

The Mountain Top *Zion Lutheran Church*

Messenger

VOLUME 53, ISSUE #11 **NOVEMBER 2015**

Well, fall has definitely arrived, most of the leaves are off the trees, the lawn mowers have been put away, the snow blowers and shovels are being dusted off, frost in the mornings, that smell of the furnace when it first fires up after its summer respite. I even saw the lake steaming the other morning. As I have been traveling around quite a bit lately it occurred to me the other day as I was heading home, what a beautiful part of the country we live in. We see the beauty of God's handy work every day. As we follow the change of seasons it helps point out the wonders of God and his creation. As I enjoy God's creation, the beauty of this world, I am reminded of those who question God's hand in all of it. In the Old Testament reading from last Wednesday night Job had questioned God, and I believe God's questions to Job could be well directed at those who doubt; we read Job 38:4-11 *"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. ⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶ On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷ when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? ⁸ "Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, ⁹ when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, ¹⁰ and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, ¹¹ and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed'?"*

I challenge anyone who lives or even visits this beautiful portion of God's creation, who sees the water, the formations of the land, the trees, the wildlife, smells the freshness of the air, sees the splendor of the heavens on clear starry nights, watches the Northern lights as they dance through the sky, to tell me this was all just a freak accident. God is truly present in all His majesty.

Now on to some more human stuff, as you may have noticed we did not have the stewardship worship services in October, we ran into a couple of conflicts and had to reschedule for November, so November 8, 15, and 22 are the dates of the stewardship services.

(continued on next page)



**Church Office - 1111 - 11th Ave. W
Ashland, WI 54806
Phone # - 715-682-6075
Website: www.zionashland.org
E-mail - zionashland@hotmail.com**

Vicar 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

Church office hours: Mon-Thurs. 8am-12pm [they do change intermittently]



Also an update on my schooling and the whole process. I completed the fall retreat in St. Louis and received the call and placement to come here as Pastor at Zion, now all I have to do is successfully complete my current class, we have four weeks left and things are going well. Following completion of this class I will then be able to accept the call and as you may know my ordination is scheduled for 2:00 P.M. on Sunday December 13th. President Lueck from the district office will be here for that service along with a number of other area Pastors, I hope you all will attend. Two other quick notes; some have asked if I am done with my schooling following my ordination, the answer to that is no, I will have seven more classes to complete over the next two years and will finished my schooling the summer of 2017. In addition I wanted to let the congregation know that I had applied for and did receive a grant from the Siefert Foundation in the amount of \$4,000. This grant is given directly to the seminary and will cover the greater portion of the costs for my next two classes. I had also received this grant last year.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of you for your support in this whole process, it has been a learning and growing experience for all of us and you have all been wonderful. I thank God for all of you every day. The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you, The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen

Thank you again and blessings to you all.

Vicar Rick

Mark your calendars:

November 1st—Time changes; **LWML Mite Sunday**

November 25th 6:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 29th Food Shelf Sunday— Please help restock the shelves at The BRICK, after the Thanksgiving holiday.

December 2nd 5:30pm Mexican Fiesta—sponsored by Evangelism

December 2nd 6:30pm Mid-week Advent services start

December 6th 10:15am Annual Voters' Meeting

December 13th 2:00pm Ordination/Installation



Our Prayer Concerns NOVEMBER

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.

Illnesses *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, Dennis Pocernich, Gordon Vyskocil, David Frantz, Randy Mashlan, Patsy Kontny, Sam Dymesich, Randy Spangle*

PRAYERS FOR HOMEBOUND

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

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.



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

Sunday School students have been practicing with Jodi Truchon during the Sunday School openings to sing during the service October 25th. Lisa G. has been practicing with the little ones to sing during the service at a later date. Lisa has also been preparing the children's Christmas Program with a few changes, one change will be the program being held on a Saturday instead of a Sunday as well as the program theme "Christmas Around the World."

I would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to all the Sunday School Teachers and Lynn for putting in "that little extra" while I have dealing with a few medical issues.

This last Sunday School was our first craft Sunday starting out with the song the group is working on, then prayer, the opener with M&Ms and questions, followed with our project of origami cranes; even the little pre-schoolers and Moms and Dads got in the fun of paper folding. If you get a chance come down in the basement and look at the kid's fine art they have on display.

God's Blessings,
Katie Colgrove, Sunday School Superintendent



We are asking individuals, schools, churches, businesses, and other organizations to write cards, letters, emails, and prayer messages of appreciation for our military, past and present. It is our goal to see that our military – active, reserve, and veterans – receive these messages, whether they are serving at home, abroad, or are injured in hospitals. You can find more info at: amillionthanks.org

Drop off your letters at church (in the conference room) by November 25, 2015 Please donate \$1 for postage also.

Dos Send multiple letters

Send positive messages

Be creative

Include your address

Be kind & uplifting

Donate \$1

DON'Ts

Put letters in individual envelopes



PLEASE JOIN US FOR
THE
ORDINATION AND
INSTALLATION
OF
RICHARD F. WILLIAMS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015

Dinner will follow the service in the fellowship hall.

Please RSVP by December 1, 2015

to one of the following:

zionashland@hotmail.com

715-682-6075

address above

sign-up sheet in the Narthex by the office door

Thanksgiving: *How Great Thou Art*

November in northern Wisconsin places our senses on alert. Frost at sunrise casts a silvery net and crunchy steps trip the breakfast alarm of scrappy bluejays. The morning air transports the wispy scent of cozy wood fires. Copper oak leaves accent the mahogany rag-tag landscape. Blustery winds shred cattail plumes and standing hay-bales are at ease. Mink-brown deer strut their stuff and hungry predators await a curious fawn who strays. Chipmunks scurry to deposit acorns in secret caches, and vacant nests erase the stories of bird-families gone south. These rapid seasonal changes attract our attention and inspire us to proclaim: *My God, How Great Thou Art!*

November also includes Thanksgiving. Our tables welcome family and friends through e-mails, cards, phone calls, and shared meals. Again our senses are fueled: the warm touch of words and hugs, the sound of shared laughter, the scent of home-cooking, the sight of a bountiful harvest. The taste of home-sweet-home. Gratitude forms our words: *How Great Thou Art!*

The dynamic energy of November invites our senses to consider two worlds: the changing earth and changeless eternity. So bring on the golden-moist turkey, the seasoned dressing, the sweet potatoes, the tart cranberries, the buttery-mashed potatoes, the pumpkin pie heaped with whipped cream, and much more. For this earthly menu is a sneak-preview of God's eternal banquet of great joy and awesome wonder. God himself prepared the table. He secured our place through His Son, Jesus. There is a chair for me. And a chair for you. Come. See. Taste. Touch. Sing...*How great Thou art, How Great Thou Art!* Happy Thanksgiving and Thanks-living to you and all those you love.

-A. Ellis

Stewardship Thoughts

LCMS Stewardship Article: November 2015

"In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard" (Gen 4:2). Why did the Lord not have regard for Cain and his offering, but did regard Abel and his offering? Was it because Abel's offering was better intrinsically than Cain's? No. The Book of Hebrews tells us: "By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts" (Heb 11:4). The thing that distinguished Abel's offering from that of Cain's is faith. By faith, Abel offered a more acceptable offering.

Faith and giving are inseparable. They are two sides of the same coin. It is faith in the promises of God that leads us to give. By faith we trust that God will do what He says. By faith, we receive everything God gives as a gift from His divine mercy and goodness. For what do we have that we have not received (1 Cor 4:7)? Nothing. Everything we have comes from the Lord. By faith we give to others because God has first given to us, and by faith we trust that He will continue to provide for us all that we need for this body and life. And when by faith we give, God accepts our offerings and commends us as righteous. For by faith we are accounted righteous before God on account of Christ. Giving is a spiritual issue.

But there is a flip side to this two-sided coin: Cain didn't give an offering to God by faith. His offering did not come from faith but from someplace else. And since it didn't originate with faith in God and His promises, it was not regarded by God. And he was not accounted righteous. This is a warning to us. Pay attention to your faith and your offerings, and from where they come.

From where do your offerings come? Like all good works, offerings acceptable in God's sight flow from faith in Christ. They are given in response to the gifts God has given to us, especially the gift of forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ. And since they are given by faith, they will be the target of Satan's attacks to ruin the church, do damage to the gospel of Christ, and to weaken your faith in Him. For sin is crouching at our doors, and the temptation to sin in giving is great because of the fallen world and our sinful flesh. But Jesus is greater than our hearts. Jesus has overcome the world. And by faith, so have we. By faith, we rule over them.

Stewardship Sundays

November 8th "Blessings"

November 15th "Beauty"

November 22nd "Bounty"



Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes: October 2015

The October 19, 2015, Church Council Meeting was called to order by Trustee, Daryl Warren. Vicar Rick opened with devotions connected to the Sunday sermon theme: Mission Impossible, Mission Accomplished with Jesus. He then prayed for our discussion and decisions as a Council.

Roll Call: Mary Koosmann (Financial Secretary), Lynn Ladd (Education), Lori Landry (Evangelism), Diane Cashman (Stewardship), Daryl Warren (Elders), Cheri Tamke (LFOJ), Scott Thimm (Trustees), Lisa Guski (Co-Treasurer), Alice Ellis (Secretary), Rick Williams (Vicar).

September 2015 Minutes: Motion to approve by Landry, second by Guski. Motion carried.

Vicar's Report: Vicar Rick reported his busy schedule including attending seminars, nursing home services, worship services, Bible studies, meetings, visitations, funeral of Cy Sorrels, LFOJ chapel, Monday night classes. He received a Seifert Grant of \$4000 to help with the educational expenses.

Treasurer's Report: Guski explained the need to set up a "special donations" line item in the budget. Motion to accept the report by Landry, second by Thimm. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda by Thimm, second by Guski. Motion carried.

Board Reports:

Elders: Warren reported elders are in discussion regarding opportunities for future events to encourage congregational and visitor participation.

Trustees: Written report by Jarvela highlighted completion of duct work insulation by trustees on the roof. Suggestion that balance in loan for roof be used in the spring to replace some windows. Addressing run covers in the Learner's room at LFOJ. Parking lot stripes repainted. Passed Wisconsin inspection of elevator.

LFOJ: Flooring project completed. Future projects include back deck, and infant/toddler fence.

Evangelism: Working on kits for college students and friends. First Wednesday service in Advent, Dec. 2, will be a Mexican Fiesta meal with a special invitation extended to college students.

Stewardship: Talent survey completed. Sundays, Nov. 8, 15, and 22, to have a Stewardship emphasis with survey to be handed out to congregation on Nov. 22 and be returned by November 30.

Board Nominations: Warren called for volunteers to serve on boards; we need the gifts of each other at Zion.

Motion to accept board reports by Tamke, second by Landry. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Office Computer: A quote for the new computer was shared by Ladd. Motion made to purchase computer for \$533.89 plus up to \$200 for installation using Rusch Memorial Fund by Thimm, second by Landry. Motion carried. Old computer will be "cleaned" for use by treasurers.

Sewing Circle Furniture: A quote was presented by Ladd for 4 sewing tables, one Viking sewing machine, four adjustable chairs. A motion to use \$1400 from the Rusch Memorial Fund for the sewing circle for these purchases was made by Guski, second by Thimm. Motion carried. It was noted the global impact of this quilt ministry.

Ordination: Rick Williams' ordination is set for 2:00 pm on Sunday, December 13th. It will include a catered dinner and special cake. RSVP will be accepted up to December 1.

New Business:

Piano Cover: It was decided to buy a matching (to the organ) cloth cover for \$300 for the back of the piano.

Payroll: It was noted that in 2016 there will be 27 pay periods. It was decided to transfer the pay date to Thursday to be included in the 2015 budget.

A motion by Thimm to adjourn, second by Cashman. Motion carried. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer. Next Church Council Meeting is November 16, 2015, at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Alice J. Ellis

NOVEMBER 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

Nov. 1 Darryl Warren & Chuck Chronis*
Nov. 4 John Pruss
Nov. 8 Doug Warren & Chuck Chronis
Nov. 11 Doug Warren*
Nov. 15 John Pruss & Darryl Warren
Nov. 18 Chuck Chronis
Nov. 22 John Pruss* & Darryl Warren
Nov. 25 Doug Warren
Nov. 29 Chuck Chronis & John Pruss

Acolytes

Nov. 1 Heather & Emily Dickrell
Nov. 8 Abbi Moreland
Nov. 14 Tia Warren
Nov. 22 Kyle Sapper
Nov. 25 Taylor Vyskocil
Nov. 29 Justin Esala

GREETERS

Nov. 1 Clarence & Kathy Osmak
Nov. 8 Rick & Sandy Nutt
Nov. 15 Sapper Family
Nov. 22 Wickman Family
Nov. 25 Lori Landry
Nov. 29 Sunie Family

Ushers

Nov. 1 Loren Munson & Don Moreland
Nov. 8 Ron Schwiesow & Jordan Thimm
Nov. 15 Tim Bauer & Chris Bolz
Nov. 22 Jim Johnson & Luke Barker
Nov. 25 Karl Williams
Nov. 29 Mike Cashman



Penny Mattson 682-6056,
Lou Pearce 682-2597
Dawn & Maggie Reardon
209-6778

ZION FINANCIAL REPORT—

Jan.- Sept. 2015

	Budgeted	Actual
Giving	\$136,713	\$123,039
Expenses	\$136,713	\$123,057
		(\$18)

LCEF & BMO Credit Line

Beginning Budget \$95,714.71 YTD \$94,444.39

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



Turn clocks back one hour for
Sunday, November 1st.