



Pulse of the Congregation

October, 2016

Born Again, into the Kingdom

by Brother Brian Herren

On September 18, 2016, nine souls entered the waters of baptism near Salem, Oregon as a witness of the covenant they had made with their Heavenly Father to keep His commandments, and always serve Him (Mosiah 9:41). Sisters Eleanor Kurowski, Cindy Cvitanovich, and Evelyn Leach were baptized by Brother Bill Curtis. Sister Samantha Crisler was baptized by Brother Gary Livingston. Sisters Kamrin Williams, Gabriella Herren, Zoey Tucker, and Emory Herbert, along with Brother Nathan Robinson were baptized by Brother Brian Herren. In addition to the baptisms by water, a confirmation service was held on the banks of the Roaring River where it enters scenically into Crabtree Creek. Brother Bill Curtis preached the baptismal service and Brother Brian Herren preached the confirmation service. Those present were reminded that every man is invited into this sacred covenant, and that none are forbidden to come unto the Lord. All are called to repent and be baptized, which is a commandment of God, subject to the exercise of His authority by the ministry of His choosing, and resulting in the everlasting promise that gives hope to the creature for an eternal place with the Creator. The nine candidates were supported by ninety souls in attendance, some of whom had traveled from as far away as Idaho, Seattle, Vancouver, and Eastern Oregon. We rejoiced in sunny breaks and drifting clouds, as heaven and earth combined to witness the entering of these nine souls into the Church of Jesus Christ as it was restored to the earth on April 6, 1830 (Doctrine and Covenants 17). In this sacred ordinance, on this special day, nine faithful servants were born into the Kingdom of God with every right and responsibility bestowed (Genesis 6). May God continue to uphold and bless us as we strive to merit the matchless gift of our Benevolent Father in keeping the sacred promises we make, in the surrender of self, for His perfect will in Christ.





10th Annual Congregational Picnic

by Sister Melissa Clark

The 2016 Congregational church picnic was amazing this year! Many joined together in fellowship and fun. Some saints from the Vancouver branch joined as well, which was a major blessing unto us! We enjoyed amazing food as always and also had a competitive game of bump where both young and old took turns trying to make baskets! It was a little overcast as we all gathered, however, God always provides and the sun came out before too long. Congregational picnics are a great way to end all our summers together and be thankful for the friendships we share in the Church.



Serve the Lord with Gladness

By Sister Deanne Murnieks

"But ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another;"

-Mosiah 2:27

On September 23, 2016, the Lambs of Zion, along with two of their friends from outside the congregation, Solomon and Anthony, gathered together for an opportunity to serve those in their community. With excitement, they donned gardening gloves and eagerly began pulling weeds from the landscaped areas that surround the Carousel at Riverfront Park in Salem. They searched behind rocks and under bushes to find every last weed! As the hour rolled on and their task grew more monotonous, they encouraged each other as we sang songs and played weed pulling games! At last lunch time had arrived and we were able to enjoy a picnic lunch together while studying some scriptures about service, near the area that had just been beautified by their diligent efforts. Being pleased with the results of their hard labor, Brian, from Riverfront Park, gave them each several rides on the Carousel which they enjoyed a great deal. They were also able to spend some time playing on the playground together and enjoying one another's company. What joy it brings when we serve the Lord with gladness, and how joyful it is to see even the youngest among us learning to embrace this truth of the Gospel.

"Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing." -Psalms 100:2



Priesthood Appreciation Dinner

by Sister Emily Herren

Sister Emily Herren



On September 17, the Builders got together to cook dinner for the priesthood and their wives. We decided to make chicken pesto pasta with homemade bread, (which was very fun to make) and a Caesar salad. For dessert we made peanut butter brownies. We wanted to do this to say thank you for all that the priesthood and their wives do for us and instead of them always serving us we wanted to serve them.

Thank You

"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am there shall also my servant be; if any man serve me, him will my Father honor." -John 12:26

Sunday Evening Class and Fellowship

by Sister Cessaries Galusha

As we finished our study of the Book of Mormon earlier this year after returning from the Book of Mormon Lands Trip in January, the congregation has endeavored to enter into a new field of study for Sunday evening classes. Steve and Traci Scuito have warmly welcomed us into their home for these classes, and our fellowship has continued to grow! We began a new study taught by Brian on the topic of fasting, and the scriptures and reasoning behind God's commandment for us to fast both in private and together were both compelling and a piercing reminder to us that we need to keep all of God's commandments better. From this class, individuals and groups began to seek out ways that they might fast more regularly to prepare themselves better in a spiritual way for our stewardship and commitment to God. Even though some of God's commandments may be uncomfortable to us, they are no less required of us.

At the conclusion of this study, everyone pitched in ideas for our next long-term study. The results were to study the Doctrine and Covenants, both the history, the text, and the spiritual application of life principles into our lives. This study has proven to be most rewarding on a number of levels! We are learning more about the history of the Church and our forefathers, how this book came into existence and its comparison with the Book of Commandments. With Brother Brian Herren as our teacher, so much insight into the scriptural passages has been imparted, explored and expounded upon. His knowledge of the scriptures and background concerning each section along with Church History and other resources has truly been an unmatched blessing to the congregation.

I can truly say that I would not learn so much truth in meaningful ways on this subject anywhere else. It is not just the history and background information; nor is it only a scriptural study. Brother Brian teaches us the meaning of life in all his studies, and how we have come from ages gone by, to where we should be, and where we will go. He constantly reminds us of God's ways and precious pearls found in nearly every verse. We are more blessed in his leadership than I can say.

Because this type of study has not been commonplace here in the Northwest, saints from Washington have even come down to partake in the fellowship and learn with us! We have had regular attendance of 38-40 people, enjoying the beautiful summer evenings in the backyard. Because of our growth in fellowship, we began hosting BBQs and picnic dinners for our brothers and sisters who travelled, and our fellowship extended late into the evening.

With the summer lately turned into fall and the school year started, we moved our studies to be cozy in the house, but our desire for these times of fellowship did not cease! Recently the youth put on an ice cream social after class, and the congregation decided to continue having BBQs and potlucks on the second Sunday of each month starting at 5 O'clock, with the class following. All are welcome to join us in feasting upon the words of life and fellowship of the saints and our bellies! These are yet more manifestations of the growth of the saints here in the Northwest on our road toward Zion, and may God perfect His saints to His pleasure and glory.

Local Business Meeting

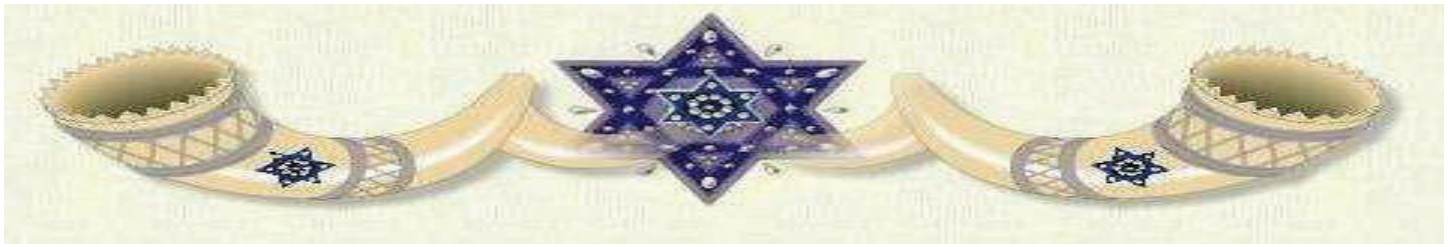
Please support the following officers which were elected or appointed October 2nd at the local business meeting:

Pastor:	Elder Brian Herren
Counselors to Pastor:	Elder Gary Livingston
	Priest Jim Clark
Local Treasurer:	Priest Jim Clark
Local Secretary:	Sister Deanne Murnieks
Local Recorder:	Sister Melissa Herren
Youth Commission:	Teacher Kevin Herren
	Sister Deanne Murnieks
	Sister Lisa Dukes

Regional Business Meeting

Please support the following officers which were elected or appointed October 8th at the regional business meeting:

Regional Coordinator:	Elder Brian Herren
Counselors:	Elder Mike Terry
	(Puyallup Pastor)
Regional Youth Director:	Priest Dustin Mason
Regional Women's Director:	Sister Suzy Herren
Regional Treasurer:	Priest Jim Clark
Regional Secretary:	Sister Melissa Herren
Regional Activities Director:	Brother Vitaliy Surov
Regional Music Director:	Sister Cessaries Galusha
Church School Director:	Sister Deanne Murnieks



The Lord's Feasts of Israel

by Sister Ginger Murnieks

Sister Ginger Murnieks

On August 27th the Builders were privileged to attend a day of classes about the Feasts of Israel. The scriptures were opened to us in new ways and the understanding gained was immense. I feel so blessed to have been able to learn about these feasts and am very grateful for the new insights I received.

In our first class we learned about the Feast of Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the Feast of First Fruits. These feasts were a type and shadow of things that were to take place and be fulfilled in Jesus' life. We learned that God gave these feasts to the Israelites back in the days of Moses so that they would be able to recognize Jesus as the Messiah, the Passover lamb, and the First Fruits of the Resurrection. Sadly, they could not see that Jesus was fulfilling these roles and instead they mocked him and killed him.

In our next class we learned about the Feast of Pentecost. The first Pentecost took place in the wilderness near the mount Sinai, when Moses received the Ten Commandments. Another very special Pentecost took place fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, on this day the church received the Holy Ghost. The law was now supposed to be written on the hearts of the followers of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Ghost, rather than on stone tablets. We learned that this is where we are right now. We have the Holy Ghost, yet so often we rely on the word that is written on stone tablets! We don't write the word in our hearts, we don't live the gospel, we must have God's Spirit within us.

After these two awesomely inspiring classes we were privileged to enjoy a Seder Dinner, which helped us to review some of the things we had learned in our first class. We lounged on the floor while we enjoyed wine (grape juice), bitter herbs (beets and horse radish), matzah, haroseth (pecans, grape juice, apples, and cinnamon), and lamb. It was a very memorable experience that helped us to better comprehend the things that we had already learned.

In our last two classes for the day we learned about the Feast of Trumpets, and Yom Kippur (also known as the Day

of Atonement). The Feast of Trumpets was a feast of celebration. We will celebrate this feast again when Jesus comes. Yom Kippur is a time for repentance of sins. It was a day of fasting. On every fiftieth anniversary of this feast, also known as the year of Jubilee, the captives and the debtors would be released. This is probably what is being talked about in Luke 4:18-20 where it says, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the

poor, he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and the recovering of sight to the blind; to set at liberty them that are bruised; To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and he sat down." The year of Jubilee is the acceptable year of the Lord. We have lost track of when this falls on the calendar, but the Lord will continue to fulfill His plans and one day this feast will be celebrated again!

In conclusion, the first class focused on the feasts that foreshadowed things that were to take place in Jesus' life. The second class focused on what we are going through right now

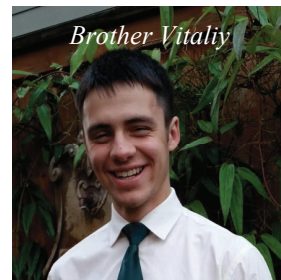
and how we can better ourselves if we have the Holy Ghost within us. The third and fourth classes focused on things that we can look forward to being fulfilled in the last days. Those alive in the days of Jesus celebrated the feasts annually and they knew that the Messiah was to come, yet when He came they crucified Him because they didn't have the word written in their hearts. We don't want to miss the signs that will take place in our day; we must study, be prepared, and, most importantly, have the Holy Ghost within us so that we will not be caught off guard.

This was certainly a very memorable day and I hope that I won't ever forget the things I learned. I feel so blessed to have had this opportunity to learn and to grow in the gospel.



Serving the Women and Children at Simonka Place

by Brother Vitaliy Surova



The Lord works in mysterious ways, ways that surprise me often. Such was the case when the Builders and Climbers were privileged to serve at Simonka Place on July 23rd. We assisted in the kitchen and provided a worship for the precious women and children there. As usual, and what a blessing it is each time, the Lord imparted unto us a portion of His Spirit. I don't often choose to spend time offering help unto those less fortunate, but it seems that when I do, He draws nigh unto me and I realize that I truly am striving towards His work and His glory. On this particular evening, after dinner was served and once our beautiful worship was finished, there were two women who were especially touched by the Lord. One of them, who we offered prayer with, found relief that night in the midst of family issues, heartaches, and many tears. Isn't that incredible? The other, who we were able to share testimonies with, sensed a stirring in her heart, the beginning of a longing to come back unto the Lord, though her past seemed to contain pain and grief. The Lord had used our worship that evening to touch those souls. Yet to be honest, I do not know where they are now,

whether they are here or whether they are there, but this I do know: the Lord blessed us that evening, He drew at least two hearts, two priceless possessions closer to Him, and He reminded us that He is working in this day, gathering the souls of men unto Him, whether I realize it or not.



"...and there is no end to my works, neither to my words; for this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality, and eternal life of man." (Section 22:23b)

Ladies Alto Singing Practice

by Sister Cessaries Galusha

Starting this past summer the Ladies Relief Society showed interest in further developing their gifts in their voice through music. We began meeting once a month on Sunday mornings to learn how to read music better to be able to sing alto harmony on the hymns in the congregation during services and whenever desired. We have had groups from 7-12 people participating, and it has been a great time of learning and fun and praise. So far the hymns we have studied include Redeemer of Israel, Come Thou Fount, Stand Up for Jesus, and Fairest Lord Jesus. Each time we meet we review the hymns and learn a new one, but beyond that, we have been studying the theory of the hymns, reading notes and key signatures and working on ear training. We split the group into sections so we can sing different parts, and sometimes learning and singing a cappella. It has been great fun, and I look forward each time to our meetings. I am excited to see our skills developing and being able to use them for God's glory! All ladies are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings at 8:45, I look forward to our meeting in November!



Congregational Camping Trip 2016

by Brother Ron Herren

On Friday July 8 through Sunday July 10, 2016 the Saints of the Northwest came together for our annual congregational camping trip. This year we again gathered at Devil's Lake State Park in Lincoln City with 36 saints in attendance. Although the weather was not ideal, cloudy and rainy except for a few short breaks, the spirits of those in attendance were not dampened. Brother Ron Trammel brought his boat for those die-hard tubing enthusiasts. There were many who braved the rain, wind and choppy waters to take their turn on the tube, then returned to their campsite wet, cold and thoroughly satisfied. Elder Brian Herren managed to kindle and maintain a very welcome campfire throughout the weekend, even during the numerous downpours. We all enjoyed good fellowship, worship, and as usual an abundance of good food. We were truly blessed by our heavenly father and we came away nourished physically and spiritually. I cannot wait until our next gathering.



Ladies Relief Society Fellowship Weekend

by Sister Melissa Herren



On Friday, September 23rd, 15 women from the Salem Branch joined together in a quiet neighborhood at the Oregon coast to fellowship one with another and to remember the bond that unites us, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. A delicious Italian style dinner was provided by Sisters Sharon and Traci, fol-



lowed by a rousing game of rotating table tennis. The day ended with prayers for the weekend. Saturday morning dawned gloriously with blue skies, fluffy white clouds and bright sun. A breakfast of tiramisu crepes and baked oatmeal was contributed by the Clark Sisters (Dianna, Maddy, Melissa and Cecelia). After breakfast we started on the SoleHope project; tracing, cutting and organizing pieces of jean fabric that will be used to make shoes for those in need in Uganda. The shoes will be completed in Uganda by men and women of that country. These shoes will be given to Ugandan children in need to prevent the devastating effects of jigger infections in their feet. We were able to prepare the fabric portion for 20 pairs of shoes! Praise the Lord for His guiding hand in this project. We were truly

blessed to be able to spend this time in fellowship and service. After cleaning up, we had a quick walk to the beach while sisters Carla and Lisa prepared a wonderful lunch of soup and sandwiches. Later we enjoyed a tour of the Tillamook Cheese factory followed by a trip to the ice cream counter. After arriving home with bellies full of delicious Tillamook ice cream, we were able to rest and enjoy the beauty of our coastal surroundings. Dinner was prepared by Sisters Dorothy and Melissa which included a wonderful wedge salad and hearty chicken cordon bleu casserole. After dinner we played games and enjoyed pumpkin pie for dessert. Sunday morning was equally as beautiful as the previous day. We feasted on a delightful breakfast casserole prepared by Sister Suzy. After breakfast we headed to the beach one last time to have a time of worship led by Sister Cessaries. She shared scripture and her thoughts, and testimonies of how the Lord has spoken and revealed His truths to us. We sang beautiful hymns unto our Lord and basked in the wondrous glory that He has provided us. I was greatly blessed by this weekend to spend time with my dear sisters, laughing, learning, serving and worshipping. I am so thankful that we were provided this time and place and will remember it fondly in the years to come.

