



# ZIONEWS

August 2009 Zion Lutheran's Monthly Newsletter

## ***The Beginning of a New School Year...***

Ah, the first day of school! What sort of pictures does that phrase bring to mind? For me, it brings back memories of brand new pencils, brand new paper, brand new binders, backpack and clothes.

I always loved school, but the start of a new school year was the best. It was exciting, and just a little bit scary. You never knew what kind of teacher you'd have, whether the other kids would like you, or if your old friends would still be there. Even with the uncertainty, I always looked forward to the first day of school with anticipation.

My sister, on the other hand, never liked school. She had so many other things she'd rather be doing! She'd smile, wave good bye to my mother at the *front* door, and was through the building and out the *back* door probably before my mother left the parking lot! So, I know that people have very different reactions when they hear the word "school."

People also have very different reactions to the words "Sunday School", or "Bible Study." Just like the first day of school, I have always enjoyed Sunday School classes and studying the Bible. But, I have dear friends who show up at the last possible minute before worship, because they're afraid someone is going to hog tie them into attending a class! While I wish it were different for them, I understand.

So, here I am, at the start of a brand new school year at Zion, lining up my tools for today's education: new computer disks, software and DVD's. (But, I still like the feel of a newly sharpened #2 pencil in my hand!) I'm looking forward with anticipation to teaching the Adult Class after the meal on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, and getting to know the Middle School Youth better in Confirmation Class on alternate Wednesday evenings. I'm looking forward to leading an Inquirer's Class during Sunday School time for those who are interested in membership at Zion, or just want to brush up on their Lutheranism. I will offer a study of the book of Philippians when that is finished. I am looking forward to meeting all types of learners in these classes --



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**Zion Lutheran Church**  
121 Noel C. Conaway Road  
Guyton, GA 31312-5735

Office Phone: (912) 728-3430  
Web page: [www.zionlutheranga.org](http://www.zionlutheranga.org)  
Pastor Barbara Koch

Address Service Requested

those who find the spiritual discipline of study an easy one to follow, and those who find it a struggle.

That is part of what we Christians do – gather together to support each other in our joys and struggles on our spiritual journey. While I love to study, I find other spiritual disciplines a challenge, such as going out and inviting unchurched people to worship, or being faithful in my tithe when finances are tight. But, God is helping me to grow in those areas, and I appreciate my brothers and sisters who have a gift for those things, and encourage me to keep on working on them.

So, if you are one who never really liked school, I encourage you to give Sunday School or a Bible Study class a try, even if it is something you have not done in the past. Because, God, who knows you so well, and loves you so much, wants you to get to know God better, too. And studying God's Word is a sure way to do that. So, sharpen your pencils! Dust off that backpack! (You don't have to get new clothes). Just come!

***Blessings, Pastor Barb <>< Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105***

**NEED CHEAP MEALS?** Meat, vegetables, desserts, etc....  
Yummy, yummy.

Then call Rincon Church of God for the delicious meals menu for the month of August. You have choices like (July's menu): Signature box – beef, chicken, ham, tuna, pasta with sauce, carrots, potatoes, mild, eggs and dessert – for \$30.00. Senior/Convenience Box – 10 fully cooked meals - the portions are smaller but designed with Seniors in mind (3oz. of protein, a starch & 2 vegetables or fruit) for \$28.00. Allergen-free Box with just meat for \$25.00. Then there are “Special” boxes of meat, chicken, fresh fruit and veggies from \$20.00-\$23.00 depending on the “Special”.

Nothing is out-dated, old, second-handed, or spoiled. The meat is frozen. All you have to do is call **826-5927** for times the office is open. You pay when you put the order in. This is through **Angel Food Ministries**, who feeds America at a low price. Rincon Church of God answered God's calling to help Effingham County feed all his people. The menu is different every month. Let us help them do their ministry. There are pamphlets in the Narthex to help get you started on a healthy journey. **PLEASE take one**, look it over, then make the call. Share this information with your friends.

### **Lutheran World Relief Layette Kits**

The Mary/Martha's Bible Study is putting together Layette Kits for Lutheran World Relief. In refugee camps, hospitals and villages around the world, gifts of layettes convey a warm welcome to newborns and their mothers. Each kit includes:

- 2 Onesies (sizes up to 24 months)
- 2 gowns or sleepers without feet
- 2 receiving blankets
- 4 cloth diapers
- 1 sweater or sweatshirt
- 2 washcloths
- 1 bath sized bar (4-5oz.) of gentle soap in its original wrapping
- 2 diaper pins

Donations of gently used or new items can be placed in the basket in the entrance of the social hall. Monetary donations can be given to Amber Hall or Dana Lee Smith.

We invite interested ladies to join us as we assemble these kits. We'll meet at Amber hall's home at 6:30 pm on Monday, August 24th. Call 728-8487 for directions.

*Submitted by: Dana Lee Smith*

### ***Confirmation Classes Begin September 2, 2009***

All Youth who will be in 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades this Fall are eligible to attend confirmation classes this school year. The classes will be held every Wednesday evening, at 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., from September to May, 2010, with breaks for holidays and school closings. Pastor Barb will alternate the classes with Amber Hall. On 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, Amber Hall will teach the class following the meal. Pastor Barb will teach on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays.

Pastor Barb will be contacting all eligible youth and their parents to invite them to a brief organizational meeting to be held on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, immediately following the worship service in the Education Building.

Confirmation is one of the most important Rites of passage for our Lutheran Youth. Pastor Barb appreciates the necessary support and dedication of the parents of our Youth to encourage their commitment to participate fully in this most important step on their spiritual journey.

## Lutheran Youth Organization News

submitted by Dana Lee Smith

### July Highlights

In July the middle school youth enjoyed a kayaking trip down the Ogeechee River as we welcomed our newest 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Ten youth and four adults enjoyed experiencing "Jesus, Justice, Jazz" at the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. We'll share some of our experience in the September issue of Zionews.

### August Events

**Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> 8:00pm to 8:00am:**

Lock-In

All middle school and high school youth are invited to attend a lock-in at Zion. Join us for a night of fun and fellowship. There will be movies, games, snacks, laughter and fun. Please bring a chair, sleeping bag, pillow, etc. for stretching out during movie time. We'll also use this time to train new acolytes and crucifers and we'll have a refresher course for all others.

**Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> 9:45am:** Sunday School Promotion Sunday

Please make plans to start the school year off right by attending Sunday School. We will officially welcome our new 6<sup>th</sup> graders into our middle school Sunday school class. Everyone is encouraged to attend and see what Sunday School has to offer!

**Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> 12:15pm-7:00pm:** Beach Trip

Bring a sack lunch, your bathing suit and sunscreen to church. We'll eat, change after worship and then head to the beach. Bring a change of dry clothes and money for a fast food dinner on the way home. We'll call for parent pick up as we get close to home.

### Plan Ahead

Mark your calendars! Our 1st and 3rd Wednesday Bible Study program will resume again in September. Come join us as we enjoy games, music and Bible study. There will be separate studies for middle school and high school. Meals will start at 5:15pm each night. Please make meal reservations with Norma Ralph at 912-313-2465. Check Zionews for meal prices. Also, there will be a special youth/parent meeting in September. Details will be in September's Zionews.

*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.*

## Inquirers Class Begins

Inquirers Class is three sessions long, held during the Sunday School hour from 9:45 to 10:40 a.m. in the Education Building. You are welcome to participate in Inquirers Class even if you are not yet sure you wish to join Zion. The next sessions are August 9, 16, and 23 in preparation for the New Member Welcome during worship on August 30. The Rite of Baptism will take place that Sunday as well for those who have not been baptized. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Barb Koch.

### Who comes to Zion's Inquirers Class?

- ♦ **Newcomers** - Those who have questions about who we are and what we believe, and are wondering if God is calling them to join in the ministry of Zion to the world. Those who wish to make the commitment to discipleship are received into membership on the Sunday following the last class.
- ♦ **People whose children or teenagers have become involved** in our Sunday School, Faith Weavers After School Program, or Lutheran Youth Organization, and are interested in what Zion has to offer them as adults.
- ♦ **Non-member spouses, fiancés/ées, or friends of active members** who wish to join their friend or loved one in church membership.
- ♦ **Long-time participants** who have decided that they are now ready to make the commitment to join the congregation of Zion.
- ♦ **Inactive members of Zion** who have been out of touch lately, and want to find out what has been going on at Zion since they were last active.
- ♦ **Older youth who were previously confirmed** in another congregation.

*In short, Inquirers Class is for all sorts of people - and may be for you!*

**Inquirers Class** will give you an idea of who we are as a people of God, and will help you decide if you want to become an active participant in our life together here at Zion. The classes are also designed to help you begin to develop relationships with other participants and Pastor Barb, which is why we invite even those who are simply transferring their memberships from another Lutheran congregation to participate in the Inquirers Class. Topics to be covered include the History of Zion and the ELCA, why we worship as we do, what we as ELCA Lutherans believe, how our congregation operates, spiritual practices, stewardship as a way of life, and the many opportunities for worship, fellowship and service at Zion.

**OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO:**

Mark and Teresa Sikes and family on the death of his father, James Edward Sikes, Sr., on July 5th in Baxley, GA.

The family of Michael and Donna Wright on the death of her mother, Ann Ellrod, in Marianna, FL.

Christine Kirkland and family on the death of her father, "P.W." Price-Williams, on July 21st in Pembroke.

Melinda Heidt and family on the death of her sister, Geraldine Lathan, on July 25th in Savannah.

We pray God's comfort for those who grieve.

**THANK YOU NOTES:**

With graciousness and humbleness, my thanks goes out to the Zion Church family for all the support and love given to our family during Grant and Kelsey's engagement and marriage. I pray God's blessings to each of you for filling our hearts with joy and love.

In Christian Love, Joann Conaway

Dear Zion,

Thank you so much for the VBS offering you all gave to help send me to Camp Lutheridge this summer. It really helped me to grow closer to God!

With thanks, Benjamin Hamblin from Abundant Life Church



**Homecoming Worship and Picnic - September 13th**

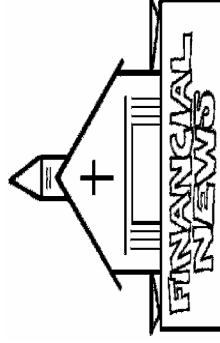
September 13th will be a Special Day at Zion.

Mark your calendars - call your family, friends, and neighbors and invite them to come and worship at Zion and stay for a planned meal following the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service.

Following the picnic-style lunch, we will have an assortment of games and activities for all to enjoy.

Around 3:00 in the afternoon, we will continue the day with homemade ice cream.

We want everyone to be comfortable - so the dress for the day should be casual - **Wear Picnic Attire!**



**June 2009 Treasurer's Summary Report**

Fund	General	Building	Memorial	Bus	Land
Balance	100.45	9,209.53	77,679.61	4,224.76	325,510.24
Income	10,244.12	340.18	736.00	-0-	1,407.03
Total	10,344.57	9,549.71	78,415.61	4,224.76	326,917.27
Expenses	11,611.11	-0-	1,313.75	460.49	2,825.15
Balance	<-1,266.54>	9,549.71	77,101.86	3,764.27	324,092.12

**Special Contributions and Funds**

ELCA Hunger Appeal	70.00	Manna House	-0-
Missionary Support	-0-	Southern Seminary	-0-
Treutlen House	-0-	Local Mission Account	11,340.12
LSG	-0-	Cemetery Fund CD	15,101.88
Abundant Life Church	1,000.00	Internship Fund CD	10,328.11

**TUNE IN TO THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY**

The Eleventh Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA is August 17-23. ELCA members can keep abreast of the assembly by:

- Keeping up to date with pre-assembly materials as they are posted on [www.elca.org/assembly](http://www.elca.org/assembly), and plan to "attend by Web" as plenary sessions are streamed live online. If you miss a plenary session, you'll be able to view the sessions "on demand" as well. There will be plenty of associated Web items also, such as photos and news conferences, which will also be streamed live.
- Subscribing to the ELCA News Service to receive the news releases as they are published at [www.elca.org/news](http://www.elca.org/news).

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH Congregation Council Meeting Highlights - Draft July 12, 2009

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

### Reports

The Minutes from the June 7, 2009 Congregation Council Meeting were approved as corrected.

The Pastor's Report was reviewed.

The Treasurer's Report for June 2009 was reviewed.

### Committees

1. Property: The committee has received an estimate to modifying the Narthex attic space to accommodate the sound system to provide the technician better access to the board. The Air Conditioning ducts in the church attic space are not insulated. The committee will get cost estimates for insulating the ducts.
2. Property: The replacement of entry locks and deadbolts on the Pastor's Office and several other doors in the church building has been completed.
3. Finance: The committee reported the June 2009 funds received were approximately \$3,000.00 less than the current financial obligation for June. The Benevolence was not paid in full. Council approved a motion to transfer the remaining balances from the Katrina Fund and the Call Fund to the General Fund and to borrow the additional funds needed to meet the financial obligations from the Internship Fund.

### Unfinished Business

1. Council approved changing the previously approved Heritage Sunday on September 13<sup>th</sup> to a Homecoming Picnic Sunday with a planned meal and activities following the meal.
2. Council approved a meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup> following the 11:00am Worship Service to provide the congregation with an opportunity to discuss the resolutions from the June 2009 SE Synod Assembly.

### New Business

1. Council approved a motion that Zion participate in a Joint Project with the Lutheran Congregations in Effingham County to purchase a used van from the "old Jail Museum" for the Maritime Bethel ministry. Zion will make a donation of \$500.00 towards the purchase of the van.
2. Council approved receiving a Love Offering during the month of August to help cover the funeral expenses of Ann Ellrod, who recently passed away. Ms. Ellrod was a member of Zion.

*Phyllis Heidt, Secretary*

## **Mark your calendar!**

With school beginning August 5<sup>th</sup>, we have several special events coming up related to the school year.

- On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will have the "Blessing of the Backpacks" during our worship service. Students are encouraged to bring their backpacks for this event to kick off the new school year.
- The following Sunday, on August 9<sup>th</sup>, we will have Sunday School Promotion at the start of Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. We hope all will attend, especially those entering kindergarten and middle school who will receive their Bibles.
- Our regular first and third Wednesday programs will kick off on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Children's Choir will meet after school.
  - Faith Weavers for children kindergarten through fifth grade will meet from 4:30 until 5:15.
  - Our dinner will start with the Faith Weavers delivering the blessing at 5:15 and will continue to be served until 6:30. Please let Norma Ralph know by Sunday, August 30th, if you plan to eat dinner.
  - At 6:00, LYO will get together until 7:30. Students who are part of the Confirmation Class will meet with Amber Hall as a part of the LYO program.
  - Starting at 6:15, Pastor Barb will be leading an Adult Study program based on the new Nooma Videos. The Adult Program will end by 7:00.

Please let Sherri Pittman know if you will need child care during the adult program so it can be arranged, if needed. The Adult Choir will meet as usual at 7:00 p.m.

As you can see, there is something for everyone! Hope to see you there!



September 2nd - 1st & 3rd Wednesday programs and meal begin

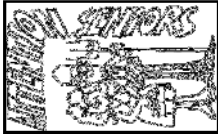
September 13th - Homecoming Sunday

September 18th-20th - WELCA Southeastern Synod Convention in Savannah  
September 24th - Blood Drive ?

## SENIOR CITIZENS

What an interesting presentation **Susan Exley** and **Charlie Arnsdorff** made at our July meeting on what projects the Historic Effingham Society is now involved. Their Living History site in Springfield has had a number of old buildings moved in for visitors to see and understand how our ancestors lived in early Effingham. Thank you to **Charlie & Melinda Heidt** and **Ethel Fetzer** for preparing the delicious meal that 41 people enjoyed. Thank you also to the others who brought food and helped clean up afterwards.

Since folks are needing toilet paper, we will help them out by playing Bingo at our August meeting. The meal will be provided – so come on out for some good food and fun on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m.



### Worship Service Volunteer Opportunities

We are delighted to have so many people actively participating in our worship service. This helps make the worship more meaningful for us all, as well as giving you an opportunity to use your special gifts in service to the Lord.

The committee realizes that everyone has different talents, likes, dislikes, and time constraints. In an effort to match members with the weekly worship service opportunities they most enjoy, members of the Worship and Music committee are calling folks in the congregation to ask, "Would you like to serve the Lord by volunteering to fill one or more of the following worship roles?"

- Nursery Attendant
- Special Needs Nursery Attendant
- Greeter
- Usher
- Communion Assistant

If you have not yet been contacted and are interested in serving in one of these areas, please call Gail in the Office at (912) 728-3430 or Phyllis Heidt at (912) 728-3077.

We are truly grateful for the time devoted by all volunteers at Zion, not just those who volunteer in Worship!

Thank you, the Worship and Music Committee

Serving in August						
Date	Flowers	Acolyte *	Crucifer *	Assisting Minister	Nursery	Communion Servers
Aug. 2 (G)	Margaret Hall	Jadelyn Kopf	Melissa Kopf	Andy Dasher	TBA Jordan Jackson	Katie Pittman
Aug. 9 (G)	Barbara Barton	Jordan Jackson	Jonathan Jackson	Dana Lee Smith	Dawn Holton Harrold Wheeler, III	Kamie Wilson Katherine Ralph
Aug. 16 (G)	Cheire Burns	Harrold Wheeler, III	Andrew Kessler	Jadelyn Kopf	Karen Hall Melissa Lowe	Brent Fisher
Aug. 23 (G)	Sheila Windham	Megan Edwards	Cassidy Edwards	Sherr Pittman	Phyllis Heidt Colby Conaway	Dick and Mary Lou Barnes
Aug. 30 (G)	Martell Hall	Katherine Ralph	Kamie Wilson	Melissa Osteen	TBA Lauren Chapman	Joann Conaway

\* 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
August 3	Cassidy & Megan Edwards	Taylor Fountain	Contact Dana Lee Smith @ 728-3227 or 665-1377 by Wednesday of the week assigned
August 10	Ryan Pittman	Harrold Wheeler, III	
August 17	Lauren Chapman	Colby Conaway	
August 24	Bradley Hall	Melissa Lowe	
August 31	Andrew Kessler	Alex & Benji Peth	

Month of	Greeters	Ushers	Visiting Comm.
August	Teresa, Jonathan and Jordan Jackson	Craig Conaway Craig Pittman Herbert Warnell Ernest Zipperer	Joann Conaway Ann McDaniel

Women's Circles	Program	Place
Evening - Aug. 4th 7:00 pm	Sandra White	Home of Emma Lee Dasher 728-3222
Afternoon - Aug. 7th 2:00 pm	Shirley Wright	Church Education Building
Circle of Friends - Aug. 17th 7:00 pm	Norma Ralph	Church Education Building
Mary/Martha - Aug. 31st 6:30 pm	Elizabeth Ralph	Home of Amber Hall 728-8487

## Women of the ELCA News

By Melinda Heidt

Thanks to the 11 people who helped with the Effingham County Nursing Home Birthday party on June 16<sup>th</sup>. The residents were very appreciative of their party especially the piano music provided by Pastor Charles Thomas.

**SOAP!** Lutheran World Relief still needs soap. Please help fill the basket in the Social Hall entrance. A monetary donation for soap can be given to WELCA Treasurer, **Emma Lee Dasher**. Please make checks payable **Zion WELCA**.

### **DATES to Remember:**

**August 9<sup>th</sup>** WELCA Executive committee will meet at 6:30 PM Joint LMM and WELCA meeting at 7:00 PM  
Circle of Friends will have the program and LMM will host.

**September 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>:** WELCA Southeastern Synod Convention in Savannah, GA at the Inn at Ellis Square. The Theme is "In One Spirit". You may register for Saturday only for \$65.00 which covers both lunch and the Low Country Boil at Captain Butlers. Mail in your registration soon.

All ladies of the congregation are encouraged to attend one of the (4) WELCA Circles. The meeting dates and times are listed on the newsletter Calendar.

### **LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION**

The Lutheran Men in Mission meet for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. on the fourth Sunday of the month. Come join in the fellowship of brothers in the Lord.

Just two things...

- **September's Zionews Deadline:** August 16th is this month's deadline. I will be trying to complete Zionews before I leave on 8/25 for vacation.
- The office will be closed from 8/25-9/7 so I may participate in our families' celebrations.

To contact me, you may call the office, leave a note in my box or on my desk, or email me at [secretary@zionlutheranga.org](mailto:secretary@zionlutheranga.org) with changes, information, or articles.

Thanks for your help... *God*

## Children's Choir

Submitted by Melinda Heidt

It is almost time for 2009 – 2010 school year to begin. We hope you had a great summer vacation and are ready to begin school and choir practice.

- The first practice will be September 2<sup>nd</sup> with Faithweavers following choir. Please remember to send your notes to Sandhill, Blandford and South Effingham Elementary Schools giving your child permission to be picked up by a parent. Marlow Elementary children will ride the bus.
- All children who will be in kindergarten through fifth grade are welcome and encouraged to join the choir. We will begin practicing for our Christmas musical. The Christmas program will be on December 13<sup>th</sup>.
- We are looking forward to another wonderful year working with the children as they learn to sing praises to our God. If you have a question please contact Melinda Heidt at 728-3288.

**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.**

### **2009 WELCA SOUTHEASTERN CONVENTION NEEDS!**

1. Lutheran Services of Georgia/Savannah is the recipient of our **2009 In-Kind Gathering donations**.

a. **Bring DIAPERS, UNDERSHIRTS, INFANT HATS AND**

**NIGHTGOWNS (ALL INFANT SIZES)**. This

will help LSG provide their infants with basic supplies when parents and foster parents are unable to afford them.

2. Please remember that our 2009-2010 Love Offering will be going to prison ministries for women in Georgia. A portion of the offering will provide a much needed communion table/baptistery to replace the multi-use table currently being used at Pulaski State Prison for Women in Hawkinsville, Georgia. The clinical chaplain ministers to approximately 1200 to 1225 female inmates. On an average 6 to 8 baptisms are performed each month at Pulaski.

Please remember to give as you feel God is calling you to do.



Women  
of the  
**EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
IN AMERICA**

# Calendar page