



**OCTOBER 2007**

Volume 52, Issue 10

# Tidings

*The monthly newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church*

## **Zion Lutheran**

A congregation of the Southern Ohio Synod  
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**Pastor Dennis Koch**

Service every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

## **Church Council**

### **Officers**

**Milly McNutt**, President

**Jerry Paulins**, Vice President

**Janis Murray**, Secretary

**Tim Biler**, Treasurer

### **Elders**

**Sally Hurt**

Congregational Representative

**Susie Taylor**

Parish Board/Sunday School

**Louise Johnston**

WELCA Representative

### **Deacons**

**Arlene Castor**

**Sally Forrest**

**Dick Fogt**

**Terry Taylor**

### **Trustees**

**Cress Jenkins**

**Steve Lutz**

**Richard Woods**

### **WELCA**

**Carol Mahon**, President

## **Our Christianity grounds us as world citizens**

I don't know about you, but I am already pretty tired of all the electioneering. With the 2007 elections right around the corner, and the upcoming 2008 national elections a year away, I am wondering: "When is enough, enough?"

I found myself asking the question, "What would Jesus have to say about a Christian's role in elections and politics?"

That was when I ran into an article in this month's edition of the ELCA's "Seeds for the Parish," which is a resource newspaper for leaders of ELCA congregations. One article that caught my eye was pretty timely. It was called "Using Christian Principles in an Election Season." The article says it pretty well, and in a much better way, so I thought I would share it with you.

When we affirm our baptism in the rite of Affirmation of Baptism (a.k.a. Confirmation), we acknowledge that "by the power of the Holy Spirit, we intend to live among God's faithful people, hear the word of God, share in the

Lord's Supper, proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, serve all people following the example of Jesus, and strive for peace and justice in all the earth."

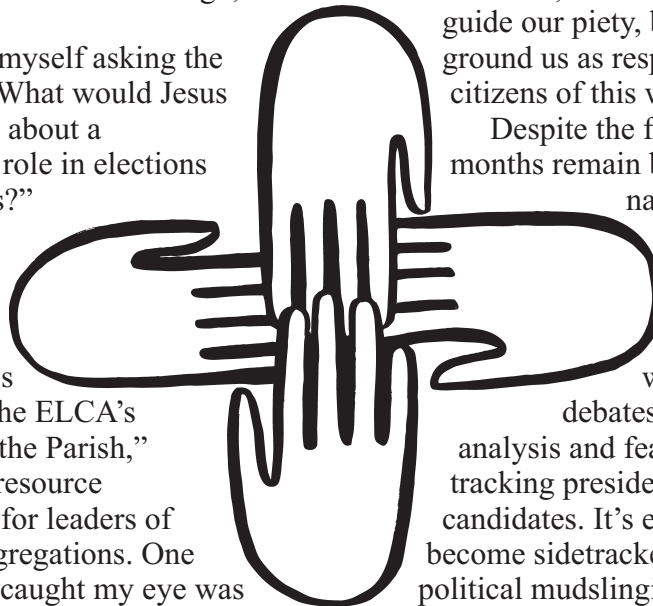
Our baptismal identity, as expressed in these words, should not only guide our piety, but also ground us as responsible citizens of this world.

Despite the fact that 15 months remain before our

national election day, we're already overwhelmed with televised debates, opinion poll analysis and feature stories tracking presidential candidates. It's easy to become sidetracked by the political mudslinging and partisan bickering, until we consider how our faith can inform our civic engagement.

As we see in the Affirmation of Baptism, our Christian faith compels us to address the world through the lens of our relationship to God and to one another, to "serve all people following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for peace and justice in all the world."

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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."



## Meaningful service

Our church (or more specifically, the coffee fund) sponsors the donuts, coffee and juice served at the non-denominational church service at the OxRoast each year.

Each year the number of attendees has grown. This year there were 71 people plus 11 members of the Methodist Bell Choir.

Some years there are a few "carneys." This year two of the inmates attended. One of the inmates had been raised in the church but made some poor decisions after high school. He recently found Jesus again and is trying to turn his life around. Being able to attend church meant a lot to him.

This was certainly one of the most meaningful services I've attended.

– Arlene Castor

## Choir starts

Zion's church choir will begin rehearsals again at 6:45 p.m., Monday Oct. 8. For more information, see Jerri Morton.

## In case of emergency

We're still accepting volunteers who are available for emergency situations for congregation members. If you can fix a meal, help with transportation or emergency baby-sitting, or if you can do some shopping for another member of Zion, please contact Pastor Dennis or Louise Johnston to have your name added to the list.

And if you need some of these services, contact Chuck Hilliker at chillik61@aol.com or call 879-9199 or Nancy Hoenie at n.hoenie@juno.com or call 879-7112 with your needs and they'll try to match you with someone who can help.

## Always Say A Prayer

Zion has a prayer chain that has been active during the past few months. If you'd like to be added to the list of people who are willing to be contacted to pray for a specific event or situation, contact Pastor Dennis or Louise Johnston.

And if you have need of prayer, contact Nancy Hoenie at n.hoenie@juno.com or call 879-7112 or Louise at ljohnsto@columbus.rr.com or call 879-7280 and the chain will get busy praying on your behalf.

## Sign up now!

There are several opportunities for other volunteers at Zion. We are in need of people to help with worship every Sunday: acolytes, greeters, lectors, worship assistants and nursery volunteers are needed. Please sign up on the sheet posted near the kitchen.

Want to help with Junior Church? Volunteers are needed to help with our new program – Junior Church – which will engage youth kindergarten through fifth graders during weekly worship and present the lessons in ways they can better understand and enjoy. Contact Susie Taylor if you're interested.

## October volunteers

Oct. 7 – acolyte, Libby or Alex Lutz; greeter, Linda Koch; lector, Anne Marie Lutz; LSS Food Pantry offering, Arlene castor.

Oct. 14 – acolyte, Liz Balderson; greeter, Sandy Balderson; nursery, Jody Taylor; LSS Food Pantry offering in memory of Don Kohl

Oct. 21 – Anne Marie and Libby Lutz.

Oct. 28 – nursery, Linda Koch.

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

## Election

### Continued from Page One

This is a clear call to activism and engagement in public life.

Government is a means through which God works to preserve creation and to help maintain a peaceful and just social order in a sinful world. Our faith values should inform how we look at public issues and interpret what is happening in political life. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is called to be a public church, and thus we have a responsibility to engage potential political leaders on the values and ethics affirmed by our faith.

This isn't about partisan politics. In order to protect religious liberty and our nation's democratic system, we must remember that it is not the church's role to promote any single candidate or endorse any activity that will provide any form of partisan gain. The following are principles intended for thoughtful consideration and prayer with regard to the 2008 electoral process.

- God created us for each other, and thus our security depends on the well-being of our neighbors. We look for political leaders who pledge to base their foreign and domestic public policy on

cooperation, peace and the pursuit of justice.

- God calls us to be advocates for the most vulnerable. We look for political leaders who will focus on economic justice.

- The earth belongs to God and is intrinsically good. We look for political leaders who uphold our responsibility to be good stewards of the environment.

- Christians have a biblical mandate to welcome strangers. We look for political leaders who will pursue fair immigration policies and curb xenophobia.

- Christians are called to help heal the sick. We look for political leaders who will support affordable and accessible health care for all.

For more information you might try the following resources:

- ELCA Election Resource Guide – coming soon at [www.elca.org/advocacy](http://www.elca.org/advocacy)

- Faithful Democracy - [www.faithfuldemocracy.org](http://www.faithfuldemocracy.org)

- IRS Guidelines for 501(c)(3) churches - [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov)

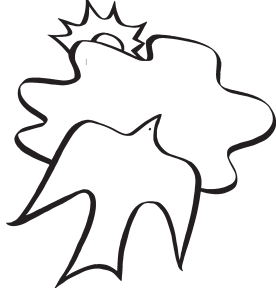
- Join the ELCA's e-Advocacy network - [www.elca.org/advocacy](http://www.elca.org/advocacy)

Pastor Dennis

It is easier to preach 10 sermons than it is to live one.

October Birthdays

10/3 Pauline Beachy  
10/6 Nancy Hoenie  
10/9 Fred Myers  
10/14 Kaye Bausch  
10/15 Kendra Collins  
10/19 Jerry Paulins



November Birthdays

11/3 Evan Taylor – 15  
11/4 Faith Hall  
11/4 Richard Taylor  
11/4 Angela Weser  
11/5 Emma Lou Matheny  
11/11 Bernie Brister  
11/14 Kate Mahon – 15  
11/16 Jennifer Murray  
11/19 Aaron Bausch – 18  
11/23 Timothy Biler  
11/27 Nick Hazlett  
11/28 Helen Davis  
11/28 Linda Koch  
11/28 Tyler Woods – 1

October Anniversary

10/14 Mike and Emma Lou Matheny – 5

November Anniversaries

11/4 Bill and Angela Weser – 8  
11/10 Pete and Malenie Hadidon – 17  
11/22 Richard and Jody Taylor

Want to submit an item for the newsletter?

Contact Susie Taylor at 879-6414 or [sataylor@agristar.net](mailto:sataylor@agristar.net)