

# The Ensign

## Zarahemla Branch

March 2015



### Pastor's Corner High Priest Brad Gault



#### JESUS PRAYED FOR EACH OF US THAT NIGHT

By High Priest Dean Falconer

The Easter Season is approaching and it is always a time of reflection of what our Savior did for each of us because of His great love for us. We are reminded of the triumphant entry into the city of Jerusalem being hailed as King of Jews, His ministry which took place in the early part of the week, the events of Thursday, the pain, suffering, agony, and humiliation of the arrest, the trial and crucifixion on Friday, and the momentous event of His resurrection from the dead.

I always have loved the Easter time. As a young child it was the time for hunting colored eggs, eating chocolate candies, and looking for the Easter Bunny. Church always followed an exciting morning. As time changes all things, I now look forward to the Easter season for an entirely different reason. I find it difficult to rejoice as I recall the scriptures telling of his entry into the city, because I know what is going to happen. I feel great discomfort as I read and reread of His arrest, and then the events of His trial, and the suffering He went through, being beaten until His skin bled, and then the horrors of being crucified. But I do rejoice knowing that my Savior did just what He said He would do, arise from the dead. What a glorious event! He died for our sins, that we might have the joy of eternal life with the Father, and rejoice all of our days, glorifying Him in all things. That gives me goose bumps as I recall that hope and promise given to us by His love.

I want to take us back to the event of that Thursday. Jesus and His disciples have met in the upper room and have had what we know as the Last Supper. It is probably around midnight when they leave the upper room and walk through the streets of the city. They pass the Lower Pool and exit the Fountain Gate and walk out of Jerusalem. From here, I imagine the roads are lined with the fires and tents of Passover pilgrims. Most of the pilgrims are asleep, from having had an evening meal and a full day. Those who are still awake think nothing of the band of men walking the chalky road.

They pass through the valley and ascend the path which will take them to Gethsemane. The road is steep so they stop to rest. Somewhere within the city walls the twelfth apostle darts down a street. His feet have been washed by the man he will betray. His heart has been claimed by the evil one. He runs to find Caiaphas.

As Jesus looks at the city of Jerusalem, He sees what the disciples can't. It is here, on the outskirts of Jerusalem, that the battle will end. Jesus knew it. He knew that before the war was over, He would be taken captive. He knew that before victory would come defeat. He knew that before the light of Sunday would come the blackness of Friday.

Jesus begins the final ascent to the garden. When He reaches the entry He stops and turns His eyes toward His circle of friends. It will be the last time He sees them before they abandon Him. He knows what they will do when the soldiers come. He knows their betrayal is only minutes away. The week has been full of finalities: the final visit to the temple, the final sermon, the final supper, and now the most emotional hour of the week, the final prayer.

Due to the lateness of the night, the garden is in shadows. The olive trees are knotted and gnarled. They twist five or six feet skyward, and their roots sprawl from the trunks and claw deep into the rocky soil. The spring moon casts the garden in silver. The constellations sparkle against the black velvet of the night sky. A cool breeze is blowing.

Jesus hears a sound in the trees. He looks across the garden at the dearest friends He has. They are asleep and snoring. They lean against the broad trunks of the olive trees and slumber. He walks through the shadowed trees and stands before them. Jesus asks them to stay awake and pray with Him, but they slumber on.

Jesus does not accuse them. He doesn't lecture them. Instead, He prays. It is worth noting that Jesus chose prayer. He chose to pray for us. From John 17: 20-22, we read that Jesus said, "neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their words". He continues to say, "That they all may be one. . . that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me".

We need to note that in this final prayer, Jesus prayed for you and me. We need to underline in red and highlight in yellow His love. Jesus is saying that He was also praying for all people who will believe on Him because of the teaching. That is you and me. As Jesus stepped into the garden, we were in His prayers. His final prayer was about us. His final pain was for us. His final passion was us. As Jesus dreamed of the day when we will be where He is, He saw us there.

Jesus then turns, steps into the garden, and invites Peter, James and John to come with Him. He tells them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death; tarry ye here and watch"

(Mark 14: 38). Jesus then goes forward a little, falls on the ground, and begins to pray. I am sure that Jesus had never felt so alone as He did at this very time.

(Pastor's Corner continued on next page)

<sup>i</sup>( Pastor's Corner continued)

His humanity begged to be delivered from what His divinity could see. Jesus, the carpenter, the man, peers into the dark pit and begs . . . "take away this cup from me. . ." (Mark 14: 40) Did He know the answer before He asked the question? Did His human heart hope His Heavenly Father would find another way? We do not know, but we do know He asked to get out.

He saw us right there in the middle of a world which isn't fair. He saw us cast into a river of life we did not request. He saw us with a body that gets sick and a heart which grows weak. He saw us staring into the pit of our own failures and the edge of our own grave. He saw us in our Garden of Gethsemane, and He did not want us to be alone.

He wants us to know that He has been there. He knows what it is like to be plotted against. He knows what it is like to be confused. He knows what it is like to be torn between two desires. He knows what it is like to smell the stench of Satan. Perhaps most of all He knows what it is like to beg God to change minds.

As we approach this Easter Season, let us remember the strife is over, the battle is won, and we are victorious with Him.

***The Book of Mormon In Zion Conference:***  
***A Celebration of the Other Testament of Jesus Christ***  
***Friday and Saturday, March 13-14, 2015***

**Friday Evening: The Stone Church**

**Conducting: Richard Moore**

**Opening prayer: Larry Watson**

**6:00-6:40      The Keystone (Camille Fronk Olson)**

**6:45-7:25      The Book of Mormon and pastoral work (Gary Whiting)**

**7:25-7:35      "Close Your Eyes" Interfaith Choir: directed by Kristopher Taylor**

**Break**

**7:35-8:15      Read, Ponder, Ask: Discovering the Book of Mormon as Scripture  
(Andrew Bolton)**

**8:20-9:00      The Role of Evidences in the Book of Mormon (John Hilton)**

**Closing Prayer: Bob Moore**

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**Saturday Evening Session: LDS Independence Missouri Stake Center**

**Presiding: President Dennis Cato**

**Conducting: Richard Moore**

**Opening Prayer: Sherry Smith**

**6:00-6:40      To Your Mind and Your Heart (Keith Wilson)**

**6:45-7:25      The BoM Foundation (Dale Godfrey)**

**7:25-7:35      Break (possible youth choir from Restoration branches)**

**7:35-8:15      The Restoration of Israel and the Marred Servant (Patrick McKay)**

**8:20-9:00      The Book of Mormon Challenges the World (Robert Millet)**

**Closing Prayer: Paul Nelson**

***Conference Theme: The Book of Mormon was the most correct book on the earth  
and the keystone of our religion and that a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts  
than by any other means.***

## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Harold Sharkey
- 2 John Thomas
- 3 Michael Scott
- 5 Raylene Buckles
- 9 Alice Heyl
- 12 Patrick McKay
- 19 Corissa Hawley
- 20 David Bronson
- 21 Robin Kellinger
- 21 Bridget Cackler
- 22 Kelly Canfield
- 22 Dean Falconer
- 23 Savannah Hawley
- 24 Miranda Norman
- 24 Bob Giertz
- 24 Shannon McMilian
- 25 John Olivarez
- 26 Flossie Geiersbach
- 28 Ron Campbell
- 29 Tea Thomas
- 29 Marina McKay
- 30 Sariah Frye

## **Deacon Schedule**

### **March 2015**

<b><u>March 1st</u></b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Jerry Gerber</b>
<b><u>March 8th</u></b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Kyle Norman</b>
<b><u>March 15th</u></b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Rudy Leutzinger</b>
<b><u>March 22nd</u></b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Lloyd Stilwell</b>
<b><u>March 29th</u></b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Jerry Gerber</b>

## **DEVOTIONS**

### **March 2015**

<b>March 1st</b>	<b>Patrick McKay Family</b>
<b>March 8th</b>	<b>Scott McMilian Family</b>
<b>March 15th</b>	<b>Bobbi Chinnery Family</b>
<b>March 22nd</b>	<b>Bob Moore Family</b>
<b>March 29th</b>	<b>Janet Forth Family</b>

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

## **ZARHEMLA WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**

**By Barbara Giertz**

Well, we have missed only one week so far of our 2015 women's study class, "Choose Eternal Life". Even though it has been extremely cold some evenings, we still have ladies willing and eager to come together in study, prayer and fellowship. Our discussions have been thought-provoking and sometimes hilarious. Each class has been enjoyable.

The remaining classes are on Thursday evening and the discussion leaders include Shirley Andrews, Joy McKay, JoMarie Bronson and Marilyn James. There are only 3 evenings left. Come and join in.

The Ladies will be asked to assist at the upcoming General Conference with preparation of evening refreshments and possibly some other tasks. We have found that our Sisters are always ready to serve whenever and wherever they can. The Lord continues to bless all service in His name.

*"For the kingdom of God is . . . righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men."* Romans 14:17-18

## Musical Schedule

### March 1st

**Devotional Service - Jill Moore**

**10:30 Service - Jill Moore**

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

### March 8th

**Devotional Service - Jeri Gault**

**10:30 Service - Jeri Gault**

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

### March 15th

**Devotional Service - Jill Moore**

**10:30 Service - Jill Moore**

**6:00 pm Service - Ashley Gault**

### March 22nd

**Devotional Service - Ashley Gault**

**10:30 Service - Ashley Gault**

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

### March 29th

**Devotional Service - Kevin McMilian**

**10:30 Service - Kevin McMilian**

**6:00 pm Service - Ashley Gault**

## MINISTRY OF MUSIC

<b>March 1st</b>	<b>Communion</b>
<b>March 8th</b>	<b>Lloyd Stilwell</b>
<b>March 15th</b>	<b>see Patrick McKay</b>
<b>March 22nd</b>	<b>Corissa &amp; Savannah Hawley</b>
<b>March 29th</b>	<b>Men's Quartet</b>

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). PLEASE JUST SHARE WITH US IN THE April 2015 NEWSLETTER. Deadline for the April 2015 newsletter will be Sunday, March 29, 2015 and will be emailed

before Wednesday, April Fools Day, 2015. (I hope). Thank you for supporting the congregational newsletter.

Marilyn James, Editor

## ACTIVITIES FOR THE MARCH CALENDAR

- 1 8:00 am all branch prayer service.
- 2 7:00 pm priesthood meeting at the church.
- 5 7:00 pm women's study class at the church. JoMarie Bronson will be teaching this class on lesson 8.
- 7 Nathan Perry and Aubree Bredemeier will be married at Unity church in Lee's Summit.
- 8 6:00 pm District worship will be at Saints Haven with brother Joseph F Smith preaching.
- 12 7:00 pm women's study class at the church. Shirley Andrews and Joy McKay will be teaching this class on lessons 6 and 7.
- 13 6:00 pm "Book of Mormon in Zion Conference" will begin at the Stone Church.
- 14 6:00 pm "Book of Mormon in Zion Conference" continues at the LDS Independence Missouri Stake Center.
- 15 POTLUCK will be after the 10:30 am worship service. We will be celebrating the March birthdays.
- 15 6:00 pm The Restitution class with Bob Moore teaching.
- 17 7:00 pm women's study class at the church. Marilyn James will be teaching the final class on lessons 9 and 10.
- 19 7:00 pm will be the planning committee meeting for the Second quarter of 2015. we will be planning April, May and June. This will be held at the church.
- 21 Zion Builders will meet at the church at 10:15 and then on to Powell Gardens for the Blue Monarch festival. Please bring a sack lunch for a picnic.
- 22 6:00 pm Religeo with Dean Falconer presiding.
- 25 5:30 - 6:30 pm Lamplighters will be meeting at the church. They will be working on their cooking badge.
- 28 5:00 pm Zions League will have a campfire and hot dog roast at the home of Rex and Penny Curtis.
- 29 6:00 pm Business meeting for the election of delegates to The General Conference in April.



## CONGRATULATIONS, IT IS A BOY

Noah Neely was born on February 27th to Michelle Thien and Brian Neely. Rex and Penny are the new grandparents. Penny made it to Oregon just in time for the birth. Great picture of Penny and her new grandson! Congrats to all. When Penny returns I will get the rest of the stats of his birth.

# ACTIVITY

# MARCH

# CALENDAR

# 2015

## Zarahemla Branch

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:00 Branch Prayer Service 9:15 Morning Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Presiding: Bob Moore Preaching: Carlin Talcott  6:00 pm Worship Service Presiding: Patrick McKay Book of Mormon testimonies	2  7:00 pm Priesthood Meeting at the church	3	4 <u>I Corinthians 1:30</u>  7:00 pm Prayer Service Presiding: Dave Bronson Assisting: Wayne Simmons	5  Women's Study class 7:00 pm at the church.	6	7  Wedding of Nathan Perry and Aubree Bredemeier  4:00 pm at Unity
<b>8</b> 9:15 Morning Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Presiding: Dean Falconer Preaching: Dan Norman  6:00 pm District Worship Service at Saints Haven	9	10	11 <u>Ephesians 1:7</u>  7:00 pm Prayer Service Presiding: Chuck Perry Assisting: Kyle Norman	12  Women's Study class 7:00 pm at the church.	13	14
<b>15</b> 9:15 Morning Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Presiding: Patrick McKay Book of Mormon Testimonies POTLUCK 6:00 pm The Restitution Teaching: Bob Moore	16	17  Women's Study class 7:00 pm at the church.	18 <u>II Nephi 1:71</u>  7:00 pm Prayer Service Presiding: Doug Trahern Assisting: Jack McClain	19  7:00 Planning Committee at the church. Planning for April, May and June	20	21  Zion Builders Meet at church at 10:15 am
<b>22</b> 9:15 Morning Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Presiding: Bonner Davis Preaching: Bob Giertz  6:00 pm Religeo Presiding:: Dean Falconer	23	24	25 <u>Omni 1:46</u>  Lamplighters 5:30-6:30 pm They will work on the Cooking Badge  7:00 pm Prayer Service Presiding: Roger Gault Assisting: Jerry Gerber	26  Women's Study class 7:00 pm at the church.	27	28  Zion's League Campfire and Hot Dog Roast at Rex and Penny home. Time TBA
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b> 9:15 Morning Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Presiding: Rex Curtis Preaching: Wayne Bartrow 6:00 pm Business Meeting Election of Delegates	30	31				



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



