

# The Ensign

## Zarahemla Branch

December 2014



### Pastor's Corner High Priest Brad Gault



#### ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS

##### High Priest Dean Falconer

I want to tell you a story. A story that is all too familiar to us at this time of year.

One night, long ago, on a hillside not far from the little town of Bethlehem, shepherds watch their sheep. Suddenly in the quiet of the night a great light shone upon the shepherds, and an angel of the Lord stood before them. The shepherds were frightened by this strange sight and wanted to run away, but the angel spoke to them and said:

“Be not afraid, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for there is born this day in the City of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord.”

Then the shepherds saw the sky was filled with many more angels all praising GOD and singing: “Glory to GOD in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

While the shepherds listened with happy hearts, the bright light faded slowly away, and the angels went from view. Then said the shepherds one to another:

“let us go to Bethlehem and see these things of which the angel has told us.” So leaving their sheep they hurried to Bethlehem. By and by, they came to an open stable, and there lying in a manger they found the little baby and His mother Mary. The shepherds knew that the baby was the Savior of whom the angel had spoken. They bowed down in worship.

After their visit, the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising GOD as they went, and telling the news to everyone they met.

Isn't that an exciting story of the birth of our Savior? Just as the shepherds after seeing the Christ Child, they went about telling everyone they met about what they had seen, and heard, and were praising GOD for sending His Son into the world. That is our calling even this day. We must go to the manger, find the Christ, and then continually tell everyone we meet about Christ Jesus. We must continually praise His Holy Name and Glorify Him in all that we do and say.

It is a wonderful day indeed when we stop working for GOD and begin working with GOD. go ahead read that sentence again.

For years I viewed GOD as a compassionate CEO and my roll as a loyal sales representative. He had His office, and I had my territory. I could contact Him as much as I wanted. He encouraged me, rallied behind me, and supported me. I didn't think that HE went with me. At least I didn't think HE did. Then I read II Corinthians 6:1: “we then, as workers together with Christ .”

Fellow workers? Colaborers? God and I work together? Imagine the shift this truth creates. Rather than report to GOD, we work with GOD. Rather than check in with Him and then leave, we check in with Him and then follow. We are always in the presence of GOD. We never leave church. There is never a non-sacred moment! His presence never diminishes. Our awareness of His presence may falter, but the reality of His presence never changes.

This is why we must go to the manger and find the Christ Child. Then we begin our incredible, wonderful journey with Him. Working with Him, spreading the news of Him, telling everyone what He can do for them and all mankind.

Just as the shepherds so long ago were told to go and find the Son of God, seek and praise Him forevermore, we too will become a Shepherd with Christ Jesus.

## **2015 ZARAHEMLA OFFICERS**

<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Brad Gault</b>
<b>Counselors</b>	<b>Dean Falconer</b>
	<b>Doug Trahern</b>
<b>Head Deacon</b>	<b>Lloyd Stilwell</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Wayne Simmons</b>
<b>Missionary Coordinator</b>	<b>Bob Moore</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Jill Moore</b>
<b>Church School Director</b>	<b>Bonner Davis</b>
<b>Women's Leader</b>	<b>Barbara Giertz</b>
<b>Music Director</b>	<b>Rolland James</b>
<b>Recorder</b>	<b>Duane Newman</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Marilyn James</b>
<b>Social Director</b>	<b>Ruth Ann Norman</b>
<b>Zion's Youth</b>	<b>Scott and Shannon McMilian</b>
<b>Lamplighters</b>	<b>Shannon McMilian</b>
<b>Zion Builders'</b>	<b>Ashley Gault</b>
<b>Handmaidens</b>	<b>Deanna McKay</b>
<b>Young Adult Leaders</b>	<b>Jenny and Wayne Simmons</b>
<b>Zion's Ridge Rep</b>	<b>Jerry Gerber</b>
<b>Building Committee</b>	<b>Barbara Giertz, Bob Moore, Jenny Simmons, Duane Newman</b>
	<b>Bobbi Chinnery, Marilyn James</b>

### We Celebrate Your Birth

Dear Lord, as we celebrate Your birth,  
 let us remember that You are the true reason for Christmas.  
 Let every sparkling light remind us how You illuminate our lives,  
 a shining beacon to guide us in our thoughts and actions each day,  
 and how You light us from within  
 in the knowledge of Your love and truth.  
 Let the Christmas trees, standing straight, tall, unbowed,  
 remind us of Your uprightness, Your goodness, Your perfection,  
 and Your refusal to bow to worldly temptations,  
 no matter how great the challenge or trouble.  
 Lord, as we feast on Christmas treats,  
 let us remember that You are the sole provider  
 of everything worth having, that all good things come from You.  
 And as we enjoy our gifts, let us never forget  
 that You are the greatest gift of all--our wonderful Savior,  
 Counselor, Giver of an eternal life whose wonders we cannot imagine.  
 So as we delight in Christmas, the happiest and brightest of holidays,  
 let us remember there would be no Christmas without You, Lord,  
 and let us our hearts be filled with joy, and love  
 and thankfulness, this Christmas and all the ones to come.  
 In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*By Joanna Fuchs*

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Bob Woll  
4 Zachary Cackler  
5 Rudy Leutzinger III  
5 Barbara Giertz  
6 Randy Vick  
7 Andy Foss  
9 Taylor Davis  
9 Rebecca Moore  
12 Melva Cackler  
14 Brooklynn Smarr  
15 Judah Heyl  
17 Daniel Broadway  
17 Sue Ann Davis  
17 Jay Forth  
17 Stephanie Davis  
17 Rebecca Peabody  
18 Chante Campbell  
19 Shirley Andrews  
20 Danielle McKay  
20 Scott McMilian  
20 Becky Parkey  
21 Deanna McKay  
31 Bethany Forth

## Deacon Schedule

### December 2014

December 7th Morning Jerry Gerber  
December 14th Morning Kyle Norman  
December 21st Morning Rudy Leutzinger  
December 28th Morning Lloyd Stilwell

## DEVOTIONS

### December 2014

**December 7th** Phil O'Camb Family  
**December 14th** Michelle Moore Family  
**December 21st** Lloyd Stilwell Family  
**December 28th** Ed Geiersbach Family

**If you are not able to keep your assignment,  
please find someone to fill your spot.**

## 2015 CALENDARS

**THE JCRB WOMEN'S  
DEPARTMENT ARE SELLING  
THE 2015 CALENDARS AGAIN  
THIS YEAR. THE CALENDARS  
ARE ON THE CABINET IN THE  
FOYER AT ZARAHEMLA.**

**THEY ARE ASKING FOR A \$2.00  
DONATION. YOU MAY GIVE  
THE DONATION TO BARBARA  
GIERTZ OR MARILYN JAMES.**

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Jacob Simmons, Hailey Norman, Savannah Hawley

December 6th ~ 2:00 PM ~ Zarahemla ~ Piano Recital

Kevin McMilian

December 8th ~ 7:30 PM ~ Lee's Summit West ~ Instrumental  
Concert

Jacob and Olivia Simmons

December 11th ~ 7:00 PM ~ CPRS ~ Christmas Concert

Samantha Gault

December 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM Plaza Heights Little Lions Preschool  
Christmas Program

## Musical Schedule

### December 7th

**Devotional Service - Ashley Gault**

**10:30 Service - Ashley Gault**

**6:00 pm Service - Savannah Hawley**

### December 14th

**Devotional Service - Jeri Gault**

**10:30 Service - Jeri Gault**

**6:00 pm Service - District Service**

### December 21st

**Devotional Service - Jill Moore**

**10:30 Service - Jill Moore**

**6:00 pm Service - Jill Moore**

### December 28th

**Devotional Service - Kevin McMilian**

**10:30 Service - Kevin McMilian**

**6:00 pm Service - Lindsay McMilian**

## MINISTRY OF MUSIC

**December 7th**

**December 14th Janet Forth**

**December 21st Gault Family**

**December 28th Emily Kreutner**

If you have anything to submit for the newsletter, please call Marilyn 215-2299 OR

e-mail it to me ([marilyn.counts@gmail.com](mailto:marilyn.counts@gmail.com)) OR (give it to me at church).

BUT PLEASE JUST SHARE WITH US IN THE JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER. Deadline for the January 2015 newsletter will be

Tuesday, December 23rd, 2014 and will be emailed

before Sunday, December 28th, 2014. Thank you for

supporting the congregational newsletter.

Marilyn James, Editor

## ACTIVITIES FOR THE DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 5 6:00 – 8:00 pm Zion's League meet at the home of Scott and Shannon McMilian. It will be an evening of "Opposition in All Things" and is a Surprise!
- 7 8:00 am Priesthood Prayer Service.
- 7 8:00 am Women's Prayer Service.
- 7 6:00 pm Christmas Hymn Sing at the church Rolland James will lead the hymns.
- 9 7:00 pm Planning meeting for the 2015 officers at the church. We will be planning events for the branch for January, February and March 2015.
- 10 5:30-6:30 pm Lamplighters will meet at the church. They will be making no-sew blankets.
- 13 11:30 am meet at the church. We will then go to St. Mary's Manor for Christmas Caroling. They will be eating lunch while we walk around and sing. Afterward we will have hot chocolate and snacks.
- 14 6:00 pm District Vesper Service at Zarahemla.
- 20 10:30-12:30 Zion Builders will be at the home of Michelle Moore. They will be making Christmas cookies as a service project.
- 21 6:00 pm Christmas play and program. Our youth have been put in a lot of time writing, practicing, making of the set, etc. We hope to see you there. Bring a snack to share in food and fellowship for after the program.
- 28 6:00 pm Restitution class with Bob Moore teaching.
- 31 New Year's Eve party will start right after the prayer service. Bring snacks, games and anything to share for the party. At some point we will have a short worship service.

## 2015 Zarahemla Directories

We will be having picture directories. Marilyn James will again be taking pictures for the directory. If you would like to use your picture from last year and haven't told me please do so. Otherwise I will be tracking you down for your picture.

# ACTIVITY

# DECEMBER

# CALENDAR

# 2014

## Zarahemla Branch

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs-	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 <u>Jacob 3:151-153</u>  7:00 pm Prayer Service Presiding: Dan Norman Assisting: Jerry Gerber	4	5  6:00-8:00 PM Zion's League at McMilians	6
7 <u>Matthew 2:1-4</u>  8:00 Priesthood Prayer Service 8:00 Woman's Prayer Service 9:15 Morning Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Presiding: Rex Curtis Preaching: Tim Canfield  6:00 pm Christmas Hymn Sing Rolland James	8	9  7:00 pm Branch Planning meeting at the church	10 <u>1 Nephi 3:52-62</u>  5:30-6:30 pm Lamplighters making no-sew blankets  7:00 pm Prayer Service Presiding: Chuck Perry Assisting: Rolland James	11	12	13  Meet at 11:30 am at the church for Christmas Caroling. Singing at St. Mary's Manor Refreshments following
14 <u>Luke 2:10-14</u>  9:15 Morning Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Presiding: Patrick McKay Preaching: Phil Benyola 6:00 pm District Vesper Service Presiding: Dean Falconer	15	16	17 <u>Matthew 2:1-6</u>  7:00 pm Prayer Service Presiding: Doug Trahern Assisting: Dwayne Martin	18	19	20  10:30-12:30 Zion builders Christmas Cookies Service Project at the home of Michelle Moore
21 <u>Isaiah 9:6-7</u>  9:15 Morning Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Presiding: Bonner Davis Preaching: David Bronson  6:00 pm Christmas Play and Program Presiding: Bonner Davis	22	23	24 <u>Mosiah 1:97-103</u>  7:00 pm Prayer Service Presiding: Roger Gault Assisting: Rudy Leutzinger	25	26	27
28 <u>Helaman 5:55-62</u>  9:15 Morning Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Presiding: Chuck Perry Preaching: Phil O'Camb 6:00 pm Restitution Class Teacher: Bob Moore	29	30	31 <u>Mosiah 8:28-31</u>  7:00 pm Prayer Service Presiding: Ron Buckles Assisting: Duane Newman  New Year's Eve Party and Service after the prayer service			



**Zarahemla Branch**  
**502 Southwest 17th Street**  
**Blue Springs, MO 64015**

