



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE HERALD – FEBRUARY 2016

We are a congregation that strives to be an inviting, faithful, and growing presence in our community and in our world, with a passion for living and spreading the love of Jesus Christ by using our spiritual and material gifts in the service of all God's people

Feb 07	10:00 :am	TRANSFIGURATION	Worship (Peter's Confession)
Feb 08	7:00 pm	COUNCIL	
Feb 10	7:00 pm	ASH WEDNESDAY	Worship (Passion Prediction)
Feb 14	10:00 am	LENT 1 (COUNCIL INSTALLATION)	Worship (Rich Man called to sell all and follow Jesus)
Feb 21	10:00 am	LENT 2	Worship (Bartimaeus Healed)
Feb 28	10:00 am	LENT 3	Worship (Parable of the Tenants)
Mar 06	10:00 am	LENT 4	Worship (Great Commandment)
Mar 13	10:00 am	LENT 5	Worship (End of the Age)
Mar 20	10:00 am	PALM SUNDAY	Worship (Triumphant Entry)
Mar 24	7:00 pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY	Worship (Lord's Supper)
Mar 25	10:00 am	GOOD FRIDAY	Worship (Crucifixion)
Mar 27	10:00 am	EASTER SUNDAY	Worship (Resurrection)

2016 Zion Council

Nick Beck Wayne McCracken Mickford Durgana
Ginette McCracken Alethia McIntosh Ed Strath
(Officers will be elected at Feb. 8 Council Meeting)

Non-Council Positions

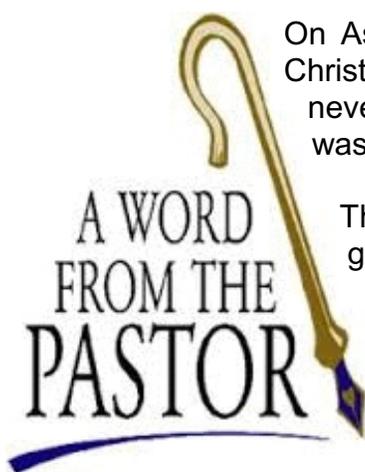
Ingrid Beck (Treasurer) Brian Cartwright (Recording Secretary)

COUNCIL NEWS

Our Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, January 31. The final piece of our Constitution was approved as requested by Synod Council. We had to change our quorum for congregational meetings from 8 to 10. We also removed one of the bylaws - it was redundant as it was already part of one of the articles of the constitution.

Jason Durgana, who served a full term on council, did not stand for a second term. We thanked him for his dedication and contribution as our Council Secretary for the past year. Mickford Durgana stepped up to the plate to fill the one vacant position on council. According to our constitution, we need a minimum of six council members. Our Council Officers will be elected at our February meeting.

If anyone who was unable to attend the meeting would like a copy of the Annual Report, please let the pastor know and you will be provided with a copy. Thank you all for your support.



On Ash Wednesday, a woman asked her pastor, “Why Lent? Why should Christians observe a season called Lent?” She was a longtime Christian, but had never before taken part in any Lenten observance, since most of her life she was a member of churches that did not “do” Lent.

The topic of Lent brings up the whole topic of the “church calendar” in general—the yearly cycle of seasons shared by most Christians throughout the world (Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and many Protestants). But, if it is not in the Bible, why use it?

It is helpful to remember first of all that Lent is just as much a part of the church calendar as are Christmas and Easter. Even many churches who do not use of the rest of the church calendar celebrate Christmas and Easter. At Christmas we celebrate God’s incarnation in Jesus Christ to save us, and at Easter we celebrate the victory that comes by Jesus Christ’s resurrection. The celebrations of Easter and Christmas convey the focal messages of the Christian faith. They provide a crucial focus for us as disciples of Jesus, and put the whole church all on the same page. Still, why add Lent into the mix?

Thomas Aquinas, the 13th century Christian preacher and theologian, liked to say, *omnis Christi actio nostra est instructio*—“every action of Christ is for our instruction.” To grow into maturity as disciples of Jesus requires that we attend to the whole life of Jesus, not only to his birth and resurrection. Through Jesus’ whole life among us, God is working to save, to heal, to teach us, to redeem creation.

The season of Lent is a season of preparation for Easter. During Lent we remember that important part of Jesus’ life when he dwelt fasting in the desert for forty days, and was tempted by the devil. Jesus is victorious over temptation.

And late in Lent, during Holy Week and especially on Good Friday, we remember Jesus’ suffering and death. The day is so much brighter when we have been through the darkness. To see the light of Jesus Christ’s resurrection on Easter, we have to acknowledge the suffering of his execution that precedes it.

In Lent, we are attentive to the parts of Jesus' life—his self control, his patience, his faithfulness even in suffering—that we hope to gain as his disciples. A yearly observance of Lent is helpful in this respect.

Many people give up something during Lent. But in our culture, fixated on self-improvement as we are, this can result in a big misunderstanding: we start (even if only in the back of our minds) to think of a Lenten fast in terms of a diet! But Lent is not New Year's Resolutions Round Two! Lent is not about us! Lent is about Jesus Christ.

In Lent we might give up something, do a specific prayer discipline, or change something to push ourselves spiritually. But the point is not self-improvement. The point is not even just self-denial which is actually the setting aside of our own interests in order to discern God's interest. The point is to feel a little discomfort, a little pain, and by that to be constantly reminded of the love of our Savior Jesus Christ, who denied himself, that is gave up his own interests, or made the intentional choice to face the cross for our salvation.

If you observe Lent with prayer and fasting, use that prayer and fasting first of all to remember Jesus. If Lent is not about getting to know Jesus Christ better, it really is a waste of time.

THE OLIVE BRANCH - OUR FAMILY IN TANZANIA

It won't be long now before Deborah arrives for her annual visit. We originally scheduled her to speak at Zion on March 27 - she arrives the evening of March 26. Upon discussing her schedule with Ginette, we moved Deborah's official visit to April 24. We are hoping to see her, Putiyei and our adorable Serianne for Easter breakfast and service.

As always, this is a busy time for Deborah - so many churches to visit - so many presentations and fundraisers. The 11th Annual Gala will be held on Friday, April 15 at the Bellvue Manor. It is a wonderful fun evening and we encourage you to come and invite your friends to join you for a great time. See the pastor or Ginette McCracken for tickets.

On March 12, the Beck family is holding the 2nd Annual Curling Bonspiel fundraiser for the Olive Branch. Even if you have never curled before, there is an opportunity to get a lesson before the competition begins. Speak to Ingrid Beck if you would like to buy a ticket. This will be a Matching Fund event sponsored by FaithLife Financial.

Update From Tanzania

The Olive Branch for Children Outreach Programs cover more than 40 different communities, with a total of over 65,000 inhabitants. Our incredible Outreach Managerial Team are from these communities and are doing absolutely amazing work on the ground supporting other Outreach staff and implementing programming too.

Our village programs include:

1. Home Based Care for people living with long-term illnesses and health issues, including HIV, Diabetes, and Epilepsy
2. Community-wide health education on various topics and testing, including HIV/AIDS sensitization and testing
3. Food support for the most vulnerable inhabitants of the communities we serve
4. Mobile wound care clinics, specializing in care of foot and leg ulcers.
5. Support, care and interventions for at-risk women
6. De-worming and fungal treatments for children between 3-7
7. Hand-washing and hygiene campaigns and initiatives
8. Community-wide sensitization about pressing issues such as gender-based violence
9. Montessori early-childhood education
10. Montessori school construction
11. Community-wide sensitization regarding the value of education
12. Parent education programs
13. Adult education programs
14. Business education programs
15. Micro-finance for vulnerable women
16. Community Savings and Loan Banks
17. Artisan Craft Cooperatives
18. And so much more.....

Want to help The Olive Branch for Children continue to implement these initiatives and support the work our team is doing?

Here are some pressing needs:

1. New bikes for the team members (\$80 per bike)
2. Replenished first aid kits (\$15 per kit)
3. Rain jackets for team members (\$10 per jacket)
4. Rain boots for team members (\$10 per pair)



Zone 1 Managers:

Eliza (Gomoshelo Montessori teacher and Montessori Mentor)
 Farijala (Igurusi Montessori teacher, Montessori Mentor and Trainer)
 Huruma (Nganga Montessori teacher and Assistant Montessori Mentor)
 Hamis (Uhambule and Chamoto Home Based Care Provider and Assistant HBC Manager)

Samson (Igurusi Home Based Care Provider and Zone 1 HBC Manager),
 Julius (Rwanyo and Majenje Home Based Care Provider and Assistant Manager Zone 1)