
ZIONEWS

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

JULY 2018



Winners in Christ!

Rev. John P. Gross

I was going through my old files and found this article I wrote 20 years ago about our daughter Annamae. When Annamae was young, the schools were trying to mainstream her into a regular classroom setting. Mom and Dad knew that wouldn't work, but we made the attempt anyway. Thank you for allowing me the luxury of sharing a portion of this article with you.

She was having a bad year in school. Mom and Dad were called to the school on a number of occasions to come and pick up our daughter for disrupting the class. Annamae had a habit of saying, "I'm not going to cooperate", yet she didn't even know what the word meant.

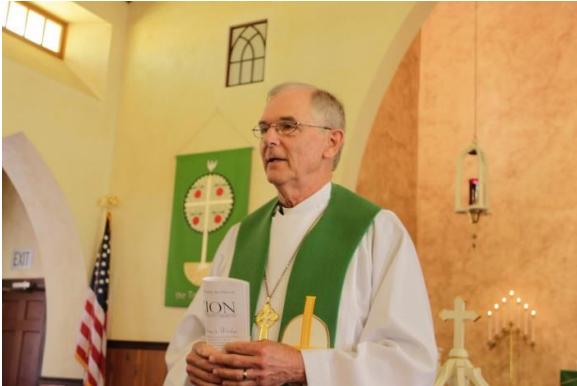
It was Annamae's last day of school (so far so good, no phone calls from the school office). I stood in the front yard waiting as her bus pulled up. I got onto the bus and as she was the last child to be dropped off, she was sitting in the far back. By the look on her face I could tell it had been a rough day. I could see she had been crying earlier. When I looked closer at her, I noticed a red, white and blue ribbon hanging around her neck with a gold (plastic) medallion. In big letters sketched across the medallion was the word "**WINNER!**" As her father, I found this so appropriate, because regardless of Annamae's academic performance, she is a winner in my eyes.

I know the Gross family's circumstances are very different than those of your family, but I wanted you to see the connection in our relationship with God the Father. I guess there is no other way than to just say it: because of sin each one of us reading this article, as well as those who are not, are **LOSERS**. Our sinful nature works against God. Scripture states that we were born as enemies of God. Simply stated, God tells us in His Commandments what to do and what not to do. So how are we doing in following His commands? We ignore them at times, and run our lives according to the standards of this world. Social media, TV and movies sometimes seem to influence our lives more than God's Word. But here is the dilemma: it's not just that we don't follow God's commands, but on our own we *cannot* follow them even though we are still accountable to God for our actions.

God has a solution to the problem. He has done something that we could never have imagined. He sent his Son, His only Son Jesus Christ, to be one of *us*. As He is God's Son, one can only think of Jesus as the **WINNER of ALL WINNERS**. But attempt to grasp this reality: He became a **LOSER** on our behalf. He became sin for us, He became the curse. Then as both God and Man,

He went to the cross with our sins, and there died with them. He took our sin, and in exchange gave us His righteousness, purity and holiness. On the third day He rose from the grave, and as Paul writes in Romans 6: "If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection". So through the one-time sacrifice of God's Son, we are forgiven people of God. At our death we will receive life everlasting.

Life is full of difficulties. Our own personal situations can be overwhelming at times. But always hold in your hearts the reality of the work of God: We are now and forever **WINNERS in CHRIST!**



Rev James Lamb taught at the LifeTeam Workshop on June 2nd and was guest preacher on June 3.



Rev Harold Oliver joined us as guest preacher on June 3, here teaching the Children's Lesson



Many members and first-time voters participated in an efficient and productive Voters Meeting on June 24.

Ministry Updates

Vacation Bible School

...was a huge success with over 20 kids from ages 4 – 12 attending the week-long event. We kicked off Monday with a message from Pastor Gross in the Fellowship Hall. Themed around “water”, the *Splash Mountain* adventures included visits to the reeds where Baby Moses was found, to the waters of the Jordan where Jesus himself was baptized by John the Baptist.









And what would a church event be without a feast at closing?

In addition, we collected a total of **\$610.17** (\$310.17 in change from the kids, and an additional \$300.00 from an anonymous donor) for the 2018 VBS Mission Project: Water for Tanzania!



Yes, there will be Summer Sunday School!

The Lord has blessed us with a wonderful opportunity to provide an amazing adventure for our children - SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL. I'm inviting all of you to share in this experience with me. The program is called PRAY, PRAISE & GIVE THANKS: Jesus teaches Us to Pray. We will be keeping all of the children together in one class. Whatever help you can offer will be greatly appreciated and needed. You won't be asked to teach. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, so you can pick whatever Sunday works best for you. You do not have to commit to help every week.

We start this adventure SUNDAY - JULY 8 TO AUGUST 26. This is a great time to give our regular Sunday School teachers a much deserved break. Let's all work together to make this a special time for our children. Thank you so much for all of your love and support. We can't do this without you. You can talk to me after church or call me any time of the day or night or email me. I look forward to hearing from you. LET'S FEED HIS SHEEP TOGETHER!

Yvonne Simpkins
yvonne.ys79@gmail.com



*Friday, July 20
11:30am*

*Rooster Creek Tavern
200 E. Branch
The Village at Arroyo Grande*

*Call Annette Gibbs
with any questions:
(805) 481-2372*

Just a note to my fellow members at Zion—

I would like to thank all who regularly use their printed offering envelopes, and stress their importance for the counters. The counters are charged with keeping track of all monies given to Zion through the offering plate.

- ❖ Using your envelopes helps ensure accurate record-keeping
- ❖ Using your envelopes speeds up the counting process. When we receive a check without an offering envelope, we must fill out a slip of paper with all the pertinent information, including looking up the giver's envelope number
- ❖ If you are designating for any reason (directing your offering to a specific fund or purpose), write it on the outside of your envelope. While the checks go to the bank, the envelopes stay here to be recorded for quarterly reports.

Zion counters do a great job every Sunday. If you would like to join this team, just let any of us know!

Thank you,

Marcia Fischbeck

Scriptures for July

DATE	FESTIVAL	1ST Reading	PSALM	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
July 1	6th Sunday after Pentecost	Lamentations 3:22–33	Psalm 30	2 Corinthians 8:1–9, 13–15	Mark 5:21–43
July 8	7th Sunday after Pentecost	Ezekiel 2:1–5	Psalm 123	2 Corinthians 12:1–10	Mark 6:1–13
July 15	8th Sunday after Pentecost	Amos 7:7–15	Psalm 85: (1–7) 8–13	Ephesians 1:3–14	Mark 6:14–29
July 22	9th Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 23:1–6	Psalm 23	Ephesians 2:11–22	Mark 6:30–44
July 29	10th Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 9:8–17	Psalm 136:1–9	Ephesians 3:14–21	Mark 6:45–56

Worship Statistics

Date	8:30	10:00	General Offering
6/3	48	76	\$9,411.00
6/10	38	74	\$4,589.00
6/17	61	79	\$4,868.00
6/24	41	98	\$6,242.00

Elders and Readers

	Elder	Reader
7/1 8:00	Jim Polk	
10:30		
7/8 8:00	Jeff Tolle	Charles Burt
10:30		Tom Jones
7/15 8:00	Jeff Tolle	
10:30		
7/22 8:00	Dwayne Head	Jeff Tolle
10:30		Roger Randall
7/29 8:00	Dwayne Head	
10:30		

Greeters, Ushers and Counters

	Greeters	Ushers	Counters
7/1 8:00	Sandi & Ron Funk	8:00Team	Kay and Marcia
10:30		Team 2	
7/8 8:00	Corinne & Bob Wobrock	8:00 Team	Corinne and Marcia
10:30		Team 3	
7/15 8:00	Shirley & Dwayne Head	8:00 Team	Adrienne and Ginny
10:30		Team 4	
7/22 8:00	David & Carolyn Radecki	8:00 Team	Annette and Karen J
10:30		Team 1	
7/29 8:00	Mary Anne Hopper Carol Howard	8:00 Team	Terry and TBD
10:30		Team 2	

July Birthdays

2	Robert Wobrock
7	Cash Polk
9	Pat Wood
11	Stephen Griggs
13	Richard Ziel
16	Corinne Wobrock
18	Chris Stayner
22	Jim Polk
29	Matt Geidel
30	David Radecki
31	Rod Brown

Usher Team Numbers (*will be used instead of names*)

8:00 Team: Bernie Luoma, Terry Pavlichek

Team 1: Kari & David Knutson, Carol Howard, Ted Silberstein
Team 2: John King, Gene Hewitt
Team 3: Derek Valine, Kay Folta
Team 4: Mike Harnish, Mary Ann Hopper

Wedding Anniversaries

Christopher & Lilly Daly
6th on July 21

Terry & Kathleen Pavlichek
34th on July 19

Marc & Heather Tarango
4th on July 19

John & Claire Weidner
59th on July 11

Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML)

Giving Thanks



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

In 1 Thessalonians:18 we are told to "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you". There is no greater joy than being thankful for all the people in our lives and to be able to thank them for all they do; and most of all to thank Him for all the people in our lives. Saying 'thank you' can be such a spirit lifter—it's what God wants us to do.



God has blessed me with a wonderful group of ladies to serve in LWML. On Saturday, June 9 (our last meeting for a couple of months), we had a special THANK YOU surprise. The group was met with thank you balloons, cake, and special bouquets of purple wooden roses. It was a great meeting and the highlight was **Karen Jenny** and **Adrienne Geidel** sharing their experiences from the LWML District Convention in April. Thank you ladies for your sharing: it was great.

LWML is doing a special collection for *Tree of Life*. You probably have noticed baby bottles in the Fellowship Hall, narthex, and the classroom to collect your change. Once the bottles are full, we will give them to one of the ladies who volunteer at *Tree of Life*. May we continue to support them in whatever way we can. Please keep this special ministry in your prayers.

I want to personally thank all of you, our brothers and sisters, for your on-going support for Salvation Army. They are very deeply appreciative of our help. It's a win-win situation for all of us: we are blessed in the giving, and the people who are in need are blessed in the receiving. God bless all of you. I would like to say THANK YOU to all of the ladies in our group:



Joanie Brown
Barbara Ciesielski
Vicki Ewart
Marcia Fischbeck
Adrienne Geidel
Lori Guelker

Shirley Head
Liz Hewitt
Carol Howard
Karen Jenny
Dawn Jones
Kari Knutson

Elaine Notley
Karen Reif
Trudy Romanelli
Alma Silberstein
Phyllis Schroeder
Corinne Wobrock

We will be gathering in August for our planning meeting for the year and seeking God's direction for us. Please keep our outreach and service in your prayers.

There is always room at our table for more ladies, so please come and join us. *We give thanks to our Lord for being able to serve him with gladness!*

In His Service, Yvonne Simpkins 805-466-6632 yvonne.ys79@gmail.com

Life Team *That They May Have Life*



On June 2 your Zion Life Team hosted 30 guests from a variety of Central California churches for a workshop focused on how a congregation can form its own Life Team. The workshop featured nationally recognized speakers Rev. Dr. James Lamb (former Executive of Lutherans for Life) and Deaconess Rachel Geraci (current Mission and Ministry Director for the national Lutherans for Life).

Rev. Lamb presented the scriptural and doctrinal background and rationale for the LCMS position on sanctity of ALL human life. Deaconess Geraci explained how a local congregation can form and encourage its own Life Team and how Lutherans for Life can help in that effort. Most of the attendees came from SLO County but there were also people from as far away as Sacramento and the East Bay.

The participants were universally appreciative for our time and effort to plan and organize the workshop. They lauded the speakers for their expertise and passion, and were also pleased about the idea-sharing concluding the workshop. Many were pleased that much of what was presented and discussed would be helpful in starting a Life Team or helping their current Life Team become more effective.

Our thanks to Pastor Gross for welcoming the participants and opening the meeting with prayer. Thanks, also, to Ginny & Roger Randall and Shirley Head for their planning, organizing and conducting the workshop. Special thanks go to Zion member Lynda Newsom, for her help during the workshop. We pray that the sanctity of life seeds that were sown during the workshop will bear fruit within the ten congregations that were represented as they move forward with their pro-life efforts.

Dwayne Head, Zion-SLO Life Team

July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 6th Sunday after Pentecost 8am Divine Service –Holy Communion 9:15 Adult Bible class Rm 1 <i>Summer Sunday School</i> 10:30am Divine Service—Holy Communion <i>*Fellowship after services</i>	2	3	4 10am Galatians Bible Study, Rm 1	5	6	7
8 7th Sunday after Pentecost 8am Divine Service 9:15 Adult Bible class Rm 1 <i>Summer Sunday School</i> 10:30am Divine Service <i>*Fellowship after services</i>	9	10	11 10am Galatians Bible Study, Rm 1	12	13	14 <i>**No LWML</i>
15 8th Sunday after Pentecost 8am Divine Service—Holy Communion 9:15 Adult Bible class Rm 1 <i>Summer Sunday School</i> 10:30am Divine Service—Holy Communion <i>*Fellowship after services</i>	16	17 Board of Directors 6:30pm	18 9:30am Harvest Bag 10am Galatians Bible Study, Rm 1	19	20 Women's' Luncheon 11:30 in AG	21
22 9th Sunday after Pentecost 8am Divine Service 9:15 Adult Bible class Rm 1 <i>Summer Sunday School</i> 10:30am Divine Service <i>*Fellowship after services</i>	23	24	25 10am Galatians Bible Study, Rm 1	26 Bunco Circle 1:00 FH	27	28
29 10 th Sunday after Pentecost 8am Divine Service—Holy Communion 9:15 Adult Bible class Rm 1 <i>Summer Sunday School</i> 10:30am Divine Service—Holy Communion <i>*Fellowship after services</i>	30	31				