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Tidings

The monthly newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church

Zion Lutheran Church

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God appreciates your work for Him

How are you feeling? Perhaps you feel down, you don't fit in, sometimes feel like an outsider, or perhaps you may sometimes wonder "what's the use."

I ran across a letter written by a potential candidate to a congregation in need of pastoral leadership. It went something like this:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I understand you may be looking for a shepherd for your congregation, and I should like to apply for the position. I have many appropriate qualifications:

** I've been a preacher with much success and also have had some successes as a writer.*

** Some say I'm a good organizer.*

** I've been a leader in most of*

the places I've been.

If you check my credentials, you'll find that I'm over 50 years of age, and in the interest of full disclosure, I will tell you myself that I have never preached in one place more than three years. In some places, I have had to leave town after my work caused riots and disturbances. And I must admit that I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any real wrongdoing on my part.

My health is not too good, though I still accomplish a great deal. The churches I have preached in have been small, but they are located in several large cities. I must say I have not gotten along so well with the other religious leaders in those places. In fact some have threatened me and even attacked me physically.

You should know, too, that I am not too good at keeping records. For example, I have been known to forget whom I have baptized.

With all this in mind, if you believe you can use me, I promise to do my best for you.

What do you think? Do you know of many
See FOR HIM Page 3



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."



Youth group thanks

The youth group earned \$103 from helping with the August Market Day sale. Thanks to the following for doing a great job: Catherine Balderson, Kristin Forrest, and Niki and Melinda Biler. We spent more time waiting for the truck to arrive than unloading it! Also, thank you to anyone who placed an order.

– Carol Mahon

Thank you!

Special thanks to everyone who helped with the church's booth at this year's Ox Roast.

– Don Schiff

Annual fundraiser

Loving Care Hospice is preparing for its annual Fall Harvest Fundraiser. The event will be held at 6 p.m. Oct. 29 at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City. Proceeds from this fundraiser are used for the care given to those who do not have the ability to pay.

In 2003, Loving Care Hospice provided \$50,000 in non-reimbursed care.

Cost for the vent is \$25 per person. Call 740-852-7755 or 937-644-1928 for reservations.

God's children

To those of us who have children in our lives, whether they are our own, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, or students, here is something to make you chuckle. Whenever your children are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to His own children.

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing he said was, "Don't."

"Don't what?" Adam replied.

"Don't eat the forbidden fruit,"

God said.

"Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey, Eve ... we have forbidden fruit!"

"No way!"

"Yes, way!"

"Do NOT eat the fruit!" said God.

"Why?"

"Because I am your Father and I said so!" God replied, wondering why he hadn't stopped creation after making the elephants.

A few minutes later, God saw His children having an apple break and was He ticked!

"Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?" God, as our first parent, asked.

"Uh huh," Adam replied.

"Then why did you?" said the Father.

"I don't know," said Eve.

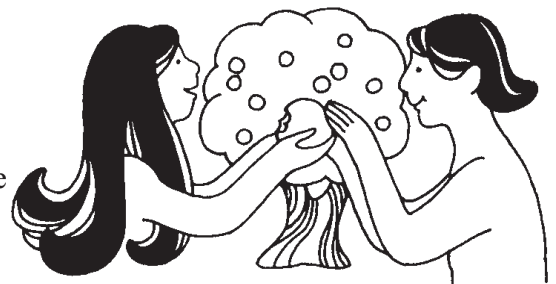
"She started it!" Adam said.

"Did not!"

"Did too!"

"DID NOT!"

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus, the pattern was set and it has never changed! But there is reassurance in this story. If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give children wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself. If God had trouble raising children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?



Your work for him

Continued From Page 1

churches that would appreciate someone like this or offer to set up an interview with the search committee? Would this person be welcome among us? In case you say “no,” or you may think maybe we should look around a little more . . . you just rejected the apostle Paul!

Yet, Paul knew something special that kept him going each day. Even if he was not perfect, and sometimes things didn't work out the way he thought they should, he knew the Lord was on his side, praised him, and celebrated all the work that he (Paul) was doing. All this when he was thrown out of most of the finest cities of the Roman world.

I, your pastor, have something to say to each of you. I know you are not looking for praise, but I do hope you know how appreciated you are, even if you don't hear it so often from me or anyone else in the congregation. In the last four years we have had many successes and we have had some real “flops.” But, I wouldn't care to be anywhere else. And, I have it on good authority – the Word of God itself – that your heavenly Father is most appreciative of all of you. Open your hearts and let the words of Zephaniah 3:17-20 speak to you:

The Lord, your God is in your midst. A warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach of it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,



and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

As you hear your Lord speak these words, can you also hear him singing with joy over you, as he describes himself doing in this passage? Can you imagine the joy in God's heart as Almighty sings? I pray you do! On behalf of God's people, thank you for your service in God's kingdom!

You probably love this passage as much as I do! I find these words truly inspiring. My goal is that these words will bless many who serve in our congregation in all kinds of ways. Shalom!

Pastor Dennis

May God Bless you with unspeakable joy, not only in the world to come, but in this world also.

May your path be bright and full of light everywhere you go.

May God tell darkness that it must flee at your command.

And, I pray your feet will never stumble out of God's plan.

May the desires of your heart come true, and may you experience peace in everything you do.

October Birthdays

10/1 Alexander Harrison
10/3 Pauline Beachy
10/6 Nancy Hoenie
10/12 James Blankenship – 16
10/12 Ron McNutt
10/14 Kaye Bausch
10/15 Kendra Collins – 17
10/18 Steve Sterling
10/19 Jerry Paulins
10/28 Ben Gelber

November Birthdays

11/3 Jordan Gelber – 11
11/3 Evan Taylor – 12
11/4 Faith Hall
11/4 Richard Taylor
11/4 Angela Weser
11/5 Emma Lou Matheny
11/14 Kate Mahon – 12
11/16 Jennifer Murray
11/19 Aaron Bausch – 15
11/23 Timothy Biler
11/25 Matthew Gossett
11/26 Dorothy Weser
11/27 Nick Hazlett
11/28 Helen Davis
11/28 Linda Koch

October Anniversary

10/14 Mike and Emma Lou Matheny – 2

November Anniversaries

11/2 Steve and Lisa Sterling
11/4 Bill and Angela Weser – 5
11/10 Pete and Malenie Hadidon – 14
11/22 Richard and Jody Taylor
11/26 John and Loretta Durban – 39

Want to submit an item for the newsletter?

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