



Vol. 20

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Dear friends in Christ,

I hope that you all are doing well in this uncertain and difficult time. It is hard to believe that summer is on its way out and fall is on its way in. In the meantime, September is fast approaching. This means, soon it's time when the students are going back to school, when Sunday school and confirmation classes begin, when church pews are once again fill up with people and we have many activities at our church.

The question now is, can we get back to those old routines and expectations in the midst of this coronavirus pandemic? It seems that there is no end to it. So, we all are wondering how we can do what we have always been doing. The fact is that, as much as we long to get back to our old routine of life, it may not possible for a time being. This means, we may have to do our Sunday school and confirmation classes from in person to a distance learning as we have been doing with our Sunday morning worship services.

God didn't promise us that bad things never happen to us but he has promised to help us and guide in whatever problems we are going through. So, let us trust him and walk in faith. There are two ways to respond to this coronavirus pandemic which turned our life upside down. We can give in and be sad and depressed, or we can stay positive and fight it with hope and optimism. The scripture says, "A merry heart does good like a medicine but a broken spirit dries bones." Proverbs 17:22

The apostle Paul had experienced many hardship and disappointment in his life. Yet in spite of all his trials and problems that he went through, he kept cheerful spirit knowing that he was always in God's care. In Philippians 4:4-6, he said, "Rejoice in the lord always and again I say to you rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The lord is near. Don't worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanks giving let your request be made known to God and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." May we to live our lives in such a cheerful spirit in good times and hard times now and always.

Amen!

Pastor Ale



Misson Sunday
Sunday, September 27th

Guest Speaker from Food for Poor

Donation envelopes will be available at the church



President's Message
Laura Rude

Dear Zion Church Family-

Life as we know it came to a screeching halt in March. Fast forward 6 months and some would think it hasn't moved at all. I would beg to differ. I believe we are stronger, more grounded, more connected & leaning on our faith in God more than ever! God is alive and at work every day in our hearts, our families and in our church. His love for us has never wavered. Not even for a second! Praise God! With harvest in full swing, back-to-school around the corner & the cooler nights we are about to turn the page from summer to fall. With that said, my continued goal is to start in-person church and get back to our normal church activities as soon as it's responsible to do so. The Council will meet again on September 8th to discuss a re-open plan. Please continue to visit our website, listen to announcements in our Sunday broadcasts or review our e-bulletin. If you want to sign up for the e-bulletin, please email the church - ziontrf@mncable.net to get signed up. Updates will be shared as it is available.

Sending a "shout out" to Pastor Ale, Madison & Linda. They have been absolutely resilient as they have had to find creative ways to do their jobs, serving the church and keep things humming along. They have been truly awesome!

Praying for wisdom, patience and courage as we continue this journey. Take good care of yourself and of one another.

God's Peace~

Laura



FROM THE PARISH NURSE

Welcome to Fall! This is a great time of year to appreciate what God has blessed us with, as we experience this changing season. As you have heard a million times, this is different. Different does not always mean bad, just a change. Remember that what we focus on seems to get bigger, so choose that focus to be positive. It seems negativity these days overcome us quicker, but we know with Gods Love wrapped around us we can override that negativity with positive thoughts. Every day start your day with a prayer of thanks and focus on, what is a "Happy Thought". Grow this thought with good action. This may be just thinking pleasant memories, calling a friend, sitting outside with a friend using the word we hear often "social distancing", sitting outside or by a window watching the blessings of the seasons. We can still do many things if we remember the new normal, keeping everyone safe and our kids safe in a great learning environment. Thank you to our very great skilled, and energized School Administration, Teachers, staff and students, working hard to maximize education for all. Let us all do what we can do.

Gods Blessing to all and Stay safe in Gods Love!

Sandy Knutson, Parish Nurse



From the Christian Ed Youth Board:

We are very excited to start seeing everyone again and being it may not be in the same fashion as last time, we are eager to teach God's Children through a different way.

The Christian Ed Youth Board is suggesting that Sunday School as well as Confirmation, be held virtually instead of in person at this time, to limit the amount of exposure between children and adults. The Sunday School Directors are also looking at starting Sunday School in October this year and more information will be sent out in the upcoming weeks on what to expect for fall.

The Christian Ed Youth Board will also be having our kick off meeting in the month of September and are excited to re-group again. Our plan is to come up with actionable ideas on how we can ensure and fulfill Gods Love and faith in each of the children that attend our Church.

We are looking to add more members to our board. If you are interested in joining us and having some fun, please reach out to Teri Forsberg or Lindsay Henrickson for more information!

Lindsay08r@gmail.com
terikforsberg@gmail.com

DO NOT FEAR
for I am with you
Isaiah 41:10

Blessing of Backpacks!



Sunday September 13, after worship until 10:30

All students of Zion are welcome!

Zion Parking Lot

Follow the signs with the arrows, wear a mask, and social distance.

Hello Children of God!

We are approaching another season in this pandemic. As I have been raised in Minnesota, I am familiar with our seasons: winter and construction. In this area of the Midwest it seems that our calendars do not coordinate with the traditional four seasons of spring, summer, autumn, and winter. We are used to having a rainy week or two in the "spring" and then it's a scorching hot week of "summer" then the leaves are turning color and next we are cheering for the winning football team. Wait- is it Christmas already?!

Seasons of life are important to recognize the growth and change that has happened with an individual. The good news is as Christians, we don't go through these alone. As the church we are one body of Christ. We listen to, we pray with, and we care for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In the seasons of my life working at Camp Metigoshe each campfire ended with the song, 'No One is an Island'. Hearing the youngest campers to the grandparents singing that reminder throughout ages and stages of life reminded me that God with us through every part.

So things are different. Time is still moving along. Our God is Alpha and Omega. Beginning and end. We may not know for certain the date when the pandemic will be declared to be over and we may find a new season. But this is a season, not a pause on life, but time to trust God and work with others. Things have changed from what we knew of our seasons of school, how we gather safely, even shopping requires some different directions. But thankfully faith is not something to be made for consumers, like shopping. Faith formation requires persistence, hope, and love. 1 Corinthians 13:13 tells that the greatest of these is love. Please remember that as we may be distanced from one another in location, but not as the Body of Christ.

Please keep the on-going work of those that make faith formation possible as we are starting this school season virtual. Please lift up the teachers, volunteers, coordinators, directors, facilitators, and students in your prayers. Trying new things means some more patience, grace, humility, and support.

Peace and take care,

Madison Crane

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Redeemer & Zion Lutheran Churches

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Zion Lutheran's Parish Planning Council Minutes

August 4, 2020

The Parish Planning Council meeting was called to order by President Laura Rude at 7:00 pm. In attendance were Laura Rude, Pastor Ale Tulu, Tim Numedahl, Barbara Overbye, Madison Crane, Marijo Nabben, Sharon Jorde, Glenice Johnson, Mike Spears, Darlene Hulteen, Teri Forsberg, Penni Nelson, Deb Holtan and guest Parish Nurse Sandy Knutson.

Pastor Ale led the council with prayer.

The minutes from the July 7, 2020 were presented. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and approved.

Tim Numedahl shared the information about the Payment Protection Program (PPP). A lengthy discussion was held whether or not Zion should apply for the PPP. A motion was made to pursue the Payment Protection Program, if the bank advises the risk is low. The motion was seconded and the motion was approved.

The Treasurers Report was filed for audit.

Pastor Ale reported on the Prayer Walk held on Saturday August 1st. Pastor Ale and Madison both attended.

Madison Crane reported that it's been a busy month. The blessing for graduating seniors was cancelled. She is hoping they can still find a date that will work for the blessing.

Penni Nelson reported that Silver Creek is following Zion's lead. They are meeting tomorrow night (August 5th).

Glenice Johnson gave an update on the progress with updating Zion's Constitution. There are six people from the congregation that make up this committee. Once the update is completed, it will go to the Synod for approval and then to Zion's congregation for a vote.

Darlene Hulteen reported that the website is at a stand still due to no activity going on at the church. Darlene also reported the count for the Mask Give Away is at 2,502 masks as of this Monday! She also stated that there are requests coming in for more and there are NOT enough sewers! Anyone that would be interested in helping with this mission please get a hold of Darlene. She has kits made up of various sizes. Darlene also stated that they made the Synod Facebook page!

Update on the Preparedness Plan: With the constant change that is happening, the council will vote on the finalization when we are able to open up the church.

There will be another congregational letter sent out the week of the 17th.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday September 8th at 7:00

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm, after praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Deb Holtan, Council Secretary