

## The Herald

Published monthly, to provide both inspiration and information on the activities of the Zion Family

Zion Lutheran Church  
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### Why I Believe

An unknown author has written the following well thought out analysis of the Christian faith and particularly Easter.



What is the truth about Christ?

We have only the following Alternatives:

- *His followers concocted the story*
- *His followers were victims of a cruel hoax*
- *His followers were simply mistaken*
- *Accounts of his life were greatly exaggerated long after his death*
- *Neither Jesus nor his disciples ever existed*
- *The New Testament is right after all*

### **Proposition 1:**

#### **The disciples made it up.**

That sounds simple enough. But what was the motive? Did anyone make a profit from it? Most of the disciples were martyred. All of them lived extremely difficult lives. Some died early in the history of the Church; others went on to suffer through decades of persecution, but

they all stuck with their story. If they knew it was a lie, why didn't they give it up when they saw it wasn't getting them anywhere? How could a lie be the motive for such lives of love and self-sacrifice? Obviously, they firmly believed what they taught.

### **Proposition 2:**

#### **They were deceived.**

Then who or what deceived them? What master illusionist could have staged three years of miracles, a death, burial and resurrection, angels, subsequent appearances of the risen Christ in various locations, top it off with an ascension and make it all fit into everyday life, all the while fulfilling ancient prophecies right and left. And even if someone could, why would he? Just for laughs? To imagine that anyone could engineer such a hoax stretches credulity to the breaking point. It makes infinitely better sense to simply accept the story at face value.

### **Proposition 3:**

#### **They were mistaken.**

Maybe the believers were victims, not of a deliberate deception, but of their own gullibility. Maybe they misread the evidence and jumped -- sincerely but wrongly -- to erroneous conclusions. But what else could they have concluded, given all that they had seen? We are not talking about one or two individuals reporting one unusual experience. Had there been only one alleged miracle, we might easily think that those who thought that had seen something extraordinary had really seen something else. But the apostles witnessed miracle after miracle. They saw a life of extraordinary holiness and compassion lived out in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. They listened for three years to a man who preached the highest order of righteousness, and they watched him live it as they lived with him around the clock. He made extraordinary claims, which he substantiated with extraordinary acts. He himself showed them that the Holy Scriptures had foretold all of this about him. He appeared to them after his resurrection when they had given up hope. He ate with them and talked with them at length. He even invited them to touch him so that they would know that he was really,

physically there. Could all of this be hallucinations? That's a lot of hallucinations for anyone, let alone eleven disciples plus hundreds of other followers. Was it all optical illusion? A dream? No explanation of this sort will do. There are too many events to explain over too long a time witnessed by too many people.

**Proposition 4:**

**The gospel accounts are only semi-historical legends fabricated long after the time of Christ.**

Many today are of the opinion that the historical Jesus was only a great moral teacher, who would be appalled to find that legend had made him out to be God. Could the alleged miracles of Jesus be explained as tales invented by later Christians? From the very beginning, Christian faith has been centered around a miracle-working, resurrected Christ. The apostle Paul, in a letter to the Church in Corinth, makes very clear that there is no Christian faith apart from the bodily resurrection of Christ. (I Corinthians 15) All four Gospel accounts portray Jesus as a worker of miracles. They also all say that he was crucified, buried, and rose the third day. If these documents are based on legend, then the legend must be older than the documents. Paul's letter to the Corinthians dates from about 55 A.D. The crucifixion took place between 30-35 A.D. That leaves us twenty to twenty-five years for such a legend to arise. Too many people were still alive who had been there and knew what happened for a legend to arise out of ignorance. The apostles and others had seen these things and knew what they were talking about. "That which we have seen and heard, write we unto you." -- I John 1:1

Furthermore, the gospel accounts do not bear the marks of myth. Pagan myths, legends, fairy tales and the like typically refer to characters who supposedly lived long ago, and often far away, whose supernatural deeds and experiences were not witnessed by anyone still at hand who could verify them. The Gospels refer to events which had transpired only a few decades at most before they were written, in a country easily accessed, and involved large numbers of people who could still be found and interviewed and would testify whether or not these things were true.

What was so special about the teaching of Jesus that his disciples felt compelled to spread it across the world? Morality? If that just means another set of rules, forget it! First century Jews had more rules than they could handle. Was it the way he talked about love? Love is nice, but it would take more than "nice" to persuade eleven grown men -- most of them outdoor types -- to abandon all earthly pursuits to spread the Word of Christ. And there again, the word they did spread was not a lot of warm fuzzies about the "nice" idea of everybody loving everybody, but about the Love of God as actually demonstrated in the real life of Christ Jesus, who was himself God in the flesh, whose love was so great he took on a human body to die for the sins of Man, thereby reinstating the personal relationship that mankind had lost with God. There is more involved here than just a philosophy of love. The problems of sin, love, hope, life, death, goodness -- everything -- all find their ultimate answer in Jesus Christ. And there you have another reason we know the truths of Jesus are not legends -- because nothing so integrated and all-encompassing could arise from a hodge-podge of legends. Christianity, as outlined in the New Testament, could not have evolved out of hear-say and imagination. Everything in the gospels and the teachings of the apostles works together so well that it must be real.

**Proposition 5:**

**Neither Jesus nor the disciples ever existed.**

Some have taken the view that the whole New Testament is the work of a time centuries after the alleged time of Christ. This is certainly a minority view, and with good reason. The existence of the church and the New Testament documents are well attested by archaeology and secular references dating back at least to the early second century. To question the essential antiquity of the New Testament is to question the whole of ancient history. One might as easily say the Roman Empire never existed.

**Proposition 6:**

**Jesus is who the New Testament says he is.**



According to the New Testament, Jesus is God become a man, the only way of salvation for humankind. He has given us ample reason to believe in him, paving the way from the beginning of human history with covenants and miracles and prophecies, working in the lives of the people he chose for that purpose, and in the histories of nations to set the stage for his coming.

When he came, he came in righteousness and in wisdom and in power. He spoke as no mere man could speak, and did works no mere man could do. He loved as no mere man could love. He touched the lives of the people who knew him, not merely affecting them from the outside but giving them new life. They went on to spread the word, and he went on to spread Life.

From that time to this, millions have come to know the new life that Jesus gives. The first disciples knew him in the flesh in those days when he walked this earth. We might envy them for that, thinking it would have been easier to believe had we seen him with our eyes. But even they were not able to go out and live like him until he had gone away from them and sent that "Counselor," or Holy Spirit, he had promised them. That same Holy Spirit is ours today. If Jesus really is who they say he is, it is of supreme importance to know.

What will you decide?

Thanks be to God and let us remember: "To God alone be the glory."

Pastor Mark



- May 5 – WELCA – work on fleece blankets for graduates
- May 8 – Last day of Sunday school
- May 10 – WELCA Prayer Breakfast
- May 11 – Last day of confirmation
- May 12 or 13 – LWR pickup
- May 15 – Senior Recognition
- May 31 – All confirmation requirements due
- May 31 – Last day of Pastor Mark's interim

**Thank you, Pastor Mark**

May 31 is Pastor Mark's last day as Zion's interim pastor.

Pastor Mark, you accepted the task of serving as Zion's Interim Pastor with faithfulness and compassion. You proclaimed God's word, baptized, taught, announced God's forgiveness, and presided at the Lord's table. With the gospel you comforted us in times of sickness, trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. We thank you for your service as pastor in our midst and pray for God's blessing as you continue your retirement.



**Thank you, Sunday school  
and confirmation teachers.**

## President's Message Laura Rude

Hello Zion Church Family,

Our spring hasn't been ideal to say the least, but the unfortunate weather did not keep us from celebrating as a church family during Lent, Holy Week and Easter. What a special time to worship together and to celebrate the fact that we serve a Risen Lord and Savior!

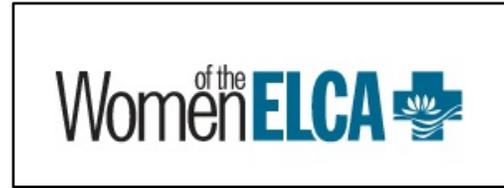
To see our church busy and active should be an encouraging sign for all of us. We are very fortunate to have a church that can be used for so many different activities and provide a welcoming environment. This is something none of us should take for granted. Thankful for all the people that work hard to care for and keep our church beautiful. Truly blessed!

The Council is still moving forward on all the details to place an electronic sign in the northeast corner of the parking lot. I'm excited by this initiative as it will help us provide information to the community regarding our church activities and create another form of outreach. If you are interested in donating to this project, please contact the church office.

I would like to take this time to extend a very BIG THANK YOU to Pastor Mark for his work at Zion over the last months. He has been a tremendous help as we have worked through this transition. His advice, counsel, quick wit, Ole jokes and overall presence will be missed in the office and the pulpit. Thankfully we still get to enjoy his company as a fellow parishioner! Pastor Mark's Interim Pastor contract is done May 31<sup>st</sup>. We are working hard to find another interim and/or extend a call for a new Pastor. Both are proving to be a challenge. We may be in a position of just having pulpit supply on Sundays for a while. God is good and faithful, and I trust he has a plan for our church. Requesting your prayers for patience and wisdom to know what direction to move in going forward.

Looking forward to all the wonderful things that will take place in the coming month. (especially warmer weather!) Take care of yourself and each other and don't forget about doing God's Work with your hands!

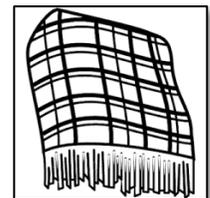
Blessings and Peace ~ Laura



- WELCA Prayer Breakfast - Tuesday., May 10, 9:00 a.m. All women are invited to this annual event with a special program, "Mothering God," coordinated by Carol Narverud and Della Burstad. Refreshments will follow the program. The board will meet after the meal.



- Shipment of mission quilts and kits – groups have been busy assembling the baby care and personal café kits, school kits, and making quilts. Thank you to everyone who donated items during Lent, who have made or donated baby clothing and supplies, and those who help assemble the kits. Packed cartons of these items will be transported to the pick-up site in Grand Forks, May 12 or 13. If you can help deliver them to Grand Forks, notify Glenice, 681-4472.
- Mission quilts will be displayed on pews in the sanctuary on Sunday, May 1. Thank you to the dedicated quilters during the past year.
- Fleece blankets for our 2022 graduates – volunteers are welcome to help make blankets on Thursday, May 5, an 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Easy instructions will be available. Bring sharp scissors to make the blankets.



## Lay Ministry/Evangelism

- Twenty-two people attended the annual prayer vigil.
- The *Listening to God* series has finished. It is anticipated that another class will be held next fall.
- The Lutheran doctrine class continues.

Marijo Nabben, Board Chair

## Silver Creek

Love the saying, “I Run on NAPS and JESUS.” This has been perfect weather for this kind of living.

Every time we schedule a day for quilting, it has been a snowstorm. So, considering we don’t want any more snow days, we will call when we can work in a day to finish the quilts that are started. We have 14 quilts ready to distribute. The raffle quilt is being quilted and we are anxious for you to see it completed. Think the men will especially like this one.

Thanks to members who ventured out in the snow to help with spring cleaning. If we ever see green grass, it will be time to sign up for mowing and time to plant some flowers in the church yard. Church council will not meet in May but will meet on June 5th at 9:30 AM before church services.

Want to share another saying I recently found. “Faith is like Wi-Fi; it’s invisible, but it has the power to connect you to what you need.”

Beverly Rupprecht



## Zion Lutheran’s Congregational Council Minutes Sunday, April 24, 2022

The Congregational Council Meeting was called to order by President Laura Rude at 3:02 pm. In attendance were Laura Rude, Pastor Mark Helgeland, Denny Minks, Renae Franke as Interim Treasurer, Penni Nelson, Glenice Johnson, Marijo Nabben, Deb Fulton, Deb Holtan and Patty Schob as a guest.

Pastor Mark led the Council in devotions and prayer.

The Secretary’s report from March 16, 2022 was presented. A correction was made to the minutes. Renae Franke should be listed as the interim treasurer. A motion was made to accept the minutes with the correction and was seconded. The motion carried.

The Treasurer’s Report was filed for audit.

Pastor Mark reported that he’s been very busy with baptisms, funerals, hospital and home visits, and the Lutheran Doctrine Class. He stated that he will be done the end of May, but has agreed to do Pulpit Supply one Sunday a month during the summer months. Doing this will enable Zion to have one Sunday a month where the congregation can receive communion.

**Silver Creek:** Penni Nelson reported that Sunday June 12th will be the Joint Service out at Silver Creek with a potluck dinner.

**Health Committee:** Patty Schob reported that the Parish Nurse classes that Darlene Wiseth was to start now in April has been postponed to October, due to a conflict with the instructor of the class has. The AED that the church has now needs to be updated. A motion was made to use monies from the undesignated funds to

purchase a new AED machine. The motion was seconded and carried.

**Worship:** Deb Fulton reported that their board did not meet in April. Their May meeting will focus on planning the summer's services.

**Properties:** Laura Rude reported for the board. The van has been sold with the payment arriving soon. Properties talked to Mark Borseth again about the placing of the new electronic sign according to city ordinances. We can place it in the northeast corner of the church property. It will take 20-24 weeks to get the sign so the suggestion is to start the ground work as soon as possible to have the site ready once the sign is here. In the meantime there is \$10,000.00 plus that has already come in through pledges and donations which will go towards the down payment for the sign. Donations and pledges will still be accepted. A motion was made to cover whatever is needed for the sign from the undesignated funds. The motion was seconded and carried.

**Evangelism and Lay Ministry:** Marijo reported that Millie Reiersen will be in charge of Home Communion at the nursing homes starting with Zion's members first. Forty-five to fifty Easter Cards were sent out to those that have been homebound and in nursing homes. The "Listening to God" class lead by Darrel Corry has been very well received. The board will be looking into having more educational classes with requests to have them on a weeknight for those that are working during the day. The annual Good Friday Prayer Vigil had 24 participants, with a good showing of younger families! The Lutheran Doctrine Class started Wednesday April 20th and will continue on Wednesday April 27th.

**Christian Ed and Youth:** Laura Rude reported for the board. May 1st will be a craft day with the youth making May Baskets. Unfortunately there will be no VBS this summer. Redeemer doesn't have enough people to help with the session, so the decision was made to not have it. May 15th is Senior Recognition Sunday. The Seniors will be helping during the service with the readings and communion. The celebration will continue with Food and Fellowship after the service.

**Parish Fellowship:** Glenice Johnson reported their board did not meet, but mentioned again the date of June 12th for the Joint Service out at Silver Creek.

**WELCA:** Glenice Johnson reported that the Lenten Suppers went well with 70-80 people for each meal. \$1,750.00 was received from the free will offering that will go towards Zion's youth attending Bible camp. She asked about the idea of continuing next year with the different groups from Zion helping serve the meals. The Spring conference gathering will be Sunday May 7th at Grace Lutheran Church in Grygla. Anyone wanting to carpool should meet in Zion's parking lot at 7:45 a.m. that morning. Spring shipping of the mission quilts, personal care kits, baby kits and school kits will be May 12th and 13th. The packed boxes will need to be hauled to Grand Forks this year. There is no pick up site in Thief River. The May WELCA meeting is their annual Prayer Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. The program will be lead by Carol Narverud and is called "Mothering God". Thursday May 5th at 1:00 will be a time for those that want to gather to work on tying their fleece blankets for our Zion graduates.

**Public Relations:** Newsletter items are due Tuesday April 26th.

**Call Committee:** Glenice Johnson reported that the committee is in frequent contact with the Synod. As of right now, there are no new contacts.

Pastor Mark added that he will be attending the Pathways meeting in Crookston this coming Sunday. The meeting is to decide on the purchase of Camp Emmaus. Anyone wanting to attend the meeting can call Pastor Mark. Also, he will be taking May 9-12th off.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. after praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by  
Deb Holtan, Congregational Council Secretary

## Call Committee



Pastor Ted Carnahan, the prospective candidate who visited Zion and the Thief River Falls community in late March, has accepted a call to another congregation. Our call committee has updated our Ministerial Site Profile to state that we are seeking a Solo Pastor to better clarify a single-pastor position.

The synod office has also been encouraged to send us names and profiles of potential candidates, but as of this time, none have been received. Please continue to hold our call committee and the call process in your prayers.

### 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

## Senior Recognition Sunday



Zion will be celebrating its graduating seniors on Sunday, May 15, at the 9:00 worship. Seniors, you will be presented with gifts from Zion during the Food and Fellowship time. We will be serving a special breakfast this day. All are welcome to share in this special day!

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with our Seder meal for our fifth graders and their families! With the help of some very special ladies who prepared the food, we were able to bring back this celebration! We also had some very willing parents who helped set up and serve! Your help is greatly appreciated!

THANK YOU to all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders for helping with our Easter breakfast. Also, a huge thank you to all the parents who helped. We couldn't have done it without you!! It was so great to see all the helpers who showed up! We were also blessed with so many food donations! Thank you again!!

A very special THANK YOU to Mike and Jodi Flaagan, Cammy Joppru, and Shawna Spears. They have been our Confirmation guides again this year. They have given MANY hours to our youth. Our youth have been greatly blessed by their faith, knowledge, leadership, encouragement, enthusiasm, and friendship. We are very thankful for them! When you see them, please tell them they are appreciated!!



## Confirmation Parents and Students

Our last day of confirmation class is May 11!

You have until May 31 to finish all requirements. Please sign up for anything that you need to do! We will be contacting any youth who do not meet these requirements. Thank you.

## FROM PARISH HEALTH

Help! Participants needed for the Lutheran Social Services **Respite Care program** that is available to the community at Zion every **Thursday from 12 noon—4 PM.**



It's a program for 60+ years with illnesses such as cancer, stroke, multiple sclerosis, ALS, dementia and others. Any amount of time there is fine. They have 5 volunteers that have been specifically trained for this and are eager and ready to go.

***What do they do?*** They do planned activities, arts, crafts, singing, dancing, and occasionally an outdoor event (weather permitting). They have done scavenger hunts and taken a trip to the county fair for exhibits in the past. What a great benefit for the caregiver and participant to be a part of this program. It sounds like fun! If you know of someone or a family member who would enjoy this group, please contact Julie Praska-Moser, Regional Coordinator for the Program. Her number is 218-686-6228.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone.” The new is here! *2 Corinthians 5:17*

Happy Spring! *Darlene Wiseth, parish health*

**Thank  
you!**

**THANK YOU** from Zion's Evangelism and Lay Ministry Board to all who attended the Annual Good Friday Prayer Vigil!

Also **THANK YOU** to Darrel Corry for leading the "Listening to God" class!

# May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b> LWR Quilts displayed 9:00 Zion Worship/HC/ Baptisms 10 Sunday School/ Ed Hour/ coffee 10:30 Silver Creek Worship/Gideons 1-2 K-5 Event in Patio Room 3 Rude Voice Recital in sanctuary/ fellowship hall 4 Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>2</b> 9 SAIL Exercise  6 Cub Scouts 7 Troop 59</p>	<p><b>3</b> 9:30 Staff Meeting Noon Pastors Text Study <b>BOARD MEETINGS</b> 4 Parish Health 6:30 Parish Fellowship</p>	<p><b>4</b> 5:15 Confirmation Supper 6 Confirmation 6 God's Joy Choir 7 Senior Choir</p>	<p><b>5</b> 9 SAIL Exercise 12-4 LSS Respite Care in lounge National Day of Prayer 1 Quilting/LWR workshop- packing boxes to ship</p>	<p><b>6</b> 7 Men's Breakfast/Biff's</p>	<p><b>7</b> 8:30 –12:30 WELCA Spring Gathering at Grace/Grygla</p>
<p><b>8 MOTHER'S DAY</b> 9:00 Zion Worship 10:00 <b>Last Day Sunday School/Ed.</b> Hour; coffee fellowship 10 June Sharing Servants 10:30 Silver Creek Worship</p>	<p><b>9</b> 9 SAIL Exercise  6 Cub Scouts 7 Troop 59  <b>MAY 9-13 FALLS DELIVERED MEALS WEEK FOR ZION</b></p>	<p><b>10</b> 9 WELCA Prayer Breakfast 10 WELCA Executive Board Noon Pastors Text Study  Voice rehearsal</p>	<p><b>11</b> 5:15 Confirmation Supper 6 Confirmation (last class) 6 God's Joy Choir 7 Senior Choir  Voice rehearsal</p>	<p><b>12</b> 9 SAIL Exercise 12-4 LSS Respite Care in lounge 10 Caregivers Discussion/ lounge 7 Troop 59 7 PM Johnson Voice Recital in sanctuary</p>	<p><b>13</b> 7 Men's Breakfast/Biff's  May 12-13 LWR pickup in Grand Forks 9-4PM</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>15 SENIOR RECOGNITION</b> 9:00 Zion Worship/Holy Com- munion 10 Sunday School/ Ed Hour 10 Food &amp; Fellowship/Reception for Graduates 10:30 Silver Creek Worship/ Holy communion</p>	<p><b>16</b> 9 SAIL Exercise  7 Troop 59</p>	<p><b>17</b> 9:30 Staff Meeting Noon Pastors Text Study  <b>5:30 ZION COUNCIL</b></p>	<p><b>18</b>  6 God's Joy Choir 7 Senior Choir</p>	<p><b>19</b> 9 SAIL Exercise 12-4 LSS Respite Care in lounge</p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>Newsletter Items Due</b>  7 Men's Breakfast/Biff's  Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>21</b> <b>SYNOD ASSEMBLY/ Virtual 8:30-3:00</b>  4:30 PM Henrickson/ Voecks wedding at Zion</p>
<p><b>22</b> 9:00 Zion Worship 10 coffee fellowship 10:30 Silver Creek Worship</p>	<p><b>23</b> 9 SAIL Exercise  7 Troop 59</p>	<p><b>24</b> 9:30 Staff Meeting Noon Pastors Text Study</p>	<p><b>25</b> Circle</p>	<p><b>26</b> Circle  9 SAIL Exercise  12-4 LSS Respite Care in lounge</p>	<p><b>27</b> 7 Men's Breakfast/Biff's</p>	<p><b>28</b> 10:30 Lawrence Gutterud memorial service at Silver Creek</p>
<p><b>29</b> 9:00 Zion Worship 10:30 Silver Creek Worship</p>	<p><b>30 MEMORIAL DAY</b>  <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>  7 Troop 59</p>	<p><b>31</b> Circle 9:30 Staff Meeting Noon Pastors Text Study</p>			<p><b>SUNDAY BROADCASTS:</b>  <b>9:00 AM KTRF RADIO</b> <b>9:00 AM CABLE CH. 3</b> <b>12 NOON CABLE CH. 37</b></p>	