

The Mountain Top Messenger

VOLUME 52, ISSUE # 11 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod NOVEMBER 2014

November, hardly seems possible. I am writing this cover from beautiful Weston, Wisconsin. Actually it is quite cold and very foggy, but the drive down was full of God's beauty, even with the fog and rain. I am attending the North Wisconsin District Professional Church Workers Conference. This year the theme is "Strengthened to Proclaim" and it is focused on the Health of church workers, spiritually, mentally, and physically, and has been very informative.

The last month has been a busy one, I attended the SMP fall retreat in St. Louis, performed the funeral for our brother, George Schwiesow, was blessed to be able to baptize Anna Lynne, and Olivia Kristine. We have had the opportunity to see the full spectrum of life in the church.

As I look at the calendar things aren't going to be slowing down anytime soon. We have the rapid approach of Thanksgiving, which will be quickly followed by Advent and then Christmas, sorry for mentioning it before October is even over. As a quick reminder next week we need to set our clocks back an hour for daylight savings time, if you forget and get here early come on in and visit, I will be here. We have the new boilers up and running, they are working on building the new organ, and we also have a Fall Dinner coming up on November 9th following Bible Study and Sunday School as a fund raiser for the organ. We hope everyone will try to be there.

As I look back at all that has happened and what is on the agenda to come, I see the Lord at work here at Zion. I truly feel the Lord has great plans for His church here and we, His faithful workers, simply need to trust in Him, praise Him, carry on His work for us, and share His Gospel message.

Paul says in his letter to the Philippians 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice.* Let us all rejoice in the Lord for all the great things He has blessed us with here at Zion, and let us always remember it is all to His glory, Praise the Lord!

Blessings to you all, have a happy and safe Thanksgiving, and the Lord's peace be with you always.

Vicar Rick

Zion's Ministry Staff and Church Officers

E-Mail: zionashland@hotmail.com
Website: www.zionashland.org



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

Sunday School 10:15am

Bible Studies: Sundays 10:15am Mondays 10:00am

Stewardship Thoughts

This month we are examining the stewardship of time. Are you using all of the time in your life in a manner in which it freely and joyously works for God's purposes?

People today are often guilty of crowding their schedules with so much clutter, that it keeps them from the Word of God and from the offering of their time and talents to the Lord. Regrettably the advancements in technology have increased today's pace of life and schedules have many more demands and temptations. As a result we all must carefully address the challenge of time stewardship.

The psalmist in Ps. 90 said, "So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." If we turn to the Word and learn more about the people entrusted to us by God, we can become wise in the use of our time for God's purposes.

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.



If you know of anyone who will be hospitalized, has a new baby, a death in the family, or a long-term illness, please notify the church office at (682-6075). This will enable us (Vicar, Elder, and others) to visit them, send a card, share their needs with a Prayer Chain, mention them in the bulletin and include them in prayer at the next worship



Yours? Mine? It's all His!

Christian stewardship begins with the understanding that all we have is God's and that "we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world" (1 Tim. 6:7 ESV). Since all we have is God's, we should use it for His purposes. God's purpose for us in our lives is expressed in the various vocations, or callings, that we have.

Our vocation as Christians, and as members of a particular Christian congregation where we receive the Word of God and His Sacraments, makes a claim on us: on our presence on Sunday morning and on our support for the work of the Gospel. Likewise, our callings in the home make a claim on us. In society at large our vocations are varied, but they all boil down to being a good neighbor no matter where we are. In each place, we are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. That means being a faithful friend and worker, a kind and generous neighbor and so on.

In one sense, all there is to say about stewardship is this: Live a godly, generous life in your vocations in church, home and society. Love God and serve your neighbor. That's the whole Law. But we are still left with the details. What does loving my neighbor and being faithful to God look like in my life? What does a generous life of stewardship look like?

For believers in Christ, the Law serves as a guide to how to live a life of thanksgiving for the wonderful gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus.

God's Law on supporting the Church calls us to support it faithfully from our firstfruits, to do it voluntarily and cheerfully, and to do it proportionally. Does that convict you? Does this Law show your sin? I know it convicts me. I have certainly not been as cheerful or faithful a giver as I should be. That is the bad news of our sinfulness against God's Law. But the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that we are forgiven by Christ's work on the cross. God loves us and has made us His children in Baptism. He feeds us with His very body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. We are His and no one can snatch us out of His hands. And that's the motivation for cheerful, generous giving to the Lord's work.

Please join us in sharing with others our true motivation for cheerful, generous giving to the Lord's work! To learn more and find stewardship resources, visit www.lcms.org/themes/november.

In His name,

Rev. Heath Curtis, coordinator, LCMS Stewardship Ministry

**ZION FINANCIAL REPORT—
Jan.-Sept. 2014**

	Budgeted	Actual
Giving	\$125,988.93	\$ 99,852.29
Expenses	<u>\$148,540.17</u>	<u>\$109,455.12</u>
		(\$ 9,602.83)

He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. [2 Corinthians 9:6]

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP



The Story is moving right along-covered the creation in Gen. and are now on the 10 Commandments (rules as the students say) and the story of Moses leading God's people, the 10 Commandments, and then into the Book of Exodus was started this last Sunday. I have "Did You Remember Your Bible Today" box out - a treat for when leaving Sunday School - this is working okay as the students are remembering to bring their Bibles and referring to them during classes.

Last Sunday I and Sydney V. discussed the Sunday School teachers group putting together a Fall Dinner for the Church Organ Fundraiser-set for Nov.9th-at 11:30am. Please plan on attending. There's a flyer in this newsletter and on the doors at church.

The next event Sunday School will be working on is the Children's Christmas Program-Vicar, Lisa, Jodi, Luke and I are discussing the Program and songs.

November I will be handing out the Mite Boxes (November with giving in mind) to the students-collected at the end of the month.

God's Blessings

Katie Colgrove-SS Superintendant

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING
December 7th

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE
Wednesday
November 26th



FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

Those people wishing to donate flowers for Zion's altar for a special occasion, in memory of a loved one or for thankfulness and wanting to beautify the altar, please contact the flower person whose name and number is on the flower chart on the bulletin board in the Narthex. She will handle the ordering and relay any specific instructions you may have to the florist. Flowers will be picked by her or a designated person of the altar guild who is on for that month and will be placed on the altar the Sunday service designated on the flower chart. Note that no live flowers are placed on the altar during Lent and lilies and poinsettias are on the altar for Easter and Christmas.

A Prayer Song: Nov. '08

Autumn Psalm

For...

Plump jeweled tomatoes
Flesh of golden squash
Crisp polished apples
Pressed leaves of cabbage
Orange lantern pumpkins
Gunny sacks of potatoes
Bumper crop of sweet corn
Sing songs of thanksgiving.

For...

Seed heads of flowers
Stash of cured acorns
Beltways of cut fields
Bands of blonde grasses
Dry limbs of spent ferns
Prickly pods of milkweed
Marked veins of maple
Sing songs of thanksgiving.

For...

Star-kindled nights
Honey thick moonlight
Dawn charged planets
Quilt strips of clouds
Morning broth of fog
Angled shaft of sunshine
Burning bush of sunset
Sing songs of thanksgiving.

For...

Generations at the table
Common cup of hope
Laced hearts of love
Soft pitch of grace-notes
Roots of the departed
Ripe fruit of the living
Seed for those yet to come.
Sing songs of thanksgiving. Amen.



-A. Ellis.

FALL



DINNER

(Roast Beef/Pork/Chicken, Squash, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Homemade Applesauce, Vegetables, Desserts, Rolls, Beverages – YUM!)

Sunday, November 9th

11:30am (after Bible Study and Sunday School)

**Goodwill donation -
Fundraiser for the
new organ.**

**Sign-up for attendance in the
Narthex or contact
the office**

(682-6075 or zionashland@hotmail.com)



A MIRACLE

On May 3rd, our three year old grandson Aaron Swanson fell into a pond in his back yard. When he was pulled from the water after an undetermined amount of time, he was totally unresponsive, no heartbeat, with a body temperature of 88 degrees. The ER staff worked for 40 minutes to restore his heartbeat. He was then air lifted to a Duluth hospital where he was placed into a heavily sedated state and his body was cooled to 90 degrees. For many days he was totally dependent on a breathing tube, and other medical interventions. There were countless prayers prayed for little Aaron all over the country as his parents reached out to share each day of little Aaron's journey on caringbridge.org. Total strangers praying for the healing of a little boy they'd never met. All those prayers and love came to rest on our precious little grandson as he lay in the pediatric ICU. It was overwhelming to witness the caring and the love of so many people.

Aaron was weaned off the breathing tube and slowly came out of the sedation and on May 13th, he opened his eyes, smiled at his mother, and then spoke clearly to her. Sixteen days later he returned home to his family. Our powerful Almighty God had given us a miracle – a perfectly healthy little boy with no organ or brain damage. There's no medical explanation for it, but we know that with God all things are possible. To God be the Glory!

Many of you know that my favorite Bible verse is Romans 8:28 *"For we know that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord and are called according to his purpose."* For what purpose did God allow this to happen? It's not for us to question, but to marvel in his love and power. Many lives were touched by it. The evidence of the power of God is testimony to those that would doubt or need reassurance that a loving, gracious, caring God is in control. *"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 8:38-39

***Thank you all for your prayers, hugs, love and concern during this time.
"Blest be the Tie that Binds Our Hearts in Christian Love"***

Nancy and Richard Swanson

P.S. Nancy and Richard are members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Marengo.



Here are sixty things to be grateful for in our lives:

1. Your parents - for giving birth to you. Because if there is no them, there will not be you.
2. Your family - for being your closest kin in the world.
3. Your friends - for being your companions in life.
4. Sense of sight - for letting you see the colors of life.
5. Sense of hearing - for letting you hear trickle of rain, the voices of your loved ones, and the harmonious chords of music.
6. Sense of touch - for letting you feel the texture of your clothes, the breeze of the wind, the hands of your loved ones.
7. Sense of smell - for letting you smell scented candles, perfumes, and beautiful flowers in your garden.
8. Sense of taste - for letting you savor the sweetness of fruits, the saltiness of seawater, the sourness of pickles, the bitterness of bitter gourd, and the spiciness of chili.
9. Your speech - for giving you the outlet to express yourself.
10. Your heart - for pumping blood to all the parts of your body every second since you were born; for giving you the ability to feel.
11. Your lungs - for letting you breathe so you can live.
12. Your immune system - for fighting viruses that enter your body. For keeping you in the pink of your health so you can do the things you love.
13. Your hands - so you can type on your computer, flip the pages of books, and hold the hands of your loved ones.
14. Your legs - for letting you walk, run, swim, play the sports you love, and curl up in the comfort of your seat.
15. Your mind - for the ability to think, to store memories, and to create new solutions.
16. Your good health - for enabling you to do what you want to do and for what you're about to do in the future.
17. Your school - for providing a environment conducive to learning and growing.
18. Your teachers - for their dedication and for passing down knowledge to you.
19. Tears - for helping you express your deepest emotions.
20. Disappointment - so you know the things that matter to you most.
21. Fears - so you know your opportunities for growth.
22. Pain - for you to become a stronger person.
23. Sadness - for you to appreciate the spectrum of human emotions.
24. Happiness - for you to soak in the beauty of life.
25. The Sun - for bringing in light and beauty to this world.
26. Sunset - for a beautiful sight to end the day.
27. Moon and Stars - for brightening up our night sky.
28. Sunrise - for a beautiful sight to start the morning.
29. Rain - for cooling you when it gets too warm and for making it comfy to sleep in on weekends.
30. Snow - for making winter even more beautiful.
31. Rainbows - for a beautiful sight to look forward to after rain.
32. Oxygen - for making life possible.
33. The earth - for creating the environment for life to begin.
34. Animals - for adding to the diversity of life.
35. Transport - for making it easier to commute from one place to another.
36. Technology - for making impossible things possible.
37. Movies - for providing a source of entertainment.
38. Books - for adding wisdom into your life.
39. Shoes - for protecting your feet when you are out.
40. Time - for a system to organize yourself and keep track of activities.
42. Your job - for giving you a source of living and for being a medium where you can add value to the world.
43. Music - for lifting your spirits when you're down and for filling your life with more love.
44. Your bed - for you to sleep comfortably in every night.
45. Your home - for a place you can call home.
46. Your soul mate - for being the one who understands everything you're going through.
47. Your best friends - for being there for you whenever you need them.
48. Your enemies - for helping you uncover your blind spots so you can become a better person.
49. Kind strangers - for brightening up your days when you least expect it.
50. Your mistakes - for helping you to improve and become better.
52. Heartbreaks - for helping you mature and become a better person.
53. Laughter - for serenading your life with joy.
54. Love - for letting you feel what it means to truly be alive.
55. Life's challenges - for helping you grow and become who you are.
56. Life - for giving you the chance to experience all that you're experiencing, and will be experiencing in time to come.
57. Religious Freedom - for being an American.
58. Freedom from Sin - God gave the ultimate sacrifice to free us from our sinful nature.
59. You - For being who you are and touching the world with your presence.
60. and finally the most important of allis GOD!

UPCOMING DATES – EVENTS



November 2nd - turn clocks back one hour.



November 9th - Fall Dinner at church, 11:30am

November 26th - Thanksgiving Eve Service

December 3rd - 17th - Advent Services

December 7th - Annual Meeting

December 14th - Sunday School Christmas Program during 9:00 worship

NOVEMBER 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 NOVEMBER

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, Matt Raspotnik, Bob Wolfgram, Carl Sapper, Larry Korbein, Chuck Ladd, Holly Nemec, Marlene Parkhurst, Katie Stipetich, Jim Morzenti, Bernie Henderson, Lilly Harrelson

Nursing Home & Assisted Living Resident

Corrine Tolliver Sharon Johnson
Otto & Dorothy Rusch

Shut-in's Gordon & Marianne Vyskocil
Walt Schutte

Military

Aaron Esala
Tyler Heglund



OFFICIAL ACTS

Death— Rita Elaine Anderson 09/29/2014
George John Schwiesow 10/08/2014

Baptism —Anna Lynne Williams 10-19-2014
Olivia Kristine Osmak 10-19-2014

NOVEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Linda & Briana Klobucher 726-2064
Renee Bolz 955-0944
Lori Landry 292-2122



ELDERS

Nov. 2 Doug Warren & Darryl Warren
Nov. 5 John Pruss
Nov. 9 Mike Cashman & Don Pocernich
Nov. 12 Chuck Chronis
Nov. 16 Don Pocernich & John Pruss
Nov. 19 Doug Warren
Nov. 23 Darryl Warren & Chuck Chronis
Nov. 26 Mike Cashman
Nov. 30 John Pruss & Don Pocernich
Dec. 3 Doug Warren

GREETERS FOR NOVEMBER

Greeters should arrive by 8:40am

Nov. 2 Thimm Family
Nov 9 Ron & Brenda Schwiesow
Nov. 16 Draeger Family
Nov. 23 Ingrid Pocernich & Lou Pearce
Nov. 27 Janet Houle & June Williams
Nov. 30 Nick & Jule Jarvela

NOVEMBER Acolytes

Nov. 2 Tia Warren
Nov 9 Ashlee Moreland
Nov. 16 Taylor Vyskocil
Nov. 23 Jacob Graves & Ellie Bauer
Nov. 27 Heather Dickrell
Nov. 30 Kyle Sapper & Abbi Moreland

NOVEMBER Ushers

Ushers should arrive by 8:40am

Nov. 2 Karl Williams & Jerry Frisco
Nov 9 Dylan Williams & Scott Pearce
Nov. 16 Jordan Thimm & Pat Colgrove
Nov. 23 Jake Pruss & Nick Jarvela
Nov. 27 Don Moreland & Terrel Bolz
Nov. 30 Loren Munson & Warren Draeger