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**PUBLICATION  
DEADLINES:**  
*Messenger of Light*  
noon, January 15  
for the  
February issue

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

***Zion's Vision:  
To become an  
outreach center  
for Christ-  
centered  
health and  
wholeness.***

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

# Whose Hands?

Pastor Randall Neal

Someone sent me an email the other day I really appreciated. It reminded me although we are living in a rapidly changing world certain things never change. As we begin a new year may God continue to be with you and bless you.

A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19.  
A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about \$33 million.  
It depends whose hands it's in.

A baseball bat in my hands is worth about \$20.  
A baseball bat in Joe Mauer's hands is worth millions.  
It depends on whose hands it's in.

A tennis racket is useless in my hands.  
A tennis racket in Andre Agassi's hands is worth millions.  
It depends whose hands it's in.

A rod in my hands will keep away an angry dog.  
A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty sea.  
It depends whose hands it's in.

A slingshot in my hands is a kid's toy.  
A slingshot in David's hand is a mighty weapon.  
It depends whose hands it's in.

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches.  
Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in Jesus' hands will feed thousands.  
It depends whose hands it's in.

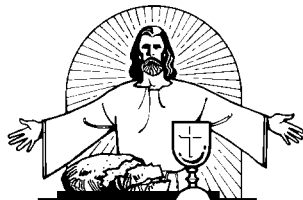
Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse.  
Nails in Jesus Christ's hands will produce salvation for the entire world.  
It depends whose hands it's in.

As you see now, it depends whose hands it's in.  
So as we begin the new year of 2010 put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams, your families and your relationships in God's hands because....  
It depends whose hands it's in.

## Official Acts of Zion



*Marriage of:*  
**Gregory Discher**  
**Jenny Thorne**  
*December 19, 2009*



*Holy Communion*  
*is celebrated the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weekends.*

***Zion's Mission:***  
***To (re)discover and develop***  
***a personal relationship***  
***with Jesus Christ.***


## Music Ministry

### Join the Sanctuary Choir

Sanctuary Choir rehearsals resume on January 7, 7:30-9:00pm and we would love to have you join us! The Sanctuary Choir sings approximately 3 times per month at the 8:30am service. Contact Katie Wareham with any questions.

### Worship Band Jam Session

Anyone who plays electric, acoustic, or bass guitar, drums, or keyboard is invited to join Desert Voice, the worship band, for a jam session on Wednesday, January 27, at 7:15pm. Contact Katie Wareham with any questions.



### The Blessings of Baptism

Children are precious gifts from God. We are caregivers of these gifts. Besides birth, meeting all the family, a significant event in a child's faith life is their Baptism. It gives reason to Celebrate when your name is written in God's Family Book. On **JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> & 17<sup>TH</sup> 2010** the Blessings of Baptism class is for all those anticipating receiving a child into their family or perhaps want to take steps for an older child to be Baptized. During the class we'll look at several questions: Why baptize my infant or child? How should we decide who the sponsors are? What happens on the day of the Baptism? Sponsors are invited to join you as parents. Responsibilities for both parents and sponsors do not stop after that very important and celebrative day. Both are key in the faith development of the child. More info? Contact Vicki Peterson or Pastor Neal. **Classes will be Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:40-10:30am – Room 204**  
**Led By Vicki Peterson**

### Do You Like To Read?

Then you might enjoy Zion's new "**Lit 'n Latte**"

"Lit 'n' Latte" is a new type of 'book of the month club' for people who want to share the joy of reading with other readers along with enjoying a cup of coffee – or whatever Caribou beverage you would prefer. Come meet others who are interested and decide what book we should read and discuss first. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, January 26 at 6:30pm at Caribou Coffee in Hopkins (off of Hopkins Crossroads). Talk to Lisa Day if you have any questions.

## Monthly Financial Summary November 30, 2009

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

Actual Month	Projected monthly	Actual total to date	Projected total to date
\$66,015	\$64,925	\$712,507	\$714,175

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

Actual Month	Projected monthly	Actual total to date	Projected total to date
\$71,447	\$74,813	\$736,459	\$785,917

Current bills due but not yet paid = \$44,477

General & Mission Offerings for October = \$55,268 (\$54,178 [+0%]  
projected per month; \$12,503 per week)

Building Fund Offerings for October = \$13,450  
(Our monthly mortgage payment is \$10,747; \$2,480/wk)

Building loan balance = \$1,182,210

### Feed My Starving Children - Adult Version

We'll be going again to the Chanhassen site to serve the Lord by packing food for this wonderful organization. Tuesday, February 9 we'll leave Zion at 9:00am and return around 12:30pm after a fast food lunch stop. Sign up in the church office or leave Lisa Day a message if you would like to be added to the list of participants.


### Braille

Lutheran Braille Workers has requested all work centers – including the one here at Zion – to stop production during Dec. '09 and Jan. '10. This is necessary to allow LBW to capture a complete inventory and transition this information into a new computer system. Their hope is that the new system will result in more cost effective accounting practices and tracking manufacturing. All the hard work of our Braille volunteers is much appreciated, but you need to take a break for a couple months!

## Treasure Seekers

**TREASURE SEEKERS is a group for 20-30 Yr. olds** seeking to get together and talk shop about their faith walk. This is a light study of the bible and the Treasure it holds for each of us and also a time to get to know one another through conversation, looking at activities ahead and a great cup of coffee. We'll dig into God's Word, looking at our own lives: our direction, choices we make, priorities, etc. seeking to discover the Treasures He has given us! Grab a cup of coffee if you'd like and join us in Room 208 at 9:40 every Sunday!

**ALL 20-30 SOMETHINGS  
ARE WELCOME!  
EVERY SUNDAY 9:40 AM  
ROOM 208**



WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR VISIT TO BETHLEHEM!

It took many hands and feet to bring the Streets of Bethlehem to Zion's door. Thank you! To all who gave their talent, time and energy to again make this year's event even greater than last year. The shops were decorated in their finest. And from the beggar on the street to Martha and Mary in the Jewish Home, a great time was had by all. The smell of fresh baked bread and pastry waffled through the town and streets enticing our senses.

It truly gave us just a glimpse of what Bethlehem may have been like at the time of Christ's birth. Thank You!

# 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.*

If you have questions on anything pertaining to Zion's Student Ministry items, please talk to the Director of Student Ministries, Lisa Day.

### Confirmation Ministry

**6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation** – We will return to the standard schedule on Wednesday, January 6. Class begins in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm, small group time follows at 7:30, everything is done at 8:00pm.

**Confirmation Parent's Night** will be on Wednesday, January 20. All parents are asked to join in the large group time at 6:30. A special parent's only time will be held from 7:30-8:00pm.

**Feed My Starving Children** – Saturday, January 30. We will leave Zion at 4:00pm and return at 7:00pm. Although this is a Confirmation Service Project, anyone is welcome to join us. Sign up with Lisa Day if you are interested.

**Planning ahead.... Early Communion Classes begin in February.** Early Communion classes will begin on Feb. 24 for our all 6<sup>th</sup> graders and any 7/8<sup>th</sup> graders who have not been through these classes yet. Students will prepare for their 1<sup>st</sup> Communion held on Thursday, April 1. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend class with their student.



National Youth Gathering (NYG) Information

**Please pray** for our 22 youth attending next summer's National Event... Julie Betterman, Jeff Bier, Georgia Brott, Jacob Daniels, Mikayla Ebert, Joe Jorde, Kaitlin Koester, Matt Larson, Taylor Larson, Samantha Lehman, Sarah Lehman, Noah Louks, Ben Mallonee, Kelly Miller, Macy Narr, Laura Nieting, Angie Parker, Laura Parker, Kaia Schumacher, Kalli Schumacher, Abigail Tupa, and Heather Wilson.

**NYG Adult Leaders** will be Lisa Day, Gerada Louks, Dave Nieting, Dan Schultz, and Mike Schumacher.

**Serving @ Fellowship Hour** on Sunday, February 14. If your last name is Betterman, Bier, Brott, Daniels, Ebert, Jorde, Koester, Larson, or Lehman, you are asked to 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. All other participants are more than welcome to help – but you don't need to bring anything.

**NYG Planning Meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 24 after church. This will be for all adult and youth participants. We need to make some important decisions about fund raising and New Orleans activities. (Hopefully we'll know our hotel assignment by this date too.)

**Planning Ahead** - Serving Snacks between services on Sunday, February 14 (Valentine's Day); and bagging groceries at Cub Foods on March 14.

*(Student Ministry continued on page 5)*

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

**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 6:30-8:00pm

**SR. HIGH WINTER SNOW RETREAT – January 15-17** If you are interested in going along, talk to Lisa Day to see if any open spots are still available. Bring your luggage to Zion on Thursday January 14 so we can pack early.

**Planning Ahead – 30 Hour Famine – April 30-May 1.** This is an event for all of our circuit youth and will include worship, games, and service projects at Zion, Our Savior's in Excelsior, Living Christ Lutheran in Chanhassen, and will include a stop at Feed My Starving Children. Make sure these dates are reserved on your calendar for this event!!!

## 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.

**Jr. High Lock-In** at Zion on Friday, January 8 starting at 8:00pm and ending at 8:00am. Youth are asked to bring snacks to share. Adult chaperones are needed to help with shifts throughout the night. If you are able to help, please talk to Lisa Day.

**6<sup>th</sup>&7<sup>th</sup> Grade Jr. High Youth** will be serving snacks between services on Sunday, January 10. Bring a creative home-made snack to serve. Be in the Fellowship Hall by 9:10 to help set up, serve, and clean up.



## Zion Library

What if faith, not fear, was your default reaction to threats? Can you imagine your life without fear? These are some of the questions asked in the book, *Fearless*, by Mac Lucado. This excellent book, new in our Library, can be found in our Christian Living (#1D section of our Library). If you are tired of doom and gloom, read this!

Another new book is written by Charles Swindoll, entitled *Jesus – the Greatest Life of All*. This biography of Jesus reveals Him with great clarity and offers practical applications for our own lives.

These books will be on display in January.

## Thank You

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,  
Many thanks once again for your generosity to ICA and to the many families served yesterday by the ICA Thanksgiving turkey give-away. Everything worked just beautifully. Personally, I was so thrilled to see many friends from Zion that helped from previous years. You are so wonderful! Thank you!

*Sheryl Stauss* ICA Holiday Giving Coordinator

## 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)