



Vol. 20

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No. 6



Whoever is kind to the poor, lends to the Lord, and will be repaid in full. Proverbs 19:17

Dear friends in Christ,

This past Sunday many of us had a privilege to hear our guest speaker pastor, Darrell Golnitz, from Food for the Poor, Inc. In his sermon he told us how so many millions of people in Latin America and Caribbean countries live a very difficult life with very little food to live on and how food for the poor feeds hundreds of thousands of people.

What caught my attention most from his sermon was when he talked about how he stays in his Van with his wife for months as he travels to different part of the United States to speak on behalf of Food for the Poor. He told us that, to help us understand how millions of people live in small shacks with little space to get around all their lives.

I too, once lived in such an environment and situation and knew what he was talking about. That also reminded me of a time when my mother came to visit me in North Dakota and saw where I lived. She was very surprised to see how I had it so good, especially, after showing her the living room, the kitchen, the two bedrooms and the bathroom with shower on the first floor. Then when I took her upstairs and showed her the other two bedrooms, the bathroom and the shower, she exclaimed, "Is this yours too?" It was hard for her to believe how one family can have that much.

One of the things Food for the Poor does is, they build decent houses with access to sanitation and clean water for only \$3,800 dollars for one family. It is amazing how a little money can make a big difference in some places around the world.

Three years ago, when pastor Dan Kolander from Water to Thrive came and shared with us about the ministry of Water to Thrive, we became inspired to raise enough money to build two wells to provide clean water for entire two villages. What a life changing gift of love that was. This time also, I believe that we can do the same by raising up to \$7,600 to build a new home for two families and transform their lives in ways they never dreamed of. In such a way, we can put our stamp in Latin America and Caribbean as we did in Africa in the name of Jesus who commanded us to help our neighbors in need. So, may I challenge you with this life changing Christian charity? So far, we have \$1,200.

Pastor Ale

- **October 4 – Zion – In-house worship – 8:30**
- **October 4 – Silver Creek – In-house worship and holy communion – 10:00**
- October 4 – Online Sunday School begins via Zoom
- October 7 – Confirmation Kick-Off
- October 7 – *Next Faithful Move* – Virtual Worship – Youth and Families
- October 9 – Deadline for LWR kits – See WELCA article
- October 14 – Silver Creek Council – 8:00 PM



President's Message

Laura Rude



Dear Zion Family,

October brings a turning point for us as we will be re-opening the church for in-person worship. My hope and prayer are that we all show love, compassion and respect for each other, so we can continue this path to our “new normal.” Things will not be the same as they were before but take comfort that our Almighty God who we worship and glorify is never changing.

I have recently been reflecting a lot on **hope** and what that means. My thoughts have come to this conclusion.

Have no fear, God is with you.

Open my eyes, heart and mind Lord to the blessings you have given

Pray for each other

Everyone is loved and accepted

Thinking about hope in this way gives me a sense of peace. We cannot control what is happening to us, but we can control how we react to it.

Many activities will be taking place over the next couple of months as we look to return to normal Please watch for communications listed in this newsletter, on our website, Sunday announcements and/or social media. Together we will settle in, adapt and continue to thrive in God's love, doing God's work with our hands.

God's Peace and Love~
Laura



Thank You to our Parish Planning Committee/Council for working hard over the last six months with the goal to bring us back to worship in person and do it with everyone's safety being considered. There are many challenges they have had to work through to accomplish this goal.

Parish Nurse Ministry



We need your help in making this sustainable. It is important that each and every one of us help slow the spread of Covid-19. We can do this:

1. Stay 6 feet away from others
2. Wash or Sanitize your hands often....REALLY OFTEN
3. Wear a mask in church and businesses to keep them open as well as in public buildings or outside in crowds
4. Stay home if you are ill.

Some parish members may not feel comfortable returning yet or some members cannot wear a mask. If this is the situation, we prayerfully ask you to join in on the great Radio/TV broadcast until we can make changes. You are all with us always!

We can do this as we know we are not alone. May God give us all strength, courage, patience and understanding as we move forward, observing the viral spread and reacting appropriately.

Think positive and share God's Love!

Parish Nurse
Sandra Knutson



Worship Together in the Sanctuary

Sunday, October 4

Zion – 8:30

Silver Creek – 10:00

Wear your favorite mask.





Worship Online

October 4 will see worshippers back in the pews at both Zion and Silver Creek. Welcome back to the sanctuary.

If you are ill or are not yet comfortable worshipping with others, please take advantage of the alternatives to in-house worship.

- KTRF radio – 1230 AM at 10:30
- Cable TV – Channel 3 – KTRF
- Log into Zion’s Facebook page – *Zion Lutheran Church – Thief River Falls* - and watch a livestream through Facebook Live. This will be available after the live service as well.
- 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

Welcome back to worship at Zion.

- Stay home if not feeling well
- Wear face mask/covering at all times while inside the church
- Practice social distancing guidelines
- 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



As the Covid-19 pandemic has kept us at home and unable to meet in groups, our ***Gather*** magazine has provided an alternative way to grow spiritually. The fall Bible study series looks at “holy time” – God’s presence in our past, present and future lives. Additional articles share stories related to that theme. We encourage you to use these timely WELCA resources until we are able to meet together in fellowship.

Lutheran World Relief – the customary NW MN Synod spring and fall pick-up dates for quilts and school, personal care, and baby kits were cancelled. However, we can bring Zion’s contributions to a site in Grand Forks, Oct. 15-16. If you or your circle or other groups have completed any kits or quilts, please bring them to Zion by Oct. 9 so we can record numbers and box them for shipping.

Madison Crane

Director of Children, Youth, and Families
Zion and Redeemer Lutheran Churches
rzyouthfam@gmail.com
608-535-9151



Dear Zion Families,

I hope you are doing well as the schedules of school and work settle into a new routine. The gorgeous colors of the leaves are a that this is a season of changes, but perhaps we can find the beauty in the colors of the leaves before the trees let go. Then we could rake up the leaves and jump into them!

It was great to see families and students in-person at the outdoor Backpack Blessing. Even with masks and social distancing, we were able to see how these kids have grown. Not even masks could hide the ear-to-ear smiles! We are looking forward to starting Sunday School online on October 4th!

The confirmation classes of 8th, 9th & 10th graders will be starting classes and catching up from this spring. The 6th & 7th graders will be starting a devotional time after worship twice a month with Madison. Letters have been sent home with those details. Please keep supporting them in your prayers. We are planning an in-person service to affirm the baptismal promises of the 11th graders. Please keep those plans in your prayers as well. There will be a monthly event online for middle school and senior high students. On Wednesday October 7, at 7:00pm, there will be a virtual *Next Faithful Move* worship. I will be sending the link via the emails to register the confirmation students. Families are welcome to join in!

As worship opens to in-person, we are prayerfully considering youth happenings. For the month of October, we will continue on-line faith formation programming like Sunday School, the 6th & 7th grade devotional through Zoom, as well as the confirmation classes for 8th-10th grades. Another note - I am continuing to have Mondays off. I will be working out of office October 11th-24th.

We are looking forward to connecting with families for the 2nd grade Bible Class, First Communion for the 6th graders, and the Confirmation service. Please watch for mail if you have students in those grades. There are many working pieces to prayerfully consider. Thank you for your understanding and support during this time!

Peace and take care – Madison



God's work. Our hands.

October is Stewardship Month.

The theme is "God's Work. Our Hands."

Temple talks will part of each Sunday service to talk about the importance and responsibility of giving of time and talents. The Parish Planning Council is asking that you prayerfully consider what your hands can give in the spirit of spreading God's love to our brothers and sisters in Christ. The question shouldn't always be **HOW** much you give but **WHAT** you can give. There are many needs in many different areas of the church, office help, Confirmation, Sunday School, building maintenance, serving on a board, being a prayer warrior and financial support.

Please look for future communications as we go through October.

God's Blessings always~
The Parish Planning Council



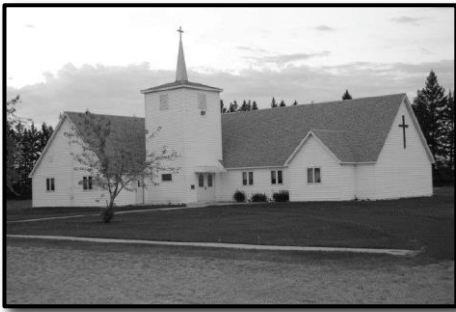
Called to be God's hands in a hurting world, the parishioners of Zion extended their help in friendship and compassion to the people of Thief River Falls and the surrounding communities.

What started as a massive mask making organization and a part of TRF Mask Makers, Zion has donated countless hours and financial help to the mission of providing homemade masks to help slow the spread of the Covid 19 virus.



Once a week since the beginning of April, Zion has shared masks with neighbors and strangers. Monday, September 28, was Zion's last mask giveaway. It has distributed **5,045** masks, each made by women who share the belief – "I became a mask maker, because your life is worth my time."

Zion would like to thank the countless people who have been part of the mask-making mission, whether it was through Zion or TRF Mask Makers. Thousands of masks have been sewn by local women and donated to hospitals, nursing homes, businesses, schools and individuals. Hundreds of dollars, countless yards of fabric, thread and elastic, and hundreds of hours have been donated to the cause. You are truly God's hands in a hurting time. May He bless you all.



Silver Creek

We have exciting news for Silver Creek members. Sunday, October 4, at 10:00 AM we will be having our first in person worship since last March. Following guidelines, we will have to wear masks and social distance, but we will be together again. The service may have to be altered a bit, but uncertain how it will affect our congregation. Holy communion is planned for the 4th. If the COVID numbers continue to grow in our community we may have to cancel, so please remember that all announcements will be on KTRF. We also have an email address and if you could send a message to silvercreeklutheran@gmail.com we will have your address. It will then be possible to send a group email with announcements for our congregation. Think it is time to get tech savvy!

Also following ELCA guidelines the WELCA will not be meeting through the end of 2020. We will keep you posted on our plans for the coming year.

Reminder, we will not be able to have our quilt raffle this fall. The quilt is almost done, so we will be ready for next year. Since we won't have the income from the raffle, it would be appreciated if you could continue to support the budget with your offerings.

Council will meet on October 14th at 8 PM Any questions or concerns would be welcome.

Bev Rupprecht



Zion Lutherans Parish Planning Council Minutes September 8, 2020

The Parish Planning Council meeting was called to order by President Laura Rude at 7:02 pm. In attendance were Laura Rude, Ale Tulu, Barbara Overbye, Madison Crane, Tim Numedahl, Mike Spears, Dennis Yost, Sharon Jorde, Marijo Nabben, Glenice Johnson, Darlene Hulteen, Penni Nelson, Deb Holtan and guest Parish Nurse Sandy Knutson.

Madison led the council with prayer with Pastor Ale following with another prayer.

The minutes from the August 4, 2020 meeting were presented. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and approved.

Discussion was held during the Treasurers Report. A motion was made to purchase a new computer for the church office. The motion was seconded and approved. Also discussed was Silver Creeks finances. A motion was made to forgive Silver Creeks monthly fees to Zion for the months of September, October and November. The motion was seconded and approved. Financial statements will go out the end of September. Laura and Dennis Yost will draft a letter to be sent with the financial statements with a “thank you” to members for their financial support and a reminder that October is Stewardship month and that pledge time is coming up.

The Treasurers Report was filed for audit.

Pastor Ale reminded the council that Mission Sunday is September 27th. Glenice will make an announcement about Mission Sunday this coming Sunday during the announcements.

Madison Crane reported registration for Sunday School and Confirmation classes are happening right now. The “Backpack Blessing” will take place on Sunday the 13th in the church parking lot starting at 9:30 for grades Pre-K through 12th grade. Confirmation kick off is Wednesday October 7th.

Silver Creek will be meeting tomorrow night (September 9th). They will follow Zion’s lead with letters to their congregation.

Dennis Yost from the Stewardship Board asked for help doing Temple Talks again with the upcoming Stewardship month.

Marijo Nabben from Lay Ministry and Evangelism reported her board plans to meet the end of October.

Glenice Johnson reported that the committee working on the constitution is making progress.

President Laura Rude was happy to report that all three ELCA church presidents in TRF are meeting, talking and are on the same page to make a unified front! Also, Madam President stated that Zion will be penciling in Sunday October 4th to open up the church for services. This will all

depend on the reported Covid cases. There will be information on what the guidelines will be in the newsletter. For the time being only the 8:30 service will be held. The semi-annual meeting that was supposed to be held on Sunday September 27th is cancelled.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 after praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Deb Holtan, Council Secretary



Sunday School News

Sunday School officially starts October 4, 2020!! Becky and Davina can't wait to see all our Sunday School Friends again!

We have a LOT to share so here goes...

This year is going to be a little different. We are starting Sunday School off virtually! We want to make sure all our Sunday School friends and their families remain safe, so we have elected to start this year off online.

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 so make sure you watch the video while you can! You never know who will be teaching each week!!

Our videos will be shared via a YouTube link on both our Facebook Site as well as via Remind.

Parents – Please make sure you like our Zion Sunday School Facebook Page as this is where all Sunday Class Videos 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

All updates and information will be shared via these two options.

Also, because we can't see all of our Sunday School Friends in person, we are asking that parents share pictures of their children watching the lesson plan and/or filling out that week's lesson pamphlet/craft. We can't wait to see all of the pictures! They can be text to either Davina or Becky at our cell phones listed below and we will post them to Facebook so we can all enjoy them.

How do you get these lesson pamphlets you may be wondering? We will be putting together some welcome back kits shortly. More information will be shared on Facebook and Remind as to how/when/where to pick those up. There will be one kit per student registered for Sunday School at Zion. If you haven't registered yet this year, please do so asap!! We are requesting that ALL families fill out a registration form this year even if you already attend Sunday School at Zion. The form can be found on our Facebook page and on the Zion website.

If you have any questions about Sunday School, please let Becky (218-686-5563) or Davina (218-689-4965) know. We are excited to go on this adventure together!