

ZION LUTHERAN
CHURCH
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55343

Messenger of Light

Zion...a place to belong

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It's About Love

by Pastor Randall Neal

"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

February, the month we celebrate Valentines' Day is a month known for its color of red and white, flowers, romance and love. Do you know there are over 25 definitions for the word love. However, the Greek language is believed to give the finest distinctions of love. These 5 Greek definitions and explanations of love give a solid background to another February event, Ash Wednesday on February 22, 2012. Here are those 5 Greek Love words.

Epithumia: This type of love represents a strong desire, it is what the heart, soul and mind is continually set upon. It can even be translated "to lust and covet". This form of love can be positive or negative depending upon where the desire is.

Eros: The English word Erotica comes from this word. This sensual love yearns to unite and desires to possess the beloved, seen sometimes as negative, because this love is physical and sexual. Eros love is not an infatuation or a heads over heels quick type of love. But a lifelong physical, mental, and emotional response to actual character. Our society is bombarded with this type of love. However, a blessing of this love in its proper context takes a 'dull, black and white' type of love, and makes it into a joyous, mature, 'Technicolor' love.

Storge: This type of love is an affection, natural sense of belonging type of love, like an old comfortable pair of tennis shoes or jeans. Storge love is shared by a family and it's the kind of love described in this Robert Frost statement, *"The place where, when you go there, they have to take you in..."* This love is an emotional refuge and loyal, it provides a roof of security where other types of love can nourish and grow.

Phileo: This type of love cherishes and has a tender affection for the beloved. It is a love relationship that focuses on relationships, friendships, companionships and communication. This love makes dear friends, not lovers. Those who share in phileo love to share dreams, plans, and feelings with each other. A slogan for phileo is: *"It takes two baby..."*

Agape: The most potent of all loves is defined as totally unselfish and always giving. This type of love is displayed in Christ's death and resurrection. This love is unconditional, and it is the type of love that Christ has for everyone. This love is a choice of *WILL* and it is not an emotion or feeling. This love is ACTION, not emotion as embraced in these words, *"What I say and do, not feel."*

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C.S. Lewis sees this love as a garden, after the fall of man into sin, the garden is overrun with weeds and drought and un-kept. This Christ-type love of Agape comes and rakes, hoes, plants, waters the garden and kills the weeds. This love is knowledgeable and skillful and always concerned with others.

What type of love do you display the most? Who in your life is in need of these various forms of love? While Valentines' Day tends to focus more on the first 2 Greek definitions of love, Ash Wednesday focuses on the last two, specifically Agape. As we journey into the Lenten season with repentant hearts, may Christ's Agape love shown in His incarnation, life, death, and resurrection empower us so these 5 types of love may be shown to all those around us.

Poet Corner

A Brand New Story

I woke up this morning to a dark gloomy sky and thought how much God loves us and it made me wonder why?

Why would God the Creator sacrifice His only son to a world that refuses to believe that He loves each and everyone. When a baby dies in childbirth...When a parent suffers long...

When cancer takes a life...It's in response to heaven's song. God calls each one back to heaven. It's out of love He takes them home. One day you'll be together to walk the streets where angels roam. Death is God's door to life eternal.

It's our home free from earthly pain.

When a loved one is taken from you, it's kind of like a falling rain. Every raindrop is an earthly blessing as in every tear brings a memory. Both are water that evaporates upward, but through our eyes we cannot see.

Life is hard, but trust your Creator. He loves you more than you'll ever know. If this past year you were filled with anguish, there's still a blessing though it may not show.

Twenty twelve starts a brand new story. It has you in it with the leading part. It's a love story filled with many trials, but you'll have to see it through the Author's heart.

So don't worry about the year before you.

Your Father knows how the story ends.

Happy New Year filled with love and blessings
to all my family and email friends!

© Sue Lueck Carlson
www.heavensrollcall.com



Official Acts of Zion

Bereaved

Gladys Jeanette Larson

May 19, 1918 - December 24, 2011

Edward Henry Gust

August 12, 1927 - December 27, 2011

ZION **e**ARLY **C**HILDHOOD **C**ENTER

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Happy New Year! 2012, a new year, a time for new beginnings. And with a new year’s beginning often comes new promises, new commitments made to self and others. New Year’s Resolutions are often declared sometime within the hours of ending one year and starting another. I went around to our ZECC teachers to find out if anyone had made a New Year’s Resolution and wanted to share it with me for the purpose of this article.

“Eat Healthier”; “Make all babies happy”; “Smile more, worry less”; “Reinvest in relationships with loved ones”. My answer comes from a recently listened to radio program, which advised throwing out any made resolution and focusing on self-control. Isn’t that what most resolutions are anyway?

I also asked some of our ZECC kids if they have a goal, a promise to themselves, something they want to do this year. Some of the answers I heard were, “Not being hard on my mom”; “Play with toys more and watch screens less”; and “Take more walks”. Those are all grand ideas! However, over 80% of New Year’s resolutions fail by January 20th, according to wikianswers.com. Very disheartening if this was The Year everything was going to get better! But I took heart from this scripture, *“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”*

Jeremiah 29:11. Remember that no matter what plans you have, God is indeed in control, and put faith in that promise.

In God’s Service,
Judy Fuhrman

ZECC would like to say a special thank you to Dave Peterson, a member of Zion, who created and made our new large muscle portable storage cart! Dave did an amazing job and we thank God for his talent and ability to listen to what our need was and create just what we needed! Thank you Dave!



Petal Pushers Trip was a huge success. Nine Zion members traveled to Pasadena this past month to decorate floats for the Rose Bowl Parade. Our group worked on 7 floats to help out the Lutheran Hour float in this annual parade. We even enjoyed a worship service led by the new Lutheran Hour speaker, Rev. Seltz, at the completed Lutheran Hour float on Sunday morning. God certainly blessed us with a wonderful trip filled with sites, smells, and sounds of a busy city!

CHILDREN'S *ministry*

Wonderful News for our 3 & 4 year old class! On any given Sunday we could have up to 22 people (kids, teachers & helpers included). It made for a pretty crowded and very busy room! As of Sunday, January 15, Adam & Wendy Gardner will be teaching the 3 year old class in a room of their own! Wendy (Sichak) and Adam Gardner are newly married. Wendy is a lifelong member and Adam was recently received as a member. They are thrilled to be given the opportunity to share Jesus with our kids and look forward to a year of blessings and joy! Thank you Wendy and Adam!

Sunday School Sonlights...The Apostle John says, “I have no greater joy than this, than to hear of my children walking in the truth.” It is the work of parents, caring adults and the church to lead our children into an authentic understanding of Jesus and our faith. This is critical. This is primary. This is our number one task as Zion’s Sunday School and Wednesday Night Children’s teachers. And when it happens, heaven rejoices and we celebrate! Take a walk through the halls on Sunday morning. Listen to the learning that is happening. The laughter and joy as children of all ages share in the joy and delight of Jesus, walking in the Truth. Take time to stop and thank a teacher!

Zion Happenings



ZIPS is coming up Saturday, February 4 at Zion from 9-10am in the Fireside Room. ZIPS meets one time a month for intercessory prayer and prays for varying things...sometimes silent and other times out loud. ZIPS meets the first Saturday of each month (unless falling on a holiday). ZIPS is an open setting for new people to come and join in. Doors open at 8:45am. All are welcome and bring a friend if you'd like! Questions? Please call Karen Eck 952.935.4356 or Carolyn Bachman 952.935.5909.

Annual Quilting Day! Christian Women's Fellowship Annual Quilting Day for Missions will be Monday, February 20 from 9am until the quilts are finished. Please come and help tie, pin, and sew quilts. Bring a pair of scissors. No experience necessary! Come for a couple of hours or stay all day. Lunch will be provided by Thrivent. Men are most welcome to come too!



Concordia University Choir Concert at Zion, March 31! The 33 voice Christus Chorus of Concordia University, St. Paul will be in concert at Zion on Saturday, March 31 at 7:30pm. The concert theme is "We Are God's People" and will feature a wide variety of music on that joyful truth. The concert is also a fund-raiser for the choir's concert tour to South Korea, May 14-28, 2012. The group will be singing for and with Korean professional, church, community, and university choirs, as well as working in sight-seeing this beautiful country. They will also visit Luther University in Yongin and the International Lutheran Church in Seoul.

The Christus Chorus is an award-winning choir that has performed for national, regional and state music conferences (including an appearance at the national convention of the College Music Society last year) and has been invited five times to perform with the Minnesota Orchestra. The group's members represent many of Concordia's 45 majors, including church work and lay professional programs.

Feed My Starving Children... We have a reservation for 25 people to go to Feed My Starving Children on Friday, February 24. EVERYONE is invited no matter how young / old. (Students under 6th grade are asked to bring a parent.) We are leaving Zion at 7:15pm and returning around 10pm. We are packing from 8-9:30pm. You are also welcome to meet us at the Chanhassen site. Please sign up ahead of time at the Information Center or on the Youth Bulletin Board. Talk to Lisa Day if you have any questions.



February 12th is Sunday School's Friendship Day! It is a day to invite and bring your friends, sharing with them what your children do on Sunday mornings and of course, the love of Jesus. Each friend will receive a friendship bag filled with goodies and a gift. Each child who brings a friend will receive something special too and you'll have your picture taken together as a memento. More information will be coming home with your child. Mark your calendar, February 12th and plan that sleepover!!!

Lit n' Latte will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 7pm at Linda Swanson's home. We will be talking about the book "Potato in a Rice Bowl" by Peggy Keener. On March 13 we will discuss "Same Kind of Different As Me" by Ron Hall. If you have any questions about this group, or wish to join talk to Linda Krienke or Lisa Day.

Events for ALL Youth (Grades 6-12)

Feed My Starving Children - Friday, February 24 we will leave church at 7:15pm and return around 10pm. Sign up on the youth bulletin board to reserve your spot.

Plan Ahead: March 23-24 - Annual Kick-Ball Tournament @ Concordia University; April 7-8 - Easter Breakfast prep and serving.

Events for HS Youth (Grades 9-12)

Sunday Sr. High JAM: Mike is doing a fantastic job leading discussions with our 9-12th grade HS youth. Come and be a part of the discussion too.

Wednesday Sr. High JAM: Sarah is excited to see you on Wednesdays to deal with the topic of Spiritual Gifts. So, get your homework done early, reserve the night off of work, do what you need to do to enjoy the time in God's Word and in Fellowship with one another.

Servant Event Informational Meeting for all 8-12th graders and Parents will be Sunday, February 12 at 9:40am. Lisa will spend a short time filling you in on the Servant Event details - location, work, cost, date and hopefully answer any other questions you may have about our 2012 summer trip.

3rd Sunday Night February 19 - 3rd Sunday Night is a HS student focused monthly event. Each 3rd Sunday Night offers 2 hours of fellowship, worship, games, prizes, and oh yes, FREE FOOD. Youth focused worship along with an opportunity to connect with other youth around fun and food - how cool is that? We'll leave church at 6:45pm.

Events for JH Youth (Grades 6-8) & Confirmation

Sunday Jr. High JAM: Lisa is leading "Heroes from the Bible" in room 208 for all 6-8th graders.

Jr. High Serving Treats on Sunday, February 5 between worship services. Please let me know if you are able to:

- Bring in 1dz. fresh 'something' before 9am Sunday morning OR
- Bring in a gallon of orange juice before 9am Sunday morning AND
- Help set up / plate items starting at 9am - for 4-5 youth and 2 adults AND/OR
- Help clean up (9:40am) - for 3-4 adults only as youth will travel to class

Jr. High Youth are asked to be present and serve during the Fellowship time - if you cannot help to set up / plate items, you are asked to be here by 9:30am to help serve and 'represent' our Jr. High ministry.

Confirmation Parent's Night will be Wednesday, February 15 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

6th Grade Early Communion Instruction will be held on the following Wednesdays - February 29, March 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 7:15 - 8pm in the Chapel. This is for 6th grade students and their parents.

Confirmation 6th Graders (and your Parents) - Plan Ahead: 1st Communion Worship service - Thursday, April 5 at 7pm.

I would like to receive via e-mail:

Messenger of Light

Yearly Financial Statement

Name: _____

5 E-mail Address: _____

Memorials, Endowments & Designated Gifts

“But just as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge,...see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” (II Corinthians 8:7b)

There are times when individuals would like to do something above and beyond their regular weekly giving to God. These times may be as a thank offering on the anniversary of a wedding, for good health, as a memorial to a loved one who has died, in honor of a living loved one, to share in an unexpected windfall or inheritance, etc. Zion has established two separate funds to receive these gifts - *The Memorial Fund* and *The Endowment Fund*.

Memorial Fund There are many things that Zion Church and Early Childhood Center need which are not included in our regular budget. Financial gifts received in this fund are used to purchase specific items from a master list which has been approved by the Church Council. *Memorials are meant to be above and beyond your regular tithe or offering. They should not take away from your regular financial support of Christ's Church.*

Endowment Fund The purpose of this Fund is to receive gifts and bequests, invest them wisely and disperse the earnings with discretion for the benefit of the mission and ministry of Zion. Gifts received are deposited in interest-bearing accounts. The deposits are never spent. Only the earnings (interest, dividends) are spent.

In addition to donating to Zion's above two funds, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans offers another method of making gifts to its policy holders. This gift does not come out of your pocket!

Charitable Funds (Thrivent Choice Program) Beginning in the Summer of 2010 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Insurance Company created a charitable grant program which includes donations to local congregations. If you have a product from Thrivent you may select Zion Lutheran Church as the recipient of between \$25 and \$100 depending upon which products you may own. This can be done every year.

Further Information: *If you are interested in additional information about your part in Zion's future please speak to Rudy Niemiec, a member of our Stewardship Board, through the church office 952.938.7661 or www.zionhopkins.org. Additionally you should speak with your own financial advisor, lawyer or tax advisor for proper legal and financial advice. The purpose of the above is to provide information of a general character only.*

Thank you for the gift! Zion has received from the Thrivent Choice program in one year **\$12,925** as of 12/31/11. Thank you all who designated Zion Lutheran Church as the recipient of your “Thrivent Choice Dollars.” If you own any **Thrivent Insurance Company** products (*Life insurance, mutual funds, other investments*) you may be able to designate Zion Lutheran Church to receive from \$25 and \$100 **every year** (possible as much as \$500) **WITHOUT SPENDING ANY ADDITIONAL MONEY**. Thrivent has a new program “**Thrivent Choice**” begun in 2010 which allows policy holders to select Lutheran nonprofit organizations including Lutheran congregations (like Zion) to receive funds. The policy holder (you) need only contact Thrivent online or via a phone call (www.thrivent.com or 800.847.4836) to designate Zion Lutheran Church as the organization you would like this money to be sent too. There is no cost of any kind to you. Funds come from company profits (not your premiums). The money you designate will be sent directly to Zion and be administered by our Zion Lutheran Church Memorial Fund Committee (elected by the congregation).



Monthly Financial Summary December 31, 2011

INCOME (\$832,236 = Projected Annual for 2011 [+0% over 2010])

Actual <u>Month</u>	Projected <u>monthly</u>	Actual total <u>to date</u>	Projected total <u>to date</u>
\$83,729	\$69,353	\$847,456	\$832,236

EXPENSES (\$892,236 = Projected Annual for 2011 [+0.66% over 2010])

Actual <u>Month</u>	Projected <u>monthly</u>	Actual total <u>to date</u>	Projected total <u>to date</u>
\$74,920	\$74,353	\$851,166	\$892,236

Current bills due but not yet paid = \$23,921

General & Mission Offerings for December = \$72,982 (\$58,871 projected per month; \$13,516 per week)

Building Fund Offerings for December = \$8,384 (Our monthly mortgage payment is \$10,747; \$2,480/wk)

Building Loan Balance = \$1,048,321

ZION lcms

Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center
241 Fifth Avenue North ☩ Hopkins, MN 55343

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Sundays

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

The strength and joy of this worship is its richness and reverence. It emphasizes our Reformation heritage and traditional Lutheran hymnody. Music is led by Zion's Sanctuary Choir, accompanied with a 36 rank Van Daalan Organ, grand piano, handbells and instrumentalists.

10:50 a.m. Contemporary Worship

This worship has an atmosphere of joy and celebration with its' new sounds. Contemporary music is led by our Christian band and vocal ensemble.

Saturday

5 p.m. Informal Worship

The joyous celebration of God's grace in this worship service is presented in a less formal manner than on Sunday, with a mix of traditional and contemporary worship music. If you have Sunday plans or schedules, or like to avoid larger crowds, join us in this uplifting worship service. Casual dress is the norm at this alternative service.

Randall A. Neal	Senior Pastor
Howie A. Krienke	Pastor Emeritus (Visitation)
Dan Schultz	Vicar
Katie Wareham	Director of Parish Music
Vicki Peterson	Director of Children's Ministry
Lisa Day	Director of Student Ministries
Judy Fuhrman	Director of ZECC
Bonnie Shelton	Office Manager
Molly Mullin	Administrative Assistant
Teresa Hassing	Director of Media
Rick Tupa	Properties Engineer

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