



Vol. 20

January 2020

No. 1



From Pastor Golv

What Did You Receive for Christmas This Year?

Read Luke 2:25-40

Christmas passes so quickly. The New Year's celebration seems to come right after Christmastime. Let's linger at Christmastime for another moment. There are two other people who by rights ought to be as famous as Mary and Joseph.

Of all the faithful people in the Bible, to me, Simeon is a standout. He was looking for the Messiah, as everyone was, and he had been told by the Spirit of God that he would not die before he saw the Lord's Messiah.

Simeon did live to see the Christ-child. He did not live to see the man. So he saw none of the miracles, heard none of the words, and seemed to know that Mary would not be exempt from a mother's pain. It was Simeon who was chosen by God to see that of all the people in the Temple, and all the babies, the baby Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus was a poor child, from a poor town. Simeon's reaction to this baby was to give words to his faith, and to bless Mary and Joseph.

Anna the prophet also saw Jesus in the Temple. It was given to her also that she saw Jesus for who he was and would become. She also knew enough to praise God for "the redemption" of Jerusalem.

The world received "salvation" (Simeon) and "redemption" (Anna) in Jesus.

What did you get for Christmas? I could make a long list of the many kindnesses shown to us not only at Christmastime but all through the year. There were presents and wrapping paper and many, many cards under our tree. For many of us there have been any number of wonderful gifts, which have good wishes and love behind them. The best gift of all of them is Jesus our Lord. We get to see the child. We get to see him as a teenager in the Temple. We get to know the man, the miracles, the words, and the salvation he brought to give as his gift to us.

In other words, whatever else we received for Christmas, we get what Simeon and Anna got.

Christmastime blessings,

Pastor John Golv

- January 10 – Annual reports due
- January 12 – New members -10:30, potluck to follow
- January 19 – Silver Creek annual meeting – following worship
- January 26 – Zion Annual meeting - 9: 30 between services



Annual Reports

Due – January 10, typed and ready to print



ANNUAL MEETING



January 26, 2020 between services

Evangelism and Lay Ministry

- New Membership Recognition Sunday, January 12, at the 10:30 service - potluck to follow
- If you would like home communion, please let the office know.
- Watch for upcoming event - "Effective Parenting in a Defective World" in February.



President's Message Laura Rude

Dear Zion Church Family-

As I look forward to 2020, I get excited about new possibilities and new adventures in life that await my family and me. Knowing all too well that some of those possibilities may not always be what I had in mind, but always finding peace that our sovereign God is in control and loves us unconditionally.

With that said, I ask for your continued prayer for our church and its leadership in that we continue to seek out God's wisdom for our future. The upcoming year will present us with many opportunities to shape the future of our church. Your prayer and support is necessary so that we are not easily fooled into moving in the wrong direction as the devil can distract us in many ways and wear many disguises.

Many of you may be making New Year resolutions and I ask that you prayerfully consider a resolution to serve the Lord and let your light shine! Check out the rest of the newsletter to discover some ways to shine!

God's Blessings Always,
Laura Rude



Madison Crane

Director of Children, Youth, and Families
Zion and Redeemer Lutheran Churches

Happy New Year! I need to start off by saying “Ufda!” And I say that as I marvel at how incredible God’s timing is. I wonder where the past year has gone, but I know that it has been a season of changes for the glory of God!

As I reflect on the many changes that may happen in 12 months within a church and its congregation, a family, friendships, health, and in the seasons of life, the constant that I lean on is the word of the Lord. It always amazes me to see how the scripture from worship answers the questions I have had or how the message prepares me for what is to happen. 1 Peter 1:24-25 says, *“The Scriptures say, ‘Humans wither like grass, and their glory fades like wild flowers. Grass dries up, and flowers fall to the ground. But what the Lord has said will stand forever.’ Our good news to you is what the Lord has said.”*

I am VERY excited to announce that **youth groups** will start in January!!!!

May this new year be brought in with peace, trust, and hope in the Lord!

January 14
Board Meeting – 9:00am
ZLCW – 10:00am

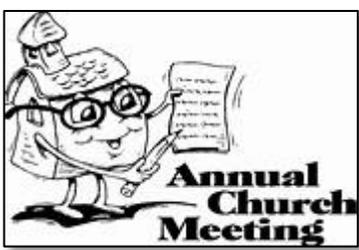


Program: Sarah
Hostess: Anna
Hospitality: Dorcas
Visitation: Lydia at TRF Care Center

Silver Creek

Winter Solstice brings us the joy of lengthening days and hope of some sunshine so we can enjoy the beauty around us in Northern Minnesota. The winter activities can be so much fun and bring our families and friends together. We praise God for the four seasons and our reasons to enjoy all of them.





Silver Creek's annual meeting will be held on January 19th following the regular church services. After the meeting we will join in a potluck dinner. All reports for the booklet need to be turned in to Kristi Housey by January 10th. Any items for the agenda should also be submitted by that time. Hope you can attend the meeting.

The officers for the WELCA will meet in January to plan the program for the coming year. Any ideas would be appreciated. We will not be meeting in January, as we generally have had to cancel due to weather. We plan to start again in February and will be ready to do some quilting.

Thanks goes out to the families who so faithfully plow the snow in the church yard and keep our sidewalks clean. The church looked so festive for the Christmas Season, and once again the ladies who were able to help decorate had a great time working together. We are so fortunate to have so many willing hands to help with the needs of our congregation.

Bev Ruprecht



Zion Lutheran's Parish Planning Council Minutes December 17, 2019

The Parish Planning council meeting was called to order by President Laura Rude at 5:29pm. In attendance were Laura Rude, Pastor John Golv, Pastor Ale Tulu, Tim Numedahl, Barbara Overbye, Madison Crane, Penni Nelson, Sharon Jorde, Teri Forsberg, Dennis Yost, Marijo Nabben, Darlene Hulteen and Deb Holtan.

The minutes from the November 19, 2019 meeting were presented. A motion was made to accept the minutes. The motion was approved.

Treasurers Report: The budget is behind \$44,000.00. The Women of Zion helped with a donation of \$8,000.00 to be used towards the Faith Fund. The report was filed for audit.

Stewardship: The Treasurers report and Stewardship report ran together with a very lengthy discussion on what we as a council do next with our budget. Teri Forsberg mentioned "Financial Peace University". Teri gave a quick simple explanation about the program. Teri and Madison will bring more information to the council at the next council meeting. Council also had a discussion about having "Noisy Offering" Sundays in January at the first service as a trial run with the proceeds from this service only going towards the Faith Fund. Chairperson Dennis Yost voiced concern that there are members that we have lost contact with. How do we as a council and church handle this? Council discussed putting the names of the "inactive" people in the bulletin, newsletters and on the website asking the congregation if they know anything about these people. An "inactive" member is someone who hasn't taken communion or given in three years.

Silver Creek: Penni Nelson reminded the council that their Christmas Eve service is at 5:30 with communion. January 19th is their annual meeting and because of that they will not have their regular council meeting.

Worship: Sharon Jorde reported that everything is in place for our Christmas Services.

Properties: President Laura Rude gave their report....."The trees are up!" There were a couple of lights in the building that were not working and have been fixed.

Evangelism and Lay Ministry: Marijo Nabben stated that the board is continuing with their plans they have laid out. A reminder that New Member Recognition Sunday will be January 12th at the 10:30 service with a potluck to follow. Orientation will be on Thursday the 9th at 7:00. The board will start in January sending out Baptismal Anniversary cards. The board is planning some fun facts during the coffee hour!

Christian Ed and Youth: Madison reported for the board and adding her report which was submitted. There are 341 “registered” youth between Zion and Redeemer in grades Pre-K through 12th. January 12th the 6-8th grade will meet at Redeemer for Bible Study and devotions. January 26th, 9-12th grade will meet for Youth Group at Zion for Bible Study and devotions. The group activity for each is yet to be determined.

Public Relations: Darlene Hulteen submitted the boards report. There are exciting things coming for the church’s website. A new church directory will be done in 2021. The board has had discussion on what to do with the library; do we need to keep the library?

Parish Fellowship: The boards report was submitted to the council. The pie auction brought in \$3,257.00 for Zion’s Faith Fund. The “Guidelines for Sunday Morning Coffee Servers” is posted in the kitchen. Seventeen carolers participated on Sunday December 15th and enjoyed a nice fellowship supper at the church after the caroling was done. There is a need for greeters and ushers for the 4:00 Christmas Eve Service!

WELCA/ZLCW: The submitted report stated the group sent Christmas cards to 33 homebound Zion members. The annual Christmas Tea was held on December 10th. The women’s group served lunch to 18 staff and Bishop Tesch who were in attendance for the SAM (Synodical Authorized Ministry) in-service meeting held at Zion on December 14th.

Pastor Ale: The Ministerial Group had their meeting here at Zion. Pastor Ale stated the group expressed the enjoyment of the beauty of our church.

Pastor John: Pastor John submitted his report and the minutes from the Zion Foundation Board Meeting that was held on December 10th. The commissioning of Madison is in the planning stages between Pastor John and Pastor Cory. The commissioning will be held here at Zion. The date is pending.

Pastor Ale will be on vacation December 28th through January 1st. Pastor John will be on vacation December 29 through January 6th. Reverend Mark Helgeland will be on call December 30th and 31st.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 following the Lord’s Prayer.

The next meeting is January 21, 2020

Respectfully submitted by
Deb Holtan, Council Secretary

Sunday School News

January Reminders:

January 5 – Sunday School resumes!



Please join us on Facebook!

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

✝ We would also highly suggest joining the **Zion Lutheran Church Youth – Thief River Falls** page to stay up to date on all youth events.

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



K-5th Grade Event -

- January 26
- 3:00 - 5:00
- Movie Time! Zion Youth Room

Middle School (6th-8th grade) -

- January 12
- 7:00 - 8:30
- Redeemer Lutheran Church Youth Room

Sr. High (9th-12th grade) –

- January 26
- 7:00 - 8:30
- Zion Lutheran Church Youth Room

The goals of these events are to get to know the brothers and sisters in Christ through community, fellowship, the Word and activities! These youth groups are open to those from **both** congregations!

Sr. High Youth Gathering –

- Luther Crest Bible Camp
- Saturday, February 22 - 23
- Early Bird Registration - \$135 - due by Tuesday, January 21, 4:00 pm.
- IFAs may be used.

Confirmation starts again on January 8.