

THE ZION STAR

October, 2009

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

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Dear members and friends of Zion,

October brings us to the month of the Reformation. We think of the Lutheran Church's emphasis on the three *solas* - *Sola Gratia*, *Sola Fide*, *Sola Scriptura* - Grace alone! Faith alone! Scripture alone! These three "pillars" of Lutheranism help to guide us in our expression of the Christian faith. We are saved by the grace of God alone (Ephesians 2:8,9, and other passages), through faith alone (Romans 3:28, Phil. 3:9), and this we know through Scripture alone.

Are you familiar with the Lutheran Confessions statement on Scripture? It defines our source of teaching and guides our practice. Here it is: "*We believe, teach, and confess that the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments are the only rule and norm according to which all doctrines and teachers alike must be appraised and judged.* Formula of Concord (Part I: Epitome)

Happy Reformation month!

Your friend and partner in Christ,
Ty Miles, pastor



"Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times." - Martin Luther

What Lutherans Believe:



Lutherans believe that we must be "born again?" Yes, most emphatically! Jesus clearly teaches in John, chapter three, "Truly, Truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God... unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." However, unlike many of our fellow Christians, we do not believe that a person has to be conscious of, identify, or know the exact moment, situation or occasion when this took place. We do not find that in the scriptures. We do know, however, from Holy Scripture, that, "No one can say that, 'Jesus is Lord' but by the Holy Spirit." (1 Cor. 12:3) Thus, if Jesus is your Lord, you have that faith by the Holy Spirit, and you have been "born again!"

THE ZION STAR IS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

1015 SW 18TH AVENUE
PORTLAND, OREGON 97205-1708
PHONE: 503.221-1343
FAX: 503.228-6484

www.zion-portland.org
email: zionportland@qwest.net

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

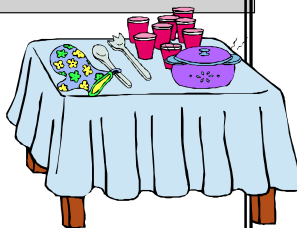
(GERMAN LANGUAGE SERVICE)
SECOND SUNDAY AT 9 AM
SEPTEMBER-JUNE

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 Service

October spells: --autumn with its array of fall colors from scarlet crimson to rich rusts and flaming gold; --harvest festivals with cornucopia of fruit and vegetables, pumpkin and gourd; --and for Lutheran churches the world 'round, Reformation with Luther's Oct. 31, 1517, hammer blows of 95 Theses on the Castle Church door at Wittenberg. He crafted 95 terse statements, in Latin, to provoke academic debate about the corrupt penitential system of the Catholic Church vis-à-vis the Biblical teaching of repentance and faith in the Gospel. But translated quickly into the vernacular, they unleashed a fire-storm of outrage, insight, and faith that helped ignite the Reformation.

We will celebrate that historic event in our monthly German service, but use the lessons for that (Oct.11) Sunday—**Psalm 90:12-17; Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Hebrews 4:12-16, and Mark 10:17-31**. These readings, particularly Mark's rich young ruler, prompt a fresh look in light of the three great Reformation *sola's* ("alone's")—by grace alone, through faith alone, for Christ's sake alone. Are these *sola's* mere Lutheran woe-be-gone nostalgia, fit only for the dustbin of history? Or are they in fact still relevant in our 21st C. religious pluralism, its resurgent world religions, and ecumenical cooperation?

That is, do our readings question or even contradict the Reformation *sola's*. Or may they not challenge us to listen anew for how they confirm the truth and relevance of the *sola's* and inspire us to believe, proclaim, and live out God's Good News in our world today!

Let me invite you to read and reflect on our lessons, particularly the story of the rich young ruler, who asked "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" The Commandments he knows, and says, "I've kept them all since my youth." But Jesus, loving him, says to him, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor..." Let's ponder his sadness, the disciples' perplexity and distress about what Jesus' words mean for them, and what they mean for us. His Word is indeed arresting but also Good News for us today, in any stage of life, in any circumstance, rich or poor. "With God all things are possible."

Come and worship and please bring a friend! *Gottes Segen und auf Wiederseh'n!*

Pr. Hans Spalteholz



Celebration of Life: Zion's Annual Potluck Picnic

On Sunday, September 13th Zion members and friends gathered in the parish hall to once again experience the surprises of a potluck picnic, the joys of conversations around our tables, and the sounds of the children's games being played on the lawn. The blending of 88 voices created that "joyful noise" which warmed our hearts and bound us together as children of God.

The memories of this special picnic still echo in our hearts and minds. Your attendance, your participation, and your contribution of food all combined to make this a very special day. We look forward to next time! Thank you to all who participated especially Irene & Lacy Hall for all of their hard work!

MUSIC MINISTRY AT ZION LUTHERAN

Love - a Word of Action

In the year and a half that Floy and I have served Zion, we are touched by the endless outpouring of love by so many people. The Zion Choir and Handbell Ensemble are growing in numbers as people choose to share their gifts of music. Numerous other programs at Zion also give people an opportunity to share of their gifts in non-musical ways, uplifting the name of God in their efforts. At Zion, sharing one's gifts is more than a kind gesture. It is a statement of our Christian faith. It is an action-packed "**gift of loving**".

In Chapter 12 of I Corinthians, Paul gives evidence to the Corinthians of their lack of love by not utilizing their spiritual gifts. They were taking pride in their gifts and arguing among themselves as to the greater importance of these gifts. Paul dispels this argument by comparing spiritual gifts as members of a body; each bodily member having an important function to the entire body's well being. In doing so, he was making a direct parallel to the body of Christ; the church, and the individual gifts that each member had, to work for the well being of the whole body. As you may remember, the Corinthians' focus was in the importance of particular gifts and not in the purpose for which these gifts could be used.

In Chapter 13, Paul deals with the importance of using these gifts, since a gift **unused** is deemed rather worthless in the kingdom of God. This Love chapter, as it is commonly referred to, speaks of love as an enabler or a facilitator as opposed to a feeling. It's a word of action – a manner by which we can share our gifts. Just as though we may "hit" a nail to drive it into a board we can actively "love" a gift to share of ourselves and our spiritual gifts with someone else. By doing so, we actively give of ourselves through the spiritual gift which we share. When we do so, we receive God's blessing of peace for ourselves and with those around us.

Several years ago, I received an email from a friend. I believe it speaks in real terms the true driving force of love we share as Christians.

Heavenly Advice

I asked God to:

- Take away my pain. God said, *No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.*
- Heal my physical afflictions. God said, *No. Your spirit is whole, your body is only temporary.*
- Grant me patience. God said, *No. Patience is a by-product of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is earned.*
- Give me happiness. God said, *No. I give you blessings. Happiness is up to you.*
- Spare me pain. God said, *No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.*
- Make my spirit grow. God said, *No. You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful.*
- Grant me all things that I might enjoy life. God said, *No. I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things.*
- Help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me. God said, *Ah, finally you have the right idea. If you love Me, ...if you **truly** love Me, you will have peace with yourself and with others. And My peace which passes all human understanding and reason will become yours. And all the bounty that life has to offer, both on earth and in heaven, will be yours as well.*

Continued on page

COMING TO ZION - 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF OREGON

On Saturday, November 21st, at 3:00 PM, Zion will host an event for the community to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Oregon. We have a guest speaker from the State Historic Preservation, and are in the process of lining up a traveling exhibit to be on site from the Oregon Historical Society.

QUESTION *Would you be interested in participating in a project to mark the 150 Anniversary of Oregon – such as cleaning up an old (neglected) cemetery? If so, let us know at the church office and we'll work with the Preservation office to make it happen in the name of Zion.*

MUSIC MINISTRY AT ZION LUTHERAN

In Chapter 13, we read in verse 13, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." Paul writes that all three of these possessions are important to us as Christians: Faith, Hope and Love. **Faith** is our acceptance of the foundation and content of God's Word and **Hope** is the attitude and focus of why we have faith. These two items are the backbone of our Christian identity and the basic elements that create who we are as Christians. But, Faith and Hope by themselves can become self directed and rather self edifying. Necessary as they are to our identity, they are nothing more than "non-sensical" noise, or as Paul puts it: "a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal" to others around us. Without **Love**, our claim to a Christian identity is, simply put, just "lip service", nothing more than a personal identity such as a name without any identifying features of personality, character, or profession. This existence is beneficial to few other than our selves. With **love**, as specifically outlined in verses 4-7, we read specifically that "love is patient, kind, not envious, boastful, proud, rude, self-seeking or easily angered. It doesn't delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, trusts, hopes and perseveres. True Love never fails." With this love we find a love of: total engagement with others, selfless qualities, Christian maturity, total acceptance of others, and a commitment to serve others. This is truly a love of action, not simply of emotion or feeling. It's true that, to express this perfect "AGAPE" love, we need faith and hope alive and well in our lives, but faith and hope are only prerequisites to the most important part of our complete identity as Christians which is to actively love others with this Agape love – a love that never fails. And true to the Good News of the Gospel, we are promised eternal joy. As Paul writes, "Now, in our earthly life, we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; but THEN, (in our own resurrection) we shall see face to face. Now, I know only in part; but THEN, I shall know fully, even as I am fully known (by my Heavenly Father)." Agape love is the Love of action and selfless giving. This is the Love of our heavenly Father who sent LOVE to us through his son Jesus Christ. This is the Love that will never fail us.

It is my prayer that we all may continue to actively love others by serving our Lord and others with our spiritual gifts. May God grant us this opportunity.

In Christ's LOVE,
Kurt & Floy Berentsen

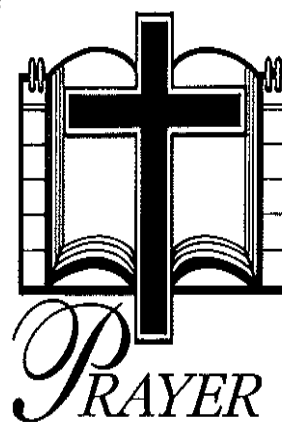


Are you looking for a

good investment of your gifts to help others? Did you know that *Lutheran World Relief* is one of the very best? For every \$1 given to LWRs, 91 cents supports program work! Think of it – 91 cents out of every dollar. The remaining amount goes to General/Admin: 5.8% and Fundraising: 3.5% for a total of 9.3%

The following have been in our prayers these past few Sundays:

- Christa Spalteholz,
- Kaitlyn Reiner (12 years old),
- Raelynn Campbell
(sister of Bob Wagner),
- Keith Young (son of Arlene Young),
- Bob Lundgren,
- Elsie Wiebusch,
- Labor Day,
- those unemployed looking for work,
- Sunday School ministry,
- Grandparents' Day,
- Our Worship Service at the Marshall Union Manor.



A FEW COPIES LEFT

There are just a few copies left of the "old" Lutheran hymn books, the **Lutheran Book of Worship** and **The Lutheran Hymnal**. Please let us know at the church office if you would like a copy, or someone you know would like to have a copy. They make wonderful devotional books!

IT'S HAPPENING HERE

PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST SUNDAY November 1st

KIDS bring your pumpkin to church that morning and we'll have a contest in the parish hall for the best carved pumpkin!.

ADULTS you can participate too!

Contest for the most unusually carved pumpkin!

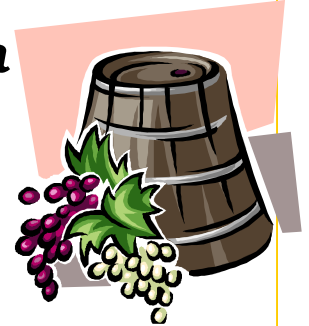
Prizes for everyone!



Wine Tasting Excursion

OCTOBER 17

Come join us on a trip sponsored by Zion Lutheran Church through the heart of Oregon's wine country .

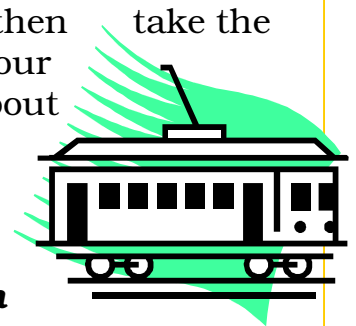


The tour from Newberg will be on a trolley that is new to the area. The trolley is fashioned after the San Francisco cable cars and built on a freightliner chassis powered by a diesel engine. The use of this trolley will give a unique flair to the trip. The trip will stop at wineries, have a lunch stop and also have a trip through the Chehalem Valley, which should be beautiful with fall colors. Stops at wineries will include wine tasting. One stop will include a presentation demonstrating the planting and maintaining of the vineyard as well as harvesting and storage of the grapes. Learn how various flavors become available as well as the importance of storage in the various wine barrels. What makes Chehalem Valley unique to wines will become apparent.

Plans are to car pool from Zion to Newberg and then take the trolley to the wineries and through the valley itself. Tour through the wineries and Chehalem Valley will last about five hours.

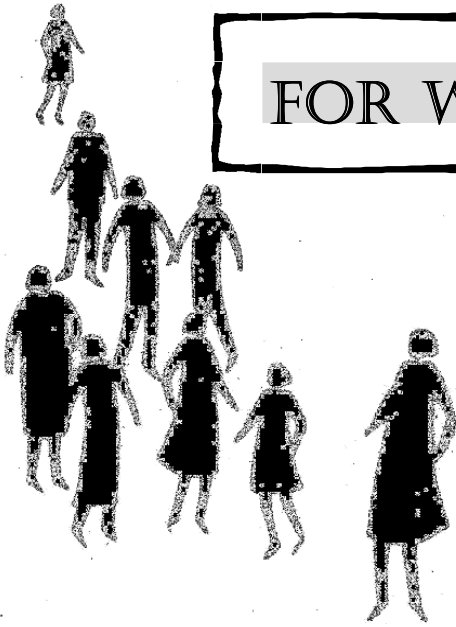
Cost for the tour is \$30.00 not including lunch and the wines you taste at the various wineries.

For further information contact Garnet Oekerman (503) 263-6844 or Larry Foster (503) 292-9789.



TEA & FOND REMEMBRANCES

FOR WOMEN



You won't want to miss the Autumn Tea sponsored by the Zion Guild on Saturday, October 10, from one to three o'clock in the Zion parish hall. Plan to attend, and invite your mother, daughter, grandmother, granddaughter, sister, aunt, niece, or best friend to enjoy the Christian fellowship of the day and tea served with sandwiches and sweet treats at this fun event. Harpist Judy Krohn will provide period music.

An exhibit of vintage clothing and other memorabilia is being assembled in celebration of the Sesquicentennial of Oregon's Statehood. Call Ellen Hall by Sunday, October 4, to offer your wedding dress or other period clothing for the display.

All women are encouraged to bring a photograph of their wedding (bride and groom) or other special occasion for others to view and enjoy.

Make a reservation with Tracy at the church office, 503-221-1343, or with Patti Hillier, Guild president, 503-297-1456.

Ladies Tea
Saturday
October 10
1:00pm-3:00pm



ZION GUILD TO MEET OCTOBER 6

The Zion Guild will assemble at noon in the parish hall on Tuesday, October 6, for its monthly brown bag luncheon meeting. Hostesses for the day will provide dessert and beverages, and guests are welcome.

As a sequel to the October 3 retreat of the Interstate Zone of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League at St. John Lutheran Church in Vancouver, the Guild will discuss "Sharing Jesus," the retreat topic.

REMINDER: Portlanders attending the retreat on October 3 will carpool to St. John, leaving the Zion parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Sessions end at 3:00p.m. Lunch is included in the schedule.

It Happened in **OCTOBER**

On *October 22, 1911*, Missouri Synod Lutherans in Portland celebrated the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. C.F.W. Walther, first president of the Synod. It is reported that 20,000 people had attended an earlier observance of the Walther Centennial in St. Louis in connection with the 1911 synodical convention which recognized Dr. Walther's adherence to the confessional concepts.

On *October 4, 1914*, Zion participated in a national prayer Sunday to intercede for an early end to the Great War. President Woodrow Wilson had requested churches throughout the land to schedule such observances.

In *October, 1917*, Portland Lutherans celebrated the Quadricentennial of the Reformation in a service held in the auditorium of the Turnverein. Located only a few blocks from Zion at 13th and Main, the Turnverein was the home of a German athletic and social club.

In *October, 1967*, Zion participated in Lutheran celebrations of the 450th Anniversary of the Reformation on the theme, "Life-New life." Zion's own observance included, in addition to the festival services, a rare book exhibit and eight-day open house.

In *October, 2005*, Zion and Concordia University co-sponsored the first annual Reformation Lecture Series at Zion Church. The 2009 service is planned for Sunday, October 25, 2009 at 3:00pm. Northwest District President, Rev. Paul Linnemann, Speaker, and Concordia University Christi Crux Choral, Special Music.

from the Zion Archives



Human Care Ministry Update

Submitted by Karen Graham
Director of Human care and Special Ministries

The Human Care Ministry at Zion is on its way I am happy to report!! Since our first visit at **Rosehaven** a few women have been making regular visits there, sharing of their time and talent with their new friends. This is such a gift to **Rosehaven** and I thank each one of you who has found some time to do this!!

Participating in the weekly Tuesday “spiritual hour” or simply talking and being with the many women who walk through the doors of **Rosehaven** looking for support and friendship, our Zion volunteers are definitely becoming known there. Irene Hall has led a prayer group and continues to make connections with many women there, enriching both her and their time with connection and hope. Many thanks to all of you who are giving of yourselves even if it is only “once in a while”. I want us to remember that our lives are busy, and even the gift of once a month, or once in awhile is certainly something that brings joy and love to those who receive.

Please don't forget that there is a list of needs at **Rosehaven** for many products and goods for the women who visit their facility. I ask you to check the list and fill that box up with any extra items you may have at home. You would not believe how appreciated even soap or shampoo is to these women who are living very sparsely

I am very excited to report that Sunday, Sept 27th, our **Zion Youth Group** worked at **Northwest Portland Ministries** to prepare and deliver food boxes to people here in the NW neighborhood. With the support of the Zion Youth Group, (the Bennett family, the Contino family, Brian and Alex Fleener, J.W. White, Scott Wagner) along with helpers, Trudy Schidleman and myself, we were able to sort crates of food *and fill 9 food boxes and deliver them!* This is just the beginning of what I hope to become a regular event for this group of young people. There are many more opportunities coming up and we will be putting our efforts in many directions! If you are interested in finding a way to help out, please contact me. This is a wonderful way to do something together as a family.

Human Care Ministry NEEDS:

People to help with the organization of events!!

People to assist with the different missions eg. Deaconess program in Kenya.

People interested in having a FAIR TRADE FAIR for Lutheran World Relief.

(selling of wonderful goods and arts from around the world to assist those artisans)

People to volunteer with NWPM at the Food warehouse or at Loaves and Fishes serving meals + many more things!

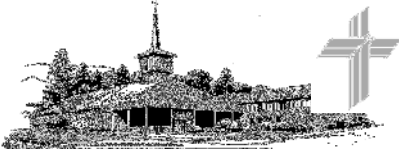
We have a great need not only in our surrounding community but in the greater world community to always be thinking of those who have less than we have. Consider giving even a small amount of time and effort to one of our missions and I thank those who already are doing so from the bottom of my heart!

Karen Graham



THE ZION STAR
October 2009



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



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Return Service Requested

THE ZION STAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				Handbells 6:30 Choir 7:30		LWML ZONE RETREAT St John Lutheran
Communion Sunday 4 FOOD GATHERING	5	6	7	8	9	10  LADIES TEA 1:00
MISSION SUNDAY 9:30 Education Hour 11:00 Worship VOTER'S MEETING		Bible Study 10:45 Guild Meeting 12:00		Handbells 6:30 Choir 7:30		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30 Education Hour 11:00 Worship	Columbus Day			Handbells 6:30 Choir 7:30		
Communion Sunday 18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 Education Hour 11:00 Worship		Bible Study 10:45 Board of Elders 5:30	Board of Directors 5:30	Handbells 6:30 Choir 7:30		
REFORMATION SUNDAY 25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:30 Education Hour 11:00 Worship 3:00 Reformation Service				Handbells 6:30 Choir 7:30		Halloween