



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bringing Hope Through Christ

Newsletter

Gary R. Thur, Pastor

OCTOBER 2010

www.zionfarmingtonlcms.org

DEAR MEMBERS OF ZION AND GOD'S WORLD!

There have been a lot of questions lately from our study of Revelation and from others concerning the leadership in the world and in our own United States. What does God have in store for us? Will we have to suffer for our faith? We do that every day already. Will we be part of the problem or part of the solution? The underlying question is, "IS GOD IN CONTROL"?

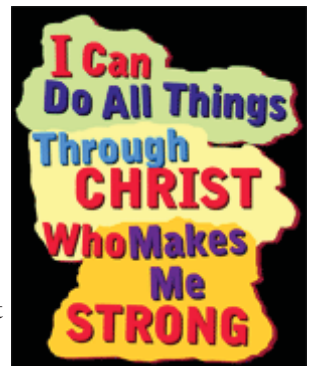
Peter tells us, "Who will harm you if you are devoted to doing what is good? Even if you suffer for doing what God approves, you are blessed. Don't be afraid of those who want to harm you" (1 Peter 3:13 & 14).

The following is Luther's take of which I cannot do any better:

Peter doesn't want you to say that the person who harmed you was doing right. There is a much different judgment between me and God and between me and you. For example, I can have anger, hatred, and evil desire in my heart and not hurt you. You remain unharmed and have nothing against me. But before God, I am guilty. If He punishes me, He does what is right, for I have certainly earned it. If He doesn't punish me, then He shows mercy to me. He is right either way. But it doesn't

follow from this that the person persecuting me is also doing right. For I have not wronged him in the same way that I have wronged God.

In Ezekiel 29:19 & 20, God speaks about King Nebuchadnezzar. It's as if God were saying, "Don't you know that he has been My servant and has served Me? Now I must give him a reward. I have not yet paid him. I will give him the land of Egypt as his reward." Nebuchadnezzar had no right to the land, but God had the right to punish others through him. In order that these evil scoundrels won't eat bread free of charge, God has them serve him by persecuting His people. Human reason, then, steps in and thinks that people like this must be doing well. God is only paying them in return for their work of punishing and persecuting devout Christians. If you endure the punishment and bless God



- 10/2 Carol Maddux
- 10/5 Kaylen Jones
- 10/7 Jim Lukow
- 10/9 Bethanne O'Keefe
- 10/11 Zach Williams
- 10/15 Miranda Dennis
- 10/16 Brian Dennis
- 10/22 Don Taylor
- 10/23 Avery Calder
- 10/24 Aaron Whitney
- 10/26 Jesse Williams
- 10/27 Tristin Roper



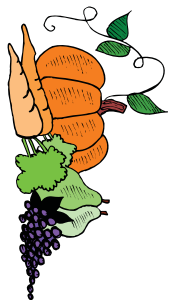
Zion Lutheran Church



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



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



(cont'd. on page 2)

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
7455 Foothills Drive
Farmington, NM 87402
505-325-3420

Bringing Hope Through Christ

E-mail: Pastor: ziongrt@yahoo.com
Sarah Andrews: 505-325-4274
ziondce@gmail.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 joanneokeefe@msn.com.

Pastor: Rev. Gary R. Thur
DCE Sarah Andrews
Sunday School Super.: Wilma House
Newsletter Editor: Joanne O'Keefe
Website Editor: Tom O'Keefe

2010 Church Council

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Jimmie Fisher
Tory Olson
Tim Snyder
Steve Unger

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

(cont'd. from page 1)

by saying, "You are right Lord!" you will do well. Then God will cast those people into hell and punish them for doing wrong. But He will mercifully receive you and give you eternal life. Let God do what He will. He will certainly repay in the end.

I can't say it any better. What we need to learn is to trust God and His will, with whatever and whomever He brings into our lives. As we learn to trust, remember it is God who saved us through His own Son who suffered and was punished in our place, who died so we wouldn't have to. He also lives again, so we can!

**GOD IS IN CONTROL!
TRUST HIM!**

Pastor Thur



REFORMATION SUNDAY OCTOBER 31 BRATS & HOT DOGS!

Join us for our annual celebration of the Reformation. Brats and hot dogs will be served after the Worship service. Please bring a side dish and/or a dessert to share.



Our condolences go to Zola Brinkley, whose brother recently passed away. Please keep the family in your prayers

Tim Jones is mending after surgery on his rotator cuff, as is Lennis Walker who had arm surgery and Sue Gehrke who had knee surgery.

Other prayers include Paul Christiansen, Betty Stanton, Ed and Mary Schlueter, Don Walker, Pauline Wilson, George Pilavjian, and Ken Terry. Vern Schlueter is currently at The Bridge Assisted Living facility, and the Reverend Tim Evers, former pastor in Durango, recently underwent colon surgery.



AN AFTERNOON OF FUN AT SUTHERLAND FARMS

Children of Zion,

Join us for an afternoon at Sutherland Farms in Aztec on October 17 hosted by the Youth Group. Details are coming your way soon!

COLD WEATHER IS LOOMING

DONATE FLEECE TO KEEP SAN JUAN COUNTY WARM

LWML and the Youth Group are teaming up to make some tie fleece blankets for Farmington's homeless on November 7. Needed are donations of fleece 60 inches by 1.5 yards. A note to the wise: Wal*Mart has good deals on fleece!

Thank you for your help!



An unusual number of officer and board member positions will be vacant at the end of this year. There will be openings for Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Secretary, Elders and Trustees. You will receive all the support you need to fulfill the duties of these positions, so please prayerfully consider serving your congregation in its administration. Contact either Larry Armstrong or Pastor if you have questions or wish to submit your name for nomination. Thank you!

God's Orchestra!

by Sarah Andrews, DCE

Have you ever seen an orchestra perform or even heard a recording of one? Did you notice different musical lines and the sounds of different instruments? Could you hear how they all seemed to be working together for the same purpose, creating one beautiful musical performance?

The Body of Christ is a lot like an orchestra. Some of us are woodwinds (flutes, oboes, horns, clarinets, bassoons), adding serenity and color to relationships. A few of us are brass instruments (horns, trumpets, trombones, tuba, euphonium), bringing leadership and strength to the proclamation. Some of us are percussion (drums, tambourines, triangle, glockenspiel, xylophone, etc.), adding to the rhythm of God's work. A couple are keyboards like the celesta or piano, helping to drive the melody of the Gospel. A bunch of us are strings (violins, violas, cellos, string basses), keeping the Church's theme of Christ alive and working hard for His purpose. All the instruments have different tasks and yet work together for one purpose.

If God wrote a musical composition to show us how the Body of Christ really works, do you think it would just be a string quartet? Would there only be a few people doing His work? Sometimes it looks that way in the church, but the way the Body of Christ was designed, God would be writing a full symphony including every available musician from the orchestra!

Yes, there would be leaders in each section of instruments (like church workers, elders, council members, and other lay leaders), but every musician would be involved in creating God's wondrous

music. Each musician has a purpose in the performance and is a part of God's work.

Now, if the purpose of a regular orchestra is creating a beautiful musical performance, what would be the purpose of God's Body of Christ Orchestra? I think it is summed up well in Matt.



28:19-20 when Jesus tells His disciples, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Here comes another question: Who would be the conductor? The pastor? No, he is a section leader. The Synod? No, they are the musicians' organization. Jesus Christ?

You bet! As the Body of Christ, Jesus Christ is our focal point leader, keeping the whole orchestra working together for the purpose of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ! After all, Jesus has the authority and promises to be with us always right along with the Great Commission (See Matt. 28:18, 20).

Now I have to ask you, what instrument do you play in the Body of Christ Orchestra? Are you up on stage playing, or are you still sitting in the "house" or audience seating, waiting for others to do your calling for you? The Body of Christ Orchestra needs you, with God's invitation, active in the orchestra, sharing God's love in Jesus Christ with others!

If you are unsure of how to get involved in the Body of Christ Orchestra or of what instrument you should play, please talk to me. I would love to help you find an avenue of service to our Lord Jesus Christ in the family of Zion! Blessings on our music for Jesus!

Elders' MESSAGE



by Joe Wilkey

GOD'S DISCIPLINE:

Sometimes when things are not going well with you, have you wondered, "What did I do to deserve this"? I'm sure we all have. When we were growing up, our fathers and mothers disciplined us — for our own good.

God, at times, also disciplines us. Hebrews 12: 7 states, "Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?"

When you find yourself in a situation where nothing seems to be going right, open your Bible and read Hebrews 12: 7-11. It is indeed comforting to know that we have a Father who loves us so much He will get our attention at appropriate times by disciplining us.

THRIVENT TO COLLECT ITEMS FOR MILITARY

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will begin a special collection of items for use by our military personnel. Beginning October 1 and continuing through October 17, there will be boxes in the narthex for donations that will be given to Blue Star Mothers for distribution.

Individually packaged foods in hard containers or boxes are desired, as well as hygiene items and personal entertainment goods, such as cards, dice and travel games. For a complete list of desired items, please see the poster in the Fellowship Hall since Zion Circle also collects care packages for our military year-round.

Thrivent will also be gathering non-perishable items from November 1 through November 21 for Daily Bread. Watch for more information in next month's newsletter and in the Sunday bulletins.

Thank you for your help!

Serving the Lord IMPACT VS. PURPOSE

As a follow-up to last year's "Serving the Lord" column explaining the purpose of various committees and organizations at Zion, these same groups will provide the impact their particular group has made over the past year inside and outside of Zion. These articles will include examples of how our members' gifts of their Time, Talents and Treasures are used to bring Stewardship to life here at Zion, in our local community, and through our missions around the world.

Trustees

The keepers of God's house, the Trustees, help maintain the building and the grounds of the church. As anyone who owns a home knows, there is always something to be done.

The Trustees started the year by contracting with B&B Cleaning Service. Although there were a few hiccups along the way, the problems were ironed out and the congregation was able to save money by eliminating workman's compensation, insurance and unemployment that is required by using an employee of the church.

Throughout the year, lots of light bulbs have been replaced, along with a new refrigerator and a new thermostat in the Fellowship Hall. A professional was brought in to handle the rodent problem.

There was one work day to spruce up the grounds, and there will be another before the cold weather sets in. Thank you to all who helped! Weeds were pulled, the steel above the entrance was painted, trash was gathered, cracks on the roof were sealed, as well as some of the cracks in the parking lot.

Thank you to all our Trustees: Nerak Doane, Gary Duncan, Jimmie Fisher, Tory Olson, Tim Snyder, and Steve Unger, and also to "unofficial" Trustee Tom O'Keefe, who filled in when needed!



BORCHARDS TO VISIT OCTOBER 17 LWML PLANS CHILE LUNCHEON

Take II: As you may know, the Reverend Terry and Janet Borchard, Lutheran Bible Translators, were unable to visit us last month as scheduled due to illness. However, they plan to join us on Sunday, October 17, during both the Bible Study hour and also Worship Service, which coincides with LWML Sunday.

Please join us for a very special time during which the Borchards will enlighten us on their translating endeavors. Currently, they are living in Papua New Guinea, working on various projects to encourage the use of the Ipili Scriptures. A translation of Genesis has also been started.

Afterward, the LWML will serve up a delicious chile luncheon. The freewill offering will benefit their mission projects for the year.

Plan now to be a part of this special Sunday!



- **FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**, Sunday Oct. 10, 5 p.m.
We can use some cooks, and we have a movie ready to go! Invite friends, both from Zion and outside too!

- **SUTHERLAND FARMS AFTERNOON**, Sunday, Oct. 17, afternoon time TBA. Let's go out to the Farms for an afternoon of fall fun, and we're inviting the children from Zion so that we can help them enjoy the Farms for the day!



UPCOMING!

Some event ideas are leaf raking for fundraising and service, making fleece blankets for the homeless, turkey bowling near Thanksgiving, and Christmas caroling to our shut-ins near Christmas.

Also, we are beginning to discuss options for a youth mission trip next summer. Talk with Sarah to let her know your interest and ideas!



CHECK OUT THE YOUTH GROUP BLOG AT
WWW.ZIONLUTHERANYOUTHGROUP.BLOGSPOT.COM
AND THE YOUTH GROUP'S FACEBOOK PAGE!

Please join us for these events as we grow together in Christ! Let any of the youth leaders know if you have any ideas for November and beyond. Questions or ideas? Call Sarah at 325-4274 (cell = 505-635-0993) or email her at ziondce@gmail.com. Contact also Jenny Dennis at 330-4997.

ZION YOUTH GROUP NEWS

"SHARING WORSHIP AND INTERACTION
WITH SPIRITUALITY BY SERVING" (SWISS)

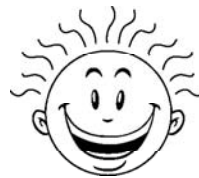
The summer heat has faded, but you can grab a jacket and join these upcoming youth events!

- **THAT WE MAY BELIEVE** (confirmation sessions), Oct. 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th from 6:30 to 8 p.m., with memory work/homework time starting at 6 p.m. Visitors welcome!

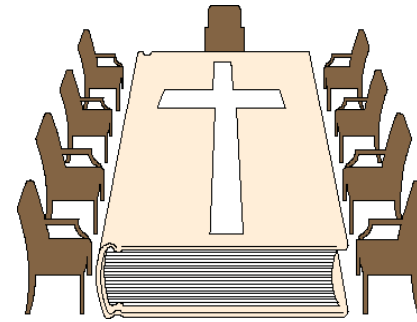


- Join us each Sunday morning for **SUNDAY SCHOOL** at 9 a.m. to learn about Jesus and study the Word with fellow Christians. Also, come to learn about our Sunday School missions fundraising for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative.

- **YOUTH USHERING FOR WORSHIP**, Sunday, Oct. 31. Five Sundays in October means youth get to usher again! Talk with Sarah to sign up for a role.



- **YOUTH BREAKFAST BURRITOS**, Sunday, Oct. 10th, call time 7:30 a.m. We'll need a couple folks to lead the way, and we'll spend the morning outside of worship and Sunday School making burritos. Sales will benefit the general youth group and will go towards our hoped-for mission trip next summer!



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Following are highlights from the Church Council meeting held Tuesday, September 14, 2010.

Pastor reported the Gideons will make a presentation at the September 19 Worship service. LWML Sunday will be October 17 and will include the Borchards, who will discuss their Bible translation work. LWML will host a Chile dinner that day. The Caliente Choir will display a manger scene at Zion December 16-18. Pastor will take vacation the Sunday following Thanksgiving to officiate at the baptism of his grandson.

The Elders reported that Dawn Isely has requested a transfer to Messiah Lutheran Church in Silver City, which the Council approved.

The Trustees will engage a pest control service to deal with bugs that have infested the building. The thermostat that is presently in Pastor's office needs to be moved to the classroom hallway so that the temperature in that wing can be better controlled. A new refrigerator was purchased to replace the one that failed.

The Treasurer's report was approved. The Treasurer will obtain accounting of the NYG trip expenses and income to determine if funds from the operating budget are required to make up any shortfall and will be reported at the next Council meeting for any action that may be necessary.

The Financial Secretary's report was approved. Thrivent members can obtain funds for Zion through Thrivent's website. The amount is determined by the member's specific account details.

Council approved the attendance of the DCE in January at two conferences, conducted consecutively, in Florida. The first conference is Youth Ministry 2011, and the following conference is the national DCE conference. Sarah will attempt to obtain a roommate(s) to reduce the cost of lodging.

Stewardship's next meeting is November 2, when the 2011 budget proposal will be prepared.

In Old Business, it was reported that 16 people participated in the blood drive, with 14 units of blood provided. Zion has obtained a license that allows public showing of rented or purchased videos that are otherwise limited to private, in-home viewing. A license will also be obtained to allow the use of copyrighted contemporary music by Joyful Noise. Pastor will contact the Yellow Pages to add Zion's website to its advertisement.

In New Business, the Voters' Meeting will be held November 14, following Zion Circle's brisket dinner. A request for Council candidates will be placed in the next two newsletters. Reformation Sunday is October 31, with a barbeque of brats and hot dogs following the service. Council approved a neighbor's request to use Zion's parking lot for a wedding.