

OUR CHURCH IN S.F.

San Francisco Lutheran Nehemiah Project Newsletter

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Issue 15

Sept., Oct. & Nov. 2005

“SEEKING THE WELFARE OF THE CITY”

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.-- Jeremiah 29:7 (ESV)”

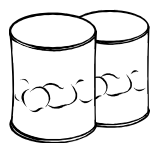
The member congregations of the San Francisco Lutheran Nehemiah Project are located in the City, either in the City of San Francisco or in Daly City as a part of the greater whole of the City. We members of our congregations have chosen to live in this urban environment of the City - it is here that Lord has called us to work in his vineyard. Christ is the light of the City, and His fields are ripe for the harvest.

But what does this mean? How can we serve the Lord here in this City? What is the Lord calling us to do? How do we find our own welfare in caring for the welfare of our City?

Join us on Saturday 10 September at noontime at Grace Lutheran Church (465 Woolsey Street) for lunch and a workshop on serving the welfare of our City.

Rev. David Stechholz of West Portal Lutheran Church and School will lead us in a lively discussion of these questions. Then we will break up into small interest groups exploring such topics as our youth ministry in the City, personal discovery of our gifts, discipleship training, and witnessing to the City. We might also have a group begin to organize for a celebration of our churches in the City at Oktoberfest. We plan to adjourn around 3:00 p.m. with dedication of our efforts to join our Lord in the harvest in the vineyard of our City.

Please bring a couple of cans of food for our food pantries, as well as any individual toiletries for distribution to the homeless in our personal care ministry.



VOLUNTEERS STAR AT THE FOOD PANTRIES

The Food Pantry at Grace Lutheran Church has now been serving over **150** families every Saturday morning, and the original food pantry at Shepherd of the Hills distributes food to 50 to **60** families at the same time each week. We are thankful that these pantries have sufficient faithful volunteers in weekly teams that serve at least one Saturday morning each month. Charlotte Elliot (Bethel-Grace) continues to provide excellent leadership for the Grace Food Pantry, and Don McPartland (SOTH) has now taken capable leadership of the SOTH Food Pantry.

Our real volunteer stars are the shoppers and delivery acceptors that serve every week of the year. In mid-week, Jennie Lee (of West Portal Lutheran) shops for the SOTH pantry and Thelma Elliot and Mildred Furness (both of Bethel-Grace Lutheran) shop for the Grace pantry. **Our weekly shoppers also need help to move the carts around with food once a week at the S.F. Food Bank – so if you like shopping and have a couple of hours on Wednesday or Thursday morning, please let your congregation representative know.**

On Friday afternoons, our Friday Delivery Acceptance Teams take delivery of the food from the Food Bank at both pantries. In addition to the shopping, Thelma and Mildred lead the Grace Friday team along with Mildred Hutchinson and Edna Ausland (both of Bethel-Grace). At SOTH, Jackie Haug-Schulz and Hildegard Pankow (both of SOTH) and Virginia Lam (New Life Lutheran) take in the food. These teams wait for the Food Bank delivery truck between noontime and 3:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon, unload the pallets of food when they arrive, and stock the food and produce to the tables in the distribution room so it is all ready for our distribution on Saturday.

And the shopping does cost the Nehemiah Project money each week. The San Francisco Food Bank gives us plenty of free fresh produce every week, but they sell us the food at \$.18 per pound of dry food (cans, cereal boxes, whatever) and \$.04 per pound for bread. Thus the Nehemiah Project spends about \$70 to \$120 of food per week for each pantry. **So if you want to make a special offering to the Nehemiah project to help us buy food, we would appreciate that very much.**

THIS WAS OUR HEADLINE 3 MONTHS AGO: SHOULD WE START A THIRD FOOD PANTRY?

The San Francisco Food Bank is impressed by our performance and the spirit of our volunteers, so they are asking the Nehemiah Project to consider starting a third food pantry. We can do so with additional volunteers – Let us know if you want to help start a new pantry – if we receive a good response from our congregational members, we will jump into it.

We did pick up a couple of new volunteers that we needed at our two current food pantries, but we have not received the greater response we need to commit energy to a new food pantry. Please consider this ministry and let your congregation representatives know that you want them to start a new food pantry with your help.

Please let your congregational representative know that you would like to join a food pantry team or donate to buy food. Your representatives are:

Bethel Lutheran Church – Beverly Lipscomb or Frank Moser
 Grace Lutheran Church – Mildred Furness or Norma Byrd
 Holy Spirit Lutheran Church – Karl Randolph
 Hope Lutheran Church – Anne Dulig
 New Life Lutheran Church – Susan Yee
 Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church – Jerry Haney or Don McPartland
 West Portal Lutheran – Dr. Bob Bok or Karen Jacob
 Zion Lutheran Church – Tina Haner or Pastor Zimmerman

-- Mel Schenck



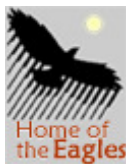
Lutheran Schools
A Great Place To Grow

"... 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 6th grade
 for Fall 2005.
 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 2005.
 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 2005.
 Call office for details.



Fall Collection Projects

We are still touching the lives of homeless people through the distribution of personal care items. We are still asking all congregations to have a on-going collection center for such items as **tooth paste, tooth brushes, shaving items, etc.** We will provide them to places where homeless people are best served, such as at St. Anthony's.

We will also carry out our Fall projects again this year of collecting **coats, blankets, and toys** for distribution to those in need. Start pulling out your old coats (ideally reasonably clean) and bring them to your congregations in September. We will collect blankets in October, and toys for Christmas in November into December.

Please contact your representative if you need items picked up.

TOWARD A LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

It has been the prayer and dream of many people for over a half century to have a San Francisco-Northern Peninsula Lutheran high school. For several years, people have shared this hope. Such comments often surface at the 8th Grade Graduations of West Portal and Zion Lutheran Schools.

Why do we hear requests for a Lutheran High School? Probably for some of the following reasons:

- We Missouri Synod Lutherans **excel in the education business** as a mission of Christ's Church on earth. Lutheran high schools offer great opportunities, educationally, spiritually, socially, aesthetically (music and the arts), athletically, culturally, etc.;
- There are some good things about our **public high schools** in San Francisco. However, some public high schools leave committed Christian parents stone cold when it comes to the moral climate, anti-Christian and anti-family values, drugs, unhealthy competitiveness, huge size, no less the quality of the academic education and adequate teachers to provide even basic, core courses;
- There are 92 Lutheran high schools across the U.S.A. The SF Bay Area and Philadelphia are the only large metro areas without a Lutheran high school. **Lutheran high schools proclaim the love of Christ and mercy of Almighty God for sinners. They serve as a community of Christian understanding and forgiveness** and help in the spiritual and moral development of the young person;
- **Many parents want an alternative** to exceedingly high-priced private schools, the Roman Catholic high schools, and the more moderately-priced but very small parochial or private high schools;
- There is the desire for a relatively **safe, secure environment where there is also discipline** and an *esprit de corps* that makes learning possible. In short, solid academic education cannot occur where time is taken up in trying to keep order;
- Lutheran High Schools are our **biggest feeders to our Concordia University System colleges and universities and seminaries**, from which the largest number of our future Lutheran pastors, teachers, deaconesses, DCEs, DCOs, and Church Musicians come;
- Lutheran High Schools actually **help strengthen the Lutheran elementary "feeder" schools**. This would be especially true in San Francisco where there is such concern about getting young people into "good" high schools and how to make that happen; and,
- A Lutheran High School in San Francisco would be a **strong Christian missionary outreach vehicle** to leading the lost to our Lord Jesus Christ and strengthening the faith of those who will carry on the mission of Christ's Church to make disciples to the next generation. It could, in a very concrete sense, stand as a reminder that the Lord has not given up on the SF-Bay area. It would also provide a nidus of unity for the various LCMS congregations of the City.

A San Francisco Lutheran High School would not be a panacea to problems found in other high schools. It would not be an oasis from the problems of the world and in society and culture. Yet it could meet needs and concerns that are not being adequately addressed. Moreover, there is, in fact, so much that is good and wholesome in public, private, and parochial high schools.



Each young person is different. What is best for one student is not necessarily the best for another. We are blessed that there are a wide variety of high school educational institutions in this City. But the case for a Lutheran High School seems very clear.

What would be the challenges to starting a Lutheran High School? They are the following:

- ▶ **Initial cost and location.** Having “adequate” facilities is often not enough. There is a huge initial costs to the rental or purchase of property and buildings. Visibility of location is vital, and providing amenities needed in a well-rounded education (school music programs, sports programs, etc.) Yet our beloved San Francisco is clearly one of the top cities in North America for offer-ing educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities for our high school youth;
- ▶ **Parental interest.** It’s easy to dream. It’s much harder to convert a dream into a vision, then give that vision a responsible “business plan,” project the idea, and build commitment. It cannot be stressed enough that **lay involvement and commitment is crucial** to birth a Lutheran High School.
- ▶ **Fund-raising.** In addition to initial costs, proper funding and foundation grants and grant writing is needed. As you know, this is a very expensive City.
- ▶ **Recruitment of strong academic and spiritual faculty.** We have excellent Lutheran educators around the world, including right here in San Francisco. But to attract a strong and paying student body, you need a strong faculty in place.
- ▶ **Recruitment of students.** Parents and young people are attracted to a strong school that clearly understands its niche and can play on its strengths. While a Lowell, Saint Ignatius, and Lick-Wilmerding (public, parochial, and private high schools) is not “born” over night, attracting a core and being able to retain that core of initial students is vital.

A core committed group now exists and has begun a year-long Genesis project/feasibility study. Please keep this effort in your prayers. What I have shared with you may seem daunting or overwhelming. Yet the longest journey always begins with the first steps. **If you have a passion for a Lutheran High School in San Francisco and want to help us, send a brief note with name and phone number or call West Portal Lutheran Church Office at 415-661-0242.** You may have the right gift (prayer partner, finance person, business savvy, donor, educator, or having a high school start “passion”) to explore and help make, God-willing, a Lutheran High School in San Francisco happen.

In the love and service of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Robert Bok
 West Portal Lutheran
 SFLNP Congregational Representative



Bethel & Grace Lutheran Ministries

2525 Alemany Blvd., SF
465 Woolsey St, SF

(415)587-2525
(415) 468-2937

Pastor Terry Chan
SFmissions@aol.com

Summer has been filled with many new blessings at Bethel and Grace Ministries. A short list of these new things:

- our new six week summer day camp program and VBS was attended by over 30 children, not bad for a first year effort!
- two new adults preparing for baptism and confirmation
- newly remodeled facilities including four new Sunday school rooms, a new conference room, new carpets, new paint, and even a new pastor's office!
- perhaps as many as four new Sunday school teachers will be teaching this fall

Looking forward to the fall calendar are these upcoming events. Please keep these in your prayers:

September 10, new session of Conversation Partners. Come volunteer as a tutor on Saturdays from 10:-11:30 am. We will also be starting some Bible study groups among these students who come primarily from the Food Pantry.

September 10, Nehemiah Project Event: (see cover story)

September 11, Congregational Celebration Open House

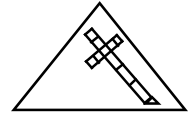
September 11, Sunday School kickoff and teacher installation

October Halloween Outreach Event

Hope Lutheran Church and School

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

Pastor Daniel Woo



Web: hopedalycity.org Email: hopedalycity@comcast.net Education Director: Rev. Jeff Schufreider

Hope's Summer Day Camp program came to a close on August 26th, just in time for the elementary students to start school on August 29th.

Under the guidance of Rosita Yeung, the Summer Camp program was an exciting time of learning and fun for children in the Daly City area to experience God's love and to hear the Gospel. The children had instruction in English, Math, and Cantonese, Organized Recreation, Chapel time and Singing. They also had a field trip once a week to nearby parks. Vacation Bible School was held during the week of July 11 and all the children enrolled in summer camp participated in the program. Pastor Jeff Schufreider directed the VBS program with several members of the church volunteering to help.

There are 70 children currently enrolled in the elementary school. The teachers were on campus the week of August 22nd to prepare their classrooms. Pastor Jeff Schufreider will remain on campus as the Principal of the Elementary School.

The Pre-School now has an enrollment of 32 children. We are looking forward to another successful school year.

The annual Gospel Night presented by Hope Lutheran's Chinese Ministries was held on June 18th. Approximately 220 people attended this outreach event. Pray for our Life Fellowship members as they spend the Labor Day weekend together for a retreat in Los Altos.

Please continue to pray for the teaching and resource staff of Hope Lutheran Ministries. Also, keep the growth of the schools in your prayers. 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-6*, 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.

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

E-mail: holyspirit_lc@yahoo.com

2400 Noriega St, S.F.

(415) 661-1120

Vacant

NEWS FROM THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC

On August 6th, 350 people signed up to attend our Congregational Picnic at the Flood Park in Menlo Park. The weather was beautiful! Food was bountiful! Our theme was "God the Creator" with a Bible verse contest centered around nature, trees, birds, water and grass. Members of the congregation spent about 6 weeks preparing for the picnic by memorizing Bible passages that related to nature. More than 150 members wrote Bible verses on a sheet and then recited them, from memory, to non-members to win prizes. One member recited 52 verses, another 33, another 32, 31, 30 & 29. Each received a plaque with their name on it. Many others received gifts for their efforts, donated by one of our church members. Church members wore Blue name tags and non-members wore Red name tags so it was easy to recognize each other. We also used a sheet with 5 questions to make conversation easy with non-members. A joyous day was had by all attending!

SUMMER CAMP

We praise God for the most inspiring six week Summer Camp for Kids held at our church, on 2400 Noriega Street, during July and August. 132 children attended with 37 Counselors assisting our DCE Allan Tong. The camp included children from 1st grade through 8th grade. Most of the children were from unchurched families. This provided us with a great opportunity to visit families and we have a special follow up plan on the 1st Saturday of each month, 4 to 8 p.m. at our Extension site called "Youth Lock In". Ten of the young people will join our "Help U Learn" after school tutorial classes. A new fellowship for EM youth has been started for Middle School young people, under the fellowship name of "Trinity". Many of the young people who attended summer camp are now attending our English worship service on Sunday mornings. We give thanks to God for the opportunity to relate to all these newcomers and share the Gospel of our Lord with them.

RETREATS

One of the special events in our church each summer is the retreats and we thank God for the opportunity to come apart and spend prime time with our Lord in study of his word and fellowship with one another.

JULY 8, 9 & 10TH - AGAPE UNITY RETREAT

21 persons attended a 3 day retreat at Silver Spur Conf Center in the Sierra Nevada Foothills. The theme was "Re-ordering Our Lives"

JULY 23RD - TRUTH FELLOWSHIP RETREAT

30 persons attended a one day retreat at Calvary Lutheran church in San Lorenzo.

AUGUST 5, 6, & 7TH - LIVING WORD RETREAT

20 young people with 4 counselors attended a 3 day retreat at Our Savior's Lutheran church in Fremont. Theme was "Not I but Christ Lives in Me"

AUGUST 11,12 & 13TH -SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS

37 counselors attended a 3 day retreat with DCE Allan Tong. Director Amy Mui brought the message from Romans 12:1, 2 & 3.

AUGUST 19, 20 & 21ST LIVING SPIRIT RETREAT

Will be held at Zion church in Piedmont. Theme will be "The Power of Prayer"

LABOR DAY WEEKEND - FAITHFULNESS RETREAT

We praise our Lord for continuing to bless our congregation in so many ways!

Praise the Lord he is in control of his church at all times!

"Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, 'The Lord reigns'" 1 Chronicles 16:31

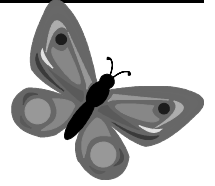
New Life Chinese Lutheran Church

www.newlifechinese.org

395 Addison Street, San Francisco

(415) 586-6525

Pastor Chip



Back to School Praise Night

The New Life Praise Band is preparing for its first praise night in September. They are working on music sets and activities for the night. The purpose of the praise night is primarily to worship God in music and in sharing. This will be a wonderful opportunity for New Life's youth to interact with other young Christians from our sister congregations. This event will also be a great event for us to invite those who are still seeking.

It is wonderful to see New Life's youth play such an active role in wanting to build up our church family. High School sophomore Jason Lum has shown exceptional willingness to lead and plan for this event. Please pray that we can be a blessing to the Lord!

New Life Community Fundraiser

In August, New Life will be holding a car wash, rummage sale, and bake sale as a fundraiser for our congregational retreat. With the experience we gained from the first car wash, this time around should be even more streamlined and efficient. This time it will be a full congregational effort as we try to manage three events at the same time! We have members donating items for the rummage sale, baking sweets for the bake sale, and volunteering manpower for the car wash. It is heartening to see all of the donations and volunteers we are already receiving.

In addition to raising funds for our church, we hope that this fundraiser can raise awareness of our presence in the immediate neighborhood. There are many adults that walk through our area as well as many children who play in the streets. Hopefully we can attract their interest and introduce Christ and ourselves into their lives!

3rd Annual Harvest Festival

Two years ago, New Life member Tomeka Shum started what's becoming a tradition at New Life, our annual Harvest Festival held on October 31. This year, we plan to offer the same safe and Christian alternative to Halloween trick o' treating with games, contests, raffles, and of course, loads of candy!

Thanksgiving Video Drama

College student Gideon Wong has written a script parodying Lord of the Rings, tentatively titled "Lord of the Strings" with a release date scheduled for the end of November. Together with Justin Lum, the youth and young adults in the congregation plan on making an independent video feature that will convey the message of Thanksgiving in comedy. Rated CC for Christ Centered.

Career Small Group

Starting in September, our young career adults will be starting a small group that will meet on a bi-weekly basis. The group will build each other up in their Christian walk by being accountable to each other, supporting each other, and by sharing with each other. Rather than focusing on themes from a study guide or video, the Career Small Group is going to concentrate on strengthening their bond with Christ and with each other.

New Youth Leader

Congratulations to Kristen Yee and God bless her for answering the need of co-leading our youth fellowship with Justin Lum. Entering her senior year, Kristen will definitely have her hands full with school and college preparation. But she has demonstrated that she is a very mature, responsible, and capable person in everything that has been entrusted to her. Thank you!

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

395 Addison Street, San Francisco

(415) 586-3424

Pastor Chip Fox

Shepherd of the Hills will be saying farewell to Congregational President, Mel Schenck. In September, Mel and his wife will be moving to Hanoi, Vietnam where they will be pursuing both personal and professional interests; we know that Mel will continue to share the Gospel's good news there as he has in the Bay Area. We wish them well and look forward to seeing them again soon. Replacing Mel requires two people; Hildegard Pankow and Don McPartland were elected as Co-Presidents.

Working with New Life, we are investing in repairs and improvements to the church property so that it can meet the needs of both congregations. In other areas too, we are continuing to explore ways in which Shepherd of the Hills and New Life can support each other in ministering to our members and reach out to our community.

Our worship service is on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. and Bible Class is at 9:00 a.m.

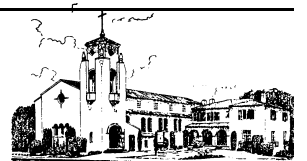
West Portal Lutheran Church and School

www.westportallutheran.org

200 Sloat Blvd, San Francisco

(415) 661-0242

Pastor David Stechholz



This was an eventful summer! Beside the usual weddings, two of our School Teachers, 7th & 8th Grade Science Teacher, Derrick Wong, and 2nd Grade Teacher, Christine Irwin, were united in holy marriage on July 2nd. A week later, Pastor Stechholz co-performed the wedding of his daughter, Mary, to Joe Bliss, at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church & School, River Grove (suburban Chicago), Illinois. That's right. Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, now united in marital Bliss!

More people than usual were away on extended vacations this year. It must be that the fog is getting to some folks. However, we were blessed with a great Vacation Bible School, led by Director, Vicki Proehl, her 24th year of V.B.S. leadership. 102 students participated in the "African Safari Adventure," along with 50 teachers, assistants, and aides. What a wonderful time of learning and growing in Jesus.

Things are changing at West Portal. While the School ministry is our largest ministry and our biggest potential for Christian outreach, it is not our only ministry. Such "portals" as Music and Youth & Family ministries are opening new horizons. The Vicarage program is one that we still cherish. Our new, affable Vicar is Seminarian Andrew Dinger from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He is a PK (Preacher's Kid) from Port Arthur, Texas, and has lived in Washington, D.C. and Taiwan. He is single. Our former Vicar, Dave Szeto, and his wife, Deaconess-in-training Fran Szeto, are now back at Concordia Seminary. West Portal takes vicars from both of our Synodical seminaries. We just transferred member and Deaconess Intern Susan Predoehl to Zion, Piedmont, where she is interning. And two of our students, Michael Mason and Sarah Stechholz, are now students at Concordia University-Irvine. We wish that we would know who all the LC-MS San Francisco students are at CU-I and Concordia University-Portland. For the next issue?

Up-coming these next couple months at West Portal are:

Friday, September 9th ----- Youth & Family Barbecue at Luther House

Sunday, September 11th ---- Placing & Consecration of School Faculty & Luncheon

Saturday, September 24th -- Church & School Leaders' Retreat at Sunset Campus

Sunday, October 2nd ----- Placing and Honoring of Acolytes & Crucifers

Church-School "Fun, Food, Fellowship" Picnic at WPL

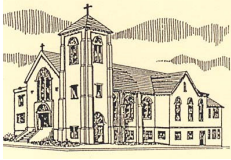
Monday, October 3rd ----- Annual Jews for Jesus Rosh Hashanah Celebration

Friday-Sunday, October 8th-10th --- High School Youth Retreat

Monday, October 31st ----- Reformation Day Devotional Service

Wednesday & Thursday, November 23rd & 24th -- Thanksgiving Services.

Our prayer is that our Congregation, our sister San Francisco LC-MS congregations, our English and CNH Districts, and indeed our whole Church body will be "ablaze" for seeking the lost and telling the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ. Synod's two major programs, "For the Sake of the Church" and "Hearts Ablaze" should now be on the tips of our tongues and programs that we support. May the Lord bless the godly outreach of us all!



Zion Lutheran Church and School

www.zionlutheranchurch.org

495 - 9th Ave, SF

(415) 221-7500

Pastor Ted Zimmerman

FOLLOW UP TO A VERY PRACTICAL SEMINAR

“Journey to Financial Freedom” – a Crown Financial Ministries Seminar

Based on the feedback from those in attendance, the “Journey to Financial Freedom” Seminar at Zion on Saturday, July 23, was a great success. We believe God spoke to the hearts of everyone there. Fifty-three persons attended, 13 of whom were from Zion. Several were from the Circuit. Seven churches were represented altogether.

The instructor, Rich Siebert, from Crown Financial Ministries, answered questions like:

- § What does God’s Word say about handling money?
- § What are traps to avoid?
- § What is financial freedom?
- § How can we develop a plan to ensure there’s enough money at the end of the month?
- § What about the future?
- § And many more . . .

Forty-two evaluations were received from the participants. Four recommitted their lives to Christ, 26 purposed to be a steward, not an owner of possessions, two made a new commitment to their marriage (financial stress is one of the “beavers” that can gnaw at a couple’s relationship), 22 promised to openly discuss finances with their spouse, 16 determined to start or increase tithes and offerings, 32 committed to start budgeting, 16 committed to cut up, pay off credit cards, and 16 committed to teach their children the principles of biblical stewardship

A follow-up small group is being formed at Zion. It will meet on Monday evenings, 7:00 p.m., beginning September 12. Attendance at the Seminar would be helpful, but is open to any interested in serious Bible study and supporting each other in following biblical principles of stewardship. For more information, contact Virginia Dobel, (415) 823-5144

BUILDING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Zion’s dreams of expanding its ministry space by 16,000 sq. ft. have taken a giant step forward as plans have been completed to the point that they can be submitted to the City Building Department and the bidding process can proceed. Assuming the figures come in as expected, and a contractor is secured, we can finalize the loan agreements with Church Extension Fund and proceed with building. Initial work will begin on the 10th Ave. side of the property so that a new access to the parking lot can be gained. Then demolition of the present Ministry Annex will take place. And when the time is right so that we can dig a basement and not a swimming pool, we will proceed.

Please keep us in your prayers. We have toyed with the idea of taking a page out of the book of Joshua, march for seven days around the property (in reverse) and then blow our horns until the walls come tumbling up! But seriously, we know that this has been more than a building exercise . . . it has been, and continues to be, a spiritual battle. But he who is for us is greater than all that are against us!

Zion Lutheran continued

ZION BEGINS A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

On Wednesday, August 24, Zion will begin its 60th year of Day School ministry in the name of the Triune God. Present enrollment is anticipated to be 185—but hopefully we will yet add another dozen or so.

The biggest change this year will be the loss of three experienced teachers: JoAn Jasobsen (grade 1), Kevin Yamabe (grade 2), and John Lueck (Junior High). They are being replaced by several promising new teachers: Mandy Wong (grade 1), Damian Arellano (grade 1, an alumnus of Zion), Jill Barton (Junior High math and science, PE), Bob Giambruno (Junior High math).

Zion will install its new teachers on Sunday, September 11, in the 11 o'clock service, and then host a Back-to-School Barbeque in the parking lot.

PASTOR ZIMMERMAN SHOWS CHINA, TIBET PICTURES, TELLS OF TRIP

Pastor Ted and Elaine Zimmerman recently traveled for three weeks in China and Tibet, and cruised up the mighty Yangtze River (the Three Gorges area). He has assembled a set of pictures that he will show to all interested parties on Friday, October 14, at 7 p.m. in Zion's Parish Hall. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by calling Zion's church office, 221-7500.



Bethel Center

Coming Events:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Sept 29 - Oct. 1 | Rummage Sale, Bethel Lutheran Church |
| October 8 | Walk-A-Thon, Golden Gate Park |
| Nov 19-20 | Food Concession at Doelger Center, Daly City's Arts & Crafts Faire |
| December 3 | Christmas Boutique at Bethel Lutheran Church |
| December 10 | Christmas Cookie Fest at Bethel Lutheran Church |

Call Bethel Center at 415-586-4977 for more information
or to donate items or your time.

Check out our web site at thebethelcenter.org

Letter From the Co-Editor

God's Blessings to my fellow Lutherans,

I'm Frank Moser, co-editor of our San Francisco Nehemiah Newsletter. I guess you could call this a small editorial since I wish to present some observations that come under the Nehemiah purpose. I believe most of us know that Nehemiah was formed so that we would have a venue that would allow us to work closely together as one voice in bringing God's word to San Francisco and to the community around each of our churches. Instead of working alone we can unite and be more successful in our labors. We have succeeded in a few programs such as: the gathering of coats, blankets, and personal items for the homeless and needy; the collection of toys for our Spanish mission; and, last year, Toys for Tots. Thanks to Mel Schenck, whom we will miss tremendously, holding food pantries at Shepherd of the Hills and Bethel Grace has been so successful that the Food Bank would like us to open a third one at the Bethel location.

This could happen, but before we can do this we need the support of our sister LCMS churches. That is what Nehemiah is all about: all of our churches working and helping each other. "Volunteers"....that is the key word! One of the goals of Nehemiah is to have a volunteer list of people who will help and support programs in any of our churches that need this.

That brings up another observation. Not all of our SF LCMS churches are members of Nehemiah. When it first started, representatives from most of the churches attended the monthly meetings at which we considered the needs and future programs. I know it took a long time to write our goals and bylaws, and get our non-profit status, but thanks to Autumn Zimmerman, Pastor Ted, Mel and others, we NOW HAVE the paper work done. We have money in the bank, thanks to the huge rummage sale a few years ago, and Thrivent is helping us purchase items that we need for the food pantries. We have not asked any of our churches for money, so I hope that wasn't a reason for participation dropping off. And if you look at the last newsletter you will see that some churches don't even send in articles for publication. We find room to list names and addresses, but there are no articles.....? We WANT to be informed as to what your church is doing. Not all of our churches have the resources that some of you have, and if there is a program or event, everyone should be able to hear of it and share in it.

I hope I didn't lose you halfway through this article, but PLEASE see that your congregation has a representative to the Nehemiah council who attends all the meetings. We need to work together in our task of working for the Lord.

Frank Moser (Also known as "the bearded one".)

Congregational Needs?

SFLNP wants to help your congregation with things you may need. What are some things your church may need help with? Volunteers for specific events, painting, repair work, cleaning or something else? We are looking for more projects and would like to put out a special edition of the Our Church paper just to present these needs to our other congregations. We want to help each other and find places for everyone to volunteer. Please give projects to your SFLNP representative, or contact us directly and let us know where you need help.

For questions, comments or to submit articles, please contact
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