



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bringing Hope Through Christ

Newsletter

Gary R. Thur, Pastor

www.zionfarmingtonlcms.org

SEPTEMBER 2010

Dear Members of Zion,

On a recent Sunday, the Gospel Lesson came from Luke 12:49–53 in which Jesus asked, “Did I come to bring peace?” The answer given was emphatically, “NO!” It states, “Jesus came to cause division(s).” Wait a minute! You are kidding! That can’t be!

That is what the Scriptures say! Hmm! As we read Luke when Jesus was crucified, we read, “The people stood by beholding.” Also interesting! On that Good Friday a great multitude had followed the procession out of the city to Calvary. While that was taking place, others were coming into the city. They stopped to see what was happening. They stood there looking on with curiosity and grim silence. To them the spectacle was fascinating. It appears they watched every step of the crucifixion.

They did not jeer, mock, or make fun of Jesus. They did not offer rebuke or reproach. By their conduct they showed themselves neither friend nor foe. Just bystanders! These bystanders were utterly indifferent to the proceedings, even to the verdict. To them it didn’t matter one way or the other what was happening.

Yet Jesus says, “He that is not with Me is against Me.” The bystanders were oblivious to the deep sufferings that their idle curiosity was causing the Savior.

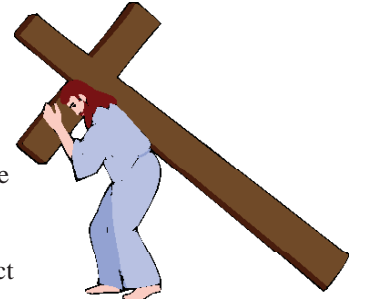
Are we like the bystanders?

By our indifference did we (and do we) cause Jesus to suffer? Our conduct tells us we are

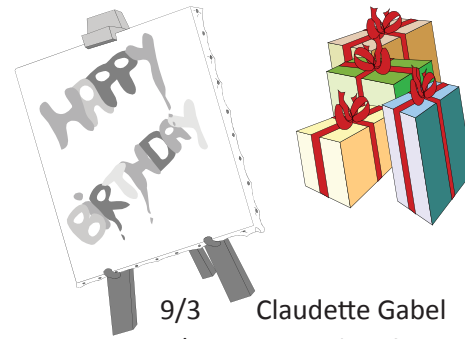
either for — or against — our Savior. When we do not worship regularly, we are against Jesus. We cause Him great suffering. We cause our fellow believers great suffering.

In Christianity, is there room for indifference? Many of the spectators were indifferent to the suffering Savior. Many down through the centuries have been indifferent, including many Christians. Are we indifferent to our Lord and Savior? Are we indifferent to His Church?

A Christian **will** bear the cross of Jesus Christ. The cross of sharing the Gospel will cause suffering and division. The cross a Christian bears makes them recognize that they are poor sinners, knowing they deserve all the trouble, and more, that God sends or allows. They alone know their daily failings, weaknesses, and transgressions. As a Christian thinks upon the troubles, the indifference, we know and believe Jesus went to the cross of Calvary to bear our sins. Luther wrote, “*The cross of Christ is the shame and the great indignity*



(cont'd. on page 2)



- 9/3 Claudette Gabel
- 9/4 Evan O’Keefe
- 9/5 Jessica Neuhaus
- 9/5 Lucas Williams
- 9/9 Lori Aakre
- 9/18 Sarah Galloway
- 9/19 Dale Esau
- 9/21 Julie Jones
- 9/25 Jason Snyder
- 9/26 Michelle Thur
- 9/27 Larry Armstrong
- 9/28 Tim Snyder
- 9/29 Dacia Richards

*Upcoming: Thrivent
Luncheon Meeting
Friday, September 10
11:30 a.m.*

Remember...

*You may be only one
person in the world,
But you may also be the
world to one person.*



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
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 joannekeefe@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

2009 Church Council

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Rick Trost
Joe Wilkey
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Gary Duncan
Jimmie Fisher
Tory Olson
Tim Snyder
Steve Unger

Message from Pastor

(cont'd. from page 1)

which Christ innocently suffered for us. The cross that Christians bear is the shame and persecution endured for Christ and for righteousness sake."

Are we going to be just bystanders? Are we up to the challenge of bearing the cross? Are we helping to carry the cross of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ?

Carrying the cross will separate us from many (causing divisions), **but it will not separate us from the love of God, our heavenly Father.**

CARRYING THE CROSS WILL GIVE US PEACE (not division) with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The cross gives us peace with ourselves as we believe we are forgiven. As we carry the cross, we bring peace to others.

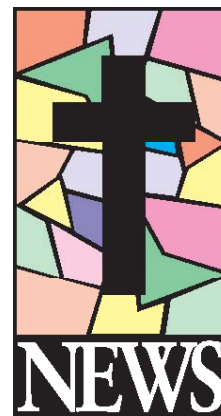
Carry the cross of Jesus Christ! Cause divisions! Set the "sign of Christ" before everyone! Bring them peace! In Christ there is Peace! Enjoy it! Share it!

Pastor Thur



to everyone who sent well wishes and provided support for me during this difficult time. Thank you to the ladies who hosted the meal after Howard's funeral and to all those who have contributed to Howard's memorial.

God's blessings to you all,
Maxie Krueger



Congratulations to Glen and Billie Isaacson, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, as well as to Vic and Kay Parkhurst who will be married 50 years on September 10!

An exciting new venture awaits Sonia Lukow, who is opening up her own firm, known as Sonia Lukow CPA, LLC. She will be working both out of her home and will also maintain an office at the Quality Center for Business at San Juan College. This will allow Sonia more time with her family. Meanwhile, if you need to contact Sonia, either professionally or for matters pertaining to church business, you can reach her on her cell phone at 215-0800.

More congratulations go to Rick Trost and Dar Bynum, who were married in a small ceremony at the church on August 15. May God bless this new home.

We were all saddened to hear of the passing of Howard Krueger. Please keep Maxie and family in your prayers. Also, our condolences go to Glen Hayes, whose sister recently passed away; to Rick Trost, whose mother passed away; and to Joan Vilven and Carol Maddux, whose brother also passed away.

Ken Terry is once again home after undergoing major surgery due to a tumor in his esophagus. Although still recuperating, he is making progress, according to Helen.

Others in need of prayers include Paul Christiansen, who is hospitalized in Albuquerque with an aneurysm; George Pilavjian, still battling cancer; Don Walker; Claudette Gabel; Betty Stanton; Vern Schlueter; Ed and Mary Schlueter; Fern Taylor; Lynn Rupp; Helen Terry; Shirley Fish; and Pauline Wilson. Also, please pray for the success of Sonia's business and for the health of her family, and also for Amy and Zach Williams, who are facing family challenges.

Lastly, one of our members desires to remind us not to be taken in by phone or internet scams. She was recently contacted by phone indicating one of her accounts had been closed and the caller wanted personal information in order to rectify this. *Never* give out personal information to someone you don't know. If the call or email is legitimate, a company with which you have done business will already have this information. Don't be fooled!

ALL ZION FAMILY MEMBERS!
ZION FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
SEPT. 12, 5 P.M.
HOSTED BY THE YOUTH GROUP
PLEASE JOIN US!

Did you catch the emphasis on "all"? The Youth Group would love to have you join them for their movie nights — the more, the merrier!



Thank you to all those heroes who donated blood during Zion's blood drive on August 21. You're very much appreciated!



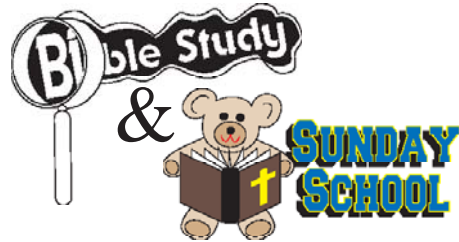
LUTHERAN
BIBLE
TRANSLATORS

Bochards vist Zion September 5th

On Sunday, September 5, Lutheran Bible Translators Rev. Terry and Janet Borchard will share their missionary experiences and their efforts in teaching Papua New Guineans how to do Bible translation in their own languages. They will speak during the Adult Bible Study hour beginning at 9 a.m., and Pastor Borchard will deliver the sermon "God is Faithful," based on Lamentations 3:1-26, during the Worship service.

Afterward, the LWML invites you to join them as they serve a lasagne luncheon in honor of the Bochards. A freewill offering will be taken.

Train up
a child in
the way he
should go:
and when
he is old,
he will not
depart
from it.
Proverbs 22:6



Adult Bible Study and Sunday School have once again resumed at 9 a.m. each Sunday morning.

Adults, please join Pastor Thur in a study on the book of Revelation. And, parents, we encourage you to bring your children to Sunday School, where the children will have lessons that correlate with each Sunday's worship service.

Thank you to our great group of teachers: Lori Aakre and Dana Murphy who will teach Pre-K and Kindergarten; Sandra Lanier, leading grades 1-4; Julie Jones, with grades 5-8; and Amy and Zach Williams, who will be instructing the high school youth. Special thanks also to Sunday School Superintendent Wilma House.

As always, substitutes are needed! If you can help, please see Wilma or Sarah Andrews.

Elders' MESSAGE

by Rick Trost



Rev. 1: 5 "...To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood..."

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Remember reading about the "Great Emancipator" in high school American History class? Pastor Thur jogged my mind in one of his sermons recently about President Abraham Lincoln as having this title. But I had to go to the dictionary again to make sure what "emancipator" meant. The dictionary defines the word, "As to free from restraint, control, or the power of another; to free from bondage."

President Lincoln was my favorite president and, to a great extent, started the long process of freeing the slaves from bondage. However, you and I have an even greater emancipator. When the true, holy Son of God, Jesus Christ, came and died, was buried and rose again, he became our Emancipator. His blood freed us from our sins and from the control and power of Satan.

As apostle Paul writes in Romans 6:18, "You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness." We have the greatest Emancipator that was, is, and will be forever, Jesus Christ. Now that we are free, let us be slaves to righteousness.

God's peace be with you...

Rick

1 Cor. 15:56-57: "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."



Congratulations, Sarah!

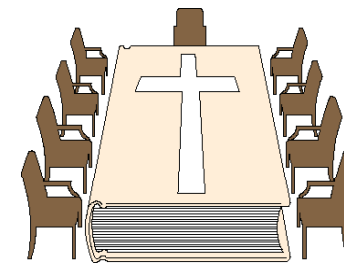
On Sunday, August 8, Sarah Andrews was installed as our new Director of Christian Education. As you know, Sarah has spent this past year as an intern here at Zion. We welcome her now as our official DCE. God's blessings on her ministry!

In their hearts human beings plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.
Proverbs 16:9



Celebrating with Sarah are her mom, Lisa Andrews; cousin, Lia Lorenz; and to Sarah's right are her aunt, Patty Lorenz; and her dad, Steve Andrews.

Church Council Meeting Highlights



Following are highlights from the Church Council meeting held Tuesday, August 10, 2010.

Pastor reported that he had received a call regarding our Family Movie Night showings and the need to have a valid license in order to show these movies. A motion was approved to purchase the necessary license from CVLI for \$199 per year. Secondly, Directory Plus contacted Pastor about the yellow page advertisement. The cost for the same ad as last year for the 2011 directory will be \$1,017. It would also cost \$180 more to show the ad online. A motion was passed to include the internet advertising and will be included in the 2011 budget. Third, the Gideons would like to make a presentation during an upcoming Sunday service. The general consensus of the Council is to welcome the Gideons. A date is to be determined. Lastly, Pastor passed out an information sheet on Grace Lutheran Church in Moab, Utah, for consideration for a portion of the budgeted Mission funds.

The Trustees reported that the revised contract with B&B Cleaning Service was signed, with duties and prices as shown and approved in the July minutes. There is a \$250 difference in the rewritten contract. There were seven members who showed up for the church work day. Trash and weeds were cleaned up, burned-out bulbs were replaced in the sanctuary, the steel above the entrance foyer was painted, and cracks were sealed on the roof. A new refrigerator was purchased for \$800, with a five-year maintenance contract included. The thermostat was replaced in the Fellowship Hall.

Both the Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were approved.

The DCE reported the final cost of the trip to New Orleans for the NYG was \$10,193.31. Confirmation classes begin on August 18 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Stewardship placed a request for email addresses in the Sunday bulletin and have received 56 so far. It was decided not to request pledge cards this year, and they will consider whether to do a revised and abbreviated Time & Talent sheet in subsequent meetings. There will not be an all-committee meeting previous to the budget meeting; instead, various committee heads will be contacted and invited to the Church Council meetings to voice needs and concerns.

Education stated that Sunday School is up and running. Invitation and "miss you" postcards will be sent to Sunday School age children. A reward system for attendance, etc., will also be set up. A concern was expressed for a need for more Sunday School space and for heat in the rooms.

In New Business, the budgeted mission funds of \$8,000 have not yet been disbursed. Motions were passed to send \$5,000 to Grace Lutheran Church in Moab and to give \$2,000 to Rev. Terry and Janet Borchard, missionaries from Lutheran Bible Translators, when they visit on September 5. There were three committee members present to state their budget needs for next year to the Church Council. Education is not requesting an increase at this time; the Trustees suggested a small increase be considered; and the DCE presented special requests for the 2011 budget to include movie licensing and NADCE Convention registration and travel, as well as funds set aside for NYG in 2013.

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), Sept. 1st, 8th, 22nd, and 29th from 6:30 to 8 p.m. with memory work/homework time starting at 6 p.m. Visitors welcome!
- **Sunday school** is back in action! Join us each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. to learn about Jesus and study the Word with fellow Christians.
- **Family Movie Night**, Sunday Sept. 12, 5 p.m. The Laniers will be cooking, and we need ideas for movie possibilities! All Zion members are part of the family and are welcome to attend!
- **Faith In Action** (servant event), Wednesday, Sept. 15, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. (tentatively). We will be decorating little blank “muslin” dolls to give to kids at Marge’s Place as buddies, and we will try to deliver the buddies and our birthday boxes this night and pray over the facility.
- **Paintballing**, Sunday, Sept. 26, in the afternoon. Watch for more details!
- **Upcoming** event ideas are a day at Sutherland Farms inviting children from Zion, a Halloween camp-in party for youth, breakfast burritos one Sunday in October, leaf raking for fundraising and service, making 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!

* * *

Don’t forget also to check out the youth group blog at www.zionlutheranyouthgroup.blogspot.com and our 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 October 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.



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.

LWML

“In fervent gratitude for the Savior’s dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption, we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service, wherever and whenever He hath need of us.”

These words are the first sentence of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League’s pledge with which we open our meetings. All women of Zion are invited to join us for Bible study and prayer at our meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

LWML is known for Mite boxes. Mite boxes, Children’s Mite boxes, and Mite-Y-Boots support the District and National mission projects selected every other year at their conventions. Seventy-five percent of this money stays in the Rocky Mountain District LWML, and 25 percent goes to the National LWML to support these mission projects. So far this year, our mites have totaled \$290.24, and the children’s mites have added up to \$28.10.

Each year our own mission projects are chosen in addition to those of the District and National LWML. Our craft and bake sale, special meals and generous donations help support these missions. This year we sent checks totaling \$2,698.88 to The Alaska Missions for Christ, Lutheran Bible Translators-the Borchards, Four Corners Good Samaritan Home, Echo, Inc., and Orphan Grin Train.

During the various church seasons, LWML coordinates the purchase of poinsettias for Christmas, lilies for Easter, and palms for Palm Sunday. In Advent, the Christian symbols are explained with the hanging of Chrismons. LWML also acknowledges the confirmands and high school and college graduates, as well as our fathers with pie on Father’s Day. We help with Lenten suppers and other meals sponsored by the church, and our in-gatherings have provided socks and mittens for the Navajo Mission and personal care items for the Red Cross.

The 16 members of Zion LWML are blessed to be able to serve the Lord, our congregation, and our community.

2010 NYG Youth Reflections



Your 2010 National LCMS Youth Gathering participants had a great time in New Orleans learning about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and meeting tons of other Lutherans from all over! Feel free to check out pictures on the youth group's bulletin board at church or on Facebook, and we want to thank all our Zion family for your prayers and support! Here, the youth participants (Cole, Jake, & Miranda Dennis; Matt Head; Savannah Lanier; and Collyn Thur) would like to share what they learned and some of their most memorable experiences.

What we learned:

"GOD LOVES EVERYONE EQUALLY."

"We should treat everyone as family and shouldn't have enemies."

"YOU MUST ALWAYS HAVE TRUST IN GOD."

"No one in the world will ever be without sin."

"I learned to listen to what the Bible really has to say."

"Take your behavior from church out into your daily life."

"I learned that I need to live through Jesus."

"I learned that everyone is God's masterpiece."

"That Jesus loves us no matter what happens."

"Build and encourage everyone instead of tearing them down."

"I learned air conditioning is more important than I thought."

"We're here for God; it's not about us."

"I learned that God wants us to put all transgressions on him, not just the big ones."

"Helping people in need feels really good."

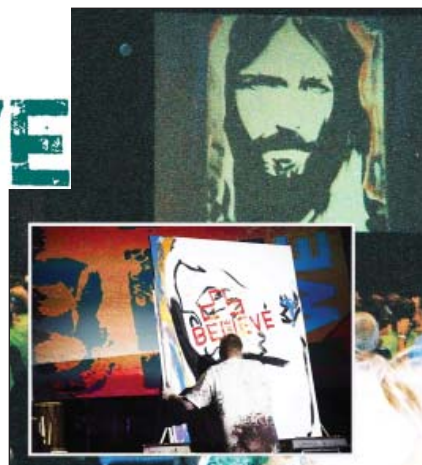
"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." — John 20:31



July 17 - 21 2010



National



Youth Gathering
New Orleans

3. Thank the Lord daily for your blessings.

-EGP!



Experiences we'll never forget:

"HOW INCREDIBLE AND POWERFUL IT IS TO BE IN ONE PLACE WITH THAT MANY YOUTH ALL THERE FOR THE SAME REASON."

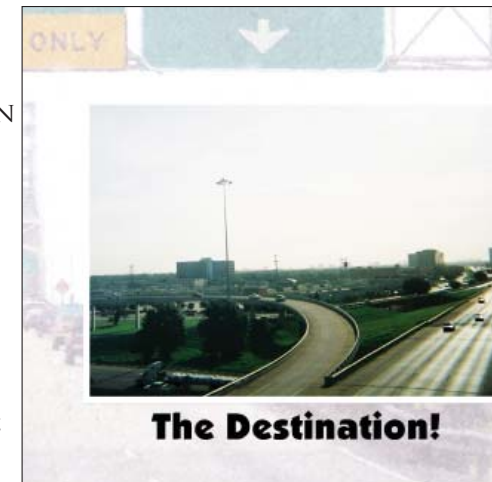
"Another experience I will never forget is the boat ride on the Mississippi."

"The Superdome gatherings were so huge [and] showed that so many others worship in the same way as me. It gave me a new look towards my faith. It was very uplifting."



"One experience I will never forget is the first night in the Superdome, sitting among 25,000 people."

"How much fun this trip was and [I] hope that the youth who go on the next trip have as much fun as I had there."



The Destination!

"The entire city of New Orleans is just overwhelming and different from here, from the people to the food."

"An experience I will never forget is what it was like to be with 25,000 Lutherans."



"HOW MANY LUTHERANS CAME TO ONE PLACE ALL FOR THE SAME REASON."