

1 Corinthians 15:48–49 - As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Little Johnny listened intently to his Sunday school teacher's lesson. She was telling how God had formed Adam "from the dust of the earth." After thinking about it for a couple of minutes, he became rather concerned. "Teacher," he said, "I think there's a man under my bed!"

What is the difference between the dust we are made of and the dust under our beds? We, like Adam, have the breath of God in us. God gives life. He gives us life.

Folks who believe in evolution have never come up with a good answer (or any reasonable answer) to the question "How did life begin?" Things that are dead, like dust, don't come to life. But God gives life, and we enjoy that life.

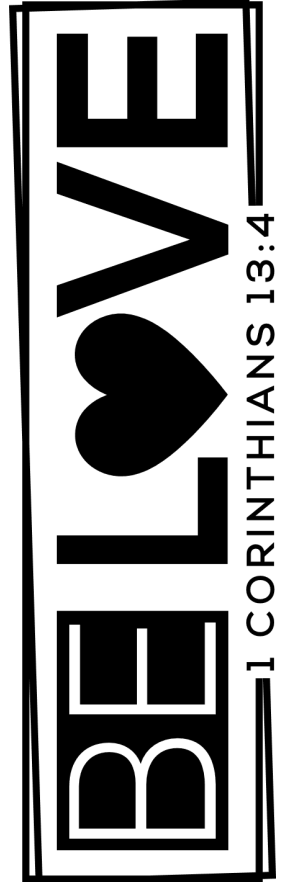
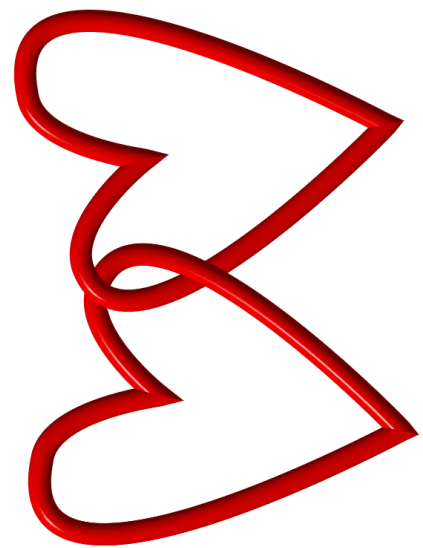
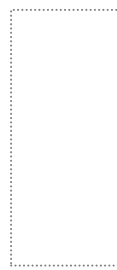
February 14 is Ash Wednesday. It is the day of the year that we remember that we are all dust. One day our bodies will be placed in the ground, and they will return to dust, unless Christ returns first. It is the day that we begin our Lenten journey and prepare to celebrate Jesus' death for our sakes on Good Friday and His glorious resurrection on Easter. We focus on the fact that we aren't just dust, we have God's breath of life.

Our Lenten preparation includes worship services at 11:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning on Ash Wednesday. Our theme this year is "Be Gracious to Me." Although we are like Adam, through faith Jesus makes us like Him. That's grace! See you in worship!

Paster Kleppe



Zion Lutheran Church
410 Main Street South
Pine City, MN 55063



February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Worship/Comm 8am <i>Jastram Door Offering</i> Education Hour 9:30am	5 Evangelism 7pm	6 Endowment 7pm	7 Confirmation 5:30pm Worship/Comm 7pm	8 LWML 9am Sewing LWML Meeting 1pm	9	10
11 Worship/Comm 8am <i>Food Shelf Door Offering</i> Education Hour 9:30am	12 Elder Meeting 6pm Council Meeting 7pm	13 	14 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> Worship/Comm 11:30am & 7pm Confirmation 5:30pm	15	16	17
18 Worship/Comm 8am Education Hour 9:30am	19 Voters Meeting 7:00pm	20	21 Worship/Comm 11:30am & 7pm Confirmation 5:30pm	22	23	24
25 Worship/Comm 8am Education Hour 9:30am	26	27	28 Worship/Comm 11:30am & 7pm Confirmation 5:30pm	29		

FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

Karen Carlson	2/2
Coleen Peterson	2/2
Madelyn Wimmer	2/9
Keri Fairbanks	2/11
Glen Kleppe	2/13
Jerry Carlson	2/13
Scott Ovick	2/18
Arla Kuss	2/20
Kenny Carlson	2/23
Jake Haavisto	2/24

ANNIVERSARIES

Jerry & Barb Carlson	2/17
Mark & Jana Limanen	2/18

FEBRUARY SERVANTS

USHERS

Steve Olson
Steve Ovick
Scott Ovick
Bill Dahl
Larry Anderson

OFFERING COUNTERS

Dallas Carpenter 2/5
Stepheny Lotz 2/12
Karen Meyer 2/20
Janet Sundermeyer 2/26

ALTAR GUILD

Chelsey & Paige Pangerl,
Lori Hall

Lent 2024

Be Gracious to Me

How has God's grace raised you? God's grace wells up in Psalm 41, where David praises God's divine mercy amid his own weakness, powerful enemies, and back-stabbing "friends." In this psalm, David tracks the flow of divine grace back to its source at the cross and, with prophetic vision, finds it springing forth in the lives of all baptized believers—including you. King David was set on a royal throne and made ruler over a great people. Maybe you've seen improvements in your finances or employment. Or perhaps family strife has been quieted. Or maybe a good friend has entered the picture at just the right moment. If so, rejoice and thank God for His grace and favor! But if you feel like you're sinking instead of rising, what then? Is there any comfort for the saint of God who looks around to find that "the waters have come up to my neck" Psalm 69:1? David knows that saint's fortunes because they are his as well: *In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him; the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.* **Psalm 41:1-2**

Our Lenten series this year is based on King David's Psalm 41. We'll look at God's grace to us in good times and bad. Lenten worship will be on **Wednesdays at 11:30 am and 7:00 pm beginning on February 14th**

HE SHALL COME AGAIN

Adult Weekly Bible Study Thursday evenings at 7:00pm.

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." *John 8:31-32*

This course is one of several adult Bible studies in the Discipleship Series. The series was not designed to be a how-to course on specific tasks in the Church. It's not a manual for training lay leaders to do "church work." It's not a practical handbook that can teach you church administration. Rather, the purpose of this series is to help Christians dig into Scripture to explore some of the primary teachings of Christ Jesus. That's how disciples are made-by the power of His Word.

How does God signal that the end nears? What will the end be like? This study explores the end times and assures readers that our Lord Jesus Christ holds us safely in His care. ***If you are unable to join us in person, please ask Pastor for details about how to join us virtually or on the phone!**

New Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings with the elders on the book of Philippians and study the Joy of Christ by Julene Gernant Dumit. It will start at 9:30am on Sunday mornings.

These are the lessons; **Lesson 1**-Partners in the Gospel (Philippians 1: 1-1 1) **Lesson 2**-Living and Dying for Christ (Philippians 1: 12-26) **Lesson 3**-United in Christ as Humble Servants (Philippians 1:27-2: 11) **Lesson 4**--We Work Because God Works in Us (Philippians 2: 12-30) **Lesson 5**-Righteousness from God through Faith in Christ (Philippians 3: 14: 1) **Lesson 6**-Content in the Lord (Philippians 4:2-23).

Zion Lutheran Council Minutes

January 8th, 2024

*Meeting called to order at 7:07pm

Members Present: Pastor Kleppe, Karen Althoff, Chad Fedder, Tom Martini, Jerry Lotz, Keith Strehlo, Dallas Carpenter, Larry Anderson & Steve Olson

Members Absent: Scott Ovick, Jeremiah Slama & Bob Thompson.

Members in Attendance: Brad Dickey & Kerry Dickey

Opened with Prayer and Devotion from John 8: 2-11 & Luke 23: 33-34

Secretary's Report- This was shared prior to the meeting electronically. Motion made to accept the report, motion seconded and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report- Balance currently around \$20,000. Endowment gift from Robbins Estate of \$447,840.89. Discussion on this gift and moving the Endowment to the Lutheran Church Extension Fund with the 6.25% interest rate. Living Branch has reimbursed us for the month. Motion to accept and seconded, Motion passed.

Pastor's Report:

1.Our YouTube channel is Glen Kleppe. We continue to put services on the channel every week. It is accessible directly or through our church website, zionpinecity.org or through our Facebook page. The Wednesday service matches the following Sunday.

2. There will be an adult bible study on Thursday evenings, 7:00 starting January 18th continuing until the start of Lent. The study will be on the return of Christ it is based on the book, "He Shall Come Again." I'm teaching the same class at Living Branch on Tuesdays at 7:00.

3. I've had one request for a Zoom connection to the midweek Bible study. Katy no longer has an account. without a paid membership, the limit is 40 minutes, a membership cost \$17 per month. A similar product, Google Meet, is available for \$10 per month.

4. The next 4 weeks will have a Stewardship theme. I will be using materials from the Minnesota North District, "Life at its Best." I'll be using the same materials at Living Branch.

5. The annual meeting is on monday, January 22nd, 7:00 p.m. If you have information for the Annual Report, please get it to Katy by January 15th.

Upcoming Dates:

January 14th, 21st, 28th & February 4th- "Life at its Best."

January 22nd- Annual Meeting

January 28th- Annual Birthday Party

February 14th- Ash Wednesday

*Motion to accept Pastor's report, motion seconded and motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Evangelism- Meeting 1/9, working on planning 1/28 Annual Birthday Party

Endowment- Planning for a Future Meeting

LWML- Had their Christmas party, Sewing on Thursday's 9am, working on pillow case dresses.

Preschool- Currently 2 openings, Next meeting February 5th.

Worship, Music & Arts- Special Music at Easter. Sang when Pastor Finnern visited, many compliments on the singing.

Youth Group- No report.

Men's Group- Ideas being considered, Game Night (Family), Tom Kuseske presentation and dinner in March, Spaghetti Dinner.

Trustees Report: Heater in office (Katy's Secretary office) not working. Will look into this. Discussed making up a list of snow shoveling volunteers for the less than 1" amounts. Continue to allow Pastor to contact Steve when there is a need if not more than an inch.

*Motion to accept Committee Reports, motion seconded and passed.

Old Business-

-Facia- Still waiting on RJI to come up and repair this.

-Office computer & Pastor Kleppe computer- Katy and Pastor will address this.

-Stove & Fridge- Fridge arrived and is good, Stove also arrived but had to be exchanged for a different one as the wrong one was received.

-Electronic Sign- Working, Jerry will forward email to Pastor for ordering of the Reader Card.

-Dual Parish- Work on getting a meeting together. Discussed Dual Parish services.

New Business

-Discussed getting Zoom or Google Meets to use for Bible Studies and other events. After Discussion motion was made to approve getting a membership for Google Meet. Motion seconded and motion was approved.

-Discussed Endowment Committee needing to meet and add new members. Dallas said he would work on getting a meeting as soon as possible scheduled.

-Voters/Annual Meeting. Discussed why the meeting was changed to a Monday evening. After discussion decided to bring this to the Voter's meeting for feedback.

-Door Offerings- Need to make sure we go back to putting the door offering basket out. We will do this on the 2nd & 3rd Sunday of the month. Offerings will be for the Food Shelf & Dr. Jastram. Jerry will make sure these get added to the calendar.

*Minutes typed and respectfully submitted by Jerry Lotz