



ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Living, Learning, and Leading through Jesus Christ

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Wednesday May 25, 2010

Dear Zion Lutheran School Families,

Many things are changing here in Fallbrook, California. Our country, our community, our church and our families are all feeling the effects of unplanned (and sometimes unwanted) change. How blessed we are as a family of faith to have the love of our Savior surround us as we go through change.

On behalf our school staff and Board of Education, I'd like to give you an update on our plans for the changing situations at Zion Lutheran Church and School Ministry.

Over the last week, we have been meeting individually with each staff member to inform them of how our changing enrollment and related financial drivers will affect their ministry and jobs. Some of these meetings were very sad in their end result, but I was heartened to witness the grace and faith each of these fine people are blessed with. Please continue to lift up our staff in your prayers.

Zion will be changing. It is clear that we will be a great "smaller" school in the upcoming year. Despite having to say good bye to some amazing friends and staff members, there is much to look forward to. Our plans for next year include leveraging our low student to teacher ratios to implement team teaching (not to be confused with combo-classes) concepts and best practices across the campus. Our Board of Education, Church leaders, congregation and parent community will also be utilized to a much greater extent in bringing their time, talents and treasures to bear on our school ministry.

Part of our transition process includes gathering, processing, and implementing input from our staff and other stakeholders in our program. Over the next week I will be meeting with our staff to refine our operating plan for next year. We will then seek formal approval of our 2010-2011 budget from our congregation on June 6, and finalize any open items at our Board of Education meeting on June 8. We plan to present our classroom configurations to the community on June 9. We will also have a community open forum meeting on Wednesday June 16 at 6:00 p.m. to answer your questions directly and seek your input. We will continue working over the summer months to prepare, enhance, and refine our operations for the students return in the fall.

I thank the Lord for each of you, and ask for your continued prayers, patience, and faith in this ministry we are all blessed to be part of. As always, the commitment to provide excellence in our classrooms and programs, the Love of Jesus, and the welfare and development of your child will guide EVERY decision we make going forward.

In Christ Jesus,

Gordon Thomas
Chair, Zion Lutheran Board of Education
Mark 12:30-31