

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
TIOGA, ND 58852  
PERMIT #3

Zion Lutheran Church  
221 N. Main Street  
P.O. Box 548  
Tioga, ND 58852

Pastor ~ Richard Carr  
Cell# ~ 701-641-1736  
Church# ~ 701-664-2187

Email: [zionfreelutheran@gmail.com](mailto:zionfreelutheran@gmail.com)  
Church Website: [www.zionfreelutheran.com](http://www.zionfreelutheran.com)  
Youth Ministry: Ethan Kucera, Cell# ~ 218-324-3526

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*FEBRUARY 2020*

It's a good question isn't? Why are you going to church? And more specifically why are you, and others coming to our church? At my last congregation in Maryland there were over 50 churches surrounding Hagerstown Maryland. We don't have that many churches here in Tioga, and the surrounding area, but the same question should be asked. Why should people choose Zion Free Lutheran to be their church home?

As a pastor, I want to be a part of a congregation that teaches and preaches God's Word in clarity and with accuracy. I also believe good preaching is typically expository preaching. This is where the preacher takes a section of the Bible and explains it. I heard a preacher explain expository preaching as a sermon where the preacher simply explains the Bible. This is taking a text and digging down into it. It is bringing the truth that was conveyed to people long ago, and showing how those same truths apply to us today. It is not taking a topic and then finding verses that support that topic, it is taking a verse or verses and explaining them in context, in such a way that they become alive to the listener.

But it's more than the sermon, or teaching time isn't? I don't know if there are many people who attend a church only because the sermon is good, or the teaching time is always strong. Fellowship with other believers is very important to the health of a good church. People may be attracted to a church because it is known for its solid preaching and teaching, but they won't stay unless they feel apart of the congregation. We are called to live in the world, and make an impact in this world, and not just with our words, but our actions as well. We need to be involved in the lives of the people that we worship with. This takes work, time, and effort. It isn't easy, and it is sometimes messy. But isn't that part of life? By investing in the lives of the people that we worship with, we show them that we really care for them, and love them. Go out to dinner with others from the church. Invite them to your home, play games together, have fun together.

By becoming involved in each other's lives outside of church, you will build bonds of love that will help see you through times of struggles and hardships that are sure to come. You also will begin to see how we as a congregation are more than just a church function, but a family of believers united in our faith in Jesus Christ. While we are called to build the bonds of family inside the church, we need to also be involved in the lives of people outside the church as well.

Look at your neighbors, your co-workers, the people in your community that are not already part of a Biblically solid church. Don't they also need Jesus? Don't they need to experience the growth, fellowship, and love found only in a healthy Christian church that you have here at Zion?

But what about all our issues? There will always be a bonehead remark, or hurtful action that occurs inside our congregation. We are all sinners in need of a savior. This is as true pre-conversion, as it is after our conversion to faith in Jesus. Some look at the actions of sinful church goers and say they don't want to be a part of that church, because so many people there are hypocrites. One of my favorite answers to that statement came from the late Rich Mullins who once said, "I never understood why going to church made you a hypocrite either, because nobody goes to church because they're perfect. If you've got it all together, you don't need to go. You can go jogging with all the other perfect people on Sunday morning." In closing, part of what makes Zion a place that people will want to come and worship with us is you. Live your life in fellowship with your brothers and sisters of faith here at Zion, and in this community. Allow the light of God to shine through not just your words, but your actions. And when you slip up and sin, make things right when possible, and realize that you are still a sinner in need of a savior, and that you can find direction and clarity on your life's journey here at Zion.

*Pastor Joe*



## Youth News!

### Upcoming Events

February 16-17 - Bottineau Ski Trip / Overnighter

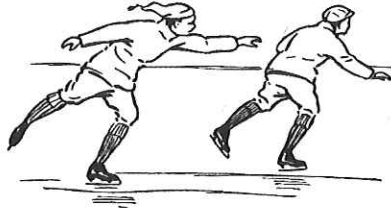
February 19 - Youth Group at the Ice Rink! - 7:00-8:30 p.m.

February 21 – Valentine’s Banquet – 6:30 p.m.

**\*\*Keep an eye out for announcements regarding a spring break youth event in March!**

### Young Adult Bible Study -

This is a group that we have been working on for a couple months now and is finally really kicking off! I am so excited to get to spend time with these folks every Monday from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.(or 9:00 more commonly!) and delve deeper into the Word together! We are currently going through a study of Acts and have had good discussions on everything from the Sanhedrin to the gifts of the Spirit! We would like to invite everyone who has graduated high school through the age of ~30 to come join us for good fellowship and study! And for those parents who are interested bring your kids! We have the nursery open and staffed every week!



### Youth Group -

This month we are going to be taking a deeper look at relationships and the ones we form in life! Our relationships (from friendships to family) all play a major role in our lives. We are going to look at what the bible says about these relationships and learn to make sure that the connections that we make are spiritually beneficial!



*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:1-3*

### **Building Committee Update:**

*"On Sunday, **February 19, 2017**, the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church voted to start building Phase One of our new church building. This phase is to be the main structure that will house the sanctuary, Sunday school rooms, office, kitchen, and fellowship area. We are excited to work with Maranatha Custom Church Builders from Jamestown, ND, and plan on starting the building project in Spring of 2017. Currently, we have the funds available to begin with the main structure. However, to complete this building we have about half of the needed funds, so we will focus on completing the outside shell of the building which our current funds allow. As funds continue to come in, we will work to finish the interior and complete the parking lot. We would like to thank everyone for your prayers and encouragement, and your continued gifts towards this project. Our desire is that funds will be made available as we build, and bring Phase One to completion. Please remember to lift this project up in prayer, and consider how the Lord is calling you to help with this step of faith."*

#### ***A ground breaking ceremony was held Sunday, April 9, 2017!***

It has been an amazing and "God Inspiring" two and a half plus years to date, since the first shovel was dug into the ground for the start of a new church building to worship and serve our ever gracious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Time has gone by fast! Back then, and even now, we have prayed and continue to pray that in all things regarding the new building project, that God would be glorified.

Throughout the construction process, work has never stopped, though maybe slowed down a bit; but even this was a blessing and afforded us (in many cases) to find workers/contractors who were more reasonable in price, and some even or partially donated the value of their work and labor.

As of January 2020, the texturing and painting is almost complete. The plumbing and heating fixtures are being installed and entering into the final phases. Kitchen cabinets are being delivered this week, and window trim is being installed. The main entry doors façade and interior doors will be delivered in February. The electrical fixtures will be installed sometime during February/March. The exterior work of concrete sidewalk and car port will be done this spring when the weather warms up. The parking lot and drive lanes need to be graded and more gravel installed in order to be functional. Landscaping directly around the building as well as along the boulevard will be worked on this summer.

We are very close to completing this project and look forward to perhaps this spring or summer when we can move into this beautiful and very "user friendly" building!

We are very thankful for, and appreciate everyone who has given financially to get us to this point debt free. Also, we would be at a loss if it wasn't for the many willing workers who give of their time and talents daily, working either on the inside or outside at the project site.

Please be in prayer as more funds are needed in order to bring the building to completion and occupancy. We pray that God will continue to be glorified as we move into our new building and continue the ministry of Zion Free Lutheran Church. ***To God Be the Glory!***





To my Dear-Deer Zion Family,

God put it on my heart to write to you some time ago. I'm finally being obedient. I want to share with you my appreciation for the love you so freely gave to my family. Our North Dakota experience could have been different, but ZION. God's people at Zion came along beside all 4 of us. You truly put your arms around the Thompson Family. For those six years, your attitudes were always a source of encouragement. I cannot adequately express with words how grateful I am to you, His body, the church. It was an honor to be a fellow worker/ soldier to further HIS Kingdom with "y'all". My motivation for this letter is the deep feeling of gratitude I have for all of you and the community of Tioga.

Each member of the Thompson family is doing well. Garsee will graduate this year from Dodge County High, the same school Todd and I graduated from. Both kids have made lots of new friends and acclimated nicely to the community. Luke is happy being busy with sports: soccer, baseball and basketball. Todd started work at a different job last July. This job is in July in Jefferson, South Carolina at Sand Hill Telephone Cooperative. So yes, we will move in June to SC. This is my second year back teaching Pre-K. I am quite attached to my rambunctious 4 and 5 year olds.

I look back on our time in ND and can see God's hand in ALL of it. We were only in Williston for six months (May- October) when God directed our path to Tioga. We were embraced from the very beginning. We were invited over to share that first Thanksgiving with a Zion family. We were immediately accepted and made to feel part of the Zion church family.

Your lives demonstrated the hands and feet of Christ in many-many ways. I felt spiritually, emotionally and physically fed by the church. There are so many wonderful memories of spending time together in the church kitchen preparing meals and sharing life! And then there was circle. Gathering around the table and learning about our Savior. It was a ball. In Circle 3, we enjoyed much laughter and fun. I have to mention our small group's tight bond (April & Eric, Jen & Mike, Matt & Julia and Michael). My heart just over flows with thankfulness thinking of all the meaningful times we spent. Our small group unconditionally loved every member of our family.

Our lives were blessed by being a part of the Zion congregation. I will always treasure the memories from Sunday School, WMF Rallies, Lent Meals, Christian Ed Committee, youth trips to Planet Wisdom, VBS, and the Clothes Closet just to name a few. Zion, you selflessly opened your homes and hearts to the Thompson four. I am proud to have learned much about the AFLC and to have been able to join you in our Lord's work in missions. Having the privilege to travel to Brazil was more emphasis of Zion's love for all people.

I feel very fortunate for having lived in North Dakota for those six short years. Reminiscing causes my heart to hurt because I miss you all so much. Thank you again for pouring into our hearts and lives with the love of Christ.

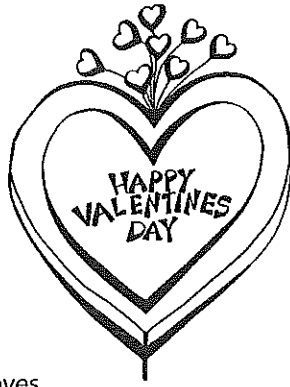
The Thompson's

Angie, Todd, Garsee and Luke



## LOVE:

Love is as warm among peasants as among kings.  
Love always believes in miracles.  
Nothing is so empty as a life without love.  
The best interpreter of the love of God is love for man.  
There is a love that never fails when earthly love fails.  
Love is more than words, real love will show by giving.  
To be loved is better than to be famous.  
Love will endure when you keep it pure.  
On occasion put your love in a mailbox  
To show your love for God, live for God.  
Love encourages as it corrects and gives hope as it reproves.  
The way to love anything or anybody is to realize that it could be lost.



## LOVE

Just saying that "I love you"  
doesn't mean a thing at all,  
for loving words fly like the birds,  
when they hear winter's call.

Love is a thing that proves itself  
a thousand times a day,  
in the simple little things you do,  
and the little things you say.

Love is a thing called sacrifice,  
a tonic, when you're blue  
love the joy of doing things  
for someone dear to you.

*Nick Kenny*

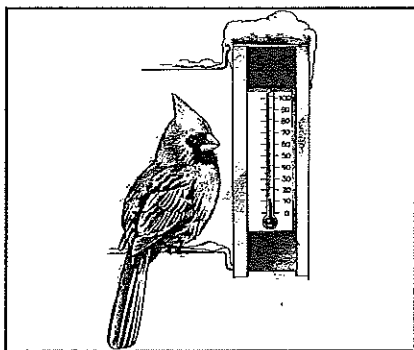


## FEBRUARY

February is the bridge  
That crossed into spring;  
A hint of springtime magic  
Is the gift that he would bring,  
And smiling through each snowstorm  
That winter sends our way  
He knows the snow will vanish  
In a not too distant day.

February is promise  
To those who patient be  
That flowers soon will appear  
And leaves will clothe each tree.  
The white will be transformed  
To fresh green everywhere  
As February ushers in  
A warmer bit of air.

*Lois Anne Williams*



## While There is Time

While there is time, Lord, may I use it well,  
'Tis gone in a moment, one never can tell  
Which day is our last one, with so much to do,  
All must be in order, when summoned by You.

While there is time, Lord, and life is my own,  
Let me bring gladness to someone alone.  
Renew a small hope, rekindle a dream,  
For shadows are never as dark as they seem.

While there is time, Lord, let me not waste  
The chances you give me, I cannot replace.  
Lend me Your wisdom, that I may learn  
To give of myself, not ask a return.

Let me be gently, keep my words kind,  
In spite of the worries, crossing my mind.  
And when at long last, life's sun starts to set,  
Let me have never a cause for regret.

*Grace E. Easley*



# Presidents' Day

**"Religion is as necessary to reason as reason is to religion. The one cannot exist without the other."** George Washington

**"Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom."** Thomas Jefferson

*"Posterity - you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."* John Quincy Adams

**"Sound morals, religious liberty and a just sense of religious responsibility are essentially connected with all true and lasting happiness."** William Henry Harrison

**"It must be felt that there is no national security but in the nation's humble, acknowledged dependence upon God and His overruling providence."** Franklin Pierce

**"Stand with anybody that stands right. Stand with him while his is right and part with him when he goes wrong."** Abraham Lincoln

**"Hold fast to the Bible. To the influence of this Book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization and to this we must look as our guide in the future."** Ulysses S. Grant

**"The President is the last person in the world to know what the people really want and think."** James A. Garfield

**"A cause worth fighting for is worth fighting for to the end."** Grover Cleveland

**"When you're at the end of your rope, tie a knot and hold on."** Theodore Roosevelt

**"If you want to make enemies, try to change something."** Woodrow Wilson

*"My country owes me nothing. It gave me, as it gives every boy and girl, a chance. It gave me schooling, independence of action, opportunity for service and honor."* Herbert Hoover

**"A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties."** Harry S Truman

**"The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining."** John F. Kennedy



## The River of Misunderstanding

There is a river, so narrow that little birds can fly across it with one sweep of their small wings, little children can talk across it in a whisper, and armies can camp on both sides, so close that by reaching out they could touch one another.

This tiny river is the "river of misunderstanding." It separates more people than anything else in the world.

This little river of misunderstanding, flowing down the mountains and hills of life, becomes gradually a larger river of division. It finally becomes a mighty torrent of antagonism, of suspicion, of injustice, of bitter hatred and malice—a sea of division.

May we learn to have an understanding - even in the little matters of life!

## "YOU ARE MY I LOVE YOU"

I am your parent; you are my child.

I am your quiet place; you are my wild.

I am your calm face; you are my giggle.

I am your wait; you are my wiggle.

I am your carriage ride; you are my king.

I am your push; you are my swing.

I am your audience; you are my clown.

I am your Long Bridge; you are my falling down.

I am your carrot sticks; you are my licorice.

I am your dandelion; you are my first wish.

I am your water wings; you are my deep.

I am your open arms; you are my running leap.

I am your way home; you are my new path.

I am your dry towel; you are my wet bath.

I am your dinner; you are my chocolate cake.

I am your bedtime; you are my wide awake.

I am your finish line; you are my race.

I am your praying hands; you are my saving grace.

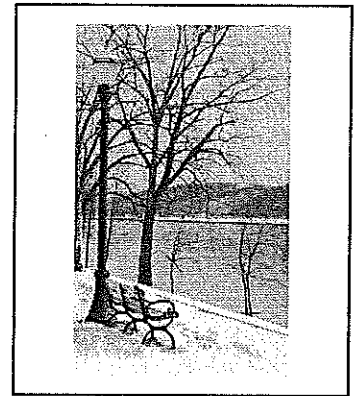
I am your favorite book; you are my new lines.

I am your night light; you are my starshine.

I am your lullaby; you are my peekaboo.

I am your good-night kiss; you are my I love you.

*Maryann Cusimano Love and Satomi Ichikawa*





# BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH






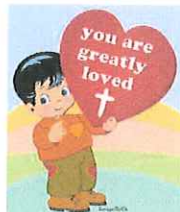





## FEBRUARY 2020 BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<i>"You were born an original. Don't die a copy. Be YOU!"</i>				1 Richard & Brianne Welsch
2	3	4 Nicole Postovit	5 Andrew Larson  Kirk Odegaard	6  Patricia Nelson	7 	8 Phil & Joann Becker  Ruth MacMonagle
9 	10 Marissa Olson  Matthew Thull  Robbie Johnson	11	12 Jeremiah Schmidt  Llew Pederson  Evan Pederson	13	14 Rick & Shelly Raan  Norma Brilz	15 Kari Skalicky Jared Blikre Corrie Dinolfo
16	17 Maycee Copeland Heinle  Dennis Rehak 	18 Karen Sundhagen	19 Louise Holt	20 Lynn Heinle	21 Judy Dobrovolny	22 
23 Susan Christofferson	24 Sophia Sabinash  Kim Dobrovolny	25 Dwight & Ruth MacMonagle  Ryan Fifer  Claudia Tande	26 	27 Lyle Tande	28 Kris Nielsen	29 <i>"We love Him because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19</i>



# February

## ZION FEBRUARY 2020 ACTIVITIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16</i></p>				<p><i>"Before you marry, keep your two eyes open; after you marry, shut one."</i></p>		1
<p><b>2 Mission Sunday</b> 9 am Sunday School &amp; Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service Noon – New Members Class <b>5:30 pm Super Bowl Party</b> ~Come and bring a snack to share~</p> 	<p><b>3</b> 1 pm Quilters</p> 	<b>4</b>	<p><b>5</b> 5:30 pm Confirmation <b>6 pm Christian Ed Mtg.</b> 6:30 pm Youth Meal 7 pm Youth Group 7 pm Choir</p>		<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<p><b>9</b> 9 am Sunday School &amp; Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 6:30 pm Effective Parenting Classes – Childcare Provided</p> <p><b>Dakota Hope Filled Baby Bottles are due back today!</b></p>	<p><b>10</b> 1 pm Quilters</p>	<p><b>11</b> <b>7 pm Deacon/Deaconess Mtg.</b> <b>7:30 pm Trustee Meeting</b> <b>8 pm Council Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Youth Meal 7 pm Youth Group 7 pm Choir</p>	<p><b>13</b> <i>Zion WMF Circles Meet:</i> <i>Circle 1 – 9:30 am</i> <i>Circle 2 – 2 pm</i> <i>Circle 3 – 7 pm</i></p>	 <p><b>Happy Valentine's Day!</b> Please sign up on sheet in back of church if you plan to attend the banquet next week!</p>	
<p><b>16 Building Project Sunday</b> 9 am Sunday School &amp; Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 6:30 pm Effective Parenting Class</p> <p><b>Youth Group Ski Trip to Bottineau-Overnighter</b></p>	<p><b>17</b> 1 pm Quilters</p> 	<b>18</b>	<p><b>19</b> 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Youth Meal 7 pm Choir <b>7 - 8:30 pm Youth Group at the Ice Rink!</b></p>	<b>20</b>	 <p><b>Valentine's Banquet 6:30 p.m.</b> Proceeds to go to the new church kitchen fund.</p>	<b>22</b>
<p><b>23</b> 9 am Sunday School &amp; Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service Noon – New Members Class 6:30 pm Effective Parenting Class</p>	<p><b>24</b> 1 pm Quilters</p>	<b>25</b>	<p><b>26 Ash Wednesday</b> 5:30 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Lent Meal <b>7 pm Lenten Service</b> 8 pm Youth Games 8 pm Choir</p>		<p><b>28</b> <i>"God takes your mess and turns it into a message."</i></p>	<b>29</b>



## 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.

## USHERS THIS MONTH

FEBRUARY HEAD USHER: Mark Schmidt

Richard Nelson

Lester Moe

Kim Keller

### ~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~

HOURS TO SHOP ARE:

MONDAY 2 - 7 P.M.

SATURDAY 9 - 12 NOON

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!



## Looking Ahead:

### Effective Parenting Classes

Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.  
Childcare provided.

### Valentine's Banquet

Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited – please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church!

### New Member's Class

Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> after the service.



### ~New Building Update~

Progress continues to be made on the new church building! We praise God and are so very thankful for all the helpers who volunteer their time and talents with various projects.

We love having visitors, come on up and check out the progress! Please pray with us for safety for our workers, wisdom for decisions being made, and continued gifts received to help complete this project, thank you!

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:9-10*

