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**PUBLICATION DEADLINES:**  
*Messenger of Light*  
noon, July 15  
for the August issue

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

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

## **“The Health of a Congregation”**

Pastor Randall Neal

Our congregational president, John Herkenratt brought the Sun Sailor Newspaper to our Church Council last month to share the lead article with the group. The next day I received an email from one of our members referring to the same article. The article began this way, “*After 124 years of Sunday school, sermons and music, Hopkins United Methodist Church will close its doors after a final service June 28, 2009.*”

*“Addressing a decline in membership from 1,300 in 1970 to 189 in 2009, members voted to close the church at a congregational meeting May 5. The church, at 717 W. Hwy. 7, is next-door to the Eisenhower Community Center in Hopkins”.*

Our member’s email ended by saying, “This is really sad. **I hope it never happens to Zion.**”

Here is how I responded to her. “Thanks for the article. It is sad that our neighboring church is closing. It is true, however, churches do run in cycles. If a focused effort is not made continually most congregations will die at the end of the “mature” stage of their congregational life.

Zion is actually in pretty good shape. I would classify our congregation as a “mature” congregation (lot of gray). BUT, we are also proactively engaged in ministries which do focus on the needs of younger families, young adults, school age kids, etc. In addition a “welcoming” atmosphere is critical to any

congregation’s long term vitality and viability. I have heard repeatedly from visitors that Zion is a welcoming place.

Even as the economics of our country are affecting many individuals so they do affect Zion as well. Yet, we are financially in pretty good shape. (Praise be to God!). *\*[see NOTE below]* But I am confident that as long as we **keep our focus on Jesus Christ and a concern and care for people’s physical and spiritual well-being** I feel Zion should be able to minister in this area for a number of years to come.

This is probably more than you were asking for, but I’m a preacher and can’t help myself!!!”

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Neal

Our member responded to me by saying, “*No, it was exactly what I had hoped to hear. I do think we are proactive in engaging younger people, and I do see younger families in the congregation each Sunday. I just hope the congregation understands how important it is to continue to remain active in our community and to continue to pray for our church. Thanks, and see you Sunday.*”

***[\* NOTE: Even though I remain confident in God’s loving provision for us we have entered our historical financial summer slow down. We are running behind in paying some of our financial obligations. I am encouraging you to continue praying for Zion along with generously and faithfully financially supporting our ministries.]***



## Monthly Financial Summary

May 31, 2009

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

Actual Month	Projected monthly	Actual total to date	Projected total to date
\$62,541	\$64,925	\$327,812	\$324,625

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

Actual Month	Projected monthly	Actual total to date	Projected total to date
\$69,416	\$74,813	\$348,290	\$374,065

Current bills due but not yet paid = \$40,559

General & Mission Offerings for May = \$51,794 (\$54,178 [+0%]  
projected per month; \$12,503 per week)

Building Fund Offerings for May = \$13,258  
(Our monthly mortgage payment is \$10,747; \$2,480/wk)

Building loan balance = \$1,210,772

### ***Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman***

Women of Zion and friends in the community  
are invited to attend the  
Women's Summer Bible Study:  
*Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman,*  
by Beth Moore



**Monday Nights**, 7:00pm – 8:30pm, until August 24<sup>th</sup>, Fireside  
Room (Rm. #104)

***The Old Testament story of Esther contains many modern  
parallels for today's woman. Esther's destiny can be yours  
as you know more deeply the God who is in your corner.***

It's never too late to join. Each lesson can stand alone. So  
come when you can! Free Viewer's Guide. **No nursery is  
available.** For more info contact the Church Office, 952-938-  
7661 or visit our website, [www.zionhopkins.org](http://www.zionhopkins.org)

#### **Topics of Study**

We are not meeting July 6.  
Esther: Session 5 - A Table Set For Providence  
Esther: Session 6 - What Goes Around  
Esther: Session 7 - Where Is The Man?  
Esther: Session 8 - The Right To Be Ready  
Esther: Session 9 - The Tables Turned

## Community Events

### **Grief Support**

In July and August, the West Metro Grief Support Coalition invites all persons experiencing grief due to a death. Grief support groups offer hope and healing through education, listening, sharing, prayer and fellowship. The group meets Tuesdays from 4:30pm to 6:30pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 13505 Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka. For more information please contact Darcie Rodman at 763-546-4404

### **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](http://zionhopkins.org)

### **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.

### **ICA**

July 4 Kiddie Parade,  
Downtown Excelsior  
We will be passing out American flags to all participants in the parade. Parade set up starts at 10:30 and the entire thing will be over by 11:30 in downtown Excelsior. In addition to passing out flags, we would like to have volunteers walk in the parade passing out information about ICA. This is a short time dedication- short and easy!

## A KINDLE Moment from Lisa Day



As I continue learning about Servant Leadership in my KINDLE sessions, I often see topics that I believe are VERY helpful for any and every leader. This is one of those topics. One of the four ‘strands’ of KINDLE is titled “Stewardship of Self”. Each strand has several practices. This topic is titled “Pursue Wellness”.

What does this mean for a leader? For physical health you need to pursue a balanced lifestyle.

Scripture: This is what the Lord says, “*Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.*” - *Jeremiah 6:16*

Quote: “Be aware of wonder. Live a balanced life-learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.” - Robert Fulghum

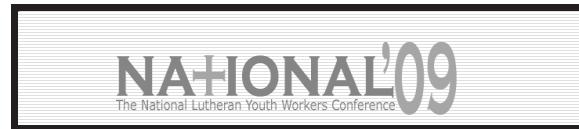
Ask yourself the following questions:

1. Do I learn some, think some, draw some, paint some, sing some, dance some, play some, and work some – every day?
2. Does my life with Jesus give me rest or drive me to endless activity?
3. Does my work for God interfere with my relationship with Him?
4. Do I live a balanced life?
5. What is God asking me to do?

## Today Is a New Day

“No matter what you’ve gone through in the past, no matter how many setbacks you’ve suffered or who or what has tried to thwart your progress, today is a new day, and God wants to do a new thing in your life. He has great things in store for you. Don’t let your past determine your future.”

*Your Best Life Now* by: Joel Osteen



July 16-20, Lisa Day, Gerada Louks, and Noah Louks are attending “The Big Picture” – the National Lutheran Youth Workers Convention in New Orleans, LA. Part of the event is to get an inside look at the 2010 National LMCS Youth Gathering general program and the city of New Orleans. In addition to the inside look, we will discover practical skills and relevant theory for effective youth ministry, Network with volunteer and professional youth workers through fellowship and community building, Be challenged and equipped to develop youth ministry programs that focus youth to Christ in mission, program, and outreach, and leave enriched. Your prayers for this event will be greatly appreciated!

## Staff Outing



To renew and refresh after the Easter season, Zion’s staff took the light rail to the Mill City Museum. We were amazed at the history of the mill.

Who knew flour was a major role in our nation’s economy! And right here in the Twins City! It was a wonderful time of fellowship and of course, we just had to have huge lunch and all even managed to pack away some dessert!

## Fourth of July Thoughts

I love my freedom. I love my America.

*Jessi Lane Adams*



All we have of freedom, all we use or know -  
This our fathers bought for us long and long ago.  
*Rudyard Kipling, The Old Issue, 1899*

My patriotic heart beats red, white, and blue.  
*Author Unknown*

Whatever makes men good Christians, makes them good citizens. *Daniel Webster*



### **SPORTSLIFE CAMP WAS GREAT...**

Thanks to the many Volunteers!

It was great to see the work of Jesus being carried out through the hands and feet of the many people who volunteered at Sportslife Camp! It was an exciting week of discovering how we, as Children of God, can shine bright, the Love of Jesus to others! Thank You for your time and ENERGY and for serving Our Lord!

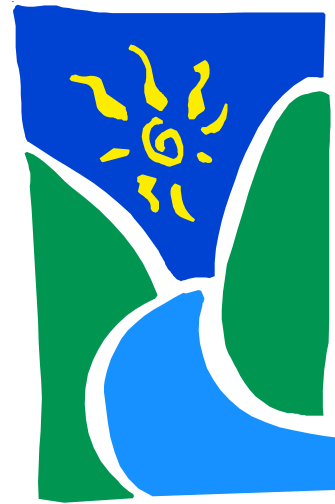
### **WHAT'S UP WEDNESDAYS!**

6:30pm-8:00pm

Every Wednesday in July

Join us for "OUTFLOW"-

Encouraging Kids to Share God's Love  
OUT in the Community with their friends and neighbors!



An evening in the Park  
for kids 1<sup>st</sup> gr. -5<sup>th</sup> grade!

Games, Activities, Bible Lessons, Crafts

"When we turn our hearts outward as God intends, His love is released to flow out through lives, into our families and friendships into the communities where we live, and ultimately into a thirsty world."

What does that mean for kids?

It means that children can have the same impact on their worlds that adults have!  
Outreach for kids can be easy and fun and it can happen every day.



The Bible Lessons will enable, empower, and train kids to do outreach that will make a difference in their world. The love of God can flow into and out from children just as readily as it can with adults - kids hearts are just as ready to be touched, and their hands just as ready to serve!

Interested? Questions? Call Vicki Peterson, 952-938-7661  
SIGN UP TABLE IN THE GATHERING AREA,

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## Events for our Sr. High Youth and College Students

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**Wednesdays at Caribou** has started! On Wednesdays running throughout the rest of the summer, you are invited to an informal gathering at the Hopkins Caribou (7&73) from 7 – 8:15 pm. Bring money for whatever you want to purchase and enjoy the company. No need to sign up for this – just show up.

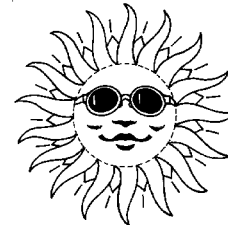
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## Events for our Sr. High and Jr. High Youth

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### Summer Sunday JAM

Lisa will be leading Sunday (Jr. & Sr.) JAM during the summer months. Movie discussions are on the agenda - including some of the more famous movies available at this time. Join us in class – and enjoy the movie!!



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## Texas Mission Trip Participants

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### Please pray for our 2009 Texas Servants:

Adults Chaperones: Steve Brueske, Lisa Day, Gerada Louks, Sarah Oberlander, Katie Wareham

Jr. Chaperone: Jared Betterman

Youth: Cate Adam, Julie Betterman, Andre Hinds, Kaitlin Koester, Taylor Larson, Noah Louks, Ben Mallonee, Angie Parker, Laura Parker, Abigail Tupa, Bradley Tupa, Heather Wilson

**Texas Trip Meeting** – The July meeting will be Saturday, July 25 at 6:30pm at Cate Adam's home. This is the family pot-luck BBQ meeting where we will answer any final questions and take care of any of the final paperwork.

**Bake Sale** will be held Saturday-Sunday, July 25-26. Saturday you can meet at church and bake at 2:00, if you'd like. ("Normal" dry supplies will be provided - sugar, flour, salt, baking soda, etc. – other items should be brought from your home. Saturday's sale will take place from 4:30-5:00 (right before church). If you are bringing items for the sale, bring them BEFORE 4:00 on Saturday. We are selling and serving at Fellowship Hour on Sunday – items will be sold from 9:15-10:40am.

### Important Mission Trip Dates to Remember:

- July 25 2pm Baking in Kitchen for Bake Sale
- 4:30-5:00pm – Bake Sale in Fellowship Hall
- 5:00pm – Commissioning during worship service
- 6:30-8:00pm – Pot-Luck BBQ Meeting at Cate Adam's home
- July 26 8:30am – Commissioning during worship service
- 9:15-10:40am – Bake Sale in Fellowship Hall
- 9:40am – Serve Coffee & Snacks for Fellowship Hour
- 10:50am – Commissioning during worship service
- July 31 BEFORE 2:00pm – bring your luggage to Zion to pack in the trailer
- Aug. 1 7:00am – Meet/Pray and leave Zion for Texas
- Aug. 9 Early Evening – return from Mission Trip



**Sponsor a Servant** – Do you need more sponsor forms???

