



Vol. 20

March 2020

No. 3



From Pastor John

Read John 20:29 & 30.

Our Hearts Are Restless – Our God Is Constant

People sometimes ask what God is like. This is the answer: “God is like Jesus in all respects.”

God is constant. People change every few years, especially in the teenage years. Adolescent faith is real faith. It is also incomplete. There is more to know. There is more to do. There is more for God to do. Adolescent faith sustains as nothing else and feels incomplete at the same time.

The faith of adults, the young parent, the empty nester, and the elderly sustains as nothing else, and always feels incomplete somehow. (I Corinthians 13:12) At every stage of life the believer will have an uncomfortable and completely honest question: “Is this all there is?”

One of the best teachers of the Christian faith (St. Augustine) put it this way: “Our hearts are restless until they rest, O Lord, in thee.”

It is our faith not to settle. Christians will never settle for anything second best. Easy answers are attractive especially at first, but our hearts eventually become restless again. Even on our best days, we know that there is more to know.

We can always say with complete confidence and utter finality that there is always more to life than we are aware of. Yes, Christ is risen. Yes, death is defeated. Yes, the promise of everlasting life is made to us. The Gospel of Jesus Christ has never been fully appreciated, and never will be. Yes, we know God, but we know in part. Our faith sustains us, and keeps us wanting more.

One thing we do know with certainty is that even with restless hearts and the nagging feeling that there is more to life, God blesses us who live by faith.

Christian faith is more than enough to live on, come what may.

In Christ,
Pastor John Golv

- March 1 – Effective Parenting in a Defective World
- March 8 – Gideon’s Sunday
- March 15 – Camp Sunday
- March 29 – Witness – 7:00 pm - Zion
- April 9 – Seder Meal – 5th Grade 1st Communion
- April 10 – 12th Annual Prayer Vigil
- April 10 – Good Friday Worship
- April 12 – Easter Worship

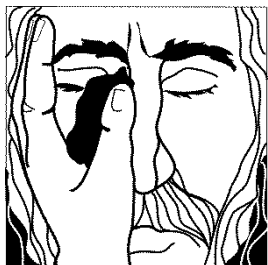


Zion Lutheran Foundation Scholarship

- Open to high school seniors who plan to attend or those attending an ELCA college.
- Deadline - April 1
- Applications on the youth bulletin board

Zion’s Lenten Wednesday Worship Schedule

Worship - 6:30 PM
Suppers - 5:30 PM



February 26: ASH WEDNESDAY - Pastor John Golv

“Thy Will Be Done”

“Not as I will, but as you will,” Jesus prayed to his Father the night before he went to the cross for our salvation. And that is our prayer as well this Lent as we seek to do God’s will in our lives, as we draw near to the observance of Christ’s suffering, death and resurrection during Holy Week.

March 4:	Jesus	Pastor Gary Graff
March 11:	Jonah	Pastor Kristin Ostercamp
March 18:	Mary	Pastor Cathie Rhoades
March 25:	Lydia	Pastor Carl Hansen
April 1:	David	Pastor Jonathan Dodson

Lenten Supper Schedule



5:30 – Before Lenten Worship

February 26 - (Ash Wednesday) – Sarah – Chili - Grade 10-12 Cleanup

March 4 - Catered - potatoes and ham – Grade 9 Cleanup

March 11 - Dorcas - chicken ala king – Grade 7 Cleanup

March 18 - Elizabeth - tater tot hot dish – Grade 5 and 7 Cleanup

March 25 - Rebekah – beef stew – Grade 3 and 4 Cleanup

April 1 - Macaroni hamburger hot dish – Anna – Grade K-2 Cleanup

April 8 - No supper

April 9 - Seder meal for 5th Graders/1st Communion – Lydia and Others – Grade 8 cleanup



President's Message Laura Rude

Dear Zion Church Family-

Spring is getting near, and I know I am hoping and praying for an early and slow melt to our icy wonderland. I feel our patience is being tried this winter between snow, sickness and cold. We are tough crew and we know from where strength comes. Good Lord please grant us the strength and patience!

As we get closer to spring we also start preparing for the Resurrection of our Sovereign Lord. Lent is such a sacred and precious time in our church. Personally, I always enjoy our Wednesday's evenings together as a church family. Breaking bread, worshiping and singing together are great ways spend time together and strengthen our bond. If you have not been to a Wednesday night church service during Lent I invite you to come.

Our Church Council meetings continue to have very good conversation and the decisions ahead are not being taken lightly. I ask that your thoughts and feedback continue to be shared with someone on the Council, the Pastors or myself. We need your input and your continued prayer and appreciate them both greatly.

I will leave you with this question. Do you recognizing the blessings that God has given you and thank God for them? Are you recognizing the blessings that God has given you? A friend recently reminded of the song *Count Your Blessings*. As I was reading the lyrics I was reflecting on all the blessings that God has graciously allowed in my life. First and foremost, His unconditional love and forgiveness. I challenge you to stop and think for just a few minutes of all the blessings that you have been fortunate enough the recipient of. A beautiful sunrise, a healthy child, a loving family, a house to go home to, good friends. You get the idea.

Count your many blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessings see what God has done!

God is good. Take a moment to reflect on your blessings and thank the Lord above.

Humbly Serving ~ Laura Rude

Madison Crane

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



Peace & Joy to you!

As the sun peaks through the clouds, may you soak up that warmth in this (never-seeming to end) winter. Life can be kind of like that, we get in a “winter-shuffle” and we miss the sunshine and long for summer. But what are we doing in our waiting? Psalm 130 is beautifully sung by Shane & Shane, *I Will Wait for You*. That reminds me to rely on God through highs and lows. Christ is walking with us through our journeys. There is hope just around the corner of winter, and it comes on Easter morning.

Being patient in a long winter is tough, and even more so with little ones! Staying inside on cold days, germs being passed around, and less sunshine makes for the itch of spring more intense. Take time to include children on plans and schedules to help them see what is happening on the family’s schedule. On a snowy-day eat a summer meal or popsicles. Ask your family what they would like to do this summer; start planning where you could go - bike trips to the library, map out each park in the city, create a scavenger hunt, or plan a grill-out with neighbors and friends. Keep your kids involved in family functions, ask their opinions and listen to what ideas they have!

As the confirmation classes aren’t meeting regularly during the season of Lent, make the effort to be in worship together. There are so many things to do in the middle of the week, but come worship and be together. Check out the bulletin for youth and family happenings in the congregation (there’s lots going on!) and don’t forget to bring friends!

Faith is not just a statement. It is to be actively lived out. Psalm 130:7 reads: *Israel, put your hope in the LORD. For there is faithful love with the LORD, and with him is redemption in abundance.* Have faith that The Lord walks with us on cold and lonely days and in the radiant sunshine. We walk in faith, not to go through the motions, but to go and grow in our faith through times of patience and waiting. Look forward to what is to come.... Like summer Bible camp at Pathways, picnics, bike rides, and new things blooming!



WELCA - March 10

10:00 - All women of Zion are invited to our monthly meeting for food, fellowship and Bible study.

Responsibilities for the month are:

Program - Anna

Hostess – Elizabeth

Hospitality – Sarah

Visitation – Rebekah at Valley Home

Evangelism/Lay Ministry Board

- Please inform the church office if you would like home communion
- Baptismal anniversary cards will be sent to those baptized in 2019.

Input Needed~ Electronic Sign

The Council needs your feedback on whether Zion should pursue putting up an electronic sign on church grounds. Currently we have no signage indicating service times, activities, special events etc. The cost of the sign is approximately \$37,000. Currently we have \$3,160 in donations and \$5,100 in pledges.

Before the council commits one way or the other, we would like your opinions. Please reach out to a council member or the pastors or call Laura Rude - 684-1072, Mike Spears - 689-7837, or Tim Numedahl - 689-3471.

We would love to hear from you. Thank you for your commitment to Zion.

HELP US OUT, PLEASE

Zion is in the process of updating member information. If you have contact information such as addresses, home phone, cell phone or email addresses, please email the information to ziontrf@mncable.net or call 681-3296.

Scott Carlson, Steven Carlson, Dan Carpenter, Stephanie Clow, Tera Collins, Dennis Comstock, Karen Comstock, Trisha Curry, Michael Dahle, Nicolas Daley, Adam Dallmann, Kayla Decowski, Kim Decowski, Tyler Decowski, Alec Dicken, Mitchell Dicken, Kelsey Dimmen, Gregory Dosser, Hunter Duffney, Erica Emmans, Lyndsey Englestad, Gary Engstrom, Aaron Erickson, Andrew Erickson, Shelli Erickson, Taylor Ernst, Bethany Fanfulik, Jodi Fanfulik, Dana Flesche, Charles Follett, Shannon, Fremling, Andrew Friend, Angela Friend, Jason Friend, Cathie Gagner, Nick Gagner, Scott Gagner, Kelly Gaida, Jordan Garceau, Teri Garceau, Mandy Gast, George Gifford, Elle Gillespie, Steven Gillespie, Kristen Granly, Jennifer Gregerson, Angela Griffin, Grady Griffen, Trentyn Groslie, Alicia Hagen, Aaron Halvorson, Melissa Hamann, David Hanson, Kari Hanson, Jessica Harger, Emma Heaton, Kenneth Hedlund, Ryan Hedlund, Adam Henney, Stephanie Henney, Lance Henrickson, William Hess, Jason Hoffard, Tim Hoffard, Peter Hoks, Philip Hoks, Kelsi Holland, Bradley Holtman, Brooke Holtman, Robert Holtman, Tina Holtman, Deserae Hopper, Justin Hopper, Robin Houske, Carla Hruby, Craig Hruby, Nathan Hruby, Amy James, Paul James, Kimberly Jensen, Dane Jensen, Elaine Jensen, Jeremy Jensen, Richard Jensen, Dylan Johnson, Krissy Johnson, Samantha Johnson, Ricky Johnson, Bradley Jorstad, Brady Jorstad, Carrie Jorstad, Cathy Jorstad, Delanie Jorstad, Jacob Jorstad, Nick Jorstad, Rileigh Jorstad, Roby Jorstad, Judy Kalis, Andrew Kalsnes, Judy Kaml, Gregory Kauppila, Jeremy Kees, Erin Kiesow, Jason Kjar, Alyshia Knott, Marion Koglin, Rachel Koppang, Rona Koppang, Tara Lake, Joshua Langlie, Rebecca Larson Isaak, Brittany Larson, Crystal Larson, Cherie Leader, Kurt Leader, Keith Leander, Chad Lian, Cole Lian, Natalie Loeffler, Dean Lokken, Shari Long, Camille Loughead, Jay Lusignan, Chad Manning, Jeffrey Mattson, Kristen McCullough, Marc McCullough, Duane McFarland, Maria McGear, Robert Mills, Mark Moerman, Kia Naeseth, Jake Nelson, Tyler Nessen, Lee Nieland, Chad Nordhagen, Lindsey Nordhagen, Wendy Nordin, Angela Noreen, DeVonna Noreen, James Noreen, Lila Noreen

Silver Creek

Upcoming Lenten Services are scheduled for Zion Church with Silver Creek encouraged to join them on Wednesdays. Supper will be served at 5:30 and worship to begin at 6:30. Ash Wednesday, February 26th, will begin the Round robin of pastors, who will be sharing the message each week.

Church council will meet on Sunday March 8th following services.



The ladies will meet on March 11th at 1:00 PM to tie quilts and will continue quilting on the 12th at 3:00 PM. We have many quilts that need to be tied and it is a fun time to come visit with the neighbors. A great time to show our gratitude for the many gifts that we have to share.

We will meet at 5:30 for a light supper on the 12th, and continue with our business meeting and bible study. Since we missed February meeting we will do both Lessons #5 Friend or Foe and # 6 Call the Midwife.

Mark your calendars on April 9th for our annual spring-cleaning and potluck supper.

Bev Ruprecht

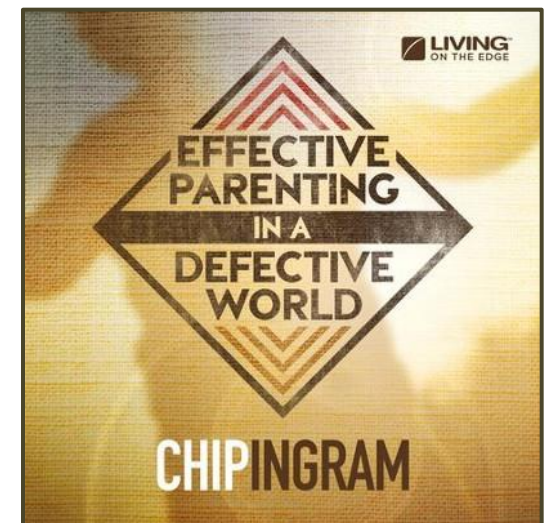
Effective Parenting in a Defective World

As a parent, you want to know that your kids are comfortable in their faith and can approach the pressures that come their way with Godly wisdom. But how can you impart those values in a world of over-extended schedules? Chip Ingram, the author of *Effective Parenting in a Defective world*, shares practical steps for imparting your faith to your kids as well as effective discipline so your kids are quipped to stand firm in their faith through the barrage of challenges they're going to face.

The Evangelism Board would like to invite you (parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, teachers – anyone involved with today's young people) to attend the series, *Effective Parenting in a Defective world*.

When – During coffee hour beginning March 1

Where – Fellowship Hall



The sessions include the following topics:

- How to Raise Positive Kids in a Negative World
- How to Develop Your Child's Full Potential
- How to Prepare Your Kids to Win Life's Biggest Battles
- How to Disciple Your Child Effectively



Zion Lutherans Parish Planning Council Minutes February 18, 2020

The Parish Planning Council meeting was called to order by President Laura Rude at 5:31 pm. In attendance were Laura Rude, Pastor John Golv, Pastor Ale Tulu, Tim Numedahl, Barbara Overbye, Madison Crane, Sharon Russell, Marijo Nabben, Glenice Johnson, Darlene Hulteen, Teri Forsberg, and Deb Holtan.

The minutes for the January 20, 2020 meeting were presented as well as the Annual Meeting minutes and the Zion Foundation minutes. A motion was made to accept the minutes. The Motion was approved

Treasurers Report: The report was filed for audit.

Silver Creek: Sharon Russell reported that things are moving along as “normal”

Stewardship Board: President Laura Rude read a text to the council from Dennis Yost. Discussion was held on whether or not to do another auction as a fund raiser. The suggestion was made to wait more towards fall for this kind of an event. Other ideas were discussed that would include the community, not just Zion members.

Worship Board: The boards minutes were presented. Lent services are in place using the Holden Evening Prayer Service setting.

Property Board: WELCA has set a dollar amount to put towards the downstairs bathroom updates.

Evangelism and Lay Ministry Board: Marijo Nabben reminded the council of the upcoming Good Friday Prayer Vigil which will be April 10th. The Baptismal Anniversary cards are being sent out. “Effective Parenting in a Defective World” will start on Sunday March 1st in between services in the Fellowship Hall. The board is printing flyers to be handed out at both services on Sunday February 23rd and also to the Sunday School children. The board is encouraging people to invite others from outside the congregation.

Christian Ed and Youth Board: Teri Forsberg’s presentation was tabled until the next council meeting.

Parish Fellowship: Glenice Johnson reported that the WELCA Circles have their Lenten Suppers planned but because of declining numbers they are looking at other ways to handle the suppers. Bob Nelson has installed the new ice and water machine in the kitchen. April’s Sharing Servants needs a second leader to help with that group.

Public Relations: Darlene Hulteen reported that they've had great feedback on the updating of members that the church has lost contact with. Darlene also reported they feel there's a "disconnect" between KTRF and the Public Relations board. She mentioned that a one time there used to be a "Tech" person to handle the communication and asked if there's a possibility to find someone that would be interested in this. The board was meeting again with the person helping on the design of the new website.

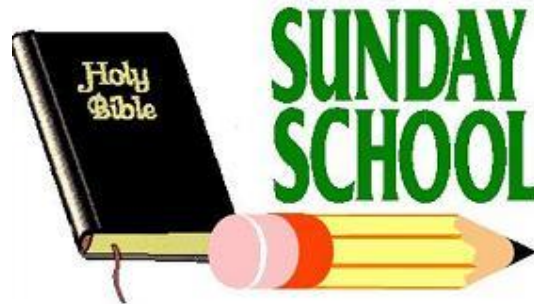
Youth and Family: Madison Crane reported that she is excited about the number of kids attending the scheduled events. Noisy offering at the first service has already brought in almost \$300.00 that is going towards the "Faith Fund" saying the kids are excited about it. Madison also suggested that at some point she would like to see a "Youth Council" formed and that a representative be part of the church council. It was suggested that a youth or representative start out as being a non voting guest.

Pastor John: Pastor John submitted his report. He stated that Pastor Cory has proposed a new confirmation course. Also that Pastor Cory suggested for the summer's Wednesday night services; one month it would take place at Zion, the next month at Redeemer. Last summer there were two Wednesday evenings were each church hosted the other.

Pastor Ale: Pastor Ale reported that the annual meeting that was to be hosted by Zion for Conference 2 is now being hosted by Redeemer on the 27th of March. June 12-13 is the Synod Gathering in Moorhead, Minnesota and there's a need for delegates from Zion.

President Laura Rude handed out a sheet with a mock survey asking the council to make notes on questions that can be included for a survey of the congregation. She asked the council to bring back their ideas to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm. after praying the Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully submitted by Deb Holtan Council Secretary



March Reminders:

March 1 -

- ✠ 8:30 Service: Little Lamb - 1st Grade will sing during the service.
- ✠ 10:30am Service: 2nd Grade – 5th Grade will sing during the service.

March 15

- ✠ Camp Sunday – Please ask your Sunday schoolers to wear a camp t-shirt to Sunday school if they have one.

April Reminders:

April 12

- ✠ NO SUNDAY SCHOOL/Easter Sunday



May Reminders:

May 3 -

✝ Canteen 505 Day – Class schedules will be shared with the teachers.

May 10 -

✝ Sing in Church!

✝ End of the Year Classroom Parties

✝ Last day of Sunday school until September



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.



March 8 - Zion and Redeemer - 6th - 12th Graders Bowling - 1:00 - 3:00 – Space is limited. Sign up on the green sheet by Madison's office.

March 15 - Flapjacks for Faith - Signup sheet on Madison's door - Funds raised for youth IFA's. Parents/adults are needed to help prepare food with their youth

March 15 - Camp Sunday at Zion

March 21 – extended Early Bird registration for Zion youth attend Pathways Bible Camp due. Brochures are by Madison's office.

March 29 -Pre-K - 5 Events - 3:00 - 5:00 - Painting or Coloring to Relax - at **Redeemer**

March 29 - Witnesses - 7:00 - at **Zion**

IFA (Individual Family Accounts) - students of any age can start adding funds to their account. These funds can be used for church sponsored events.

Looking for enamel mugs to replace the breakable glass mason jars used for Noisy Offering. Please contact Madison if you have any to donate.



Paraphrase Theatre Presents

WITNESSES

One Actor / 8 Characters / A Fresh Look at Jesus



written by Curt Cloninger
performed by Jonathan Swenson

for more information
visit Paraphrase Theatre on Facebook
or www.paraphrasetheatre.com

The Congregations of the TRF Conference of the
NWMN Synod of the ELCA Invite you

Sunday, March 29 at 7:00 PM

Zion Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls

**Free Will Offering to Support Lutheran Disaster Response
For more information contact Kristin 218-684-1155**