



The Herald

Published monthly, to provide both inspiration and information on the activities of the Zion Family

Zion Lutheran Church
505 Main Ave. N.
Thief River Falls, MN 56701-1996
Phone - 218-681-3296

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From the Pastor's Desk

"A vote is a kind of prayer for the kind of world we desire for ourselves and for our children, and I think our prayers are stronger when we pray together."

-Rev. Raphael Warnock, US Senator for Georgia. June 16, 2022

"Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered ~ that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes."

-President Abraham Lincoln, Second Inaugural Address. March 4, 1865

"Yes!"

-Jim Carrey as Bruce Nolan answering all prayers on behalf of God in the film "Bruce Almighty"

November 5 the United States of America will have a general election. We will vote for the 47th President of the United States. We will hold elections for Senators and Representatives for federal and local jurisdictions. Names of folks for mayors, judges, attorneys, school boards, and other offices are on the ballot. In Thief River Falls voters are also considering a referendum in support of the school district.

Emotions about the election are high: anger, frustration, fear, dread, and anxiety are chief among the feelings I have heard God's people express. Some families are avoiding conversations about politics because they are divided. Neighbors are having sign wars-emphasizing their support of candidates and causes. The election is contentious and the rhetoric often unhelpful, exaggerated, and vulgar. We are already being warned we may not know the results of the presidential election for days or even weeks. This only serves to feed into anger, frustration, fear, dread and anxiety.

Elections are a way society shapes its future. Rev. Raphael Warnock, Senator from Georgia, wrote, "A vote is a kind of prayer for the kind of world we desire..." We look at candidates and issues and how our lives may be changed through them. In whatever way we connect with them, align with their philosophies, or understand their ideals, we desire a different reality than the one we have now. Prayer is a conversation with God functioning in a similar way. Whether we are asking for intervention or healing, we look to God to give us a different reality. Yet we know our prayers are not always answered in the way we want them to be.

In the 2003 movie "Bruce Almighty" tells the story of Bruce Nolan (Jim Carrey), a reporter who gets frustrated with God. Bruce accuses God of not doing his job, so God (Morgan Freeman) gives Bruce his power to show him that he can't do it any better. In one scene Bruce tries to figure out how to answer the prayers of the world and creates a computer. He realizes that the more prayers he answers, the more prayers come in. Frustrated, Bruce decides to answer "yes" to all prayers. The result is chaos and mayhem.

God doesn't say, "Yes," to all of us because we often pray for things at odds with each other. President Abraham Lincoln knew this when he spoke at his second inauguration in March of 1865. Casting his vision for healing a nation in the shadow of the Civil War, he reminds us that even though we pray to the same God, God cannot answer the prayers of both sides. President Lincoln said, "The prayers of both could not be answered... The Almighty has His own purposes." God's ways are not our ways.

Many of you have spoken about wanting the election to be over. I have heard a resounding, "I can't wait for November 6th!" I am also tired of political ads and hearing my cell phone ding with political spam. Yet November 6th will not be a joyful day for everyone. It's not as simple as waking up that morning and moving on. If the polls are correct about half the country will be disappointed. Moving on is not easy when the future is not shaped the way of our hopes and imaginings. Moving on is not easy when the future turns out to be shaped the way of our fears.

The Sunday after President Barack Obama was elected to a second term, I worshipped at First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas with friends who attend the church. The Senior Pastor, Robert Jeffress, is not shy about sharing his political ideology. In 2012 he was on national news outlets sharing his support for Mitt Romney. I wondered what he would say in his sermon.

Pastor Jeffress shared a verse from St. Paul's letter to the Romans, Chapter 13, verse 1: Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God." Pastor Jeffress would go on to talk about how he was disappointed the election hadn't gone the way he'd hoped. He told worshippers it was time to do what God asks of us. He told us to pray for our leaders, asking God to work for our good through them. He emphasized God's authority and said God placed President Obama in the office of President and now it was time to say our prayers. Pastor Jeffress was encouraging his congregation to move forward in faith.

We are called to trust God and to say our prayers no matter what we wake up to on November 6. We pray for our community, our world and all our needs. God's goodness and mercy are not thwarted by the results of an election. God promises to be with you wherever you find yourself today and every day that follows. Jesus said in John 16:33, "In this world you will have trouble, [*challenges, disappointments, struggles, hardships, calamities, elections*], but take heart, [*be of good courage, never forget*], I have overcome the world." Our hope for our future is only found in Christ Jesus and our life in him.

Together, let us seek God's will and not our own. We will sing, worship, and say our prayers. God says in Jeremiah 29: 11, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare and not for harm, plans to give you a future with hope!" Thanks be to God.

Pastor Kristin

Confirmation

GRADE 10	November 10 6:00 pm	Topic: The Two Kingdoms & The Church and the Shaping of Faith
	Remember your homework!	
GRADES 8-9	November 6	Baptized We Live
	November 13	Baptized We Live
	November 20	Baptized We Live
	November 27	No Class, Thanksgiving Break
GRADES 6-7	Grade 8	Serves Food and Fellowship November 17
	Grade 9	Serves 65+ Meal November 24
GRADES 6-7	Participate in Cornerstone, Sundays at 10am	
	Grade 7	Serves Food and Fellowship November 17

President's Message from Diane Lee

Summer is over. We have had our first frost.

Leaves are being raked, and garden & lawns are being put to bed for the winter.

There has been a Hussle and Bussel happening at Zion. I have heard that planning has begun for Christmas.

It has been an amazing start to the fall season. We have 8 young men and women that will be confirmed the end of October.

We added a new local mission with Loads of love. Thank you, Evangelism lay ministry board for your hard work and faithful service. They served 15 families on the 16th of October in partnership with Laundry Land.

Sunday school is in full swing. Thank you to all the teachers and support staff.

Thank you to Laura for all the work you do with the music program.

Thank you, Darlene, Parish Nurse for the work you did to include Zion in the Soul Shop Suicide Awareness Community Workshops.

Thank you to the quilters group and the group that does the layettes. They were working this week to get things packed up for the Lutheran World Relief delivery.

Thank you, Renee Franke, for your hard work as treasure. A very important role especially this time of the year with budget planning.

I have enjoyed the past two years serving on council. And I want to thank you for the trust you have placed on me to allow me to serve as interim President. I hope to continue to serve for many years to come in one capacity or another.

Your servant in Christ,

Diane Lee



November 3 – SCAM presentation after church

November 6 – Grade 8-9 Confirmation 6pm

November 7 – Quilting 1pm

November 10 – Noisy Offering Christmas for Pennington County

Operation Christmas Child Boxes due

Grade 10 Confirmation 6pm

November 13 – Grade 8-9 Confirmation 6pm

November 17 – Grade 7 serves Food & Fellowship

November 19 – WELCA meeting 10am

Church Council meeting 5:30pm

November 20 – Grade 8-9 Confirmation 6pm

November 21 – Quilting 1pm

November 24 – Noisy Offering Christmas for Pennington County

Pie & Dessert Auction 10am

65+ Dinner 5

November 27 – Joint Thanksgiving Service @ Redeemer 7pm

No Confirmation Class



Silver Creek Newsletter

WELCA Meeting – Nov. 19

Ladies, please join us for the November meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. (Note: this is a week later due to a funeral) WE will share in fellowship, Bible study, and refreshments. Hostess are Mary Morken and Kaylynn Wold. We will continue to use the Gather magazine for Bible study this year.

Mission Kits & Quilts

The 2024-2025 year started off with a bang! A dozen women were busy packing up the school kits or finishing quilts, and then boxing up all categories that will be shipped on Nov. 2nd. This year the totals are 200 personal care kits, 52 Baby care kits, 41 School Kits and 13 Quilts.

Thank you to Ruth Ostby, Sharon Wagner, Kittie Cornell, Sharon Jorde, Sheryl Melin, Renee Henney, Patty Schob, Darlene Hulteen, Marcia Sandahl, Peggy Genereux, Theresa Hagman, and Glenice Johnson who have worked on the projects through the year and to all of YOU for your donations.

Consider joining in with quilt work days – first and third Thursdays of the month. Helpers are needed to layer quilts, pin edges together, and tie the finished quilts, so no experience in quilting or sewing is necessary. WE also have fun visiting and having coffee & snacks. November dates are Thursdays Nov. 7 & 21, at 1:00 PM.

Pie and Dessert Auction – November 24

The annual “Pie & Dessert” Auction will be on Sunday, Nov. 24, during our fellowship hour following the 9AM service. Enjoy the bidding process and maybe get the dessert for your Thanksgiving dinner! Any donations of a pie or dessert to be auctioned off are appreciated.

Giving Thanks

In our neighborhood, November brings to mind cooler days, autumn’s work coming to a close, deer hunting, football, and Thanksgiving. It is truly with grateful hearts and giving of thanks that we come to the end of this harvest season.

Our October quilt raffle and fall dinner is certainly on our list of things for which to be thankful. Both were a great success. The conversation and laughter mingled with the smorgasbord of delicious home-cooked food. We are also thankful for the new members we welcomed that Sunday: Darrin and Danae Haagenson. They live on the Haagenson family farm, and we are so thankful to have them join our church family. In fact, they even won the quilt raffle that Sunday! Thank you to all who sold and bought tickets, as well as to everyone who participated in our fall dinner. The offering taken at the dinner is going to the hurricane relief fund for the victims of the recent hurricanes.

In the theme of giving thanks for our gifts, as we are reminded to share those gifts with our church, neighborhood, community, and world, we also want to thank Pastor Rebel Hurd for her part in our service on Stewardship Sunday, October 20. She currently represents the NW MN Synod in Evangelical Mission.

Dates to Remember

November 6: WELCA

2:00 p.m. Quilting

5:00 p.m. Supper, followed by meeting and Bible Study

Bible Study: Chapter 12, *Encouraging One Another*, “Just Think.”

Remember to bring Thank Offering Boxes

November 25: 9:30 a.m. Church Decorating for Christmas

November: Church Council date to be announced

December 8: Silver Creek Christmas Program and Dinner

We thank all those who have given and continue to give of their time, talents, and treasures in the service of our Lord. Each one is truly appreciated, as you are stewards of His blessings.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly . . . with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” -Colossians 3:16

Happy Thanksgiving!



Zion Lutheran's Congregational Council Minutes

October 15, 2024

The council members in attendance were able to Facetime with Pastor Rebel Hurd as she explained what the Jeremiah 29 project is that Pastor Kristin will be taking part in.

The Congregational Council Meeting was called to order by President Diane Lee at 6:08 pm. In attendance were Pastor Kristin Ostercamp, Diane Lee, Millie Reiersen, Glenice Johnson, Patty Schob, Penni Nelson and Deb Holtan.

Pastor Kristin led the council in prayer and devotions.

Thank yous were shared.

President Diane Lee asked if there were any additions to tonight's agenda. Deb Holtan requested the upcoming names of the confirmands be approved for confirmation. Millie Reiersen made a motion to adopt the agenda with the added item. The motion was seconded by Glenice Johnson. The motion carried.

Pastor Kristin asked that Millie Reiersen and Deb Holtan give an update on the “Cold Weather/Comfort Kits” for the homeless. The Evangelism and Lay Ministry board will be working with the area Food Shelf working with a grant to supply and pack these much needed kits for our area homeless population.

Glenice Johnson gave a quick report from WELCA. November 2nd is the shipping date for the quilts, personal care kits and the school kits. The time for the drop off is from 8:00 to Noon that day.

Glenice also gave a reminder from the Parish Fellowship that the Pie and Dessert Auction will Sunday November 24th. Also the Parish Fellowship had a joint meeting with the EVL Ministry board. Both boards feel that there's a need to work more closely. Christmas Caroling will be held On Sunday December 8th.

The Congregational Council minutes from September 17, 2024 were presented. A motion by Millie Reierson was made to accept the minutes as written. Glenice Johnson seconded this motion and the motion carried.

Millie Reierson made a motion that once a quarter a financial report is made by the Treasurer that shows a complete reporting starting with October for November's council meeting. Glenice Johnson made a second to that motion with the motion carrying.

The Treasurer's Reports which included a correction on the August report that included \$356.84 that was listed under Continued Education was moved to Conferences and Conventions along with Septembers Treasurer's report, were filed for audit.

Pastor Kristin's report was submitted. Highlights of Pastor Kristin's report included the following. Sunday October 27th is confirmation. Beginning 2025, Pastor Kristin suggested that the confirmation service be a separate service the last Sunday in October. Pastor Kristin feels the need to honor our confirmation students appropriately and to give space for Reformation Sunday as well. Pastor Kristin will be working with the Worship Board who will make the final decision. Pastor Kristin also gave a thank you to Linda and Millie for all the work they have done to get the weekly mailings out for stewardship.

Silver Creek: Penni Nelson stated that the drawing for their beautiful quilt was made.

Pastor Kristin stated that the Properties Board is looking into the purchase of new Christmas trees for the sanctuary.

A motion was made by Glenice Johnson to accept all the boards' minutes. Millie Reierson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Due to the fact that many council members were unable to attend tonight's meeting, the discussion of the plans for the overflow will be

tabled until the next council meeting. The Properties Board will be discussing the job description with the custodial staff. As of the first of October time cards are being used.

A motion was made by Millie Reierson to approve the following confirmation students for confirmation: Syver Bertilrud, Ryan Flaagan, Bennett Borgen, Gwen Wojciechowski, Keegan Lund, Shopie Tougas, Lauren Johnson and Parker Lundgren. The motion was seconded by Glenice Johnson with the motion carrying.

Dates to remember: The joint Thanksgiving Service will be held at Redeemer on Wednesday November 27th at 7:00 pm.

The next council meeting will be held Tuesday November 19th at 5:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm followed by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Deb Holtan acting Council Secretary

Scan to Give



Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH

health and wellness

Scams are on the rise and we have all probably received one. According to the Federal Trade Commission, consumers reported losing more than 10 BILLION to fraud in 2023!

How to Avoid a Scam...

1. Scammers PRETEND to be an organization you know. Scammers often pretend to be contacting you on behalf of the government. They might use a real name, the FTC, Social Security Administration, IRS, or Medicare, or make up a name that sounds official. Some pretend to be from a business you know, like a utility company, a tech company, or even a charity asking for donations. They use technology to change the phone number that appears on your caller ID so the number you see might be real.
- 2) Scammers say there's a PROBLEM or a PRIZE. They might say you're in trouble with the government or you owe money or someone in your family had an emergency or that there's a virus on your computer. Some scanners say there's a problem with one of your accounts and that you need to verify some information. Others will lie and say you won money in a lottery or sweepstakes but have to pay a fee to get it.
3. Scammers PRESSURE you to act immediately. Scammers want you to act before you have time to think. If you're on the phone, they might tell you not to hang up so you can't check out their story. They might threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your driver's license, or deport you. They might say your computer is about to be corrupted.
4. Scammers tell you to PAY in a specific way. They often insist that you only pay by using cryptocurrency, wiring money through a company like MoneyGram or Western Union, using a payment app, or putting money

on a gift card and then sending them the numbers on the back of the card. Some will send you a check (that will later turn out to be fake), then tell you to deposit it and send them money. Remember the 4 P's...Pretend, Problem, Pressure, and Pay.

How to Prevent a Scam

Block unwanted calls and text messages. Take steps to block unwanted calls and to filter unwanted text messages.

Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect. Honest organizations won't call, email, or text to ask for your personal information, like your Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers. If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy or look up their phone number. Don't call a number they gave you or the number from your caller ID.

Resist the pressure to act immediately. Honest businesses will give you time to make a decision. Anyone who pressures you to pay or give them your personal information is a scammer!

Know how scammers tell you to pay. Never pay someone who insists that you can only pay with cryptocurrency, a wire transfer service, a payment app, or a gift card and never deposit a check and send money back to someone.

Stop and talk to someone you trust. Before you do anything else, tell someone--a friend, a family member, a neighbor--what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.

Report Scams to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). If you were scammed or think you saw a scam, tell the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/idthelp). Knowing some of these facts and paying attention to your inner voice and gut, if it feels suspicious, it probably is a scam! May the Lord protect all of us from these evil-doers.

God's Blessing and Peace...Parish Health



Celebration of All Saints

We remember those in our parish who have died since the last observance of All Saints Day. We will have a special service on Sunday, November 3 during which we will remember all who grieve especially the families and friends of:

Zion: Mitchell Dicken Janet Lundquist
Loretta Sourdiff Violet Grant
Jeannie Nelson Prestan Marquis
Ethan Larson Harriet Philipp
Myrtle Lee

Silver Creek: Joleen DuChamp Martha Torgerson

We also remember all in our lives we have loved and lost as we imagine the great reunion we will have when we too are called home.



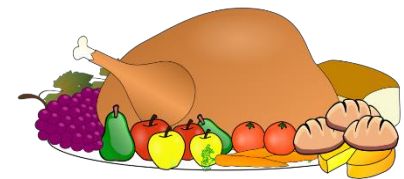
The Loads of Love held on Wednesday October 16th was an amazing start for this outreach program! Thank you to Zion's people because this wouldn't be possible if not for your financial support. We had 15 people/households that we were able to do (for most) two loads of laundry and two loads of drying. All were very surprised and very very appreciative for this ministry! The Evangelism and Lay Ministry's plan is to hold another event like this after the first of the year.

65+ Thanksgiving Meal will be coming up soon!

-November 24th at 4:00 pm

Invitations will be sent to those 65 and older!

This wonderful event is brought to you by Zion's Confirmation classes!





Zion's 3rd Annual "Tree of Thanksgiving" will be set up again for the month of November in the upper narthex.

All are invited to take a colored leaf to write what you are thankful for or a blessing that you have received during this last year. You can hang as many leaves as you'd like to say what you are thankful for or maybe you've received more than one blessing. (You do not have to put your name on the leaf.) Take the leaf and hang it on the tree. Help us fill the tree with loads of blessings and gifts of thanks!

Thank you from the Evangelism and Lay Ministry Board.



FYI....Falls Delivered Meals is an excellent service that is probably being underused! Their mission statement is to provide well balanced, nutritious low-cost meals delivered to aged, handicapped, or ailing persons who cannot obtain such meals themselves. They deliver a hot well-balanced noon meal right to your (in town) door Monday through Friday.

WOW...and at a low cost of \$5.00 a meal! That is a deal...lower than a coffee at most coffee shops! Consider using this great service if needed.

For more information, contact Betty at 218-681-6861.



Hospice of the Red River Valley is in dire need of companionship volunteers in our community. These volunteers play cards, read, visit, or just comfort patients on hospice.

Hospice offers a two-hour training session and cover the cost of the TB test and a background check. If there are enough people interested in training, they can visit our congregation and do the training here!

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or interest in becoming a volunteer. Thank You!!

Darlene FCN



Zion's 15th Annual Spirit of Giving

Saturday, December 7, 2024

8:00 AM—12:00 Noon

We welcome your donations for Zion's 15th Annual Spirit of Giving.

- Household items, toys, Christmas décor and decorations.
- Miscellaneous items
- **No items in garbage bags will be accepted.**
- **No large appliances, furniture, televisions, microwaves, or computers.**

Donations may be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall on

- Thursday, December 5 from 9:00 AM—7:00 PM
- Friday, December 6 from 9:00 AM—5:00 PM

No Drop Offs Wed. Dec 4—Advent Worship

No Early Drop offs!!! No Saturday Drop Offs!!!

If you can help Thursday or Friday with set up, or Saturday for event please call Millie Reiersen at 218-681-7728 or the church office at 218-681-3296

Thank you for sharing God's love and abundance with others and making someone's Christmas brighter.



It's that time of year again! **Operation Christmas Child** is in full swing! I would like to encourage everyone to help fill at least one box! Or if you would like to donate items you can do that also! There are drop off boxes throughout the church for your items. Monetary donations are also welcomed to help with shipping cost, or we can use the money to buy items to fill more boxes. A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing lives through the power of a simple gift.

Gift Suggestions:

TOYS or a "WOW" item: Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls, toy cars, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring, and picture books, etc.

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS: toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths, adhesive bandages (Colorful ones can help a child be more willing to wear a bandage. Do not include liquid antibiotic ointment.), Reusable plastic containers: cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, (Consider filling an empty container with non-liquid items such as hair bows, bracelets, sunglasses, or washcloths to maximize the space.) blanket, non-liquid lip balm, nail clipper and file, etc.

CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES: t-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.

CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES: Puzzles, Binoculars, Compass, Chalkboard, and chalk, Sewing kit, fabric (1-2 yards), and ribbon, Laminated decorative pictures with looped ribbon attached as a picture hanger, Gardening kit with gloves and trowel hand tool (Do not include gardening seeds.), Playing cards, Skipping rope/Jump rope

A PERSONAL NOTE: You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. If you include your name and address, the child may be able to write back.

DO NOT INCLUDE: Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

Shoe boxes are available in the west hallway. We will also have totes for you to drop off your donations.

We ask that all shoe boxes be brought back to the church by Sunday, November 10th.