



January 2016

No 1

Jesus' Baptism and Ours



Who are you?

That question can be answered in several ways. I am the oldest of two. My sister Naomi manages Burnhaven Library just outside of the Burnsville Mall. Both my parents had tuberculosis, my mother quite seriously, and they were advised by the doctor that they will not be able to have children.

In fact, adoption procedures with Lutheran Social Service of Montana were well underway when I was announced. At that time there were lots of babies available for adoption. The LSS man had said that he could find a light skinned, blonde, blue-eyed baby to honor my folks' Norwegian heritage.

He saw me in the hospital and said, "I could have done better than that."

Another way to answer the question is to claim our Christian heritage. Why are we baptized? Jesus commanded it (Matthew 18:19). Our baptisms make us children of God. Our baptisms make Jesus our brother. Our baptisms unite us with the death and the resurrection of Jesus (Romans 6:3-5). Baptism unites us with the whole people of God.

That is who we are.

So the year turns. We can say we are another year older. True. We can say that God will be gracious again this year. True. We can say that it is our baptisms that make us who we are, and to whom we belong.

We are the people of God (Revelation 21:3).

Pastor John



President's Message Millie Reiersen

God's blessings to each and every member of our congregation! We are at a critical point in our music worship. Diane Johnson resigned as Senior Choir director, and we need another organist/pianist to help Phyllis and Laura. We have ordered CD's for the hymns and liturgy as a backup plan.

In mid-January we will interview for the position of youth director. Our hope is to present a candidate at the annual meeting on January 31. God bless each and every person who contributes to our mission of spreading the Gospel to the world.

See you in church!
Millie Reiersen

Reminder – Reminder – Reminder - Reminder

BOARD CHAIRS, TREASURERS, ETC. of organizations – please have your annual report in by January 11, typed and ready for printing. You can email them to Linda at ziontrf@mncable.net if you would like.

Church Directory



WE NEED YOU!!!!

Please be part of Zion's new church directory. Be part of Zion's celebration of 125 years of ministry in Thief River Falls. Included in the directory will be pictures of Zion's past ministry and pictures of the 125th anniversary.

All of the January dates have been filled. **Two new dates have been added: Wednesday, February 10 and Thursday, April 28. February 12 and February 13** are still available. New dates will be added **if** these are filled.

You can signup online at ziontrf.org - click on the blue box and follow the directions – or call Darlene Hulteen at 681 – 1047.

Even if you don't like having your picture taken, please remember that the directory is a tool to knowing our fellow Zion members.



February is Zion's Food Shelf Month

February 1 – 5

February is Zion's month to help deliver meals for Falls Delivered Meals. If you can help deliver meals that week, please call Darlene Hulteen at 681-1047.

ZLCW NEWS



The January meeting of the ZLCW will be Tuesday, January 12 at noon. The executive board meets at 11:00 AM, and the circle Bible Study leaders meet following the ZLCW meeting.

Duties for January are:

- Program – Lydia
- Hostess – Sarah
- Hospitality – Rebekah
- Visitation – Dorcas at the Thief River Falls Care Center

The Women of Zion donated \$4,000 to the Faith Fund and started a fund for a carpet for the Fellowship Hall, donating \$4,000.

Pastor Golv installed officers for 2016:

President – JoAnn Offerdahl

Secretary – Jeanne Williams

Treasure – Ginny Armstrong

The schedule for Lenten Suppers is as follows:

- February 10 - Ash Wednesday - Anna circle
- February 17 – Dorcas
- February 24 – Catered
- March 2 – Elizabeth
- March 9 – Sarah
- March 24 - Seder Supper- Lydia Circle.

The Syttende Mai Supper is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18.





**Zion Lutheran Church
Parish Planning Council Minutes
December 15, 2015**

The Parish Planning Council meeting was called to order by President Millie Reiersen at 5:30 pm. In attendance: President Millie Reiersen, Pastor John Golv, Pastor Ale Tulu, Pam Cwikla, Barbara Overbye, Ken Kalsnes, Deb Howe, Tim Numedahl, Kristi Numedahl, Sharon Jorde, Connie Hamre, Deb Holtan, Karen Thygeson, Amber Holtan, and Penny Nelson from Silver Creek Church.

Millie Reiersen gave devotions.

A motion was made by Connie Hamre and seconded by Ken Kalsnes to accept the November 17th Parish Planning Council minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Barbara Overbye presented a printed treasurer's report; discussed and it was filed for audit. A letter will be mailed out this week asking members to help us balance the budget prior to the end of the year.

Millie Reiersen presented a letter from Diane Johnson resigning her position of Senior Choir Director, effective December 24th. A motion was made by Barbara Overbye and seconded by Deb Howe to accept Diane's resignation. The motion carried.

Millie reported that another application has been received for the youth director position.

Youth and Christian Education: Amber Holtan reported that things are going well. She said a ski trip is planned for juniors and seniors on February 12th. The 70+ Dinner was very successful. The Christmas program went well and the French toast breakfast was good. The date for the Kids' Sabbath has been changed from February 14th to the 21st. Noisy offering for December is for VIP and January's noisy offering will go to the Food Shelf. Amber reported that 79 Christmas boxes were made.

Amber said they would like a stand for the DVD player and they'd like some new pool cues. She reported that there are some cleaning issues which need to be addressed.

Amber reported that Roberta Kalsnes is updating the youth accounts and inquired about access to the bank account.

Passionate Planners/Lay Ministry/Evangelism Board: Ken Kalsnes reported that he is VP of the Youth Group and commended the hard work and dedication of Janae Hoffert, Jana Erickson, Amber Holtan, and Cami and Shawna Spears. He made a motion to pay a stipend of \$1000 from the unspent salary of the Youth Director to be divided among these individuals who have carried out these duties in the absence of the Youth Director. Connie Hamre seconded the motion. The motion did not carry.

Ken also reported that Muriel Olen is resigning as chair of the New Traditions board. The New Traditions Board will carry on as is. They will elect a new chairperson.

Ken requested a budget allowance for the New Traditions Board. After discussion, it was determined that this would require a change to the constitution so it is not feasible at this time.

Worship Board: Minutes for December 1st meeting submitted. Sharon Jorde reported the Advent services are going well. She said the candelabras have been ordered.

Parish Fellowship: Kristi Numedahl reported that \$1280 was raised at the pie auction.

Stewardship Board: Connie Hamre reported that 103 pledges have been received.

Public Relations: Deb Howe reported that callers are busy making appointments for photos.

Silver Creek: Penny Nelson reported that there will not be a December council meeting at Silver Creek. She said the Advent readings are going well. Also the Christmas program and the potluck meal went well.

Pastors Report: Pastor Ale requested prayers for Connie Ferber, Bernice Trachman and Donna Martinson. He commented on the success of the Holiday Train and reported that Zion provided cookies for the event. Ale reported that a new pastor is starting at St. Johns church.

Pastor Golv reported that we are in need of an organist and until we find someone, we will be using recorded music.

Millie reported that the Annual Meeting will be held January 31st at 9:30.

The budget will be reviewed line by line at the next Parish Planning meeting.

Pastor Ale requested that Millie speak at temple talk at the next couple of Sunday services to update the congregation on the needs of the church.

The next Parish Planning Council meeting will be January 19th at 5:30.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Pam Cwikla, Secretary



Silver Creek

Looking back on 2015 we have lots to be thankful for and hope that 2016 will bring a great year once again for our congregation. We will have our annual meeting on January 10th following church. A potluck dinner is planned following the annual meeting. Please get reports sent to Kristi Housey for the annual report.

The officers of the WELCA will meet and plan the year soon. Any suggestions for the coming year would be welcome by the officers. The program books will be available at the church when printed.

Bev Rupprecht

Sunday School News :



Sunday School will resume Sunday, January 10th, and we will be learning the Lord's Prayer!

Next Kid's Sabbath will be February 21st at the 10:30 service.

January 6th:

Jr.High Youth Group 3-5 (Grades 6-8th)
Sr. High Youth Group 7-9 (9th-12th grade)

January 13th:

Jr.High Youth Group 3-5 (Grades 6-8th)
Sr. High Youth Group 7-9 (9th-12th grade)

January 20th:

Jr.High Youth Group 3-5 (Grades 6-8th)
Sr. High Youth Group 7-9 (9th-12th grade)

January 25th:

K-5 Event 3-5, the church van will pick the youth up at Challenger and bring them back to Zion for activities. If your youth would like to attend please let Amber or Jana know by Friday January 22nd.

January 27th:

Jr.High Youth Group 3-5 (Grades 6-8th)
Sr. High Youth Group 7-9 (9th-12th grade)



Confirmation:

We will be back in full swing with Confirmation on Wednesday January 6th. Supper will be served from 5:30-6 with a cost of \$2 for the supper and 50 cents for pop.

January 6th: Hot Ham and Cheese, Chips and Pickle



Please watch bulletin/Remind for the supper menu for the following weeks.

There will be no Confirmation February 3 due to early out from school.

February 10th is the start of Lent with Ash Wednesday.

**Noisy Offering for January
will go to our
Little Brother Little Sister of Pennington County**

Little Brother Little Sister of Pennington County (LBLS) is a youth mentoring program that focuses on the needs of the children ages 4-18. The mission of LBLS is to build a relationship between a child and an adult mentor who will be an advisor and friend on the journey to adulthood. Our goal at LBLS is to provide a relationship that values and supports our youth. Mentoring relationships have proven to prevent juvenile crime, increase school success, and decrease juvenile depression. Our children are our future and it's never too late to invest in them.

