

The Messenger



VOLUME XXXXI, NO. 1, JANUARY 2008

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Our mission

The mission of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School is to preach and teach God's saving Word in all its truth and purity.

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The Lord's Prayer

“For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.”

In the Lord's Prayer, I've asked my Father for some tremendous things. Can he come through? Will he? Yes, Jesus assures me. And then he tells me why. For—read that as because—the kingdom is his. That word kingdom refers me to God's grace and reminds me why I can pray so confidently. I can enter God's throne room without hesitation and expect to receive all that his Son has taught me to ask for. This confidence comes not from me but from what my Father has done for me in his Son. His grace in Christ Jesus has made me his dear child, who can always find room “on his lap.”

“Because yours is the power,” I continue. In Joshua's day, God's power stopped the sun in its tracks. In Paul's day it sprang open jailhouse doors. The One to whom I pray has power to raise the dead and pronounce forgiveness to the paralyzed. He has power to make Baptism's water cleanse souls and to couple his very body and blood with the bread and wine for the communicant. May his power draw me to his throne with confidence.

“Because yours is the glory,” I also pray. “I will deliver you, and you will honor [glorify] me,”

he tells me (Psalm 50:15). In the Lord's Prayer, I give God glory simply by asking him. I also give him glory by expecting him to answer me. And, finally, I give him glory when he does answer. To such a Father, I come with confidence. The kingdom and the power and the glory were his in eternity, are now, and ever shall be.

“Amen,” I conclude. This sweet word means “certainly, truly, surely it will be so.” With it I'm not questioning, “Will you, Lord?” but expressing the confidence, “You will, Lord!” “Amen” shuts the door to unbelief and doubt. It's telling my Father that I believe he has heard me and will grant what Jesus has taught me to ask in this prayer.

“The Amen People,” Luther once labeled believers. How can it be otherwise? In Jesus, I see God's great Amen, the One in whom he has fulfilled all his promises. In Jesus, I receive pardon for the past, power in the present, and promise of the future. My loving heavenly Father said amen first, in him. Now I can say it too.

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Pastor's Message

for the
NEW YEAR



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

A full ashtray. An unused exercise bike. A half-empty cookie jar. These items are familiar to us in mid to late

January. They are the evidence of failed New Year's resolutions. And they lead to other signs that we haven't kept our promises: a hacking cough and a few extra inches around the middle. We start out with the best of intentions. I'm going to stop smoking! I'm going to exercise more! I'm going to lose weight! But, more often than not, our bad habits win the battle with our good intentions. It's the same thing every year.

Thankfully, it's not the same thing with Jesus. We are told in Luke's Gospel that "Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem" (9:51). It wasn't the New Year, but Jesus made a resolution anyway. I'm going to Jerusalem! I'm going to die on the cross! I'm going to pay for the sins of all people! I'm going to rise again in victory! Jesus resolved to save us. More than that, he followed through. His holy wounds and empty grave mean forgiveness and life for us this year and every year.

As we enter the New Year we can do so with hearts bursting with the comfort and peace of his forgiveness. And, with our Savior's strength and in thanks for his love, we can make resolutions that are pleasing to him. I'm going to be in church every week! I'm going to come to Communion whenever it's offered! I'm going to join an adult Bible study! I'm going to read my Bible at home! I'm going to bring a generous, firstfruits offering for the Lord's work! I'm going to serve my neighbor in love! Yes, as Paul said, "[We] can do everything through him who gives [us] strength" (Philippians 4:13). A Christ-centered New Year to you all!

*In Him,
Pastor Sims*

Ladies Society

The next meeting of the Zion Ladies Society will be held on January 3rd at 2:00pm in the church basement. The entertainment will be a video. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to come for an afternoon of fellowship.

Thank you to all who donated items for the cheer baskets and to the volunteers who gathered to pack the baskets.



Ministrations In Memoriam

20. Anita Engel born March 19, 1928 and went to heaven December 1, 2007.

21. Myron Salzwedel born April 3, 1914 and went to heaven December 4, 2007.

Church Contributions

Contributions received on or before December 30th will be credited to 2007. Any contributions received after December 30th will be credited to 2008.

Your contribution box for 2008 is in the back of church. Please pick yours up if you haven't done so. If you cannot find yours, please talk to Judy Vick (623-3864).

Starting January 6th, the amount in the white Sunday envelope will be divided 80% to general fund, 15% to missions and 5% to Lakeside Operational. You need only write the total amount enclosed on the outside of the envelope. The financial secretary will figure the percentage. Money in all other envelopes will be distributed as you have written on the envelope (the same as in past years).

Lakeside Ladies Guild

The Lakeside Lutheran Ladies Guild will be meeting at Lakeside on January 9th at 7:00pm. The program for the evening will be a presentation by LPS students about their recent mission work through Project Timothy in the Baltic countries. Elections will also be held this evening. St. Paul, Lake Mills will be serving. The men are invited to attend. See you there!

Messenger Articles

Please submit your articles by January 18th. Contact Becky Weidner at 623-5796 if you have any questions.

Reporter Wanted

If you have ever been interested in writing or taking pictures, this is your chance. We are looking for volunteer reporters and photographers to help keep the congregation informed about the different activities and fellowship opportunities here at Zion. No experience is necessary, and all ages are welcome. Please contact Becky Weidner, 623-5796 or beakers222@hotmail.com, if you are interested in this fun opportunity.

Volleyball

Bump, set, spike! Monday night volleyball will begin on January

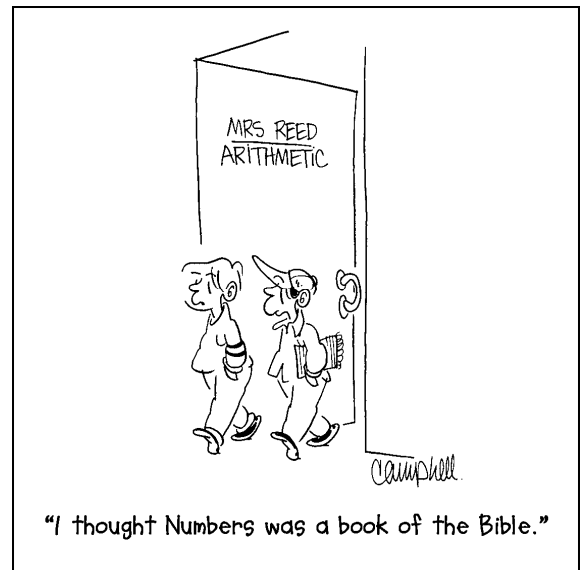
14th. Adults interested can come to the Zion School gym on Mondays at 7:00pm. Each night players are divided into two teams that play for an hour or two. It's a very informal gathering, and all skill levels are welcome. Call Sally Ebert with any questions, 623-4375.



School News

Regular School News will resume next month.

**Congratulations to the Ides
on the birth of their baby girl!**



January Birthdays

Lilly Lange	7th	93 years
Ruth Lienke	11th	80 years
Betty Donner	17th	81 years
Mildred Adkins	20th	87 years
Ruth Freck	22nd	83 years
Bernice Waterworth	27th	86 years



Treasurer's Report

Needed monthly—General Fund	\$41,215.75
General received in November	32,359.46
Needed monthly—Missions	6,000.00
Missions received in November	5,976.00
Transferred from Undesignated Funds.....	21,960.57
Disbursements in November	37,012.09
Checkbook balance November 30th.....	19,288.14

Summaries of other reports—Receipts for

1. Synod Missions—November	\$5,976.00
Synod Missions since January	65,491.25
2. Lakeside Operational—November.....	1,384.50
Lakeside Operational since January.....	16,806.00
3. Lakeside Building—November.....	1,461.50
Lakeside Building since January.....	5,853.50

Ushering Schedule

January 6th and January 13th

Team 5	Team 9
7:45 am	10:30 am
Dale Sennhenn, Capt.	Gerald Salzwedel, Capt.
John B. Pratt	Otto Matke
Brian Sennhenn	Wilbert Vick
Andrew Bussian	Paul Kehl
Jeffery Lindert	

January 20th and January 27th

Team 6	Team 10
7:45 am	10:30 am
Harold Schaefer, Capt.	Roger Weiland, Capt.
Dale Schilling	Dan Weiland
Ron Yerges	Brady Weiland
Bruce Hatzinger	Brandon Lee
Travis Bachofen	Zach Parpart

If you have any questions about the schedule, would like to be added as an usher or won't be able to serve any longer as an usher, please call Julie Doyle at 608 846-5103.

Church Attendance

Date	Thurs.	Early	Late	Total
Nov. 25		192	189	381
Nov. 29/Dec. 2	45	91	98	234
Dec. 6/9	36	120	179	335
Dec. 13/16	35	141	190	366

Family Ministry Board

by Leo Fischer, chairman

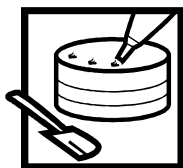
A hearty thank you goes out to all those who took part in decorating the church for the Christmas season. Many helping hands make things go a lot easier.



The Family Ministry Board has set the date for the Wild Game Feed, and it is Saturday, February 16th at 5:30pm.

Power Hour

Everyone who attended Power Hour on December 9th was in for a real treat! Jean Sennhenn



demonstrated cake decorating for us. We watched as she made ribbons and roses from frosting to adorn the cakes she brought. Then the children were able to decorate their own Christmas cookies and cupcakes with sprinkles. This activity had to be followed by snack time of course, and the kids enjoyed gobbling up their goodies as much as decorating them. Mrs. Klug took some time to read a few stories to the children afterwards.

Join us January 12th when Aaron Larson will share his talent of home construction with everyone. Power Hour is 9:30-10:30am at Zion School.



Elders Board

by Jeff Krakow, chairman

A year is ending and a new one is beginning. With a new year, there usually come resolutions. I will lose weight; I will exercise every day, etc., etc. What is a resolution? According to Webster: "act of resolving to do something," not a lot of help. Resolve: to make a firm decision, is that kind of like a promise? Let's look up promise: a declaration assuring that one will do something; vow. We made, or will make, vows at confirmation.

What were those vows? How about this: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it? Your reply: I do, and I ask God to help me. Maybe you will remember this one: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God's Word, to be faithful in the use of the Word and sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-as long as you live? Again, your reply was; I do, and I ask God to help me. You promised, **vowed**, to be steadfast in the teachings of God's Word, even unto death. You **vowed in faith and action** to remain true to God. He says: *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing* (Hebrews 10:25a). *When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their*

hearts (Acts 11:23). In just these two verses we see that we vowed to continue meeting together and encouraging each other to remain true to God's Word.

We also, in our reply, asked God to help us. We were also taught that the Holy Spirit can only do His work (help us) through Word and Sacrament (the means of grace). Since we made these vows, let's look at what God says about vows: *When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it* (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5). *When a man makes a vow to the LORD or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said* (Numbers 30:2).

In the New Year, go ahead and make some resolutions if you want, but let's start right now in fulfilling our vows to God by faithfully attending church services (meeting together) and partaking of the Lord's Supper on a regular basis. While we are at it, let's really get into God's Word by attending Bible Study too. We offer two every Sunday starting January 6th-one at school and one at church. If the church basement is too difficult to get into, go to school; it is handicap accessible. If you have children attending Sunday School, why not stay and study God's Word. You would be honoring your vow to God and saving gas at the same time.



ZION 2008 Church Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

Thursday, February 14, 2008* **Note: Meeting on Thursday because of Lent*

Thursday, March 13, 2008*

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

The practice of a single church meeting night will be reviewed

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Wednesday, August 13, 2008

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

Wednesday, November 12, 2008

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Standard "Meeting Night" Schedule

6:30-7:00pm

All board members and councilmen meet in gym for Bible study/devotion

7:00-8:00pm

Board meetings

8:00-9:30pm

Council meeting

(ending no later than 9:30pm)



A New Year in the Library

New Year's resolutions are a popular topic this time of year. If one of yours is to spend more time reflecting on the many blessings God has given you, to study more of God's Word, or to bring your children up "in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Eph 6:4), I've got the answer for you in the church library. Why not use the start of the New Year to begin the habit of daily personal or family devotions? We've got a growing selection to choose from.

If you have any questions about the library or are interested in helping out, please call Becky Retzlaff at 623-2623.



Adults

- By Faith Alone: 365 Devotional Readings Updated in Today's Language
- Each Day with Jesus: LARGE PRINT Daily Devotions Through the Year
- Every Day with the Savior: LARGE PRINT Daily Devotions
- Together with Jesus: Daily Devotions for a Year

Children

- 365 Family Devotions: Building Faith for a Lifetime (Volumes 1, 2, and 3)
- At Home with Jesus: Devotions for Children
- Little Visits for Families
- Little Visits with God
- Little Visits with Jesus
- Little Visits for Toddlers



*Note: You are not expected to return any of these until you are finished!

kid's page

COUNTDOWN TO THE *New Year*

Celebrate the blessings of the previous year and the hope of the New Year with this fun party idea and craft.

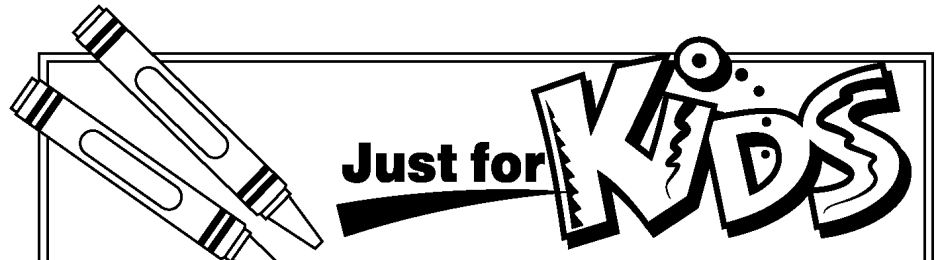
What you need:

- Brown paper lunch bags or colorful bags
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Glue
- Scissors
- Stickers (optional)
- Inexpensive prizes or treats (see ideas below)



What you do:

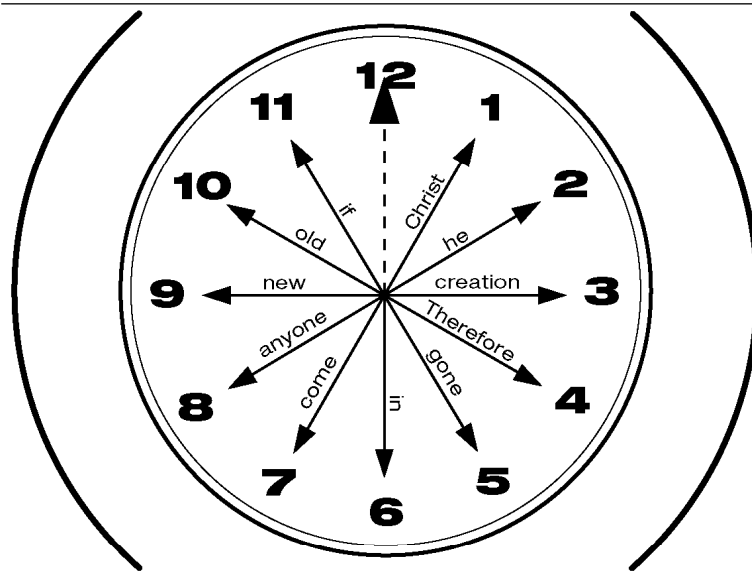
1. Before New Year's Eve, assemble a bag for every hour before midnight that you plan to celebrate.
2. Use construction paper and markers to make a clock with a different time for each bag.
3. Glue a clock onto each bag.
4. Decorate the bags with stickers or other designs.
5. Fill the bags with inexpensive prizes or treats, each accompanied by a Bible verse. Here are a few suggestions:
 - Plastic party-favor watches ("The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore" Psalm 121:8, NIV.)
 - Bookmarks ("Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture" 1 Timothy 4:13, NIV.)
 - Small notepads and pencils ("Let love and faithfulness never leave you ... write them on the tablet of your heart" Proverbs 3:3, NIV.)
 - Sweet treats ("Taste and see that the LORD is good" Psalm 34:8, NIV.)
 - Party noisemaker, in a bag to be opened at midnight ("Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth" Psalm 98:4, NRSV.)
6. Open each bag at the time shown on its clock.



IN WITH THE NEW

It's "time" for New Year's resolutions! We should always want to improve ourselves for God, looking to Jesus as our example. God will work with us and through us when we come to him in prayer.

Using the clock's hour hand, copy each word to help you complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



“ _____ , _____ is _____ , is a _____
 _____ ; the _____ has _____ , the _____ has _____ !”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"