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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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Winter can be our desert experience

March first is a watershed date of sorts this year.

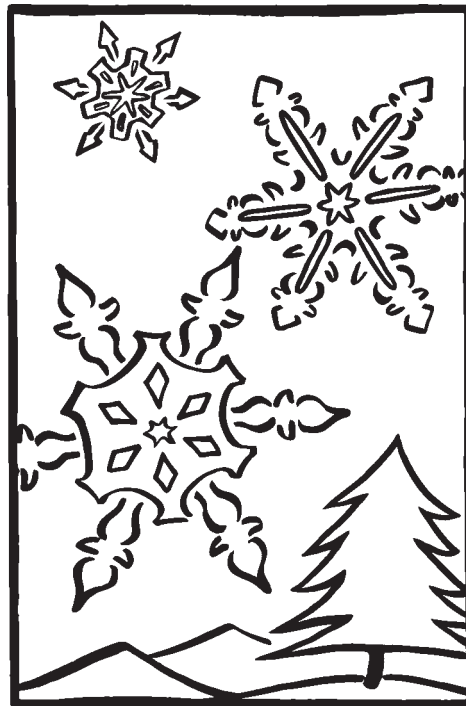
It starts the season of Lent and something more personal and selfish on my part – it tells me (and I know there are others like me) that winter is finally coming to an end.

I admit to all of you – I hate winter! I have a prayer that I say each fall.

“Lord, just one year might I be able to experience a calendar year

without winter?” Southern California would be nice. To tell you all the truth, I love the desert, especially the desert southwest so sunny Arizona would be just fine with me. But alas, I got the answer to my prayer once again . . . NO! God always answers prayers. I got my answer. I will be experiencing the desert in the privacy of my own imagination once again this year.

Looking at the bright side, winter hasn't been all that bad. As I look at the events of this winter, it has had its highlights. It has been a mild



winter in central Ohio, it is an Olympic year, and my favorite NFL team won the Super Bowl!

But I also know that this is being selfish. This has been a devastating winter in the Appalachian coal fields. On the day after New Year's, an explosion at the Sago Mine in West Virginia led to the deaths of 12 miners by

carbon monoxide poisoning. Rescue crews desperately tried to reach the 12 in time, but to no avail – the 12 were found dead later.

As he huddled with his 11 fellow miners trying to find shelter from the poisonous air, Martin Toler took out an insurance form he had stuffed in his pocket and a pencil. In faint sentences, he managed to scribble out a goodbye to his family, assuring them that he and the others died peacefully. The note read: “Tell all I'll see them on the other side. It

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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."



What does love mean? By 4-8 year olds

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love."
 — Rebecca, age 8

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth."
 — Billy, age 4

"During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore."
 — Cindy, age 8

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK."
 — Danny, age 7

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other."
 — Karl, age 5

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs."
 — Chrissy, age 6

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired."
 — Terri, age 4

Winter experience

Continues from Page 1
 wasn't bad, I just went to sleep. I love you."

Other notes were found. The messages assured their families that they had not suffered, that they had just gone to sleep. On any scrap of paper they had with them, the miners scratched out their farewells and last "I love you."

Such extraordinary grace and selflessness: Despite the imminence of their own deaths, the miners managed to find a way of offering some assurance, some peace, some final expression of love to their families. The miners of Sago leave an important lesson to all of us as we begin the season of Lent: Lent confronts us with our own mortality, with the reality that our lives are all too brief and fragile.

Jesus was led to the desert to confront the mission before him. The first Sunday in Lent we will hear how Jesus was led to the desert to begin his ministry on earth. He will begin by facing temptation by Satan.

As for us we are called to the desert of our own hearts and spirits to confront what we are making of this time we have been given, what we want our lives to stand for, what we want to leave to those we love.

May the Spirit of God give us the courage and wisdom to face the reality of this life's limits and to accept the hope of the life, of the resurrection to come.

If you would like us to help you on your journey through the desert, we will be having Wednesday evening services during Lent. As we have done in the past, we will share our worship time with our friends at the United Methodist Church. We will host Ash Wednesday, March 1, and the next two Wednesday evening services. The services will begin at 7 p.m.; they should last 30 to 40 minutes and will be followed by some time of refreshments and fellowship.

See you in the desert.

Pastor Dennis

Recognize Lent: Do – or don't do – something

It is hard to believe that Lent is here, which means spring is around the corner and soon after that summer. For us Lutherans it means going to church Wednesday evening for six weeks, then Easter and then we can get back to “normal” – whatever that means.

However, Lent is the real crux of our church life where we prepare ourselves for the real reason for Christmas. For you see that just over two months ago we celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ and to truly understand the birth of Jesus, one has to look at where Jesus will end up first and then work backward. Moreover, that place where Jesus ends up is on the cross on Golgotha. However, it does not end there. Jesus also ends up defeating death through his resurrection on the glorious Easter Sunday morning. Jesus gave up his life so that we may live.

So maybe we should give up something during Lent to acknowledge what Jesus gave up for us. It does not have to be something extraordinary. It can be something as simple as giving up that cup of coffee you buy every morning, or that sports program you watch, or that X-Box game you play every day, or that certain program you watch weekly.

This might be a good time to try and stop an addiction that has been plaguing you and your loved ones for a long time. Or, you can go in the opposite direction and start something you've always wanted to do, like helping more in church, participating for social justice in West Jefferson, attending Bible study, starting personal devotions,



helping someone within Zion Lutheran Church.

So you can see that Lent is not only for giving up something; it can also be a period where you start something that Jesus Christ has directed you to do. What a wonderful ministry that would be.

What ever it is you decide to act upon, I say do it. This is a period where we need to be more intentional in our actions as Christians not only to ourselves but to those outside the walls of Zion. It is a time that we need to intentionally look within ourselves and discern whether we truly live what we say, and what we believe as Christians and Lutherans.

This is the time where we prepare ourselves to go at the foot of the cross and truly learn what Christmas and Jesus is all about. This period is also a time where our hope is renewed in the resurrection and eternal life that awaits us in God's kingdom.

Lift High the Cross,

Tim

Intern committee

The next Intern Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. March 16, at church.

It's VBS time!

Planning has begun for this summer's Vacation Bible School. Our theme is "Treasure Cove – Where Children Discover the Riches of Christ." VBS will be held from June 11 to the 15.

If you weren't able to attend the first planning session and want to be involved, contact Susie Taylor at 879-6414. There's room for everyone.

Those who serve

March 5 – acolyte, Trevor Bausch; greeter, Dick Fogt; lector, Ginny Fogt; worship assistant, Louise Johnston; nursery, Jody Taylor and Brandon and Gunner Doran.

March 12 – acolyte, Kate Mahon; greeter, Melinda Biler; lector, Susie Taylor; worship assistant, Jerri Morton; nursery, Anne Marie and Libby Lutz.

March 19 – acolyte, Ashley Forrest; greeters, Cress and Karen Jenkins; lector, Louise Johnston; worship assistant, Tim Loehrke; nursery, Linda Koch.

March 26 – acolyte, Niki Biler; lector, Kate Mahon; worship assistant, Wesley Porter; nursery, Malenie, Tyler and Daniel Hadidon.

Bowling success

Malenie Hadidon, captain of Zion Strikers, was first in women high game scratch, and second in the women high series scratch, game handicap and series handicap.

March Birthdays

- 3/2 Hallie Jenkins – 12
- 3/5 Sally Forrest
- 3/8 Nancy Bausch
- 3/9 Donna Green
- 3/11 Elizabeth Balderson – 12
- 3/13 Chuck Hilliker
- 3/15 Ron Taylor
- 3/16 Philip Taylor – 12
- 3/17 Malenie Hadidon
- 3/18 George Wendell
- 3/22 Lisa Weber
- 3/25 Bobbie West
- 3/26 Dortha Feddern
- 3/29 Catherine Balderson – 17
- 3/31 Frank Livingston

March Anniversaries

- 3/6 Fred and Bonnie Myers – 14
- 3/10 Ron and Maxine Taylor – 50



April Birthdays

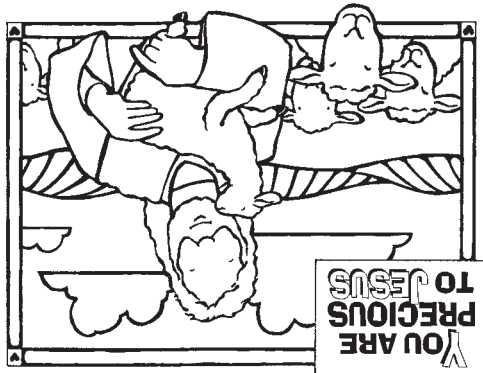
- 4/1 Willie Harrison
- 4/3 Ward Weber
- 4/4 Harry Keckley
- 4/7 Danielle Jenkins – 17
- 4/13 Blade Butler – 7
- 4/15 Esther Mae Baker
- 4/16 Richard Bausch
- 4/29 Julie Feddern
- 4/29 Norma Hicks
- 4/30 Carol Mahon

April Anniversaries

- 4/16 Jerry and Paula Paulins – 18
- 4/24 Bob and Dortha Feddern – 57
- 4/26 Timothy and Melinda Biler – 20

Want to submit an item for the newsletter?

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



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