

The Mountain Top

Zion Lutheran Church

Messenger

VOLUME 53, ISSUE # TEMPLATE 2015

Well here we are, March, spring is just a few short weeks away, I know it hasn't seemed like it lately. I saw on the weather last night that February was 9.1 degrees colder than normal, actually it seemed like more than that, and they also said it was the first time in recorded history that it never got above 28 in the entire month. Oh well, winter in Wisconsin, we could be in Boston. With this cold weather and a short gap between classes I have been doing some reading on the reformation and I came across the following;

"The reformation began when a new theology drawn from the intensive study of Scripture and early Christianity clashed with the popular theology behind this penitential piety (Roman Catholicism and indulgences). The center of this new evangelical theology was the certainty of God's forgiveness to those who repented of their sin and trusted in Jesus Christ alone as the way of salvation... It did not regard itself as a new theology but as the recovery of the Gospel message for a church that had lost its center. Most important of all, it was not a school of theology to be debated, but a practical theology to be proclaimed and lived. It sought a new and more genuine Christian faith, piety, and community for people who, although quite religious, had been led astray and had lost Jesus Christ as the center of their faith and life. The recovery of that center – with the freedom, consolation, and assurance it brings- was the goal of the Reformation and its theology."

As I read and reread that statement I began to realize something that perhaps I had already known, that perhaps something we all may know and realize. We are in need of a second Reformation. This world, and our nation in particular, and the religions there in, no longer have Jesus Christ as the center of their faith. There are many debates as to whether or not the United States is or every was a Christian nation. I am not going to debate that issue here or now, but what I am going to say is that for the better part of over 200 years Christianity played an important part in the moral make up and fabric of this country. I feel that has been lost, and I feel as Christians it is our job to get that message, the message that Jesus Christ needs to be the center of our lives, out there, before it's too late. How do we do that? We do it by teaching and preaching the Bible, the true and inerrant Word of God. We share it with our neighbors, we share through, Word and Deed, we share with love and compassion, and even more importantly, particularly in this day and age, we need to share it with a sense of immediacy. So as we go forward into 2015 keep an open mind, an open heart, and a willingness to share ourselves as we do our best to spread God's Word, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Please be sure to join us on Sunday and Wednesdays during this season of Lent. On Wednesdays we are taking a deeper look at the parables of Jesus and on Sundays the themes are Peace, Known, Snakebitten, and Appointed, as we lead into Holy Week. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Blessings to all of you this penitential season of Lent, we look toward Easter and the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the center of our lives.

The Lord bless you and keep, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Vicar Rick



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Phone # - 715-682-6075
Website: www.zionashland.org
E-mail - zionashland@hotmail.com**

Vicar Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 Office Hours: M/T/W/Th 8:00am-5:00pm

(Please call ahead if you need to speak with Vicar Williams as he may be visiting shut-in's, at a conference, etc.)

Church President: Chuck Chronis 715-208-0053

Head Elder: Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center: 715-682-5185



Do You Know ? Marge Douglas



Marjorie Jane Rundgren, was born October 29, 1924, in Ashland, Wisconsin. Her parents were Bertha and Fred Rundgren. Marge said she has always attended Zion with the start of her Baptism, Confirmation, marriage and will probably end with her burial.

During her youth she enjoyed roller skating in the summer and ice skating in the winter. She spent many weekends at her grandparent's farm on Highway 13, out of town.

Marge is our longest attending member of Zion and has had the privilege of being around for eleven Pastors, six Vicars and one Deacon/Vicar. When asked who has been her favorite, she said all of them.

That each one has brought about their own strengths, likenesses and specialties. Her first remembrance of a Pastor is Otto Hattstaedt.

(1914-1936) He would have very long services. One that sticks in her mind was one Christmas Eve as a young child. They had a regular service and then following the service was the Children's Christmas Program. A special part of the Children's Program was afterwards they got a bag of hard candy, an orange and peanuts. Her parents didn't have a car and she remembers that it was very cold that night being pulled in a sled by her parents for the trip home.

She married Desmond (Bud) Douglas in 1941. They had five children. The family used to do all the common things in those days, go camping, berry picking, etc. Bud's drawings and paintings have always been close to Marge's heart. One of the most memorable trips was to Europe. Bud and Marge went to the "Louvre" and they saw the Mona Lisa. Marge said the painting was very beautiful and the trip was one of the highlights of her life. Marge is now blessed with 9 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren. They bring so much joy and happiness in her life.

Through the years at Zion Marge has been a Sunday School teacher, sang in the choir, Ladies Aid, Altar Guild and numerous Bible Studies. One thing that is very special to Marge is prayer. She is currently the lead of one of Zion's prayer chains.

Our Prayer Concerns TEMPLATE

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 Riley Bretting, Bob Wolfram, Larry Korbein, Holly Nemec, Katie Stipetich, Isaiah Majetich, Larry Ohlerking, Diane Hyvonen, Dawn Houle, Bob Heggie, Kevin Heggie, Reider Williams, Micayla Key, Andrew Key, Duke Kuester, Randy Houle, Lowell Nutt, Linda Stolarzyk, Penny Mattson

Nursing Home & Assisted Living Resident

Corrine Tolliver Sharon Johnson
Otto & Dorothy Rusch

Shut-in's Gordon & Mariann Vyskocil, Walt Schutte, Les & Marvelyn Pufall, Merlin Fuhrman

Military
Aaron Esala
Tyler Hadland
David Wright



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.



**March 8th
Daylight Savings
Time
Spring Ahead**



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Sunday School continues "The Story" We covered this month Daniel in the Lion's Den-God Watches over Daniel, The Queen of Beauty and Courage-Queen Ester, The Rebuilding of Judah-the story of Ezra, Nehemiah. Please take notice of the one bulletin board project the students are working on. One side is "Following in his footsteps"- foot prints of prayers colored by the students. The other side is "Hands of Prayer" - students colored hands with each finger representing a certain person for them to remember in prayer from those closest to our heart, those who point the way, those in authority, those you love the most and the last for those who are in need. The Sunday School students signed a "big" card for Reider Williams to get well soon-including pictures and messages to him. There will be no Sunday School on March 29th (Youth will be serving breakfast) and April 5th (Easter Sunday). I am sending out note cards to those that have not attended Sunday School for awhile and letting them know "we miss them and hope they come back soon".
God's Blessings.

Katie Colgrove, Sunday School Superintendent



“And he (Jesus) was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.” Mark 9: 2b-3

Feb. 15, 2015

When I heard Vicar Rick read these words from our Gospel lesson today, I couldn't help but remember visiting a dhobi ghat (public laundry) in Mumbai, India. To get to the ghat, we (Libby and me) took a steep stairway from a bridge and arrived at the laundry doorway. Since Mumbai is home for over twenty-two million people, there were acres and acres of clothes hanging overhead to dry in the sun. What was so amazing is that the laundry was grouped by colors, so this full spread of fabric flapped like a parade of flags in the breeze.

A young man, Ajay, came running when he saw two foreigners arrive, as he was more than ready to give us a tour for \$4 each; he spoke English and said the tour would take about forty-five minutes. We bought into his offer.

There were so many things to see, but most of the ground level housed hundreds of cement vats side-by-side for washing the clothes. The piles of laundry included recycled sarees, jeans, bed sheets, hospital uniforms, blouses, towels... every kind of cloth garment you could imagine. There were even brand-new white shirts sewn in slum-shops to be stone-washed at the ghat, pressed with charcoal-heated irons, and shipped and sold in western countries. I was struck by how “white” these crispy shirts looked, and still they were being scrubbed and bleached to become even whiter. Jesus would have loved to walk in the narrow paths of this ghat and encourage these hard workers who worked twelve hours a day, were boarded (food and a bed) in small-shared rooms, and earned \$2.50 a day. Ajay let us take photos, and encouraged us to invite others to the dhobi ghat tour. His enthusiasm and hospitality blessed us.

Imagine how intense the white of Jesus' clothes became on the mountain of transfiguration. This brightness must have hurt the eyes of Peter, James, and John. Fortunately God sent a cloud to shade them when he spoke these words: “This is my beloved Son; listen to him” (7b). So much happened on this mountain and still Jesus “charged them (the disciples) to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead” (9). He knew rough days were ahead.

Folks, this Wednesday we are embarking on the 40-day journey of Lent. We will be marked with an ashen cross and Jesus will lead the way. We may be views of mountaintop beauty, but we also know there will be a valley of shadows that leads to a cross. Our eyes may hurt from scenes of suffering, and we might want to wave white-flags of surrender in the final hours of this intense journey. But Jesus reminds us to “ponder” what we see and experience, and to believe that when we gather at the empty tomb, we will have a story that we can no longer keep to ourselves. God promises to be our Host. Let us not hold back, but say “yes” to this Lenten landscape of redemption and resurrection that we may be blessed to bless others.

-A. Ellis

QUILTS GALORE!.....and that's not all of them. These are the 100 quilts that Mary Koosmann has sewn at home. The Sewing Circle has a pile that they have been working on since fall in the basement. Many of the of ladies do work at home also. Please join the group on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, at 1:00pm, now through April. More helping hands are always welcomed!



Stewardship Newsletter Article March 2015

Why does giving seem so difficult? In reality, it isn't. But we make it difficult. We make it difficult because we're afraid. We're afraid that it isn't worth the investment. We're afraid that what we give to the church might be wasted, or that we could use it for something better, something more enjoyable, something more real, more tangible, more immediate, even more important, something more important than God and His gifts.

The point is this: We struggle with giving because we don't believe as we should. We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. And so we fail to give because we don't love God with our whole heart, soul, and mind. We fail to give because we don't fear Him more than we fear other things. We fail to give because we don't trust Him more than we trust the things we can more immediately see, taste, and touch. We don't trust that He will give us everything (EVERYTHING!) we need to support this body and life. For if we did fear, love, and trust in God above all things, we would see and know that all the other things that vie for our time, our talents, and our treasures pale in comparison to the joy of the real, tangible, immediate love God has showered upon us in the proclamation of the forgiveness of sins on account of His Son's death, resurrection, and ascension.

The only proper response to this is repentance: to confess our sin, our stinginess, our lack of fear, love, and faith in God's promises, and to trust in Him to help us bring our desire to do better to fruition. For God is not holding out on us. He never has. He never will. For if He has given you His only Son, how will He not also give you all things? He will. It is His promise. And these promises are sure and certain.

The reality is that God doesn't need our giving. He doesn't need our time, our talents, our treasures. He is God. We are not. He can do all things without our help. And even what we do give, even the good and righteous things we do accomplish, these are but filthy rags, as the prophet Isaiah tells us (Isaiah 64:6). Our gifts to God and to the Church are like a child's gift of dandelions to his mother. They are weeds, which most of us spend an entire summer trying to rid our yards of them. And yet despite the fact that they are weeds, mothers always receive them with a smile and with joy. They will even put them in vases and display them on tables and countertops. They will recount to friends and other family members how their child gave them "flowers," just to say I love you and I'm thankful for all you do.

Our Lord, too, receives with joy and a smile the gifts we give in thanksgiving and praise of what He has done. Even though these gifts are but weeds, filthy rags, and despite the fact that He doesn't need them to accomplish what He wills, He receives them and puts it to use for our and our neighbors good. That is the real joy of giving. He doesn't need us. Yet He makes use of us, He employs us in His service despite it. He makes all that we do—our giving, our work, our service to our family and friends and neighbors—holy. And He blesses it for their and our good and to the glory of His name.

So is giving so hard? Nah, it's like giving dandelions to our mothers. And when dinner is ready, when the food is on the table, she'll gladly have a vase full of them right in the middle. The Lord has prepared a table for you. Dinner is ready. The table is set. His Body and Blood is given to strengthen and nourish you. And right there, where Christ is with us, are the dandelions we gave. He has put them to use for our good, for our forgiveness, for our life in Him.

Lent 2015

Wednesday, Midweek Services 6:30pm *The Parables of Lent*

March 4th - THE PARABLE of the HIDDEN TREASURE and the PRICELESS PEARL

March 11th - THE PARABLE of the GOOD SAMARITAN

March 18th - THE PARABLE of the workers in the vineyard

March 25th - THE PARABLE of the PRODIGAL SON

(Soup and Sandwich Supper at 5:00pm)



Holy Week Maundy Thursday April 1st 6:30pm Good Friday April 2nd 6:30pm

Easter Sunrise April 5th 7:00am Easter Service April 5th 9:00am

Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes: February 2015

The February 16, 2015, Church Council meeting was called to order by President, Nick Jarvela. Vicar Rick opened with devotion and prayer: Proverbs 3:5-6 We are called to "go out" as people of prayer.

Roll Call: Nick Jarvela (President/Trustees), Lynn Ladd (Education), Lisa Guski (Co-treasurer), Lori Landry (Evangelism), Daryl Warren (Elders), Cheri Tamke (LFOJ), Alice Ellis (Secretary), Rick Williams (Vicar). Excused: Mary Koosmann, Diane Cashman

Minutes: Motion by Warren, second by Tamke to approve the Council Minutes of January 19, 2015. Motion carried.

Vicar's Report: Preparations for Lenten Services. One new member through profession of faith. Visitations going slow; added Merlin Fuhrman to home visits. Finished class assignments with good help of congregation; next class starts March 9th. Plans complete for Sunday organ concert. Updates and upgrades done on Microsoft Windows.

Treasurer's Report: Guski reported that new system is being smoothed out; new software looks user-friendly. Motion by Warren, second by Landry to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Agenda: Motion by Warren, second by Landry to approve agenda with additions: B. Lighting Audit
C. Reimbursement for Chris Wallace. Motion carried.

Board Reports:

Elders: Warren reported affirmation of faith by Miranda Houle. Ongoing training in Large Catechism.

Trustees: Jarvela reported east door on sanctuary fixed. Glass top installed on top of organ.

Education: Ladd reported committee will meet March 1.

LFOJ: Tamke submitted report from LFOJ.

Evangelism: Landry talked about Faith Indeed/Backyard Ministry offering assistance to 3 to 5 households in the community. Will use Lenten soup offering for budget kick-start.

Stewardship: In active process to revise the Time and Talent Survey. Also will be choosing Stewardship Program that Vicar Rick will use on Sundays. Surveying new member folder with a plan to design a pamphlet that explains church committee functions.

Motion by Warren, second by Landry to accept Board Reports. Motion carried.

Official Acts:

Adult Affirmation of Faith: Miranda Houle

Transfer: James Johnson to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Butternut, WI 02/01/15.

New Business:

Circulating Pumps. Jarvela reported a \$4,470 energy rebate was received. \$1,875 saved with purchase of more efficient new furnace; heating system will be 2015 up-to-date. 95% of piping insulation completed.

Lighting Audit completed by Focus Energy. To initiate full plan, \$4756 needed. We will pursue a downscale plan as needed. Trustees encouraged to look at choir loft lighting.

Chris Wallace, guest organist, to be reimbursed for mileage, lodging, and breakfast.

Adjournment: Motion by Tamke, second by Ladd. Motion carried. Meeting close with The Lord's Prayer.

NEXT Council Meeting: March 16, 2015 @ 5:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Alice J. Ellis

Update on Focus On Energy Rebate Application

At the annual meeting in December I reported that I had applied for a rebate on our boiler replacement from the Focus on Energy Program. I am happy to report that on January 13th we received a check for \$4,770.00

Part of this money will be used to replace the two existing circulating pumps with two new variable speed pumps which will aid in lowering electrical usage during the heating season.

The remainder of the refund will be added to the roof repair fund.

This month all of the remaining insulation has been installed on piping in the boiler room, which completes all of the Phase I work

Once the Phase II pumps are replaced, the boiler replacement project will be complete.

Yours in Christ,

Nick Jarvela, Board of Trustees

TEMPLATE 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!! If you would like to be added or taken off one of our lists please contact the office. Greeters and Ushers should arrive 20 minutes before services start. Thank-you to all who serve.

ELDERS

Mar. 1 John Pruss & Don Pocernich
Mar. 4 Doug Warren
Mar. 8 Darryl Warren & John Pruss
Mar. 11 Chuck Chronis
Mar. 15 Don Pocernich & Doug Warren
Mar. 18 John Pruss
Mar. 22 Chuck Chronis & Darryl Warren
Mar. 25 Doug Warren
Mar. 29 John Pruss & Don Pocernich

GREETERS

Mar.1 Pat & Katie Colgrove
Mar. 4 Linda Stenroos
Mar. 8 Harrelson Family
Mar. 11 Lynn Ladd
Mar. 15 Nick & Jule Jarvela
Mar. 18 Karen Wahl
Mar. 22 Brian & Linda Klobucher
Mar 25 Janet Houle

Acolytes

Mar. 1 Jacob Graves
Mar. 4 Ella Bauer & Jacob Graves
Mar. 8 Tia Warren
Mar. 11 Abbi Moreland & Kyle Sapper
Mar. 15 Taylor Vyskocil
Mar. 18 Justin Esala & Heather Dickrell
Mar. 22 Ashlee Moreland
Mar. 25 Kyle Sapper
Mar. 29 Heather Dickrell



Ushers

Mar.1 Scott Thimm & David Ovaska
Mar. 4 Brian Klobucher
Mar. 8 Ron Schwiesow & Andrew Pruss
Mar. 11 Nick Jarvela
Mar. 15 Curt Harpster & Luke Barker
Mar. 18 Chris Bolz
Mar. 22 Paul Osmak & Rick Nutt
Mar 25 Mike Cashman



Sandy Frisco 682-5401

Gail Anderson 682-3186

Stephanie Wegener 682-9822

OFFICIAL ACTS

New Members:

Miranda Houle 02/01/2015

Transferred: James Johnson tto St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Butternut, WI 02/01/2015