

# *The Mountain Top* **Messenger**

Volume 49, Issue 7 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod JULY 2011

I have been experiencing a few “lasts” as my time as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church is nearing an end. Some of these “lasts” have been popping up unexpectedly, as I suddenly realize – this is my last Monday morning study; this is the last Monday evening worship.

Farewells are often difficult as you say goodbye to friends and church family. You come to an end of one phase of life and enter a new one. People go on separate paths that, at times, never cross down the road.

But I know that the Lord moves us along life’s sea. After all, He is the Navigator. We are only the deckhands. Yet we move along, knowing all the while that He has plans for us, and to the degree that we are open to His leading, we can know that He will use us, sometimes in monumental ways. What an honor He has given to us that we should be called “sons of God.”

Our time here in Ashland, and at Zion Lutheran Church, has been a blessing for Mary and me. We have been privileged to spend these 6½ years together in ministry. I have thanked the Lord for the honor of serving as your pastor.

And yet your work of ministry, and mine will not be over. I know the Lord will present us with new opportunities and challenges to serve Him by serving others, and I pray that we will be open to those challenges.

I imagine that we’ll have opportunities to visit you in the future, and I will look forward to that. In the mean time, I would ask you to reflect on these words of the Apostle Paul, as they touch my life and yours:

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. [Philippians 1:3-6]

Rev. Larry Steckling

## **“That's Persistence”**

**“. . . and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”** [Hebrews 12:1b]

There is an old proverb which says, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

I wonder if the great snipe, a bird which comes from the northern regions of Eastern Europe and Western Russia has a proverb which says, "The flight of 3,729 miles begins with a first flap."

Now if those two paragraphs sound a little strange, I understand. Let me help you understand, too. Recently Swedish researchers from Lund University tracked a trio of great snipes as they set a record-breaking, non-stop flight of 3,729 miles.

That's right. Those birds traveled over 3,700 miles and never set a foot on the ground.

If you like statistics, here's some: the birds stayed in the air for three days and averaged 43 miles per hour on their epic trip.

Somehow I doubt if the writer of Hebrews would be impressed. I say that because he wasn't worried about birds; he was worried about humans. That is why he encouraged, "let us run with endurance the race which is set before us."

He wanted his readers to know it was not how they began the race of their lives; it was how they finished that race. That was the important thing.

Truly most of us can recall those who have dropped out of the race. Remember the day of your confirmation? Remember when everyone in your class said they would be faithful unto death so they would receive the crown of life?

How many of them have dropped out of the race?

Some got tired. Some thought the race was too long, too hard, too demanding. Whatever their reason, they no longer are running the race.

I pray you will not be one of the dropouts. By God's grace may you be given the strength to keep running ... to keep running when the temptations grow large, when the frustration seems overwhelming, when the goal seems too far away.

Especially at such times may the Holy Spirit give you the faith to keep on going. May He help you stay close to the Savior who loves you, the Savior who gave His life to save you, the Savior who remains at your side.

Now that's a thought, isn't it? No matter how long or hard your race may be, Jesus is with you, matching you stride for stride. Jesus is there to lift you up, to speak words of encouragement, to help you to your ultimate goal.

**THE PRAYER:** Dear Lord, may I run the race before me with perseverance and persistence. May I stay by the Savior's side as I run the race which -- because of Jesus' sacrifice -- has saved my soul. In His Name I ask it. Amen.



### 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, Nick Jarvela.....715 - 682 - 0385  
 Elder Chairman, Darryl Warren.....715 - 492 - 0488

### Stewardship Thoughts

Christian Stewards trust in God alone and not in money and possessions. They remember that money and possessions are entrusted to us by God to be used for His purposes. We are to faithfully and daily offer to God ourselves and what we have to do His work.

Charles P. Arand writes, "However long we live, we shall always have our hands full if we remain pupils (of the knowledge of God who is revealed) and never cease to learn."

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.

### RETIREMENT PARTY

for Pastor and Mary  
 Sunday, July 31st, following worship  
 \* \* \* \* \*

The Committee planning the party will have a meeting on Tues. June 28th, 5:00pm, at the Church. Contact Becky Sapper (715-682-8867) with questions and/or if you can help out?

### 4th of July Trivia

1. On what date was the Declaration of Independence signed?
2. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
3. When was the Liberty bell rung to declare the adoption of Independence?
4. The first American flag was sewed by whom?
5. Who is the poet of the national anthem "The Star Spangled Banner"?
6. Which committee decided Bald Eagle as the national bird of America?
7. Who is the president of America who has the honor to celebrate his birthday on 4th of July?
8. How many presidents of America died on 4th July? Who were they?
9. When was 4th July declared as a National holiday?
10. Who wrote the Pledge of Allegiance?



**Answers** 1- 4th July, 1776 2- Philadelphia 3- 8th July, 1776 4- Betsy Ross 5- Francis Scott Key 6- The committee that comprised John Adams, Thmas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. 7- The 30th president, Calvin Coolidge 8- 3, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and James Monroe 9- In 1941 10- Francis Bellamy



**MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST** – Thursday mornings from 6:00 to 6:50 AM  
The current study is entitled: “Who Am I, What am I Doing Here?”. You won't want to miss it. Please join us!

Dear Friends,

The ministry of Little Friends of Jesus invites you to invest your gifts and talents in the lives of our young students. Becoming a LFOJ volunteer could mean reading a book, doing crafts, baking cookies, making cards, singing songs, and so much more. The only requirements are to attend a short training session (will be held in the fall) and show up with a willing heart. Please talk to Karyn, Amy or Alice with any questions and your offer of service. Thank you for saying “yes” to God's work in our preschool.



Alice J. Ellis: LFOJ Public Relations Committee

### Scrapbooking

Friday, July 8th 5:00-10:00pm

If you need space, time, or inspiration to get caught up on organizing photos, getting your photos in albums, scrapbooking or cardmaking, come join us in the church basement, Friday night. You will have plenty of space to spread out to work. You will also have the opportunity to see what others do with their pictures to give you ideas. Soda, water and punch are provided. Please bring a snack to share. Bring a friend or two. There is a \$5 fee. Please RSVP to Jodi Truchon if you are interested in coming. ([jbtruchon@yahoo.com](mailto:jbtruchon@yahoo.com) or 866-267-8749) Thank you!



### PHOTO MEMORY BOOK

Jodi Truchon would like to make a photo memory book for Pastor and Mary for their retirement. She would like pictures that anyone would have – she can make copies so you would still have your original. Please get them to her as soon as possible, the latest July 10th. Please put them in a plain envelope with your name on it and put it in her mailbox in the Narthex. Please include dates, names and explanation/story.



**PEW CUSHIONS** will be cleaned on Wednesday, July 13th at 10:00am. All available people are encouraged to come and help.

[www.zionashland.org](http://www.zionashland.org)

**Website** - The new website for Zion is up and running. Anthony with Eaglewing Enterprises has been a great asset in setting it up for us. If you have any questions, suggestions, and/or ideas, now or later, please call Lynn at the office. The Newsletter will be on the website. As the months go by fewer and fewer hard copies will be printed.

June 20, 2011

-A. Ellis

**The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:12**

This past Sunday when these words were read for the Old Testament lesson, I couldn't help but think of our up-north season of spring. When just a few weeks ago the earth seemed as good as dead, and then creation took a big breath and gave birth to spring. I am always amazed when buds burst forth with tender-green leaves and feathery-fresh blossoms. And wildflowers are lifted up with pure-painted colors. This seasonal transformation is so dynamic, I love to leave the window open at night so I can hear the plants growing...well almost hear them!

In Genesis the creation account takes on precious value when the author expresses: *God saw that it was good.* Even the Alpha and Omega God was dazzled with the response of His words to bring forth life out of the void. God, who orchestrated this earthly landscape, held nothing back for surely He held us -His human masterpieces- in his heart.

Dear Friends, God's love was about us then and it still is about us today. Even when humans violated the perfect world, God acted and brought forth the plan of redemption in His precious son Jesus. Now through Christ we are empowered to be dazzled by the life of spring and the life of eternal promise. Thanks be to God, we have the joy to say: *It is good.*

### **CALL PROCESS UPDATE**

Call Committee Members:	Mike Cashman 292-6075	Sandy Frisco 682-5401
	Lisa Guski 292-0042	David Kuester 682-2129
	Ann Williams 685-0960	Rick Williams 682-2549
		Roger Stenroos 682-8569

The Call Committee had an organizational meeting on June 20th. Rick will be the Chairman, Roger as Vice-Chairman and Sandy as Secretary and Lisa as Rick's assistant.

They worked on the Pastoral Expectations survey to be presented to the congregation on June 26th, July 3rd and July 10th. It needs to be returned by July 11th. Rick will contact Pastor "Bo" Baumeister, Circuit Counselor, to set up the next meeting. Pastor Bo will be overseeing the proceedings of the Call Committee to give guidance and duties that he will carry out with to the district and synod.

*One of the most important things a congregation can do in the Call process is to offer fervent and frequent prayer that God will graciously send a faithful and caring Pastor to care for his people in the congregation!*

## **Camp Luther**

**REGISTER ONLINE FOR SUMMER CAMP 2011!!** You can still register for Summer Camp 2011 at [www.campluther.com](http://www.campluther.com). Our theme this year is EVERDAY and we'd love for you to join us this summer as we discover the blessings that God provides for us *everyday* through His Son, Jesus Christ, and the everyday opportunities we have to thank, praise, and serve Him! You can also register by fax or US mail -- registration forms are available as a quick link on the website, or call Camp to have a brochure mailed to you. Come and learn more about the everyday blessing that is Jesus in our lives!

**KINDERCAMP !!** What a wonderful way to spend some one-on-one time with your child AND encourage their growing relationship with Jesus! It is a weekend you will treasure for years to come, and the impact will last a lifetime. Don't miss this opportunity with your pre-k or kindergarten-aged child! KinderCamp is offered **July 15-17, July 29-31, and Aug. 12-14 (with GrandKids Camp)**.

**CAMP LUTHER AT BEAVER CREEK RESERVE!!** Camp Luther is coming closer to Western Wisconsin! There will be a weeklong youth camp held at the Beaver Creek Reserve near Fall Creek. Under the direction of full-time camp staff, it will be just like regular youth camp with trained counselors, great activities, in-depth Bible studies, and campfire devotions. Go to [campluther.com](http://campluther.com) for more information about this exciting, NEW opportunity. This camp will be offered **August 7-12** for those who have completed 4-6th grade.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR A.S.D. FAMILY RETREAT!!** Camp Luther is seeking volunteers for its first ever A.S.D. Family Retreat, **September 16-18**. If you have experience working with Autism and would like to help, please contact Gary "Woody" Vought at 877-264-CAMP or [woody@campluther.com](mailto:woody@campluther.com) for more information.

**COUPLES RETREAT--September 23-25!!** This retreat is for married couples from newlyweds to empty-nesters. There will be camp and local activities to enjoy as a couple (including a candlelight dinner) and as a group. There will also be a guest speaker who will lead "couple" oriented Bible study and learning sessions. Camp staff will lead devotions. Housing in our cottages is "as available"; alternate housing will be provided once cottages are full.

**"EVERY KID TO CAMP" DINNER AUCTION!!** Mark your calendar for the Every Kid to Camp Dinner Auction – "Bids for Kids" – **September 24** at the Rose Garden in Wausau, WI. This wonderful event raises funds to send children to camp for the very first time. We are still accepting items for the auction. If you would like to contribute, please contact Lee Belmas at 715-845-8241, ext. 16 or [lee@nwdlcms.org](mailto:lee@nwdlcms.org).

**WOMEN'S WEEKEND OUT!!** Gather the girlfriends for a fun and relaxing weekend at the Camp Luther Women's Weekend Out, **September 30-October 1**. Enjoy uplifting Bible study, crafts, and great fellowship! Visit [www.campluther.com](http://www.campluther.com) to register.

**NEW WORKBEE WEEKEND!! October 14-16** Mark your calendars for this new weekend to serve at Camp Luther. Join as we work to prepare camp for the winter months during the day and absorb the beauty of fall at Camp Luther in the evenings. Make it a new family tradition. We'd love to see you there!!

**WOMEN'S CRAFT WEEKEND—October 21-23!!** Whether you love to quilt, scrapbook or stamp, women of all ages can bring their supplies and enjoy some intense crafting time. Bring your current project and share ideas. Many experienced crafters will be here to help out those new to the craft world. Days start and end with time in God's Word to encourage spiritual growth even while you are crafting.

**Be an RV volunteer!** Summer RV volunteers help with the ministry of Camp Luther all while enjoying the blessings of volunteering. Sign up for one or two-week blocks of time from **May through September**. You may even do more than one session! Camp has an area set aside for your RV with electrical, water and sewer provided. You will be expected to work half days, with one full day off per week. Work is tailored to your skills and abilities. And it's FREE!! Contact Mike "Mutt" Rieck for more information or go to [www.campluther.com](http://www.campluther.com)

*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.*

---

# Little Friends of Jesus

Volume 3

Email: [lfoj@zionashland.com](mailto:lfoj@zionashland.com)

Website: [lfoj.org](http://lfoj.org)

June 2011

---

## Tid-bits from Administration

### Staff Changes

Welcome back to LFOJ Mr. Dan! Dan Schick will be preparing lunch for the center. Mr. Dan previously worked at LFOJ in 2009.

Also, welcome our newest additions to the LFOJ staff: assistant teachers Tiffany Hayes and Tina Lashbrook. Tiffany and her family have recently moved to Ashland from Illinois. She is currently completing her childcare classes online. Tina Lashbrook has a bachelor's degree in education, and was previously a kindergarten teacher, before becoming a stay-at-home mom, and homeschooling her two children.

Mr. Dick and Ms. Jesi will continue to fill in at the center as needed.

With the high staff turn-over in the childcare field, maintaining the consistency and quality of care you expect is of utmost importance to us. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please let Karyn or Amy know.

### Personal Game Systems

With summer, Learner and School-Age children will be having longer free play times each day. Children are welcome to bring toys from home (please limit to three). Toys must fit into the child's cubby, and will be shared with the other children.

Children may bring personal gaming devices, such as a DS or Gameboy. We would like to remind parents that all games should be rated "E" for everyone, and be non-violent in nature. Please leave fighting games, such as Star Wars, at home. Staff reserve the right to limit the children's playing time.

If you would prefer your child not play video games while at the center, please speak to a staff member.

### Center Openings

LFOJ has immediate full-time openings for 3-5 year olds. Remember, our full time clients are guaranteed a spot in our preschool program this fall.

Our parents have always been our best source of referral. If you know of someone looking for child care, please pass our name along.

### Date With Dad

LFOJ's annual Father's Day celebration, A Date With Dad, will be coming soon! Keep a look out in your child's cubby for more information.



## Totville Times

Wow! It's hard to believe that May has already come and gone. Let's hope that June brings us some warmer weather.

We will be welcoming two friends this month. **Molly M.** will be starting with us June 10th and baby **Riley D.** will join us later on this month. Welcome girls!

This past month we said good-bye to **Kiley C.** and **Parker F.** They will both be missed by all.

Happy birthday to **Ian H.** He will turn three on June 19, and will be transitioning out into the Learner room this month. He sure is excited!

Our stories for this month are *How God Made The World*, *Noah's Big Boat*, *Baby Jesus and the Good News* and *Daniel and the Lions*.

With the warmer weather approaching, please be sure to send a water bottle and sunscreen (with a completed medical authorization form) for your child, if you haven't done so already. It would also be a good idea to have warm and cool clothes on hand at daycare, because you never know what Wisconsin weather will be like.

God Bless,  
Ms. Cassie and the I/T Staff



## School-Age Scoop

### Learner Lane

Time for summer fun! Sandboxes, bikes, water table, etc...the kids love it all!

We have two new faces in the Learner room: **Rohen H., EvaLynn H.** Both children joined mid-May and are doing a good job adjusting and making new friends.

We will be saying good-bye to **Ethan R., Austin V. and Henry G.** Hopefully we will see you all as drop-ins throughout the summer. We will miss you!

We have moved on to our summer curriculum: *City Animals* (Jesus Heals Bartimaeus-Mark), *Wild Animals* (Daniel in the Lions Den-Daniel), *Animal Recap* (God's Creations Series), *Animals Long Ago* (Washing the Feet-John) and *Circus Theme* (David Plays For King Saul-Samuel). The kids will learn whether its as small as a mouse or as big as a dino, God made it all.

We have four birthdays this month. Zakk M. 6/5 and Austin V. 6/8 both turn 5 years old. On 6/17, Claire F. turns 4, and last but not least, Ian H. turns 3 on 6/19. Happy Birthday Kids!

With all that being said, happy Father's Day!

Erin

It's finally here...summer vacation. I'm sure some of our school-agers thought it would never get here. Let's hope that the weather will start to feel more summer-like soon.

We are very excited to kick off our summer program with a full roster. We have 13 full time clients and 10 drop-in clients. We have some new friends joining us this summer: welcome **Ethan P., Eric H., Samantha H., Amanda L., Cole W. and Nicholas W.** With the large number of children we have, the children will have lots of different playmates from day to day.

We would also like to welcome Ms. Tina, who will be working with our school-age groups while I catch up on office work.

As we begin our summer together, a reminder to send in sunscreen and a water bottle for your child for outside play. Children in different rooms can share sunscreen, but it is easier for our school-agers to have their own, so they don't have to run back and forth upstairs. A signed medical authorization form is need for sunscreen. Please ask a staff member for a form if you need one.

Also, children need to have tennis shoes, or sandals with ankle straps for outside play. Flip-flops are cute, but aren't the greatest for running or riding scooters.

During the summer, each school-ager will have their own cubby downstairs which we will use for any correspondence, papers, projects, etc. Our goal is to have the children clean out their cubby at least once a week. Please review the center's policies on bringing toys from home in the administration column of this newsletter.

Each week, we will have a different thematic unit. Our first week together, we will focus on friendship, what makes a good friend and how friends can be different. At Jesus time, we'll talk about David's special friendship with Jonathon. Pastor Steckling will meet with us for Chapel on June 7th.

The week of June 13th, our theme will be "In The Garden". We are looking for donations of bedding plants to decorate the center. Jesus Time will focus on the Creation story.

The following week, we will hear some strange, but true, animal stories from the Bible, like Balaam's talking donkey and Daniel in the lion's den.

As we prepare for Independence Day, we will talk about Moses and the exodus from Egypt.

Looking forward to a fun-filled summer!

Ms. Amy

Summer Vacation

# July Servers for Worship Services 2011

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

July 3 Chuck Chronis & Don Pocernich  
July 10 Darryl Warren & Doug Warren  
July 17 Rick Williams & John Pruss  
July 24 Don Pocernich & Darryl Warren  
July 31 Doug Warren & Rick Williams

## GREETERS FOR JULY

July 3 Todd Vyskocil & Jim Johnson  
July 10 Francis & Alice Balmer  
July 17 Pat & Katie Colgrove  
July 24 Ingrid Pocernich & Lou Pearce  
July 31 Ethel Guss & Penny Mattson

## JULY Acolytes

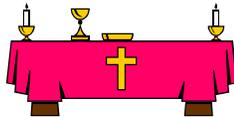
July 3 Tiffany Houle & Alexis Warren  
July 10 Riley Heglund & Briana Klobucher  
July 17 Ciera Maday & Dylan Williams  
July 24 Ben Cashman & Kaitlyn Thimm  
July 31 Maggie Reardon & Tiffany Houle

## JULY Ushers

July 3 Matt Draeger & Ken Philaja  
July 10 Wendell Friske & Jerry Frisco  
July 17 Blake Zakovac & Jim Hebert  
July 24 Scott Thimm & Roger Stenroos  
July 31 Tim Bauer & Randy Spangle

## JULY ALTAR GUILD

Sandy Frisco 682-5401  
June Sorenson 682-3379  
Stephanie Wegener 685-9822



## OFFICIAL ACTS

Death: Paul Nevala 05/24/2011

## Our Prayer Concerns JULY



### 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 Engelmann  
John Wroblewski

### Shut—ins

Corrine Tolliver  
Ron Nevala  
Walt & Agnes Schutte  
Lois Hein  
Clarence Houle  
Gloria Mills  
Donna Graves

### Local & US Concerns

(fulltime and/or deployed military)



Keith Spaulding a nephew of Janet Houle deployed to Iraq

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

Christan Zwetow, granddaughter of Clarence & Madge Houle stationed at Fort Polk, LA

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