

ZION'S MESSENGER

Nov. 2020

Volume 43

Issue 10

ZION'S MISSION STATEMENT

To Proclaim the Joy of Salvation Through Word and Sacrament



**Northeastern
Minnesota Synod,
ELCA**

**Pastor
Mark Peters**

**Parish Secretary
Joelle Leseman**

**Music Director
Joe Belanger**

**Zion Chimes
Donna Barg**

**Office Hours
BY APPOINTMENT
ONLY AT THIS
TIME**

Rev. Amy J. Odgren Installed as Northeastern Minnesota Synod Bishop

October 17, 2020 Walker, Minnesota — The Rev. Amy Odgren was installed as bishop of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at a service on Saturday held at Hope Lutheran Church, Walker. She is the fourth bishop of the synod and succeeds Bishop Thomas Aitken who is retiring after serving two six-year terms. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton presided and preached. Other participants included The Rev. Matt McWaters, pastor of Hope Lutheran, ELCA Bishops Thomas Aitken, Regina Hassanally, and Laurie Skow-Anderson, and the Rt. Rev. Craig Loya, Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota.

Bishop Odgren previously served as Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission for the Northeastern Minnesota Synod. Ordained in 2001, she is a graduate of Warburg Theological Seminary, one of seven ELCA seminaries, and she completed a B.A. in education and psychology at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota. Bishop Odgren also served as Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, and as pastor of Spirit Lutheran and First Lutheran, Eau Claire, and Bridge of Life Lutheran, Holmen, all in Wisconsin.

Concerning her role as bishop, Bishop Odgren said “I see our principal challenge as engaging this culture as evangelists who share the gospel of Jesus in ways that will make a difference in the world. I think a bishop needs to listen extensively, pray often, and be bold to move the vision of the kingdom forward. And through this all, I trust in God’s resurrecting grace that keeps working and setting us free to love and serve.”

The Northeastern Minnesota Synod is one of six ELCA synods in Minnesota and 65 nationwide. Comprised of 130 ELCA congregations with about 55,000 members, it is one of the largest ELCA synods geographically, stretching from Princeton in the south to International Falls in the north, Brainerd in the west to Hovland in the northeast. Bishops are elected to six-year terms and may serve two terms.

Pastor Mark's Musings November 2020

I am “amused” by this definition of “Musing: “A period of deep thought, meditation or reflection. When you are sitting in your house staring out the window and thinking deeply about your life, this is an example of *musings*.”

Reformation Sunday was observed during “virtual” worship at Zion the last Sunday in October. Our congregation (along with many across the world) celebrated the power of God’s grace to reform and reshape. The great twentieth-century theologian Karl Barth said, “The church must always be reformed” – a phrase often shortened to the Latin *semper reformanda*. The church we’ve all known – what I might call the traditional or normal way of doing things – is a ship that has sailed and left our familiar port. That ship – like many of us who long for a sense of normal – are seemingly adrift during this time of pandemic adaptation. Most everything appears not as a new normal but as a “new new.” We are caught in a time of “here” and “not yet” – an “in-between” frame of reference.

Rather than looking back only to the past, I would like to invite you (in the context of the various hats you wear) to prayerfully “muse” about the work of continuing reformation in the present.

- a) In your relationship to your church and the church at large (holiness catholic church – lower case “c”).
- b) In your personal lives and in your community and society.

I invite you to “muse” over these questions about where God’s grace might reform us again. I’m interested in learning from your journey and where your thoughts take you. I have often found that the best way to exercise wisdom is to ask the right question ... then listen ... really listen ... and pray about it ... then share what you learn with another person(s).

Here is a good question: What are the most powerful words in the world? The first answer that might come to our mind is “I love you.” Three great words indeed, but they are not the ones I’m thinking about this time. Instead try, “I don’t know.” I suspect that saying “I don’t know” seems like an admission of failure to many in our culture, especially those of us who have been to college and graduate school, as if admitting any kind of ignorance somehow undermines the validity of our diplomas. But I’d like to offer another slant, as I think that telling another person “I don’t know” offers an invitation for them to share what they know or, sometimes even better, to join you in *together* figuring something out. This becomes especially true when you pair those three words with four others: “What do you think?” Seen in this combination – “I don’t know. What do you think?” – can be incredibly empowering. Next time a child asks you a question, try it out. You might be surprised at how much she or he knows and has to say about a particular subject in question, none of which you’d have heard if you’d just given a quick answer. We can’t appear ignorant, after all, can we?? But what if we *slow down*, risk admitting the limits of our knowledge, and thereby empower others to think for themselves and, *together*, figure out some important things? Just starting out here as your new pastor, even after nearly 30 years of being a pastor, has me admitting to myself how much “I don’t know” and how much I (and we) need to listen to “What others think.” As I said in last month’s article, I believe God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason.

Church Committees are resuming a regular schedule. Along these lines you can all expect that our church committees will start meeting again very soon (some have already resumed meeting since I arrived). If you already serve on a committee you can anticipate being contacted soon as we provide a safe space (again, following the recommendations of our Smart Team) for us to all listen, learn and faithfully reform and revitalize our shared ministry. I am working through the Church Council and various committee liaisons on the Council to jumpstart this process. Stay tuned!

Something new to anticipate in December. There is a commitment (and planning is underway) for several International Falls churches to jointly provide a mid-week Advent prayer service. These will be “virtual/livestreamed.” The location will rotate among the participating congregations and the leadership will be shared by each church. We will use the “Holden Evening Prayer” as our liturgy. Please stay tuned for a flyer with more details as they firm up.

Last, but NOT least – a reminder that getting to know you (even if you are masked and hard to recognize, over the phone, or in writing) is a top priority for me! I have established a new email address that should be easy to remember: pastormarkzion@gmail.com. I check my email frequently. Church staff and leadership know how to reach me on my cell phone in case of pastoral emergencies. I have asked the prayer chain to keep me apprised of all prayer requests. If you are hospitalized or would like a visit at any time (or know someone I should reach out to) then please contact me right away. I extensively use our church directory for my daily prayers and as a way to get to know folks. This directory needs a refresh from 2012 – eight years is a long time. What I said in my first newsletter article bears repeating here: *“As you know, limited access to the church building is guided by the recommendations of our ‘Smart Team’ to ensure the health and safety of visitors, members, and staff. Now, more than ever, the church is more than just a building – the ministry and mission continue and are not limited to ‘virtual’ worship once a week.”*

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mark Peters

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH – INCOME AND EXPENSE

January 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020

INCOME		EXPENSE	
Offerings and Memorials	\$112,903.00	Mission Partners	\$ 3,862.18
Other Income	\$1,161.30	Program and Ministry	\$ 8,077.92
Transfers from		Administration	\$21,439.90
<u>Dedicated Funds</u>	<u>\$11,672.02</u>	Utilities	\$ 9,705.44
Total Income	\$125,736.32	Maintenance	\$ 6,168.99
		Insurance	\$ 2,579.00
		Thrivent Loan Interest	\$ 18.93
		<u>Salaries</u>	<u>\$58,356.62</u>
		Total Expenses	\$110,208.98
<u>Net Gain – \$15,527.34</u>			

For further detail, please contact the church office or the council treasurer.

Special Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting September 2, 2020 6:00 pm

Members Present: Belmer Cole, Shawn Kelly, Elsie Korpi, Pastor Mark Peters, Bob Peterson, Carol Schumacher, Jim Stavseth, Hunter Wilson, June Wilson

Members Absent: Doug Anderson, Joe Belanger, John Cann, Gail Costley, Shari Schneider

President Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with a quorum of nine members in attendance.

- I. **President Peterson introduced and welcomed Pastor Mark Peters to Zion Lutheran Church**, stating that “The Call Committee did a GREAT JOB!” And, asked Council members to introduce themselves.
- II. **Pastor Peters opened with devotions**, followed by prayer, using an imagery taken from “Canoeing the Mountains” of the Lewis & Clark explorers as they set out in a canoe in uncharted territory to find a waterway to the Pacific Ocean, but instead found themselves faced with an insurmountable mountain and how they had to adapt by getting rid of their canoe and get back on course. The church today is finding itself in uncharted territory – facing many challenges – how do we transition? What are we going to do to get rid of the canoe to navigate into the future? We as a church need to figure out where we’re going and how to get there. There are a lot of demographics to look at.
- III. **The Secretary’s Report from the July 21, 2020 Council Meeting** was accepted and approved on a motion made by Belmer Cole, seconded by Jim Stavseth, and carried unanimously.
- IV. **The Treasurer’s Report** was given by President Peterson. Russell Strand has resigned from his position as Treasurer, as well as from the Council. Had a Total Income for July of \$12,843.10, Year to Date, \$92,723.77 (53.05% of budget); Total Expense of \$9,082.56, Year to Date, \$69,620.43 (39.92% of budget); with Income Less Expense of \$3,760.54, Year to Date, \$23,103.34. He applauded the Congregation for their favorable response and support shown throughout the pandemic. Motion to accept and approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented was made by Elsie Korpi, seconded by June Wilson, and carried unanimously.
- V. **President’s Report** - With the employment of Pastor Peters, we need approval by the Council for a housing allowance, paid as part of his compensation, whereby he would not be subject to Federal Income Tax. Pastor Peters, along with his two sons, are temporarily renting a 3-bedroom apartment above the Coffee Landing. Housing agreement to read as follows:

Zion Lutheran Church Council President Bob Peterson informed the church council on September 2, 2020, that under the Internal revenue Service Code Section 107, for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2020, an ordained minister (1) is not subject to Federal income tax with respect to a housing allowance, paid as part of compensation, to the extent the allowance is used by the minister to rent or provide a home and (2) is not subject to Federal income tax on the rental value of a home.
The Council established an annual amount of \$30,000.
On motion duly made and seconded adopted the following resolution: The amount shown above be designed for housing allowance for the calendar year 2020 and all future years until modified or revoked. I understand that I assume full responsibility for compliance with IRS Code 107.
Approved & Signed by Council President Bob Peterson on 09/02/2020.
Motion to approve the above made by Shawn Kelly, seconded by Hunter Wilson, and carried unanimously.
- VI. **Joe Belanger, SAM Report** - President Peterson wanted to go on record and personally thank Joe for his 33 months of outstanding outreach to Zion as a Synod Authorized Minister. In honor and thankfulness to Joe, we will have cake & coffee at next Council meeting when he will be in attendance.

Pastor Peters added that he has met with Joe a couple of times – that they have had wonderful conversations. Hope to start up a text study group – have discussed with Pastor Berry.

Notes submitted by Joe - Live streamed services continue to do well with 300+ views per week. Our radio broadcast has had increased listeners - have received positive feedback. Service broadcast on Midco has lost audio and is being investigated. Small Town Tech is working on replacing some cords and floor jacks on the altar area. New microphones have been ordered for the altar and area near the piano. The altar microphone and stand being used now have been on loan from John Faith. The new banners have been installed in the concourse.

- VI. **Ongoing Business - Smart Team** - President Peterson proposed adding Pastor Peters to the Team and keeping Joe on. Motion to approve was made by Carol Schumacher, seconded by Shawn Kelly, and carried unanimously.
- VII. As reported by Joe, a draft of a preparedness plan is being considered by the Smart Team and once revisions are made, a final draft will be sent to the Council for approval. There has not been a date set yet for approval for in-person worship. If approved by the Council, we may be able to have funerals at Zion with a total 45-50 people in attendance.
- VIII. **Committee Reports - Property & Grounds** - Have received three proposals for the air conditioning/heating units. Approximate cost to replace is \$20,000. Funds raised and placed in the Building Maintenance/Dedicated Fund amount to \$2,500 (Aug not yet recorded). President Peterson suggested we continue fundraising until spring. Initial plan was to take \$8,000 out of the general budget and use a portion of the Semmler memorial that is designated for building improvement. Belmer - "Should make a decision by end of the month." It was agreed to put on the agenda for next Council meeting.

Pastor Peters proposed that we begin discussion on how we can safely start to re-open...approve church functions...look at meeting in different rooms...to explore with Joe and the Smart Team.

IX. **New Business**

a. **Pastor Mark's Equipment Request** - purchase of **laptop computer**

Hewlett Packard 17.3 touch screen with dedicated card, and optical drive at a cost of \$1,923, or one similar. Hope to buy locally and stay within that ballpark figure. Also, would like to purchase an **additional monitor** for backup (approx cost \$319).

Motion to allow purchase made by Hunter Wilson, seconded by Elsie Korpi, and carried unanimously.

Request to purchase a 30"x71" Lander office desk that is more ergonomically suited at a cost of \$1,813.00.

Motion to allow purchase made by Carol Schumacher, seconded by Shawn Kelly, and carried unanimously.

b. **Joe's position** - His SAM appointment ended as of Pastor Peter's hire date of September 2, 2020. He still has two week's vacation time. Pastor Peters requested that Joe be allowed to stay on for a month to help with transitioning. President Peterson stressed the importance of following a formal process - could review after one month.

Motion made by Carol Schumacher, seconded by Shawn Kelly, to extend Joe's position for one more month, then review. Motion carried unanimously.

Pastor Peters - With conference coming up, it would be nice if Joe and Joelle could also attend. He welcomed anyone to stop in and visit, have coffee, ask questions - states "He's an open book."

Next Council Meeting - date to be determined.

With no further business, motion to adjourn made by Belmer Cole, seconded by Elsie Korpi, and carried unanimously. Meeting closed at 7:10 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elsie Korpi

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE READINGS SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

November 1
All Saints Day

Liturgical Color – White

Revelations 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

November 8
23rd Sunday of Pentecost
Liturgical Color – Green

Amos 5:18-24

Psalm 70

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

November 15
24th Sunday of Pentecost
Liturgical Color – Green

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

November 22
Christ the King Sunday
Liturgical Color – White

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

November 29,
First Sunday of Advent
Liturgical Color – Blue

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

THE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH are still in need of your offering and monetary gifts as we determine what the church may look like right now and in the future. You may still mail your financial gifts to the church and, in addition to the Simply Giving program, we now accept donations through Pay Pal. The financial institution where you bank may also have an automatic bill-pay program for you to utilize. Thank you for your continued support of the work of the church.



Thrivent Choice Dollars

Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by their directing Choice Dollars. You can contribute to Zion Lutheran Church, log into your Thrivent account, or speak with your Thrivent representative.

BACKUS COMMUNITY CAFÉ – Please note that the Backus dining room is closed, however, meals will be available for pick up/carry out. Guests should call Backus at 285-7225 before 4:00 pm on a café day to reserve a meal. Meals can then be picked up from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm from the east door of Backus (Door #3) on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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You shop. Amazon gives.

👉 Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Zion Lutheran Church** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

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👉 This is another opportunity to support Zion and its ministries. Log in at smile.amazon.com. Contact the church office with any questions.

SANCTUARY AIR CONDITIONING

The air conditioning units in our sanctuary have been inoperable for the past two summers. Bids to replace them have been obtained. The cost for replacing them will be approximately \$20,000. The new units will also heat the sanctuary in early spring and fall, being more efficient than using the boilers. Any donations toward this project are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to our Sunday radio broadcast on K104.1 FM at 9:30 am, we also live-stream the service on our Facebook page.

If you have Midcontinent as your cable TV provider (channel 7), the Sunday worship service will be shown:

Sunday evenings at 7:30 pm and 11:30 pm
Monday mornings at 5:30 am and 9:00 am

VIRTUAL WORSHIP

Sincere thanks to John Faith, Cathy Lucca, Ted Saxton, Carol Schumacher, Destiny Piekarski, Danielle Piekarski and Donna Barg who have made it possible to continue having worship on Sundays.

Cathy, Carol, Donna, Destiny and Danielle have been readers and liturgists. John Faith is our audio technician, and Ted Saxton manages the live streaming and website. You are awesome!

PLEASE NOTE

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, articles or special announcements for the December 2020 Newsletter are due Wednesday, November 18. Please note the earlier due date.

You may leave them at the office
or email them to
zionlutheranifalls@gmail.com

Let us pray for people who are infected with covid-19 or facing quarantine.

Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses. Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

Let us pray for leaders responsible for making decisions about the coronavirus.

Father, we seek Your wisdom daily. Be with people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly — with each other and with the public — and that their messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection.

Let us pray for the disease to stop spreading.

Almighty God, we know that everything is in Your sovereign control. We ask that You keep this coronavirus from continuing to spread. According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ZLCW NEWS AND NOTES – November 2020

Our Bible study for November is centered on the last of our three-part session of HOLY TIME and is entitled “HOLY FUTURE”. This month we turn towards the time to come and God’s promise to be with us always, leading us into the holy future. Our focus verse is found in Matthew 28:20^b. “And remember, I am with you always to the end of age.” Our hostess will be Helen Smerika. Join us Monday, November 2 at 1:30 p.m. as we study God’s word together in these uncertain times.

“SPECIAL THANKS”

to Darlene, Jan, Barb, Patti, Donna, Pam Connie and Helen for cleaning, sorting, polishing, and sprucing up our kitchen. When we can get back to coffee hours and other church events, we ask for your cooperation in keeping things orderly and neat. This includes taking any leftover food home, laundering any linens used, cleaning up any spills and making sure coffee pots and the dishwasher are turned off. “THANKS” in advance for your help.

PIECEMAKER NOTES

We will be busy sewing, tying, and packing quilts and kits on Monday and Tuesday, November 9, 10, 16, 17 from 9:00-3:00. More willing hands are needed. PLEASE NOTE: Last month I asked for items needed to make up personal care kits in November. Items needed are bath towels, approx.: 52’ x 27’, (dark colors) soap (bars), and toothbrushes. We will be packing these kits on November 17, so please drop your items off at the church between now and the 17th. Thank you.

RECIPE CORNER

Turkey breast (slow cooker)

1 bone-in turkey breast 6 to 7 lbs.
4 fresh rosemary sprigs
4 garlic cloves, peeled
1 T. Brown sugar
½ tsp pepper
¼ tsp salt

Place turkey in crockpot. Place herbs around turkey. Combine sugar pepper and salt. Sprinkle over turkey. Cover and cook on low 4-6 hrs or until turkey is tender. Note: Another easy recipe is to put the turkey in slow cooker and pour a bottle of Italian dressing over it. Cook as above.

Impossible Pumpkin Pie

Put All Ingredients In Blender On Medium Speed:

2 eggs, 1 can pumpkin
1 can evaporated milk, plus enough water to make 2 cups liquid, ¾ c. sugar
¼ tsp. cloves, 1 tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp ginger, ¼ tsp. nutmeg
2 tsp. vanilla, 1/2. Tsp. Bisquick mix
½ tsp salt

Pour mixture into a 10’ greased pie plate. Bake at 350° for 45-50cminutes. Serve with whipped cream.

NOTE: May use 2 ½ tsp. of pumpkin pie spice in place of the 4 different spices.

NO - BAKE SALE

Another big “thank you” to all who supported us with your monetary first and donations to our No-Bake Sale, which took place of our annual Harvest Bazaar. To date, proceeds have exceeded \$925.00. Financial gifts are still welcome. A reminder that we still have greeting cards, napkins, crafts, and cookbooks on hand and for sale.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The world’s most destructive acid seems to come from our sour disposition.

Until next time... Happy Thanksgiving

Donna

NOVEMBER STEWARDSHIP VERSE

One of the primary reasons for obtaining wealth
Is to be able to give it to God.

“...remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said,
‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35).

STEWARDSHIP ARTICLE – NOVEMBER 2020

Applying Bible Principles

The writer of the book of Hebrews made this short but powerful statement about the Lord Jesus, “Consider him.” That admonition is nowhere more needful than in the matter of giving and receiving.

Consider Him, the Lord of glory, who gave His life so that we might gain eternal life. Consider Him, who was rich, yet became poor for our sakes, that we through His poverty might be rich. Consider Him, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Consider Him, who was quoted by Dr. Luke in Acts 20:35 as saying, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Although many Christians would at first glance agree with that premise on an intellectual basis, by their lifestyles, they demonstrate that their lives are diametrically opposed to this biblical principle. They might even go so far as to state their agreement with what the Lord Jesus said, but not so far as to change their selfish “me first” attitude. They might give mental assent or even verbal assent to His teaching, but in reality, their lives are consumed by a passion for “receiving” instead of “giving.” It is as though they pass through life’s portals with this striking question emblazoned across their foreheads: “What’s in it for me?”

Such an attitude should be foreign to the lives of those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ. If our role in life is to follow Him, and to obey Him, we should demonstrate daily, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

God, who owns everything, gives material possessions freely and willingly to us, His children, for a number of reasons, but one of the primary reasons is for us to be able to give them back to Him. Each time we give to the Lord’s work out of a heart that responds to His love and grace, we give away a little of our selfishness and gain a bit more of Christ’s sacrificial spirit. As John MacArthur expressed it so well, “The major money issue in Scripture is not how you feel about it, or even how you spend it. The primary concern of Scripture is how you give it.”

Dr. Herschel Hobbs wrote this, “One of greed’s victims read this verse, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ How revealing of his sordid, shriveled soul was his comment: ‘Well, perhaps so, but receiving is good enough for me.’ Is receiving good enough for you? Would you rather be a beggar than a benefactor? a panhandler than a philanthropist? a blight than a blessing? a parasite than a producer? a getter than a giver?”

As you think about your answers to Dr. Hobbs’ questions, and as you give of your resources to the Lord’s work, “Consider Jesus.” “Consider Him” by remembering and obeying His words, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

**VOYAGEURS LUTHERAN MINISTRY
RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

September 11th, 2020: VLM is still managing the camp under the Be Bold, Be Strong Conservancy Plan. We are hosting family and small group retreats, and will be coming to the end of a contract with the US Forest Service who have been renting the Bakk House at Camp Vermilion.

Until a vaccine comes around, our summer plans for 2021 include canoe Country Trips and half capacity in-camp programming. We expect to have registration information out in Early November.

Making the decision early has helped VLM stabilize our cash flow and put VLM into a position to make it through the summer with only temporary furloughs. Moving forward we will be continuing to implement the Be Bold, Be Strong plan and prepare to welcome kids safely for ministry as soon as possible.

We thank all of our churches and families who are supporting VLM and God's mission at this time, and look forward to the new ways we will be doing ministry at Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion.

THANKSGIVING AND GRATITUDE QUOTES

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever." Psalm 136:1

"Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action." - W.J. Cameron

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John Fitzgerald Kennedy

"There should be a parallel between our supplications and our thanksgivings. We ought not to leap in prayer, and limp in praise." - Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"The Christian who walks with the Lord and keeps constant communion with Him will see many reason for rejoicing and thanksgiving all day long." - Warren W. Wiersbe

"We can always find something to be thankful for, and there may be reasons why we ought to be thankful for even those dispensations which appear dark and frowning." - Albert Barnes

"Each day is a gift from God. What you do with it is your gift to Him." - T.D. Jakes

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever, his faithfulness continues through all generations." – Psalm 100



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

A New Lens for Generosity

Sharing God's gifts with one another through stewardship is an integral part of the Lutheran faith. But sometimes stewardship is misunderstood, equated simply with giving money rather than sharing time, spirit and love. Linda Staats is trying to change that with the Generosity Project, a stewardship resource funded in part by Mission Support.

Developed through a partnership between Staats, the Rocky Mountain Synod and the churchwide organization, the Generosity Project challenges Lutherans to rethink stewardship through innovative, intergenerational programming.

When Diane Krauszer, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Palmer, Alaska, introduced her congregation to the Generosity Project two years ago, it shifted perspectives.

"One [person] exclaimed, 'We never talked about any of this when I was a kid, and I wish we had,'"Krauszer said. Believing this resource Episcopal Church, Valdez, Alaska, she took a cue from the project and shared it with them.

In 2019, Krauszer partnered with Kaitlin Pabo-Eulberg, Epiphany's pastor, to introduce the blended Lutheran-Episcopal congregation and a neighboring Catholic church to the Generosity Project.

"It [was] a very natural partnership to invite them,"Pabo-Eulberg said of Epiphany's Catholic neighbors."They were really excited to talk about giving from their perspective." The event included participants ranging in age from 8 to 89, and Pabo-Eulberg recalled enthusiastic listening and understanding across the generations.

Among them were Epiphany members Donna Newcomer, a baby boomer, and Steve Newcomer, of the Greatest Generation."[Now] every time somebody comes to [our] house, when they leave, I say, 'Thank you for spending time with us,'"Donna said."Because that's the greatest thing you can give somebody — they noticed you and spent time with you."

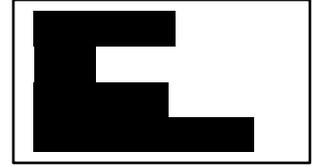
Staats said this new lens for generosity is the project's aim.

"The goal is not to increase giving by a percentage," she said."The goal is to change the culture in a congregation [and in homes]. We're building a culture to bring all generations together ... and equipping the home as a place where generosity is practiced."

Thank you for your generous gifts of Mission Support, which made this story of faith in action possible. Mission Support is the portion of your offering your congregation shares with your synod, and your synod shares with the churchwide organization. To learn more, visit ELCA.org/SOFIA.

Zion Lutheran Church
530 Sixth Street
International Falls, MN 56649

Return Service Requested



NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER – VOLUME 43, ISSUE 10

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to our Sunday radio broadcast on K104.1 FM at 9:30 am,
we also live-stream the service on our Facebook page.

Please join us!

HELP US MAINTAIN OUR MAILING LIST

Please let us know if you have an address change – temporary or permanent.

Zion Lutheran Church
530 Sixth Street
International Falls, MN 56649

218/283-9865

Email: zionlutheranifalls@gmail.com

Website: www.zionluthernintlfalls.org