

Zion Lutheran Evangelical Church
----- **Bringing Hope Through Christ**
7455 Foothills Drive Farmington, NM
505-325-3420 Website: zionlutheran505.com
Bible Study & Sunday School: 9:00 AM Divine Service -10:15AM
Pastor Nathanael Biberdorf Cell phone: 605-419-7830
Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 11:30 Monday – Thursday
February 2026

Coming Soon! Beginning February 18, with Ash Wednesday, 40 days of Lent follow. Ash Wednesday service is February 18 & Easter will be Sunday, April 6. Lent is 40 days of fasting, self-reflection, meditation, spiritual preparation - all pointing to repentance & renewal. It's a time of letting go of worldly distractions to focus more fully on 1) God's love & mercy 2) what Jesus, our Savior, has done for us through his life, death & resurrection 3) God's goodness, kindness & grace. Simply, it is an opportunity, a time set aside, to draw closer to our Lord. (See Pastor's Message at the end of this newsletter.)

Did You Know? Why mark our foreheads with ashes on Ash Wednesday? The ashes, which come from the palms that were used on the previous Palm Sunday, were burned & saved for Ash Wednesday. These ashes symbolize to us grief over sin & humility before God plus a beautiful picture of the hope found in Christ's sacrifice of on the cross. We die & are buried & yet eternal life is the greatest gift to us through Jesus's sacrificial death.



Many Thanks! Ladies of the church who helped with funeral lunch for Earl Rothermel. Your service is a loving act of kindness for the family & friends & the family of Believers.

Choir Practice – 5:15 PM on Wednesdays, prior to Lenten Supper at 6:00PM

Homebound Ministry: Zion Angels will meet at the Bridge to have lunch with Frances at 11:30 on February 19. (Bring a brownbag lunch or buy lunch from the Bridge @ \$10.) Thank you to; Lee Steaves, Gisele Neel & Marian Riggert for joining the Prayer Team & participating in the Homebound Ministry. Contact Pastor if you sense God is calling you to this ministry.

POCKET PRAYERS: Earl Rothermel family, DJ & Shirley, Caroline, Lisa, Shirley Shelby, Cynthia Beard, Kerry, Elisha Van Deusan, David Lukow, Darren Sharp, Roy and Dale Esau, Carol Unger, Deborah Unger, Shanda Unger, Shea and Jessica, Debra Mobley, Jack McKeever, Annette Lewis, Brenda Hobbs, Jason Hobbs Contact Diane Ayers @ 505-330-4865 or [ayers.diane@gmail](mailto:ayers.diane@gmail.com) to add someone to this list. Prayer by Text: if you would like to be included on this list or if you have an immediate prayer request, text Leslie Fitz: 505-402-3688. For both lists, be sure to have permission for a name to be added. Remember by being on the Prayer by Text List, you agree to keep those prayers confidential.

Zion Circle Briefs Zion Circle will be coordinating the Lenten Suppers. Look for future announcements. To sign up to bring food or be on the clean-up crew, see sign-up sheets in the kitchen. Next meeting is February 20 at 11AM.

LWML in a Glimpse: Bring your Mite Box on Sunday, February 8. You can also pick up a Mite Box. Next LWML meeting is March 1

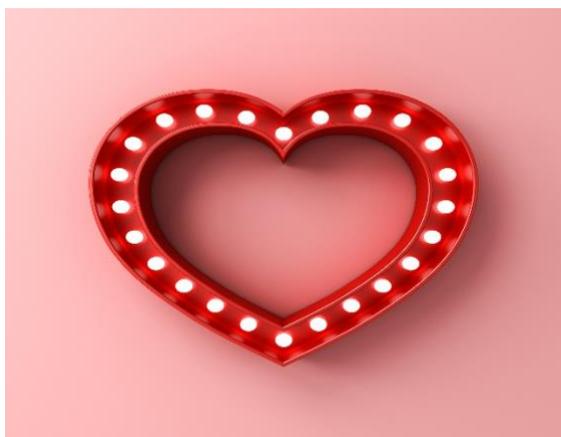
Solo Sisters: There's a Gal-entine Party on February 12 at 11AM at Zion Fellowship Hall. Please call Diana Thur if you are coming. (505-402-3558)

Church Council Highlights: Attendees: R. Kynast, B. Steaves, Pastor, S. Unger, D. & M. Ripley, J & B. Lukow, M. & S. Lukow, A. Galloway, S. Lanier Pastor's Report: Earl Rothermol has passed away. Diana Thur gave Pastor a name for a potential organist & Pastor will contact him. The Synodical Conference is June 6 with a Presidential online electon. Pastor will be the delegate & we are seeking a lay delegate by March 8.

Elders Report: Prayer Ministry is growing. Pastor is starting a Catechism class.

Volunteers are needed to run the power point/music for the worship services.

Od Business: No update on erosion problem or key cards. Motion made & approved to purchase 2 laptops @ \$289 each. Mary R. submitted Zion Circle Annual Report.



Happy Valentine's Day February 14

Elder's Message

Dear Friends in Christ,

The current *Portals of Prayer* recently had a devotion entitled “Growth in Wisdom.” The writer pointed out that our Lord Jesus, as a child and young man, did the Father’s will by spending countless hours in the temple, synagogues, and streets listening to and sharing God’s word. The devotion concluded that we grow in wisdom by learning God’s word. The term “wisdom” intrigued me. What is wisdom, as defined by the scriptures? Why is it important to us as Christians? 1 Kings describes God’s gift of wisdom to Solomon. When the Lord promised Solomon whatever he asked for, Solomon replied, “Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil.” The Lord responded with the gift of an unequalled “wise and discerning mind.” Proverbs 2:6 and 9:10; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 and 1:30; and James 1:5 are all scriptures that describe more about the wisdom of God, where it comes from, and how we get wisdom

In summation, the Bible tells us that the fear of (awe, respect and desire to serve) the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; the Lord gives wisdom; Jesus was full of wisdom; Jesus is the wisdom we need in place of the world’s “wisdom”; and if we lack in wisdom, we can ask God and it will be given to us. In other words, the more time we spend with the Lord, the more we grow in wisdom! As I considered all this, I thought of all the opportunities we have available to us at Zion to help enhance our growth in wisdom. The following list highlights those opportunities:

- a) Divine Services with Holy Communion (10:15 a.m. each Sunday) provide highlighted Scriptures for study from God’s Word, meaningful Scriptures throughout the Liturgy, a great sermon from Pastor Biberdorf on the meanings and application of the above-mentioned highlight Scriptures, plus the blessings of Holy Communion in our Lord.
- b) Bible Study takes place each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. with Pastor Biberdorf leading. Currently, the study is on Luther’s Small Catechism. This is a meaningful, yet fun, Bible Study. Come join us!
- c) The Prayer Team is available after service each Sunday to pray for anyone who needs prayer. Let’s ask for growth in God’s wisdom!
- d) The Men’s Bible Study, led by Richard Kynast, meets at 8:00 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.
- e) If you are community-minded, several of our members attend Community Bible Study (CBS) which meets once a week. If you are interested in that, please check with Leslie Fitz.
- f) Copies of *Portals of Prayer* devotions are available on the table in the narthex for all church members who want to be involved in daily devotions at home. Be careful, though. You might get excited and end up on a some “rabbit trail” that takes you on a trip all through the scriptures like I did! 😊

May we all grow in our Lord Jesus Christ and His wisdom!

Blessings, Jim Lukow, Elder