



Vol. 21

January 2021

No. 1



*"Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God" psalm 90:1, 2*

2020 Oh what a year! Who would have imagined that this past year would have been a year of such unthinkable crises from a global Coronavirus pandemic that took close to two million lives around the world to a political turmoil that we have never seen in our nation's history. It was a year of great loss of lives, jobs, and social life, and we are glad to say good-bye to it and say hello to this New Year. We hope and pray that this coming year will bring an end to this mess we are in.

Now the question in many people's mind is this, what is it that 2021 has in the store for us? Will the vaccines help us to bring an end to the pandemics? Will American democracy survive? Will life go back to the way it used to be?

We can make all kinds of speculations about what is going to happen in this New Year, yet none of us can be certain. Our knowledge is limited; so is our life. We are between moments, but God is forever. The psalmist tells us how God has been our help in ages past and how he will be our hope for years to come. He is our refuge, a place where we can find security from danger and where we can be surrounded by his love and protection. His ultimate plan for us is that we live with him forever, and that is our destiny. So, let this promise be our guide as we journey through this New Year trusting that no matter what happens, we are in his care. This knowledge will give us courage to face the unknown days ahead with hope and optimism. Thanks be to God for his abiding presence.

Have a happy new year.

Pastor Ale

- January 3 – Holy Communion – packets available at church
- January 3 – Guest speaker – Pastor Steve Wold, retired pastor from Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead, MN
- January 6 – Confirmation resumes
- January 10 – Sunday school resumes video series
- January 12 – Parish Planning – 7:00
- January 13 – Financial and board annual reports due in office
- January 17 – Holy Communion – packets available at church
- January 17 – Silver Creek's Annual Meeting after 10:00 worship service
- January 24 – Little Lambs receive pins at 8:30 worship service
- January 31 – Annual meeting after 8:30 worship service



## Annual Reports Due January 13

Financial and board reports are due by January 13 to allow for auditing and printing prior to the annual meeting on January 31. Please drop them off at the church or email the church office at [ziontrf@mncable.net](mailto:ziontrf@mncable.net)



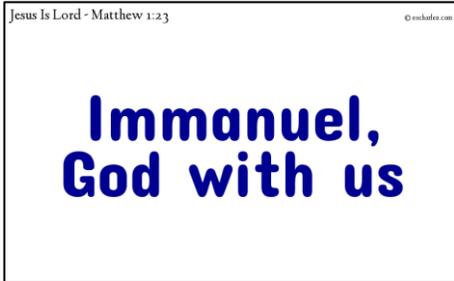
### President's Message Laura Rude

Hello Zion Family-

A New Year is here! 2020 will not soon be forgotten not should it. There were many things learned and to be thankful for. God is good even in a pandemic!

As we move forward into the New Year there are lots of opportunities for us as a church family. I challenge us all to look for a chance to serve God, our community and church family. Zion needs folks to participate in various church boards, Sunday school activities, confirmation etc. There are many things that you can do with your hands to do God's work. Prayerfully consider where and how you can get involved.

Our annual meeting will be on January 31<sup>st</sup>. There will be ballots mailed out with the various voting topics mid-January and we ask that if you do not attend the meeting in person to please fill out the ballot and return it to the church office. Please reach out to me or any board chairpersons if you have any questions.



As we begin the New Year, let's not reduce God to our size but rather work to grow to HIS size. The challenge is great and requires work but is totally worth it. Trust Him; let go and have faith! ***God is with us!***

God's Peace -  
Laura Rude- Zion President

## 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](http://ziontrf.org) and listen to the service over the internet.



## Annual Meeting Sunday, January 31 After 8:30 Worship

**Ballots will be mailed out before the meeting. If you choose to vote from home, fill out the ballot and return it to the church office BEFORE THE MEETING.**

If you have questions, reach out to President Laura Rude or a board member.

## Madison Crane

Director of Children, Youth, and Families  
Zion and Redeemer Lutheran Churches  
[rzyouthfam@gmail.com](mailto:rzyouthfam@gmail.com)  
608-535-9151



Grace and Peace to you, Saints of Zion!

Grace and peace to you saints of Zion! I hope that you were able to take time to reflect on the wonder and gift of love that came at Christmas, with your families, friends, and loved ones. With the start of a new calendar, it seems we look to set goals and try new things. This past year forced us to do most things quite differently. How has that changed your family's faith? Do you watch BLAST together as a family? Or take time to unplug from devices? What books have you read through lately?



“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.” John 1:5. Redeemer, Trinity, and Zion churches came together and put together a few scenes from the Christmas story. It was great to have collaboration and try something different together! As the students are learning that serving does not get put on hold, they were examples of sharing the joy as the Christ was the gift to us.

In the upcoming month confirmation classes will continue meeting via Zoom. Both will resume January 6<sup>th</sup> and continue through February 10<sup>th</sup>. I'm looking forward to connecting with our families in their faith journeys at Zion in 2021!

God's peace be with you,

Madison Crane

## Silver Creek

Happy New Year.

Let's hope that we can put 2020 behind us and look forward to a great new year. We can be so thankful that we have been able to continue to worship in person or virtually with Zion. Winter months can be difficult with Minnesota weather, so keep posted to radio for announcements of cancellations.



Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 17, following church services. We will not be able to have our potluck but will have a business meeting. If you have any business to add to the agenda, please let Kristi Housey know by January 8th. All reports are requested by that date.

Once again, the church looks awesome, and thanks to the crew who keep the snow clear and Jarvis for making sure we are toasty warm. The members of Silver Creek are very dedicated and happy to share their talents to keep the church going.

Thanks!

Bev Rupprecht





## Zion Lutheran's Parish Planning Council Minutes December 15, 2020 - Via Zoom

The Parish Planning Council meeting was called to order by President Laura Rude at 7:06 pm. In attendance were Laura Rude, Pastor Ale Tulu, Barbara Overbye, Madison Crane, Tim Numedahl, Darlene Hulteen, Dennis Yost, Glenice Johnson, Sharon Jorde, Marijo Nabben, Teri Forsberg, Penni Nelson and Deb Holtan.

Pastor Ale led the council in prayer.

The Secretary's Report was presented. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was presented. Discussion was held on the money that was borrowed from savings. A motion was made to move \$25,000.00 from the checking account back into savings to make full repayment. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

Pastor Ale reported that he has talked to Paul Oman about the possibility of coming back to Zion to do his paintings during the coming Lenten season. Pastor Ale also reported the Ministerial Group met about two weeks ago. He also reported that he will be taking vacation and will be gone Sunday December 27th and Sunday January 3rd.

Madison Crane reported the 65 plus served about 50 people! The leftover pies were delivered to the Law Enforcement Center and to the Fire Department on Thanksgiving Day. Confirmation classes will conclude on December 16th and resume again on January 6, 2021. The weekly Sunday school videos are a hit! Madam President suggested that everyone "tune in" to watch these! Zion, Trinity and Redeemer are teaming up to present drive through Nativity Scenes on Sunday December 20th, starting at Zion continuing on to Trinity and then to Redeemer. Little Lambs will have their cross pins presented on January 24th at the 8:30 service.

Penni Nelson reporting for Silver Creek stated that their Annual Meeting will be Sunday January 17th. They will not have their annual congregational Christmas program this year, but were able to hand out their treat bags.

Darlene Hulteen will put an article in the Times telling about this years Christmas Eve service instead of the usual ad. She will also contact KTRF about it being included in their community announcements.

Glenice Johnson reported that WELCA did send out the annual Christmas Cards to 30-35 shut-ins.

Madam President stated that she feels the “In Church Activities” from outside groups has been very responsible for their groups. At this point these activities will be allowed to continue. There have been no funerals as of yet.

The council decided to move the next meeting date up a week, which will be Tuesday January 12th so the budget can be approved. The annual meeting will still be held on the last Sunday of January which is the 31st right after the 8:30 service. The meeting will be in person. This announcement will be published in the bulletins the two Sundays before the meeting. A letter will be sent out to the congregation containing the meeting and voting information.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm following the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Holtan, Council Secretary



## Women of Zion

While we are not yet meeting in person, we have done a few of the traditional activities via telephone and mail. In November, we delivered 12 quilts and 166 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. This was done cooperatively with the ND groups at the Grand Forks collection point.

In December, Christmas cards were sent to 30 of Zion's "shut in" members. We also gave the usual monetary gifts to our Zion staff and donations to local charities including the TRF Food Shelf, Falls Delivered Meals, Violence Intervention Project, Hospice, and to ELCA World Hunger and Sustaining Rural Ministry.

Since our regular meeting schedule is still "on hold," you are encouraged to read your "Gather" magazine and follow the excellent Bible studies each month. We will NOT be planning and printing a new program booklet for 2021; we will use the outline of duties, serving, etc. from our 2020 booklets.

May you all have a blessed and healthy new year!

Glenice Johnson





## Sunday School Resumes Video Series January 10

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 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 & information will be shared via these two options.

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