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**PUBLICATION
DEADLINES:**
Messenger of Light
noon, April 15
for the May issue

Illuminations
1:00 p.m. Tuesdays
for all weekly
newsletters

**Fan into flame
the gift of God
within you.**
2 Timothy 1:6

Easter is Your Future

Pastor Randall Neal

“You Christians are pathetic – your faith is worthless, and you are still covered with your filthy sins.”

Those are words you might expect from an enemy of the church. But they came from the apostle Paul. They were his way of declaring just how crucial the first Easter was. His exact words were: **“If Christ is not risen your faith is futile, you are still in your sins.”** (1 Corinthians 15:17)

In a Lutheran Witness article a while back, Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs, associate professor at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO, elaborated to the reader just how essential that first Easter was; Dr. Gibbs stated clearly what every Christian professes - the Resurrection of our Lord is the foundation on which our whole religion stands or falls.

My friends, this Easter-time we again have the chance to savor and rejoice in truths that we believe as Christians.

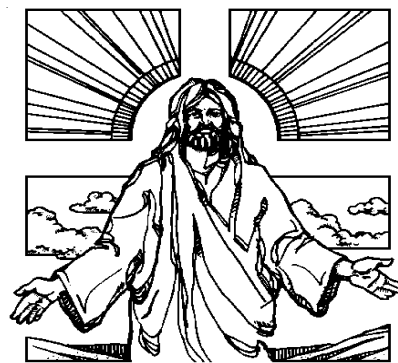
The first Easter, like the first Good Friday, was a real event that really happened at a certain time and place. It wasn't an idea – it was an event. How shall we describe what took place? A two-word phrase can capture it: **bodily resurrection**. The first Easter was the first and only time in history – so far! – that a person experienced such a bodily resurrection. The same body that was nailed to the cross, died and was buried in a tomb cut out of rock – that same human body – experienced resurrection.

Jesus was set free from death and all of its effects. St. Paul states this directly in Romans 6:9, **“We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, no longer dies. Death no longer lords it over him.”**

My friends, through Jesus' resurrection, all Christians have a living hope, an inheritance, a final salvation that will be revealed when Jesus comes again in glory. Because we are baptized into Him and believe His promise, we will receive a bodily resurrection as well. His resurrection and our resurrection cannot be separated.

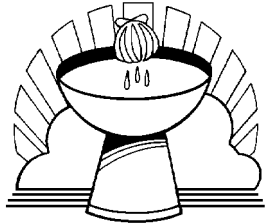
Easter reveals to us our future in the Lord Jesus Christ. And we can speak with joy the familiar words of the Nicene Creed: **“I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sin. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.”**

Have a blessed Easter! Christ is risen; He is risen indeed!



**“Why do you look for the living
among the dead?
He is not here but has risen.”**
Luke 24:5

Official Acts of Zion



Baptism of:

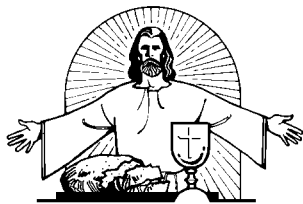
Madison Rae Horton
daughter of Amber Horton
March 8, 2009

Carter Francis Wagendorf
son of Jay & Jessica Wagendorf
March 21, 2009



Lutheran Counseling Center

Lutheran Counseling Center serves as a referral counseling agency to the Minnesota South District of the LCMS. Their approach to counseling draws upon the power of our Christian faith. They offer a sliding fee structure that allows those with limited resources and without insurance to find the help they seek. If you would like to speak to someone from LCC they can be reached at 952-894-4828 (Twin Cities); 800-466-0401 (Outstate Minnesota); www.lutherancounseling.org.



Holy Communion
is celebrated the 1st and 3rd weekends.

Easter Breakfast

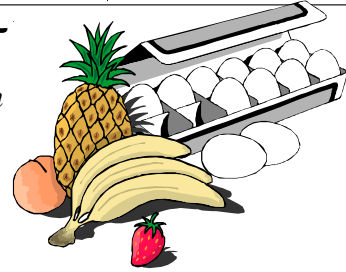
Sponsored by Zion Lutheran Youth

Sunday, April 12, 2009

7:30am – 10:15am

Serving:

Egg Bake, Bacon, Deluxe Hasbrowns, Fresh Fruit, Banana Bread, and Beverages!



A free-will offering will be taken to support Zion Lutheran Student Ministries. Matching funds from Thrivent will be used for the 18 participants going on the Carthage, TX mission trip this summer.

CWF Salad Luncheon



Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF) is having their Annual Spring Salad Luncheon April 25 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited to bring their favorite salads and their favorite salad recipes for the gathering and it's a nice way to entertain your friends. Please join us for a pleasant Saturday as we get together to share recipes with everyone!

Young at Heart

Young at Heart is going to the Old Log Theater to have lunch and see the play *Alone Together* (a comedy) on Wednesday April 15. Cost is \$30.25. Bus leaves Zion at 11:00am. For reservations call Alice Anderson at 952-938-5144 before April 6. All are welcome.



<i>April 5, 2009</i>	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	<i>Regular Worship Times</i>
<i>April 9, 2009</i>	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<i>Noon & 7:00 p.m.</i>
<i>April 10, 2009</i>	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>Noon & 7:00 p.m.</i>
<i>April 11, 2009</i>	<i>No Saturday Service</i>	
<i>April 12, 2009</i>	<i>Easter Sunrise</i>	<i>6:30 a.m.</i>
<i>April 12, 2009</i>	<i>Easter Breakfast</i>	<i>7:30 – 10:15 a.m.</i>
<i>April 12, 2009</i>	<i>Easter</i>	<i>8:30 a.m. & 10:50a.m.</i>



Monthly Financial Summary

February 28, 2009

INCOME (\$779,097 [+0% over 2008] = projected annual - 2009)

Actual Month	Projected monthly	Actual total to date	Projected total to date
\$65,796	\$64,925	\$125,194	\$129,850

EXPENSES (\$897,759 [+2.27% over 2008] = projected annual - 2009)

Actual Month	Projected monthly	Actual total to date	Projected total to date
\$67,744	\$74,813	\$129,350	\$149,626

Current bills due but not yet paid = \$29,701.00

General & Mission Offerings for February = \$55,049 (\$54,178 [+0%]
projected per month; \$12,503 per week)

Building Fund Offerings for February = \$9,354
(Our monthly mortgage payment is \$10,747; \$2,480/wk)

Building loan balance = \$1,224,665

The Suburban Lakes LWML Spring Zone Rally

will be held at Golden Valley Lutheran Church (5501 Glenwood Avenue, Golden Valley MN 55422) on Tuesday, April 21st. Registration and dessert are at 6:30 PM and the Rally is at 7:00. Cost is \$4.00; first-time attendees are free. *All women are welcome* to attend this special event. The theme is: *A Promise Kept*.

The featured presenters are Pastor Rex and Linda Rinne. (Pastor Rinne began serving Golden Valley Lutheran Church in March of 2008. Together with his wife Linda, they have a passion for mission work and have served overseas for one year teaching in Slovakia for the 2005-06 school year; they also previously led a mission team to help build a church in Panama in 2003. Pastor Rex was also on a short term mission team in India in 1999, and in November of 2007 served as a guest instructor teaching future Hmong pastors in Chiang Mai, Thailand.)

© Gifts from the Heart © **new** white t-shirts, plain sweatpants and plain sweatshirts for ages 5 through 13 (This is the mandatory outfit for children to be able to participate in physical education at school in Zbynova, Slovakia, according to Pastor Rex and Linda. Children from poor families rarely fulfill this requirement.)

Community Events

Exploring Church Careers

Do you know a student interested in serving in full time ministry? Invite them to attend Concordia University's Exploring Church Careers Weekend held April 24-25, 2009. The event is designed to help high school students discover their calling in God's world. During the weekend, students will have the opportunity to learn about different professional church careers, worship with and meet high school students from around the country, and explore CSP's campus. This event is FREE for all 9th-12th grade students. Talk to Lisa Day for more information.

Concordia Academy Boys Basketball Camp

July 6-10, 2009
Grades 4-6 9am-12pm
Grades 7-9 1pm-4pm
Cost \$100
Please contact Eric Schutte @ 651-983-3505 if you are interested and would like to receive a brochure.

The Lutheran Hour

Listeners can find this radio program on Sundays at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 on the dial; at 6:00 p.m. on KDHL Faribault 920 on the dial or daily by clicking the Lutheran Hour link on Zion's website, zionhopkins.org



Music Ministry

Global Worship...What Next?

A month ago we wrapped up our 5-week global worship series with a great celebration! Our finale included a hymn festival with “Jesus Loves Me” sung in Spanish and Chinese by the Sunday school children, global Christian hymns led by the choir and contemporary band, a global art museum provided by the Sunday school and ZECC children, and a potluck feast!

I am thankful for the hard work of the Sanctuary Choir, Living Faith, Desert Voice, Sunday school, and ZECC, the inspiring sermons from Pastor Neal, and the open-minded participation of the congregation. Some of you asked me with enthusiasm, are we going to do this again? As we think about “what’s next,” I want to challenge you to consider how you can take the ideas you experienced in worship and make them a reality in your every day life.

Worship is a wonderful opportunity to be filled with God’s gifts of grace, forgiveness, and love and to fellowship with our Christian friends. Then we’re sent out into the world to offer the gifts we’ve received to our family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors. I’d like to share with you a few thoughts on connecting the global worship series to sharing your faith with those around you.

Comfort Zone. As you remember the times during our global worship services where we were taken out of our comfort zone, consider how those from other countries have an even greater sense of stepping out of their comfort zone when they come to the US. With an empathetic heart, consider how you may be able to offer assistance to them as they adjust to their new homes.

Prayer. Pray for this very topic. Pray that God would show you opportunities to share your faith and put people in your life who need to hear the Gospel. God is faithful and always hears our prayers!

Thank You. One of the songs we sang during the global worship series was “Malo! Malo,” a song with “thank you” in 17 languages. When you meet someone who speaks one of these languages, look for an opportunity to thank them in their own language. Even if you say it wrong, you’d be surprised at how much a person will appreciate your effort.

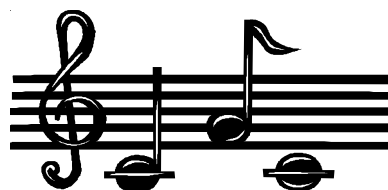
Sharing. Look for opportunities to share your “thank you, God” moments. For example, you may have found something that was lost or just barely avoided a car crash and you took the time to say, “Thank you, God!” Sharing these experiences and your reaction to them is a great non-threatening way to talk about your faith. And they might even spark a deeper conversation. Jim Found, a former missionary and professor at Concordia University, St. Paul, writes more about sharing these moments and other natural ways to share your faith in an article on his website: www.foundbytes.com/well.htm.

God’s blessings to you as you consider how you can reflect God’s love every day!

Katie Wareham
Director of Parish Music

Summer Handbells for New Ringers

If you’ve ever wondered what it would be like to ring handbells with the Festival Ringers, your opportunity to do so is coming up this summer. The Festival Ringers will be hosting Thursday evening rehearsals 3 times a month for new ringers during June, July, and August. Look for more information including specific dates in next month’s MOL. Questions? Contact Katie Wareham.





How Many Hands Does It Take To??

"To do what?" You ask.
Sportslife Camp is coming and the
kids need your smiles,
encouragement, and love!

There are many ways to be involved
with this great outreach program.

You can: assist coaches, registration

table, park patrol, park runner, set-up/take-down(one time shot),
building patrol, snacks, or an "extra" ready to fill in.

Sign up sheets are in the Gathering Area. Check the registration form
for the specific sports activity. You do not need to be an expert or
even know the sport. The Sportslife Team does the training while you
encourage and direct the kids. So mark your calendars!

- June 22-25, 5:30pm-8:30pm
- Only 4 Evenings!
- Just one training/info session!
- Come for Supper and stay for some fun.

***So you see it takes many hands to reach out to the kids in our
community and help them touch the love of Jesus!*

Thank you, Vicki Peterson

Easter Weekend Education Schedule

No Children or Adult Education Classes

Nursery is Opened and Staffed
(Not the 6:30am service)

**The Final Day for
After School at Zion Program is
Wednesday, April 15
and all
Wednesday Evening Classes
end Wednesday, April 22.**

Children's Ministry

SPORTSLIFE CAMP IS COMING!



**June 22-25, 2009
5:30pm - 8:30pm**

Light Supper for Kids & Volunteers 5:10pm

**The SportsLife Camp Theme:
"Shine 09"**



Jesus spoke to the people once more and said,
"I am the light of the world. If you follow Me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." John 8:12

SportsLife Camps is coming to Zion Lutheran Church for an amazing week of sports, arts, and Outrageous Fun!!! The SportsLife Camps coaches, along with volunteer leaders from our church, will lead campers in the following activities:

Main Events

Basketball & Street Hockey
Ultimate Frisbee & Soccer
Cheerleading & Dance
Arts Extravaganza



Side Shows

Football Frenzy
Obstacle Course
Rubber Chicken Challenge
Capture the Noodle



Youth Ministry

Zion Student Ministry Information and Upcoming Events

Zion Student Ministry Mission Statement

To create an environment where youth are encouraged to grow in relationships to God and others and learn to spread the love of Christ.

Don't forget – instead of 'google' think GoodSearch – and help Zion's Youth Ministry raise funds in a VERY easy way.

Noteworthy Items

Events for All Youth

Easter Breakfast Set-Up

Saturday, April 11, 2009

Meet at Zion at 10:00am to help prepare food, set up, and decorate the Fellowship Hall for the Easter Breakfast. Anyone can come and help!



Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 12, 2009

We need workers from 6:30-9:30am; 7:00-10:30am; and/or 9:30-Noon. A sign-up sheet is on the dry-erase board as you enter the Youth Room. Out of respect for the organizers and more flexible volunteers, please sign up ahead of time for the times you can work. Not that we don't need people at other times, but volunteers tend to disappear when clean up is needed - I would greatly appreciate it if some people could help during that last shift.

Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation Parent's Night will be April 15. Jared Betterman will be here to fill you in on the youth e-communication world. We will also be filling out an evaluation form to help us plan for the 2009/2010 Confirmation year. This will be the last Parent's night of the 2008-2009 Confirmation year. Thank you all so much for your participation and support.

Confirmation Classes for April will be held on April 4 (after Lent worship until 8pm), April 15, and April 22. We will NOT have classes on April 8. The last Confirmation Class for the 2008-2009 year is on April 22. In addition to some final information from Pastor Neal, students will fill out an evaluation form, and enjoy a small 'end of the year' celebration.

Items for Our College Students



College Student Online Chat will only be available 2 more times – April 2 & 16 from 8-9pm. If you are a college student, or know of a college student that might want to connect to others online – please contact Lisa Day to make sure they get invited into the 'chat room'.

Events for Sr. High Youth Only (Grades 9-12)

Got attitude? April 4, 2009 will be the 1st Annual MN South District Sr. High Youth Gathering hosted by Concordia University. If you signed up to go, we are leaving Zion at 8:30am and returning at about 7:00 that same evening.

Sunday JAM – Mike Schumacher is doing a wonderful job with our Sunday morning Sr. JAM. If you have any 'hot' and/or interesting topics that you would like for JAM,, please either tell him or contact Lisa Day. Sunday JAM will not be held on Easter, April 12.

Wednesday JAM – Kate Dressel and Lexie Bennett-Hassing are leading our HS group this year. Occasionally this group goes to Caribou too! Wednesday JAM will meet on April 4 after Lent worship until 8pm. Wed. JAM will not be held on April 8 (Holy Week). A special event is being planned for this night..... keep an eye on your mail, your text messages, and/or your emails for further details.....

(more youth events continued on page 8)

Youth Ministry cont'd

Texas Mission Trip Participants

Easter Breakfast – This event is great to earn money for your account and help lower your expenses for Texas this summer. The more hours you work, the more money will be deposited into your account.

Please don't forget the payment plan highlighted at the last meeting ...your next payment of \$100 is due on April 15.

Texas Trip Committee Meetings – For those of you on the 'Fundraising Committee' and the 'Fun Event/Photo Committee' - I would like to have a meeting with you after worship - until 1:30pm on Sunday, April 19. We need to start finalizing our plans for the trip so the necessary reservations can be made early.

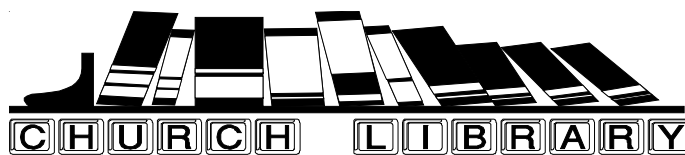
Texas Trip Parent Meeting – Sunday, May 3 between worship services in the Fellowship Hall. This is only for the parents of the participants – not the participants themselves. I would like to share important trip information and requests that pertain only to parents. This meeting is optional for the Texas Adult Chaperones, unless you have a child participant.

Events for Jr. High Youth Only (Grades 6-8)

Sunday JR. JAM - DARE TO BE DANIEL – Our Director of Student Ministries, Lisa Day, is very excited to be teaching our 6-8th graders this year. We are having a wonderful time looking at how bold of a witness Daniel was for his Lord and how we, too, can be bold witnesses for our Lord, Jesus Christ.



In IHS Name - The 26th Annual Jr. High Gathering at Concordia University will be held Friday-Saturday, April 24-25. All 6th-8th graders are encouraged to come! Registration information is on Zion's website.... Find the link for JRHI Gathering. The cost for the event is \$44. Registration and payment is due on April 1.



One of the largest sections in our Library is titled *Christian Living* (#11). This section contains many books of encouragement and self-help on a variety of life's problems. There are books by famous Christian authors, such as Dr. James Dobson, Max Lucado, Joyce Landorf, Robert Schuller, etc.

Some of the books deal with specific social and behavioral issues, such as living alone, blended families, drug addiction, coping with teens, and many more. Some examples are:

She Calls Me Daddy by Robert Wolgemuth
On Death and Dying by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross
You Can be a Wife of a Happy Husband
by Darien Cooper
Lessons from a Father to His Son
by John Ashcroft
Tough Times Never Last but Tough People Do
by Robert Schuller
It's Killing Our Kids by Jerrie Johnston

Some of these books are on display in April, along with some children's Easter books and videos.

Marcella Harfield
Librarian

Joke Time

The Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces and laid it upon the altar.

And then Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times.

"Now, said the teacher, "can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?"

A little girl in the back of the room raised her hand with great enthusiasm. "To make the gravy."

Source: http://jokes.christiansunite.com/Sunday_School/Barrels_of_Water.shtml