

The Tidings

Zion Lutheran Church

September 2020



Pastor's Notes . . .

We have been under the thumb of a pandemic for six months now and it feels like six years. The country feels like a baseball hit so hard the threads burst apart as we watch the leather cover tear from its core. Public discourse has become coarse filled with poison darts and inflamed rhetoric. Sometimes I feel so weighted down by the illogic of our human behavior I daydream about those simpler days of root beer floats and sock hops. To be honest, I stop sometimes and wonder out loud, "God, aren't you just as tired of this as I am?"

As a pastor I believe there are many who believe that people like myself, and those who write devotionals and books about how to deal with problems don't need help themselves. On the contrary – no matter how much I wish it otherwise; I do not speak about the human race as an outsider. We all hurt.

When John Newton converted to Christianity after laboring as a slave trader he often struggled with discouragement and guilt. It is understandable as he recalled his past and the damage he had caused to others. I love the colorful way Newton described his conversion: *"Once I was a wild thing off the coast of Africa. But Jesus Christ caught me and tamed me, and now people come to see me like they come to see the wild animals in the zoo."*

When he was dying, Newton was visited by a young pastor who stood in awe of the dying man's contributions to the kingdom of God. He expressed his deep feelings of regret and loss at Newton's impending death. Newton said to him, "True. I'm going on before you, but you'll soon come after me. When you arrive, our friendship will no doubt cause you to inquire of me. But I can tell you already where you'll most likely find me-I'll be sitting at the feet of the thief whom Jesus saved in His dying moments on the cross."

Wounded healers are the only kind God uses to do His work. As I have written this, I too am wrestling with my own hurts. Sometimes doubts and regrets wake me from sleep. And there are times when I question whether one so human, so sinful, so discouraged should be preaching at all. As of the first of this month (September) I am beginning my twelfth year at Zion and the forty second year of ministry. It has never gotten any easier.

Except for one thing. The older I get and the longer I live the more convinced I am that in the woundedness and brokenness of each of us lies the power and grace of Jesus Christ made real. I am renewed each time someone one comes with their own heartache knowing there is a truth that will give an answer. Each Sunday morning when I face the myriad of faces in a congregation I love and serve, I feel God's assurance that God is deeply active and living.

Do you remember when God came to Job. After 40 chapters of describing his disappointment in God he is silent. Then God shows up and Job's response is interesting.

"I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. 3 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know." 5 "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You;
(Job 42:2-3; 5)

My eyes – and yours – do see. We see and believe God is good and, in the end, His love, grace and power will always triumph. ***"LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS... WHO GIVETH US THE VICTORY..."***

*God bless your ministry,
Pastor Mike*

Women of the Word

Meetings for the Circles and Fellowship Breakfast Group

Plans to meet are indefinite due to Covid-19. Members will be contacted when meetings will be resumed. Call Carolyn Freeman if you would like information about any of the Circles.

Lutheran World Relief

Sewing continues each week. There are kits available to take home to work on. Please continue to donate any old sheets or cotton/cotton blend fabric you may have to help with the quilting projects.

WOW also needs donations for Lutheran World Relief kits. Write checks to **Zion Lutheran Church** and on **memo line** write: **WOW-LWR kits**.

Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM)- The first Sunday of each month is designated CAM Sunday. But donations can be given at any time. **Just drop off foods to the box in the Narthex** or take foods directly to CAM Monday through Friday from 2:00-4:00. **For September we are suggesting-Soups!**
In October we suggest donating-Oatmeal.

Women's Crisis Center-The Pink box in the Narthex is for items you'd like to contribute. Please donate any travel size soaps, shampoos or other personal care items.

Ruth/Rebecca Circle will be donating laundry soap to The Crisis Center in September and **Sarah Circle** will donate for the month of October.

SPECIAL DATES

September 7, 2020 Labor Day
September 13, 2020 Grandparents Day
September 20, 2020 Community Gathering
September 22, 2020 First Day of Fall

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



Please notify the church office if your email address changes.

Staff

Pastor-Michael Williams

Office Secretary - Judy Sharp

Financial Secretary - Diane Hartjen

Youth & volunteer Coordinator - Misty Erlund

Organist/Choir Director - Judy Johnson

Contemporary Service Director - Dan Stisser

Choir Accompanist/Organist - Amy Williams

Bell Choir Director - Jim Abbatiello

Children's Ctr. Director - Abigail Guest

Nursery Attendant - Audra Chester

Superintendent - Steve Griffin

Altar Guild - Linda Mann & Donna Shirley

Ushers - Beverly Fischer

Church Council Officers

President – Gary Hartjen

Vice President – Harold Johnson

Secretary – Karen Welsh

Treasurer – Sandra Yarbrough

Representatives

Children's Center – Larry Cattran

Property - Joel Johnson

Outreach - Bob Gates

Worship & Music - Tammy Parkhurst-Rhodes

Dear Zion Members and Staff,

I miss you all. Church by TV is not the same as in person; although our pastor brings communion to our doors.

Beth Murley

Worship & Music Notes

Judy Johnson

By the time you read this I will have returned from caring for my 2 grandchildren while my son and daughter-in-law were working and teaching. Schools began remotely until Labor Day and then a decision will be made for continued instruction. Evelyn “met” her 2nd grade teacher curbside, picked up her materials and Chromebook. She had to teach Grandma how to use it!

Owen’s daycare facility closed because 3 teachers tested positive so he was home with me as well. I’m grateful I was healthy to be here for my family, and I thank my fellow staff members for filling in for me so I could! I really miss the Praise Team, worship planning and staff meetings, and the Chancel Choir. Wish I knew when we can resume rehearsals; singing is of particular concern so time will tell.

Sometimes I feel like Joseph in the pit, Jonah inside the fish, Paul in prison, and Noah in the ark, unable to resume normal life. Each of those situations produced a positive result, however, so I am keeping an open mind and heart to what God has planned. Certainly a silver lining for me has been quality time with my family and a renewed appreciation for all the things I take for granted day-to-day.

Watching Zion’s services on-line was such a blessing and I was able to see you and worship with you. Thanks to Pastor Mike for his encouraging sermons on Philippians, to Amy and to those who provided special music at the 9 am. I appreciate you all!

Keep the faith and anticipate His blessings!

Invitation to Heaven

When I enter the beautiful city
And the saints all around me appear,
I hope that someone will tell me,
“It was you who invited me here.”

-Corrie Ten Boom

Member Updates

Deaths

Heidi Holczer
Robert Dittmar

Memorials

Building Fund

John Dennis by Mary Amburn

Holly Shirley by Mary Amburn, Ricardo Martinez, E. C. & Skipper Wellmann

Youth

Holly Shirley & John Dennis by M/M Bill Craig

\$ Things Money Can't Buy \$

1. Manners
2. Morals
3. Respect
4. Character
5. Common Sense
6. Trust
7. Patience
8. Class
9. Integrity
10. Love

September Worship Assistants

Ushers:

9:00 a.m. Tracy Flowers, Beverly Fischer, 11:00 a.m. Buddy Bell, David & Sharon
Turlington, Ted Hannemann, Jenschke Family, Harold & Linda Johnson, Donna
Shirley

Liturgists: Brenda Abbatiello, Mary Amburn, Misty Erlund, Sue Nelms, Karen Saunders

September 6-

9:00 a.m. **Reader:** Mark Bigott
11:00 a.m. **Reader:** Sharon Turlington
Altar Flowers:

September 13 -

9:00 a.m. **Reader:** Karen Saunders
11:00 a.m. **Reader:** Donna Shirley
Altar Flowers: Bill & Brenda Craig

September 20 -

9:00 a.m. **Reader:** Linda Mann
11:00 a.m. **Reader:** Gaye Janice
Altar Flowers: Jim & Shirley Smith

September 27 -

9:00 a.m. **Reader:** Fran Turner
11:00 a.m. **Reader:** Katy Kappel
Altar Flowers: Katy Kappel

If you would like to provide **altar flowers** on any Sunday in 2020, please sign the flower chart in the narthex or call the church office at 257-8411.

September Birthdays

LEACH, Mary	09/01	NELSON, Helen	09/14	CREECH, Marta	09/27
KEENY, Ashley	09/02	LOWREY, Gaye	09/15	LAMPMAN, Patsy	09/27
ANDERS, Whitney	09/03	BERNHARD, Will	09/17	MICHEL, Marilyn	09/27
BORCHERS, Shari	09/05	HINKLE, Joseph	09/17	PAGEL, Brenden	09/27
PFIESTER, Gerald	09/05	BOESSLING, Pat	09/18	JENSCHKE, Brady	09/28
NELMS, Sue	09/06	HAVERLAH, Christopher	09/20	FLOWERS, Bryce	09/29
PATRICK, Anna	09/06	DITTMAR III, Trey	09/21		
MOTHERAL, Robt.Brandon	09/08	AGOLD, Patricia	09/22		
CRAIG, William	09/09	PFIESTER, Darla	09/22		
HAYES, Connie	09/09	JANICE, Conner	09/23		
SHOEMAKER, Scott	09/11	TIEMANN, Bill	09/23		
CREWS, Emma	09/12	OEHLER, Colby	09/24		
PAPENHAGEN, Barbara Jo	09/12	ANDERS, Melissa	09/25		
PFIESTER, Bristol	09/12	KORDZIK, Karen	09/25		
VARWIG, Aidan	09/12	RENDON, Dianna	09/25		
AMBURN, Mary	09/14	OLADE, Tristan	09/26		

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

SEPTEMBER 2020

All activities are subject to change due to COVID-19

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

Youth at Zion, September 2020



Connect

<https://newsletter.dymapps.com/read/29013>



Sr. High Youth Group-DV8 September 6 1:00 -3:00 p.m.

Join us in the Zion Youth Room! Let's grab a bite and a Bible, while we hang out with old friends and make new ones.



Jr. High Youth Group-Rewired September 9 6:00-7:00 p.m.

This is a NEW Jr. High only group! (6th- 8th graders) Let us share a bite to eat, play some games and share scripture as we learn about each other and how to serve one another.

(LOOK! We may want a different logo, too!)



Confirmation Classes begin!

Starting September 20, Sundays @ 10:10

Watch the mail for more information from Pastor Mike!



Rewired and DV8

River Clean Up Sunday, September 20 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Let's clean up and hang out at the river! We will join Girl Scout Troop 224. Registration required to receive a t-shirt and in prizes. This is an event sponsored by UGRA. Ask Misty for details.



Drive-in Movie Night!

Friday, September 25th 8:00 p.m.

All ages are encouraged! Check social media for details.

COVID-19

COVID-19 Update

All programs are dependent on evolving and changing regulations. Please check the website (www.zionkerrville.org), Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for updates since this printing.

MISSION MOMENT

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt

Director of Mission Growth

Seismic Shifts

2020 has been one heck of a year. Yes, I know, “heck” is just a polite way of saying “H-E-double hockey sticks,” but it seems to accurately describe how many have felt about this year which has been marked by global pandemic, unprecedented job loss, economic uncertainty, and racial, political, and social division. The church and the Gospel mission seem increasingly marginalized--shoved aside as our nation and world endure this cultural earthquake and its devastating aftershocks.

When the earth stops quaking and we emerge from our places of refuge to take stock of the destruction and survey the landscape which is forever changed by the seismic shifts that have taken place, we will undoubtedly cry out to God in despair and lamentation for the losses sustained and the suffering we see all around. Yet in the midst of this cultural upheaval, I believe God is at work and is calling the church to continue his restorative work. With the earth still quaking and the world still shaking, the mission of Jesus in the world draws the faithful to emerge out of hiding and into the chaos to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Paul urges us in Ephesians 4 “to live worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” By “speaking the truth in love” we are called to grow up in every way into the image of Christ. This divided and devastated world desperately needs the united body of Christ. The world needs the hope and love of Jesus and God has given you and me, as members of the body of Christ, the calling to be the united body of Christ in the world.

What does this look like? I think we are only beginning to learn all that this could look like for the future. But I believe it starts with prayer and lamentation and an emerging from our safe havens to love dangerously and care for the suffering. We need to listen to one another well, seeking mutual understanding and to build bridges instead of walls. Without ever compromising truth, we conquer evil with love and grace...just as Jesus has done for each of us.

And when the aftershocks come, we cling to Jesus and his body, the Church. “For God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” - Psalm 46

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