

THE ZION STAR

December 2009

Zion Lutheran Church 1015 SW Eighteenth Avenue Portland OR 97205-1708

HIGHLIGHTS

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Dear members and friends of Zion,

Where does Christmas begin? Some might say, "In Bethlehem." Others might say when the angel Gabriel came to the Virgin Mary and announced she would conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit and have a baby, the promised Messiah, Jesus, Emmanuel, the Son of God. Still others might say Christmas begins with the prophet Isaiah and the announcement of the virgin birth, others could go back to King David, or the time of the Patriarchs, especially Abraham. For sure some would say, "I think Christmas begins in the Garden of Eden after the fall into sin when God made the promise to Eve and Adam."

Let me give you my thought. First, I believe Christmas begins in the "heart" of God, so to speak, from way back in eternity, even before the foundation of the world. God's love was there before the creation, and He knew He would send the Savior, His only begotten Son. That same heart of God is with us today. Second, I believe for you and me Christmas begins in *our* heart. I've often said, "If Christmas isn't in your heart, it really isn't Christmas. And if it is in your heart, it's Christmas no matter what your circumstances may be."

My prayer is that you have a wonderful Christ centered, heart-felt and heart-filled Christmas, one that flows from the heart to others in your life. Advent and Christmas blessings to you and yours!



WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE:

Last month we began the topic of infant baptism, which we said would be continued in this issue of the Zion STAR. Just as a newborn baby must be nourished, loved, cared for and protected, so, too, the newborn infant in Holy Baptism must be nourished, loved, cared for and protected. Baptism is not in a vacuum. Jesus said, "Make disciples ... baptizing ... teaching ..." Infant baptism includes a commitment on the part of the parents to teach their child about Jesus, to train their child in the Christian faith, to nourish their child in God's Word and worship, to support their child by prayer and example, to love their child in God's love, and to share the joy of forgiveness and new life in Christ as the child grows. Next month we will talk about sponsors (godparents) and their responsibilities.



LUTHER'S 95 THESES

We've heard so much about Martin Luther posting the 95 Theses on the Castle Church (Schlosskirche) door in Wittenberg, which "sparked" the Reformation, we think it might be a good idea to print them out in the Zion STAR. Perhaps you have never read them. You may be surprised. We will list ten of them in each of the next issues of the STAR and finish in October. Please, ALWAYS keep in mind the setting and context out of which Luther writes these 95 Theses. It was a very different world and time in the Church.

#1 When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (MT 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance. #2 This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the

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THE ZION STAR IS THE MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER OF

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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PORTLAND, OREGON 97205-1708
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www.zion-portland.org
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PASTOR

THE REV. TYRUS H. MILES

MUSIC MINISTRY

KURT BERENTSEN, DIRECTOR
FLOY BERENTSEN, ASSOCIATE/
ORGANIST

GERMAN MINISTRY ASST.

THE REV. HANS SPALTEHOLZ

STAR EDITOR: PASTOR MILES

SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 AM

+

EDUCATION HOUR 9:30 AM

+

EUCHARIST

1ST, 3RD, & 5TH SUNDAYS
CHURCH FESTIVAL DAYS

+

GOTTESDIENST

(GERMAN LANGUAGE SERVICE)
SECOND SUNDAY AT 9 AM
SEPTEMBER-JUNE

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

TUESDAY-FRIDAY 9AM—2PM

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE ON THE MAX
LIGHT RAIL AT THE
KING'S HILL / SALMON STREET
STATION
(NEAR PGE PARK)

Dear Friends at Zion and of the German-Language Ministry!

Fröhliche Weihnachten! This German *Merry Christmas!* warmly welcomes all of you, our German *and* English friends, to Zion's German Christmas service on December 20, at 9:00 a.m. It will be a special service of beloved carols and Bible readings.

We sing "From Heaven Above," the carol Luther composed for his children; a dancing folk song, "O How Joyfully"; the grand "O Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly"; the Austrian priest's "*Stille Nacht*"; the superb "Let All Together Praise Our God," and more.

As cherished as these carols are, they are anything but mere sentimental nostalgia and escape from our deeply troubled world. And despite the frantic commercialization of this season, the greeting *Fröhliche Weihnachten!* (= "Joyous Consecrated Night!"), just as *Merry Christmas!*, rings the inner heartbeat of this most wondrous time. No season is more charged with anticipation of holidays, rich traditions of gifting and celebrating, with hunger and hope. The gift of the carols and the readings is that they let us hear that heartbeat, and sing it, own it anew, and share it. It is the Good News of great joy: the birth of the Savior, Christ the Lord. It is the living Word of God in action for us and the whole troubled world. It is this most unlikely birth in which God himself decisively enters our human story to set it right, to bring hope and healing, joy and peace.

Come and join the celebration: *Fröhlich soll mein Herze springen...* (All my heart this night rejoices...)"


Fröhliche Weihnachten—indeed! -- Pr. Hans Spalteholz

YEAR END GIFTS

For some individuals, this year's financial markets have been up, some were down or flat. Some are presently making decisions on stock or cash gifting. Now is the time to begin looking at what options are available to you for your 2009 year-end gifts. When selecting your options for this year-end gifts, please consider including Zion as an option, the

general offering or the Endowment Fund. Your gift is tax deductible, in full

End
-of-Year
Giving



A Special Thanks to:

FALL CLEAN-UP WORKERS

A big **THANK YOU!** from Zion to the following who stayed after church on November 22nd, and helped with our fall clean up around the properties: (names are listed in no particular order, we appreciate each and every one) Ruth Hyde, Lacy & Irene Hall, Brian & Arlene Boe and son Jason, Scott Jensen, Lynn Hyde, Ben Burch, Karen Graham, Denise Pillette, Jonathan & Suzanne Jensen and children Caroline, Rebecca, Katherine, as well as Suzanne's mother and father, Brian Fleener, Tera Waldon, Patti Hillier, Vivian Fleener, Jennifer Thomas, Alex Fleener, Melva Thomas, Ty & Sharon Miles, Brent Keller, Margaret Olson.

A Feast, Set for a King

Preparing and presenting music in worship at this time of year requires a substantial commitment of time and energy. But just like everyone knows, when planning, preparing, and serving holiday meals, nothing is spared in creating a feast for a king. The joy that is shared with family and friends in these efforts far outweighs the time and energy required.

For Zion's church-family, the church-home of Zion is where we celebrate at this time of year the hope and peace in the Love sent to us by our Heavenly Father. The text of the popular song "Oh there's no place like home for the holidays" rings and sings true for Zion Lutheran's Choir and Handbell Ensemble as they prepare and present a musical feast set for the King of kings offered to family and friends of the Zion church-family. Just as in preparing and serving a feast of culinary delights, the musical joy of this commitment far outweighs the time and efforts required.

Just as thanks is expressed to those preparing and serving any type of feast for our partaking, Floy and I wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all of those who share in the music ministry with us at Zion. We also know that most of Zion's church-family share in our sentiments of gratitude, so we also thank those who continually uplift the efforts of the ensemble members by thanking them for sharing their musical gifts in worship.

May our gracious God richly bless your Advent and Christmas Season as we celebrate His gift of Love given to us in our Lord Jesus the Christ Child. To Him alone be all glory, honor, and praise!

Kurt & Floy Berentsen



"Did You Know?"

ZION'S BENEVOLENT FUND

Did you know that Zion has a Benevolent Fund to assist members of the congregation in a financial crisis to help them get past the emergency? The Fund is administered in a confidential manner at the discretion of the Pastor, Head Elder, and Fiscal Director together. If you would like to contribute to this Fund, which has been a great help to those who have received assistance, put your contribution in an envelope marked "Benevolent Fund," with your regular offering envelope number, and put it in the offering on Sunday morning, or mail it to the church office.



THANK YOU, LWML HOST COMMITTEE

Zion has been presented with a lovely Communion Ware set from the LWML national convention host committee as an expression of thanks for serving as host congregation for the opening Communion Service of the convention, and also hosting the national LWML board dinner last January when they met in Portland. This Communion Ware, one of a kind hand blown glass flagon (pitcher) and chalice, and hand crafted wooden paten (plate) with the convention theme, "Our God Reigns" and logo inscribed, will be used on special occasions, the first being Christmas Day.



EVANGELISM TEAM IS REACHING OUT . . .

FROM ZION TO OUR COMMUNITY



Here at Zion we are keeping the flame alive. . . The flame of the Mission ABLAZE goal of the Lutheran church bodies . . . To share the good news of Jesus. Our Evangelism Team is on the GO!

MISSION ABLAZE

Where have we been? Where are we going? We knew you wanted to know! Pray for us as we continue in the following ministries:

◆ **The "Cup of Water Ministry"**

Discover the bright orange covered table in the Narthex and see rows of bottles of water! Not ordinary bottles, but bottles designed with colorful collars, quoting our mission statement: "Celebrating the presence of God in the heart of Portland." *Take! Give Away! Bring* more bottles for labeling & distributing. The water is there for a very special purpose for Zion members to take and the to give away. Remember the scripture, "give a cup of cold water" in His name! ***A REMINDER TO ALL: To keep this "cup of water" ministry going, we need an on-going supply of new bottles. We are counting on Zion members to help us replenish our supply of bottled water.***

◆ **Gospel of John**

Copies of the Book of St. John are on display in the Narthex on that same bright orange table. Also you will find these books displayed and available near the church office and on tables in the Fellowship Hall. *Take and Give*; the books are there for you.

◆ **Marshall Manor Retirement Home**

We accompany Pastor Miles on this once-a-month Sunday Service.

◆ **University of Portland**

We are involved in the program called Client/Partner Interviews. This involves working with the Department of Nursing at the University of Portland. We are listeners, advisors, & participants in the one-on-one encounter with student nurses-to-be.

◆ **Rosehaven**

Our ministry overlaps the work of Karen Graham and the Human Care Ministry. We are delivering clothing, food, bottled water, and copies of the Book of John. We have also participated in the devotional hour at Rosehaven.

◆ **Reformation Sunday**

Decorated tables, and arranged for refreshments for the regular Sunday service, and for the social hour after the Reformation service. We have been filling in for the Fellowship Director, with the help of Margaret Olson and Guild members.

◆ **Welcome Baskets**

Baskets filled with bottled water, a loaf of banana bread, the booklet of the Gospel of St. John, printed literature about Zion Lutheran Church were given to new members who have joined the church. Margaret Olson also helped with this.

◆ **Northwest Examiner Newspaper**

Advertising purchased for this paper for one year. Lacy is in the process of designing a Christmas advertisement for the NW Examiner.

◆ **The Relay for Life 2010, American Cancer Society**

YES, we are planning to participate again, July 17, 2010. Let's set goals for having more volunteers to walk, and of course exceed the amount of \$1,600.00 raised last summer.

Merry Christmas!

Lacy and Irene Hall

Evangelism Directors



The following have been in our prayers at Zion on Sunday mornings in the past month:

- Lee Strange,
- Ellen Hall,
- Ingeborg Hailey,
- Jim Westerberg,
- Rolanda Rasmussen,
- soldiers injured and families of those killed,
- Matthew Hueser,
- family and friends of Paul Manz,
- Arlene Kapwich,
- family and friends of Mason,
- family and friends of Rolanda Rasmussen,
- Trenton Batey,
- Elsie Wiebusch,
- Rich Richards,
- victims of Ft. Hood tragedy,
- all travelers,
- worship at Marshall Union Manor,
- food offerings and recipients.



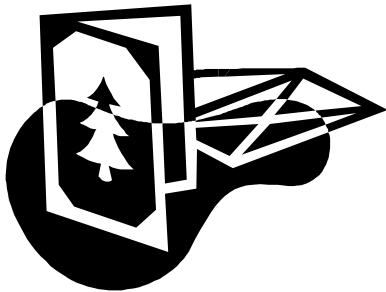
BIRTHDAYS:

- 12/2 Alicia Keys
- 12/4 Bob Duncan
- 12/15 Bob Pete
- 12/18 Nicole Burgoine
- 12/19 Donna Myhre
- 12/21 Brenna Halverson
- 12/22 Jason Boe
- 12/27 Tina Luce
- 12/28 Suzanne Jensen
- 12/31 Karen Graham

ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/ 4 Mike & Diane Curtis
- 12/22 Brian & Kathy Fleener
- 12/28 Carson & Gudrun Taylor

Anyone wishing to send greetings to Joshua Traxel at Seminary in St.Louis, contact the church office.



His mailing information will gladly be given to you.



HOW ABOUT THESE "One-Liners"

- ♦ He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.
- ♦ Don't put a question mark where God puts a period.
- ♦ When praying, don't give God instructions, just report for duty.

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LUTHER'S 95 THESES

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100th PRAYER SHAWL DELIVERED

This past month we gave out the 100th prayer shawl from Zion's Prayer Shawl Ministry. Think of it, 100 of these lovely, soft, beautiful shawls, made with a lot of love and prayer, have been given out to members and friends of Zion. Some have even been sent to far away places. The following verse is attached to each shawl: "Our Prayer to you ... Wrap this shawl around you, and feel God's grace and care. Know that it was made with love, and in each stitch a prayer. May the comfort that it offers, remind you God is near. And if you're sick or hurting, may God's love calm your fears. Know that God's great mercy, is very like this shawl. Surrounding, warming, loving, your heart, your soul, your all." If you would like to be a part of Zion's Prayer Shawl Ministry, or if you know someone who would be blessed by receiving one of our shawls, please contact the church office. This ministry of Zion began in September, 2005.



OPPORTUNITIES AT ZION FOR GIVING THIS CHRISTMAS

★ FOOD BOXES

Zion has been privileged the last few months to pack and deliver food boxes in behalf of Northwest Portland Ministries on the last Sunday of the month. Very often, by the end of the month and before the "food stamps" are credited to people's accounts at the first part of the next month, there is a serious need for these food items. We hope to have the volunteers so we can continue this important work. Please, if you are able, sign up each month on the sheet available in the Parish Hall.

★ TOYS FOR CHILDREN TO BE DELIVERED

The toys that we have gathered for distribution through the channel 8 toy drive for children will be taken to **Channel 8 December 16th at 11 AM.** If you would like to go along, please let us know in the church office. Arrangements have been made for a tour of the channel 8 station. We thank Kenny Douglas for his *yearlong* work on this project. A box for toy donations is in the Parish Hall. Think of the smiles on the children's faces when they receive these toys!

★ GOODIE BAGS FOR CHRISTMAS DISTRIBUTION

For several years a Christmas dinner has been hosted at Congregation Beth Israel (yes, that's right!) for nearby low income housing residents on December 25th. Northwest Portland Ministries, of which Zion is a part, is collecting donations for the 500 goodie bags that will be given out to the dinner participants. There is a box in the Parish Hall for these donations.

According to NWPM, "**We are looking for:** candy canes, combs, wrapped candy, clickable pens, notepads, tooth brushes, tooth paste, floss, sanitizing packages, tea bags, aspirin packets, shampoo, soap, individual packets of cocoa mix, coffee, raisins, fruit snacks, juice boxes, laundry detergent, and instant oatmeal. We also need bags to put all the items in."

★ GIFTS FOR A REFUGEE FAMILY

Once again Zion is privileged to sponsor a refugee family for Christmas. The list of needed items is posted in the Parish Hall. Please pick up a tag and when you have purchased and wrapped the gift, attach the tag to the package and put the present in the last pew in the sanctuary. We will be delivering these gifts the first part of Christmas week. We have been given a family of ten!



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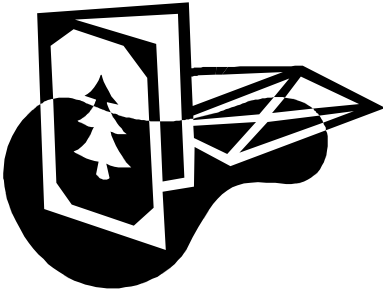
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>December</i>						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Food Gathering				Handbells 6:30 Choir 7:30		Portland Symphonic Girlchoir Concert 11:00 am at Zion
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Communion Sunday 9:30 Education Hour 11:00 Worship	 12 noon Guild Christmas Luncheon	6pm Support Group	Handbells 6:30 Choir 7:30	Church Decorating 		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30 Education Hour 11:00 Worship 2pm Caroling at Marshall Union Manor 3pm Liedertafel Concert 	Board of Elders 5:30	Board of Directors 5:30	Handbells 6:30 Choir 7:30	Portland Symphonic Girlchoir Concert 2:00 pm at Zion		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 German Worship Service 9:30 Education Hour 11:00 Worship including Children's Christmas Presentation	6pm Support Group Handbells 6:30 Choir 7:30	CHRISTMAS EVE 5pm Family Service 11pm Candlelight Service	CHRISTMAS DAY 11am Festival Service of Holy Communion			
29	30	31				
9:30 Education Hour 11:00 Worship				New Year's Eve		
Christ the Savior is Born!						

**Herzlich
Willkommen!**



**Liedertafel-Harmonie
German Christmas Concert**

**December 13
3:00 p.m.**

**German Service of
Carols and Readings**

**December 20
9:00 a.m.**

**Zion Lutheran Church
S.W. 18th and Salmon
Portland, OR
503-221-1343**



THE ZION STAR
December-January

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH 1015 SOUTHWEST EIGHTEENTH AVENUE
PORTLAND OR 97205-1708



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THE ZION STAR



ZION CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve:

5:00 PM Family Service "Born in a Barn"
11:00 PM Candlelight Service "Jesus – Savior"

Christmas Day:

11:00 AM Festival Communion Service
"Christmas All Over the World"