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No. 5

We need to know our limitations.

“He said to me, my grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak.” 2 Corinthians 12:9

Dear friends in Christ,

One of the challenges in my work is writing an article for our newsletter. Our office manager will tell you how I often struggle to meet the due date. I have to spend hours and hours of writing and rewriting to come up with just one page. So, writing doesn't come easily for me. It is not my cup of tea. Unfortunately, it is a very important part of my job.

Do you have a challenge at work? If you do, remember that you are not alone. There are many people who have all kinds of difficulties. Even the apostle Paul had some kind of weakness in his ministry. The scripture doesn't tell us what kind of weakness he had, but when Paul prayed to God to help him get rid of it, the answer he got from God was, “My grace is all you need; for my power is greatest when you are weak.”

Wouldn't that be nice if we all were perfect in what we do or if we excelled in all aspects of our duties? Maybe not! I don't want to glorify our human weakness, but perhaps it is an asset. Our imperfection and weakness can make us humble and need the help of God and the support of people around us. This means, since we all have weaknesses as well as strengths, we all need each other and that will often lead us to appreciate each other's gifts and to treasure one another.

It sure is good to try to do our best in all the things we are called to do. It is also good to know our limitations, because, it makes us appreciate the grace of God and his loving kindness.

May the grace of our lord Jesus, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always. Amen.

Pastor Ale

- May 6 – World Day of Prayer
- May 6 – 1:00 - Quilting
- May 9 – Last day of Sunday School
- May 10 – 14 – Zion distributes Falls Delivered Meals
- May 16 – 6:30 – Call Committee
- May 19 – Last day of Confirmation classes
- May 20 – 1:00 - Quilting



- May 21 - 22 – NWMN Synod Assembly - virtual
- May 23 – Senior Recognition Day during worship
- June 9 – Worship on Wednesdays – 5:30 meal, 6:15 worship

Men’s breakfast – Friday at 7:00 AM - Biff’s
Coffee with the Staff –9:30 on Friday



President’s Message

Laura Rude

Dear Zion Family-

Change is all around us, in our homes, towns, work, schools, governments, etc. Zion is no exception. We have experienced and will continue to experience change. Change can be a scary thing as we can maybe feel a loss of control and there tends to be many unknowns and several questions. Change requires new thinking perspectives, commitment and a deep attitude of prayer for wisdom, patience, understanding and more patience! As we move forward in Zion’s ministry there will be changes that meets all those scenarios. As a church family we need to have open, healthy and frequent conversations to sustain us through the change. I’m forever grateful that God is with us in our journey and that His love and promises are unchangeable!! *And just think, without change, we would not have butterflies.*

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” AMEN!



The Call Committee continues to be faithful in their mission. They are busy working on Zion’s Ministry Site Profile. Please be watching and listening for updates on this process. Also continue to pray for these folks and thank them for the commitment- Robert Fay, Kaylynn Wold, Sally Mumm, Shawna Spears, Glenice Johnson, Tim Numedahl & Bill Stock (Silver Creek).

We have many exciting events happening in the upcoming months. We will be celebrating our seniors on May 23rd, the return of summer Wednesday worship services starting June 9th, sending campers off Bible Camp and VBS, just to name a few. There are many other service events to take advantage of as well. Make sure you check out the newsletter and keep an eye and ear out for future communications.

I do have a challenge for our church members. There is a very large need for board members to serve on several boards. I urge you to pray about your possible involvement in this area. Many hands make light work and simply put, we need more hands! If the Holy Spirit is moving you to serve in this

capacity please reach out to myself or any board member with your questions or intent. When the Holy Spirit is tapping on your shoulder it's tough to ignore! Praying for many big "shoulder tapping" experiences! 😊

Stay healthy, happy and rejoice in God's mercy and love!

God's blessing always~ Laura

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.



If you have prayer requests for yourself or someone else, please call Carol Narverud at 681-4805.

If you would like to be added to Zion's prayer chain, call the church office.

Zion's Call Committee Begins the Process

The committee has met twice; initially with Kathy Levenhagen, synod representative, who summarized and explained the call process. As Zion moves to a single pastor instead of two pastors – senior and associate – this becomes a "new call" which will include a variation of different or combined ministerial responsibilities. We will be seeking input from the congregation; the first step is surveying members so please complete the self-study form in this newsletter. Additional copies will be in Sunday bulletins, or you can request an email version at ziontrfcall@gmail.com

They are due by May 16.



Next step will be to complete Zion's Ministry Site Profile, a document that describes our church, membership, staff, programs, activities, and services, as well as our community – size, industries, businesses, schools, other churches, organizations, recreational opportunities, and much more.

An important committee function is to keep our congregation informed about the call process and to seek input. There will be several Temple Talks at Sunday services, articles in the newsletter, and personal discussions. Feel free to call or text any of the call committee with your questions, suggestions, and ideas:

- Chairperson, Robert Fay – 507-202-8195
- Vice-chairperson: Kaylynn Wold – 684-5041
- Secretary, Glenice Johnson – 689-5530
- Shawna Spears – 689-3248
- Sally Mumm – 684-0375
- Tim Numedahl – 689-3471

Congregational Self-Study

Zion's Call Committee has met and begun the call process. As we move from two pastors to one, there will be changes in our services, activities, and pastor's responsibilities. To assist in the process, it is recommended we conduct a self-study. Please take the time to complete the survey below, including your own comments.

Check the top five ministry tasks you feel are most important at Zion as we move into the future:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry in Daily Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications/Media | <input type="checkbox"/> Music/Worship/Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit & Equip Leaders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism/Mission | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Formation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation/Creativity | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth & Family Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry with Seniors | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Organizing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor/Camping Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Multicultural Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Care & Visitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Self Care/Family Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Campus/Young Adult Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preaching/Worship | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Interpret Theology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ecumenical Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteerism |

Additional comments/suggestions:

Return to the church by May 16. Thank you.

Madison Crane

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



Grace and peace to you brothers and sisters in Christ!

It is a great feeling to start seeing faces in person again, which reminds me of Victor Hugo's quote from *Les Misérables*, "To love another person, is to see the face of God." If we continue to hold onto the old way of things before the pandemic, we're not being open to the new things God has in store for us, and we may miss an opportunity to share the love of God with someone.

As it has been over a year now in this new way of doing things, it's been amazing to see the things that seemed little at first to celebrate turn into great big things! Welcoming back familiar and new faces, taking time to have meaningful conversations, and doing things like getting ice cream together, for reasons like 'just because' to celebrate someone are highlights of my day. Seeing more things on the schedule gives me hope that we can have more things together. On the flip side, it's good to take time and not rush from activity to activity and miss the details God needs us to pay attention to.

May we remember that part of our call to follow Christ is to love others because God loves them too.

A very big THANK YOU to all those that helped lead the youth in Sunday School or Confirmation this year! You have gone above & beyond to lead with the wonderful gifts God has given you. A year like no other, but none-the-less, you have been just as impactful for the Children of God!

This year we are doing something new for the graduating class of 2021. There are going to be books, with scriptures of promises, for each of the graduates that members are welcome to underline, highlight, or write a prayer or blessing in the book(s). The books will be placed on a table outside of my office in the hallway. If you are unable to come into the church to write in the books for graduates, you may email me what you would like to put in a graduate's book.

Youth Happenings:

- May 5 - Confirmation classes 6:00 - 7:00
- May 9 - Last Sunday School day
6th and 7th grade Devotional - Youth Room
- May 12 - Confirmation classes 6:00 - 7:00
- May 19 - LAST Confirmation class 6:00 - 7:00
- May 23 - Recognition of Senior Class during Worship
- May 26 - Outdoor worship, Summer Kick-Off bonfire following worship - approximately 7:30 pm, at Redeemer parking lot for all students and families

Silver Creek

Thank you to members who came to do spring cleaning. The interior looks great and smells so fresh. It will soon be time to get the lawnmowing schedule started, so please sign up. If you are unable to do mowing, a donation to help with cost would be appreciated. So many who drive by Silver Creek have compliments as to how nice our churchyard looks.



The women have started quilting once again with hopes of having more quilts completed to send to LWR this spring. We will wait until fall to start our monthly meetings and Bible study.

Our council meeting for May will be held after services on May 16th.



WELCA Sends Lutheran World Relief Items

A big “thank you” to everyone who sewed and tied quilts or who donated, assembled, and packed the various kits for Lutheran World Relief, and to the volunteers who loaded and transported them to the area trucker. On May 1 we delivered 13 quilts, 220+ personal care kits and approximately 50 baby care kits for this global mission project. Next shipping date is in November.

Volunteers for Senior Fleece Blankets

It's time for sponsoring or making fleece blankets for Zion's 18 graduating seniors. Some have been finished, we have fleece for more, and are seeking volunteers to either provide funding for a blanket or willing to make one. Blankets will be gifted to the seniors on Sunday, May 23.

If you wish to help with this project, there will be a sign up after church services on Sundays or call Glenice Johnson 681-4472.



Falls Delivered Meals

Zion is scheduled for Falls Delivered Meals from May 10 – 14. If you can help, please contact Koni Johnson at 681-1344 or koni.johnson@outlook.com.



Zion Lutheran's Parish Planning Council Minutes April 20, 2021

The Parish Planning Council meeting was called to order by President Laura Rude at 7:04 p.m.

In attendance were Laura Rude, Pastor Ale Tulu, Madison Crane, Tim Numedahl, Barbara Overbye, Penni Nelson, Sharon Jorde, Mike Spears, Darlene Hulteen, Glenice Johnson 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 printed. The motion was seconded and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

Pastor Ale reported that he's heard from our people that are in the area nursing homes are not able to watch Sunday morning services as many are now on Garden Valley's system. He asked if the council could look into what it would cost and what is involved to extend our TV broadcast etc. through Garden Valley. The council feels it's worth looking into as it would broaden our outreach. Pastor Ale gave a list of names of potential new members. The Synod Assembly will take place virtually on May 22, 2021. Zion can have 2-3 delegates. It was mentioned that the group representing Zion could meet at the church and watch together.

Madison Crane reported that Senior Recognition Sunday will be May 23rd. There will be more information on this in the newsletter. We have 18 seniors this year! Pathways will not be involved with VBS this year. The cost was too high, which included putting the counselors up in a hotel vs. someone's home as in past years due to Covid restrictions. The fees that would have been used towards VBS will be put towards the Summer Camp fees. Day Camps are in the planning stages with an invitation put out to Trinity to join in the planning and participation. Madison thanked WELCA for their generous donations to help cover some of the cost of the fees for those going to Bible Camp. Madison also stated that a meeting this coming Sunday will be held at 3:00 for those planning on going to the National Youth Gathering that is July 24-28, 2022 which will take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Silver Creek: Penni Nelson reported that Bill Stock will be Silver Creek's representative for the Call Committee. Bill will be a non-voting member. Silver Creek has had two baptisms recently and a possible upcoming wedding.

Call Committee: Glenice Johnson and Tim Numedahl reported that the Call Committee has met twice. Robert Fay is the Chair, Kaylynn Wold is Vice Chair and Glenice Johnson is the Secretary. There will be several Temple Talks as the committee moves forward to keep the congregation updated with Shawna Spears giving the first one this coming Sunday. The committee's next meeting will be May 16th.

Stewardship Board is putting out a "plea" for board members.

Worship Board: Sharon Jorde reported that the Worship Board met with members from the New Traditions Committee. The two groups made the decision to meet as one board as they make plans for future services. This group discussed staying with one service on Sunday mornings with the thought of moving the start time to 9:00 instead of 8:30. This will require Silver Creek to change to a 10:30 service. The group also discussed that the 1st and 3rd Sundays would be a traditional worship service using the liturgy from the red hymnal and communion at these two services. The 2nd and 4th Sundays would use the New Traditions liturgy. A fifth Sunday in the month is yet to be determined how the service will be conducted. The Worship Board also discussed the possibility of broadcasting our service on Garden Valley increasing our outreach to rural areas. The potential start time for summer services would be June 6th, the Sunday after Memorial Weekend. Also Worship on Wednesday will have a start date of Wednesday June 9th, a meal served at 5:30 and church at 6:15. David Lee is willing to do the meal preparations with the meals being available in Styrofoam containers. The joint service with Silver Creek is also in the planning stages. There will be notices put in the newspaper and radio by the Public Relations Board regarding the summer services.

Evangelism and Lay Ministry: Did not meet

Christian Ed and Youth: Also putting out a call for members as three people are stepping down.

Parish Fellowship and WELCA: Glenice Johnson reported that May 1st will be the pickup date for Lutheran World Relief. Quilters are meeting this Wednesday instead of Thursday due to the Boy Scout's Pine Derby being held here at Zion on that day. The shipment to LWR is 200 plus personal care kits and 25 baby care kits.

Public Relations: Darlene Hulteen asked that newsletter articles are in to her by this Friday the 23rd. The summer newsletter will again be combined for the months of June, July and August, to make a note of this so summer articles are ready to be included.

Glenice Johnson gave the latest update on the rewriting of the church's constitution and by-laws. She asked that the council study the updates so at next month's meeting the changes in wording can be decided where these changes are needed. Glenice pointed out that all the by-laws and the present constitution's resolutions will all be combined in the new constitution.

Discussion was held on when we can start with serving coffee and food again, moving the ropes on the pews to every other one and the hymnals going back into the hymn racks. Discussion of making masks optional was tabled until the next council meeting as they are still mandatory.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m. after praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Deb Holtan, Council Secretary



*Zion Lutheran Church Annual Meeting
March 14, 2021*

Zion Lutheran's January 31, 2021 Annual Meeting was rescheduled to March 14, 2021 due to regulatory concerns. Also due to Covid restrictions the Annual Meeting was conducted in person and via Zoom. It is noted that there were 54 people present in person and 14 people present via Zoom. Mediator for Zoom was Madison Crane.

President Laura Rude called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

Pastor Ale Tulu led with devotions.

The Secretary's report from the annual meeting held on January 26, 2020 was presented. Millie Reiersen made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Treasurers Report of the audited 2020 finances was presented. Hearing no questions on the report, the report will be filled for audit.

The Proposed Budget for 2021 was presented. A question came from the floor on why there was not an increase in the pastor's salary. Madam President stated that based on the present giving pattern that there wasn't room for an increase. Madam President asked that if anyone present felt otherwise, she would entertain a motion to change it. Madam President asked if there were other questions. There were none. A motion was made by Millie Reiersen to approve the proposed budget with a 3% increase in the pastor's salary. The motion was seconded and approved.

The next order of business was the formation of a Call Committee. President Laura Rude explained to the congregation why we need to form a Call Committee. With the approval of the budget, the congregation has accepted there will be one pastor. Pastor Ale's call is as an Associate Pastor. The Senior Pastor position has been left vacant. Going to one pastor, that new position is now called "Lead Pastor". Forming a Call Committee, one of their first duties is to go through and fill out what is called a MSP (Ministry Sight Profile). The needs of our church have been changing and the MSP along with the Synods help will aid the Call Committee in making the decisions as to what the needs of Zion are which will in turn determine the duties of a Lead Pastor. Once they have completed that and present it to the church council for approval, then they will put forth a call for that position. At that time the Call Committee can accept Pastor Ale's name as a person of interest for the call. A question from the floor asked if there was a timeline for this process. The answer was no. Madam President stated that this is months of preparation and legwork on the Call Committee's part.

Madam President presented the five names that had come in prior to this meeting. A sixth name was added from the floor. The names are as follows: Robert Fay, Sally Mumm, Shawna Spears, Tim Numedahl, Glenice Johnson and Kaylynn Wold. It was mentioned that there is usually someone from Silver Creek to represent them but would be a non-voting member. A motion was made by Millie Reiersen to accept the Call Committee as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

Madam President asked if there is any other business. She also thanked all that stepped up during the last year to help keep things running smoothly on Sunday mornings; Pastor Ale, Millie Reiersen, Dan Bartsch, Laura Fay, Joel Rude and Madison Crane.

Madam President asked again if there is any other business. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m. after praying the Lord's Prayer.

There are no minutes for Zion's Foundation since there was no one from the foundation to represent them.

Respectfully submitted by
Deb Holtan, Council Secretary