

On The Horizon-The Season of Lent

Zion Lutheran Church, Southington, CT

www.zionlutheranct.org



Lent Begins February 17, 2010 - Ash Wednesday



We will begin our Lenten journey on February 17 with an Ash Wednesday liturgy at 7 p.m. Ashes will also be available in the morning from 7-8 a.m. at the altar. The solemn service includes the administration of an ash cross upon the forehead, for those who desire it. These words accompany the smudge of ash, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

To assist in your Lenten discipline at 7:45 and 10:00 a.m. each Sunday, there will be a time for corporate confession and individual absolution at the altar. This early beginning will give more time for prayer and preparation for worship. Start your Lenten journey a little early at Zion on Sunday, February 21 until March 21 at 7:45 and 10:00 a.m.

Lenten emails will be used this year in place of midweek worship. I will be reflecting daily on the book: *One Month To Live. Thirty Days to A No-Regrets Life* by



Kerry and Chris Shook. If you are on the email list and receive emails from Zion using Constant Contact you are all set. If you do not, call the church office and share your email.

It's time for us to stop living like it doesn't matter.

Special Congregational Meeting Feb. 28

A special Congregational Meeting has been called by the council of Zion for Sunday February 28 between the worship services. The agenda item is to

vote on proceeding with the expansion of the worship seating area under the balcony. A \$6000 gift has been given for this project, but we will need more money to complete the task.

This meeting will inform the congregation of the work to be done, ask the congregation to proceed and find funding sources to complete the project.

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February-March 2010

Special points of interest:

- Lent Begin February 17
- Daily Lenten Emails to Congregation begins Feb. 17.
- Uprising, a New Lenten Bible Study Begins Feb. 18 at 7 pm
- Special Congregational Meeting Feb. 28 between the Services.
- Palm Sunday Breakfast, March 28
- Wittenberg College Choir Tour at Zion on March 9
- 30 Hour Famine coming in March

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South Central Mission Area Assembly-February 27, 8:30-4 pm

**God's Work.
Our Hands.
In Action!**

Interested in getting involved in the ministry of the greater church? Join with others of the South Central Mission Area.

We will meet at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 1125 Stafford Avenue, Bristol, CT. On February 27 from 8:30-4 pm.

Action sessions will include:
—What's music Role in Worship?
—Advocating for a Cause
—Lay Leadership Development
—Bible Study.

Registration is \$10/person by February 17th.

Satisfying My Thirst

Last year about this time I was part of a small group of members attending our synod's Mission Area Assembly at Grace Lutheran Church in downtown Hartford. Little did I know that I was about to embark on a journey that would go a long way towards satisfying a spiritual thirst. Maybe you have a spiritual thirst also. I believe that my journey may just be one that you should be taking to satisfy *your* thirst. At the Assembly there was a presentation from a small group of people who were taking part in the ELCA's School of Lay Ministry. I was intrigued by what they were saying. I glanced over toward Beth and although I had not said a word she looked at me and said "If you want to sign up go ahead."

Just what is the School of Lay Ministry? Our synod created the SLM about three years ago. The brochure says that "the school is an innovative program designed to give adult students an opportunity to grow in their faith for the purpose of personal spiritual development, biblical enrichment, and live long learning." The SLM has three target audiences – those that want to broaden their faith understanding, those that want to expand their skills for service in their local congrega-

tion, and finally those that are beginning a discerning process regarding their role in ministry. Like me, you may find yourself in more than one of these categories. I've always had a thirst for knowledge and I am actively involved in serving our congregation, so this seemed like a natural way for me to increase my knowledge of the Bible and the Lutheran tradition.

I believe that my journey may just be one that you should be taking to satisfy your thirst.

The program runs for two years. The 'A' year focuses on Lutheran history, theology and world religions. The 'B' year is spent studying the Bible – Interpreting the Old Testament (The Law and The Prophets and Writing) and Interpreting the New Testament (The Gospels and The Epistles). This past September my two year journey began with a retreat at Camp Calumet with over 50 classmates, of which 14 were starting their second year in the program. That means that almost 40 individuals were also thirsting for spiritual knowledge. Each study group sets its own meeting schedule and

mine meets every other Saturday morning at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Bristol. This year we are on cycle 'A' and my group has just completed a ten week study of the *Book of Concord*, and we about to embark on a seven week review of The American Religious Experience. The classes involve readings, discussions and watching companion DVD's for each session. I have never been an avid reader like my wife, but I find that the readings are quite interesting. The greatest learning for me comes from the discussions.



Have you ever wondered about the Lutheran heritage? Would you like to "meet" Martin Luther? Do you shy away from serving our congregation because you don't feel knowledgeable enough? If you answered even one of these questions with a 'Yes' then you should seriously consider enrolling in the School of Lay Ministry. I'd love to talk to anyone who is interested in this program.

— Steve Long

Wittenberg College Choir Tour

The Wittenberg College Choir will be coming to Zion on Tuesday March 9, 2010. Forty eight members of the choir will be on their Spring Tour and we are hosting one of their performances here at Zion. It is Free!

We will provide a meal before the concert, enjoy the concert and then provide homes for the college students to spend the night. They will be leaving Wednesday morning for Massachusetts. See this link for the



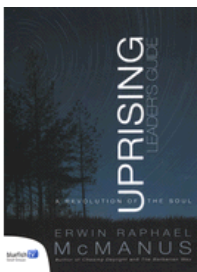
tour schedule:
www4.wittenberg.edu/academics/music/web/wittchoir.html

If you would like to help with this event, please see Beth Long. Many beds are

needed, so please consider opening your home for the night.

Wittenberg is a college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, located in Springfield, Ohio.

Uprising a Lenten Bible Study on Character, Feb. 18



It seems like anyone you talk to these days desires change. They wish they looked different, had a different job, or were better at this thing or that thing. What you've probably discovered is that you can change your appearance, your habits, your friends, your job...but you

can't change your character. At least, not on your own.

In this small group Bible study, Erwin teaches us that there's one thing you can't change about yourself and that's your character. Only Christ can transform us from the inside. In this six video sessions, Erwin provides Biblical and practical teaching that will challenge you to allow God to transform your character

to be more like His. The six week themes:

- Life Without Limit
- Transformation
- Humble Courage
- A Generous Heart
- Perseverance
- Path of Servanthood

We'll meet on Thursdays beginning Feb. 18 until March 25 at 7 pm in the Gathering Place.

New Member Information Meeting March 6



Becoming a member of Zion is not a prerequisite for participation in our congregations or ministries, however it is the best way to be a genuine part of the church. Public vows taken in joining the church serve as a powerful reminder that we are not ashamed to identify with Christ or his people. Membership

opens you to greater opportunities to use the spiritual gifts God has given you as a disciple of Christ. Membership information classes will be held Saturday, March 6 from 9-11 am. New members will be received in worship on Sunday, April 18. **An enrollment form is available on our website or in the Gathering Place on the table next to the front doors.**

30 Hour Famine

Hunger and preventable diseases claim the lives of 26,000 of the world's children everyday. This March, some of Zion youth will be going without food for 30 hours to get a taste of what the world's poorest children and families face everyday. Prior to the event weekend, students raise funds with the knowledge that every \$30 they raise can help feed and care for a child for a month. Watch for more Information to follow.

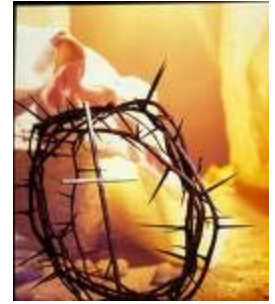
Palm Sunday-March 28 Father/child Breakfast

This year Zion will host the Palm Sunday Father/child breakfast on March 28, 2010. A location is still being determined at this time. Watch the weekly announcements and check out Zion's website for the latest information on the location of the breakfast.



Holy Week Schedule

- March 28 Palm Sunday Men's Breakfast—Zion hosts Worship Services 8 & 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School Easter Celebration 9a
- April 1 Maundy Thursday Worship Service 7 p.
- April 2 Good Friday Worship Service 7 p.
- April 3 NO Saturday Worship
- April 4 Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship 6 a.
Easter Sunday Worship Services 8 & 10:15a



The Horizon has transformed into a Newsletter that will be published following the church year calendar. This is the Lenten edition that will be followed by the Easter edition. We are publishing weekly announcements in print and on the web site. The cost of printing, postage and time has increased over the years. We want to be good stewards of our gifts so we will be trying this formula for the Horizon during 2010. If you want weekly announcements mailed to your home, contact the church office.

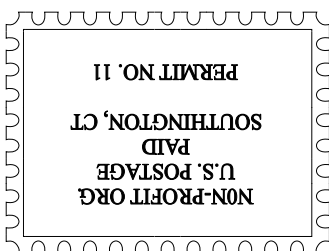
Special Congregational Meeting Feb. 28,
2010. Snow Date March 7, 2010

- **Vacation Bible School—July 19-23 Save the Date!** This year we are journeying to Africa, to have a Baobab Blast.
- **Lenten Sermon Series**
Feb. 21 Daddy Tell Me a Story
Feb. 28 Count the Stars
March 7 Like a Venomous Snake
March 14 A Word to Prodigals
March 21 Unstoppable Determination
March 28 He could have called 10,000 angels
April 4 Easter-Christ Arose

Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



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