



Zion Lutheran Church, Snohomish, Washington

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## Pastor's Page

### ***A Diet of Worms and Two Plates on the Table Today***

*"[The Bereans examined] the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so."—Acts 17:11*

When Martin Luther stood before the Diet of Worms (pronounced *dee-ett* of *vorms*), Roman Catholic theologian Johann Maier von Eck commanded him to publically renounce the entirety of his writings, to which Luther famously replied,

*"Since Your Majesty and your lordships want a simple, clear, and true answer, I will give it. Unless I am convinced by the teachings of Holy Scripture or by sound reasoning—for I do not believe either the pope or councils alone, since they have often made mistakes and have said the exact opposite about the same point – I am tied to the Scriptures I have quoted, and by my conscience I cannot or will not recant anything. Here I stand."*<sup>1</sup>

The term, *diet*, stands for an assembly where the emperor and princes gathered for the purpose of deliberating on the affairs of the state. *Worms*, the location of Luther's trial, was (and is) a city on the Rhine River in Germany. Dr. Paul Maier described this event, which occurred on April 18, 1521, as

*"one of the most dramatic scenes that we find in all of the history of the second millennium A.D. [for the reason that] we have not only the secular powers represented by his Imperial Majesty Charles V, and all the princes, both Catholic and Lutheran, in Germany, but also all the*

*church people and their representatives as well."*<sup>2</sup>

In other words, both the most powerful sacred and secular authorities, and also commoners, together with those who were "high and mighty," gathered at Worms, whether inside the official hall or outside packing the streets.<sup>3</sup> I would add to Dr. Maier's comments that the looming challenge of that day included the consideration of ultimate authority as considered under two contexts: 1) The question of the authority of the church with respect to the secular state, and, more to the point of this essay, 2) the question of the source of ultimate authority under which Christ's Church administers its doctrines.



Luther's stated position before the *Diet* on the ultimate authority for Christian doctrine is clear and succinct. Final authority rests solely on the Word of God to the explicit exclusion of "popes and councils" (which he deemed to be demonstrably

<sup>1</sup> Frederick Nohl. *Luther: Biography of a Reformer*. (Concordia, 2004), p. 107.

<sup>2</sup> (DVD) *A Man Named Martin*, pt. 1, *The Man*, video 4. (Lutheran Hour Ministries, 2015).

<sup>3</sup> Painting by Anton von Werner, 1877.

<https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=diet+of+worms&view=>

[detailv2&&id=05AFAA1ED12521F9304811A5734AEE001FBBDDD1&sele ctedIndex=0&ccid=xuEsn5n1&simid=608040020259897564&thid=OIP.Mc6 e12c9f99f5791ba1838df4590de229H0&ajaxhist=0](https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=diet+of+worms&view=detailv2&&id=05AFAA1ED12521F9304811A5734AEE001FBBDDD1&sele ctedIndex=0&ccid=xuEsn5n1&simid=608040020259897564&thid=OIP.Mc6 e12c9f99f5791ba1838df4590de229H0&ajaxhist=0)

fallible). Pronouncements on the contents of Christian doctrine, either singularly or in assembly, must rest not on human opinion, but only on Holy Scripture.<sup>4</sup>

The “two plates” that I reference in my title concern two widely-disparate interpretations of Genesis 1. Both positions are embraced by orthodox Christians who hold in common the belief that Scripture is inerrant. For purposes of clarity, these positions are typically identified as “young-earth creationism” (YEC) and “old-earth creationism” (OEC). It is not my purpose here to argue the merits of these respective positions, either on scientific grounds or exegetically. I have written about those considerations elsewhere.<sup>5</sup> For the sake of full disclosure, I embrace the latter position. The driving purpose of this essay is instead to focus on clarifying the grounds upon which Christians embrace these two positions. Now one might ask, isn’t the answer obvious? While it may seem on first consideration that adherents to both positions rest their convictions on the Bible, it is my view that there is a subtle, and yet profound, difference between the ways in which these respective positions are defended.

In support of my perceptions, I highlight certain aspects of my personal experiences within the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In one official LCMS document, with respect to matters of interpreting Genesis, the following challenge is issued: “*Unless there is compelling reason on the basis of the biblical texts themselves ... we are to believe God created the world in six 24-hour days*” (boldface mine).<sup>6</sup> I have directly replied to that challenge by writing and disseminating to Synodical leaders my heavily-referenced essay, “The Biblical Demand to Take another Look: Ten Exegetical Reasons the Creation Days of Genesis are Non-24-Hour.”<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless ecclesiastical leaders have almost unanimously (with three exceptions)<sup>8</sup> refused to investigate my arguments.<sup>9</sup> At the very least my essay has been ignored, while one seminary professor actually expressed outright

contempt for my having requested from him a critique of *Biblical Demand*.<sup>10</sup> It is not my purpose here to whine and rant. To the contrary, I gladly acknowledge that the persistent resistance by LCMS leaders has only served to sharpen my scholarship through its prodding me to seek critique from scholars outside of our Synod. By this means I have corrected occasional errors and weaknesses in my writings as these have been brought to light through intellectual engagements with experts in this field of study. Is this indeed not how theological reflection is supposed to happen within the body of Christ? Yet sadly I must judge the resistance of the LCMS to engage in these deliberations, to be directly contrary to the spirit of Luther and his reformation.

While it is true that Martin Luther embraced YEC, I judge that his over-all posture in this matter (including how he regarded the facts of nature) would approve revisiting that interpretation of Genesis 1 in light of new scientific evidence.<sup>11</sup> For example, far from pitting revelation *against* scientific learning, Luther stated in his lectures on Genesis, “*The astronomers are the experts [on the sun and moon] from whom it is most convenient to get what may be discussed about these subjects*” (boldface mine).<sup>12</sup>

Luther didn’t take his stance at *Worms* to counter *skepticism* over the Bible, but to correct a faulty *interpretation* of Scripture that was distorted by the **imposition of ill-considered tradition**. In a manner, consistent with Luther’s insistence, from Scripture, that the Good News of Christ be clarified in his time, I challenge my critics to prove, from the same, where the position I espouse is in error. Let the debate the LCMS first began, now ensue! In full confidence that I have not misrepresented the Bible, I hereby reaffirm that it is upon my essays<sup>13</sup> that I take my stand before readers, and under God.

*Pastor Gary Jensen, October 31, 2016 (O Hallows’ Eve)*  
Zion Lutheran Church, Snohomish, Washington

<sup>4</sup> This is the position of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. (“Of the Holy Scriptures,” [http://www.lcms.org/doctrine/doctrinal\\_position](http://www.lcms.org/doctrine/doctrinal_position)).

<sup>5</sup> Every one of my essays can be found at my website, <http://www.christianityontheoffense.com>. My over-arching paper titled, “Assembly of Arguments Grounding Old Earth Creationism,” is a collation of a wide range of my essays which address this concern from various angles.

<sup>6</sup> [www.lcms.hughes-stl.com/pages/internal.asp?NavID=2210](http://www.lcms.hughes-stl.com/pages/internal.asp?NavID=2210)

<sup>7</sup> The Biblical Demand to Take Another Look. <http://www.christianityontheoffense.com>

<sup>8</sup> Paul Maier (Ibid. p. 3, n. 6) and Joel Lehenbauer (p. 3, n. 3). Also an LCMS professor who critiqued *Biblical Demand*, yet who wishes to remain anonymous (“Assembly of Arguments,” Op.cit. (6), (“Critique by univ. prof.”).

<sup>9</sup> *Biblical Demand*. Ibid, p. 3, incl. note 6.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, n. 7.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. Section VIII.

<sup>12</sup> Jaroslav Pelikan, ed. *Luther’s Works: Genesis*, v. I. (Concordia, 1958), p. 41.

<sup>13</sup> Op.cit. (8).

## Thoughts from an Elder

Last year the Elders studied the book “Autopsy of a Deceased Church.” After that we brought it to the Sunday Bible class along with the youth. After that a congregational meeting was held and a list of suggestions was developed. Now we need to refine that list and prioritize that list into an action plan. So far, I have only one other person who has stepped forward to say they want to be involved. We need more involved to make this work so we are asking for your help. This cannot be a movement of just a couple of people but one that includes the whole congregation from the oldest to the youngest. Anyone who is interested in formulating a plan for the future of Zion please contact me at 425-232-7666.

One of the problems here at Zion that has been demonstrated over the past couple of months is the attendance has been down, therefore, the giving is down and we don't have enough money to pay the bills, that is the business end of the church. More important to me is the spiritual end of the church. We are saved and that is the message each one of us is to bring to those around us.

That message is awesome and excites me. I am saved not because I'm an elder, a good person, or that I try to keep the commandments, but that God loves ME so much that He sent His Son to pay for my sins so I could be with Him in His heaven. We were given this message in “The Great Commission” to bring to the people around us. We are neither too young to start to share our faith or too old.

In His Service,

*Richard Hellman*



## Bible Studies

- \* The **Sunday morning Bible class** meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall Meeting Room, studying the major themes of the *Augsburg Confession* from the Book of Concord.

### **Special addition to Sunday morning Bible Class.**

“A Man Named Martin” part 2, *The Moment*, video will be shown during Bible Class between services (at 9:30 a.m.) on Feb.5 and Feb.19. Pastor Gary and the “other” Gary [Gable] will moderate the discussion. There are three sessions in all.: Jan. 22, Feb.5, and Feb.19. This video coincides well with the present study of the *Book of Concord*. All ages welcome.

- \* **Men’s Bible Breakfast** meets on **Wednesdays** at 7 a.m. at the Collector’s Choice Restaurant, 215 Cypress Avenue in Snohomish. Men of any age are invited.
- \* Pastor Gary is leading a study of **2 Peter** (LCMS Lifelight series) on **Wednesdays**. The **1 p.m.** class meets in the Parish Hall Meeting Room and the **7 p.m.** class meets at Pastor Jensen’s home (8205 23<sup>rd</sup> Pl. NE, Lake Stevens).
- \* The Thursday morning Bible study, “**Between the Testaments**” (LCMS Lifelight series) will be led by Pastor Gary, at 9:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall Meeting Room.
- \* The **women's Bible study** is Ruth/Esther. This study will be offered two different days/times:
  - Fridays**, at 9:30 a.m. at Jana Ostlund's (425.397.9339) house: 7124 60<sup>th</sup> St SE, Snohomish and
  - Saturdays**, at 7 p.m. at Ann Lepse's (360.568.2030) house: 16807 103<sup>rd</sup> St SE, Snohomish.

**THURSDAY Youth Group**

Y2 meets on **Thursday nights** at 6 p.m. in the youth room (Church – room 2) for dinner and a study. This youth group has a more in-depth Bible study program and is intended to be very challenging. Bring your Bible – even if it’s on your phone – and be ready to dig deep! First up is a study of James and Jude.



**Add Your Voice to the Choir!** ...[from Kathy Gable]

The choir will be practicing a new group of songs just purchased for the spring. We would love to add to our membership and have a “Big Sound.” Almost all of the songs are accompanied by a CD which sports a full orchestra. This is a great group to be a part of. Y’all come on down!

**Community Kitchen**

The Snohomish Community Kitchen offers a FREE meal every Monday and Thursday from 4:30 – 6 p.m. at St. John’s Episcopal Church, 913 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Snohomish. Everyone is welcome!



**SATURDAY Night Youth Group: Movies and Studies**

Youth meet at Michelle’s house (13020 Hwy. 2, Snohomish) at **7 p.m. on Saturdays** for a fun movie-based Bible study based on the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Questions? Need directions? Call or text Michelle! 425-501-4925 or message Michelle Bartelheimer on Facebook. Looking forward to seeing you there!



→ Zion is providing the meal on Monday, **February 6<sup>th</sup>**. Your help is needed. We begin the meal preparations at 2 p.m. and begin clean-up at 5 p.m.

If you need more information or would like to help, please contact Carolyn Jensen (360-568-9384) or Janet Zwar (425-346-3565).

**Lutheran Hour Ministries Expanding with God’s Direction!**

The power of the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel anywhere on the globe will not be denied. Some notable foreign country impacts include new broadcasting stations in Istanbul, Turkey, Mongolia, and soon to be installed in Egypt. There has been growing humanitarian help in Lebanon for the refugees from Syria and Iraq. Along with food, clothing and blankets, Christian material is included. The connection to God’s Word is wonderful to witness.

Membership in LHM is showing signs of growth. It only takes a \$5 donation to become a member, and signing up is as close as your friendly ambassador at Zion: Gary Gable. LHM should be thought of as an extended arm of Evangelism in the LCMS. Where a few begin to gather, much will be accomplished under the direction of God our Father, Risen Savior and Holy Spirit.

Here at Zion, we will recognize the work of the Lutheran Hour Ministries during worship on **February 5<sup>th</sup>**.

**BUNKO** .....[from Rosemary Randall]

Please join us for a fun evening of **BUNKO NIGHT** on Saturday, **February 11<sup>th</sup>**, at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall Meeting Room. It is an easy game to learn and fun. Please bring your friends and neighbors.



**ZIG (Zion’s Intergenerational Group)**

[from Lisa Tuengel]

Join us Sunday, **February 12<sup>th</sup>**, for ZIG!

ZIG stands for Zion’s Intergenerational Group. This is an opportunity to gather with your church family at the group opening for our Christian education time. All ages from our adult Bible class and our Sunday school classes are invited to get together in the Parish Hall Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

**We’ll look for you there!**



**REGULAR (Annual) VOTERS MEETING**

We have scheduled the annual voters' meeting for Sunday, **February 12<sup>th</sup>**, at 12:15 p.m. (There will be a potluck right after the 10:30 service first). Annual Reports are available in the narthex and church office, and by e-mail. Contact the church office for other arrangements.



Thanks, *Dean Randall*

**Thank You!**

Thank you to everyone for all the prayers, cards, and words of care and concern at the death of my mother. Your expressions of love and sympathy for our family have been of comfort to us during this difficult time.



*Brent & Debbie Tuengel*

**Dear Family at Zion,**

Ann and I thank you for your very generous financial gift at Christmas. This act of kindness adds to our list of reasons for celebrating our lives together with you under our awesome Lord and Savior.



In Christ, *Pastor Gary & Ann Jensen*

**Note of Thanks**

Thank you for the Christmas gift from the congregation! I am truly grateful for everyone's generosity and appreciate your love and support! May God bless each of you in the new year.



With kindest regards,

*Judy Danner*, Church Secretary

**PROJECT LINUS NATIONAL  
MAKE-A-BLANKET DAY**

Saturday, February 18, 2017

12 noon - 5 pm

Zion Lutheran Parish Hall  
330 Union Ave, Snohomish

Come join us - we need your help in making our goal of 100 blankets to be donated to kids who have experienced traumatic life events in Snohomish County. Materials and equipment will be provided. No experience required, but sewers are encouraged to bring their own sewing machine. Bring a friend &/or relatives and come have fun while helping us meet our goal! Come for an hour or the day. Volunteers are needed to help sew, iron, inspect, pin, and tie, anytime between 12-5 pm. Snacks & door prizes are provided. Can't come? Make a blanket & drop it off at one of our drop off locations.

If you have questions, contact Diane,  
425-252-4524.

**Meet for a Meal** ..... [from Kathy Sturlaugson]

We are pleased to announce our next “Meet for a Meal” potluck will be on Sunday, **February 19<sup>th</sup>**, at 5 p.m. in the Parish Hall Meeting Room. Call Kathy Sturlaugson (425-334-4604) if more information is needed.



*“Meet for a Meal” potluck & celebration of Pastor Jensen’s Master’s degree pictures from January 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

**Newsletter & Sunday Bulletin Deadlines**



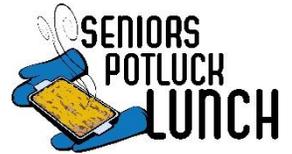
The Newsletter Deadline is Monday, **February 20<sup>th</sup>**, for the MARCH Newsletter!

All items for the Sunday bulletin must be received in the church office by Noon on Thursdays. Thanks!

**Retirees’ Potluck & Program**

[from Kathy Gable & Laraine Hunt]

Please join us for our next Retirees’ potluck and guest speaker on Thursday, **February 23<sup>rd</sup>**, at Noon in the Parish Hall Meeting Room.



Our speaker will be Mark Lori Amini. He is the head of Hayate Abadi Ministries in Lynnwood, Washington. Mark will share his story of being saved by Christ and how he and his family share their love of Christ with Farsi speaking people in Iran and other countries throughout the world by satellite broadcasting, and Internet Website, shortwave radio and personal Discipleship. Mark’s family had been devout Muslims. Now they are Christian. His ministries are called Eternal Life Ministries.

Feel free to bring guests (friends, casual acquaintances, family, and neighbors) and remember to bring your own place settings and plenty of potluck food to share (home cooked or store bought is all welcome)!

Everyone is welcome – you don’t have to be retired to come! If you have any questions, call Laraine Hunt at 360-568-6219.



**Everett Gospel Mission**

We have started a new Thrivent Team Project to help the Everett Men’s Gospel Mission. We will be collecting men’s underwear (brand new only ☺) or monetary donations to purchase them **through the end of February**.

Checks should be made out to Joan Stocker, with Everett Gospel Mission or EGM in the memo line. All donations should be given directly to Joan.

## Volunteers Needed for Fellowship Hour

Light refreshments are provided during the Sunday school hour (between the services about 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.) in the Parish Hall.



**Volunteers are needed** for the month of **February** (individuals, families, crews, or groups) and can sign up by the kitchen window in the Parish Hall.

Duties include preparing coffee, providing juice, light treats, & clean-up. Thank you to all those who have volunteered!

## Lutherans for Life

“What dwells and develops in pregnant wombs is no clump of cells, product of conception, parasite, piece of mother’s body, or potential anything. This little one is a full-fledged human being, made in the image of God and saved by the incarnation of Jesus Christ, to whom the Holy Spirit shows grace and in whom He creates faith. She is our neighbor and, God willing, His beloved child—a dear sister to us.”



*Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*

## **Take care**

In Jimmy Fallon’s first monologue as host of NBC’s *The Tonight Show*, he expressed thanks to all past hosts. On an occasion when he might have said, “And now this stage is mine!” or “I’m delighted to be counted among such greats,” instead he stated with deep humility, “I just want to do the best I can and take care of this show for a while.”

*Take care of.* That’s language not of ownership but of stewardship. That’s the language of Genesis 2:15 (NIV) – “The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and *take care of it.*”

What have we been called to “take care of for a little while”? The earth, surely. Perhaps a congregation, a business, a neighbor in need, a volunteer or an employee. A child, who may need less care – or different forms of it – as time goes on. We don’t own these people and things. God invites us to be stewards of them, to care for them, to use wisely and value these precious gifts ... and someday, to pass them on to others.

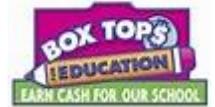
## Gift Cards Support Zion Lutheran School



Planning to go shopping? Need a gift? Purchase gift cards through the scrip program. Cards can be used just like cash! Participating merchants (and examples of each category) include restaurants (Baskin Robbins, Applebees), grocery (Safeway, Top Foods, Fred Meyer), car rental (Avis, Budget), gasoline (Shell, Chevron) and retail (Best Buy, Cabela’s, Kohl’s, Lowe’s, Quality Inn). Ann Jensen has a list of all the merchants participating in the program. Orders are placed every two weeks. A percentage of all purchases goes to Zion Lutheran School – yet the full purchase price is available on every card bought. Ann has Safeway, Fred Meyer, Top Foods and Starbucks cards available for purchase each Sunday between services in the Parish Hall. Stop by and check out the selections!

## Box Tops for Education

Box Tops for Education Keep on clipping those Box Tops! They will be used to help support Zion Lutheran School. There is a collection box in the church narthex. Thank you for your help!



## Zion Lutheran School Open House

Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>,

9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and 5 – 7 p.m.

Wondering about the next step in your child’s Christian education? Join us for a chance to tour the school, meet our teachers, and learn about the curriculum.

*Zion Lutheran School, 3923 103<sup>rd</sup> Ave.  
SE, Lake Stevens \* 425-334-5064 \*  
[admissions@zionls.org](mailto:admissions@zionls.org)*



# Youth Group News



## **2017 BRINGS ANOTHER YOUTH GROUP!!**

Starting January 12<sup>th</sup>, Zion will have another youth group! Y2 will meet on Thursday nights at 6 pm in the youth room for dinner and a study. This youth group will have a more in-depth Bible study program and is intended to be very challenging. Bring your Bible – even if it's on your phone – and be ready to dig deep! First up is a study of James and Jude.

### **Saturday Night Youth Group:**

#### **Movies and Studies**

Youth meet at  
Michelle's house  
(13020 Hwy 2) at 7  
pm for a fun movie-  
based Bible study.

Next up:

**Lord of the Rings  
Trilogy**

### **Did you see it?**



**Zion Youth have made another music video! Go to youtube and search for "Zion youth". Click on the "Soul on Fire" video and enjoy! Also posted on Zion's Facebook page. Special thanks to Becca for filming and editing the video.**

**For more information on Zion's Youth Groups, contact Michelle Bartelheimer at 425-501-4925 (text, call, whatever...)**



**Bethany's 12th Annual**  
*Taste OF THE Northwest*

Featuring:  
~ Sampling of Distinct Northwest Wineries, Breweries,  
Distilleries and Non-Alcoholic Beverages ~  
~ Large Silent Auction & Live Music ~  
~ Raffle Trip Giveaway for Two ~  
~ Wine-Pull to Benefit Bethany's Residents! ~

**Tickets Only \$25**

**Save The Date**  
**Friday, April 21, 2017**  
5:00 pm to 8:30 pm  
Xfinity Arena Grand Ballroom

[www.bethanynw.org](http://www.bethanynw.org)

For more information or tickets, call Julie Reymore, Foundation Coordinator at 425-551-6340

## February 2017 LCMS Stewardship Article

We've all heard that stewardship is giving to the church of our time, talents, and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. For God has given us everything we have and enjoy as we confess in the meaning to the First Article of the Apostle's Creed. And what we confess first among those is that God gives us "our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses." Only then do we confess that he gives us material things. Thus the time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have and indeed everything we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word—when we replace the word *and* with the word *or*. It is always written with the *and*, but when we read it, we read it with the *or*. Thus this quite helpful trinity, which extolled that everything that we have and are is a gift from God and which is to be pressed into the service of God in His church, turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose which of the trinity we use into the service of God. The giving of our time, talents, *and* treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents, *or* treasure.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasures? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give our treasure and not of our time and our talents? But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and our talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. They are given to us and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits, proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things to us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents, *AND* treasures as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings in which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents, and treasures to our families, our society, and to our church, our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price—with the holy precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything—His time, His talents, and His treasure,—to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love—time, talents, and treasures together.

Source is LCMS Stewardship Resources [lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)

## LWML Mission Grants 2015 - 2017

### Mighty Mites at Work

Mites (coins, dollars, and checks) collected in LWML Mite Boxes fund mission grants.



At the Washington – Alaska District LWML Convention in June 2016, delegates selected mission grant recipients for the 2016 – 2018 biennium totaling \$90,000.

At the national level the 2015 – 2017 biennium mission goal is \$2,000,000.

**With God, ALL things are possible! With God, we WILL reach and exceed our mite goals!**

## Veterans of the Cross

Washington – Alaska District LWML mission grant ~ \$2,500

Recognized Service Organization of LCMS Veterans of the Cross provides small, periodic stipends and pastoral care for church work retirees (or their surviving spouses) who struggle to pay for basic living expenses. Some receive little or no pension, and those with health problems have financial needs greater than the pension can provide. Funds will be used to support this mission.

## Prayer

*Dear Heavenly Father, Your Word is for all the people of the world. We pray that You bless Veterans of the Cross. We ask that the LWML Washington-Alaska District mite gift of \$2,500 serves to offer the periodic stipends and pastoral care for church work retirees, or their surviving spouses who struggle to pay for basic living expenses. We pray that through this gift these families find peace and comfort and that You are known and glorified. Amen.*

## Healthy Families – Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska

LWML National Mission Grant Amount: \$60,000

- To continue to move forward at the Centers with its mission to build and strengthen individual, family, and community life, beginning with pregnant mothers, infants, and children under age five.

The Lutheran Families Services (LFS) centers will continue to move forward with its mission to build and strengthen individuals, family, and the community beginning with pregnant mothers, infants, and children under the age of five. LFS has 29 centers from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to North Platt, Nebraska. They use an incentive-based combination of programing including parenting classes, support groups, therapy, and case management, reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect. While teaching the parent(s) parenting skills, it will help the child to feel secure, nurtured, and able to succeed in learning and in life.



**Healthy Families**



**\$60,000**



**Lutheran Women's Missionary League**

**www.lwml.org • 1-800-252-5965**

## Reconciliation – Peacemaking Message



*Relational Wisdom 360* is a regular 3-mail that is published by Ken Sande. We hope you enjoy this month's excerpt. For more information on *Relational Wisdom 360* please visit their website or subscribe to the e-mail at [www.RW360.org](http://www.RW360.org).

### The Best Way to Rewrite History

Jerry's wife had filed for divorce. She was willing to mediate the legal issues but made it clear she had no interest in reconciliation.



Ted had a similar problem with his church. Months of unresolved tensions had overflowed in a contentious elders meeting, with a few of his elders urging him to leave.

Both men faced an incredibly frustrating dynamic I've seen over and over ...

By the time things get this bad, people who want to end a relationship typically have an entirely negative view of the other person. They see nothing but faults. In many cases, they even tell me they never loved or respected the other person in the first place.

The person who is being rejected usually believes he's being unfairly judged and tries desperately to vindicate himself by advocating a more positive interpretation of the past.

It never works.

Once someone has developed an intensely negative view of another person, it's nearly impossible for the accused individual to verbally debate or persuade his accuser into believing a more positive view of his character and behavior.

So here's the advice I gave Jerry.

*Stop trying to convince your wife that she is remembering the past wrongly and being over critical. Stop defending and justifying yourself. Face the fact that much of her criticism is probably valid. Let go of your desire to rewrite her view of your history and focus on being a different man **today**.*

*Ask God to transform you into someone who is genuinely kind, thoughtful, gracious and humble **today**. If you keep it up week after week, praying for*

*God to work in both your heart and hers, her perspective might go through this kind of progression.*

*'He was terrible in the past. I admit he's being nicer today, but I doubt it will last.'*

*Several weeks later: 'It's hard to believe, but it looks like he really is changing.'*

*If you keep it up month after month, she may eventually begin to **remember and interpret the past through the lens of your behavior today**.*

*God may use this to trigger positive memories from the past, which could eventually dilute and even displace the negative memories. In time, this could result in an amazingly different attitude:*

*'We've gone through some painful times together, but overall he really is a good person. Both of us still have a lot of growing to do, but seeing how much he's changed in recent months makes me believe things can be better in the future.'*

*In other words, let God take care of other people's memories and interpretations of the past. Admit your past failures and focus on the changes God is calling you to make today. If you keep it up, there is a chance that other people's critical judgments of you will soften, and they will be able to remember the past more objectively and positively.*

*Even if other's attitudes don't change, however, you will experience the benefits of cooperating with God as he changes you.*

### The Rest of the Story

Jerry took this counsel to heart even though his wife insisted that he move out. As we worked through the legal issues attendant to their divorce over the next few months, he asked God to radically change his heart and behavior.

His children were the first ones to notice how differently he was acting, especially when it came to

controlling his temper. When they reported their observations to his wife, she was skeptical. But after a few months, she, too, could see real changes in her husband.

It was a happy day for all of us when they tore up the divorce papers and committed themselves to counseling and rebuilding their marriage.

I gave the same kind of advice to Ted. Sadly, his pride clouded his judgment, and he continued trying to vindicate himself in the eyes of his elders and congregation. One defensive argument led to another, and within three months, he was voted out of the church.

Neither of these results is inevitable, but people are always better off when they live out the wisdom of 1 Peter 5:5

*Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

– Ken Sande

### Reflection Questions

- Think of a time when someone had what you thought was an unfairly critical view of your past behavior. How did you respond? What was the result?
- Why is it so hard for us to resist the temptation to justify and vindicate ourselves when we believe others have an excessively critical view of our character or behavior?
- Think of someone who handled a situation like this wisely and humbly. What was the result?
- Is there someone in your life today who has a critical view of you? What changes can you ask God to make in you today that might eventually help that other person to see you through different eyes?

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## **BRaille WORK CENTER NEWS**

During January, the remaining “Primary Bible Stories” books were mailed to recipients in India, Sri Lanka, Zambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Russia, Germany, United Kingdom, and Ukraine, and supplies were readied for the upcoming sessions which begin on February 1<sup>st</sup>. So once again it’s almost time to “do Braille.”

We will continue to work on efficiency during the sessions. The handling of more plates requires a bit more space for the volunteers and the required packing and mailing of books is more complex.

I welcome questions, comments and suggestions regarding our work center located at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2521 Lombard Ave, Everett ~ Church Office phone: (425) 252-7038.

Finally...

- Keep the blind and visually impaired, as well as Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW), in your prayers. Donations are the means by which LBW operates and provides most materials free of charge to recipients.
- ATTENTION!!! When making donations to LBW (Lutheran Braille Workers, PO Box 5000, Yucaipa, CA 92399), please, indicate that your donation is designated for “Work Center #314”. Writing “Work Center #314” on the memo line of your check will assure credit is given to the Immanuel Lutheran Church work center for your donation.
- If you have THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS to donate, consider directing them to LBW. Don’t let your monies go unused! Please call LBW to inform them of your choice so our Work Center #314 can receive monetary credit (1-800-925-6092). You may also e-mail this info to Deanna Bowles at [deanna@lbwinc.org](mailto:deanna@lbwinc.org).

In His service, *Janet Bernhardt*

Immanuel Lutheran Church Braille Work Center  
Director

## **FEBRUARY BRAILLE SCHEDULE:**

<b>Zion</b>	Tuesday, February 14 <sup>th</sup>	9 – 11:30 a.m.
Extra session ( <b>volunteers needed</b> )		
	Monday, February 20 <sup>th</sup>	9 – 11:30 a.m.

# Parish News

## My Birthday Gift to Christ

The fund called "My Birthday Gift to Christ" is used for scholarship grants to those who wish to accept a call to become a pastor, teacher, or other church worker in the Lutheran Church. It is open to young people (and older ones too) who wish to attend our colleges and seminaries for this purpose. Thank you to those who have so faithfully contributed to this fund on their birthdays. The following Zion members are celebrating birthdays in **February**.

May you have a happy birthday!

- |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 5 ....Mark Lucas         | 20.... Deveen Hintze |
| 13 ....Katarina Balsler  | 21.... Orlin Heck    |
| 16 ....Jacob Anderson    | 25.... George Conway |
| 16 ....Markus Krajsek    | 26.... Lynne Hereth  |
| 18 ....Lois Friedrich    | 27.... Shelley Pratt |
| 19 ....Ryan Bartelheimer | 28.... Norm Anderson |
| 19 ....Pat Bjerkan       |                      |
| 19 ....Nancy Kuhlman     |                      |



## OFFICIAL ACTS for January 2017:

Death:

† Theresa Barks (1-1-17)

Official Count:

204 Communicant Members  
29 Baptized Only  
 233 TOTAL

In case of pastoral emergency contact:

**Pastor Gary Jensen** at the church office (360-586-2700) or home (425-212-9337) or cell phone (206-914-3593) **or one of the elders:**

Wayne Franz.....425-334-5184  
 John Hansen .....425-397-7324  
 Richard Hellman (director) .....425-232-7666

## FEBRUARY Wedding Anniversaries

- Feb. 4 ..Jeff & Jeannine Morris (5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.)  
 14 ..Dave & Connie Schwarzmiller

*Every effort is made to keep the birthday and anniversary lists up to date. If there is an error, or your name does not appear on these lists, please call the church office at 360-568-2700.*



LWML Bible Study / Meeting ..[from Kathy Gable]

Our February topic for Bible Study will be found on page 20 of the *Quarterly*, "More Precious than Silver." Kathy Gable will be leading the topic for this meeting. The gifts of knowledge and wisdom will be woven into the study by Allison With. We invite all of the ladies to be a part of our afternoon. We begin at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, February the 14<sup>th</sup>.



## Servants in God's House for February 2017

	<b>February 5</b> <small>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany</small>	<b>February 12</b> <small>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany</small>	<b>February 19</b> <small>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany</small>	<b>February 26</b> <small>The Transfiguration of Our Lord</small>
<b>Elders:</b> 8 a.m.	Richard Hellman	John Hansen	Wayne Franz	Richard Hellman
10:30 a.m.	John Hansen	Wayne Franz	Richard Hellman	John Hansen
<b>Ushers:</b> 8 a.m.	Ken Heike, Larry Heike	Jerry Sturlaugson	Ken Heike, Marlin Heike	Herman Bosse
10:30 a.m.	Bud Adams, Harlin Keil	Andrew Bartelheimer	Bud Adams, Harlin Keil	Thad Zwar
<b>Greeters:</b> 8 a.m.	Herman & Judy Bosse	John & Miriam Hansen	Marlin & Shirley Heike	Ken & Julie Heike
10:30 a.m.	Katie Larchick	Rosemary Randall	Jerry & Kathy Sturlaugson	Joan Stocker
<b>Acolytes:</b> 8 a.m.	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
10:30 a.m.	Claire Lapse	Sam Lapse	Declan Bartelheimer	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
<b>Readers:</b> 8 a.m.	Gary Gable	Lisa Tuengel	Wayne Franz	Richard Hellman
10:30 a.m.	Ann Jensen	Jana Ostlund	Doris Brickman	Olivia Zwar
<b>Scriptures:</b>	Isaiah 58:3–9a Psalm 112:1–9 1 Cor. 2:1–12 (13–16) Matthew 5:13–20	Deuteronomy 30:15–20 Psalm 119:1–8 1 Corinthians 3:1–9 Matthew 5:21–37	Leviticus 19:1–2, 9–18 Psalm 119:33–40 1 Corinthians 3:10–23 Matthew 5:38–48	Exodus 24:8–18 Psalm 2:6–12 2 Peter 1:16–21 Matthew 17:1–9
<b>Children's Message:</b>	Pastor Gary Jensen	Lisa Tuengel	Pastor Gary Jensen	Pastor Gary Jensen
<b>Organist (8 am):</b>	Karen Berner	Karen Berner	Karen Berner	Karen Berner
<b>Music Leader(s) (10:30 am):</b>				
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	----- Rosemary Randall -----			
<b>Flowers:</b>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Bartelheimer (Ryan's birthday)	Ken Lauterbach (in memory of Mary)
<b>Fellowship Providers:</b>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
<b>Counters:</b>	Joan Stocker Lillian Bartelheimer	Loreen Atkinson Dan Miller	Kathy Sturlaugson Doris Brickman	Ken Heike Lynette Zwar

# February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Zion Ev. Lutheran Church</b> 331 Union Ave. Snohomish, WA 98290 Church office: 360-568-2700 zionsecretary@frontier.com			<b>1</b> 7 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast (Collector's Choice Restaurant) 8am-1pm LSVVA (PH - Rms. 8 & 9) 9 a.m. Project Linus Quilting (PHMR) 9:30 a.m. LWR Quilting (Stage) 1 p.m. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter Bible Study (PHMR) 7 p.m. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter Bible Study (Pastor Gary's home)	<b>2</b> 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. LSVVA (PH - Rooms 8 & 9) 9:15 a.m. "Between . . ." Bible Study (PHMR) 12:45-2 p.m. LSVVA Chapel (PHMR) 6 p.m. Youth Bible Study (CH - Room 2) 7 p.m. Trustees (PHMR)	<b>3</b> 8:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. L.E.A.F. Homeschool Association (All facilities) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Class (Jana Ostlund's home)	<b>4</b> 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. L.E.A.F. Homeschool Association (PH) 7 p.m. Women's Bible Class (Ann Lepse's home) 7 p.m. Youth Group (Michelle Bartelheimer's home)
<b>5</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany <b>8 am Traditional Worship/ Communion</b> 9:30 am Sunday School/Bible Class 10 a.m. Contemporary Worship Music Practice (CH) <b>10:30 am Contemporary Worship/ Communion</b>	<b>6</b> 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. LSVVA (PH - Rooms 8 & 9) 4:30 p.m. Community Kitchen - at St. John's Episcopal, Snoh. (2 p.m. meal prep./5 p.m. clean up) 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (PHMR)	<b>7</b> 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. LSVVA (PH - Rooms 8 & 9) 7 p.m. Elders' Meeting (CO) 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. & 5 - 7 p.m. Zion Lutheran School Open House (ZLS)	<b>8</b> 7 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast (Collector's Choice Restaurant) 8am-1pm LSVVA (PH - Rooms 8 & 9) 9 a.m. Project Linus Quilting (PHMR) 9:30 a.m. LWR Quilting (Stage) 1 p.m. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter Bible Study (PHMR) 7 p.m. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter Bible Study (Pastor Gary's home)	<b>9</b> 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. LSVVA (PH - Rooms 8 & 9) 9:15 a.m. "Between . . ." Bible Study (PHMR) 12:45-2 p.m. LSVVA Chapel (PHMR) 6 p.m. Youth Bible Study (CH - Room 2)	<b>10</b> 8:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. L.E.A.F. Homeschool Association (All facilities) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Class (Jana Ostlund's home)	<b>11</b> 6 p.m. Bunko (PHMR) 7 p.m. Women's Bible Class (Ann Lepse's home) 7 p.m. Youth Group (Michelle Bartelheimer's home)
<b>12</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany <b>8 am Traditional Worship</b> 9:30 am Combined Sunday School & Bible Class Opening (PH) 10 a.m. Contemporary Worship Music Practice (CH) <b>10:30 am Contemporary Worship</b> After the 10:30 service -Potluck & Voters' (Annual) Mtg. (PHMR) 1 - 3 p.m. Junior Holstein Meeting (CH - Rooms 2, 3 - 4)	<b>13</b> 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. LSVVA (PH - Rooms 8 & 9) 7 p.m. Bd. of Directors Meeting (PHMR)	<b>14</b> St. Valentine's Day 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. LSVVA (PH - Rooms 8 & 9) 9 - 11:30 a.m. Braille Work (Immanuel Luth. Church, Everett) 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Circuit Pastors' Mtg. (Redeemer, Bellingham) 2 p.m. LWML Meeting (PHMR)	<b>15</b> 7 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast (Collector's Choice Restaurant) No LSVVA 9 a.m. Project Linus Quilting (PHMR) 9:30 a.m. LWR Quilting (Stage) 1 p.m. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter Bible Study (PHMR) 7 p.m. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter Bible Study (Pastor Gary's home)	<b>16</b> 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. LSVVA (PH - Rooms 8 & 9) 9:15 a.m. "Between . . ." Bible Study (PHMR) 12:45-2 p.m. LSVVA Chapel (PHMR) 6 p.m. Youth Bible Study (CH - Room 2)	<b>17</b> 8:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. L.E.A.F. Homeschool Association (All facilities) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Class (Jana Ostlund's home)	<b>18</b> 12 - 5 p.m. Project Linus National Make-A-Blanket Day Work Party - 10am-Noon set up; 5-6 clean up (PH & PHMR) 7 p.m. Women's Bible Class (Ann Lepse's home) 7 p.m. Youth Group (Michelle Bartelheimer's home)
<b>19</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany <b>8 am Traditional Worship/ Communion</b> 9:30 am Sunday School/Bible Class 10 a.m. Contemporary Worship Music Practice (CH) <b>10:30 am Contemporary Worship/ Communion</b> 5 p.m. "Meet for a Meal" Potluck (PHMR)	<b>20</b> Presidents' Day Church Office Closed No LSVVA 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (CH) 7 p.m. 4 - H Meeting (CH - Rooms 2, 3 - 4)	<b>21</b> 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. LSVVA (PH - Rooms 8 & 9) 7 p.m. Valley Spinners (PH)	<b>22</b> 7 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast (Collector's Choice Restaurant) 8am-1pm LSVVA (PH - Rooms 8 & 9) 9 a.m. Project Linus Quilting (PHMR) 9:30 a.m. LWR Quilting (Stage) 1 p.m. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter Bible Study (PHMR) 7 p.m. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter Bible Study (Pastor Gary's home)	<b>23</b> 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. LSVVA (PH - Rooms 8 & 9) 9:15 a.m. "Between . . ." Bible Study (PHMR) Noon - Retirees (PHMR) 12:45-2 p.m. LSVVA Chapel (PH - Room 8) 6 p.m. Youth Bible Study (CH - Room 2)	<b>24</b> 8:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. L.E.A.F. Homeschool Association (All facilities) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Class (Jana Ostlund's home)	<b>25</b> 7 p.m. Women's Bible Class (Ann Lepse's home) 7 p.m. Youth Group (Michelle Bartelheimer's home)
<b>26</b> Transfiguration of Our Lord <b>8 am Traditional Worship</b> 9:30 am Sunday School/Bible Class 10 a.m. Contemporary Worship Music Practice (CH) <b>10:30 am Contemporary Worship</b> 1 - 3 p.m. Junior Holstein Meeting (CH - Rooms 2, 3 - 4)	<b>27</b> Newsletter Deadline! 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. LSVVA (PH - Rooms 8 & 9) 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (PHMR)	<b>28</b> 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. LSVVA (PH - Rooms 8 & 9)	<b>Notes:</b> <div style="text-align: center; border: 2px solid #e91e63; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <b>March 1 - Ash Wednesday</b> </div> <p>CH = Church (360-568-2855)                      CO = Church Office (360-568-2700)                      PH = Parish Hall (360-568-6420)                      PHMR = Parish Hall Meeting Room                      ZLS = Zion Lutheran School (425-334-5064)</p>			



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
331 Union Avenue  
Snohomish, WA 98290

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



February 2017

## Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

*(The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)*

**Mailing address:** 331 Union Ave., Snohomish, WA 98290- 2825

**Church address:** 329 Avenue A, Snohomish, Washington

**Parish Hall address:** 330 Union Ave., Snohomish, Washington

**Phone:** 360-568-2700

**E-mail:** zionsecretary@frontier.com

**Website:** zionsnohomish.360unite.com

### **Mission Statement for Zion Lutheran Church:**

*Reaching out with Christ's gift of grace and forgiveness as we preach, teach, and serve so all may know Jesus Christ as Savior.*

**Zion Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran School Association (LCMS) of Snohomish County.**

Zion Lutheran School office: 425-334-5064

**Join us for worship and Bible class this Sunday.**

### **Sunday Worship Service Times**

**8 a.m. Traditional Worship Service**

9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class

**10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service**

*Holy Communion is celebrated at both services on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month.*

