



Vol. 18

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No. 2



Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10  
Especially verse 9  
Epiphany & Lent

As you may know, I have the first part of verse nine on my office wall. Paul is quoting his Lord as saying “My grace is sufficient for you.” Even if these words weren’t on the wall, they would be with me all the time.

Those few words have guided and encouraged me through many trials.

When I feel wronged in some way, the first part of 2 Corinthians 12:9, brings me back. I commend it to you for all kinds of trials in your life. Why? Because God’s grace is in fact sufficient, even more than sufficient, to any challenge we may have to face in life.

This month, please do look also at the second part of verse nine: [my] “power is made perfect in weakness.” Some see God’s power in the magnificence of creation, in miraculous displays such as the heavenly host, or in supernatural events. Some see God’s power as the main theme of the New Testament.

The Cross of Jesus Christ does not look like the power of God. On the contrary, the Cross looks like weakness, defeat, shame, humiliation. The Cross looks like death. But according to the second part of verse nine, displays of weakness are precisely where God’s power is most clearly seen.

The president of the seminary began a sermon by saying this: “There is pain in the church.” This one comment provoked tears.

The pastor who ordained me (a graduate of LHS in TRF) saw raw idealism in the eyes of new seminary graduates and it brought him to tears.

It is always acceptable to celebrate good fortune, or power or winning. These are things we admire, or copy, or publicize, like coming out on top, or beating the odds. Weakness or losing is to be hidden or covered if possible, so that it won’t be seen or heard. According to the second part of verse nine, God’s power may in fact be hidden.

You have had times of weakness in your life. There have been painful experiences: funerals, or divorces, or illnesses. They may have been known publicly, or not. Humiliating, or not. Those were the verse-nine times, when God’s grace was sufficient for you. These may have been the times when God’s power was clear to you. The times of weakness were hard, but not impossible.

A few chapters earlier in 2 Corinthians Paul had some encouraging words for difficult times. He said: (4:8) “We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed...” Idealism is important, a strong will is important. Determination and persistence do matter. These things will take us part way. God’s power will take us all the way home even in the most challenging time. Why?

Because God’s power is made perfect in weakness.

Epiphany is the season of the church year in which we recognize Jesus for who Jesus is. We may call it revelation, or realization, or introduction, but in any case all of us may have the religious experience called an epiphany.

We know who Jesus is. Jesus is the one promised. He heals. He raises the dead. He says things only God can say. He does things only God can do. Then, Luke 9:51. “He [Jesus] set his face to go to Jerusalem.”

Lent begins on the fourteenth. On Good Friday in Jerusalem God’s power was in fact made perfect in weakness.

With you in Christ’s service,  
Pastor John

- February 14 – Ash Wednesday Supper at 5:30, Worship at 6:30
- February 20 – Parish Planning
- February 21 – Lenten Supper – 5:30, Worship – 6:30
- February 28 – Lenten Supper - 5:30, Worship – 6:30
- March 30 - Good Friday – Prayer Vigil
- April 1 – Easter



Lenten Services will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14 with a supper at 5:30 and worship at 6:30. The Lenten message will again be Round Robin. Local pastors and pastors from Oklee, Plummer, and Red Lake Falls will be participating. Check the bulletin for more information.



**Offering Envelopes:** Everyone has been issued a new offering/envelope number for 2018. Please do not use boxed envelopes from the previous year after January 1. Envelopes are recorded by number. If your name is not on the envelope, the contribution will be credited to whoever has that number in 2018.



**President's Message**  
**Millie Reiersen**

God's blessings to all of you.

Go for the Gold! In the next few weeks we will be cheering on athletes from around the world as they compete in the Winter Olympics. Remember to pray for their safety as they are near one of the most volatile and unsettled countries in the world.

As you root for your favorite athlete, team or country, don't forget about Team Zion. We need you join our boards, participate in our activities and attend our worship services. Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. Easter will be on April 1st this year.

Thank you our staff, our lay leaders, our volunteers and our congregation for contributing your time, talents and money to keep Zion active in our mission of sharing and living God's Gospel.

Remember to pray for our staff, our Parish Planning Council and all the members of Zion as we share God's Love and Grace with those around us.

See you in Church!

President – Millie Reierson



## ZLCW NEWS

The women of Zion will hold their monthly meeting and Bible study on Tuesday, February 13, at 10:00 a.m.

Duties for February meeting:

Program: Elizabeth, Hostess: Rebekah, Hospitality: Sarah, and Visitation: 2 women from each circle to deliver Valentine carnations to our shut-in's.

Executive board meets at 9:00 a.m. prior to the meeting.

### **Lutheran World Relief Workdays**

Join us on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. to work on quilts, school kits, personal care kits, and baby care kits. Everyone is welcome and no special talent is required. Kits and quilts are prepared for shipments in November and May.

### **Lenten Suppers**

The schedule for our 2018 Lenten suppers is as follows:

- February 14 - Macaroni, hamburger, tomato hot dish - Anna Circle
- February 21 - Scalloped potatoes - catered
- February 28 - Chicken ala King - Dorcas Circle
- March 7 - Tater Tot hot dish - Elizabeth Circle
- March 14 - Beef Stew - Rebekah Circle
- March 21 - Chili - Sarah Circle
- March 28 - no supper
- March 29 - Seder meal for confirmands - Lydia Circle

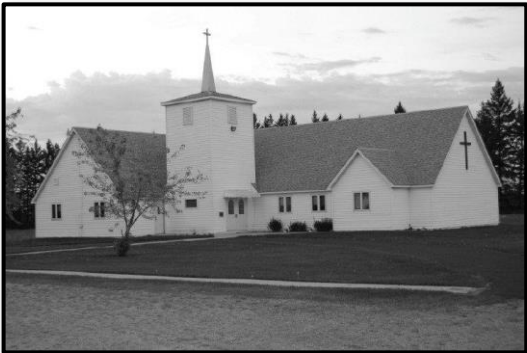


## Lenten Collection for Personal Care Kits

We will again be collecting items for the Personal Care Kits. They are assembled and sent to Lutheran World Relief in May. Each kit requires a bath towel, adult-size toothbrush, nail clipper, sturdy comb, and two bars of bath-sized soap (4-5oz). *The bath towel may be used but in good condition.* If you wish, all items may brought at once or an item each week. A container will be available to collect your items.



**Thank you** for your contribution.



## Silver Creek

We look forward to 2018 and continuing to work together as a congregation to make our year a productive one. The annual meeting was held in January and for those who were unable to attend, there are copies of the annual report on the back table. All officers will remain the same as last year. The council will meet on February 11 following morning services.

WELCA officers met to plan our upcoming year, and the program booklets will be available as soon as they are printed. We will meet on Thursday February 8, at 3:00 PM for quilting and 5:30 PM for a light supper and our regular meeting. Our Bible study will be "Listening to the Young" from our book *Growing Older and Wiser*.

Bev Rupprecht



**Zion Lutheran  
Parish Planning Council Minutes  
January 16, 2018**

The Parish Planning Council meeting was called to order by President Millie Reierson at 5:30 pm. In attendance: President Millie Reierson, Pastor Golv, Pastor Ale Tulu, Tim Numedahl, Deb Howe, Karen Thygeson, Glenice Johnson, Deb Holtan, Amber Holtan, Sharon Jorde, Barbara Overbye and Pam Cwikla.

Pastor John gave devotions.

The minutes from the December 19, 2017 Council meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Glenice Johnson and seconded by Sharon Jorde to accept the minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Barbara presented the Treasurer's Report. The budget was met for 2017. The report was filed for audit.

**PARISH FELLOWSHIP:** Glenice reported that the Sharing Servant booklets will now cover 3 years. Previously they covered 2 years.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Deb Howe reported that Zion will be delivering Meals-on-Wheels next week. She commented that the Casserole Auction information is on the website. Deb reminded everyone that items for the newsletter are due on Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**CHURCH PROPERTIES:** Tim Numedahl reported that the Christmas trees were taken down. The heat and light issues have been resolved. Tim reported that the "Give Hub" was installed and is ready for use. A presentation will be made to the congregation on how to use it.

**WORSHIP BOARD:** Sharon Jorde commented that Ash Wednesday is February 14<sup>th</sup>.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/YOUTH:** Amber Holtan reported that Flapjacks for Faith and the Casserole Auction will be this Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

**EVANGELISM/LAY MINISTRY:** Deb Holtan reported that this year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Good Friday Prayer Vigil.

**PASTORS' REPORT:** Pastor Ale commented that their vacation to Ethiopia from December 25<sup>th</sup> – January 14<sup>th</sup> was wonderful. He reported that Lenten Services this year will again be Round Robin. Local pastors and pastors from Oklee, Plummer, and Red Lake Falls will be participating. Ale said confirmation was canceled for 2 weeks due to weather and Connie Hamre's funeral. He reported that Silver Creek will hold its annual meeting next Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Pastor Golv's report was submitted. He noted a couple of changes for Tuesday and Thursday mornings for cardiac rehab. John thanked everyone for their support throughout his health-related issues.

Millie reported that the congregation will be asked to give the gift of their time to fill board positions. Also, her term as president of the congregation and representative on the Synod Council will expire June 30<sup>th</sup>. Nominations for president will be accepted. Karen Thygeson suggested reviewing and updating the By-Laws before new officers take over.

Millie presented two options of the 2018 Annual Budget. One option included raises for the pastors and the second was without raises. After much discussion, Karen Thygeson made a motion to accept the proposed budget including raises for the pastors with the stipulation that the Personnel Committee meet with each pastor to evaluate their performance and update their duties. The motion was seconded by Glenice and carried.

Millie presented and read a letter and donation from Richard L. Nygard referencing a donation by Zion to his family in 1983. The letter will be presented to the congregation.

After the Lord's Prayer, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Next Council meeting will be February 21, 2018 at 5:30.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Pam Cwikla, Secretary



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## Parish Nurse

Flu season is upon us once again. We will not be sharing peace by handshaking during this time. Please share God's peace with a smile and genuine love, or an elbow bump. We will resume handshaking in April when the flu has lessened.

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## Church Bulletin Bloopers

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.



Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

Potluck Supper Sunday at 5:00 PM – prayer and medication to follow.

## Sunday School News

**February/March Reminders:** The Sunday Schooners will be singing in church sometime in February or March. Date TBD. Please watch our Facebook page/bulletin boards for updates.

**April Reminders:** No Sunday school on Easter Sunday, April 1

### K-5 Events:

K-5 Events are open to Little Lamb – 5<sup>th</sup> Graders along with their parents/guardians.



**February 17, 2018** – Sledding at Hartz Park – Please join us at Hartz Park (behind the Armory) from 1:00 - 3:00pm for sledding and hot cocoa!

You bring the sled, and we will bring the hot cocoa!

**March 2018** – Date TBD – Board Game Night at Zion – Join us for an evening of board games, popcorn and homemade pizza!

**April 2018** – Date TBD – Event to be determined.

**May 2018** – Date TBD – T-Shirt Tie Dyeing – We will be tie-dyeing t-shirts at Zion. Each student that participates will be asked to provide a white t-shirt to dye. The dye will be provided.

\*\* More info to come on each event! \*\*

If you have any questions about Sunday school or the K-5 Events please call Davina (218-689-4965) or Becky (218-686-5563).



### **Wednesday, February 7**

- Confirmation Supper - 5:30
- Class - 6:00

### **Wednesday, February 14**

- Ash Wednesday Service - 6:30
- Supper - 5:30 - 5th & 6th grade clean up
- 6-12th grade youth group - 7:30

### **Wednesday, February**

- Lenten Services - 6:30
- Supper - 5:30 - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th grade clean up
- 6-12th grade youth group - 7:30

### **Wednesday, February 28**

- Lenten Services - 6:30
- Supper - 5:30 - K-2nd grade clean up
- 6-12th grade youth group - 7:30

## **Youth Group**



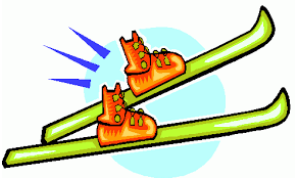
ALL 6th-12th GRADERS are welcome to join Kami for Youth Group every Wednesday during Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday at 7:30 for a featured movie and snacks!

## **Lenten Clean-Up Schedule**

February 14 – Ash Wednesday – 5th & 6th Grade



February 21 – 3rd & 4th Grade  
February 28– Kindergarten- 2nd Grade  
March 7– 7th Grade  
March 14 – 10th-12th grade  
March 28 – 9th Grade  
March 29 - 8th grade Maundy Thursday



*More details to come....watch for your postcard*

## **Ski at Buena Vista With Trinity and Redeemer**

February 16-17  
Grades 6-12

Leave right after school on Friday; spend the night at the lodge, and ski until 4:00 on Saturday.

Costs:

- Lift only -\$70
- Lift and ski rentals -\$80
- Lift and snowboard rentals -\$100
- Tubing - \$65
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Get payments to Kami or Amber by February 1.  
Any questions, contact either of them!

**Bring a friend.**



## **Zion Youth attending the 2018 National Youth Gathering!**

Rebeka Alemayehu, Joshua Berzinski, Dayle Dahlen, Madelynn Dakken, Tristan Hanson, Logan Hintz, Zachary Hintz, Johan Kalsnes, Trista Spears, and Jerica Turner.

Chaperones: Roberta Kalsnes and Noah Peters



February: Pathways - \$124.63  
March: TRF Food Shelf - \$176.59  
April: Meals on Wheels - \$125.43  
May: Relay For Life - \$128.00  
June: Pathways - \$80.42  
July: VBS Day Camp - \$113.75  
August: VBS Day Camp - \$151.95  
September: Red Cross - \$70.40  
October: Operation Christmas Child - \$169.84  
November: Christmas for Penn. Co - \$148.51  
December: TRF Food Shelf - \$102.30  
\*\*\*Totaling \$1,575.83 in loose change collected!

