
ZION NEWS

A newsletter of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Lawrenceville, Georgia – October, 2010

“Come let us declare in Zion the work of the Lord our God.” Jeremiah 51:10

Reformation

by Pastor Nathanael Mayhew

October 31 - a date by which we remember the Reformation. It was on that date in 1517 that Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg Germany, listing the abuses of the sale of indulgences by the Roman Catholic Church. Because of the stir and debate which followed, this date has long been considered the beginning of the Reformation. Even secular historians admit that the Reformation was the cause of monumental changes, not just in Germany, but throughout the world. Up to that time there was, for all practical purposes, only one Christian religion in Europe - Roman Catholicism. The Reformation brought about a separation into three distinct groups still seen today: Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Reformed. Almost all “Christian” denominations owe their beginning to Martin Luther and the Reformation.

The Roman Catholic Church was at one time a true-teaching church based on the doctrine of the apostles and prophets. But over time, power and greed began to control the church, not the Bible. In 593 the doctrine of purgatory was invented; already in the eighth century the church was declaring its power in temporal matters; in 1075 Gregory VII declared all clerical marriages invalid; in 1184 the church declared the right to torture or kill anyone who contradicted the teachings of the pope (the inquisition); in 1190 indulgences began to be sold offering less punishment for sins in purgatory; in 1215 the doctrine of transubstantiation was added; in 1226 the

teaching of the adoration of the host; in 1229 the church condemned Bible societies saying that only the church could interpret Scripture; in 1303

Pope Boniface VIII issued a bull claiming papal supremacy in all things; and in 1415 they began to withhold the cup from the laity in the Lord’s Supper. All of this (and much more) led up to the movement for reformation within the church.

Luther was not the first to stand up against corruption and false teaching within the Roman Catholic Church. There were many before him. Men like William Occam (1280-1349) and John Wyclif (1320-1384) in

England, John Hus (1369-1415) in Bohemia, and the Italian Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498) were the forerunners of Martin Luther. Because of their opposition of the Roman Church they were either excommunicated or put to death.

Let us give thanks to our gracious LORD for using these – and many other – faithful Christians to stand up for the Biblical truth of Salvation by Grace through faith in Jesus. The Reformation theme remains ours today - Grace Alone, Faith Alone and Scripture Alone! Thanks be to God. †



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Knowing History

The following article was written by LC-MS Pastor Daniel Preus and printed in the Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly - Spring 2008. It shows the importance of KNOWING HISTORY – specifically, church history. This 50th Anniversary year of the CLC we would surely include the importance of knowing our “religious and spiritual roots”!

In December, 2001, Lynn Cheney, the wife of our country’s vice president gave a speech in Princeton, New Jersey, on their importance of history. In this speech she recalled a 1999 survey of college seniors at 55 elite colleges and universities from Princeton to Stanford. This survey revealed some rather distressing facts about the low level of historical knowledge of those who ought to be near their peak when it comes to their command of U.S. history. After all, they’re college seniors at the nation’s best academic institutions. Let me provide you with a few examples of what this survey revealed.

1. Only 22% of these college seniors knew that the words “government of the people, by the people, for the people” are from the Gettysburg Address.
2. 40% could not place the Civil War in the last half of the 19th Century.
3. 25% thought the Pilgrims signed the Magna Carta during their voyage on the Mayflower.
4. 63% did not know that the Battle of the Bulge took place in World War II.

We seem to live in an ahistorical age. I think especially my generation, and perhaps the generation after me, is particularly culpable in its lack of interest in history.

This is truly a tragedy because we will never know where we are going if we do not know where we have been. If we don’t know how we got there, we won’t know why we’re here, or perhaps even where we are. Or to put this concept in a more theological context: If we don’t know what the struggles and battles of the church have been, what heresies have attacked it, what persecutions have assaulted it, we won’t understand why the creeds are written as they

are, why our Lutheran Confessions were originally drawn up, and why they are so essential to us today. But ever more troubling, if we don’t know our church history, we will not know how to deal with the issues that confront us today, because we will not be acquainted with the lessons which we can learn from the past.



Prominently carved on the face of the building of the National Archives of our nation in Washington D. C. is this brief phrase: “Past is Prologue.” I believe those words are true. If you want to know what will happen, look at what has happened.

Solomon knew that this was true. You are all well acquainted with his words in Ecclesiastes. Eccl. 9:9-10 ***“That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which it may be said, ‘see, this is new’? It has already been in ancient times.”***

For example--Christian Science. Is it new? Was it actually born in the visions of Mary Baker Eddy? No, what Christian Science teaches is very old and is nothing different than the heresy of Gnosticism against which the disciple John wrote in his Gospel. The Gnostics taught that all matter was evil and that Jesus, therefore, could not actually have become a man, for to do so He would have had to have taken on human flesh. Against these Gnostics the Apostle John wrote, ***“The Word became flesh.” (John 1:14)***

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Getting to Know Zion Members: Roger Ziecker

Reported by Ann Duncan



Roger Ziecker went to the mailbox in front of his Lawrenceville-area home in July 2008 and noticed a flier from a Lutheran church advertising Vacation Bible School. That got Roger's attention. A lifelong Missouri Synod Lutheran, Roger was currently without a church. He called the number on the flier. . . .

Roger is a native New Yorker: Born in Buffalo, he was raised in Boston, N.Y., which is outside Buffalo. His early education (grades 1-8) took place in a one-room school out in the country. "We didn't have any choice, anyway. We just had one teacher for all eight grades." However, following his 8th grade graduation, Roger went to the brand-new high school in Orchard Park.

Not long after receiving his high school diploma, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and spent a year on Johnson Island in the Pacific, about 700 miles from Hawaii. The island was primarily a landing area for planes that needed to refuel in order to complete their flights across the Pacific. Roger worked for the installation engineer, drawing maps, charts, working with plantings and some agricultural studies.

After his four-year commitment was up, Roger returned to Buffalo, where he found it was difficult to get a job – three months later, he's back in the Air Force for another four years. During Roger's military stints, he took various college courses. After the second go-round in

the service, Roger again went back to New York and found work at Houdaille Hydraulics in Buffalo, as a designer and draftsman.

A longtime bowler, Roger met his wife, Lorraine, at the bowling alley. They married in 1965 and had a daughter and a son.

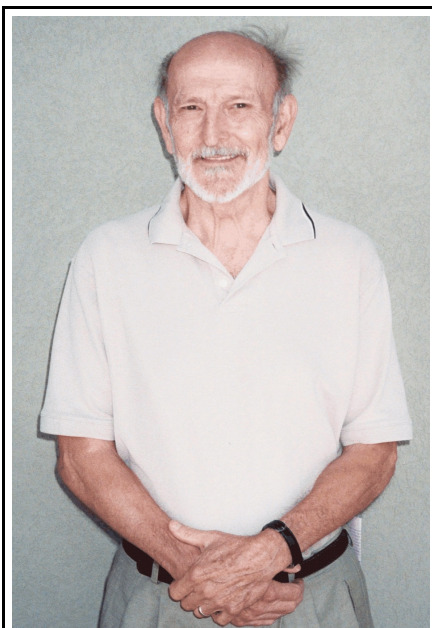
Roger also worked for Fisher Price as a designer/draftsman for many years, designing parts of toys, as well as the machines for the assembly of the products.

Lorraine, a music teacher, eventually got tired of the cold New York winters, and following a visit to friends in Lawrenceville, applied for teaching positions in Gwinnett County. In 1975 the Zieckers moved to Lawrenceville. Lorraine was employed by a middle school, but Roger had no job. He soon found temporary work and went on to work at several companies in drafting/engineering-related positions around Atlanta and North Georgia during his career. Roger retired from Nordson Adhesive Application Equipment, and Lorraine retired from Collins Hill High School.

Lorraine is a lifelong Methodist, keeping busy with various aspects of music ministry. Roger is an avid golfer awaiting the recovery of his longtime golfing partner who has been ill. Because of eye problems, Roger has given up bowling and another interest, hunting.

Roger and his wife have two grandsons, ages 13 and 11, who both attended Zion's VBS this year.

We welcome Roger to our fellowship and appreciate his faithfulness to our local body of believers. †



Mr. Roger Ziecker

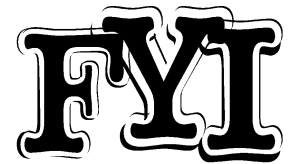
And what about the Jehovah's Witnesses? Are their teachings new? Take for example their insistence that the Son of God is not equal to the Father. This isn't new. The same thing was taught by a heretic named Arius who lived in the late 3rd and early 4th century A.D. The church responded with the Nicene Creed which confesses so beautifully about Jesus that He is "God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God."

Look at any of the cults that are so prolific especially in our country. Everything they teach – it's all been taught before. And the church has dealt with it all before. Or look at the issues that face us in the Missouri Synod today.

Consider the so-called church growth movement with its clear anti-liturgical bent and frequent fascination with worship as entertainment. The similarities to what was going on among Lutherans in the East of the United States when the Saxons arrive in Missouri in 1989 are unmistakable. The revivals and new measures popular among the East Coast Lutherans bear remarkable resemblance to what goes on in some "contemporary" Lutheran services today.

Or look at the fellowship issues facing us today. In many Lutheran churches it is common to commune non-Lutherans. But surely you know why the Lutheran Prussians, who were one of the early groups forming the Missouri Synod, left Prussia. They were being forced by the emperor to commune together with the Reformed. Or consider the theological liberalism common in so many churches, or the liberalism that almost swallowed up the Missouri Synod back in the '60s and '70s. Is it new? No. It is very similar to the rationalism the Lutheran Saxons were experiencing before they came to this country and became another of the groups that founded the Missouri Synod.

Solomon knew what he was talking about when he said, ***"There is nothing new under the sun."*** But after Solomon provided us with these very well-known words, he said a few other words which are not so well known words, in fact, that are quite cynical, yet words that, unfortunately, are true. ***"There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come by those who will come after."*** (*Ecclesiastes 1:11*) Solomon describes the general and typical approach of mankind to history. He will not remember it; he will not learn its lessons; and so he will be doomed to commit the same mistakes over and over again. †



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

Zion Women's Ministry

A women's ministry is forming at Zion in the hope of fulfilling a three-fold purpose:

- First, to provide for various needs around our church building;
- Second, to assist Pastor Mayhew in accomplishing various outreach projects within our community; and
- Third, to enjoy the benefits of Christian fellowship with each other.

Keep an eye out for updates and announcements in the church bulletin. All women of Zion are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 17th at 9:30 am at the IHOP in Lawrenceville. Please contact Ann Duncan at 770-237-2541 for additional information. †

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produced by:*

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