

The Messenger



Zion Lutheran Church

(651) 459-3010

Volume 3

March 2010

Office Hours—

8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.— Monday through Thursday
Closed Fridays



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

WEDNESDAYS

MARCH 3, 10, 17 and 24

Please plan to attend soup suppers every Wednesday in March at **5:15 P.M. to 6:15 P.M.** It will be a free will offering with the proceeds going to the youth of Zion and to the food shelf. Matching funds have been applied for from the Dakota-Washington Chapter of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Bring your friends, family and neighbors. We have different soup chefs each week along with sandwiches and deserts.

Also plan to stay for a worship service which starts at 7:00 P.M.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The reward of a faithful servant.

Salvation, as we all know, is a gift from God. We didn't earn it and we don't deserve it. And if we were to try we could never attain it by our own efforts. Even such things as rain, sunshine, good weather, loving friends, and a wonderful country to live in, it's all part of God's goodness for which we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread."

But there are also those things that come to us as a reward for being a good and faithful servant. In Jesus' parable of the servants who each received talents, those who were good and faithful servants received a reward for their faithful service. As we faithfully give our offerings unto the Lord, Jesus said, "your Father who sees in secret will reward you." In that same passage (Matthew 6:1-21) Jesus repeatedly mentions rewards. Those who are ostentatious in their prayers have their reward in the attention others would pay them. And for those who are more discrete in their prayers, their reward comes from God. The same is true for fasting and for earthly or heavenly treasure. It does make a difference how we express our spiritual disciplines. Jesus said, "You can be sure that anyone who gives up home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or land for me and for the good news will be rewarded." (Mark 10:29) Even very simple acts of kindness have their rewards ("And anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name, just because you belong to me, will surely be rewarded" Mark 9:41). Paul declared that salvation is by grace through faith, as he told the Romans. But he also told them that there are rewards for our behavior as well (Romans 2:6-10) Receiving a reward for being a good servant doesn't give you any perks that others cannot receive. Nor does it mean that God loves you more than everyone else. Paul makes it clear, that when it comes to such simple rewards, God does not show favoritism (R 2:10). But he DOES reward good behavior, even though at the same time your salvation is totally

free and undeserved. It's a paradox. On the one hand, Salvation is free. But on the other hand it is also true that God's kindness can be measured out to us as a reward for good behavior. There are so many, many bible verses that highlight the dual nature of this paradox that I can't possibly put them all down on paper in this short message. Simply believe this: it does make a difference how we serve the Lord our God, even while at the same time the greater matter of salvation was settled in our favor a long time ago by God's grace through faith.

"Well done, good and faithful servant. . . Come and share your master's happiness." (Matthew 25:21 NIV) It is a great joy to the Lord and to each of us, when we serve the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Blessings!
Pastor Mike

THANK YOU!!!!

Thank you to the Zion members and their guests, about 77, that participated at the Carbone's fundraiser on January 25. The restaurant donated 15% of their total sales for the evening, which resulted in a check for Zion for \$183.15 and money was deposited in Zion's general fund.

Mark your calendars for **APRIL 16, 4 to 9 P.M.** for our next scheduled fundraiser at Carbone's.

Sandy Walton

**ZION MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
SPONSORING FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST
SUNDAY, MARCH 28 (PALM SUNDAY)**

The Zion Men's Fellowship will sponsor an all-you-can-eat French toast breakfast on Sunday, March 28 (Palm Sunday), with serving from **8:30 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.** in the Conference Room across from the kitchen. The event is open to the general public, so bring your friends and neighbors!

The menu will include all-you-can-eat French toast, sausage, mixed fruit, coffee, juice, and milk. A freewill offering will be accepted, with suggested donations of \$4 for adults and \$2 for children age 11 and under.

Net proceeds from the event will go directly toward unpaid bills at Zion.

NEW COUNCIL MEETING TIME

At the council retreat on Saturday, February 13th, the council elected to change our monthly meeting time to begin at 6:30 PM. Since council meetings are open to all members of Zion, it is important that you know when meetings are being held so you may attend a meeting if you wish. The meeting day, third Tuesday of each month, will remain the same.

YBIC,
Chuck Kaiser
Council President

A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our father and from our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Since Pastor Mike arrived and we took on the role of Transformation Ministry, we have been doing a lot of thinking and talking and praying about what we believe God wants us to do, what path he wants us to follow. Like all of you, I also have been tossing this subject around in my mind.

As I wondered about what God wants us as a congregation to do, I had a thought. What if we are already doing it? Take a look around at Zion. Recently Pastor Mike was able to document sixty plus ministry efforts, events and programs that members of Zion not only support but in which our membership is actively involved. What if all these amazing ministries that we have been involved in, some of them for many years, are the very thing God has wanted us to do all along?

The only answer I can give you for that question is, I don't know. Even if we are doing all the things God wants us to do right now, who is to say there isn't more of this in our future. So all I can say is that we need to keep on keeping on but at the same time we need to keep our antenna up. We need to keep our spiritual radio tuned to the God frequency and listen for what may be coming next.

Perhaps the best I have heard this stated is in the words of the dismissal from our Ash Wednesday service.

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;

Be of good courage;

Hold fast to that which is good;

Render to no one evil for evil;

Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak;

Help the afflicted, honor all people;

Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

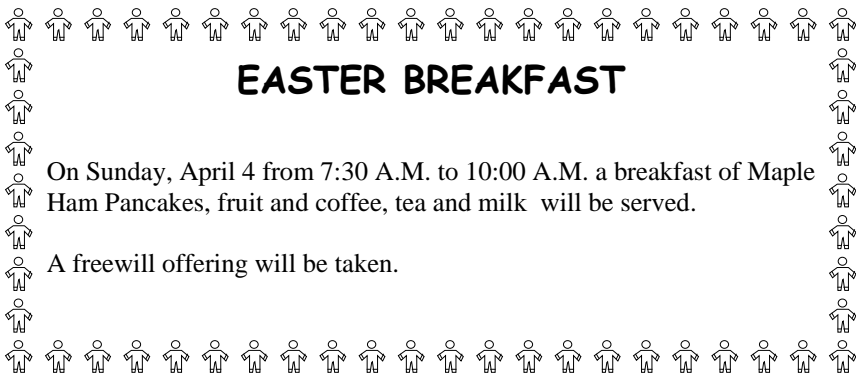
Thanks be to God.

In other words, keep on being the people of Zion.

YBIC,

Chuck Kaiser

Council President



EASTER BREAKFAST

On Sunday, April 4 from 7:30 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. a breakfast of Maple Ham Pancakes, fruit and coffee, tea and milk will be served.

A freewill offering will be taken.

LOVE LOAVES

Please remember to put any loose change in your loaves through Lent. Donations are sent to World Vision to help feed the hungry in the world.

Thank you!

KIDDIE KAMPUS

Kiddie Kampus is now taking registrations for the fall session. If you wish to register your child or know of someone who needs a preschool for their child, please call Kiddie Kampus at 651-459-3010.

Blessings!
Pastor Mike

**ZION MEMBER JERRY NEILSON
ELECTED TO SYNOD NOMINATING
COMMITTEE**

At the Saint Paul Area Synod's 2010 Conference Assembly and Caucuses on February 21, Zion member Jerry Neilson was elected to a three-year term on the synod nominating committee. The term runs from 2011 through 2013.

Jerry also serves on the Augsburg College Governing Board, representing the Saint Paul Area Synod. Previously, he served six years on the synod reference and counsel committee, a two-year term on the synod committee for discipline, and an earlier three-year term on the synod nominating committee.

Jerry also served as a voting member at the 2003, 2005, and 2007 ELCA Church wide Assemblies in Milwaukee, Orlando, and Chicago, respectively.

**WOMEN OF ZION ANNUAL TEA
APRIL 18**

Please mark your calendars now and invite your friends for the Women of Zion's annual tea. The tea and delicious food is being prepared by the famous "**Sidone**"!!

More details will be coming!

Thank you!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

MARCH

3-3	Rose, Marlys	3-3	Bleckinger, Debra
3-3	Tanner, Rick	3-5	Loer, Annette
3-6	Hicks, Marlene	3-6	Bunton, Shelby
3-7	Krueger, Cullen	3-11	Berghammer, Lillian
3-11	Olson, Emily	3-12	Krueger, James
3-12	Hallaway, Barbara	3-14	Vaala, Fanesca
3-16	Richert, Scott	3-16	Paulsen, Paul
3-18	Albon, Kelli	3-20	Eriksen, Ron
3-21	Engelstad, Robert G.	3-21	Oldenburg, Adrianna
3-23	Peterson, Diane	3-26	Marfori, Wally
3-27	Meyer, Emily	3-27	Dockter, Breanna
3-29	Dockter, Anson	3-31	Hranicka, Barbara

BEFRIENDERS

A Befriender is someone who will visit you at home if you are unable to come to church. They will visit with you each month and bring you communion. Zion at present has 4 active members and 3 inactive.

If you are interested in becoming a Befriender or if you know of someone who would like to be visited, please feel free to contact Pastor Mike or Marion Knudtson.

