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**PUBLICATION  
DEADLINES:**  
*Messenger of Light*  
noon, November 16  
for the  
December issue

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

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

# Pot-bellied Stoves

Pastor Randall Neal

An Engineer, a psychologist, and a theologian were hunting in the wilds of Northern Minnesota. They became very cold and happened upon an isolated cabin. When there was no answer to their repeated knocks, they turned the door knob and discovered the cabin was unlocked. They went in. It was small with just two rooms and there was nothing unusual about it, except the coal stove. The large, pot-bellied stove was suspended in mid-air by wires attached to the ceiling beams.

“Fascinating!” said the psychologist “It is obvious the lonely trapper feels isolated from humanity, and he has elevated his stove so he can curl up under it and emotionally return to his mother’s womb in a fetal position.”

“That’s a bunch of Freudian nonsense, my good man!” said the engineer. “The man is simply practicing the laws of thermodynamics. He discovered that by elevating his stove off the floor, he can distribute the heat more evenly through the cabin. Simply the laws of physics put to practical use!”

The theologian then exclaimed: “With all due respect to both of your wisdom, you’re both wrong! Hanging his stove from the ceiling has powerful religious symbolism. You see, fire, lifted up, has been a symbol of the nearness and active presence of God for centuries!”

The three experts debated their individual theories for the elevated pot-bellied stove, all the while enjoying its warming effect, but without ever resolving their different theories. While they were both debating and warming, the trapper returned to his cabin, and after a quick “Welcome to my humble shack,” they immediately posed their question: “Why do you suspend your pot-bellied stove from the ceiling?”

His answer was brief and simple, “***It’s just that I had plenty of wire but not much stove pipe!***”

The trapper used what he had. He was managing his resources to the best of his ability. He was being a good “steward.” My friends, sometimes we get so caught up over “stewardship” meaning just money or financial resources that we lose sight of the reality that God has given to some of us more time or more talent or more energy than God has given treasure. Whatever the case, God’s will for our life is that we devote what we DO HAVE to God as good managers (stewards).

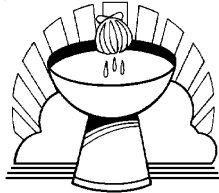
WHAT HAS GOD GIVEN YOU?  
Of what has God given you the most? As a manager for God, how would you fill in the blanks? It’s just that I had plenty of \_\_\_\_\_, but not much \_\_\_\_\_.  
Stewardship is how we manage what we have.

## Official Acts of Zion



*George Battani  
Molly Causse  
October 16, 2009*

*TJ Wentz  
Amber Browning  
October 24, 2009*



**Baptism of:**

*Clinton Daniel Johnson  
October 25, 2009  
(son of Daniel & Jennifer Johnson,  
godson of John & Kelly Neff, Joseph  
Johnson, & Marla Estonson)*



*the family of:  
Russell Arthu Koppleman  
Sept. 20, 1956 - Oct. 22, 2009*



**CONFIRMATION**  
*October 25, 2009  
Jacob Robert Daniels  
Evan Allen Dickinson  
Kaitlin Rose Koester  
Noah Burl James Louks  
Laura Catherine Parker*

## Raking Leaves - Youth Service Project

**Do you need your yard raked?**

Call the church office or talk to Lisa Day to have your name put on the raking list for Saturday, November 14.

## Adult Service Project at Feed My Starving Children

Tuesday, November 3, Lisa Day is 'chaperoning' an adult trip to pack food for Feed My Starving Children at their Chanhassen location. Bring lunch money - the trip will include a stop at Culver's for lunch after we pack food. Zion's bus will leave Zion at 9:00am and return at about 12:30pm. Sign up in the church office or by calling Lisa Day.

## Christmas Wreaths

Zion's Men's Club is again having wreaths and swags available for order. Standard 25"OD wreaths are \$12 each, 30"OD are \$25 each, 36"OD are \$35 each and Swags are \$12 each. 30" and 36" wreaths are by special advance order only. All wreaths are decorated with velvet button bow and white pine cones. Contact Vern Anderson, Eddie Lundgren, or Harold Gust to place your order.

## New Member Reception and Potluck

On **Sunday, November 8**, at the 10:50 service Zion's new members will be received into the congregation! We are encouraging you to bring your best home cooking to the pot-luck and your warmest smile to greet and welcome them. This is such a fun and neat way to have time to visit with them and show our welcome. Start thinking about what you will bring!

## Food Drive at Zion

Zion's Human Care Board is having a Fall Food Drive November 7 & 8, and November 14 & 15. Please place your donation in the container in the Upper Gathering Area. For monetary donations, please place your check or money in an envelope and label *ICA Food Drive* and place in the offering plate.

## Christian Women's Fellowship Tea

CWF is celebrating the coming Holiday Season by serving an afternoon High Tea, and all women of Zion are invited! Our Christmas Tea is **Sunday, November 29, 2009 at 3:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Tea sandwiches, dainty cookies or scones are on the menu. Also, we are having special entertainment. If you wish, this is an opportunity to wear your fancy hat, white gloves, etc. from years ago! If you care to display your special teapots, please call Isabel Kloss at 952-938-6930 or Doris Waterman at 952-938-1602.



### Monthly Financial Summary September 30, 2009

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

Actual Month	Projected monthly	Actual total to date	Projected total to date
\$77,577	\$64,925	\$588,893	\$584,325

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

Actual Month	Projected monthly	Actual total to date	Projected total to date
\$65,690	\$74,813	\$593,752	\$673,317

Current bills due but not yet paid = \$29,574

General & Mission Offerings for September = \$66,830 (\$54,178 [+0%] projected per month; \$12,503 per week)

Building Fund Offerings for September = \$9,137  
(Our monthly mortgage payment is \$10,747; \$2,480/wk)

Building loan balance = \$1,191,810

### Thanksgiving Services

Please join us for our Thanksgiving Services.

Wednesday, November 25 7:00pm

Thursday, November 26 10:00am

*Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise;  
give thanks to Him and praise His name. Psalm 100:4*

#### Town of Bethlehem needs help!

Zion's Christmas program includes a walk through the streets of Bethlehem. If you are interested and would like to volunteer, we need Shopkeepers, "Street People" such as the Tax Collector, Beggar, Roman Soldier, Greeters, Census Takers, Food Servers, etc.. One Saturday afternoon, 2:30pm-5:00pm, is all we need! It's fun and so rewarding. We'll supply your costumes! Last year, 200 people visited our town of Bethlehem. Please call Mary Betterman or Vicki Peterson, 952-938-7661.

## Community Events

### ICA Needs

- Easy Mac
- Fruit Cups
- Granola Bars
- Tuna
- Raisins/Dried Fruit
- Pudding Cups
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Ready-To-Eat-Soups
- Juice Boxes
- Canned Pasta
- Children's Books

A donation box is in the Gathering Area or you may drop off your gift at ICA, 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday.

### 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

### Roses

*Some people complain because God put thorns on roses, while others praise Him for putting roses among thorns.*

Source: <http://www.verses4cards.co.uk/thanks-giving-poems.html>

# Children's Ministry




"A Night in Bethlehem" coming soon! *Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.* Begin your adventure by experiencing a walk through the streets of Bethlehem, the birthplace of our Savior. Zion's Fellowship Hall will be transformed into Bethlehem. There will be shops to experience, street beggars, tax collectors and much more. You'll see a Jewish home and share a tasty treat that Jesus and his family would have shared.

- The Walk Through begins at 3:00pm and ends at 4:30pm.  
This year not only will the children create the specialty of each shop but mom and dad too! EVERYONE will have a hands-on experience.
- At 5:00pm we will gather in the Sanctuary for A Night in Bethlehem Christmas Service. We'll experience through song, instruments, scripture readings and the Manger Scene what Christmas is all about.

So mark your calendars, invite your friends, relatives and neighbors and experience "A Night In Bethlehem", A Trip through Bethlehem and Christmas Worship Celebration.

- This year you can also experience A Night in Bethlehem Christmas Service on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at the 10:50am Worship.



**Important dates for Children's Ministry** so mark your calendars! **ZION** LUTHERAN CHURCH

<b>November 21</b>	Saturday, Zion's Christmas Program Practice 9:15-11:30am ( <i>more info later</i> )
<b>December 5</b>	Saturday, Zion's Christmas Program Practice 9:15-11:30am ( <i>more info later</i> )
<b>December 12</b>	Saturday's Christmas Extravaganza 3 – 6:00pm "The Streets of Bethlehem" A Holy Land Experience AND A Night in Bethlehem Christmas Service 5:00pm
<b>December 13</b>	A Night in Bethlehem Christmas Service ( <i>10:50am only</i> )

# Student Ministry

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## Zion Student Ministry Information and Upcoming Events

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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.

### Confirmation Ministry

**6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Parent's Night** will be held on November 18. Following the Large Group time with Pastor Neal, parents will meet separate from their youth for various topics that pertain parenting teens.

### Items for Our College Students

**When will you be home?** Send Lisa an email or Facebook message – I'd like to get our college students together over your Thanksgiving and/or Christmas break.

### Events for All Youth Grades 6-12

**Annual Sleep Out for Homeless Awareness** will be Friday/Saturday, November 6/7 from 9pm to 8am. Adult chaperones are needed.

**Annual Rake Event** will be Saturday, November 14 (weather/leaf permitting) starting at 9:30. Adult drivers and rakers are needed too – as well as trailers to haul the leaves.

**ICA Turkey Distribution** - Volunteers are needed Thursday, November 19. Zion's Youth are asked to serve from 6:00 - 7:15pm here at Zion helping ICA distribute turkeys.

**Community Thanksgiving Dinner Service Project** – Wednesday, November 25. Be here as soon as you can after school ready to work. Jobs include, clearing/setting tables, cutting/serving pie, cleaning up.

**Zion's Youth Annual Turkey Dinner Fundraiser** – Wednesday, December 9. Make plans now to be here to help with this huge fundraising event.

## Zion Library

A couple of books new to our Church Library are the following:

*Faith Alone* by James Galvin is found in our Devotional section (#5). The book is a series of devotional readings, updated in today's language, taken from Martin Luther's sermons and writings.

*The Esssential Bible Guide* by Whitney Kuniholm, found in Bibles and Commentary section (#10), gives a quick review of the Bible in the Introduction. It is followed by readings from every section of the Bible.

These books are on display during the month of November, along with others featuring Martin Luther and his writings, celebrating Reformation.



### *National Youth Gathering (NYG) Information*

Zion's registration for the 2010 National Youth Gathering has closed. If you were interested in registering but missed the deadline, talk to Lisa Day.

**NYG Planning Meeting** – A preliminary planning meeting will be held for all those registered for the National Youth Gathering at Zion on Sunday, November 15 following the 10:50 worship service. A pizza lunch will be served. All those registered for the NYG are to attend. This meeting is to begin making specific plans for our trip so it is very important that you are here. The meeting will last no later than 1:30pm.

(continued on page 6)

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

**Serving @ Fellowship Hour** on Sunday, November 1. Bring a creative snack to serve after the 8:30am worship service. Be in the Fellowship Hall by 9:10 to help set up, serve, and clean up.

**Sunday JAM** – Mike Schumacher is leading our Sunday morning Sr. JAM again this year. Sr. Sunday JAM is held in the Youth Room on Sunday mornings from 9:40-10:50.

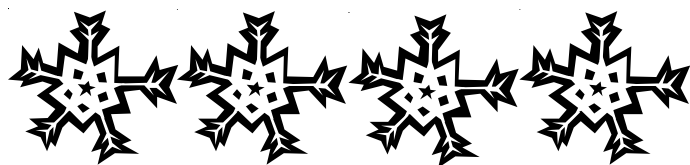
**Wednesday JAM** – Kate Dressel is leading our HS Wednesday JAM this year. Sr. Wednesday JAM is held in the Youth Room on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00.

**Coming in December ... SR. HIGH RETREAT @ Camp Omega** – Tuesday/Wednesday, December 29/30. This two-day event will give you a chance to continue to grow in the Christian faith while having a blast with other youth from around Minnesota. Activities include snow tubing with tow rope, broomball, Christian growth, games, singing and devotions. Cost is \$35.00. Specific times and registration materials will be available soon.

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

**Sunday JR. JAM** – Lisa Day is leading our Sunday morning Jr. JAM. The theme is “THAT’s in the BIBLE?” and focuses on bizarre Biblical events. Class is held on Sunday mornings from 9:40-10:50.

**Coming in December ... WINTER DAZE @ Camp Omega** - Tuesday, December 29. Join us at Camp Omega for a fun-filled day. Activities include snow tubing with tow rope, broomball, Christian growth, outdoor games, singing and devotions. Several youth from other churches will also be there. Cost is \$12.00. Specific times and registration materials will be available soon.



## ZECC Ministry

It’s conference time at our Early Childhood Center! This is a welcome time for our teachers to have individual discussion time with our parents. The parents may be surprised to find out how their child is progressing and we may be surprised to learn something new as well. The main purpose is to work together for the benefit of the child. How much does this sound like our loving God and His care and concern in our life? When we meet with God for our “individual conference” in prayer and share our thoughts, concerns, and requests, do we also listen to how God may be leading us to follow His will? How do we know God’s will anyway? It is found in the Bible, God’s word to us.

*Psalm 65: 1 & 2 “Praise awaits You, O God, in Zion; to You our vows will be filled. O You who hear prayer, to You all men will come.”*

Judy Fuhrman  
ZECC Director



## Upcoming Congregational Meetings

### Informational Forum

On Sunday, November 22, 2009 an **Informational Forum** for the congregation will be held during the Educational hour (9:40 am – 10:35 am) downstairs in room #102 (Fireside room). The purpose is to present various options for filling the **New Associate Pastor Position** created when Pastor Howie Krienke announced his retirement in 2007.

### Voters’ Meeting

The Semi-Annual Voters’ Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 6 at 9:40am. The agenda includes the 2010 Budget and other congregational business.