

# PULSE OF THE CONGREGATION

July | August | September | October | November | December

## Upcoming Events

LRS alto practice at 8:45 AM in the Sanctuary every Sunday

Jan 3: Wreath Pick Up 9-12

Jan 5: Business mtg after church

Jan 12, Feb 16: LRS meetings

Jan 17, Feb 21: LRS activities

Feb 22-March 8: Brother Brian's mission trip to Nepal and India

## Local Officers 2020

Pastor: Brian Herren

Counselors: Gary Livingston,  
Jim Clark

Treasurer: Jim Clark

Secretary: Dorothy Herren

Recorder: Melissa Clark

Youth Commission: Travis Clark,  
Maddy Clark, Michael Livingston

## Regional Officers '20

Regional Director: Brian Herren

Counselors: Mike Terry,  
Gary Jones

Treasurer: Jim Clark

Secretary: Melissa Herren

Youth Director: Kevin Herren

Women's Leader: Suzy Herren

Church School: Kara Miller

Music Leader: Cessaries Galusha

Youth Activities: Ashley Smithline

## Communion Wine

*By Brother Brian Herren*



On August 21, 2017, our family took possession of a new home after the Lord had opened the doors before us and revealed His loving hand by many obvious blessings. The move has yielded many wonderful consequences and shows promise for years to come. However, our moving had one unavoidable consequence that was not as pleasant: we had to leave four hand-nurtured grape vines that had provided communion wine for the three branches of the Pacific Northwest. One of the first projects of our undertaking at the

new property would have to be the replanting of our vineyard. We watched the sun and water patterns, developed the soil, raised a portion of the garden, tilled the earth, and started to build the arbor for the new grape vines before the first winter. In researching the best grape for communion wine (grape juice), we decided upon a variety cultivated at Cornell University in New York, a variety called NY 47616. The grapes had been prized for their dense clusters of dark blue, sweet, very flavorful, early ripening grapes. The variety had an attractive, compact growth pattern that was resistant to pests and diseases. In New York, the vines had proven weather hardy to minus ten degrees Fahrenheit, and the fruit had won a number of taste tests as a seedless table grape. It was also promoted for its delicious juice. In pursuing the vine starts, we soon learned that shipping grape vines across state lines was somewhat complicated by agricultural laws and regulations. There was not a way to ship the vines into Oregon. Efforts to ship to Washington and Idaho also fell through.

*Continued on page 2*



## Youth Night Every Second Thursday

Starting in September, on the second Thursday of every month the Builders & Climbers have been attending Youth Night. From straw and ping pong ball races to build-your-own pizzas, these nights have been full of fun as the youth come together in fellowship and learning. The nights have also been full of meaningful discussion as the youth recently talked about the temptations and trials of going back to school and how this is very similar to going back into the world after a youth camp or reunion. If you are a Builder & Climber and have not been to a Youth Night yet, mark your calendars for the next one and let the Youth Commission know if you need a ride!

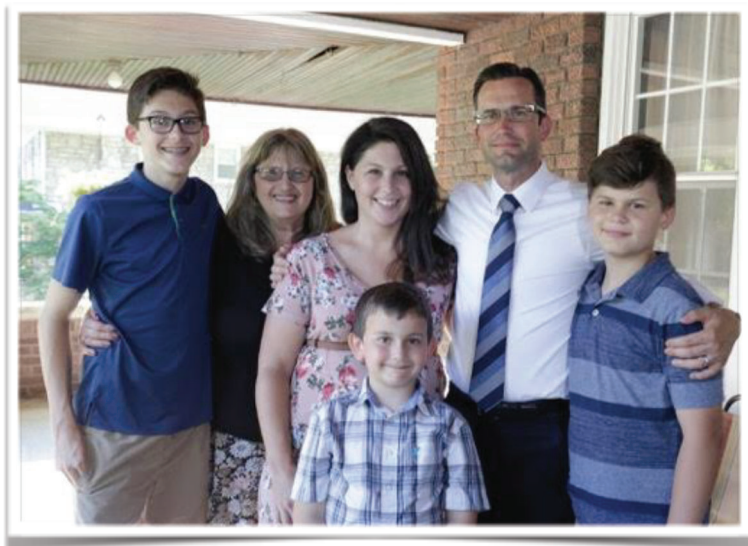
*By Brother Travis Clark*

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In a most unexpected turn of events, several of the vine starts were discovered at a small nursery in Portland, Oregon, called One Green World. We traveled at once and secured our vine starts. After we planted the vines, we prayed for success, dedicating the fruit of our efforts entirely to the Lord. Our intent was to use the grapes to press into communion wine and thereby remember the matchless gift of our Lord and Savior. We would remember the Lord's sacrifice each month as we partook of communion, but we would also remember Him each day as we passed by those vines. After praying for the vines, we left the new and humble vineyard in good order, but Caleb appeared uneasy. Before going inside for the evening, I asked Caleb if something was troubling him. He was glad that we had prayed for the vines, but thought that we should take the time to pray for each and every vine individually, one by one. We did. In a blessing beyond our deserving, those vines yielded fruit in their first year, and not a little. After one year, the Lord has brought an abundance. The Salem branch has enough grape juice preserved to use as communion wine for an entire year! We rejoice and praise the Lord.

*Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase; So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.*

*- Proverbs 3:9-10*



## Jetboat Excursion

On September 7th, 2019, 17 saints from Salem and 2 from Southern Oregon went on a jet boat trip on the Rogue River leaving Grants Pass. We headed down for 18 miles on the Miss Grants Pass, a 54ft, over a 1000hp Jetboat, for a morning full of seeing God's creation, some beautiful homes, wildlife, farms and different bridges that crossed the river. Our pilot gave us a short safety talk where he informed us to make sure that we secured all loose items so they wouldn't fly out, because unless your hat said "Hellgate Jetboat Excursion" we would not turn around and get it.

*By Brother Ron Trammell*



Traveling along we were accompanied by 2 other jet boats and a pilot boat that would go head of us and radio back the river conditions (which were very low) and where fishing boats and anglers along the shore were. Proud to show off their catch, some would show us their fish. Our pilot would also show us some of the capabilities of his boat from high speeds to some 360 degree spins.

As we got to the turn around spot, we entered "Hellgate Canyon", a spot where the Rogue River narrows to about 100' wide with massive rock walls that looks like they have not changed in hundreds of years. Seeing the high water line way above our heads made you think how much power this river has.

Not far from the turn around, we stopped and got off the boats where we were invited to walk up the hill to a beautiful log structure in the woods. We were served a great brunch starting with juice, fruit and breads, then they brought out eggs, biscuits and gravy, sausage, bacon and potatoes. It was a wonderful place in God's creation to enjoy good food and great friends. As we finished brunch, 3 deer entered the meadow in front of the lodge, as we watched them walk up the hill the staff told us that they sometimes can feed them. Daniel and Gabriella tried to pet them, but the deer managed to stay just 1 step ahead, most of the time.

Returning to the boat, we were informed that on the trip back, there was a good chance that we are going to get wet. At that point, we were off with the 2 other boats. Upon the first spin everyone sitting on the right side of the boat found out just how cold the water in the Rogue River was because they got most of the spray from the boat, but so the other side didn't feel left out, our pilot spun the the boat the other way next time which sprayed the left side and gave Caleb a good soaking. After that, the 3 boats got together and did a simultaneous 3 boat 360 degree spin that was amazing! The rest of the trip back was full of high speed spins, water spraying and great fun.

Arriving back to the dock, some of us wetter than others, we thanked our pilot and talked about all the fun the day had provided.



## Jetboat Excursion



## Women's Fellowship Weekend

*By Sister Melissa Clark*

It is always a great joy to get away with my sisters in Christ. This was no different at our annual women's fellowship weekend, which took place September 27th-29th at Oceanside. We stayed in a beautiful home with a breathtaking view of the ocean and enjoyed yummy food, arts and crafts and worship times together along with lots of laughter. Maddy led many in a class of water coloring and Sharon helped us make scarfs and hats for the homeless. We all felt very blessed that sister Keni made the long trek from Bend to join us this year as well as baby Parley James, who's presence was so peaceful. From our visit to Tillamook Cheese Factory to walks on the beach and nightly songs and prayers, our time was truly blessed and I look forward with anticipation to our next getaway when each of the sisters can partake in such fellowship once again!



## Congregational Camping Weekend

*By Brother Jim Clark*

Once again thirteen families were able to fellowship together in the beauty of our Lord's creation at Sunnyside campgrounds. Camping in the group area gave opportunity for us to have R.V.'s and tents in close proximity to one another. Glorious weather, delicious shared food, and no distractions created a wonderful opportunity to spend time together. Along with Saints from Salem, we were also blessed by the Williams family from Bend, and the Terry family from Vancouver. I enjoyed so much getting to spend time with my brothers and sisters, a luxury we too seldom take advantage of.

Located close to Foster reservoir many were able to fish or frolic on tubes pulled behind the boats of Ron Trammell and Ron Herren. Beautiful scenery could be found on boat rides, while closer to camp there were volleyball, badminton, and spikeball games. Those who walked around the ponds and trails were able to find hidden butterflies and dinosaurs which were hid again for a future camper to be surprised and delighted by. Many enjoyed kayaking much thanks to the Trammells and Williams, as well as time to converse with one another. Harli even caught a fish, not bad for an eight year old teaching the fishermen how to fish!

Campfires were Spirit filled each night, with the stars out in abundance. We were excited to have Lillian Dukes and Parley Clark in our midst and there was never a shortage of those willing to help watch them. Truly a special time to share with one another and to share with those around us as well. Sunday morning found us particularly blessed with the Holy Spirit and a wonderful service within the tabernacle of nature, and the serenity of His peace. A worshipful experience with inspired words brought through our brother Brian Herren. I do not think we could have wanted for any more, other than for the time to pass more slowly and the days to have been more numerous. My heart-filled thanks to all who attended, I was truly blessed and I feel others would say the same. Praise and Glory unto our Heavenly Father from whom all good flows. For this creation, this gospel, this church family, and this love.

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## Lambs of Zion Summer Activities

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## Builders & Climbers Leaf Service

*By Brother Travis Clark*

As Fall is now in full swing, we can't help but notice the beautiful and vibrant colors from the trees. With the beautiful colors, though, come leaves falling by the masses and covering the lawns of those who have trees. The annual task of raking leaves is as much of a Fall tradition as Thanksgiving, only a lot less fun. Just like superheroes in a movie however, the Builders & Climbers raced in to help the saints clean up their yards!

On a Friday in October, the Builders & Climbers group graciously sacrificed a few hours of their day to help clean up leaves at a couple of the saints' homes. The young men and women first tackled cleaning up thousands of acorns and leaves at Jim and Dianna Clark's. After the Clark's, the group moved on to Ron and Sharon Trammell's where they found more leaves than they could imagine. After some hard raking, a lot of shoveling and a little bit of stuffing Gabriella into a bag of leaves the group got the Trammell's yard looking leaf-less.

As the leaves continue to fall, if any saints have leaves that need to be picked up please let the Youth Commission know and they will schedule a time for the Builders & Climbers to come over and clean up your leaves!

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## Builders and Climbers Summer Activities

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## Celebrating a Trip to the Holy Lands

By Sister Traci Scuito

Those who traveled to the Holy Land of Israel in 2009 recently gathered for the 10th anniversary of our trip. It was an opportunity to reflect upon the blessings the Lord poured out to us and the remembrance of many amazing places.

Brother Brian put together a slide show from pictures which were taken and we enjoyed reliving the many memories and seeing the differences which have come and gone by the course of a decade, while in some respects it seems a world ago, yet in other ways it was as if it were yesterday.

Enjoying food common to the area we broke bread together and reminisced of our memories and experiences. We were blessed by the Lord on the way and now can testify of the significance of the blessing on our lives which continue even unto this day.

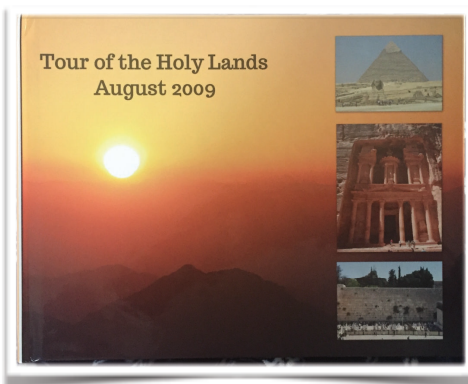
For almost all, it was one of the most significant blessings we have had in our lifetime. Visiting the lands and places of the Holy scriptures truly changes one's life. We were given at the time to never forget the experiences we had received and so coming together to commemorate the anniversary was exceedingly sweet.

Sister Cessaries and myself embarked on a project to create a book of pictures, a photo journal, of the entire trip. While sifting through thousands of photos, we continued to collate a work of love, while taking months to complete we found an even greater blessing of working together, enjoying each other's company in the Lord, so much so that we hope to be able to complete projects in the future together.

Surely the Lord made the way for those with a desire to travel. He blessed us along the way, He continues to bless us with a tremendous testimony and remembrance of His goodness. We will never forget that, and all praise and honor be given unto our Heavenly Father who makes all things possible. It is written:

*"But Jesus beheld their thoughts, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but if they will forsake all things for my sake, with God whatsoever things I speak are possible."*

Matthew 19:26.



## The Blessing of Children

*By Brother Brian Herren*

On October 20, 2019, the parents of Parley James Clark presented him for a blessing at the hands of Elder Brian Herren and Elder Gary Livingston in Salem. The service was made special by Parley's grandfather, Priest Jim Clark, occupying the pulpit in preaching the Lord.

The ordinance of the blessing of children honors the example Christ has given when he took small children up in His arms and prayed for them. While there are no examples of Jesus baptizing those who had not yet reached the age of accountability, the scriptures do record His blessing them in special prayer by the laying on of hands:



*Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them and pray. And the disciples rebuked them, saying, There is no need, for Jesus hath said, Such shall be saved. But Jesus said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven. And he laid hands on them, and departed thence. - Matthew 19:13-15*

*And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them; and the disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw and heard them, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, and put his hands upon them, and blessed them. - Mark 10:11-14*

During His earthly ministry, Jesus counseled the Church that we should do as we have seen Him do:

*Verily, verily I say unto you, This is my gospel; and ye know the things that ye must do in my church; for the works which ye have seen me do, that shall ye also do; For that which ye have seen me do, even that shall ye do; therefore if ye do these things, blessed are ye, for ye shall be lifted up at the last day. - III Nephi 12:34-35*

The Lord further instructed that our children should be brought before the elders to receive a blessing:

*Every member of the church of Christ having children, is to bring them unto the elders before the church, who are to lay their hands upon them in the name of Jesus Christ, and bless them in his name. - Doctrine and Covenants 17:19*

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## Youth Harvest Party

On October 26th, Travis and Maddy opened their home to the youth for a wonderful time of fun at our Harvest Party. There were lots of games, food, and fellowship that all enjoyed. To shake things up a bit, the youth had to draw out of a hat what fruit or vegetable they would get to carve! The options included watermelon, several different kinds of squash, and pumpkins. Needless to say it was a messy business, and each learned to appreciate these foods in a new way!

Bobbing for apples was taken to a new level as races and competition ensued. Elizabeth and Caleb may not have gotten any apples, but they sure got water up their noses! And when Michael Livingston joined in, we experienced some flood waters.

It is good rejoice in the blessings of harvest that God has given!

*By Sister Cessaries Galusha*

*Continued from page 8...*

We know by many faith building experiences that the prayers offered over the young often extend blessings deep into their adulthood, and perhaps, beyond this time of probation. These gospel gifts are not for church members alone, but for every parent who so desires to bring their young and ask the Lord's blessing. The ordinance is free, and the invitation unto all.

It was marvelous to see another example of the Church operating today as she did some two thousand years ago, doing that which is done by Christ's own example, and performing the ordinances in these latter days just as the apostolic church did in New Testament times. We do in the Church today as Christ Himself did, in the way in which He did it, by the same authority by which it was done. Thereby we bear record again that Christ's true and living Church has been restored in these last days, and that Christ Himself sits at our head. His is the glory and kingdom, now and forever.

## Christmas Caroling *By Sister Cessaries Galusha*

The beloved tradition of Christmas Caroling returned again this year as saints, families and friends gathered on the evening of December 14th for a cheerful evening of song and fellowship. Brian and Melissa welcomed into their home one and all as we broke bread together and were warmed by the fire before setting out in the chilly night. Though not everyone was able to walk about the neighborhood, it was wonderful to include all in the fellowship beforehand!

Two new carolers with high spirits and lots of energy joined us from across the street to sing through the night. We went door to door on a pre-planned route by Ron Herren, and collected 90 pounds of food to donate to the Marion-Polk County Food Share! What a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season!





## Wreath Sales

This year the youth were extremely blessed in their wreath making venture. They made 100 wreaths in total over the course of just two evenings and a day, which is much quicker than we have been able to do in past years. Not only were we blessed in how little we had to pay for supplies, but we were greatly blessed in the help we received from so many in the congregation. Sharon Trammell provided us with holly and she and Dorothy Herren also made dozens of bows to adorn the wreaths. We also received help from Jim and Dianna Clark, Sue Herren, and Brian Herren. The youth worked very hard this year and continue to get more efficient as they gain more experience. This fundraising opportunity is so much different than any of the others that the kids will do in school and it brings joy to my heart to see how the youth are growing year by year.

*By Sister Maddy Clark*

## Christmas Party *By Brother Michael Livingston*

On December 20th the Builders and Climbers and the Lambs of Zion got together and fellowshiped with each other at a Christmas Party. The youth didn't know what was in store for them this night. They first made art on coasters and got to play with fire to finish the art by lighting it up with alcohol to mix all the colors together, which the youth enjoyed very much. Then we got into the games. The winner of each game got a present to open and keep. The first game was a candy cane hunt. The youth commission went around and hid candy canes all over the house, and the youth who found the most candy canes won. Emily Herren came out with the win for that game. The next game we played was "Guess what's in the stocking". We had a stocking with four random objects and the youth had to guess what was in the stocking by just feeling the outside of the stocking, they couldn't put their hands inside. With a very close finish, Kaitlin Herren won. For our last game, we played Musical Present. Similar to Musical Chairs, the players had to sit in a circle and pass a present around while the music plays, and when the music stops, whoever has the present is out. The last one not touching the present wins the game. That winner was Benjamin Herren. All in all, we all had a great time together in fellowship, and we always look forward to the next time we get to spend time with each other.

