

PULSE OF THE CONGREGATION

August | September | October | November | December

Upcoming Events

Feb 23: LRS Craft Night

Feb 24: Youth Ministry to
Bonaventure Retirement Center

Local Officers 2024

Pastor: Brian Herren

Counselors:

Gary Livingston, Jim Clark

Treasurer: Jim Clark

Secretary: Dorothy Herren

Recorder: Melissa Clark

Youth Commission: Amos
Johnson, Maddy Clark, Cessaries
Galusha

Regional Officers '24

Regional Director: Brian Herren

Counselors:

Mike Terry, Gary Jones

Treasurer: Travis Clark

Secretary: Melissa Herren

Youth Director: Travis Clark

Women's Director: Dianna Clark

Church School: Melissa Johnson

Music Director: Cessaries Galusha

Activities Director: Matthew Terry

A Brother Gone to His Reward

By Sister Cessaries Galusha

We mourn the passing of our dear brother, Mike Esquivel. Mike went to his reward on January 29, 2024, but we know he is blessed with the Lord and his spirit is free. A celebration of life service will be held at Zillah Civic Center on March 2nd at 1:30pm. Here is part of his obituary:

"He loved his family! He enjoyed his fighting roosters, hunting and fishing, old cowboy movies, the Seahawks and the Mariners. He relished good Mexican food. Most recently he loved watching his granddaughter D'ana play basketball for Zillah.

He loved his Lord. He was ordained an elder in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, later known as the Church of Christ Restored. He made two missionary trips to witness to saints in Mexico and Guatemala and travelled several times to the Navaho Nation to minister with saints there.

He will be missed--for his love of people, his infectious smile, and surprising sense of humor. He loved and enjoyed all people, (he never met a stranger)."

Mike's favorite scriptures:

Phil 4:8 *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just; whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

II Chronicles 7:14 *If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*



Youth Activities August through December 2023

By Brother Amos and Sister Melissa Johnson



The youth have been busy. Here is an update on some of the activities they have enjoyed since August...

In August we went swimming at the Kroc center. We all enjoyed swimming in the lazy river and watching each other go down the slide. Lucy and Gavin joined us, which made it an extra fun day. We got our fingers and toes all wrinkly and crinkly.

In September there was a campfire where we prepared the worship for our local gathering in Salem, to be had during the priesthood retreat. Extreme collaboration was implemented, as jobs were divided up and responsibilities taken. Everyone had the pleasure of developing their character as they created this worship (which went very well). We all also enjoyed a game night in which we ran around the table many times like happy salmon.

In October, we tried to make the neighborhood better by picking up trash in and around the street. Caleb chaperoned and directed as we walked, talked, and cleaned. Later in the month we had our harvest party. Lucy and Gavin once again joined us as we painted pumpkins (there are some especially gifted artists amongst us), drank cider, danced to music and played games with powdered donuts.

November (and into December) was the beginning of everyone's favorite service activity, making wreaths!! We bartered, sold, tore apart trees, and put together the most beautiful decorations conceivable. Despite the workers forming a union, and organizing a strike, we managed to create and sell over a hundred wreaths. One particular blessing was that when we were out selling door-to-door, it had begun to rain, and Michael prayed that we would be spared of the discomfort of selling in the weather. This prayer was answered and we had a clear day wherein we could work. Praise God!

In December we had a Christmas party to celebrate the birth of our Savior. We had a gingerbread house competition in which Daniel, Gabriella, & Co won. We played some music, talked, played games and enjoyed each other's company, not to mention the #1, world's best cup of hot chocolate (please see Michael for the recipe).

The past few months have been filled with great joy among the youth and it has been a pleasure to spend time with them and serve them.

YAG Activity December 2023

By Brother Michael Livingston

As the YAG we don't have many opportunities to come together and fellowship. Whether it be our busy schedules or many responsibilities. We usually only are able to get together once a year for a retreat. But in December we had our first activity together in a long time. The activity was a time where we can practice and show our artistic abilities, and in my case, the lack there of. We followed a video of one of the greats, Bob Ross. Even though his speaking was soothing and gentle, much stress was in the room. Our happy little accidents, weren't looking so happy. But, the fellowship was sweet and joyful. We had many good laughs and painted many happy little trees. I look forward to our next time of fellowship.



Restoration Roofers 2023

By Brother Ron Herren

On the weekend of September 28th through September 30, 2023, the "Restoration Roofers" got together for another roofing project, this time at the home of Brother Kevin and Sister Trina Herren. Things went mostly as planned with the dumpster delivered on Tuesday, the roofing delivered on Wednesday, the old roof torn off on Thursday, a few pieces of sheathing replaced and the process of laying the new roof started Friday and finished Saturday. The design of the roof, with only two short valleys, made the application of the new roofing quicker and less complicated. The weather created somewhat of a challenge, but we worked around the rain showers, and after all, it is Oregon.

Sister Trina kept us well fed and hydrated. As always it was a productive, pleasant time working together and enjoying the fellowship of our brothers and sisters while completing a worthwhile project.



Ladies Relief Society Craft Nights

By Sister Maddy Clark

In the latter half of 2023, the LRS met a few times to participate in craft nights. I have always been artistically inclined and I have really enjoyed helping to lineup different crafts for us ladies to do together. Some times the crafts go better than others, but we always enjoy the process and the fellowship.

Most recently a few of us gathered together to make macrame wall hangings. We were comforted by a warm fire and were able to sit and chat while we tied knots and combed out the cording. Once combed, we were able to cut the cord into the shape of a leaf, and then spray it with fabric starch to help it retain shape.

We also did some squeegee painting, where acrylic paint is swiped across the surface of smooth paper to create abstract shapes. For me, at least, this activity was more about the process than the final product. It's so fun to see how colors interact on the paper and to see what happens when you squeegee the paper as it doesn't always go the way you think it will.

My favorite project though, were the doormats we decorated. We created or used store bought stencils to apply paint to coir doormats. There were a few options for themes, but people were also able to bring whatever stencils they wanted to use to decorate their doormat. I provided the option for a fall theme, a Christmas theme, or a non-seasonal theme, in addition to what was being brought. There was a variety designs including some really cute Christmas gnomes.

It is always wonderful to gather together as sisters in Christ. I thoroughly enjoy our craft nights as a way to fellowship and as a creative outlet. I am looking forward eagerly to our next, as of yet undecided, craft!



Women's Fellowship Weekend

By Sister Kaitlin Herren

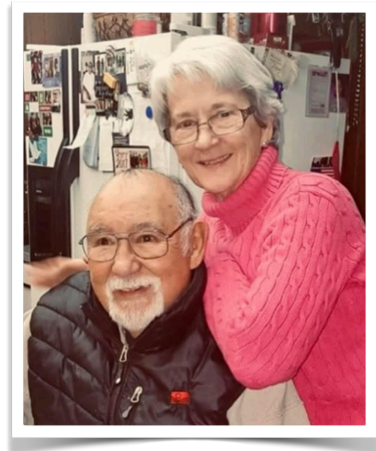
I had a great opportunity to travel with the women of the Salem branch for a weekend away in Tillamook, Oregon. We shared so much laughter through cooking, eating meals together, playing games, and going out to visit a few sights special to Tillamook. On Saturday we had a full day ahead of us so we hopped in the car and went to the Tillamook Cheese Factory, as well as a local salt factory that distributes products all across the US! Gathering together as women of Christ is so special because having a sisterhood and relationship with one another creates bonds like the world may never have. Sunday morning I had an issue with my car tires, which left me unable to drive home, but God truly blessed us and provided by having a mechanic come even with the circumstances of weather and it being a weekend. Prayers were answered, and it's because of the faithfulness of these ladies! Any time the women of the church are able to gather it is always a special time, and I feel truly blessed to be apart of a community like this.

Visiting the Esquivels

By Brother Brian Herren

Two jewels of faith and steadfastness by which the Church has been blessed are Brother Mike and Sister Jan Esquivel. What an honor to be in their home! What a privilege to fellowship with their family!

Brother Benjamin Herren, Brother Travis Clark and I feel honored to have spent a weekend in Zillah, Washington over the Christmas holiday. Brother Mike had been in the Toppenish Nursing and Rehab Center for sixty-eight days when we arrived, but was as faithful and kind as ever. Sister Jan, though tasked with enormous responsibilities and the uncertainty of that which the future holds, was as poised and resilient as one might hope, and always disposed to glorify God. It was wonderful to be with them again, to hear their testimonies, and to visit about the gospel. Brother Mike and Sister Jan continued to bear record of their Heavenly Father through their unshaken faith in Him.



We were able to spend time with Brother Mike each day, and felt blessed to have church services with the Esquivel's at the Esquivel home, as well as the Nursing Center. Saturday evening we enjoyed the company of the Esquivel's grandchildren (ranging in age from 17 years old to 26 years old) as we studied the Christmas story together. Sunday morning was Christmas Eve, and we were able to spend time with Mike and Jan as they opened the Christmas presents sent with us by some in Salem. The gifts were beautiful, and truly appreciated, as they were opened with care. We owe special thanks to my father and Dorothy, as well as my mother. We also hung a wreath for Brother Mike, which cheered his room at the Rehab Center, and reminded us of the special season of celebrating Christ's birth. We owe a debt of gratitude to the youth who labored with their own hands to make the wreath that carried their love. It was a kind gesture and meaningful token. We also wish to thank Sister Cessaries who carefully prepared a series of hymns and then made high quality recordings that could be used throughout our various times of worship. They were perfect, every one, and carried the same Spirit in which they were recorded in loving service. Sister Jan made special note of the music and everything seemed to unfold in the most wonderful way.

Before leaving, a lesson on God's loving presence was presented from the scriptures and we all shared in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, administrations, and prayer. It was bitter cold outside, but we felt aflame within. The Holy Spirit made known His presence in our worship and fellowship, and each one of us felt Him there. We continue to pray for the Esquivel family, and thank God for their gracious hospitality and unyielding example of Christian discipleship. The Lord is living in His church, and we have reason to rejoice, even in the face of great difficulty. If God is willing to make sweet this life, how can we begin to measure the unspeakable joy that awaits us in the next. We have here a token, but in due time, the fuller revelation of His eternal love and the endless joy of a Kingdom in peace.