



Zion Lutheran Church's On the HORIZON

Volume 25, Issue 2

February 2009

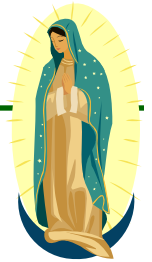


Lent Begins February 25, 2009 — Ash Wednesday

We will begin our Lenten journey on February 25 with an Ash Wednesday liturgy at 7 p.m. Ashes will also be available in the morning from 7-8 a.m. at the altar. The solemn service includes the administration of an ash cross upon the forehead, for those who desire it.

These words accompany the smudge of ash, *“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”* To assist in your Lenten discipline at 7:45 and 10:00 a.m. each Sunday, there will be a time for corporate confession and individual absolution at the altar. This early beginning will give more time for prayer and preparation for worship. Start your Lenten journey a little early at Zion on Sunday, March 1 until March 29 at 7:45 and 10:00 a.m. **Join us at Zion as we begin a new walk with God.**

Leadership Insights from Biblical Women Bible Study



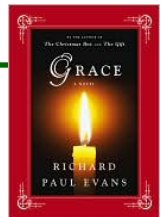
Join Vicar Olsen for a four part series highlighting leadership insights from Biblical Women. The Bible study will conclude on the following Thursday nights at 7pm: February 5th and 12th. Bring your Bibles!

New Book Club Selections



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

“Change of Heart” by Jodi Picoult is the next book we’ll be reading for our Book Club. Begin reading the book now and join us on Thursday, February 26 at 7 p.m. for a discussion. Coming up on March 26 at 7 p.m.—a discussion of “Grace” by Richard Paul Evans.



Souper Bowl of Caring

Please consider donating \$1 as you leave worship on Saturday and Sunday, January 31 & February 1. Your donation, combined with those from other congregations and organizations, raises millions of dollars for hungry people!



Bake & Carnation Sale—February 7 & 8



We are celebrating Valentine’s Day early! There will be a bake sale and carnation sale February 7 after the 4 p.m. service and February 8 at 9 a.m.

We are looking for bakers — anyone who would like to bring an item in can find the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place or call Dawne Cappellino at 793-0278. Items can be brought to church on Saturday February 7 at 4:00 or on Sunday, February 8

at 8:30.

Funds raised will go toward the LOVE Fund. Thank you so much for your support!

Pastor's Corner



In just a few days I will be traveling to Israel. This gift was made possible by the Knights Templar organization. I will be leaving on February 9 and returning on Feb. 19. Please keep me in your prayers as I travel. Here is a tentative schedule of my travels. I hope to use my blog, jamesdeb-

ner.blogspot.com, as a means to share my thoughts and some pictures along the way.

DAY 1-Feb. 9 Mon. Depart NY, for Tel Aviv, Israel

DAY 2 Tue. Arrive at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport Go to your hotel in Tel Aviv. En-route stop at Joppa, the ancient port city to view the home of Simon the Tanner. Overnight: Tel Aviv, Israel

DAY 3 Wed. Drive north along the coastal road to Caesarea, built by Herod the Great. It was here that Peter was imprisoned for two years. Visit the Crusader's fortress and Roman ruins. On to mount Carmel to visit the Carmelite monastery. Lunch at Megiddo before visiting the ancient chariot city of King Solomon and Ahab. Drive to Mt. Tabor where we will pick up taxi's to get us to the top of the mountain to visit the Church of the Transfiguration. Continue to the Sea of Galilee for dinner and overnight.

Overnight: Galilee, Israel

DAY 4 Thur. This morning we will visit the Mount of Beatitudes, traditional site of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Then we continue to Tabgha, site of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fish and proceed to Caapernaum, the center of Jesus' Ministry in the Galilee. Our next visit will be to the town of Gergesa (Kursi). It is here that Jesus healed two demon possessed men, the demons joined a herd of pigs and rushed down into the Sea of Galilee. Today we will also enjoy a St. Peter fish meal followed by a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee to Tiberias. Next we will visit the site of the baptism at the river Jordan before returning to our kibbutz a visit to the ancient boat from the time of Jesus.

Overnight: Galilee, Israel

DAY 5 Fri. Drive to Cana of Galilee, where Jesus performed his first miracle. Continue to Nazareth, visit the Church of the Annunciation, Joseph's Workshop, and Mary's Well. Lunch at Mizra. On to Beit She'an, to see the excavations and visit the Roman theater. On to Jerusalem stopping in Ein Karem, the traditional birthplace of St. John the Baptist before checking into our hotel. Overnight: Jerusalem, Israel

DAY 6 Sat. We start our day with visit to the Western Wall and walk to the Temple mount area. Stop at St. Stephen's Gate which commemorates the place where the first Christian Martyr was stoned to death. Visit the Church of St. Anne and the Pool of Bethesda and follow Jesus' footsteps along the Via Dolorosa, reaching the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and Calvary. Stop for lunch in the old city before continuing to the Cardo. We will now make our way to Mt. Zion to visit the Upper Room and the Tomb of King David. Visit Dormition abbey and stop at the place where Peter denied Jesus—Peter in Galicanto. Overnight: Jerusalem, Israel

DAY 7 Sun. Day at leisure to visit any number of the churches in the area. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner at your hotel. Overnight: Jerusalem, Israel

DAY 8 Mon. Drive to the Mount of Olives and the Hill of the Ascension for a panoramic view of the Eternal City. Visit the

Chapel of the Ascension, the Pater Noster Church to see the Lord's Prayer in 53 languages. We proceed to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus was betrayed, followed by a visit to the Tomb of the Holy Virgin. We continue through the Valley of Kidron to the Pool of Siloah, Hezekiah's Tunnel and the Tombs of Absalom and Zachariah. Lunch at kibbutz Ramat Rachel. Then drive to Bethlehem. (Depending upon security situation) To the East we can see the Field of Ruth where Ruth, the Moabite, met Boaz. Adjacent to Bethlehem is Shepherd's Field - Grotto of the Nativity as well as the manger where Mary placed the Child at birth Overnight: Jerusalem, Israel

DAY 9 Tue. Drive south to the lowest point on earth, the Dead Sea. Drive via the Oasis of Ein Gedi and reach Sodom (in biblical times the city was destroyed by the Lord because of the sins of the inhabitants). Visit the Fortress of Massada the last stronghold of the Zealots in the war against the Romans. Lunch en-route. Continue to the Qumran Caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Overnight: Jerusalem, Israel

DAY 10 Wed. Drive to Yad Vashem, memorial to the six million Jewish martyrs of World War Two. Visit the Museum and walk along the Street of the Righteous, dedicated to the non-Jews who risked their lives during the Holocaust. Continue to the Israel Museum to see the shrine of the book and Scale Model of the Old City during the Second Temple Period. After lunch we will continue to the Garden Tomb for a visit followed by communion. Return to your hotel and prepare for our departure this evening. Farewell dinner at our hotel. Overnight: Jerusalem, Israel

DAY 11 Thur. Feb. 19 Arrive JFK at approximately 06:00am

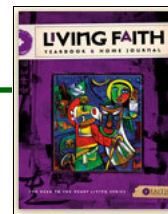
Thank You

Dear Zion Members and Friends,

Your kind expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged after the death of my father, Duane Hanna. It is no surprise that our church family at Zion would be so generous and so compassionate at this challenging time. Almost every day some one has shared a caring word or sent a thoughtful card since the accident. My family feels so blessed to have this community of loving Christians praying for us at this time. Please continue to keep my Mom, Betty Hanna, in your prayers as she enters this new chapter in her life.

Your gifts of food and memorials are such a comfort. What a joy to have Pastor by my side in Iowa when I said goodbye to my Dad. I realize that this also affected your holiday celebration. Thank you for being Christ to me. We know that every life is of value and at times like this it is important to reach out to others in our lives, that make life better. Life is so fragile. Don't live with regrets. Share a "Thank you and I love you" with someone in your life now. Thank you! The Peace of the Lord be with you all! Love, Barbara Debner

Confirmation



This year's program explores Martin Luther, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer.

February 8—Lord's Prayer—Our Father

February 15—Lord's Prayer—Hallowed

February 22—Lord's Prayer—Kingdom Come

Other important dates: January 30—February 1—Youth Quake in MA

February 1—Souper Bowl of Caring

Having It Both Ways

Last month I presented an article that was extracted entirely from “Giving to God”, a book by Pastor Mark Allan Powell. I've received a number of favorable comments about that article, so I'm going to use another quote from Pastor Powell's book as a preface for a challenge I'd like to make to all of our members.

*If there is one matter on which stewardship experts seem to have reached a consensus in recent years is that people should **give from their hearts** rather than **to a budget**. American congregations have been taught for half a century now that they should not present their budget needs to members and ask those members to give designated amounts to help meet those needs. The rationale for not doing so is that the best motivation for giving is love and gratitude for God rather than simply meeting obligations or helping the church to pay its bills. That point has taken hold so strongly that it has often been instituted in ways that deprive church members of any reliable standard for evaluating their giving. They might be naively contributing an amount that is far less than what they would be willing to give if only they had better information. ... Giving from the heart and to the budget are not mutually exclusive concepts and I am proposing that we do both. Here is my advice: first, estimate your proportionate share of the church's budget costs and contribute accordingly, even if there is a sense in which it seems like just paying bills or fulfilling an obligation. Once you have done this you will be in a position to move on to the next type of giving and to discover what “giving from the heart” really means.*

No matter what your current level of giving is I am asking every giving unit (a.k.a. people/families with envelopes) to do two things. First, if you are unable to attend services during the week, be sure to “catch up” the next time you do attend. If this Sunday you see that there are 3 envelopes from previous weeks still in your packet then you should make that shortfall up. You might find it easier to double up for 3 consecutive weeks rather than quadrupling your weekly amount, but the discipline of not throwing the old envelopes away until they have been caught up will serve as a visual reminder that you are behind schedule. (As a side note, the **Simply Giving**® plan makes this method of giving easy and relatively painless.). The second thing I am asking every giving unit to do is to increase their giving by \$3 per week (roughly the cost of a gallon of gas or a coffee and donut one day a week). If you currently give \$20 per week, make it \$23. If you currently give \$120 per week, make it \$123. If you currently give nothing per week (and there are a fairly large number of those), give \$3 per week. If every giving unit takes up both of these challenges we would: a) not have a budget deficit, b) we would not be forced to supplement our operating costs from the Apple Harvest Festival, c) we will be able to retire our mortgages early and, d) have enough to fully fund the capital repairs and improvement plans that were recently presented at the informational meetings.

Steve Long

Worship Servants for February

Date	Communion Assistants	Lectors	Ushers	Acolytes
2/1	Carra Rockwood (8) Nancy Benoit (10:15)	Jeanne Garrett (8) John Miller (10:15)	Peter Kurtz & Frieda Fries (8) Mike Babon & Doug Graham (10:15)	Reed Kroll (10:15)
2/8	Lisa Gentile (8) Bonnie Zownir (10:15)	Lee Sirotnak (8) Laura Webster (10:15)	Betty Lou Schweiger (8) Mike Kurtz & John Sirotnak (10:15)	Hannah Pelegano & Amanda Thompson
2/15	Barbara Welton (8) John Miller (10:15)	Michelle Gladue (8) Debbie Mauro (10:15)	John Darling (8) Steve Kroll & Doug Graham (10:15)	Reed Kroll (10:15)
2/22	Karin Thompson (8) Lee Sirotnak (10:15)	Linda Graham (8) John Miller (10:15)	Frieda Fries & Carra Rockwood (8) Steve & Nicholas Tosta (10:15)	
2/25		Carra Rockwood (7)		
Altar Guild in February: Nancy Benoit & Barbara Welton				

Bold Women's Day February 22

Lutheran women who act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ are everywhere and come from all walks of life. Some are professionals with careers. Some are homemakers and caregivers. Most volunteer many hours for both their church and community. Some are bold in conspicuous and visible ways while others are bold in quiet yet strong ways.

Bold Women's Day celebrates all the Lutheran women and the many and diverse ways in which they act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. We will join the ELCA in celebrating Bold Women's Day, on February 22, 2009.

Congregational Meeting January 25, 2008

Received Treasurers Report

Received Apple Harvest Report

Proposed to allocate: \$12,500 AH subsidy for budget; \$33,701 for budget shortfall; \$11,425 for missions; \$3,191.95 Youth trip deficit; \$3,353.90 Youth group deficit. The recommendation passed.

Allocation of Apple Harvest Funds:

*John Miller proposed allocating \$8,000 of the Apple Harvest Funds to the cost of a container pad for a trailer and another \$25,000 of the Apple Harvest Funds to the capital reserve fund. The second part of the proposal is to allocate \$25,000 from the \$43,412.88 Rainy Day Fund to the capital reserve fund. The recommendation passed.

Allocations from Capital Reserve Funds:

*John Miller made a recommendation to take action on the repairs to the parking lot in the amount of \$10,125, complete the parsonage main entry at a cost of \$2,500, and appropriate \$1,000 towards the fixing of the pews. The recommendation passed.

Other:

*A third recommendation was made by John Miller. The recommendation--\$2,590 be allocated from the General Missions Fund to pay the third installment of \$185 for everyone going on this year's mission trip. The recommendation passed.

Click on our

New “Calendar” Link

To see the most up-to-date

Info & events

On the Horizon is a monthly publication of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 531 Woodruff Street, Southington, CT 06489. Phone: 860-628-5759. Fax: 860-620-0742. Web: www.zionlutheranct.org. Email address: pastor@zionlutheranct.org or office@zionlutheranct.org. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and contributions. **Deadline for the newsletter is the third Thursday of the month.** Please call the church office to remove your name from the mailing list.

Zion is affiliated with the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, one of over 11,000 congregations in the ELCA.

We worship every Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and Sunday at 8:00 & 10:15 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated weekly at all services. Sunday School and Adult Study Hour: 9 a.m., except during the summer. Summer Sunday worship at 9 a.m.

Staff

The Rev. James Debner	Pastor
The Rev. Will Baumgartner	Asst. Pastor
Christopher Messner	Music Director
Barbara Debner	Nursery School Director
Diane Lamb	Parish Administrator
George Morales	Custodian

Council Officers

John Miller	President
Rich Suter	Vice President
Michelle Gladue	Secretary
John Kjellson	Treasurer
Mark Reider	Asst. Treasurer

Board of Directors

Steve Long	Financial Affairs
Carol Wright	Membership/Witness
Faith Kjellson	Worship/Music
Shawn Darling	Christian Fellowship
Peter Kurtz	Church Facilities
Dawne Cappellino	Christian Welfare
Beth Long	Christian Education

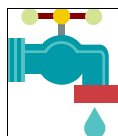
February 2009 Sermons

- February 1 Contenders of the Faith—Courage
 February 8 Contenders of the Faith—Resilience
 February 15 Guest Pastor
 February 22 Contenders of the Faith—Fatigue
 February 25 Ash Wednesday (7 p.m.)

Bells & Blessings Rescheduled to Spring

There will be a special meeting for all who are interested in participating in a Bells and Blessings event this Spring. Winter weather has influenced our Christmas concert, but we would like to begin planning and preparing for a Spring Easter Concert. If you would like to participate, please join us on Sunday February 22, 2009 at 9:15 am in the Gathering Place. We will discuss dates and planning information for the concert.

Broken Pipe in Gathering Place



On Friday, January 16, our janitor Jorge came to clean and found around two inches of water in the Gathering Place. A pipe had broken and water was running right into the Gathering Place. We shut off the water, called a plumber and a disaster cleaning company. Our insurance is monitoring the repair work. We hope to have everything back in place by mid February.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

On the *Horizon*

