

Going to Africa

Dear friends in Christ,

The count down for the journey to Ethiopia has begun, and in two weeks we will be in the land of thirteen months of sunshine. There are five members of our congregation who will be taking this trip. They are, Lois Bergland, Glenice Johnson, Vernice Nelson, Durelle Storhaug and Pastor Ale. There are also three other people who will be joining us on this journey.



We will be leaving on January 16 from the Twin Cities and flying Washington, DC; then after spending the night, on January 17 we will board Ethiopian Airline at noon for twelve hour flight to Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital city and arrive on Tuesday at 8:25 AM local time. On the 19th of January there is the feast of Epiphany, Ethiopia's most celebrated holiday which we are going to attend. It is easiest and convenient for foreigners to see and enjoy. Then the next day we will meet the young Ethiopian girls we have been supporting and take them shopping at Mercato, Africa's largest open-air market.

On January 23rd we will fly to the city of Bahar Dar to visit some Monasteries on the island of Lake Tana. We will also visit the Blue Nile Falls which is one of Ethiopia's best known tourist attractions.

After spending two days at Bahar Dar, we will fly to central Ethiopia to a place called Lalibala to visit eleven rock-hewn churches, built in solid rock in the twelve century. This is also is known as the 8th wonder of the world. Then, the following day, we will fly to Axum, the sight of Ethiopia's most ancient city to visit monuments built before the birth of Christ and St. Mary's Zion church which is known as the house of the original Ark of the Covenant.

When we return from our tour to these historical sights, we will spend few days in Addis Ababa. During those days, we will have an opportunity to visit the Ethiopian Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, churches, schools and orphanages. We are planning to take some school supplies for children and we appreciate if you can help us with that. Finally, please continue to give to our mission fund so that we can continue to reach out and expand our ministry far beyond our boundaries.

Have a happy new year.

Pastor Ale



Zion Lutheran Church Parish Planning Council Minutes December 20, 2010

The Parish Planning Council was called to order by President Connie Hamre at 7:00 P.M. In attendance: Pastor John Golv, Deb Howe, Deb Holtan, Amber Holtan, Sarah Harper, Marijo Nabben, Connie Hamre, Bonnie Yost, and Karen Thygeson. Roll was answered by our favorite Christmas memory.

Devotions were led by Bonnie Yost and next month will be given by Chris Ueland.

Bonnie Yost moved to accept the secretary's minutes, seconded and carried.

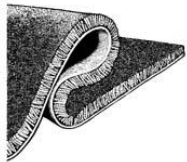
President Hamre reviewed the treasurer's report. Discussion held regarding Zion's budget for next year compared to our income predictions. The stewardship committee will be contacting those that have not submitted their pledge cards. It has been suggested that the budget be set up quarterly for review.

Public Relations Board: Deb Howe reported December is Zion's month to support the local food shelf. Work is ongoing for the new church directory and dates to sign up have been posted.

Lay Ministry/Evangelism Board: Deb Holtan reviewed the intended budget for next year.

Christian Education/Youth Board: Amber Holtan reports the Christmas Sunday School Program was a success. Sunday School will have two weeks off during the Holidays.

Fellowship Board: Bonnie Yost thanked all who helped make the Simply Giving program another huge success this year and is looking forward to continuing this project again next year. She reported over 100 people were helped this year.



Properties Board: Marijo Nabben reported for the committee and stated the new carpet has been put in the lounge. The sound system is being worked on.

Youth Director: Sarah Harper reported on activities that our youth had participated in this past month, and appreciates the youth's participation of these activities.

Pastors' Report: Pastor John Golv reported that three new computers have been installed and now in use. He also reviewed upcoming planned church events.

Bonnie Yost moved to include Silver Creek in the new church directory; seconded and carried.



President Hamre reminded all of the upcoming annual meeting to be held on January 30th and also the potluck to be held that day.

Deb Howe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 P.M. followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Next Parish Council Meeting will be January 18 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Karen Thygeson, Secretary



President's Message

My hope for you all, is a Happy New Year, and that 2011 has all you hope for, in it.

As we start that new year, we are planning for the Annual Meeting and potluck dinner. We will make a report on the last year, and will be projecting the budget for next year. Now is the time for us to pause, and look at what direction we want our church to take. We are looking at more expenses with 2 pastors, but unfortunately our pledges are down. The Treasurer and her group are working hard on the budget and need the pledges to know what can be done. Yes, I know I am preaching to the choir, and that times are hard. I would like you, to join me, in encouraging all that have not pledged, to do so.

As you know, Pastor Ale and his group are taking a trip to Ethiopia. I have to admit the adventure sounds exciting. The warm climate in the middle of winter, is especially inviting. I wish them well, and will look forward to hearing of their experiences and getting a change to see the pictures.

Speaking of pictures. As I sure you know, we will be making a new church directory. I treasure those books, and often refer to them, when a name escapes me. We are really happy that we will be doing a special book, in conjunction with the Silver Creek church. The special relationship we have grown with them has been friendly and, well, just cool! The committee will soon be scheduling appointments for the camera time. It is a huge job, and it helps them when we line up our appointment.

God Bless you all, each and every one!

Courage in Christ

Connie Hamre, President



Church Directory

We have selected Lifetouch Church Directories to produce our new directory and are excited to announce photography dates for our new pictorial directory.

- Tuesday to Friday – March 1-4 – 2:30-9:00 PM
- Saturday – March 5 – 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- Tuesday, March 8 – 2:30-9:00 PM
- Thursday – Friday - March 10 -11 – 2:30-9:00 PM
- Saturday – March 12 – 10:00-4:30 PM
- Tuesday – Wednesday May 3 - 4 – 2:30-9:00 PM **only for those who will be gone over the winter.**

Members will be able to sign up for photo dates before the 8:30 and 10:30 services on January 16, January 23 and January 30.

If you can help by calling members for photo dates or by host/hostessing one of the photography sessions, call:

Darlene Hulteen – 681-1047 or 689-8921

Email – dhulteen@mncable.net

Can You Read This?

if yuo can raed tihs, you hvae a sgtrane mnid, too.

Can you raed tihs? Olny 55 plepoe out of 100 can.

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Where is the Safest Place to Be?

1. Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
5. Of the remaining 33% of all deaths occur in hospitals, so above all else, avoid hospitals.

But you will be pleased to learn that only 001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, the safest place for you to be is at Church! So – GO TO CHURCH. IT WILL SAVE YOUR LIFE.