

# *The Mountain Top* **Messenger**

## *Zion Lutheran Church*

VOLUME 55, ISSUE #1 **JANUARY 2017**

Welcome to 2017, another year behind us and all that went along with it. As it happens to me every now and then I am torn in regards to what I should say this month. Do I speak of the accomplishments of last year, or the hopes and goals for this year? How do I engage you with a message that helps to reinforce your faith and confidence in our crucified and risen Savior?

One of the things I thought of as I was preparing this was how fast time seems to fly by the older you get. I remember as a child it seemed like it took forever for birthdays to come around, so much so that when asked how old you were you would reply 7 and a half, just because it made you sound older. Now as I prepare to celebrate a birthday that qualifies me for the minimum age of social security retirement it seems like my birthdays are little more than a month apart, where does the time go. There is nothing we can do to change time; we just have to accept it. As I was accepting it, and looking at the age of my children, and grandchildren, I realized I have lived almost twice as long as our Savior did after He, in humility, took on human form to suffer and die for us. In His 33 years on earth, He accomplished more than all of humanity since the fall in the Garden. He came down to suffer and die to forgive us of our sins, even when we hadn't asked for it nor deserved it. He took the sin of all humankind, past, present, and future, and carried them to the cross as a true and perfect sacrifice so that we would be forgiven. He died and then rose again to show that that sacrifice had been accepted by God. And because of that total and complete selfless act, He granted us salvation, and the acceptance as children of God so that we too can have the assurance that when He comes again, we, like him will be raised from the dead and receive life everlasting. Now there is one caveat to that. Should He return before we die, will we still receive everlasting life? The promise is still there, however, we would have the extraordinary privilege to witness his return. Oh what a glorious day that will be. Oh, and when will that be? Soon! Very soon! Who knows perhaps maybe even in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Seventeen!

So we pray; Come Lord Jesus!

May Lord bless you and keep you always.

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/T/W/Th 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 JANUARY**

#### **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**

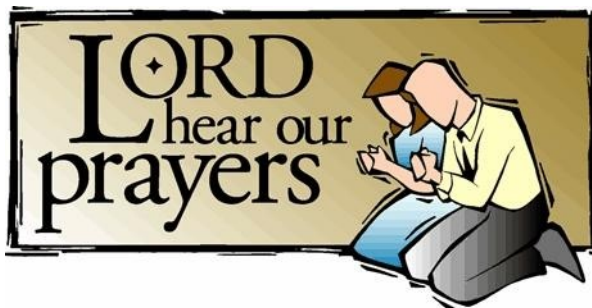
For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for: Katie Stipetich, Bob Heggie, Kevin Heggie, , Wendy Meierotto, Joni Frisco, Brad Prill, Dean Jansheski, Jean Wickman, Fran Fleig, Emily Hagstrom, Eddie Brown, Johnny Galligan, Alice Balmer, Mary Bullis,, Sheldon Henri, Charles Ylitalo, Violet Basina, Sheryl Hildebrandt, Tracy Steward, Max Beiersdorff, Tanja Wisner, Gail Schielke, Micayla Key, Tim Smith, Scott Albright, Terry Clark

#### **PRAYERS FOR HOMEBOUND**

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

#### **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



Merry Christmas to all and Blessed New Year.

This December has been busy for Sunday School with practice for the Children's Christmas Program scheduled for December 18th at the 9:00 am service. This year Brook S. and Sidney V., the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade teachers, organized the Children's Christmas Program along with Jodi T. organizing the music; Jodi playing piano, Michelle V. on violin and Tayler V. on viola. I am very proud of how the program turned out, Sydney and Brooke for putting the program together and very great thanks for our group of Sunday School Teachers and the moms helping out.

I would like to thank Gail Anderson from New England Store for again supplying the Christmas ornaments for the Sunday School students and teachers.

I would like to recognize the students that have attended Sunday School from September 18th to December 11th and earned their incentive for reaching ten times in attendance: David G., Parker L., John T., Jeffrey G., Sophia T., Daniel T., Austin V., Lily T.

There will be no Sunday School on Christmas, December 25th or New Years, January 1st. Classes will resume January 8th.

God's Blessings to all,  
Katie Colgrove  
Sunday School Superintendant



# Stewardship Thoughts

This month we will discuss stewardship and mission as an essential partnership. Stewardship without mission is pointless. Mission without stewardship is impossible. Stewardship and mission are inseparable. The church cannot be faithful and effective without a commitment to this critical union. To limit the partnership of stewardship and mission to simple fundraising sells both the theology of stewardship and mission short of The Lord's envisions.

The church has for too long separated these two sub-headings of practical theology. One has been viewed negatively and the other has been fully embraced. Stewardship has been regarded as a subject that is uncomfortable, even detestable. It is viewed as a necessary evil in doing the cost of ministry. Mission, on the other hand, has been the darling of the church. Over the past century mission has expanded our horizons in our neighborhoods and around the world. In attitude, understanding and practice, these two concepts could not be regarded in any more distinct light.

Where does this separation arise? It may come from a misunderstanding of the direction of stewardship and mission. In attitude and practice both seem directed to the altar, but seen primarily as the work of man. Stewardship has been seen as offerings dropped in an offering plate and presented at the altar in the middle of the worship service. The church has also made mission an action that moved toward the altar as well. Mission was called outreach so that others may be brought to the altar. The intent to reach out into the community to bring in more members. It was linked to stewardship - more members meant more financial support for the church. This thinking makes both stewardship and mission the work of man.

What's God's point of view? The Augsburg Confession defines the Church as "the congregation of saints, in which the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments are rightly administered" (AC V). The church is defined by the Gospel in all its forms. The starting place of the church is the altar. All the church does flows from the altar. It cannot be only a destination it needs to be a starting place. This is where our Lord meets us in the fullest forms of grace. His body and blood are freely offered there for the forgiveness of sin. The altar was foreshadowed by the Mercy Seat on the Ark of the Covenant. The altar is the place where the forgiven sinner is shown mercy in its purest form. This mercy flows from God to His people through the Gospel on a weekly basis. It is this reception of mercy that defines the mission and stewardship of the church.

How do we reverse the understood direction of stewardship and mission? It will mean taking human beings out of the central place in the discussion. Stewardship and mission find their source in the mercies of God. St. Paul says in Romans 12:1 "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." The steward on a mission becomes a mercy bearer. This flows from the work of God. The mercy-bearing steward is led by the Holy Spirit to be outward focused as the living sacrifices of which St. Paul writes. The steward on a mission becomes a conduit of mercy. Mercy comes from the grace of God, then it flows through the steward to the neighbor.

This mercy is delivered through means. The means The Lord provides is the hands and feet of His people. This is stewardship. It may start with meeting basic needs - food, clothing, housing. It may lead to discussion of why the mercy. This opens the door for mission. When questions are asked by the recipient of mercy, the door is opened for a conversation centered on the Gospel. One leads to the other. Stewardship and mission are intertwined. The stewardship/mission relationship only works when it flows from the local altar.

This stewardship that leads to mission is mission that gives reason for stewardship.

From the LC-MS e-newsletter StewardCAST



## LFOJ HAPPENINGS

We would like to thank everyone who contributed from our wish list. It is so humbling to know there are so many that think of us. It will certainly help with our needs and supplies.

God's Blessings,

Karyn, LFOJ Administrator  
LFOJ Board



Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola will be preaching on Sunday, January 22nd, 9:00am at Zion. He is currently at Concordia University at Mequon, Wisconsin. He will be sharing some of the attributes of Concordia. Below is from a short online bio.

I was born on a Minnesota dairy farm, went to high school at New York Mills, Minnesota and then left the farm to earn a bachelor's degree in English at Minnesota State University at Moorhead. I continued in graduate schools in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Princeton, New Jersey, and St. Louis, Missouri, concluding with a Ph.D. in Exegetical Theology. I was a pastor for twelve years at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Butternut, Wisconsin, before coming to teach theology at Concordia University Wisconsin in 1996. Teaching both traditional and online undergraduates and adult learners, I have taught primarily courses in various aspects of the New Testament and also areas of parish ministry. I was married to Holly in 1979 and we have three children in their twenties and thirties. My hobbies include running, motorcycling, woodworking, and driving our 1917 Model T Ford car.

### Lectionary readings for January

Jan. 1 2017	Circumcision and Name of Jesus	Num. 6:22–27	Gal. 3:23–29	Luke 2:21
Jan. 4	The Epiphany of Our Lord	Is. 60:1–6	Eph. 3:1–12	Matt. 2:1–12
Jan. 8	The Baptism of Our Lord / First S. a. the Epiphany	Is. 42:1–9	Rom. 6:1–11	Matt. 3:13–17
Jan. 15	Second S. a. the Epiphany	Is. 49:1–7	1 Cor. 1:1–9	John 1:29–42a
Jan. 22	Third S. a. the Epiphany	Is. 9:1–4	1 Cor. 1:10–18	Matt. 4:12–25
Jan. 29	Fourth S. a. the Epiphany	Micah 6:1–8	1 Cor. 1:18–31	Matt. 5:1–12



## *Living in the Spirit ... I Receive Diverse Gifts*

### **In the Word**

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. [1 Corinthians 12:4, 7](#)*

### **Of the Word**

The Scriptures are filled with examples of godly men and women who used their gifts in God's service.

Bezalel was a specially-gifted craftsman who could work with metals, wood, and precious stones. ([Exodus 31:1-5](#)) Aged Anna served faithfully in the Temple, worshipping, fasting, and praying. ([Luke 2:36-38](#)) When Jesus visited in Bethany, His good friends Mary and Martha graciously opened their home to Him. ([Luke 10:38-42](#)) What a diversity of gifts -- and all for use in God's kingdom!

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given us ([Romans 12:6a](#)).*

What are your gifts? Are you a greeter, a cook, a seamstress, a gardener, a plumber, a flower arranger, a painter, a listener, a prayer warrior? No matter what the gift, it is from God and it is meant for giving Him glory.

### **Walking with my Lord**

Dear Lord, Giver of all good gifts, thank You for making me and blessing me with gifts and abilities. Forgive me for ignoring them or misusing them. Make me more aware of being a good steward of all You have given me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

An elderly

woman had just returned home from an evening at a church service when she was startled by an intruder. She caught him in the act of robbing her home of valuables and yelled: "Stop! Acts 2:28!" (*Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven*).

The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done. As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell Scripture at you." "Scripture?" replied the burglar. "She said she had an ax and two 38's!"

## JANUARY MISSION



Project Night Night donates a tote filled with a blanket, a book and a stuffed animal to children staying at homeless shelters, with the goal of providing a sense of comfort in a difficult situation. You may donate items from the list below.

- **BLANKETS** should be NEW or newly handmade. We appreciate quilted, fleece, knit, crocheted, and store-bought blankets.  
The ideal size is 50" x 60" or smaller.
- **BOOKS** appropriate for ages 0 to pre-teen.
- **STUFFED ANIMALS** smaller than 20 inches.  
Stuffed animals must be NEW at this time.

### Tips:

- "Like New" means top quality and "nice enough to give as a gift."
- No Beanie Babies.
- No books or stuffed animals with battery compartments.
- No stuffed animals that make noises -- such as singing, reciting prayers, etc.
- No religious, commemorative or holiday stuffed animals or books.
- No stuffed animals over 5 years old (no "collections") for dust/sanitary reasons.
- We do NOT accept items that have been recalled, banned, or do not meet safety standards.

January 2010

## Avatar: an upnorth sequel.

-A. Ellis



Nothing quite like the call of fresh snow and sunshine to encourage a person to bundle up and head outdoors for a good dose of Vitamin D. Soon Penny (our trusty retriever) and I were stomping out fresh trails, checking bird feeders, and knocking crab apples off two trees for the deer. It was then I noticed there was a fresh snowmobile path to the backwoods. I tried out the corridor and it was firm enough to support my weight, so Penny and I headed toward the woods. Yesterday's fresh snow had coated all the trees and the weight bent many trees over the path. As we descended into the ravine what was hidden began to be revealed; and when we stepped out from this tunnel of branches, we were in a fairyland.

Then it hit me. Penny and I had entered an upnorth movie set of Avatar. No, it was not blue, but everything was lacey-white and amazing to behold. It was 3-D and the slant of winter light ignited clumps of snow and made it easy to imagine that creatures were going up and down the branches. The view was breath-taking. The land was peaceful. I kept looking around to capture every angle for I couldn't get enough of this amazing snowy landscape. I didn't have my camera with me. Penny was more focused on fresh smells.

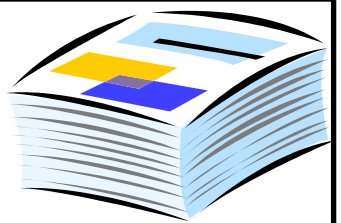
We soon came to the frozen creek, so crossed the ice and headed up the other side. Again the pathway was tunneled with magical archways. I decided to not go any further because I didn't want to knock the snow off the trees. Tomorrow I will come back with a camera. At the top of the woods when I stepped out of this fairytale set, the "wow" still hung with me.

Personally, the block-buster movie Avatar is not on my "favorite movie" list. But when I saw the magic of our little woods today, I realized God has showered beauty and surprises throughout creation. He even understands that many people may never see these places. For He must be like an artist who feels great joy painting the beauty he sees in his head. Or like a writer who trims his/her thoughts with the just-right words to inspire beauty. Both artists accept that no one will ever see their works or words, but it doesn't matter.

Today I was just hoping for a dose of Vitamin D and got so much more. Thank you, God, for your creative spirit that breathes beauty and wonder into all corners of our world. Yes, our great God creates the "greatest wows on heaven and earth." Don't miss the show.

### ANNUAL REPORT 2016

It is planned to distribute the Annual Report by January 18th at the latest, before if all the reports get handed in early. The best way to send it is by email to [secretary@zionlutheranashland.com](mailto:secretary@zionlutheranashland.com). We will also be including a copy of our membership directory. So if you have any changes before or after please contact the office.



### 2017 Grief Support Education/Support Groups Six weeks

Thursdays April 20—May 25 and/or  
Thursdays October 5—November 9  
6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.  
Presbyterian—United Church of Christ

715-685-5151  
*Regional Hospice Services*



## 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.

January	Elders	Acolytes	Ushers	Greeters
<b>Sun. 1</b>	Scott Thimm Darryl Warren	Abbi Moreland	Mike Bochler	Ethel Guss Penny Mattson
<b>Wed. 4</b>	John Pruss			
<b>Sun. 8</b>	John Pruss Doug Warren	Trista Bolz	Terrel Bolz Loren Munson	Truchon Family
<b>Wed. 11</b>	Scott Thimm			
<b>Sun. 15</b>	Andy Pruss Darryl Warren	Ella Bauer	Ben Cashman Brian Klobucher	Nick & Jule Jarvela
<b>Wed. 18</b>	Randy Spangle			
<b>Sun. 22</b>	Doug Warren Scott Thimm	Emily Dickrell	Jim Hebert Paul Osmak	Sunie Family
<b>Wed. 25</b>	Andy Pruss			
<b>Sun. 29</b>	Randy Spangle Darryl Warren	Logan Esala	Rick Nutt Jordan Thimm	Warren & Peggy Draeger
<b>Wed. 2/1</b>	Doug Warren			
<b>Sun. 2/5</b>	Andy Pruss John Pruss	Abbi Moreland	Scott Sapper Don Moreland	Brian & Linda Klobucher

Call Linda Klobucher if you would like flowers on the altar for a remembrance, special celebration or to adorn the altar.



Linda Klobucher 746-2064  
Lori Landry 292-2122

### OFFICIAL ACTS

#### Baptisms:

Maggie Rooni 12-04-16  
Zander Pagels 12-11-16

*Learn From Yesterday,  
Live For Today,  
Hope For Tomorrow.*

*Happy New Year*



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

# January

## 2017

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> Mite Sunday <b>Worship</b> <b>9:00am</b>	<b>2</b> Offices Closed	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Confirmation 4-5:30 <b>Worship</b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 Elders</b> <b>Mtg. 7:45am</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>9:00am</b> Bible Study Sunday School 10:15 Trustees Mtg. 10:15am	<b>9</b> Evangelism 5:30pm Altar Guild 6:00pm Dartball at Mes- siah 7pm	<b>10</b> Sewing Cir- cle 1:00pm	<b>11</b> Confirmation Ac- tivity/Servant Event <b>Worship</b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Pastor at SMP in St. Louis → → → → → → →						
<b>15</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>9:00am</b> Bible Study Sunday School 10:15	<b>16</b> 10:00am Bible Study Council Mtg. 5:30pm Dartball at St. Anne's 7pm	<b>17</b> LFOJ Chapel 11:00am	<b>18</b> LFOJ Chapel 11:00am *2016 Reports Due* Confirmation 4-5:30 <b>Worship</b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <i>Newsletter Reports Due</i>	<b>21</b> LWML 10:00am
<b>22</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>9:00am</b> Bible Study Sunday School 10:15	<b>23</b> 10:00am Bible Study Dartball vs. St. Paul's 7pm	<b>24</b> Sewing Cir- cle 1:00pm	<b>25</b> Confirmation 4- 5:30 <b>Worship</b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Food Shelf Sunday <b>Worship</b> <b>9:00am</b> Bible Study Sunday School 10:15	<b>30</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>31</b>				