



FEBRUARY 2023

♥ NEWSLETTER ♥♥♥♥♥

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

SERVICES:

Saturday Worship 6:30pm

Sunday Worship 9:00am

Communion at most services

411 - 3rd Ave. NE
Little Falls, MN 56345

OFFICE HOURS

Mon – Fri: 8:30am-noon

Office: 320-632-5792

Email: zionlf@yahoo.com

Website: zionlf.com

PASTOR:

Rev. Gary Hendrickson
320-360-9617

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:

Barb Johnson
320-632-5792

The Serendipity of Epiphany

Matthew 2:1-2(ESV) ¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

Serendipity: the faculty or phenomenon of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for.

I imagine that all of us have had some experience with serendipity. We begin searching for something, but in the process, we find something better. Way back in 1827, John Walker had spent his day mixing chemicals. At the end of the day, he decided to clean his floor. In the process of getting ready to clean, he scraped his mixing stick across the floor and it burst into flames. Matches were created! A bit closer to our time frame, in 1945 Percy Spencer was working around a magnetron. Surprisingly, he felt the chocolate bar in his pocket begin to melt. Wow! The first microwave had been invented. Not long after that, George deMestral, who was a mountain-hiking botanist, stopped to remove some burrs off his socks. He became quite intrigued with the sticking power of the burrs and put them under a microscope. The result—he came up with Velcro®. These folks were looking for one thing and found something better. Serendipity!

Years ago, Glenn attended one of my Bible studies regularly. Glenn was a retired man from NW Airlines. He told me the story of how he used to argue with the Christians at work. Glenn was then of the opinion that the Bible was nothing more than a collection of fairy tales. Attempting to improve his argument and better prove his point, Glenn began to read the Bible. He searched for flame throwing evidence he could use to show those misled Christians how wrong they were. And guess what? Through the power of the Word and the Grace of God, Glenn became a believer. He searched the Bible for ammunition to bolster his arguments and found Jesus instead. Serendipity!

Can there be any greater serendipity than when a poor miserable sinner meets Jesus? The New Testament has several examples of exactly that happening. Remember the Samaritan woman who went to the well for water and ended up being found by Jesus and received forgiveness? Matthew went to his tax booth to collect taxes one day and was found by Jesus and given the invitation, “Follow Me.” Peter, Andrew, James, and John were doing normal fishermen chores when Jesus came along and offered to make them fishers of men. The widow of Nain was in great distress as she ambled along in the funeral procession of her only son—wondering what was going to happen to her. What happened was Jesus—He restored life to the widow’s dead son. Mary Magdalene searched for the dead body of her Lord when she was confronted by a man she supposed to be the gardener. She searched for a much-loved dead person and instead found a risen Christ. Serendipity!

The Good News for you and me today is that the serendipity of Jesus is not limited to past years. No, it goes on right now for the searchers of this world. The world has an untold number of searchers. We search for happiness, for the meaning of life, for true answers, for contentment, for love, and on and on. And in our searching, serendipity sometimes happens. Jesus finds us. And we obtain so much more than what we were initially searching for. Jesus makes Himself known to us. Serendipity!



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

Recently, my neighbor told me he was going to get a husky puppy, as he'd always loved huskies. I went home and got online to find out

more about their temperament and came across a story about a husky named Nanook.

Nanook lives with his owner near the start of a trail in Alaska's Chugach State Park. The husky was out wandering the trail when he came upon a young deaf woman, who during a three-day hiking trip had tumbled seven hundred feet down a snowy mountain when one of her hiking poles snapped. Nanook spotted her and pulled her to safety.

The husky remained by her side as she continued hiking the trail. And when she slipped and fell again, this time while crossing the strong freezing currents of the Eagle River, Nanook pulled her to dry land by her backpack straps.

To get warm, the woman curled up in her sleeping bag, determined to keep hiking. But Nanook began to lick her face until she finally activated her emergency locator.

After Alaska State Troopers picked them both up, they returned the dog to his owner, who admitted that Nanook often goes wandering off by himself in search of rescue missions.

The woman claimed Nanook was a hero – her guardian angel.

"That's a good kind of dog to have," I told my neighbor the next time I saw him.

Nanook got me thinking, though, about ways I can help others and be their "guardian angel." Though I can't always plan for unexpected opportunities, I can keep my heart open to helping others when an opportunity does come. I don't have to be skilled or have credentials or special talents. I just have to love other people enough to help them when they really need it.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

5 Charlotte Peterson	13 Benjamin Messinger
6 Jodi Leyk	14 Julie Dancer
7 Abigail Dawson	14 Karen Dickmann
10 John Walter	17 Wayne Ganz
10 Susan Heitland	21 Lois Johannes
10 Clifford Segler	29 Thomas Brutscher
11 Carol Prozinski	



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

15 Jason & Tara Pauly
26 Wayne & Carolyn Ganz



WOMEN'S MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Mondays, February 6, 13, and 27 at 9:00 a.m.

The Women's Monday Morning Bible study will meet on Mondays, February 6, 13, and 27 at 9:00 a.m. We will continue our study of the Old Testament Book of Daniel. Join us as we learn together. Questions? Contact Barb Jelinski at 632-3435.

LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY BIBLE STUDY

Monday, February 20 at 9:00 a.m.

The LWQ Bible study will be on Monday, February 20 at 9:00 a.m. This month's study, "Transforming Faith: a Gift from a Faithful God," can be found on page 16 of the Winter 2022 LWQ. Join us!

ZLW MEETING

Monday, February 20 at 10:00 a.m.

The ZLW will meet on Monday, February 20 at 10:00 a.m. At this meeting we will be discussing upcoming events. Join us! *The ZLW is Zion's local connection to the LWML* Remember, filled Mite Boxes, to help fund the mission grants for the district and national LWML, can be brought to the church at any time. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE For VBS 2023!

Theme to be announced at a later date.

Time: 5:30pm – 6pm dinner. 6pm -8pm VBS

Monday **June 5th** through Thursday, **June 8th**



Parsonage Fundraiser Breakfast

Sunday, February 26
following the 9:00 am service



Scrambled Eggs
French Toast
Sausage
Fruit



Free will offering
All proceeds go to the Parsonage Remodel

Lenten Services begin on February 22nd.

Lenten dinners will be served by various church groups each week during Lent from 5:00 – 5:45pm.

Freewill offering will be accepted at each dinner.

- * February 22 - Board of Ed / Youth (Sloppy Jos and Cheesy Potatoes)
- * March 1 – Trustees (Goulash)
- * March 8 – ZLW (Taco Soup)
- * March 15 – Church Council (Rueben Sandwiches)
- * March 22 - Elders (Tomato Soup with Ham and Cheese Sliders)
- * March 29 – Stewardship and Evangelism (Pulled Pork Sandwiches)

Sunday January 8, 2023 – Zion Special Voters Assembly meeting to call a pastor

Called to order at 2:06 pm by President Carol Prozinski

Attendance: 18 members present (names on file) 1 non-voter present

Devotions: Rev Rehwaldt read Isaiah 42: 1-9 regarding Isaiah's prophetic announcement of Jesus birth and baptism hundreds of years before Jesus was born * Asked God's blessing as the congregation actively seeks a pastor

Overview: Carol P gave an overview of the steps taken with the 4 previous calls which were declined * There were 12 more candidates to review * This time, the committee made contact with the candidates before recommending a call * If we apply for a seminary graduate, that application must be submitted by February 15th

Discussion: Carol P reviewed the candidates * Some had recently taken a call, for some it was not a good time to consider a call, and others were not selected for various reasons * It was noted that about 700 churches nationwide are looking for a pastor and there are under 100 new seminary graduates * If we apply for a graduate, we are not allowed to call another pastor as we wait until May to see if a graduate will be assigned to our church

Recommendation of the Call Committee: Recommend a call to Pastor Marty Mably, currently serving a church in Elk River, MN * If he declines, recommend applying for a seminary graduate

Discussion: Pastor Mably's information was discussed in more detail and questions from the members were answered * Questions regarding Seminary graduates were answered

Motion #1: Michael Gohl motioned to Call Pastor Marty Mably to Zion Lutheran Church * Kelly Gotfredson 2nd * No further discussion * Written vote taken per constitution passed unanimously * Pastor Rehwaldt phoned Pastor Marty Mably and he will consider the call * Pastor Mably asks for prayer as he and his family consider the call * Carol P will send the call document for his consideration and follow up with any questions he may have

Motion #2: As per recommendation, Sheldon Prozinski motioned that if the Call to Pastor Mably is declined, that we proceed with the application to call to a seminary graduate * Kelly Gotfredson 2nd * Written vote passed unanimously * Carol P will send in the application for a seminary graduate if Pastor Mably declines

Motion to adjourn made by Bonnie Gentry * Steven Pederson 2nd * Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 3pm followed by singing the Doxology

Marilyn Husby, Recording secretary

Minutes reviewed by President Carol Prozinski

Draft Zion Council Meeting Monday, January 9, 2023

Call to order by Vice President Barb Jelinski at 6:34

Attendance: Barb Jelinski, Vice-President; Amanda Dawson, Education; Carol Prozinski, President; Ellen Kalahar, Treasurer; Keith Schumann, Trustee; Marilyn Husby, Recording Secretary; Marlyn Poppen, Stewardship; Peggy Dolney, Financial Secretary; Sheldon Prozinski, Elder; Sue Vosen, Evangelism

Devotions – Barb Jelinski: His mercies are new every morning * Live one day at a time * Trust
God for daily needs

February Devotions: Marlyn P

Approve Agenda with 3 additions under new business:

4. Chicks for Bricks * 5. Barb Johnson's vacation * 6. Circuit assessment

Keith S motioned to approve amended agenda * Amanda D 2nd * Motion passed

Minutes December council meeting - Peggy D motioned to approve * Keith S 2nd * Motion passed

Pastor Hendrickson's report – written report read by Barb J

- Adult Confirmation Class: 12 sessions will be completed in February 2023
- Polka Praise Service: Scheduled for April 30 and September 24, 2023
- Pastor's circuit meeting: January 10th at Zion
- Prayer Requests: sent regularly via e-mail
- Rev. Tilahun Menedo, from Lutheran Bible Translators, will be preaching May 20 & 21

Transfers in - Transfer approval received for Bruce and Gloria Thom from St. Paul's, Royalton * They will officially become Zion members when "voted in" at the Voters Assembly January 29

Financial Reports – Ellen K:

- Keep in mind the 2022 final \$17,022 positive cash flow income would actually be short \$18,922 if we had paid a full-time pastor the past 6 months
- December door offering for the parsonage: \$950.80
- December Fellowship Hall building fund donations of \$6,374 came from Offerings, Thrivent, a Memorial, and Chicks for Bricks * Thanks was expressed for the donations
- Peggy D states that offering envelopes were ordered in June and they have not arrived

Wish List – Carol or Barb: Working on the parsonage needs

Board Reports

Elders – Sheldon P

- Elders did not meet this month
- Expressed the hope a full-time pastor accepts the call so our pastor can retire * Pastor wants to continue Saturday Services
- Church attendance was in 80's for December weekends and 143 at Christmas services
- Visitors discussed * Sending Worship DVDs to additional shut-ins * Reminded that if members are appointed to a board, they are officially "voted in" at the next Voters Assembly
- Spoke of limitations of the janitor for shoveling and moving tables due to outside jobs * The need for a regular Church walk-through was brought up (ie to note problems like the recent water leak in the kitchen) * Janitor duties are flexible and nothing specific is written down

Trustees – Keith S

- Kitchen had a recent water leak along the wall due to ice building up on the roof * The flat roof collects water/freezes/thaws * Trustees fixed it by plugging in heat tape
- Waiting on parts for flickering lights outside the fellowship hall
- Baseboards are being fixed in the fellowship hall.
- Dishwasher not working properly *Parts ordered *Use paper plates till further notice
- New coil for coffee maker ordered
- Comments received that the sanctuary is cold and will follow up with the fan speed
- Trustees reassure members that there are no bats in the basement
- Comments about the parsonage will be covered under old business

Youth / Education – Amanda D

- It works best to have Youth/Ed meetings on Zoom
- They would like to host the Ash Wed meal and Easter breakfast
- Looking to provide youth activities in February/March.
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) with supper is budgeted/ scheduled for June 5-8, 5:30-8 pm

Stewardship – Marlyn P

- Lenten denial folders have been ordered
- Door offerings at Zion are regularly scheduled for the 3rd weekend of the month
January: Faith by hearing, Military Bible Stick
February: Lutheran Hour Ministries
March: Morrison County food shelf * We join the county-wide March promotion

Evangelism – Sue V

- Committee met this morning * Due to vacations and lack of members, next meeting is April 3 * We need more Evangelism members – Call the church office if interested
- Sue Vosen and Judy Drewlow will be the co-chairs. (Marilyn H will still help sometimes)
- 3 Large print orders of Divine services printed weekly * Barb J will follow up on a new large print hymnal recently published and determine if it would meet Zion's needs
- American Red Cross Blood Drive at Zion: Thursday, April 20, 2023 from 11a.m.- 5p.m.
- The outdoor free little library will be closed till Easter Sunday April 9th * The books have been temporarily removed * Rubber bands currently hold door shut on windy days and plan to add a hook in the spring * Members are encouraged to continue to bring Christian themed books, magazines, coloring books etc and place them in the box in the narthex
- Looking into ways to finance and install a nice-looking sturdy bench in the butterfly garden area behind the church * We will get input from trustees regarding this project
- It was suggested Evangelism organize the materials in the Narthex * Those interested in helping should come an hour early before the February Council meeting to do this.

Old Business:

1. Pastoral Call Update – Carol P

- The Jan 8, 2p.m. Voters Assembly meeting was overseen by Rev. Rehwaldt from the MN North District * 18 Zion members were present * There was a unanimous written vote to call Pastor Marty Mably who is currently serving a church in Elk River, MN * Pre-calls were made and another call will be made to clarify any questions and review insurance needs before a final call document is sent * We will also send an invite to visit Zion
- If Pastor Mably declines, the Voters Assembly written vote was unanimous to extend a call to a seminary graduate * The seminary application will be submitted by February 15 if Pastor Mably declines * Seminary graduate placements will be announced by May
- Everyone is encouraged to keep praying for a full-time pastor

2. Parsonage Update - Carol P

- A summary of parsonage upgrades, costs, suppliers and contractors will be included in the annual report. The shortfall to date is \$1,714.52 * No other anticipated expenses
- Keith S will organize a celebratory breakfast to help offset the parsonage shortfall
- Thanks to all who gave time and money for the parsonage upgrades
- We do not pay taxes, but the tax value of the parsonage before upgrades was \$181,400
-

3. **2023 Budget** - Carol P

- The preliminary budget was reviewed in detail by Council and projected numbers were determined * The budget includes money for a part time pastor for 2 months and a full-time pastor for 10 months
- After discussion of reasons previous pastors declined our call:
 - **Carol P motioned to increase the midpoint pay synod recommends for our area by \$4,000 annually for a field pastor or a new graduate** * Keith S 2nd * Motion carried
 - **Carol P motioned to change Parsonage valuation to \$15,000 annually** * Ellen K 2nd * Motion passed
 -

*****Last month there was a motion to give 10% of our budget to missions *After subtracting money given to Zion outreach mission projects, we were to give the rest to North District missions * After discussing the past and projected direct outreach mission donations, **Keith S made a motion to send \$9,000 from our 2023 budget as our donation to the MN North District missions** * Peggy 2nd * Motion passed and it will be added to the budget

4. **End of Year Board Reports** Due by Jan 16th

5. **MN North District Business:** At Voters Assembly will ask if there are any nominations for the synod president * Voting is online.

New Business:

1. **Member Inquiry** about Electronic Giving: LCEF has an online way to give through Joyful Response * Peggy D will check into this
2. **Agenda headings for Voter's Meeting** to include: Annual Board Reports, Parsonage, 2023 Budget, Pastoral call, Nominations for the synod president
3. **Lenten Dinners**
 - Ash Wednesday, February 22- Board of Education
 - Wednesday March 1st, Trustees
 - March/April Lenten dinners to be announced.
4. **Chicks for Bricks** to be held Thursday, Feb 9th, 5-7pm * Calling for volunteers
5. **Vacation:** Church secretary Barb Johnson will be on vacation Feb 17-March 7 * Please submit newsletter articles early
6. **North District voting:** Reminded that registration for voting for the synod president is online until March 19 * Pastor and one member of Zion will be voting

*Noted that LCMS requires Zion to donate \$1per communicant member toward the national convention * The number of communicant members will be determined and a check will be written to the synod

Motion to Adjourn made by Peggy D * Keith 2nd * Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm followed by the **Lord's Prayer**

Upcoming meetings and important dates:

Council meets to approve the 2023 budget Sunday, January 22, after worship

Voter's Assembly Meeting – Sunday, January 29, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

Chicks for Bricks – Thursday February 9, 2023 – 5-7p.m.

Church Council Meeting – Monday, February 13, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service - February 22, 2023 - 6:30pm - preceded by a Lenten meal

* * * * *

Draft of minutes reviewed by Vice-President Barb Jelinski

Draft of council minutes to be distributed to council members and Zion newsletter

Draft of council minutes to be submitted for final approval at February 9, 2023, Council meeting

Marilyn Husby, Recording Secretary

CHICKS FOR BRICKS DINNER

Thursday, February 9th 5-7pm

Zion Lutheran Church
411 3rd Ave NE, Little Falls



Chicken – Ham – Mashed Potatoes – Stuffing – Gravy
Vegetables – Dinner Rolls – Dessert & Beverage

For your safety, service will be buffet style, but we will serve you!

Proceeds go to our new Fellowship Hall debt reduction

\$10.00 per person suggested donation

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Thrivent Choice Dollars accrued in 2022 should be directed by March 31, 2023 or they are forfeited. The church council has all Thrivent Choice Dollars received by Zion be applied to our Building Fund to reduce our Fellowship Hall loan debt. We appreciate members designating Zion for your Choice Dollars. This can be done by:

- Calling Thrivent client services at **1-800-847-4836** and when prompted, say '**Thrivent Choice**' and a representative will work with you to do so.

or

- Go on-line to **Thrivent.com** and log-in to your account

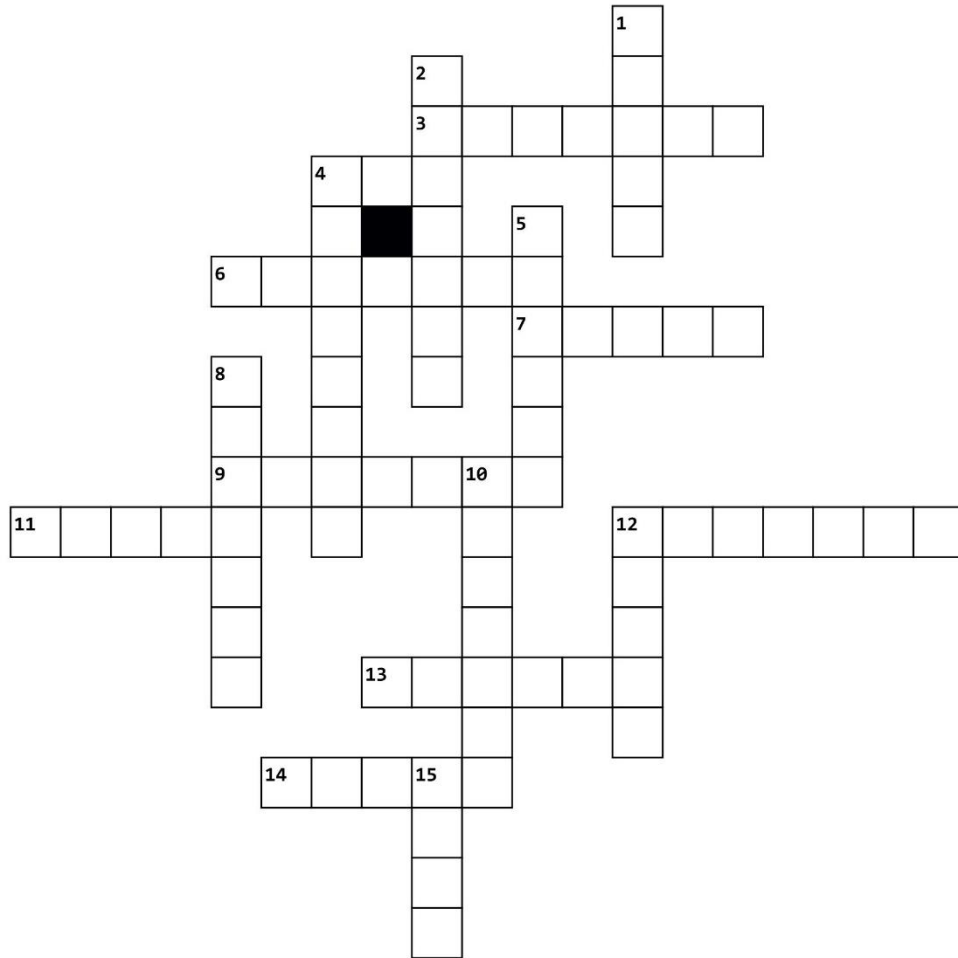
Under the '**Your Needs**' click '**Give Back**' tab

Scroll down the page and click on '**Thrivent Choice**'.

Scroll down to '**Direct Choice Dollars**' and click on '**Direct**'. It will bring you to a new page showing how many 2022 Choice Dollars you have to direct. If you've directed to Zion Lutheran Church before it will be on your screen already. Choose '**All**' or an amount you choose and click '**Direct Now**'. Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

Thank you for choosing Zion for your Choice Dollars!

1 Corinthians 13 Crossword



Across

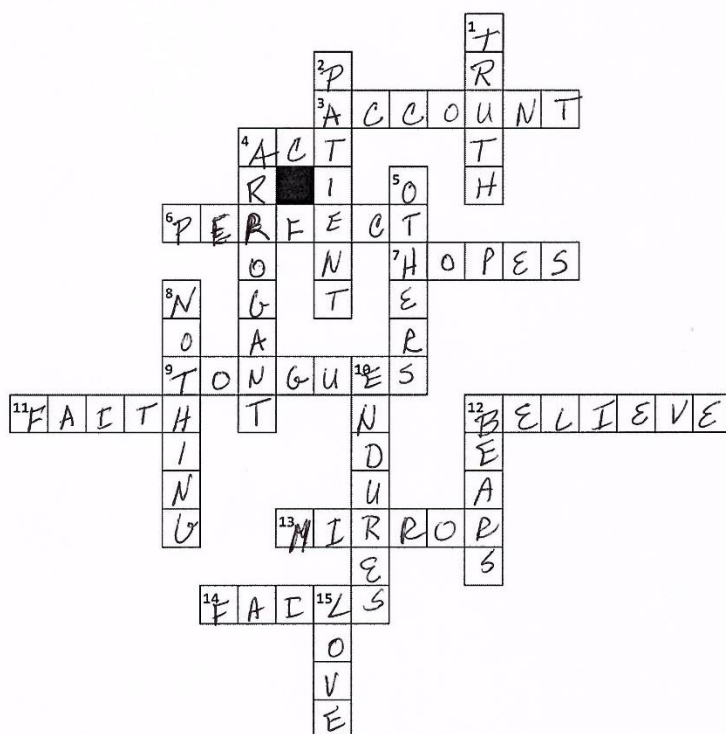
- 3.** ... does not take into _____ a wrong suffered... 1 Corinthians 13:5 (NASB)
- 4.** ...does not _____ unbecomingly... 1 Corinthians 13:5 (NASB)
- 6.** But when that which is _____ is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 1 Corinthians 13:10 (KJV)
- 7.** ...its _____ are fadeless under all circumstances... 1 Corinthians 13:7 (AMP)
- 9.** If I speak with the _____ of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 1 Corinthians 13:1 (NASB)
- 11.** And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all _____, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:2 (KJV)
- 12.** ...is ready to _____ the best of every person... 1 Corinthians 13:7 (AMP)
- 13.** For now we see in a _____ dimly, but then face to face... 1 Corinthians 13:12 (NASB)
- 14.** Love never _____ [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. 1 Corinthians 13:8 (AMP)

Down

- 1.** rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the _____... 1 Corinthians 13:6 (KJV)
- 2.** Love is _____, love is kind and is not jealous... 1 Corinthians 13:4 (NASB)
- 4.** ...love does not brag and is not _____. 1 Corinthians 13:4 (NASB)
- 5.** Love cares more for _____ than for self. 1 Corinthians 13:3-7 (MSG)
- 8.** And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me _____. 1 Corinthians 13:3 (NASB)
- 10.** ...and it _____ everything [without weakening]
- 12.** Love _____ up under anything and everything that comes... 1 Corinthians 13:7 (AMP)
- 15.** But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is _____. 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NASB)

Answers on page 12

Crossword Puzzle Answers



WORSHIP SERVANTS

FEBRUARY	ELDER	USHERS	GREETER	READER	ORGANIST
4	Greg Rausch	Jennifer Hanson Marie Holey		Jennifer Hanson	Carol Prozinski
5	Sheldon Prozinski	Eugene Doucette Marcell Bellefeuille	Ginny Fitch	Barb Jelinski	Carol Prozinski
11	Chris Roe	Julie Dancer		Colleen Duncan	Carol Prozinski
12	Jerry Knafla	Ben Messinger TBD	Angie Watnaas	Jerry Knafla	Carol Prozinski
18	Greg Rausch			Dan Hughes	Peggy Dolney
19	Craig Bohnsack	Dennis Hollermann Keith Schumann	Angie Watnaas	Kayla Bohnsack	Peggy Dolney
22 Ash Wed	Sheldon Prozinski	Eugene Doucette Marcel Bellefeuille	Ginny Fitch	Sheldon Prozinski	Carol Prozinski
25	Chris Roe	TBD		Peggy Dolney	Peggy Dolney
26	Mike Gohl	Wayne & Bing Ganz	Phyllis Shirley	Amanda Dawson	Peggy Dolney
29	Sheldon Prozinski				

FEBRUARY 2023

Zion Lutheran Church

Feb 2023 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 Hymnsing 10am - Sunday School 10:30am - Quarterly Voters	30 9am - Wmn's Bible Study	31	1 9am - Quilters 6pm - Handbells	2	3	4 6:30pm - Worship
5 9am - worship 10am - Sunday School	6 9am - Wmn's Bible Study 5pm - Elders	7	8 9am - Quilters 6pm - Handbells	9 5pm - Chicks for Bricks	10	11 6:30pm - Worship
12 9am - Blended Worship & 10am - Sunday School	13 9am - Wmn's Bible Study 5:30pm - Trustees 6pm - Stewardship 6:30pm - Council Mtg	14	15 9am - Quilters 6pm - Handbells	16	17	18 6:30pm - Worship
19 9am - Door Offering 9am - Worship 10am - Sunday School	20 9am - LWQ 10am - ZLW	21	22 9am - Quilters 5pm - Ash Wed Dinner 6pm - Handbells 6:30pm - Ash Wed Service	23	24	25 6:30pm - Worship
26 9am - Blended Service 9:45am - Parsonage 10am - Sunday School	27 9am - Wmn's Bible Study 9am - Women's Bible Study	28	1 9am - Quilters 5pm - Lent Dinner 6pm - Handbells 6:30pm - Lent Service	2	3	4 6:30pm - Worship

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Little Falls, MN 56345