



## 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

Vol. 22

March 2022

No. 3

### Lent

The season of Lent begins on March 2. We will celebrate Ash Wednesday with the celebration of Holy Communion as well as the Imposition of Ashes.

*From the  
Pastor's  
Desk*



Dr. David Lose former professor at Luther Seminary wrote: “Some years ago I was spending Easter weekend with my older sister. We were watching one of the “life of Jesus” movies shown at that time of the year and had reached the scenes of the crucifixion. Her then six-year-old son paused on his way to bed to watch for just a moment. As his father walked him up the steps, I heard him ask, ‘Daddy, isn’t it sad that Jesus was killed like that?’ To which his dad replied, ‘No, it’s not sad. God used Jesus’ death to save us.’

“I remember experiencing a curious ambivalence about my brother-in-law’s answer. On the one hand, it was perfectly understandable to respond this was to a young boy who had just seen a small portion of a fairly grisly episode in history portrayed on screen, more than that, it was theologically sound. God does, indeed, work through Jesus’ death for the salvation of the world. At the same time, though, I also

remembered thinking, ‘but wait – it is sad, really sad, that people crucified Jesus, and we shouldn’t soften that.’

“Thinking back on that evening, I recognize now that right there in that conversation rests one of the enduring puzzles for Christians about their faith: how should we regard the cross? Is it a sad tragedy that we should grieve? Is it the moment of God’s victory and redemption that we should celebrate? Is it the place where we stand in awe to see God’s incomprehensible love poured out for us? Is it some combination of these, or something we haven’t named altogether?”

These questions are important for Christians, not only because the cross stands at the center of the New Testament story, but also because the cross and resurrection are at the center of our faith. The way we understand the cross shapes our view of God and forms the very core of our faith.

Depending on whom you listen to, the cross may signify God’s anger at human sin, God’s grief at human waywardness, or God’s plea for us to return to a right relationship. In addition to that, many Christians down through the ages have asked, “*Why* was the cross necessary in the first place?” And in our age many people are asking, “What kind of God would require such a gruesome death to achieve redemption?”

The way we understand the cross matters a great deal, and although the remembrance and celebration of our Lord’s death and resurrection during Holy Week and Easter is the center of the Christian year, few of us pause to try to understand what it is, exactly, that we are remembering and celebrating. The cross is counter-intuitive. God doesn’t deal with or relate to us humans as we assume that he should.

God is “Other.” The strange way that God relates to creation as revealed in the book of Job opens the way to appreciate the deep meaning of the Cross of Christ.

## Why do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

Our **Lenten journey** this year will be one on contemplation and devotion, come and be a part of our journey in the Faith. Join me for Holden Evening Pray and to contemplate why it is that bad things happen to good people?

“It's hard to be religious when certain people are never incinerated by bolts of lightning.” - Bill Watterson, comic strip artist (b. 5 Jul 1958) [Calvin & Hobbes]

**The five Wednesdays that follow Ash Wednesday (March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6) our Lenten series will be “Why do Bad Things Happen to Good People?” Our source material will be the book of Job, and we will look over Job’s shoulder as he asks God some serious questions about love, grace and why things happen as they do. Along with Job’s questions we will also hear the surprising answer that God gives.**

As always, during this Lenten season please pray for me as I pray for you, and let us remember “to God alone be the Glory!”

Pastor Mark Helgeland



- **March 2** – Ash Wednesday - Lenten worship begins
- **March 9** – Lenten supper - 5:30, worship - 6:30
- **March 13** - 1:00 - Hotdish Cook-Off
- **March 15** - Grandparents/Parents Grief Support Group - 10:30
- **March 16** - Lenten supper - 5:30, worship - 6:30
- **March 20** - Food, Fellowship, Family - after worship service
- **March 23** - Lenten supper - 5:30, worship - 6:30
- **March 27** - First Communion Class – during Sunday school
- **March 30** - Lenten supper - 5:30, worship - 6:30

## President’s Message Laura Rude



Dear Zion Church Family,

I’m hoping this letter finds you healthy and happy. Spring is coming. This provides much needed hope that a long winter will indeed come to an end. A positive mindset will always find a silver lining. Someone told me, “Well, at least our drought is over?” •

When thinking about the change of seasons, I’m reminded of the changes in our personal lives and in our church. Some changes we welcome, and others not so much. The one thing I know is that change is inevitable, and our reaction to it will often determine the outcome. Let’s stay positive and pray. *Ecclesiastes 3:1 KJV: To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.*

March brings us many opportunities in our church. Lent Suppers start on March 9<sup>th</sup> and will be hosted by various groups. It’s a great time to eat together and enjoy some fellowship. There are youth and other activities planned to bring our church family closer together. Check them out!

The church is still in need of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President to serve on the Council. If this is an area you are feeling called to serve, please let the church office or me know. Happy to share more details and answer your questions. It’s a rewarding position that gives you great insight into the church and provides an opportunity to provide feedback and influence change.

I want to take this time to extend a sincere thank you to all for your patience and understanding as we have been navigating the COVID situation. Your personal responsibility, coupled with the church’s readiness to react is key to keep everyone feeling they are worshiping in a safe and healthy environment.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” - Proverbs 3:5-6

Humbling Serving,  
Laura Rude

## Lenten Suppers

This year various groups are preparing and serving Lenten suppers.

**March 2** – Ash Wednesday – No supper

**March 9** – 5:30 – Anna Circle

**March 16** – 5:30 – WELCA

**March 23** – 5:30 – Choir

**March 30** – 5:30 Men's Breakfast

**April 6** – 5:30 – Church Council



Free-donations will help pay for Zion youth going to Bible camp.

Thank you to the groups who agreed to serve supper and to the youth and parents who help with clean-up.

## Call Committee Update

A pastoral candidate, **Pastor Ted Carnahan**, and his family visited Zion on February 26 and 27 as part of the call process. The call committee conducted a formal interview and a tour of the church with the candidate on Saturday afternoon. That evening an informal supper was held in the Fellowship Hall for the Carnahan family to visit with the call committee and church council members. The candidate preached the sermon at Sunday's 9:00 service; he and his family joined in coffee time following service. The committee will be meeting to continue the call process steps, including reference checks and possible recommendation.

Glenice Johnson



- **March 8** - monthly meeting 10:00 - Food, fellowship, and Bible study. Sarah Circle is hostess. Board meets at 9:00.
- **March 16** - Serve Lenten supper
- **March 24** - 9:00 - Work Day - Bring cleaning supplies to help make our church sparkle for Easter.



## Silver Creek

"Springtime is the land awakening; the March winds are the morning yawn."

It sure is encouraging to see the daylight hours grow longer and gardeners and farmers looking for seeds to buy. Hoping our church cancellations are behind us.

WELCA will meet on Wednesday, March 2. Quilting will start at 2:30 followed by a light supper at 5:30 and then a business meeting. Since we had to cancel the meeting in February, we will start our new bible study with Lesson One, "The Last Days Are Here." This seems to be a challenging bible study, but we will work through it together. We are also trying to get some of our many quilt tops tied and finished for missions.

Church council will meet on March 13, following services. Remember that Daylight Savings Time starts that day also.

Please continue to keep the call committee in your prayers as they continue to work finding a suitable pastor for our congregations.

Bev Rupprecht



## Lay Ministry/Evangelism

- Home communion is on hold for now because of COVID. We will be encouraging family members to pick up communion from the office to serve their family members.
- Outreach cards were sent out the end of January. They will be sent again the end of March. If you would like a card, phone call, or visit, please call the church office.
- Name tags will be worn on the 3rd Sunday of every month.
- The annual prayer vigil is scheduled for Friday, April 15.



Deb Holtan/Marijo Nabben

### 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](http://ziontrf.org) and listen to the service over the internet.
- Facebook Live – 9:00 on Zion's Facebook Page



Dear Parents & Students,

I hope this note finds everyone well! It's crazy to think we are little over halfway with Sunday School year, and what a great year it's been!!! I wanted to not only let you know about a couple of important dates, but also a couple of reminders for the classrooms.



**March 6th:** Sunday School students will be singing the Call to Worship at 9:00 a.m. Please have your student at the church no later than 8:40 a.m. in the fellowship hall to practice.

**April 17th Easter Sunday:** No Sunday School

As I said we've had a great year so far and would like everyone to please keep in mind that all our teachers are volunteers. They commit for 9 months every Sunday for an hour with a prepared lesson and are ready to teach the youth of Zion. So, with this we are asking a couple things of you to help myself, and our teachers within the classrooms. If your child has specific needs, allergies, or is not potty trained, please let me or the teacher know so we can handle these situations appropriately. Some teachers bring treats to class. If they do, they are bringing them out of kindness as it is not required, nor do they get reimbursed for them. So, as we are coming down to the last couple months of Sunday School, I ask that everyone keeps showing kindness, respect and appreciation to the teachers for all that they do for our youth! And last but not least, THANK YOU for sharing your children with us at Zion!!! Without you, the youth and volunteers our Sunday School program wouldn't be so successful!

Peace, Love, & Happiness  
Amber Holtan

⚡ ZIONS YOUTH BOARD PRESENTS ⚡

~2022~

# Hot Dish COOK-OFF

March 13, 2022 1:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

Third annual hotdish cookoff!

Come out to taste the best of Zions  
famous hotdishes!

Your \$5 entry fee will get you a taste of  
every hotdish, breadsticks, and good  
old fashion Lutheran jello!

You can buy tickets to vote for your  
favorite hotdish(es)!



Want to try and beat the champ  
himself (David)? Sign up and rules are  
on the youth office door!

## Lent Service Meal Clean-Up Help

Every year we ask students to help with the clean-up after the Lenten meals. Here is the schedule with the corresponding grades for each night. All students are asked to help.

**Please be at church by 5:30 on your clean-up night.**

\*Parental help is needed for elementary nights

- March 9 7th and 9th Grade
- March 16 10th Grade
- March 23 5th and 6th Grade
- March 30 3th-4th Grade and 11th Grade
- April 6 K-2nd and 12th Grade

\*\*April 14th- Seder Meal- 8th grade\*\*

Reminder for confirmation students: No confirmation class during Lent, but attendance is still required at Wednesday worship services.

HELP NEEDED: Still looking for parent help for our Seder meal!  
Please get in touch with Kami if you have interest!

## Lenten Bingo Afternoon

**When?** March 13 from 4:00-6:00 pm

**Where?** Patio Room

**Who?** 5th, 6th, and 7th graders and friends

**What?** A fun afternoon of Lenten Bingo, snacks, prizes, and the story of Jesus' resurrection!

## First Communion Classes

March 27 and April 3 during Sunday school (10:00-11:00)

Taught by Denny Minks and Shawna Spears

# March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>SUNDAY BROADCASTS</b> 9:00 AM KTRF Radio 9:00 AM Cable Ch. 3 12 noon Cable Ch. 37		<b>1</b> 9:30 Staff Meeting Noon Pastors Text Study <b>BOARD MEETINGS</b> 6 CHRISTIAN ED MTG	<b>2 ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 4 Parish Health mtg <b>6:30 Ash Wednesday worship</b> 7:15 Senior Choir	<b>3</b> 9 SAIL Exercise 12-4 LSS Respite Care 1 Quilting/LWR workshop  7 Troop 59	<b>4</b> 7 Men's Breakfast/Biff's	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9 Zion Holy Communion Worship; 10 SS/Ed. Hour; coffee fellowship 10 Silver Creek Worship	<b>7</b> 9 SAIL Exercise  6- 7:30 Cub Scouts 7 Troop 59	<b>8</b> 9 WELCA Executive Board 9:30 Staff Meeting 10 WELCA meeting Noon Pastors Text Study	<b>9</b> 5:30 Lenten Supper - Anna Circle <b>6:30 LENTEN SERVICE</b> 7:15 Senior Choir	<b>10</b> 9 SAIL Exercise 12-4 LSS Respite Care in Lounge  10 LSS Caregivers Discussion Group	<b>11</b> 7 Men's Breakfast/Biff's	<b>12</b> Synod Event / Detroit Lakes   Daylight Savings begins overnight - turn clocks ahead
<b>13</b> 9 Zion Worship/ Baptism 10 SS/Ed. Hour; <b>10</b> April Servants/lounge; 10:30 Silver Creek Worship 1 Hotdish Cookoff 4-6 Lenten Bingo—Gr 5-7	<b>14</b> 9 SAIL Exercise	<b>15</b> 9:30 Staff Meeting 10:30 Bereavement Group Noon Pastors Text Study <b>5:30 ZION COUNCIL</b> 6-7 Cub Scouts	<b>16</b> 5:30 Lenten Supper—WELCA <b>6:30 LENTEN SERVICE</b> 7:15 Senior Choir	<b>17</b> 9 SAIL Exercise 12-4 LSS Respite Care in Lounge  1 Quilting/LWR workshop	<b>18</b> 7 Men's Breakfast/Biff's	<b>19</b> 10-11:30 Troop 59
<b>20</b> 9 Zion Holy Communion worship/ Baptism 10 SS/Ed. Hour; 10 Food & Fellowship 10:30 Silver Creek Holy communion Worship 3 Pathways Annual mtg/ Menahga	<b>21</b> <b>NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE</b> 9 SAIL Exercise  6-7:30 Cub Scouts	<b>22</b> 9:30 Staff Meeting Noon Pastors Text Study	<b>23</b> 5:30 Lenten Supper-Sr. Choir <b>6:30 LENTEN SERVICE</b> 7:15 Senior Choir	<b>24</b> 9 SAIL Exercise 9 ZLCW Work Day 12-4 LSS Respite Care in Lounge	<b>25</b> 7 Men's Breakfast/Biff's	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:00 Zion Worship; 10:00 Ed. Hour; coffee fellowship 10:00 <b>1ST COMMUNION CLASS 5TH GRADE &amp; PARENT</b>  10:30 Silver Creek Worship  2-4 Marie Engen 90th Birthday Celebration in fellowship hall	<b>28</b> 9 SAIL Exercise  7 Troop 59	<b>29</b> Circle 9:30 Staff Meeting Noon Pastors Text Study	<b>30</b> Circle 5:30 Lenten Supper— Men's Breakfast Group <b>6:30 LENTEN SERVICE</b> 7:15 Senior Choir	<b>31</b> Circle 9 SAIL Exercise 12-4 LSS Respite Care in Lounge  1 Quilting/LWR workshop	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Lenten Supper Clean-Up Schedule</b> (be here by 5:30)</p> <p>March 9 Grades 7 &amp; 8            March 16 Grade 10            March 23 Grades 5&amp;6            March 30 Grades 3,4,&amp; 11            April 6 Grades K-2, &amp; 12</p>  </div>	