



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders: April 27 th Andy 30 th Randy May 4 th JohnP 7 th Randy 11 th Scott 14 th Doug 18 th JohnS 21 st Andy 25 th JohnS 28 th Darryl June 1 st Scott 4 th JohnP						
May Altar Guild Kathy Osmak 715-292-6207 Sandy Nutt 715-663-1110				1	2	3
4 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	5 10:00am Bible Study	6 1:00pm Sewing Circle	7 6:30pm Worship Service	8 9:30am LFOJ Chapel	9	10
11 8:35am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 9:30 Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm Mellen Immanuel	12 10:00am Bible Study	13	14 6:30pm Worship Service	15 Winkel 9:00am	16	17
18 8:35am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 9:30 Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	19 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Council Mtg	20 1:00pm Sewing Circle	21 6:30pm Worship Service	22 1:30pm Northern Lights	23	24
26 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study	25 Offices closed	26	27 6:30pm Worship Service	28	30	31
Official Acts: Baptism April 19, 2025 Carson Hassell April 19, 2025 Kenleigh Hassell April 19, 2025 Finnley Ylitalo						



The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI MAY 2025

Welcome to May, I am still waiting for the May flowers, but hopefully soon. Seems like it has been a rather long up and down spring. On a bright note, the golf course opened last Wednesday, and leagues are scheduled to start the second week of May. I am also moving to my summer work schedule with my scheduled day off being Tuesday in lieu of Friday. That and we are taking the cover off of the camper this weekend. Sure signs of summer. I want to thank everyone for their help, support, hard work and participation during this past Lenten season and as we enter into the Easter Season. Alleluia, Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia.

Now on a more serious note, I am going to dive right into our topic for the month, that being the fourth commandment. Remember the Sabbath and keep it Holy, or as Luther would say “*You are to hallow the day of rest.*” *Luther explained it this way: Our word “holy day” or “holiday” is so called from the Hebrew word “Sabbath”, which properly meant to rest, that is , to cease work: hence our common expression for “stopping work” literally means “taking a holiday”.*

As we know, God set apart the seventh day for rest following the six days of creation, he also commanded that it be kept holy, actually to be holy above all other days. Interestingly enough it was meant for both people and animals, it was to be a day to rest from your labors. Luther speaks of how the command was originally only meant for the Jews, those bound to and trying to keep God’s Commandments. And the Jews actually took it to the extreme and grossly misused it. There are numerous reference in the Gospels where the Jews slandered Christ for him doing the same things they themselves did on the sabbath.

In observing the sabbath Luther points to two reasons for observation of this command. First, because our bodies need them. “*Nature teaches and demands that the common people – menservants and maidservants who have gone about their work or trade all week long – should also retire for a day to rest and be refreshed.*” Secondly and Luther states more importantly. “*We observe them so that people will have time and opportunity on such days of rest, which otherwise would not be available, to attend worship services, that is, so that they may assemble to hear and discuss God’s Word and then to offer praise, song, and prayer to God.*” Now Luther goes on to say that we do not restrict this to a particular day as the Jews do. In other words, it does have to be Saturday and Saturday only. It doesn’t even need to be Sunday, and Sunday only, It is only that there be a day sometime during that seven day period for that day of not only rest, but rest and worship. Tradition has long held that that day be Sunday, and even in Luther’s day that was and had been the assigned day of rest and worship and Luther advocated that that should not be changed, primarily to maintain order.

(Continued on the next page.)

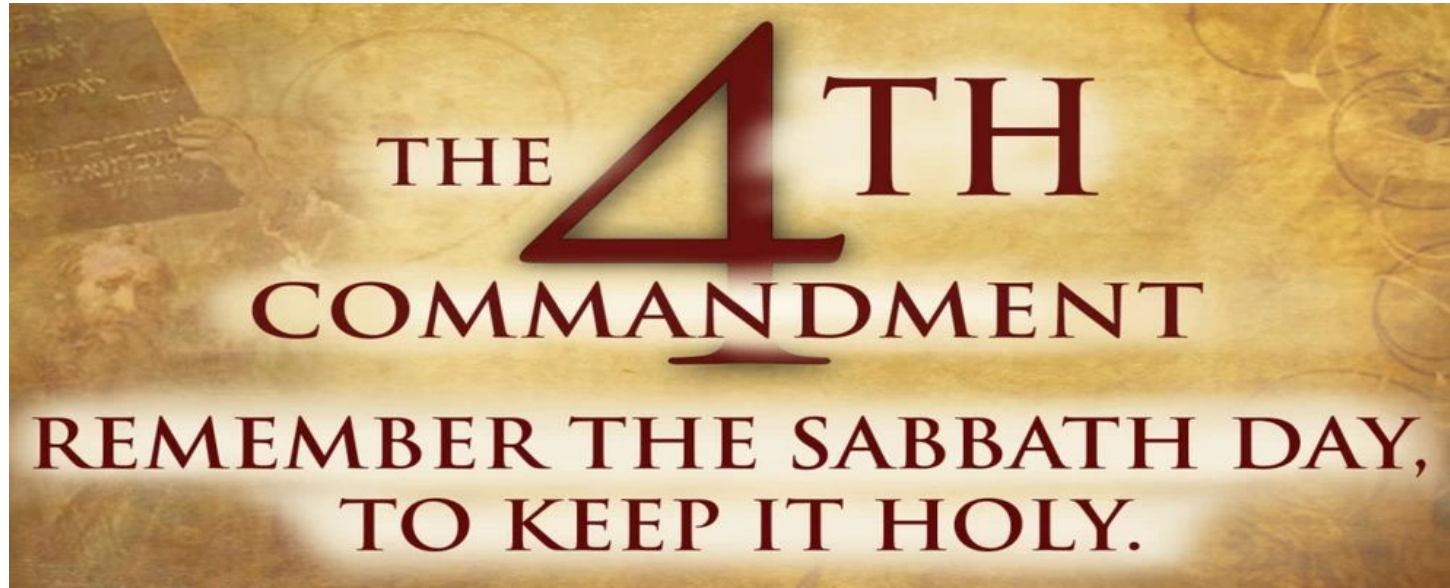
I don't know about you, but I remember in the past that Sunday used to mean something, most people didn't work, businesses were closed, schools did not have activities, sports were limited to professional sports only. Sunday was a day for worship, family, and friends, it was a day to relax and unwind. The world has certainly infringed on the Sabbath, I have actually had people say to me "you don't actually still go to church, do you?". Really! Do you not know what I do! Maybe I'm not working hard enough to spread the word. But I digress. The point of the commandment, is in this life we need two things. We need rest, the says it, science confirms it, and we need time to worship, time in communion with our Lord and fellow Christians. Does it have to be Sunday? No. But it has to be. And don't tell me you can relax and commune with God on the golf course. I know, I've tried, not the same. So whether Sunday, Wednesday evening, or whenever it truly works for you "remember the sabbath and keep it holy."

I wanted to take a moment to remind you all that we are indeed sending 3 of our youth and two adult chaperones to the LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July, as you may or may not have heard they are in fund raising mode now. The money from the soup and sandwich dinners was contributed to them, the money raised following the Easter services was for them. They are going to be selling stuff at the City Wide Rummage sale in a couple weeks, anything you would like to contribute to sell would be greatly appreciated, they could also use some help setting up and selling. There will be a number of other fundraisers between now and their departure, anything you can do to help in their efforts will be greatly appreciated.

Next month we move into the second table of the law as we look at the Lord's commandments regarding our neighbors. I pray May is safe and enjoyable for all of you.

And now; The Lord Bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Pastor Rick



Random Facts for Kids

Here is a list of general fun facts for kids that are random and just plain interesting.

The average person laughs about 15 times a day

Your brain can not feel pain, which is why it's possible to have surgery on your brain without ny anesthesia.

You blink over 16 million times in a single year.

It is super hard to sneeze with your eyes open.

The average human being spends about two and half days per month looking for lost objects.

There are more than 200 bones in the adult human body!

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain!

We have taste receptors on our skin, so if you ate something that caused your skin to feel hot or tingly, the food would actually be spicy

There are more active neurons firing in our brain when we're dreaming than when we're awake!



In the United States, more tomatoes are consumed than any other fruits or vegetables!

If you cut off a cockroach's head, it can live for about 8 days

There are more than 10 million bricks in the Empire State Building!

It is physically impossible for you to lick your own elbow!

Tiger stripes are like human fingerprints. No two tigers have the same stripe patterns.

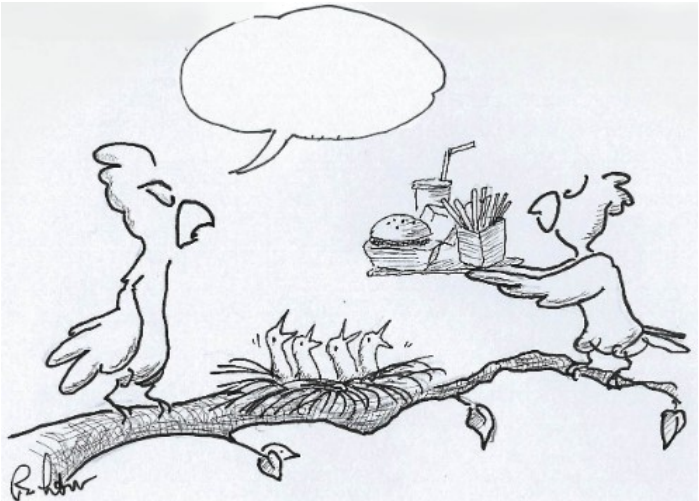
When people first started playing basketball, you couldn't dribble the ball and some teams had up to 50 players.

The Lut Desert is the hottest place on earth. The highest temperature recorded here was 159 degrees Fahrenheit.

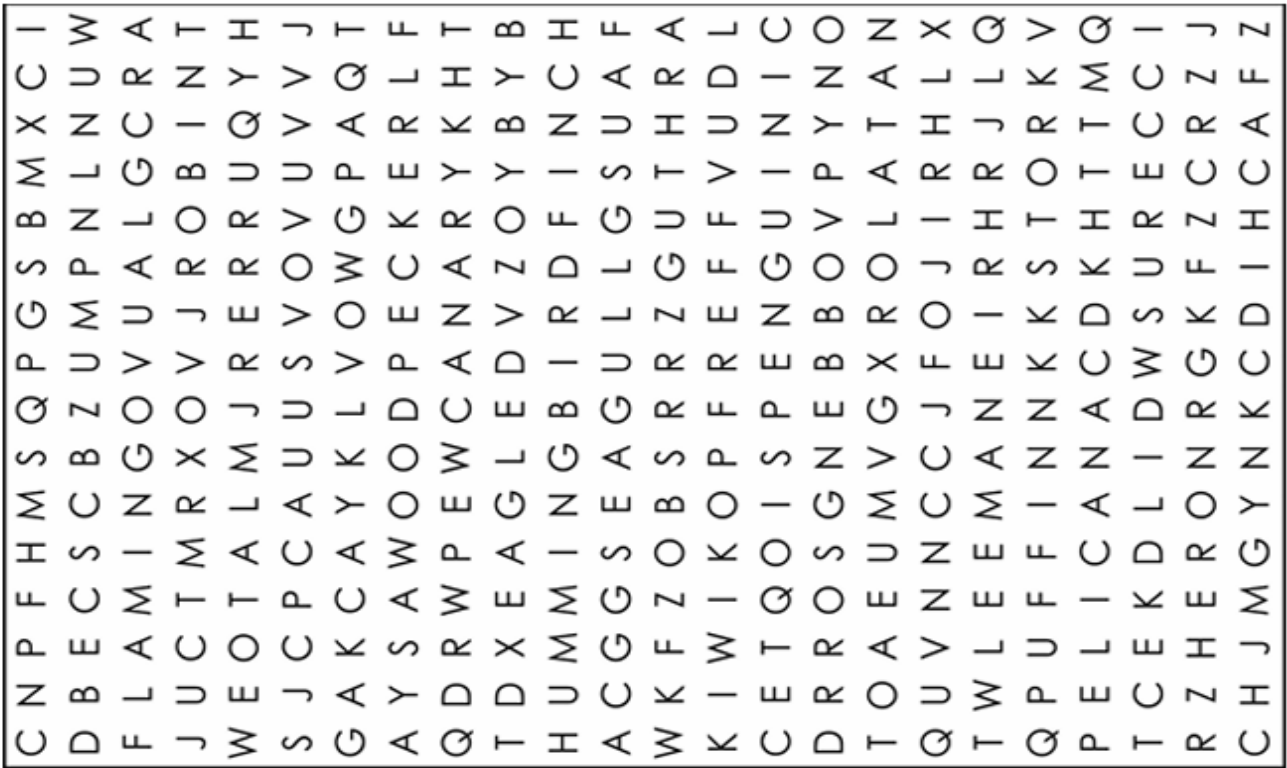
There are more public libraries than McDonald's in the United States today

The only continent without reptiles or snakes is Antarctica.

Hawaii's Mauna Loa is the largest active volcano on our planet.



BIRD WORD SEARCH



- ROBIN
- SPARROW
- BLUEJAY
- CARDINAL
- FINCH
- DOVE
- OWL
- EAGLE
- HAWK
- FALCON
- PARROT
- MACAW
- TOUCAN
- FLAMINGO
- PELICAN
- HERON
- CRANE
- SWAN
- GOOSE
- DUCK
- PUFFIN
- PENGUIN
- KIWI
- WOODPECKER
- HUMMINGBIRD
- KINGFISHER
- STORK
- PEACOCK
- SEAGULL
- CANARY

Spring Quotes From Scripture

Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. —*Zechariah 10:1*

Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge Him. As surely as the sun rises, He will appear; He will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth. —*Hosea 6:3*

For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. —*Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

They waited for me as for showers and drank in my words as the spring rain. —*Job 29:23*

Inspirational Spring Quotes

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. —*Isaiah 35:1-12*

The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain. —*Dolly Parton, singer-songwriter*

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome. —*Anne Bradstreet, poet*

I am going to try to pay attention to the spring. I am going to look around at all the flowers, and look up at the hectic trees. I am going to close my eyes and listen. —*Anne Lamott, novelist*

Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush. —*Doug Larson, columnist*



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am in-church service and live streamed

Wednesday Evening Service 6:00pm

Sunday School - 1st - 7th grade

bible Studies— Sundays 10:15am Mondays 10:00am

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479

Office Hours: M 9-4 T off W 12-8 Th 9-4 F 9-3

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours Typically M/Tu/-W 8:30-2:30
Days and times may change.

Church President: John Pruss 715-292-4825 **Head Elder:** Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

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

LFOJ Administrator: JoAnne 715-682-6075

Website www.zionashland.org **E-mail** secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

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:

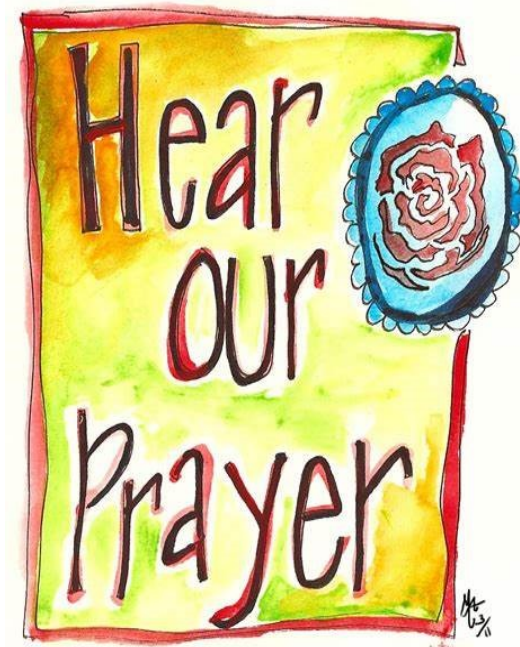
Brad Prill	Vi Basina	James Fletcher
Harold Larson	Linda Stenroos	Steve Key
Tim Erickson	Patty Hmielewski	Pam Ekholm
Nick Frisco	Don Pocernich	Jamie Klema
Ingrid Pocernich	Karen Piff	Riley Bretting
Mike Trimble	Molly Colgrove	Linda Parrish
Chuck Sandor	Mary Dahl	Sandy Bosma
Sheryl Hildebrandt	Dwayne Lynch	Tom Anderson
Don Pocernich	Bill Swartz	Rick Kallio
Jim Fletcher	Larry Hildibrandt	Octavia Pearce
Herb Ellis	Cindy Lazorik	Karen
Wayne	Casey	Chuck

PRAYERS for Homebound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home

Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them. *Ingrid Pocernich*

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families. *David Wright Jordan Thimm Andrew Pruss*



Janel Rodriguez from Brooklyn, New York

We had a long list of things we wanted to do that summer, including going to the playground across the street by ourselves. My sister was 12, my twin and I were 9—old enough not to need the watchful eye of our mother, we decided. “Please, Mami?” we begged. “Can we go?”

Our parents were protective Puerto Ricans, determined to shelter us from big-city dangers as best they could. Mami was hesitant, but she looked at the picture of Jesus that hung on our dining room wall, closed her eyes and made the sign of the cross. “Okay,” she said, “but stick together.”

We rushed out the door. We’d been playing on the jungle gym for only a few minutes when a white and gold dove landed on a branch nearby. I’d never seen a dove like this before. As we moved from one end of the park to the other, the dove followed. Our shouts and laughter were no deterrent. No matter where we went, the dove never left our side.



It was only when we headed back home that it flew away. We couldn’t wait to tell Mami about our heavenly babysitter. I’ll always remember God’s playful answer to her prayer.

Spring Quotes About New Beginnings

Spring is God’s way of saying, ‘One more time!’ —*Robert Orben, comedy writer*

The beautiful spring came; and when Nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also. —*Harriet Ann Jacobs, writer*

Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love! —*Sitting Bull, leader*

Eric Stark from Brazil, Indiana

My 11-year-old son, Nathan, sat slumped at the table. “I’m so bored,” he said. “I prayed that something exciting would happen today, but nothing’s happened yet.”

“Well then, I’ve got a job for you,” I said. “I need to mow the grass. I’ll pay you to pick up the sticks in the yard. Earning money is exciting, right?”

Nathan didn’t look enthused, but he pulled on his shoes anyway. We went outside, and I showed him what to do. I was preparing the mower when I heard a scream. I dropped everything and ran to where he was. “What’s wrong?” I asked. Nathan’s eyes were huge.

“Dad, I was picking up the sticks, and one of them wiggled in my hand. I looked down, and it wasn’t a stick. It was a little snake!”

I checked Nathan’s hands, and there were no bites. “A harmless garter snake,” I said. “That must have been scary, though. You okay?”



A Devotion for Good Health

By Grace Fo

They [our bodies] were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:13 (NLT)



Wrong thinking about my physical health landed me in dire straits. For too long, I allowed my schedule to override my body’s need for exercise. I don’t have time to take a walk now, I reasoned as I worked at my computer desk. I’ll walk later. But later never came. At the same time, I justified eating chocolate bars—big ones.

My brain’s tired from thinking so hard, so I’ll give it a little boost, I thought. One bite led to another and then another. Before long, I’d eaten the entire bar. Oh well, that’s no big deal. I’ll walk off the calories later. But later never came.

Wrong thinking said I could eat whatever I wanted whenever I wished and exercise was only for athletes. The ever-increasing number on my bathroom scale, chronic pain, and the loss of mobility for three months convinced me to make a change. I learned the hard way. But I learned a new way of thinking that transformed my life and restored my health.

Correct thinking about our physical health comes from understanding that we don’t own our bodies. God does. He bought them with Jesus’s bloodshed on the cross (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). Now we are Jesus’s temple, His dwelling place, and we’re responsible to be wise stewards of its care.

Since Jesus willingly paid for our bodies with His life, they must be worth a lot. Let’s value them with proper nutrition and exercise. Don’t learn the hard way like I did.

Faith Step: *Identify one wrong thought about your physical health and ponder its influence on your behavior. Now identify one step you can take to improve your health beginning today.*