



# Zion Tidings

July 2010

Zion Lutheran Church & School  
300 Lake Street  
Alexandria MN 56308

## ZION LUTHERAN MISSION STATEMENTS

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH'S mission is to PREACH and TEACH God's Word of law and Gospel, to ADMINISTER the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, to BUILD UP the believers, to ENCOURAGE the weak in faith and to EVANGELIZE the lost.

ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL nurtures children in God's grace for now and forever.

## From Pastor's Desk

July 11 will be a day of "Two Celebrations." One will celebrate the "Here" and the other will celebrate the "There." One will celebrate the "Building" and one will celebrate the "Sending." The first will take place "between" our two worship services. The second will take place "during" our two worship services.

I would like to invite all of you to be part of both of them. What are these "Two Celebrations?" The first is the groundbreaking for "God's Window on Third - Phase One." The second is the commissioning of our young people, their chaperones and Rev. Hinz as they prepare to go to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

For many months Lee and Heidi Wilken, along with Nathan Chan and Clint and Jodi Gray have been working with our youth and their parents to prepare for the "National Youth Gathering." Our youth and adults will be commissioned on July 11.

Our Building Committee, along with our architect, John Natwick and Dennis and Jerry Rapp have been meeting to plan the new addition to our church facility. We will have the official "groundbreaking" Sunday, July 11. The groundbreaking will take place between the two worship services and it will be followed by refreshments. It will officially begin at 9:15 a.m. If you come to the 8 AM worship service I encourage you to stay for the "groundbreaking." If you come to the 10 AM worship service I encourage you to come early for the celebration.

A friend of mine who lives on a lake in northern Minnesota once said "Every weekend the lake is filled with people coming to the lake. But once the Fourth of July is over things get very quiet." This year, for Zion, it will be the exact opposite. After July 4<sup>th</sup> things will get very busy. Join me for the "Two Celebrations" July 11.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Rev. Terry Finnern



Due to a time crunch, there was only minimal proof reading done this month. Please kindly overlook any errors you're



We believe; don't we? "We believe" is the theme for the National Youth Gathering of which we are sending numerous of our youth to take part. We believe. Well, we do. If I may speak for those teens we are sending, "so do they." We believe. And what do we believe? You and I know that what we believe can change from day to day. We can easily confess we believe "Jesus loves me" when life is swell, but when it takes an unexpected and undesired turn into difficulty, we believe Jesus is getting it wrong, or worse yet, has it in for us.

We believe. We believe first and foremost that we aren't very good at believing. We don't do it well by ourselves. We need someone outside us who is believing to get us through the dark days so we can relish believing when things are good. The Bible studies for the three main days of the Gathering are: Look, Listen, & Live. And they are all about that outside source for what happens inside of us. We believe because we have a God who looks, listens, and lives for us.

Each of the biblical stories the disciples we send to New Orleans will study and relay this work of Jesus. Jesus looked at a blind man, and unlike even his disciples, Jesus really saw the man and his need and did something about it. Jesus listened to a woman at a well. He listened and understood her troubles, and gave her a true and lasting hope. Jesus lived for Martha by being with her in the darkness of her brother's death. Jesus delivers her a real and lasting life in Him, even as He raises her brother from the grave.

We believe. What we believe is that Jesus looks at us, He listens to us, and He lives for us. He also speaks to us that we may listen to Him. He reveals Himself to us that we might look. He loves us so that we might live in Him. Look, listen, live.

We believe that Jesus now has us looking, listening, and living in Him. Our life of faith is unique—certainly not without its struggles, but purely and wholly caused by His speaking, His revealing, and His loving us. But there is one last "believing" moment Jesus invites in us. Not only are we to look, listen, and live, but we are granted the authority to speak, to reveal, and to love others.

We believe, yes, we believe in Jesus. And we are ready to tell, show, and love the world that they too might look, listen, and live.

In Service to Christ,

Rev. David Hinz

### *Special Send-Off*

Sunday, July 11, 2010, we will be commissioning our New Orleans bound youth and adult leaders at the 8:00 am worship service. It will be our moment to encourage and lift them up to the Lord and send them forth as our ambassadors. We would ask that throughout their time on the road and at the Gathering, you would keep this group before the Lord in prayer.