

# *The Mountain Top* *Zion Lutheran Church*

## Messenger

VOLUME 54, ISSUE #8 **AUGUST 2016**

Well, July flew by, it hardly seems possible we are into August already. I know that I have mentioned it before, but by having to write this newsletter it is a constant reminder of how time flies by. And as I was trying to focus on a topic this month, I kept having to put it off because of numerous distractions. Now most, but not all, of these distractions were work related; class work, going to St. Louis, attending the National Youth Gathering, visitations, both locally and in Duluth, sleep study, dr. appointments, and then the preparation of the twice weekly sermon messages. There is also the preparation for the Retro-Sunday service and the church picnic, VBS, and preparing for the upcoming year of Sunday School and Confirmation.

Now, I want to say something here before someone gets the wrong impression. First and foremost, I am not complaining, I am the most blessed man on earth for having the privilege of being your shepherd. I knew what the tasks were going in and we would be in trouble as a congregation if all of these things were not occurring. I feel we are truly blessed to have all of these wonderful things going on here at Zion. I talk with some of my peers and they talk about how they don't have a Sunday School any longer, or they haven't had a confirmation class in years, much less VBS. They may have one service a week and we all experience the summer slump.

Where I am heading with this is that sometimes in life we become entangled in all the daily goings on, the putting out of the little fires that pop up here and there, and the struggle between work, family, friends, and any other commitments that demand our attention. When this happens we lose track of some of the simple, basic, and important things. Things like our prayer and devotional life. It is through prayer and devotion that our strength and our focus become clear, our relationship with our Savior becomes stronger. If you take just a few minutes a day to lay all your stresses on the Lord, to ask him for help, guidance, there is a clarity that will come into your life. On Wednesday night we read the scripture quote that I believe sums this up best, Matthew 11:28-30; <sup>28</sup> *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* <sup>29</sup> *Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* <sup>30</sup> *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Jesus wants to help us during our journey in this world. He died for our sins, he rose again for our salvation, he doesn't want us to go it alone. Take the time to let him in. It is a lesson for all of us. I was going to end with some profound statement but realized I could not say it any better than Hymn 770, "*What a Friend we have in Jesus*"; next time you are sitting in the pew and have a moment, simply read through all three verses, they say all that needs to be said.

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

Pastor Rick



**Church Office - 1111 - 11th Ave. W  
Ashland, WI 54806**

**Phone # - 715-682-6075**

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

**E-mail - [secretary@zionlutheranashland.com](mailto:secretary@zionlutheranashland.com)**

**Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 Office Hours: M/W/Th/F 8:00am-5:00pm**

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

**Church President:** Nick Jarvela 715-682-0385

**Head Elder:** Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

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

**LFOJ Administrator:** Karyn Leino 715-682-6075



### **Our Prayer Concerns AUGUST**

#### **Mission**

Zion Lutheran Church      Little Friends of Jesus Childcare Center      LWML  
Jordan Kroll Mission in China      Zion Sewing Circle      Monthly Missions

**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.

#### **PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING**

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:

*Larry Korbein, Katie Stipetich, Diane Hyvonen, Bob Heggie, Kevin Heggie, Linda Stolarzyk, Sandi (Sorenson) Fletcher, Wendy Meierotto, Joni Frisco, Patsy Kontny, Brad Prill, Dean Jansheski, Larry Kaspar, Ingrid Pocernich, Jean Wickman, Fran Fleig, Jean Ekholm, Emily Hagstrom, Eddie Brown, Roger Peters, Johnny Galligan, Alice Balmer, Mary Bullis, Jim Fletcher, Sheldon Henry, Brenda Herlevi, Bob Hebert, Charles Ylitalo, Melissa Grage*

#### **PRAYERS FOR HOMEBOUND**

Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them. *Gordon Vyskocil, Walt Schutte*

#### **PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION**

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families. *Aaron Esala, David Wright, Johanna Pearce*



### **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.



# SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP



There was a Sunday School and Confirmation meeting held on July 28th. Pastor Rick informed the group that there will be a change in confirmation. It will become a combination of two groups, a 2-year 7th & 8th grade confirmation class that will attend class during the week and Sunday School, and 4th-6th Grade Pre-confirmation class during Sunday School. There will be a meeting for parents forthcoming to give out more information. Then there will be a 1st—3rd grade class and pre-school (3 yr. old—Kndg). We would like to add to our sub-teaching list, plus, we are still looking for a superintendent.

If you have any questions or are interested please contact Lynn (292-0592) or Pastor. Rally Day is scheduled for September 11th. This is a great time to meet teachers, review the curriculum, craft for the kids and have some refreshments. We encourage Sunday School families to come downstairs after the service and participate.

## Retro-Sunday Service

August 14th 9:00am

The early 60's

We will be using the service from the old red, The Lutheran Hymnal. We are hoping people will dress as they did in those days - men in suits,

women in dresses with hats and gloves, etc.

Then bring a change of clothes or a trip home and join us for the church picnic at Prentice Park at 11:30. It will be a fun day for all. We hope to have everyone participate in 60's themed games at the picnic.



# Stewardship Thoughts

Celebrating stewardship? That is a concept not heard at voters' meetings. The usual response is tune out, yawn, or how long is this going to last. Suggesting a celebration of stewardship is about as appealing as celebrating a root canal without Novocain.

Stewardship is something the individual steward and congregation should and can celebrate. Why? Because stewardship is not about us—what we do or decide to give or even how we decide to give. It is about the free and joyous activity of the church managing life's resources for His purposes. As James writes in the first chapter, verses 17-18, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures." Luther's explanation of the First Article of the Creed reminds us that our Father in heaven gives these gifts "only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy without any merit or worthiness in me." The Lord sets us, as His crown of creation, in a position to manage those gifts in a way that is pleasing to Him and joyful for us. Stewardship viewed from this perspective; how can one not celebrate stewardship.

The reason we struggle with stewardship is seen in Genesis chapter 3 in 'The Fall into Sin'. Rather than be stewards of the creation the Creator entrusted to us. We stole it from God and made it our own and we owned it. This was stated in the last month's newsletter. When we believe we own things, pride, selfishness and territorialism crowd God the Creator out of the picture. When God is moved out there can be no joy. Nothing we own can be maintained and decays through sin. This causes us stress and anxiety which robs us of the joy to celebrate anything in stewardship, as we place more value on things above the Lord who restored them.

As we move toward repentance, which is a gift from God, we can begin to celebrate stewardship as we shift from us to Him. As stated in 1 Cor. 5:17 "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The former things have passed away and everything has become new." We are forgiven of our ownership and restored by grace to stewardship.

As forgiven and restored stewards we are freed from the fear of losing. We are not lost, and look forward to the day when everything will be restored to the original Eden at the resurrection. Fully restored and forgiven through faith in Christ, how can we not celebrate?

The local congregation composed of those who have been redeemed and restored, gathered around. Word and Sacrament, are the new creation. The congregation is where the celebration of stewardship takes place. As we gather around the baptismal font, altar and pulpit, we the people of God are reminded by the Holy "Spirit why we can celebrate as stewards of God's good gifts. These gifts share the life-giving Gospel, support ministry, support families and community. We know why these gifts are given. Fatherly divine goodness and mercy and from whom they come—our Heavenly Father. Thinking thusly, we will start looking at every aspect of stewardship as something to be celebrated, which in turn brings more celebration. Let's start celebrating!

## Zion's Membership

We are currently going through our hard-copy and online memberships. We have listed below are some of the names that we don't have current addresses and/or phone numbers and have not been able to contact them, most for many years. Please let the office know of any of these that you may have contact information. Those names that we are not able to contact will be brought to the Church Council for discussion at the September 19th meeting.

Jenna Bakken  
Ryan Bakken  
Monique Doss  
Alexis Edley  
Dean Fels  
Jennifer Fels  
Kim Felski  
Renee Fisher  
Cathy Hamann  
Melissa Hamann  
Dustin Hicks

Pauline Holt  
Kathy Karaba  
Melissa Kastern  
Kathryn Kolb  
Susannah Mattson  
Wendell Michel  
Patricia Mitchen  
Diana Ohlsson  
Lorie Olson  
Caroline Pufall  
Lester & Marvelyn Pufall

James & Tiffani Robertson  
Lisa Schaffer  
Jason & Vicki Shimko  
Johnathon & Vicki Shimko  
Eric Sickich  
Shawn & Elizabeth Sickich  
Jessica Sokolich  
Wilie Sunie  
Monica Sword  
Mike Thomas  
Heather Usher

### ZION FINANCIAL REPORT— Jan.— June 2016

Giving	\$77,950.90
Actual Expenses	<u>\$77,762.95</u>
	\$ 187.95
 Loan Balance	 (\$83,875.85)

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

### Mowing Schedule

The sign-up sheet is on the table next to the office door.

Sign-up for one or more times. Make it a family project!



### Church Directory

Anyone who had their picture taken or submitted for the directory will find a copy of the directory in their mailbox.

The **Sewing Circle** will begin meeting in Sept on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Sept. 13th and 27th. We encourage anyone to join us that would like to.



A new pastor was visiting the homes of his members. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door. When the offering was received the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10." Reaching for his Bible to check out the reference, he broke up in laughter.





# Church Picnic Prentice Park Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>



**11:30am – 2:00pm**

**Bring a dish to pass and your beverage of choice.  
Oh, and your favorite lawn chair if you want!**

**Everything else will be provided!**

**Sign-up by August 7th!  
We'll need a head count to order the  
Hamburgers and Brats!**

**There will be games for the entire family!**

**Any questions please contact Lori Landry 715-292-2122  
or Lynn (at church 682-6075)**



**Hope to see you there!**

## **AUGUST – MISSION OF THE MONTH**

### **Lutheran World Relief School Kits**

Labor Day is just around the corner and that signals the beginning of school in our area. But many children worldwide are not able to attend school simply because they do not have the required supplies. Education is the key to opening doors out of poverty.

**Please donate items from the list below. You may donate all or just some of these items. There will be boxes in the conference room for your items.**

*(Note: you do NOT need to supply a backpack, just the school supplies, and you don't have to get the entire kit, parts of it will be fine.)*



*Each School Kit must contain the following items:*

- 4 Notebooks** (70 sheet, college or wide ruled)
- 1 Ruler** (must have centimeters on one side)
- 1 Pencil Sharpener**
- 5 Pencils** (unsharpened)
- 1 Blunt Scissors**
- 5 Ballpoint Pens** (no gel ink, blue or black)
- 1 Box of Crayons** (16 or 24 count)
- 1 Big Eraser**

*Plain is best...do not donate items with symbols, flags, camouflage, etc.*

Past Missions: Samaritan's Purse \$233 Nets \$160
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I wrote this devotional over five years ago, but once again a powerful wind swept over our *landscape at 4:30 a.m. toppling trees, and causing a major power outage. It seemed right to revisit this devotional.*

July 2016 A.Ellis

**March 23, 2011**

The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit. John 3:8

Can't help but respect the power of wind when a powerful nor'ester blows in. The trees sway, dried weeds bend over, the sky roars, windows shudder, waves crash, and birds glide rather than fight the force of 50 mph gusts. The forecast was for a whopper snowstorm coming in from the southwest, but the nor'ester threw up a barrier and held back the snow-clouds. It was amazing to see once again how an energetic wind combs the landscape and sweeps out nature's snarls and tangles. Humans have developed ways to harness the wind, but so far there are no fail-safe methods when air is moving at high-power.

How beautiful it was that Nicodemus, a Jew, came by night and asked Jesus about the kingdom of God. Jesus sensed Nicodemus' inquiry came from his heart and Jesus spoke: *Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen.* John 3:11. And Jesus went on to debate how earthly examples point to the spirit-life of eternity. The *Book of John* does not reveal Nicodemus' response to his conversation with Jesus, but surely Nicodemus heard the sound of the Spirit. (It is worth noting that Nicodemus shows up later to place a generous mixture of spices in the linen cloths used to wrap the body of Jesus. John 19:39)

Although this night-time story does not have a tidy packaged ending, rarely does the wind leave everything in an orderly fashion. Some things are cleaned up by the wind, and other things are scattered. Likewise in the kingdom of God, the Spirit reorders lives and also turns lives upside down. The Spirit bends us and at other times forces us to glide. There is no earthly formula to predict the presence and force of the kingdom of God. Let the wind blow where it wills. For our call is to faithfully bear witness to what we know and have seen that others may hear and feel the eternal power of the Spirit.





## AUGUST 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.

August	Elders	Acolytes	Ushers	Greeters
Wed. 3	Randy Spangle			
Sun. 7	Scott Thimm Andy Pruss	Logan Esala	Tim Bauer Karl Williams	Adam Hinch
Wed. 10	Doug Warren			
Sun. 14	Randy Spangle Darryl Warren	Terrel Butterfield	Andrew Wickman Todd Vyskocil	Thimm Family
Wed. 17	Andy Pruss			
Sun. 21	Scott Thimm John Pruss	Ella Bauer	Warren Draeger Devin Sunie	Jim Johnson
Wed. 24	Scott Thimm			
Sun. 28	Doug Warren Andy Pruss	Abbi Moreland	Chris Bolz Adam Hinch	Sunie Family
Wed 31	Darryl Warren			
Sun. Sept. 4	John Pruss Randy Spangle	Emily Dickrell	Chuck Chronis Henry Truchon	Jerry & Sandy Frisco
Wed. Sept. 7	John Pruss			



Sue Spangle 682-8015  
Kathy Osmak 746-2346

### OFFICIAL ACTS

**Death:** Mariann Vyskocil 06-25-2016  
Dorothy Rusch 07-11-2016

**Pastor Marty Kaarre's Book  
"Breathing Holes 2"**  
*More stories supplying fresh air  
for unconventional people.*  
\$20.00 (\$10.00 of every book  
payment is donated to LFOJ)  
Checks payable to Zion Lutheran

**Zion needs a Lutheran Hour Representative.** This person receives mail and notices from LHM. One Sunday a year LHM is included in the Sunday service. If you interested in taking on this service please speak with Pastor Rick.



Little Friends of Jesus  
Preschool and Daycare  
1111 11th Ave. W.  
Ashland, WI 54806  
715-682-5185



# August 2016

Zion Lutheran Church  
1111 11th Ave. W.  
Ashland, WI 54806  
715-682-6075  
secretary@zionlutheranashland.com  
www.zionashland.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Bible Study 10:00am	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Worship 6:30pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Mite Sunday Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Worship 6:30pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
	VBS 8:15 am - 3:00pm → → → → → →					
<b>14</b> Retro 60's Worship 9:00am Picnic - Prentice Park 11:30-2:00	<b>15</b> Bible Study 10:00am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Worship 6:30pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am	<b>22</b> Bible Study 10:00am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Worship 6:30pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Food Shelf Sunday Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am	<b>29</b> Bible Study 10:00am	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Worship 6:30pm	<b>Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 Office Hours: M/W/Th/F 8:00am-5:00pm</b> (Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor Williams as he may be visiting shut-in's, at a conference, etc.)		