

The Mountain Top **Messenger**

VOLUME 52, ISSUE # 7 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod JULY 2014

Well here we are, July, time as usual, is flying by. As most of you know I just returned from my week long summer intensive class at the seminary. It was an extraordinary week and a true blessing to have been able to attend. As I mentioned in my sermon last Sunday the title of the class was "Lutheran Distinctions". During this class we looked at those things that distinguish us as Lutherans from the other denominations and formulate our beliefs. I have to admit at the start of the class I was not aware of all of the distinctions, and there were a few that I had heard of but did not fully understand. It is my intention in the fall to have a Bible study on Sundays to look at the six main distinctions as well as some of their subsets so that we all might have a better understanding of what it is that makes us who we are.

In addition to my classes at the seminary I had an opportunity to interact with 14 of my classmates, and together we discussed our different ministries throughout the country and how we work within our different congregations. There were several that were very similar to our setting and situation and there were a few that some of us might not even recognize as LCMS churches until we heard the service and doctrine. All of this helps paint the picture that God works in many different ways, places, and through many different faces. A number of churches have multiple services on Sunday with different service settings from traditional to quite contemporary, all with great success. There was one SMP vicar whose church is on the beach near Panama City, Florida and whose altar is a surfboard. He averages 100-150 people a Sunday to his worship service, I don't know if we are quite ready for that on the shores of Lake Superior. I also talked with several other vicars and in their congregations they no longer print paper bulletins, they only print out announcements and the service particulars, everything else is displayed on screens in the front of the church. They all felt an increased participation and the quality and quantity of congregation participation in both worship and singing. Why you may ask? I did ask; they said it helped because it gets the congregation to look up. As one classmate put it, it gets people out of the hymnal and looking to the cross.

So as I close today I would like to end with one of the statements I heard at school that stuck in my mind; "We are God's only creation that knows it is created!" Because we know we are created, we too know the Creator. The Creator knows us and Loves us, so much so that he was willing to send His Son to die for us, so that we might be with Him forever in Heaven.

As one of my favorite songs goes, "Our God is an Awesome God" ... May our Awesome God, Bless you and Keep you, go in His Peace, Amen.

Vicar Rick

Zion's Ministry Staff and Church Officers

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Church Office 715-682-6075 (M/T/W 8am-12noon, Th-1-5pm)
Vicar Rick Williams 715-209-0479 (M/T/W/Th 8:00-5:00)
President, Chuck Chronis 715-682-0070
Head Elder, Darryl Warren 715-492-0488
LFOJ Child Care Center - Administrator, Karyn Leino 715-682-6075
Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center 715-682-5185

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Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 am **Wednesday Evening Worship 6:30pm**
Bible Studies: Sundays 10:15am

Stewardship Thoughts

After walking through a cemetery, a man said, "Have you noticed how much meaning a dash can have? Born 1921-Died 1981" What a way to summarize a life— with a dash! That dash will eventually describe the years of every person's life.

We cannot stop our movement toward the final destination, but we can choose what we do with our dash. We can spend it on significant matters or on meaningless trivia. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." It is through prudent stewardship that we create a meaningful dash—an abundant life of joy and purpose.

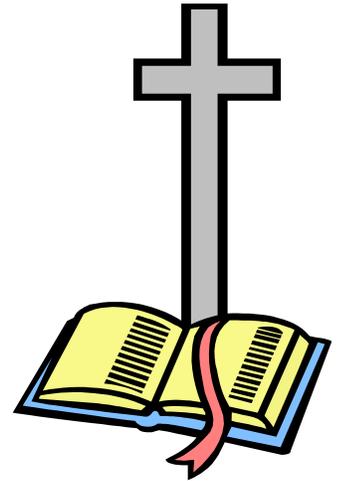
NEED A PRAYER?

Zion Lutheran Church has two active prayer chains—a daytime and an evening chain. If you would like to have the chain activated to pray for a specific need, please call Marge Douglas at 682-2160. If you reach the answering machine, please leave a message, but then call the church office at 682-6075 and give the request to the church secretary and the chain will be activated. The Prayer Chain members are asked to keep all prayer requests confidential and not discuss them with others, but caller discretion is advised.





VBS



Hello Families at Zion:

Camp Luther is returning this year to lead us in a week long VBS program filled with fun activities, Bible studies, arts and crafts, music and devotions. Our VBS program will run **Aug. 11-14, from 8:45am -3:00pm**. This year we are asking for a \$5 registration fee (\$10 for families). Children need to bring a sack lunch daily (except for Thursday when we will have pizza) and beverages will be provided. We're looking for enthusiastic campers in grades 1-6! Remember all the fun we had last year?

Volunteers are essential to making this year's VBS a successful one. In addition to assigning volunteers to help each age group with activities led by the counselors, we also have opportunities for "background work" for all those activities that get done for the campers while they are enjoying their day. This includes providing snacks and beverages, getting snacks ready and milk /juice poured for snack time and lunch, wiping tables after snack and lunch, vacuuming at end of the day, restocking paper products in the bathrooms and emptying all the garbage cans. We also have someone in charge of photos and need help on Monday morning with registration from 8:15-9:30. We will need treats for the VBS program (cookies, bars, cupcakes) and a clean up crew on Thursday to vacuum, mop, dust, restock bathrooms, empty garbage and clean up the kitchen (3:00-4:00). There are many opportunities to help out during the week.

An opportunity I'd like to encourage this year is for youth and their families to provide dinners for the 4 counselors on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at their homes. Last year when I talked with Artemis about what they do at other churches; she told me that they often go to church members' houses for dinner and get to know more of the church community. I think that is a great idea and I even encourage people to do a cookout or something together with other families.

We also need sleeping quarters for 4 counselors. They request being placed in host families as pairs and each team member have their own, separate bed. They also request housing in homes without pets. If you can provide this opportunity please contact me.

Dates to remember:

July 1: VBS program is opened to the community and advertised outside of our church.

July 28: Camp Luther is contacted with the number of campers registered.

Aug 3: Short meeting after church to finalize details.

Aug. 10: Volunteers needed after church to move tables and organize basement for VBS.

August 11-14: Camp Luther VBS 8:45am-3:00pm

To register or volunteer contact Maria Truchon by phone 715-682-9508 or by email: mariatruchon@centurytel.net There are and will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex also. Thank you!

In Christ, Maria Truchon

P.S. If your child(ren) hasn't registered yet, please do so now before we get to our 40 max, it is filling fast.

June 2014

-A. Ellis



The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come. Song of Solomon 2:12

This morning I took a walk around our freshly-mowed field and was blessed by the green energy for creation's instruments are tuned and ready to sing the "hymn" of hope. The uplifted hands of ferns, the bright faces of daisies, the intense color of paintbrushes, the lush blooms of dogwood, the green-wands of grass. All postured to celebrate the luxury of summer. Each one carrying a song of hope:

Let the buttercups carry the flowing notes of flutes. And the bumblebees the buzz of clarinets. For the saxophone-calls of crows swoop overhead, and the bear-growl of bassoons catches the audience by surprise. Delicate webs become harp strings, and lilies stand ready to trumpet. The sparrows carry the soprano section, and red cardinals highlight the altos. Robins add the tenor, frogs sing the bass, blue jays toss in a few solos, and woodpeckers and partridges keep the rhythm lively. As all of creation sings to the waving of branches and the clapping of leaves.

So Dear Reader, slice generous slabs of watermelon, sip tall glasses of lemonade and take a summer walk in the early morning, or enjoy the afternoon shade under a maple tree. Solomon expands the song of flowers to a holy love song:

***My beloved is mine and I am his (Sol. 2:16a).* For in Christ the eternal song becomes my song. I am His Beloved and He is mine. Be blessed and be brightened by the leisure of summer that together we may lift our hands, tune our voices, and hear with great wonder the music of God's love. The time of singing has come!**



So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10

Help - Volunteer - Assist - Aid - Lend a Hand - Facilitate Support - Contribute - Encouragement - Service - Relief

All of the above words are **YOU!** Yes, they are. But how many are not putting these words into action. Do you know many people who sit around and do nothing? I would bet that you don't. Nowadays it seems we're busier than ever. We put in more hours of work, we commit to our children's needs, we try to have some recreation and we go to Church Services. Isn't that enough? It sure sounds like it would be sufficient. Yet, the Church still needs **YOU.** Zion is very fortunate to have many who do the "extras" - mow lawn, beautify the Church, seek out those who might be without the Lord or a church, sing, clean, the list is endless. Yet, there is more that needs to be done. We have been asking for some help in various areas with no one responding. Can't you give a few hours a year? Below is a list of areas that we need your help. Please consider helping out today.

Worship: Attend regularly

Bible Study: Expand your learning and understanding

Altar Guild: 1 - Flower Chairperson 2 - Monthly Altar Duty

Evangelism: "Grief Share" committee members

Education Board: committee member

Trustees: Mow lawn sign-up

Office: Several one-time (a couple longer) jobs (posted on bulletin board)

Basement: Bathrooms painted/revitalized

Choir: More singers

Quilters: More members (don't even have to know how to sew)

Historian: Maintain pictures of events, post on wall screen, etc.



If you can help out, contact the office. Greatly Appreciated!

OPEN HOUSE DAYS AT CAMP LUTHER

Come and visit Camp Luther this summer! We are hosting our "Open House Days" on July 8th and August 5th. During your visit you will:

- *Tour Camp
- *Meet with Camp Luther staff
- *Enjoy the day
- *Have lunch on Camp
- *Experience devotions and singing

Please RSVP if you would like to visit us. You can call Camp at #715-546-3647 or send an email to chris@campluther.com.

Please include your name, address, phone, number of people attending and any physical restrictions that you may have.

We can't wait to share all the excitement of Camp Luther with you!



CAMP LUTHER'S NEW OUTDOOR CHAPEL PROJECT

Please consider a special gift to Camp Luther this summer as they construct a new accessible path to the outdoor chapel. This path will allow children and adults with disabilities access to this special place for worship and devotions. Visit campluther.blogspot.com to read more about this important project. You can give at the Camp Luther website or mail your gift to Camp Luther, 1889 Koubenec Rd., Three Lakes, WI 54562.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND RETREAT AT CAMP LUTHER August 29-September 1

Relax and let Camp Luther plan your next holiday weekend. Enjoy a flexible and relaxing schedule with your family and other families. Activities include pontoon rides, kayaking, trail biking, swimming, cookouts, softball, disc golf, Bible study, campfire devotions and much more. Why not start a new family tradition this year!

COUPLES RETREAT AT CAMP LUTHER Sept. 19-21, 2014

From newlyweds to empty-nesters, this is a retreat for married couples of all ages. You will find time to spend as a couple as well as in fellowship and Bible study with other Christian couples. A guest speaker will lead "couple" oriented Bible study/learning sessions. The weekend will include time to enjoy camp and local activities both as a couple and as a group. There is also a special candlelight dinner. Find out more at www.campluther.com.

CAMP LUTHER'S MISSION PROJECT... "WATER TO THRIVE"

Throughout the years, Camp Luther has been a great supporter of a variety of mission projects. Campers are excited to participate in this year's chosen project "Water to Thrive" Camp's goal is to collect \$5000 throughout the summer to help build a well in Ethiopia. If you wish to learn more about this project or would like to make a donation you can visit www.campluther.com and click on "summer mission project" on the home page. Donations will be accepted at Camp Luther as well.

LIVE, LAUGH & LOVE LADIES RETREAT AT CAMP LUTHER Oct. 3-5

Just for the ladies, this weekend is all about relaxing and refueling with God's Word. Leave the pressures of work, home, and life behind and join others for a refreshing and renewing weekend. The schedule is designed to draw you closer to God and to each other through a variety of individual, large group and small group activities. Activities will include Bible study, devotions, "Cranberry Fest" in Eagle River, special craft activity, "Ladies night out," as well as other camp favorites like walking/ biking/canoeing in the beautiful fall weather. Go to www.campluther.com to register.

Camp Luther is a subsidiary ministry of the North Wisconsin District-LCMS.

Our mission is to build up believers in Christ for service to the church and witness to the world.

JULY Servers for Worship Services

Our Servers for our Worship Service are very important. We ask that if you are unable to serve on your designated date, please find someone else to take your place. We really appreciate your help in this matter!!

Our Prayer Concerns JULY

Mission

Zion Lutheran Church
Little Friends of Jesus Childcare Center
Jordan Kroll Mission in China

Thanksgiving

To all of you who have worked faithfully and joyfully to serve our Lord by serving others and often go unnoticed by all but our Heavenly Father.

Illnesses Otto & Dorothy Rusch, Dale Houle, Riley Bretting, Jim Fletcher, Matt Raspotnik, Bob Wolfgram, Carl Sapper, Beau Muhs, Larry Korbein, Marlene Parkhurst, Katie Stipetich, Jim Morzenti, Cailey O'Connor, Sheryl Hildebrandt,

Nursing Home & Assisted Living Resident

Corrine Tolliver Sharon Johnson
Otto & Dorothy Rusch George Schwiesow

Shut-in's Gordon & Marianne Vyskocil
Madge Houle Walt Schutte

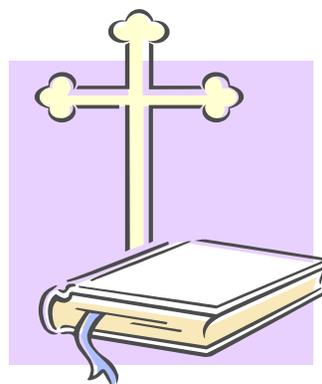
Military



Aaron Esala
Andrew Pruss

ELDERS

July 2 Mike Cashman
July 6 Mike Cashman & Chuck Chronis
July 9 John Pruss
July 13 John Pruss & Don Pocernich
July 16 Darryl Warren
July 20 Chuck Chronis & Darryl Warren
July 23 Doug Warren
July 27 Doug Warren & Mike Cashman
July 30 Chuck Chronis



GREETERS FOR JULY

Greeters should arrive by 8:40am

July 6 Thimm Family
July 13 Clarence & Kathy Osmak
July 20 Vyskocil Family
July 27 Herb & Alice Ellis

OFFICIAL ACTS

Death — Clarence Houle 06-10-14

JULY Acolytes

July 6 Jacob Graves & Ashlee Moreland
July 13 Kyle Sapper & Taylor Vyskocil
July 20 Heather Dickrell & Jacob Graves
July 27 Justin Esala & Taylor Vyskocil

JULY ALTAR GUILD

Lisa Warren 209-8547
Shayla Warren 209-8547
Tia Warren
Maria Truchon 682-9508



JULY Ushers

Ushers should arrive by 8:40am

July 6 Eric Bochler & Loren Munson
July 13 Ben Cashman & Jim Johnson
July 20 Pat Colgrove & Warren Draeger
July 27 Jake Pruss & Dylan Williams