



The Herald

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

Zion Lutheran Church
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*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.*

“Now the Green Blade Rises” ELW 379

I write this on Wednesday, April 19. Once again, we are under a winter storm watch. Depending on the channel or app, 6 to 10 inches of snow plus wind may be coming our way within the next several days. What fun! (I say sarcastically.) John Wheeler, regional weatherman said today, “There has been enough winter this winter for two winters!” AMEN, John, Amen!

We could pray: Enough, Lord!

A better prayer may be: Gracious God, your people are tired. We are weary, grant us the full blessing of spring and a goodly measure of joy to celebrate and share in the gifts of the season in this land you have given us.

Still better may be this opportunity I will take to remind us of our true blessing of spring. The gift of resurrection and life given in Christ Jesus. I love the words to “Now the Green Blade Rises” as it speaks of Jesus’ death and resurrection in the language of this place.

Every season men and women take seed and plant it in the ground trusting that it will grow and bear fruit. We bury the seed, and it dies

giving life to something new. Isn’t this what God does in Christ? Jesus like the wheat seed is laid in the earth. For three days he wrestles against the power of darkness. Finally, resurrection comes like so much grain that springs from the earth. When all was thought to be lost, God granted forgiveness and life to the world through the son.

The last verse of the hymn says:

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
Your touch can bring them back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
Love will come again like wheat arising green.*

Even now as we struggle with snow and ice, tulips are growing. The fields that were planted last spring will soon turn green with new growth. Our lawns will be overrun with dandelions, and we will mow. The trees with bud and there will be berries for the birds to eat. We know this because no matter the winter, spring comes and gives way to summer’s grow. There will be a harvest.

We are a people who live in hope. Though much of what God is doing in the world is unseen, we are called to trust that God is creating life. May your spirits be renewed in the power and wonder of God. Winter will come to an end; thanks be to God!

Pastor Kristin Ostercamp

Falls Delivered Meals - May 8 -12

If you can help with Falls Delivered Meals, please call Koni Johnson at 681-1344 or 686-7746.



- **May 3 – Fleece blanket work day**
- **May 4 - Prayer Shawl Ministry – 10:00**
- **May 4 – New member orientation**
- **May 4 and May 18 - Quilting – 1:00**
- **May 6 – Pickup day for LWR**
- **May 7 – New member recognition**
- **May 7 – Rogation Sunday**
- **May 8 -12 – Falls Delivered Meals**
- **May 10 – Last day of Confirmation**
- **May 11 - 13 – Church directory photos**
- **May 14 - Last day of Sunday school**
- **May 16 - WELCA Prayer Breakfast - 10:00**
- **May 16 – WELCA board meeting after breakfast**
- **May 21 – Senior Recognition**
- **May 21 - Food and Fellowship**
- **May 21 - CPR presentation – 10:00 – Fellowship Hall**
- **May - Fridays - 8:00 Men's Breakfast – Biff's**
- **May - Fridays - 9:30 - Coffee With the Staff**



DON'T FORGET – Directory Photos

Thursday, May 11, Friday, May 12, Saturday, May 13



Website: ucdir.com, church code: **mn321**, password: **photos**.

If you need to change the time of your photos or schedule photos, call Darlene at 689-8921.

Rogation Days -

Stewardship of creation is an ongoing ministry in the church. The creation that God declared good is entrusted to the care of humankind. Exercising that care is one dimension of daily Christian discipleship. Rogation Days are a way for the church to honor God for the gift of creation and to pray for the land, the gift of labor, and the needs of all people. Rogation Days were traditionally celebrated during the fifty days of Easter on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day. The word Rogation has its roots in the Latin word that means to ask or petition, and it comes from the ancient introit for the Sunday preceding the Ascension. In some places the celebrations of Rogation Days were quite elaborate and included processions from the church to and around fields while asking for God's blessing. We will use a liturgy for Rogation on **Sunday, May 7.**



We will also welcome **NEW MEMBERS** into the congregation on **May 7.** God's Word goes out into the world and does not return empty. We celebrate those who have heard this Word and desire to make a commitment to our common work and witness at Zion where we know Christ and are sent to make Christ known.

Pastor Kristin Ostercamp

CPR Algorithm Presentation

May 21 – 10:00 – Fellowship Hall

Jim and Joyce Johnson will share their experience about Joyce's cardiac arrest and how CPR saved her life.



President's Message Laura Rude

Hello Zion Church Family,

April is gone, but the snow forgot to leave! UFFDA!!

The one thing about weather is that it always makes for good conversation. 😊

I am going to get on a soap box briefly, so please bear with me. I recently read an article in "Decision" magazine that contained a quote that resonated with me. The quote was this, **"If we don't teach our children to follow Jesus, the world will teach them not to."** After I read this, I was convicted to my core. What an awesome responsibility we have to teach our children the Gospel and show them God's love. Our children are growing up in a very confusing world right now. They need to know and hear the truth from the Gospel. God's truth is far more powerful than my opinion or yours. God's Word teaches us the truth. It shows us the path to walk on. It shows us where we get off the path. It shows us how to get back on the path. And it shows us how to stay on the path. Thank you to Pastor Kristin and all the Sunday School and Confirmation volunteers that selflessly teach our youth about the Gospel. Our youth need Christian guidance and support now more than ever.

Staying on the same youth topic I want to shout-out a big "Congratulations!" to our graduating seniors on this milestone in your life. **YOU DID IT!!** God's Blessings to you all as you embark on the next step in your journey. Always remember your church family is here to love and support you.

Several plans are in the works to update and revamp events and programs to meet people where they are in their life. This is **GOOD WORK** and more to come! Please pray for our staff and board members as they develop plans to meet various needs.

May brings us closer to another season which is summer! Your continued attendance and support throughout the summer months is always much appreciated. Details on what our summer worship schedule will be coming soon.

Pray for each other and share God's Love with your neighbor!

Humbling Serving, Laura



Faith Community Nurse

Thank You, Volunteers

We would like to recognize all those who give their time and energy to volunteering. Without volunteers donating their time and passion to the causes they care about, most endeavors would never be possible. Volunteers make it happen!



Volunteering doesn't just help those you are supporting, it's good for you too! Did you know volunteering can boost your mental and physical health? It adds to life satisfaction, social well-being, and depression prevention. The benefits of volunteering include engaging in social interactions with other people, being a helper, making a positive impact, and being part of something bigger than yourself. Studies show it makes you happier and can give you the **"The Helpers High,"** a feeling of prolonged calmness, a reduction in stress and a greater sense of self-worth by helping others.

The older people who volunteer may reduce the onset of cognitive decline and decrease rates of depression and loneliness. **WOW**, who wouldn't want all of these benefits! Many members of our congregation must have already experienced these facts. No wonder Zion **ROCKS** with volunteerism!

Some interesting facts....according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, individuals between the ages of 35-54 are most likely to volunteer their time, women more than men. 22% of volunteers are under the age of 22 years old. Volunteers are worth on average \$28.54 an hour according to the Independence Sector Study and volunteerism has a value of 184 billion annually.

Thank You to all the volunteers in our church who generously give of their time and talents to make the many programs and activities work. You truly are appreciated, impressive, and a very important part of the church's functioning.

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." Erma Bombeck
God's blessings and peace – Darlene Wiseth



Fleece Blanket Workday - May 3

Anyone interested in helping make the fleece blankets we give to our graduating seniors will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, May 3, at 1:00 p.m.

Pick Up Date for Lutheran World Relief - May 6

The spring pick up for mission quilts and baby care, personal care and school kits will be on Saturday, May 6, 8 a.m. - noon. The truck will be at 604 N. Atlantic Ave, Thief River Falls. WELCA groups will be packing up the shipping boxes the first week in May to be included in this shipment. Thank you all for the generous donation of personal care kit items during Lent.

Quilting on May 4

Anyone interested in helping layer, pin, sew or tie our mission quilts are invited on Thursday, May 4, 1:00 p.m. No sewing experience necessary. Help us complete and pack up quilts for the May 6 shipment.

WELCA May Meeting - Prayer Breakfast - May 16

All women are invited to the annual "Prayer Breakfast" on Tuesday, May 16, 10:00 a.m. We will meet first in the sanctuary for communion and the program coordinated by Carol Narverud, then to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and a brief business meeting. Hostesses are Kittie Cornell, Wanda Schuster, and Sharon Wagner. The board will meet after the group meeting.

Silver Creek



Easter Sunday was a joyful celebration at Silver Creek enhanced by visiting families, the sounds of a trumpet, and heartfelt singing. Serving a risen, triumphant Lord is a message we should always be ready to share, whether in music, words, actions, or smiles and hugs. Joy is good, and the Easter message goes beyond Easter Sunday. Let us move forward with joy in our hearts and look forward to serving our Lord.

WELCA NEWS

Due to April's snowstorm, the WELCA April meeting was cancelled. However, the quilters have been busy, and thirty-four quilts have been given to Lutheran World Relief, Pennington County group homes, and Marshall County home programs. We are grateful for the impact these ladies are making in the community and the world.

Looking Forward: Wednesday, May 3, 5:00 p.m. supper, followed by the meeting and program. Bible Study: Chapter 2: The World Encourages

*Note: no quilting.

Spring Cleaning on April 19 was cancelled due to more inclement weather! Looking Forward: The date is to be announced, but get ready. Spring has to come sometime.

Church Council: The church council meeting was held at noon, on April 16. Looking Forward: The next meeting is May 21st, 9:30 a.m., before the church service.

Moving Forward:

June 23, 2024 is the date set for the 125th anniversary celebration of Silver Creek Church. A planning committee has been formed. Anyone who has ideas, wishes to help with projects, or wishes to be on the committee should contact Bill Stock or Bev Rupprecht. The quilters have already been working on a history of quilting projects, but there is more work yet to be done in many areas. All are welcome to serve.

Respectfully submitted and looking forward to spring,
Connie Stock

Youth and Christian Education

Summer is coming quickly, and camp will be here before we know it. Here are the dates for Pathways Bible Camp.

June 11th-16th: 3rd-5th graders - Pathfinders

June 16th: Pre-K - Lil Explorers

June 18th-23rd: 6th-8th grade - Trekkers

June 21st-23rd: 1st-3rd grade - Discoverers

June 23rd: K-2nd grade - Explorers Day

June 25th-30th: 10th -12th grade - Trail Blazers

July 9th-14th: 9th-12th grade - Seekers



Upcoming dates



May 14th: Sunday School Sings

May 21st: Senior Recognition Sunday AND Food and Fellowship



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held in August. Please watch for more details.

Confirmation



May 3 - Class at 6:00 - Supper BBQ's and fries

May 10 - Last night of class 6:00 - Supper at 5:00 Tacos for all! Thank you for completing all Confirmation requirements!

Attention 10th grade students:

October 29 is the date of your Confirmation! Mark your calendars!

Graduating Seniors



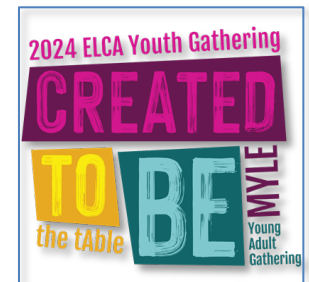
Gracie Anderson, Keegan Benitt, Evan Bregier, Megan Brevik, Amanda Coltum, Caitlynn Ellison, Dru Harbott, Wyatt Johnson, Zach Lubitz, Jonah Lunsetter, **Megan Peterson, and Kendal Rantanen**, we will be celebrating YOU on Sunday, May 21, at our worship service and with a brunch after church in the fellowship hall! Info will be sent out soon!

New Orleans 2024 - *Created to Be*

If you are currently in 8th through 12th grade, or if you graduated in 2022 or 2021, you are able to attend this wonderful gathering of youth from all across the United States!

This gathering is a place to broaden your understanding of God's love, to pay attention to, advocate for, and care for our neighbors; and to know that as both saint and sinner, we are greatly loved!

WATCH FOR MORE INFO TO COME!
Contact Kami if interested.





Zion Lutheran's Congregational Council Meeting April 18, 2023

The Congregational Council Meeting was called to order by President Laura Rude at 5:00 pm.

In attendance were President Laura Rude, Pastor Kristin Ostercamp, Denny Minks, Diane Lee, Renae Franke, Mike Spears, Mike Flaagan, Glenice Johnson, Darlene Hulteen, Marijo Nabben, Patty Schob and Deb Holtan.

President Laura Rude led the council in prayer.

The Secretary's Report from March 21, 2023 was presented. A motion was made to accept the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Treasurer's Report for February with the corrected remaining budget balance was presented, along with the March Treasurer's report. Renae reported that the income for March was less than expenses and also pointed out the remaining budget for the Parish Nurse. Larger expenses are due to the purchase of grief books and as Madam President stated, this is the first time there has been a budget for the Parish Nurse, so adjustments for the upcoming budget planning will need to be made. The Treasurers Reports were filed for audit.

Youth Checking Account: A motion was made by Glenice Johnson to approve Mike Flaagan and Annette Lian as cosigners on the Youth Checking Account. The motion was seconded by Marijo Nabben. The motion carried.

All Board Meeting: Madam President asked for feedback from the council on last Tuesday's "all board meeting" that was led by Pastor Kristin. All agreed it was a very good meeting making us think "outside the box". There will be more meetings similar to this in the future.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kristin's Reports was submitted. Highlights to her report are Sunday April 30th is a fifth Sunday of the month. There will be a

dedicated time for prayers for healing and anointing during worship. Sunday May 7th will be an observance of Rogation days. Beginning May 1st Pastor Kristin's regular days off will be Friday and Saturday. If there's an event where she needs to be called to serve, she will take compensatory time in the next week. There were 22 students who took First Communion on Maundy Thursday. Continuing Education will be on April 23-24 in Eden Prairie, MN. Also, Pastor Kristin reported she will be leading a breakout session during the Pennington County "Towards Zero Deaths" presentation on Wednesday April 26th.

Zion's Foundation: Madam President report that the Foundation has a full board of all new people. Their plan is to reorganize, and they are eager to start! A motion was made by Marijo Nabben to approve the following to be appointed members to Zion's Foundation board; Zac Svir, Amy Looker, Beth Nelson, Tracee Bruggeman, Shannon Boen and Paul Adams. The motion was seconded by Glenice Johnson, and the motion carried.

Silver Creek: No one present to represent them. Silver Creek will join Zion for worship on April 30th.

Health Committee: Patty Schob submitted their report highlighting the following. April 27, 2023, at 1:00pm in the Patio Room, Jennifer Johnson, Advanced Care Planning Facilitator from Sanford will be here to give a presentation on information about them. The Public is invited to attend with announcements going out in the paper and on KTRF.

Worship Board: Pastor Kristin reported that serving communion will go back to pre-covid with passing of the wafer and wine. Passing the offering plates was tabled until May's meeting.

Properties Board: Mike Spears reported they are getting pricing on new carpet in the entry by the offices. Also, pricing is being done for the rest of the hallways and outside the worship area. Mike said it looks as if they have done the locating for the directional boring for the electricity to the new sign.

Parish Fellowship: Glenice Johnson reported they are still working on the Sharing Servants Booklet updates. A letter with the new pricing for funeral meals was sent to Johnson's Funeral Home.

WELCA: Glenice Johnson reported they had 25/26 people today at their gathering. Their May meeting will be a prayer breakfast at 9:00 with a program. There are 12 graduating seniors from Zion. May 3rd will be a workday for tying/making the fleece blankets for these students. A planning meeting will be held in August for 2023-2024. Zion will be hosting the Synodical Meeting September 9th.

Evangelism and Lay Ministry: Marijo Nabben reported the Cross Craft Event with the Sunday School children went over very well! The board is planning something for the advent season with the Sunday School children. As of this meeting, there are 12 family units that have expressed interesting in joining Zion. Orientation for the new members will be at 7:00 on Thursday May 4th. We are asking that as many council members as possible attend this orientation. Recognition for the new members will be Sunday May 7th with cake being served in their honor during the fellowship hour.

Christian Ed and Youth: Mike Flaagan reported that they met on April 4th. Planning with the help of Pathways is being done for a VBS one day camp. Discussion continues on possible new plans for confirmation.

Public Relations: Darlene Hulteen asked that if any of the boards have still not had their group pictures taken for the directory to get in touch with her to set a time. There's been no more word from the person working on the website. Darlene is asking that no personal cell numbers or email address be published on the website. The second round for directory picture taking will be May 11th, 12th, and 13th.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm after praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Deb Holtan, Council Secretary

**But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
Whose confidence is in Him.**

Jeremiah 17:7

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9 SAIL Exercise 4:30 Girls Scouts 6:30 Den meetings	2 9-12 FC Nurse Hours 9:30 Staff Meeting 11 Ev/Lay meeting Noon Pastors Text Study BOARD MEETINGS 1:30 Parish Health 5:30 Ed meeting 6:30 Parish Fellowship	3 9:30 Coffee with Staff 1 Fleece Blanket workday 5 Confirmation Supper 6 Confirmation 6 God's Joy Choir 7 Senior Choir	4 9 SAIL Exercise 2-4:30 LSS respite care* 1 Quilting/LWR workshop 7 ORIENTATION FOR NEW MEMBERS	5 8 Men's Breakfast/Biff's	6 LWR pickup 8am-12 noon
7 NEW MEMBERS/ ROGATION 9 Zion Holy Communion Worship/ God's Joy sings 10:00 Sunday School 10 Coffee fellowship 10 Blood Pressure Screen 11 Silver Creek Worship 1 Diane Johnson Voice Recital 7 Laura Rude Voice Recital	8 9 SAIL Exercise MAY 9-13 FALLS DELIVERED MEALS WEEK FOR ZION 6:30 Den meetings	9 9-12 FC Nurse Hours Noon Pastors Text Study	10 5 Confirmation Supper 6 Confirmation (last class) 6 God's Joy Choir 7 Senior Choir	11 9 SAIL Exercise 2-4:30 LSS respite care* 2-8:30 Directory Photos	12 8 Men's Breakfast/Biff's 2-8:30 Directory Photos	13 10-4 Directory Photos
14 MOTHER'S DAY/LAST SS 9 Zion Worship/ SS Sings 10 Last Day Sunday School 10 June Sharing Servants 11 Silver Creek Worship	15 9 SAIL Exercise 6:30 Den meetings	16 9-12 FC Nurse Hours 10 WELCA Prayer Breakfast/ WELCA Board mtg 9:30 Staff Meeting Noon Pastors Text Study 5:30 ZION COUNCIL 6:30 Boy Scouts in fellow- ship hall	17 6 God's Joy Choir 7 Senior Choir	18 9 SAIL Exercise 1 Quilting 2-4:30 LSS respite care*	19 8 Men's Breakfast/Biff's	20 Newsletter Items Due
21 SENIOR RECOGNITION 9 Zion Holy Communion Worship/ Baptisms/ Sr Choir 9:30 Silver Creek council 10 Food & Fellowship 10 CPR presentation/Parish Nurse 11 Silver Creek Holy Communion Worship	22 9 SAIL Exercise	23 9-12 FC Nurse Hours 9:30 Staff Meeting 10:30 Bereavement Group Noon Pastors Text Study 1:30 TRCC HC 2:30 Oakland Park HC	24	25 9 SAIL Exercise 2-4:30 LSS respite care*	26 8 Men's Breakfast/Biff's	27
28 DAY OF PENTECOST 9:00 Zion Worship 11 Silver Creek Worship	29 MEMORIAL DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	30 9-12 FC Nurse Hours 9:30 Staff Meeting Noon Pastors Text Study	31		SUNDAY BROADCASTS: 9:00 AM KTRF RADIO 9:00 AM CABLE CH. 3 12 NOON CABLE CH. 37	