

Zion Lutheran Church
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Thief River Falls, MN 56701-1996

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November



The Herald

Published monthly, to provide both inspiration and information on the activities of the Zion Family

Zion Lutheran Church
505 Main Ave. N.
Thief River Falls, MN 56701-1996
Phone - 218-681-3296

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"I give thanks to God always for you." 1Corinthians 1:4

Dear friends in Christ,

Thanksgiving Day will soon be here when we gather as a nation, community, and family to express our gratitude to those who have made a difference in our lives and to our God who is the source of our every blessing. It is always good to be thankful for all the blessings that makes our lives meaningful and pleasant.



Often when I think of Thanksgiving, I think of those early pilgrims who came to this land in search of a new home and life. I think about them because I share their hopes and dreams as a modern-day pilgrim. It is always difficult to leave your family and friends and come to a new world and make a living. We know from history how the early pilgrims went through harsh experiences when they arrived here, but they survived because of the help they got from the native people. Out of that came the spirit of thanksgiving which we are celebrating every year as a national holiday.

As soon as I came to America, I fell in love with the beauty of this land and people. Even though I never experienced the kind of hardship the early settlers went through, I came to realize how hard it must have

been for those pilgrims to achieve their dreams without the assistance of the native people. I am very grateful for the support I got through the years from so many people and from you. It would have been so hard to come thus far without such kind of help and support.

Many of us often take for granted our Thanksgiving holiday especially when things go well for us. What makes this holiday more beautiful and more meaningful is when we celebrate it in the midst of crisis like we are in now with this Coronavirus that crippled our economy and put our lives in fear and uncertainty. That is the time we see how powerful our sense of gratitude is.

Thanksgiving traditions remind us how important it is to reach out and help each other and celebrate the spirit of kindness and gratitude in good times and in hard times. What makes this holiday very pleasant is the social gathering we enjoy when family members and friends come home from far and near to celebrate the occasion with us. But this year, many people may stay where they are to protect themselves and their loved ones from this pandemic. Whether you celebrate with your family and friends like you used to or not, we wish you happy Thanksgiving.

Pastor Ale

- November 1 - Holy Communion – packets available outside church office
- November 1 – 6th grade First Communion
- November 15 – Pledge cards due
- November 15 – Holy Communion – packets available
- November 15 – Operation Christmas Child boxes and donations due
- November 25 – Community Thanksgiving Worship – Broadcast only from Zion – 7:00 PM (not in person)
- November 26 - Thanksgiving
- November 29 – First Day of Advent



President's Message Laura Rude

Hello Zion Church Family-

I would like to thank you all for your prayers, positive thoughts, volunteer hours and financial support. Zion is a very special place to call our church home, but it would be just an empty building without your dedication, love and support. Our stewardship drive will wrap up on November 15th and with that comes decisions for the upcoming year. Please keep the council in your thoughts and prayers as these decisions are thoughtfully planned out.



With in-person worship now taking place, it's exciting to see faces on Sundays and to worship together again. Thank you to everyone for your patience and having a great sense of personal responsibility to keeping others safe. Some exciting events to celebrate are - October 25th the 2nd Graders received their Bibles & 15 confirmands affirmed their baptism. On November 1st our 6th graders will take their First communion. (this should have happened last spring) God's blessings to you all. These activities provide me the solid confirmation that God is very much alive and working in our lives and in our church!

As we learn to adapt to the changes and our surrounding, we can be assured that God doesn't change. He doesn't move. He is always there to listen, to learn from and to grow closer to. **HE IS OUR ROCK!**

Many, slightly altered, activities will be taking place of the next couple of months. Please take time to learn about them and attend where you feel comfortable. Keep watch on our website, Facebook and church bulletin for updates and notifications.

Take good care of yourself and each other.

God's Peace~ Laura



**Community Thanksgiving worship
Wednesday, November 25
7:00 PM – Broadcast only from Zion on
Channel 3, KTRF, Facebook Live**

November 1 and November 15



If you are participating by home communion and would like to pick up home communion packets, they are available on the table outside the office door. You may pick up for both Sundays if you wish. Sign-up sheets are there for communion record.

**COMMUNION
SCHEDULE**



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Pledge cards due in the office by November 15.

Parish Nurse Ministry



What is the Parish Nurse up to? I am continuing to do my contacts as prior to this pause in life, mostly from home as I become aware of needs. I also worked with Darlene Hulteen to distribute masks every Monday since the first of April.

Zion is blessed with so many sewers and doers to make this possible. The community mask makers contributed masks as well. My thanks to all as you made a difference for so many, and this was verbalized greatly by the people in need. Please continue to contact me if you have any questions or needs which I can assist you with.

We all are becoming increasingly tired of this for sure and I thank you for following the Department of Health Guidelines. I know this is not easy at times but please remember during this virus fatigue, the reason we do this. We all want this viral influx minimized and to keep our businesses and schools open, as well as other essential services. We thank the many people that are working so hard to maintain and grow these.

It is very important to reach out to one another as well. A five- minute phone call to someone can make a big difference in their day and yours. There are many people doing outreach on their own, which is great and appreciated. We thank you for sharing Gods Love and your time. If you know of anyone that may need a virtual hug and a quick phone call please let me know through the office, and if you are willing to call someone please let me know as well. Remember we are not alone, and we will get through this!

God's Love to all!

Parish Nurse
Sandra Knutson

Energy Assistance

The Inter-County Community Council is now accepting applications for the 2020-2021 heating season. This helps pay a portion of home heating and electric bills after qualifying. You can contact the ICCC office at 218-796-5144, ext 4 or toll free 1-800-778-4008 or E-mail at neap@intercountvcc.org for more information. There is also information with income guidelines on a poster by the north entrances. Applications are also available online at www.intercountycc.org. If you need help with this, please contact the Parish Nurse.

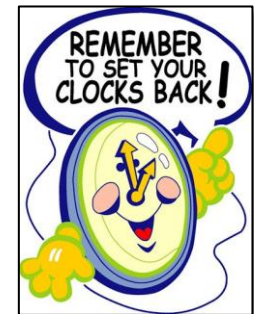


Women ^{of the} ELCA 

Lutheran World Relief

Although Covid has limited our circles and groups that usually gather to make quilts and assemble various kits for missions, Zion delivered 12 quilts and 166 personal care kits to Grand Forks. The volunteer trucking company there will transport them to a collection point in the Cities.

Thank you to all who helped with this mission work.



Worship Together in the Sanctuary



Zion – 8:30 - Silver Creek – 10:00

Wear your favorite mask and follow guidelines.

Worship Online

If you choose to worship from home, take advantage of the alternatives to in-house worship.

- KTRF radio – 1230 AM at 8:30
- Cable TV – Channel 3 – KTRF
- Log into Zion’s Facebook page – *Zion Lutheran Church – Thief River Falls* - and watch a livestream through Facebook Live.
- Log in to Zion’s webpage – ziontrf.org and listen to the service over the internet. Directions below:



Under *Categories* on the bottom right side of the page, select – **Listen Online**. The link will appear in the upper left of the page. Click on the link - <http://radio.securenetsystems.net/v5/KTRF> Then click on the blue arrow to listen to the worship broadcast.

Church Re-opening Guidelines

- Stay home if not feeling well.
- Wear face mask/covering while inside the church
- Practice social distancing
- Seating will be spaced out accordingly to household occupancy
- Offerings can be dropped off at the designated locations in the back of the church
- The church will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized after each service
- Love and respect each other by applying personal responsibility to these guidelines

Madison Crane

Director of Children, Youth, and Families

Zion and Redeemer Lutheran Churches

ryouthfam@gmail.com

608-535-9151



Dear Zion Families,

Peace & grace to you Zion families! As we are getting ready for this winter ahead and finding what God has in store for us, looking back at the last month and seeing how God has been faithful and protective over Zion is amazing to reflect on. Ending the month of October with Confirmation and 2nd Graders getting their Bibles was a great reminder that God is working in all ways to walk with us along our journey of faith.

I am excited to share that the confirmation classes will be meetings in-person! We are considering the county’s positive and active cases and will assess those numbers to ensure safely gathering together. If your student is not feeling well or is in quarantine and is unable to attend in-person, a Zoom option will be offered. Please let me know via email by 3pm on the day of their class if they’re unable to attend in-person. Zion has posted the plans and guidelines to follow and we will adhere to that for gatherings such as these classes. Any changes in these plans will be communicated via email and/or the Remind App. Sunday School will continue to post a weekly video on their YouTube channel with the weekly lesson. The 6th & 7th graders will still have a Zoom Devotional with me on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 9:30am.

On November 18th, at 6:30, Matt Bishop will be sharing his testimony with our 6th-12th grade students and their families. I had worked with Matt through our sports connections when I was in high school and college. He was diagnosed with cancer and while hospitalized used his CaringBridge website updates as his testimony to God. Matt is in the process of turning those blogs into a book now and continues to share his faith through sports and positivity. More details will be shared with the 6th-12th grade families soon.

As we are refiguring some of the Zion youth activities, I am excited to share that some things to be looking for are:

Noisy Offering: Thanks to the creativity of Laura & Robert Fay's family we have new enamel mugs that will be placed by the offering plates that loose change may be placed into for this month of November the Thief River Falls Food Shelf. Due to Covid precautions children won't be coming up to the altar for a Children's message and collecting Noisy Offering.

70+ Meal: There will be details coming soon about the new plan that Confirmation students will be able to share with our members that are *sixty-five or more years of age*- as we are unable to continue the 70+ Meal tradition- but we will still thrive with this new opportunity!

As temperatures cool down, may God's love and grace wrap you up in warmth. Share that joy with others in these changing times. On October 20th, I celebrated working ONE complete year here and I look forward to continuing working with our Redeemer and Zion families with a full and grateful heart!

Madison Crane

Our Prayer During This Stressful Time

Dear God,

You remind us over and over in your Word that you are always with us. You tell us not to fear, and you draw us close into your Presence. You're the only place we find refuge in the storms that surround us right now. You're the only place we can find peace and strength. So we ask you for your words of truth and power to strengthen us. Thank you for your goodness. We look to you today, our Lord and Savior; it's your face we seek.

Amen

Silver Creek

It has been a long time awaiting but we are back in the church with in-person worshipping. So nice to be together as a congregation. Masks and social distancing make it difficult to see if we are smiling, but the happiness in our hearts is felt deeply. If you are comfortable, please join us for worship. Our service is still at 10:00 AM.



Community Thanksgiving Services on November 25th will be held virtually at Zion this year. Check Zion's schedule for time and details.

Silver Creek Council will meet after services on November 22.

We are excited that there are a couple families that would like to become members of our congregation. We are looking to get that scheduled soon. If you know of anyone that might be interested, please contact one of the deacons: Clark Nelson, Connie Stock or Roger Nelson.

Have a nice Thanksgiving. but stay safe. Let's remember this Thanksgiving to take time to reflect on our many blessings.

Bev Ruprecht



**Zion Lutheran's Parish Planning Council Minutes
Via Zoom
October 22, 2020**

The Parish Planning Council meeting was called to order by President Laura Rude at 6:30 pm. In attendance were Laura Rude, Pastor Ale, Barbara Overbye, Tim Numedahl, Madison Crane, Marijo Nabben, Dennis Yost, Glenice Johnson, Mike Spears, Teri Forsberg and Deb Holtan.

Pastor Ale led the council in prayer.

September's Secretary's Report will be presented at November's meeting.

A letter will be going out to the congregation along with the 2021 pledge card. Being the letter is going out at such a late date, the return date for the pledge cards will be November 15, 2020.

The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

Pastor Ale reported things have been busy. He mentioned his letter to the congregation in October's Newsletter about the message Pastor Darrel Golnitz gave on Mission Sunday. The life changing gift that this congregation supported raising enough money for two wells in Africa a few years ago, now we can have the opportunity to help raise money for two new homes in Latin America. So far \$1,600.00 has come in for this mission. The council agreed this is a worthy cause. Also the joint Thanksgiving Eve service was discussed. This year is Redeemers turn to host, but with the challenges of Covid, Pastor Cory has asked that Zion host the service because of our radio and TV

broadcast. There will be no in person service. Redeemer has the capability to do live streaming on YouTube and Facebook and will offer that option as well.

Madison Crane reported that there are 11 Second Graders receiving their Bibles at the 8:30 service on Sunday. There are 15 Confirmands that will have their own service at 10:30 for their Confirmations. Thank you to the Merry Mask Makers who made red masks for each Confirmand. Sixth Graders are preparing for their first communion and that group will also have their own service on Sunday November 1st at 6:00 pm. This year's confirmation classes are small enough that they are going to be given the option to attend in person or if not comfortable to attend through zoom. Discussion has been on going on the 70 plus Thanksgiving Dinner. The council offered several suggestions. Credits for Acolytes for the confirmation students have also been a challenge, as well as Noisy Offering. Noisy Offering for the month of November will go to the local Food Shelf.

Opening of the church to outside groups was discussed. A motion was made to allow the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts to meet in the church with the limitations that were mentioned with the possibility that if the numbers get too large or due to their behavior in the church will be reconsidered or could be stopped. This would also include the SAIL groups. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mike Spears will check on the cost and effectiveness of a "fogger" for sanitizing the church.

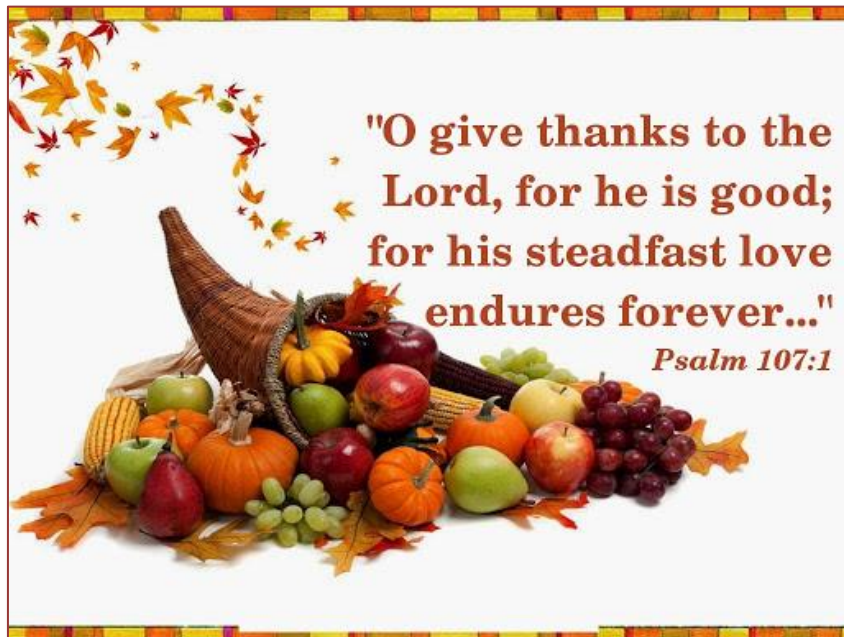
Glenice Johnson relayed questions from Worship Board's chairperson, Sharon Jorde about the need for communion setup. Also with Sharing Servants, Glenice asked about the need for an usher(s) during the Sunday morning worship. The council suggested a possibility of one usher to direct the congregation during communion and to take charge of the offering. WELCA received notice of a fall pick up of the Personal Care Kits, School Kits and quilts for northeastern North Dakota being held in Grand Forks, North Dakota. The kits and quilts were boxed and transported over to Grand Forks. Glenice will be including this information in her Temple Talk for this coming Sunday.

Dennis Yost brought up Spirit of Giving as a concern this year with Covid-19. Last year's committee will try to schedule a meeting as soon as possible to talk about options hoping to still be able to hold this event as there will be more people in need of this outreach.

Tim Numedahl asked about the planning committee getting together. Madam President asked the council if they would meet at a special meeting separate from a regular council meeting to discuss a separate agenda that would pertain to the planning committee. Hopefully this can be held the first part of November.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM after praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Deb Holtan, Council Secretary



Food for The Poor is an ecumenical Christian nonprofit organization based in Coconut Creek, Florida, that provides food, medicine, and shelter, among other services, to the poor in Latin America

and the Caribbean.

When Pastor Darrell Golnitz from Food for the Poor visited Zion on Mission Sunday, he talked about how so many millions of people in Latin America and Caribbean countries live a very difficult life with very little food and very poor housing.

He challenged Zion to join FFP's mission of providing housing for two families. Food for the Poor builds houses with access to sanitation and clean water for only \$3,800 per family. Housing for two families would be \$7,600.

Zion took up Pastor Dan Kolander's challenge from Water to Thrive three years ago and raised \$7,600 to build two wells in Ethiopia.

Let's meet this challenge from Food for the Poor and give two families a sanitary, safe house.

\$1,600 has been donated already. Let's add to that!!!!



Sunday School News

We have officially kicked off 20/21 Sunday school virtually, and it's going great! We hope you have enjoyed our guest teachers and lessons! Make sure you check us out every week between Sunday and Saturday to make sure you don't miss a lesson.



Reminder:

Every Sunday Becky and Davina will post a NEW Sunday school video with that week's lesson. The lesson will be up from Sunday through the following Saturday, so families have time to review it as many times as they want! The previous week's lesson does have to be removed prior to us posting a new week's lesson (due to copyright laws) so make sure you watch the video while you can!

Our videos will be shared via a YouTube link on both our [Facebook Page](#) as well as [Remind](#).

- Parents – Please make sure you like our Zion Sunday School Facebook Page as this is where all Sunday Class Videos, updates and information will be shared!!
- **Facebook:** Zion Lutheran Church Sunday School – TRF
- If you don't have Facebook, please make sure you sign up for Remind!
- **Remind:** @ziontrfss

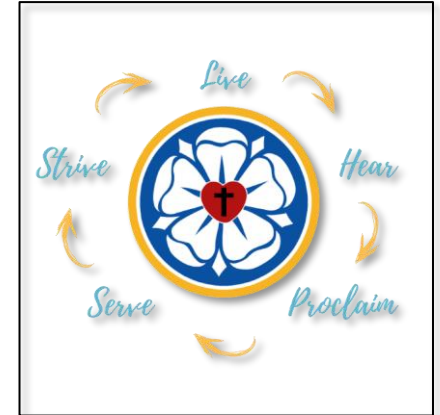
We are asking that parents share pictures of their children watching the lesson video or filling out that week's lesson pamphlet. Text them to Davina at 218-689-4965. We will post them to our Sunday School Facebook page.

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

Confirmands

Zion Confirmation Students that affirmed the promises of their Holy Baptisms:

- Aliyah Lyn Alby
- Isabella Elise Berzinski
- Madison Ann Bregier
- Isaac David Dakken
- Isabella Sophia Ek
- Mattea Claire Erickson
- Abigail Helen Flaagan
- Dylan James Hahn
- Kaylee Ray Gladys Lilja
- Benjamin Michael Nelson
- Daniella Jo Niebuhr
- Morgan Mathew Rude
- Austin Gerald Tabatt
- Alex Sanders Von Holtum
- Chesnie Renae Wojciechowski



2nd Graders that received a Bible



Iver Bertilrud, Michael Durham, Bentley Hermanson, Brooklyn Leines, Kenzie Miller, Brooks Olson, Isaac Philipp, Blake Scheef, Paisley Schneider, Connor Van de Streek, Amelia Wilson, Penelope Nelson, Lincoln Thomas



Operation Christmas Child is in full swing! Zion would like to encourage everyone to help fill at least one shoebox or donate items. There are drop off boxes throughout the church for your items. Money donations are also welcomed to help with shipping costs, or we can use the money to buy items to fill more boxes. A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into

the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing lives through the power of a simple gift. Please have boxes or donated items to the church no later than Sunday, November 15th.

Look for the arrows to find your OCC shoebox today!

Gift Suggestions:

TOYS or a “WOW” item: dolls, toy cars, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS: toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths, adhesive bandages (Colorful ones can help a child be more willing to wear a bandage. Do not include liquid antibiotic ointment.) , Reusable plastic containers: cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, (Consider filling an empty container with non-liquid items such as hair bows, bracelets, sunglasses, or washcloths to maximize the space.) blanket, non-liquid lip balm, nail clipper & file, etc.

CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES: t-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.

CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES: Puzzles, Binoculars, Compass, Chalkboard and chalk, Sewing kit, Playdough (plastic cookie cutters, non-sharp utensils the child can use with the playdough), Gardening kit with gloves and trowel hand tool (Do not include gardening seeds.), Playing cards, Skipping rope/Jump rope.

DO NOT INCLUDE: Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol.

You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. If you include your name and address, their child may be able to write back.

History of Operation Christmas Child

In the summer of 1993, Samaritan’s Purse President Franklin Graham received a call from a man in England asking if he’d be willing to fill shoeboxes with gifts for children in war-torn Bosnia. Franklin agreed, but figured Christmas was months away. He forgot about the promise until he received a call back around Thanksgiving asking about the gifts. Franklin asked his friend the late Pastor Ross Rhoads of Calvary Church of Charlotte to see if he could help with the need. A Sunday shortly afterward, Pastor Rhoads demonstrated for his congregation how to fill a shoebox with simple gifts and encouraged them to include a letter to the child as well. Within weeks, the church had 11,000 shoeboxes lining their hallways. Due to their generosity and additional gifts from Canada, Samaritan’s Purse sent 28,000 shoebox gifts to children in the Balkans that Christmas. Every year since, Samaritan’s Purse has collected shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children around the world. Since 1993, more than **178 million children** in more than 150 countries have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God’s love. Tens of thousands of volunteers from local churches around the world partner with us to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ at festive outreach events where children are surprised with these shoebox gifts.

Behind the Scenes

This whole process is made possible by caring individuals who pack shoeboxes full of quality gifts for children in need. Many of these shoebox packers also use our Follow Your Box feature to discover the country where their gift will be delivered. More than 9,000 year-round volunteers also get the word out about the Samaritan’s Purse project across the U.S. In addition, some 80,000 short-term volunteers serve in nearly 5,000 drop-off locations open across the country every year during National Collection Week, the third week in November. Each shoebox collected then travels to one of eight processing centers to be inspected and prepared for international shipment by 90,000 volunteers. All of this is supported by the 27,000 volunteers in our prayer network. In 2019 alone, more than 10.5 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts were collected throughout Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.