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Be all that you can be

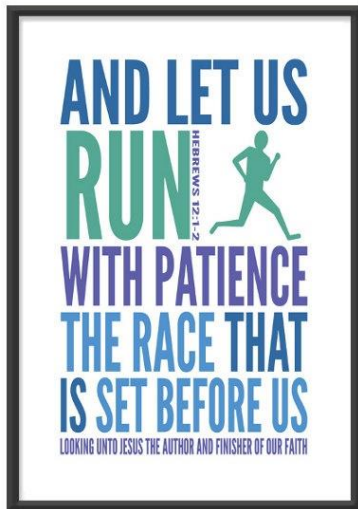
Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us. Hebrew 12:1

Every third week of April on Monday morning, I stay home and watch the Boston marathon. The Boston marathon is one of the greatest marathon in the world. One of the reasons that I stay home and watch this race is that there are always runners from Ethiopia who take part in this race and I want to see how they are doing and cheering for them.

Ethiopians have worldwide recognition and admiration in marathon and distance running. We have a great legendary runner like Abebe Bikela, who won twice in Olympic marathon. In fact, Ethiopians have a song that says, “Marathon is like a queen and Ethiopia is like a king. “They belong to each other.

I, myself have run lots of marathons in my days, including the Boston marathon. My best time is 2:17. The last marathon I run was over five years ago. I am not the lean, slim, all American runner I use to be. Because of lack of time and exercise and too many church dinners, I have gained lots of weight, which has made out of shape. To run the 26.2-mile marathon race and win or even finish takes a lot of hard work. Any athlete who is determined to run this race must train regularly and exercise daily. Otherwise, it will be hard to attain the goal.

Christian life and journey is like being involved in an intense athletic contest. It is like running a marathon race. The apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthians, said, “Don’t you know that in a race the runners run, but only one gets the prize. Run in such a way that you may win it.” 1 Corinthians 9:24. Paul uses the image of the Olympic Games, which was common in his time and familiar to his readers, to encourage them to work hard and to bring out the best in their spiritual lives.



This message is for us too, especially to those who are sitting on the sidelines like spectators and letting a few do the work of ministry in the church. It is not enough just to be a member of the church, or for that matter, to come to church and hear the word of God, give offering, and go home. We need to get involved and do our best wherever we are needed. When we do our best, we get the best result. So, Paul’s message is about not to be content with what we do but to strive for spiritual excellence in every good work we are called to do. It is about being all that God wants us to be by being actively involved in our church mission and ministry. This is not an easy task. It requires great sacrifice and commitment. But as Paul tells us, the reward is great. Therefore, let us serve the Lord to the best of our abilities so that when our time comes and we are ready to depart from this world, we may say like Paul, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me.” Amen!

Have a blessed spring season.

Pastor Ale



President's Message

Millie Reiersen

At the last Parish Planning Council meeting, a plan to renovate the Fellowship Hall was approved. After Sunday school is done for the year, we will get the walls painted and the carpet replaced with carpet tiles and laminate flooring. The total cost to the project will be about \$4 per square foot. If you would like to donate to the project, as the ZLCW has, drop off your donations with Linda in the church office.

Our search for a youth director continues. I want to thank all the folks that have stepped up and filled some of the gaps to keep our programs going. The Personnel Committee has met and we are trying some different avenues and locations to find that right someone for Zion.

The spring-cleaning project has gone wonderfully! Thanks to everyone who took a room and gave it that extra touch. God bless each and every person who contributes to our mission of spreading the Gospel to the world. Keep each other in your prayers as I keep you in mine.

See you in church!
Millie

Church Directory

Wednesday, April 27 has been added for directory pictures. We must have fifteen (15) families scheduled before Lifetouch will send photographers for that day. So far there are seven families scheduled.

You may schedule a session online at ziontrf.org or contact Darlene at 681-1047 or dhulteen@mncable.net



Submitted Pictures - If you have photos to submit to the directory, please contact Darlene for specifics. **Deadline extended to April 15**

ZLCW NEWS



- The April meeting of ZLCW will be April 12 at 12:00 Noon. Duties are: Program: Anna, Hostess: Dorcas, Hospitality: Lydia and Visitation: Sarah at Oakland Park Communities. The Executive Board meets at 11:00AM and Bible study leaders after the meeting.
- The Cluster 2 Gathering is April 16 at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Holt. Registration fee \$8:00. The speaker is Geneva Paulson, Author of the book, *Rescuing Randy*. Synodical Registration and morning coffee - 8:30-9:00AM.
- Woman's Convention - Friday & Saturday, September 16 & 17 at Perham, MN.

- First-Timer's grant application and scholarship forms for high school seniors planning to attend an ELCA collage are in the church office.
- Spring pick-up of Lutheran World Relief is Saturday, May 7.
- Trivent Choice Dollars must be used by March 31.

Rebekah Circle members

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU to all the volunteers that helped make our stew and serve the Lenten supper on March 9th. A special thanks for the generosity of cash gifts that were given. We paid for the groceries and gave a sizeable gift to the LCW Campership Fund that helps send our children to Bible Camp. That is one of the most important forms of ministry that can ever be offered.

Gladys Hallstrom

The Once and Future Church



The spring educational event this year will be a book study. The book is called, *The Once and Future Church*, by Loren Mead. It will be at 2:00 pm on Thursdays. Mead has been studying congregation all his life. He is the founder of the much respected Alban Institute, an organization dedicated to the good health and effectiveness of Christian congregations.

Not everyone is able to come at that 2:00 pm on Thursdays. So I will ask participants not only to read the book themselves but also give a copy to anyone they think may have an opinion on the future of Zion. If you would like a copy, just ask.

The book lays out what the author calls “paradigms.” The first paradigm we have all experienced Mead calls “Christendom.” Christendom is a period of time we remember well. Attendance was high. Wednesdays and Sundays were always reserved.

Many of our members remember Zion as it once was (Christendom). At one time we saw many more people at worship that it does today. Zion's attendance is down by 40% from less than 20 years ago. At one time downtown businesses closed for Good Friday. At one time denominations were influential organizations.

No more. It is not clear what the future church will look like. The author is calling for the re-invention of the church.

Worship styles today vary widely, from high church liturgies to performance evangelism and everything in between. What the new church will look like is not clear and will (according to Mead) take more than one generation to build.

One pressing reality today is that that the new mission field is not far away, but right outside our doors. That was the reality when the Church was new. It may well be our reality now.

If you are able to come to church for the book study, it begins April 7th at 2:00 pm. If you are not able to come at that time, but would like to be part of the conversation, ask for a copy of the book (\$15.00) and share what you think.

My hope is that this book will help us have a productive conversation about the future of Zion Lutheran Church.



Zion Lutheran Church
Parish Planning Council Minutes
March 15, 2016

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

Pastor Ale Tulu gave devotions.

A motion was made by Sharon Jorde and seconded by Joel Rude to accept the Council minutes of February 16, 2016 as presented. The motion carried.

Barbara Overbye presented a printed treasurer's report for February 2016; discussed and filed for audit.

Barbara reported that she received a letter from Wells Fargo regarding their re-pricing structure. Currently, Zion has not been charged fees on accounts at Wells Fargo, but under their new re-pricing structure, fees could be \$250 per month. She reported that she met with a Wells Fargo representative and hopefully, these fees can be eliminated. Following discussion, recommendation was made to move Zion's accounts to Northern State Bank.

Barbara also commented that in December, a couple of checks were made out to the Food Shelf and put in the offering plate but were mistakenly deposited into Zion's account.

Passionate Planners/Lay Ministry/Evangelism Board: Deb Holtan reported that Pastor Alvin Erickson contacted her regarding an organized program to pray for our children. Zion would be the first church in our area to participate in this program. Deb will present further information at the next PPC meeting.

Deb also reported a revision to the number of prayer shawls blessed. The total of most recently blessed shawls was 59 which brought the total made to 169 shawls since the beginning just 2 years ago.

Deb commented that more people are needed to sign up for the Prayer Vigil which will be held on Good Friday.

Ken Kalsnes commented that cleaning the church is going well.

Ken also reported that there will be eleven New Traditions Wednesday night services from June 8 – August 24 (no service July 6). The theme will be "Food, Family, Faith, Friends". Dinner will be served at 5:30 and church at 6:15. There will be two kids' nights, June 15 and August 27.

Tim Numedahl reported that he had been asked about the status of hiring a youth director. Millie reported that she spoke with Redeemer's new pastor, Ben, regarding sharing a youth director. Pastor Ben is open to it. Joel Rude spoke with a member of Trinity who thought they would also be interested. Pastor Ale reported that Pathway's Pastor Steve Peterson has a recommendation so Ale will get more information.

Properties Board: Board minutes were submitted. Joel Rude reported that a grounds committee has been formed and they will present their recommendations to the Properties Board.

Joel reported that he has been working with Jared Kalsnes at Paint & Glass on estimates for flooring in the Fellowship Hall. The complete project estimate is \$14,364. Donations will be requested from the congregation for \$4 per square foot. Information will be printed in the church bulletin. Millie suggested a display be set up for the congregation to view.

Joel commented that he received an inquiry pertaining to a handicapped accessible bathroom in the basement. Joel is looking into it.

Silver Creek: Penni Nelson reported the church cleaning has been scheduled. She will check if June 12th will work to schedule the joint service and potluck dinner with Zion.

Public Relations Board: Board minutes submitted. Deb Howe reminded everyone that items for the newsletter are to be in to Darlene Hulteen by March 20th. She reported that Darlene will take pictures of all the boards. Deb commented that April is Food Shelf month. She also reported that the ad has been submitted for Easter week.

Worship Board: Board meeting minutes were submitted. Sharon Jorde reported there is one Lenten service left.

Pastor Golv presented information on the ultimate worship music solution "Hymnal Plus". A motion was presented to accept the Worship Board's motion for a 30-day trial of Hymnal Plus and pending purchase. The motion carried.

Pastors Report: Pastor John submitted his schedule. He reported that Bishop Wohlrabe will be here tomorrow. Pastor John said he is very pleased with the Lenten services. He reminded everyone that Maundy Thursday's Seder meal for 1st communion students is open to everyone.

Pastor Ale reported there are 12 students in the 1st communion class. He suggested sending something to Florence Moyer from Zion or the board, in memory of Henry Moyer. Pastor Ale reported that the annual rummage sale will be moved to September 17th. He commented that Zion's semi-annual meeting is scheduled for June 26th.

President Millie reported she recently received information pertaining to Minnesota Food Share scheduled for March 19-20. Notice was received too late for their date so Zion will schedule it for March 26-27.

The next Parish Planning Council meeting will be April 19, 2016.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
Pam Cwikla, Secretary

Silver Creek



With spring around the corner it is time to spruce up the church and do some yearly cleaning. We plan to meet on April 7 at 5:30PM. We will begin with a potluck supper. This is for everyone and is a great time for fellowship along with the tasks at hand.

Anyone who is available, please meet at 3:00 PM to finish tying the quilts that are ready. This will take the place of our women's meeting for April.

The council will meet for a regular meeting following church services on April 10th.

The sign up sheet for mowing is on the bulletin board so please look at your schedule and try to find some time to help with mowing again this year.

Bev Ruprecht



Sunday School News

- Sunday School starts back up April 3rd.
- Last Day of Sunday school May 8th.
- Little Lambs -5th Grade will be singing Call to Worship at both services on Sunday May 8th.

April 6th:

No youth groups due to early out for TRF

April 13th:

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

April 20th:

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

April 25th:

K-5 Event:

The church van will pick the youth up at Challenger and bring the back to Zion for activities. If your youth would like to attend please let Amber or Jana know by Friday April 22nd



April 27th:

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

Confirmation:

No Confirmation April 6 due to an early out from school

Classes Resume April 13

Supper will be served from 5:30-6:00. The cost is \$2.00 for supper and 50 cents for pop.



Noisy Offering for April

Falls Delivered Meals

Home Delivered Meals programs prepare and deliver nutritious meals to older adults and people with disabilities who are unable to prepare the food for themselves or travel to a site where a meal is being served. There is no income criteria for this service.

Meals are delivered to homebound seniors by volunteers. Zion's volunteer schedule in 2016 includes February 1 – 5 and May 16 – 20. If you are able to deliver meals in May, contact Darlene Hulteen at 681-1047 or dhulteen@mncable.net. If you would like to volunteer for other weeks, call Betty Hanson at 681-6861.



Stay tuned for date this fall, hopefully in September.

Graduation Banquet



- Sunday, May 8 – between services
- All are invited to attend and congratulate our graduates.