

# *The Mountain Top* *Zion Lutheran Church*

## Messenger

VOLUME 53, ISSUE #9 **SEPTEMBER 2015**

Well, here we are, September. As I thought about it September is kind of like a new beginning. The children are getting ready to start a new school year, I am getting ready to start my new class, Lutheran Confessions. The air, for the moment, has that fall bite to it. I was up early the other day and saw a fairly large flock of geese (or would that be a gaggle?) heading South already. And then the truest sign of the change of season and a new beginning; only two games left in the NFL pre-season.

As I thought about new beginnings, I thought about the funeral a couple months back, how that created a new beginnings for family and friends as they deal with the loss and the reordering of their lives. Then last week with the baptism, again a new beginning, the washing away of sin and starting over, washed clean of that original sin of Adam and added to the Book of Life, and then I thought of the upcoming Confirmation this week, again a new beginning for those confirmands and their families. For they, and their sponsors, the commitment made in their baptism to raise them up in the Christian faith has been completed and now the new beginning as they continue their Christian lives as confirmed and communing members of God's church.

As I thought of all of this I was reminded again of my baptism and of what Luther has to say about our baptism. We are to die each day to sin and remind ourselves of our baptism and how through that washing away of sin we start each day anew. I find comfort in Paul's statement; "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom 5:8). I know that I am a sinner, I sin daily, I am human, it seems to be what we do. I do my best to try not to, but through action, or inaction, I know that I fail, try as I might. But praise God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, I know that as long as I am truly repentant, through Christ's all availing sacrifice and through the Means of Grace, my sins are forgiven. I can start each day with a fresh clean start and do my best to do the good works that God has prepared for me to do. We all sin, we all fall short of the glory of God, but through the power of the Holy Spirit, through the Means of Grace; Baptism, God's Word, Confession & Absolution, and The Lord's Supper, our sins are forgiven, we all can start anew.

A couple of reminders, we are starting a new Wednesday night sermon series of the churches of the New Testament. This is a seven part series and I am looking forward to it. Also just an early reminder; I will be in St. Louis for the official Seminary Call Service the week of October 4-9.

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.  
Your Brother in Christ, Vicar Rick



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**Vicar Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 Office Hours: M/W/Th 8:00am-5:00pm,  
Tu 1:00-5:00pm, Fri. 8:00am-12:00pm** (Please call ahead if you  
need to speak with Vicar Williams as he may be visiting shut-in's,  
at a conference, out for lunch, 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



### **Confirmation Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 16th 6:00pm**

**This is a mandatory meeting for all parents and confirmands. A review of  
what the year will be and requirements will be discussed.**

**SECRET PAL** Year three and counting. Please plan on joining the group of unknown friendships. Information will be on the table by the office door by September 13th. This is open to all gals of the congregation, high school and older. We need forms completed by the morning of September 27th. We thought this year a picture (of any age) could be included with the information. Names will be drawn on the night of the 2014-15 Reveal Night. If you will be new to this year your are more than welcome to join us. Those who aren't available that night will have their names drawn by a non-participating person and available after the 27th to pick up in the office, or it may be placed in your mailbox. We hope you will join in the fun. The Education Board



**PLEASE CONSIDER** joining the Quilters' Group – they meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, September through April. You don't need to know how to sew or even thread a needle, there are people to guide you through the process. **PLUS** – they are need of someone to be the leader – they open and close on Tuesdays and keep in contact with the groups that quilts are distributed to. Please consider helping out with this wonderful service group.

# LWML Fall Rally (Zone #1 of North Wisconsin District)

Saturday, September 19, 2015

Trinity Lutheran Church

Ironwood, Michigan

Hosted by

Trinity Lutheran (Ironwood) and  
Immanuel Lutheran (Little Girls' Point)

All women of the church are encouraged to attend.  
*There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Meet in  
the church parking lot to share a ride. Any questions  
you can contact Ethel at 715-682-3885*



## 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.



### Our Prayer Concerns

SEPTEMBER 2015

#### 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, Deb Traaholt, Rudy Rossin, Diane Beiersdorff, Brad Prill, Dennis Pocernich, Lou Pearce, Gordon Vyskocil*

#### **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, Mariann Vyskocil, Walt Schutte, Merlin Fuhrman*

#### **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*

# SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP



Once again, VBS was a time filled with smiling faces, laughter and joy. There were close to 40 children enrolled who had the opportunity to learn of God's love and had fun doing it. Thanks to Maria Truchon who headed the event and Katie Colgrove who arranged for the meals and both for serving and cleaning up. Thanks to Penny Mattson who boarded the four Camp Luther Counselors while they were here for the four days. Also, thanks to all those who served the counselors breakfast and suppers, and to those who donated money and items to help defray extra costs to the week. With the generosity of our congregation things go a lot easier and smoother. We're planning on hosting Camp Luther again next summer for VBS 2016.

September marks the start of Sunday School and plans are made, curriculum is ordered and anticipation for another great year. Rally Day is September 13th. After the service there will be a craft project and refreshments. We would like parents to join in with their children.

Our Preschool Class has 12, 2-5 yr olds signed up (11 are boys). Lisa Guski and Tiffany Houle will be leading the class and are wishing for some more assistance.

First and Second Grade, five girls will have the team teachers of Kathryn Draeger, Brooke Sapper, Lexie Warren and Sydney Vyskocil.

Third and Fourth Grade, with an anticipated count of 10 will be guided by Renee Bolz, Michelle Vyskocil and Peggy Draeger.

Confirmation Class Sunday School will be busy with 16 students this year and led by Loren and Ellie Munson, Doug Warren, Darryl & Lisa Warren, Ben Ginnow.

Music will be headed by Jodi Truchon, Ben Ginnow and Luke Barker.

The Education Board thanks all who will be helping out this coming year. If anyone would like to join in with a group please contact someone from that group. They can always use more assistance.

Mark on your calendar: Saturday, December 19th, 2:00pm

Joy to the World

This will be the children's Christmas program. Trying something new this year with the date and program. Please plan on attending, so mark it now!

## Beauty and Bounty

September is a beautiful time of year. The weather is perfect with cool nights for sleeping and brilliant sunshine to warm the daylight. Then there is the bounty of our gardens expressed in the artistic opportunities in our kitchens. This can mean slicing apples for pie, juicing wild plums for jelly, salting cucumbers for pickles, dicing onions for salsa, shredding zucchini for bread, snapping green beans, cutting thick slabs of tomatoes, and lathering sweet corn in butter. Life is good.

But while many of us celebrate this season of bounty and beauty, others face challenges that make it difficult to say “life is good.” We hold hands with these dear friends and pray a blessing:

**May the beauty of God's peace bless and keep you each day.  
May the bounty of His grace assure you of His love each day.  
May the brilliance of the Holy Spirit fuel a daily flame of hope.  
For when life slices, dices, shreds, and snaps our dreams, God  
draws even closer. He will be there to whisper words of love in  
the coolness of the night, and reveal amazing grace in the warmth  
of day for His faithfulness is an eternal promise. Be Blessed in  
Him.**

Yes, when you get right down to it, we all need the daily blessing of God. For dear brothers and sisters, we are in the lifeboat together. Some of us are called to row the oars, some are called to watch for rocks, some are called to pray, and some are called to be still. For in Jesus Christ we are bonded as family on a shared journey of faith. Let us be blessed in Him. Amen.

-A. Ellis



## Stewardship Thoughts

What is most striking about the rich man and Lazarus is not their differences but their similarities (Luke 16:19–31). Both men die because both men are sinners, and the wages of sin is death. Both men are beggars, for all men are beggars. But, here is where the most striking difference between them takes shape. Lazarus knows it and lives it. The rich man, however, does not.

Lazarus was a beggar in thought, word, and deed. But, he was God's beggar. He relied upon God for all that he had and all that he was. He looked to God for all things, in good times and in bad. He went to God in all trouble, sought Him for all help, and trusted in His Word and promises to provide for all that he needed for this life and the next. This is, after all, what his name means: God is my help.

The rich man, too, was a beggar. But he didn't realize it. His status, his wealth, his clothing and his food all came from God's gracious hand. But the rich man didn't recognize it. He thought he had earned it, and that he deserved it. And thus, his trust is not in God, who by His Word and promise gives it, but rather in himself, in what he has done, and in what he has.

And so it is that when death comes to Lazarus and the rich man—as it does for all of us because we have all sinned, and death is no respecter of persons—Lazarus is carried by the holy angels to Abraham's side; while the rich man is in torment in hell. The rich man forgot God. He despised being a beggar, and thus, despised Lazarus. He despised God and His Word, and refused to have mercy on those whom God placed at his doorstep.

Now, the tables were turned. What the rich man didn't realize or recognize on earth, he now lived out in torment in hell. He knew what it was to beg. But he still didn't see himself as a beggar of God. He still didn't look to His Father in heaven for all good and help in every time of need. He instead appealed to His status as a descendant of Abraham, calling out Father Abraham and not "Abba, Father" (Gal 4:6; Rom 8:15).

We are all beggars. We brought nothing into this world and we will take nothing out of it (1 Tim 6:7). Everything we have and everything we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us, for He gives everything to us by grace. Thus, we are to love one another and be generous to one another in thought, word, and deed. For you cannot love God and hate your brother. And hating your brother means not to forgive as you've been forgiven, to give as you've been given to, to love as you've been loved.

We are all beggars. This is true. But we, like Lazarus, are God's beggars. He not only gives us what we need for this body and life—food and clothes, house and home, husband, wife, and children—but He also blesses us with His Word and Spirit, so that we will enter into paradise in the life to come. He claims us as His own by water and the Word in Holy Baptism. In this washing, rich in grace, He gives to us what His Son, Jesus Christ, won for us on His cross: forgiveness of sins. And where there is the forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. He puts His own name on us, thereby giving to us the right of children, the right to call Him Father and the right to His inheritance as His beloved sons. He gives us a seat at His table, in His house, in His kingdom, which has no end.

Yes, indeed, we are beggars. This is true. But we are beggars of the God who loves us, the God who created us from His love, the God who redeemed us by His love in the sending of His Son to die so that we would live and have life to the full. This is His promise. It's what Moses and the prophets longed to see and of what they spoke. They see it now, not in a mirror dimly, but face to face, just as you shall on the last day.

And as God's beggars, we have mercy on those who would be beggars of us, who rely upon our giving, even as we rely upon the gracious giving of God. We give to our family, our society, our church. He gives; we receive. Thanks be to God. We give; they receive. Thanks be to God. We count it all a joy to give as He has given to us.

**SEPTEMBER  
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**

Sept. 2 Randy Spangle  
 Sept. 6 John Pruss & Darryl Warren  
 Sept. 9 Chuck Chronis  
 Sept. 13 Randy Spangle & Doug Warren  
 Sept. 16 Darryl Warren  
 Sept. 20 Chuck Chronis & John Pruss  
 Sept. 23 Doug Warren  
 Sept. 27 Darryl Warren & Randy Spangle  
 Sept. 30 John Pruss

**Acolytes**

Sept. 6 Abbi Moreland  
 Sept. 13 Jacob Graves  
 Sept. 20 Tia Warren & Justin Esala  
 Sept. 27 Kyle Sapper

**GREETERS**

Sept. 6 Klobucher Family  
 Sept. 13 Truchon Family  
 Sept. 20 Moreland Family  
 Sept. 27 Janet & Tiffany Houle

**Ushers**

Sept. 6 Todd Vyskocil & Herb Ellis  
 Sept. 13 Pat Colgrove & Warren Draeger  
 Sept. 20 Jerry Frisco & Jim Hebert  
 Sept. 27 Larry Hildebrandt & Chad Lipske



Shannon Esala 292-0711  
 Daniela Maday 682-6594



Fall Begins  
 September 23rd

**OFFICIAL ACTS**

**Youth Confirmation:** 8-30-2015

Carson Bruce Honkala  
 Devin Tyler Sunie  
 Cody Alan Sunie

**Baptism:** 08-23-2015

Emily Rose Samarziya

**Bible Study:**

**Sundays - 10:15am**

**"A Man called Martin" 5 weeks**

**Mondays - 10:00am**

**Wednesday Night Worship Service**

**"Churches of the New Testament"**

**7-part starting Sept. 2nd 6:30pm**