



JULY 2005

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Tidings

The monthly newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church

Zion Lutheran Church

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Let God show you what's in store

I was reading in the Gospel of Matthew the other day and I came to a prayer that Jesus said in Chapter 11, verse 25. Jesus says this prayer shortly after he has sent his disciples out on their own to proclaim that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. They have just returned and are sharing their stories. Apparently, the inhabitants of the towns of Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum did not give the disciples a very good welcome. Thus Jesus begins this prayer, "I thank you Father, lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; . . ." The people of these towns were just so busy with their day-to-day situations and challenges they could not hear what God had to say to them. This story reminded me of an article someone once e-mailed me. It started off with the line, "I quit adulthood..."

I am hereby officially tendering my resignation as an adult. I have decided I would like to accept the responsibilities of an 8-year-old again.

- ♦ *I want to go to McDonald's and think it's a four-star restaurant.*
- ♦ *I want to think M&Ms are better than money because you can eat them.*

- ♦ *I want to lie under a big oak tree and run a lemonade stand with my friends on a hot summer day.*
- ♦ *I want to return to a time when life was simple, when all you had to worry about were colors, multiplication tables and nursery rhymes.*
- ♦ *I want to think the world is fair and that everyone is honest and good.*
- ♦ *I want to believe that anything is possible.*
- ♦ *I want to be excited by the little things again. I don't want my day to consist of computer crashes, mountains of paperwork, stock market plunges, gossip, illness, the loss of loved ones, and trying to survive more days in the month than there is money in the bank.*
- ♦ *I want to believe in the power of smiles, hugs, a kind word, truth, justice, peace, dreams, the imagination, and making angels in the snow.*

So, here are my keys and checkbook, my credit card bills and 401K statement. I am officially resigning from adulthood. And if you have any questions or problems with that, you'll have to catch me first, 'cause – TAG! You're it!

Wouldn't it be nice to be able to put adulthood aside and become a child again – especially knowing

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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."



Join us for Fourth of July Fireworks on the lawn at Zion Lutheran Church. The fireworks are scheduled to begin at 10 p.m. Monday, July 4. We'll be selling coffee, soft drinks and snow cones starting at 8 p.m. If you've never seen the fireworks from Zion, you're in for a treat. Bring a blanket and some lawn chairs.

Introducing ... Zion's new intern Tim Loehrke

My wife Sue and I are from Kent, Wash., about 15 miles southeast of Seattle. However, my roots are in Westlake, Ohio, west of Cleveland, and Sue is from North Olmsted, which is south of Westlake.

Sue and I have been married for 32 years and we have two great kids, a daughter, Jennifer, and a son, Matt. Our daughter lives in Warren and is married to Brian who is a firefighter in Warren. They have two children, Sarah and Ben, from Brian's previous marriage and they have one child between them, Emily. Our daughter graduated from Kent State University with a degree in criminal justice and she is currently a full time mom and a real estate agent. Our son graduated from Linfield College in McMinnville, Oreg., where he earned a degree in theater. Currently he is employed with the Missoula Children's Theater in Missoula, Mont. He tours the Pacific and Mountain Time Zones casting and directing children (K-12) in plays each week. This is his second year with the theater and will tour in Japan, Korea and China this summer.

Sue has been a travel agent for more than 15 years and is working in a call center in Dublin for World Travel BTI corporate travel.

As for myself, I graduated from

Ohio Northern University in Ada in 1974 with a degree in education. From there I taught high school drafting and wood shop in Painesville and Campbell. After that I entered the Coast Guard with assignments in Jacksonville, Fla., New London, Conn., Grand Haven, Mich., Cleveland, San Diego, Calif., and Seattle. These assignments provided a wealth of experience, which included four different ships and eight years of sea service. We ended up in Seattle where I worked for Boeing teaching an ERP software system and traveling throughout the country teaching and implementing the same software.

Before coming to Trinity Lutheran Seminary in June 2003, I studied for one year at Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry. Last summer I completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Children's Hospital, which was very rewarding yet at the same time very intense.

Sue and I are thrilled to call Zion Lutheran Church our home away from home. There is great opportunity to do God's work at Zion and I am blessed that I will be able to experience part of that.

God's speed.

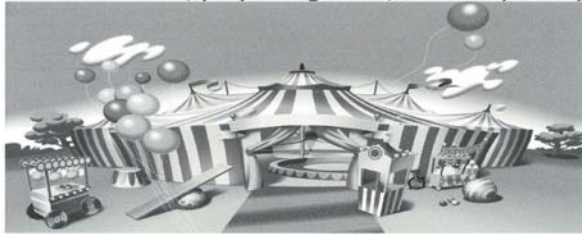
Tim Loehrke

**Zion Lutheran Church
Circus Spectacular Vacation Bible School Registration Form**

Sunday, July 17 – Thursday, July 21, 2005
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Pre-School through 5th grade

Each night will begin with dinner, then the Ring Master will kick-off the greatest show on earth where kids will learn cool Bible stories, great songs, make fun crafts, play fun games, and eat yummy snacks!



Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Home telephone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Child's age: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Home congregation (if any): _____

In case of emergency (when the parent/guardian cannot be reached) please contact
Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Relationship to child: _____

Please list any allergies or health concerns the VBS staff should be aware of: _____

Signature of parent/guardian: _____

In Store

Continued from Page 1
what we know now? It sounds like that is what Jesus is suggesting in the passage – but not quite. When Jesus calls his disciples to embrace the simple faith of “little ones” he is not saying that our approach to faith should be “dumbed down” to the level of children. He is calling us, instead, to embrace a faith that is centered in the love and compassion of God: love that is not compromised by “adult stuff” like self-interest and rationalization,

compassion that is not measured but offered completely and unreservedly, without limit or condition. May the “wise and learned” among us embrace the spirit of generosity and selflessness of “little ones.”

As your pastor, I challenge each and every one of you to take a few moments in your day to stop and see what our God is doing in and around you. You might just get tagged!

Pastor Dennis

A S A P!

There's work to do,
deadlines to meet;
You've got no time to
spare,
But as you hurry and
scurry-
Always Say A Prayer.

In the midst of family
chaos,
“Quality time” is rare.
Do your best; let God do
the rest-
Always Say A Prayer.

It may seem like your
worries
Are more than you can
bear.
Slow down and take a
breather-
Always Say A Prayer.

God knows how stressful
life is;
He wants to ease our
cares,
And He'll respond to all
your needs
Always Say A Prayer.

July Birthdays

- 7/3 John Murray
- 7/5 Lori Feddern
- 7/5 Tyler Hadidon – 12
- 7/21 Shawna Collins – 14
- 7/22 Rose Owens
- 7/28 Pastor Dennis Koch

August Birthdays

- 8/10 Ann Conner
- 8/14 Jeremy Paulins
- 8/16 Hazel Hilliker
- 8/21 Mark Forrest
- 8/22 Karen Brooks
- 8/29 Doug Forrest

August Anniversaries

- 8/5 Ralph and Ann Conner
- 8/6 Al and Kaye Bausch – 45
- 8/8 Ron and Hazel Hilliker – 59
- 8/17 Cress and Karen Jenkins – 13
- 8/17 Don and Carol Schiff – 48
- 8/20 Pastor Dennis and Linda Koch – 17
- 8/25 Bill and Willie Harrison – 31

July Anniversaries

- 7/6 Donald and Karen Brooks – 31
- 7/25 Tom and Carol Mahon – 18
- 7/30 Kent and Linda Collins – 22

Want to submit an item for the newsletter?

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

*Volunteers needed!
 Market Day will be held on Thursday, July 14
 from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at the church.
 Volunteers are needed from the Youth Group
 and they will receive half the profit.
 For more information, see Carol Mahon.*