

The Mountain Top **Messenger**

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 7 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod JULY 2013

Grace, Peace, and Mercy to you from God our Father and Jesus Christ His Son.

Well, as I type this cover it is less than 48 hours until we leave for the National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, Texas. A pretty exciting time for all those involved. Some of those going have never experienced flying before, some have never been in a place with over 25,000 people at the same time. Some of those who have been before are excited to again experience the feeling of all those Christians, in one place at one time, sharing the experience of our loving God, His Son our Savior, and the Holy Spirit. It stands to be a truly enlightening experience for all. And what makes the experience even more special is that none of it would have ever happened if it hadn't been for all of you supporting us. A giant thank you for your prayers, donations, purchases of baked goods, cards, discount cards, support of bowlathons, and all the other things that were done to help raise the money for this trip, we couldn't have done it without you. I would also like to thank John and Paula Pruss for all of their time, effort, and devotion to making this happen, God Bless you and thank you for all you have done. Pray for our safe travels and if you have the internet watch the events live on your computer. Blessing to all the congregation for your support.

On another note Wednesday night services are going well, we have been studying a series of Psalms, and will be done with that series the 3rd week in July. I am looking for a sermon series to follow that up with and am open to suggestions. If you have any ideas or topics please let me know I am sure I can find something that will fit. And thank you to all those who have been coming on Wednesday nights, it is a nice relaxed, personal worship experience, I appreciate your support.

I read a devotion this morning that seemed to sum up my life right now and I am sure it fits some of you as well, particularly those who are getting ready to travel, it goes like this: "Rest with Me a while. You have journeyed up a steep, rugged path in recent days. The way ahead is shrouded in uncertainty. Look neither behind you nor before you. Instead, focus your attention on Me, your constant companion. Trust that I will equip you fully for whatever awaits you on your journey."

As always we must trust in the Lord.

May the Lord Bless you and keep you.

May He make His face shine you and gracious unto you.

May He look upon you favor and give you Peace.

Amen.

Rick Williams, Deacon

Zion's Ministry Staff and Church Officers

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Website: www.zionashland.org



Church Office 715-682-6075 (M/T/Th 8am-12noon, W-2-6pm)

Deacon - Rick Williams 715-209-0479

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: Sunday 10:15 am, Monday 10:00am

Stewardship Thoughts

Deut. 26:11 "You shall rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household." Christian Stewards are to use what has been entrusted to them to be enjoyed and shared with others. The first portion of whatever we receive belongs to God and is to be given to Him.

St. Paul says in 1 Tim.6:18 "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share." We may use what God has entrusted to us, but we are not to let it control us. We are to use some to care for our own needs, some for the needs of our family, and then we are to be generous and willing to share with others, especially those in need. Note that Paul uses the word share, not give. To share implies that it is right and proper to use some of what we have for ourselves. By Arleigh Lutz.

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.

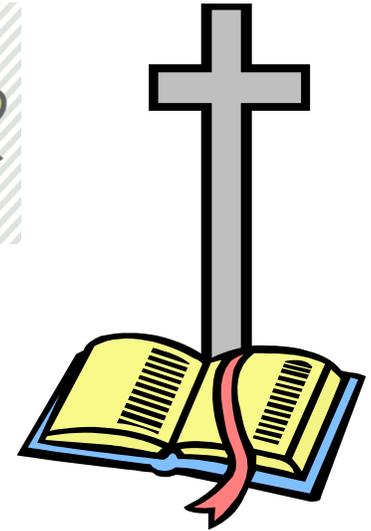




VBS



Hello Families at Zion:



I had a great email from one of the Camp Luther counselors who will be with us this summer. She had many great ideas to share about their program and they are very accommodating to our needs and ideas too. I'm excited about this opportunity to learn from them while they are here.

Our day camp will focus on the theme: **LIVE LOVE[D]** and the Camp Luther counselors will provide devotions, music, crafts and recreation teaching God's love for us. We will have a water day with activities like water relay races and balloon tosses.

Our youth program will have time for a community service project and a bonfire/cookout/devotions evening. We can make the youth program fit with what works for us. This is a great opportunity for Christian growth in our congregation, not only for the children and youth, but also for the volunteers helping out during the week.

REMINDER: Camp Luther Day Camp

August 12-15 8:45am--3:00pm Youth – times to be determined yet

Families at Zion Lutheran are encouraged to register for our day camp/VBS by June 30, 2013. This is the last week to sign up before an invitation is sent to other congregations. If Zion children would like to invite a friend to attend the day camp, please have that information by June 30th also. To register you may contact Maria Truchon by email: mariatruchon@centurytel.net or by phone: 715-682-9508. I will also have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex this week with more information.

We have 40 spots available for students who have completed First grade through students who are entering Sixth grade in the fall (2013). August will be here before we know it and the opportunity to enjoy a great VBS program is just around the corner. This Sunday is June 30 so don't forget to sign-up to hold your spot. Thank you!

In Christ, Maria Truchon

P.S. Even if you are hearing about this after the 30th or remembering to sign-up, please call Maria, there may still be openings.

Inch-by-inch, row-by-row, Gonna make this garden grow
 All it takes is a rake and a hoe, And a piece of fertile ground
 Inch by inch, row by row, Someone bless these seeds I sow
 Someone warm them from below, Till the rain comes tumblin' down

These days I find myself singing John Denver's *Garden Song* as I pay attention to the elements of nature and try to get the garden planted. We have rain... we have cold... we have frost warnings... so planting has its challenges. Every seed, every row starts to feel like a gift as I kneel down to bless the seeds I sow, and pray for God's blessing to make them grow.

Imagine the Garden of Eden where a Man and a Woman were created by God to tend the beauty of creation. They got to do all the fun stuff: name the animals, walk and talk with God, and live in the glory of His creation. Like God, they saw everything was good.



But humans have a "nature" that is hard to tame... and they are often eager to take-charge and do it their way. Didn't take the Woman long to hear and believe the whisper of "the snake" that God had held back some of the best stuff that was "right there before her eyes" if she would just take a bite of the fruit. In fact, she became hungry to become "just like God." So the Woman took one bite and passed the fruit to the Man. Everything changed. God's Beloved felt "dirty" and hid themselves.

But God was at work. He showed up at dusk and transformed their blame-game into a "new" plan. He called Adam and Eve, lifted them up, brushed off the dirt, put fresh clothes on them, and sent them out with the commission to get dirty working hard. But best of all, He added the eternal promise that they would not be alone; He would always be with them and He would send a Redeemer to "save the day."

Yes... after Eden, gardening was meant to have its challenges. It helps to keep us dependent on the Creator... as we watch for His help and His promise that He is with us. No wonder I consider gardening an opportunity to pray and be blessed. God is right here... inch-by-inch, row-by-row.



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.

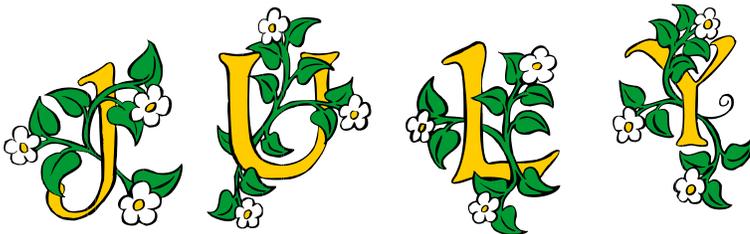
Illnesses Illnesses David Hebert Dan Truchon
Ken Philaja Mary Koosmann Otto & Dorothy Rusch
Chuck Gretzlock Patty Kegel
Baby John Galligan Matt Raspotnik

Nursing Home & Assisted Living Resident

Ed & Elna Torkko Margaret Mahoney
Corrine Tolliver Alice Hansen
Sharon Johnson Otto & Dorothy Rusch

Shut-in's Shut-in's

Gordon & Marianne Vyskocil Gloria Mills
Clarence & Madge Houle Donna Graves



JULY ALTAR GUILD

Ingrid Pocernich 373-5174
Shannon Esala 292-0711
Daniela Maday 682-6594



ELDERS

July 3 Chuck Chronis
July 7 John Pruss & Doug Warren
July 10 Don Pocernich
July 14 Mike Cashman & John Pruss
July 17 Doug Warren
July 21 Darryl Warren & Chuck Chronis
July 24 Mike Cashman
July 28 Doug Warren & Don Pocernich
July 31 Darryl Warren

GREETERS FOR JULY

Greeters should arrive by 8:40am

July 7 Rick & Sandy Nutt
July 14 Moreland Family
July 21 Vyskocil Family
July 28 Herb & Alice Ellis

JULY Acolytes

July 7 Carolyn Gurske & Jordan Thimm
July 14 Angela Ylitalo & Cooper Tamke
July 21 Sydney Vyskocil & Brooke Sapper
July 28 Eric Bochler & Carolyn Gurske

JULY Ushers

Ushers should arrive by 8:40am

July 7 Wendell Friske & Ben Cashman
July 14 Jake Pruss & Patrick Colgrove
July 21 Ken Philaja & Robert Guski
July 28 Roger Stenroos & Scott Sapper

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism - David Allen Guski 6-9-13

New Members: Steve and Carol Key – from Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS) Tinley Park, IL 5-20-13