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# Mt. Zion Herald

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

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Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

Happy 2010! The New Year brings us to look at the future and what will it hold for us!? Sometimes we think: questions about finances, job, family, or health would be answered ahead of time; we would feel better prepared to face the challenges of life. Then again, worriers that we are, maybe it's better not to know what's ahead, considering the amount of time we already spend worrying about an unknown future.

When the people of Israel were anxious about their future as exiled captives in a distant land, God comforted them: "I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). Even as captives, they could live in confident faith. God had not forsaken them. He remained their God and they His people. And in seventy years He would bring them home.

We don't know what 2010 will bring, yet tomorrow, but our God does! He knows what the future will bring because He has already been there; He holds our future safely in His hands as we face the challenges/opportunities ahead. Because our future is tied to Christ ~ born, crucified, risen and ascended in the flesh ~ we are content with whatever joys and troubles we face. For we live by God's sure promise that Christ is our future and our hope, and that where He is, there we shall be also! Happy 2010!

I am in Christ Service,

Pastor Allen D. Anderson

## ***Overcoming Fear: Difficulty Starting a Faith Conversation***

Two months ago we began a series from the *Equipping Newsletter* called "Overcoming Fear." For the next few months, we will address a specific fear that has deterred us from sharing our faith so we can overcome each obstacle. We want to jump these hurdles so we feel free to share rather than allowing fear to hinder our faith sharing.

Last month we addressed the fear of being considered a hypocrite by someone close to us. This month, we will work to overcome the fear of the difficulty in starting a faith conversation.

### **Overcoming Fear: Difficulty Starting a Faith Conversation**

Do you find it difficult to transition into sharing your faith? You aren't the only one. In fact, many of us have difficulty striking up conversation in the first place. Everyday conversation is crucial to help us create a connection with a person before gaining entrance into his or her spiritual life. Don't just dive into the "Jesus talk." Because 1 Peter 3:15 tells us to share our hope, but to do so with gentleness and respect, we should first gain permission into a person's life before sharing our faith.

The most natural place to share your faith is within a relationship. If you are not fortunate enough to have years of friendship behind you, there are simple ways to build a rapport. Remember to start with pleasantries like "hello" and "how are you?" By gauging their response, or lack thereof, you can feel this person out before proceeding: Was this person receptive to deeper conversation? Or, did they barely respond to your "hello"? Based on their response, you will know to proceed with further dialogue or to move on and just pray for this person.

If this person seems receptive to conversation, use the "F.O.R.M." technique to help you strike up comfortable dialogue: family, occupation, recreation and motivation. When you ask someone about these fundamental topics, which are important to most of us, they will likely open up without hesitation. This will also allow you to learn where they are coming from. You can learn what is important to them and even their worldview.

If you have hesitated to share your faith in the past because you felt uncomfortable opening with theological discussion, you no doubt hesitated for good reason. Opening a conversation with theology would likely intimidate even a life-long Christian. Let's look at Jesus' style as a guide: Recall His conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well in John, chapter 4. He started by asking her for a drink, and then slowly led the discussion to faith. Jesus never pushed, but He let the discussion gradually turn to matters of the heart.

Generally, evangelism works best when it flows naturally out of relationships we have built by showing our care and concern for others. This can be our co-workers, neighbors, life-

long friends or even new friends. When God works through circumstances in a person's life-sometimes by a crisis-our friendship opens the door for our witness, and we only need to walk through that door. Often times, by showing we care, trust and comfort are developed, whereby that person will ask you questions about your faith. Just by living your faith in daily life, you will be given opportunities to share.

### **Thought of the Day**

**"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, [a] Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." - Isaiah 9:6**

### **Tips for Sharing**

*The purpose of community outreach is not so that others will view you as a good person. It is to point to Christ and give glory to God.*

**When asked why you are doing something nice for them, lead into sharing the Gospel by saying, "God gives us a free gift of a Savior. We want to give you a free gift as a reminder."**

**Then, invite them to learn more**

- **by meeting you for coffee.**
- **by attending a Christmas service with your family.**

### **Prayer**

**Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for sending Your Son to this world to die on our behalf so that we may spend eternal life with You in glory. We pray that Christmas 2009 is life-changing for many. Please use us to make a meaningful impact on the world around us. Help us accomplish Your work as we go out to make disciples of all nations. Show us how to reach the people in our communities. Direct our hands and feet. Provide us with the energy, resources and assistance we need to accomplish Your work. Use us to connect others to Your Son. In Jesus' powerful Name we pray and ask all these things, Amen**

**Provided by Sarah Guldalian, Editor Coordinator,  
Equipping to Share Newsletter with Lutheran Hour Ministry**

**Submitted by Debbie Duggan, Outreach Chair**

***Out with the old year and in with the new!***

Every year it seems like on New Year's Eve we are kissing the old rotten year good bye and ready for the new one to come in with optimism and hope for the future. Then another year rolls by and it is the same old thing. Kiss the old rotten year goodbye and ready for the new one to come in with optimism and hope for the future. So why aren't we ever content with "last year"? It seems we are never content with anything. As a child we say, "if I were only a teenager". As a teen we say, "if only I were an adult". Then, as an aging adult, we say, "I wish I were young again"!

Contentment is a virtue that is very difficult to grasp but scripture can help us greet the New Year with plenty of optimism and enthusiasm!  
First Timothy 6:6-10

Serving God does make us very rich, if we are satisfied with what we have. We brought nothing into the world, so we can take nothing out. But, if we have food and clothes, we will be satisfied with that. Those who want to become rich bring temptation to themselves and are caught in a trap. They want many foolish and harmful things that ruin and destroy people. The love of money causes all kinds of evil. Some people have left the faith, because they wanted to get more money, but they have caused themselves much sorrow.

Philippians 4:6-7, 11-13

Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need. Always giving thanks. And God's peace, which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and mind in Christ Jesus. I have learned to be satisfied with the things I have and with everything that happens. I know how to live when I am poor and I know how to live when I have plenty. I have learned the secret of being happy at any time in everything that happens. I can do all things through Christ Jesus, because he gives me strength.

Yours in Christ,  
*Duane Duggan,*  
Elder

### **Lutheran Family Services Fundraising Concert**

On Friday, February 26 at 8 pm Amy Grant will be in concert at The Paramount Theatre, 1621 Glenarm Place, Denver, 80202. Tickets to this fundraising event may be purchased at [www.lfsc.org](http://www.lfsc.org), 1.866.461.6556 or at the Paramount Box Office, Pepsi

Center or Dick's Sporting Good's Park. Ticket Prices range from \$40 to \$150. There are limited tickets available for \$150 which also includes a dessert reception with Amy Grant.

### **WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB**

The Women's Book Club will meet Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. The book selection for this month is "The Last Lecture," by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Gaslow. Randy Pausch was a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon, when he was asked to give a "last" lecture. Having been diagnosed with terminal cancer, it truly was a last lecture. It focused, however, not on dying, but on how to embrace living to the fullest and "seizing every moment." Trying to tell his whole life story in an hour lecture was a challenge, but evidently a huge success. The book, of course, rounds out his life experiences and gives examples of the wisdom he had gained.

### **LWML Valentine Luncheon**

All women are invited to the luncheon on Saturday, February 6 at Mt. Zion. Bring a salad to share. Lunch will be served at noon. We will do the "*Heart*" Matters: a Look at Mary Bible study from the Winter 2009 *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. We will be preparing Valentines with gift cards for our college students and young adults. Bring your Mite boxes

### **Toddler Class – Ms. Balchunas**

The toddlers had a very busy, fun-filled December. We enjoyed listening to non-stop Christmas music and we read books about baby Jesus. We loved walking to the Chapel and looking at the nativity scene (we tried very hard not to touch!). Most of all we couldn't wait to spend our first Christmas (that we may always remember) with our loving families. One of our toddlers will be graduating to Ms. Anderson's preschool class in January. And we have a new toddler joining us, so we continue to have our hands full. Happy New Year!

### **Mrs. Walker's Preschool - 3**

Happy New Year!!

The children's Christmas party was a very special day. In January, the 3 year old preschool class is looking forward to learning more about winter, snow and pequins. The Bible stories we will explore are;

**The Wise men visit Jesus, Matthew 2:1-12,  
Simion and Anna, Luke 2:21:33,  
God protects His Son, Matthew 2:13-18,  
Jesus in the temple Luke 2: 41-52.**

**Kindergarten- Mrs. Wu**

**Although Christmas may be over for the world it is never over for us at Mt. Zion!  
We continue to learn about what it means that God gave us this great gift! Although  
December has been very snowy, in January we will be looking at the season of winter,  
exploring through science and social studies, how God makes winter wonderful!  
Happy and Blessed New Year!**

**Hi from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Mrs. Sarr**

**Happy New Year! Wow, it is already the year 2010! Where has the time gone? Our  
class is back from Christmas Break ready to start the last half of the school year. We  
will be busy learning about what happened in the New Testament. We will be  
studying the miracles of Jesus and learning more about His death and resurrection.  
We will be starting new topics in other areas of our curriculum such as sound, light,  
and weather in science, communities of the past and communities around the world  
in social studies, new concepts in math, and of course we will continue to learn more  
about the different phonics rules we have in reading and spelling. It is wonderful  
how God gives us a new year and new beginnings.**

***Thrivent GivingPlus is ending December 31, 2009 and will be replaced by  
Thrivent Choice in the spring of 2010. Please do not delay giving your  
contribution to the School or Preschool through the ThriventGivingPlus program.***

**Thrivent has created a GivingPlus phase-out funding plan to organizations that  
participated in 2008 and/or 2009 and have received \$2500 or more annually from  
Thrivent. Both our School and Preschool meet this requirement. Between January  
15 and June 30, 2010 Mt Zion can apply for a one time “challenge grant” for up to**

**20% of our annual average gifts. To qualify we will need to raise twice the challenge grant amount through personal contributions. We will be contacted by January 15 with additional information about how to obtain the phase-out funding.**

**Additional Thrivent Choice program details are given on a separate page in the Herald.**

**Following are the totals of your gifts and the Thrivent GivingPlus Matching Funds received in November and Calendar and Fiscal (beginning July 1) year to date as of November 30, 2009.**

	<u>October</u>	<u>Calendar</u> <u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Fiscal</u> <u>Year to Date</u>
School Gifts	\$900	\$9,250	\$6,100
School Giving Plus	\$450	\$5,850	\$3,600
Preschool Gifts	\$1,130	\$12,930	\$5,930
Preschool Giving Plus	\$290	\$6,840	\$2,815

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