

# July/August Newsletter

## Synod Assembly Recap

On Saturday May 11 the Sierra Pacific Synod held their 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Synod Assembly at the Lodi Grape Festival grounds. This was the first time the Sierra Pacific Synod held a one-day event, rather than a multi-day event. The theme was “We are the church together: working in God’s vineyard”.

Pastor Ryan, Tom Rasmussen, and Sharyn Carr attended as the voting representatives of Zion.

The day consisted of two business sessions, lunch, elections, and a closing service of holy communion which was conducted in Spanish. Some of the business items included reviewing the synod budget and audit report, voting on four resolutions, and receiving multiple reports and speakers. The ELCA Churchwide representative was Victoria Flood who is the Director of Mission Support. Former Bishop Dave Mullen spoke about his 50 years of ordained ministry and additional speakers focused on immigration issues.

Lunch was held by conference. Zion is part of the Sierra Central Valley Conference which consists of 13 congregations extending from Lodi to Merced and includes the foothills. Our conference gave \$109,000 in mission support to the Synod of which Zion contributed \$4,000 (3.6%).

Zion member Burke Wallace was elected to serve a six-year term on the Synod Consultation Committee. This committee which is made up of both rostered and lay leaders, is an arbitration body that helps resolve disputes between churches, rostered leaders, and/or the synod.

To learn more about the synod assembly and review all of the documents and resources from the day, please visit <http://spselca.org/index.php/assembly/>



**WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER:**

**WORKING IN GOD'S**

*Vineyard*



## Pastors Letter

Grace and peace to you all,

I hope this letter finds you well as we enter into the summer months. We had such a fulfilling Easter season here at ZLC, culminating in a wonderful celebration of Pentecost! Thanks to all for the wonderful music, food, and fellowship that day.

We will move back to our non-summer schedule after Labor Day. Wednesday night worship and choir will begin on September 4<sup>th</sup>, and we will return to 10:00am worship starting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Adult Education will resume on this Sunday with a traditional Rally Day Picnic Potluck to kick off the start of the year! Adult Education this next year will consist of three classes:

- The Psalms
- The Life and Theology of St. Augustine
- St. Paul: Life & Letters

If you have not joined us recently for our Adult Education time, I encourage you to try one of our classes this next year.

This summer we will again be having the summer theology book club. Participants will read a book and we will come together for a discussion on a Sunday afternoon. The focus of this summer's books will be on the spirituality and living the Christian life. In July, we will read *Being Disciples* by Rowen Williams and in August we will read *Lord, Teach Us* by William Willimon and Stanley Hauerwas. The dates for the discussion are in the weekly bulletin handout and the books are available in the narthex.

Blessings to you all as we enter into the summer months. May God grant us all safety and joy as we travel and enjoy another season of life.

*"We praise you, God, we praise you, for your Name is near; people tell of your wonderful deeds." (Psalm 18:2-3)*

Peace,  
Pastor Ryan

## **Presidents Message**

Dear Friends,

Since this is my first newsletter as president of your council, I thought you'd like to know a little about me. I was born and raised in Hanford; I'm a Cal graduate, attended the University of Florence, Italy, for a term, and retired four years ago after teaching for 40 years, mostly high school Algebra I and II. Because my husband Jerry was a field engineer with Bechtel Corporation, we have lived in three states, and at one point, I had taught in seven schools in three states in seven years. We moved to Stockton 31 years ago, and I taught at Stagg High School for 11 years and Bear Creek High School for 15 which our two children Brynn and Dirk attended. Since I retired, I have been very careful not to volunteer because teaching was an all-consuming profession, and I wanted to claim time for myself.

However, I did volunteer to be vice president when Gesine Gethard and her family moved to Iowa, knowing that the normal sequence would mean that I would become president after that year. I did so because I felt it was my turn to give back to a congregation that I so appreciate, and I enjoy working with Pastor Ryan. (I also felt that I had given my brain enough rest, and it needed to get back to work - at least a little.) Over the years, I have also served as secretary and was also in charge of the Worship and Fellowship Committees.

As I take the reins from Vaness, I realize there are concerns that face us at Zion Lutheran Church, many which were discussed at the Cottage Meetings in April and May. This summer, the Council will spend a large portion of our meetings addressing these issues. I admit that I am going to start with the easy ones first: who we are right now, what we do well and why we exist. Yet, we will also begin an in-depth discussion about what we could do better. In July, we will continue that discussion by moving on to our goals and what we must do to accomplish them. By August, we should be ready to consider the issues that must be addressed to maintain our goals and where we go from here. Then, in September, Pastor Ryan will present the congregation with our ideas and suggestions, and I will also address them in the September/October newsletter.

As we face concerns such as finances and dealing the homeless, which are two of most critical, I do not feel overwhelmed by such problems. The reason? (I promise it isn't stupidity.) No, it's because members of our congregation are coming forward with ideas and solutions. As we continue to work together, I feel we will find at least some of the answers. I'll be interested to see what I write two years from now when I pass the reins to a new president.

Peace,  
Dianne (Spear Hooton)

## **Black Mold**

Two months ago, Pastor Ryan showed me the janitor's closet which had large patches black mold on the ceiling and walls. Considering the danger, it posed, something had to be done immediately. Thank you, Tom Rasmussen and Charlie Leberman, for removing the worst section of sheet rock from the ceiling and painting "Kilz", a solvent that seals the black mold, on the other affected areas. However, professional help was needed to rectify the problem.

Two estimates were obtained, and the bid from DVM Construction in Lodi, a highly recommended company, was accepted. During the first week of June, Daniel Van Matre, the general contractor, and the roofer removed the two air conditioning units from the flat roof above the janitor's room. The units had been installed by nailing 2 x 4 boards into the roof and attaching the units to them. The problem? Rain water leaked through the holes created by the nails.

The insulation was removed and replaced above the ceiling in the janitor's room and the sheet rock was replaced. More "Kilz" was also applied to the walls of the room. The AC units were removed and are now mounted on "rubber feet" with a nice gap below them so water can drain. Flashing was replaced and added, and the entire roof above the room has been coated with a thick layer of silicone which is also used at schools that have flat roof tops. The roof is angled so water will run down the re-installed gutters and not pool up.

Thank you, John Grefe, for climbing up and studying the new roof to give us this report. Also, John feels that though the roof should probably be inspected in ten years, it should last for the next fifteen. Good news! Dianne

## **Cottage Meetings**

I would like to thank all of you who participated in the Cottage Meetings during April and May. We had a successful turnout of at least 60 members of our congregation who attended one of the seven meetings.

Your council met June 10 to review a spreadsheet Pastor Ryan and Genevieve made of the comments of each topic from the meetings. The overall feeling by the participants is that we are largely an older congregation that is compassionate, loving, and welcoming, and we know each other well. Activities listed that we do right include our Sunday worship, adult education, the Wednesday evening service, FTSOA, Esther's Circle, the Men's Breakfast, and Prime Timers. We exist to worship together, to learn about the Bible, to hold each other up in God's house and to do God's work.

As for what we can do better, the Council broached the subjects of the homeless problem on our property, the desire to bring more young people into our church, and how to engage members who are not presently active and involved. We will continue discussing these issues in July and begin tackling other concerns. I'll let you know how it goes. I really like our new council, and who knows, we might come up with some answers! If you would like a copy of the spreadsheet (it actually is interesting to read), please contact Genevieve in the office. Dianne

## Music & Worship



Music and singing are a major part of the worship experience at Zion. Some members like the newer, upbeat songs and hymns, while others prefer more traditional music. Pastor Ryan and music director, Rhondda Nunes, try to strike a balance between the two, choosing pieces that reflect a particular reading or perhaps the theme for the service. Still, some favorites are left out.

Everyone will now have a chance to select their favorite songs. On Sunday, September 1, we'll have a hymn-sing during the 9:00 a.m. worship service. We may not get to everyone, but everyone is sure to hear and be able to sing a favorite or two.

*“Make a joyful noise all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.  
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with lyre and the sound of melody.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord”  
Psalm 98:4-6*



## Pentecost Potluck

On Sunday, June 9, our congregation celebrated Pentecost with a potluck luncheon after the church service. Judi Renberg did a wonderful job of coordinating the many dishes brought for lunch and decorating Grace Hall with the colors of the occasion. Thankfully, the 100+ degree weather did not arrive until a few days after the event so everyone had a comfortable opportunity to sit back, relax and enjoy each other's company while feasting on great food

## **Endowment Fund**

Dear Friends in Christ:

I am writing to explain a little about the Zion Endowment Fund we have in place. There may be confusion within the congregation between the General Fund and our Endowment Fund. The General Fund is maintained by the Treasurer of the Church and the funds are collected from offerings by the members. The General Fund pays all the operating expenses of the Church, such as Salaries, Utilities, Insurance and other daily expenses.

In 1998, the congregation decided to establish a separate Endowment Fund and several individuals and families donated monies into this fund. This fund was established to provide money for enhancing the buildings and grounds and no money is allowed to be used for the operating expenses of the Church.

When the Endowment Fund was established a little over \$500,000 was raised and that became the starting point or Principal of the fund. The bylaws of the Endowment Fund do not allow for any withdrawals from the Principal of the fund for operating expenses. We are only able to withdraw any growth over and above the original amount. Should funds be withdrawn for building and grounds improvements of the Church, we are mandated in the by-laws to give 10% of that amount to local charities.

The Fund is managed by the Endowment Committee and the committee has enlisted the expertise of the Bank of Stockton to invest and manage the fund. Committee members are elected each year at the annual meeting of the Congregation.

When the Church Council asks for funds, it is the job of the Endowment Committee to look at the available balances and, if available, to instruct the bank to issue a check to the Church and then to determine the charities we will send checks to totaling the 10% figure.

The Endowment Fund can accept donations families may wish to make into the fund. Some families may, as example, name the Zion Endowment Fund into their will or trust for a portion of their estate to be gifted to Zion.

If you have questions about the Endowment Fund, please direct them to any of the members of the committee listed here:

Committee Members

Bill Crawford

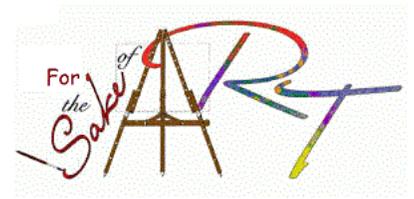
John Pulver

Tom Rasmussen

Karen Olsen

Dan Terry

Bill Crawford Chairman



## **For the Sake of Art**

With the summer months upon us, things have not slowed down with the For The Sake Of Art (FTSOA) program. As this newsletter is going out, we have just wrapped up our four day Summer Art Camp, and are shifting into high gear with the preparations for our annual Art and Wine Show fund-raiser for the program, which pays for the supplies and guest artists. This year's program will be held on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 2:30-5:30 p.m. at the Crawford residence in Morada (N.E. Stockton) California.

We will have various forms of arts and crafts on display, hors d'oeuvres, and wine tastings by Stockton and Lodi-area wineries. Tickets for this event will go on sale July 29<sup>th</sup>, and are once again \$30.00 per person (\$15.00 for parents of students of the program), with all of the proceeds going to the program. For more information and tickets, visit us on the Zion website [www.zlcstockton.org/art](http://www.zlcstockton.org/art) or call the church office at (209)477-0259

August will also be a busy month for the program as we also get ready for the start of the new school year and the return of our regular art program on Monday afternoons from 4:00-5:30 p.m. starting September 9<sup>th</sup>, and our monthly adult program will be starting Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon. As always, these classes are free to attend, with all supplies provided by the program, and all skill levels are welcome. If you know of someone with kids who might be interested, please let them know about the program. And if you have wanted to try doing art, please consider coming to one of the classes.

Until next time, may you all have a blessed and wonderful summer (and stay cool!).

The FTSOA Ministry Team

## **Men's Breakfast Group**

Each Thursday morning at 7:00am Zion men meet for a hour of conversation and meditation. We meet at a local restaurant and order individually off the menu. We have a good time and are done by 8:00. Please come. (We are currently in transition with the restaurant choice.) For now we are going to IHop on Hammer Lane.

## Grefe Shower

Pictures are from John & Ashley Grefe's Baby Shower which was held on Pentecost Sunday.



## Esther's Circle

Esther Circle is a group of women who meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at 11:00 for a Bible study. We always welcome all who wish to join us. We use the Bible Study from our WELCA's women's organization magazine titled "Gather". It also has many timely articles written by women for women on many areas of our lives. They are thought-provoking, stimulating, up-lifting and thoughtful.

Our June, July, August study is from the book of ESTHER titled "Finding Our Voices". We will find these themes: How can we be faithful voices to express our faith? How can we speak up to take a stand against wrong? How can we be a strong voice to speak truth in love? How does the voice of God guide us? These studies lead to very interesting discussions.

Our fall study will take us into Poetry of the Old Testament. In this 3-session study we will explore selections of the Old Testament poetry from Job, Psalms, and Lamentations. We will learn to look for God in times of deep emotions, such as joy, anger, celebrations, depression, misunderstanding, etc. while finding hope and grace along the way. December takes us into Advent. January-April will be a 4-session study on vocation/calling--and the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in the ELCA--with a look at how God calls us to faithful, fruitful work.

## Jesus' Crown of Thorns



What thorny plant was used to make the crown of thorns that encircled Jesus' head at the time of his crucifixion? I kind of thought it was perhaps a rose vine, maybe a citrus vine, or maybe a blackberry type vine. I did a little research, and found that a number of scholars and researchers suggest that it may have been from the Jujube tree, which reaches a height of 15 - 20 feet and grows in abundance around Jerusalem. The crooked branches of this shrub/tree are armed with thorns growing in pairs. Another plant, and perhaps more likely, is the thorny Gundelia shrub, which is plentiful in the Jerusalem area, pollen from this plant is found on the Shroud of Turin... interesting!

You have probably seen the piece of wire-art piece in the sanctuary Narthex, showing the agony of Christ at his time on the cross with a crown of thorns. This simple, small, but beautiful work was done by artist E. Michael Pearl, a wire artist from Lathrop, as part of one of our For-The-Sake-of- Art classes. Look for it.

Thorns, they stick us, gouge us, and remind us. Yet they protect and ornament their plant from the ravages of people or equipment. Thorny rose plants yield beautiful roses. The thorns of certain lemon trees will challenge you to get at their fruit, or in the case of the large Segura cactus of the southwest they seem to serve as sentinels in a lonely desert.

Jesus' painful crown of thorns did not itself define him or his life, rather it underlined and launched his message for us ...to forgive, and to love one another.

We have a number of roses around the church. After a heavy winter pruning, they are now blooming, continuing through many months. Some of the bushes have many thorns, crowns of thorns, while others have relatively few. You could say the rose illustrates the message of Easter. From tiny buds in a very thorny bush the Easter message is still launched.

May the message and blessings of Easter endure through the year  
Tom Rasmussen

## FRIENDS OF THE ARMED FORCES

We have 3 young men currently deployed that need our support: Marine Joey Snapp is on deployment to Kuwait, and Airmen Jed Burlando and Gabriel Torres are on deployment in Africa.

Sometime in October, Jed and Gabriel will be returning to the US, and Airman Darby Misner will be part of the group leaving to replace them in Africa. We would like to support her through her deployment as well, which will last until approximately April 2020.

We continue to support “Karen’s Closet” at the USAF Deployment Transition Center at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany with a box approximately every quarter. A list of suggested items for donation to the care packages can be found in the narthex. Any donations may be left in large wicker basket in the narthex.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and as always, thank you for your continued support!

In His service, Jodi



Joey Snapp



Gabriel Torres



Jed Burlando

### Serving in July/August

#### July 7

Assisting Minister	Dan Terry
Communion Assistant	Dee Pulver
Usher	LaVerne Gondry
Usher	Shirley Montgomery

#### July 14

Assisting Minister	Burke Wallace
Communion Assistant	Sharyn Carr
Usher	Bob Carr
Usher	Norm Randolph

#### July 21

Assisting Minister	Dianne Hooton
Communion Assistant	Joyce Morken
Usher	Jerry Hooton
Usher	Gary McKnight

#### July 28

Assisting Minister	Deborah Griffin
Communion Assistant	Judi Renberg
Usher	Elaine Werner
Usher	Bill Werner

#### August 4

Assisting Minister	Tom Rasmussen
	Dee Pulver
Communion Assistant	Pete Lepisto
Usher	Bob Carr
Usher	

#### August 11

Assisting Minister	Burke Wallace
Communion Assistant	Nancy Turnrose
Usher	Tom Turnrose
Usher	Cynthia Guest

#### August 18

Assisting Minister	Bill Crawford
Assistant Minister	Connie Crawford
Usher	Gary McKnight
Usher	Norm Randolph

#### August 25

Assisting Minister	Phil Spohn
Assistant Minister	Joyce Morken
Usher	LaVerne Gondry
Usher	Shirley Montgomery

### Upcoming Events:

7/21	9:00am	Joint service w/ St. Anne's @ St. Anne's
8/25		Last early worship Service
9/1	9:00am	Hymn Sing
9/4	6:30pm	Wednesday Night Worship/Choir starts
9/5	12:00pm	Parimetimers
9/8	9/10:00am	Adult Education/10:00am Worship starts
9/8	11:00am	Rally Day Potluck
9/21	2:30 5:30	Art & Wine Show at the Crawford's

### Congregation Birthday's:

7/3 Lauren Ah-Tye  
7/7 Peggy Bettcher  
7/11 Karen Olsen  
7/15 Carole Flynne  
7/17 Dianne Hooton  
7/22 Kay Howell

8/2 Lynne Terry  
8/2 Randi Dingman  
8/5 Stephanie Hensley  
8/6 John Pulver  
8/11 Bill Werner  
8/22 Dorothy Broin  
8/24 Ryan Eikenbary  
8/27 Doreen Spohn

### Congregation Anniversaries:

7/16 Stephanie & Justin Hensley  
7/28 Ryan & Burke Wallace  
8/12 Nancy & Tom Turnrose  
8/13 Lynne & Dan Terry  
8/26 Randi & Gary Dingman  
8/26 Joyce & Derek Taylor

## July/August Calendar

### Weekly Activities:

#### Sunday

8:15am Cantor Practice  
9:00am Sunday Worship

#### Monday

Council Meeting (second Monday)

#### Tuesday

11:00am Esther's Circle (fourth Tuesday)

#### Wednesday

September 4 Wednesday activities resume  
September 8 Sunday Worship is at 10:00am

#### Thursday

7:00am Men's Breakfast IHop



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808 W. Porter Ave. Stockton, CA 95207  
Sunday Worship 9:00 am  
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8-1pm  
[www.zlcstockton.org](http://www.zlcstockton.org)  
209-477-0259 Fax 209-477-0407  
[office@zlcstockton.org](mailto:office@zlcstockton.org)

**ZION'S STAFF**

*Pastor:*  
*Ryan Eikenbary*

*Music Director:*  
*Rhonda Nunes*

*Office Administrator:*  
*Genevieve Galli*  
*[office@zlcstockton.org](mailto:office@zlcstockton.org)*

*Custodian:*  
*Leroy Shepherd*  
*Phillip Brown*

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