

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

Zion Lutheran Church
1020 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 548
Tioga, ND 58852

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

Email: zionfreelutheran@gmail.com
Church Website: www.zionfreelutheran.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



JANUARY/FEBRUARY

2022

Recently I was driving to Williston with just my wife Brenda, which meant we had plenty of time to decompress from normal life and talk about a variety of different things. I mentioned how I didn't understand why some people liked to belong to so many organizations. Just belonging to a church, in the midst of juggling the responsibilities of parenting five children often finds me with more than enough to do. Yet there are people who are part of multiple organizations, as well as having many other duties and responsibilities. We talked about many that have been familiar to us both here in North Dakota, but also in other areas that we lived. Just some organizations that many belong to are the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sons of Norway, Lions Club, Moose Lodge, Masonic Lodge, Knights of Columbus, Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and many more. Then if you factor in other organizations that are specific to local areas like school boards, library boards, ambulance and volunteer firefighters, the movie theatre board, or the museum board the list seems quite long.

With so many people belonging to such a wide variety of boards, programs, and organizations it is no wonder that some people feel like they are busy all the time! As I continue to reflect on all the different community programs that so many seem to be a part of I can't help but wonder, how does all this reflect on us as a church body? Have we just become another choice on the menu of outside organizations to belong to? Is there really much difference between belonging to Zion Free Lutheran Church, and some lodge or club?

God tells us in the book of 1st Corinthians chapter 12 that as Christians we all belong to the body of Christ. Not only that, but God has uniquely gifted each Christian with certain spiritual gifts, as well as passions that are different than others. Furthermore, we are all expected by God to use those gifts alongside of others within the local congregation for the edification and glory of God, and for the aid and encouragement of each other.

A problem can be that we are too busy with our lives, and in other organizations that we never really fully commit to the congregational life and work of our church. Just as a person's body can become deathly ill if a critical organ stops working, so too does our congregation fall ill and lead to ineffectiveness or even death when critical giftings are left unfilled, or filled by the wrong person. When the congregation met to form a call committee to work toward the selection of the next pastor, shockingly few people stayed behind to vote. In my tenure as pastor, rarely have I seen an annual meeting where we actually had to vote on people to serve as our lay leaders. More often than not the nominating committee breathes a collective sigh of relief to have just enough people to fill the open spots, let alone actually having enough people to call for a meaningful vote to determine our next set of lay leaders.

To be clear, I am not chastising anyone for being part of multiple civic or religious organizations. Our small town depends on volunteers in order to function. What I am doing however is calling on all members of our congregation to take seriously their role in our body. It is important to actively be a part of Zion Free Lutheran through more than just coming to

church on most Sundays. Prayerfully consider any offer made available to you to serve. When opportunities present themselves for you to get further involved in the ministry of the church say yes. Attend and participate in congregational meetings. For this level of involvement to be possible you may need to consider less involvement in other organizations or areas of your life. We all should seek to find the areas of our life that are most important, and do those well. My prayer is that you will consider the ministry of your congregation a priority, and your time and effort will reflect that. May we all focus on those areas of our lives that should be priorities, and resist the things that may be good, but are not the best.

Sincerely,



The New Year

Dear Lord, as this new year is born
 I give it to Thy hand,
 Content to walk by faith what paths
 I cannot understand.
 Whatever coming days may bring
 Of bitter loss, or gain,
 Or every crown of happiness.
 Should sorrow come, or pain,
 Or, Lord, if all unknown to me
 Thine angel hovers near
 To bear me to that farther shore
 Before another year,
 It matters not – my hand in Thine,
 Thy light upon my face,
 Thy boundless strength when I am weak,
 Thy love and saving grace!
 I only ask, loose not my hand,
 Grip fast my soul, and be
 My guiding light upon the path
 Till, blind no more, I see!

– Martha Snell Nicholson

Prayer Goals for the New Year

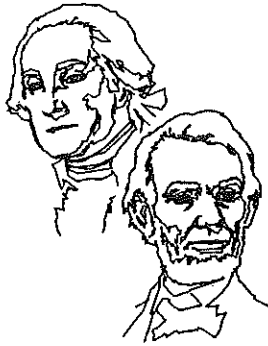
I will this year:

- be sensitive to the needs of my fellow man and actively look for ways to befriend him.
- become aware of man's suffering, get involved in his struggle, and comfort him in his sorrow.
- withhold judgement of my brother, and attempt to understand his thinking, his attitudes, his behavior.
- forgive those who have injured me; I will forgive even those who have hurt those I love.
- not close my eyes or pass by on the other side wherever there is need of my service, my friendship, or my presence.
- lift someone's spirits by giving a word of hope and encouragement.
- remember to be grateful to those who have been good Samaritans to me in the past, and who keep me from falling into the ditches of discouragement, depression and defeat.
- be a good Samaritan for the inner joy of serving, and because helping others is what the Golden Rule is all about.
- feel so much joy, experience so much growth, and receive such a blessing as a good Samaritan today, that I will be a good Samaritan again tomorrow.

~ William Arthur Ward

The Forgotten God

WE HAVE BEEN THE RECIPIENTS of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.



But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious Hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us! It behooves us then

to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

— President Abraham Lincoln (March 30th, 1863)

ARE YOU AWARE that if we died tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days? But the family we left behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives. Come to think of it, we pour ourselves more into work than into our own family, an unwise investment indeed, don't you think? What is behind the story? Do you know what the word FAMILY means?

(F)ather (A)nd (M)other (I) (L)ove (Y)ou.



Advice on Love

"Spend your time on those that love you unconditionally. Don't waste it on those that only love you when conditions are right for them."

"The bravest love is wildly faithful and it falls hard again every morning. It knows what we seek may be found in what we already have... it's grace and fresh gratitude that can make us strong enough to marvel in the seeming monotony of anything. And the happily married have eyes that look long enough to make the familiar new." ~ Ann Voskamp

"This generation has lost the true meaning of romance. There are so many songs that disrespect women. You can't treat the woman you love as a piece of meat. You should treat your love like a princess. Give her love songs, something with real meaning. Maybe I'm old fashioned, but to respect the woman you love should be a priority." ~ Tom Hiddleston

"The greatest thing you'll ever learn is just to love and be loved in return."
~ Eden Ahbez

"Blaming has no positive effect at all, nor does trying to persuade using reason and arguments. That is my experience. No blame, no reasoning, no argument, just understanding. If you understand, and you show that you understand, you can love, and the situation will change." ~ Thich Nhat Hahn

"Don't fall in love with someone who says the right things. Fall in love with someone who does the right things."

"Be best friends and partners, always willing to give 90% to the other. I say 90% because if you give 100% then there will be nothing left for yourself and you need to have something left or else you may disappear."



A New Year's Plan

I tried to think of a clever new phrase
A slogan to inspire the next 365 days,
A motto to live by this coming New Year,
But the catchy words fell flat to my ear.
And then I heard His still small voice
Saying, "Consider this simple, daily choice:
With each new dawn and close of day
Make new your resolve to trust and obey."
"Don't look back, caught in regret
Or dwell on the sorrow of dreams unmet;
Don't stare forward anchored by fear,
No, live in this moment, for I Am here."
"I am all you need. Everything. I Am.
You are held secure by my strong hand.
Give me this one thing – your all in all;
Into my grace, let yourself fall."
So, at last, I'm ready; I see the way.
It's to daily follow, trust, and obey.
I enter the New Year armed with a plan,
To give Him my everything—all that I am.

~ Mary Fairchild

**May the sunrise of every day
of this coming year brighten
and enlighten your life with
knowledge and power.**

**Wishing you a very
Happy New Year blessed with
strength and courage to win
all the challenges and come
out successful.**

May God always bless you.

Presidential Wisdom

"My advice to Sunday Schools, no matter their denomination, is: Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet-anchor of your liberties; write its precepts in your heart and practice them in your lives. 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*, 18th President of the United States

"So great is my veneration for the Bible and so strong my belief that when duly read and meditated upon, it is of all the books in the world, that which contributes most to make men good, wise, and happy." *John Quincy Adams*, 6th President of the United States

"In regard to this Great Book, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Saviour gave to the world was communicated through this book." *Abraham Lincoln*, 16th President of the United States

"If we trust in Him, keep His word, and live our lives for His pleasure, He'll give us the power we need – power to fight the good fight, to finish the race, and to keep the faith." *Ronald Reagan*, 40th President of the United States

"The strength of our country is the strength of its religious convictions. The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country." *Calvin Coolidge*, 30th President of the United States

"A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education." *Theodore Roosevelt*, 26th President of the United States

"We have staked the whole future of American civilization not on the power of government, far from it. We have staked the whole of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the commandments of God. The future and success of America is not in this Constitution, but in the laws of God upon which this Constitution is founded." - *James Madison*, 4th President of the United States

YOU, A BIBLE?

CHRISTIAN, YOU ARE THE WORLD'S BIBLE -- the only kind some people ever read. How do others see the lines in your face? Are they grouchy frown wrinkles; or happy, trusting, friendly smile wrinkles? Are your hands seen as instruments of brutality; or as tender, helpful hands of love? Do your feet walk in the ways of the world; or as Christ would walk? And what about your tell-tale eyes? Do they send glaring messages of annoyance and hate; or do they say, "I'm concerned about you. I love you with the love of the Lord?" We, who have the privilege of naming the name of Christ, are read by others. The billboard of our lives presents a message to a watching world. What kind of Bible are you?

~ Mildred Barger, Phoenix, AZ.

Prayer for Humility and Integrity

God, our eternal King, we pray for our government leaders to walk in humility and integrity. May they put the needs of others before themselves and be true servant leaders. May they not be so proud that they cannot hear the wisdom of others, but instead seek out good counsel and follow it. May they be modest and not self-promoting. May they be honest, morally upright, and have strong principles in line with your standard of righteousness. May they not accept bribes or work for their own ends, but for the benefit of the people. Amen.

Just One Request

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 walk with Thee each day.

Dear Master make me swift to hear

And ready to obey.

And thus the year I now begin

A happy year will be!

I am seeking just to do

The thing that pleaseth Thee.

~ Author Unknown

Do You Care?

Every one of us has a basic need for knowing that no matter what happens in our life, someone cares. The "silent scream" is often caused by a person's suffering inside and feeling that no one cares. Today, let's all make it our goal to let someone know we care. Often a person may be lifted right out of a depressed state by knowing that someone cares. Stop and think! It is almost awe-inspiring to know that we have such a power but may live through a day without using it!

PRESIDENTS' DAY



MARRIAGE COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

1. Be a ready listener and do not answer until the other person has finished talking. Proverbs 18:13; James 1:19
2. Be slow to speak. Think first. Don't be hasty in your words. Speak in such a way that the other person can understand and accept what you have to say. Proverbs 15:23 & 28; 21:23; 29:20; James 1:19
3. Speak the truth always, but do it in love. Do not exaggerate. Ephesians 4:15 & 25; Colossians 3:9
4. Do not use silence to frustrate the other person. Explain why you are hesitant to talk at this time.
5. Do not become involved in quarrels. It is possible to disagree without quarreling. Proverbs 17:14; 20:3; Romans 13:13; Ephesians 4:31
6. Do not respond in anger. Use a soft and kind response. Proverbs 14:29; 15:1; 25:15; 29:11; Ephesians 4:26 & 31
7. When you are in the wrong, admit it and ask for forgiveness. James 5:16 When someone confesses to you, tell them you forgive them. Be sure it is forgotten and not brought up to the person. Proverbs 17:9; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13; 1 Peter 4:8
8. Avoid nagging. Proverbs 10:19; 17:9; 20:5
9. Do not blame or criticize the other person. Instead, restore, encourage, build up. If someone verbally attacks, criticizes or blames you, do not respond in the same manner. Romans 12:17 & 21; 1 Peter 2:23; 3:9
10. Try to understand the other person's opinion. Make allowances for differences. Be concerned about their interests. Philippians 2:1-4

~ Author Unknown

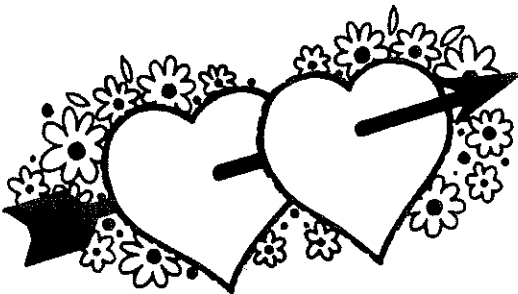
Love Never Fails

Love is patient, Love is kind
Through Jesus Christ, love you will find.

Love does not envy, It is not puffed up
Seek Him with your heart, He will fill your cup.

Love does not behave rudely, does not seek its own
Be kind to others, for this God has shown.
Love bears, believes, hopes and endures all things,
Give love to all and blessings God brings.

Love Never Fails.



FRIENDLY OBSTACLES

For every hill I've had to climb,
For every stone that bruised my feet,
For all the blood and sweat and grime,
For blinding storm and burning heat,
My heart sings but a grateful song —

These were the things that made me strong.
For all the heartaches and the tears,
For all the anguish and the pain,
For gloomy days and fruitless years,
And for the hopes that lived in vain,
I do give thanks; for now I know —

These were the things that helped me grow.
Tis not the softer things of life,
Which stimulate man's will to strive,
But bleak adversity and strife
Do most to keep man's will alive.
O'er rose-strewn paths the weaklings creep,
But brave hearts dare to climb the steep!

~ Author Unknown



IF I SHOULD TRY

If I should try to count the things
That God has done for me,
Then I would find it hard to do,
It would take eternity.

If I should try to count the ways
In which he chose to bless,
I know I could not find the words,
His goodness to express.

If I should try to tell it all,
I never would succeed;
For he has always faithful been,
To give more than I ever need.

~ Cora M. Owen

True Love

Love can always conquer
Whatever discord brings
and love can also cover
a multitude of things.

Don't you underestimate
what love can ever do,
for love is God eternal
and His love can renew.

What is cold and lifeless,
now lost all hope and died,
for love can breathe new meaning
and give it back new life.

Please don't give up on love
when it seems that all is lost,
for there is always hope
if we're prepared to pay the cost.

For love is always worth it
no matter how much the price,
for love will be much stronger
when we trust in Jesus Christ.

So let God have full reign,
let Him live within your heart
then you will know true love,
for this He will impart.



Dear ladies,

If you're not already involved in a WMF Circle Bible study, we invite you to come to one of the Circle times that works best for you!

Circle 1 meets at 9:30 a.m., Circle 2 meets at 2 p.m., and Circle 3 meets at 7 p.m. – all Circles meet the 2nd Thursday of each month. Hostesses, and where to meet will be listed in the Sunday Bulletin the week before Bible study. Bible study books are on the back table or in the office, and can be purchased for \$13.

Behold Our God

Written by Karen Floan, Anne Presteng, Gwen Berge and Wendy Westlake

As we behold God in Psalms 90-100, we are overwhelmed with His mighty power as Creator and Ruler of heaven and earth. We are humbled by His holiness and His plan of Salvation. We see His faithfulness in our lives and throughout all generations.

Overwhelmed by joy or overtaken by sorrow, God hears the cry of our hearts, He draws us to Himself, and His presence changes us. It is the Almighty God who lovingly commands us to praise Him for our good and His glory.

May you be blessed as you "Behold our God" in the Psalms.

STUDY: BEHOLD OUR GOD

BY KAREN FLOAN, ANNE PRESTENG,
GWEN BERGE, AND WENDY WESTLAKE

Karen Floan is a retired administrative assistant, serving AFLC presidents Elden Nelson and Lyndon Korhonen. Anne Presteng is a retired speech language pathologist and full-time grandmother. Gwen Berge, formerly an elementary principal at Heritage Christian Academy in Maple Grove, Minn., currently works as their accreditation and academic development specialist. Wendy Westlake is a busy pastor's wife and gifted artist with paintings featured in multiple galleries across the nation.

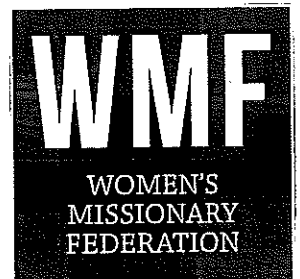
As we behold God in Psalms 90-100, we are overwhelmed with His mighty power as creator and ruler of heaven and earth. We are humbled by His holiness and His plan of salvation. We see His faithfulness in our lives and throughout all generations.

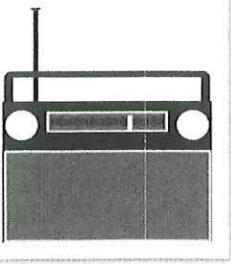
Whether we are overwhelmed by joy or



overtaken by sorrow, God hears the cry of our hearts, He draws us to Himself, and His presence changes us. It is the Almighty God who lovingly commands us to praise Him for our good and His glory. May you be blessed as you "Behold our God" in the Psalms.

Floan & Berge are members of Grace Free Lutheran, Maple Grove, Minn. Presteng is a member of Bethel Free Lutheran, Grafton, N.D. Westlake is a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran, Zumbrota, Minn.





RADIO MINISTRY

If you would like to sponsor a Sunday broadcast or contribute to the radio fund in honor, or 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 KTG0 1090. You can also WATCH our live-stream online at our website: zionfreelutheran.com

JANUARY USHERS:

Wayne Grindy

Bill Oxner

Tony Kucera

Joseph Warren

FEBRUARY USHERS:

Mark Schmidt

Richard Nelson

Lester Moe

Kim Keller

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Join us for Sunday school!

9 a.m. Sunday school & Coffee Fellowship

Classes for: Ages 3 yrs. through adults.

Adult class is studying the Book of Hebrews!

10:30 a.m. Worship Service



**Annual Business Meeting & Potluck
Sunday, January 30th – Noon**

Thank you!

On behalf of our family, I want to thank all those who have given us beautiful cards and generous gifts for Pastor's Appreciation as well as over the Christmas season. I have never served a more generous church in my years of ministry. Your love for me and my family has been so impactful through the years. Thank you so very much!



~CLOTHES CLOSET~

THE CLOTHES CLOSET IS OPEN TO EVERYONE!

HOURS ARE: MONDAY 2 -- 7 P.M.

SATURDAY 9 – 12 P.M.

IF YOU HAVE A NEED FOR AN ITEM FROM THE CLOTHES CLOSET DURING OFF HOURS, PLEASE CALL RICK RAAN AT 641-6099. THANK YOU!



"As the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:10-11

