

THE CHIMES

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

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FEBRUARY, 2010

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GOALS FOR 2010

At the beginning of a new year, some make New Year's resolutions, but many resolves are soon forgotten.

Rather than resolutions, we might do well to consider our goals for the New Year. These appear to be more permanent, whether we are consciously aware of this or not, even if we have not articulated our them.

Henry Ford once asked one of his associates about the goals of his life. The associate replied that his goal was to make a million dollars. A few days later, Ford gave his associate a pair of glasses. In place of the two lens, there were two silver dollars. He asked the man to put the glasses on and asked what he could see. The associate replied, "Nothing. The dollars are in the way."

Ford went on to explain that he wanted to teach him a lesson. If his only goal were money, he would miss a host of other opportunities, which would bring joy and happiness to life.

This is what many fail to discover or rediscover this today. Certainly, money is important but not as an end in itself. It is a means by which we reach loftier goals. Such higher goals might include:

1. Taking seriously our relationship with the Lord and the church into which He has brought us in the waters of Baptism. Like Jesus, our will is to do the will of our heavenly Father.
2. Supporting the Lord's Mission and Ministry at home and abroad; Go into all the world and proclaim the precious Gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus alone.
3. Helping and Serving others in need. Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these, you have done it to me.

Our life is on loan from God. Live it with goals that the Lord had in mind when He created us and then recreated us in the waters of Baptism. We live to give all glory to God. We live to give loving, unselfish service to others.

In His love,

"Biblical Stewardship Principles"

I. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE GOD'S STEWARDS.

This means that God's stewards are stewards by virtue of creation and re-creation in Holy Baptism; therefore, they belong to the Lord.

II. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE MANAGERS, NOT OWNERS.

This means that God's stewards have been entrusted with life and life's resources and given the privilege of responsibly and joyfully managing them for Him.

III. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE SAINTS AND SINNERS.

This means that God's stewards rejoice in and live out what the Lord has declared them to be through the cross. At the same time His stewards recognize they are sinners who fight sin and its consequences each day.

IV. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE UNIQUELY SINGULAR, YET PROFOUNDLY PLURAL.

This means that God's stewards recognize that their lives are not solo performances but are personal responses to God, lived out within the community of faith to benefit the whole world.

V. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE *IN* THE WORLD BUT NOT *OF* THE WORLD.

This means that God's stewards recognize that the Lord sets them apart from the world and by the transforming power of the Gospel sends them into the world to live out the Gospel.

VI. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE LOVED AND LOVING.

This means that God's stewards recognize that their stewardship flows out of God's act of love for them in Christ which empowers them, in turn, to love others in acts of Christ-like love.

VII. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE SERVED AND SERVING.

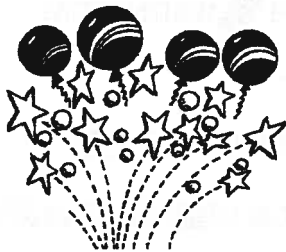
This means that God's stewards recognize that their stewardship involves a Gospel-powered style of life which is demonstrated in servanthood within all the arenas of life.

VIII. GOD'S STEWARDS LIVE WITH AN AWARENESS OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE, OF TIME AND ETERNITY.

This means that God's stewards live intentionally in the light of the Lord's eternal purpose while being firmly committed to His rule in the here and now.

To God be the glory for the great things He has done and continues to do with and through us as His maturing stewards!

February Birthdays



F.	2	Lucille Crummett Peter Charles Christensen
F.	3	Susan Thorn Kenneth Harris
F.	8	Anni Prus
F.	10	Julie Stoller
F.	11	Eleanor Kachmarik
F.	17	Lillian Czarkowski
F.	19	Sharlene Prien
F.	22	Tanya Potter
F.	25	Andy Pafko
F.	28	Jean Larson

Wedding



Anniversaries

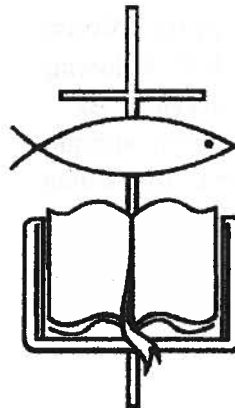
F.	6	Robert & Bonnie Ganassin
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FEBRUARY GREETERS

F. 07	John & Eleanor Kachmarik
F. 14,17	John & Mary Mark
F. 21,24	Allen Arkuszewski & Robert Lange
F. 28,M3	David & Anne Peck
M 07,10	Patrick & Nancy Brutto

* During Lent, it is requested that those serving on the previous Sunday serve Wednesdays also.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17th.



NEWS

from

ZION

Project Hope: The next planned Project Hope activity, March 20th, is the Pasta Dinner at Zoar Lutheran Church, 2940 75th CT, Elmwood Park, IL.

Tickets will be available from Shirley Harris, Eleanor Kachmarik, and Megan Harris.

Zoar Church is easily accessible south, off of Belmont, between Harlem & First Avenue.

Ski Trip: The Luther League Annual Ski Trip is planned for February 13th and 14th. The youth will begin with lunch at Pentecost, Racine, WI, followed by skiing, tubing, snow-boarding, etc. Saturday evening. The night will be spent at Pentecost, Racine.

The Youth Ministry Team from Concordia Mequon, is usually present for devotions and the icebreakers.

If you're interested, please contact our youth for more information.

Called Home: Two former members of Zion were recently called to their eternal rest. **Andrew Silas Fabry** died December 26th, followed by services at Hope Lutheran, Bradenton, FL. **Joseph Kubik**, brother of Anne Peck, died on January 16th. Services followed in Florida. May the Lord's comfort attend family and friends of **Silas and Joseph**.

Voters: The Annual Meeting of the Voters will held on Sunday, February 07th, following the Sunday morning Worship Service. All those giving reports are requested to submit them in writing one week prior to the Annual Meeting.

ACOLYTES

February

F 07 Cindy Wolford
F.14,17 Daniel Dymitrowicz & Adriana Pilolla
F.21,24 Alexis Johns & Austin Johns
F.28,M.3 Jeffrey George & Tyler Johns

March

M. 07,10 Emilie Stoller & Victoria Velez
M 14,17 Amanda & Paige Peterson
M. 21,24 Taylor & Logan Gizel
M. 28 Cindy Wolford & Adriana Pilolla

A PRAYER

Strive to grow spiritually stronger in 2010.

"Some rivers may have no choice to dry up every winter and summer, but we have choices!

Churches do not have to be empty in January, February, June or July. Nor should churches dry up financially during these months.

It is my sincere prayer that all of us will grow in grace and power, using gifts of the Spirit throughout this year.

I pray that those whose Christian lives have only been a trickle in the stream of God's kingdom will flow greatly in the new year, and that those who are all but completely dried up will begin to flow again."

Quote: "Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."

February
17th

ASH WEDNESDAY

LENTEN THEME

"WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED"

LENTEN SCHEDULE

5:30 - 6:30 pm Pot Luck Feb 17 & Mar 24
Soup & Sandwich remaining Vespers
6:45 pm Hymn Sing
7:00 pm Lenten Vespers
7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal

COME TO EVERY VESPER **BRING A FRIEND**

EASTER IS APRIL 4th



Conference: Pastor attended the Western Circuit Pastoral Conference at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Whiting, IN, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 9 and 10.

Party: In recognition of his retirement as Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Cudahy, St. John Congregation held a party for the Rev. Dr. Carl and Diane Krueger, Saturday, February 13th.

Dr. Krueger plans to continue to serve as our SELC District President.

May the Lord's continuing blessing be on President Krueger who has served faithfully in his two pastorates and in our SELC District in various capacities including District President.

We Preach Christ Crucified

LENTEN THEMES 2010

Justified by Grace Alone Through Faith Alone Rom. 3:21-26

More Precious Than Life Philippians 3:7-11

The Reason to Endure Hebrews 12:1-3

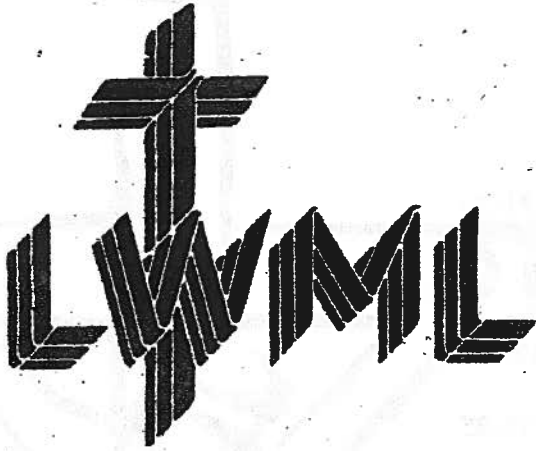
The Foolish Wisdom of the Cross 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Peace With God Through Our Lord Jesus Christ Rom. 5:1-11

No Longer Dead But Alive Colossians 2:13-15

We
Preach
Christ
Crucified





FAITHFUL HEARTS AND HANDS MEETING NOTES – JANUARY 9, 2010

Prior to the beginning of our meeting, tasty refreshments were served to those in attendance by Nona Schipull.

Nona opened the formal meeting with Bible Study on the topic "Does the Bible Really Say That?" Psalm 119:11 says "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." In the form of a printed quiz, various quotes were stated and we were to decide if the quotes were in the Bible, and if so, the source. We were back in school again! It was a thought-provoking and fun Bible Study.

Julie Stoller read the notes from our last meeting.

Sharron Schademann presented her Treasurer's Report.

Julie informed us that Wilfred Muana's sister and her husband have plans to open a school in their village in Tanzania. Julie will obtain a list of school supplies needed and Faithful Hearts and Hands will determine how we may be of assistance in gathering some of those supplies and donating them.

Proceeds from the White Elephant Sale held here at Zion on December 20, 2009, will be donated to Lutheran Church Charities for local families in need.

Faithful Hearts and Hands will assist with the Lenten soup and sandwich dinners. Finalization of the plans will take place at our next meeting.

The annual Spring-cleaning of the church will take place after Easter. The exact date will be determined later. Easter is on Sunday, April 3, 2010.

The next meeting of Faithful Hearts and Hands will take place at Zion on Saturday, February 13, 2010 at Noon. Feel free to drop in!

Faithful Hearts and Hands Monthly Meeting--Jan. 9, 2010

Bible Study: Does the Bible Really Say That?

Psalm 119:11 says: "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

Quote	In the Bible?	Source
1. God helps those who help themselves.		
2. 'Tis more blessed to give than to receive.		
3. A penny saved is a penny earned.		
4. I have escaped by the skin of my teeth.		
5. Pride goeth before the fall.		
6. Consider the lilies of the field.		
7. You reap what you sow.		
8. Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.		
9. Idle hands are the Devil's workshop.		
10. Hate the sin; love the sinner.		
11. Neither a borrower nor a lender be.		
12. To err is human, to forgive divine.		
13. Go the extra mile.		
14. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.		
15. Cleanliness is next to godliness.		
16. Read the writing on the wall.		
17. Spare the rod and spoil the child.		
18. Lend me your ears!		
19. Be slow to speak and quick to listen.		
20. Don't cast pearls before swine.		
21. That which does not destroy us makes us stronger.		
22. Blood is thicker than water		
23. Turn the other cheek.		
24. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.		

- **Answers and Comments are found on lower half of next page.**
- **Please allow for some differences of opinion where applicable.**



2010



Calendar of Events



January	9:	Faithful Hearts & Hands meeting
February	7:	Mites collection for LWML Missions
February	9:	Women's Guild meeting at noon,
February	13:	Faithful Hearts & Hands meeting
February	17:	Pot Luck Supper 5:30 PM and Ash Wednesday Vespers 7 PM
February	24:	Soup & Sandwich Supper 5:30 PM and Week 2 Lenten Vespers at 7
March	3:	Soup & Sandwich Supper 5:30 PM and Week 3 Lenten Vespers at 7PM
March	9:	Women's Guild meeting at noon
March	10:	Soup & Sandwich Supper 5:30 PM and Week 4 Lenten Vespers at 7 PM
March	13:	Faithful Hearts & Hands meeting
March	17:	Soup & Sandwich Supper 5:30 PM and Week 5 Lenten Vespers at 7PM
March	24:	Pot Luck Supper 5:30 PM and Week 6 Lenten Vespers at 7PM
March	28:	Palm Sunday, beginning of Holy Week
April	3:	Set-up for Easter breakfast
April	4:	Resurrection Sunday with breakfast following
April	13:	Women's Guild meeting at noon
May	8:	Faithful Hearts & Hands meeting
May	11:	Women's Guild meeting at noon
May	14-16:	SELC District LWML Convention at Zion
June	6:	Mites collection for LWML missions, and Sunday School closing
June	8:	Women's Guild meeting at noon
June	12:	Faithful Hearts & Hands meeting
July	10:	Faithful Hearts & Hands meeting

ANSWERS & COMMENTS



1. No--Aesop, Ben Franklin. The truth is Romans 5:6 "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly."
2. Yes, but not in the Gospels. It is in Acts 20:35.
3. No--Poor Richard's Almanac. Proverbs 13:11 says, "Dishonest money dwindle away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow."
4. Yes, Job 19:20
5. Yes, Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."
6. Yes, Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 6:28, Luke 12:27
7. Yes, Galatians 6:7, Job 4:8, Psalm 126:5 "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy."
8. No--Ben Franklin, but Prov. 6:9 "How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?"
9. No--Warnings against laziness are Prov. 19:15, I Tim. 5:13, Eccle. 19:18, Prov. 31:27
10. No--Ghandi
11. No--Shakespeare, but Prov. 11:15 "To guarantee loans for a stranger brings trouble..."
12. No--Alexander Pope
13. Yes, Matt. 5:41 "If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles."
14. Yes, Jesus in Gethsemane, Matt. 26:41, Mark 14:38
15. No--Poor Richard's Almanac
16. Yes, Daniel 5:5
17. Yes and No (Mark Twain)--not exact phrasing but discipline is in Proverbs.
18. No--Shakespeare in Julius Caesar
19. Yes, paraphrase of James 1:19 "God gave you two ears and only one mouth."
20. Yes, Matt. 7:6
21. No--Friedrich Nietzsche
22. No--Sir Walter Scott
23. Yes, Matt. 5:39, Luke 6:29
24. Yes, Luke 6:31, Matt. 7:12

The "no longer common" table prayer

by C. Douglas Kroll



As a child my parents taught me the simple table prayer: "Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let Thy gifts to us be blessed." It wasn't long after that, that my great-aunt taught me to say that same prayer in its original German form: *Komm Herr Jesu, sei unser Gast, und segne, was du uns bescheret hast*. I came to know this as the "Common Table Prayer."

While this "Common Table Prayer" in English was not a literal translation of the German, it conveyed the same message in a similar rhyming scheme. This prayer was printed in the *Lutheran Book of Prayer*, at least through the 1950s.

Placemats and plaques

As a result of modern Bible translations and the updating of the language of the church's public worship, most of the "Thee, Thy, Thou and Thine" words of the King James Version and the older liturgical texts became "You" or "Your." At some point, and for some reason—both unknown to me—the wording of the "Common Table Prayer" was updated as well. But instead of "Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let Your gifts to us be blessed, it became "let these gifts to us be blest." This version is now commonplace in Lutheran and some other Protestant homes. It is also commercially available on placemats and plaques, and a musical setting is found in *Lutheran Service Book* (#776).

Today that table prayer is no longer "common" in the sense of "universal." When my wife and I gather with family or friends and someone suggests that we all join in the "common table prayer," one needs to specify whether it will be the "Thy," "Your" or "these" version. Often there is a variety of words being prayed, even if one gives specific directions, since most of us just go on a kind of auto-pilot when praying a familiar text.

While the "these gifts" version may seem to

be just a more modern version of the "Common Table Prayer," I believe that replacing the word "Thy" with "these" puts a different emphasis in the prayer. The word "Thy" makes very clear that the gifts (food and drink) on the table before us, come from God's gracious hand. The original German prayer was even more specific: *was du uns bescheret hast* ("what You have bestowed upon us").

Giver or gift?

By replacing "Thy" with "these," the focus has been shifted from the source of the gifts to the gifts themselves. This version of the prayer focuses attention on "these gifts" of food and drink—not on the "Giver." The word "gifts" does imply a giver, but "these gifts" leaves the giver uncertain. Are "these gifts" from our parents, the government, a neighbor, Mother Nature? Or are they from Almighty God?

Words are important. How we pray is important. There is a difference, and a significant one, between praying "let Thy gifts to us be blessed" and "Let these gifts to us be blessed." Our prayer should focus on the Giver.

We live in an increasingly secular culture where God often goes unacknowledged. My personal liturgical preference is for "Thy" (as with "Thy kingdom come" in the Lord's Prayer). However, if you think the word "Thy" is old fashioned or out of date, instead of replacing it with "these," why not use the modern equivalent "Your"? "Let Your gifts to us be blessed" still keeps the focus where it should be: on God, the Giver of all gifts. The "these" gifts version seems to be ubiquitous so it will take a conscious effort, but it might be worth it—and it would certainly better express our confessional and catechetical conviction that God "has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers," and that God "provides me with food . . . and all I need from day to day." If indeed that is "most certainly true," then should not our "common table prayer" articulate it?

C. Douglas Kroll, an LCMS clergyman and former Navy chaplain, is currently Assistant Professor of History at the College of the Desert, Palm Desert, CA.

Concordia Mission Society
(Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan)
Box 8555
St. Louis, MO 63126

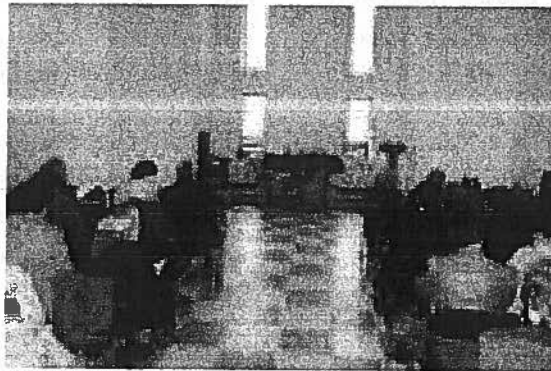
13 November 2009

Zion Lutheran Church
8600 W. Lawrence Ave
Norridge, IL 60706

Dear Zion Lutheran Church:

On behalf of the Concordia Mission Society, I want to thank you for your recent gift to the mission society. Your donation will be used by the society as you directed. The society also supports two modern medical vans, one in each of these two central Asia republics and publishes GOOD NEWS.

The new Concordia Lutheran Church building in Bishkek is now completed! The Lord removed some of the obstacles faced by the missionaries in Kyrgyzstan. The photo below shows church members meeting inside the new church building.



Thank you for your special involvement in the mission ministry of Concordia Mission Society. May the Lord richly bless you in every way so that you may continue to be a blessing to others.

Yours in His Name

James M. Knackstedt
James M. Knackstedt
Treasurer

Your Receipt

Concordia Mission Society

Box 8555

St. Louis, MO 63126

Donor: Zion Lutheran Church

Amount: \$25.00

Gift Date: 31 October 2009

Receipt # 230176

Gift Type:

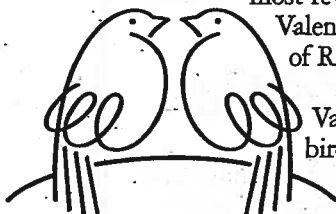
Cost of Gift:

Deductible:

**With sincere thanks we acknowledge receipt of your gift. You have received
no goods or services from the Concordia Mission Society
other than intangible religious benefits unless noted above.**

Be a love bird

Many stories about the origin of Valentine's Day have come down through the centuries. There's no definitive story, but most revolve around the imprisonment of Valentinus (St. Valentine) for his disregard of Roman laws.



Many legends are also associated with Valentine's Day. For example, because birds seemed to arrive and mate in some countries in mid-February, human couples came to be called "love birds."

In 1667, the first recorded Valentine card was printed. Today, people will give their sweethearts countless millions of cards and acres of heart-shaped boxes filled with candy. But why wait for Valentine's Day to share love with others? Remember Jesus' words in John 13:34 (NRSV): "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another."

[image above: LOVEBIRDS_6382, LOVEBIRDS_6382C]

Thinking of Lent

Advent prepares us for Christ's birth; Lent prepares us for the glorious act of Christ's resurrection. Churches have special services during the weeks of Lent, but it's what each of us does regarding our spiritual life that makes Lent most meaningful.

Lent is a good time to read, study and inwardly digest the four gospels. (The word *gospel* means "good news.")

A college student decided to work his way through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John for his Lenten devotional time. Soon he was fascinated by the stories, such as the Pharisees and Sadducees trying to trap Jesus in debate. The brilliant Jesus handled every occasion with wisdom, leaving the authorities dumbfounded.

During his devotional time, the student was filled with laughter and amazement at the brilliant son of God, who was only in his 30s. Get to know the good news, and you'll understand the young man's amazement.

Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, *February 7, 2010*
- Transfiguration of the Lord, *February 14, 2010*
- Valentine's Day, *February 14, 2010*
- Presidents' Day, *February 15, 2010*
- Ash Wednesday, *February 17, 2010*
- First Sunday in Lent, *February 21, 2010*
- Second Sunday in Lent, *February 28, 2010*

Bible Quiz

What did Jesus say his earthly mission was all about? Choose the correct answer from the list below:

- A. Doing his own will
- B. Doing God's will
- C. Doing the will of the people
- D. All of the above



Answer: B (See John 5:30.)

Seventy years

By the time you're 70 years old, you will have spent nearly a quarter of a century sleeping. The average person spends about 23 years of his or her life in bed. Here are estimates of how most Americans spend their waking hours during those 70 years:

- 11 years working
- 8 years in leisure pursuits
- 6 years eating
- 5 years grooming
- 4 years being educated
- 3 years talking
- 2 years reading
- 6 months worshipping God

Perhaps Sunday morning worship isn't as long as it seems.

The role of faith

"Fear imprisons, faith liberates; fear paralyzes, faith empowers; fear disheartens, faith encourages; fear sickens, faith heals; fear makes useless, faith makes serviceable — and, most of all, fear puts hopelessness at the heart of life, while faith rejoices in its God."

—Harry Emerson Fosdick

* A JAR OF *

Love and Appreciation



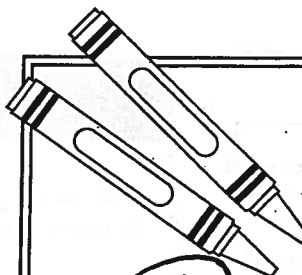
Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.

What you need:

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

What you do:

1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!

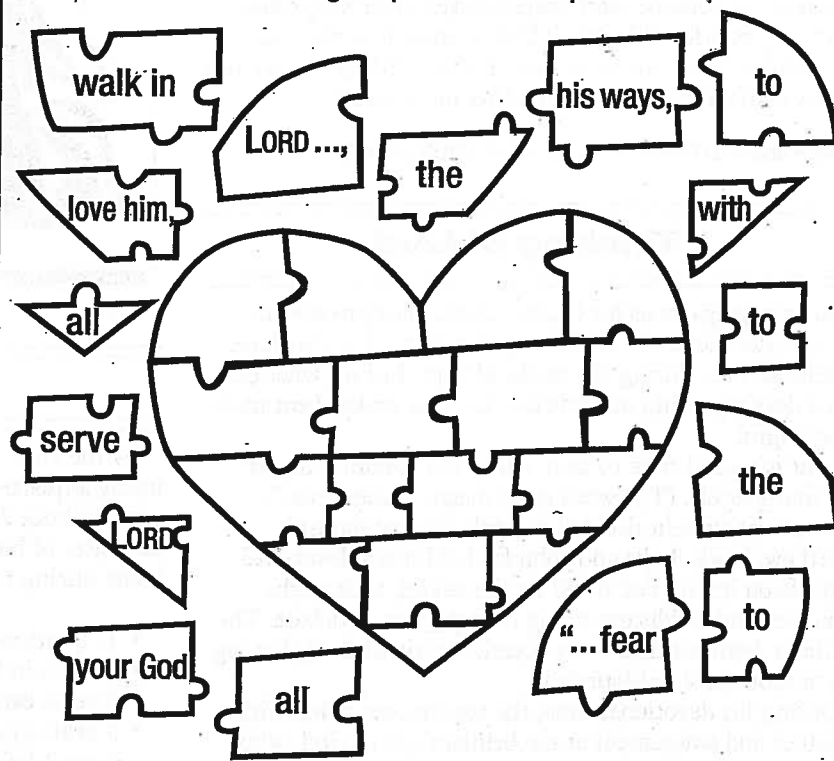


Just for KIDS

Our first love

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.



... your heart and with all your soul ...

Answer: " ... fear the LORD ..., to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ... "

[KID0210A]

[KID0210B]

• "One of the sanest, surest and most generous joys of life comes from being happy over the good fortune of others."
—Archibald Rutledge

• "Faith doesn't get us out of trouble; faith gets us through it."
—Anonymous



ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH



FEBRUARY, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
	1	2 7:30 PM ESL Classes	3	4 7:00 PM Choir	5	6																																																																																				
7 9:00 AM Early Communion 9:30 AM Worship 10:35 AM S.S. Voters 10:45	8	9 12:00 PM Guild MT 7:30 PM ESL Classes Pastoral Conference	10	11 7:00 PM Choir	12	13 10:00 AM Faith- ful Hearts & Hands Ski Weekend																																																																																				
14 9:30 AM Worship 10:35 AM S.S. 10:45 AM B.C.	15	16 7:00 PM Coun- cil Mt 7:30 PM ESL Classes	17 Ash Weds Lent Pot-luck 5:30 6:30 Hymns 6:45 Vespers 7:00 Choir 7:45	18	19	20																																																																																				
21 9:30 AM Commu- nion Worship 10:35 AM S.S. 10:45 AM B.C.	22	23 7:30 PM ESL Classes	24 Lent # 2 Soup/Sandwich 5:30 Hymns 6:45 Vespers 7:00 Choir 7:45	25	26	27																																																																																				
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Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
8600 West Lawrence Avenue
Norridge, IL 60706-2994

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage

River Grove, IL



**BLESSINGS
TO:**

Sunday Schedule

Worship	-	9:30 a.m.
Sunday School	-	10:35 a.m.
Youth/Adult Class	-	10:45 a.m.
Ash Wednesday	February 17 th	
Potluck	-	5:30 p.m.
Hymn Sing	-	6:45 a.m.
Vespers	-	7:00 p.m.
Choir after Vespers		



It will never be any different



[From his commentary on Matthew 7.13, "Enter by the narrow gate"]
"Our dear Lord has now finished preaching. . . . Truly the teaching has been beautiful and precious. . . . Now comes the toil and trouble of applying it in life. It is really a hard and tough life to be a Christian . . . and it will not taste sweet to us. As that good girl said: 'It takes a lot to be honorable.' Indeed it does, and it takes a great deal more to lead a Christian life. Our dear Lord has in mind here that people may find it appealing and think to themselves, 'I would like to live that way, but it takes a great deal.' Christ says: 'That is what I am saying, too. Therefore I am warning you to be on the lookout and not to let yourself be turned aside if it is a little sour and difficult, for it cannot be and will not be any other way in the world.' A Christian has to know this and be armed against it, so that he does not let it trouble him or hinder him if the whole world lives otherwise. . . . Think about this, and guide yourself accordingly. If you want to be a Christian, then be one. It will never be any different. You will never make the way any wider, and you have to watch how few travel on it, while the great mob travels over there. But let this be your comfort: . . . that God is standing next to you." [Martin Luther, "The Sermon on the Mount" in *Luther's Works*, vol. 21 (Concordia, 1956)]
