

THE CHIMES

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Rev. Luther John Bajus, pastor

Norridge, Illinois
60706-2994

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Bensenville Home Phone: 630.521.0196

Phones: Area Code: 708

Church: 456.8818

Church & Parsonage: 453.3514

JANUARY, 2010

Fax & Working Office: 456.8818

KEEP LOOKING UP IN 2010

THE BUZZARD:

If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird...in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that the buzzard always begins a flight from the ground, with a run of 10 - 12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

THE BAT:

The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkably nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. The, and only then, at once, it takes off in a flash.

BUMBLEBEE:

A bumblebee, if dropped into an open container, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees a means of escape at the top, but always persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way out where none exists.

PEOPLE:

People, too, can be so much like the buzzard, the bat and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never seeming to find a way out. We need to begin by looking up. The psalmist gives us good advice and great comfort as we enter the New Year.

THE PSALMIST: (121)

I look up toward the mountains. Where can I find help? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let you fall. Your Guardian will not fall asleep. Indeed, the Guardian of Israel never rests or sleeps. The Lord is your Guardian. The Lord is your Shade over your right hand. The sun will not beat on you during the day, nor will the moon at night. The Lord guards you from every evil. He guards your life. The Lord guards you as you come and go, now and forever.

Wishing you a Blessed New Year as you keep Looking Up.

Pastor

+ Christian Symbols +

Olive Branch

The Olive Branch is a symbol of peace, harmony and healing. Olive trees provide shelter, as well as oil used for ointment and consecration. The Olive Branch also represents deliverance from hardships and anxiety because a dove brought an olive leaf back to Noah's ark after the flood ended (Genesis 8:11).



A New Year's resolution

Economically speaking, 2009 was a dreadful year for many families around the world. Some lost homes, cars and jobs. Many are unable to fund college educations for their children, and bank accounts have dwindled. What will 2010 bring: movement toward less of everything or toward a more hopeful future?

Here's a good resolution to make: "Our family will pay close attention to our income, our savings and our necessary purchases. We will keep a record of every dollar spent and every dollar saved."

Money accumulated, invested and given wisely will bring peace of mind and the ability to contribute more to the church and people in need. Families must develop a healthy attitude toward money. Scripture doesn't condemn money; it simply warns against loving it or making it an idol (1 Timothy 6:10).

With God as our mentor, nearly every family can avoid having crushing debt. Wise stewardship brings relief and unbridled joy to those who practice it. As economist George Humphrey said, "I don't think you can spend yourself rich."

A New Year's desire

Grant that I may bring no tear to any eye,
when this New Year in time shall end.
Let it be said I've played the friend,
have lived and loved and labored here,
And made of it a happy year.

—Edgar A. Guest

Cultivating good habits

Entering a new year is a good time to inventory our habits — the bad ones as well as the good. Greek philosopher Aristotle once opined on this subject: "Moral excellence comes about as a result of habit. We become just by doing just acts. We become temperate by doing temperate acts. We become brave by doing brave acts."

Just so, we will become faithful lovers of God by seriously worshiping and faithfully following the Christian way of life. Attending corporate worship, learning more about Christianity, doing good deeds for others and participating in fellowship events are all good habits. They enhance your life and bring joy to people around you.

Now is the time

We live in troubling times, with wars, poverty, hunger, economic woes, health scares and more. So what now?

Believe this: We Christians will survive the test! Faith, prayer and discipline will bring us victory. Our love for God and the need for worship, Christian education and joyous fellowship will ultimately prevail.

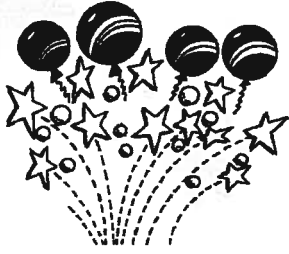
A pastor who worked in a city's poverty-stricken area was asked how his work was going. He answered: "It is a hand-to-mouth existence: God's hand providing for our mouths." So it may be for many churches and people today. But God promises to see us through.

When the new year begins for us

In 46 B.C., Roman emperor Julius Caesar first chose January 1 as the date of the new year. Six hundred years later, the Roman church proclaimed that the new year would henceforth be March 25, the date of the Feast of the Annunciation (when the angel spoke to Mary).

March 25 was the accepted New Year's Day for almost 1,000 years. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII moved it back to January 1.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



- J. 4 Nancy Webb
- J. 5 Nella Ashley Iversen
- J. 8 Virginia Mulik
- J. 11 Patrick Brutto
- J. 15 Jean Bajus
- J. 23 Gregory M. Dymitrowicz
- J. 24 Bess Cerny
- J. 25 Dr. Jeffrey George
- J. 27 Luba Pala
- J. 28 Shirley Chesny

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



- J. 09 Richard & Carla Petersen
- J. 15 Lee and Ronni Emrich

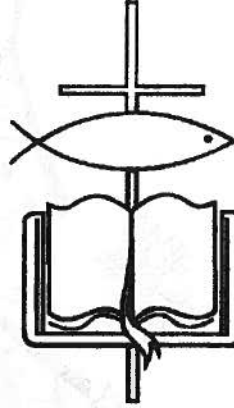
JANUARY GREETERS

- J. 01 Ushers
 - J. 03 Richard & Carla Petersen
 - J. 10 James and Amy Wood
 - J. 17 Dennis & Irene Katz
 - J. 24 Mary Fickenscher & Virginia Mulik
 - J. 31 Jean Larson & Gloria Malina
 - F.07 John & Eleanor Kachmarik
 - F.14 John & Mary Mark
 - F.21 Allen Arkuszewski & Robert Lange
 - F.28 David & Anne Peck
- Lent - begins February 17th .

NEWS

f r o m

ZION



Thank You: The Rev. Arthur Constien assisted Pastor as liturgist and communing assistant at the Christmas Eve Worship - Service of Communion and Candlelight. His services to Zion are always very much appreciated.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Voters' Meeting of the Congregation has not as yet been set. However, all those giving reports are reminded and requested to prepare a written report for duplication and distribution to the Voters.. Thank you.

NEW ADDRESSES

Andy Pafko Woodland Terrace
8850 Red Arrow Highway
Bridgman, MI 49106
1.269.465.3534

Keetra & Wilfred Muana
1367 Todd Farm Drive
Suite 103
Elgin, IL 60123

ACOLYTES

JANUARY 2010

- J. 01 Cindy Wolford
- J. 03 Alexis & Austin Johns
- J. 10 Adam Harris & Daniel Dymitrowicz
- J. 17 Tyler Johns & Jeffrey George
- J. 24 Taylor Gizel & Logan Gizel
- J. 31 Emilie Stoller & Victoria Velez



FAITHFUL HEARTS AND HANDS MEETING NOTES – DECEMBER 12, 2009

Nona Schipull opened the meeting with Devotion and Bible Study on the Messianic Prophecy Fulfilled at Christmas. Readings from both the Old and New Testaments revealed that Bethlehem was to be the place of the Messiah's birth. The Messiah was to be the Son of God, to be born of a virgin, to be the seed of David. Help us all to find our joy in the greatest gift, Jesus Christ.

Sharron Schademann, Treasurer, presented her report.

Gift cards from Target have been delivered to Lutheran Child and Family Services for Christmas.

A letter has been received from Community Lutheran Partners in Wheeling, West Virginia expressing their appreciation for Faithful Hearts and Hands' monetary donation, which will be used in CLP's social ministry programs.

Faithful Hearts and Hands will also make a donation to St. Cyprian, Chicago, IL.

The project of the day was pricing items for the White Elephant Sale to take place at Zion on Sunday, December 20, 2009. The items were then placed on tables in the church basement for pre-sale viewing. Any profits from the upcoming White Elephant Sale will go to Lutheran Church Charities for families in need.

The next meeting of Faithful Hearts and Hands will be held at Zion on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 10:00 AM. Ladies, mark your calendars!



ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH



JANUARY, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00 AM Early Communion 9:30 AM Worship 10:35 AM S.S. 10:45 AM B.C.	4	5 7:30 PM ESL Classes	6	7 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	8	9 10:00 AM Faith- ful Hearts & Hands
10 9:30 AM Worship 10:35 AM S.S. 10:45 AM B.C.	11	12 7:30 PM ESL Classes	13	14 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	15	16
				For pastoral services		
17 9:30 AM Commu- nion Worship 10:35 AM S.S. 10:45 AM B.C.	18	19 7:00 PM Coun- cil Mt 7:30 PM ESL Classes	20	21 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	22	23
Please call Pastor Constien 708-345-9254						
24 9:30 AM Worship 10:35 AM S.S. 10:45 AM B.C.	25	26 7:30 PM ESL Classes	27	28 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	29	30
31 Communion 9:30 AM Worship 10:35 AM S.S. 10:45 AM B.C.						

December 9

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February 10

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

A statement of faith

A half century ago, Milward Simpson was the governor of Wyoming. He was a Christian who trusted God without question. He and his wife often shared this statement of faith:

The light of God surrounds us,
The love of God enfolds us,
The power of God protects us,
And the presence of God watches over us;
Wherever we are, God is.

Governor Simpson once told of flying in an airplane that developed engine trouble. Instead of giving in to fear, he and his wife held hands and together recited the words they tried to live by. The plane landed safely.

Having a positive statement of faith can be helpful in many situations. Why not create one for yourself and your family — or use the prayerful statement the Simpsons recited.

A prayer for the new year

Eternal God, thank you for bringing us once again to the threshold of a new year. Help us dedicate each day of 2010 to following your will for our lives. Guide us, Lord, in all our decisions and actions, day by day and hour by hour. Help us accomplish all that you desire for us to do, until our mission on earth is finished. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

A special ministry

Last summer, Emma Daniel Gray died in Washington, D.C., at age 95. At the memorial service, Bishop Royce Woods told the congregation about the special ministry Gray practiced every night for 24 years, as she cleaned the Oval Office. She paused behind the president's chair and offered a prayer for blessings, wisdom and safety.

"You couldn't be around her and not know what she believed," Woods said. "She always believed there was a higher power to grab on to that would lift you above any circumstance, and she was always able to do that. She preached her own eulogy by the life that she lived."

Bible Quiz

In Revelation 22:16, Jesus says: "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of _____, the bright morning star."

Choose the correct name from the list below:

- A. Isaac
- B. Jacob
- C. David
- D. Solomon



Answer: C

No desperation

Nearly every year, California is plagued with massive wildfires. In October 2007, an unrelenting fire raged through and around Malibu. Many homes and other dwellings quickly became heaps of ashes. The Malibu Presbyterian Church fell prey to the raging flames and unceasing wind.

Those who loved the church stood helpless before the inferno. They remembered the blessing of worshiping God, attending Bible classes, sharing in prayer and experiencing warm Christian fellowship.

A *Los Angeles Times* reporter found faithful church member Annie Kauffman watching the fire. Although pain was written on her face, Kauffman said, "Losing the building is stunning. To stand and look at all this is a kick in the gut. But because the heart of the church is the people, I don't feel a sense of desperation."

JINGLE BELL TAMBOURINE

To ring in 2010, make a joyful noise with this musical instrument.

What you need:

- 2 plastic plates
- Hole punch
- Pen
- Beads or beans (or other small items that will make noise when shaken)
- Tacky craft glue
- 6 pieces of ribbon (each about 5" long and 1/4" wide)
- 6 jingle bells
- Stickers
- Markers



What you do:

1. On the bottom of each plate, write, "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth" (Psalm 100:1, NIV).
2. Punch six evenly spaced holes around the rim of one plate. Mark the holes with a pen and then punch six matching holes in the second plate.
3. Pour the beads or beans into one plate and then squeeze glue around the rim of that plate.
4. Place the other plate on top, aligning the holes. (Make sure the Bible verses are on the outside.) Let it dry.
5. Thread one ribbon through one hole and through one bell, and then tie the ribbon. Repeat five more times, once for each hole.
6. Decorate the instrument with stickers or markers.
7. Play your tambourine when you sing your favorite songs.



Just for **KIDS**

Make a joyful noise

People often gather with noisemakers to celebrate the promise of a new year. Be thankful and joyful for the many blessings in your life.

Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship



* * * * *

_____ the _____ ;



_____ .



Answer: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
8600 West Lawrence Avenue
Norridge, IL 60706-2994

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BLESSINGS TO:

Sunday Schedule

Worship	-	9:30 a.m.
Sunday School	-	10:35 a.m.
Youth/Adult Class	-	10:45 a.m.



Speaking of New Year's resolutions, here are some good ones that came from advice columnist Ann Landers that we can consider...

"Vow to do some of the things you've always wanted to do but couldn't find the time... Call up a forgotten friend... Drop an old grudge and replace it with some pleasant memories... Share a funny story with someone whose spirits are dragging—a good laugh can be very good medicine... Vow not to make a promise you don't think you can keep... Pay a debt... Give a soft answer... Free yourself of envy and hatred... Encourage some youth to do his or her best—share your experience, and offer support—young people need role models... Make a genuine effort to stay in closer touch with family and good friends... Resolve to stop magnifying small problems and shooting from the lip—words that you have to eat can be hard to digest... Find the time to be kind and thoughtful—all of us have the same allotment: 24 hours a day... Give a compliment—it might give someone a badly needed lift... Think things through... Forgive an injustice... Listen more... Be kind... Apologize when you realize you are wrong—an apology never diminishes a person - it elevates him... Don't blow your own horn—if you've done something praiseworthy, someone will notice eventually... Try to understand a point of view that is different from your own—few things are 100 percent one way or another... Examine the demands you make on others... Lighten up—when you feel like blowing your top, ask yourself, "Will it matter in a week?" ... Laugh the loudest when the joke is on you... The sure way to have a friend is to be one—we are all connected by our humanity, and we need each other... Avoid malcontents and pessimists—they drag you down and contribute nothing... Don't discourage a beginner from trying something challenging—nothing ventured means nothing gained... Be optimistic—the can-do spirit is the fuel that makes things go... Read something uplifting—deep-six the trash. You won't eat garbage - why put it in your head?... Don't abandon your old-fashioned values they never go out of style... When courage is needed, ask yourself, "If not me, who? If not now, when?" ... Walk tall, and smile more—you'll look 10 years younger... Don't be afraid to say, "I love you" . Say it again. They are the sweetest words in the world."

(Ann Landers)