

THE MESSENGER

A monthly publication of Zephyr Christian Church - February 21, 2024

CHRIST IS RISEN



Resurrection/Easter Services

March 29th ~ Good Friday Candlelight 6:00 PM

March 31st ~

Sunrise Service at 8:45 AM

Continental Breakfast 9:30 AM

Morning Worship at 10:00 AM

(There will NOT be an evening service)

Dear Zephyr Christian Family,

The world's strategy right now is to solidify your base. Whether that is a political party, a position on moral issues, or just personal preferences – you state your case with forcefulness and you paint anyone who thinks differently or has another opinion as being the enemy. And we see the result – deep, wide, and violent division.

There has never been a time when everyone agreed on everything – after all, we are individuals with different thoughts, ideas, opinions, and priorities. But why things seem bad right now is because there is no tolerance for those differences. There's no willingness to forgive when someone makes a mistake. There's no grace when someone changes their mind. And we end up with deeply divided families (remember all the chatter about how families have been fractured over politics or Covid or vaccines throughout the holidays?), deeply divided states (red, blue, or purple?), a deeply divided nation (played on by politicians and exacerbated by the Main Street Media), and sometimes deeply divided churches.

The New Testament world was also deeply divided – so much so that there were some people who refused to associate with others...wouldn't even eat at the same table. It was so divided that they would just hurl insults at each other. But the Bible says there is one thing that bridges that divide – THE RESURRECTED JESUS! The Bible states it this way: **“for he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barriers, the dividing wall of hostility...”** (Eph. 2:14).

The only hope for the world is Jesus. And it is only as our identity as a Christ-follower is the most important thing in our life that we will stop trying to solidify our base by painting other people as our enemy. And it is only when we are introducing others to Christ that we might begin to see healing and unity in our churches, in our families, and in our land. I often think of it as a triangle with Christ at the top point, me at one of the side points, and another person at the other side point. As I get closer to Jesus and as the other person gets closer to Jesus, we also get closer to each other. So, to say that Jesus is the hope for the world is not just a cliché or bumper sticker statement. It is actual, Biblical truth!

The division and hostility that we see in our world today can only be healed and reconciled by Jesus. Now, I will give you the bad news first – my reading of the Bible tells me that the division and hostility will not be healed until Jesus comes again; oh, it might ebb and flow...sometimes better or worse than others, but division and hostility is here to stay until Jesus comes again. But here's the good news – Jesus is coming again and when He does, He will recreate the heavens and the earth and in our new heavenly home all hostility, anger, division, and violence will be gone.

And I think that is one of the best reasons to celebrate Easter!

In Christ,

Jon

OUR MISSION NEWS

FAMILY MINISTRIES OF FLORIDA: Thank you for your special gift of \$228.96. Your support is a great encouragement to us. I want you to know that thru your continued support you are making an investment in these children and we could not provide this environment without you. Please continue to pray for the children, their families, and that God will lead the right couple to join our team as house-parents. Please also continue to pray for our God-Sized project - Education and Community Center. The new facility will not only benefit our residential and educational program, but it will be a tool to provide family support to our community. If you would like more information on this project and/or partner with us, please contact our Executive Director at (813)681-1942 or email bobsharp@familyministriesfl.org.

LAKE AURORA CHRISTIAN CAMP: Men's Retreat- Theme: "**Love Better**" - 1 Corinthians 13
Keynote Speaker 2024: Arron Chambers/March 1-2, 2024- We are seeing--in the Church, on social media, and pretty much wherever Christians are interacting--division that looks very similar to the kind of division we saw in the Church in Corinth during the 1st Century. Within the context of the division amongst the Christians in Corinth, the Apostle Paul painted a picture of what true love looks like by laying out, what I see as, sixteen ways to love better. Love Better is a modern explanation of 1st Corinthians 13 as, not a wedding passage, but a powerful explanation of how we are supposed to love each other and our communities better. Cost: \$80 /Part-time Rates: \$40 for Friday or \$50 for Saturday. Hold your spot for \$40 deposit. Have a group coming? Secure group space with deposit on number attending. Deposit transferrable among participants. **Young at Heart Retreat** - Come get away for a day and enjoy the campus of Lake Aurora. A fabulous meal, fellowship, and inspiration await you. Guest Speaker: Jim Book/ Cost is \$18 - Bring a crowd or just yourself but HURRY-- space is limited, please R.S.V.P. by March 7th! Call or visit website for more info. 863.696.1102 or <https://www.lakeaurora.org/Retreats/retreats.html>.

SACM: Isaac lives 600 miles north of Cape Town in Kimberley, a diamond mining region, and travels extensively in the Northern Cape to churches, small groups and congregations to teach, preach and provide Bibles. He has driven down to Cape Town many times to load up boxes of Bibles and Christian literature. I (Steve) worked with his father, Bonga John, who has since passed away, many years ago. I (Steve) am now a generational missionary, I guess, working with sons, daughters and grandchildren of those faithful men I served alongside many years ago. Following is a letter of thanks I received from him: *Dear brother Steve Zimmerman, Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope you are doing fine with the family. I'm writing to you because of joy in my heart. I thank God for you and your team brother Barry and Eric. This is to say I can't express my gratitude more than what you did for my Province. giving the Bibles free of charge has been a very touching move for people in my Province, some have shared some tears because they couldn't believe it. God is great and we thank Him for using you.*

*Yours in Christ
Brother Isaac Mguzulwa*

The Missions we support are as follows: Family Ministries of FL ~ Lake Aurora Christian Camp ~ Phil McAfee Ministries ~ Neighborhood Care Center ~ South African Christian Mission

*******You can review full reports on the messenger board in the church fellowship hall*******

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 Corinthians 10:31 NASB, "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God".

PRAYER

If you want the Prayer Chain to be started, call Tom Baker (863-670-2215). If no answer, call Karen Baker (863-602-5180).

Tithing Statements available. If needed please call the office (813-782-8893) Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM, thank you!

March 3rd



following Sunday morning services, please plan to join us and bring a dish to share!

**Young
ADULTS**

Sunday @ 9:00 AM & Wednesday @ 6:00 PM

MEN'S

 **Biblical Training**
to be, think, and act like Jesus

March 7th @ 6:00 PM

ELDERS MEETING

March 19th at 9:00 AM

All members invited to attend!



Legacy C.C. is hosting the Men's Breakfast
March 9th, 9:00 AM. Please Sign up!



March 21st @ 6:30 PM

If interested in attending call Cathy Cochran (863-370-2545).

Zephyr Christian Women

March 12th at 11:00 AM

Outing to the Asian Buffet in Wesley Chapel (van leaves at 10:30 AM to meet at 11:00 AM)

If interested in attending call Karen Baker (863-602-5180).

Quilting & Sewing
Wednesdays at 9:00 AM



If interested call Karen Baker (863-602-5180).

PRAISE & PRAYER

New Members- Praise the Lord! Please pray for and welcome our new brothers & sisters in Christ, Calob Lewis, David Jennings, Miki Cruz baptized January 28th & Virgie Peters she transferred her membership on February 4th.

Bold Print Indicates

New Names Added or Current Updates

ISRAEL

FAMILY MINISTRIES OF FLORIDA WARS & CONFLICTS

OUR NATION

Karen Baker's Niece & Family- cancer

John Blevins - kidney dialysis/comfort/strength

Jon Bravinder - broke back/physical therapy/moving

Taryn Vollstedt & Family- Praise the Lord! surgery went well/ physical therapy/cancer/strength/comfort. (L. Vollstedt)

Roger Michaud - Praise the Lord, he is well!

Vickie O'dell - mass on kidney/cancer (Marti Bontrager)

Zechariah - Praise the Lord, he is well! (C. Osborne)

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS & SHUT-INS

American House

Ruby Perry

Gardens of Westbrook

Mae Krempewiski

Pretty Pond Manor

Emma Loughren

MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ARE SPECIAL TO OUR CONGREGATION

Jon Bravinder - Air Force
(son of Jon Bravinder)

Rachel Smeed - Army (GA)
(Tim & Penny Herkel's niece)

POW / MIA US TROOPS & FAMILIES - PROTECTION & SAFETY OUR COUNTRY & LEADERS OF OUR COUNTRY



"MISSIONS"

Family Ministries of FL.

Lake Aurora Christian Camp

Neighborhood Care Center

Phil McAfee Ministries

South African Christian Missions

FEBRUARY 2024







April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				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		



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	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				

SUN MON TUES WED THURS FRI SAT

MISSION of the MONTH: Lake Aurora Christian Camp 237 Golden Bough Road, Lake Wales, FL 33898 863.696.1102/ info@lakeaurora.org				1	2	
3  Potluck After A.M. Services	4	5	6 Sewing Group 9 AM Children, Youth & Young Adult Group Dinner 5:30 pm & Bible Study All Ages 6 PM	7 Men's Leadership & Bible training 6:00 PM	8	9 Men's Breakfast at Legacy C.C. - Please sign up! Van leaves at 8 AM!
10 	11	12 Z.C.W. 11:00 AM Outing to Asian Buffet Jeremiah 29:11	13 Sewing Group 9 AM Children, Youth & Young Adult Group Dinner 5:30 pm & Bible Study All Ages 6 PM	14	15	16
17	18	19 Elders Meeting 9:00 AM	20 Sewing Group 9:00 AM Children, Youth & Young Adults Group Dinner 5:30 pm & Bible Study All Ages - 6 PM	21 LADIES GROUP 6:30 PM	22  Family GAME NIGHT 6 PM - 8 PM	23
24  Palm Sunday	25	26	27 Sewing Group 9:00 AM Children, Youth & Young Adults Group Dinner 5:30 pm & Bible Study All Ages - 6 PM	28	29 Good Friday Candlelight service 6 PM 	30
31 						

Birthdays:

- 2 - Mable Goward
- 18 - Jon Bravinder
- 20 - Fely Jackson
- 21 - Joyce Thomas
- 28 - Michele Danella
- 29 - Gordon Day

Anniversaries:

- 3 - John & Paty Roque
- 16 - Jim & Dora Mae Sinner
- 21 - Phil & Pam Smith
- 21 - Roger & Joyce Thomas
- 23 - Hank & Marti Bontrager

Celebrate

If anyone would like communion brought to you. We must have you call the church office by Friday morning 813-782-8893 and you will be put on the list. Thank you!

Luke 22:19-20 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you, is the new covenant in my blood".



We meet every week to get the church building tidy! If you have some time to give, we would appreciate the help. If willing, please call Christi at 254-371-0108.

SUMMER CAMP at LAKE AURORA CHRISTIAN CAMP

REGISTER



Please call church office (813-782-8893) if interested or contact Lake Aurora (863.696.1102) | info@lakeaurora.org



Family GAME NIGHT

6:00 PM - 8:00 AM

on March 22nd

(Sign up sheet will be posted)

Stay Connected

Even when far from
"The Hills of Home"

Website: www.zephyrchristianchurch.org

Email: ZephyrCC@aol.com

ELDERS

Tom Baker

863-859-6273
Chr.

Larry Buckland

417-712-4098

Rusty Draper

812-946-2934
V. Chr

Cole Wernette

813 -782-5306

TRUSTEES

Tom Baker

Rusty Draper

Cole Wernette

STAFF

Jon Stradtner

Minister

Cherie' Osborne

Secretary

Zephyr Christian Church

5940 Dogwood Street

Zephyrhills, Florida 33542-3867

Ph: (813) 782-8893

Mission Statement: Sharing the love and joy we've found in Christ Jesus.

Serving In March 2024

COMMUNION SET UP

Cathy Cochran

GREETERS

Shirley Counciller

Char Henderson

Helen Marshall

HEAD OF TABLE

3 - Larry Buckland

10 - Tom Baker

17 - Rusty Draper

24 - Cole Wernette

31 - Larry Buckland

Happenings at Zephyr Christian "March Services"

Weekly Services

Sunday		3 - POTLUCK	11:00 AM
Sunday School (All Ages)	9:00 AM	7 - MEN'S BIBLE & LEADERSHIP TRAINING	6:00 PM
Worship Service & Jr. Church	10:00 AM	12 - ZCW MEETING	10:00 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM	19 - ELDER'S MEETING	9:00 AM
Wednesday:		21 - LADIES GROUP	6:00 PM
Bible Study	6:00 PM	22- FAMILY GAME NIGHT	6:00 - 8:00 PM
Young Adults, Youth & Children Dinner	5:30 PM	24 - PALM SUNDAY	9:00 -10:00 AM
(3 years - Young Adults)		29 - GOOD FRIDAY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	6:00 PM
		31- RESURRECTION/EASTER SUNDAY	8:45 -10:00 AM
		(CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST)	9:30 AM

Wednesday Sewing & Quilting Class - 9:00 AM