

# Zions Newzflash

## August Newsletter

2024

### Letter from our Pastor

Friends!

Consider yourself warned! You are about to be hit with an all-out effort to scare you to death!

What am I talking about? Have you heard? Pennsylvania is a 'swing' state in the upcoming election. With millions and millions of dollars to be spent on this election, all spread over a handful of states, we are about to be bombarded through the mail, the airwaves, social media, and conversations with people about how terrible life will be if the opponent wins this next election. And for sure, this election will be consequential.

However, I want to remind you of the words of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It's a line from the fourteenth chapter of John which I've read at countless funerals. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27 NIV

I love the idea that Jesus wants to give us his peace. Not the peace that we sometimes feel in this life—the world's peace—that can come and go, depending on the circumstances, but rather the peace that Jesus Christ himself had when he walked on this planet. Jesus wants to give us his peace.

During Jesus' lifetime, he lived not under two presidencies, but under the reign of two Roman Emperors—Augustus and Tiberius. Maybe one was a right-wing Republican and maybe the other was a far left liberal Democrat—I'm joking here—but I seriously doubt that Jesus' worry meter was in any way connected to the status of the political leader of his day. Again, I'm not saying that the outcome of elections don't affect our lives, however, I am certain that Jesus didn't worry about the effect of the ruling authorities on his life.

Why? "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." Psalm 24:1 God holds the whole world in his hands. Here's another line in the Psalms that Jesus embraced. My enemies conspire against me, planning to take my life. But I am trusting you, O Lord, saying, 'You are my God!' My future is in your hands." Psalm 31:13-15

Jesus didn't worry. Let me say that again. Jesus didn't worry. He really didn't. His life was in the hands of the Heavenly Father.

One more Scripture which Jesus surely knew and in which he found comfort and hope. "My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth! He will not let you stumble, the one who watches over you will not slumber. Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps. The Lord himself watches over you!" Psalm 121:2-5

We live in a swing state. We will be bombarded with political advertisements, and a high percentage of those advertisements coming from both sides of the political spectrum will be designed, deliberately to create fear within us. They will be hoping that our fear will propel us to vote for the candidate who will make a better life for us and protect us from the opponent who will make our lives more miserable than we could ever imagine. The actual goal of those advertisements will be to cause us to experience fear with the desired effect of motivating us to vote.

What do you think Jesus' response would be if he received those fear-mongering political advertisements? He wouldn't take the bait. He wouldn't fall for it. No one could ever scare the peace out of Jesus' life.

# Letter from our Pastor continued...

By all means vote. It's an important election, but never forget the truth of that old hymn:

This is My Father's World. Here's the words of the third verse.

This is my Father's world:

O let me ne'er forget

That though the wrong seems oft so strong,

God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Father's world:

Why should my heart be sad?

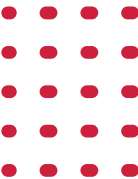
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!

God reigns; let earth be glad!

Jesus wants to give us his peace. Trust in him. This is my Father's World.

In Christ's peace,

Randy



## LC 2024 Annual Fundraiser Banquet

Join us on Thursday, September 19, for LC Medical's (formerly Life's Choices) Annual Fundraiser Banquet. This year, the event will be held at a brand new facility, the Redner's Event Center at Reading Fightin' Phils Stadium, 1900 Centre Ave., Reading, PA. Guest speaker will be the "Pro-Life Doc", Dr. William Lile, who will share his captivating stories of life-saving surgeries being performed on pre-born babies, proving that every life matters, no matter how small. The event begins with doors opening and a Silent Auction at 5:15pm, and the meal at 6:10pm. There's no charge to attend the event, but there will be an opportunity for financial donations later that evening. The deadline to register is August 19th, so visit our website, [inspiredsisters.org](http://inspiredsisters.org) today or contact Marie Perry at 610-587-2136.

## Important Dates

### Prime Timers

SAT	August 3	9 AM	Friendship Breakfast	Perry Restaurant
SUN-FRI	August 11 -16		Impact	Olivet Boys & Girls Camp

### Other

SAT	August 31	10 AM	Hamburger Fest	Journey Cafe
MON	September 9	6:30 PM	Confirmation Class begins	Journey Café
WED	September 11	6:30 PM	GriefShare begins	Room 201
WED	September 11	6:30 PM	Zion's Family Night begins	FH/Library
WED	September 11	6:30 PM	Rock-Us begins	Journey Café

# Women



## **Family Kayaking & Cookout Event Rescheduled**

It seems the bacteria levels around the local lakes have been an issue lately, so we've decided to push the date out a month and hope for the best! See you September 22!

Location TBA, but plan to bring the fam and enjoy a cookout with us. Check [inspiredsisters.org](http://inspiredsisters.org) for all the details!

## **Girlfriend's Night Out: Ice Cream Social Friday, August 2 at Blue Mountain Community Church**

Ride along with us for a ladies' night of ice cream and worship at BMCC with Jennifer Eckhart and friends. We'll meet at the Journey Cafe for 5:15 to carpool to Palmerton for the 6:30 event. You'll be welcomed to BMCC with an Ice Cream social, then Jennifer will lead worship for a time, giving way to a sermon/chat with BMCC Women's Ministry leaders. You'll also be introduced to the opportunity to sign-up for the "Hidden Hearts" monthly mini-bible study. If you're interested, text Marie Perry at 610-587-2136 or email [admin@inspiredsisters.org](mailto:admin@inspiredsisters.org).

## **Moms & Muffins**

Are you a stay-at-home mom looking for support or something to do? Are you craving to learn more about God and parenting? Join us Tuesday mornings at 10am, starting September 17, for our Moms & Muffins Bible Study! We will have a light snack, coffee, a Bible lesson and craft! Kids are welcome to come and play in the supervised nursery.

Unwind, relax, and connect with other moms all while growing your faith!

