

# OUR CHURCH IN S.F.

San Francisco Lutheran Nehemiah Project Newsletter

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Issue 8

Mar., Apr. & May 2004

## THE NEHEMIAH PROJECT MOVES AHEAD WITH GOALS

On 18 December 2003, the Bylaws of the San Francisco Lutheran Nehemiah Project were signed by all of the directors from our member congregations, based on incorporation given to us by the State. We are now awaiting non-profit organization status from the IRS, but we can now move ahead as a legal entity. This was the culmination of several months of work by Autumn Zimmerman working with our non-profit attorneys to bring us to this point.

The Directors for the San Francisco Lutheran Nehemiah Project were blessed on Saturday 24 January with a workshop led by Dr. Lee Settgest, Executive Director of the Los Angeles Lutheran Nehemiah Project. He reminded us that people say it can't be done - to help problems of the City. But Nehemiah directed the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem in 52 days by trusting in the Lord - "The God of heaven will give us success." (Nehemiah 2:20)

Based on our mission statement of "Congregations doing the work of the Lord together, building urban ministry", Dr. Settgest led us to develop several goals to achieve this mission. SFLNP directors are now developing strategies to achieve the following goals over the coming year or two:

- Each congregation is to identify needs in their neighborhoods.
- Touch the lives of 1000 homeless people through with distribution of personal care items.
- Consult with Lutheran Care for the Aging to identify elderly shut-ins and train 10 volunteer members to visit and assist them. Identify and contact skilled nursing facilities to identify needs (Laguna Honda and other facilities).
- Seek necessary funding for Nehemiah project.
- Operate two additional food pantries.
- Train 50 youth volunteers to minister to various needs of inner-city families. Develop youth servant event in S.F., to be listed with Synod's Board for Youth Ministry.
- Plan for calling an Executive Director for S.F.L.N.P.
- Establish pool of volunteers (for administrative needs, mailings, etc.) - Create Volunteer database and manage assignment of volunteers to various S.F.L.N.P. programs.
- Ascertain needs for the Three Congregations Ministry to be successful in outreach; partner to provide volunteers to the Bethel Center, Grace Pre-school, etc.
- Create Center for S.F.L.N.P for a nerve center and to establish identity.

-- Mel Schenck

## THE FOOD PANTRY PREPARES TO DUPLICATE ITSELF

### FULFILLING THE MISSION AND VISION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO LUTHERAN NEHEMIAH PROJECT

Since March of last year, we have distributed food from the San Francisco Food Bank every Saturday at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. Our four teams have become pros at ordering, accepting delivery, setting up, and distributing food to 40 to 50 families each week.

Meanwhile, we are continuing to plan on a new food pantry to be located at Grace Lutheran where we believe the neighborhood has unmet needs for food distribution. We will be calling for additional volunteers to form teams for this pantry in the springtime – perhaps around our first anniversary.

It is not too late to join with us. We need your help. You need to share in the benefits of shared ministry with your fellow Lutherans in this urban ministry. An important part of the SFLNP mission and vision is to bring together members from different congregations to get to know each other better and do the Lord's work together. Many of our volunteers have remarked about the joy of new friendships they have now made and the information they have shared about each other's congregations. Contact your congregation's SFLNP representative, or contact Mel Schenck at 415-399-4716 for more details.

SFLNP is fulfilling our mission of **Congregations doing the work of the LORD together, building urban ministry.**

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## What A Wonderful Way To Explain It!

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die.. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side of which came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing...I know my Master is there and that is enough."

May today there be peace within you. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

## "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone!"

How often have we heard that? I have most often heard it stated by a guilty person or his friends. In this use, it is an attempt to avoid the judgment of those who condemn the sin that the guilty person has performed. Is this the correct use of the phrase?

I decided to take a closer look at this passage after I heard a man who had been caught in a sin state the phrase to avoid condemnation. That man is a wicked man and has shown no sign of repentance—all he wanted was for righteous men not to point to his sin and call it sin. He knows the Bible and that the Bible condemns what he did. He did not want to pay the penalty that he deserved for his sin.

The man also understands most American Christians, their shallowness of thought and unwillingness to stand up for the truth. He threw out this verse, not as an act of contrition, but to silence his critics and in this, sadly, he was largely successful. He expected that no one would take the time and effort to show that he was misusing the passage, and in this he was correct, and that many Christians are all too quick to admit their own sinfulness. His use of the passage and the reaction of many of his critics angered me—this cannot be right—so I decided to investigate further.

Here is a quick and literal translation of the passage in question, with a few comments within parentheses, followed by a short commentary. The Greek word usually translated as "sin" actually means "to miss the mark" or "to err" and the noun is "error", so I used "to err" and "error" where traditional translations use "sin".

Please read **John 8:2-11**.

(The next verses described what Jesus was teaching mentioned at the beginning of the passage.)

How can we tell that the scribes and Pharisees were hypocritical? The law that they cited is found in Leviticus 20:10-21 and Deuteronomy 22:22-27. In every case, the man was to be stoned. The woman was to be stoned only if there was evidence to show that she had been a willing participant, not a victim of rape. Therefore, in the case of the woman caught "in the very act", where was the man? The scribes and Pharisees erred, they were not correctly following the very law they were citing. These were the people who claimed that they were correctly teaching the Bible and all the laws, and Jesus had caught them perverting the very law they were teaching.

The law exists to allow fallible man accurately to evaluate if he or another person is acting justly or not.

Was the woman really guilty? Most likely yes.

What was Jesus writing? If it were important, John would have mentioned it. Knowing the law and listening to Jesus' words is enough to understand the passage.

Finally, who was the one without error allowed to throw the first stone? The context indicates that that person was to have been one in the group of scribes and Pharisees around Jesus and the woman, and nobody else. To apply it to others is a misuse of the passage because it is taking the passage out of its context.

Going back to the beginning, we see that the passage is not only misused, but it is often misstated, much like "God helps those who help themselves" and "Money is the root of all evil". As Lutherans we are taught to use Scripture with care so that we do not use it to cover for sin, nor lead people astray, but correctly teach the word of God.

As for that wicked man that I heard misuse the passage, he still has avoided punishment for his many sins and even civil crimes that he has committed because he is not only wicked, but very smart, and so far has made it very difficult for those who would bring him to justice.

But we should not be intimidated by such people. We have an answer if sinners throw this verse at us, "Am I one of the scribes and Pharisees that Jesus addressed?" Jesus addressed the verse to "the one of you", one of the group before him and not to everyone. "Am I misusing Scripture when I say that God says what you are doing is sin?" "Am I throwing stones to call sin 'sin' in reporting God's message which is not my personal judgment?" "If the answer to these questions is 'No', then why do you try to silence me by misquoting this passage at me?"

By Karl Randolph

### Coming Events

## Festival of the Ascension, Divine Service

San Francisco LC-MS Circuit Congregations

In joint worship of the Lord

**Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**

**At 7:30 p.m.**

**At West portal Lutheran Church**

**200 Sloat Blvd., S.F.**

Everyone is welcome,  
and the Offering will go to our SFLNP.

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## 14 of Our Youth to the National Youth Gathering

We have 14 youth from 3 congregations in SF and Daly City going to Orlando Florida to join with 35,000 LC-MS youth from around the country and the world for the National Youth Gathering. Come help us get them there by coming to this fundraiser dinner.

## Youth Dinner and Talent Show

**March 13, 2004**

**at West Portal Lutheran Church**

You are welcome to join us for the 5 pm Worship  
then down to the Parish Hall at  
6:30 pm for Dinner and Show.

**Tickets \$10 adult, \$8 Child (12 and under)**

Buy tickets from participating youth, or contact Alex or Lucy Lew at 650-756-7434.



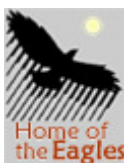
## **Lutheran Schools** **A Great Place To Grow**

"...grow up into Him... Christ." Ephesians 4:15

### **Hope Lutheran Church and School**

55 San Fernando Way,  
Daly City, CA  
Phone: 650-991-HOPE (4673)  
Fax: 650-991-9723

Now enrolling  
Kindergarten  
through 5th grade  
for Fall 2003.  
Call office for details.



### **West Portal Lutheran Church and School**

200 Sloat Blvd,  
San Francisco, CA 94132  
Phone: 415-665-6330  
Fax: 415-661-8402

Now enrolling  
Kindergarten  
through 8th grade  
for Fall 2003.  
Call office for details.



### **Zion Lutheran Church and School**

495 - 9th Ave,  
San Francisco, CA  
Phone: 415-221-7500  
Fax: 221-7141

Now enrolling  
Kindergarten  
through 8th grade  
for Fall 2003.  
Call office for details.



## **SALSA**

### **(San Francisco Area Lutheran Schools Association)**

No, it is not a zangy dip with chips but rather a small but growing and effect group. Under the auspices of our San Francisco Lutheran Nehemiah Project (SFLNP), SALSA is quarterly meeting of representatives of our churches and schools for foster Lutheran education. The last couple years we have done joint advertising of our Hope, West Portal, and Zion Lutheran Schools. We have dialogued in ways that has been beneficial to our school principals, pastors, and school boards. We are providing encouragement for Grace Lutheran (and the three-church-ministry) to start a Pre-school/Childcare this Fall, 2004. You, the reader, are encouraged to pray for and help support this endeavor. In SALSA we believe that Lutheran pre-schools, elementary, middle, and high schools are one of our best avenues for Christian outreach to the lost and unchurched. Finally, remember...

### ***NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK***

***March 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>***

***Theme: Lutheran Schools: A Great Place to Grow***

***Sub-theme: Growing in Grace and Knowledge***

***II Peter 3:18a - "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."***

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## Bethel Center

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### Bethel Lutheran Church

2525 Alemany Blvd., SF (415)587-2525 Interim Pastor Terry Chan



Much has happened since our last article.

After 15 months of meetings workshops and planning, a proposal in three phases was presented to the three congregations (Bethel, Grace and Shepherd) on combining mission and ministry.

Following lengthy discussions at all the churches Bethel and Grace voted to continue with this process. Shepherd of the Hills voted not to continue. The invitation for Shepherd of the Hills to join us in all our efforts is open.

The Coordinating Council has drafted a Job Description for Lead Missionary Minister and a request for names of candidates has been made to President Robert. A Spiritual Life Minister or Ministry team will be brought on board following the arrival of the Lead Minister.

Pastor Terry Chan has started STAMP workshops. (STragic Achievable Mission Planning) These are giving the members of Bethel and Grace a chance to meet each other, learn to work together and plan for future mission projects.

We are all anxious to begin this new venture in mission. We want to Thank All Of You who have been praying for us. Please continue your prayers as we now begin the call process.

In His Service,  
Kathie Badertscher  
Coordinating Council Chairperson  
The Two Churches

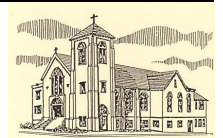
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### Canaan Lutheran Church

495 - 9th Ave, San Francisco

(415) 221-0250

Pastor David Tin



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### First Lutheran Church

350 Dolores Way, SSF

(650) 583-5131

Pastor Jeff Schufreider

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## Grace Lutheran Church

465 Woolsey St, SF (415) 468-2937 Interim Pastor Ruclare Pauling

At its January 25, 2004, Voters Meeting, Grace Lutheran Church agreed to work with Bethel Lutheran Church in calling a pastor to lead mission and ministry work. Voters also agreed to work with Bethel Lutheran during this year in sharing resources in the following ministry areas: evangelism, Christian education, youth ministry and music ministry. Finally, Grace Lutheran agreed to work with Bethel Lutheran in identifying a part-time staff person who could help with counseling, visiting shut-ins and other ministry activities.

Grace's church council and Interim Pastor Ruclare Pauling reached an agreement whereby Pastor Pauling will remain until a called pastor has been installed.

This year, Grace Lutheran will send two youth delegates and an adult chaperone to the July Synodical Youth Gathering in Orlando, Florida. Grace Lutheran Church hopes to raise approximately \$4500 through individual donations, rummage sales and other activities.

The Pre-school Task Force has accomplished the following:

- Retained the services of Janis King as a consultant to project development
- Completed Phase One of the state licensing process
- Determined that the interior and exterior space meet state requirements for a 30-child license
- Set preliminary qualifications for a school director

These are the activities that the task force is working on:

- Awaiting application packet from California Department of Social Services
- Investigating additional city requirements for building safety
- Developing a business plan
- Developing policy guidelines
- Developing pay staff pay structure

Members of Bethel and Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Churches are also participating in task force activities.



## Iglesia Cristiana Luterana Betel

Bethel Christian Lutheran Church - Hispanic Ministry

2525 Alemany Blvd., SF (415) 586-2552 Pastor Luis Alvarado

Reaching out to people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ is our mission, so our church has continued its efforts to preach the Good News to the Spanish-speaking people in our community. Holidays like Christmas and New Year were a good opportunity for our Mission Church to get in touch with many people. Church celebrations give us the opportunity to make invitations and have the chance to meet some new people and invite them to our worship service, Bible study and to become part of our Christian community.

We continue working to fulfill the command of our Lord Jesus to make disciples of all nations by visiting families, doing home Bible Study, and growing in close relationship with people in the community.

We want to take the opportunity to say, "Thank you very much!" To the San Francisco Lutheran Nehemiah Project and all who donated toys for the children of our congregation. It was a blessing to see their faces when they received their gifts during our Christmas Program.

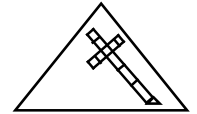
We ask you to keep praying for this mission so we can grow in number and in faith.  
God Bless You.

Pastor Luis

# Hope Lutheran Church and School

55 San Fernando Way, Daly City (650) 991-4673

Pastor Daniel Woo



home.earthlink.net/~hopedalycity

Pastor/Education Director: Rev. Jeff Schufreider

**Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration** hosted by Hope Lutheran Church Chinese Ministries was held on February 1, 2004. This event is one of several events that brings both English and Cantonese speaking members of our church together.

**Ash Wednesday and Mid-week Lenten Services** will be held February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Maunday Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> and Good Friday Services on April 9<sup>th</sup> will be at 7:00 p.m. Easter service will be a combined bilingual service at 10:00 a.m.

**The Pre-school** is now settled in the newly remodeled classrooms and enrollment is growing.

**The Elementary School** enrollment is at 85 children. We are holding Open House for new registrations about once a month and continue to have prospective students visiting during the week. The After School Enrichment program is going well and we have a lot of applicants for the classes. We currently offer a Math Club, a Book Club, a Computer Club, and a children's Choir, and hope to add Mexican Dance and Liturgical Dance in the near future. We will celebrate Lutheran Schools Week March 7-13 with daily school wide activities, and will hold our second Annual Nation's Day on May 12. All of our teachers plan to return next year and we are currently looking in to the additional staff that will be needed for next year.

**Summer Day Camp** is scheduled for June 14 - August 20. Registration will open in March. Call the Church Office for registration information or to receive an informational flyer.

An **All Church Retreat** is scheduled for August 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup> at the Marriot Courtyard in Milpitas. This will be a time of fellowship to continue to build the Body of Christ here at Hope.

**Please continue to pray for the teaching and resource staff of Hope Lutheran Ministries. We currently face the challenge of calling an administrator for the Pre-School and Elementary School and ask for your prayers in that endeavor. We ask that you pray with us that we seize every opportunity to boldly proclaim the "Good News" to those who come to Hope Lutheran Church and Ministries.**

Hope Lutheran offers many opportunities for fellowship through our schools—Pre-school\*, Elementary K-5\*, Extended Care, After School Tutorial, Chinese Language—Bible Studies, Youth Groups, sewing group, Mr. "Fix-it" group and Chinese Fellowship Groups.

\*Currently accepting applications for Pre-school and Elementary School.

Email address: [hopedalycity@earthlink.net](mailto:hopedalycity@earthlink.net)

Web site address: [home.earthlink.net/~hopedalycity](http://home.earthlink.net/~hopedalycity) for more information.



# Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

E-mail: holyspirit\_lc@yahoo.com

2400 Noriega St, S.F.

(415) 661-1120

Pastor David T. Chan

The New Year of 2004 has provided our congregation an opportunity to celebrate two New Years - American New Years and Chinese New Years. Our vision and New Year's resolutions are to continue the focus on the mission the Lord has given us and to empower our members to reach out with the Gospel of Christ to members of our community.

We thank God for giving us the opportunity to co-sponsor the College Financial Aid Workshop with the Chinese Christian Herald Crusades. The workshop was held on a Saturday afternoon, December 13<sup>th</sup>. There were about 180 people attending the workshop, with the majority attending our church for the very first time. Through such events our congregation has the opportunity to reach out to the community, providing them with a practical service as well as offering an opportunity to spread the gospel.

We are thankful for the 3 infants that were baptized during our 3<sup>rd</sup> service, Cantonese Worship, at the beginning of this New Year.

LWML Zone One held a "Gospel Festival" at our church on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, with Dr. Robert Newton, CNH President, and his wife, Priscilla, speaking on "Missions". Contemporary music was provided by the Holy Spirit Music Team and various singers and music groups from other churches. Holy Spirit's LWML societies, Love In Action and Yen Deen Societies provided refreshments.

Our English Ministry has planned a busy spring agenda!

- 15 young people from our Emmaus Fellowship will attend "Acquire the Fire" seminar in Sacramento on March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Peace Fellowship (High School age) will have 25 young people attending a Spring Retreat in San Jose on March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.
- March 20<sup>th</sup> there will be a one day training seminar for Summer Day Camp Counselors. We continue the calling process to obtain an EM Pastor or Parish Worker.

Surely, the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few"

We look forward to the Celebration of Easter!

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## New Life Chinese Lutheran Church

www.newlifechinese.org

395 Addison Street, San Francisco

(415) 586-6525

Pastor Chip Fox

### Putting Some Spring Into Our Step

As the months of March and April roll around, many families look forward to putting away our umbrellas and winter jackets and start making plans for spring break. Here at New Life we look forward to the Lenten season and hope to make this a memorable Easter for our neighbors in the Diamond Heights District.

We ask that you include in your prayers:

Ash Wednesday Services (February 25)

Marriage Seminar (March 7) 1:00pm, guest speaker Rev. Walter Lau

Neighborhood Canvassing (late March)

Palm Sunday Worship (April 4) 10:30am, guest speaker Deacon (retired) Art Freese

Good Friday Service (April 9) 7:30pm

Easter Sunday Worship (April 11) 9:00am and 10:30am

To get the latest on these events and more, please call the church office or check New Life's website for announcements and the most recent issue of our newsletter at: <http://www.newlifechinese.org/announcements.htm>

## Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

395 Addison Street, San Francisco

(415) 586-3424

Pastor Chip Fox

Since Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church congregation welcomed New Life Chinese Lutheran Church congregation to their new home at Diamond Heights last August, we have been enjoying many joint programs and fellowships. Our next joint worship service will be Palm Sunday, as well as a joint fellowship following the Easter Sunday worship services on 11 April. New Life's pastor, Rev. Chip Fox, also serves as Shepherd of the Hill's pastor. During New Life's worship service every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m, Shepherd of the Hills continues its Sunday morning Bible class with retired Deaconess Jackie Haug-Schulz teaching, and then Pastor Fox leads the worship service for Shepherd of the Hills at 10:30 a.m. while New Life holds Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall.

Our Circuit Counselor, Rev. Ted Zimmerman, as well as many of our sister congregation members, were on hand Sunday 15 February to help us wish Sue Miller God's continuing care as Sue moves to her new home in Graham, Washington. Sue is leaving a very large vacuum in our congregation since she managed many of the programs of our congregation and was our Secretary. We also know that the patients at Laguna Honda will dearly miss her Saturday worship services.

In our Congregational Assembly on 25 January, Shepherd of the Hills members decided not to join with Grace and Bethel Lutheran to form a new congregation. Nevertheless, we continue to want to explore new means of mission outreach in our very urban setting. We have much reflection to do and many discussions ahead about our future and the best ways to do the work of the Lord. We pray for the Lord's guidance to our friends at Bethel and Grace Lutheran as they continue towards forming a new mission congregation.

## West Portal Lutheran Church and School

[www.westportallutheran.org](http://www.westportallutheran.org)

200 Sloat Blvd, San Francisco (415) 661-0242 Pastor David Stechholz



In February, West Portal Evangelical Lutheran Church and School held its annual Missions Festival. This year our speaker was the retired Executive Director of Synod World Missions, Dr. Glenn O'Shoney. He spoke at a combined Youth/Adult Bible Class and at a special Monday morning School Chapel Service. Dr. O'Shoney spoke of personal witnessing for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as well as Synod's new **Ablaze** campaign. Ablaze is an effort of rayer to God and personal witnessing by Evangelical Lutherans of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and our world-wide partner church bodies numbering four million people, and for us four million to speak to a hundred million people from now till 2017 about God's redeeming love in Christ. In short, Ablaze will be a world-wide witness right up to the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation and Luther's nailing of the 95 theses. God grant that we are all ablaze for our Lord.

With the retirement of Art Frese, Pastoral Deacon Emeritus, at the end of December, 2003, and with the transitioning of DCE Karen Jacob to full-time motherhood as of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004, West Portal is significantly short-staffed. The Congregation's Voters Assembly did resolve to continue in Synod's Vicarage program and to have a full-time Director of Music. Our current Church & School Minister of Music, Randy Wurschmidt, and his wife, Carolina, will be leaving for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in early June for the pastoral and deaconess training. The Congregation has been asked to generously volunteer their time and talents to give Pastor Stechholz and Vicar Brian Kachelmeier greater assistance.

February 25<sup>th</sup> marks the start of Lent with As Wednesday. Mid-week evening Lenten Services will be held every Wednesday until Holy Week at 7:30 p.m., preceded by a Congregational

## West Portal Lutheran, continued

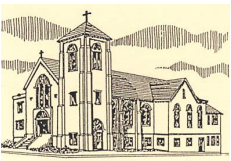
Dinner at 6:15 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For those who cannot come out at night, Lenten worship of the Lord is available at any of our School Chapel Services, Tuesday and Thursday at 8:45 a.m. at the Sunset Campus (37<sup>th</sup> Ave. & Moraga St.) and Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m. at the main Sloat Campus. On Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Guest Preacher will be our friend, **Pastor Dereje Fantaye**, who does Ethiopian and African immigrant ministry in the Bay area out of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Berkeley.

Some of the guests with Pastor Fantaye will be wearing traditional Ethiopian dress. Also in March, **West Portal Lutheran School** will have an **Open House** for the community at our Sloat Campus (200 Sloat Blvd.), Grades K-8 on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 a.m. Invite a friend to our Open House or those of our sister City Lutheran schools of Hope, Daly City, and Zion, S.F.

April for our churches marks the climax of Lent with Holy Week and Easter, the Festival of the Resurrection of our Lord. We are anticipating some Easter Baptisms at our Holy Saturday Vigil of Easter Service at 7:00 p.m., April 10<sup>th</sup>. This is one of the most beautiful services in the Church Year, reversing the Good Friday darkness of our Savior's death. At the end of April, the School Accreditation Team will be visiting West Portal Lutheran School as we again seek full accreditation through WASC (Western States Association of Secondary Schools) and NLSA (National Lutheran Schools Accreditation). And then on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. on our newly renovated Church pipe organ, Director of Music Randy Wurschmidt and friends will give an **Organ Recital**. All are welcome!

In addition to May's usual activities - weddings, Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> Car Wash, the visit of our English District School & Parish Services Executive, Tim Ewell on May 15<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>, the School Spring Musical and Dinner on Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> School Baccalaureate Service and Public Witness of the Youth Confirmants on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Youth Confirmation on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, West Portal will host Festival of the Ascension, Divine Service. San Francisco LC-MS Circuit Congregations In joint worship of the Lord, Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome, and with the Offering going to our SFLNP work together.

May the Lord God bless all our churches in our work together in the City. - *Pastor Stechholz*



## Zion Lutheran Church and School

[www.zionlutheranchurch.org](http://www.zionlutheranchurch.org)

495 - 9th Ave, SF

(415) 221-7500

Pastor Ted Zimmerman

### WHAT'S GNU AT THE ZION ZOO?

#### **Zion Raises \$725,000 Plus for New Project**

Last summer Zion began to prepare for a sustained stewardship emphasis that would help fund its plans to enlarge and improve its ministry space. The goal was to secure a minimum of \$800,000 in pledges and gifts over a three-year period of time. As of the date of this article, \$725,000 in commitments have been received, and of that, \$155,000 has been received in cash gifts. This will be augmented by matching funds from Thrivent and various corporations. Zion was guided in its efforts by the Capital Funding Services, a division of Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Rev. Eugene Beyer was the consultant.

#### **Zion's Plans Go Before the City**

The public hearing on Zion's expansion plans is scheduled for Thursday, March 18. Zion also held a meeting for the neighbors where they could review the plans, ask questions, and express concerns on Tuesday, February 17.

The plans are for razing a two-story building north of the present education wing on Ninth Ave. Then Zion would erect a three-story, 15,000 sq. ft. education building adjacent to the present education wing. A new entrance to the parking lot/playground would be brought through one of the houses Zion owns on 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. The present junior high building would be converted back into housing.

## **Zion Lutheran Church, Continued**

The new building project, which includes some modification to the existing buildings, will enable us to accomplish the following:

- Bring all grades, K through 3, down to the street level
- Bring the junior high grades out of isolation into the main education wing
- Enlarge the entrance to the church/school off Ninth Ave. and the parking lot
- Enlarge and improve the function of the school office
- Create new suite of offices for the church staff
- Bring an elevator to the gymnasium, and add a second kitchen, thus enabling Zion to host larger congregational, circuit, and community events
- Create additional space for church fellowship and adult education events

Zion covets the prayers of its fellow Lutherans as it seeks to make this ministry dream a reality.

### **Zion Endeavors to Enlarge Its Small Group Ministry—Invites Others**

Zion wants to take a good thing and make it bigger and better!

A little over six months ago, Zion began a small group ministry. It was a small beginning, involving about forty people meeting in four groups. Most groups met in homes, although one group, composed largely of young folks living in apartments, ended up meeting in the congregation's Fireside Room. Most groups met monthly, although the group referred to above met every two weeks. Some groups discussed life issues; others studied a book of the Bible. All were lay led, and with some degree of shared leadership.

Now the groups are reorganizing, and inviting new members to join at this time. Ideally, each group would divide in half and multiply—thus the forty become eighty. It may not happen quite that quickly, but it is to be hoped that we will grow this time by at least 50%.

Participation is not limited to Zion. If you would like to join a small group, or like more information about the possibilities offered (location, dates, times, topics), call our church office, 221-7500.

### **Zion Observes Lutheran School Sunday**

Every year, usually in March, Lutheran congregations with schools observe Lutheran School Sunday. Zion has named Sunday, March 28, as Lutheran School Sunday.

Zion's staff plans a service for that day that involves many of the Zion students and their families. A School Choir will sing, the Honor Handbells will play, several students will serve as readers, others will help lead a ski or serve as acolytes, and Zion graduates will serve as ushers. A high-powered coffee/tea hour will follow the 11 a.m. service.

Zion has operated a Day School since 1945, which means that we are drawing close to the time we will celebrate a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **Lenten Services Offered Afternoon and Evening**

Zion invites the members of the Lutheran community to join it in walking on "The Lenten Road" on Wednesdays, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., beginning February 25. The late service will be preceded by a Lenten Soup Supper sponsored by the various ministry boards in the congregation. You are invited to join us for these as well.

This Lent we will travel with Jesus on the road to Damascus, the road to the wilderness, the road home, the road to Jerusalem, the road to Jericho, and the Bethany road. On Maundy Thursday and Good Friday we will also travel the road to Gethsemane and the road to Calvary. Can you guess which road we will travel on Easter? How about the road to Emmaus? A dramatic skit that sets the theme for the day will introduce each service.

— Pastor Ted Zimmerman      [tzimmerman@zionlutheranchurch.org](mailto:tzimmerman@zionlutheranchurch.org)

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