
Mt. Zion Herald

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

June 2010
303-443-4151

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

Here is a piece of advice from Mark Twain: “Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.”

The first people who saw Jesus alive after His resurrection found His reappearance difficult to believe. Jesus reprimanded them for their lack of faith, but He never belittled them. He kept meeting them, urging them to give evidence of greater faith and service. Step-by-step, He helped them grow and develop in Christian faith.

It is important to say that He changed them. They did not change themselves. He continued to promise the gift of His Spirit. By the power of His Spirit they became what they became. With that power they would bring monumental change to the whole world. With that power they would proclaim that God forgives our sins because of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross.

The change Jesus made in His followers’ lives did not make them great as the world counts greatness. But He made them great in service and witness. “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.” (Mark 16:15). They did, and became progenitors of the Christian church on earth.

I am in Christ’s Love and Service,

Pastor Allen D. Anderson

Life on the Hamster Wheel

Do you feel like you're living life on a hamster wheel? You have an established set of rules-socially, spiritually, and professionally and, aside from an occasional dose of WD40, all runs consistently, even monotonously.

Hinges are responsible for keeping a hamster wheel on a consistent track. If you're a Christian, you may assume-like I do-that God is acting as the hinges. By persistently following the same track-the same rules-you may take for granted you are doing His will. Have you stopped to consider that perhaps the rules you live by aren't God-directed but self-inflicted?

Sometimes, we are so enthusiastic about God's direction for us we hear only half of His assignment before we bolt down the path. We didn't even stick around long enough to hear our assigned destination. Once we've arrived at the end of this path-winded and exhausted-we look around and ask, "Where am I? This doesn't look quite right." If we would have stopped at our assigned destination, we might have better understood the next direction we were to take, which had us choosing the fork in the road rather than the same path the entire way.

Along the way, be sure to ask yourself, "Am I operating out of obedience to God or does fear in stepping outside of the box and my comfort zone hamper my service to Him?"

I must confess I am a creature of habit. Similar actions produce similar results so, for me, living within a set of boundaries-a range of activity, if you will-is my way of maintaining tighter control. Living this way, however, actually exposes my fear that man has more power to alter my life's course than God. If this is the case, I may need to drop the reins and remember who's in control no matter what. God holds my future in His hands. He protects me from men's schemes, and He alone is completely trustworthy and capable of doing so.

If you understand (perhaps, all too well) that sense of running on the hamster wheel until you're completely exhausted, it could be time to ask God if He has a change of direction for you.

Here's a simple prayer: "God, is my current path to follow the well-known and predictable routes I have travelled or is it time to venture in new directions? Wherever You lead, teach me to follow; wherever I go, guide me completely." Now be sure when you pray this, you're not in full stride.

"Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). Take time to catch your breath. Then wait and listen.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father,

Some of us feel tired. We've been running on our own strength for too long and feel winded. We've been trying to do what's right but in our own righteousness instead of yours. We don't even know where we went wrong; but we look around, trying to catch our breath, and say, "This doesn't look quite right."

Please forgive us for taking our own initiative rather than following your plan. Forgive us for failing to listen to your orders. Grant us renewal and refreshment. Help us hear you clearly rather than the other voices telling us what we "should" or "must" do. We once again come to a realization that we can do nothing apart from your strength. We do not have to nor can we do it on our own. We ask you to even help us loosen our grip to give it all back to you.

Thank you for your grace and mercy. Thank you for paying the price. Thank you for loving us. Thank you for forgiving us. Thank you for making your mercies new every morning to us. May your name be glorified in all that we do. In Jesus' mighty Name, Amen.

Reprinted from the Lutheran Hour Ministry, "Equipping To Share" Newsletter, 5/5/2010

Submitted by Debbie Duggan, Outreach Chair

PASTOR WILL BE OUT OF TOWN on the following dates. Saturday, June 12th, for a wedding in Estes Park. Friday & Saturday June 18th & 19th for a wedding in Rapid City, South Dakota. From June 20th until June 26th Pastor will be in Iowa. During this time there will be no Women's Bible Study on Thursday the 24th of June. Additionally, Sunday service on June 20th will NOT include Holy Communion. Communion will be celebrated on June 27th instead.

Summer Office Hours – During the months of June, July & August, Mrs. Chamberlain will be working a shortened schedule in order to spend time with her son. She will be available from 9:00am until 2:00pm Tuesday & Thursday. If you wish to contact Mrs. Chamberlain, please feel free to leave a voice message at #105 or come in to see her on those days.

ANNUAL OLDER ADULT GATHERING The 16th Annual Older Adult Gathering sponsored by the Older Adult Ministry Committee of the Rocky Mountain District-LCMS will be held September 14-16, 2010 in The Estes Park Center at the YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado. The keynote speaker is Dr. Paul Maier on "Islam & Christianity". The theme of the gathering is "Cultural Challenges for Christians". Gathering Highlights and Registration Forms of the event are available on the bulletin board in the entry for those interested in attending the event. Registration deadline is July 7,2010.

Summer Camp – Mt. Zion's summer camp will be starting June 1st and will continue until August 13th. This summer children from Toddler's through Kindergarten (completed) will be able to participate in activities designed to be educational, in addition to being lots of fun. Monday will be arts & crafts day; Tuesday will be bike Day; Wednesday will be water day; Thursday will be cooking day; and Friday will be Movie & Popcorn day. Some Themes for June will be Father's Day, Flag Day, and summer fun. The June Bible stories are: The story of the seeds by the road, Matthew 13:38; The Story of the mustard seed, Matt. 17:20; The workers in the vineyard, Matt. 20:1-16; Jesus is alive, Matt.28: 5-6. Our teachers for this summer will be Mrs. Kim Walker, Ms. Kimberly Anderson, Ms. Karen Balchunas, Mrs. Eileen Condina and Mrs. Judith Manning. It is looking like we will attain full enrollment for the summer.

Food and Personal Care Items for Emergency Family Assistance Association - In the past, we have done a spring collection for this organization. The Human Care Committee would like to establish an ongoing collection. The need certainly exists for us to do this. When you go to the store just add a few items to your cart for the poor. Being generous to the needy honors our Maker, Proverbs 14:31.
Thank you, Colleen Spahr & Lynn Pflasterer

Save in LCEF. Grow in the Gospel

When you invest in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), you provide opportunities for others to grow in the Gospel. How? LCEF is a ministry-through-investment organization that provides low-cost loans and services to LCMS churches, schools and rostered church workers. Loan dollars are made possible through the support of LCMS members who invest their money in LCEF and earn a competitive interest rate. Call LCEF today at 1-800-843-5233 or visit www.lcef.org.

