



JULY 2007

Volume 52, Issue 7

Tidings

The monthly newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church

Zion Lutheran

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Pastor Dennis Koch

Service every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Church Council

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Jerry Paulins, Vice President

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Surrender your demons, enter the Kingdom

This is summer, a time when life is slower, when life should be lived differently than the rest of the year, but what would Jesus have to say about that? Should our lives be lived differently because it is summer?

In last month's article, I talked about each of us having the fingerprint of God placed on us as the baptized people of God, but that causes us a problem. The problem being that we are now saint and sinner at the same time. As a saint and a sinner we live in a world that does not understand that concept nor does it understand what it means to be a part of the kingdom of God and instead, offers us an alternative way of living.

I don't know about you, but in my opinion sometimes life's "opportunities" can be a bit confusing. Lately, I have been asking a question quite a bit. "Is this God's way or is it something else?" The good news is that Jesus has given the Holy Spirit to guide us along the way of life, but that does not mean there will not be challenges along the way and



choices to be made.

In the book "The Great Divorce," C.S. Lewis takes readers on an imaginary trip through heaven and hell.

In the book, a soul comes to heaven with a little red lizard on its shoulder. The snarling little animal twitches its tail like a whip and whispers all kinds of horrible things in the poor soul's ear.

An angel appears and invites the soul into heaven for eternity, but the soul demurs. "Thank you for your hospitality," the soul says, "but it's no good, you see. I told this little chap that he'd have to be quiet if he

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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."



Thanks, Zion!

WELCA members and the Pregnancy Decision Health Center would like to thank those at Zion who contributed items for the layette community service project. The following is a list of items that were donated: 15 baby bibs, 16 receiving blankets, 36 wash clothes, 3 hooded towels, 5 fitted crib sheets, 25 onesies, 24 pairs of socks, 276 diapers, 16 sleepers, 9 boxes of baby wipes (containing approximately 80 each), and 1 child booster car seat.

Summer worship

We're still worshipping at an earlier time each Sunday this summer. Instead of 10:30, the service will be held at 9:30 a.m. through August. In September we will resume our regular 10:30 a.m. worship time with Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Global Mission

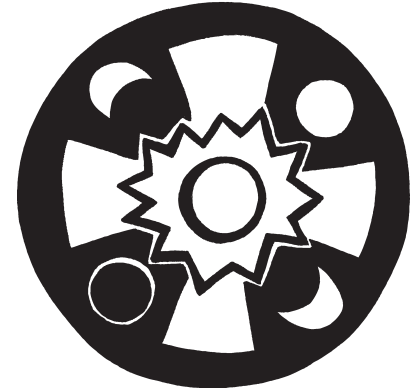
There's still time to register to participate in or volunteer for the ELCA Global Mission Event on the Ohio State campus from July 19 to 22. If you would like to volunteer time for this event, check the Welcome table for information or visit www.elca.org/gme.

Remember in prayer

Please remember the congregation, church and those on our prayer list in prayer this week. Nell Sheller continues to improve, but will still be at the Mill Run Gardens for therapy. She would appreciate any cards or notes of encouragement. You can send them to Nell at Mill Run Gardens and Care Center, 3399 Mill Run Drive, Room 110, Hilliard, OH 43026.

Quest a success

Our "Quest for Truth" Vacation Bible School was a success this year



with up to 35 kids attending and as many teen and adult helpers. Thank you to everyone who helped out! Most of the children attending are not members of our congregation. This is a great ministry for our community and it couldn't have been possible without everyone's help!

Still need cereal

Again, thanks to all who brought cereal for the food pantry. We will continue to collect cereal until the food pantry has received its regular supply from the food bank.

Clippers LSS night

Lutheran Social Services night at the Clippers ballgame is Saturday, July 28. Contact Jerry Paulins if interested in tickets. Before the game there are several activities and food discounts available. It is always a fun evening at the ballpark.

Attention Youth!

If you will complete 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grades in 2009, you are eligible to attend the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, La., from July 22 to 26, 2009. The theme is Jesus – Justice – Jazz. For more information, visit the ELCA Web site and click on Youth Ministries. Also, you can talk with Michael Koch, Catherine Balderson, Kristin Forrest or Danielle Jenkins who attended the 2006 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Surrender your demons

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came – which he insisted on doing. Of course his stuff won't do here: I realize that. But he won't stop. I'll just have to go home."

"Would you like me to make him quiet?" the angel offers.

"Of course I would!"

"Then I will kill him," the angel says. But the soul is horrified. "You didn't say anything about killing him. I hardly meant to bother you with anything so drastic."

"But it's the only way," says the angel, moving closer to the horrible little creature. "Shall I kill it?"

The soul steps back. "Well, I'm quite open to considering it. I mean, I was only thinking about silencing it because up here – well, it's so embarrassing . . . Please, I never meant to be such a nuisance. Please – really – don't bother. Look! It's gone to sleep of its own accord. I'm sure it'll be all right. Thanks ever so much."

But the angel explains that the vile lizard is keeping the soul from the joys of heaven. As the angel steps closer to the lizard, the lizard screams, "Be careful! He can do what he says. He can kill me. One fatal word from you and he will! Then you'll be without me for ever and ever. I'll give you nothing but really nice dreams – all sweet and fresh and almost innocent."

The angel pleads with the soul to let him destroy the lizard. The soul is caught between the heaven he so wants to enter and the lizard he is afraid to give up. The tortured soul finally surrenders. "Do what you will!" the soul wails, convinced that he will be destroyed as well the lizard.

The angel pulls the lizard off the soul's shoulder, twists its body and



throws it to the ground. Suddenly, the broken lizard is transformed into a magnificent stallion – and the terrified soul has been recreated into the same beautiful form as the angel.

The new-made man then joyfully climbs on the back of the stallion and together they ride into heaven.

The lizard is the poor soul's self-centeredness that prevents it from embracing the love of God. Only by killing the lizard of all that is sinful within it can the soul rise to the life of God. We all have our "lizards" distracting us from the things of God; we are all "possessed" by "demons" that kill our hopes and mire us in deadening cynicism. Yet we hesitate to be rid of them – we have become secure and comfortable in our own little worlds, with our lizards and demons protecting them. But, hold on for a minute, Jesus comes to exorcise our demons and lizards that we may be made new and whole in the limitless compassion of the Father.

So then, how shall we live?

Pastor Dennis

I would like to thank you for all the prayers, cards and thoughts during my hospital stay and recovery. It has been a long haul and an experience that one would never forget. A special thank you for Pastor Dennis Koch for seeing me through the whole ordeal. I hope to get back to church real soon. The one good thing though, is that I'm cancer free. Thanks!

—Barbara Woods

July Birthdays

- 7/2 Bonnie Myers
- 7/3 John Murray
- 7/5 Lori Feddern
- 7/5 Tyler Hadidon – 14
- 7/20 Jack Wesley Hall – 3
- 7/21 Shawna Collins – 16
- 7/28 Pastor Dennis Koch

July Anniversaries

- 7/6 Donald and Karen Brooks – 33
- 7/25 Tom and Carol Mahon – 20
- 7/30 Kent and Linda Collins – 24



August Birthdays

- 8/21 Mark Forrest
- 8/22 Karen Brooks
- 8/29 Doug Forrest

August Anniversaries

- 8/6 Al and Kaye Bausch – 47
- 8/17 Cress and Karen Jenkins – 15
- 8/17 Don and Carol Schiff – 50
- 8/20 Pastor Dennis and Linda Koch – 19

Want to submit an item for the newsletter?

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