



Just Another Easter?

Some things are new only once.

The new car is new only for awhile. So is the new house, or the new clothes, or even the new marriage.

Some things, like Easter, are always new, at least potentially.

Repetition can make even the best new thing old and only too familiar. How many times have you said the Lord's Prayer? We know it by heart. We know it so well in fact that we can say it perfectly and think of something else at the same time. That is the danger of repeating something even as important as the Lord's Prayer.

"He is Risen indeed." We say this every year. Does it still have its meaning? Or can we say it perfectly and think about something else at the same time?

None of us can see all of Easter for what it really is. We have some idea of its importance. We can never fully discern how important it is. Easter means one thing when you are eight years old, and quite another when you are a teenager. As the years go by Easter can take on more meaning than we ever would have guessed when we were eight years old.

What does Easter mean to you, this year? Some years resurrection will be the most important thing. More than one elderly person has told me: "It had better be true." Easters come and go but at an advanced age the end of death and the promise of resurrection may well come home to us as never before.

Some years forgiveness will be the most important thing. In church the sermon might lift up Easter as the end of deadly sin and deserved judgment, and then one particular, tenacious, aggravating, overwhelming sin comes immediately to your mind, along with relief and surprise. The relief is genuine. The sin cannot kill. So is the surprise. Well-deserved judgment is never going to happen.

Then the new part of Easter is this: "I can be forgiven, even of my sin."

Some years nothing is more clear than our need for salvation. Some years nothing is more clear to us than God's promises reaching out to us past the day of death. Some years Jesus' suffering, or unconditional love, comes home to us as never before. Some years it will be the humanness of it, or the divinity of it. Easter always has potential beyond what it ever was before.

One part of Easter is new every year: We are always in God's hands, whether we live or die.

Easter is new for me this year because the "for me" part is so overwhelming. What happened in Jerusalem was the salvation of the world, the end of sin and death, the salvation of God. It was for all believers, and in addition to that; it all happened for me. But, astonishingly enough, it was all for me.

What does Easter mean to you, this year? If you are willing to do this, write it down and share it. Whether or not you share it with anyone, write it down to see that there is more to Easter this year than can be written down.

The spiritual experience of Easter is nothing less than God active in your life.



Pastor John



- April 1 - EASTER
 - 6:30AM – Sunrise Service
 - 7:15 – Easter Breakfast
 - 8:30 – Holy Communion Worship
 - 10:30 – Holy Communion Worship
 - 10:00 – Easter Worship – Silver Creek
- April 1 - No blood pressure screening
- April 10 - ZLCW
- April 14 – Youth Rummage Sale
- April 15 – Flapjacks for Faith
- April 15 – New Member Sunday
- April 22 – Mission Sunday



President's Message

Millie Reiersen

God's blessings to all of you.

As my term of office comes to a close at the semi-annual meeting in June, we need to start planning for the future and filling our boards and leadership positions. To do this we need a nominating committee comprised of members of the Parish Planning Council and of the congregation. If you are interested in serving on the committee or filling one the positions, please let Linda know in the office.

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 Reiersen



ZLCW NEWS

The women of Zion will hold their monthly meeting and Bible study on Tuesday, April 10, at 10:00 a.m.
Duties for April meeting: Program: Rebekah, Hostess: Elizabeth, Hospitality: Lydia, and Visitation: Anna at Oakland Park.

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 to work on quilts, school kits, personal care kits, and baby care kits.

Personal Care Kits Update

Thank you for supporting this project during our Lenten Services. We hope to keep our confirmands busy assembling them. It is a great service project and learning experience for them. We will keep you informed as to how many we send to Lutheran World Relief as our shipment is May 5.

We will also be “shopping” for items for the Baby Care Kits at the garage sale held at Challenger on April 21. This is also sent at the same time as the Personal Care Kits along with the quilts the ladies have been working on. If you have used hand towels in good condition, consider donating them for the Baby Care Kits. We are always in need of these and they don't have to be new. Soap is also needed as both of these kits require two bars (4-5 oz.).

Again, Thanks!

New Member Sunday

New Members



April 15 - 8:30 Service

Orientation for New Members – Thursday, April 12, at 7:00PM

If you know of someone that would like to join Zion, please call the church office at 681-3296.

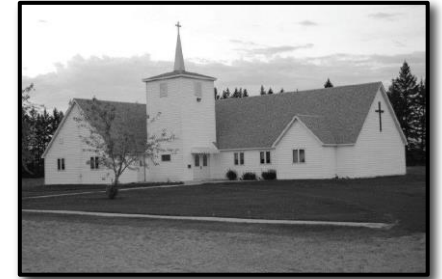


Pray for Our Youth

The Evangelism and Lay Ministry board are looking for people to come together as a group to pray for our youth that are heading off to the National Youth Gathering this June. For more info, please call Deb Holtan - Home 449-4645 or Cell 686-3758.

Silver Creek

Let's hope that "April Showers Bring May Flowers," and we will be looking forward to spring and getting our church clean and the yard work taken care of. Set aside a few hours on April 12 at 5:30 to do some spring-cleaning at Silver Creek. We will begin with a potluck, so please bring a dish to pass. Please sign up for a few weeks of mowing lawn in order to keep our churchyard looking good again this year. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.



The women of the church will meet on April 12 at 3:00 PM to finish up the quilts that have been started.

Church council will meet following services on April 8th.

Bev Rupprecht



Zion Lutheran Parish Planning Council Minutes March 20, 2018

The Parish Planning Council meeting was called to order by President Millie Reiersen at 5:30 pm. In attendance: President Millie Reiersen, Pastor Golv, Pastor Ale Tulu, Deb Howe, Karen Thygeson, Ken Kalsnes, Deb Holtan, Amber Holtan, Sharon Jorde, Sharon Russell and Pam Cwikla.

Millie gave devotions.

The minutes from the February 20, 2018 Council meeting were presented for approval. It was noted that Kami Spears name was not spelled correctly. A motion was made by Ken Kalsnes to accept the minutes with the spelling correction made. The motion was seconded by Sharon Jorde. The motion carried.

Barbara was absent, so Millie presented the Treasurer's Report. The report was filed for audit.

The Give Hub is not being used. Millie said a presentation will be made to the congregation. Information on Simply Giving will be included in the presentation.

Thrivent “Designated Giving” ends March 31. Millie will present a temple talk on Sunday.

Karen Thygeson asked of the Slate of Nominations has been prepared. It has not. Karen stressed the urgency to have the list ready for approval.
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Deb Howe reported the Holy Week ad was submitted to the Times. Deb reported that the PR Board needs a chairperson. Karen confirmed that boards should consist of 6-9 members. The newsletter deadline is today.

New Traditions: Ken Kalsnes reported that the committee met to review and update Zion’s membership list. There are 642 names on the list. The next meeting will be after Easter.

Christian Ed/Youth: Amber Holtan reported on upcoming events:

March 25 – Casserole Cook-Off at 4:00

1st Communion classes underway

8th Grade will serve and cleanup for the Seder meal and set up for Easter breakfast

6th & 7th Grades – Cook Easter breakfast and cleanup

10th Grade - Easter Sunrise Service – Confirmation service event

April 14th – Rummage Sale (Drop-off days: April 11, 12, 13) – Mary Berzinski is in charge and NYG youth will help

April Noisy Offering – “Water to Thrive”

April 22 - Mission Sunday

May Noisy Offering – Meals on Wheels

May 20 – Senior Recognition Sunday – Brunch between services. Recognition at 10:30 service.

Blankets will be given to the seniors. David Lee will cater. Board will serve.

Sunday School

Palm Sunday - Sunday School will sing at both services

May 13 – Last Sunday of Sunday school. They will sing at 10:30 service.

K-5 Events

Board Game Night – 20-25 kids made homemade pizzas

April – TBD

May – Tie Dye shirt or pillowcase

Jr High

Wednesday Movie Nights – 7:30 (Kami Spears, Supervisor)

July 30-August 3 - Day Camp

Evangelism/Lay Ministry: Deb Holtan gave the Council the list of the youth going to the National Gathering and asked them to pray for these. A list of prayer suggestions was included. Deb reported that they are still working on prayer shawls and squares. She reminded everyone of the Prayer Vigil on Good Friday.

Worship: Board minutes from March 6th submitted. Sharon Jorde reported that Lenten services are going well. Holy Week will be busy with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. There will be communion served at all 3 services.

Silver Creek: Sharon Russell commented that she has enjoyed the Lenten services with the presentation of “Women of the Bible”. She reported that they will also serve communion on Easter Sunday. They will be cleaning the church on April 12th. Sharon asked that a date be set for the June joint service.

Parish Fellowship: Minutes from March 6th meeting submitted.

Church Properties: Minutes from March 6th meeting submitted.

Pastors’ Reports: Pastor Ale reported that he has a signed agreement between Zion and Silver Creek and he will give it to Linda. Ale said there are 2 people from Silver Creek who will attend the Synod gathering. Ale commented that Thrivent gave a very good presentation on stewardship at the Ministerium meeting. He recommended that we ask them to present at Zion.

April 22 – Mission Sunday - “Water to Thrive”. The cost per well is \$5000.

June 24 – Zion Semi-Annual Meeting

Pastor Golv’s report was submitted. He presented information from “VANCO – Churchgoer Giving Study”, listing 5 key findings: Churchgoers’ preference for e-Giving continues to grow. The overall preference for e-Giving showed a slight increase from 2015, but remains strong across all age groups, and it is much stronger among older adults than it was in 2015.

Those who prefer e-Giving are more engaged than those who prefer traditional giving and contribute a higher percentage of their salaries to their church. e-Givers contribute a larger percentage of their salary (6.9%) to the church compared to traditional givers (5.9%). They are also more engaged in church activities than traditional givers.

Across all age groups, frequency of church attendance and use of traditional giving methods declined. Churchgoers attending services once a week or more, fell 20% over the past two years. Fewer people are using traditional giving methods like cash and checks in the offering plate or mailing in their contributions to the church.

Weekly giving has declined, and more people are giving less often.

15% fewer churchgoers give weekly; 34% down from 49% in 2015

3% more give once a month; 23% up from 20% in 2015

6% more give every 2-3 months; 12% up from 6% in 2015

6% more give every 6 months, 8% up from 2% in 2015

Millennials express a strong preference for e-Giving, contribute more of their annual income to the church and are more engaged in church activities outside of worship services than any other age group. Three of four (75%) millennials – age 25 to 34 – expressed preferences for e-Giving and 36% give 10% of their income to the church. They're also more likely to participate in some church activities than any other age group.

After the Lord's Prayer, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Next Council meeting will be April 17, 2018 at 5:30.

Respectfully submitted by,
Pam Cwikla, Secretary

No Blood Pressure Screening on Easter Sunday



Mission Sunday - April 22



Zion will welcome a very special speaker, Rev. Dan Kolander, as our guest pastor at this year's Mission Sunday, April 22. Rev. Kolander works with Rev. Phil Blom on "Water to Thrive" which has provided more than 750 wells in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, and Uganda. Last summer, Pastor Ale was one of the volunteers helping at the US Open PGA Golf Tournament in Wisconsin, where the PGA donated generously to Water to Thrive.

In many rural African countries, the source of water for drinking, cooking, or bathing either comes from a contaminated local river or traveling long distances to a safe water source, carrying the water home. Diseases from unsafe river water kill more people every year than all forms of violence, including war. Those seeking the safe, spring-fed water sources are often women and girls, walking 1-3 hours, sometimes multiple times a day. This means no time to attend school or to help earn the family's living

**MISSION
SUNDAY**

The average new well costs \$5,000 and provides at least 500 people with clean, safe water for 20 years. Clean water reduces poverty, improves health, increases access to education, and saves lives. Our goal at Zion is to start a well-building campaign, ultimately funding a well for one village. For more information, check out their website: www.watertothrive.org

Sunday School News

April Reminders:

April 1 - No Sunday School on Easter Sunday

May Reminders:

May 13 – The Sunday School kids will sing at the 8:30am service.

May 13 – Last day of Sunday school until September 2018



K-5 Events:

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



April – Date TBD – Event to be determined.

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

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

Wednesday, April 4

Confirmation Supper @ 5:30 Class @ 6:00 (10th grade 5:00)

Wednesday April 11th

Confirmation Supper @ 5:30 Class @ 6:00

Wednesday April 18th

Confirmation Supper @ 5:30 Class @ 6:00

Wednesday April 25th

Confirmation Supper @ 5:30 Class @ 6:00



**The following youth of Zion will be attending the
2018 National Youth Gathering!**

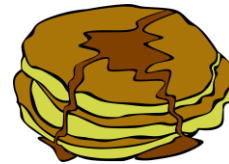
Rebeka Alemayehu , Joshua Berzinski, Dayle Dahlen, Madelynn Dakken, Tristan Hanson, Logan Hintz, Zachary Hintz, Jonah Kalsnes, Trista Spears, Jerica Turner

Chaperones: Roberta Kalsnes and Noah Peters

Last Flap Jacks For Faith before Fall

Sunday April 15th @ 9:30.

A great way to support the youth going to National Youth Gathering!



**Thank you to everyone that helped support the NYG youth through
pie and popcorn sales!!!**



Saturday, April 14

8:00am – 2:00pm

The NYG youth will also be serving rolls, coffee and a BBQ Meal

Donations can be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall, Wednesday, April 11 – Friday, April 13 during regular office hours and until 7:00pm.

***Items that will not be accepted: electronics, knives, scissors, scratched Teflon and undergarments.



Noisy Offering for April “Water to Thrive”

Water to Thrive is a faith-based non-profit organization dedicated to the mission of bringing clean, safe water to those who need it in rural Africa. They work with donors in the United States and implementing partners in Africa to bring lasting change.



- Senior Recognition Day, Sunday, May 20
- Pathways Day Camp - July 30 - August 2

The Christian Ed/Youth Board is looking for board members!

If you're looking for a rewarding experience with the youth in the church, we have a spot for you! Our board works with the youth during many different milestones... from birth all the way up to graduating seniors. Some of the events that we take part in are baptism, Sunday School, K-5 events, 2nd grade Bible Class, 1st communion, Day Camp, Jr High activities (6-8th grade), Confirmation, Sr High events (9-12th grade), Senior Recognition, and Summer Bible Camp

