

# Zion's Messenger



Zion Lutheran Church

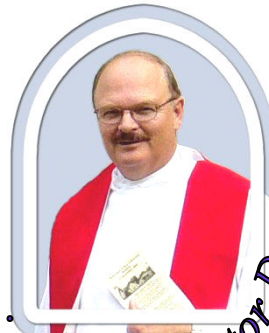
PO Box 266  
Silverhill, AL 36576  
(251) 945--5209

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

## Autumn



From Pastor Dave

**Isaiah 40:6-8** The voice said, "Cry out!" And he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, because the breath of the LORD blows upon it.

Surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever."

**Mark 13:31** "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."

**1Peter 1:25** "But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

The one thing we like about the fall is closure. When a leaf falls on your lawn, you know that you can go out and pick it up. Remember Charlie Brown? He would stand under the tree with his rake in hand, but the leaf would never fall UNTIL Charlie walked out of the picture. You and I want our leaves to fall when we NEED them to. As sinners, we don't always see things the way God would want us to. Like Charlie Brown, we utter our "Good Grief!" when we have to spend another afternoon raking leaves.

Now flowers are another thing. We don't want flowers to fade and fall. We want them to stay bright and to smile on us and smell nice. Lutherans like flowers. Churches like flowers. They beautify the altar and sanctuary. They add to worship and



devotion. But flowers fade and petals drop. They are just like grass. All this green stuff ends up in a heap on the ground, just like those leaves. Indeed, just like our human flesh will when our earthly life is complete.

We were talking about flowers in church at the church Council meeting for

October. The discussion brought to light the fact that the flower sign-up chart, the one by the church door on Sundays, isn't always checked by the altar person for the month. In fact, there are people who don't even know there IS a flower chart, let alone WHERE it is! The dilemma was identified! "How does the person that signs up on the flower chart know who the altar coordinator is? And how does the altar coordinator know when someone will be bringing special flowers?" The flowers quite likely will fade before you get the two people together, won't they? After Council meeting, we took the flower chart down. Now if you want to place flowers for a Sunday, you need to talk to the altar coordinator for the month. Confusing, when it might be just as easy for the altar person to look at the flower chart. It isn't that we don't NOT want flowers, we may just need to understand that God wants us to work in FELLOWSHIP for HIS glory and not our own! Can it work either way? Of course. Things just run smoother sometimes when everybody is on the same page. Will feelings be hurt without a flower chart? Answer: "Are Lutherans sinners?" Does it really matter HOW a task is accomplished to glorify God? Can we appreciate the beautiful flowers on Sunday morning and be thankful that God chose to honor one of us with a birthday, or sanctify a marriage on this day?

You know, when you have flowers, you want them used. You want to do flowers before they fade. But they will fade, whether they meet our plans or they just grow, drop petals, and die. Flowers are exactly like grass. Grass ends up like the fallen leaves in the fall. They are both dead at the end of the season. Not so with God's Word. God's Word remains fresh forever. It is the very living Word brought to us by our Lord Jesus and conveyed through the preaching of God's Word today.

Kind of a Lutheran thought, isn't it? Think Reformation and October for a moment, the month we associate with the Lutheran Reformation. God's Word continues to refresh us--it has been almost 500 years. Take a look at Luther's seal in the stained glass over the altar, the next time you come to church. Luther's seal with its flower does not lose petals, because its heart is the Gospel. Perhaps it is an appropriate reminder for us to take heart (and flowers) and honor God together. Yes, "the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever."

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, we thank You for flowers and leaves and the desire to beautify Your church sanctuary. Help us to work with one another in our worship and our efforts to fill Your church with beauty and holiness. As we seek to celebrate events in our lives, enable us to magnify You in worship through the beauty You provide in the plants and flowers of the earth. Thank You that Your Word is a flower that never ages, that we can trust in Your beauty and majesty. Amen.

~Pastor Dave

*I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then am I strong. —2 Corinthians 12:10*



# October 2008



## Birthdays

Oct 11 Steve Vasko  
 Oct 18 Austin Gibbs  
 Oct 27 Elsie Wren  
 Oct 30 Roland Snarr  
 Oct 30 Ernest Burnett

## Anniversaries

Oct. 19 Jerry & Violet  
 Buonauro



## Activities

**Mon Oct 6** Council Meeting 7 PM  
**Sun Oct 12** Camp Dixie  
 Chicken Dinner  
**Tues Oct 14** Men's 710 7:10AM  
**Sat Oct 18** Heritage Day  
**Sun Oct 26** Reformation Sunday  
 Pot Luck after Church

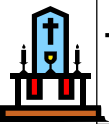


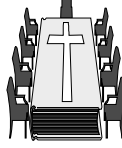














*From the Treasurer . . .*  
**Budget Bottom Line**  
 Aug 31, 2008

YTD	Receipts	Expenses
Gen Fund	\$45,918	\$47,530
Debt Fund	\$6,208	\$6,208

~ D. Tasso, Treasurer



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>Altar This Month:</b> Kubina			1 	2	3	4
5 	6 	7	8 	9	10	11 
12 Camp Dixie Chicken Dinner 	13 Columbus Day	14 	15 	16	17	18 Heritage Day 
19  	20	21	22 	23	24	25
26 Reformation Sunday Pot Luck after Church	27 	28	29 	30 	31	Nov. 1 