

**Zion Lutheran Church
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**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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TIOGA, ND 58852
PERMIT #3**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



JANUARY 2019

January

The Return Ship Home

As we enter into another year, I find myself looking back on the events of 2018. Inevitably my mind's eye turns toward thinking about the people that our congregation and our community have lost to death. As a pastor I am often involved with many grieving families and individuals. At times it can honestly be a bit overwhelming. But I recently heard an allegory about death that helped me immensely.

One of my favorite books of all time (especially as a young boy) is *The Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann David Wyss. I had downloaded the audio book to listen to the book that brought me so much pleasure as a child. I was able to find the unabridged book and was astonished at how overtly Christian of a book it is. I don't remember thinking the same way about the abridged book I read as a child. In the book, the father tells his children and wife an allegorical story to help them better understand God's involvement with humanity.

In the story the father shared how there is a great king. This king was lord of the kingdom of light and reality. He had subjects sent to a desert island, and were given the task to cultivate and develop this land. The subjects were given all they needed to be successful at this task. The king from time to time would send ships to bring away some of the colonists of the island and either reward them or punish them with how they lived their lives.

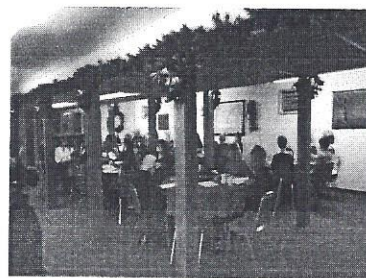
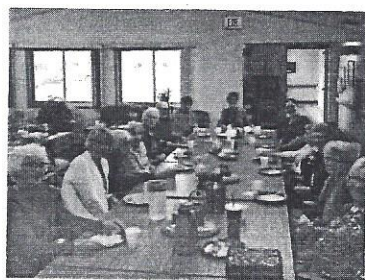
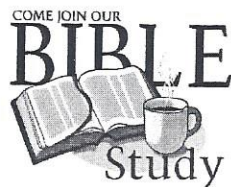
The ships sent to retrieve the colonists were called different names like sickness and death, yet they were all controlled by the admiral. When the ships arrived, the admiral would point out people that were to be taken aboard to return to the king. The fleet always arrived unexpectedly, and normally they were unwelcomed. When the fleet returned to the kingdom of light and reality the king judged the subjects and either sent them to work in the mines forever, or allowed them to live and work in peace in the land of light.

As I listened to this allegory I was reminded that while it is a hard thing for people to be taken from us in death, it truly is just a matter of God bringing back his subjects to be with Him in heaven. The Bible records for us that as children of God (those who have faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord), we are given the promise that when we are absent from this body, we are present with the Lord. As such, death experienced by a believer is never a time of sorrow, but a time of great joy. For death is nothing but a ship delivering us to our new home. Death takes our friends, family, and loved ones from us which is hard, yet in our parting of ways we are reminded that before long we will be reunited with each other in the presence of God in the kingdom of Light and Reality.

As we continue our lives, the ships of death will come and visit our friends and family, and eventually us. The ships will always arrive unexpectedly, yet they will arrive. Let us not be overwhelmed with the sorrow of not seeing our loved ones anymore when they board those ships. Rather, let us look to our loved ones who have boarded the ships of death with faith in Jesus as simply going on a trip ahead of us. Through faith in Jesus, we too will be reunited with our loved ones when the King sends the ships of death to pick us up and transport us to the Kingdom of Light and Reality.

Pastor 

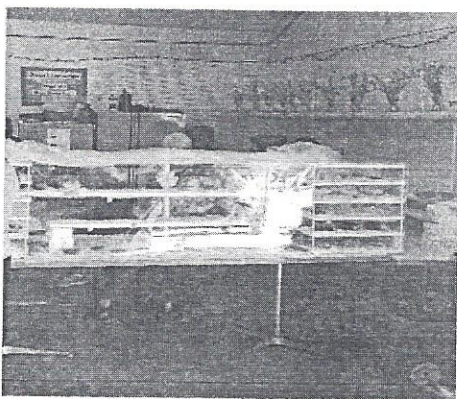
We invite you to be a part of the Zion Ladies WMF!
(Women's Missionary Federation of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations)



- Join a Circle that fits your time the best! Each Circle meets the second Thursday of each month.
- Circle 1 meets at 9:30 a.m., Circle 2 meets at 2 p.m., and Circle 3 meets at 7 p.m.
- Circle Meetings are hosted by various Circle members at their homes or at the church.
- The monthly Bible Study lessons will be gone over as a group at each Circle.
- All Circles meet together the third Wednesday every other month to have a program and business meeting to discuss mission projects, serving, and programs. Refreshments are served.

As a Circle group, some of the projects that we do together are:

- Visits to the TMC nursing home, Pie Booth at Farm Festival,
- Mission Festival Dinner, serving for funerals, Christmas Tea,
- Support of our congregation's needs, and support of AFLC missionaries,
- Support the projects of the national AFLC WMF.



What is WMF?

(Esther Hylden explains WMF to the Seminary Students)

WMF...what is this? Is it an acronym for Woman Moving Forward? Woman, Money and Fun? When that little notice appears in the bulletin announcing WMF on Thursday night at 8pm...what exactly is going on?

When I joined an AFLC church as a young woman, I certainly did not know what WMF was, and had no intention of ever attending. It took a kind, older woman from our church, Dorothy Presteng, to gently take me aside, explain what WMF was and offer me a warm invitation before I even considered attending this mysterious group.

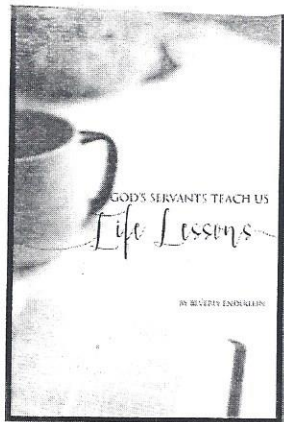
Now, over 30 years later, I have had the privilege of serving on the National WMF Board, and am honored to be able to share with you about WMF.

WMF stands for Woman's Missionary Federation. Our purpose is to awaken and deepen interest in and love for the Kingdom of God, to unite all women of the AFLC into deeper fellowship and service, and to encourage and organize missionary activities.

GOD'S SERVANTS TEACH US LIFE LESSONS

2019 WMF BIBLE STUDY

by Beverly Enderlein



"I see the Lord always before my face; He is at my right hand, that I shall not be moved. Therefore, my heart rejoices, my tongue is glad, and my flesh also shall rest in hope." Acts 2:25-26

I invite you to walk through the Bible together as we study, "God's Servants Teach Us Life Lessons." A study of the "old favorites" at first glance might be too familiar to be captivating. However, powerful lessons can be drawn from the real life events of God's people through the ages. As we enjoy reading and discussing each one, we want to seek richer applications for ourselves. God's Word is living and powerful. It is always current. Its lessons are given for our admonition and instruction.

Let's trust God to teach us as we journey together with God's servants throughout 2019.

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dear Master, for this coming year

Just one request I bring;

I do not pray for happiness

Or any earthly thing.

I do not ask to understand

The way Thou leadest me,

But this I ask: Teach me to do

The thing that pleaseth Thee.

I want to know Thy guiding voice,

To talk with Thee each day

Dear Master, Make me swift to hear

And ready to obey.

And then the year I now begin

A happy year will be

If I am seeking just to do

The thing that pleaseth Thee.

~ Author Unknown

A WINTER SUNDAY

I love a peaceful Sunday,
The quiet that's in the air,
The serene and happy feeling,
The comfortable rocking chair.

The smell of delicious coffee,
The ham and hot cakes to bake
No hurried school-day rushing,
No scampering, no lunches to make.

The papers piled high on the table,
You can read to your heart's delight
With an old soft robe and slippers on
And the sun shining warm and bright.

I love a quiet Sunday
With peacefulness in the air.
Let's count our blessings, go to church,
And say a little prayer.

~ Marquerite Halker

*Lord, as I face a NEW YEAR — help
me reach out to the challenging future
— NOT look back to the unchange-
able past. Go with me, my trust worthy
Lord... together WE CAN.*

FUTURE

Before me is a future
All unknown,
A path untrod;
Beside me is a Friend,
Well-loved and known,
That friend is God.
Before me lies a new
And untried way,
Midst shadows dim.
Beside me is my Guide,
And day by day
I walk with Him.

WINTER GIFTS

I love the woods when limbs are bare,
Deciduous trees their beauty share.
Outlined against a cold, clear sky,
With geese and songbirds winging by.
Lithe branches lift in God's design —
Simplicity of form and line.

Concealed by summer foliage green,
Now neighbors' cozy homes are seen.
The dormant earth draws people near,
Grants time for sharing, peace and cheer,
To treasure beauty God imparts —
Fine winter gifts that warm our hearts.

— Louise Pugh Corder

ONE YEAR TO LIVE

If I had but one year to live
One year to help, one year to give,
One year to love, one year to bless
One year of better things to stress;
One year to sing, one year to smile
To brighten earth a little while,
One year to sing my Master's praise
One year to fill with work my days;
One year to strive for a reward
When I should stand before my Lord,
I think that I would spend each day
In just the very selfsame way;

That I do now, for from afar
The call may come to cross the bar,
At anytime, and I must be
Prepared to meet eternity.
So if I have one year to give
A pleasant smile, a helping hand,
A mind that tries to understand
A fellow-creature when in need;
'Tis one with me — I take no heed
But try to live each day he sends
To serve my gracious Master
— *Selected*



WHEN A NEW DAY dawns there speaks a voice, for those who have ears to hear...proclaiming,
"Here is a fresh, unspoiled opportunity! Here is a clean page of the book; and even though some of
the earlier pages have been marred by smudges and mistakes which shame you bitterly to think of
them, here is this page, untouched and spotless, waiting for the narrative you will write on it today.
All the past is finished and forgiven. Behold I make all things new."

Inspirational Quotes
by Martin Luther King Jr

"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend."

"When you are right, you cannot be too radical; when you are wrong, you cannot be too conservative."

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

"Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men."

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

"Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

"I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal'."

The Lord is My Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible – Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter.

Little Ricky was excited about the task – but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."



AMID TRIALS

Often life is hard and full of pain. The world may use us rudely and roughly. We may suffer wrongs and injuries. Other people's clumsy feet may tread upon our tender spirits. We are called upon to endure misfortunes, trials and disappointments.

We cannot avoid these things, but we should not allow the harsh experiences to deaden our sensibilities or make us stoical or sour. The true problem of living is to keep our hearts sweet and gentle in the hardest conditions and experiences.

That is true, victorious living.

~ J.R. Miller

A NEW BEGINNING

Sometimes as we journey the highway of life,
And moments of joy cross our path
Let's remember the Source, the Giver of gifts,
So the beauty of His giving will last.

For sometimes in blindness we sort of abuse,
The good that we find 'long the way,
Thus making the journey a little bit rough,
By the things that we do and we say.

But each day's a new blessing and another new chance,
To correct all the errors we've sown,
And the blessing to start all over again
And to know that much better we've grown.

~ Chris Hambernard



THE CHRISTIAN HOME

The Christian home is a haven
And founded upon the Rock
Held firm by the Heavenly Father,
Protected from every shock.

With Christ the Head of the household,
All things take their proper place,
His sweetness and gentleness filter
The trials and cares to erase.








No problem too great for His wisdom,
No trouble too small for His care,
Whatever the danger may threaten,
The Saviour will always be there.

God's Word brings the light of His presence,
In blessing and strength to His own.
No good will He hold from His loved ones
Who are building a Christian home.

– Velma Redelfs



JANUARY 2018 ZION ACTIVITIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>"O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!"</p> 		<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Youth Meal 7 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> 
<p>6 <i>Mission Sunday</i></p> <p>9 am Sunday school & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7 pm Deacon/Deaconess Meeting 7:15 pm Trustee/Budget Meeting 8pm Church Council Mtg.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:30 pm Confirmation 6 pm Christian Ed Meeting 6:30 pm Youth Meal 7 pm choir 7 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Zion WMF Circles Meet: Circle 1 – 9:30 am Circle 2 – 2 pm Circle 3 – 7 pm (Circle Bible study books are in the office)</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9 am Sunday school & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service Noon – Soup & Sandwich Lunch for Shawn Postovit</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>2 pm Ladies WMF</p> <p>5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Youth Meal 7 pm Choir 7 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>"That which is painful to the body may be profitable to the soul."</p>
<p>20 Building Project Sunday</p> <p>9 am Sunday school & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Youth Meal 7 pm Choir 7 pm Youth Group <u>Annual Reports are due in the office today, please and thank you!</u></p>	<p>24</p> 	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9 am Sunday school & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service Noon – Annual Congregational Meeting – potluck</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Youth Meal 7 pm Choir 7 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>31</p> 		<p>"Nothing is opened more by mistake than the mouth!"</p>

RADIO MINISTRY

Anyone who would like to sponsor a Sunday broadcast or contribute to the radio fund in memory of a loved one, please contact the church office, thank you! The radio broadcast is \$100 per Sunday. Our radio broadcast can be heard on Sundays at noon on AM Radio Station KTGO 1090.

 Our church service is on the local NCC TV Station channel 17 on Thursdays, at noon and 8 p.m.

USHERS THIS MONTH

JANUARY HEAD USHER: Jim Smithberg

Wilmer Roloff

Dan Larson

~Special Offering Baskets~

FIRST SUNDAY of each month is Mission Sunday.

THIRD SUNDAY of each month is New Building Project. We will have a basket in the back of the church on these two Sundays for special offering.

If your birthday or anniversary is missing from our Newsletter and you would like to be included, please call the church office

~CLOTHES CLOSET~

OUR CLOTHES CLOSET IS OPEN! HOURS TO SHOP ARE:
MONDAY 4-7 P.M. & SATURDAY 9-12 P.M.

IF YOU HAVE NEW OR GENTLY USED CLOTHES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE (PREFERABLY THAT GO WITH THE SEASON WE ARE IN) PLEASE DROP THEM OFF AT THE CHURCH. THANK YOU! VOLUNTEER HELP IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED!



Youth FLY Convention - July 1 - 6, 2019
YMCA Camp, Estes Park, CO
Theme: "I AM"



2019 AFLC Annual Conference - June 11-14
Spruce Lake Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA
Theme: "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord."
Joshua 24:15



~LOOKING AHEAD~

ZION ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27TH NOON - POTLUCK

COMMITTEES, PLEASE HAVE YOUR REPORTS IN BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23RD, THANK YOU!



~THANK YOU~

As the decorations in our church come down from another Christmas celebration, we are reminded of the blessings of fellowship that we have with one another throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who comes to participate on Sunday mornings; sound booth, ushers, those who teach Sunday school, those who plan various programs throughout the year, organ and pianists who bless us with beautiful worship music on Sunday, those who beautifully decorate our church for the various seasons, cook meals and help in the kitchen, volunteer in the Clothes Closet, and serve on committees or in other areas - we truly appreciate all of you, our church family! -Zion Council

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:3-6



~New Building Update~

Progress continues to be made on the exterior of the new church building. While we have completed much, thanks to the many volunteers and faithful givers, we need more help. We need help to put the finishing touches on the siding, as well as interior framing and painting. We also need your financial support. As we have moved well past the halfway point in the construction process we need a strong push to finish what we have started. Thank you again to all those who have volunteered, given of their time, talents, prayer support, and finances to our new building project!

