



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Newsletter

*Bringing Hope Through Christ*

Gary R. Thur, Pastor

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

FEBRUARY 2012

Dear *(place your name here)*,

**W**ould you please help me, your Pastor, and help each other share this message with your loved ones — family, fellow members, friends, and neighbors?

As we do, let's make sure we open all the gifts that God gave us at Christmas. Open them all. Here may be the ones you missed beginning with your idea of church.

What is missing in this word: **ch ch? UR!**

Now for the gifts!

Each Sunday, join with fellow members in the Body of Christ, the Communion of Saints, and invite your friends to **WORSHIP!**

**Study the Bible.** God's Word says to us, **"I love you!"** Do this at home, here at church, or in one of the small study groups that are now forming.

**Pray** for one another, leaders of our church, our governments, the world leaders, and, of course, all the individuals who do not know Christ as their Savior.

**Share** God's gifts of time, talent, and treasures to the glory of God.

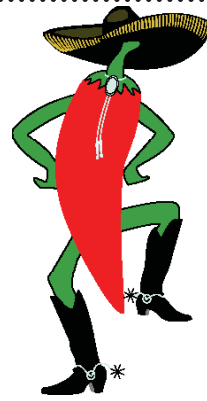
*Peace,  
Pastor Thur*

P.S. In February we will have more of God's gifts that we can open. Take time now to prepare for it. **It begins February 22** at 7 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church — **LENTEN SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**. Please open that GIFT, and then take part every Wednesday following. We need to enjoy all of God's GIFTS!

If by chance we don't feel moved to enjoy these gifts of God, then we need to **repent**. That is probably the best gift given so that we can learn to appreciate God's love. If we are not inclined to worship, we need to get on our knees, asking God to forgive us! With that forgiveness, ask God to help us that we may enjoy eternal salvation. This is what God's gifts are all about.

From  
the  
Pastor's  
Study

**FROM START TO FINISH,  
FROM GENESIS 1:1 TO REVELATION 22:21  
GOD SAYS,  
\* \* \* I LOVE YOU!! \* \* \***



## MISSION: CHILI

**On** Sunday,  
February  
19, LWML

plans to serve up some  
tasty chili for their 2012

mission project choices. Stay after Worship service to enjoy the food and fellowship with your fellow members. Rounding out the meal will be salad and dessert. A freewill offering will be collected. Come hungry!



## Notes of Thanks

**The** Vilven, Neuhaus, and Nichols families would like to thank the members of Zion congregation for the prayers, meal, and memorials when David Vilven passed away in December. They truly appreciated all the caring and concern shown for them during and following his illness.

Thank you.



**My** heartfelt thanks to the members of Zion for their prayers, cards, visits, and concern for me during my recent illness and hospitalization. I appreciate all your kindness.

*With love,  
Shirley Fish*



7455 Foothills Drive  
Farmington, NM 87402  
505-325-3420

Zion Lutheran Church



SUNDAY SCHOOL &  
BIBLE STUDY 9 A.M.  
WORSHIP 10:15 A.M.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
7455 Foothills Drive  
Farmington, NM 87402  
505-325-3420  
*Bringing Hope Through Christ*

E-mail: Pastor: ziongrt@yahoo.com  
Website: zionfarmingtonlcms.org  
Sunday School & Bible Study 9 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:15 a.m.

The Zion Lutheran Church newsletter is distributed monthly. Deadline for submission of articles is nine days prior to the last Sunday of the month. For submissions, please call Joanne O'Keefe at 325-2946, drop in box in narthex, or e-mail to joannekeefe@msn.com.

Pastor: Rev. Gary R. Thur  
Sunday School Super.: Jennifer Dennis  
Newsletter Editor: Joanne O'Keefe  
Website Editor: Tom O'Keefe

#### 2012 Church Council

President: Don Wood  
Vice President: Jim Lukow  
Secretary: Cindy Lyons  
Treasurer: Tom O'Keefe  
Financial Secretary: Steve Bradford  
Elders: Larry Armstrong  
Gary Hobbs  
Tim House  
Patrick Roper  
Tim Snyder  
Rick Trost  
Trustees: Gary Duncan  
Scott Kelly  
Evan O'Keefe  
Tory Olson  
Jason Snyder  
Josh Snyder  
Steve Unger



Welcome to our new officers and Council members, who were installed on January 8. Your work here at Zion is a blessing!

At the close of 2011 we bid goodbye to two long-time members of Zion. Both Betty Stanton and David Vilven passed away in late December; and while we are happy for them that they are in a better place, please remember to keep their families in your prayers.

Belated anniversary wishes go to Cindy and John Lyons. May you have many more happy years together!

Our best wishes go to Vic and Kay Parkhurst, who are moving to Oregon. May God bless their new home.

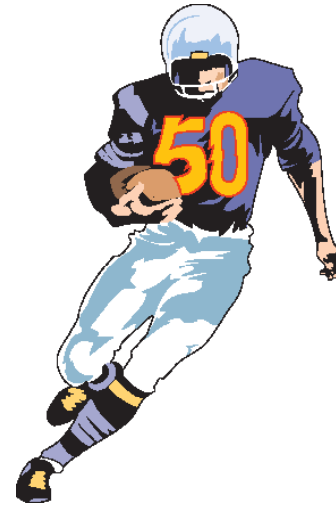
It was great to see Merle Pilavjian back in church after a hip replacement. We hope she continues to gain strength every day.

Other members to keep in your prayers include Ed and Mary Schlueter, Vern Schlueter, Don Taylor, George Pilavjian, Claudette Gabel, Isobel Limback, and Pauline Wilson, who is now at Cedar Ridge Assisted Living.

  
*Happy Valentine's Day!*  
*February 14*

SMALL BIBLE STUDY GROUPS FORMING

# Souper-Bowl Sunday!



BEFORE THE START OF THE **BIG** SUPER BOWL,  
COME ENJOY ZION'S  
**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!**

**No,** it's not a misprint! On Sunday, February 5, stick around after church and try some tasty soups before the big game — you'll be home in plenty of time to see the Patriots vs. the Giants.

While there, we'll have a Q&A time on the new small Bible-Study groups that will begin in mid-February. Even if you think you won't be joining, we hope you'll check it out anyway because these groups are diverse and tailored to Y - O - U, and it may be just what you're looking for.




Designed to be small, these groups are a good way to get to know fellow members in a more personal atmosphere while not only studying the Word of God but socializing, too. Since there are several groups starting, you're able to pick which one holds the most appeal to you based on interests, location, and time.

One group welcomes children who will be able to play with other Zion children while the parents study the Bible and visit; another group plans their meeting time around dinner, so you get the Word with your Coke, coffee, wine, or whatever; and yet another group offers daytime Bible study and fellowship. And, if you have suggestions, they're welcome!

This is an exciting new concept at Zion, but it takes YOU to make it happen. Come check it out. We're excited!



# FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
<p><b>SUNDAY SERVICES:</b> 9 a.m. Sunday School &amp; Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Worship Service</p>			<p>1 5:15 p.m. Chancel Choir 6 p.m. Confirmation</p>	<p>2 The Presentation of Our Lord Groundhog Day 7 p.m. Four Corners Harmony</p>	<p>3 Temple Guard Duty: Tim Snyder (3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup>)</p>	<p>4 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study &amp; Prayer Breakfast</p>																																																																																											
<p>5 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany (Green) Elder: Rick Trost Acolyte: Adam Dennis Ushers: Dennis Family Greeters: Patrick &amp; Katie Roper Altar Duty: Cindy Lyons 11:30 a.m. Souper Bowl</p>			<p>8 5:15 p.m. Chancel Choir 6 p.m. Confirmation</p>	<p>9 7 p.m. Four Corners Harmony</p>	<p>10 Temple Guard Duty: Ken Gehrke (10<sup>th</sup> &amp; 11<sup>th</sup>)</p>	<p>11</p>																																																																																											
<p>12 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany (Green) Elder: Larry Armstrong Acolyte: Austin Roper Greeters: Helen Terry &amp; Betty Troxel Lincoln's Birthday</p>		<p>14 Valentine's Day 9:30 a.m. Pastors' Meeting 6 p.m. Elders &amp; Trustees 7 p.m. Church Council</p> <p></p>	<p>15 5:15 p.m. Chancel Choir 6 p.m. Confirmation</p>	<p>16 2 p.m. LWML (Sue Gehrke's) 7 p.m. Four Corners Harmony</p>	<p>17 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> Temple Guard Duty: Matthew Pilavjian (17<sup>th</sup> &amp; 18<sup>th</sup>)</p>	<p>18 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study &amp; Prayer Breakfast</p>																																																																																											
<p>19 Transfiguration of Our Lord/ 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany (White) Elder: Gary Hobbs Acolyte: Shayla Brown Greeters: Joe &amp; Frances Wilkey 11:30 a.m. LWML Chili Dinner</p>	<p>20 President's Day / Washington's Birthday</p>	<p>21 12 p.m. Zion Circle</p>	<p>22 5:15 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday with Holy Communion</p> <p></p>	<p>23 7 p.m. Four Corners Harmony</p>	<p>24 Temple Guard Duty: Joe Wilkey (24<sup>th</sup> &amp; 25<sup>th</sup>)</p>	<p>25</p>																																																																																											
<p>26 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent (Purple) Elder: Tim House Acolyte: Adam Dennis Greeters: Youth Group</p>			<p>29 10:30 a.m. Sewing (Carol Maddux's) 5:15 p.m. Chancel Choir 6 p.m. Lenten Dinner 7 p.m. Lenten Service</p>		<p><b>JANUARY</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<p><b>MARCH</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S									1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
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2/3 Lee Cahenzli      2/14 Jo Anne Ellsaesser      2/20 Brenda Hobbs      2/26 Ed Schlueter  
 2/5 Kelly Thur      2/16 Joyce Hecht      2/24 Matthew Pilavjian      2/26 Gary Thur  
 2/13 Lorene Kramer      2/19 David Aakre      2/25 Sydney Jones





# Elders' MESSAGE

by Larry Armstrong

## Our Faithfulness

Welcome to the New Year, and I hope and pray it will be a wonderful celebration full of Peace, Love, Joy and Happiness for all members of Zion Lutheran Church.

What will our challenges be this year? How will we handle them, and to whom can we turn when things are just not working out for us?

The simple answer is to our Lord and Savior who is always faithful, always forgiving, always full of grace, and always ready to give us what we need, not necessarily what we want, if we just ask Him to help us.

Our role is to trust God, believe in His power, and pray for His will to be done in our lives, but, most importantly, we need to be faithful to His teachings, study and share His word with others, be good stewards of His many gifts, and always be active in His church. Being faithful is a personal decision, almost like making a New Year's resolution for God, but in this case, we really need to try our best to keep it and not let it fade away.

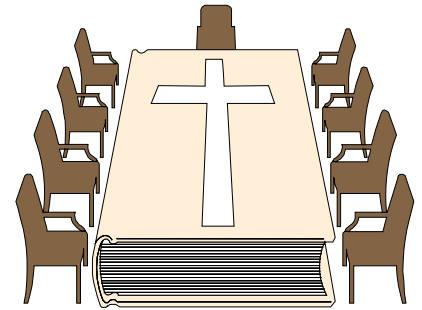
What can you do differently this year that will put you more in touch with your Lord and Savior who is always faithful to you? Think about it!



## THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, with a church service, along with Holy Communion, at 7 p.m. The following Wednesday and throughout the rest of the Lenten season, there will be Wednesday evening fellowship dinners at 6 p.m., followed by church at 7 p.m. Please join us!

# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Following are highlights from the Church Council meeting held Tuesday, January 10, 2012.

New Council members were welcomed by President Don Wood.

Pastor reviewed the monthly statistics for December 2011. Gospel Gap Ministries is asking for suggestions in helping present the Gospel in the Four Corners, such as providing a church in Bayfield. At the next meeting, Pastor will provide a breakdown of the church membership so that Council members may begin making phone calls to those who are inactive.

The Elders reported a suggestion of holding summer Worship services at 9 a.m. After discussion, a motion passed that summer Worship hours, beginning with the first Sunday in June and continuing through the last Sunday in August, will begin at 9 a.m.

The Trustees have been able to reduce utility costs by changing out the lighting. There has been a problem with others using the church dumpster, thereby resulting in no room available for our own trash. It was suggested that Waste Management be contacted to see what the additional cost would be for a dumpster with a locking lid. The asphalt should once again be sealed but is cost-prohibitive at the moment. The eternal flame has been located, with a suggestion that there be a dedication service once it is installed.

The Financial Secretary reported the average weekly contributions for the first two weeks in 2012 were \$4,250.

In Other Business, a committee to decide how to spend the balance of mission monies will be discussed at the February Elders' Meeting (which will begin at 6 p.m.) and will then be brought up at the February Council meeting.

In New Business, Gary Hobbs will check into the possibilities of having a garden area in the summer for church members/neighborhood; a small outdoor theatre; and a Zany Zions' after-school Homework Club. There was also a suggestion by a, now deceased, member to build a columbarium for cinerary urns on church property. Also discussed was xeriscaping vs. landscaping the property.