
ZION NEWS

A newsletter of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Lawrenceville, Georgia – February, 2011

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

CLC Brethren Overseas

by Pastor Nathanael Mayhew

Sometime last year a CLC pastor was contacted by a man in Australia who found information about the confession of our church body. This man and his family had left the Lutheran Church of Australia due to doctrinal error, but found there was no church body which was faithful to God’s Word in Australia. After extensive communication between the two groups, they found themselves in agreement with the CLC’s teaching and practice and have applied for affiliate membership. This fellowship will be formally acted on at our CLC convention next summer.

This family has organized a “house church” in which the father, a lay-man, has been asked to serve as pastor. They have formed Steadfast Ev. Lutheran Church, which currently consists of Tim Stiller, his wife Kathy, their three children, as well as Tim’s

Zion News is produced by:

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church
132 Hurricane Shoals Rd.
Suite E
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

You can contact us at:
770-962-9034
or
ndmayhew@juno.com

parents. The Stillers worship together regularly making use of sermons by C.F.W. Walther as well as our CLC Ministry by Mail. As you can imagine, Tim has indicated that they feel very isolated since they have no one with whom to fellowship. They have participated in the online Bible Class offered by Messiah Lutheran Church, and have had continued communication with Pastor Daniel Fleischer.

Tim has asked for penpals for

his three children. His oldest daughter, Rebekah, is 15; his son Jesse is 13; and his youngest daughter, Mariah, is 11. Correspondence would be by surface mail, and not by e-mail. If you have children who are the approximate ages of the Stillers, please encourage them to write these young people. Tim’s address is:

Tim Stiller
P.O. Box 593
Tanunda SA 5352
Australia

Tim’s mother, Jean, has a terminal illness which doctors say will not allow her to see the next Christmas. The Stillers however recognize that such assessments are finally determined by the Lord. Please remember the Stiller family in your prayers. May our gracious Lord keep them faithful to His truth, and give them peace in their isolation as His children. †



“IS NOT
MY WORD
LIKE FIRE?” DECLARES
THE LORD. JEREMIAH 23:29

In This Issue:

- p. 1 CLC Brethren Overseas
 - p. 2 Ladies of Zion Report
 - p. 3 Meet the Hanel Family
-

Ladies of Zion Report

Reported by Debra Mayhew

January Meeting Review

At the January 6th Ladies Meeting, we enjoyed a change of location. We met at Sarah King's house and shared a potluck breakfast of coffee, bagels, donuts, muffins, and fruit. The warm and quiet atmosphere of the King's home was a welcome contrast to our previous gatherings at a noisy restaurant. In attendance were Ann Duncan, Virginia Tetens, Sarah King and Debra Mayhew. It was blessing to spend this time with each other aside from our regular Sunday worship services.

Discussion at the January meeting centered around the upcoming Southeastern Pastoral Conference at Zion. Our primary goal was to finalize the meal schedule for the conference, as well as to make sure we had housing lined up for the pastors planning to attend. We also took stock of kitchen and bathroom items at church, and filled in the supplies where needed.

During the week of Pastoral Conference, January 17 - 20, I was at church quite often. By the end of the week, every single pastor in attendance had commented to me that the food was excellent. I heard this several times. They were

very thankful for the effort we put forth.

We, in turn, would like to thank all the members of Zion for their assistance in hosting the Conference. There were many who donated money to cover the cost of snacks and meals. There were others who donated home cooked meals, drinks, home made snacks, and time. We also thank those members and their families who opened up their homes and offered Christian fellowship and hospitality. Whenever we presented a need or opportunity before the congregation, it was quickly and generously filled. Thanks and praise be to our Heavenly Father for moving our hearts to step up and serve!

*I hear the Savior calling!
He gives this charge to me:
To serve as best I'm able,
Whate'er the call may be.
Thus hand in hand with others
Who share the gospel key
We spread the gospel tidings -
My Savior calls for me!*

*I hear the Savior calling!
His call has urgency!
Each moment souls are dying;
Soon comes eternity.
And so, my precious Savior,
This is my humble plea:
Prepare me for my mission
For You are calling me!
W.S. 770: 3, 5*

Upcoming Meeting Plans

Now that Pastoral Conference is behind us, we are looking forward to meeting our goal of visiting ladies of the congregation who live at a distance. Our two-fold mission continues to be caring for the needs within our church, as well as assisting Pastor Mayhew in outreach efforts within our community. Ann Duncan and Virginia Tetens are currently working with Pastor on the distribution of Bible Coloring Pages to local doctor's and dentist's offices.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 3rd at 10:30 a.m. We plan to meet at Gloria's house at 1323 Tapp Wood Road, Hoshcton, GA 30548. Ladies are asked to bring a small brunch item, like coffee cake or fruit.

If you cannot attend regular meetings and would like to schedule a time when we can come to you, please speak to Ann Duncan (770-237-2541). If you see a need around our church, or have an idea for mission work in our community, please speak to Ann Duncan or Pastor Mayhew (770-962-9034). Most importantly, please remember the work we are all privileged to share here at Zion in your daily prayers. †

Getting to Know Zion Members: The Hanel

Reported by Ann Duncan

Our church has been continually blessed by God sending us new members. A family that joined us last summer is the Hanel: Seth and Nichole with their three girls, Cecelia, Emily and Rebecca.

The Hanel family lives on base at Fort Benning, Georgia. Their three-bedroom duplex is hopping with lively girls and two barking poodles. When I went down with Pastor Mayhew and Luke for a visit, Seth was trying to keep Rex from growling at my shoes, and Nichole was busy at the kitchen table shaking her head over the stack of papers she was grading for her 4th grade class. The table was covered with objects she was assembling for a history lesson on the Iroquois Nation. Nichole was creating modern-day equivalents of wampum beads and tribal masks using macaroni, milk jugs and paper mache.



Seth and Nichole both grew up in Mankato, Minnesota. Seth lived in the same house all through childhood, but Nichole's family moved so many times, she attended seven different elementary schools.

Seth is the oldest child in his family and has two brothers and two sisters. His brother Matthew is the pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Dallas, Texas. Nichole has an older brother, and they were brought up by their mother who cared for them by herself after the children's father left.

The couple met while they were both attending Immanuel Lutheran School; Seth was in the 8th grade, and Nichole was in the 9th. For many years they were best friends and didn't start dating until Nichole was a freshman at

Minnesota State in Mankato and Seth was a high school senior.

But first Nichole did some California dreaming – she spent her senior year of high school in Mission Viejo, California, living with an aunt and uncle. Nichole's plan was to go to college in California. Because of some incompatibility problems over Lutheran doctrine and lifestyle issues, Nichole realized that she needed to return home. Her aunt and uncle were members of the ELCA. And that became a major stumbling block for Nichole.

Seth grew up in the CLC, but Nichole and her brother were raised as Roman Catholics. The family left the Catholic church and joined a nearby ELCA congregation, but because Nichole was attending Immanuel, she began asking questions and having doubts about the ELCA. The inconsistencies bothered her,

and she didn't like the comments she was hearing while hanging out in the ELCA church office where she volunteered. After Nichole and her brother joined Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, their mother eventually followed.

After high school graduation, Seth worked at a stone quarry, saving money to marry Nichole and set up their first home. The initial plan was for Nichole to finish college, start teaching, then put Seth through school – his desired choice of study was mechanical engineering.

But the military had always been one of Seth's interests, and he and Nichole decided that Seth would enlist. If Seth decided the Army wasn't for him, he could leave after the 4-year commitment was over. I guess it was the right choice; he's still serving.

They married in 1996, Cecilia was born in Mankato in 1997, and Seth joined the Army in February 1998. Emily was born in 1999 at Fort Benning, and Rebecca arrived in 2002 in Germany (like a true Lutheran!).

In January 2000 Seth's beloved mother passed away of a heart ailment, and in 2001 Seth's father remarried -- to a friend he met at church! (Remember that church is a good place to find a spouse.)

Seth is a staff sergeant in the Third Infantry Division, First Armor Division, First Regiment, 36th Infantry working with civilian contractors to instruct Army companies how to operate and qualify on the Bradley armored personnel carrier.

Seth's career has taken him to Fort Benning; Friedberg, Germany; Fort Riley, Kansas; Egypt; Kosovo; and Iraq (three times). "I know the city of Baghdad better than I know Mankato," he noted. Nichole and the girls stayed in Germany during those many deployments.

After the family was sent to Fort Riley, Kansas, Nichole was able to finish her education degree and began her much-delayed teaching career. She is currently a 4th grade teacher at McBride Elementary and is employed by the Dept. of Defense. Cecilia is in the 8th grade but has been accepted

to Columbus High School, where she will attend in the fall. Columbus High School is a college preparatory magnet school and ranks among the best high schools in the state, according to the school's website. Emily is in 6th grade at Faith Middle School, and Rebecca is a 3rd grade student at Stowers Elementary. In the fall, Rebecca will transfer to McBride so she can be close to mom.

Cecilia plays the violin, and Emily plays the flute. Rebecca will select an instrument to study when she enters middle school.

Seth is interested in physical fitness and enjoys weight lifting, although he tore a pectoral muscle during the last deployment -- ouch! He is also an ardent science fiction fan, and said he attended a Star Trek convention when he was a child, and saw a then-young William Shatner.

Nichole said she is interested in everything she teaches to her students, and is a big Disney fan.

Seth will be eligible for retirement in 7 years, and Nichole is hoping to settle in a warm climate -- she suffered from frostbite as a child and has trouble with the cold weather in Minnesota.

Seth's favorite Scripture passage is Psalm 1: ***Blessed is the man who walks not in the***

counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

He carried this passage with him whenever he was deployed. "Just because you see other people doing stupid things doesn't mean you should be doing them."

Nichole's favorite verse is I Peter 5:7, "because I tend to worry": ***Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.***



Welcome, Hanel! We are blessed to have you as part of our congregation and hope the Lord will let you stay in Georgia until Seth retires. †