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ZIONEWS

April 2009 Zion Lutheran's Monthly Newsletter



*Alleluia! Grace like rain
falls down upon us...*

I have always liked the rain. There is nothing quite as peaceful as curling up in an easy chair with a good book, listening to the rain falling on the roof. My favorite is a soft spring rain that washes everything clean, and promises new growth.

When I was twelve, I sang in a chorus and got to travel by school bus to sing for group luncheons. I remember singing at a church one fine, spring day. Our last song was *April Showers*. It's a hopeful song about how the rain in April brings the flowers in May. "It isn't raining rain, you know. It's raining violets." we warbled.

As we made our way down the aisle between white-clothed tables to leave, a frail, elderly woman leaned toward me. "Thank you." she whispered. "Rain is God's grace." Then, she pressed a cookie wrapped in a paper napkin into my hand, and kissed my cheek. There were tears in her watery blue eyes. I got back on the bus. I wondered what "grace" was. I knew that if God had it, it had to be good.

As we rode back, it began to rain; a quick, spring cloudburst. Rivers of water ran down the sidewalks and collected in puddles in the yards. Whatever grace was, I thought, there sure was a lot of it! I ate my cookie, and looked for flowers.

Later on, I began to ask what grace meant. God's grace, I learned, was *undeserved blessings*; God's love, showering down on us all, like rain. "Just like the rain," my pastor said, "God's grace falls on the good and the bad, the wheat and the weeds, together." Well, that doesn't seem fair, I thought. Which is the point. If it was *fair*, if it was *deserved*, it wouldn't be *grace*, would it? Ahh...

Over the years, I have continued to learn about God's grace – not by reading about it or hearing about it, but by experiencing it. When I hurt a loved one with harsh words, or acted out in pure meanness, or when I stood by and did nothing when I could have helped someone – when I was being a total jerk – it was then, in my brokenness, that God smiled on me and said, "Barbara, I still love you. And I forgive you." It was then, when I deserved it the least, that God showered me with grace, fresh and cleansing as a spring rain.

(continued on page 2)

Address Service Requested

Pastor

Rev. Barbara Koch

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121 Noel C. Conaway Road
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Zion Lutheran Church



It is in the Easter season that I am most mindful of God's grace, for it is then that we celebrate our risen Lord's victory over death, and remind each other that it is through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that grace is given.

And it is in the Easter season, when the spring rains come, that I am reminded of the elderly woman with tears in her eyes and grace in her heart, who first led me to seek the grace-watered life. Then, all I can do is dance in the rain, thank God, and laugh!

Grace be with you all during this Easter season,

Pastor Barb <>>

*Grace be with you all.
May the great shepherd of the sheep
equip you with good things for doing his will.*

*And, grace be with you all!
Song by Michael Card based on Hebrews 13:20-25*

(continued)

May

Sunday, May 3rd 10:00am: Sunday School Convention - Springfield, GA
Wednesday, May 6th 6:00pm - 7:30pm: Youth Bible Study
Sunday, May 10th 9:45am: Mother's Day Project (During Sunday School Time)

Friday, May 15th - Sunday, May 17th: High School Camping Trip at George L. Smith State Park
 If you plan to attend this trip, you must make a reservation with Dana Lee by Sunday, April 19th. A \$10 deposit is also required for all youth who wish to attend.

Saturday, May 30th: Pork Dinner Fundraiser - Times TBA

Summer Plan Ahead

Saturday, June 13th -Friday, June 19th: AFFIRM at University of North Alabama

Wednesday, July 22nd - Sunday, July 26th: National Youth Gathering

All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in youth activities.

For additional information contact Dana Lee Smith at 728-3227 or 665-1377.

IPILAINI AHEAD

May 3rd - Annual Sunday School Convention at the Methodist Camp in Springfield

May 16th - WELCA Ebenezer Cluster Meeting - St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Savannah

May 28th - Blood Drive 2-6 p.m at Zion
 June 8th-12th - VBS

The Social Ministry Committee is responsible for the card ministry. If you know of someone who needs a card for a special occasion or illness, please contact them.

Would you be interested in...

CPR class to learn or get recertified in CPR.

An AARP driving class that could help with your car insurance.

Both would be held at Zion. Get in touch with **Shirley Wright**,

Craig Pittman, or **Norma Ralph** for more information.

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Palm Sunday: April 5th - 11:00am—Confirmation with reception to follow
 4:00pm—**Pastor Barb's Ordination/Installation**
 Service with **Bishop Julian Gordy** of the Southeastern Synod presiding.
 Reception following the service.

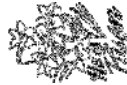


Maundy Thursday: April 9th - 8:00pm

Good Friday: April 10th - 8:00pm

Easter: April 12th

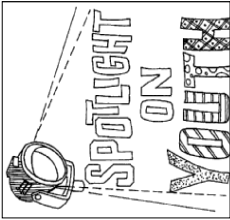
- **Sunrise Service - 6:30am, Outside in Zion Cemetery**
- **Sunrise Breakfast - 7:00am**
- **Sunday School - 9:45am**
- **Festival Worship - 11:00am**



Lutheran Youth Organization

News

submitted by Dana Lee Smith



March Highlights

Nineteen youth and three adults enjoyed participating in the All Georgia Youth event. We enjoyed worship and Bible study with other youth from around the state.

Special thanks to the youth and adult leaders who helped with the LYO Lent presentation. We also say thanks to all who helped and supported our carwash fundraiser on March 29th.

April Events

Wednesday, April 1st 6:00pm-7:30pm: Youth Bible Study
Come join in the learning and fun!

Wednesday, April 8th 6:00pm-7:30pm: Youth Planning Team
Sunday, April 12th 5:30am: Easter Sunrise Breakfast

Once again, Zion's youth will sponsor breakfast following the Sunrise Service. Youth on the prep team need to be in the kitchen at 5:30am to help prepare breakfast and set the tables. Youth on the cleanup team will be responsible for cleaning the kitchen, washing dishes and setting up the education building for Sunday School. If your name is not listed on either list please plan to join the cleanup team.

Prep team: Nicholas Dasher, Casey Griffith, Andrew Kessler, Jadelyn Kopf, Melissa Kopf, Katherine Ralph, Kamie Wilson
Cleanup team: Lauren Chapman, Colby Conaway, Bradley Hall, Ryan Pittman, Harrold Wheeler

Sunday, April 19th 12:15pm: National Youth Gathering Youth/Parent Meeting

All youth who are attending the National Youth Gathering and their parents are asked to meet in the Education Building for a brief informational meeting immediately following the worship service.

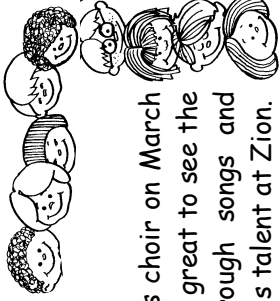


Sunday, April 26th 12:15pm to 1:15pm: Carwash for LYO
Please make plans to participate in a fundraiser for our group. All youth are needed to help. We are attending a lot of **Car Wash** events this year; All GA, AFFIRM and National Youth Gathering. We need everyone to help so that we can raise enough money to cover all of our planned events! Pizza will be served immediately following the carwash.

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Children's Choir and Thank you for Lenten Musical Program

Submitted by Melinda Heidt



What a great performance by our children's choir on March 15th! We are so proud of our children. It is great to see the children praising and worshipping God through songs and acting. We are very fortunate to have all this talent at Zion.

Thank you to the children for learning their songs and parts and to the parents who brought them to all the practices. Thanks to those who helped with the stage decorations, the costumes, to Jeff Heidt -our sound system technician, and anyone else who helped in any way. We will have an **Party for them on April 8th**. **If you would like to help with it please let Melinda Heidt know.**

We are asking you to please mark your calendars for the services during **Holy Week**. We will sing on **Maundy Thursday, April 9th, Good Friday, April 10th and Easter Sunday Worship Service, April 12th**. If your child will not be able to attend the services please let me know. We will **not** have **choir practice on April 15th**. We will resume practice on **April 22nd**.
Thanks for all you do to help us with our children's choir.



Living Cross—Please bring your fresh cut flowers on Easter Sunday to help decorate the Living Cross. The cross will be located on the lawn in front of the church. You can bring the fresh cut flowers with you to the **Sunrise Service, Sunday School, or the Worship Service** at 11:00 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt

The annual **Easter Egg Hunt** will be held on Saturday, April 11th at 2:00 p.m. All you need to bring is your Easter basket and a friend. Eggs, snacks and drinks will be provided. Monetary contributions to offset the cost of this activity can be given to Dana Lee Smith or Amber Hall.

Pastor Barb Koch's contact information:

Cell Phone: (912) 677-7011
 Home Phone: (912) 728-3474
 Email address: pastorbarb@zionlutheranga.org

THANK YOU NOTES:

Zion Lutheran family, and you are still our family, Thank you for your prayers, concerns, and the wonderful cards. We had a celebration of my father's life on the 21st. It was a joyous occasion. He is now at peace. My mother is doing well in spite of some dementia. After every visit my father always said, "Wherever you go, whatever you do, be careful and God Bless You." I am echoing those sentiments to you. We love you all,
Neil & Pat Zittrouer

Zion Family,
 Thanks for your cards, visits, calls, and prayers. Your love truly helped my recovery.
 God bless you all. Love, *Mary Johnson*



April 19th - Zionews Deadline



1st Wednesday

Zion's mid-week program will meet on April 1st. Please come and enjoy the meal, fellowship, and Bible study.
 2:30-3:30 p.m.Children's (Grades K-5) Choir rehearsal
 3:30-4:30 p.m.Biblical craft/study hall (Grades K-5)
 4:30-5:30 p.m.Faith Weavers (Grade K-5) Bible study
 5:15-6:45 p.m.A meal, age 3 & younger eat free, age 4-10 \$2.00 each, age 11 & up \$5.00 each, maximum family rate \$20.00.

See you there. Any questions or to make reservations call **Norma Ralph (912) 313-2465**.
 6:00-7:30 p.m.Youth (Grades 6-12) Bible studies
 6:15-7:00 p.m.Adult Study...meal may be eaten during study
 6:30 p.m.Council Meeting

6. Evangelism: The committee pointed out communication issues regarding meals, receptions, etc. Council will research previous minutes and discuss at the April Meeting.

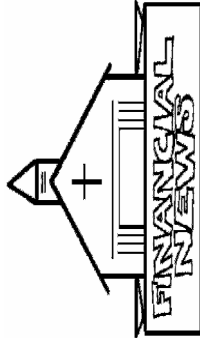
Unfinished Business

1. Communion Frequency: Previous worship committee/council discussions were reviewed. Council approved having Worship & Music Committee request feedback on various worship changes, including the new bulletin format and communion via survey insert and report back to council.

New Business

1. Code of Conduct/Background Check Policy: Copies of the policy will be distributed to council members for review regarding background checks at the April Meeting.

Phyllis Heidt, Secretary



February 2009 Treasurer's Summary Report

Fund	General	Building	Memorial	Bus	Land
Balance	5,916.31	19,338.79	70,026.38	5,043.15	326,054.64
Income	10,892.51	1,111.89	8,000.00	-0-	3,700.12
Total	16,808.82	20,450.68	78,026.38	5,043.15	329,754.76
Expenses	12,473.31	8,293.00	411.77	213.46	2,825.15
Balance	4,335.51	12,157.68	77,614.61	4,829.69	326,929.61

Special Contributions and Funds

ELCA Hunger Appeal	90.00	Manna House	-0-
Missionary Support	-0-	Southern Seminary	-0-
Treutlien House	25.00	Local Mission Account	12,948.12
LSG	-0-	Cemetery Fund CD	15,101.88
Abundant Life Church	1,000.00	Internship Fund CD	10,328.11

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH Congregation Council Meeting Highlights - Draft March 1, 2009

A complete copy of the approved minutes will be posted on the Church Bulletin Board

Reports

The Minutes from the February 8, 2009 Congregation Council Meeting and from the February 22, 2009 Called Congregation Council Meeting were approved as printed.

The Pastor's Report (filed with the March 1, 2009 Meeting Agenda) was reviewed. Communion for special needs children: council agreed to continue to handle communion distribution as previously approved.

1. Membership Roll: Reinstate member, who was removed in error and honor the request to transfer Pastor Barbara and Bob Koch.
2. New Member Class: suggested to schedule the class in May.

The Treasurer's Report for February 2009 was approved as printed.

Committees

1. Education: Council approved the committee recommendation that Zion participate in the Sunday School Convention on May 3rd.
2. Worship & Music: Council approved the committee recommendation that Zion have a Worship Service on May 3rd at 8:30am to provide an opportunity for worship at Zion and to allow all an opportunity to participate in Sunday School Convention.
3. Worship & Music: The committee will start printing the worship service in the bulletins for a 1-month trial period and will discuss the feedback from the congregation at the May Council Meeting.
4. Finance: Council approved the following committee recommendations/related motions:
 - a. a monthly financial update in the Zion Newsletter. This update will include the funds received versus the budget.
 - b. to develop a sign up sheet from the Committee Task/Job List provided to each committee; those signing up for specific tasks will be forwarded to the appropriate committee.
 - c. Lent Coin Folders funds collected will be designated to GLOW.
5. Property: Council approved the following committee recommendations/related motions:
 - a. to spend up to \$1,500.00 for furniture for the Pastor's Office; a member has volunteered to fund the purchase.
 - b. to install a door between the pastor and secretary offices and paint the walls in the pastor's office.
 - c. to replace two (2) broken Heater/AC units in the Education Building.
 - d. to honor the Girl Scout Troup's request to plant flowers for the church during the Work Day scheduled for March 21st. The Property Committee will supervise the planting so the sprinkler system is not inadvertently damaged.

(continued)



*With the counsel of the Holy Spirit,
and in joy and thanksgiving,
the Southeastern Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
invites you to a
Service of Holy Communion
with the Rites of Ordination and Installation.*

*By the grace of God and
with the consent of God's people,*

Barbara Ann Koch

*will be ordained into the
Ministry of Word and Sacrament
in Christ's holy catholic and apostolic Church*

*on
Sunday, April 5, 2009
at
four o'clock in the afternoon*

*at
Zion Lutheran Church
121 Noel C. Conaway
Guyton, Georgia 31312*

*Your prayers and presence are requested.
Registered leaders are invited to process.
The liturgical color is red.
A reception will follow the service.*

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

What is Zion Lutheran Men in Mission? We are a group of men working with the mission of supporting the local Boy Scout troop #691 and the Treutlen House. We also mow the church cemetery.

Who belongs to the Lutheran Men in Mission? All the men of Zion Lutheran Church belong. All you have to do is come and get involved. We would love to have you.

The men of Zion Lutheran Church meet the **fourth Sunday** of every month at **8 a.m.** for breakfast, fellowship and a brief devotional. Thank you to all who came out and contributed their time and efforts this past year.

If you are interested in finding out more about LMIM, see **Craig Pittman, Harold Wheeler or Andy Dasher.**



Invitation to a Bridal Shower

All ladies of the church are invited to a bridal shower for Jennifer Langston on Tuesday, April 21st at 7:00 p.m. She is registered at Target and Macy's in Savannah.



The women of the church have been asked to plan food for the reception for Pastor Barbara's Ordination Service on April 5th. If you would like to help by furnishing food or to make a monetary donation, please contact Melinda Heidt at 728-3288 or Ramona Kestler at 728-3368. Thankx.

Effingham Thrivent Chapter

The Chapter meeting and dinner will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church on April 19th at 1:00 p.m. Members planning to attend must RSVP to Amelia Dominy at 826-5853 by April 13th.

- **May 3rd Zion will be participating in the Annual Sunday School Convention.**
- **Zion will offer an abbreviated worship service prior to the Sunday School Convention.**
- **The service will start at 8:30 a.m., will include communion, and will last approximately 30 minutes to allow all an opportunity to attend the Sunday School Convention at the Methodist Campground, which is located on Laurel Street in Springfield. The roll call of churches starts shortly before 10:00 a.m.**

Serving in April						
Date	Flowers	Acolyte *	Crucifer *	Assisting Minister	Nursery	Communion Servers
April 5	(P) Terry Sexton	Harold Wheeler III	Andrew Kessler	Sherri Pittman	Dawn & Carl Holton Katherine Ralph	Joe and Joette Studier
April 9 Maundy Thursday	(P) Emma Lee Dasher		Jadelyn Kopf	Jadelyn Kopf		Jadelyn Kopf
April 10 Good Friday						
April 12	(W) Ann McDaniel	Katherine Ralph	Ryan Pittman	Melissa Osteen	Dana Smith Lauren Chapman	Ruth Pauley Carolyn Boyd
April 19	(W) Kimberly Morgan	Melissa Kopf	Jadelyn Kopf	Katherine Ralph	Sarah & Kevin Farmer Kamie Wilson	Phyllis Heidt
April 26	(W) Melinda Heidt	Kells Futch	Kamie Wilson	Richard Hall	Jason Hall Harold Wheeler III	Reggie and Ann McDaniel

* Acolytes and Crucifers need to meet in the pastor's office 10 minutes before worship (10:50 am).

Week of	Clean Church	Clean Education Bldg	Questions/ Changes
April 6	Megan and Cassidy Edwards	Alex and Benji Peith	Contact Dana Lee Smith @ 728-3227 or 665-1377 by Wednesday of the week assigned
April 13	Ryan Pittman	Ashley Sparks and Tayler Fountain	
April 20	Erin Paek	Harold Wheeler, III	
April 27	Jonathan and Jordan Jackson	Colby Conaway	

Month of	Greeters	Ushers	Visiting Comm.
April	Francis and Norma Ralph	Charlie Heidt Herbert Wamell	Ann McDaniel Joann Conaway

Women's Circles	Program	Place
Evening -	No Meeting This Month	
Afternoon - April 3rd - 2:00 pm	Shirley Wright	Church Education Building
Circle of Friends - Apr. 20th - 7:00 pm	Norma Ralph	Church Education Building
Mary/Martha - April 27th - 6:30 pm	Amber Hall	Home of Teresa Jackson - 728-3618

Calendar page