



Vol. 19

October 2019

No. 8



From Pastor John Golv
Read John 18:15-18

It's Precious & It (always) Holds True

Each Year the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA offers all of its rostered people a chance to relax and learn at a conference now known simply as Fair Hills, after the resort on Pelican Lake where we meet. This year we had a chance to begin to know our new Bishop, Bill Tesch. He will be the guest preacher here on Sunday, October 27.

This year we also had Professor Karoline Lewis speaking on the Gospel of John. Among other things, she described blessing this way: "Not How Much, but Who With." Her conclusion was this:

John 3:16 holds, period.

John 18:15-18 is the account of what is often called Peter's denial of Jesus. We know all this well. In Matthew Jesus' prophecy's about Peter's denial is complete when the rooster crows. Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22. Very often we describe these incidents as Peter's denial of Jesus.

Professor Lewis asks us to look again, especially at John. Peter is not denying Jesus the savior. He is not denying Jesus the Son of God. He is denying that his relationship with Jesus lasts.

In later chapters Peter is asked "...do you love me..." three times by Jesus. Peter may have thought that his actions vetoed any possible saving relationship with Jesus, but he was mistaken.

It is always good practice to "count our blessings." Once we get going, it become hard to impossible to stop counting. It may be that we measure God's abundance with blessings that are after all, beyond counting.

Professor Lewis says that blessings are best understood not so much by their (admittedly overwhelming) abundance and quantity, but rather by who it is that we experience them with. When Peter was asked (John 17) if he was a disciple of Jesus, his reply indicates that he was no longer in relationship with Jesus. He would have paraphrased Jesus in 3:16 this way. "God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that nearly everyone (but clearly not me) who believes in him..."

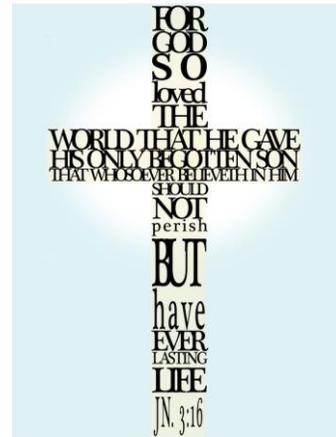
Oops. Jesus did not give up on him. Jesus does not give up on us.

Peter may have needed encouraging. He got it in John 21, three times. All this after an unmistakable display of God's abundance, this time in a catch of fish. "Simon, son of John, do you love me ...?" This famous question was asked three times. Each time Jesus gave a task only a believer, only one who has a relationship with Jesus could accomplish.

There have been any number of circumstances in our lives when with Peter; we may say that we are so broken that we are no longer in relationship with Jesus. It may seem to us that our perseverance is the same as Jesus'. It may seem to us that Jesus' stays with us only as long as we stay with him.

Oops. John 3:16 holds. Period.

Blessings,
Pastor John Golv



President's Message Laura Rude

Dear Church Family-

As we move into October we will start to hear and learn more about our Stewardship drive - God's Work. Our Hands. Stewardship is an attitude, not an amount.

God couldn't care less how much people give. He cares more about *how we give* and *why we give*. Radical generosity is an attitude, not an amount. The Bible says, "*If you are really eager to give, then it isn't important how much you have to give. God wants you to give what you have, not what you haven't*" (2 Corinthians 8:12 TLB).

God doesn't need our money. But he does want our hearts.

That's why it's so important for all of us to encourage each other to participate in any giving opportunity we may have. It's a myth that some people can't give. Remember the story from Mark 12 of the widow who had just two small coins and gave it all to God. People can give in lots of ways. If they don't have cash, encourage them to make a pledge of faith toward a later time or volunteer their time. It's really a matter of trust for those who give.

We don't want people to give so we can reach an artificial goal. Zion's goal is to do God's work and spread His Word. Our job as a church is to build disciples. Stewardship is a step of faith by those disciples. We should give because God is leading us to give of our time and money.

Let's focus on raising people's faith—not funds.

God isn't interested in our money. He doesn't need it. God could fund whatever ministry, whatever project we're raising funds for in an instant.

God doesn't need our money. But he does want our hearts.

God is far more interested in growing the faith of those we lead than whatever cause we're raising the funds for. Because of the elevated place of money in our society, giving is an incredibly important act of faith. It's often said that if you want to get an inside look at people's spiritual maturity, observe how they spend their money and how they spend their time. Our congregations need to be constantly encouraged to say no to consumerism and say yes to generosity.

You can't help people become like Jesus without teaching them how to give. No one gave more than Jesus did. Although I'm always excited about what God will do through the gifts, I'm much more excited about making disciples who are growing more like Jesus as they learn to give sacrificially.

I hope that some of this messaging will resonate with you as you look at your faith contribution to Zion work for the future.

Please take the time to read the rest of the newsletter to learn about all the great events and activities we have coming up. October is going to be a busy, wonderful and blessed month!

Sincerely In God's Love -

Laura Rude



"If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more and running over." -Luke 6:38 – Jesus of Nazareth

- **October 2** – Confirmation classes begin
- **October 6** – Blood pressure screening – 9:30-10:20
- **Quilting** - 1st, 3rd, 5th Thursdays - 1:00
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry** – Thursdays – 10:00
- **October 13** – New Member Sunday
- **October 20** – Flapjacks for Faith – between services
- **October 27** – Second graders receive Bibles – 8:30 Worship
- **October 27** – Consecration Sunday Celebration Brunch – 9:30
- **October 27** – Confirmation – 10:30 Worship
- **October 27** – Consecration Sunday, guest speaker, Bishop Bill Tesch, of Northwest Minnesota Synod, ELCA – 8:30 and 10:30
- **October 27** – Silver Creek worships at Zion
- **October 27** – Pie With the Bishop – 2:00 – 3:30
- **October 27** – Witness – 7:00 (*Postponed twice last year due to weather*)
- **November 24** – Annual Pie Auction
- **December 7** – Spirit of Giving



Please Pray for Zion’s Confirmands as They Confirm Their Christian Faith on Sunday, October 27.

Kylie Alby
 Josh Berzinski
 Tayli Brekkestran
 Dawson Brevik
 Hannah Clevon
 Logan Hintz
 Kyler Hoverson
 Mason Iverson



Jonah Kalsnes
 JoAnna Lubitz
 Alex Lundgren
 Ethan Lunsetter
 Alex Nomeland
 Zander Salentiny
 Andrew Selvig
 Trista Spears



Consecration Sunday – October 27

Sunday, October 27, is designated as Zion’s Stewardship Sunday. It will be a busy day. Join in worship at 8:30 or 10:30, listening to a message from Bishop Tesch. Join in a light brunch at 9:30, Pie With the Bishop from 2:00 - 3:30, and enjoy *Witness*, performed by Jonathan Swanson, at 7:00 pm.



Stewardship, commitment of one's self and possessions to God's service - stewardship, an extension of one's gratefulness for God's blessings - stewardship, one's response to the bountiful gifts bestowed by our loving God.

As we prepare for our stewardship response on October 27, please reflect on the prayer of Mother Teresa.

I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do, what I can do. I used to pray for answers, but now I pray for strength. I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us, and we change things.

Mother Teresa



Meet Bishop Bill Tesch

Please welcome Bishop Tesch to the NWMN Synod and to Zion on Sunday, October 27. **Meet and Greet Pie Social from 2:00 – 3:30.**

Bishop Tesch began his ministry as bishop of the Northwest Minnesota Synod on September 1, 2019.

His personal mission statement is: “A Follower of Jesus: Creating Gospel Collaborations with Faithfulness, Authenticity and Love.”

Bishop Tesch has served in South Dakota since his Ordination in 1989. Before his election to Bishop, he served first as Pastor of a two-point rural and small-town congregation (St. Paul and St Peter in Humboldt and Orland) and then as the Founding Pastor and later Sr. Pastor of Messiah New Hope in Sioux Falls, and finally as Director of Evangelical Mission and Associate to the Bishop on the South Dakota Synod staff.

Bishop Tesch also serves in the United States Military (South Dakota Air National Guard) and is a senior leader holding the rank of Colonel. Bishop Tesch's responsibilities with the military will come to a close near the end of 2020.

Education: Bishop Tesch is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Madison and Luther Seminary as well as the USAF Air War College, Air Command and Staff College, the Air Force Basic Chaplain's Course and Officer's Training School.

He is married to Chris Tesch who teaches Nursing at the University of South Dakota. He and Chris have two adult children. In his spare time Bishop Tesch enjoys exercise, hunting, fishing, book club, entertaining friends and family... and a host of other hobbies for which he really has no time!



WELCA Meets October 8

Ladies of Zion will meet on Tuesday, October 8, at 10:00 am at the Thief River Falls Care Center. Program – Lydia, Hostess – Sarah, Hospitality – Anna, Visitation - Dorcas. Please join us for Bible study, fellowship and refreshments. ZLCW board will meet at 9:00 am.

Mission Quilts and Kits –

November 2 is the fall shipping date for quilts, personal care kits, school kits, and baby care kits. WELCA is busy finishing quilts and putting together the various kits.

There is a collection box in the narthex for your donations of kit items - baby blankets, t-shirts, sweaters, sleepers, socks, soap, diapers, towels, combs, nail clippers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, rulers, spiral notebooks, blunt scissors, pencils, pens, crayons, erasers and pencil sharpeners. Your donations help us furnish much-needed supplies for needy families around the world.



WELCA Conference 2 Fall Gathering – November 2

The annual WELCA Conference 2 fall gathering will be held on Saturday, November 2, in the Gully Town Hall. The Gully and Trail Lutheran churches are jointly hosting the event. Registration is at 8:30 am. The speaker is Olive Wiskow from Goodridge. Watch for more information to follow.



Parish Planning Council Minutes September 17, 2019

The Parish Planning Council meeting was called to order by President Laura Rude at 5:30 pm. In attendance were Laura Rude, Pastor John Golv, Pastor Ale Tulu, Barbara Overbye, Tim Numedahl, Teri Forsberg, Penni Nelson, Sharon Jorde, Glenice Johnson, Jodi Bergman and Deb Holtan.

Pastor John opened with a word of prayer.

The minutes from the August 20, 2019 meeting were presented. Corrections in the minutes are as follows, the first is under Silver Creek and should read as September 22nd, not September 15 for the Confirmation Retreat. The second correction is an addition to the minutes under Publications; the website design will be at a cost of approximately \$1,500.00 with the monies coming from dedicated funds.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes with the corrections made. The motion was approved.

Treasurers Report: Barbara reported the cost for the new carpet in the Sanctuary and Overflow area came to \$20,924.00. All but \$1,500.00 came from designated funds.

The report was filed for audit.

Silver Creek: The ladies from Silver Creek will be selling tickets two Sundays in October at Zion for their quilt raffle.

Stewardship: Dennis was not able to attend. Pastor John reported that the Stewardship plan is set and ready to go forward! Our new Bishop will be here on Reformation Sunday for both services which is also Stewardship Sunday, October 27th. Bishop Bill Tesch has asked to have a meet and greet “Pie with the Bishop” at Zion that afternoon. An invitation will be put out to area ELCA congregations to come and join us. Publications will ask the Times if they would be able to come and do an article about the new bishop and that he will be here in Thief River Falls.

Worship: Sharon submitted her report. She highlighted the concern of whether or not our musicians and choir directors are being compensated enough compared to other churches.

Church Properties: Mike was unable to attend. The council asked that it be brought back to the Properties board about getting the stains removed from the carpet in the Fellowship Hall and the stairway off the kitchen in the Fellowship Hall. Also to check on the information on other companies that do the cleaning service for the rugs in the entryways.

Evangelism and Lay Ministry: Marijo was unable to attend the meeting but submitted her report. New Member Sunday was pointed out which will be October 13th.

Christain Ed and Youth: Teri Forsberg, co-chair for Christian Ed and Youth, reported. They have several events in mind for each month for the Little Lambs through 5th grade. Sixth grade through 12th grade events are still in the works. Confirmation kick off is Wednesday September 25th. Second graders start their Bible Study Classes on Sunday October 1st and will continue the next two Sundays after that with the class receiving their bibles on Sunday October 27th at the 8:30 service.

Parish Fellowship: Glenice reported the annual Fall Pie Auction will be held on Sunday November 24th.

Women of Zion: Glenice mentioned again the Synodical will be this Friday and Saturday at Luther Crest near Alexandria Minnesota. Glenice will be taking with her the items collected from Zion, which were personal care items, to the gathering. November 2nd is the date set for shipping the quilts, care kits, etc. the ZLCW women have assembled.

Pastor Ale: Pastor Ale reported that both he and Pastor John attended the 2019 Theology for Ministry Conference at Fair Hills in Detroit Lakes Minnesota.

Pastor John: Pastor John’s report was submitted. He also informed the council that there are three applicants for the Youth Director position. Two of the candidates are scheduled to be interviewed on Wednesday the 18th. Pastor John also stated that because the youth director committee is so large they have broken off to form an interview committee, which will then bring back the information to the larger committee, then to both councils at Zion and Redeemers.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 after praying the Lord's Prayer.
The next meeting is October 15, 2019 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Holtan, Council Secretary

Silver Creek

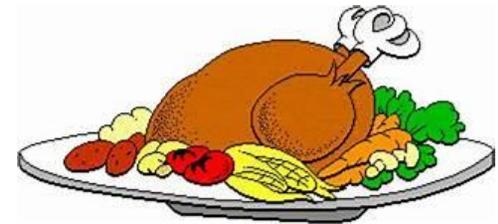
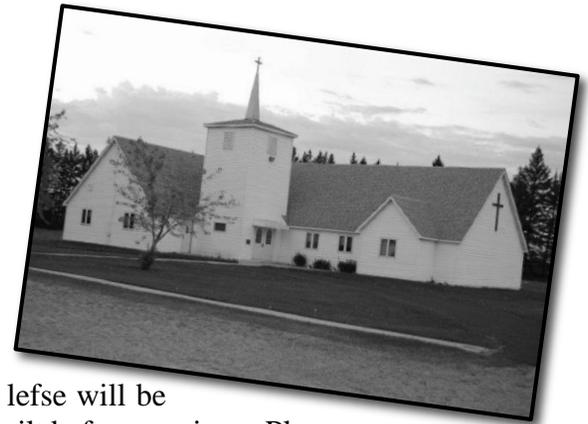
Sorry for the wrong date posted in last newsletter for our annual fall dinner. We will be joining in fellowship and turkey dinner following services on October 20. The turkey, dressing, potatoes and lefse will be provided, so plan a dish to compliment this menu. We will be drawing the lucky winner of the raffle quilt before services. Please have your tickets turned in by the 13th, so we can get the paperwork done. Thanks in advance for selling tickets to help with this fundraiser. If you could use more tickets, let Bev, Sharon, Sue or Margaret know. Looking forward to see who the lucky winner is this year.

Council will meet following the church services on October 13th.

WELCA will meet on October 10th at 5:30 with a light supper and business meeting to follow. The Bible Study lesson will be #4 in *Women and Identity, 24/6 Living*. We will meet at 3:00 o'clock to work on our kits for youth. Please bring any supplies that you signed up to bring, so we can get these backpacks completed and delivered.

Just a heads up that there will be **no services at Silver Creek on October 27. We are invited to join Zion for their service and hear and meet our new bishop, Pastor Bill Tesch.** It is also All Saints Sunday and Confirmation at Zion at the 10:30 worship service.

Bev Ruprecht



2020 God's creation Calendars Available

If you would like to sell these on Sunday mornings, see Kami.

2019 Confirmands

- October 23 – Pictures - Time To be Determined
- October 26 - Confirmation Banquet - 5:30 pm
- October 27 - Confirmation Service - 10:30 am

Middle School Students

You are invited to join us every Sunday in the Youth Room at 9:30 am. We will have a fun time of fellowship as we grow in our love and learn about Jesus!

October Confirmation Classes

- October 2 - Large and Small Group
- October 23 - Large and Small Group
- October 30 - large and Small Group

Wednesday Night Confirmation Menu

- October 2 - Spaghetti and Meat Sauce
- October 23 - BBQ's and Tater Tots
- October 30 - Chicken Alfredo



Sunday School Reminders:

- ✠ Sunday School is from 9:30am (immediately following the 8:30am service) to 10:20am. Students will be dismissed at 10:20am to allow everyone time to attend the 10:30am service.
- ✠ Please remember to feed your Sunday schoolers breakfast before dropping them off. Snacks are not always provided, and it makes for a long hour for our students when they are hungry. (If anyone wants to donate snacks please coordinate directly with the teacher for your child's class.)

October Reminders:

October 6, October 13, October 20

- ✝ 9:30am: 2nd Grade Bible Classes
 - At least one parent must attend each session with their 2nd Grader

October 28

- ✝ 8:30am: Presentation of Bibles to the 2nd Grade Class
 - Students & Parents will be presented their Bibles during the 8:30am service.

Singing in Church

- ✝ The Sunday schoolers will sing in church in October, but we do not have a confirmed date set yet. Please watch Facebook for updates.

November Reminders:

November 28

- ✝ There IS Sunday school the Sunday after Thanksgiving. (12/1/19)

Sunday School Canteen 505

Please see below for a reminder on how the Sunday schoolers can earn up to 2 coins every Sunday.

- ✝ 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 Sunday School Canteen 505.

Church Family:

- ✝ Our Sunday School program is in need of some supplies if anyone would like to make a donation:
 - * Clorox wipes
 - * Kleenex
 - * Adult sized scissors
 - * Clear Shipping/Packaging Tape
 - * Dixie cups
 - * Hand sanitizer
 - * Masking Tape



Please join us on Facebook!

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

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

One Actor – Eight Characters – A Fresh Look at Jesus



Written by Curt Cloninger
Performed by Jonathan Swanson

More information:
paraphrasetheatre.com

The congregations of the Thief River Falls Conference of the ELCA invite you:

**Sunday, October 27
7:00 PM**

**Zion Lutheran Church
Thief River Falls**

There is no cost. A free will offering will be taken to support the work of Lutheran Disaster Response