



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

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Happy Easter – But Why?

If a non-believing friend were to ask you why Jesus *had to* die on the cross, what would you say? Most people simply say, “To save us from our sins.” And of course, this is true, but “why is it true?” is an important question too. Few believers ever think much about the depth of what salvation means.

So why do Christians insist Jesus had to die? Why couldn't God just shout from heaven, “I forgive you!”—and be done with it? And while we're at it, why isn't it enough to simply be a good person?

Every other religion and belief system on earth – every one – basically says that if you do this, obey that, or give this, or if you're a good person, you'll earn your way to paradise or enlightenment or nirvana or some kind of pie in the sky. Christianity insists that Jesus' death on the Cross is the only way to get right with God, and that this grace is God's free gift to all who believe.

What's the big deal with Jesus and the Cross? Over the centuries the church has developed a number of ideas, one might use the word theories, to explain “Why the Cross?”



Satan owns us – Our fallen nature means that the evil one has a claim on us, owns us as it were. Christ, by his sinless death, died when it was not required, and thus paid the price to redeem us from the grip of the evil one.

God is holy - God is almighty, perfect, and separate from his creation; he is without sin. That's great, but it creates a problem for us: our sinful human nature separates us from him. God requires justice, either in this life or the next. A price must be paid for every wrong. Sin is like a cancer that won't go away. It must be destroyed, which means we all get the death penalty. This is why no one can ever be good enough to make it to heaven by their own effort. Jesus Christ, who was simultaneously God and human, died in our place to pay the price for the sins of all humanity and to give a "not guilty" verdict to those who receive him as Lord.

Christ was a perfect example – Peter Abelard rejected both of the two previous “theories” and suggested that the incarnation and death of Jesus Christ is the highest expression of God's love for mankind, the effect of which is to awaken love in us.

Kenosis – St. Paul said in Philippians 2, speaking about Christ, “who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

This emptying of self is what Christ accomplished on the cross, and at the Resurrection God the Father lifted him up so that “every knee should bow.” Even as Christ calls each of us to the same kind of self-

emptying, he showers upon us his free and unconditional love, forgiveness, and grace.

This is why Christ's death on the cross is important, and why the resurrection of the Lord on Easter Day far more important still.

“Christ is risen!”

“He is risen indeed!”

Please pray for me as I pray for you and let us remember “to God alone be the Glory!”

Pastor Mark Helgeland



- **April 6** - Lenten supper at 5:30 PM, worship at 6:15 PM
- **April 10** - Palm Sunday worship – 9:00 AM
- **April 10** - Easter art and activities for the youth
- **April 10** - Palm Sunday worship – Silver Creek – 10:30 AM
- **April 10** - Witness – at Zion – 7:00 PM
- **April 13** - No Lenten services
- **April 14** - Seder Meal for 5th grade and families – 6:00 PM
- **April 14** - Maundy Thursday worship for everyone – 7:30 PM
- **April 15** - Prayer Vigil – 12:00 noon
- **April 15** - Good Friday worship – 6:30 PM
- **April 17** - Easter Sunrise Service – 6:30 AM
- **April 17** - Breakfast – 7:30 AM
- **April 17** - Easter Worship – 9:00 AM
- **April 17** - Easter Worship Silver Creek – 10:30 AM
- **April 20** - Lutheran doctrine class – 5:30 PM potluck, class after
- **April 27** - Lutheran doctrine class – 5:30 PM potluck, class after

President's Message

Laura Rude



Dear Zion Family,

Congratulations on surviving another Minnesota winter. Along with the cold and wind came other challenges that we met head on as a church family. I'm very proud of our congregation and the teamwork, grace, and perseverance that we display in every season of change. THANK YOU! Welcome spring! We have been waiting patiently!

I want to take this time to acknowledge the great work that the call committee is doing in their search for our next Pastor. They are not taking this job lightly and are determined to put great thought and care into finding and recommending the right candidate. Trust me folks, we are in very good hands and do not have anything to worry about. Please keep them in your prayers!

The Council is getting closer to finalizing plans on an electronic sign for Zion. If you are interested in donating towards this effort, please contact the Zion office. We can't wait to share more details with you all.

Something exciting that I have been noticing are the newer faces that have been joining us in our worship services. Please take time to introduce yourself to someone you may not know and make everyone feel welcome. It's thrilling to see God's work in motion as we work to carry out God's Love through our actions.

April brings us our beautiful Easter celebration. Many wonderful opportunities to worship together and be reminded of what Christ did for us all those years ago. Remember that all are invited and welcome to attend the worship services during Holy Week- Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Humbly serving,
Laura Rude
Zion President

Zion's 13th Annual Good Friday Prayer Vigil Friday April 15

All are invited to Zion's 13th Annual Good Friday Prayer Vigil on April 15th starting at noon. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you aren't able to sign up, come when it's convenient for you.

The vigil will start at noon, breaking for the evening service and continuing after the service. I guarantee you will leave with a different outlook than when you came. Please bring a friend to join you in this amazing experience.

Booklets will be provided to use during the vigil. There will also be slips if anyone has prayer requests. These requests will be prayed for during the vigil and then hung on a cross. This is a time of meditation, prayer, and silence.

This year I feel the world is even more in need of our prayers, and what better time than during the Easter Season.

If you have any questions, call Deb Holtan. Her home phone is 218-449-4645, or you can call or text her cell - 218-686-3758.



If you would like to bring an Easter lily/flower to share for Easter worship, please bring it to Zion by April 15th.

If it is shared in memory of or in honor of a loved one that you would

like acknowledged in the bulletin, please let the church office know by Tuesday, April 11th.

Lay Ministry/Evangelism

- Home communion resumes in April. The LM/E board is looking for volunteers to help.
- The adult education class began on March 6 with fourteen people participating.
- Prayer vigil will be held on Good Friday, April 15.
- April 20 and 27 - Pastor Mark will be leading an educational session on Lutheran Doctrine, (becoming a member of the Lutheran church). Potluck supper at 5:30 followed by class for all the Confirmands and their parents as well as all Zion members or those wanting to join the church.

Marijo Nabben, Board Chair



All women of Zion are invited to gather for the monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 12, at 10:00 a.m. for food, fellowship and Bible study. Ruth Ostby and Marcia Sandahl are hostesses. Board meets at 9:00 a.m.

Thank you to Marcia Sandahl for making the lovely table runners on the Fellowship Hall tables.

Call Committee Update - A potential candidate, Pastor Ted Carnahan, traveled to Zion in March for a formal interview and to preach the Sunday sermon. He and his family toured the church and community, dined with the call committee and church council members, and joined us for coffee time on Sunday. We are currently contacting various references and checking with synod staff for continuing call process procedures.

Thank you, Lenten Supper Servers

A big thanks to the many people who volunteered to prepare and serve our Lenten suppers this year - Anna Circle, WELCA, Choir, Church Council, and Men's Breakfast Group. A special thank you to all the youth and parents who helped with clean-up. We appreciate everyone who has come out each Wednesday to enjoy the fellowship while dining. All donations are used to support our Zion youth going to Bible Camp this summer by paying half of the camp fees.

Silver Creek

Spring adds new life and new beauty to all that is. With that in mind, we will take time on Thursday, April 7, to do some spring cleaning. We will have a potluck supper at 5:30 and cleaning to follow.



The ladies will meet to get some quilts tied on Wednesday, April 6 and April 7, beginning at 1:00 PM. This way we can leave everything set up and make one trip on the April 7. Please try to find time to come quilt. We have around 30 tops to complete.

The first Easter taught us that life never ends and love never dies.

Palm Sunday services - 10:30 on April 10.

Church council meeting - Palm Sunday at 9:30 before services.

Easter worship - April 17 at 10:30.

Hope to see you on Easter Sunday.

Beverly Rupprecht



Zion Lutheran's Congregational Council Minutes March 16, 2022

The Congregational Council Meeting was called to order by President Laura Rude at 7:02 p.m.

In attendance were Laura Rude, Pastor Mark Helgeland, Denny Minks, Renae Franke, Penni Nelson, Glenice Johnson, Laura Fay, Patty Schob, Mike Spears and Deb Holtan.

Pastor Mark led the council in prayer.

No meeting was held the month of February.

The Secretary's report from January 19, 2022, was presented. There were two changes. Under the Health Committee report, there does not have to be a vote on the Parish Nurse as was written. Under the WELCA report, the wording of the last sentence should be as follows, "Valentines will be delivered to 29 homebound Zion Members." A motion was made to accept the minutes with the corrections. The motion was seconded and carried.

Renae Franke is the new Treasurer. The Treasurer's Report was presented. Discussion was held on sending monies to Lutheran Disaster Relief for Ukraine. After some discussion, it was decided that the money should go through the ELCA. A motion was made to take \$3,000.00 from Zion's Mission Fund to go to the ELCA for Ukraine. The motion was seconded and carried. The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

Pastor Mark reported that he has been very busy. He's had several funerals, upcoming baptisms, home visits, as well as the Lenten Services.

Silver Creek: Penni Nelson reported that she and Clark will be at the annual meeting for Pathways, via Zoom. It was decided that the contract with Silver Creek will be put on hold pending the Lead Pastor position being filled.

Health Committee: Patty Schob reported that Darlene Wiseth is registered for the Parish Nurse Classes which start Monday April 25, 2022. The current Nurses Office is being used by SAIL and Lutheran Social Services. The Health Committee would like to move the Nurses Office into Pastor Ale's old office. That would enable the Parish Nurse to have access to a computer and printer and a more private place for consultations. The suggestion was made to put a line item in the 2023 budget for the Parish Nurse for salary and supplies. Patty also asked what has happened to the hearing devices that Zion use to have those that struggled with being able to hear the services. A suggestion was made to price new ones.

Stewardship: Nothing to report.....

Christian Ed and Youth: Laura Fay represented this board. The members will be taking turns to come to future council meetings. The Hotdish Cook Off raised \$560.00 that will go towards new Sunday School room furniture. Six students attended the Middle School Bingo. The next "Food and Fellowship" will Sunday March 20th. On April 10th there will be Easter Art and Activities for the youth. Senior Recognition will be Sunday May 15th along with the next Food and Fellowship, combining these two events. The focus for summer will be VBS, updating the Sunday School rooms and possibly the overflow area. Shauna Spears and Denny Minks will be teaching the 1st Communion Classes for the 5th graders. The dates for the classes are Sunday March 27th and April 3rd with their first communion at the Maundy Thursday Service on April 14th.

Worship: Deb Fulton was not present. Her minutes were provided from the board's last meeting. Everything is in place for Holy week. The banner for Lent has been put up as well as the thorn wreaths on the side pillar candles in the sanctuary.

Properties: Mike Spears reported that the church van has been purchased by the Baseball Association for \$3,000.00. Mike gave an update on the new sign. The company is asking for half of the amount of the purchase price before they will order it. Mike will consult with the City one more time to make sure the regulations are being followed. The furnaces have been repaired and are running like they should. There is still one air conditioning unit that has to be replaced. Mike stated he's been doing some touch up of paint around the church and the board was in the process of replacing light bulbs in the hanging lights in the sanctuary.

Parish Fellowship: Glenice Johnson reported that with things loosening up from Covid, changes are being made as needed. The Sunday offering is now being brought forward during the Sunday and Lenten Services. Updates are also being made for the kitchen.

WELCA: Glenice Johnson reported that due to the decline in the number of Circles that would normally serve the Lenten Suppers, other organizations of the church are stepping up to prepare and serve the suppers. WELCA will prepare the Seder Meal for the 1st Communion students on Maundy Thursday. Glenice reminded everyone that the supper is for the 1st Communion students but that the Maundy Thursday Service that evening is for everyone. WELCA ladies will be cleaning certain areas on Thursday March 24th meeting at 9:00 that morning. The NW Synod Assembly will be September 16-17 at Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Public Relations: A reminder to the Council that newsletter articles are due by the 20th.

Evangelism and Lay Ministry: Deb Holtan reported on the boards meeting. The "Listening to God" classes being led by Darrel Cory started on March 6th. 14 members have signed up for the class. The 13th Annual Good Friday Prayer Vigil will be held on Friday April 15th starting at Noon. Deb will do the set up for the Vigil as well as the display again around the baptismal font for Easter Sunday. Also, Deb will do a Temple Talk on Palm Sunday about the Good Friday Prayer Vigil. A tentative date of Wednesday April 20th and the 27th being set up for Pastor Mark's presentation on the Lutheran Doctrine. The confirmation classes are being invited to this as well as their parents and anyone else interested in attending. There will be a potluck supper starting at 5:30 that evening before the class. This class is open to ALL members of Zion and those who want to become members of Zion.

Call Committee: Glenice Johnson reported that they are still in the CALL PROCESS. At this time there are still references being followed up on with the potential candidate Pastor Ted Carnahan. Also at this time there are no other potential candidates.

The meeting was adjourned after praying the Lord's Prayer at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Holtan
Secretary for the Congregation Council

**Zion Lutheran Church Annual Meeting
January 30, 2022**

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 9:55 a.m.

Pastor Mark Helgeland led the congregation using the liturgy at the back of the annual meeting booklet. Pastor Mark stated that as Zion's Interim, there was no need for him to stay for the meeting.

The minutes from September's Semi-Annual meeting was presented. A motion to accept the minutes was made and second. The motion carried.

Madam President Laura Rude asked the congregation to turn to page seven of the annual report. The only change on the Statistical Report is to strike the first sentence which says, "Worship Services: all services in person and broadcast". The Audit Report of Finances was presented next. A motion was made to accept the Financial Report as written. There was a second to the motion. The motion carried.

Moving on to the Proposed Budget, the amount of \$50,719.00 for Senior Pastor Salary, from the 2021 budget was carried over. The committee felt this is a comfortable amount not knowing what the new Senior or now **Lead** Pastor's tenure will be as well as their experience. Also budgeted was \$6,340.00 for the rest of Pastor Mark's Interim. As Office Manager, Linda was given a 3% increase. There is nothing under the Youth Director as the consensus is the Lead Pastor position needs to be the center of our focus right now. Madam President pointed out that due to Cookies (Barbara Overbye) hard work with the City, we will be starting out with a \$3,000.00 credit towards our utilities in 2022. Added to the Proposed Budget is Moving Costs for a new pastor of \$7,500.00. A motion was made to accept the Proposed Budget for 2022 and seconded. The motion carried.

President Laura asked the congregation to go back in their reports to page ten. Judy Melby was not on the nomination list at the semi-annual meeting as Chairperson for the Christian Education and Youth. Also, the council is still in need of a Treasurer and 2nd Vice President. At the last council meeting a vote was made to move Denny Minks from 2nd Vice President to 1st Vice President. Madam President thanked both Cookie Overbye and Tim Numedahl for their dedicated work on the council. Both have been a huge asset to the council and will be missed. Madam President asked for any nominations from the floor to fill the Treasurer and 2nd Vice President

positions. A motion was made from the floor to table filling those two positions until a later date and to accept Judy Melby as the Chairperson for the Christian Ed and Youth board. The motion was seconded and carried. Glenice Johnson pointed out that Sharon Wagner's name as WELCA Secretary should be listed. Judy Melby mentioned that Krista Johnson is not listed under Christian Education and Youth. Laura stated that Krista is already a member under the Parish Fellowship and cannot be a member of two boards, but that she could be considered a guest in attendance under Christian Ed and Youth.

Madam President asked if there was any other business that needed to be addressed. Being none, the Annual Meeting was closed at 10:20 am.

Respectfully submitted by
Deb Holtan, Council Secretary

**Zion Lutheran's Foundation Annual Meeting
January 30, 2022**

Zion Lutheran's Foundation Annual Meeting was called to order immediately after the Congregation Annual Meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Myron Jesme stepped forward to represent the Foundation. Richard Jorde is resigning from the foundation. Tracee Bruggeman has agreed to fill Richard's spot. They still need two more people for the foundation membership. The Foundation meets once a year. The Foundation has not had any recommendations due to not having a pastor, so no funds have been distributed. They will meet next on February 9th at 5:00 p.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District office. More meetings will be planned as the foundation goes over and works on updating their by-laws. Once this is completed, they will be present to the congregation for a vote.

The meeting was closed at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Deb Holtan, Council Secretary

WITNESSES

One Actor * Eight Characters * A Fresh Look at Jesus

A stingy Innkeeper with a Bronx accent, an Italian Lazarus who likes pasta, and a joyful Simon Peter on Easter Morning... all these characters and more come to life **Sunday, April 10, 2022**, at 7:00 pm at Zion Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls, MN with the dramatic presentation, *Witnesses*. Written by Curt Cloninger, this one-man, multiple character performance will feature Christian actor and speaker, Rev. Jonathan Swenson.

In this innovative and inspiring re-telling of the Gospel, Swenson portrays eight different characters as each respond to Jesus. Through these eye-witness accounts, both comedic and serious, the audience is encouraged to see Jesus from fresh perspectives; not cold and distant, but as one who was intimately involved in the "nitty-gritty" of life.

Swenson is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College (B.A. in Psychology, Theater and Music, 1988) and Luther Seminary (Master's of Divinity, 1994). He has served as an ordained minister for over 15 years and is currently the Founding Director of Paraphrase Theater as well as the Director of Programming for Mount Carmel Ministries in Alexandria, MN.

Swenson, a trained actor, travels throughout the country sharing a unique blend of drama, teaching, music, and storytelling. His regional theater credits include such leading musical roles as Tevye, Daddy Warbucks, Harold Hill and Nathan Detroit. Dramatic roles include Gratiano in *The Merchant of Venice* and Roland in *Taking Steps*. Swenson has also performed as guest soloist with Orchestra Iowa in Cedar Rapids, IA. Most recently, Jonathan can be seen in the feature film, "Miles Between Us" produced by ii Films, and heard on the soundtrack of Rich Melheim's Martin Luther Rock Opera.



Paraphrase Theatre Presents

WITNESSES

One Actor / 8 Characters / A Fresh Look at Jesus

written by Curt Cloninger
performed by Jonathan Swenson

for more information
visit Paraphrase Theatre on Facebook
or www.paraphrasetheatre.com

Witnesses is sponsored by the ELCA Congregations of the Thief River Falls Conference of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. A \$5 donation is requested and will be taken as a free will offering. Contact Kristin at 218-684-1155 for more information.

**Sunday, April 10
7:00 PM**
**Zion Lutheran Church
Thief River Falls, MN**



April 6 - Lent clean up - K-2nd and 12th Grade

April 14 – 6:00 - Seder Meal

The seder meal is for 5th grade students who are receiving their first communion. More information will be given at communion class.

8th grade - setup, serve, and cleanup for Seder meal. This is a requirement for confirmation. Please be at the church by 5:30.

April 17 – Easter Sunrise Breakfast

This breakfast is put on by Zion's 6, 7, and 8th graders and their families. More information to come in the mail.

We need parents' help with this! Either call the church office or Kami at 218-689-4266 to get signed up!

April 17 – Easter Sunrise Service

The 10th grade confirmation students will once again present the story of Jesus' resurrection! We look forward to seeing you and worshipping with you! Stay after worship and eat breakfast!

April 20 – 6:00 PM - Confirmation classes will resume with supper at 5:15!

April 20 and 27 – 5:30 – Lutheran Doctrine Class

Potluck supper at 5:30 followed by class –

Pastor Mark will be leading an educational class on Lutheran Doctrine, (becoming a member of the Lutheran church). For all confirmands and their parents.



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.
- Facebook Live – 9:00 on Zion's Facebook Page

*“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem,
and the Son of Man will be delivered
to the chief priests and scribes,
and they will condemn him to death,
and will hand him over to the Gentiles
to mock, to scourge, and to crucify;
and the third day he will be raised up.”
Matthew 20:18-19*

April 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| SUNDAY BROADCASTS 9:00 AM KTRF Radio 9:00 AM Cable Ch. 3 | | | Lenten Supper Clean-Up Schedule (be here by 5:30) April 6 Grades K-2, & 12 April 14 Seder Meal Grade 8 | | 1 7 Men's Breakfast/Biff's | 2 11-1 Baby Shower in fellowship hall |
| 3 9 Zion Holy Communion Worship/Baptism 10 SS/Ed. Hour; Coffee fellowship 10 1ST COMMUNION CLASS 10 BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING/ LOUNGE 10:30 Silver Creek Worship | 4 9 SAIL Exercise 6- 7:30 Cub Scouts 7 Troop 59 | 5 9:30 Staff Meeting Noon Pastors Text Study 4 Parish Health Cmt. BOARD MEETINGS 6 Christian Ed mtg | 6 5:30 Lenten Supper-Council 6:30 LENTEN SERVICE 7:15 Senior Choir | 7 9 SAIL Exercise 12-4 LSS respite care in Lounge 1 Quilting/ LWR workshop Silver Creek Spring cleaning & Potluck | 8 7 Men's Breakfast/Biff's | 9 11-1 Bridal Shower in fellowship hall |
| 10 PALM SUNDAY 9 Zion Worship 10 SS/Ed. Hour; Coffee fellowship 10 May Sharing Servants in lounge 10:30 Silver Creek Worship /Baptisms 2 EASTER ART in fellowship hall 7 WITNESSES EVENT WITH JONATHAN SWENSON | 11 9 SAIL Exercise 7 Troop 59 | 12 9 WELCA Executive Board 9:30 Staff Meeting 10 Women of Zion Noon Pastors Text Study | 13 No Confirmation 7 Senior Choir | 14 MAUNDY THURSDAY 9 SAIL Exercise 10 Caregivers Discussion Group 12-4 LSS respite care in Lounge 6 Seder Meal 7:30 Worship & First Communion | 15 GOOD FRIDAY 7 Men's Breakfast/Biff's Prayer Vigil begins at Noon 6:30 Worship  | 16 |
| 17 EASTER SUNDAY 6:30 Sunrise Service 7:30 Breakfast 9:00 Zion Holy Communion Worship 10:30 Silver Creek Holy Communion Worship | 18 EASTER MONDAY Church offices Closed 6- 7:30 Cub Scouts | 19 9:30 Staff Meeting Noon Pastors Text Study 5:30 Zion Council 6 Cub Scouts | 20 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE 5:30 Potluck Supper before 6:00 Lutheran Doctrine class for Confirmation students/ parents/new members/ prospective members 6 God's Joy Choir 7 Senior Choir | 21 9 SAIL Exercise 12-4 LSS respite care in Lounge 1 Quilting/LWR Workshop | 22 7 Men's Breakfast/Biff's | 23 |
| 24 GIDEONS 9 Zion Worship 10 SS/Ed. Hour; coffee fellowship 10:30 Silver Creek Worship Voice rehearsals | 25 9 SAIL Exercise 7 Troop 59 Voice rehearsals | 26 9:30 Staff Meeting 10:30 Bereavement Group Noon Pastors Text Study | 27 5:15 Confirmation supper 6:00 Lutheran Doctrine class for Confirmation students/ parents/new members/ prospective members 6 God's Joy Choir 7 Senior Choir | 28 9 SAIL Exercise 12-4 LSS respite care in Lounge | 29 7 Men's Breakfast/Biff's | 30 |