

# *The Mountain Top* **Messenger**

Volume 50, Issue 1 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod JANUARY 2012

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. January 6th marks the end of the Christmas Season and the beginning of the Epiphany Season. Green is the color for the Epiphany Season representing Christian life and growth in faith. An epiphany is a revelation or a bringing forth. Some would describe it as an “aha” moment or “I get it now”.

Jesus was revealed to the people of His day in many ways. John the Baptist announced Jesus’ beginning of his active ministry. John said, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie?” After John baptized Jesus, immediately he saw the heavens open and the Spirit of God descending on Jesus like a dove. “And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased’”. We are not sure how many people witnessed this event but many believed that this was the promised Messiah.

Jesus comes to us every day even though we do not see Him. He is with us through His Word, the Holy Scriptures, through Holy Baptism and through the Lord’s Supper. He also hears our prayers and pleads for us to our heavenly Father. Jesus is the light that shines in this dark world of sin. As His children we share that light and his love with our friends, family and with those who do not know Him. Another way to describe an epiphany is, “the light came on”.

Diane and I would like to thank the members of Zion for their thoughts, prayers and the gifts received at Christmas. They are truly appreciated. We don’t know how long the vacancy will continue but I have made preparations to serve to the end of January. A call has been extended to Rev. Jeffrey Smiles. He will be visiting and meeting with congregational representatives early in January. Please keep him, his family and the congregations he now serves in your prayers. God bless and keep all of you.

Your servant in Christ,  
Pastor Hyvonen



## Zion's Ministry Staff and Church Officers

E-Mail: zionashland@ hotmail.com

Church Office .....715 - 682 - 6075  
LFOJ Child Care Center  
Administrator, Karyn Leino..... 715 - 682 - 6075  
Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center  
715 - 682 - 5185  
President, Chuck Chronis.....715 - 682 - 0070  
Elder Chairman, Darryl Warren.....715 - 492 - 0488

## Stewardship Thoughts

The second principle of stewardship life from LCMS is: God's stewards are managers, not owners. God's stewards have been entrusted with life and life's resources and have been given the privilege of responsibly and joyfully managing them for Him. Through faith in Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirits help, we manage life's resources for God's purposes, encouraging cheerful living and giving in all areas of life.

In 1 Tim. 6 we are commanded not to be arrogant, to do good, to be rich in good deeds and to be generous and willing to share. To put our hope in God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. We receive and use God's gifts with Thanksgiving.

From your Stewardship Committee



## 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.

## Safe Church Program

Trustees are working to complete a Safe Church Program that could reduce our insurance premium by 15%. They are looking for a few more volunteers to form a Safe Church Team to help with this project. The team will go through the church and daycare center and evaluate any aspects that deal with safety issues, and then come up with a plan to incorporate a safe environment by eliminating any hazards and maintaining safety standards. Please contact Jim Johnson at 715-209-0001 if you would consider being on this team. Thank you!



January 8th Worship Service  
will include the induction of  
board members for 2012.

**LFOJ Closed**  
**Dec. 26, 30 and Jan.**

**Sweet Song of Jesus  
Incarnate flesh-dwelling Word  
The apple of the Father's eye-  
Hand-picked from the host of heaven  
Composed and cradled in a holy cry.**

**The angels' glad tidings announced  
The heavenly hymn of eternal worth.  
The tempo propelled the Shepherds  
To go and see the Bethlehem birth.**

**O' may we hear the sweet music of Jesus-  
God's love-song conceived in His Son.  
The grace note of hope in a manger,  
Heaven's peace-on-earth Holy One.**

-Alice J. E llis

**FAITH IN ACTION** needs snow shoveling volunteers!! It has a current list of senior citizens requesting help for the coming season. Some short-termed assignments are needed until Northland students return from vacation. Please see bulletin board for further information.



### Taking Care of the Crowd

Too often, we think that giving our lives to God is like taking a \$1,000 bill and laying it on the altar, saying, "Here's my life, Lord. I'm giving it all to you." But the truth of the matter is that God sends us to the bank and tells us to cash that \$1,000 bill in for quarters. And then we go through life giving away twenty-five cents here, fifty cents there, and so on. Instead of watching a ball game, we spend some time visiting a lonely person in a nursing home who has no family. Instead of sipping coffee and reading the newspaper, we get dressed and go to teach Sunday School. Instead of playing games on the computer, we listen to a friend tell us about her problems, even though we're tired and have problems of our own to deal with.

These are the moments in which the grace of God can work through us to help another human being, to feed the hunger of the heart and spirit. They may not be spectacular miracles, but these are the things we can do to bring meaning and significance to our lives.

### STAMPS

The LWML is collecting used stamps for its Mission projects. If you choose to trim the stamps, please leave a 1/4 inch border. Place the stamps in the marked container on the table in the narthex.



### 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Committee and board reports for 2011 need to be turned into the office by January 13<sup>th</sup>. Please e-mail reports to:

[zionashland@hotmail.com](mailto:zionashland@hotmail.com).

Try to hand in to the office any hard copy reports by the 10<sup>th</sup>.



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Call Meeting**  
**December 4, 2011**

The December 4, 2011, Congregation Call Meeting was called to order by President Nick Jarvela.

Pastor Baumeister opened the meeting with a reading from the book of Amos and prayer for guidance from God in the congregation's decision to call a pastor from the list of four candidates\* recommended by the Call Committee.

Following discussion and voting by paper ballot a motion was made by Rickard Nutt, second by Chuck Chronis to cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried. By a show of hands, motion to extend call to Jeffrey Smiles carried unanimously.

Mike Cashman, call committee member, was not able to reach Pastor Smiles by phone; he will call him again and the church secretary will have his response in the church bulletin, on the calendar on the church website and members' e-mail.

Pastor Baumeister suggested that if the call to Pastor Smiles is turned down that another meeting be held to vote on the three remaining candidates.

Pastor Baumeister offered a prayer for both Pastor Smiles and Zion and closed the meeting with the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ethel Guss, Acting Secretary

The four candidates for Pastor were:  
Pastor Jeffrey Smiles  
Pastor Paul Kelto  
Pastor Todd Jerabek  
Pastor Eric Wenger

**Pastor Jeffrey Smiles** will be visiting Zion and Ashland on January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. He would like to meet with board members and anyone else that is interested on Thursday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Church.

**CAMP LUTHER BREEZE**

Camps and activities are listed in their monthly "Breeze" on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



**SNOW** - It hasn't been coming down very hard this year yet - some are happy, others aren't. When we do get snow, some help at the Church and/or LFOJ for shoveling the sidewalks/ramps would be greatly appreciated! Give the office a call if you could help out even just once. We'll put you on the "list". Thank you! 682-6075

# Zion Lutheran Church

## Council Minutes

December 19, 2011

The December 19, 2011 meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President, Nick Jarvela, who opened the meeting with a prayer.

**ROLL CALL:** President – Nick Jarvela, President elect – Chuck Chronis, Trustee – Jim Johnson, Education – Dawn Reardon, Secretary – Becky Sapper, Stewardship – Penny Mattson, LFOJ – Cheri Tamke.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Johnson, second by Mattson, to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2011 Council meetings as printed. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Motion by Tamke, second by Johnson, to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed. The year-to-date balance as of 11/30/2011 was \$18,583.23. Motion carried. Council unanimously agreed that Karen Wahl has provided a tremendous service to our church as Treasurer and we truly appreciate her dedication to overseeing important financial decisions of Zion. (Thanks, Karen!) Todd Vyskocil will be taking over Treasurer's duties as of January 1, 2012.

**AGENDA:** Motion by Johnson, second by Mattson, to approve the agenda with one addition to new business. Motion carried.

### **BOARD REPORTS:**

Motion by Johnson, second by Reardon, to accept the Board Reports as given. Motion carried.

**Trustees:** Fresh air preventative maintenance will occur at LFOJ on 12/26/11 and two light fixtures have been repaired. All preventative maintenance has been completed for 2011. Trustees are working to complete a Safe Church Program that could reduce our insurance premium by 15%. They are looking for a few more volunteers to help with this program.

**Education:** Christmas program held on December 18, 2011 was a great success. New curriculum will be ordered in January for the spring.

**Little Friends of Jesus:** Christmas program will be held on December 20, 2011. Fran Kuester and Lisa Guski have joined the LFOJ board.

### **OFFICIAL ACTS:**

**Baptisms:** Terell William Bolz 12-11-11 and Trista Kay Bolz 12-11-11

**Death:** John Heggie 08-2010

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Lighted Cross Committee** continues to meet and consider logistics to have lighted cross placed on the church. The information they gather will be brought to the congregation for consideration.

**Wisconsin's Concealed Carry Law** went into affect on November 1, 2011. Each entrance would have to be posted with a sign if the members wish to have the church designated as a weapon free building. Some members have requested that we do not post the entrances and allow individuals to carry their concealed weapons as allowed by the new law. The council did not make any recommendations at this time, but will consider adding it to the agenda of the next voters' meeting for discussion and consideration of the church members.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Pastor Smiles sent a letter thanking Zion for the call and indicating he will be considering it more fully after the holidays. He plans on visiting Ashland and Zion on January 5 and 6, 2012.

B. Annual Reports are due January 13, 2012.

Sign ups for Lenten Soup and Sandwich will be placed on the January agenda.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Johnson, second by Reardon to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

# Little Friends of Jesus

Website: lfoj.org

Email: lfoj@zionashland.com

Volume 3

December 2011

## Tid-bits from Administration

### **Fall Fundraiser Success!**

We would like to thank all those who supported and attended LFOJ Sunday. We had a wonderful turn-out for worship, and were amazed by the generosity in regards to our spaghetti feed. The center raised \$662, which will be matched dollar-for-dollar by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans! We are that much closer to reaching our goal for spring's playground renovations.

### **LFOJ's Christmas Program**

Mark your calendars! The center's annual Christmas program has been set for Tuesday, December 20th at 6:30 p.m.

The Learner, Preschool and School-age children will be practicing songs to sing. Ms. Amy is looking for school-age friends who would like to read a part for the program-please let her know if your child is interested!

On the day of the program, we ask that all the children meet their teachers in the church basement by 6:15 p.m. Parents may find a seat in the sanctuary. (4/5 Year old P.S. will be on the left of the altar. 3 Year Olds on the right.)

Following the program, we will have a time of fellowship and refreshments in the basement. We would like each family to bring a dozen bars or cookies to share.

### **New Faces**

2011 has been a crazy year for staff turn-over! Laurel Grehn will be leaving the center the end of this month to travel. We welcome Deborah Cline and Brenda Schaeffer as our newest assistant child care teachers. Deb was previously a first/second grade teacher at St. Louis School in Washburn. Brenda worked as a lead childcare teacher in Wausau, and later opened her own daycare in her home. Both of these ladies come with tons of experience! We are so thrilled to have them with us!

### **Christmas Vacation Closings**

LFOJ will be closed on Monday, December 26th in observance of Christmas. The center will be closed as well both Friday, December 30th and Monday, January 2nd for New Year's.

When a holiday falls on a weekend, the center chooses either the Friday before or Monday following to be closed. This year, we are closed an additional day around New Year's due to low enrollment. The LFOJ Board has said that if enrollment is less than ten children on any given day, the center will be closed.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. We hope that with adequate notice those families who would've needed care can make other arrangements.



## Totville News

Season's Greetings! We have a busy month ahead of us in the Infant/Toddler room. We will be doing lots of projects with snowmen, reindeer, snowflakes and Christmas trees.

Our Bible stories for December are:

- \* *The Brave Shepherd*
- \* *Come Sit with Jesus*
- \* *Coming Home*
- \* *The Little King*

A happy birthday this month to our friend **Molly M.** who turns two on 12/5!

Just a few reminders! Please be sure your child has warm clothes every day, as we like to go outside. An extra pair of mittens is nice, in case they get too wet from the morning, and we are able to go out again in the afternoon.

Also, it is very important to label your child's clothing, so they don't get mixed up with another child (and it helps the staff to know what belongs to who).

Happy Holidays!

Cassie



## Learner Lane

## Preschool News

Happy Winter! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

As Christmas is just around the corner, we look forward to decorating the Learner Room, making Christmas themed projects and focusing on the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ.

Happy Birthday to **Elizabeth B.** who turns four on December 29th.

Also, just a friendly reminder, please be sure your child has snow pants and boot, along with other warm clothes so we can enjoy our time outside. You may have noticed our "getting dressed" chart, hanging on the stairway door. We will be encouraging the children to dress themselves.

For the month of December, our themes and Bible stories will be *Gabriel Takes A Message To Mary, Baby Jesus Is Born, God Tells Shepherds About Baby Jesus, The Wise Men Follow A Star.*

May you and your loved ones have a very Merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!

Ms. Carolyn

The holiday season is upon us! Hopefully some more of the white stuff will be on the way to really put us in the Christmas mood. Having a little one at home, experiencing his first Christmas, our household seems more excited than ever.

All month, our preschool friends will be practicing for the center's annual Christmas program. Class time will be spent singing songs, some new, some old. Our little "elves" will also be busy helping us to decorate our room, and our class tree. It's so fun to see how much they enjoy seeing their creations displayed.

Our Jesus time will be focusing on the Christmas story, found in the books of Luke and Matthew. As we begin the Advent season, we will hear how Mary and Joseph were each visited by a special messenger, which foretold of Jesus' birth.

The second week of Advent, beginning Dec. 5th, we will hear the story of God's Son being born in a lowly stable in Bethlehem. We'll be walking over for our monthly Chapel visits this week as well.

The third week of Advent, we will hear the good news the angels told to the shepherds. We'll be spending the last portion of our class time at the church practicing for the program.

The fourth week of Advent, we will be sharing the good news just as the angels did long ago. We will be caroling at the nursing home (AHRC on 12/20, and Bear Hollow on 12/21). Please be sure to dress the kids warm!

You may have also noticed some half birthday star days on the calendar. A number of our children have summer birthdays, so we will be celebrating half birthdays this month and the next.

As Christmas approaches and our thoughts are filled with finding the right presents for our loved ones, may we always be mindful of the perfect gift, given to us that first Christmas by our heavenly Father!

A blessed **Christmas** to each of you!  
Ms. Amy and Ms. Julie

### LFOJ Christmas Wish List

In years past, families have asked in lieu of giving personal gifts to the staff, if instead there would be items the center could use. We've put our heads together and came up with following suggestions:

#### **Infant/Toddler Room:**

- Car rug
- Floor puzzles (very large pieces, under 30 pieces)
- Memory game
- Art Supplies (specifically wiggly eyes, tissue paper, glitter)

#### **Learner Room:**

- Board puzzles (12-20 pieces)-any subject
- Doll clothes

#### **Preschool:**

- Fischer Price "Loving Family" dolls

#### **Center:**

- Round saucer sleds and toboggans
- Child-size snow shovels

# CAMP LUTHER BREEZE

**CAMP LUTHER 2012 CALENDAR – ORDER NOW!!** The 2012 Camp Luther calendar contains 12 gorgeous photos of Camp Luther taken by photographers competing in our 2nd annual photo contest. Calendars are available NOW, the cost is \$10 each, plus \$2 for shipping/handling. Send your check to 1889 Koubenec Road, Three Lakes, WI 54562 or order online through the link on the homepage at [www.campluther.com](http://www.campluther.com). Quantities are limited, so order today. They would make great St. Nick stocking stuffers or Christmas gifts. Thank you to everyone who contributed photos.

**WINTER YOUTH CAMP – March 2-4!!** Just like summer camp... only colder and shorter. Your 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade child will have an exciting winter adventure, make friends and grow in their faith. Activities include tubing, broomball, snow shoeing, snow angelball plus Bible studies, devotions and more. And counselors from this past summer will join us and lead activities. Join us for summer youth camp fun in the winter.

**FAMILY FLURRY RETREAT—February 3-5!!** Bundle up the family for an exciting weekend of winter activities and growing together in faith at Camp Luther. The schedule and choices abound for activities with the group or for you as a family. Choose from tubing, broomball and much more, or just relax together away from it all. A guest pastor will lead adult/family Bible study, while camp staff will lead youth and children in age-appropriate studies as well.

## **SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!**

Visit [www.campluther.com/summer](http://www.campluther.com/summer) to register online or watch our video!! Camp Luther has an exciting summer planned for children K-12. Register now to get the village you want on the week you want. *Hurting financially this year? Ask about our Campership program.*

**DO YOU SHOP ONLINE?? WOULD YOU LOVE TO HELP CAMP LUTHER FINANCIALLY??** Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and join both Good Shop and Good Search, so that whether you are searching or shopping, you will be giving to Camp Luther. Add Camp Luther as your charity and that's it. Just by using Good Search after that, you will be giving to Camp Luther. It's a win-win. There are coupons for you too!!

**WINTER COTTAGE RETREATS!!** Cottages are available this winter at 30% off the regular \$130-\$140/night (with a minimum two-night stay, sorry, excludes Feb. 3-5, our Family Flurry weekend). Enjoy a cozy cabin and lots of winter fun with family and friends like snowshoeing, cross country skiing, broomball, tubing and more!!

**GRANDPARENTS!!** When was the last time you had meaningful one-on-one time with your grandchild? Spend that special time away at Camp Luther this summer at GrandKids Camp, June 22-24 or August 10-12. Register online at [www.campluther.com](http://www.campluther.com).

**CHOOSE CAMP LUTHER WITH YOUR THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS!!** It's easy and it benefits Camp Luther and Every Kid to Camp! Log on to [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and get started TODAY!! Eligibility is established by Thrivent and by your premiums, account values and volunteer leadership! You simply go online and they do the rest. THANK YOU for giving to Camp Luther!!

**JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!!** We now have over 1650 likes on Facebook, so join us there to hear what's happening at Camp, to share memories and to spread the word about the ministry and joy that is Camp Luther.

*Camp Luther is a ministry of the North Wisconsin District-LCMS. Our mission is to build up the Body of Christ for service to the church and witness to the world.*

# January 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!!

## ELDERS

Jan. 1 Chuck Chronis & Rick Williams  
Jan. 8 Doug Warren and Mike Cashman  
Jan. 15 Rick Williams John Pruss  
Jan. 22 Mike Cashman & Darryl Warren  
Jan. 29 John Pruss & Chuck Chronis

## GREETERS FOR JANUARY

Jan. 1 Warren & Peggy Draeger  
Jan. 8 Jerry & Sandy Frisco  
Jan. 15 Patrick & Katie Colgrove  
Jan. 22 Ethel Guss & Penny Mattson  
Jan. 29 Herb & Alice Ellis

*Greeters should arrive by 8:40am*

## JANUARY Acolytes

Jan. 1 Cooper Tamke & Tiffany Houle  
Jan. 8 Carolyn Gurske & Jordan Thimm  
Jan. 15 Brooke Sapper & Dylan Williams  
Jan. 22 Sydney Vyskocil & Riley Heglund  
Jan. 29 Michael Wittling & Eric Bochler

## JANUARY Ushers

Jan. 1 Francis Balmer & Don Pocernich  
Jan. 8 Warren Draeger & Hunter Heglund  
Jan. 15 Jim Johnson & Scott Sapper  
Jan. 22 Ron Schwiesow & Scott Thimm  
Jan. 29 Scott Pearce & Kevin Tamke

*Ushers should arrive by 8:40am*

## JANUARY ALTAR GUILD

Eleanor Munson 682-8155  
Alice Balmer 682-0700  
Irene Piff 682-6237



## OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism: Terell William Bolz 12-11-2011  
Trista Kay Bolz 12-11-2011  
Death: John Heggie 08/2010

## Our Prayer Concerns JANUARY

### Mission

Zion Lutheran Church  
Little Friends of Jesus Childcare Center



### 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.



### Nursing Home & Assisted

#### Living Resident

Roger Basina  
Ed Torkko  
Corrine Tolliver  
Agnes Schutte  
Alice Hansen  
Sharon Johnson

### Shut-in's

Ron Nevala  
Walt Schutte  
Clarence Houle  
Gloria Mills  
Lois Hein

### Local & US Concerns

### Local & US Concerns

(fulltime and/or  
deployed military)



Steve Sorenson, son of Dave & June Sorenson, U.S. Navy, stationed in San Diego, CA

Aaron Aschenbrenner, son-in-law of Lynn & Chuck Ladd, stationed in Chippewa Falls, WI