Forgiveness

“And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those . . .”

C.S. Lewis said, “Every one says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive…” It is one thing to say, “God forgives those who forgive others.” It is another thing to do it! (See Matthew 6:14-15.)

Of all the things we are called to do as Christians, this may be one of the hardest. To forgive, we must get through a big heap of emotions. Sometimes, this can make the journey to forgiveness seem nearly impossible.

It would be important to understand what forgiveness is and is not. Forgiveness

- May not mean reconciliation. Although, forgiveness, along with reconciliation, would be beneficial and best for all, if possible.
- Can occur without repentance on the part of the one who has offended or harmed us.
- Does not mean you are condoning the action of the other.
- Does not relieve the other of their accountability or responsibility.

Forgiveness is

- An acknowledgment of the hurt experienced by one another.
- A continuing process. It is not usually a one-time event.
- Letting go of the anger, resentment, and bitterness. These emotions hold your heart and body hostage and harm your heart, your body, and your life.
- Biblically mandated.

In Paul’s letter to the Colossians, he says, “But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal, there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!” (Col. 3:8-11)

As Christians, we are made free. Because of Christ’s death and resurrection, we are free from the burden of our sin and free to forgive others. Truly we are joyful when God forgives us. We may, however, have consequences according to civil law and personal responsibility. Martin Luther referred to this as the doctrine of two kingdoms. Through the Holy Spirit, we are convicted by the law saved by grace made possible through Christ. Truly, this grace is undeserved and unmerited.

We forgive because we are forgiven. Paul adds, “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another

(Continued on page 3)
Worshiping God is the third mark of discipleship

WORSHIPPING GOD strengthens and builds a disciple’s connection to and relationship with God and the community of faith. This lesson will reflect on the importance of true worship.

Sometimes true worship is confused with the habit of “going to church.” There is also the popular belief that an individual can worship sufficiently alone. However, Jesus, the Son of God, made worship central in his life and ministry (Luke 4:16). Jesus’ example makes any rationale or excuse for not coming to worship meaningless or self-serving. Worshiping God in community was a regular practice in the lives of Jesus’ disciples.

Read John 4:19–26. This story picks up in the middle of Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well. After a rousing round of riddles about water, the conversation shifts to an even deeper subject—worship. The Samaritan woman brings it up in an attempt to change the subject and move the spotlight away from her, but Jesus tells her that “the hour is coming” when worshiping God will not be focused on a particular location but centered in the way in which we worship God, in spirit and truth. Worshiping God with a genuine and sincere heart is what is most important.

Reflect on how the Holy Spirit inspires you to worship.

Next, review verses 17–20. Think about the phrase “in spirit and truth.” What happens when your deepest hurts or needs connect with worship? Just like the Samaritan woman, you may have strong beliefs about worship. What are some common worship practices in your congregation that may cause tension or bring healing?

Practice worshiping God in spirit and truth. It will help you to discern the meaning of worship in your daily life.


Remember that through worship we experience God’s love and grow in appreciating the amazing gifts that God has given to us.

“Lessons for Today’s Disciples” was written by Valora K Starr, director for discipleship for Women of the ELCA. You can find the resource by visiting welca.org/resources and searching for its title.

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Forgiveness

(continued from page 1)

and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” (Col. 3:12-13)

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.” (Col. 3:14-15)

We give God our thanks for unmerited grace and ask for the strength to forgive others.

All of my respect and love,
Deacon Deb

October 27 is Confirmation Sunday

Zoey Heid, Wyatt Ottmar, Tate Rafteseth, Kayedenn Rivinius, and Anna Schatz will affirm their baptism and make a public profession of their faith on Sunday, October 27, at worship.

Everyone is welcome to refreshments, cake, and fellowship after worship in honor of our confirmands.

Welcome, Heston!

Heston Leo Schock was baptized on September 1. Parents are Verrick and Sarah Schock; sponsors are Jesse and Karin Gaugler.

We welcome Heston, a child of God, into our church family. May God look down on him and keep him safely in His loving care.

Worship Assistants for October

Please find someone to switch with you or fill in if you are unable to be present.

October 6
Lector: Todd
Greeters: Kenny & Doris
Acolyte: Jayce
Ushers: Laura & Mason, Tabitha, Madison

October 13
Lector: MyKenzie
Greeters: Bridget, MyKenzie, MyKayla
Acolyte: MyKayla
Ushers: Bridget, Fred, Clarence, Verrick

October 20
Lector: Yvonne
Greeters: Doug & Joleen
Acolyte: Elijah O
Ushers: Heid Family

October 27
Lector: Ruby
Greeters: Jackie, Ruby
Acolyte: Aiden
Ushers: Dale & Arla, Quentin & Rosemary

Third Grade Students Receive Bibles

Shelby, Quincey, and Kylor each received a Bible from WELCA on September 8. Robin Bentz, WELCA president, presented the Sparkhouse Story Bibles.
Offerings & Gifts - September

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Undesignated</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>2,187</td>
<td>82</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>1,524</td>
<td>113</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>2,748</td>
<td>126</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>1,620</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 29</td>
<td>1,376</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Undesignated</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,455</strong></td>
<td><strong>Avg Sun Attend: 101</strong></td>
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Gifts

- Bulletins: 20
- Parish Education: 160
- Memorials: 100
- Miscellaneous: 35
- Missions: 15
- Sunday School Ofg: 51

Designated Offering: 300

Income & Expenses - Year to Date

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<tr>
<th>Income</th>
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<tr>
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<td>$70,784</td>
<td>$65,838</td>
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Expenses

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<th>Designated Funds</th>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
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<td>$72,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income vs Expense</td>
<td>-5,474</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Lord, Thee I Love with Half My Heart

by Chad Bird

Lord, Thee I love with half my heart.
The world has claimed the other part.
I pray Thy name be hallowed, Lord,
But want my name to be adored.
Thy kingdom come, Thy reign extend,
And rain on me wealth without end.
Thy will be done, my lips shall pray,
And curse when I don’t get my way.
I thank Thee for my daily bread,
But cakes and steaks I crave instead.
My million sins forgive, forget,
While I collect a one-cent debt.
From tempting evils keep us free
Unless I find they pleasure me.
Lord, Thee I love with half my heart.
Destroy, reclaim, the other part.

Source: https://www.1517.org/articles/lord-thee-i-love-with-half-my-heart

Why are trees very forgiving?
Because in the fall they “let it go,” and
in the spring they “turn over a new leaf.”

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church invites you to attend

German Dinner and Kuchen Sale

Sunday, October 20

At the Elgin Community Center
Elgin, ND

- Fleischkuechle
- Knoephla & Kraut
- Pig-in-the-Blanket & Mashed Potatoes
- Corn
- Dinner Rolls
- Kuchen, Kuchen Bars, & Plachinda

Adults - $10 • Ages 4-10 - $5 • Ages 3 & Under - Free

Serving 11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
September 8, 2019

Present: Lance Ottmar, Stephanie Lince, Misti Hummel, Todd Allen, Mason Zimmerman, Evan Friesz, Verrick Schock, Tabitha Zimmerman, Chad Ottmar, and Virginia Rivinius. Absent: Deacon Deb, George Gathright, Cindy Marxen. Monica Steinmetz and Marie Klein were present for a portion of the meeting.

Lance Ottmar, President, called the meeting to order and opened it with prayer.

Secretary’s Report: May minutes were not available for approval. It was moved by Misti and seconded by Todd to dispense with the reading of the August minutes and approve as written. Motion unanimously carried.

Treasurer’s Report: August income was $6,874; expenses were $13,333.42, $3,081.50 of which was 2018 hail damage repair. Misti made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report; it was seconded by Mason and carried unanimously. After discussion about an electricity demand charge of $611 as a result of the heat being turned on in Fellowship Hall, it was moved by Stephanie and seconded by Todd to purchase covers for the thermostats. Motion carried.

Deacon’s Report: No report.

Correspondence: None.

Committee Reports:
1) Parish Education – No report.
2) Property – Discussion about replacing the refrigerator in the parsonage – measurement of the opening needs to be verified. Verrick made a motion, seconded by Todd, to buy a refrigerator for the parsonage when one is found and a vote be conducted by email if necessary. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: August income was $6,874; expenses were $13,333.42, $3,081.50 of which was 2018 hail damage repair. Misti made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report; it was seconded by Mason and carried unanimously. After discussion about an electricity demand charge of $611 as a result of the heat being turned on in Fellowship Hall, it was moved by Stephanie and seconded by Todd to purchase covers for the thermostats. Motion carried.

Other Business: Marie Klein was present to ask the council for its support of a German dinner with the proceeds going to help the church meet its budget shortfall. Council members suggested having it during pheasant hunting season on a Sunday when the café is closed. It was moved by Todd and seconded by Mason to support this. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Virginia Rivinius  
Recording Secretary

HELP NEEDED!

We are in need of your help with preparations for our German Dinner. As Mother Teresa said, “You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. Together, we can do great things.”

Kuchen, kuchen bars, and dinner rolls have been baked. Further preparations are scheduled as follows:

October 8: Plachinda day, starting at 9:00 am at the church.
October 17: Knoephla and pigs day, starting at 9:00 am at the church.
October 19: Fleischkuechle day at the Community Center starting at 9:00 am. We will also need a crew to set up tables and chairs starting at 1:30.
October 20: Bring on the German Food!

Sign up sheets for work on October 19 and 20 are on the table in the narthex. Please pick a time(s) that works for you and sign up so we can determine if or when we might need more help. There is also a sign up sheet for electric fryers.

How blessed are we to come together to prepare a meal for our neighbors in the community, help meet the financial needs of our church, and celebrate our love of German food!
Letter from Mission of the Good Shepherd

Editor's Note: Some of you have asked who, in our prayer concerns, are Susie, Myrtle, Ashanti, Orlando, and Stephanie. The letter below tells of their need for our prayers. We continue to hold them in our prayers and correspond with the Mission. Will you please pray for them also?

Women of ELCA
Zion Lutheran Church
400 2nd Ave. N.E.
Elgin ND, 58533

Dear Women of ELCA,

I have lived at the Mission of the Good Shepherd in Belize Central America for the past 14 years. I grew up at the Mission. I am an adult now, went to college with the help of Pastor Post, and I have come back to the Mission to help Pastor Post. But, I want to tell you something sad. Pastor Post, who came from the US as a Missionary over 15 years ago, sent out nearly 100 letters to Pastors asking for prayers for some special children in need here in Belize, and he got no response. He couldn’t believe it. No one was willing to pray for these children. No one wrote back to him. Although somebody suggested that maybe they prayed but were just too busy to let us know. This could be.

I know that the bible says that we should pray for one another. And I know that most Pastors are extremely overworked, with very little time even for themselves let alone prayer time for those outside their own congregations. And so that is why, as a woman, I am writing to the Women of ELCA. Would you be willing to pray for some children who are really in need of your prayers? Their names are Susie Westby, Myrtle Tracy, Ashanti Obrien, Orlando Jackson and little Stephanie Logan. Although we have other children here at the Mission who could use prayers, these are the children who we need special prayers for right now. These children have very immediate, urgent needs that only God can help with.

It is hard to believe that a Missionary, who has given up his whole life to travel to a 3rd world country to bring the gospel to people, who has spent over 15 years working with some of the most underprivileged children in this country, and then got no response when writing to his own people back home asking for prayers. Pastor Post seemed really down that he didn’t hear back from anybody. I told him that maybe the Pastors prayed but just didn’t let him know. But anyway, that’s why I decided to send this letter to the Lutheran Women of your Church. As a woman, I know that women care, especially Lutheran women. And they pray.

If the Women of ELCA, or anyone else from your congregation, will pray for these children, please email or write to me and let me know so that I can tell Pastor Post. I have very little to offer you in return for your prayers, but if you will do this, I will send you a hand colored picture each month by one of the children who you will be praying for, similar to the one that I have enclosed by little Susie Westby.

In the Service of the Good Shepherd,
Ms.Jamie Garbutt
Mission of the Good Shepherd

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Special Congregational Meeting
September 15, 2019

President Lance Ottmar called the meeting to order. Deacon Beth Anderson from the Synod Office shared scripture and prayer. Deacon Anderson presented information on the TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) Program, under which Deacon Deb would be completing coursework toward ordination. After questions asked of Deacon Anderson and Deacon Deb, the congregation voted on the question of supporting Deacon Deb during the process to become ordained and consent to Zion as her internship site. The results of the election were 45 yes and 31 no.

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Virginia Rivinius
Recording Secretary

Unimaginable Impact

You don’t know how many people have been strengthened because you asked God to encourage them; how many people have been healed because you prayed for their bodies; how many spiritual runaways have come home because you prayed for their souls. None of us may ever know the true effects of our prayers this side of death. But we do know this: History belongs to the intercessors.

John Ortberg,
_The Life You’ve Always Wanted_
# October 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deacon Deb’s Weekly Schedule:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mondays &amp; Wednesdays: 9:00-5:00 at the Church office</td>
<td></td>
<td>4:30 WELCA Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 Bible Study</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesdays: Visitation, appointments, and writing</td>
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<td>7:00 Calling &amp; Caring Committee Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00 Confirm. Students Set Up For Potluck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursdays: Pastoral visits in Elgin</td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 Plachinda Baking</td>
<td>7:00 Finance Committee Meeting</td>
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9:30 Worship | 10:30 SS, Conf, Fellowship | 11:30 Potluck | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 9:00 Plachinda Baking | 7:00 Finance Committee Meeting | 7:00 Bible Study | 7:00 Bible Study |  | 9:00 Knoephla & Pigs Prep |  |
| 9:30 Worship | 10:30 SS, Conf, Fellowship | 11:30-1:30 German Dinner | 11:30 Potluck |
| 7:00 Stewardship Committee Meeting | 7:00 Bible Study | 7:00 Bible Study |  |
| L: Alvin M | G: Serenity | A: Serenity | U: Serenity |
| 9:30 Worship | 10:30 SS, Conf, Fellowship | 11:30-1:30 German Dinner | 11:30 Potluck |
| L: Ruby | G: Jackie, Ruby | A: Aiden | U: Dale & Arla, Quentin & Rosemary |
| 7:00 Bible Study | 7:00 Bible Study | 7:00 Bible Study |  |

Church Office: 584-2902
Deacon Deb: (703) 463-6905 or Parsonage: 584-2633
Deacon Deb’s Email: zelcpastor@westriv.com
Church Email: zelc@westriv.com