

Why we're excited about 2009!

* Attendance is rising again

After a dip in attendance during the changes of 2008, the last third of the year was showing an increase in average attendance. That's good to see!

* Key volunteer leaders stepping forward

People have begun to recognize that the staff needs help to carry out the ministry of Zion and are stepping forward and offering their time and skills. We know we need to develop a vital "Volunteer Staff" if we are going to keep moving forward, yet we don't know what talents and skills people have to help. We appreciate when you let us know what you can do to help us grow in our capabilities.

* New Volunteer Coordinator

Chris Jones, a new church council member, has volunteered as Volunteer Coordinator for Zion. This is a position we have been eager to have for years. Chris will interview the staff to find out our needs and develop job descriptions for volunteer staff. She will also be the person who, when people step forward and offer their service, will match them up to our areas of need in ministry. We have talked about how large churches need a dedicated paid staff, but it is crucial that we develop a respected and dedicated volunteer staff as well. That's the only way we can continue to grow and serve.

* New FLC Program Coordinator

With all the new neighborhoods growing around us, it is time we use the tremendous asset of the Family Life Center to better serve and connect with our neighbors. We have ended evening basketball and volleyball practices so that we might use that space

for programs to help our members and neighbors. And, thanks be to God, Rose Stange has stepped forward to help develop educational and fellowship programs to meet the needs of folks trying to deal with life in suburbia. We'll look at what the needs are and develop programs to help with those needs. Options include parenting classes, support groups, life skills, and the possibilities are endless! We look forward to events that will appeal to the community, such as the Christian comedian we brought a couple of years ago. Great opportunities!

* New Intern Program

We will enter an internship program in partnership with Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. The ELCA desperately needs more good pastors and Zion will have the opportunity to help train a new one beginning this August. An intern is a student pastor-in-training who spends a year with us experiencing every aspect of pastoral ministry. She or he will help us - preaching, teaching, visiting the sick, developing programs and serving as a full-time pastor - while learning from our pastors, staff, and members all the varied skills and experiences of being a parish pastor. We also look forward to seeing what perspectives this person brings us as we get to hear the latest things the seminaries are doing to develop pastoral leaders.

* New Music Director

Of course, we are excited about what a new director of music will bring to our church. At this point in the new year, we have received applications from some highly skilled and creative people. We trust that God will use the person we call to not only maintain our music programs, but continue to develop them and draw new people into our church family. We can't wait to see what God can do in this part of our mission!

Continued from Page 1

There is so much more as we look to clarify and re-focus on our mission and vision. Key questions for the years ahead include "Why are we here?" and "What is God calling us to do specifically?" as we continue to serve God by serving others. Our mission statement can be a great focus for us - "Energized by grace - God's unconditional love - we freely give our lives, Bringing TO Christ, Growing IN Christ and Serving FOR Christ!" It is all about what God is up to in this world and how we can better be a part of it.

God is at work in this place and among our people! May we always be open to whatever new paths lay before us, for we know, we absolutely know, that God is always with us leading the way on new adventures, into new possibilities, into new life. Thanks be to God!

And to God be the Glory!

Pastors Schulte and Gold

KIDS OF THE KINGDOM, INC.

Fall & Summer Registration

Zion members receive the benefits of early registration dates, plus a 10% discount on tuition! Early registration for Zion members only begins Feb 16. Public registration begins Feb 23.

Both full time and part time programs are offered, Monday through

Friday, 7:00am-6:00pm. Program details and fees are listed under the Kids of the Kingdom

button at zionhelotes.org. Call Gail Anderson or Donna Russell at Kids of the Kingdom, 688-9171.



HEALTH NOTES

by Rhonda Knisley

Peripheral Artery Disease

Peripheral artery disease (P.A.D.) is caused by fat deposits along the arteries of the body which narrows them and decreases circulation. Symptoms of cramping, weakness, or numbness in the legs during exercise which stops when standing still is called intermittent claudication and happens early in P.A.D. Other symptoms may include loss of hair over the legs, one leg or foot cooler in temperature than the other, or a color change in your leg.

P.A.D. is a risk factor for stroke and heart attack. Treatment includes maintaining normal cholesterol levels by diet or medication, starting a supervised exercise regimen, controlling diabetes, maintaining a normal blood pressure, and stopping smoking. Medication to prevent blood clotting may be prescribed. If these measures do not improve circulation, a procedure or surgery may be necessary.

WOMEN OF ZION

by Barbara Galland & LaVonne Pederson



February Women's Bible Study

"Women of the Old Testament" meets on the third Thursday of every month at 10:30am. All women are invited to join us in Family Life Center Room 101 for the next study on Feb 19.

Every Saturday Quilt Sewing for LWR

Meet on Saturday mornings in the Fellowship Hall* at 9:00am. If you've never put together a quilt, this is a way to learn. If your stitches are "12 to the inch" this is a way to share your skill with others. Lutheran World Relief collects tied quilts from congregations around the country. These are "rough and ready" quilts made quickly from large pieces. Quilts will be used for warmth, for room dividers, for hammocks, for shelter and more. Bring your own machine if you like.

* Some weeks are in Family Life Center Room 101 at 10:00 - check the Zion calendar or call Barb Galland, 695-8497.

Spring LWR Collection

Each year, WOZ collects items for kits to be sent to Lutheran World Relief, which distributes the kits where needed. Kits include sewing supplies, infant layettes, health & hygiene supplies and more. Watch for a list of kit requirements, and start collecting bars of soap.

LWR Trucks at Zion April 15

Lutheran churches from all over southwest Texas will bring their quilts and LWR Kits to Zion on Wednesday, April 15 between 7:00am and 4:00pm. People with some strength and endurance are needed to load boxes into two semi-trucks that day.

HONDURAS MISSION TEAM MOMENT

by Pastor Jennifer Gold

The Mission Team for Honduras has already begun their monthly meetings gathering to prepare for our journey June 6-13 and we need your help!

You can help two ways:

First, through prayer. In order for this mission trip to be successful, it needs to be covered in prayer from now until two weeks after we return. Each team member is already putting together his/her personal prayer team, but every person in the congregation is invited – in fact, encouraged – to pray for us. The prayers we need now for the team are for spiritual preparation for each team member; prayers for potential schedule conflict for one team member whose job may prevent her from going due to company contract negotiations, pray for negotiations to happen smoothly and quickly; and prayers that

financial support for each member of the team will come in, especially for those who have more than one person in the same household going.

Secondly, you can help through your special offerings to financially support each member of the team. The cost of the trip is \$1,300 per person. Sunday, March 1 at all three services, we will be introducing the team to the congregation so you can put some faces to the names of the

missionaries that are going, and we will also be taking up a special Love Offering that will go to support the team. Of course, if you cannot be in worship on March 1, you are welcome to give a Love Offering anytime to support the team by placing your contributions in a LOVE envelope and labeling the envelope “HONDURAS MISSION TEAM,” then place that in the offering plate.

Also, the team will hold a BAKE SALE on Sunday, March 22 to raise money for the trip. We are inviting

any and everyone to bring a home-baked good to be sold following all three worship services that morning. Home-made items can include pies, cakes, and cookies. Please bring your donated items to the table that morning. Your donations of goods or pur-

chases will help send the team to Honduras.

We are so looking forward to this mission trip to Honduras! And we are also looking forward to sharing with the congregation all that we have learned when we return. Your support is very important to us and to the mission of this church. Thank you for helping us to fulfill Christ’s commission to “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...” Matthew 28:19.



WEEKEND MISSION TRIP TO LAREDO March 27-29

For several years, the Angel Tree gift collection has gone to members of the Lutheran Mission in Laredo. This past December, the pastors from this mission came to Zion. Rev. Moises Mendez preached and Rev. Marianna Mendez led the Adult class, and then they ferried our gifts back to their congregation in Laredo.

Their time with us inspired a mission trip to the Mendez’ congregation. Pastor Jennifer, Alice Parsons and John Parsons will lead a group to Laredo for a mini mission trip, March 27-29. Weekend activities include a children’s Sunday school class (on Saturday), repairs to a community playground, and helping organize their food bank.

The cost of the trip is \$100 per person. This covers vehicle rentals, gas and some meals. The group will sleep in the church’s fellowship hall. You can sign up now at the display in the narthex.

In preparation for this mission trip, sustainable items are being collected for the ongoing Employment Ministry program. The program teaches participants how to market their skills and run their own businesses. Programs are planned for quilting, tailoring, craft and home repair businesses. We are collecting these new and gently-used items for training and business startups:

- Five sewing machines
- All types of sewing supplies
- Two 20” TVs*
- Two DVD players*
- Two CD players*
- Computer and printer*
- Tools for home repairs and gardening
- Office supplies, printer paper
- School supplies, backpacks
- Monetary donations to purchase

Spanish-language Bibles in Laredo. Sign up at the display in the narthex, and pick up an information flyer and “needs” list.

* *Electronics should be less than three years old and in good working order*

CARDS & LETTERS

Dear Zion Family,

I wish to express, sincerely and most deeply, my great appreciation granted to all of our members who have followed me with their frequent and loving well wishes, kind thoughts, and steady prayers they have been showered upon me, both recently, and during my years in the past.

I feel that most of you know of my course, in which God has most generously blessed me. Finally my cancer became more active again in 2007 until, during the past month metastasis has spread from my chest to my brain. I am presently undergoing a relatively short course of whole brain radiation treatment. I am optimistic about the course of that, for I have not been uncommonly blessed in each part of my journey to this point. A blessing not mentioned in all of this, flows from the fact that damage to one's brain is largely free of feeling and pain.

I hope the clinical discourse of my course causes none to despair or feels upset. I do and always have felt very much involved, and determined in the progress of my condition. I have never questioned nor objected to the fact that when my Lord is ready for me, I shall do my utmost to be ready for him. Until that time, it is my determination to continue on. It is for this latter reason that your thoughts have added to my strength, and I hope my appreciation is well known to you. For all of this amazing journey, I thank all of my friends and well wishers.

In and through our Lord,

Jim Perry

SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR YOUR GIFTS OF LOVE

To the congregation,

We are so grateful for the generosity that people have shown to us with the gifts given at Christmas. More importantly than the gifts themselves, is what it reflects in the love that is poured out from this congregation to us as your pastors. We are so truly blessed to serve here in this place. We cannot thank you enough for the love and support that you have shown to us and our families over the past seven years, and we look forward to many more years to come of serving God together with you in this place.

Pastor Dave and Pastor Jennifer

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to Brinkley Harrell for the wonderful job he has done as coordinator of the 8:00 Ushers. Brinkley is stepping down due to his job travel requirements. There are many things he has done behind the scenes during his tenure. We appreciate his dedication.

The Little Church Mouse is Spreading the news that...

...Landon Lutz' lambs won both Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion in the Bexar Co. Jr. Livestock show. Landon also won Jr. Showmanship.



BAPTISMS

Welcome to the family of Zion!

- ◆ Brigitte Olivia O'Hara, baptized on January 11.

HOSPITALIZED MEMBERS

- Joyce Deer
- Margie Hutchings
- Shirley Jonas
- Ruth Lampman
- Mary Mora
- Norm Pederson
- Joyce Rennert
- Dorothy Rode

IN SYMPATHY

Our prayers and condolences go to:
✘ the family and friends of Edythe Foss

✘ Britt Crow upon the loss of his father Pete Crow

✘ David Yecker upon the loss of his father, Johnny Yecker

May God's promise of the resurrection offer you comfort in this time of sorrow.

THANK YOU TO

...Geri & Jerry Dalum, Lillie Wells, LaVonne Pederson and Dottie Williams for preparing the sanctuary for Christmas Eve services.



ZION COOKBOOK 2009

Zion has not published a cookbook for over twenty years. You are encouraged to participate in the first edition of the new century!

Seven different recipe categories are available. You may submit one recipe per category. Please use the form provided here, or pick up as many as you need from the display in the narthex. Forms are also on the church website for you to print out. Recipes may be printed by hand or typed, but must be submitted on the form provided. Turn in recipes at the display. Deadline for submitting your recipes is March 29.

Copies of the cookbooks are \$15 each. Pre-ordering is encouraged: stop by the display in the narthex near the library shelves to place your order. Proceeds will fund supplies in the church kitchens. Pre-orders and recipes will be accepted through March 29.

These cookbooks will be a useful tool in your kitchen, a thoughtful gift, and a wonderful keepsake. Pre-ordered cookbooks will be delivered by September 2009, and additional books will be for sale.

Questions? Contact Shirley Jonas, 680-6867 or sajonas@sbcglobal.net.

One Recipe Per Page

RECIPE CATEGORY

- Appetizers, Beverages
- Soups, Salads
- Vegetables
- Main Dishes
- Breads, Rolls
- Desserts
- Other

RECIPE TITLE _____
Please Type or Print Plainly

INGREDIENTS
Please use these abbreviations: c. tsp., Tbsp., pkg., qt., pt. oz., lb.

METHOD
Don't forget to include pan size, oven temperature, cooking time number of servings

Submitted by: _____
Please Type or Print Plainly
Phone Number: _____

FRIENDS 'N FAITH

There's much more to Zion than Sunday mornings. Friends 'N Faith groups provide a set of ready-to-meet friends with interests similar to yours. Find out more from the people listed, or from the church office.

New Group!

- **Sociable Singles**

Single adults age 50+ meet on the first Friday of the month. Next meeting is on Feb 6 at 7pm in FLC Room 101. DeAnna Johnson, 684-4194 or Pat Bangart, 695-6100.

- **MOM: Mothers of Munchkins**

Moms and kids meet in the Toddler Nursery to play and pray! Current Bible study is "Mom to Mom: Growing Together." Wednesdays at 9:30am. Sheila McMahan, 695-5186 or skmcmahan@sbcglobal.net.

- **Young Married Couples**

Get together on the 3rd Friday of each month for Bible study, food and fellowship. Couples take turns hosting evenings in their homes. Contact Mollie Stavenger, 896-1562 or mkstavenger@gmail.com

- **ZPOP: Zion Parents withOUT Partners**

Events planned with the kids and for adults. Katja Ierome, 771-7866 or katja_amani@yahoo.com

- **Ladies Dinner & Movie**

1st Monday at 6:30pm at Applebee's, then a movie at the Silverado Theater. Jo Ann Meinert at jomeinert@earthlink.net.

- **Dinner Out**

Dinner Out is adults who enjoy dining out at local restaurants. Try a place you've never been before, new food, new culture. Meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Contact the Cools (520-7910 kcool@sbc.rr.net) or the Chillstroms (771-7573 chillstrom@sbcglobal.net) if you have a restaurant suggestion.

- **Amiable Assemblers**

Put together bulletins every Friday at 1:00pm, and newsletters once a month. Dorothy Rode, 681-5997 and Sonja Shimkus, 277-0413.

- **Mah Jongg**

Learn and play this Asian tile game with Pat Bangart, 695-6100. Meets in members' homes.

- **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Meets on the 1st Monday afternoon at 1:00pm in the Baby Nursery. Dorothy Rode, 681-5997.

- **Game Groups**

Card & domino games, 1st Monday afternoon at 1:00, 4th Monday evening with early supper at 3:30 Golden Corral. Algine Perry, 695-4422.

MUSIC REHEARSALS

Youth Choir (Middle & High School)

Sunday 4:30pm (Pizza time)
5:00 Rehearsal

Music Apse
Lindsey Ackels

Handbells

Tuesday 6:30pm
Sanctuary Balcony (upstairs)
David Thamm 670-0643

Men's Choir

Tuesday 7:30pm
Sanctuary Choir Loft
David Thamm 670-0643

Adult Choir

Wednesday 7:00pm
Music Apse
David Thamm 670-0643

Brass Group

Wednesday 8:15pm
Sanctuary Choir Loft
David Thamm 670-0643

Children's Choir (Grades 2-5)

Thursday 5:30pm
Music Apse
Cheryl West

Praise Team

Thursday 7:00pm
Sanctuary Choir Loft
Scott Lassiter 913-4331

Woodwinds

Rehearsals scheduled as needed.
Contact Elyse (below)
Elyse Hearn 520-4436

Zion Music Academy

Private instrument instruction in for children youth and adults. Beginner and intermediate lessons available to all members of the community, as well as Zion. Twenty-minute lessons are \$10 per session, and half-hour lessons are \$15. Contact the instructors below to schedule:

- Flute: Elyse Hearn 520-4436
- Guitar: Seth Greco 695-9683

by Pastor Jennifer Gold
Why I “Volunteer” at CAM

Some may wonder why I use the church’s time” to “volunteer” at CAM, and I want to share with you the reasons why. CAM is a vital extension of the ministry that we do here at Zion. It is a ministry that is supported with \$1,800 in benevolence from the church’s budget. To the people at CAM, I am considered a “volunteer,” but for me it is part of the ministry that I do here at Zion – a connection between us and one of the ministries we support. My participation at CAM involves a total of four hours once a month, a mere drop in the hat compared to the 50-70+ hours I spend on average serving at the church each week.

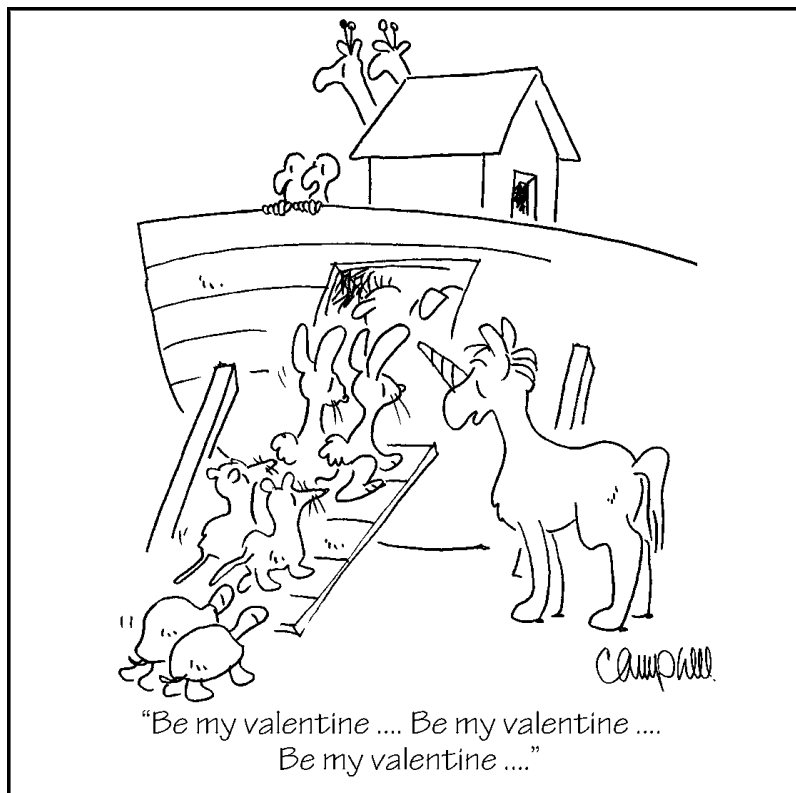
Since I began at CAM this past summer, the connection I have made there has inspired the ministry that I do here at Zion. For example, it is my work at CAM, working in the local mission field, that led me to encourage others to “volunteer” there. Just this month, someone from Zion asked me if he could come along, and someone else plans to go with me next month. You are welcome to do the same! Also, my plan is to put together a one-day mission event to CAM to invite others who can’t volunteer regularly to work in the warehouse sorting and delivering the countless donations that are received. I have learned in my time serving at CAM that items received are not sorted and distributed quickly enough to meet the growing needs of the homeless clientele that CAM serves. They need able-bodied people who can volunteer their time to make sure that the warehouse functions efficiently..

Serving at CAM also inspired several of us to lead a weekend mission trip to the Lutheran church in Laredo, the mission we have supported through our Angel Tree Christ-

mas gifts over the past five years. See the article on page 3. I hope you consider joining us March 27-29! Look for the display in the narthex. And in June, I will lead a team of twelve adults, teens and children from Zion to Honduras to do mission work in the local village orphanage.

Another reason I spend time at CAM ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of the homeless population is that I feel very strongly that I, as a pastor, cannot continue doing what I do if I do not “practice what I preach.” I felt a disconnect between what I say in the pulpit, and what Jesus says throughout scripture concerning the needs of the poor. Being face-to-face with the homeless people at CAM has helped me connect the sermons to everyday life in the real world, fulfilling Christ’s mission to reach out to those who are in need.

Serving at CAM is a regular reminder to me and to others who serve there of what Jesus’ mission was all about as he ministered to the poor, the hungry, the destitute, and the homeless. Matthew 25:35-40 says, “for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you and stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? . . . Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”



JUST 4 YOUTH!

Youth Director
Travis Baker
Church Office 688-3090 ext. 206
tbaker@zionhelotes.org

FOR ALL YOUTH

Open Gym and Sunday Night Live Feb 8, 15 and 22

There's plenty to do on Sunday nights at Zion. OPEN GYM starts up at 5:00pm. Basketball goals are set up, and there's plenty of room for everyone to run around or just hang out and get to know each other. At 6:00pm, SNL takes us into Bible study and fellowship time, plus some fun activities to help us grow our faith.

On Feb 1, stay home and enjoy the Superbowl. There's no Youth Choir or Confirmation Class, either. But come to the Family Life Center on Feb 8.

All Luth Youth Volleyball March 1

On Sunday, March 1st, we will be challenging other Lutheran churches to a volleyball match. We will host the event here at Zion at 1:00pm, so start practicing those spikes and get ready for a fun afternoon.

HIGH SCHOOL

Arts & Crafts Fair March 7

The Craft Fair is coming up on Saturday, March 7, so we need to begin getting ready for it. Start checking your email and listening for the phone because we will be contacting you to begin dividing up duties and get things ready for another successful year. All who are going to the National Youth Gathering should plan to participate in this fundraising event.

If you know of anyone that is interested in a vendor space, info and applications are on the church website or in the church office. Deadline for vendor entries is Friday, Feb 13.

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE 2009

February

Morning Lesson (9:30) ----- Evening Lesson (6:00)

- 1 Gerasene Demoniac — *Superbowl - no evening activities*
- 8 Feeding of the 5000 — Transfiguration
- 15 Sending of the 70 — The Good Samaritan
- 22 Healings — Parables

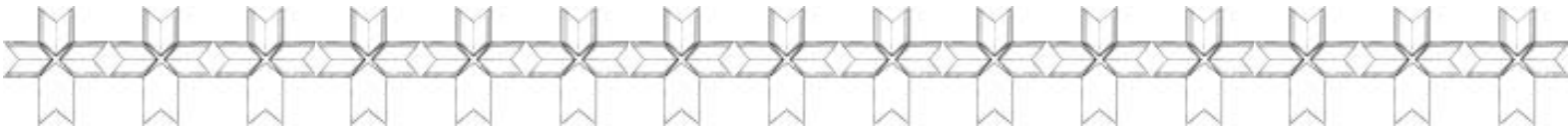
March

..... Morning Lesson (9:30) --- Evening Lesson (6:00)

- 1 Rich Man and Lazarus — Fellowship
 - 8 Zaccheus — *Spring Break - no evening activities*
 - 15 Last Supper — Crucifixion and Resurrection
 - 22 Road to Emmaus — Pentecost
 - 29 Call of Saul — Overview of the Early Church
- Family Night**

April

- 3-4 Friday-Saturday Confirmation Retreat
- 12 *Easter Sunday, no Confirmation activities*
- 18 Saturday Evening Confirmation Banquet
- 19 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 11:00 Service



Director of Christian Education
 Karen Stein
 Church Office 688-3090 ext. 205
 kstein@zionhelotes.org

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATES

Sunday school is back in full swing after the holidays. Each Sunday morning we have classes available for 3-year-olds through high school, along with two adult classes.

The younger children are studying about Jesus calling his disciples and his healings of the sick. If you are interested in learning what your children are talking about, come to David and Amy Walter’s adult class at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Their ongoing series examines the same stories as the children’s classes.

Middle- and high-school students meet in upstairs classrooms in the Family Life Center. The Confirmation class meets in Room 101 downstairs.

Another adult class is “The Book of Faith.” This class also begins at 9:30am, in Room 202 upstairs in the Family Life Center. It is the first part of a five-year initiative to help the entire Lutheran church become more comfortable with the language of scripture. With that knowledge, we can better live out our faith in the world. This limited series continues through Feb 22.

ZAP: ZION ACTION PACK

Children’s & Family Ministry

ZAP events have been planned for 2009. Event details will be available in the newsletter, bulletins, on the web and at displays in the narthex. If you would like more information about any event or about the ZAP program, please call Heather Lotts at 543-8763 or Karen Stein at 688-3090.

Feb 8 **Valentine Craft Party** starts immediately after the 11am service in the Family Life Center with a pizza lunch. Children will be able to paint a beautiful piece of ceramic art from Clay Casa. The cost per painter is \$10. If you just want to come eat and watch the cost is \$2. Look for the display in the narthex.

More 2009 ZAP Events

- Mar 15 Spring Fling
- Apr 5 Easter Egg Hunt
- May 31 Family Picnic
- June 21-25 Vacation Bible School
- Aug 1 Movie Night
- Oct 24 Trunk or Treat
- Nov 22 ADVENTure Event

5TH GRADE COMMUNION CLASSES

Beginning in March fifth-graders will receive instruction on the Sacrament of Holy Communion during their regular Sunday school class time at 9:30am.

There will be four weeks of classes:

- March 1
- March 15
- March 22
- March 29

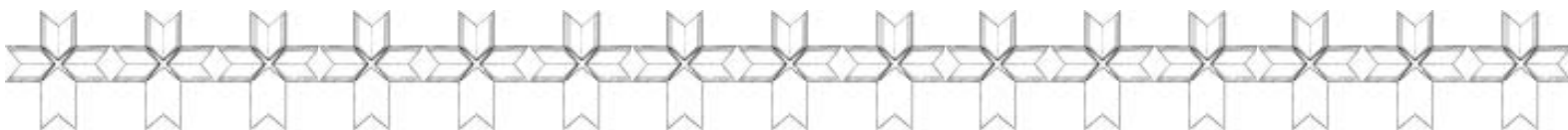


The class will not meet on March 8 due to Spring Break.

A detailed letter will be mailed to fifth-graders’ families in early February. Class members will take Holy Communion together at the Maundy Thursday evening service on April 9 at 7:00pm.

NURSERY NEWS

Do you enjoy caring for children and are looking for a spot where you can help out? Volunteer to help out in the church nursery. Contact Laura Schlesinger at the numbers below. If you are scheduled to work in the nursery on a given Sunday and find you can not work, please try to find a substitute. If you can’t find anyone, please call Laura at 681-6567 (home) or 355-9279 (cell).





The Zion Zippers meet on the 2nd Monday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm. All who are 50 years or older (and their significant others) are invited to join and participate in the activities. A potluck supper is shared at 6:30pm, followed by a business meeting and program.

February hosts will be Mae and Herman Roy and Sue and Hank Molnar. Sandi and Ken Pohlmann will let us in on their three-month sabbatical in London, which involved visiting several more European places of beauty and interest, taking many pictures to share with us. Come, bring a dish for the potluck, and enjoy a tour.

Zippers' January Meeting Review
by Dorothy Rode

You never saw such an assortment of headgear! The Zipper members were the program and it was Crazy Hat night in Zion's Fellowship Hall

Jan 12, where we were gathered to welcome the new year of Zipper-dom. Just viewing all the hats brought a smile to start off the evening—okay, maybe even a laugh or two was generated.

Herman Roy, Bev's new assistant leader, invited all to stand and pledge allegiance to the flag, then to go sit by someone and find out where they went to high school and any other information to get better acquainted. It was a revelation to hear how far some of us have come to get to sunny San Antonio and Zion Lutheran Church of Helotes. This information was called for at the end of the evening, along with other interesting facts about our tablemate.

Hosts for the evening were Sonja Shimkus, Dave and Linnell Brewton and granddaughter. Treasurer Kay Morris reported a fund balance from freewill offerings after sending \$100 to the S.A. Food Bank in December. Pastor Elias Rode was requested to lead the dinner prayer followed by the group singing the Doxology. After the meal there was voting of the hats by handclapping and the Schwabs won in both the men's and women's categories.

ADVENTURE TRAVEL

All are invited to join the Adventure Travel Group on these excursions.

Contact Brigitte Koehler about these trips, 520-0736 or travel-with-brigitte@juno.com:

- Mar 22-25 Wendover, NV
- Apr 14-20 Branson in Spring
- Apr 24-May 2 Copper Canyon Adventure
- May 15-25 Niagara Falls, Toronto Bus
- July 24-30 San Francisco & Tahoe
- Aug 7-17 Amish Country Bus Tour
- Sept 5-13 Rushmore & Black Hills of SD Bus Tour
- Oct 9-16 New England Fall Foliage
- Nov 3-9 Branson Christmas
- Nov 27-Dec 4 Alpine Christmas
- Nov 29-Dec 6 W. Caribbean Cruise 2010
- Aug 24-Sept 4 Heart of Europe & Passion Play in Oberammergau
- Sept 3-14 Heart of Europe & Passion Play in Oberammergau

Contact Shirley Jonas (680-6867 or sajonas@sbcglobal.net) about these trips:

- Feb 19 Bald Eagle Vanishing River Cruise
- Apr 24-25 Battle of Flower or Fiesta Flambeau Parade
- Apr 22-30 Niagara Falls, DC, NYC
- May 2 Fredericksburg, Texas
- May 24-30 New Orleans
- June 11-15 Palo Duro Canyon, Santa Fe & Ruiodoso NM
- June 21-28 Mexican Riviera Cruise
- July 25-Aug 1 Hawaiian Island Cruise
- July 26-Aug 2 W. Caribbean Cruise
- Aug 8-19 Alaska Cruise & Denali Land Tour
- Sept 17 USS Lexington, Corpus Christi
- Oct 3-10 New England Fall Foliage
- Oct 15-26 Mediterranean Cruise
- Oct 16-17 Sam Moon Shopping
- Oct 23-Nov 4 Greece, Turkey, Egypt and Jerusalem
- Nov 8-13 Branson
- Nov 28-Dec 3 W Caribbean Cruise
- Dec 4, 6, 11, 12, 13 Dinner Barges
- Dec 5 Vespers
- Dec 12 Salado Shopping & Lights 2010
- Jan 10-17 Eastern Caribbean Cruise
- June TBA Passion Play, Eureka Springs
- Sept 4-19 Austria, Switzerland & Oberammergau

**FINANCIAL SEMINARS BY THRIVENT
FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS**

Thrivent is hosting seminars in the area on retirement, estate planning and social security benefits. Each is about an hour and a half, with speakers are John Doering and Jim Caulder discussing topics such as leaving a legacy to the church or heirs, getting the most out of your social security benefits, retirement planning and distribution. A Q&A session follows.

Local seminars are:

Feb 25 9:30am at Abiding Presence,
14700 San Pedro at Oak Shadows

Feb 25 at 1:30pm at Mt. Calvary,
308 Mt. Calvary

Feb 25 at 6:30pm at Zion-Castroville,
1106 Fiorella in Castroville

LENT BEGINS IN FEBRUARY

February 25
Ash Wednesday 12:00 noon
and
7:00pm

March 4 - April 1
Wednesday Evenings 7:00pm

April 5
Palm Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt
and Picnic Noon

April 9
Maundy Thursday 12:00 noon
and
7:00pm

April 10
Good Friday 12:00 noon
and
7:00pm

April 12
Easter Sunrise 6:30am
Easter Festival Worship 8:00,
9:30 and
11:00am

**INVESTMENT REPORT
DEC 2008 FOR FEB 09 NWS**

• **General Fund**

Giving Goal for Dec 08 \$93,631
Actual Contrib Dec 08 \$82,761
Giving Goal Jan-Dec 08 \$865,349
Actual Contrib Jan-Dec 08 ... \$827,488
YTD Difference -\$37,861
2007 Dec Actual Contrib. \$85,625

• **Building Fund**

Dec 08 Income \$15,539
BF cash on hand \$54,136

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Year to date average 2008 619
YTD average 2007 646

UNDER CONSTRUCTION: UPDATE

Balance remaining on
Family Life Center Loan
as of Dec 31, 2008 \$716,1184

*God's work through our hands,
for the sake of the world*

SIMPLIFY YOUR GIVING

Almost seventy Zion families use the automatic contribution program, Simply Giving. Find out more from the church office, 688-3090.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Please include author/contact information on all submissions. E-mail to jrodehickey@zionhelotes.org.

Sunday bulletin deadline is NOON the preceding Wednesday.

March newsletter deadline is NOON on Friday, Feb 13. Good luck.

CHURCH STAFF *E-mail addresses for Staff & Council at www.zionhelotes.org*

Rev. David Schulte	Senior Pastor
Rev. Jennifer Gold	Pastor
Suzie Wyatt	Administrator
Julie Rode-Hickey	Publications
Dean Hearn	Secretary
Linda Spears	Office Assistant
Karen Stein	Christian Education
Travis Baker	Youth
Jennifer Bauer	Lutheran Campus Ministry
David Thamm	Handbells, Choirs, Brass
Elyse Hearn	Woodwinds
Kim Olsen	Organist
Cheryl West	Children's Choir
Lindsay Ackels	Youth Choir
Scott Lassiter	Praise Team
Grace Muñoz	Custodial Operations
Brent Leaming	Facilities & Grounds
Laura Schlesinger	Nursery Coordinator
Katie Cotcher	Nursery Attendant

2009 CHURCH COUNCIL

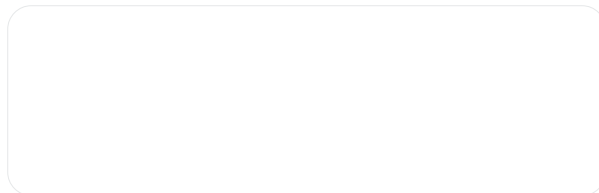
Suzi Lockamy	President
Jim Chillstrom	Vice President
Karl Nentwich	Secretary
Sue Brandenburg	Treasurer
Chris Jones	
Brett Kraemer	
Carolyn Pfeiffer	

Council meetings are 3rd Tuesday of each month. Minutes are posted on kiosk in narthex.

COORDINATORS

Gerri Dalum & Marilyn Toepperwein	Memorials
LaVonne Pederson & Barbara Galland	Women of Zion
Jo Ann Meinert	Outreach Team
Barbara Klein	Bereavement
Henry Brauchle	Sound Team
<i>Position Open</i>	8:00 Ushers
Dave Brewton	9:30 Ushers
Sarah Nichols	11:00 Ushers
Susan Johns	Altar Guild
Kathee Forrest	Floral Guild
Gena Sanchez	Acolytes
Pat Bangart	Welcome Center
Amy & David Walter	Adult Education
Bev Rosel	<i>Zion Zippers</i> (50+)
Algine Perry	Game Group
Bonnie Harrell	Z-Bee Quilters
Jimmy Weimer	Cemetery Board
Heather Lotts	Zion Action Pack (ZAP)

February
2009



Address Service Requested
DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH *of Helotes*

NW Loop 1604 at Braun & Leslie Roads
Phone 210-688-3090 Fax 688-9314

Website www.zionhelotes.org
Office E-Mail zion@zionhelotes.org



ZION'S MISSION: Energized by grace, God's unconditional love, we freely give our lives
Bringing to Christ • Growing in Christ • Serving for Christ



Lutheran Campus Ministry of San Antonio
Jennifer Bauer, Director
210-688-3090 x220



Kids of the Kingdom Dayschool
Gail Anderson, Director
210-688-9171

5TH ANNUAL SPRING ARTS FESTIVAL

Saturday, March 7
10:00am to 4:00pm

Artisans and crafters of handmade items are invited to show at Zion's 5th Annual Spring Arts Festival on Saturday, March 7. This event brings together not only Zion members, but many people throughout the community. With your support, this event will be more successful than ever.

You and your crafting friends, family and neighbors are encouraged to bring your wares to this show. Get your

application in early to reserve a spot for your hand-crafted products. Vendor applications are in the church office and at www.zionhelotes.org. Indoor spaces are \$50, outdoor spaces are \$40.

Everyone is invited to come shop at the show on March 7. Items include clothing, rustic furniture, home decor, jewelry, toys, baby items, purses and bags, stationery, fine art,

stained glass and more. The snack bar will be open to sustain you for both breakfast and lunch.

The 2009 Arts & Crafts Show is a fundraiser for our high school students attending the National ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Youth will provide assistance to vendors and customers.

For more information, contact Travis Baker at 688-3090 x 206 or tbaker@zionhelotes.org.