

The Mountain Top Messenger

Zion Lutheran Church

VOLUME 54, ISSUE #6 JUNE 2017

Well, here it is June; summer is rapidly approaching. In regards to the weather it wasn't a very friendly May. I feel like I almost shouldn't be taking time out from building my ark to write this. Just kidding we know from scripture that we won't need to build another ark, regardless of what the weather does, God promised us and reminds us through the rainbow that he will not do that again.

Aside from the weather, for me the month has flown by with all kinds of exciting things that have been happening; On May 10th Karl and Kari Williams had their baby, Heinrich John Williams, grandchild number 28 and we will be baptizing him on June 11th. On May 21st, we confirmed Jayson Lunda, Abbi Moreland, and Ella Bauer, and welcomed them into the ranks of communing members of Christ's church.

And on May 26 my last online assignment for my seminary training was turned in and all I have left for completion of the SMP program is my on-campus summer intensive class July 10-14. As hard as it is to believe that May is over already, for me, it hardly seems possible that my four years of training at the seminary will be complete in less than two months. I may have said it before, and I cannot repeat it enough; I cannot thank all of you enough for having the faith and trust in me to call me as your pastor, to support me throughout these four years, and for being a part of this wonderful experience. I thank the Lord for all of you daily and I pray that the Lord will grant us many more years to live and grow together as a church family.

I would also like to take this space to give a special thanks to a few people, first to my mentor Pastor Stan Bahn and his wife Alice. I could not have done it without him, he was an integral part of my program, training and development, his half century of service to the Lord and his ability to share the experience he gained during that time has been invaluable. I thank Alice for her support as well, her many hours reading in the conference room while Stan and I worked on our lessons, and her ability to help redirect us and get us back on subject was crucial. God Bless you both.

Next to Lynn Ladd, secretary, Lynn was great at helping me focus, for running interference when I was against a dead line and helping keep an eye on my calendar.

And finally, I would like to take a bit more space to thank my wife June, without a doubt I could not have done this without her love and support. She has pushed me when I needed a push and kept me on task when I have felt overwhelmed. Throughout all of this she was my rock, through good times and bad, through frustration and loss, she hung in there with me. When all this started, she was worried because she said she would support me in all that I did, however, she was afraid she wasn't the "typical pastor's wife". Well during these last four years two things have become abundantly clear. First there is no such thing as a "typical pastor's wife" and second whether typical or not, June you have become a wonderful, supportive, caring, and loving pastor's wife. I could imagine none better. You truly love and care for me, and for all your church family. God Bless you.

That's enough for now, be careful out there this summer, enjoy your summer, remember Wednesday nights if you can't make worship on Sunday, and as you go about your daily lives, serve the Lord with gladness.

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. Amen

Pastor Rick



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Ashland, WI 54806

Phone # - 715-682-6075

Website: www.zionashland.org

E-mail - secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 Office Hours: Monday 8-5 Tuesday 1-5 Wednesday 12-8 Thursday 8-5 Friday 8-12 (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 JUNE

MMission

Zion Lutheran Church (monthly missions, Sewing Circle) LWML Jordan Kroll Mission
Little Friends of Jesus Childcare Center

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 Heggie, Kevin Heggie, 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, Tracy Steward, Tim Smith, Melissa Grage, Jim Bullis, Ellen Hodgson, Buzz Leciejewski, Joe Stach, Bob Schwiesow, Gerald Johnson, Tyler Lehto and those in our hearts.*

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, *Emily Mel-echa, Tucker Melecha*



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



Last day of
Sunday School

The children made a Mother's Day card and potted a plant. Then treats were served. Thanks to all the teachers and parents that have helped out during the year, and especially to our Superintendent, Katie!!



Although I have retired from teaching, this devotional (written 7 years ago) reminds me that in nature we also see the seasons of human stories. Soon graduates will be setting out to "see the world" and new fawns will be born to "experience the world." All creatures and critters belong to the Heavenly Father; we have the privilege of watching others grow up and the responsibility to pray for those sharing this journey with us. Enjoy these seasonal gifts of life.

June 11, 2010

-A. Ellis



You wouldn't expect to see a doe out in the pouring rain, but there she was. Walking through the tall wet grass, and a few feet behind her was the little fawn. Romping with the energy of life and the fear of losing his/her mom. I suspect the doe was seeking a more protective canopy as the light rain was ramping up to become a real soaker.

My Dad always says that right around Memorial Day weekend the does have their fawns. Since then, there have even been a couple of sightings of these new spotted-babies, but this is the first fawn I have seen this season. Of course, I did not have my camera, but then again green grass blanketed most of my view. I watched as much as I could, and then shifted into "drive" and headed for town.

Today I was meeting a student I had in 8th grade. Paul just graduated from high school and is headed to Army boot camp in three days. He is assigned to be in-training to maintain and repair electronic systems on high-tech helicopters.

We met up at the Black Cat coffee shop in town; I had a latte and Paul a cappuccino. One of the joys of teaching middle school is to see how far these students are shoved forward during high school years. In 8th grade students are just on the cusp of abstract thinking and learning how to stand on their own two feet. As teachers, we had to think of creative ways to shelter young minds and still give them room to explore dreams in this energetic age of rapid growth.

Paul did well in high school. Now he is setting out to carve his own trail through the tall grass on his journey of life. I am sure he is excited as well as fearful about his new adventure. I know his Mom and Dad will miss him for his good sense of humor and his attitude of helpfulness. But Paul's parents are good people and realize it is a time to "let go."

I hope the doe and her fawn found a sheltered-dry place to wait out this storm. And I pray Paul will find a safe and good place in the adult world. God is good.

Stewardship Thoughts

So far we should have learned that as stewards faithful to The Lord's service, we own nothing in creation. All that we have has been provided by God who is the Creator and Provider. It is through our sin, inherited from Adam and Eve, that we have a distorted view of the steward/owner relationship. With this background we can address the right stewardship questions.

(1) Is the congregation's stewardship about the Bible or the bills?

For many congregations the link between stewardship and the bills is prevalent. Being a good steward is not about bills, but a matter of identity. God's people were created to be stewards. Genesis chapters one and two make this clear. When the first stewards (Adam and Eve) sinned, our Lord put in place a plan to redeem and restore their stewardship. This took place on the cross. Stewards in the local congregation are created and redeemed to be stewards for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God's people are to be stewards in all aspects of their lives. When stewardship is about the Bible it frees the steward leader and steward learner to see themselves in the proper relationship with The Lord.

(2) Does the congregation take seriously how counter-cultural stewardship is?

The answer is no. In most congregations the people in the pews aren't much different in their stewardship than those outside the church. What makes stewardship counter-cultural is that the Bible reminds us we don't own anything. Even for those inside the congregation, the accumulation of material things means success or even God's blessing. The Bible reminds us we are created and redeemed to care for those things The Lord has entrusted to us for the sake of His creation and others. When the counter-cultural message is shared our hands open to share the Gospel and share with our neighbor. Stewardship teaching has to start with repentance. Humans are by nature graspers and owners. Redeemed stewards are not.

(3) Does the congregation know what the congregation is doing in Jesus' name in the congregation, community and the world?

This question places faithful stewardship in its rightful, other-centered position. If stewardship is about bills, there is no thought given as to how the congregation's stewardship is having an impact for the Gospel in the world. A congregation that embraces sound stewardship teaching will seek to show the stewards how The Lord is using the faithfulness of individual stewards to do The Lord's work. The Lord's work happens at the altar and baptismal font of the local congregation, but it needs to be shared within and without the church.



Guaranteed for Life

In the Word

"Thy will be done, ..." [Matthew 6:10a](#) KJV

Of the Word

"Money-Back Guarantee!" "New Results -- Guaranteed!!" "Guaranteed for Life!!!" Seldom is there a product advertisement without the promise of absolute perfection. This absolute perfection only lasts until their next new and improved version hits the market.

What about prayer? Does prayer guarantee my concerns will be heard? "Too good to be true," we mutter. But Jesus teaches us to pray, *"Thy will be done, ..."* ([Matthew 6:10a](#) KJV). When we pour out our hearts and hurts in prayer, our loving God listens. He knows what is best for our lives. His will is to keep us in His grace until we arrive safely home in heaven.

We can pray "Thy will be done, ... " with confidence that God never fails to give us what we truly need. Many times it is even more than we could have imagined! Our prayer journey is filled with joy and peace -- guaranteed!

Walking with my Lord

Lord, in times of fear and uncertainty, send the Holy Spirit to assure me of the prayer that never fails, "Thy will be done, ...". In Jesus' name. Amen.

Subject: Emergency Numbers



- When in sorrow - call John 14
- When men fail you - Psalm 27
- If you want to be fruitful - call John 15
- When you have sinned - call Psalm 51
- When you worry - call Matthew 6:19-34
- When you are in danger - call Psalm 91
- When God seems far away - Psalm 139
- When your faith needs stirring - call Hebrews 11
- When you are lonely and fearful - call Psalm 23
- When you grow bitter and critical - call I Corinthians 13
- For Paul's secret to happiness - call Colossians 3:12-17
- For understanding of Christianity - call II Corinthians 5:15-19
- When you feel down and out - call Romans 8:31
- When you want peace and rest - call Matthew 11:25-30
- When the world seems bigger than God - call Psalm 90
- When you want Christian assurance - call Romans 8:1-30
- When you leave home for labor or travel - call Psalm 121
- When your prayers grow narrow or selfish - call Psalm 67:20
- For a great invention/opportunity - call Isaiah 55
- When you want courage for a task - call Joshua 1
- For how to get along with your fellow man - call Romans 12
- When you think of investments and returns - call Mark 10
- If you are depressed - call Psalm 27
- If your pocketbook/wallet is empty - call Psalm 37
- If you are losing confidence in people - call I Corinthians 13
- If people seem unkind - call John 15
- If you are discouraged about your work - call Psalm 126
- If you find the world growing small and yourself great - call Psalm 19

Alternate numbers:

- For dealing with fear - call Psalm 34:7
- For security - call Psalm 121:3
- For assurance - call Mark 8:35
- For reassurance - call Psalm 145:18

NOTE: ALL LINES TO HEAVEN ARE OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY!!

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!



BIBLE STUDY

Monday morning Bible Study will take a short break during the summer. They will meet through June 5th, then off until further notice.

Sunday morning class will continue at 10:15am.



Zion Lutheran Council Minutes: May 15, 2017

The April meeting was called to order by President Nick Jarvela. Pastor Rick Williams opened with devotion and prayer focused that as a council (board, committee, group) we need to do the things that Joshua speaks of.

Roll Call: Nick Jarvela (President/Trustees), Lisa Guski (Co-Treasurer/LFOJ), Chuck Chronis (Stewardship), Mary Koosmann (Financial), Lori Landry (Evangelism) Carol Key (Co-Treasurer) Pastor Rick.

Approval of April Minutes: Motion to accept by Chronis. Second by Keys. MMC.

Pastor's Report: A busy season with 14 worship services. Visitations completed Holy Week. Nursing Home Services on April 26th. Pastor going to Camp Luther April 30 & May 1. And District conference May 8 & 9.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept by Chronis. Second by Landry. MMC.

Meeting Agenda: Add to Old Business A. Electrical Panels. B. Freewill offering for Detroit Church. Motion to accept agenda with changes by Chronis. Second by Guski. MMC.

Board Reports:

Trustees: Jarvela reported that there is a leak in the roof-may have found cause, will be looking for more bids for electric panel,

LFOJ:

Evangelism: Church Picnic has been set for July 23rd at Prentice Park. Service at 10:00am followed by the picnic.

Motion to accept board reports by Chronis. Second by Koosmann. MMC.

New Business:

Decision to take a summer break (June, July, August) from council meetings. Will communicate by email if something arises. Motion Chronis, Second Guski MMC

President Jarvela reminded Council that September/October be timeline for budget and board nominations. Next Council meeting, September 18, 2017 at 5:30 pm. Motion to adjourn by Chronis. Second by Guski. MMC. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

**JUNE
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.

| June | Elders | Ushers | Greeters |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| May Wed. 31 | John Pruss | | |
| Sun. 4 | Randy Spangle Darryl Warren | Karl Williams Chuck Chronis | Thimm Family |
| Wed. 7 | Doug Warren | | |
| Sun. 11 | Scott Thimm John Pruss | Devin Sunie Rick Nutt | Brian & Linda Klobucher |
| Wed. 14 | Randy Spangle | | |
| Sun. 18 | Darryl Warren Doug Warren | Nick Jarvela Todd Vyskocil | Vyskocil Family |
| Wed. 21 | John Pruss | | |
| Sun. 25 | Scott Thimm Andy Pruss | Warren Draeger Tim Bauer | Sunie Family |
| Wed 28 | Darryl Warren | | |
| July Sun. 2 | Doug Warren John Pruss | Chris Bolz Loren Munson | Herb & Alice Ellis |
| July Wed. 5 | Andy Pruss | | |

| | |
|---|----------------------|
|  | Sandy Frisco |
| | 682-5401 |
| | Stephanie Wegener |
| | 685-9822 |
| | Judy Nevala 682-2927 |

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| <p>OFFICIAL ACTS Confirmation May 21, 2017 Abbi Moreland, Ella Bauer, Jayson Lunda</p> |
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Little Friends of Jesus
 Preschool and Daycare
 1111 11th Ave. W.
 Ashland, WI 54806
 715-682-5185



2017

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| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|---|-----------|--|-----------|
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| 4 Mite Sunday Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am | 5 Bible Study 10:00 am | 6 | 7 Worship 6:30pm | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Elders' Mtg. 7:45am Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am | 12 | 13 | 14 Worship 6:30pm | 15 | 16 <i>Newsletter Reports Due</i> | 17 |
| 18 Father's Day Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am | 19 | 20 | 21 Court Manor 10:15am, AHRC 1:45pm Summer Begins Worship 6:30pm  | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Food Shelf Sunday Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am | 26 | 27 | 28 Worship 6:30pm | 29 | 30 | |