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Tidings

The monthly newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church

Zion Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Southern Ohio Synod
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New season calls us back to God

On Wednesday, Feb. 9, we begin a new season in the church year. We begin the season of Lent. During the season of Lent we will be told how God wants us back.

One word that easily fits with the season of Lent is the word "Addiction." Addiction is a hard word – it conjures up the horrifying images of life-threatening dependence on some narcotic or hallucinogen that robs us of our ability to control our lives.

But the fact is that everyone of us has some addiction: the things we cannot imagine living without. It may be eating, shopping, blaming or taking care of other people. We can be addicted to the latest, the newest, the hottest or the most fashionable. Our addictions may be our obsession with our computer, our electronic toys, our favorite band or our golf clubs. We are all addicted to habits, substances or surroundings that comfort us, that provide a refuge for us, that block out what scares or hurts us.

At some point in our lives, however, we find ourselves alone in some kind of desert or wilderness, deprived of our addictions. We experience an emptiness within us that our addictions will not fill. We are suddenly exposed, like

someone addicted to painkillers whose prescriptions have just run out. It is hard. It is awful. But to become fully human, it is necessary to encounter the world without our own anesthesia, to find out what life is like with no comfort but God.

That may be the simplest definition of addiction: anything we use to fill the empty place inside us that belongs to God alone.

The season of Lent calls us to leave our addictions and pacifiers, our comfort food and toys behind and journey to the desert, to be alone with nothing but God. It is a time to take a hard look at the "addictions" that control us and regain control of our time and values so that we may become the man or woman God created us to be. Use the desert time over these 40 days of Lent to leave behind our addictions and obsessions, help us refill our souls and spirits with the wisdom and grace of God who constantly seeks us out and calls us back to himself.

See you in the desert!

Pastor Dennis

Zion Lutheran Church
 Mission Statement
 "To share the
 Good News of
 God's love shown
 to us through
 Jesus Christ; in
 gathering for
 worship, Baptism,
 and Holy Communion;
 through studying
 God's word in order
 to share an active
 faith; providing
 loving service
 to our community."



Schedule for Lent

Lenten worship will be a similar format to what we have done in the past. This year's theme is "Valleys of Lent." We will begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 9, at West Jefferson United Methodist Church. Each service begins at 7 p.m. and will last about 30 minutes.

The dates are: Feb. 9, Valley of Dry Bones, UMC; Feb. 16, Hebron Valley, UMC; Feb. 23, Jordan Valley, UMC; March 2, Valley of Wine Press, Zion; March 9, Every Valley Shall be Lifted, Zion; March 16, Valley of Decision, Zion.

New opportunity

This year we are going to collect labels from Campbell's Soup cans along with General Mills Box Tops for Education to support our Lutheran Mission with the Navajo, located on the Navajo Reservation in the Four Corners area of Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico. Along with the Campbell's labels, there are other labels that we will collect: Franco-American, Marie's Dressings, Open Pit BBQ, Prego, Pepperidge Farms, Swanson's, V-8 and Vlasic. The mission will be able to use them to help fund vans used to transport the reservation children.

If you have any questions, see John Hall or call the church office.

WELCA news

WELCA will hold its annual **Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner** at church Feb. 8 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Couple's Night Out is Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Single WELCA members are welcome!

We are restarting a **Women's Bible Study**. Our plans are to have it the first Sunday of each designated month at 6:30 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Members will start collecting items to put together **layette sets** that will be donated to the Open Gate Pregnancy Center. For more information, contact Joyce Gossett.

Zion youth news

All 9th to 12th graders are invited to a Buckeye Lutheran Campus Ministry spaghetti dinner and concert by Captive Free. The free food, fun and music will start Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at The Ohio State University Lutheran Chapel. Let Linda Koch know by Feb. 20 if you can attend. Reservations are needed.

For 1st to 8th graders, we'll go to The Columbus Zoo on Feb. 27 for ice skating! Meet at the church at 2 p.m. and we will be at the zoo until 5 p.m. Skate rental will be covered by the church. Zoo admission is \$5, or \$9 for those 12 years old and over. Sign-up on the youth bulletin board.

Minis available

It's not too late to purchase your very own Cat's Meow figure of Zion. Cost is \$12. See Linda Koch.

Care packages

Watch for information soon regarding collecting items for care packages to be sent to those we pray for in the military and those who are away at college. Five packages will be assembled and sent in mid-February.

Meals & Music

On March 5, Zion will start it's Meal & Music Non-Traditional service. A free-will offering will be collected to cover the cost of the meal. Food will be served from 5 to 6 p.m. The service will end at 7 p.m.

On March 6, at 8:30 a.m., another non-traditional service will start for those who can't attend on Saturdays.

For more information, contact Pastor Dennis or Wesley Porter.

A letter of thanks

We would like to express our thanks for all of your prayers for Jeremy. He will be returning to Colorado Springs (his home base) on Feb. 5 after being in Iraq since March of last year. As some of you know, he sustained injuries from a bombing on Jan. 18. He is on the mend with the only permanent damage being the loss of hearing in his right ear. Jerry will be going to Colorado when Jeremy gets back to help him



and his wife, Stephanie, move into a new apartment. His career in the Army is uncertain because of his hearing. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

God Bless You All,

*Jerry and
Paula Paulins*

Introducing ... Jerri Morton

Hello! I am Jerri Morton, and I am your first-year Ministry-in-Context student from Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

I am a widow and have reared three sons: Paul, a senior at OSU; Thomas, a sophomore at Murray State University (Murray, Ky.); and James, a junior at Centennial High School.

I am originally from north central rural Iowa, but have lived in the Lexington, Ky., and Los Angeles areas. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Family Studies, Individual and Family Development, from the University of Kentucky. I enjoy reading scripture, reading theology, small group ministry, listening to contemporary Christian music, walking my son's dog, making fettuccine from scratch, and crocheting afghans. I am excited to get to know all of you, as we worship Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.



Good Things Happen at Summer Camp!

**Camp Luther
Camp Mowana
LOMO Outreach
Camp Frederick
Lutheran Memorial**

Check the church office or the Narthex
for a summer brochure.
Call LOMO for more information at 1-800-431-5666.

\$20 off if registration is paid in full by April 1
Register on-line for youth or family camp
at www.lomocamp.org



February Birthdays

- 2/6 Heidi Weber – 10
- 2/7 Milly McNutt
- 2/12 Terry Taylor
- 2/15 Brandon Doran
- 2/23 Bill Harrison
- 2/25 Jerry Gossett
- 2/27 Tom Mahon

February Anniversaries

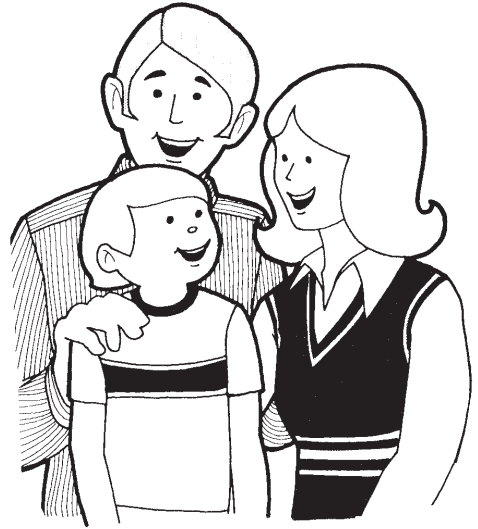
- 2/14 George and Doralee Wendell – 45
- 2/18 Richard and Nancy Bausch – 21
- 2/19 Steve and Anne Marie Lutz – 11
- 2/22 Frank and Joie Livingston – 59

March Birthdays

- 3/2 Hallie Jenkins
- 3/5 Sally Forrest
- 3/8 Nancy Bausch
- 3/9 Donna Green
- 3/11 Elizabeth Balderson – 11
- 3/12 Sandy Balderson
- 3/13 Chuck Hilliker
- 3/15 Ron Taylor
- 3/16 Philip Taylor – 11
- 3/17 Malenie Hadidon
- 3/18 George Wendell
- 3/22 Lisa Weber
- 3/25 Bobbie West
- 3/26 Dortha Feddern
- 3/31 Catherine Balderson – 16
- 3/31 Frank Livingston

March Anniversary

- 3/10 Ron and Maxine Taylor – 49



Want to submit an item for the newsletter?

Contact Susie Taylor at 879-6414 or sataylor@netexp.net