



ZION NEWS April 2011

A Publication of Zion Lutheran Church SLO, CA

No Fear...In Christ!

Many people enjoy taking trips out of state and out of the country. In the past I too have enjoyed travel. The most recent "Big" vacation our family went on was to Costa Rica. We stayed in a lodge deep in the jungles of that beautiful country. There was one drawback to this lifelong family trip, I had to fly to get there. That's right, your pastor is afraid of flying. I'm not alone in my fear of flying and rightfully so. Here you have an airplane weighing about 10 tons, and about the size of a football field and it's up 35,000 feet in the air and what would you expect to happen?

My fear was very obvious as we flew back into the States. Lillian was sitting next to me as we were landing, as my hand was gripping the arm rest, Lily took my hand in her's and suddenly I noticed that I was Ok.

We all have fears. And many of these fears just need to be

faced and over come. I say this because I will probably, someday have to fly again. But there is one fear that, on our own, we can never overcome. It is the fear of death. Oh, we may not say we are afraid, but we aren't presently faced with its reality. The fear of death goes much deeper than simply saying, "*It is just the fear of the unknown*". It is a known fact that when someone dies, they aren't with us on earth anymore.

Death is the last vestige of sin we face. But now what we must always remember according to the Psalmist is, "**Yea, though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death**" Death isn't real to us; death is simply a shadow to the believer. It is nothing but a veil we need to go through. Our reassurance and hope is that Christ has gone on before us. In His death and resurrection he has defeated death itself. And through our earthly, physical death we join Christ in everlasting life. It is this reality that gives every Christian confidence daily.

I'm sure the next time I fly, when the plane is up in the air I can open a book and read and begin to relax, but once the "fasten seatbelt" sign comes on and turbulence is present I will drop my book, my hands will grip firmly the arm rest and I will start trying to figure out what's wrong.

In Christ, when we are faced with the reality of death in our life or the life of a loved one, we simply recall these words from Revelation;

"He placed his right hand on me, saying 'Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever, and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.'"

Rev. 1:17b-18.



Pastor John Gross

MID-WEEK SCHEDULE

April 6	Supper: 6:15pm
	Service: 7:00pm
April 13:	Supper: 6:15pm
	Service: 7:00pm

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday	8:00a	10:30a
Maundy Thursday		7:00p
Good Friday	12:00p	7:00p
Easter	6:00a	8:00a
		10:30a

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.

Those who served in March

GREETERS:

Ed & Linda Steinbeck, Tom & Dawn Jones
Dwayne & Shirley Head, Dale & Betty Struve

CHANCEL GUILD MEMBERS:

Margaret Schoening, Sandi Funk

HARVEST BAG VOLUNTEERS

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

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Grace Arndt, Elaine Eppert
Dolly Luoma, Glenn Weitkum.

OFFERING COUNTERS

Barbara Almstedt, Maria Burt, Ginny Randall
Marcia Fischbeck, Dawn Dawes-Lassanske
Elaine Eppert, Ruth Halsey, Bob Hux,
Frank & Pat Wood, Robert & Corinne Wobrock

LESSON READERS FOR APRIL

8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

April 10: Marcia Fischbeck Julie Tarango
April 24: Derek Valine Ed Steinbeck

YOUR ELDER BOARD

Roger Randall, Gary Reif
Glenn Weitkum, Jeff Tolle, Bob Hux

USHERS

8:00 a.m.

Bernie Luoma, Elmer Meier

10:30 a.m.

- Team 1: **Wilbur Neben**,
David & Kari Knutson
Team 2: **Gus Keyser**, Gene Hewitt,
Karl Haeuser, John Miller
Team 3: **Elmer Meier**, Al Rybar,
Glenn Weitkum, Dale Struve
Team 4: **Derek Valine**, Karen Valine,
Charles Gibbs, Robert Hux
Team 5: **Dana Baker**, College students

GOD'S BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

Worship Attendance & General Offerings for Feb 27 -March 20

DATE	8:00a	10:30a	General Offering
02/27	42	109	\$3,469
03/06	39	95	\$6,898
Ash Wed. 03/09	30	53	\$973
03/13	32	92	\$3,212
Lent 3/16	—	45	\$315
03/20	31	94	\$3,996

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|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 01 | Marilyn Rybar | 17 | Gail Lafferty |
| 05 | Gus Keyser | 21 | Wallace Burt |
| 07 | Glenn Weitkum | 23 | Shirley Weitkum |
| 10 | Janet de la Motte | 27 | Marge Bosco |
| 10 | Marc Tarango | 27 | Eric Reif |
| 13 | Bernie Luoma | 28 | Rebecca Hennings |
| 17 | Gene Hewitt | 28 | James May |
| | | 30 | Gerhardt Riedel |

New Member Welcome Sunday



Pam Learn receives the waters of Baptism

- Bonnie Deringer
- Jim and Lori Guelker
- Chris Haase
- Andy Klittich
- Pam Learn
- Lynne Oliverius
- David and Carolyn
- Doretta Takagi



Welcome!



As we begin our journey into Holy Week you are invited to a prayer breakfast on Saturday, April 16. Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30am to 9:30am with a one hour prayer service beginning at 9:45am. The theme for the prayer service is "Being with Jesus Living on the Edge," based on Acts 4:13b & 20... "and they realized they had been with Jesus." "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Please RSVP by signing the sheet in the Parish Hall or calling Lucy King at 438-3508 April 14.



The Joy of Reading book club gets together this month on Friday, April 22, at 10:00am. The book will be "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," by Betty Smith. If you would like more info, call Shirley Weitkum at 544-3869



"Teddy, in the original, the word porridge has several different meanings."

We are in need of volunteers to serve Sunday mornings for fellowship time after services. The sign up book is in the Fellowship Hall with open dates listed.



The new March board meeting minutes and report packets are now available in the Narthex.

WANTED

Donors for Hymnals.
Because of increased attendance at services we need to purchase additional hymnals. They can be bought for \$23 each. They can be given as a memorial if desired. Any one wishing to donate a new hymnal(s) can contact Vito by phone or e-mail and he will order them and place a dedicatory sticker in the hymnals as they arrive.

Vacation Bible School meeting, Sunday, April 10, at 11:30, in Classroom #1, making plans for the upcoming VBS beginning June 20th,



Deadline for using 2010 Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are a **Benefit Member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans** and have not yet designated your 2010 Thrivent Choice Dollars, the **Deadline is March 31st**. If you want to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Zion or another worthy cause,

you can call Thrivent and do so. These dollars do not roll over, you cannot use them later.

- 1) Call **1-800-847-4836** and when prompted say "**Thrivent Choice**"
- 2) When prompted say "**Choice Dollars**"
- 3) Say or enter your Social Security Number
- 4) **Press 1** to Direct Dollars or **Press 2** to hear the Thrivent Choice program terms and conditions.
- 5) A representative will then work with you to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars.

You can also do it on line by visiting www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

MARCH 2011

BY GINNY RANDALL

Here are some updates on the new opportunities for ministry that we may have. San Luis Obispo Christian School made a presentation to the Board of Directors on February 15 asking to rent some of our classrooms. A committee to investigate the matter was formed with Susan Polk as chair and members of the Facility Usage Committee as members, namely Tom Jones, John Miller and Charlie Gibbs. At the same February Board of Directors meeting, Bob Wobrock talked about the possible opportunity of partnering with Bethesda Lutheran Homes and erecting a home for developmentally disabled individuals on the back 40. Another committee consisting of Bob Wobrock as chair and Roger Randall and Pastor Gross as committee members was formed to pursue this matter further. Both committees will be making presentations at the March Board of Directors meeting.

Attendance at both the early and late services has increased. At the late service we have sometimes run out of bulletins and are really singing out the hymns. My impression was that we have more attendees and this proved correct. I got the attendance statistics from Vito and since October 10, we have been averaging 31 people at the early service and 95 people at the late service. In the five months before this, from May 2 to October 3, we averaged 24 people at the first service and 83 people at the late service. There are several new members who have already become involved in service to our church. Please be sure to introduce yourself and get to know them.

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Pastor Molnar's mother, Mary. Several of our members attended her funeral service at the Lutheran church in Paso Robles on Friday, February 25.

There are several opportunities for you to get involved in service to our church. Under the direction of the Board of Stewardship, there will be an organized program going soon. Be on the lookout for it and volunteer wherever you feel you can serve.

Reason vs. Revelation

“What Luther Says”

Let no one presume to deal with God on the basis of his own ideas. He should stick to the Word; he will not make a good beginning with his reason. Reason must confess against its will that this matter is above its reach. . . . It is as if I wanted to touch heaven with my finger or obscure and darken the sun with my hand. This would certainly be impossible and a fool-ish undertaking. Therefore let us not be equal to God or wiser than He in our speculations; but let us submit completely to Him. For this reason those who strive to know God by the use of their reason are very gross, great fools. To the Word we should cling; we should wrap our-selves in it as a child is wrapped in its diapers. . . . Labor and effort enough are required to hold our own when we simply stay with the Word. What will happen when a person flutters about in confusion with his reason and thoughts? If we had been able to hit upon saving truth with our reason, it would not have been nec-essary for God to speak from heaven, to let the Word ring out, and to enclose and bind everything in the Word. Apart from His divine Word, God has given no other means whereby Christ is to be heard.

(“What Luther Says” Vol.3 page 390)

Synod commits \$200,000 for two Japan churches

The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod is making available an initial \$200,000 to two Lutheran church bodies in Japan, to be used as they decide for disaster relief after the historic March 11 magnitude-9.0 earthquake and tsunami that resulting rising death tolls and billions of dollars in destruction.

At present, Japanese officials estimate that the final death count will top 10,000. Many thousands have been injured and searches continue for survivors and those still missing.

LCMS President Rev. Matthew C. Harrison announced the funding from LCMS World Relief and Human Care (WR-HC) in a March 14 video message which may be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnwo4k340HQ>.

He noted that the situation in Japan is "worsening," with scores of aftershocks and the second hydrogen explosion in three days-- on March 14 -- at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, near the quake's epicenter along the northeast Japan coast. Harrison said that LCMS workers in proximity to the nuclear plants and elsewhere in Japan are reported to be safe.

The two church bodies designated for the WR-HC emergency funding are the Japan Lutheran Church -- the Synod partner church-- and the West Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, which operates Kobe Lutheran Theological Seminary in Kobe along with other church organizations. The president of that seminary is Dr. Makito Masaki, brother of Dr. Naomichi Masaki, associate professor of systematic theology at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne.

In the video, Harrison also said that LCMS mission and relief personnel are ready to "be on the ground with our partners" in Japan, when invited by Japanese Lutheran partners to help them reach out to their neighbors in need.



Harrison

He added that Rev. John Mehl, Asia regional director for LCMS World Mission, and Darin Storkson, WR-HC regional director in Asia, would monitor developments and remain in close contact with Lutherans in Japan to determine the best course of action to help.

"We will be with our partners [there] a long, long time," Harrison said. "It is our sacred duty" to strengthen the capacity of Lutheran partners to reach out at such times of need, said Harrison, who called on LCMS members to donate monetary gifts for Japan relief through WR-HC.

"We know especially that these circumstances allow us to demonstrate love to our partners in another place in the world," he said. "And as we do so, we'll learn from them the challenges of being among the 1 percent Christian minority in a non-Christian context."



STR/AFP/Getty Images
A tsunami-damaged house in Minamisoma city, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, on March 12. LCMS President Rev. Matthew C. Harrison is asking Synod members to pray for — and donate to relief efforts for — Japan.

Continuing each Wednesday in Lent different groups of our Parish have been hosting a light supper before worship. The meal is being served beginning at 6:15p.m. Come and eat, then stay for worship. The hosts for April are:



April 6— Fellowship

April 13— Elders

Let Marilyn Rybar know if you can help



Studying
God's Word
GALATIANS

Join our class on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in CR#1.

A LONGER LOOK AT THE LESSONS

At 9:15am each Sunday morning Mel de la Motte teaches an Adult Bible Class



Sunday Morning
Adult Study

which spends time on the Bible passages designated for that Sunday.

Come join us in classroom 1.

April 2011



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Adult Bible Class 9:15AM-10:15AM Pre-Confirmation 9:20AM-10:20AM Nursery & Elementary 10:30 AM		All newsletter information must be into the office no later the 3rd Monday of the month.					1 5:30p GIGS	2 11:00a Choir rehearsal
3 8a Divine Service- Communion 9:15a Adult Bible School 10:30a Divine Service-Communion 10:30a Sunday School K-6 *Fellowship is served after services	4	5 10:00a Galatians Bible study CR1	6 7:30a-12:00p Harvest Bag . 6:15p Lenten Supper 7:00p Lent Svc	7 3:30p Confirmation Class, Pastor's office	8 5:30p GIGS	9 11:00a Choir Rehearsal		
10 8a Divine Service 9:15a Adult Bible School 10:30a Divine Service 10:30a Sunday School K-6 *Fellowship is served after serv. 11:30a Elders meeting, Office 11:30a VBS mtg, CR#1 1:30p Square Dance Club, FH	11	12 9:30a Winkel No Galatians Bible study 3:30p Evang. Mtg.	13 7:30a-12:00p Harvest Bag . 6:15p Lenten Supper 7:00p Lent Svc	14 12:00 LWML, FH 3:30p Last Confirmation Class	15 5:30p GIGS	16 8:30a Prayer Breakfast, FH 11:00a Choir rehearsal		
17 Palm Sunday 8a Divine Service- Communion 9:15a Adult Bible School 10:30a Divine Service-Communion 10:30a Sunday School K-6 *Fellowship is served after services Welcoming new college students	18	19 10:00a Galatians Bible study CR1 5:30p Board of Directors Mtg.	20 7:30a-12:00p Harvest Bag .	21 7:00p EAA mtg., CR1 7:00p Maundy Thursday Svc	22 GOOD FRIDAY 10:00a Joy of Reading book club 12p & 7:00p Good Friday Services	23 11:00a Choir rehearsal		
24 Easter Sunday 6a Sunrise Service (@ the Villa) 8a Divine Service-Communion 9:15a Adult Bible School 10:30a Divine Service-Communion 10:30a Sunday School K-6 Easter Egg Hunt after services *Fellowship is served after serv.	25	26 10:00a Galatians Bible study CR1	27 7:30a-12:00p Harvest Bag .	28 1:00p Bunco FH.	29 5:30p GIGS	30 11:00a Choir rehearsal		

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... 1 Peter 1:3(NIV)

Pastor: John P. Gross
 Cong. President: Ginny Randall
 772-5883



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 Pastor: revjgross@zionslo.com
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ZION STAFF

Rev. John P. Gross, Pastor

Administrative Assistant

Vito Biondo

Organist

Doretta Takagi

Pianist

Lynne Oliverius

Choir Director

Paul Takagi

Spring Summer 2011 Term College Events

- **Fri. Evenings** - 5:30 pm **GIGS & Food** every Fri.
- **Sun. 17 Apr.** 10:30 Celebration Church service & activities to welcome Parents & future incoming Cal Poly students
- **Fri. 13 May.** Festive Dinner & Activities
- **Fri. 20 May - 22 Sun.** Yosemite Camping Trip.
- **Thur. 2 June** Festive Dinner
- **Mon. 6 June- 10 June** Exam Week
- **Sat. 11 June** Graduation

VARIOUS spontaneously planned events, & service opportunities at: www.zionslo.com

• ***Be sure to stay tuned by joining our group's email & Face book list;***

Contact: Dana at dbaker01@calpoly.edu or

• **Fill out one of our information cards at the church**

• Services at 8 and 10:30 on Sundays.

• **Welcome: Come & find out all about our GIGS Fellowship nights**

a student lead Bible study with dialog with pastor and follow-on activities.

BIBLE WORD SEARCH-JOHN CHAPTER NINE

P	H	E	N	D	T	H	G	I	L	C	D	C	G	T	I
W	H	R	L	S	E	T	O	U	M	E	O	N	L	R	I
M	O	T	I	T	E	S	L	I	E	H	I	M	E	A	W
B	A	R	A	T	T	W	S	R	W	Y	W	H	E	H	Y
O	H	O	H	B	R	I	G	A	A	O	T	R	E	T	P
C	O	G	L	D	B	A	P	S	P	E	R	N	M	R	H
O	I	T	N	I	T	A	E	S	H	B	C	K	A	Y	T
N	A	I	M	E	S	X	S	W	A	E	M	I	S	E	R
C	L	I	A	F	N	F	P	N	O	O	S	O	D	T	I
B	Y	C	L	E	B	A	E	M	E	E	P	L	E	S	B
G	H	S	K	A	R	K	R	D	C	I	R	E	O	L	D
E	R	O	H	E	T	E	O	E	E	O	T	D	N	E	N
T	P	O	N	A	T	S	F	G	W	H	E	H	R	E	L
S	H	T	U	S	L	I	E	G	F	G	S	A	E	O	D
N	S	O	A	N	I	G	B	E	N	A	E	A	O	R	H
E	H	M	U	T	D	K	C	B	A	F	B	P	W	E	K

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| AGREED | PARENTS |
| BEFORE | PASSED |
| BEGGED | POOL |
| BIRTH | PRAISE |
| BLIND | SABBATH |
| BORN | SAYING |
| CHRIST | SILOAM |
| CLAY | SPITTLE |
| COMETH | SPOKEN |
| FEARED | TEACH |
| GROUND | THOU |
| LIGHT | WASHED |
| MASTER | WHENCE |
| NEITHER | WHETHER |
| NIGHT | WORKS |
| OPENED | WORLD |

