

# The Newsletter

Zion Lutheran Church & School  
Hastings, Nebraska  
May – 2019

**“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD,  
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future.”** Jeremiah 29:11

One of the exam questions asked at Confirmation Examination this year was, “What is your confirmation verse and why did you pick it? Of course, there was a day when the confirmands did not pick their verses, they were assigned. But these days we encourage the students to choose their own verse.

So in answering that question, Emily Hinrichs, our sole confirmand this year, answered with the Bible verse that serves as the headline for this article, Jeremiah 29:11. And the reason she chose it? Her aunt had given her a ring with those words engraved on it.

What a great gift! A constant reminder that God has plans for you... for your prosperity... not harm... hope and a future!

These words of God, through the prophet Jeremiah, were said to the Jews who had been sent into exile in Babylon. This exile was an unpleasant situation for God’s chosen people.

But, unpleasant as it may have been, God encouraged them with these words. The exiles were assured that no

matter how unpleasant their situation might be, God was in control, and He had in mind what was best for them. And ultimately, they would be rescued.

Have you ever considered life in the world today as a kind of “Babylonian Exile”? We are constantly bombarded with the unpleasant effects of sin, death, and the power of the devil.

But as unpleasant as that situation is for us, the Holy Scriptures assure us that God is in control, and He has what’s best in mind for us. Through the suffering, death, and resurrection of the only begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ, we’ve got the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, distributed in Word and Sacrament in the Holy Christian Church. We indeed are rescued.

May God grant that Emily, and all of us who once stood before the altar of God and confessed His saving name, would be reminded daily of His promise of the plans He has for us, plans to prosper us and not to harm us, plans to give us hope and a future.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Pastor Warneke