

JANUARY 2009  
VOLUME 14 ISSUE 1

# Zion's Messenger

Zion Lutheran Church

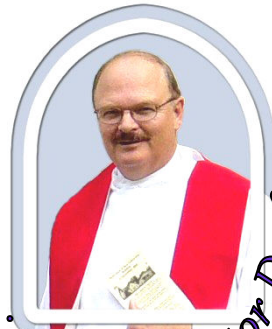
PO Box 266  
Silverhill, AL 36576  
(251) 945--5209

Rev. David Johnson, Pastor  
E-mail: johns468@gulftel.com  
<http://www.LutheransInSilverhill.com/>

**Sunday School 9:00 AM**  
**Worship Service 10:00 AM**  
**Communion: 1st & 3rd Sundays**  
**Wed Bible Study 7:00 PM**  
**Women's Bible Study**  
**3rd Saturday 10:00 AM**

**Hear Pastor Dave's**  
***God's Loving Kindness***  
***in the Morning***  
WHEP Radio AM 1310  
6:44 AM Sundays

## A New Year and New Opportunities



From Pastor Dave

**Ecclesiastes 9:10** Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

**Luke 6:35** "But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil."

**Colossians 4:5** Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

**The Blessing of a New Year.** Think of the blessing we receive each January. It is another year, a brand, spanking "new" year, a fresh start! Many times there is no way to start over, but in terms of years, there is. Solomon was tired of years. He had learned little in his lifetime except for one key idea. "Wealth and possessions and prestige do not satisfy." He was the king (who unlike King David who had a "whole heart" for God) only had "half a heart" for the Lord. We might say that "he blew it." He had everything, but he lost the freshness of life and time.

**Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes.** He saw the end of his striving as death and the grave. His best advice? Do your tasks before you die! He is the one who said, "There is nothing new under the sun." Perhaps that is true, but each year we have new opportunities and new ways of looking at both new and old problems.

**There Is Hope in Christ.** Christ has been admired through the ages for persevering when the world seemed loss.

Jesus saw opposition and mean-spirited people in His earthly ministry. His mission in 2000 years ago was not dominated by returning evil for evil, but instead, doing good to both friends AND enemies.

He explains in Luke 6:35 that our Heavenly Father looks to make us His children. He is a kind Father. Not only that, God honors those who seek to be like Him, "loving enemies, doing good, lending and helping" a world that needs help.

**The World Needs Jesus.** The Apostle Paul reminds us in Colossians that we live in a world that does not know Christ. We need to recognize that, but we need to make the most of our time in the world and minister to those very people. We need to "give them a chance," to "redeem opportunities," to "bring Jesus to them." People don't just come to church-they need friends and neighbors who will invite them to hear God's truth and share



in the Body of Christ, to grow in fellowship, and to receive the salvation that Jesus promises to all who believe.




**Visions in a New Year?** We continue to look immediately north of Zion Lutheran Church in the area between I-10 and I-65. Many of us at Zion feel that the Lord would "have us do good" and assist Lutheran believers in that area form a Lutheran fellowship. That's local mission. We want the world for Christ, but the world does begin in our back yard and it begins new on January 1, 2009. Perhaps you have friends or acquaintances in that area-have you let them know what we would like to do?



**Prayer for the New Year.** Lord Jesus, we thank You that You make all things new. We know that we often fail You by not seeing the big picture, the world and Your desires for it. Open our eyes to Your vision for Zion Lutheran Church and for each of us, as we begin this New Year of 2009. Help us connect with people who want to worship and serve You in North Baldwin County. Amen.

~~Pastor Dave

# January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Altar This Month: Stephens			1		2	3
4		5	6	7		8
9	10	11	12		13	14
15		16	17		18	19
20		21	22		23	24
25	26	27	28		29	30
31	25 Annual Congregational Meeting Lunch follows					



## At the Portal

Standing at the portal  
Of the opening year  
Words of comfort meet us,  
Hushing every fear;  
Spoken through the silence  
By our Father's voice,  
Tender, strong and faithful  
Making us rejoice:

"I, the Lord, am with thee;  
Be thou not afraid!  
I will keep and strengthen;  
Be thou not dismayed!  
Yea, I will uphold thee  
With my own right hand;  
Thou art called and chosen  
In my sight to stand."

For the year before us,  
Oh, what rich supplies!  
For the poor and needy  
Living streams shall rise,  
For the sad and sinful  
Shall His grace abound;  
For the faint and feeble  
Perfect strength be found.

He will never fail us,  
He will not forsake;  
His eternal covenant  
He will never break!  
Resting on His promise  
What have we to fear?  
God is all-sufficient  
For the coming year.

—Frances Ridley Havergal

## Activities

**Thur Jan 1** New Year's Day  
**Wed Jan 7** Bible Study 7 PM  
**Mon Jan 12** Council Meeting 7 PM  
**Tues Jan 13** Men's 710 7:10AM  
**Wed Jan 14** Bible Study 7 PM  
**Sat Jan 17** Women's Bible Study 10 AM  
**Wed Jan 21** Bible Study 7 PM  
**Sun Jan 25** Annual Congregational Meeting After Worship Service  
 Light Lunch after meeting  
**Wed Jan 28** Bible Study 7 PM

From the Treasurer . . .

## Budget Recap

Nov 30, 2008

YTD	Receipts	Expenses
Gen Fund	\$61,760	\$64,286
Debt Fund	\$8,288	\$8,359

~ D. Tasso, Treasurer

## Birthdays



Jan. 13 Darlene Tasso