

Read John 20:1-18
“He Is Not Here”

You will recognize this portion of Scripture right away as the Gospel reading for Easter Day, 2019. Mary Magdalene was the first to proclaim the risen Christ, to the disciples.

In Matthew (28:6) “... **he is not here**; for he has been raised, as he said.”

In Mark (16:6) “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; **he is not here.**”

In Luke (24) “... on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they (the women followers of Jesus) came to the tomb... They were asked: “Why do you seek the living among the dead? **He is not here**, but has risen.”

We celebrate resurrection on Easter Day with our best words and meaningful hymns and the Church’s prayers. To anyone who will listen we will say; nothing is more important to us. So we celebrate resurrection every Sunday. No one is more important than Jesus. No event surpasses the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.

We can say with the first Christians “Jesus is Lord.” There is no higher authority in life. No one else is worthy of worship. Anything or anyone who comes before Jesus is an idol, unworthy of our worship.

There are always pretenders. When pretenders come first we know what to call them: idols. What are commonly the most important pretenders in life? *Money* is always a pretender, though the promises that happiness and contentment follow if only there is enough money are hollow. *Security* is a contender. Important as security surely is, it is not the most important thing in life. *Good health* is a contender. Good health is always important, but it too is not the most important part of life. We place a high value on our *freedoms*, but even they are not the most important things in life.

God is first, all the time. Jesus is Lord, all the time. Persuasive temptations are always with us. We may be tempted to believe that our own interests come before anything else.

A common temptation is to believe that we ourselves are worthy of coming in first ahead of anyone else. Self-centeredness can push faith out. Self-centeredness makes it hard to worship God, because all we can see clearly is ourselves. We will always be tempted to believe that our good ethics will somehow impress God. Of course we know better, because we know the Easter Gospel.

Easter is much more than enough to live on, because our Lord takes first place in our lives.

Happy Easter!

Pastor John





President's Message Laura Rude

Dear Zion Family-

Praise the Lord! We serve a Risen, Forgiving, Loving and Almighty God!

With spring in full swing, it refreshes my mind and soul and makes me realize how thankful I am for the changes of seasons. I'm reminded that everything I have is a gift from God – my health, my life, my salvation, my freedom, my friends, my family, my opportunities. God expects me to make the most of the things he gives me. The word for that in the Bible is “stewardship.” Stewardship also translates to “management.” And just as we manage our time and our money, we also manage our influence.

In the coming months there will be many opportunities to manage your influence in the mission of Zion. Many hands make light work, and to put it simply, we need more hands! In Matthew 5:16, Jesus says, “*Let your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven.*” Jesus doesn't want us to waste our influence. You don't buy a lamp and then hide it. You wouldn't buy a new car and then never drive it. In the same way, it's wasteful to refuse to use your influence. Recognize your influence. Exercise your influence. Maximize your influence. I hope that you will prayerfully consider your influence on Zion and realize the positive and lasting effects that it can have.

A personal note of Congratulations to you our graduating seniors. You have accomplished much and will change the world. My prayer is that you will be a positive influence on all those around and continue to SHINE YOUR LIGHT!!

Check out the rest of the newsletter, website and social media for important events coming up in our church and community.

Humbly Serving – Laura Rude, Zion President

- **May 7** – ZLCW Prayer Breakfast
- **May 12** – Last day of Sunday school
- **May 12** – Miracle Sunday
- **May 16** – Meet the Bishop Pre-Nominees - Zion
- **May 19** – Senior recognition
- **May 19** – Last 10:30 worship service for summer
- **May 27 - 31** – Falls Delivered Meals
- **June 5** – Wednesday summer worship begins
- **June 7 - 9** – Synod Assembly in Moorhead



Fall Delivered Meals

Drivers Needed for May 27 – 31



Zion is responsible for finding drivers for Falls Delivered Meals twice each year – in January and May.

If you are can help deliver meals to homebound individuals, please contact Koni Johnson at 681-1344 or 689-7746. Please leave a message; or email Koni.Johnson@outlook.com

Summer Worship

Beginning **May 26** – 8:30 worship service only
Beginning **June 5** – Wednesday worship - Meal at 5:30, Worship at 6:15



ZLCW Prayer Breakfast - May 7

The ladies of the church will meet on Tuesday, May 7, at 10:00 a.m. We will begin with a special program in the sanctuary followed by refreshments in the fellowship hall.

Circle responsibilities for May are:

- Program - Dorcas
- Hostess - Sarah
- Hospitality – Anna
- Visitation - Rebekah at Valley Home.

Board will meet at 9:00 a.m.

Thank you!



Thanks to all that donated items for the Personal Care Kits during Lent. It is greatly appreciated. With your donations and Thrivent cards we will be able to assemble quite a few with the confirmands help. We will report the numbers later after our shipment on May 4.

Evangelism/Lay Ministry

Home communion is now in progress. Please let the church office know if you would like to be included in this ministry.



Friendship pads will be appearing in the pews starting in May. Please use these to greet those seated around you.

Evangelism/Lay Ministry Board
Marijo Nabben, Board Chair



**MEET THE 6 BISHOP ELECTION
PRE-NOMINEES**

THE NW MN SYNOD CONFERENCES ARE HOSTING
TWO EVENTS:

Thursday, May 16 at Zion Lutheran Church, 505 Main Ave N,
Thief River Falls

Friday, May 17 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1401 Madison
Ave, Detroit Lakes

Both events begin at 7pm
The events are free and open to all.

This is an opportunity to hear from the 6 pre-nominees
in preparation for Synod Assembly.



Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



**Zion Lutheran's
Parish Planning Council Minutes
April 16, 2019**

The Parish Planning council meeting was called to order by President Laura Rude at 5:31 pm. In attendance were President Laura Rude, Tim Numedahl, Pastor John Golv, Pastor Ale Tulu, Sharon Jorde, Glenice Johnson, Jodi Bergman, Dennis Yost, Mike Spears, Marijo Nabben, Penni Nelson and Deb Holtan.

Guest in attendance was Amber Holtan representing the Youth and Education Board.

Pastor Ale opened with a word of prayer.

The minutes for March 19, 2019 were presented and approved with corrections.

Two corrections were made. Pastor John's housing allowance; it should read \$1,000.00 annually. Not the \$100.00 as stated in the minutes from March 19, 2019. A motion was made by Mike Spears to approve the change, with the motion being seconded and carried.

"Churches Together" will be the heading after Silver Creeks report also in the March 19, 2019 minutes. It looks as if this is part of Silver Creeks report. The motion to accept was made by Sharon Jorde and seconded. The motion carried.

The Treasurers report was filed for audit.

Information was presented on looking into moving funds from savings into CD's. The rate for a 12-month CD is 2.5% versus savings which is less than 1%. A motion was made by Glenice Johnson to take out two CD's in the amount of \$25,000.00 each. The motion was seconded and carried.

There have been enough funds found to help cover the cost of the carpet for the sanctuary, the overflow area and down the steps at the back of the overflow. A motion was made by Dennis Yost to go ahead and use these funds for the carpet and the labor. The motion was seconded and carried.

Stewardship Board: Dennis Yost reported the first Miracle Sunday of the year will be on Sunday May 12th. The mission of the church is our Youth Director. We've been growing and we want to continue our growth. As Pastor John stated, "We are meeting paying our bills, but are not meeting our budget."

It was pointed out that our attendance often goes down during the summer months along with the giving. We are working towards our new Youth Director. The Faith Fund is the deficit in our budget. There will be Temple Talks to help get this across to the congregation.

Worship Board: Sharon Jorde stated they did not meet. But the board has the communion set up taken care of for the services during Holy Week.

Properties Board: Mike Spears said they have been discussing the new carpet. The signs for the summer Wednesday night services will be out soon. The board has hung the Paul Oman pictures. The pews have been re-spaced in the sanctuary. The leak in the basement on the south wall will be taken care of. The rain gutter on that side of the building had been knocked off from the snow.

Evangelism and Lay Ministry: Marijo Nabben reported the board is continuing to work on their project's list. Home Communion is being well received and the board is hoping to continue with this through the summer months. The board is still looking for options and ideas for the 0-3 aged children. "Effective Parenting in a Defective World" program by Chip Ingram will begin with the start of Confirmation Classes now after the Lenten season. This will be a four-week program being offered to the parents of confirmands. There will be a light supper served for the parents attending. The program will be offered this fall between services during the coffee hour. This program is for all parents and grandparents, or anyone that is a mentor to the youth. Marijo reminded the council of the Good Friday Prayer Vigil.

Christian Ed and Youth: Amber Holtan reported that there were 12 youth that attended the Lock-In. The kids had lots of fun with four of the youth making it through the night without falling asleep! Those in attendance stated they wanted to do another one. The Senior High Recognition will be between services on Sunday May 19th with a brunch being served in honor of those students. Amber said there's around eighteen from Zion that will be graduating. There are approximately 13 kids pre- registered for this summer's Bible Camps.



Fellowship Board: Glenice Johnson said the board did not meet but have had informal discussions. The feed back on the usher's duties on handling the offering after services has been to leave the procedure as is.

Glenice also reported for the ZLCW. The average attendance for the Lenten suppers was approximately 100 people. The WELCA Conference 2 Spring Gathering is Saturday April 27th and will be at First Lutheran Church in Middle River at 9:00am. May 4th the mission items will be ready to send out. This includes the quilts, the health kits and layette kits. Vi Knutson will be helping Ginny Armstrong with the Treasurers job.

Public Relations Board: Jodi Bergman said the ads will be in the Thief River Times with the schedule for Easter Services this week.

Silver Creek: Penni Nelson stated they are planning on having communion during their Easter Service. May 5th will be a Graduation Reception for their senior student. The Joint Service with Silver Creek and Zion will be on Sunday June 23rd.

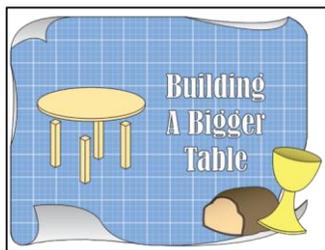
Churches Together: The list for the Search Committee is getting close to being narrowed down. Redeemer has their five that is needed and are ready to go forward. There needs to be five from Redeemer, five from Zion plus the three pastors. President Laura suggested the Youth Director position get posted as soon as possible.



A suggestion was made that during the Wednesday Summer Worship Services that the two churches alternate where the service will be held. Ex: June the services will be at Redeemer, July the services will be held at Zion. Some council members showed concern that this might be confusing to the congregation.

President Laura asked that it be brought back to Redeemer that one Wednesday a month during the summer, preferably the last Wednesday in June or July to do a joint service between Redeemer and Zion.

Synod Assembly: The assembly will be in Moorhead June 7-9th and there is room for one more voting member from Zion. If anyone is interested, please let Pastor John know.



Pastor's Reports:

Pastor Ale talked about Water to Thrive having the opportunity to meet the staff and saw where the mission started. This mission was started in 2008 and so far 996 wells have been funded closing in on the goal of 1,000 wells! National Day of Prayer will be Thursday, May 2 at River of Life.

Pastor John submitted his report

The meeting was closed after saying the Lord's Prayer at 7:08.

The next meeting is Tuesday May 21, 2019

Respectfully submitted by
Deb Holtan, Council Secretary

Silver Creek

Thanks to the crew that showed up on our last snow day to get spring-cleaning done. It looks so nice and smells good too. With the grass turning green, it is time to think about the yard and grass mowing. The sign-up list is on the bulletin board. We are a small congregation but have many willing hands to keep things running smoothly.

At the last council meeting, a decision was made to install a security system. A lot of rural churches are having trouble with theft, and we had our water softener taken earlier this year. If any member is interested in helping with the cost of this project, please contact our treasurer, Virginia Swanson.

We will honor our graduate Ethan Nelson on May 5th with a reception after services.

The women of the church will meet May 9 at 3:00 to tie quilts and 5:30 for light supper with meeting to follow. The Bible study will be #2 in *Women and Identity* study book. The program will be on *Change*.

The next council meeting will be May 19 after church services.

Bev Ruprecht



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

May Reminders:

May 5 -

- ✝ Canteen Day! This will be the Sunday school kids 2nd opportunity to turn in coins they have earned this year. (Coins must be redeemed within the Sunday school year they are earned. They do not carry over year to year, so we hope everyone can make this date!)

May 12 -

- ✝ **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**
- ✝ The Sunday school kids will sing in church at both the 8:30am and 10:30 am services.
- ✝ Last day of Sunday school for the 2018-2019 Season.

Please join us on Facebook!

- ✝ **Facebook:** Zion Lutheran Church Sunday School – TRF

If you have any questions about Sunday school or our K-5 Events, please let Becky (218-686-5563) or Davina (218-689-4965) know.



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

TO BE RESUMED IN THE FALL



Wednesday, May 1

- Confirmation supper - 5:30
- Confirmation class - 6:00

Wednesday, May

- Last day of confirmation!
- Taco in bag for everyone at 5:30!
- Class - 6:00



Sunday, May 12

- Last day of Sunday school

Sunday, May 19

- Senior Reception 9:30
- Last day of New Traditions service

Senior Recognition

Sunday, May 19

- Brunch in the fellowship hall between services
- Recognition service at 10:30 worship

