

# The Zion Lamp



*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."*

*Psalm 119:105*

## EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE, SHARING CHRIST

JANUARY, 2010

## A FEW WORDS FROM PASTOR PHIFER

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### PATIENCE

Let me begin this note from the pastor with just one word, strawberries. I am talking fresh strawberries, whipped cream, and fluffy pound cake. Who is not ready for a little bit of summer? Yet in order to have those fresh strawberries, we are going to have to be patient. Please don't anyone come with frozen strawberries, it just is not the same. One of the fruits of the Spirit is patience. It is not one of our favorite fruits to grow in our lives of faith, but it is one that helps develop all the fruits of the spirit. The fruit of patience is one that our Lord himself says that he has toward us, "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward

you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." 2 Peter 3:9.



There is no doubt that the Lord is patient with each one of us. He bears with us in our weakness and in our continued sinfulness. He does not cast us away but continues to call us by His word and lead us by His Holy Spirit to return to him in repentance and faithfulness. Sometimes the bible even describes this patience of God toward us in our sinfulness as "long suffering." The Lord endures our sinfulness and the world's turning away from Him and going their own way. In His patience he does not destroy us or send disaster but continues to love us and fill our lives with blessing upon blessing. As we

look at our lives who could doubt that the Lord has been patient with us.

The Apostle Paul mentions patience in that famous chapter on love, 1 Corinthians 13, saying "love is patient." God shows his love for us in this that "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" Romans 5:8. It is this love that God has for us that encourages us to be loving and patient with those around us. What does that mean? It means that we don't continue to hold grudges against those who have sinned against us but that we forgive them, even as Jesus said "seven times seventy." Patience means that we bear with one another in our weaknesses knowing that we are not yet what God is making us. God is still working in our lives and will not be finished with us until that time when he calls us home to be with himself or when he returns.

Patience is not our favorite fruit of the spirit. It goes against our very nature to bear with one another and to wait. We live in a world that wants everything immediately from our food to our relationships, but we also don't want to cut anyone a break. If there is ever a fruit of the Spirit that we need in our world and in our lives it is patience. The fruit of patience is only grown as we see the long suffering and patience of God toward us in Jesus Christ. It is a fruit that is daily cultivated as we weed out impatient, unloving, and uncaring thoughts, desires, and deeds through the study of God's word. As you begin this year begin by cultivating your garden of the fruit of the spirit and spend a little extra time on the tree of patience.

The Peace of God be with you all.

Pastor Phil Phifer

# IMPORTANT CHURCH NEWS

## GRACE BIBLE STUDY

We will meet beginning January 7 at 7:00 pm in the FLC conference room. Please join us as we celebrate God's rich, extravagant grace in Chocolate Boutique. We will also invite special speakers and have "Question Nights" with the Pastors.

### Grace Bible Study Schedule 2010

**January - May**

**January 7 & 21**

**February 4 & 18**

**March 4 & 18**

**April 1 & 15 & 29**

**May 6 Tentative**



## **PULSE MODERN WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Ezekiel 36:26**

"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."

Join us on Saturday evening, January 9 & 23 at 7 p.m. where God's word gives us a new heart that beats with the Pulse of His Grace.

**Join us for Communion on the 23rd..**

## **THURSDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

**Truth about the End Times**—many details about the Last Days are shrouded in mystery and symbolism. Join us Thursdays at 10AM in the FLC to take a look what the book of Revelation has to say about the apocalypse and the day that Jesus returns. Join us for an exciting discussion about what God's Word reveals.

## STARTING THE NEW YEAR WITH PROPER

### BALANCE:



The **OWLS** activity for January will take place at Adams County Hospital on **January 19th**. We will purchase our lunches at the cafeteria and we will eat in the Decatur Room; lunch will run from 12:00 pm until 12:45 pm. At 12:45 pm a representative from the Hospital staff will talk about improving our physical balance. Following that presentation, Pastor Becker will conduct a Bible Study on improving our spiritual balance. There will be a sign up on January 3rd and January 10th so that we can inform the Hospital so that they can plan accordingly. **JOIN US!**

### EVANGELISM WORKSHOP

St. John Flatrock is hosting an evangelism workshop on Saturday, January 23rd from 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm. Rev. Geoff Robinson, Indiana District Exec. of Outreach will lead the workshop. We will be receiving more information about this workshop in the near future.

### Zion's 1st Annual Chili Cook-Off

The cook off will be held on Friday, February 12th in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. All people that will be entering the cook-off should contact the church office with your name at 724-7177. A minimum of at least 2 quarts of chili is required. Drinks, hot dogs and chips will also be supplied for those who do not care for chili. The cost is \$5.00 per person and will allow you to vote for your favorite chili. Don't forget to attend and invite your friends and neighbors!



### Lutherans for Life Essay Contest

College students are given the opportunity to win a \$500 scholarship for the best essay submitted by Jan 22. The topic for the essay is "Why Does God Permit the Taking of Human Life?" Contest details can be picked up from the church office, and submit essays by e-mail to [church@ziondecatur.com](mailto:church@ziondecatur.com).

# IMPORTANT CHURCH NEWS

## THE VALUE OF OLDER ADULTS IN A CONGREGATION

A pastor told a story once about the importance of older adults in the church by using the image on the face of a clock. The pastor pointed out that on a clock face there may be three hands: the second hand, the minute hand, and the hour hand. The pastor likened the second hand to the younger members in the congregation. They have lots of energy and race around doing things, just as the second hand goes all the way around the clock face in just 60 seconds.

The minute hand is like members in the congregation who are a little older, perhaps middle-aged. They don't have quite the energy of the younger members but still accomplish much, just as the minute hand moves slower than the second hand but still gets around the clock face once every hour.

The older members in the congregation are like the hour hand, which moves a lot slower than the second hand or the minute hand but still gets around the clock face every twelve hours. They may have less energy than they once had but they keep moving along at their own pace.

Each hand on the clock has its function. But then the pastor said, "If you had no second hand on the clock, could you tell what time it is?" Yes. If you removed the minute hand too and had just the hour hand, could you still tell the time? Yes, not as precisely, but you could make a pretty close guess. But if the clock had only the second hand could you tell the time? No. How about if you had only the minute hand? No. Even if the clock had both the second hand and the minute hand, could you tell what time it is? No. You need the hour hand.

So even though the older members may not be able to keep up the same pace as younger members, they are vital to the spiritual health and continuity of the congregation. They are encouraged to keep doing what they can, at the pace they are able to maintain, for the benefit and blessing of all in the congregation. All members are important in the congregation, from the youngest to the oldest.

Richard H. Gentzler, Jr.

Aging and Ministry, Discipleship Resources, 2008

## Zion's Charity of the Quarter is the Brazil Mission Society

Brazil Mission Society is a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. BMS is a founding member of the Brazil Summit, an information coalition of US Lutheran agencies active in Brazil.

The mission of the Brazil Mission Society is to share Christ with children and families in Brazil, doing this primarily through Christian education.

The Brazil Mission was founded in 1987 by Dr. Bill Thompson and Mr. Norbert Koschmann. Their interest in the ministry of the IELB, especially its programs for Christian education for the children, led Thompson and Koschmann to create an organization through which support could be garnered in the United States to assist this South American ministry. BMS has also established a reputation of confidence that allows individuals, churches, schools and other interested groups to send help, knowing that their donations will be handled in a responsible manner. Over \$1 million has been given to help share Christ with children and families in Brazil. Over 97% of the income goes directly to support mission projects.

Because of the influence of tribal religions, many Brazilians who claim to be Christian mix aspects of voodoo or spiritualism with their Christianity. Many still need to learn of the salvation won for them by Jesus Christ alone.

For more information go to [www.brazilmissionsociety.com](http://www.brazilmissionsociety.com)

## JUST WALK ACROSS THE ROOM

Evangelism is not meant to be something mysterious or frightening. It is about making friends and introducing those friends to the friend of sinners, Jesus. In February we are going to be doing our first Evangelism Training seminar called "Just Walk Across The Room." It is an evangelism training that encourages each of us with the hope that evangelism is as easy as walking across the room. Join us February 27th at Zion from 9-3 to learn how to just walk across the room.

# CHURCH AND AREA NEWS

## THE BIBLE STUDY CHALLENGE

Beginning in January the Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings will be starting the Bible Study Challenge. It is a challenge to get 45 people in Bible Study for January and February as we begin a new two year study through the bible. If we can accomplish this goal then Pastor Phil will buy breakfast. You can sign up for the bible study challenge in the church narthex. If you desire you can sign up to purchase the Today's Light bible for \$24.99 which will give you a daily devotion to go with the daily readings, or you can sign up to get the free reading guide for the two years study.

### Readings for the weeks of Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31:

#### **For the week of the 4th through the 9th:**

Monday - Matthew 1:1 - 2:23  
 Tuesday - Matthew 3:1 - 4:25  
 Wednesday - Matthew 5:1 - 7:29  
 Thursday - Matthew 8:1 - 9:38  
 Friday - Matthew 10:1 - 11:30  
 Saturday - Matthew 12:1 - 13:58

#### **For the week of the 11th - the 16th:**

Monday - Matthew 14:1-15:39  
 Tuesday - Matthew 16:1 - 17:27  
 Wednesday - Matthew 18:1 - 19:30  
 Thursday - Matthew 20:1 - 21:46  
 Friday - Matthew 22:1 - 23:39  
 Saturday - Matthew 24:1—25:46

#### **For the week of the 18th through the 23rd:**

Monday - Matthew 26:1 - 27:66  
 Tuesday - Matthew 28:1 - 20  
 Wednesday - Mark 1:1 - 2:28  
 Thursday - Mark 3:1 - 4:41

Friday - Mark 5:1 - 6:56

Saturday - Mark 7:1 - 8:38

#### **For the week of the 25th - the 30th:**

Monday - Mark 9:1 - 50

Tuesday - Mark 10:1 - 52

Wednesday - Mark 11:1 - 33

Thursday - Mark 12:1 - 13:37

Friday - Mark 14:1 - 72

Saturday - Mark 15:1 - 47



### **MEN'S BIBLE BREAK-FAST**

will be held on January 9th at 8:00 am. Please plan to attend.

**Decatur Lutheran Bible Institute**—If you've never attended the Decatur Lutheran Bible Institute, make it one of your New Year's Resolutions! LBI classes meet on Tuesday nights January 19-February 9 at Zion Lutheran Church, Decatur. Come and learn! Choose from four courses of study: "Jesus in the Old Testament", Paul's Missionary Journey", Wisdom from the Proverbs", and "Lutheran Missions Today". Minimal time commitment...Low cost...No Homework! For more information, contact Norb Bleeke at 724-9486 or call 724-7177.

**Thank you** - Back in August did you donate school supplies to help the children of Liberia get back to going to school again after a war destroyed their country? Check out the great response on the bulletin board. What a blessing! Thanks so much!

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE IS RETURNING!** Just before Thanksgiving our Wed. Night Bible class on Revealing Revelation took a break for the Christmas Holidays. We are now returning on Jan. 13th at 6:00pm. We will meet in the Family Life Center Conference Room. The class ended on chapter 11 and we will begin with chapter 12. Even if you have missed the 1st part of the class you are welcome to jump in and join us. There is still plenty of the book of Revelation to study and learn in the coming year. Look forward to seeing you the 13th.

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## BIRTHDAYS

1ST KIMBERLY BOWERS  
NATHAN CACIANO  
DONALD CHRISTIANER  
DONNA DANIELS  
AMANDA GASE

2ND MARLENE ETZLER  
RUTH KUNKEL  
JOAN ROOP  
LYDIA ROOP

3RD JOSHUA BROWN  
MEGAN MCKEE  
LYLE SHAFFER

4TH CAROL BITTNER  
BRITTANY COOK  
MICHAEL DRYSDALE  
LINDSEY HUFFINE  
LORI VETTER

5TH JOSEPH MENDEZ  
TERRY MOSER  
CYNTHIA POWELL

6TH LORI COLLIER  
RIKKI CRISWELL  
MELISSA ZESER

7TH ZACHARY MCKEE

8TH DAVON BULTEMEIER  
HERMAN EVERETT  
TAMARA HOLLOWAY  
DOLORES STONESIFER

10TH DEBORAH COOK  
TERESA ETZLER  
STEVEN JUENGEL

11TH SHERRI FUCHS  
MONICA HUFFINE

12TH EVAN CAFFEE  
RICHARD CONRAD  
RYNE NORBY  
KARTER WITTEW

13TH ASHLEY GOTSCH  
LESTER HARTMAN  
KENNETH KETZLER  
JOHN MCCLAIN

14TH VIRGEAN BOWERS  
NATHAN PYATT  
BRYCE ROOP  
JENNIFER STARLIN

15TH KATHLEEN ANDRUS

16TH LUKAS MARBACH

17TH ANN HILL

18TH EMERSON BROWN

19TH MICAYLA QUINONES  
DANIELLE SCHEUMANN  
LANCE WILLIAMSON

20TH DIANNA BULTEMEIER  
DARREL SCHEUMANN  
ANDREW STIMPSON

21ST ALICE BITTNER  
SHELBY BLUHM  
SUSAN CALLOW

22ND DEREK THIEME

23RD JESSICA BRAUN  
STEVEN HILL  
RUTH HUTKER  
KATHY MONROE  
BONNIE REIDENBACH  
CAYDANCE RUMPING

24TH KATHERINE AUGUST  
JULIE MCKEE

25TH JAMES BEERY  
KROSBI BUTLER  
MARYANN COWANS  
MARLENE FAST  
DEBORAH PORTER  
BRIELLE THIEME

26TH MACKENZIE FUNK  
JOHN GROSE IV

27TH CYNTHIA DELONG  
RUSSELL STONESIFER

28TH MARY ANN AUGUST  
LAURA BRANTLY  
KRISTI JAUREQUI  
DREW KONKLE

29TH JOHN HUNTER  
JASON LINGERICH  
ANNE NEUMAN-AFFOLDER

30TH DEREK AUGSBURGER  
ADAM BUSSE  
NEVEAH KELLEY  
REAGAN PYATT

31ST SEAN COOK  
JOHN FUCHS  
MICHAEL FUCHS  
WALTER KUKELHAN  
JOANNE WETZEL

## ANNIVERSARIES

3RD JEREMY & JULIE-MARIE BROWN

5TH KIMBERLEY & ROMAN SILVA

9TH PAUL & EILEEN MILLER

13TH DANIEL & AMANDA CREEK

16TH ROBERT & CHARMAINE HOFFMAN

19TH JOSHUA & SARAH KNAPKE

23RD HERMAN & PHYLLIS EVERETT

29TH WALTER & LORNA KUKELHAN



## ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL NOTES

### “GROWING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT”—GALATIANS 5:22-23

ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL EXISTS TO OFFER A CHRIST-CENTERED, CHILD-FOCUSED, QUALITY LUTHERAN EDUCATION TO ALL CHILDREN, EMPOWERING THEM TO BE BOLD DISCIPLES OF JESUS.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

### A Question About Spiritual Growth and Gifts of the Spirit

Over the past two months, I have tried to give you some guidelines on improving your spiritual growth by evaluating your use of the nine gifts of the Spirit. How did you do? Did you find yourself low on some and better on others? Did you get a different view of how a certain gift works in your life and the lives of the people around you? I hope that I have given you some goals to work toward as the new calendar year begins, but I also want to deal with the question of WHY.

#### Why should we focus and work so diligently on improving our use of the gifts of the Spirit?

To answer this question we only need to turn to God’s Word. Read these words carefully and see what happens when spiritual gifts are added to our lives.

“...Do your best to add these things to your lives: to your faith, add goodness; and to your goodness, add knowledge; and to your knowledge add self-control; and to your self-control, add patience; and to your patience, add service for God; and to your service for God, add kindness for your brothers and sisters in Christ; and to this kindness, add love. If all these things are in you and are growing, they will help you to be useful and productive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But anyone who does not have these things cannot see clearly. He is blind and has forgotten that he was made clean from his past sins. My brothers and sisters, try hard to be certain that you really are called and chosen by God. If you do all these things, you will never fall. And you will be given a very great welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:5 - 11 NCV).

Peter stresses how important our spiritual growth is to maintaining an obedient relationship with Christ now and to our inheriting eternal life in the future.



**RECYCLING DAY**—Zion Students will once again be collecting newspapers, magazines and aluminum cans from 9 am until 12 noon on **Saturday, Jan 9** at the Zion Parking lot. They also accept empty printer cartridges, old cell phones and pagers, Campbell’s Soup Labels, Box Tops for Education, Nestle Water Labels and Tyson A+ Project Labels. Proceeds from recycling go toward the Washington, DC trip in May of 2010.

**SCRIP IS AVAILABLE** during the week in the school office. If you would like to place an order for pick-up during the week, please call 728-9995.

# ZION'S SERVANT SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

**Altar Guild**

Lillie Bleeke, Lorraine Griffiths

**Offering Counters**

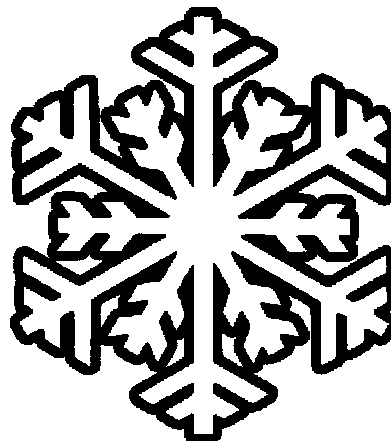
Starr Bell, Barb Neaderhiser, Paul Neaderhiser

## **First Service 8:00 a.m.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>1/3/2010</b>	<b>1/10/2010</b>	<b>1/17/2010</b>	<b>1/24/2010</b>	<b>1/31/2010</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	Michael Scott	Cole Bussel	Makayla Green	Taylor Andrews	Rachel Girod
	Zachary Thomas	Cody Crump	Jenna Wittwer	Dakota Geimer	MacKenzie Funk
<b>Greeters</b>	Mary Thieme	Mary Thieme	Mary Thieme	Mary Thieme	Mary Thieme
	Regina Miller	Regina Miller	Regina Miller	Regina Miller	Regina Miller
		Virginia Haugk	Virginia Haugk	Virginia Haugk	
<b>Elder</b>	Bruce Voshell	Bruce Voshell	Bruce Voshell	Bruce Voshell	Bruce Voshell
<b>Organist</b>	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch
<b>PA System</b>	Bruce Voshell	Bruce Voshell	Bruce Voshell	Bruce Voshell	Bruce Voshell
<b>Ushers</b>	Mke Busse, Terry Witte,	Mke Busse, Terry Witte,	Mke Busse, Terry Witte,	Mke Busse, Terry Witte,	Mke Busse, Terry Witte,
	Bob Busse, Dave	Bob Busse, Dave	Bob Busse, Dave	Bob Busse, Dave	Bob Busse, Dave
	Gunsett, CJ Shaffer, Rob	Gunsett, CJ Shaffer,	Gunsett, CJ Shaffer,	Gunsett, CJ Shaffer,	Gunsett, CJ Shaffer,
	Voshell, Matt Voshell,	Rob Voshell, Matt	Rob Voshell, Matt	Rob Voshell, Matt	Rob Voshell, Matt
	Michael Bluhm	Voshell, Michael Bluhm	Voshell, Michael Bluhm	Voshell, Michael Bluhm	Voshell, Michael Bluhm

## **Second Service 10:30 a.m.**

<b>Acolyte</b>	Josh Porter	James Ungemach	Allyson Norby	Daniel Gunsett	Ben Collier
	Jeremy Razo	Sydney Williams	Noah Quinones	Emily Gunsett	Ben Fullenkamp
<b>Greeters</b>	Sandy & Bernie Criswell	Sandy & Bernie Criswell	Sandy & Bernie Criswell	Sandy & Bernie Criswell	Sandy & Bernie Criswell
	Ruth Kunkel	Ruth Kunkel	Ruth Kunkel	Ruth Kunkel	Ruth Kunkel
<b>Elder</b>	Greg Fleming	Greg Fleming	Greg Fleming	Greg Fleming	Greg Fleming
<b>Organist</b>	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch
<b>PA System</b>	Greg Fleming	Greg Fleming	Greg Fleming	Greg Fleming	Greg Fleming
<b>Ushers</b>	Phil Juengel, Randall	Phil Juengel, Randall	Phil Juengel, Randall	Phil Juengel, Randall	Phil Juengel, Randall
	Hendricks, Mark Braun,	Hendricks, Mark Braun,	Hendricks, Mark Braun,	Hendricks, Mark Braun,	Hendricks, Mark Braun,
	Larry Irwin, Nick Irwin,	Larry Irwin, Nick Irwin,	Larry Irwin, Nick Irwin,	Larry Irwin, Nick Irwin,	Larry Irwin, Nick Irwin,
	Mark Juengel	Mark Juengel	Mark Juengel	Mark Juengel	Mark Juengel



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# THE LAMP JANUARY 2010

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