
Mt. Zion Herald

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center
1680 Balsam Avenue, Boulder, Colorado

February, 2012
303.443.4151

Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8am-12pm – Wednesday 9am-1pm

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus;

In John's Gospel chapter 15, verse 13(spoken by Jesus on the Thursday evening before He dies) "Greater love has no one than this; that someone lays down his life for his friends." This is a wonderful verse for it speaks of greater love.

As we enter into February many people (may-be you) think that Valentine's Day is the most romantic day of the year. Why? Because on Valentine's you are **expected** to be romantic. If you are not then you will be in trouble with your "sweet heart".

Allow me to present another picture of "Valentine's". The problem today (there are many) is the world hopelessly confuses love and romance. Love is not about flowers, chocolate (which I personally enjoy) and nice feelings. It is actually about hard work and serving. Love is taming your bad habits daily and putting others first; even when you don't want to. It's setting aside what you want in favor of what's best for others. That's the love that strengthens relationships.

That love is tough to sustain, because sin makes us naturally selfish, and selfish people don't naturally want to love by serving with hard work. We want others to serve us. That's why we give thanks for Jesus' love for us. Rather than sending condolences for our sin, He did the hard work of laying down His life for His friends – US – even while we were still His enemies (Romans 5:8)! His love, His service to us is our salvation. Greater Love...blessings everyday!

I am...

In Christ's Love and Service,

Pastor Allen D. Anderson

Lenten Series

“The Last Words of Christ from the Cross”

Wednesday, February 22nd

ASH WEDNESDAY

Text: Luke 23:34

*Theme: “Father Forgive Them
For They Know Not What They Do”*

Wednesday, February 29th

Text: Luke 23:43

Theme: “Today You Will Be With Me In Paradise”

Wednesday, March 7th

Text: John 19:26-27

Theme: “Here Is Your Son, Here Is Your Mother”

Wednesday, March 14th

Text: Mark 15:33-34

Theme: “My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?”

Wednesday, March 21st

Text: John 19:28

Theme: “I Thirst”

Wednesday, March 28th

Text: John 19:30

Theme: “It Is Finished”



All mid-week services during Lent are held at 7:00pm. On each of the six Wednesday services there will be soup suppers for everyone in the fellowship room starting at 6:00pm - 6:50pm. Please look for the sign up sheet if you wish to provide suppers.

Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Palm Sunday, Easter.....What's it all about?

Wow! We just put away the Christmas decorations and the Easter Season is approaching. It seems like it comes faster every year. Many of us have celebrated more Easters than we may want to think about! But how often have we really thought about what we are celebrating. I thought this would be a great time to sit back and reflect on "why" we celebrate, so that your upcoming Easter celebration will have a truly special value to you this year.

The Lent season kicks off with Ash Wednesday, which is always 40 days prior to Easter, but not counting Sundays as part of the 40. The Sundays are skipped because they commemorate the Resurrection.

Some churches practice the "rubbing of ashes on the forehead" in the sign of a cross onto the worshiper. This custom comes from 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1; Job 2:8, Daniel 9:3 and Mathew 11:21.

In most churches, the decorations are purple, the royal color, to prepare for the King!

For most Christians, Lent is a time for soul searching and repentance, and reflection. By observing The forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for 40 days.

Mardi Gras, or the last day, before Ash Wednesday, became a last fling before the solemnity of Lent. For hundreds of years, it was a custom to fast by abstaining from meat during the Lenten season. The Mardi Gras was called a Carnival, which in Latin means farewell to meat!

The word "Lent" isn't in the Bible. Hmmmmm. So where did the word come from? Originally, "Lent" was the English name of the season between winter and summer. The church observance took place during lent. In England, "Lent" came to

mean the observance rather the season. Instead of saying "Lent happens during Lent", English speaking people invented the word "spring".

Holy Week starts with Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday marks the celebration of the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, the week before his death and resurrection. The Bible says that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds greeted him by waiving palm branches and covering his path with palm branches. The account of Palm Sunday is found in Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, Matthew 21:1-11, and John 12:12-19.

Next is Maundy Thursday. This is the commemoration of the Last Supper when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. During the meal, Jesus took bread and wine and asked his Father to bless it. The events recorded in Luke 22:19-20 describes the last supper and forms the basis for communion.

So what does "Maundy" mean? It is derived from the Latin word "mandatum", meaning "commandment". Maundy refers to the commands Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Supper: To love with humility by serving one another and to remember his sacrifice.

Good Friday is the Friday before Easter Sunday. Good Friday is the day we commemorate the passion, or suffering, and death on the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We spend this day in prayer and repentance, reflecting on the agony and suffering of Christ on the cross.

According to Mark 8:31, Jesus knew that he was going to die. "Then Jesus began to tell them that He, the Son of Man, would suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the leaders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, and three days later he would rise again."

Through his death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus paid the penalty for sin, thus purchasing for all who believe in him, eternal life in Christ Jesus.

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the RESURRECTION of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Have a meaningful Lenten Season and a joyful Easter!

Duane Duggan
Elder

About Mission U

MISSION U is Lutheran Hour Ministries' new witnessing-training program designed to provide lay people with the tools and training needed to confidently accept their mission of sharing Jesus Christ with unique people in diverse settings.

MISSION U provides a number of course options addressing topics that meet your congregation's specific witnessing-training needs. By participating in **MISSION U** courses, congregations will gain tools that sharpen their witnessing methods and enhance their outreach to people of all ages and backgrounds.

The style and format of **MISSION U** mirrors a 21st-century university classroom. Flexible and ongoing, it offers personal training from speakers and additional instruction via the Web.

At MISSION U the focus is equipping you -- God's chosen ambassador -- to carry His message of hope and salvation into a world urgently in need of good news.

Special Speaker Series

The **Special Speaker Series** is a series of monthly Webinars featuring an expert speaker in a particular area of evangelism or outreach. He or she will provide in-depth training on sharing the Gospel within a certain cultural or social context or to a specific group.

This live, interactive training webinar provides viewers with ample time to ask specific questions of the special speaker. It is available to both **MISSION U** students and to visitors at no cost.

Please join us here Saturdays monthly from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.MDT to access future Webinars.

How do I enter the Webinar?

The morning of a Webinar, you will see, "Login to view the Training Webinar," at the bottom of this screen. Select this. If you have already registered, please enter your username and password.

If you have not yet registered, you will be directed to a registration page. Once you have registered, you may use this username and password to join us each month.

Once your username and password have been entered, you will be directed to the Webinar link, allowing you access to the Webinar. Questions?

Email missionu@lhm.org.

Upcoming Special Speaker Series seminars:

2/4/2012: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. CDT

Rural and Small Town Community Outreach Strategies

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan, Rural & Small Town Mission

Many rural and small town congregations have little hope and fail to see outreach opportunities where they are. This webinar will help participants to consider the importance of understanding their community and identifying specific community needs for outreach. The webinar will also challenge the participants to consider new or forgotten resources that congregations have for engaging their communities.

3/10/2012 :: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. CDT

Missional Outreach

Speaker: Reverend David Haberer, Church For All Nations

You can also view Previous Speakers by going to: www.whatsmissionu.com

Click on the “Monthly Webinars” button and then scroll down to the links for the various Speaker Topics from prior months. Here is a list of Archived Webinars available currently:

December 2011: [A Mission Trip to Our Own Neighborhood](#) Greg Finke

November 2011: [Church as the Community Center](#) Rev. Dave Haberer

October 2011: [Mighty Warriors: Seeking & Saving the Lost](#) Dr. Micah Parker

August 2011: [Connect with Young Adults](#) Jessica Bordeleau

June 2011: [Activating Men for Spiritual Leadership](#) Rich Cohrs, Lutheran Hour Ministries

May 2011: [Christianity is Life! Reclaiming Vocation](#) Professor Anthony Cook, Concordia Seminary

April 2011: [Generously Sowing Seeds of Hope](#) Tina Jaison, DCO Southeastern District

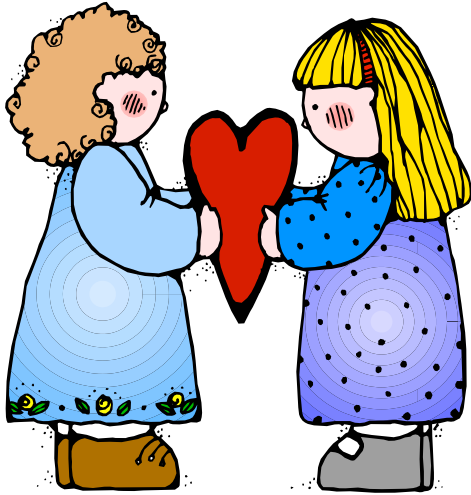
March 2011: [Bridging the Gap with the Entertainment Industry](#) featuring guest Actor Jordan Reinwald and Musicians from *An Epic, No Less*



Women's Valentine Luncheon – The date has been changed from February 11 to February 18. The luncheon begins at noon at Mt. Zion. Bring a salad to share. Mt. Hope women have been invited. Our charity for this meeting is Boulder Homeless Shelter. Copies of their wish list are on the bulletin board.

One-Day Seminar for Mature Adults – Sponsored by the Older Adult Ministry Committee of the Rocky Mountain District. Saturday, February 11th at 9:00am at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lakewood. The topics and presenters were found to be extremely interesting and educational by the 98 seniors that attended last year. Information & registration forms are on the table in the fellowship hall.

Mt. Zion Lutheran Preschool



Happy February! Valentines Day is a big day for little kids, even big kids. It's not just this one day of love, but love is what Mt. Zion is all about! Sharing the love of Jesus with each and every child, every day. Love that is so great He gave his one and only son for each and every one of us. We, as teachers, know how blessed we are to be able to talk about God in this place.

Thank you members of Mt. Zion, for making this possible. Thank you for your love and support. Thank you for keeping us in your daily prayers!

Mrs. Walker's Preschool 3 - This month's themes are Valentine's Day and Presidents Day. We will have our class Valentine Party on Thursday February 16th, as Thursday is the day; all the children in the class are here. This month's Bible stories are: Jesus is Baptized, Luke 3:21-22; Jesus chooses 12 disciples, Matthew 3: 13-19; Zaccheus, Luke 19: 1-10; Jesus feeds 5000, John 6:1-15; Jesus walks on water, John 6:16-21.

Mrs. Anderson' Prekindergarten

There's a little groundhog furry and brown
He's coming up to look around
If he sees his shadow
Down he'll go
Then six more weeks of winter...oh no!

Happy
Groundhog Day!



We are sure hoping the ground hog doesn't see his shadow. The prekers are very ready for spring. This month is full of activities. Valentine's Day, President's Day, (Learning about George Washington's false teeth is always great fun) going to the Arvada Center to see the theater production, How I became a Pirate. This will be so much fun! ARGH!