The Zion Lamp

ZION LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL
Decatur, Indiana

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

Psalm 119:105

February, 2011

WHAT IS THE COMMON FACTOR IN ALL YOUR PROBLEMS?

There is no question that our lives are filled with problems and difficulties. It does not matter who you are, what you do, how much or how little money you have, or even how good a person you are in life. There is one certainty about it all—you will have problems. Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble." While it does not seem like the greatest news that Jesus could tell us, he also says that "Be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world."

So what is the common factor in all your problems? It is you. It is you in your sinful desire to create a world where you do not suffer, do not want, do not need the help of any god. The common factor in all our problems is idolatry. The idol that we have set up to solve our problems stares at us in the mirror every day. So what do we do with this common factor to all our problems? How do we solve it?

The ultimate frustration is that we cannot solve it. We cannot solve it by working harder, doing good works, becoming religious, or even working for God. The solution is not one that can be solved by us because it is more than simply a problem, failure, or mistake. The problem with ourselves is that we cannot help but sin, we cannot help but be disobedient. We are not a problem to be solved but a person to be rescued.

Our rescue does not come from us but comes from the very son of God who has revealed himself to us in suffering, in pain, and in death upon a cross. He reveals himself in that way to put an end our problem of sin and to rescue us from our slavery to sin. Jesus is the only factor in our salvation.

So what does this mean for you? It means that we should not complain about our problems or our difficulties. Jesus said that we would have them, but that in him they will not overwhelm us, and in the end Jesus saves us from ourselves. As you go into the month of February take a moment to look into the Word of God and find the answer to the only real problem you have, yourself.

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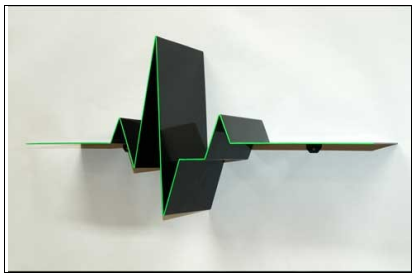
IMPORTANT CHURCH NEWS

PULSE MODERN WORSHIP SERVICE

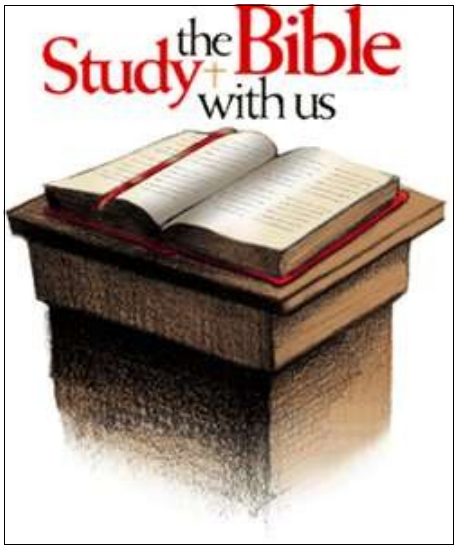
In February, PULSE services will be held at 7:00 pm on Saturday the 12th and on Saturday February 26. PULSE is a praise service with a band and music like that of Christian radio—yet we have all the important elements of our regular services. If you have not attended PULSE or you have some friends or family who are not familiar with our church, then PULSE is the perfect place to bring them to introduce them to Zion and the Christian faith.



GRACE BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Here are the upcoming meeting dates for the Grace Bible Study. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m.

January	**6**
	20
February	**3**
	17
March	**3**
	17
	31
April	**14**
	28



QUARTERLY CHARITY for JANUARY– MARCH:

Camp Lutherhaven has been chosen as Zion's quarterly charity for January-March 2011. Since 1949, Camp Lutherhaven has been working to create faith building experiences for children, youth, adults and families. Located just a few miles north of Columbia City, the camp is most widely known for its summer camp programs, but actually is an all year ministry. Summer programs include various outdoor activities, Bible Study, devotions, and crafts for children as young as kindergarten (day camp), three-day camps for first to third grades and several different five-day camps for third through twelfth grade campers. Camp Lutherhaven also offers family work camps, and a Junior Servant program.

Outdoor education programs are available to school groups and to home schooled children on a regular basis. Confirmation Retreats are also offered to complement the educational efforts of home congregations. Some less known programs offered at Camp Lutherhaven are its various retreats: Couples Retreats, Men's Retreats, Family Winter Retreats, Home School Moms' Retreats and Women's Retreats. Details on all of these programs and camps can be found at www.lutherhaven.org.

Since the time of the economic downturn, Camp Lutherhaven has been especially challenged financially. Staff cuts were made, and although scholarship funds have been available for campers — last summer there were more requests for financial assistance than there were funds available.

The Board of Stewardship is encouraging more people of our congregation to participate in the fantastic faith building programs available at Camp Lutherhaven. We would like to collect funds in the next few months to be used for camp scholarships. Once we see how much money is collected, we will take applications for scholarships from our own membership (if someone wants to go but has financial hardship). If no financial need is apparent from within Zion, funds collected will be sent directly to the Camp for their scholarship program. Please remember to keep this ministry in your prayers.

Hope Clinic Volunteer Training

The Hope Clinic will conduct volunteer training sessions at the Berne office (165 W. Water St.) on Tuesdays, March 1, 15, 29 and on April 12. The first session on March 1 will be from 7-9 pm. The remaining sessions will be from 6-9 pm. Call 589-3561 on Tuesdays or Thursdays for information and an application. The Clinic needs volunteers like you to make a difference—one life at a time.!

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY CHORALE CONCERT AT CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The Valparaiso University Chorale will present a concert of sacred and secular music on Sunday, February 13 at 4:00 p.m. in Kramer Chapel on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary (6600 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne). Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students and seniors over 65. Children 18 and under may attend free. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Seminary at 260-452-2224 or by visiting www.ctsfw.edu.

ZION LUTHERAN TALENT SHOW

Do you play an instrument? Do you sing? Do you dance? Do you do magic tricks? Do you have a talent that you would like to share with others? There will be a Zion Lutheran Talent Show on February 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Zion gym. Please contact the church office to sign up for the talent show.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

The ladies of Zion are hosting a baby shower for Pastor and Elizabeth Gadbaw on Sunday, February 6 at 12:00 noon in the Family Life Center. All members of Zion are invited. The Gadbaws are registered at Babies R Us.

A light lunch will be served.

O.W.L.S. (Older Wiser LutheranS)

Have you been to an OWLS meeting before? It may have been a little while back. It may have been never. On February 15 at 12:15 the OWLS will meet at Adams County Hospital lunch room. We will enjoy a great meal together and then hear from Jeff Robinson about the mission and outreach ministries of the Indiana District. Hope to see you there.

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the close of the year the common question is "How did we do this year?" And the good news is, "We did really well!" Our numbers for 2010 are great when compared to 2009. The following comparison is a condensed summary of the year ending 12/31/2010 which answers questions most commonly asked. It is not a complete report of the income and expenses which would require many pages to print. The financial statement is available in the church office upon request.

COMPARISON OF 2010 AND 2009 TOTALS

	2010	2009
Shortfall end of 12 mths	(22,530)	(90,000)
Envelope offerings (ministry funding plan)	466,000	437,000
Envelope offerings (missions)	16,000	21,000
School Income	83,000	51,000
Expenditures	626,000	635,000
Balance in checking acct	82,000	105,000

Primary factors contributing to the difference in the shortfall are the increase in envelope offerings, the change in the accounting of tuition, and a decrease in the expenditures.

A report from the Indiana District LCMS has provided an indication of the level of support by the 235 congregations of the Indiana District. There is a pattern of giving less as the support this past year was $71,000 less than the previous year. Zion is one of 30 congregations who sent between $15,000 and $50,000 to the district. In 2009 there were 37 congregations included in that range. Total funds sent to district at the end of November are $1,829,224. Our share was .87% of the total.

Funds received for the 11th Street demolition are $4500. The proposed amount to be raised is $15,000 which will cover half of the estimated costs of the property demolition.

Monies contributed to the advent conspiracy were $700. The spirit of Christmas love was visibly demonstrated by the food, household items and gift certificates which were given by members of Zion. Twenty-five families were able to receive boxes of groceries, a ham, a gift certificate from Walmart and a gift certificate from the West End Restaurant. Thanks to all who gave of their time and treasure.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!

CHURCH AND AREA NEWS

SNEAKER SERVICE—WEDNESDAYS AT 6:00 PM

The sneaker service will continue in February at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays. Come join us for a casual service in the middle of your busy week. Sneak in—there's always room for more!

CHILI COOK-OFF

The second annual Zion Chili Cook-off is coming on February 5, 2011, beginning at 7 p.m. Get out your chili meat, practice your recipes and get ready to see who has the best chili this year at Zion. Please contact the church office to enter your chili. Even if you put beans in it, you're welcome to enter!

Thank you

Dear Members of Zion,

Michelle and I would like to thank all of you, including Pastor Phifer and Pastor Gadbaw for your support for my training while at Seminary. Your church has provided me a place to learn to apply what I have been taught at Seminary, and your pastors are a great resource for me when I have questions and need direction.

We also appreciate the financial support you have given us the two years we have been here. Seminary, as you know, does cost money, and your support has helped in many ways.

We look forward to the time we have left to spend with you at Zion, Decatur, and we pray that the Lord will continue to bless your church so that many will come to know the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation found in Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Brian & Michelle Hahn

Receive The Lamp by EMAIL - We at Zion are trying to reduce the number of newsletters that we mail out each month. We currently mail out over 500 newsletters each month. We would like to reduce that amount by at least 20-30% because it would not only save us postage, but paper, ink, and wear on our copy machine. If you would like to receive The Lamp by email, please call the church office or contact Pastor Phil at pphifer@ziondecatur.com.

QUILT WORK FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF HAS BEGUN AGAIN

It's time to start knotting quilts again for World Relief. We meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please plan to stop by and help with this worthy project.

3RD ANNUAL PROM DRESS EVENT…

FREE PROM DRESSES! Once again, First United Methodist Church will be offering prom dresses on Sunday, February 27 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the corner of 5th and Monroe Streets. Please enter on the 5th Street entrance. For more information, please contact Kelly Colclasure.

FIRE AND ICE GOLF CHALLENGE

All of us men claim we are tough. We can take the snow. We can take the cold. But can you do it and play some golf? Who will be the winner of the Fire and Ice Golf Challenge here at Zion? All the men of Zion, including fathers and their sons, are challenged to come out for some golf at Cross Creek Golf Course in Decatur on February 26 at 11:00 a.m. We will play a few holes of golf and see who has to run back to the Fire of the Double Eagle first and with the best score. The Fire and Ice Golf Challenge is a kick off for the Men's Network here at Zion. A time for men to be men by being men in God's Word and men in Godly fellowship.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

1ST LYNNE BELL
CARLEEN FRANK
NAOMI KNAPKE
CHRISTOPHER MENDEZ
LINDSEY MILLER
YVONNE STETLER
JOHN WEIDLER

2ND DEYTON COLCLASURE
JOHN HAMMOND
KEITH ROMAN
ALYSSA TRIPP

3RD EDWARD DANIELS
WILLIAM KARBACH, JR
MATTHEW MONROE
MARY THOMAS

4TH RYLIE GEERKEN
PHILLIP WILDER

5TH WILLIAM ENDORF

6TH SARAH AUGUST
PHYLLIS FUELLING
KAYLEE JENNINGS
MANDY LENGERICH

7TH CASSANDRA BECHER
DOROTHY DELONG
JULIANNA HAMMOND
ROBERT KRUECKEBERG

8TH DONALD AURAND
TAYLOR CALLOW
LEEANN GIBSON

9TH LOIS FRANZ
CARISSA JAUREGUI
NOAH QUINONES
NINA SHULER

10TH JAMIE KIRCHNER

11TH ALYSSA FRANK
KEVIN STROUD

12TH ANTHONY STIMPSON

13TH ANDREW FRANK

14TH SHERICE FLEMING

15TH SEAN BROWN
KRISTINE LINK

16TH JOSEPH AZBELL, JR
DEBORAH LEE

17TH MICHAEL O'DONNELL
RHONDA RAZO
CHARLES SHAFFER

20TH KIRI WITTWER

21ST VERNON AFFOLDER
BARBARA RUMSCHLAG

22ND LILLIE BLEEKE
JEREMY BROWN
ALYSSA CORRAL
MARVIN FAST
DOROTHY KIRCHNER
CARISSA THOMAS
GARY WEILAND

23RD DWIGHT DAVIS
VIRGINIA POLLOCK

24TH JANNAYA ANDREWS
ERAN HACKMAN
TRAVIS MOSER

25TH BERNIE CRISWELL
HANNAH ENDORF
NICHOLAS HARRISON
JEREMIE ROSS
DONNA SHOAF

26TH TONYA BEAVERS

27TH DAVID HARTMAN
AMY POWELL
MATTHEW VOSHELL

28TH THOMAS BEAVERS
LARRY BULTEMEIER
JONATHAN HUFFINE
BRIAN MONROE

ANNIVERSARIES

1ST NORBERT & LILLIE BLEEKE

2ND MICHAEL & DARLENE REIDENBACH

12TH SAMUEL & TRACEY KUKELHAN

14TH LEROY & DIXIE HOOK
BARRY & CANDACE WILLIAMSON

ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL NOTES

"BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN HIS MIGHTY POWER"—EPHESIANS 6:10

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.

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 1:3).

In his first letter to the Christians in Thessalonica, Paul wrote, "We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith." The people that Paul addressed were working hard to use their faith in their everyday lives. For them, faith in Jesus became the cornerstone for everything. Faith, for these children of God, and for all of us, must be the fuel for our daily lives.

Let me explain. If we attend church and partake in Holy Communion regularly, then we strengthen our faith. If we believe, Jesus will walk with us as we do our daily tasks. Our faith in him provides opportunity for the Holy spirit to touch and/or strengthen the faith of those we encounter. If we use our God-given talents to the best of our ability, we serve our world in a God-pleasing way.

We serve an awesome God. He will never leave us. He will never forsake us. He will never stop loving us. His love for us was so great that He sent His only Son to suffer, die, and rise for us. Approach each day knowing God, our Father, will bless you and give you the "endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

February Calendar

1 Adams County Spelling Bee @ St. Joe 6:30 p.m.
4 3rd Quarter Midterms
5 Recycling 9-11:30 a.m.
2nd Annual Chili Cookoff 7:00 p.m.
10-11 Valentine's Day parties
13 Zion School Open House 12:00-4:00 p.m.
19 "Zion's Got Talent" Show 7:00 p.m.
21 Men's Basketball Tourney—Annex
24 Box Tops Deadline

RECYCLING DAY—Zion Students will once again be collecting newspapers, magazines and aluminum cans from 9 am until 11:30 a.m. on *Saturday, February 5* at the Zion Parking lot. Also accepted are empty printer cartridges, old cell phones and pagers, Campbell's Soup Labels, Community Markets/Our Family UPC labels and Box Tops for Education. Proceeds from recycling go toward the Washington, DC trip in May of 2012.

SCRIP- Cari Shaffer (724-7753) or Tina Augsburger (547-4610) are the Scrip contacts. Kroger cards may be reloaded at the store and gift cards purchased there with the Kroger card.

ZION'S SERVANT SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY					
Altar Guild	Lorraine Griffiths, Lorna Kukelhan				
Offering Cntrs.	Jan Krueckeberg, Barb Kohne, Dane Wheeler				
First Service – 8:00 AM					
Date	February 6	February 13	February 20	February 27	
Acolyte	A.J. Bienz	Jenna Wittwer	Makayla Green	Benton Griffiths	
	Jeremy Razo	Courtney Schultz	Rachel Girod	Cody Crump	
Greeters	Joe & Janet Azbell	Phil & Carolyn Juengel, LeAnn & Amanda Marbach	Lorraine & Teresa Kiser	Lorraine & Teresa Kiser	
Elder	John Kenney	John Kenney	John Kenney	John Kenney	
Organist	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	
PA System	John Kenney	John Kenney	John Kenney	John Kenney	
Ushers	Jay Teeter,	Jay Teeter,	Jay Teeter,	Jay Teeter,	
	Steve Hill, Luke &	Steve Hill, Luke &	Steve Hill, Luke &	Steve Hill, Luke &	
	John Marbach,	John Marbach,	John Marbach,	John Marbach,	
	Brian, Matt &	Brian, Matt &	Brian, Matt &	Brian, Matt &	
	Patrick Monroe	Patrick Monroe	Patrick Monroe	Patrick Monroe	
Second Service – 10:30 AM					
Acolyte	Ben Fullenkamp	James Ungemach	Joel Harvey	Kyle Wittwer	
	Cole Bussel	Tony Busse	Jacob Hall	Noah Quinones	
Greeters	Tim & Diane Zeser, Mary Thieme	Ruth Wilder, Tim & Diane Zeser	Ruth Wilder, Dorothy, Cindy & Jenny DeLong	Ruth Wilder & Mary Thieme	
Elder	Les Marckel	Les Marckel	Les Marckel	Les Marckel	
Organist	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	
PA System	Les Marckel	Les Marckel	Les Marckel	Les Marckel	
Ushers	Paul Busse, Jr,	Paul Busse, Jr,	Paul Busse, Jr,	Paul Busse, Jr,	
	Ralph, Trent, Will &	Ralph, Trent, Will &	Ralph, Trent, Will &	Ralph, Trent, Will &	
	Brad Busse,	Brad Busse,	Brad Busse,	Brad Busse,	
	Dave Fuelling,	Dave Fuelling,	Dave Fuelling,	Dave Fuelling,	
	Aaron Thieme	Aaron Thieme	Aaron Thieme	Aaron Thieme	

Serve

The Lord

With Gladness!

EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE, SHARING CHRIST

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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CHURCH@ZIONDECATUR.COM

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THANK YOU

My sincere thanks for the prayers, cards, telephone calls and other expressions of concern due to my recent total shoulder replacement surgery and my continuing recuperation. Thanks to pastors Phifer and Gadbaw for the home communion visits. It is all appreciated very much.

Eunice Fink

ZION SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE

Do you know someone who is considering a change for their child's education? If so, invite them to our **Open House** on **Sunday, February 13 (noon-4:00 pm).**

All Northeast Indiana Lutheran Schools including our campus will be open to the entire community—new and returning families.

Classrooms will be open and teachers and Board of Education members will be on hand to answer questions.

See you there!

"Your lamp is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105