
- December 15 – Happy Birthday Jesus Event and caroling – Little Lambs – Grade 5
- December 23 – No 10:30 Worship at Zion/ No Silver Creek worship
- December 24 – 4:00 PM – Zion Christmas Candlelight Service
- December 24 – 5:30 PM – Silver Creek Worship
- December 24 – 20:00 PM – Holy Communion Christmas Worship
- December 30 – 10:30 AM – Worship at Zion

**UPcoming
EVENTS**

Food Shelf



December – Food Shelf Month

December is Zion's month to sponsor the TRF Food Shelf.

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry



There will be no Prayer Shawl meetings in December. We will start again in January. More information will come at a later date. Questions, call Deb Holtan 449-4645 to 686-3758. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all that have donated money to this ministry and to all of you that have asked for shawls to share this ministry.



Caroling - Sunday, December 9

Let's have a good-sized group for some old-fashioned Christmas caroling to our local nursing homes. Meet at Zion on Sunday, December 9, at 4:30 for car-pooling. After caroling, enjoy a light supper and hot chocolate at the church.



President's Message Laura Rude

Dear Church Family,

It's hard to believe that 2018 is coming to an end. As we reflect on the many accomplishments, memories made, babies born and loved ones lost, let us thank our God above for His continuous love and forgiveness of poor sinners like ourselves.

During this very busy time of year let's not forget the **Reason for the Season**. As most of you know, I have a passion for music and how it can speak to us and move us. One song that has touched me this Christmas season is the song, "You're Here," by Francesca Battistelli. The song is sung from the perspective of Mary holding the new born King in her arms and reflecting on the life this baby boy will lead and the promises He will fulfill. The lyrics are as follows:



Hold on now, I gotta take a deep breath
I don't know what to say when I look in Your eyes
You made the world before I was born
Here I am holding You in my arms tonight
Noel, noel, Jesus our Emmanuel

You're here, I'm holding you so near
I'm starring into the face of my Savior, King and Creator
You could've left us on our own, but You're here
Don't know how long I'm gonna have you for
But I'll be watching when You change the world
I Look at Your hands, they're still so small
Someday you're going to stretch them out and save us all
Noel, noel, God with us Emmanuel

You're here, I'm holding you so near
I'm staring into the face of my Savior, King and Creator
You could've left us on our own, but you're here you're here
Someday I'm gonna look back on this
The night that God became a baby boy
Someday you're gonna go home again,
But you leave your spirit and flood the world with joy

You're here, I'm holding you so near
I'm staring into the face of my Savior, King and Creator
You could've left me on my own, but You're here You're here
Hallelujah You're here hallelujah
You're here.

Thank God that He sent His Son for us. Hallelujah He's still here every day guiding us, forgiving us and loving us unconditionally.
May you feel this love comfort in December and all year long.

Christmas Blessings-
Laura Rude

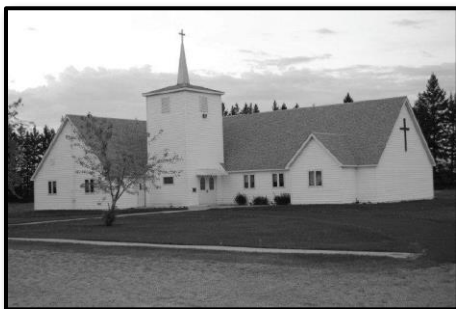


WELCA Christmas Tea - December 11



The Women of Zion are invited to our annual Christmas Tea on Tuesday, December 11, at 2:00 PM. Please bring 10 goodies to share; the remaining cookies will be donated to the Holiday Train refreshments.

The executive board will plan the program. Christmas cards will be sent to our congregational shut-ins. Each circle, please provide two ladies to assist with serving



Silver Creek

The ladies will be busy decorating the church on November 28th starting at 9:30 so try to schedule this on your calendar.

As we mark the beginning of Advent we will have a time during our service on December 2nd to celebrate the coming of Christmas. This will be followed by our traditional potluck and a chance to visit with our friends and neighbors. We will have a freewill offering, with proceeds given to Salvation Army.

Church Council will meet on December 9th following services.

Our Christmas Worship Schedule for this year will be as follows: No services on December 23rd. We will have candlelight services on Christmas Eve, December 24th at 5:30 pm. Please note the time, as this is a change from other years. We will have Holy Communion that eve also. Hope this works so more can attend.

Rejoice; the Lord is King! May His love shine brightly on!

Bev Ruprecht





**Zion Lutheran
Parish Planning Council Minutes
November 20, 2018**

The Parish Planning Council meeting was called to order by President Laura Rude at 5:31p.m. In attendance were President Laura Rude, Pastor John Golv, Pastor Ale Tulu, Tim Numedahl, Karen Thygeson, Bonnie Yost, Barbara Overbye, Penni Nelson, Jodi Bergman, Denis Yost, Glenice Johnson, Marijo Nabben, Mike Spears and Deb Holtan.

Guest in attendance was Deb Fulton representing the Worship Board.
Pastor John opened with a word of prayer.

The minutes for October 23, 2018 were presented and approved. A motion was made to accept the minutes, the motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

The second well with Water to Thrive was discussed. The funds for a second well are just under \$3,000.00. A motion was made to use money from the Mission's Fund to cover what ever is missing to complete the second well. The motion carried.

Silver Creek: Penni reported that they will be decorating on November 28th. December 2nd they will have their potluck dinner and Christmas Program. Their Christmas Eve candlelight service will be December 24th at 5:30 with communion being served. Because of this they will not have church service on Sunday the 23rd.

Pastor Ale reported that Mission Sunday will be March 24, 2019. The Mission Committee has asked Paul Oman to be our guest for both services that Sunday. More information will be coming.

Pastor John submitted his report. He is on the committee to say thank you to Bishop Wohlrabe for his years of service. Pastor John commented on the "Churches Working Together" the first impressions are that this can work and are looking at more options to achieve this. The first effort with this was Pastor Darrel Cory and Pastor John exchanging pulpits on November 11th.

Stewardship Board: Dennis Yost reported on Consecration Sunday. He felt the attendance this year was much better. They have not had a chance to look at the pledge cards that have come in yet. He suggested that Consecration Sunday and the Pie and Dessert Auction should be on the same Sunday again for the upcoming year.

Worship Board: Deb Fulton representing the board for Sharon Jorde reported that there were 27 candles for All Saints Sunday which was November 4th. The board is looking for families for the lightening of the Advent wreath. They will soon be decorating for Advent and Christmas.

Properties Board: Mike Spears reported that they are working on getting the new tankless water heater in the kitchenette. They will also be putting in an outlet for the giving hub so it is in a more visible place. The Christmas trees will be going up on Friday November 23rd. The board is continuing to replace bulbs in the church with LED ones. The elevator will have new signage in it.

Evangelism and Lay Ministry Board: Marijo reported that the homebound communion list is being worked on. They are still looking for a way for outreach to the newly baptized children and their parents. The Time and Talent sheets are being reviewed. Marijo asked if it's a possibility that during the education hour for each board to make a presentation on what their specific board actually does to make the congregation more aware and informed, hoping that it will spark an interest in others to become involved.

Christian Ed and Youth Board: The board did not meet. But the council was informed that the 70+ dinner went very well but felt that the numbers were down this year with the attendance. The next dates for Flapjacks for Faith will be December 16th and January 20th. The Sunday School Program will be at both services on December 9th.

Fellowship Board: Glenice reported that the Pie and Dessert Auction was another success. They raised \$4,280.00! The funds will go to help offset the Faith Fund. Caroling will be on Sunday December 9th and will be asking the Confirmation kids to join them. They will be printing the Sharing Servants booklets with the information that they have at this point. The list of names has been cut back to help with expenses of mailing booklets that are not picked up, but there will be extra booklets available. Glenice also report that the ZLCW is doing the same with their name list for the circle booklets. The ZLCW is working on a draft so that they can be represented at council also. It is the ZLCW that is purchasing the water heater for the kitchenette.

Public Relations Board: Jodi reported that the advertising has gone out for the 10th Annual Spirit of Giving. It is on the front page of Zion's website, will be on Channel 13 and in the Radio Gram. December is Zion's month for the Food Shelf. A power point is being put together with the pictures of all the boards and the officers so it can go on the big screen in the sanctuary.

President Laura Rude again asked what Zion's Vision is stating our vision should align with our goal. That we need to take a risk, saying if we fail at least we have tried. We need to be bold, to challenge ourselves. One suggestion is using nametags every Sunday making it more comfortable to approach people.

The council each received a copy of a letter from Pastor Keith Zeh, the Director for Evangelical Mission and Stewardship in the NW Minnesota Synod thanking Zion for its ministry and financial support. Also each received a copy of an outline of what is to take place and when with the election of a new bishop. Pastor Mark Helgeland is the representative for Conference 2. There is no list yet of nominees.

The meeting was adjourned after saying the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be Tuesday December 18th at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Deb Holtan, Council Secretary

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



December Reminders:

December 9, 2018

- ✠ Singing in church – Little Lambs – 5th Grade Sunday School Students will be singing at the 8:30 am service
- ✠ Canteen 505 – Students will be able to redeem their coins at the Canteen 505 for snacks, toys, etc.

December 16, 2018

✠ The Last Day of Sunday School (first half). Sunday School will resume back on January 6, 2019.

January Reminders:

January 6, 2019

✠ Welcome Back to Sunday School!

Sunday School Canteen 505

New this year to Sunday School is our **Canteen 505!**

- ✠ For every Church Service (up to 1 per Sunday) that your child attends they will receive 1 coin to add to their bank/jar in their classroom. ** In order to receive the coin please make sure your child picks up a lanyard in the back of the church and turns it in to their Sunday School teacher.
- ✠ Students will also receive 1 coin for each Sunday School Class they attend (up to 1 per Sunday) - making it possible to earn up to 2 coins per Sunday!
- ✠ These coins will be “cashed” in twice a year (December & May) at our NEW Sunday School Canteen 505.
- ✠ **Canteen 505 will be open for our first shoppers on December 9, 2018 during Sunday School. The Sunday School Teachers will be bringing their classes to the Canteen 505 during designated times to redeem their coins for snacks, toys, etc.**

Please join us on Facebook and Remind!

✠ **Facebook:** Zion Lutheran Church Sunday School – TRF

✠ **Remind:** Text the following message to 81010 to be added to our Remind notices - @ziontrfss



LITTLE LAMB – 5TH GRADE EVENTS (ALSO KNOWN AS K-5 EVENTS)



December Event:

December 15, 2018 – Little Lambs – 5th Grade

What: **Happy Birthday Jesus Caroling & Birthday Party**

Where: Around TRF

Time: 2:00pm – 5:00 pm

** Chaperone/Drivers will be needed for this event. Please contact Davina or Becky if you are able to assist.

January Event:

Date: TBD

What: **Movie Party**

Where: Zion

Time: TBD

February Event:

Date: TBD

What: **Swimming Party**

Where: Franklin Middle School

Time: TBD

March Event:

Date: TBD

What: **B-I-N-G-O Party**

Where: TBD

Time: TBD

If you have any questions about Sunday school or our Events please let Becky (218-686-5563) or Davina (218-689-4965) know. You can also email us at ziontrfsundayschool@mncable.net