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# The Grapevine

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Zion Lutheran Church 700 Main St., Clyman, WI 53016-0220

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December 2015

[www.zionclyman.org](http://www.zionclyman.org)

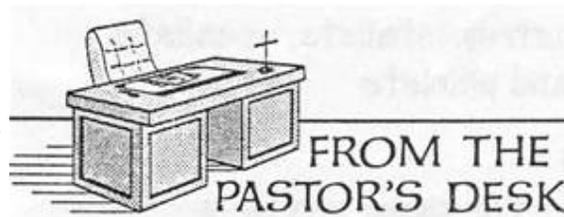
Grapevine December 2015

An op-ed piece appearing in TheAtlantic.com in mid-November considers the flap over Starbucks 'holiday' cups. Though it will be old news by the time you read this in early December, the underlying issue is something Christians grapple with every Christmas. More about that in a moment.

The article by editor, Emma Green is entitled,

"The Inanity of the Starbucks Christmas Cup 'Controversy'". The Starbucks story received great attention both on the internet and in major publications like the New York Times and the Washington Post. In case you missed the cup kerfuffle, here's the rub. Starbucks holiday cups appeared this year in solid red with the familiar green logo in the middle. The Atlantic article notes that since 1997 various seasonal symbols have appeared on Starbucks cups including vintage ornaments and reindeer but "there was never a time when someone could sip a latte out of a nativity-scene decorated cup." This year's holiday cups would likely have received little attention had it not been for Joshua Feuerstein who deems himself an American evangelist. His internet diatribe against the cups includes this quote: "Do you realize that Starbucks wanted to take Christ, and Christmas, off of their brand new cups? That's why they're just plain red." He charges that Starbucks employees have been forbidden by the company to even utter the words "Merry Christmas" to customers. When a Starbucks spokesperson was asked about such a gag-order they made clear that no such edict was ever issued by the company. While the cup controversy is but one incident and the reaction of a self-proclaimed evangelist seems quite over the top, the story does touch a nerve for Christians. We celebrate the birth of Jesus with joy. Christ's incarnation is an essential article of our faith. Because we deeply treasure the Good News that God took on human flesh and bore our sins on the cross, Christians are naturally distressed by Christmas celebrations that purposely omit Jesus. The tension between a secularized Christmas and Christmas focused on Jesus' birth is nothing new. In 1991 clergy railed against the 'advertising lords' of Madison Ave with an open letter in the New York Times. "Massive and alluring advertising crusades have waged war on the essential meaning of spiritual life, fostering the belief that the marketplace can fulfill our highest aspirations." (True enough, but still no mention of Jesus.)

The Atlantic article begs the question... why would we expect any different than a commercial emphasis for Christmas from the world of commerce? The author notes, "There is an irony in seeking validation of one's religious identity from corporate America. Businesses never exist purely to promote and defend specific religious ideologies. They exist, first and foremost, to make money, and though some owners may have and express certain values, looking to businesses to enforce the cultural symbolism of your faith is a bad bet." Bottom line? The Glad Tidings of Great Joy has been given to you and me to proclaim. When did God ever lay the responsibility of proclaiming the Good News about Jesus on WalMart, Menards, or Best Buy? "YOU shall be My witnesses", Jesus charged His disciples. This Christmas, don't be too concerned, don't be miffed or disgusted that the stores are filled with tons of decorations and loads of Christmas merchandize but lack any emphasis on the birth of Jesus. God never assigned businesses to proclaim the Good News. You are the one who's been given that happy task. "Let the redeemed of the Lord, SAY SO!" That's YOU! The redeemed of the Lord, His chosen people, God's dearly beloved flock at Zion; you are the ones entrusted with the Christmas Gospel. All the wrong and loud messages at Christmas can never drown out the praise that comes from your mouth. No need to curse the darkness. Just light a candle. Rejoice in Jesus. Let His name be on your lips this Christmas.



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Zion Lutheran Church  
Clyman WI  
November's Semi Annual Meeting  
November 8, 2015

Attendance (see sign in sheet.)

1. Call to order at 9:55 AM by President Dan C.
2. We opened with devotion; Pastor read from Galatians 6 vs 9 and said a prayer.
3. Secretary's report: June's semiannual meeting minutes were passed out for review. Neal K made a motion to accept minutes as written, Ralph K 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. MOTION CARRIED.
4. Treasures report: Treasures report was reviewed. Ericka explained that the line items for the Easter Breakfast, Thrivent and "extra" fund all showed a 0 balance she took the money out of those accounts to help pay for the work that was done on the steeple and the remainder of the money for the steeple came out of the Building Fund. Question was asked if "basement floor" was just money for the floor or does that cover the basement project. It covers the basement project. Motion made by Scott N to accept treasurer's report, 2nd by Penny H. MOTION CARRIED.
4. Pastor's report: Attended District convention in June. Helped at Vacation Bible School at Good Sheppard where 5 kids from Zion attended. Sunday school got off to a good start. We have 5 confirmations students. Eleven members of Zion went to help out at "feed my Starving Children" Adult bible study started and are studying the book of Revelations.

Board Reports and Submission of Business Items

Elders Report:

Discussed the sample marriage policy, against same sex marriages that came from the synod, by adopting this into our bylaws it shows we are in step with the rest of the Missouri synod. Elders approved and want to put this in our bylaws. Connie K made a motion to approve putting this into our policy's, seconded by Tim D. MOTION CARRIED. The Elders will make sure this gets put into our bylaws.

Trustees:

Safe —The old big safe was sold it does need to be picked up yet. The new small safe is mounted in the sacristy on the desk.

Basement drain is all fixed and taken care of.

The steeple has been painted

The black top and the concrete work are all completed, will monitor the basement after we have some

rain to see if it still leaks into the basement.

Back entry way is being worked on now, so there are still a few things left to finish on that.

New things for the trustees to look into. The toilet in the upstairs bathroom at the parsonage is not working. Also when it rains it puddles on the handicap ramp.

C. Stewardship: Nothing to report.

D. Finance: Nothing to report.

E. Archivist: We had 5 baptisms, 5 confirmands, 0 marriages and 4 deaths.

F. Sunday school: Thank you to Ericka, Hanna and Vicki working with the Kindergarteners.

Everyone working together as a team getting the Christmas program together. The Christmas tree should be put up by December 5<sup>th</sup> if the Sunday school students are going to decorate it. This will be the last year for Vickie and Amy to be superintendents of Sunday school.

7. Auxillary:

G. Cemetery —7 burials. A price increase is needed, so it will be \$400 for a single plot, \$800 for a double, and a block of 4 is \$1500.

8. Old Business

H. Constitution is updated if anyone wants a copy.

I. Basement, still need to replace some of the cabinets and fix up the bathrooms. David H volunteered to work on the basement project.

J. Organ = Dee Dee found someone to fix the organ all of the repairs that he had noted will cost \$5,090.00 the money is already in the account so we will move forward to hire him and get the organ repaired. Any money left in the organ fund will remain in the organ fund.

9. New Business:

K. Election of officers-nominations from the floor. Voting ballots were passed out, need to remove Larry F from list. Ralph K nominated Neal K for Elder. Question asked three times if there were any other nomination from the floor.

L. Voting ballots were collected and tallied newly elected officers are: Vice President Ralph K, Elders Jason J and Neal K, Treasurer Nancy K, Trustee David H and Finance Nancy B.

M. Christmas Bag committee: Sandy R, Chris K, and Marty C all volunteered.

N. Christmas Decorating: Will put up the tree December 3<sup>rd</sup> anyone who can help should come to help. Mike H, Marty C and Beth B volunteered.

O. Audit committee: Mary C, Beth B, and Nancy B volunteered.

Donation of copier: We had a donation of a new copier machine, so the only cost to the church will be

for paper for the next five years. Thank you to the donor.

Refrigerator: It was brought up to Dan that we could use another refrigerator in the basement when we have funerals or events there is not enough room in the one refrigerator. S1S would be the committee that would look into this and can decide if they want to purchase one, if not it can come back to the congregation to

vote on.

Budget for 2016: We reviewed and approved by sections. (see attached for full budget)

- a. Utilities: discussion on why to leave church utilities the same if we are already over budget, It is because of all of the work we did in the church the electric and furnace

was on more than usual so with none of that going on we feel the \$5,500 will be enough.

Neal K made a motion to accept the utilities portion of the proposed budget as printed; David H

seconded the motion **MOTION CARRIED.**

Supplies: Ericka suggested to move the Sunday School supplies up to \$2,500 from \$2,000 Adult bible supplies comes from this line item as well as Sunday School supplies. A motion was made by Connie K to accept the proposed Supplies budget as printed with line item Sunday school at \$2,500.00 instead of \$2,000.00

Ralph K seconded the motion **MOTION CARRIED.**

Other: A motion was made by Penny H to accept the other section as proposed, Ralph K seconded

**MOTION CARRIED**

Missions: It was originally proposed to lower both the district and local funds to \$4,700 each to put more money into the Pastoral growth fund. Pastor was considering going to New Guinea on a mission trip. Pastor spoke and said that after discussion with the elders it isn't the right time to go on the mission trip so the money won't be needed in the Pastoral growth fund. We will put both the district and local missions

at \$6,375 each. It is suggested that 10% of our budget should go to missions that is why we want to increase missions this shows we are working towards that. Penny H made a motion to approve the Mission budget at \$6375.00 for the district mission and \$6375.00 for the local missions. Connie K seconded the motion, **MOTION CARRIED**

Salaries: Change Pastoral growth fund to \$650.00. Neal Kohlhoff made a motion to accept the salary portion as printed with the change of Pastoral growth too \$650.00. David Huebner seconded the motion,

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Marlys asked about the hot water softener, we are still using the old one because the new one didn't meet the expectations of the contractor he is trying to get his money back, we will need to check into this a little further.

Beth B asked about the discretionary fund account it is sitting dormant what should we do with it. Motion was made by Nancy B to move the money out of the separate account into the general savings account as a separate line item so we can keep the money as a discretionary fund but not have to have a separate account for it.

Penny H seconded the motion **MOTION CARRIED.**

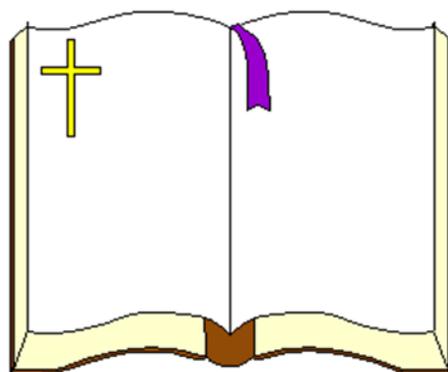
Connie K made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Penny H seconded the motion, **MOTION CARRIED.**

Adjourned at 11:09am

Respectfully submitted Connie K

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

# About the Bible Anagram



hrttu \_\_\_\_\_

bbeil \_\_\_\_\_

eiorsst \_\_\_\_\_

eimoprss \_\_\_\_\_

aceghint \_\_\_\_\_

aeemnssttt \_\_\_\_\_

eerssv \_\_\_\_\_

bkoos \_\_\_\_\_

ahorstu \_\_\_\_\_

acehprst \_\_\_\_\_





Al & Linda G	12/9
Troy & Rita A	12/20
Jim & Erica G Jr.	12/23
Felix & Janet O	12/29

Brian D	12/2
Vickie B	12/3
Taylor F	12/3
Helen K	12/4
Amy N	12/7
Cindy B	12/8
Valerie L	12/8
Joelle S	12/11
Kevin S	12/14
Warren J	12/17
Ronald L	12/17
Malachi D	12/20
Karen H	12/25
Walter B	12/28
Douglas S	12/28
Carl F	12/30
Linda G	12/31



# 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Elder's Meeting 6:00 pm	2 Confirmation Class 5:30 to 7pm Bells 6pm Advent Service 7pm Elder: Jason Choir 8pm	3 Put up Christmas tree 6pm	4	5 Decorate Christmas Tree 9am Children's Program Practice 9:30am to 11am
6 8:30am Divine Service Sunday School Adult Bible Class  Elder: Jason Usher Team # 1  Food Shelf Sunday	7	8	9 Bethesda Workers 1—5pm Confirmation Class 5:30 to 7pm Bells 6pm Advent Service 7pm Elder: Joel Choir 8pm	10	11	12 Children's Program Practice 9:30am to 11am
13 8:30am Divine Service Sunday School Adult Bible Class Elder: Joel Usher Team # 2	14	15	16 Confirmation Class 5:30 to 7pm Bells 6pm Advent Service 7pm Elder: Gary Choir 8pm	17	18	19 Children's Program Practice 9:30am to 11am Baby Jesus Birthday Party 11am to 12:30pm
20 <b>9:00am</b> Children's Program  Elder: Gary Usher Team # 3	21	22	23 <b>GRAPEVINE ARTICLES ARE DUE</b>	24 Christmas Eve Service 7pm	25 Christmas Day Service 8:30am	26
27 8:30am Divine Service Sunday School <b>NO</b> Adult Bible Class Elder: Scott Usher Team # 4	28	29	<b>30</b>	31 New Year's Eve Service 7pm		