

ZION'S GOOD NEWS

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How can I be happy when I'm hungry all the time?

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.”

Matthew 5:6



I have never really been hungry. Have you? What I mean is I can't remember a time when I had gone days without eating and didn't know when I would eat again. What a terrible, desperate feeling that must be. People who go on diets can't say they know that kind of hunger, but they speak of feeling hungry all the same. And it's not a pleasant feeling.

Jesus once said that actually it's great to be hungry all the time. In fact, it makes you happy.

But listen to the “hunger” he's talking about: *“Blessed (happy) are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled”* (Matthew 5:6). The only hunger that makes someone happy is the hunger for righteousness.

Jesus used the word “righteousness” to talk about two related blessings for his followers. First of all, righteousness is being declared not guilty by God. It's an acquittal. Righteousness means that God the Judge looks at you and declares you not guilty of all your sins because Jesus covers you in his holiness. Jesus' holiness becomes your holiness in God's sight. That's righteousness and it's a gift that is received by those who put their trust in Jesus as their Savior. Flowing from this gift is another one. When you know God has forgiven your sins, you want to do things God's way. This, too, is righteousness. Jesus says when you long for God's not guilty verdict, you will also long for ways to say “thank you” with your life. You will hunger for righteousness.

There's lots of spiritual junk food out there, and it may seem like your soul's hunger will be satisfied by it. What about the idea that if you're pretty good or just try a little harder or are better than the next guy, then God will have to accept you? That's not real righteousness. It's self-righteousness, and it's a spiritual Twinkie that can never truly satisfy your spiritual needs.

Instead, be hungry for Jesus' righteousness. Yearn for the forgiveness only he can supply and receive it by trusting in him. And then stay hungry. Stay hungry for making the words and deeds of your life a big “thank you” to God who sent his Son Jesus for you. To be hungry for righteousness is to be happy ... and satisfied.

How can I be happy if I think only of others?

“Blessed are the merciful.”

Matthew 5:7



Mercy is certainly something of which we like to be on the receiving end. A police officer pulls you over. You know you rolled through that stop sign. Will he show mercy and not give you a ticket? You show up just a few minutes late for work. It doesn't matter that you think you have a good reason—you are late. Will your boss show you mercy? You forgot your anniversary! There is no good excuse. Will your spouse show you mercy?

If I like to be on the receiving end so much, why is it that I often struggle to be merciful to others? Why do I have a hard time forgiving my loved ones when I want them to be forgiving toward me? Why is that I have such a hard time showing kindness to my coworkers or neighbors? Is it often because I feel that if I show kindness and mercy to others, it will be a sacrifice for

me? Will showing mercy to others rob me of opportunities for myself and take away my happiness?

What is mercy really all about? For the answer we need look no further than God. He shows us what real mercy is. God looked at sinful people—a people that could offer him nothing, a people helpless to help themselves—and he showed mercy. In love and mercy that astounds us, he sent his Son Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus was perfect where we could never be. Jesus paid for the sins we could never pay for. Jesus lived, died, and rose again for us so we could live forever in heaven—a gift of mercy!

The opportunities that God places before us in our lives to show mercy and kindness to other people can serve as constant reminders of the mercy that God has shown to us, a mercy we certainly didn't deserve. It is God's mercy for us that empowers us to be merciful to others and to even find happiness in showing kindness and love to other people.

Jesus said, *“Blessed (happy) are the merciful.”* Then he goes on with a promise, *“For they will be shown mercy”* (Matthew 5:7). As we show mercy to others, we will also be on the receiving end of mercy!

Zion Lutheran School

Keeping Kids Active!

At our most recent Friends of Zion meeting we talked about a number of ways that we can keep kids active and educationally engaged throughout the summer. There are many programs out there through your local Parks and Recreation department, libraries, museums, and other places that can help you to keep your whole family having fun all summer long! Here are just a few ideas:

- Read a book out loud with your kids
- Visit local museums, most have a day each month where you can get in without charge, check out lawithkids.com
- Register for this years' VBS and Cooking Program - July 26-30
- Go out to the local park for lunch and play Frisbee or catch

There is no limit to what you can do! Have a great idea you'd like to share with other church and school families? Let me know and I'll put it on our website!



God's Great Rescue & Cooking Class

This year our Vacation Bible School theme is God's Great Rescue! We will be looking at how God has rescued His children throughout the Bible. Each day after the regular VBS program we will also be hosting a Cooking Class! These classes will focus on fun recipes that kids can usually make by themselves. The recipes we make will focus on other bible stories, including some of ones we talked about earlier that day in the regular VBS program. There is a small registration fee (approx \$25.00 per child) for the cooking class. This fee covers the food and materials that each child will use that week.

If you love to cook, love to teach, or both, please let me know! I would love to have any volunteers to help out with our VBS and Cooking Class programs this summer! The dates for the program are July 26-30. The VBS will run from approx 8:30 – 11:30 and the cooking class will run from 12:00 – 3:30.

Summer Dates to Remember

June 20th – Early Bird Registration Deadline

July 26 - 30th – VBS and Cooking Class

August 1st – Church Picnic

August 14th – Beach Party!

August 18th – Back to School Night

August 23rd – First Day of Classes

Dear Friends,

Zion Lutheran Church is planning on participating in a program that will focus on helping and serving the nearby community as well as the members of our church. It is called the Treasure Box. It is a once a month food delivery program. The Treasure Box Company is able to purchase many different foods in large quantities at a substantial discount. These boxes are valued around \$75-\$100 and sell for only \$30 per box. All food comes frozen and includes meats, vegetables, fruit, packaged foods, dessert, pasta, and more. Each box weighs between 21-25 lbs. They are a nice way to help families make ends meet during these difficult times. These boxes are available to everyone, and there is no limit to the quantity purchased. In return for participating in this opportunity, the church will earn a small amount for each box purchased. For more information on the program, please check the website: www.thetreasurebox.org.

In order to get an idea of the quality food that is provided in these boxes, please click on the link: <http://www.thetreasurebox.org/food-menu.php>

At this time, I am looking for volunteers to help with the monthly distribution days. I will need several reliable people that can help on the delivery days (which are typically the last Saturday of every month), please see chart below for specific delivery dates. The plan is to be able to start the program for the July delivery. It all depends on the responses we receive.

MONTH	DELIVERY DATE
JULY	7/31/2010
AUGUST	8/28/2010
SEPTEMBER	9/25/2010
OCTOBER	10/23/2010
NOVEMBER	11/20/2010
DECEMBER	12/18/2010

Below is a list of the duties that will need to be accomplished every distribution day (duties are subject to change). The approximate time frame that we would need you to volunteer would be from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM (times are subject to change depending on the duty assigned to you.) When the schedule is made, you will get a more solid time block.

- **Drivers:** pick up the boxes from a delivery site (less than 5 miles from our site) and bring them back to Zion. Would need to have a large sized automobile in order to complete this task (a truck would be best). Don't have a large truck? If you know someone that has one, consider offering to trade vehicles with him or her for the morning of delivery day. We would need drivers for about two hours each delivery date (10 AM-Noon); time is subject to change;
- **Distributors:** help load and unload the boxes at the delivery site and Zion. Generally, the drivers should be able to help with this function as well.
- **Greeters:** greet people and direct them where to go

- **Check-in:** people who check those who bought a box and make sure their names are on the lists and verify which boxes they purchased
- **Box Distributors:** people who give the boxes out to the people once they have checked in
- **Order Takers:** take people's orders for the next month
- **Parking attendants:** help direct traffic and parking
- **Aides:** help people take their boxes to their car if needed; also help w/ various other needs
- **Callers:** people who will call those people who have not come yet to pick up their boxes prior to the end of the distribution time

There will be other duties that would be needed prior to distribution days. We would need volunteers to hand out flyers in the nearby area and /or to their friends and neighbors. Also, we could use donations of bottled waters, juice and small snacks to hand out to the volunteers on the distribution day.

Please note that the program will only be able to begin as soon as we get the necessary volunteers. I do realize that you may not be able to volunteer every month; whatever help you can provide is greatly appreciated. Also, if you wish to volunteer on the distribution days it would be best not to bring small children due to safety concerns. Since there will be a significant amount of traffic in and out of the parking lot, it may be very difficult to keep an eye on small children while you are helping to get the orders out to the customers. However, I would like to encourage the older children (high school age and older) to volunteer.

If you would like to volunteer, please fill out the attached page and return it to Susan Hokenson as soon as possible. I will inform everyone of their duties once the program officially starts. If you have any questions, please ask me in person or email at hokenson70@verizon.net. Thank you.

Yours in Christ,

Susan Hokenson

VOLUNTEER SHEET FOR THE TREASURE BOX PROGRAM

Zion needs your help for this program to be successful. Please take the time to think about your God-given talents when choosing. A schedule will be created each month from the volunteers that have signed up. If we get a large amount of volunteers then there may be a chance that you may not be scheduled each month.

You may fill out one form for an entire family or individually. *If using one sheet for a whole family, please be sure to indicate which family member(s) would be doing each task on the line to the right of each job.* You may check more than one duty per person. Please refer to the description of each duty on the flyer.

Name of Volunteer or Family Name: _____

Home Phone number: _____

Mobile Phone number: _____

E-mail _____

Driver _____

Distributor _____

Greeter _____

Check-In _____

Box Distributor _____

Order takers _____

Parking attendant _____

Aide _____

Caller _____

To help with the planning of this program, please fill out the other side of this flyer as well.

How often would you be willing to volunteer (i.e. every month, every other month, etc)? Please indicate which dates you definitely **cannot** participate in (see delivery schedule):

Would you be willing to hand out flyers to homes near church? Circle one: YES NO

If you would like to donate items such as water bottles, juices, snacks for the volunteers on distribution day, please indicate that below:

Please include any suggestions or questions you have about the program:
