

The Tidings

Zion Lutheran Church

August 2019



An article I discovered on the Patriot Post I though needed to be shared.

Ba-bong! Ba-bong! Ba-bong! The church bells ring all over Europe. In charming villages and large cities alike, the bells ring. In the tiny ancient town of Beynac, the church in the majestic medieval castle on the hill starts its "song" at 7 a.m. with a continuous, enchanted rhythm of peals for several minutes. It clangs every hour and half-hour throughout the day until it ushers in the night at 7 with the same rhythm that greeted the morning. The bells are everywhere: Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, France, Italy, Spain — you name it. The melodious sound of beautiful church bells echoes as far as the ear can hear.

The problem is, nobody's home. Europe's churches are increasingly empty, with regular worshippers a thing of the past. In some, there are only remnants of larger congregations of the faithful. So many of these beautiful structures built to the glory of God are now shuttered. Many of the more architecturally interesting ones have been converted into homes, offices, or museums. A quick Internet search for "European churches for sale" reveals a robust market for repurposing the Lord's house into something else.

Are America's churches destined to suffer the same fate as Europe's? Researcher George Barna has been tracking the intersection between faith and culture for more than three decades. His research reveals that church attendance in the United States continues on a downward spiral.

The data regarding attitudes among young people toward the organized church reveals an awful conclusion: America's congregations are dying. Faith in God is being replaced with "spirituality," and younger generations are obsessed with finding activities that will make them happy rather than doing the hard work of seeking the truth that leads to deep and abiding joy. As our culture becomes ever more secular, the saddest part isn't the empty pews; it's that we are quickly becoming a nation of vacant souls.

There is a dangerous lack of Christian communities supporting, challenging, and holding each other accountable. Just as disturbing is the increasing practice by some clergy to pervert the Truth into a meaningless "feel good" message in order to fill the pews and coffers. A watered-down Christian theology that preaches "it's all good" might bring warm bodies in the door, but when the comprehensive Gospel that speaks to every aspect of life is not taught, then people leave the building still searching for answers to the personal problems that engulf them. Christ in all of his glory must be front and center; when He is not, "going to church" just becomes another task.

Mr. Barna reports that young people actually desire a "transformative connection with God." They just don't know where to find it, which is particularly tragic in a country where church buildings fill the landscape from sea to shining sea.

One can hardly blame young adults for choosing to sleep in when the culture of "the church" offers nothing different than the rotting pop culture in which they are drowning. For pastors, deacons, Sunday School teachers, and lay people concerned about their own dwindling fellowships, Barna.com is a great resource. The research is thorough, with easy-to-understand conclusions and practical advice. Helpful information also can be found on the Facebook page of United in Purpose, a nonprofit organization founded to help churches become relevant to the culture.

The bottom line, however, is simple: Preach the full truth of Christ, in love, and they will come. The good news for Millennials, for Generation Z, for Americans, Europeans, and all people living in the "four corners of the Earth" is still the Good News, which is the Gospel of Christ. Only when pastors begin to teach Christ in his fullness will churches experience a new awakening.

Only when the church is really the church will the bells become the sweet song that beckons the faithful and the lost alike to a place of hope and abiding love.

Blessings, Pastor Mike

Zion Lutheran Church
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Women of the Word

August meetings for the Circles.

Most groups will not be meeting in August. The circles will be starting new Bible study topics in September. Stay tuned for further info regarding the new studies!

Wednesday, August 14

Fellowship Breakfast Group will meet at Cracker Barrel at 9 a.m. All women of the church are welcome. Please call Peggy Peese (257-7921) for more information.

CAM and The Crisis Center Donations-

During the summer months, when children are not in school, CAM could especially use individually wrapped snacks-pudding, jello, small bags of crackers or chips, etc. CAM could also use more men's clothes and shoes and children's clothing and shoes. There is a box in the Narthex for donations or you can take them directly to CAM on Mondays from 2:00-6:00, and Tuesday through Friday from 2:00-4:00.

The Pink box in the Narthex is for items needed at the Women's Crisis Center. Please donate any travel size soaps, shampoos or other toiletries. They are greatly appreciated!

Deborah Circle will be donating laundry soap to The Crisis Center this month.

Contact us!



Website: www.zionkerrville.org

Email:

Office: office@zionkerrville.org
Pastor: pastor-michael@zionkerrville.org
Finance: finance@zionkerrville.org
Church Council: zlcouncil2015@zionkerrville.org
Media Center: mediacenter@zionkerrville.org
Judy Johnson: judymusic@zionkerrville.org
Misty Erlund: mistymusic@zionkerrville.org
Dan Stisser: danmusic@zionkerrville.org
Children's Center: children@zionkerrville.org

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Children's Ctr. Director - Abigail Guest
Nursery Attendant - Audra Rode
Superintendent - Steve Griffin
Altar Guild - Linda Mann & Donna Shirley
Ushers - Beverly Fischer

Church Council Officers

President – Roger Lampman, Sr.
Vice President – Gary Hartjen
Secretary – Cathy Krutsinger
Treasurer – Sandra Yarbrough

Representatives:

Benevolence – Tim Tompkins
Children's Center – Larry Cattran
Evangelism – Karen Saunders
Fellowship –
Parish Ed –
Property - Joel Johnson
Stewardship - Bob Gates
Worship & Music - Tammy Parkhurst-Rhodes
Youth Ministry - Donna Kelley

Worship & Music Notes

Judy Johnson

After reading Lee Strobel's book, *The Case for Miracles*, I read two of his other books, *The Case for Faith* and *The Case for Christ*, in which he also addresses miracles. As he interviewed scientists and philosophers, he asked the question, "How can rational and learned people believe in a baby born from a virgin, people walking on water and dead people emerging alive from tombs?" The bottom line is: If you believe in a God who created the universe, the rest is child's play!

Some skeptics can't reconcile the laws of nature and science with miracles. Here's an explanation from J.P. Moreland: "An apple falling from a tree illustrates the law of gravity; however, if I reach out and catch the apple before it hits the ground, I am simply intervening, not overturning that law. God does the same thing."

Last fall, I was carrying a large, heavy terra cotta pot across my deck when I began to lose my grip and feel myself pitching forward to a sure and disastrous result. Before me were concrete steps and the sidewalk. In my mind I could literally hear the cracking of bones as I envisioned myself falling onto the concrete. I knew I had my phone in my pocket so I could call for help when I fell. The next thing I knew, I was standing on that sidewalk, several feet ahead, perfectly balanced with the pot securely in my hands. Somehow I was transported to safety by what? An angel? I don't know. All I know was I lost several seconds in time and was rescued from certain injury. It was a clear case of God intervening in the law of gravity! It all happened so fast I didn't even have time to pray!

We need to give God credit for intervening in our lives in ways we may not even be aware of. There are angels waging war against powers and principalities that we can't see. Because we are His children, we are recipients of His protection. How awesome is that?!! You know to dial 911 in emergencies, right? Read Psalm 91:1 and following which explains God's protection. Verse 11 is especially meaningful to me after the incident I just described.

***For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.***

Wow. That makes me feel so loved and protected. Thank you, Abba, Father!

Member Updates

Address Change

Betty Jo Hall
The Laurels in Stone Oak
575 Knights Cross Dr. Apt. A-215
San Antonio, TX 78753
210-497-5119

Death

Bob Hardman

Memorials

Zion Lutheran Children's Center

Pastor Luther G. Strasen by Pastor & Mrs. Don Rauhut

Banner Fund

Betty Mann by M/M Walter Saunders

Altar Guild

Betty Mann by Sarah Circle

Thank you's

Thank you, my dear Zion family, for your prayers, thoughts and cards over the past couple of months. First with my mother's transition into her heavenly home and then with my cataract surgeries. I especially want to thank Tracy Flowers and Karen Saunders for their taxi service when called upon. I also want to thank my Altar Guild members for stepping up to the plate when I could not be present. God has truly blessed me, with new vision and more importantly with each of you in my family of faith.

Yours in Christ, Linda Mann

I am so grateful to all my Zion friends for your thoughts and prayers. You have all been so kind. Your expressions of sympathy at the time of my twin brother's death was a great comfort to me. Thank you and God's blessings, Wilma Thompson

August Worship

Ushers:

9:00 a.m. Paul & Ruth Hinkle, Marian Spears, Beverly Fischer
11:00 a.m. Buddy Bell, John Dennis, Ted Hannemann, Jenschke Family, Harold & Linda Johnson, Donna & Holly Shirley

Liturgists: Brenda Abbatiello, Mary Amburn, Misty Erlund, Judy Johnson, Karen Saunders

August 4 -

9:00 a.m. **Reader:** Mark Bigott
11:00 a.m. **Reader:** Betty Koetting
Altar Flowers: Millie Smith

August 11 -

9:00 a.m. **Reader:** Karen Saunders
11:00 a.m. **Reader:** Helen Johnson
Altar Flowers:

August 18 -

9:00 a.m. **Reader:** Solveig Crawford
11:00 a.m. **Reader:** Katy Kappel
Altar Flowers: Kent & Cathy Bressler

August 25 -

9:00 a.m. **Reader:** Mary Amburn
11:00 a.m. **Reader:** Mary Louise Leach
Altar Flowers: Amelia Balser

If you would like to provide **altar flowers** on any Sunday in 2019, please sign the flower chart in the narthex or call the church office at 257-8411.

August Birthdays

Smith, Rick	8/1	Scharringhausen, Nelda	8/11	Harrison, Tammy	8/23
Vanderhoof, Barbara	8/1	Callcott, Tammy	8/12	Anfinson, Lynn	8/24
Borchers, Stratton	8/2	Carswell, Austyn	8/12	Brown, Bill	8/24
Crawford, Solveig	8/2	Smith, Austin	8/12	Johnson, Helen	8/24
Nielsen, Maxine	8/3	Chenault, Greg	8/14	Kneese, Florine	8/24
Reichenau, Gary	8/3	Weaver, Janice	8/16	Balser, Amelia	8/25
Yarbrough, Sandra	8/3	Johnson, Harold	8/18	Wells, Preston	8/26
Balser, Ryan	8/5	Rendon, Robert	8/18	Garza, Alycia	8/27
Craig, Brenda	8/5	Brown, Elizabeth	8/19	Jacoby, Jody	8/27
Lowrey, Michael	8/7	Fossett, Winston	8/20	Walters, Ashley	8/28
Taylor, Beth	8/7	Greenshield, Betty	8/20	Hartjen, Diane	8/29
Theis, Dena	8/7	Turner, Ross	8/21	McVey, Gary	8/29
Shirley, Holly	8/8	Williams, Michael	8/22		
Freeman, Carolyn	8/9	Erlund, Hailey	8/23		

Every Sunday
 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 10:10 Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

AUGUST 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9am LWR Sewing 10 God's Word Bible Study 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:00 Exercise class 6:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 8:00 pm Agape.	2 LCMC Conf. 5:30 A A Wende House	3 LCMC Conf. 8:30 Aglow 10 A A Mtg. 10 N A Mtg
4 8:30am Prayer Cell Communion CAM 10:10 Confirmation Class 1-3 Youth	5 Noon Wmns A A 2:00 WOW Brd 6:00pm Comm. Prayer	6 9:00am worship Plg/staff mtg. 12:15 Weight Watchers 2:15 Exercise class 8:00 pm Agape	7 10am ZLCC Chapel Noon Wmns A A	8 9am LWR Sewing 10 God's Word Bible Study 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:00 Exercise class 6:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 8:00 pm Agape.	9 5:30 A A Wende House	10 8am Garden Club 10 A A Mtg. 10 N A Mtg
11 8:30am Prayer Cell 10:10 Confirmation Class	12 Noon Wmns AA 2:00 WOW Brd	13 9:00am-noon Wor Plg/Staff Mtg.. 12:15 Weight Watchers 2:15 Exercise class 6:30pm Council 8:00 Agape	14 9am Wmn's Brk Noon Wmn A A Noon Garden Club	15 Newsletter Deadline 9am LWR Sewing 10 God's Word Bible Study 5:30pm Weight Watchers 6:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 6:00 Exercise class 8:00 pm Agape	16 5:30 A A Wende Hse.	17 10 N A Mtg. 10 A A Mtg.
18 8:30am Prayer Communion 10:10 Conf. Class 1-3 Youth 5-6 Prayer Hour	19 8:30am Quilt Guild Noon Wmns AA	20 8:30 Quilt Guild 9:00am-noon Wor Plg/Staff Mtg. 12:15 Weight Watchers 1:30pm Knitters 2:15 Exercise class 8:00 Agape	21 10am ZLCC Chapel Noon Wmn A A	22 9am LWR Sewing 10 God's Word Bible Study 5:30pm Weight Watchers 6:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 6:00 Exercise class 8:00 pm Agape	23 5:30 A A Wende Hse.	24 10 A A Mtg. 10 N A Mtg
25 8:30am Payer Cell 10:10 Confirmation Class	26 Noon Wmns A A	27 9:00am-noon Wor Plg/Staff Mtg. 12:15 Weight Watchers 2:15 Exercise class 8:00 Agape	28 Noon Wmn A A	29 9am LWR Sewing 10 God's Word Bible Study 5:30pm Weight Watchers 6:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 6:00 Exercise class 8:00 pm Agape	30 5:30 A A Wende Hse.	31 10 A A Mtg. 10 N A Mtg

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PROJECTS 2018-2019

QUILTS: Fabric for quilts should be washable cotton/cotton blend material. Any cotton fabric larger than 8 ½" square can be used for quilt tops. Larger pieces are used for backs (64"x84"). Flat sheets in good condition, double or larger size, make wonderful backs. Fitted sheets can be taken apart and pieced also. Sheets of lesser quality can be used for liners. Please wash sheets. We can NOT use double knits, velvet, lace, or wool. Please leave fabric and sheets for quilts in Room 138.

As it has been announced on Sundays, WOW-LWR members are now completing the quilts as the tops, liners and backs become available. Dates when enough items are ready to be tied will be announced. This requires about six to eight ladies each time. It is usually on a Tuesday afternoon starting at 2:30 p.m. The 2-week session in February will no longer be necessary.

FABRIC KITS: These kits are used to teach people a means of supporting themselves. Each kit consists of TWO pieces of cotton/cotton blend fabric each 3 yards by 44" wide and TWO spools (each 250 or 300 yards or equivalent) of matching or neutral ALL PURPOSE thread. Please label these items: FOR FABRIC KITS and place in the LWR box in the narthex. The circles will assemble kits from items donated.

SOAP: Bath size bars of soap, individually wrapped, (any brand) can be left in the LWR tub in the narthex. The soap will be for people around the world through LWR and the local needs through donations to CAM.

CASH DONATIONS are always welcomed. Checks and cash may be placed in pew envelopes. Checks may be written to Zion Lutheran Church with "WOW-LWR" on the memo line. Donations may be placed in the offering plate or dropped by the church office. These donations are used to purchase items to complete the LWR projects, the maintenance of sewing machines, and shipping costs.

Contact us!

Website: www.zionkerrville.org

Email:

Office: office@zionkerrville.org

Pastor: pastor-michael@zionkerrville.org

Finance: finance@zionkerrville.org

Church Council: zlcouncil2015@zionkerrville.org

Media Center: mediacenter@zionkerrville.org

Judy Johnson: judymusic@zionkerrville.org

Misty Erlund: mistymusic@zionkerrville.org

Dan Stisser: danmusic@zionkerrville.org

Children's Center: children@zionkerrville.org

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MISSION MOMENT

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt Director of Mission Growth

Training Workers for the Harvest

As a District here in Texas, we believe that God is calling us to multiply disciples and churches. To support our congregations in this mission, we are committed to church planting, church revitalization, and leadership development. In this “Mission Moment,” we explore our work in the area of leadership development.

Healthy, disciple-making and multiplying churches need healthy and well-trained leaders. While every congregation is called to develop leaders, we believe that this is a vital area for our District to provide support. Therefore, we host our Annual Gathering and Pre-Gathering Seminars each Summer; regional Reboot | Retool | Refuel workshops in the Spring and Fall; and our Winter Leadership Retreat in Concan. We are grateful that these events help leaders with opportunities for education, inspiration, encouragement, and spiritual renewal.

Recently, we felt called to grow our engagement in the area of leadership development. Inspired by the ministry training program employed by our newest congregation, Bethel, Laredo, and the Latin American Lutheran Institute, we began dreaming about a ministry training program that would be online and on-demand to train and equip leaders for ministry. We are calling this program Workers for the Harvest.

In Matthew 9 we read that “Jesus continued going around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.’”

God has given us a big dream for better equipping more workers for the harvest by creating a new on-ramp for leadership development. We aim to provide faithful and mission-minded training to equip students to answer God’s call to greater Kingdom ministry as future ministry leaders, youth workers, evangelists, church planters or even contract pastors. And we need your help. First, we want to invite you to pray for this new ministry. Secondly, we’d like to ask you and your congregation to consider making a financial gift to help us launch this new program. And finally, prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you or someone you know to take the next step to answering God’s call by enrolling in Workers for the Harvest. If you or your congregation would like to learn more, contact me. I look forward to sharing about this exciting new ministry.

Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for the LCMC Texas District. Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Feel free to contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or bryce@lcmctexas.org. Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/lcmctexas

What's Happening at Zion Lutheran Children's Center

ZLCC is an outreach ministry of Zion Lutheran Church; serving the Kerrville Community by providing Quality Education in a Nurturing Christian Environment.

August Birthdays

Happy Birthday to You!!

Elena
Jayden
Ryder
Noah



Curriculum

Week 1: Hollywood Bound
Week 2: Sports Mania
Week 3: Camping Time
Week 4: Getting to know the classroom



SPECIAL DAYS IN AUGUST

National Eye exam month
9th—Book Lovers Day
12th— Middle Child's Day
16th— CENTER CLOSED
19th— First Day of School



Note from the Director:

During the month of August we have spent many days preparing for this time of year when it's time to say goodbye. We prepare for this all year long, but that doesn't make it any easier. Although we don't become empty nesters as our graduating class moves on to Kinder, they each leave a mark on our hearts. We reflect how over the years, months and days we have loved these children like they were our own. We guided them, we kissed their boo-boo's, we held their hands, we lovingly disciplined them, we played with them, laughed with them and even cried with them. As we send them out the door to bigger and better things we hope the impressions we made will last them a life time.

Thank you for your continued support of ZLCC, please keep our graduating class in your prayers and the other children that we continue to work with.

Bible Focus

Week 1: Elijah's Faith
Week 2: God shows his power
Week 3: Daniel's Faith
Week 4: Jonah runs from God

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

