

ZIONNEWS

FEBRUARY 2014

A publication for the family of Zion Lutheran Church
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FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Robert Farrar Capon is an Anglican priest. He is a theologian, author, pastor, and teacher who lives in the United States. A few years ago Lutheran Life (now Faith Life) invited Professor Capon to deliver two lectures at the annual Lutheran Life Lecture. I had attended almost every year and didn't want to miss this one. There was always something new and challenging to take away from the lecture, and these lectures were no different. I must say that Professor Capon's morning and afternoon lectures that day shed new light on some old teachings that are at the core of what we Lutherans believe in. I should like to share what he had to say about Grace and Heaven.

Professor Capon played to his audience. He knew he was addressing mostly Lutherans and so he started out with a subject that is dear to a Lutheran's heart, namely, Grace. We all know that Grace is God's unconditional love for all of God's creatures. We all know that we receive God's unconditional love whether we think we deserve it or not. Nothing new there. That's pretty much what we all learned in Confirmation. God's Grace is a prize that we cannot win on our own. Jesus won it for us through his death and resurrection, and showed us that God loves us so much that God forgives all our sins and promises us that we will rise up to eternal life on the Last Day in a resurrection like Jesus'.

All of us Lutherans nodded in agreement. But then came the shocker! Professor Capon said that he bet that most of us didn't really believe that God's Grace extended to everyone. He bet that each of us knew someone who we thought didn't deserve God's Grace. He was right, of course. Then he scolded, telling us that we are dead wrong if we think that Grace is not a gift to every man, woman and child who ever lived, who are living now, and who will live in the future. Jesus died and rose from the dead for every one of us, to quote Professor Capon, "right from Adolph Hitler to your brother-in-law". That is a statement of the radical Grace we're all supposed to believe in, and it made us squirm.



Does that mean that everyone is going to end up in Heaven? Yes, Professor Capon said. Every person is "all right" in God's eyes. God proved that to us by the death and Resurrection of Jesus. On the last day, when we all rise up to new life, we will all be in Heaven, because God loves us all. Well, if that's true, then what about all those references to hell we find in scripture, someone asked? Professor Capon smiled as if he'd been expecting the question. Heaven and hell are in the same place, he answered. Say what! Yes, Professor Capon replied. We're all going to heaven because God loves us all, but, you know, some of us will be so set in our ways, so stubborn, that we won't be able to accept the Grace God offers us. Some of us won't be able to walk up to God and say, "Thank you God for loving me unconditionally". Those of us who can't accept God's Grace will be forever separated from God right there in Heaven. To use Professor Capon's image, they will spend eternity "in the nail-wound in Jesus' hand". It will be a hell of their own doing for people who can't see beyond the resurrection. That's something to ponder!

As you read this message, dear friends, Christmas has come and gone. I sometimes wish that Christmas were called the Incarnation just to separate the festival from the crass and commercialism that seems to snatch Christ right out of Christmas. Let's never forget that at Christmas we celebrate the Incarnation of God, the greatest Christmas gift of all – the gift of God's unconditional love in the flesh of Jesus Christ, who is God the Son.

Donna and I wish each of you a Happy & Blessed 2014.

Shalom
Pastor Dale

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Happy New Year and welcome back. To start with in regard to the Christmas pageant, we offer praise to everyone for a job well done. Thanks to the children for their hard work and enthusiasm. A huge thank you to all the teachers and volunteers who took part and helped to make it the success it was. We would like to extend a special thank you to Franklin Famme who once again provided the musical accompaniment for the pageant.

Our next special event is, of course, the annual bake sale, which will take place on

Sunday, February 9, in hopes of raising money for the Sunshine Foundation. In order to maintain the success of prior years, we ask that our Sunday School parents/children provide simple baked goods to be sold during coffee fellowship. Please bring your items to the kitchen downstairs on that morning before service. Thank you!

Submitted by,
Tina Small and Mitzi Podann, Sunday School Co-ordinators



Margaret Golder, November 25
Charles Hall, December 21



Alice Susanna Brace, daughter of
Brad & Melinda on January 5.



WOMEN OF FAITH NEWS

Thank you to all of you who helped in any way with the Christmas shut-in baskets. It was greatly appreciated. Thank you also, to those who helped out with the Christmas Dinner and program. A special thank you to Santa and Frosty. It was a treat as always. You are truly a blessing (whoever you are!)

February 3: WOF Board Meeting at 7 PM
Please note - no monthly meetings until March

WOF are currently looking for volunteers for the Flower Committee. Please let Linda Springer know if you can help out. We need somebody for September.

As mentioned before, we are doing the Learning and Living Kits for Lutheran World Relief again this year. We are asking for whole kits this time. There will be copies at the back of the church for the items needed to complete a whole kit. Everyone is invited to participate. A box at the back of the church will be available for you to drop off your kits. The kits will be shipped in May.

Wishing you all a blessed New Year,
Linda Springer

ZION TABLE FOR SENIORS



The next gathering of Zion Table For Seniors, our ministry which promotes fun, food, and friendship is Tuesday, February 25 at 12 noon. Please let Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Phyllis Jeffery (519-271-3668) know by Monday, February 18 if you can attend. Lunch cost is only \$12. After dinner speaker is Pastor Dale Finch, who will show slides of his trip to Palestine. All are welcome! Next month's Africa Need is: **Comb or Brush**. Thank you!

ZION'S FRIENDSHIP MEAL



Our next Friendship Meal will be held on Friday, February 28 at 5 PM. Once again, we are planning a full course meal for people with special needs in our community. If you would like to volunteer your time to cook, serve, or clean-up, please come out and join us. We certainly need you! For more information, please contact Sister Jean Widmeyer (273-6810).

THANK YOUS ARE IN ORDER



We would like to thank the following people who donated towards the purchase of flowers which decorated our sanctuary over the Christmas season and into Epiphany. They were beautiful! We thank, as well, the ELW who helped to organize it and Linda Faulhafer and Elaine Steed who worked with the flowers. Those who donated are:

Elsie Dahn, Olive Siemon, Elfrieda Zimmermann, Richard & Anne Graul, Ruth Illmann, Bea Huras, Verne & Joyce Hammer, Brian & Pauline Schade, Brian & Barb Gropp, Wayne & Linda Faulhafer & family, Jean Weir, Tim & Darlene Gropp, Bob & Heather Wickenheiser, Mary Helen Dale, Wayne & Joanne Young, Judith Hammond.

FEBRUARY 2014 VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers assist with our Sunday morning worship services. Listed below are those who serve in February as a reminder and as a thank you for serving.

Date	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Counting Captains
Feb 2	N/A	Gerald & Isabel Cook	Nancy Schaff	Jerry Terhaerdt	Liz Bomasuit
Feb 9	N/A	Willi & AnneMarie Hausleitner	Erin Iredale	Jerry Terhaerdt	Liz Bomasuit Nancy White
Feb 16	Sister Jean Widmeyer & Barb Higgins	Tristan Hartfiel	Bruce Sippel	Tom Cosstick	Rob Leifso June Junner
Feb 23	N/A	Jim & Kathy Schellenberger	Linda Springer	Tom Cosstick	Rob Leifso June Junner