
Mt. Zion Herald

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church & School
1680 Balsam Avenue Boulder, Colorado

March 2009
303-443-4151

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

As we go into the season of Lent there are many words that can describe the season and for the sake of this brief devotional message please consider this word *Lifeline*.

The word lifeline has different meanings: a rope attached to a life preserver thrown to a person gone over-board from a boat, in the game show a lifeline is calling a friend to discuss a correct answer, and a calling device you can have in your home, car, or wearing one which connects you to people who can help in emergencies. Yet, God has His own special lifeline for humanity. Unlike those that save only physical, God's unique rescue device saves for life eternal.

What saves humanity is God's gift of His only Son. Jesus suffered and died on the cross for the guilt and punishment of all our sins. The great love of our God for every human being moved Him to offer the supreme sacrifice. That is God's lifeline. His resurrection from the dead is our guarantee that our life with God is forever.

The hand that holds on to God's lifeline is faith in the Lord Jesus as our savior from sin. Faith is God's saving gift in us by the power of His Holy Spirit working through His Holy Word and Sacraments. As we continue throughout our lives to hear and trust God's saving Word, the Holy Spirit keeps us firmly attached to His eternal lifeline until we are carried by it to heaven.

Mark 16:16 "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved."

I am...

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Allen D. Anderson

Worry vs Optimism

Just a short time ago the world was filled with worry with the financial market crash, who will be the next President, the recent fires, etc, etc.

So why were we so worried? A few Bible verses I found to help soothe our “worries”.

Matthew 6:28-30

Why do you worry about clothes? Look at how the lilies in the field grow. They don't work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that even Solomon with his riches was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers. God clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today, but tomorrow is thrown into the fire. So you can be sure that God will clothe you.

Philippians 4:6

Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks.

Colossians 4:2 Continue praying, keeping alert, and always thanking God.

And remember 92% of our worries are needless!

Now the New Year is upon us, we have a new president, the financial markets are stabilizing, the fires got put out, and I feel a sense of optimism in the world.

In the long run, we get promises from God why we should be optimistic.

1st Corinthians 15:57

We thank God. He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2nd Timothy 1:7

God did not give us a spirit that makes us afraid, but a spirit of power and love and self control.

Psalm 35:7

Depend on the Lord. Trust Him, and he will take care of you.

**In his service,
Duane Duggan, Elder**

Lenten Series – The Lord is My Shepherd

Wednesday, March 4
Theme: "The Lord is My Shepherd"
Text: The 23rd Psalm, verse 2

Wednesday, March 11
Theme: "The Lord is My Shepherd"
Text: The 23rd Psalm, verse 3

Wednesday, March 18
Theme: "The Lord is My Shepherd"
Text: The 23rd Psalm, verse 4

Wednesday, March 25
Theme: "The Lord is My Shepherd"
Text: The 23rd Psalm, verse 5

Wednesday, April 1
Theme: "The Lord is My Shepherd"
Text: The 23rd Psalm, verse 6

All mid-week services during Lent are held at 7:00 p.m. On each of the six Wednesday services there will be soup suppers for everyone in the fellowship room starting at 6:00 p.m. – 6:50 p.m.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, April 9
Theme: "The Lord is My Shepherd"
Text: Luke 22:7-20
Special Service - Holy Communion
with the Order of the Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 10
Prayer Vigil 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Tenebrae Service (Service of Darkness)

Easter Celebration Service – April 12
Theme: "What's DEAD?!"
Text: Mark 16:1-8
Special Easter service to begin at 8:00am to be followed by Easter breakfast at 9:00am. Please come and join us, to honor this important event in our faith!! This is a great opportunity to invite your family and friends to share in the celebration.

Thought of the Day

"... Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."

- Romans 10:17

Sharing the Gospel Message Clearly

It's a big moment. You know God has ordained this moment -- that you would sit in this very seat, next to this very person, at this exact time. As they pour out to you what their family is experiencing and the hopelessness they feel, like a drain that's unclogging, it is undeniable that you have been purposefully placed.

At first you thought to yourself: *I can't believe this person is bearing their soul to me! How did I get into this conversation?* But now, the light bulb goes on in your heart! You have no doubt: *This is a Holy-Spirit appointment.* As someone who has been in this situation several times, I assure you, this is no coincidence.

I too am amazed by the extent a total stranger will open up to me at times. I think to myself: *I'm not a counselor. I'm not an exceptionally good listener. I didn't spur this conversation on; and, oddly, this person doesn't seem this open usually. It just... happened! Why?* It is a mission moment.

Annoyingly, your head and emotions begin to chime in, as if their opinions are valid in spiritual matters. Your head gives numerous reasons why this could not *possibly* be a spiritual appointment, saying: *You just happened to make eye contact and smile at the wrong person at the wrong time.*

Your emotions chime in with a shaking voice, full of insecurity: *You have nothing to offer this person. You have nothing this person needs. You will just mess up the words, like you always do. Please don't embarrass me!*

But, the Holy Spirit continues to prompt you, reminding you of the truth - that you are God's child; you have the power of His Spirit with you - the Spirit of the living God!

With a prayer, blocking out your mind and your emotions, you choose to be led by the Spirit and follow thru on what has been set in your heart. On your own, you have nothing to offer. On your own, you have no words to say. But, you are not on your own. This is a divine appointment.

You know you have the hope found in Christ to share with this heartbroken person. You must speak; and you know it. The motivation and the will are there. Now what? How do you communicate the most important message that could ever utter from your lips with time constraints? Read *Tips for Sharing* below to find out.

Tips for Sharing the Gospel Clearly

1. **Listen.** Allow them to share their burden with you.
2. **Connect.** Share a time you experienced a similar burden in your personal life.
3. **Introduce Christ.** Share that God came through for you at this time and how. He provided His peace and/or His love, displayed through others.
4. **Explain sin...** "I don't deserve His help. I mess up all the time."
Giving examples... "I have hurt others in the same way this person has hurt me."
Help them identify their own sin... "Do you know what I mean?"
5. **Explain atonement.** The Bible says that the wages of sin is death. God is just. Sin is a debt that must be paid.
6. **Describe God's love.** "He sent His sinless son for us to take on the blame for our sin. Christ paid off our debts. We no longer have to pay the debt ourselves."
7. **Explain how.** "It is a gift to be received -- not something you can buy with goodness."
8. **Invite them.** "This help, provision and peace aren't just for me. You can have this too! He loves you just as much as He loves me. You can be in heaven with a loving God for eternity, and enjoy His peace, provision and help in this life... in this situation."

Article Provided by Sarah Guldalian, Editor of Equipping Newsletter, Lutheran Hour Ministries

The Lent season can be an especially good time to invite friends, neighbors and/or co-workers to join you at church. Each Wednesday evening Lent service will be preceeded by a Soup Supper which provides a wonderful opportunity for fellowship between guests and congregational members in an informal setting. The theme of the Lent worship services is "The Good Shepherd" and is designed especially to help us prepare our hearts for the coming Easter celebrations. Why not ask one of your neighbors, co-workers or friends? This could be the most important invitation of their lives! To make this easier we have provided postcards with the entire Lent and Easter service schedule which you can simply hand out or even leave "laying about" in a prominent place. Look for these postcards by the Guest books and feel free to take as many as needed to help you with your own "**Conversations of Grace**"!

It is my prayer that we will all find many "**Conversations of Grace**" to share the joy we have as Christians in knowing that Christ has redeemed us and all believers!

Submitted by Debbie Duggan, Outreach Board

Mrs. Walker's Preschool

Thank you for your donations for the Valentine's Day party. It helped to make the party very special. Our themes for March are Spring weather, Saint Patrick's Day, the color green, and the Shamrock shape. The Jesus time stories are: Jairus' daughter, Mark 5:22-24 & 35-42; The widow of Nain, Luke 7:11-17; Jesus washes the disciples feet, John 13:5-15; The Triumphal entry, Matt.21:1-11; Jesus prays in the garden, Matt.26:36-46. We will have a Saint Patrick's Day celebration on Tuesday March 17th. If you can help by bringing party supplies, please let me know. The class will need juice boxes, shamrock cookies, Saint Patrick's Day plates and cups for the party. Your help is really appreciated. There is no school or childcare on March 10th for a teacher in-service. Spring break is March 23rd-27th, there is no school that week. Childcare is available. Please pre-register for this childcare service. If you should need to contact me, please call the school at 303-443-8477 and use extension 110 to leave a message. I will answer the calls as soon as possible.
Thank you, Kim Walker.

Mrs. Anderson's Pre Kindergarten

One day during Jesus time our class was discussing that Jesus is with us always. When we are sad, happy, hurt, feeling alone, going to the dentist, and the doctor...He is always with us and we can pray to Him at anytime...He always hears us. A little girl said, " Mrs. Anderson, today I had to get two shots...I did not throw a fit...I prayed just like you said to do and guess what? You were right it did hurt a bit but Jesus helped me be brave, I was ok!" This month we celebrate Lutheran School's Week and I am so blessed to teach in a Lutheran School and to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the children daily.

Kindergarten- Mrs. Wu

This month we will be spending a very special week celebrating the uniqueness of Lutheran Schools. Each day presents new ways for the parents and children to make the entire week special. Watch for more details! We opened a grocery store this month in our classroom. We are using real food boxes, containers and of course real money as part of our money unit. Sometimes it is just hard to tell the quarters from

the nickels. Please feel free to come by and check out the hallways and classrooms to see everything happening in the school!

Mrs. Sarr's 1st & 2nd

The first and second grades are busy as ever! We have been working on weekly book reports and will be starting to write stories. We are learning about the miracles of Jesus and how much he cares for us. We are also working on printing and cursive, multiplication and measuring, and getting ready to travel to outer space in science. We went on two field trips with the kindergarten class. The first was to tour Celestial Seasonings, and the second was to the Arvada Center to watch the play, *Just So!* We are now getting ready for National Lutheran Schools Week. The children will be presenting a poem about their love for Jesus in church on Sunday, March 8. We hope to see you there!

Food Drive- The Human Care Committee will conduct a food drive for Emergency Family Assistance Association of Boulder during the month of March.? See their website for the food needed at www.efaa.org?

There will also be a list at church.

Colleen Spahr Lynn Pflasterer

Seasoned Seniors –

Seasoned Seniors will meet for lunch on March 9 at noon. Hosts will be Irv & Nel Kroenke, who will share a short documentary film: The Life of Katie Luther. All seniors are invited. Bring a dish to share and your own table service.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Women's Book Club will meet Tuesday, March 24th at 7:00pm to discuss "The Pearl", by John Steinbeck. This book was recommended reading for a fictional family in our previous book selection, "The Christmas Pearl"!

Northern Zone LWML – On Saturday, May 2, Mt. Zion will host the Northern Zone LWML Spring Workshop. The theme is: "Those who wait on the Lord will find new

strength.” Registration is from 8:30 -9:00 am, with the workshop from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. The cost for the day will be \$7.00, payable at registration. Pastor Anderson will give a Bible study on Isaiah 40:30-31. A brunch will follow. After brunch, Bruce D. Grover, Development Officer for Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch will speak. More information will be provided closer to the event.

Ladies Night Out – Women and their friends, daughters, etc. are invited to our annual Ladies Night Out on Thursday, May 14 at 6 pm at Mt. Zion. Bob Pflasterer will provide the meal. Bradley and Michelle will sing for us. Cost will be \$10, payable at the door.

Check Out the New & Improved
www.MtZionBoulder.org !!

For those of you who enjoy “surfing the internet”, be sure and check out the “New & Improved” Website for our church & school! Go to: www.mtzionboulder.org and find a wealth of information ! You can access our Church Calendar and Newsletter by clicking on the “About Mt. Zion” button located on the Home Page, get information about upcoming LWML Events, information about the School and much, much more! Be sure and share this Website address with others who may be interested.

Help Our School Grow: Thrivent members are encouraged to increase income to the School or Preschool by 50% by contributing through the Thrivent GivingPlus program.

Individuals age 16 or older who are benefit members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, or who own Thrivent Mutual Funds accounts and/or Thrivent Life Insurance Company products are eligible to participate in the GivingPlus program. Eligible individuals can donate to two different eligible Lutheran organizations of their choice each year and have their donations matched, \$1 for each \$2 contributed.

Mt Zion Elementary School and Preschool are both eligible to receive donations and matched by the Thrivent GivingPlus program. You may make multiple donations during the year and Thrivent will match, \$1 for each \$2 contributed, up to a total contribution of \$600. Maximum Thrivent matching is \$300.

Following are the totals of your gifts and the Thrivent GivingPlus Matching Funds received in January and Calendar and Fiscal (beginning July 1, 2008) year to date as of January 31, 2009.

	<u>January</u>	<u>Calendar</u> <u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Fiscal</u> <u>Year to Date</u>
School Gifts	\$150	\$150	\$7,950
School Giving Plus	\$725	\$725	\$4,375
Preschool Gifts	\$600	\$600	\$9,700
Preschool Giving Plus	\$650	\$650	\$4,650

Thank you for supporting your Elementary School and Preschool with you gifts!