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

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AUGUST 2020



Isn't this good enough?

I tend to be a very pragmatic person. I will fix things so they work, but sometimes my fixes that work, don't work very well, or don't look as good as they used to. A few months ago, our sliding door handle on the patio door broke. My fix was taking the locking mechanism apart, finding the broken latch, and then drilling a hole in the latch, and then putting a screw in half way. The lock worked, but it looked ugly, and kind of hurt every time you pushed the latch to lock the door. But it worked, and that's all that matters... right?

When I was newly married, and getting ready to move to Minnesota we had two vehicles that we took with us. A 5 year old Nissan Ultima in pretty good shape, and an ugly 15 year old Chevy Cavalier station wagon. The wagon (that Brenda generally refused to drive) had a patched up floor board of cut up paint cans and epoxy putty used to plug the rust holes in the floor, and the door panels had a coating of roof tar, then a layer of scrap sheet metal I was given riveted to the door, then painted with a brush with black rustoleum paint from a can. I was very proud of my handy work, and that car lasted for another 2 years. All that mattered was that I had a way of getting from point A to point B. It worked, and that's all that matters...right?

Some of you are probably thinking "Poor Brenda" right now. A few are marveling at my ingenuity at fixing things so they work. While most are probably just hoping that I didn't do any of my work up at our new church! But the reality is that there is a fine line between just fixing things so they work, and fixing things the right way. Most would never dream of fixing their car the way I did as a young man. Sure, it would cost a lot more to have a professional repair a rusted-out car, but the end result would be a car that looked as it should. While there is a place for "farm" cars, it should not be a daily driver.

As a Christian we are faced everyday with how we will live our lives for God. Some will strive to give God their best. They will give God their best time, energy, and money. It doesn't mean that everyone will be living as a missionary, pastor, or be in full time ministry. But it means that whatever these people do for God, they give it their best.

Many if not most others take a different approach. They give of themselves to God, only some. They will occasionally spend time with the Lord by doing devotions. They may put a 20 in the offering plate, and show up to church once in a while. They will sing songs that they like, and those that they don't like, they don't bother with. They give of themselves to God and the church here on earth when it works for them. The attitude of this person is typically, "Isn't this good enough?" Hey I am coming, I am giving, and I even help occasionally. Sure, I look like I just ate a bunch of lemons, but at least I am here.

Is this really what God wants? When David had the Ark of the Covenant moved improperly and a man attempted to keep the Ark from falling and touched it, he was instantly killed. The Ark needed to be moved, what's the big deal if it is moved in a way that God didn't want? 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under

compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." As long as the church/God gets something from me, why does my attitude really matter? I am guilted into giving, so I give.

The reality is good enough for God, isn't good enough. God's standards are perfection. God is holy, God is righteous, God is perfect. God doesn't just look at our outward works, but our inner heart. This concept is illustrated when Jesus said that we murder not just by outwardly taking a person's life, but by hating someone in our hearts. When we come to church to worship God, let's sing with our whole heart, give cheerfully, and listen intently. Let's allow our outward countenance to match up with our inner heart.

Our worship of Him should not be 2nd hand, throw stuff together, and see what works. Giving God our best became a practice that started all the way back in the Old Testament times when farmers brought in the harvest and would give to God the first of their harvest. This giving of their first fruits meant that they gave God their best, while also trusting in God to provide for their needs of the future. In the New Testament time that we live in, we can and should expand this first fruit offering of the Lord to all that we give to God.

There will be times or seasons in our life where we just don't give God our best. If this is where you are at, recognize the sin, confess it to God, and know that you are forgiven through Christ. However, don't become apathetic and decide that God doesn't deserve the best you have. Because the truth of the matter is that all the blessings we have, even those blessings we have earned through hard work are all gifts from God. Let us all give God our whole heart, mind, and spirit in all that we think, say, and do. For God is worthy.



PEOPLE . . . you have eight great gifts! The gift of ATTENTION. Give it to your friends. The gift of PRAISE. John Ruskin said, "The greatest gifts of the human race have come from the gift of praise." The gift of CONSIDERATION. The best way to keep from stepping on the other fellow's toes is to put yourself in his shoes. The gift of NATURE. Smile and the world smiles with you. Grumble and you grumble alone. The gift of CONCESSION. Concede that others have a brain in their head. The gift of CONFIDENCE. If you worry about what people think of you, it's because you have more confidence in their opinion than you have in your own. The gift of INSPIRATION. If you work for man – work for him! The gift of GRATITUDE. If we stopped to think more – we would stop to thank more. We all own these eight great gifts. If we don't use them – we're like a man with a million dollars in the bank and no checkbook! – copied

I'm Thankful, Lord

I'm thankful, Lord, that I can see
The beauty of this world that's free.
For all can share the nightime sky
And watch the moon that floats nearby.
The sun is ours, to felt its glow
And no one owns the ice and snow,
The light of day, the dark of night;
Or birds that soar in endless flight.
No sum can buy the days and hours
Along with trees and fragrant flowers,
You gave these treasures to everyone,
But most of all, You gave your Son.

Lola Frazier Olson

Peace in Prayer

In every time of struggle There is peace in quiet prayer, For the Lord is always waiting To uplift us from despair. Does not matter, place or moment, He will always hear the prayers That call out to Him, in earnest, For His grace of love and care. With tender touch of mercy, He will brush away our tears And becalm the swelling passions That engulf a heart in fears, For He is the Master Healer Of all wounds and griefs we bear And our Comforter and Savior, In the peace of quiet prayer.

Michael Dubina



A Prayer for Those Who Live Alone

I live alone, dear Lord, stay by my side,
In all my daily needs, be Thou my Guide.
Grant me good health, for that indeed, I pray.
To carry on my work from day to day.
Keep pure my mind, my thoughts, my every deed,
Let me be kind, unselfish in my neighbor's need.
Spare me from fire, from flood, malicious tongues,
From thieves, from fear, and evil ones,
If sickness or an accident befall,
then humbly, Lord, I pray,
Hear Thou my call. And when I'm feeling low,
Or in despair, lift up my heart,
And help me in my prayer.
I live alone, dear Lord, yet have no fear,
Because I feel Your presence ever near.

Life is Too Short

Let's smile and be kind – life is so short And most of the way so rough, The times are trying, the road upgrade, And always trouble enough. Yesterday's hurts we'll try to forego And tomorrow's cares can wait, Today with diligence let us keep Our hearts from strain of hate.

Life is too short for spite and revenge And paying back wrong for wrong — Try patience and love and forgiveness, Meet slights with a smile and a song; The sad world with all its repining, Its bitterness, care and tears, Needs the wealth of your loving kindness To sweeten the sin-soiled years.

Yes, life is too short to be hateful Or scorning any you meet, Then strive to be pleasant and gentle, To always smile and be sweet; For the sunshine of love is needed To warm the world with its light, And to shed abroad its effulgence To bless humanity's night.

Margaret Scott Hall

The Tangled Threads

Do you seem to be in a knot of difficulty of which you cannot straighten the tread? Look to Him who is perfect in wisdom, and let the tangle go out of your hands into His.

The thread of your life is all tangles and knots. There's nothing that you can do! You've tried and you cannot unravel the thread: Another must do it for you.

The Lord will unravel your tangled thread! If you give it to Him to do. He knows every knot: He knows where the end Is hidden away from you.

He never will take it out of your hand: The offer must come from you. Oh, hand it to Him and let Him begin To straighten it out for you.

And when 'tis unraveled – the end you see – You'll know Satan hid it from you.

Then you'll be ashamed you waited so long
To let Jesus do it for you.

So give up the struggle, yield all to Him; He'll gladly do it for you. There's nothing too hard for Christ Jesus, your Lord, He'll do it because He loves you.

Martha Tillis

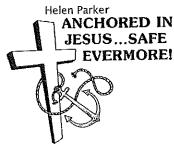
FEAR NOT

Have you been through troubled waters? Yes, you have-I know, Wondering where your God is When your spirits seem so low.

The sky looks dark and dreary Tho' the sun is shining bright. You're stumbling on A road that's smooth But you fail to see the light.

Oh, friend, this too will pass away,
He'll never let you drown.
For with the strength He gives you

You'll step on higher ground.



Survivor

The sole survivor of a shipwreck was cast upon an uninhabited island. He managed to build a crude hut in which he placed the little he saved from the sinking ship. He prayed to God for deliverance and anxiously scanned the horizon to hail any ship that might chance to pass.

One day, upon returning from a hunt for food, he was horrified to find that his hut was in flames. All that he had was gone. To his limited vision, it was the worst that could happen, and he cursed God. Yet the very next day a ship arrived. "We saw your smoke signal," the Captain said.

Tough Times Don't Last

I said "Sometimes I fail."
He said, "I'll see you through."
I said, "But what if I fall?"
He said, "I will carry you."
I said, "My fears are great!"
He said, "Trust Me alone."
I said, "But I'm depressed."
He said, "I'll cheer you on."
I said, "Life isn't easy."
He said, "Please let Me help.
Remember, I love you."
I said, "Lord, I accept."

I Must Have God

I couldn't walk this thorny way With stone beneath and cloud above, Or meet the struggle of each day Without His love.

I Must Have God

I couldn't stand the hours at night Or troubled day with all its length, Or overlook what others say Without His strength.

I Must Have God

I couldn't share the grief of those Who need my help along life's way. Or comfort one in need of peace Unless I pray.

Unknown



A Farmer's Prayer

Lord, bless this land you've given me And may I always know,
As I tend each crop and creature
You're the one who helps them grow.
Grant me the strength and wisdom
Please protect me from all harm,
And thank-you Lord
For your gracious gift...
The blessing of my farm.

Try Smiling

When the weather suits you not, Try smiling.

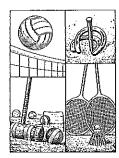
When your coffee isn't hot, Try smiling.

When your neighbors don't do right, Or the relatives all fight – Sure, it's hard, but then, you might Try smiling.

Doesn't change the things, of course, Just smiling.

But it cannot make them worse, Just smiling.

And it seems to help your case, Brightens up a gloomy place; And it sort of rests your face – Just smiling.



How Did You Play?

How did you play when the game was on.
When the odds were great, and hope was gone?
When the enemy team with aim so true
Was dragging the victory away from you?
When strength and speed and endurance quit,
Did honor keep pace with determined grit?
Did you keep faith with the rules of the game?
Did you play up square without fear or shame?
Did your smile of cheer make the team your friend,
As you fought through to the bitter end?
Did your self-respect rise a notch or two?
Are you a bigger man now the game is through?

William R. LaPorte

A Brand New Start

God sometimes brings us to a place where answers can't be found...
Where we cannot see tomorrow, for confusion all around.

Yet deep inside we realize that all things work for good... Even times when we've been wounded and we feel misunderstood.

Don't dwell on the injustice and stay focused on God's heart. . . Find forgiveness and go on, you can make a brand new start.

Jill Lemming

Grief

Heavy, heavy, heavy My heart is heavy, Lord One I loved and cherished Just went to her reward,

And I feel so very selfish
To want her near me when
She was eagerly awaiting
To be with You again;

So, I'll hold my tears and grief inside And say this two-part prayer— First of all, please keep her, Lord, Within Your loving care,

And then, I want to thank You, Lord, For especially blessing me With days I'll cherish always In loving memory!

Alice Davidson



True Wisdom

True wisdom is in leaning
On Jesus Christ, our Lord;
True wisdom is in trusting
His own life-giving word;
True wisdom is in living
Near Jesus every day;
True wisdom is in walking
Where He shall lead the way.



God Holds the Key

Is there some problem in your heart to solve, Some passage seeming full of mystery? God knows, who brings the hidden things to light, He holds the key.

Is there some door closed by the Father's hand, Which widely opened you had hoped to see? Trust God and wait - for when He shuts the door, He holds the key.

Is there some earnest prayer unanswered yet, Or answered not as you had thought t'would be? God will make clear His purpose by and by, He holds the key.



Unfailing comfort, sweet and blessed rest, To know of every door God holds the key, That He at last when just He sees 'tis best, Will give it thee.

Unknown



Strong Walls

I've built a wall to keep me safe from sin. My wall is made not of brick, nor stone, Nor is it made of iron or steel. Strength is not always found In things we buy, But in our deed, our thoughts, Our patience, and our creed; A helping hand, a smile, a cheery word, And a firm belief in God. These are the things that build a wall, And through the ages will stand all tests, While strongholds fall.

Jean O'Day



Take Time to Smell God's Gift – the Flowers

Slow me down, Lord! Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind. Steady my harried pace with a vision of the eternal reach of time. Give me, amidst the confusion of the day, the calmness of the everlasting hills.



Break the tension of my nerves with the soothing music of the singing streams that live in my memory. Help me to know the magical restoring power of sleep.

Teach me the art of taking minute vacations of slowing down to look at a flower; to chat with an old friend or make a new one; to pat a stray dog; to watch a spider build a web; to smile at a child; or to read a few lines from a good book.

Remind me each day that the race is not always to the swift; that there is more to life than increasing its speed.



There is, therefore, no condemnation To those who in Jesus confide. And nothing can sever, no never; In Him we forever abide.

God's love is far stronger than trials, Much higher and deeper than all, No power can cause us to stumble, Or from His eternal arms fall.

We know that all things work for good, Yea, even our troubles and strife. So we trust in His grace completely To perform His will in each life.

Vicky Moots

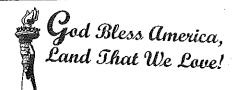


IT IS NOT SO MUCH WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU OR ME THAT COUNTS IN LIFE, BUT HOW WE REACT TO THAT WHICH HAPPENS TO US THAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE IN LIVING.





Certain People Are A Joy To Know . . .
People who know how to brighten a day
With heart-warming smiles
And with kind words they say.
People who know how to gently impart
The comfort it takes
To cheer somebody's heart.
People who know how to always come through
When there's anything
They can possibly do.
People who know how to willingly share,
Who know how to give
And who know how to care.
Who know how to let all their warm feelings show . . .
Are the people that others feel lucky to know.



Some Chuckles

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On a visit to Boston, I noticed a parking meter with a paper sack over it upon which was written: "Broken."

A skeptical parking officer removed the bag, inserted a quarter in the meter and turned the dial. It worked perfectly. As the officer began to write a parking ticket, the car's owner rushed out of a nearby building.

"What are you doing?" he yelled after a quick glance at the meter. "There's plenty of time left!"

While sport fishing off the Florida coast, a tourist capsized his boat. He could swim, but his fear of alligators kept him clinging to the overturned craft. Spotting an old beachcomber standing on the shore, the tourist shouted, "Are there any gators around here?"

"Naw," the man hollered back, "they ain't been around for years!"

Feeling safe, the tourist started swimming leisurely toward the shore. When he was almost there, he asked the guy, "How'd you get rid of the gators?"

"We didn't do nothin'," the beachcomber said. "The sharks got 'em."

Just as she was celebrating her 80th birthday, our friend received a jury-duty notice. She called to remind the people at the clerk's office that she was exempt because of her age.

"You need to come in and fill out the exemption forms," they said.

"I've already done that," she replied. "I did it last year."

"You have to do it every year," she was told.

"Why?" came the response. "Do you think I'm going to get younger?"

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A man just got dumped by his girlfriend.

He was telling several friends about how it happened and said, "When I was talking to her on the phone, she told me something about meeting a man in Germany. This man owns a sheep farm and is very, very rich."

Then one of the friends asked, "You mean she dumped you for a German shepherd?"

The River

How calm the river
That winds its way
Through forest and valley
Day after day.

How calm and quiet, In purpose, serene, The river just flows Enhancing God's scene.

Undaunted by storms By men and their strife, The truth of the river Is the truth of my life.

With purpose remembered, I flow with the days; When charted by God My life is His praise.

Hilda Kellis



Faith is needed all the way,
Faith to toil and faith to pray,
Faith to learn and faith to preach;
Faith to start each day anew,
Faith to do our duty, too;
Faith to help the weak along,
Faith to bear, in patience, wrong;
Faith to smile, though sad within,
Faith to conquer every sin,
Faith to ask Him for His care
While we earthly trials bear;
Faith to smother every sigh,
Faith to live and faith to die.



Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

Yesterday is past, its steps imprinted Upon Time's changing, ever-shifting sands. The past is evermore a page of memory Its joys, its sorrows are within His hands.

Today is yours, Now is your golden hour For yesterday is gone — a transient dream; Live each moment then, serene amid Life's changes, With peace and inward trust Life's daily theme.

Tomorrow never dawns on Life's horizon For when the morning breaks it is Today. Walk then in faith — your hand in His outstretched one Who is Himself the Hope, the Life, the Way.

-Majorie Cooney



AUGI	IST	ZION	2020	ACTI	VITIES
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Sunday	Monday		Wodnesday		Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Womeray	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Finday	3 aturuay
			"He who will not learn from anyone except himself, has a fool for a teacher."			
2 Mission Offering	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sunday 9 am Family Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 6-9 pm Adult/Varsity Volley Ball at the Community Center				2 pm - Youth for Christ Peaches will be here!		3 pm – Wedding of Katrina Kutter & Jordon Rehak
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:30 am Worship Service Speaker: Ron Evitt 6-9 pm Adult/Varsity Volley Ball at the Community Center		7 pm Deacon/Deaconess Meeting 7:30 pm Trustee Meeting 8 pm Council Meeting	7 p.m. Youth Group at the Community Center	Zion WMF Circles Meet: Circle 1–9:30 am Circle 2 – 2 p.m. Circle 3 – 7 pm		
16 Building Project Sunday Offering 9 am Family Sunday	17	18	19	20 Tioga School Starts!	21	22
School & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service Speaker: Pastor Matthew Rieniets – Potluck after the service. 6-9 pm Adult/Varsity Volley Ball at the Community Center			7 p.m. Youth Group at the Community Center	Back To School!		
9 am Family Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 6-9 pm Adult/Varsity Volley Ball at the Community Center	24	25	7 p.m. Youth Group at the Community Center	27	28	29
30 9 am Family Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 6-9 pm Adult/Varsity Volley Ball at the Community Center	31					"Beware of a half-truth; you may get hold of the wrong half."





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAPPY ANUTYERSARY	"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." Psalm 139:13-14		"The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time."			1 Earl & Susan Syverson Rodger Auen Regina Lalim Dawson James Skalicky
2 Alysa Christofferson Sarah Remington Bob & Sue Odegaard	3 Bob & Sue Odegaard Skyler Weisz	Brodie & Bridgette Odegaard	5 James Dobrovolny Kristi Knudson Kathy Meland Sandra Nelson Shawn Postovit Jacob & Naomi Smithberg Pete & Jen Wonser	Thor & Eileen Strand Danny Houim Jasmine Houim	7 Joel & Kim Landsverk	8 Jesse Thull Derek Blestrud
9 Madelyn Carr Ardella Kerbaugh 16 Stacey Sundhagen	10 Mitchell Jorstad 17 Linda Aisenbrey	Wilmer & Mary Ellen Roloff Rick & Annette Haakenson	12 Lyle Braun Jody & Amy Schroeder	Briana Wonser	14 Alan & Sally Iverson David Lalim Donna Haustveit	Suzi Anderson Richard Hurley
Sue Odegaard Stephanie Sabinash	Pat Sillerud Paul Eraas	Nikki Davidson D'Wayne Johnston		Arnold Postovit	Georgia Blestrud	Evelyn Copes
23 Colton Moore Mark Schmidt Jay & Susan Wolla Tim & Brandy Coughlin 30 Jared Moberg Gavin Davidson	31 Dantae Knudson Randy & Karen Pederson	25 Larry Lambert	26	27	28 Chance Holt Scott Davis Meghan Olson	29



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.

AUGUST USHERS:

Ronnie Lund Lee Olson Dan Larson Ethan Kucera

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

~CLOTHES CLOSET~

THE CLOTHES CLOSET IS OPEN:
MONDAYS 2 – 7 P.M.
IF YOU HAVE A NEED FOR AN ITEM FROM THE
CLOTHES CLOSET, PLEASE CALL RICK RAAN
AT 641-6099. THANK YOU!

~New Building Update~

Concrete has been poured for the car port and sidewalk area around the new church building. "Odds and ends" are being completed inside such as; trimwork, touch-up painting, caulking and grouting of tiles etc., and cleaning of some areas of the inside have begun. We praise God and are so very thankful for all the helpers who volunteer their time and talents with various projects that need to be done. Please continue to pray for wisdom for decisions being made, and continued gifts received to help complete this project, thank you!

"The Lord is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever." Psalm 28:8-9





~AUGUST~

Sunday: 9 a.m. Adult Sunday school & Coffee

Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesday: 7 p.m. Youth Group meets at the

Community Center

(Any new events will be announced in the Sunday bulletin

or put on the web page as they are planned.)

Saturday, August 8th – Katrina Kutter & Jordon Rehak Wedding at Zion, you are invited! Wedding – 3 p.m., 5 p.m. Mix & Mingle at the Tioga Community Center, 5:30 p.m. Dinner served.







Come with us down memory lane! Closets, drawers, and storage rooms are being gone through to prepare for our move to the new church building – we invite you to look over items from the "past" and please take what is near and dear to you! Items will be in the Sunday school room by the office on the 2nd floor through the middle of August.

AFLC Annual Conference

August 10-12, at the Association Retreat Center, Osceola, WI – for more information check the website: aflc.org/conferences







