



ZION STAFF

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"WHY DO LENT?"

REV. JOHN P. GROSS

The question is a good one. Why do Lent? On Wednesday, February 22, we begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a season of 40 days before Easter (*Sundays are not included in the 40 days*).

Not all Christian churches acknowledge the season of Lent in the church year. Some believe it is too much of a downer and that the Christian church should only focus on the joy of Christ. We need to center on the joy that Christ brings us, yet that joy is only found through the process of the Christian life and faith. The realization that even when we are in the midst of suffering and pain, we still have the joy of our Savior. We are not always going to feel joyful and happy. We know that isn't reality. We also know with confidence that our faith isn't something that is based on how we feel from one moment to the next. If this was the case, we would not have any need for Jesus. I have heard it said that it's as though we were there carrying the cross with Christ. That's it! That is the reason we go through the season of Lent.

The world tells us that the purpose of life is to seek joy, and when things don't go well that we can pull ourselves up by our own boot straps. Yet, I cannot help but ask, "Why doesn't it work?" Why am I constantly doing the things that I know do not please God?" The distressing fact is that many Christian churches are adopting the same "feel good" theology and leaving out the

Highlights this issue

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reality that many times in our life we must endure hardships.

This is why we do Lent, so that we are reminded of the reality of our Christian life. That even in our daily emotional and spiritual roller coaster, "**Christ died for the ungodly**". Christ's death did not feel good, yet in that single act He took upon himself the sin of the world. What did He do with all of that sin and pain? He took it to the grave where He buried it forever.

The church year is like a snapshot in every believer's life. In Lent we focus on our condition and our inability to fix the spiritual problem in each of our lives. We go with Christ to the cross where He was crucified and murdered. We feel as close as we ever will to what He felt. This feeling was not good, but it needed to take place to remedy the sickness of sin in each of our lives.

Yes, there will always be the season of Lent, but we must never forget there will always be an Easter where the resurrection of Jesus Christ makes us new and alive with hope, forgiveness, and salvation.



Birthdays

- 01 Pamela Learn
- 03 Anna Neben
- 07 Sandra Funk
- 07 Hal Tune
- 12 Chris Haase
- 13 Karl Haeuser
- 15 Jack Humphrey
- 16 Jaiden Camp
- 18 Bee Zimmer

Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family the Church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.

Most people believe that money brings happiness, so they always want more of it. But money does not bring happiness. Money and the things that money can buy do not produce the good life. The good life is found in a relationship with Jesus and in using what God has given us to build His kingdom. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we will hold the things of this world loosely and focus on things that are eternal.



GREETERS

- 2/5 Tom and Dawn Jones
- 2/12 Karl and Helen Haeuser
- 2/19 David and Kari Knutson
- 2/26 Carol Howard and Mary Anholm

CHANCEL GUILD MEMBERS

Carol Howard, Grace Arndt

HARVEST BAG VOLUNTEERS

Helma Smulders, Rae Wulff, Leo Wulff, Pat Wood, John Kock, Barbara Souza, Betty Kock, Frank Wood, Kay Folta, Margaret Schoening, Elmer Meier, Elaine Eppert, Michelle Mason, Students from Mission Prep High School

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Grace Arndt, Elaine Eppert, Glenn Weitkum
Carol Howard (*our new proof reader*)

YOUR ELDER BOARD

James Polk, Gary Reif,
(5) Roger Randall, (19) Jeff Tolle, Bob Hux
February Duty Elder:: James Polk

OFFERING COUNTERS

Maria Burt, Ginny Randall, Marcia Fischbeck, Elaine Eppert, Ruth Halsey, Frank & Pat Wood, Robert & Corinne Wobrock, Annette Gibbs
Ed & Linda Steinbeck, Val Wente,

USHERS

8:00am **Bernie Luoma, Elmer Meier**
10:30am

Team 1: **Wilbur Neben**, David & Kari
2/5 Knutson, Jack Humphrey

Team 2: **Gus Keyser**, Gene Hewitt,
2/12 Karl Haeuser, John Miller

Team 3: **Elmer Meier**, Ernest Cementina
2/19 Al Rybar, Glenn Weitkum,

Team 4: **Derek Valine**, Karen Valine,
Robert Hux

Team 5: **Nathan Klammer**, college students
2/26

WORSHIP STATISTICS

DATE	8:00	10:30	GENERAL OFFERING
1/1	31	83	\$6721
1/8	46	118	\$5037
1/15	37	103	\$4974
1/22	33	86	\$3371

READERS

2/12	8am	Marcia Fischbeck
	10:30am	Lucy King
2/26	8am	Janet de la Motte
	10:30am	Tom Jones



God's Perfect Gift

During February we'll be celebrating Valentine's Day. This is a big occasion for card companies like Hallmark. Hallmark's slogan is, "When you care enough to send the best, send a Hallmark." God cared enough to send His best, but it wasn't just a card or even a messenger. Motivated by love for us, He sent His Son, not only the best, but the perfect gift (John 3:16). Let us seek to emulate God's love by giving our very best.

Happy Anniversary

- 01 Robert & Phyllis Hux 61th
- 07 Hal & Barbara Tune 44th
- 08 Bill & Joanie Brown 19th
- 29 David & Carolyn Radecki 24th

President's Letter



PRESIDENT'S LETTER JANUARY 2012

As your President Elect who has yet to preside over his first Board of Directors meeting, I feel a bit awkward writing this

first letter, which I'm told is one of my monthly duties. So here goes---

I hope that each of you who celebrated the Advent and Christmas season at Zion had a meaningful and special experience. Our Advent suppers and services and the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services were all well attended.

The "Soup and Service" series began with a chili cook-off (yet another culinary defeat for Pastor) and culminated in the lively, musical, and entertaining "Joy of Bethlehem" featuring our children and young people directed by Lynne Oliverius.

Attendance at the Christmas Eve and Day services totaled 275 with nearly 170 at the 7PM Christmas Eve service. I like to think that our radio spots and ads in the TRIBUNE were at least partly responsible for this turnout. Thanks to Pastor Gross and Tom Jones!

I look forward to my duties at Zion in 2012 with optimism, hope, and faith. There is much about which to be encouraged. The past year Zion has experienced an influx of new members. Just as impressive as the numbers is how these folks have "hit

the ground running". Several have already taken jobs on the Boards of Directors and Elders. Others have gotten involved in worship services as readers, ushers, and members of the choir. Still others have helped out with hospitality (fellowship) and joined Bible studies and Cottage groups.

As the result of the sale of the Barranca property in 2010 and some generous bequests, Zion enjoys a healthy financial balance sheet. We are also "living within our means" with our current fiscal year budget. Trying to see that we continue on this track will be one of my priorities. Stewardship is not only the willing giving of our Time, Talent, and Treasure. It is also the deployment of those "3Ts" prayerfully, effectively, and responsibly.

Our College Group has been operating more or less on a self-directed basis for the past few months with Pastor providing much of the support and attention. I believe the Congregation and the Board of Directors should continue to find ways to engage and involve these young people so they feel an important part of our faith community. The Board will be discussing this at our January meeting.

I look forward to serving Zion.
Happy New Year and Peace be with you

- John Miller



The Evangelism Team is looking for a few more members. If you have a passion for sharing the Gospel or would like to learn more about spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ, please join us. Our meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 4:15 (just before the Board of Directors meeting). We meet in the little room inside the church office.

Susan Polk, Team Leader
549-9141 or susan@susanpolk.com



Adult Bible Class
9:15AM-10:15AM

Pre-Confirmation
9:20AM-10:20AM

Middle Elementary
9:30 - 10:15AM

K-2 Elementary
10:30 AM





**Thursday February 23
1:00p.m.
Fellowship Hall**

Call Karen Reif for more information

CAL POLY
SAN LUIS OBISPO

**The Cal Poly Choirs
present...
"If Music Be the Food
of Love" as this year's
Winter Concert**

**Saturday, February 25 at
8 p.m., in Cohan Center**

Conducted by Music Professor Thomas Davies, PolyPhonics and The University Singers will be joined by student soloists.

The subject of 'music and love' has existed since the beginning of musical composition. The Cal Poly Choirs will highlight this partnership in a program of works by such greats as George Frederick Handel, Felix Mendelssohn, Claude Debussy, and Benjamin Britten, as well as music by contemporary celebrated composers Morten Lauridsen, Imant Raminsh, David Dickau and Stephen Chatman.

A new work by Music Professor Meredith Brammeier titled "In Commendation of Music," after a poem by William Strode, will have its world premiere.

"O come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation."
Psalm 95:1

The Adult Choir is rehearsing on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 in classroom 1. We are learning new songs for the Lenten season and look forward to raising our united voices in songs of praise at services. The choir is open to all members and non-members at Zion. There is absolutely no audition! Your willingness to participate and join our joyful group of singers is the only audition needed. Contact interim director, Lynne Oliverius at lynne@zionslo.com, talk to me at church or just show up for rehearsals. We are accompanied by Teresa Rapp from our CalPoly GIGS group and she is a wonderful asset to our choir. We are a very welcoming joy-filled group and look forward to sharing our praises on Feb. 26 at services. On Wednesday we welcomed new choir members Maria Burt and Helma Cementina. They have dubbed themselves the "blenders" and we are so happy they have joined us. They do indeed blend very well with the ensemble.



Top Ten Reasons to Join the Adult Choir

The Adult Choir, led by interim director Lynne Oliverius, is rehearsing each Wednesday at 5:30-6:30pm preparing for Sunday Worship. If you have thought about joining, allow me to provide the top ten reasons why you should.

10. Statistics show that the front of the church building is the safest in the event of a natural disaster.
 9. You recently were selected for jury duty and want to see what it feels like sitting with a group of people.
 8. It's just like American Idol, but for God, and we let you stay.
 7. You have front row seats and there's still a lot of padding in the pews up front. They're almost like new.
 6. Pastor Gross is relatively new to us and you want to be close by in case he says something heretical in his sermon.
 5. You will always have a great, reserved seat for Christmas and Easter.
 4. If God gave you a good voice, raise your voice and praise him. If he gave you a bad voice, raise your voice even louder and get even.
 3. When Pastor Gross starts preaching to the choir, he'll be preaching to you.
 2. In heaven, you will know all the words to the songs.
- And the number one reason to join the Zion Adult Choir:
1. The offering plate is never to be passed to the choir.



“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests...always keep on praying.” Ephesians 6:18

Our children’s choir is looking forward to singing 2 songs at the February 12 church service. Each week we learn music techniques such as dynamics, tempo terms, conducting, pitch matching and music note reading and rhythm skills to help us become very good musicians as we sing our praises. We have also focused our classes on prayer. At each class a new type of prayer is introduced and used throughout the class time. Our favorites so far include food: the pretzel prayer and the popcorn prayer. This opportunity for the children to gather each week is about so much more than music. Music is the vehicle that is utilized to bring the message of the risen Christ to the children and their parents who often stay and observe our class time. We now have 11 children attending, ages 5-12 and our new assistant, Jennifer Baltimore. Please contact Lynne at lynne@zionslo.com if you know of others that might like to attend our class that meets on Weds. at 4-5pm in classroom 1.



As a fellow brother or sister in Christ, continue to pray for the strengthening of this ministry that others may be brought to salvation through Christ alone.



January Board of Directors minutes, board reports are now available in the Narthex. You can go on-line to our website to read, download, or print the electronic version of the ZioNews.

Dear Members of Zion,

Pam and I would like to thank the congregation for having all the windows replaced in the parsonage. The final six were installed last week. We are warmer, feel more secure, and hear very little noise from the outside,

Thank you for taking care of our family.

In Christ,
Pastor and Pam



LWML Lutheran Women's Missionary League

ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS!!!

Yes, 100,000.00 is the amount the LWML has gifted to missions all over the world in the nearly 70 years of existence. Amazing! It is indeed amazing what our Lord has done with our mite offerings of pennies, dollars and checks in all amounts. It is amazing to think of the lives these offerings have touched with the love of Jesus. You have been a part of these gifts through your offerings and your prayers. As you place your gifts in your mite box, please pray for our mission grants. God will answer and bless your offerings and the grant recipients as only He can.

P.R.A.Y.E.R.

This is the theme of the Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, February 25 in the Parish Hall. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 A.M. to 8:45 A.M. The Prayer service of meditation, prayer and hymns will follow at 9:15 A.M. Please RSVP to Lucy King, 438-3508 or Dawn Jones, 541-1450 if you are planning to come for breakfast.

MITE BOX SUNDAY

is always the last Sunday of the month. Please grab a box in the Narthex and fill with your spare change. Pray for the Mite projects, that God would use our gifts to lead many to saving faith in Christ.



A CLOSER LOOK
**THE BOOK OF
ROMANS**

Tuesdays at 10:00am,
CR1

Join us as we explore Paul's letter to the Christian Church in Rome. The primary theme in this study is the basic Gospel message, God's plan of Salvation and Righteousness for all mankind, Jew and Gentile alike. Romans is the most comprehensive and systematic statement of the Christian faith in the Bible. Join us as we grow together in the Good News of Jesus. The class meets each Tuesday morning at 10 am in Room 1.



Ladies Lunch

DATE: Tuesday, 28th
PLACE: Apple Farm
TIME: 11:30 a.m.

If you need more information, or reserve a spot, please call Margaret Schoening at 543-5005



THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Proclaiming Christ since 1930

Sundays at 7:00am at FM104.9 & FM90.7

Speaker Emeritus:
Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Sermon Schedule

Speaker:
Rev. Gregory Seltz

February 5

"God Is Faithful. Get Busy And Wait On The Lord"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
We can wait on God-joyfully, expectantly, hopefully-because we can trust Him.
(Isaiah 40:28-31)

February 12

"You Can't Muzzle True Joy"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
Joy is rooted in a relationship with God. You can't muzzle joy when that joy is connected to Jesus.
(Mark 1:40-45)

February 19

"A Resurrection Glimpse to Empower Your Faith"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
Can you fathom what it means that it required the sacrifice of God's own Son in order that you might live, forgiven and redeemed?
(Mark 9:2-11)

February 26

"Repent"

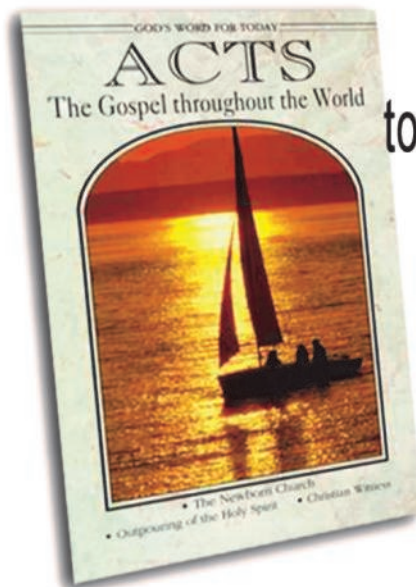
Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour:
Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus



LUTHERAN
HOUR
MINISTRIES

People Of Christ With A Message Of Hope

NEW SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY



Examine the events that testify to the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through the church, gathering, equipping, so that all might receive God's gift of eternal life.

9:15A.M. in Classroom 1



FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>“RETURN TO THE LORD YOUR GOD, FOR HE IS GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL, SLOW TO ANGER, AND ABOUNDING IN STEADFAST LOVE;” <i>Joel 2</i></p>			<p>1 9:30a-11:30a Harvest Bag . 4p “All God’s Children Sing” 5:30p Adult Choir rehearsal, CR1</p>	<p>2 3:30p –4:30p Confirmation Class, Office</p>	<p>3 5:30p GIGS, CR2</p>	<p>4 11:30a Baby Shower at the parsonage for Ra- chel & Adriane</p>	
<p>5 8a Divine Service 9:15a Adult Bible School 10:30a Divine Service 10:30a Sunday School K-6 *Fellowship is served after serv.</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 10:00a Book of Romans Bible Study CR1</p>	<p>8 9:30a-11:30a Harvest Bag . 4p “All God’s Children Sing” 5:30p Adult Choir rehearsal, CR1</p>	<p>9 3:30p –4:30p Confirmation Class, Office</p>	<p>10 5:30p GIGS, CR2</p>	<p>11 10:00a LWML</p>	
<p>12 8a Divine Service 9:15a Adult Bible School 10:30a Divine Service 10:30a Sunday School K-6 *Fellowship is served after serv. 1:30p Square Dance Club, FH</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 10:00a Book of Romans Bible Study CR1</p>	<p>15 9:30a-11:30a Harvest Bag . 4p “All God’s Children Sing” 5:30p Adult Choir rehearsal, CR1</p>	<p>16 3:30p –4:30p Confirmation Class, Office</p>	<p>17 5:30p GIGS, CR2</p>	<p>18</p>	
<p>19 8a Divine Service- Communion No Adult Bible School 10:30a Divine Service-Communion No Sunday School K-6 *Fellowship is served after services</p>	<p>20 Zionews Deadline</p>	<p>21 10:00a Book of Romans Bible Study CR1 4:15p Evang. Mtg. 5:30p Board of Directors Mtg.</p>	<p>22 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30a-11:30a Harvest Bag . 12:00p Lent Service 4p “All God’s Children Sing” 5:30p Adult Choir rehearsal, CR1 6:15p Soup Supper Lent service to Follow</p>	<p>23 1:00p Bunco 3:30p –4:30p Confirmation Class, Office</p>	<p>24 5:30p GIGS, CR2</p>	<p>25 8:00a Prayer Breakfast, FH</p>	
<p>26 MITE BOX SUNDAY 8a Divine Service 9:15a Adult Bible School 10:30a Divine Service 10:30a Sunday School K-6 *Fellowship is served after serv. 1:30p Square Dance Club, FH</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 10:00a Book of Romans Bible Study CR1 11:30a Ladies Lunch At Apple Farm</p>	<p>29 9:30a-11:30a Harvest Bag . 4p “All God’s Children Sing” 5:30p Adult Choir rehearsal, CR1 6:15p Lent Service</p>	<p>Zionews Deadline For March newsletter Is February 20</p>			



Each Wednesday in Lent there will be a soup supper before worship.
The meal will be served beginning at 6:15p.m.,
with the service to follow in the Sanctuary.
Come and eat , stay for worship
The season begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22



MISSION STATEMENT MUSTANG LUTHERAN STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

To bring Cuesta and Cal Poly students into a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior, and to provide a Lutheran Christian growth environment for students from Zion and sister congregations through:

- ⌋ Christian growth training and leadership opportunities
- ⌋ Outreach Events
- ⌋ A closer personal relationship with Zion members
- ⌋ An active student group with a strong sense of group spirit and cohesiveness
- ⌋ Participation as adults in Zion's congregation and community activities

OUR PROGRAM

Worship Services: Sundays, 8:00a.m. & 10:30a.m.

Sunday Adult Bible Study: 9:15a.m. (Check the site for other Bible study opportunities)

GIGS (Growing in God's Spirit) a student lead Bible study and dialog with Pastor Gross meets weekly on Fridays at 5p.m. with Pizza in College Room. Small Group Fellowship follows GIGS.

Large Group Gatherings once a month. Enjoy a home cooked meal and short program and activity.

Home-made cookies to take home! (See website for dates and times.)



Zionews February 2012

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