



ZIONEWS

February 2010 Zion Lutheran's Monthly Newsletter

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Living Bible...

I read a story on the internet that really touched my heart, and I'd like to share it with you. It goes like this:

His name is Bill. He has wild hair, wears a t-shirt with holes in it, jeans, and no shoes. This is his entire wardrobe as he goes to college. He is very, very bright. He became a Christian while attending classes. Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, very conservative church. They want to develop a ministry to students, but are not sure how to go about it. One day, Bill decides to worship there. He walks in with no shoes, wearing his jeans and t-shirt, with that wild hair. The service has already started and so Bill starts down the aisle looking for a seat. The church is completely packed, and he can't find a place to sit. People are looking a little uncomfortable, but no one says anything. Bill gets closer and closer to the pulpit, and when he realizes there are no seats, he just squats down right up front on the carpet. (This is fine for college fellowship, but trust me, this has never happened in this church before!)

By now the people are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick. The preacher looks up and sees that from the back of the church, a deacon is slowly making his way toward Bill. Now, the deacon is in his eighties, has silver hair, and a three-piece suit. He is a godly man, very elegant, very dignified, very courtly. He walks with a cane, and as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he is going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and background to understand some college kid on the floor? It takes a long time for the deacon to reach the boy. The church is utterly silent except for the thumping of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on him. No one even breathes. The preacher can't preach the sermon until the deacon does what he has to do. And, now, they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, he lowers himself and sits down on the floor next to Bill so he won't have to worship alone.

There wasn't a dry eye in the place! When the preacher finds his

Address Service Requested



Zion Lutheran Church

121 Noel C. Conaway Road

Guyton, GA 31312-5735

Office Phone: (912) 728-3430

Web page: www.zionlutheranga.org

Pastor Barbara Koch

voice again, he says, "What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget. Be careful how you live.", he tells them. "You may be the only Bible some people ever read."

When I first read this story, it brought tears to my eyes. It still does. It brings a lump to my throat to think of how much like Jesus the deacon in this story has become. *Jesus loves people!* Jesus loves *all* people! Jesus looks at all of us with the eyes of love. Jesus sees *beyond* our outward appearances and all of our disguises, and knows and loves us as we really are. Jesus gets down on the floor with us so we don't *ever* have to be alone.

I want to be able to love people like that! I want to be able to love people so much that I can't see the place where they end and Christ begins. I want to be his eyes, his hands, his feet with which he changes the world. I want to love as Jesus loves, so that if I *am* the only Bible some people ever read, they get the right message –

Jesus loves you!

Come. Let's learn how to love each other that much...together.

Pastor Barb <><

Bible study opportunities will be available for middle school and high school youth. All youth are encouraged to make this your special offering during the Lenten season. This is a great opportunity to give more of yourself to God and spend more time in studying His word. Please see the special newsletter article for more information.

Plan Ahead - March

Wednesday, March 3rd 6:00pm-7:30pm: Youth Bible Study

Friday, March 12th - Sunday, March 14th: All GA

The bus will leave Zion at 5:00pm on Friday and return by 6:00pm on Sunday.

We'll call as we get close to home. Youth will need money for a fast food meal on Friday, offering during Sunday worship and a sit down meal on Sunday.

Wednesday, March 17th: Youth Bible Study Canceled - No School!!!!

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.



Children's Choir

Submitted by Melinda Heidt

Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper - February 17th!

Come join us for Zion's *Annual Pancake Supper!* Dinner will be served from 5:15 p.m. through 6:15 p.m., followed by our **Ash Wednesday**

Communion Service at 7:00 p.m. There is no cost for the dinner but we will be accepting donations for the Lutheran World Relief effort for the crisis in Haiti. Circle of Friends is organizing this event with lots of help from the other women's circles. Come join us for a time of fellowship followed by the Ash Wednesday Communion Service as we prepare our hearts for Lent.

Scout Sunday

Scout Sunday will be celebrated February 7th at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The Scouting program, promoted by our Lutheran Church Men, will be recognized and members and leaders will process as part of the service. The Scout organization at Zion enjoys a very active group of leaders and participants. Zion appreciates the dedicated Boy and Girl Scout leadership and members!

Lutheran Youth Organization

News

submitted by Dana Lee Smith

January Highlights

Youth and leaders worked on planning events for the year.

Thanks to all youth and parents who attended the brief youth/parent meeting. We enjoyed lunch out and had fun playing laser tag at Frames 'N' Games in Pooler.

February Events

Wednesday, February 3rd 6:00pm-7:30pm: Youth Bible Study

The meal begins at 5:15pm. Bible study begins at 6:00pm. Come join us and bring a friend!!

Sunday, February 7th 11:00am Worship: Souper Bowl Sunday

We are participating in the National "Souper Bowl of Caring". Each year thousands of youth across the United States collect donations for local charities on the day that most in our country spend money on the Super Bowl football game. We'll collect donations for Manna House in Rincon. Youth will collect money after Sunday School and after worship.

Sunday, February 7th 6:00pm-9:00pm: Super Bowl Party

Come join an evening of football, cool commercials and fun! Pizza and drink will be provided. Bring your favorite snacks and desserts to share. Also, bring any fun games you have and bring a friend!!

Wednesday, February 17th 5:15pm: Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper

This is a special meal and fellowship planned in place of our regular 3rd Wednesday program. Donations for Lutheran World Relief - Haiti Crisis will be collected. Following the meal, everyone is invited to participate in our traditional Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00pm.

Sunday, February 21st 5:00pm-6:30pm: Lent Program

Friday, February 26th Saturday 27th 8:00pm-8:00am: Zion Lock-in

All middle school and high school youth are invited to attend an 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. Please plan to join us and bring a friend

Sunday, February 28th 5:00pm-6:30pm: Lent Program

Evening Lent Programs

Sunday evening Lent programs will begin on Sunday, February 21st and conclude on Sunday March 21st. Each program will begin at 5:00pm and end at 5:45pm. A fellowship meal is scheduled from 5:45pm to 6:30pm each night. Special video

Souper Bowl Sunday

Zion's LYO will participate in "Souper Bowl" Sunday again this year on February 7th. This year marks the 21st year of Souper Bowl of Caring. It all started with this simple Souper Bowl Sunday prayer from a youth group in Columbia, SC:

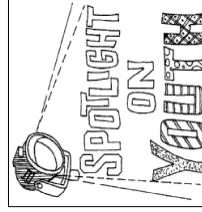
"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."

Over the past 21 years, more than \$50 million has been raised in cash and food for organizations that fight hunger. From a simple prayer and a single youth group, the Souper Bowl of Caring has become a powerful nationwide movement that touches more lives each year. Please help us to continue sharing God's love with those in need. All donations collected at Zion will go to Manna House. Please bring a few extra dollars for the soup pot and support our youth!

Sunday Evening Lenten Programs

Submitted by: Worship & Music Committee

- This year our evening Lent programs will have a church "family" focus. We hope that you will use this time as an opportunity for new beginnings as we grow in faith.
- Each program will begin at 5:00pm in the education building.
- After a brief opening, families with children up to 5th grade are invited to explore activity centers with a Lenten theme in the children's Sunday School area.
- Middle school and high school youth will have the opportunity to explore God's word through a video lesson.
- Adults will have the opportunity to connect with each other through an interactive Bible study.
- A special offering for Lutheran World Relief - Haiti Crisis will be collected each week.
- A fellowship meal will begin at 5:45pm each Sunday evening. The meal on February 21st will be pizza and salad. A sign up sheet for drinks and desserts will be available on the entrance table in the education building and church building.
- There will be five Lenten Sunday programs beginning on February 21st and ending on March 21st.



Change of address:

Mr. and Mrs. David Osteen Justin Corvin
1862 Low Ground Road 5656 Via Romano Drive, Apt. D
Guyton, GA 31312 Charlotte, NC 28270-6956

Leona "Chubby" Helme room phone # 912.754.1670
Effingham County Nursing Home
Room 334 A
PO Box 386
Springfield, GA 31329



Our Sympathy to:

Linda and Joe Kelly, Mary Kelly, Amanda Kelly and Michelle Smith and family on the tragic death of beloved son and brother, **Stephen Ellis**, in a plane accident near Chicago on January 5th.

The family and friends of **Ruth Griner** who died on Wednesday, January 13th. Graveside services were held at Zion on January 16th.

Congratulations:

To **Mitzi Salter** who was chosen *Employee of the Year* for the Surgery Department of Memorial Medical Center. She will be awarded a free cruise.

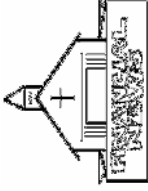
Help Wanted

We're looking for volunteers to serve the Lord by filling one or more of the following worship roles.

- Nursery Attendant**
- Greeter**
- Usher**
- Communion Assistant**

If you would like to serve in one of these areas, please contact Emma Lee Dasher at 728-3222 or Gail in the office at 728-3430. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Just a reminder... Communion registration must be done once a year. The first time you commune in 2010, please fill out a communion card and place it in the offering plate. Families can list all names on one card.



December 2009 Treasurer's Summary Report

Fund	General	Building	Memorial	Bus	Land
Balance	11.82	8,921.46	74,622.63	3,281.27	322,705.12
Income	10,848.00	2,293.41	-0-	-0-	1,751.62
Total	10,859.82	11,214.87	74,622.63	3,281.27	324,456.74
Expenses	10,855.86	-0-	400.00	20.00	2,825.15
Balance	3.96	11,214.87	74,222.63	3,261.27	321,631.59

Special Contributions and Funds

ELCA Hunger Appeal	40.00	Manna House	22.00
Benevolence	490.00	Southern Seminary	-0-
Treutlen House	10.00	Local Mission Account	6,484.12
LSG	-0-	Cemetery Fund CD	15,557.71
Abundant Life Church	1,000.00	Internship Fund CD	1,868.11

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION BREAKFAST, FEB. 28!

The men of Zion Lutheran Church invite everyone to enjoy a delicious breakfast at 8:45 a.m. and stay for Sunday School afterwards. This is a great time of fellowship for you and your family, and to see what the LMM is all about. Thank you to all who came out and enjoyed breakfast last month! If you are interested in finding out more about LMM, see **Craig Pittman**.

ZIONEWS Deadline for March-February 14th!

The season of Lent is upon the church with all of the opportunities for worship. Since February is such a short month, I will need articles early to get the newsletter out on time. Thanks to everyone who helped get this month's articles in so quickly during the annual transition. Thanks, also, to my faithful monthly helpers ... *Gail*

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Organizational Meeting Highlights - Draft
 January 17, 2010

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

Elections

Council Chairman: Joe Studier
 Council Secretary: Louise Sebastian

Standing Committees

Council Member Committee Placement:
 Christian Education – Brett Vandenhouten
 Evangelism – Amber Hall, Laurie Langston
 Finance/Stewardship – Charlie Heidt, Phyllis Heidt, Joe Studier
 Property/Cemetery – Jeff Heidt, Bruce Peth, Craig Conaway
 Social Ministry – Craig Pittman
 Worship & Music – Louise Sebastian, Dana Lee Smith

Reviewed and finalized the 2010 Committee/Council/Congregation Meeting Calendar dates and times.

Sherri Pittman, Secretary

1st and 3rd Wednesday

Zion's mid-week program will meet on February 3rd and Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper on the 17th. Please come and enjoy the meal, fellowship, Bible study. A wise man said "A family that eats together, stays together."

- 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.
- 6:00-7:30 p.m.....Confirmation Class
- 6:00-7:30 p.m.....Youth (Grades 6-12) Bible studies
- 6:15-7:00 p.m.....Adult Bible Study with Pastor Barb...meal may be eaten during study

We are encouraging everyone to attend, even if you have not made reservations. See you there. Any questions or to make reservations call **Norma Ralph (912) 313-2465**.

Thanks:

You've been great! Thank you so much for your kindness this year in giving our family a check to help with our Christmas this year. Our children were very happy on Christmas and that is because of your generosity. The people of Zion Lutheran Church are wonderful and we felt so blessed that y'all chose to help us in our time of need. Prayers were answered and we wanted to let you all know how much we appreciated your kindness. **Gary and Terri Bryant**

Thanks to everyone for your calls, visits, flowers and prayers during my recent hospitalization and transfer to Effingham County Nursing Home. I am very blessed to have such a wonderful church family. Come to see me in my "new home".
 With Love, **Leona "Chubby" Helmey**

Thanks to everyone for your wonderful compassion and care to Ruth. The prayers, food and visits during her years of being home-bound were so much appreciated. The soup and sandwiches after the funeral were wonderful and the red silk roses for the grave site were beautiful. (She loved red!)

Sincerely, **Gail, Ruth's family, and friends**

Habitat for Humanity sent a letter of thanks to Zion Congregation for the donations made during the past year - the LMM and WELCA each sent \$200.00, the Angel Tree sales of \$505.65, and Thrivent's matching \$250.00, making a total of \$1155.65. The dedication of the house at 826 Magnolia Street, Guyton on February 7th is at 4:00 p.m. All are invited to this event to bless this house for Ms. Thomas and her daughter.

Manna House Ministries, Inc. has acknowledged the 137.30 hours of volunteer time by members of Zion Lutheran Church. Director, Lisa Bush, sends thanks for the dedication of Zion's volunteers - Norma Ralph, Mary Lou and Charles Thomas, Katie Pittman, and the LYO participants - and continued support from the church family.

Dates still remain for altar flowers in 2010.
 Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex.



The annual congregational meeting of Zion Lutheran Church was held on Sunday, January 10, 2010, at 4:05 p.m. after the voter registration was completed. There were 61 voting members present at the meeting. The meeting was called to order by Congregation Vice President, Charlie Heidt. Pastor Barbara Koch led the opening devotions. Charlie Heidt presided over the meeting.

The Pastor's Report was reviewed.

Council members elected were as follows:

Four year terms: Charlie Heidt, Dana Lee Smith, Brett Vandenhouten

Three year terms: Laurie Langston, Craig Pittman

Two year term: Bruce Peth

One year terms: Jeff Heidt, Louise Sebastian

Other elected officers were as follows:

Congregation Vice President: Charlie Heidt

Congregation Secretary: Sherri Pittman

Sunday School Superintendent: Teresa Sikes

Sunday School Assistant Superintendent: René Atkinson

Sunday School Secretary: Cheryl Pannal

Sunday School Treasurer: Dana Smith

Bill and Laurie Langston were elected Observers for Conference & Synod Assembly 2010 and delegates for 2011.

Craig and Sherri Pittman were elected in 2009 to be the delegates for Conference & Synod Assembly for 2010.

The Minutes of the 2009 Congregational Meetings held on January 11, 2009 (Annual Meeting), February 1, 2009 (Called Meeting), September 27, 2009 (Called Meeting), November 15, 2009 (Ebenezer Trustees Election), December 6, 2009 (Called Meeting), and December 19, 2009 (Called Meeting) stand, as approved by the Congregation council.

The proposed Constitution revisions were unanimously approved.

The Report of the Ebenezer Trustees was reviewed.

The membership report for 2009 was reviewed

The 2009 Financial Statement was reviewed. The recommended "Working Budget for 2010" with the addition of \$1,820.00 for the youth to clean the church was approved with no opposing votes.

The Reports of the Standing Committees and organizations were reviewed and approved as printed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer and the Doxology.

Phyllis Heidt, Secretary

Serving in February						
Date	Flowers	Acolyte *	Crucifer *	Assisting Minister	Nursery	Communion Servers
Feb. 7 (G)	Sheila Windham	Luke Dasher	Alex Peth	Sean Vandenhouten	Brooke Burns	Laurie Langston
Feb. 14 (W)	Emma Lee Dasher	Autumn Conaway	Ryan Pittman	Dana Lee Smith	Jenny Ulliman	Brooke Burns
Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday				Sherri Pittman	Dawn Holton	Gloria Sheppard
Feb. 21 (F)	Judy Hart	Megan Edwards	Cassidy Edwards	Sean Vandenhouten	Katie Sikes	Brett and Misti Vandenhouten
Feb. 28 (P)	Melinda Heidt	TBA	Ryan Pittman	Dana Lee Smith	Theresa Mobley	Dawn Holton
* 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
February 1	Ryan Pittman	Autumn Conaway	Contact Dana Lee Smith @ 728-3227 or 665-1377 by Wednesday of the week assigned
February 8	*****No Youth Assigned*****		
February 15	Justin & Luke Dasher	Alex & Benji Peth	
February 22	*****No Youth Assigned*****		

Month of	Greeters	Ushers	Visiting Comm.
February	James and Mary Johnson	Cheryl Pannal Francis Ralph Teresa Sikes Joe Studier	Norma Ralph Ollie Mae Zipperer

Women's Circles	Program	Place
Evening February 9th-7:00 p.m.	Emma Lee Dasher	Home of Barbara Smith - 728-3638
Afternoon February 12th-2:00 p.m.	Bessie Studier	Church Education Building
Circle of Friends Feb. 15th-7:00 p.m.	Norma Ralph	Church Education Building
Mary/Martha February 1st-6:15 p.m.	Dinner Out	Contact Dana Lee Smith 728-3227

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH Congregation Council Meeting Highlights - Draft January 3, 2010

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

A member appeared before council and requested an update on the request made at the December 6, 2009 meeting for the resignation of council members, who are not participating at Zion.

A member appeared before council and wanted to know who decides the disposition of donated items that are not currently being used by the congregation. Council is responsible for the disposition of all assets.

Reports

The Minutes from the December 6, 2009 Congregation Council Meeting were approved as printed.

The Minutes from the Called Congregation Meeting on December 6, 2009 were approved as printed.

The Minutes from the Called Congregation Meeting on December 19, 2009 were approved as printed.

The Pastor's Report was reviewed.

The Treasurer's Report for December 2009 was reviewed.

Committees

1. Finance: The Budget for the 2010 Annual Meeting is a best guess and will be reviewed each quarter, and adjusted if necessary.
2. Thomas Kessler submitted his resignation as Congregation Treasurer effective January 10, 2010. The Finance Committee recommended Phyllis Heidt to be the Congregation Treasurer. Council approved a motion for Phyllis Heidt to be Treasurer effective at the end of the Congregation Annual Meeting on January 10, 2010.

New Business

1. 2010 Congregation Annual Meeting: Five (5) council members submitted their resignation. Those resigning were Roy Clifton, Richard Hall, Ann Lowe, David Osteen, and Herbert Warnell.
2. 2010 Congregation Annual Meeting: Council approved the meeting agenda as revised to address resignations.

Phyllis Heidt, Secretary

Zion Lutheran Church Annual Congregation Meeting January 10, 2010

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

Women of the ELCA News

By Dana Lee Smith

As we begin a new year, we would like to say thanks to the entire congregation for your continued support with all the activities we do at Zion. We invite all ladies to participate in any of our circles and WELCA activities. Please check the calendar for dates, times and places of our monthly meetings and activities. One of our continuous projects is the collection of soap for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR is already at work in Haiti. Everyone is invited to help us by keeping the "soap" basket full. The basket is located in the entrance of the education building. There is a daily global need for soap and you can help! If you would like more information about Zion's Women of the ELCA please contact Dana Lee Smith at 728-3227.



- February 26th - LYO Lock-in at Zion
- March 5th - World Day of Prayer at Marlow Methodist
- March 7th - Zion Worship at Effingham County Nursing Home
- March 12th - All GA Youth Event in Covington, GA

SENIOR CITIZENS

Meredith Arnsdorff, an Assistant Superintendent in the Effingham County School System, was the guest speaker at our January meeting. She updated everyone on how our tax dollars and other funding are being used to help our county continue to rank high in Georgia in education. Thirty-seven folks enjoyed her presentation and the meal prepared by **Charlie & Melinda Heidt** & their helpers. Thank you to all who helped provide the meal.

The February meeting will be on Wednesday, the 24th, at 11:30 a.m. Bingo will be played so everyone can win some much needed items like toilet paper!! Come on out & bring a friend for good food & fellowship. The meal will be provided.

Calendar Page