

Look up Mark 1:14 and 15.

It is still Lent. For centuries Christian people have walked the walk of their faith during Lent by way of repentance.

She felt guilty her whole life. When she was a young woman she transgressed and she knew it. She called it what it was, a sin, and kept it to herself her whole life. She could have minimized it, or talked herself into believing it wasn't really so bad. She didn't do that. She could have tried to forget about it, but that was not possible. In fact, she suffered with it, year after year.

She also could have taken the church's word of forgiveness to heart, and realized that even though she remembered, God did not. Part of repentance is taking Jesus at his word, that sins are forgiven.

Are you holding on to a sin? Do you have nagging guilt as an everyday companion? Repentance is always possible. Forgiveness is God's promise. The guilt is only a leftover. Forgiven people are in fact free.

Look up Luke 22:5.

We are close to the beginning of Easter. For centuries Christian people have walked the walk of their faith by way of rejoicing.

He had always been a happy person. Even on dark days there was more reason for happiness in the long run than gloom in the short run. Everything could always be worse. The Gospel for this person is this: Salvation moves us past natural optimism all the way to godly rejoicing.

The resurrection of Jesus makes for more than a good day. It means that God in heaven is as good as his Word, forever. There are no reasons to look for the living among the dead.

This month is one to walk the walk. We walk the way of repentance in Lent. We walk the way of rejoicing in Easter. Even more than the optimistic bright side are the promises of God, which are true and true for us.

In Christ,

Pastor John Golv

## President's Message

Millie Reiersen



As the Lenten season continues, some people give up something for Lent, like meat or chocolate. Why don't we add something, like a couple hours of volunteer work, a few extra dollars on the offering plate or more time in prayer and Bible study.

As Christians, we are fortunate to know how the end turns out. God loves us and has redeemed us! We need to share that news with those around us. Invite someone to church and welcome them to worship with us.

Blessing in Christ! Millie R



**Zion Lutheran Church  
Parish Planning Council Minutes  
February 19, 2013**

The Parish Planning Council was called to order by President Millie Reiersen at 7:00 P.M. In attendance: President Reiersen, Pastor John Golv, Pastor Ale Tulu, Joel Rude, Deb Holtan, Sarah Knopf, Karen Thygeson, Connie Hamre, Ginny Armstrong, Amber Holtan, Deb Howe, Sharon Jorde, Penni Nelson, and Tim Numedahl

Pastor Golv began our meeting with devotions.

President Millie read a letter from Lutheran Social Services of MN CEO, Jodi Harpstead, thanking Zion for the support we give them.

Millie also reported on a generous donation made to Zion by the Gordon M. Odegaard estate. There was discussion regarding how to use the funds. Ginny Armstrong made a motion to use whatever is needed from the donation, as designated by the Properties Board, to complete the shingling and roof repair project. The motion was seconded and carried.

The January 15, 2013 secretary's minutes were presented. Sharon Jorde made a motion to accept the secretary's minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Ginny Armstrong and filed for audit.

**Youth Director:** Sarah Knopf reported that her last Sunday will be March 3<sup>rd</sup>. She also reported that the ski trip to Buena Vista will be this weekend and the Seder meal will be March 28<sup>th</sup>.

There are a couple of applicants for the position of Youth Director. The Synod will conduct the background checks on applicants.

**Public Relations:** Deb Howe reported that Jodi Bergman has updated Zion's website. Darlene Hulteen and Diane Baune are updating Zion's history.

**Worship Board:** Sharon Jorde submitted the board minutes. She also stated that Lenten services are underway.

**Silver Creek:** Penni Nelson made a suggestion to offer parishioners a chance to purchase a bundle of shingles to help with the cost of Zion's shingling project. She said it worked well at Silver Creek.

**Properties Board:** Joel Rude said they have a couple of estimates related to the shingling project and the cost will be approximately \$61,000. Joel also said they have not received any custodial applications. He said Wayne Bjerken is still doing some of the work.

**Pastors' Report:** Pastor Ale reported that the first communion class will begin March 10<sup>th</sup>. He also reported that February is his month to visit the care centers.

Pastor Golv submitted his report.

Millie reported that we still need nominations for the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> VP. She also reported on the Synod Council meeting which she attended last weekend. Election of a new bishop will be at the Synod Assembly meeting June 7-9. Four representatives are needed from Zion.

On March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 8:30 service, the Sunday School children will sing in honor of Sarah. Cake and coffee will be served between services in appreciation of her service and dedication to Zion and our youth.

The church board meetings will be held March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 followed by the Lord's Prayer. Next Parish Council Meeting will be March 19, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.

Pam Cwikla, Secretary

## **ZLCW News**

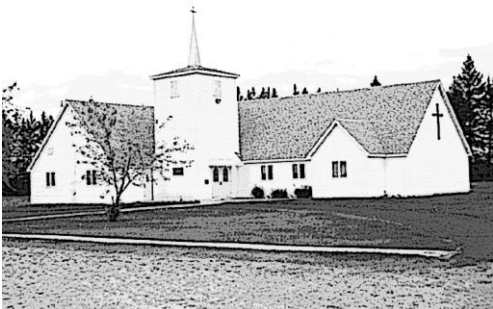
Valentines carnations were delivered to thirty-two of Zion's shut-ins at nursing homes or their private residence. Also, eight Valentine cards were mailed to those out-of-town. Appreciation was expressed to the ladies that delivered them.

Cluster 2 Spring Gathering will be April 20 at Silver Creek. Registration is from 8:30 -9:00. Cost is \$6 which includes morning coffee & noon luncheon. Jim & Jan Strandlie will present highlights of their trip to seven countries in Europe where they took special notice of churches and cathedrals.

Remember items for the Personal Care Kit. Lutheran World Relief pickup is May 4.

Our Lenten suppers continue with Dorcas Circle serving March 6, Elizabeth Circle March 13, Sarah Circle March 20.

ZLCW will meet March 12 and duties for March are: Program/Anna; Hostess/Esther; Hospitality/Rebecca; Visitation/Dorcas at Valley Home. Please join us as we meet at noon.



## **Silver Creek News**

Reminder, we are invited to attend Lenten Services at Zion each Wednesday at 6:30. Supper begins at 5:30. Church council will meet after services on March 10. The women will meet March 17 following services for a business meeting and to work on mission quilts.

We have agreed to serve the cluster 2 Women of the ELCA Spring gathering at Silver Creek on April 20th. Details of our responsibilities will be discussed at the March 17th meeting.



Our Fifth Annual Good Friday Prayer Vigil is on Friday, March 29th. We would like the day to be one of continuous praying and meditation. All you have to do is sign up for a time slot and meditate in silence. Anyone and everyone is invited, and walk-ins are more than welcome. There will be booklets available to use. Also there will be prayer request slips for anyone that has a prayer concern. Please feel free to write down anything that you would like the group to pray for. These slips will be privately read and prayed for during the vigil and then hung on the cross.

If you have not experienced this, please join us for a very moving experience.

## **THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU**

Thank you to members of Rebekeh circle for its generous financial support at the Lenten supper on February 20. The LCW uses the free will offering to pay 1/2 of the fees of our young people going to Bible camp. And -- God only knows -- what time spent at Bible camp will mean in the lives of young people. God bless each of you.

Gladys Hallmstrom

## **THRIVENT MEMBERS REMINDER**

Please check your designation of Thrivent Choice Dollars (from 2012) by March 31, 2013. To do so by phone, call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice." At the prompt, say "Choice Dollars." Ask for the amount of dollars you are eligible to designate and give the name of the charity or church you want to receive your dollars as a contribution. You can also go to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com); to Thrivent Community, then Thrivent Choice and follow the instructions.

## **Teaching the Easter Story**

In the last days of Lent, you'll want to make sure children understand the importance of Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter. Use this craft project to teach children the Easter story.

- Fill an empty egg carton with 12 plastic Easter eggs.
- Number the eggs 1-12 with a marker or colorful stickers.
- Inside each egg, place an item from the list below with its number as well as the corresponding Bible verse.



1. **A green leaf or palm frond:** The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet hi, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord – the King of Israel!” (John 12:12-13)
2. **Cotton ball sprayed with perfume:** Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured in on his head as he sat at the table (Matthew 26:6-7).
3. **Coins:** Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-15).
4. **Crouton or small piece of bread:** While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it, gave it to the disciples an, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body” (Matthew 26:26).
5. **A piece of purple fabric:** And they clothed him in a purple cloak (Mark 15:17a).
6. **Thorns or toothpick:** And after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” (Matthew 27:29)
7. **A small cross:** Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgatha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them (John 19:16-18).
8. **Sponge soaked in vinegar:** At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink (Mathew 27:48).
9. **Small stone:** They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back (Mark 16:3-4).
10. **Piece of white cloth:** They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews (John 19:40).
11. **Cinnamon, cloves or other spices:** When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb (Mark 16:1-2).
12. **Leave one egg empty:** As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side. and they were alarmed. But he said to the, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him (Mark 16:5-6).

Once complete, open one egg each day, timing the 12<sup>th</sup> egg to be opened on Easter.



## Be a Hero, Fight Hunger

The March Campaign, Minnesota FoodShare's statewide fund and food drive, is a compassionate effort benefiting local food shelves in communities throughout the state. For 31 years, the campaign has depended on everyday local heroes to succeed. The March Campaign is the only statewide effort where every dollar given goes to local food shelves to fight hunger.

This year, Minnesota FoodShare's goal is to raise \$1 million to give directly to local food shelves. The March Campaign raises more than half the food distributed by Minnesota food shelves.

- More than 547,000 Minnesotans received food support in October 2012.
- The number of children eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has increased 150 percent since December 2006, making children the fastest growing population of SNAP participants in our state.
- The three main programs of hunger relief in Minnesota – good stamps, food shelves and subsidized school lunches – all saw record levels of use in 2012.

On Sunday, March 17, Kikki Anderson, administrator of our local food shelf, will share information about the Thief River Falls Area Food Shelf and how it benefits from Minnesota FoodShare. A free-will offering will be taken for Minnesota FoodShare and our local food shelf.

For more information on Minnesota FoodShare, go to: [mnfoodshare.gmcc.org/march.php](http://mnfoodshare.gmcc.org/march.php)

