

The Mountain Top *Zion Lutheran Church*

Messenger

VOLUME 54, ISSUE #1 **JANUARY 2016**

Happy New Year! Last month I wished you all a Happy New Church Year, this month we welcome the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Sixteen. Seems hard to believe. Personally I am ready for a new year. Last year was a year of amazing highs and crushing lows. Yet through all of it several things stood out. First, while our lives fluctuate between highs and lows in this world of sin, our God stands straight, true and solid. Much like you see in those pictures of the lighthouse being pummeled by horrendous waves, through all of it, the lighthouse stands solid, shining its saving light into the dark world. Second, I will always be thankful for faith, family, and friends. Personally, I could not imagine facing the challenges of this world without those three things. The love and support that June and I, and all of our family, have received has truly been a gift from God. We are so blessed to be able to call all of you not only our friends, but family as well. With that being said, I would like to ask for your patience as we prepare thank you cards. We have received literally hundreds of cards for the ordination, the funeral, and Christmas and plan to respond to all, hopefully not missing anyone. I just want to say thank you again for helping to make these times bearable as we heal and grow together.

On a more official topic, I would like to fill you in on my schooling and some of the things that I would like to address as we head into the New Year. First, school is going well, I am a bit behind in my homework but should be all caught up before I head down to St. Louis for my winter intensive class on January 10th. The class this quarter is called Scripture and Faith and the description says that the course offers the student a *"foundation for understanding the nature, purpose, and use of the Scriptures. It will focus on interpretation and reading of the individual books of the Scriptures within the overarching narrative, as well as the collection of the various writings into the canon that we now use."* The focus is on how to read and study the Scriptures, and they make a very strong point that reading and studying are two very different things. Therefore, one of my main goals for this year is to help us become better "people of the book". I want us to learn to read the Bible, to become familiar with it, and to truly make it a part of our daily lives. I have a number of ways and ideas in mind on how we are going to do that, and several of those have already been set in motion. A couple of the things I am planning on doing is restarting the early morning "Men's" Bible Study, and looking at starting some "small group" Bible Studies in homes. I will be using the Bible more during both our worship services and our Sunday morning Bible Studies. I will be addressing all of this in more detail over the next month or two and if you have any questions please let me know.

So as I close for this month, I once again thank you all for your love, support, and understanding during this past year and in particular the last few weeks. I pray the Lord bless you all as we move forward into 2016.

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

Pastor Rick



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Pastor 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: 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



Stewardship Thoughts

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." [Ps. 24:1a] This bold statement of truth leaves no doubt who is in charge. It also does not allow oneself to step into the number one position and say "mine." If you do, it won't be done convincingly. Now, this leads to the consideration of the following regarding stewardship as our Pastor has expounded upon: Repentance, Thankfulness, Confidence, Love and Others.

Repentance and stewardship? The answer may surprise you, but it is a resounding YES! Permit me to share an illustration. In the early 1990's, this writer was a little extravagance with his resources. So much so, the rent barely got paid on time. At the end of the year drastic measures had to be taken to keep afloat. Opening the checkbook and bowing in prayer, this writer confessed to the Lord the sin of extravagance and asked for forgiveness and guidance. The prayer was answered over the course of a year. Physical needs were met and the budget wasn't strained. Food was on the table, clothes were on my back, a roof over my head and a bed to sleep on.

Repentance leads to thankfulness and confidence. True thankfulness is genuine and heartfelt. You can't fake it. You return gratitude and appreciation to the Giver who provides and delivers you from the burden of guilt. Guilt is a weight (sin) and pulls you into despair and depression. Why carry it? Free yourself at the cross of Jesus. Leave your burden. He invites us to do so. "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." [MT. 11:28]

With guilt removed and freedom through forgiveness, love and sharing are expressed to others without reservation. We share their joys and sorrows by giving of ourselves. We reach out beyond ourselves and our thinking goes from "me" to "we" to "sharing". Then we embrace God's second commandment. "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Now back to the premise of repentance, thankfulness, confidence, love and others in relation to stewardship. These are gifts given to the church by our Heavenly Father to build up the church and the body of Christ who is the head. Through these gifts the church moves forward in bold proclamation of the Gospel that Jesus is Lord of all. Thus, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof". [Ps. 24:1]

Our Prayer Concerns JANUARY

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.

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: *Bob Wolfram, Larry Korbein, Katie Stipetich, Diane Hyvonen, Bob Heggie, Kevin Heggie, Linda Stolarzyk, Sandi (Sorenson) Fletcher, Cheryl Hildebrandt, Wendy Meierotto, James Albright, Joni Frisco, Rodger Dewey, Brad Prill, David Frantz, Patsy Kontny, Sam Dymesich, Dorothy Rusch, Gordon Vyskocil, Janice Kuralle, Nancy Zehe, Dean Jansheski, Carleigh Albright, Larry Kaspar, Patty Kegel, Nick Jarvela*

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 & Mariann Vyskocil, Walt Schutte, Dorothy Rusch*



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*

THIS AND THAT

ANNUAL REPORTS – All reports should be turned into the office by January 11th. Please send them by email to secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

IMPORTANT! NEW EMAIL ADDRESS – The church has a new email addresses –

secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

Pastor William's is pastor@zionlutheranashland.com
We will still receive the Hotmail address email, although used as a secondary source. Because of the trouble that we were having with our Hotmail, we no longer have everyone's email address. So if you could send a "hello" email message to the secretary, then she can start entering everyone's address into the new outlook address book.
Thanks!

POSITIONS STILL NEEDED - Please continue prayers for guidance for filling in positions still needed at Zion. Elders 2-4 positions, Board of Education 2-3 positions

RIGHT TO LIFE Ingrid Pocernich will be taking names [and \$1} for Wisconsin's Right to Life after the service on January 10th. It is being done in January rather than May this year.

NEED A PRAYER?

Zion Lutheran Church has two active prayer chains—a day-time 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



December 19, 2016 the children put on their Christmas program, "Joy to the World". It was about the birth of Jesus and other countries associated with LCMS and their Christmas customs. Refreshments were served afterwards with most in attendance. The older students made flags and information sheets on the other countries. Those will be posted on the wall in the basement for people to review. Katie Colgrove is stepping down as superintendent and Renee Bolz will be taking on the job. Chad and Jaimie Lipske will be taking over for Lisa Guski in the preschool class. Thank you to all for the time served and the future endeavors.

Zion Lutheran Council Minutes: December 2015

The December 13, 2015, Church Council Meeting was called to order by President, Nick Jarvela. Pastor Rick opened with devotions and prayer.

Roll Call: Nick Jarvela (President), Lynn Ladd (Education), Lori Landry (Evangelism), Diane Cashman (Stewardship), Daryl Warren (Elders), Cheri Tamke (LFOJ), Lisa Guski (Co-treasurers), Pastor Rick.

November 2015 Minutes: Motion to accept minutes by Tamke, second Guski. MMC.

Pastor's Report: Full schedule with academic studies, confirmation, sermon preparation, and worship services. Ordination/Installation was great, Pastor is so thankful for everyone's wishes and for those who helped out.

Treasurer's Report: Weekly financial report in bulletin a good idea. Motion to approve report by Ladd, second by Cashman. MMC.

Meeting Agenda: Motion accept agenda by Warren, second by Ladd MMC.

Board Reports:

Elders: Warren reported discussion about church security and usage. Contacting other churches from LCMS to get their policies.

Trustees: Jarvela reported that at the Annual Meeting the congregation voted to use any of the monies still available from the loan on projects with Trustees' evaluation. They are getting bids for exterior windows since many are no longer energy efficient.

Education: Ladd reported about "Joy to the World" Sunday School Christmas program on Dec. 19. Katie Colgrove is stepping down as superintendent and Lisa Guski as Preschool teacher. A notice in the bulletin asking for someone to take over will be posted.

LFOJ: Christmas program will be Tuesday, December 22 at 6:30 pm.

Evangelism: Landry reported the Mexican Fiesta Night on December 2 went well with congregation members in attendance.

Stewardship: Cashman reported that 59 talent surveys have been completed and turned in so far. They are hoping for many more to be turned in.

Motion to accept board reports by Tamke, second by Landri. MMC.

Old Business:

Ordination Update: The Ordination went well, many said outstanding, enjoyed by all.

2016 Board Positions: Still needed are 2-4 Elders and 2-3 Education Board members. Announcements will be placed in the Newsletter and bulletins.

Budget 2016: Guski and Key provided information. Motion to accept proposed budget for 2016

New Business:

Bibles - Pastor Rick would like to purchase enough Bibles for the congregation can use during Sunday services and Bible Studies. Money is available through the Memorial Fund. Pastor wants people to follow along in the Bibles to be more comfortable using them and eager to use them.

LCMS Foundation: A check was received from the LCMS Foundation for \$28,000 from the estate of Merlin Fuhrman to be handled by the Church Council. The money will be deposited in the savings account or CD with highest return until it is needed.

Adjournment: Motion by Warren, second by Guski. MMC. Meeting closed with **The Lord's Prayer**.

NEXT Church Council Meeting is January 18, 2016 at 5:30 pm Respectfully: LCI

December 2015

Behold... Christmas!

Now is the time for proclamation
Now is the time for participation
To draw close to the crib of salvation
Where God reveals His divine imagination
And sends baby Jesus for our preservation
A swaddled incarnation of divine inspiration
Marked by an earthly star of illumination
Praised by heavenly choirs of jubilation
Worshipped by shepherds and kings in adoration.



For Bethlehem fine-tunes our attitude
To recognize this season of gratitude
For we are an earthly family of fortitude
Set apart to become a chosen multitude
To live a joy-filled style of servitude
For this is a season of the holly berry
A season the Word of hope will carry
A season to rejoice with Joseph and Mary
For Christmas was born in a Virgin's womb
And Christmas is born in this beautiful room.
For Christmas is born in me...in you... in us.
Behold... God with us: Immanuel
Behold... Christmas!

-Alice J. Ellis

LFOJ HAPPENINGS

Are you interested in being a positive influence in the life of a child?
LFOJ is accepting applications for an Assistant Child Care Teacher (20 hours per week). Applicant must be willing to work with children of all ages. LFOJ is a licensed Christian childcare facility caring for children 6 weeks of age to 12 years and is open year round, Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Applicant must be 18 years of age & willing to complete state required childcare courses within 6 months of hire. To discuss position, please call Karyn at 715-682-6075.

JANUARY 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

Jan. 3 John Pruss & Doug Warren
Jan. 6 Randy Spangle
Jan. 10 Darryl Warren & John Pruss
Jan. 13 Doug Warren
Jan. 17 Randy Spangle & Darryl Warren
Jan. 20 John Pruss
Jan. 24 Doug Warren & Darryl Warren
Jan. 27 Randy Spangle &
Jan. 31 John Pruss & Randy Spangle
Feb. 3 Doug Warren

GREETERS

Jan. 3 Warren & Peggy Draeger
Jan. 10 Penny Mattson & Ethel Guss
Jan. 17 Loren & Ellie Munson
Jan. 24 Heather Gust
Jan 31 Jim Johnson



Acolytes

Jan. 3 Justin Esala & Trista Bolz
Jan. 10 Taylor Vyskocil & Terell Butterfield
Jan. 17 Abbi Moreland & Logan Esala
Jan. 24 Kyle Sapper & Emily Dickrell
Jan. 31 Ashlee Moreland

Ushers

Jan. 3 Ron Schwiesow & Alan Sunie
Jan. 10 David Ovaska & Scott Sapper
Jan. 17 Pat Colgrove & Andrew Wickman
Jan. 24 Chuck Chronis & Karl Williams
Jan. 31 Ben Cashman & Loren Munson



Kim Westman 682-6571
Katie Colgrove 209-2512
Lynn Ladd 292-0592

OFFICIAL ACTS

Death: Dylan Williams 12/15/2015