

Zionews

A Monthly Publication of Zion Lutheran Church, SLO CA

A Simple Invitation

Have you made any New Years resolutions for 2011? Maybe it is to watch a little closer what you eat, or maybe be on a more regimented exercise program. These are probably the most popular resolutions, but how would you like to make a resolution that won't only have positive effects in your life but in the lives of those around you?

I have a suggestion for all of us for 2011. Be resolved in 2011 to invite a neighbor or a friend to a church event. The ultimate goal would be to bring someone to worship with you, where they can be exposed to God's rejuvenating Word. Even though this is the goal for everyone you bring to Zion Lutheran, it may not be his or her initial contact with us. Everyone is so very different and coming from different backgrounds. Someone you know may be looking for a Lutheran church home and certainly the first event you want to invite them to is worship, but other people may have never stepped inside the front door of a church. They may need a less intimidating

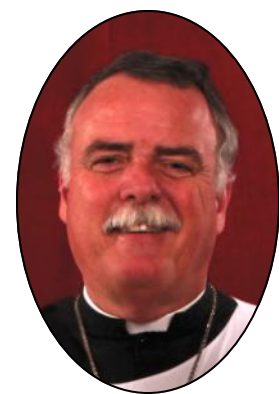
entry into the church. There are many entry points at Zion Lutheran, a lot of people are looking for community, they are looking for friendship and fellowship in an impersonal world and may not even know their need to be in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

When you stop to think of all the entry points someone could make an initial contact into our church life it is truly amazing. Since I've been at Zion I've noticed a number; the Oktoberfest, The college Thanksgiving dinner, the Women's Christmas Party, Cottages meetings in members homes, decorating the trees and the church for Christmas; soup suppers on Wednesdays during Advent; in January the Fish Bowl and the list goes on in 2011. There will be a lot of entry points into the life of the congregation with the eventual goal of the visitor being a part of the body of Christ in regular worship.

Paul's words to the church at Corinth apply to our congregation working with those in our lives who are unchurched and have no knowledge of Christ our redeemer;

"I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the Gospel." I Cor. 9

The salvation of souls is the purpose of the Christian church and we can never lose sight of this glorious task. God wants all to be saved and to continue to come to his house of worship to hear the message of hope and salvation and there he gives each of us an opportunity to respond to this Good News.



Pastor John P. Gross

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 December

GREETERS:

Gene & Liz Hewitt, Tom & Dawn Jones, Charles & Annette Gibbs, Karl & Helen Haeuser

CHANCEL GUILD MEMBERS: December

Vicki Hoffner, Kari Knutson, Elaine Eppert

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.

YOUR ELDER BOARD

Roger Randall, Charles Gibbs, John Miller, Gary Reif, Glenn Weitkum

OFFERING COUNTERS

Barbara Almstedt, Maria Burt, Elaine Eppert, Leo Wulff, Marcia Fischbeck, Ruth Halsey, Bob Hux, Ginny Randall, Pat Wood, Frank Wood

USHERS (10:30 a.m. Service)

- 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

- 03 Janet Burt
- 03 Norma Fauset
- 05 Romelle Humphrey
- 06 Annette Gibbs
- 08 Betty Struve
- 12 Lucy King
- 15 Ellen Keyser
- 15 Margaret Schoening



- 15 Barbara Tune
- 16 Ryan Griggs
- 18 Damon Randall
- 21 Eric Morgan
- 22 Faye Hanna
- 24 Susan Polk
- 28 John Edgecombe
- 29 Joanie Brown

NEW MEMBER'S WELCOME



Sunday, December 12, 2010, We welcomed several new members into the congregation. We are so very glad to have them with us, and welcome them to our church family. Those new members are Jack and Romelle Humphrey, Dwayne and Shirley Head, Pastor Gross, Lily and Pam Gross, Marilou Guelker, Lucy King, Julie and Michelle Tarango, Gloria Brown, Ed and Linda Steinbeck, Jim and Susan Polk. We look forward to getting to know them better.



**A few cherubs of Zion
grace the chancel
area during the
Christmas Program
on December 5th**

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

DECEMBER 2010

BY GINNY RANDALL

Yay! Escrow closed on the Barranca property on November 18 and the money, a little over \$358,000 was directly deposited in our account at Union Bank. Since then, Miriam Ziel has made some withdrawals to pay back our bridge loan and to have a cushion for us in a Lutheran Extension Fund Account. At the December 14 Board of Directors Meeting, a big topic of discussion will be how to invest this money long term.

The officers, board chairs and elders for 2011 were elected at the December 5 Voter's Meeting. They are: Ginny Randall, President; Charles Burt, Vice President; Eric Morgan, Secretary; Miriam Ziel, Treasurer; Frank Wood, Finance; Charlie Gibbs, Property Management; Mel and Janet de la Motte, Stewardship; Joanie Brown, Parish Education/Youth; Marilyn Rybar, Parish Fellowship; Kay Folta, Evangelism; and elders Jeff Tolle, Bob Hux and Glenn Weitkum.

The Thanksgiving Eve service was the perfect way to begin the next day's holiday. Be sure to take advantage of all the soup suppers and noontime advent services during the month of December. Another first - we are going to have a late night Christmas Eve candlelight service in addition to the 7:00 p.m. service.

The LWML Christmas party, held on December 4, was a very enjoyable event for all who attended. The potluck was delicious, the songs were stirring, and the presents were entertaining.

On December 5, besides the Voter's Assembly, the Sunday School Christmas program was held with participation from all grade levels from elementary school through college. It was great! Also as a special treat on that Sunday, we were invited to the Gross household for a blessing of the parsonage and delicious cookies.

On Sunday, December 12, 15 new members (in addition to pastor and his family) joined our church. They are: Dwayne and Shirley Head, Jack and Romelle Humphrey, Lucy King, James and Susan Polk, Ed and Linda Steinbeck, Raul, Julie and Michelle Tarango, Lynda Newsom, Gloria Brown, and Marilou Guelker. WELCOME! Also, Paul Takagi announced that the choir will resume again in January.

Progress toward other goals is as follows:

Renovation of Back 40 - This is still on hold until we are on a firmer financial footing.

Establishment of Library - Shirley Weitkum discussed the library with Pastor Gross and it was decided that we will have a library featuring other media besides books, specifically movies and CD's. Recording pastor's sermons for the shut-ins, having movies and CD's suitable for both children and older people available, and having a comfortable room to read books or listen to

movies or CD's are among the goals of the library committee.

Outreach to the Recently Retired - There are a number of new members joining our church on December 12. Be sure to get to know them and include them in our activities as soon as possible.

A Supported Inclusive Sunday School - I talked with our daughter, Jill, who has a master's degree in Special Education and has worked extensively with children with autism. She is willing to train workers. We will work toward this in the future.

An Updated Safety and Risk Management Program - Charles Burt is still working on this.

Success in Recruiting a New Pastor - This has been accomplished.

Updating the Website - This has been accomplished.

Publicity for the Church - There will be advertising featuring our Christmas Eve and advent services.

2011 Board of Directors

President _____	Ginny Randall
Vice-President _____	Charles Burt
Secretary _____	Eric Morgan
Treasurer _____	Miriam Ziel
Property Management _____	Charlie Gibbs
Fellowship _____	Marilyn Rybar
Stewardship _____	Mel & Janet de la Motte
Evangelism _____	Kay Folta
Parish Education _____	Joanie Brown
Finance _____	Frank Wood

2011 Board of Elders

Bob Hux
 Roger Randall
 Gary Reif
 Jeff Tolle
 Glenn Weitkum

THE DE LA MOTTE'S ANNUAL FISH BOWL

You're Invited!

SAVE THIS DATE &
ENJOY THE FUN
SUNDAY, JANUARY 30
5:00pm



For more information, please call the de la Mottes at 544-3947



PEOPLE WHOSE LAST NAME BEGINS WITH
A-M BRING A SIDEDISH
N-Z BRING A DESSERT



JANUARY 30, 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall



The Joy of Reading book club gets together this month on Friday, January 28 at a new time: 10:00am.

The book being discussed will be *Mistress of the Art of Death* by Arianna Franklin.

This month's presenter is John Millerl.

If you would like more info, call Shirley Weitkum at 544-3869



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT**DECEMBER 2010**

Many projects have been completed in order to maintain the Zion Property over the last six months. Many people have been of service in accomplishing these many tasks. I assumed the chairmanship earlier this year for Leonard Lammi so he can take of his mom, Mildred. Keep him and her in your prayers.

This year has been filled with many challenges. We moved the Zion business office to classroom three in order to facilitate the Gross Family in the parsonage. With the Grace of God we had funds from the Margaroli Memorial and a bridge loan of \$30,000.00 from a member(s). This made it possible to make the conversion basically seamless. As outlined in the Treasurer's Report, line items of different expenses are accounted for. The bridge loan has been repaid with interest prior to the due date with the sale of the Barranca Property.

Here is an abbreviated list of projects completed:

Electrical repairs and upgrades both in the parsonage and classroom three. Toma Electric was contracted to complete needed items of concern. There is still a need for other electric issues to be completed like moving access to fan and light control in fellowship hall. Security lighting for classroom and office area and also parking lot near fellowship hall.

Plumbing issues have been numerous as the old drainage system had and still has some issues to be addressed. A new main from the kitchen end of the parsonage was implemented. The north end of the parsonage needs attention ASAP. Smee plumbing was used and will continue to be used as needed. Help from Charles Burt and I did much of the digging in order to save money for the main drain repairs.

Other projects completed include the fence behind parsonage under the leadership of Tom Jones, along with the assistance of Richard Zeal and others members. New blinds, painting and reconditioning of wood floors in parsonage were completed with the generosity of Janet de la Motte, the Almstead's and others. Thank you so much!

Just a note in conclusion: Mr. Glenn Weitkum, Mr. Tom Jones and Leonard Lammi have been especially helpful to Zion's property being in good shape. Give 'em a pat on the back when you see them. Also, I thank and praise God for my wellness in order to be of service to Him, you and our beloved church.

In Peace and respect, this is my submission,

Charles B Gibbs

Calling All Choir Members - Past, Present, and Future...



Zion's Chancel Choir has been on a short hiatus,
but we're ready to start up again with the New Year!



Please come and meet your new choir director, Paul Takagi.

Paul is eager to get acquainted with you,
& would like to hear your ideas, vision, etc., for the choir.

We plan to meet over coffee & cookies on:

Date: Saturday, January 8th

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Zion Sanctuary (or Fellowship Hall?)

If you love to sing, this choir is for you!



Stewardship Corner

The new year brings with it new resolve, but so often that resolve fades before the first week is ended. The apostle Paul advised the Corinthians, "*Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means*" (2 Corinthians 8:10,11). By ourselves, we grow tired or get bored or just plain lazy. Let us ask the Lord to give us the desire to give generously, to serve joyfully, and to expend our time eagerly in response to what God has given to us and done for us.

JANUARY 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"
(2 Corinthians 5:17) **1 HAPPY NEW YEAR**

<p>2 8a Divine Service- Choir-Communion 9:15a Adult Bible School 9:30a Teen Club 10:30a Divine Service- Choir-Communion Children's Christmas Program 10:30a Sunday School K-6 *Fellowship is served after serv. Voters Assembly following late service</p>	<p>3 Office closed</p>	<p>4 7:00p Square Dance Class</p>	<p>5 7:30a-12:30p Harvest Bag .</p>	<p>6 3:30p Confirmation Class, Pastor's office</p>	<p>7 5:30p GIGS</p>	<p>8</p>
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<p>9 8a Divine Service 9:15a Adult Bible School 9:30a Teen Club 10:30a Divine Service 10:30a Sunday School K-6 1:30p Square Dance Club, FH *Fellowship is served after serv.</p>	<p>10 Office closed</p>	<p>11 3:30p Ev. Mtg. 7:00p Square Dance Class</p>	<p>12 7:30a-12:30p Harvest Bag .</p>	<p>13 12:00 LWML, FH Bring your lunch</p>	<p>14 College Ski Retreat → 8-3pm SLO County Foster Care trng, FH</p>	<p>15</p>
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<p>16 8a Divine Service- Communion 9:15a Adult Bible School 9:30a Teen Club 10:30a Divine Service-Communion 10:30a Sunday School K-6 *Fellowship is served after services</p>	<p>17 Students return from retreat Office closed</p>	<p>18 5:30p Board of Dir 7:00p Square Dance Class</p>	<p>19 7:30a-12:30p Harvest Bag .</p>	<p>20 7:00p EAA mtg., CR1</p>	<p>21 5:30p GIGS</p>	<p>22</p>
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<p>23 8a Divine Service-Choir 9:15a Adult Bible School 9:30a Teen Club 10:30a Divine Service-Choir 10:30a Sunday School K-6 1:30p Square Dance Club, FH *Fellowship is served after services</p>	<p>24 Office closed</p>	<p>25 7:00p Square Dance Class</p>	<p>26 7:30a-12:30p Harvest Bag .</p>	<p>27 1:00p Bunco FH.</p>	<p>28 5:30p GIGS</p>	<p>29</p>
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<p>30 Mite Box Sunday 8a Divine Service 9:15a Adult Bible School 9:30a Teen Club 10:30a Divine Service 10:30a Sunday School K-6 *Fellowship is served after serv. 5:00p de la Motte Fish Bowl, FH</p>	<p>31 Office closed</p>	<p>Deadline for the February 2011 newsletter is be Friday, January 20. The deadline for the Sunday bulletin on Wednesdays.</p>	<p>Adult Bible Study 9:15AM-10:15AM Pre-Confirmation 9:20AM-10:20AM Teen Club 9:30AM-10:15AM Nursery & Elementary 10:30 AM</p>
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<p>Pastor: John P. Gross Congregational President: Ginny Randall 772-5883</p>	<p>We're on the Web NEWLY UPDATED www.zionslo.com</p>	<p>Phone: 805-543-8327 Fax: 805-543-8331 Office email: zion@zionslo.com Pastor: revjpgross@zionslo.com Website: http://www.zionslo.com</p>
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Office e-mail: zion@zionslo.com

ZION STAFF

Rev. John P. Gross, Pastor

Administrative Assistant

Vito Biondo

Organist

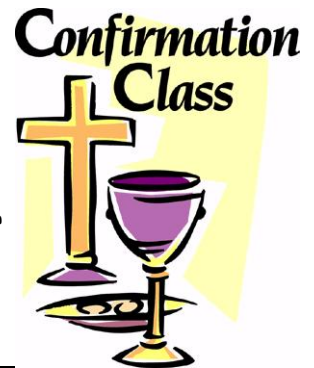
Doretta Takagi

Winter/Spring 2010-2011 Term events

- **Jan Fri. 14-Mon. 17 Ski Retreat Shaver Lake**
 - **Fri. Evenings - 5:30 pm GIGS & Food every Fri.**
 - **Fri. Feb TBD. 6:00pm Progressive dinner at congregational homes.**
 - **Thur10 Mar. . Festive Dinner**
 - **Mar. 14-18 Exam week.**
 - **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**
- 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.



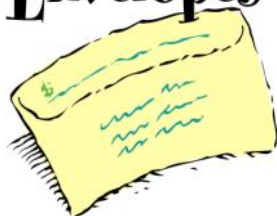
Youth Confirmation classes are held each Thursday, at 3:30, in Reverend Gross' office of the church. They run for one hour. Please call 543-8327, to register for this class.



Bunco circle starts again in the Fellowship Hall at 1p.m. on Thursday, January 27th.

2010 year-end Giving statements will be available for pick-up beginning Sunday, January 16 after services. If you need yours mailed directly to you, please call the church office let us know.

Offering Envelopes



The 2011 offering envelopes are now in the Fellowship Hall after services for members to pick up.