From the Pastor's Desk

Vol. 21 October 2021 No. 8

Fear

Mike Yaconelli was a leader in youth ministry and founder of Youth Specialties Inc. Mike died in 2003 but I want to share with you some of his thoughts.

"The tragedy of modern faith is that we no longer are capable of being terrified. We aren't afraid of God, we aren't afraid of Jesus, we aren't afraid of the Holy Spirit. As a result, we have ended up with a need-centered gospel that attracts thousands but transforms no one.

"What happened to the bone-chilling, earth-shattering, gut-wrenching, knee-knocking, heart-stopping, life-changing fear that left us speechless, paralyzed, and helpless?

"What happened to those moments when you and I would open our Bibles and our hands started shaking because we were afraid of the Truth we might find there?

"Theologian William Barclay tells us that the word "Truth" has deeper meanings than we usually understand—

#1) a word used to describe a wrestler grabbing an opponent by the throat;

#2) and a word used to describe the humiliation of a criminal who was paraded in front of a crowd with a dagger tied to his neck, its point under his chin so he could not put his head down.

"That is what the Truth is really like! It grabs us by the throat, it forces us to look into the face of God. When is the last time you and I heard God's Truth and were grabbed by the throat?

"Unfortunately, those of us who have been entrusted with the terrifying, frightening, Good News have become obsessed with making Christianity safe.

"We have defanged the tiger of Truth. We have tamed the Lion, and now Christianity is so sensible, so accepted, so palatable. **Who is afraid of God anymore?**

"We are afraid of unemployment, we are afraid of the collapse of our government, we are afraid of not being fulfilled, we are afraid of COVID-19, but we are not afraid of God.

In C. S. Lewis's book *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* Lucy asked the Faun about Aslan (God) "Is Aslan a tame lion?" and the Faun replied, "Oh no, Aslan is not tame, he is very much a wild lion. But Aslan is good."

These last twenty months or so the world has become a place of fear again. We must remember that the church is a place where

God continually has to tell us, “Fear not;” a place where our relationship with God is not a simple belief or doctrine or theology, it is God’s burning presence in our lives.

I am suggesting that the tame God of relevance be replaced by the God whose very presence shatters our egos into dust, burns our sin into ashes, and strips us naked to reveal the real person within. The Church needs to become a gloriously dangerous place where nothing is safe in God’s presence except us. Nothing—including our plans, our agendas, our priorities, our politics, our money, our security, our comfort, our possessions, our needs.

We believe in God who wants all of us—every bit of us—and He wants us all the time. He wants our worship and our love, but most of all He wants us to trust Him. We have to be more in awe of God than we are of our government, more in awe of God than we are of our problems, more in awe of God than we are of our doctrines and agendas. God is perfectly capable of calming the storm or putting us into the middle of one. Either way, if it’s God, we will be speechless and trembling.

“Our world is tired of people whose God is tame. It is longing to see people whose God is big and holy and frightening and gentle and tender, and ours; a God whose love frightens us into His strong and powerful arms where He longs to whisper those terrifying words, ‘I love you.’” - Mike Yaconelli.

Remember this is who we are, we are:
Chosen by God
Strengthened by the Holy Spirit
Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Let us then, do all things to God’s Glory!”

Pastor Mark Helgeland

Call Committee

The ELCA Synod has approved our Ministry Site Profile! It is now posted for prospective pastors to read and hopefully consider Zion as a call. While this is the primary method of finding a pastor, individuals can suggest potential candidates also. If you know or have heard of a pastor that might be interested in considering serving at Zion, please contact one of the call committee members: Kaylynn Wold, Tim Numedahl, Sally Mumm, Shawna Spears, Jarrod Kalsnes or Glenice Johnson.

- **October 7** – 7:00 -New Member Orientation
- **October 10-** New Member Sunday
- **October 24** – Second graders receive Bibles – 9:00 Worship Service
- **October 24** – Confirmation Gown Pick-Up
- **October 27** – Confirmation Pictures
- **October 30** – Confirmation Banquet
- **October 31** – Confirmation – 9:00 Worship Service

Welcome to Zion, Pastor Mark

Zion is pleased to announce that we have an interim pastor!

Please welcome Rev. Mark Helgeland. Pastor Mark became a member of Zion when he retired; he most recently served as head pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls. He and his wife Pauline live in Thief River.

President's Message
Laura Rude

Hello Zion Church Family,

September was a busy and amazing month at Zion! We are blessed to have active youth in both Sunday School and Confirmation, and faithful parents and volunteers to ensure these programs continue to thrive! Through all the changes and seasons we have recently encountered, God is faithful and continues to provide us what we need. October will continue to be evidence that our church is alive and well.

The call committee has made great progress, and we are hopeful that our call will be officially posted in October. Asking for your prayers that the right candidate will be led to serve at Zion!

October also brings us a chance to congratulate our young adults that are getting confirmed. Our prayers and support remain steadfast for these young people as their faith and life journey continues.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to Sandy Knutson our Parish Nurse and sister in Christ. She has submitted her resignation as Parish Nurse after 21 years of selfless service to our congregation. Her last day will be October 31st. Sandy will continue to see people throughout the month of October by appointment. She has been such a wonderful blessing and we will truly miss her in this position but are thankful that will continue to see her friendly face!

Covid-19 continues to be a topic of conversation. We continue to monitor the situation and will make adjustments when necessary. Again, showing love and respect to others is the best approach to overcoming this challenging time.

I will continue to make this request as the need will always be there in some capacity. I strongly encourage you to get involved and become an active in the church and community. You will be rewarded 10-fold by giving of your time and talents and will meet some really cool folks along the way. There are so many ways to serve. Please reach out to the church office, a council or board member. Thanks those who are giving selflessly of their time and talents. Your gifts are truly a treasure.

Looking forward to what October will bring us and praise God we are free to worship and serve Him!

God's Peace~

Laura Rude
President

Worship Together in the Sanctuary

Zion – 9:00 - Silver Creek – 10:30
Zion Sunday School – 10:00

Worship Online

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

- KTRF radio – 1230 AM at 9:00
- Cable TV – Channel 3 – KTRF – 9:00
- Garden Valley – Channel 37 – 12:00 Noon
- Log in to Zion's webpage – **ziontrf.org** and listen to the service over the internet.

October 12 - 10:00 a.m.

All women of Zion are invited to attend the next WELCA meeting on Tuesday, October 12, as we re-organize for the coming year. We will discuss meeting times, circle groups, kitchen maintenance, mission kits and quilts, and other activities. Everyone is welcome.

Sharing Servants

All Zion congregational members are included in one of the monthly Sharing Servants groups. Duties include ushering, serving coffee after services, and helping with funeral meals/refreshments.

The Parish Fellowship Board is preparing the new booklet for 2022-2024. If you wish to serve in a different month, please let us know.

We are also in need of more volunteers to be listed as Extra Servant Help for occasional assistance with events.

Contact Kittie Cornell (681-3449) or Glenice Johnson (681-4472).

New Members

New Member Sunday

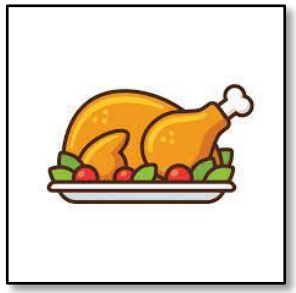
New member Sunday will be held on October 10 with coffee and cake in the fellowship hall following worship. New member Ooientation will be held on Thursday, October 7, at 7:00. If you are interested in becoming a member of Zion, please contact the church office.

Silver Creek

So thankful for the beautiful fall weather. Nice to see green grass again and want to extend a thank you to the crew of volunteers who keep our church yard looking awesome.
Our new gas furnace is fully installed and ready to go but hoping we don't need to try it out too soon.

WELCA met and made plans for up-coming months. Our meetings have been changed to first Wednesdays. We will meet October 6th at 7:00 pm. Bible study will continue with Lesson 8, *Soul Sisters*. Our meeting in November will be on the 3rd and will finish our bible study book with Lesson 9.

Reminder that raffle tickets for the quilt are due by October 10th. Drawing will be held before services on the 17th.
Our annual dinner for members will also be October 17th following services. Please bring a dish to pass that goes along with our turkey, dressing and mashed potatoes.



We finally are going to help Pastor John Golv celebrate his retirement during our fellowship.

Church council will meet following services on October 10th.

Bev Rupprecht

Parish Nurse Ministry

How wonderful is beautiful Fall and changing of seasons! Hope you all can enjoy this time of year either being outside, or if that is not possible enjoying it from a window or social media.

We need to look at the transition we are experiencing at Zion with the same vision. It is a challenging time but a time we can address opportunities that are arising. We are blessed with great leaders, and our prayers are with them as well as the Call Committee that is making progress in this journey which has baby steps that we cannot always see. May God give us all patience and understanding as we work towards a healthy Zion that meets the needs of all.

The pandemic that we have been experiencing has affected us all in some way. Some of us have more challenges than others as we attempt to live our lives. We are seeing signs of isolation, anxiety, fear of the unknown and confusion. This is okay, and we need to recognize the needs of those around us. Some of us may need professional help, and some of us could just use a smile or a telephone call. We all our different and our needs and ability to ride the waves vary greatly. We are truly blessed and are seeing many opportunities to regain some activities and doing it safely. If someone is feeling hopeless, angry, or confused, there is a **Regional Mobile Crisis Support Line** that can be accessed 24/7/365. This can be called for Mental Health Emergencies or Personal and Family Crises. Feel free to call 800-282-5005. Another resource is **Sanford Behavioral Health Thief River Falls at 218-683-4350**. Remember Mental Health challenges are no different than having asthma, diabetes, or heart issues. These all need the assistance of healthcare professionals at some time. God's Love to all as we work toward a Healthy Zion!

Sandy Knutson
Parish Nurse

Zion Lutheran's Parish Planning Council Minutes
September 21, 2021

The Parish Planning Council meeting was called to order by President Laura Rude at 7:02 pm.
In attendance were Laura Rude, Pastor Mark Helgeland, Tim Numedahl, Barbara Overbye, Sharon Jorde, Marijo Nabben, Darlene Hulteen, Mike Spears, Penni Nelson and Deb Holtan.

Pastor Mark led the council in prayer.

The Secretary's reports from August 3, 2021, and August 16, 2021 were presented. A motion was made to accept both reports as printed. The motion was seconded and approved.

The Treasurer's Report: The banking accounts have been updated with Pastor Ale and Madison's resignations. It was pointed out that Winton Forsberg's name is still listed as the only signer for Zion's Foundation. Also Barbara said that even though her term is up as Treasurer, she wants to track the new billing for our utilities. There's a credit that seems to have disappeared.

The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

Madam President asked the boards to get their list of nominees to Linda ASAP for the ballot printing for the Semi-annual Meeting this Sunday, September 26, 2021. Madam President stated that Sunday's semi-annual meeting will consist of voting on the officers of the church and its board members along with the vote on the revision of Zion's constitution.

Madam President also reported that after 21 years, Sandy Knutson, the Parish Nurse has turned in her resignation. This position needs to be reviewed as the Parish Nurse has to be certified and also how the church can still have some kind of program/committee that can still continue watching over the health of our church members. A motion was made to accept Sandy's resignation effect October of 2021. The motion was seconded and carried.

Stewardship: No one to represent this board.

Worship: Sharon Jorde reported that things will continue as is.

Properties: Mike Spears reported that a new air conditioning unit is on order due to one of the three in the church needs to be replaced. Mike also stated that Brent Smith from the Boy Scouts troop has asked if they could rake the fall leaves again this year.

Evangelism/Lay Ministry: Marijo Nabben reported that it is confirmed that Sunday October 10th will be the New Member Recognition Sunday with a small reception for the New Members to be held after that service in the Fellowship Hall. Orientation for the New Members will be on Thursday October 7th at 7:00 in the church lounge. The names of the potential new members were read to the council. A motion was made to accept the potential new members as listed. The motion was seconded and accepted. Marijo also reported that the Nursing home and in-home communion is still on hold due to the up sweep in Covid case again. Also reported was that this board is working on ways to be more welcoming and extending an invitation to the young parents to join the fellowship hour after the services as they wait for their young Sunday School kids on Sunday mornings.

Christian Ed and Youth: No one to represent this board.

Parish Fellowship and WELCA: No one present from these two boards.

Public Relations: Darlene reminded the boards to have their newsletter articles in by Friday.

Silver Creek: Penni Nelson reported that October 17th is their turkey dinner. They will also be hosting a thank you gathering for Pastor John Golv as they weren't able to do so due to Covid. The confirmation retreat was held at Silver Creek last Sunday September 19th. And also the Joint Service will be postponed until the summer of 2022.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mark reported that in the 3½ weeks that he's been here at Zion he's already officiated two weddings, one funeral and one baptism. Pastor Mark also reported that he attended the confirmation retreat out at Silver Creek. He also asked what it is he needs to be aware of. Pastor Mark stated that he would not be at the semi-annual meeting this coming Sunday.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm after praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Deb Holtan, Council Secretary

Confirmation

October 6 - 1st day of Confirmation – Meal – Spaghetti and Meatballs

October 13 - Confirmation - Meal - Tater Tot Hotdish

October 27- Confirmation - Meal - BBQs and French

Meals start at 5:15

Class starts at 6:00 sharp!

Reminders for 11th Grade Confirmands

October 24 – Gown Pick-Up
October 27 - Confirmation Pictures - Time TBD
October 30 - Confirmation Banquet - 5:00 - Fellowship Hall
October 31 - Confirmation Service - 9:00

Welcome Back to Sunday School

Worship Service – 9:00 – 10:00
Sunday School – 10:00 – 11:00
Fellowship Hour – 10:00 – 11:00

- Parents are welcome to stay for fellowship with coffee and muffins in the Fellowship Hall.

October 3 – 7th **Grade Youth Group** starts at 10:00 in the youth room.

October 10 and 17 – **2nd Grade Bible Classes for parents and youth** during Sunday school – 10:00 – 11:00

October 24 – Presentation of Bibles to 2nd graders during worship service

Noisy Offering for October – Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Our mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war,poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S.

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 Friday, November 12th.

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, they child may be able to write back.