

The Mountain Top **Messenger**

VOLUME 49, ISSUE 8 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod AUGUST 2011

Be Blessed! Be a Blessing!

When I was a kid, my Mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she made breakfast after a long, hard day at work... on that evening so long ago, my Mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed!

Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my Mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that ugly burned biscuit. He ate every bite of that thing... never made a face nor uttered a word about it!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my Mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits every now and then." Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your Momma put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides - a little burned biscuit never hurt anyone!"

As I've grown older, I've thought about that many times. Life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people. I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. But what I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each others faults and choosing to celebrate each others differences - is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship.

And that's my prayer for you today... that you will learn to take the good, the bad, and the ugly parts of your life and lay them at the feet of God. Because in the end, He's the only One who will be able to give you a relationship where a burnt biscuit isn't a deal-breaker! We could extend this to any relationship. In fact, understanding is the base of any relationship, be it a husband-wife or parent-child or friendship!

"Don't put the key to your happiness in someone else's pocket – keep it in your own."

So, please pass me a biscuit, and yes, the burned one will do just fine. And PLEASE share this with someone who has enriched your life. Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

"Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point.

I received this as an email and felt that it was a good cover letter for our newsletter for this month. Our Lord and Savior blessed all of us with his sacrifice on the cross. Giving of himself as we too are called to give.

May God bless you and your loved ones as we come to a close of our summer season and as we start a new fall season.

In Christ, Darryl Warren



Zion's Ministry Staff and Church Officers

E-Mail: zionashland@hotmail.com

Church Office715 - 682 - 6075
 LFOJ Child Care Center
 Administrator, Karyn Leino..... 715 - 682 - 6075
 Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center
 715 - 682 - 5185
 President, Nick Jarvela.....715 - 682 - 0385
 Elder Chairman, Darryl Warren.....715 - 492 - 0488

Stewardship Thoughts

A speaker once summarized stewardship using this phrase, "You have it, we need it, so give it.". Such an attempt to motivate God's stewards to give does great injustice to Biblical stewardship. Titus 1:11-14 gives a much better description of Christian stewardship:

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

From your Stewardship Committee

Ashland First Saturday Food Distribution

August 6, 2011

Every First Saturday of the month

Begins at 10:00am

Everyone welcome

\$20.00 donation per share

No income or age-eligibility requirement

Non-denominational

Please bring boxes or bags to haul your food.

Volunteers needed by 8:00am

Distribution Site is:

Celebration Fellowship

310 Stuntz Avenue



Supplies –

The stores are starting their "back to school" sales – If you ever are shopping and see a great special, sometimes you can get a box of crayons for 25 cents, if you wouldn't mind picking up some for LFOJ or the Church it would be appreciated. Below are some suggestions of items needed.



Glue sticks (lots)
 Markers (washable)



Crayons
 Folders with fasteners

LFOJ - We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of our center, through your financial gifts this spring/summer. Your gifts have been a significant contribution to our operations. At this time, we are waiting on two additional grants to help meet our playground challenge. We will not hear in regards to these grants until September & October. Due to this delay and other financial issues, we are placing the resurfacing of the playground on hold until Spring 2012. Any gifts donated specifically for the playground will be kept until next year. We are grateful that you help us meet our daily challenges through your prayers and financial support. We feel very blessed that we can continue to share the love of our Lord with our children and their families through our Child Care Center. God Bless, Little Friends of Jesus

CONFIRMATION

The Elders will be meeting with parents and youth sometime in August, mid to later part. Youth in grades 6, 7, and 8 attend confirmation classes. Please contact the office if you have a child in 6th grade or in 7th/8th grade but have not attended previously. Office 715-682-6075 or zionashland@hotmail.com

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST – Thursday mornings from 6:00 to 6:50 AM
 They will be taking August off and starting back up in September. Hope to see you then!





Maybe? Why not?

Yes, **YOU** are needed by the children of the congregation. You can be a gift to our children by teaching Sunday School. We have 4-age groups:

Preschool-grade1
2nd and 3rd grade
4th and 5th grade
6th to 8th grade

Materials are provided that are teacher friendly and kid-loved. Might even be a chance to team-teach. Tentatively planned is Rally Day - Sept. 11th and classes start the following week.

Interested or want to know more? Contact Dawn Reardon at church, home (682-0312) or e-mail (jrci@centurytel.net)

PLEASE! We need your help!

This One Is for Those Who Love Earthy Humor

There was a rather old fashioned lady who was planning a couple of weeks of vacation in Florida. She also was quite delicate and elegant with her language. She wrote a letter to a particular campground and asked for reservations. She wanted to make sure the campground was fully equipped but didn't know quite how to ask about the "toilet" facilities. After much deliberation she finally came up with the old fashioned term, "Bathroom Commode," but when she wrote that down, she still thought she was being too forward.

So she started all over again. She rewrote the entire letter and referred to the "Bathroom Commode" simply as "B.C." Does the campground have its own "B.C.?" is what she actually wrote. Well, the campground owner wasn't old fashioned at all, and when he got the letter he couldn't figure out what the lady was talking about. That "B.C." really stumped him.

After worrying about it for several days, he showed the letter to other campers, but they couldn't figure out what the lady meant either. The campground owner finally came to the conclusion that the lady was and must be asking about the location of the local Baptist Church. So he sat down and wrote the following reply:

"Dear Madam: I regret very much the delay in answering your letter, but I now take pleasure of informing you that the "B.C." is located nine miles north of the camp site and is capable of seating 250 people at one time. I admit it is quite a distance away if you are in the habit of going regularly, but no doubt you will be pleased to know that a great number of people take their lunches along and make a day of it. . . . They usually arrive early and stay late. The last time my wife and I went was six years ago, and it was so crowded we had to stand up the whole time we were there. It may interest you to know that right now there is a supper planned to raise money to buy more seats. . . . They plan to hold the supper in the middle of the "B.C." so everyone can watch and talk about this great event. . . . I would like to say it pains me very much not to be able to go more regularly, but it is surely not for lack of desire on my part. . . . As we grow older, it seems to be more and more of an effort, particularly in cold weather. . . . If you decide to come down to the campground, perhaps I could go with the first time you . . . sit with you . . . and introduce you to all the other folks. . . . This is really a very friendly community. . . ."

July 11, 2011 - Call Committee Meeting

Present: Lisa Guski, Ann Williams, Pastor Bo, Dave Kuester, Roger Stenroos, Sandy Frisco, and Mike Cashman. Darryl Warren joined in later.

We opened with prayer, Anticipation, Participation and Reflection. Ephesians 4:11-12.

Discussion of Call-Pastor. Names submitted from Congregation for Pastor. Who would contact these people for a call. Mike volunteered to contact Paul Weber from District and give the names submitted from our congregation. The District will than give us a list of names, probably 6-10, that we can go through and pick out two names to be presented to the Congregation. We have a choice if we want to interview them before we bring the names to the congregation. Names that the Congregation submitted were Phillip Schielke and Tim Steckling.

Darryl Warren came for discussion on a possible vacancy Pastor, Pastor Steve Hyvonen. Darryl will contact the other Elders and contact pastor Hyvonen to see if he will fulfill our vacancy. Pastor Hyvonen will be willing to do our services and give us Mon, Tues, and Wed. for administrative work, shut-ins, Funerals, and Weddings.

Survey was very helpful .

Number one was a Bible Centered sermon and someone to express this well with the Congregation.

Number Two. Was Strong Leadership, Good direction of the flock.

Number three was Worship. We presently do both the praise and traditional worship.

After we get the list from District we will present two names to the Congregation for them to vote on.

More detailed survey results are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Next meeting will be August 15th at 6:30.

One of the most important things a congregation can do in the Call process is to offer fervent and frequent prayer that God will graciously send a faithful and caring Pastor to care for his people in the congregation!

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.



Scrapbooking

Friday, August 12th 5:00-10:00pm

If you need space, time, or inspiration to get caught up on organizing photos, getting your photos in albums, scrapbooking or cardmaking, come join us in the church basement, Friday night.

You will have plenty of space to spread out to work. You will also have the opportunity to see what others do with their pictures to give you ideas. Soda, water and punch are provided. Please bring a snack to share. There is a \$5fee. Please RSVP to Jodi Truchon if you are interested in coming.

jbtruchon@yahoo.com or

866-267-8749

Thank you!

Sharing Christ in the Last Frontier

This year from July 18th to the 22nd, St. John's Lutheran Church from West Bend, WI, gathered me and three others to help organize and lead a vacation Bible school in Healy, AK. For each day of the week we designated different themes, such as "God's Word is a lamp unto our feet" or "Patience." We began our days with a prayer, a devotional and a few praise songs, and also had a few skits with puppets. After that the kids had a lot of fun with a craft, outside games, face painting, and eating a theme-related snack. Our faces and arms were quite the masterpieces after each day! It is important that God's saving Word be implanted in the youth's hearts and that His love is shown through His people's actions. St. John's mission team is building stronger relationships with the children with every return visit, and hope in time to have the parents more involved in organizing these faith-building events for years ahead. I want to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and financial support. It is for Christ's sake that we go into the world and remind everyone of His love.

Melissa Kummerow

Zion members graciously donated \$356 to assist Melissa with her mission to Alaska.



CAMP LUTHER BREEZE – AUGUST ANNOUNCEMENTS

LABOR DAY WEEKEND FAMILY RETREAT--September 2-5, 2011!! This retreat offers a very flexible schedule with a variety of activities. There are age-appropriate Bible studies and during the rest of the weekend, you can join in activities lead by our staff or just enjoy the beach. Activities will include a trip to Bond Falls, a golf outing, pontoon tours of the Chain-o-Lakes, a cookout, minnow races, kayaking, trail biking, swimming, and so much more. Start a new family tradition this year! Visit www.campluther.com for more information.

FALL COTTAGE RETREATS--Plan your individual or family two-night fall getaway at Camp Luther. Cottages are available this fall for just half off the regular rate per night (for a two-night minimum stay). Hike our trails, fish the chain, bike the Three-Eagle Trail, hunt the Nicolet Forest, or just sit back and enjoy a colorful autumn view from your cottage porch. Offer good Labor Day through December 15. Book your family or individual retreat getaway by contacting Camp Luther at 1-877-264-CAMP.

NEW WORKBEE WEEKEND!! October 14-16 Mark your calendars for this new weekend to serve at Camp Luther. Join as we work to prepare camp for the winter months during the day and absorb the beauty of fall at Camp Luther in the evenings. Make it a new family tradition. We'd love to see you there!!

YOUR GIFT TO CAMP DOUBLED!! Thanks to a special gift to Camp Luther, your donation will be matched dollar for dollar until we reach a goal of \$30,000 for facilities and improvements plus \$35,000 for Every Kid to Camp! Every dollar you give to camp will go twice as far! Every donation to Every Kid to Camp will help to send twice as many kids to camp! Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to help Camp Luther!

"EVERY KID TO CAMP" DINNER AUCTION!! Mark your calendar for the Every Kid to Camp Dinner Auction – "Bids for Kids" – September 24 at the Rose Garden in Wausau, WI. This wonderful event raises funds to send children to camp for the very first time. We are still accepting items for the auction. If you would like to contribute, please contact Lee Belmas at 715-845-8241, ext. 16 or lee@nwdlcms.org. Visit www.campluther.com for registration information in coming weeks.

COUPLES RETREAT--September 23-25!! This retreat is for married couples from newlyweds to empty-nesters. There will be camp and local activities to enjoy as a couple (including a candlelight dinner) and as a group. There will also be a guest speaker who will lead "couple" oriented Bible study and learning sessions. Camp staff will lead devotions. Housing in our cottages is "as available"; alternate housing will be provided once cottages are full.

DO YOU SHOP ONLINE?? WOULD YOU LOVE TO HELP CAMP LUTHER FINANCIALLY?? Go to www.goodsearch.com and join both Good Shop and Good Search, so that whether you are searching or shopping, you will be giving to Camp Luther. Add Camp Luther as your charity and that's it. Just by using Good Search after that, you will be giving to Camp Luther. It's a win-win. There are coupons for you too!!

WOMEN'S WEEKEND OUT!! Gather the girlfriends for a fun and relaxing weekend at the Camp Luther Women's Weekend Out, September 30-October 1. Enjoy uplifting Bible study, crafts, and great fellowship! Visit www.campluther.com to register.

WOMEN'S CRAFT WEEKEND—October 21-23!! Whether you love to quilt, scrapbook or stamp, women of all ages can bring their supplies and enjoy some intense crafting time. Bring your current project and share ideas. Many experienced crafters will be here to help out those new to the craft world. Days start and end with time in God's Word to encourage spiritual growth even while you are crafting.

And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. Revelation 21: 2a



Jerusalem is known as the epicenter where Islam, Judaism and Christianity collide. With three major interpretations of faith, it is no wonder this holy habitat is also a challenging location. It seems like a stretch when the Bible refers to heaven as the *New Jerusalem*. But when I consider our experience in this ancient city, I realize within Jerusalem there are foreshadows of the place-to-come. This was especially true on Palm Sunday.

On that hot Sunday, we gathered on the Mt. of Olives (east of the city) with 100,000+ Christians from every tribe and nation. There was a lot of milling around, and parading of small groups. Many waved flags from their countries, and people carried palm branches of all sizes. It was useful that we had some water with us as it was hot. About 2:30 pm the festivities began. At first it seemed confusing, but soon people sorted into a procession and started the trek down from the Mount of Olives. The pathway was plenty wide, but often very steep. We had been warned it would take about 2½ hours to arrive at the Lions' Gate of Old Jerusalem.

First, we marched with Christians from Poland. We hummed while they sang in Polish. Sometimes the music overlapped with Finns singing right behind us. Some groups sang traditional hymns, while others sang praise songs. We flowed down the hill like an unwinding ribbon. Where the path was hemmed in by rock walls, we saw Israeli soldiers with weapons perched to protect us. Israel is not eager to have a terrorist event.

Since Herb's knee was rather fragile, we were happy to find a shortcut. Now we were joined to Filipinos, but we soon advanced into a lively group of Armenian Christians playing accordions and drums. As the city gate came into sight, the pitch of celebration increased. In fact, the last hundred yards was lined with celebrants who had come to welcome us. Everyone was dancing and singing in all languages as we entered the Gates of Jerusalem. Great joy filled the air.

It was then I knew. This earthly procession was a preview of a heavenly celebration. Where there will be joyous singing...holy dancing... and many will rush out to welcome us.

In the earthly Jerusalem, we see the face of Christ in our brothers and sisters from all nations. In the *Heavenly Jerusalem*, we will see Jesus face-to-face.

Dear Reader, many of us have friends and family members who are traveling a path that is steep and difficult. We are called to be prayer warriors perched on the walls of their journey. For we are in this faith-procession together and Jesus has invited all of us to enter the gates of the New Jerusalem. Let us sing and dance together the hope of eternal life for great joy is ours in Jesus Christ.

-A. Ellis: April 2011

LITTLE FRIENDS OF JESUS

Email: lfoj@zionashland.com

Online: lfoj.org

July 2011

Tid-bits from Administration

Hellos and Good-byes

After 5 years of service at Little Friends of Jesus, Erin Johnson will be leaving the center. Erin's last day at LFOJ was July 8th.

Erin will be sadly missed by staff, children and parents. We wish her the best in her future endeavors. Good-bye Ms. Erin!

We would like to take this time to welcome Kristin Boehler. Ms. Kristin has accepted the Lead Learner Teaching Position. Her first day with the children was Thursday, July 7.

Ms. Kristin has worked at many child care centers and has her Early Childhood Degree. She not only has experience, but she also has a wonderful toolbox of ideas that she is excited to implement. Welcome Ms. Kristin!

Carnival Day

Thank you to all our staff who helped make our annual carnival day (June 28th) a success again this year. It is a nice change of pace to go to the church basement to enjoy our own rendition of games. The kids were very well behaved, and were rewarded by shopping for prizes at the end. We hope they enjoyed themselves. A special thanks to Amy for organizing such an exciting event.

Preschool Packet

We are looking ahead to the start of a new preschool year. We will only be offering two sessions for 2011-2012. We ask parents to please return forms no later than July 15th to confirm their preschool spot.

Date With Dad

We held our 5th Annual "Date with Dad" on June 20th. Our theme this year was "Arr Dads are Great". Thanks to all the staff that helped and to all the Dads and children that attended.

Sprinkler Day

The children will be having sprinkler day on Wednesday, July 13th. Be sure to bring your suit, a towel, and water shoes or sandals to wear while running through the sprinkler!

Yours in Christ,
Karyn



Totville Times

Happy Summer everyone!

It's about time we get some warm weather. With all of the rain we got in June, we spent most of our outside time on the Learner playground because ours was too sloppy. The little ones sure enjoy playing with the "Big Kids".

We have one birthday this month.

Hailey H. turned 2 on July 1st. Happy Birthday Hailey!

Our stories for this month are:

- ◆ The Man Who Said "Thank-You"
- ◆ The Boys & Girls and Jesus
- ◆ The Wind That Obeyed
- ◆ The Baby in the Basket

Just a reminder: Please bring sunscreen and a water bottle for your child, if you haven't already done so. Also, an extra set of clothes on hand would be appreciated, as we like to open up the water table on warm days.

Cassie and the I/T Staff



Learner Lane

Enjoying summer days is what we love! Outside play and lots of it!

Our Jesus time this month consists of *The Earth* (The Parable of the Sower and Seeds, Luke), *The Sky* (A Change for Paul, Acts), *The Water* (Jesus Talks With A Woman At A Well, John), and *Under the Sea* (Jesus Feeds 5,000, Matthew). Also, the kids will be attending Chapel on July 19th. They sure love seeing Pastor.

We have a new face in the Learner Room. **Brody M.** will be visiting from time to time. It's fun to have another friend, and he's fitting right in. Welcome Brody!

On another note, we are saying goodbye to our friend Derek W. We will miss you!

As most of you already know, my last day will be July 8th. It has been a wonderful experience getting to know not only all the kids, but you parents as well. I will miss you all.

With that being said...Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!

Erin

★ ★ ★
Let heaven and

earth praise him, the

seas and all that

move in them...

Psalm 69:34

School-Age Scoop

Summer is in full swing, and our school-agers have been having lots of fun (or so we hope). Inside, the children have been doing a great job sharing toys from home. The post office during the last week of June was a big hit. Outside, the school-agers have been having fun playing Dodgeball, Devil's Red and Ollie-Ollie-Oxen-Free.

We have welcomed two new friends, **Eric** and **Samantha M.**, in the month of June. In July, **Enola** and **Isaiah** are joining our group. Plus, each week we have a number of drop-in clients, so our kids have different playmates from day to day.

The first full week of July is our Outer Space Unit. We'll be talking about the different parts of the universe. Bible stories for this unit include *God's Promise to Abraham*, *King Solomon's Dream*, and *Jacob's Ladder*.

The following week is always a favorite: Water Exploration. The children will be having sprinkler day on Wednesday, July 13th. Be sure to bring your suit, a towel, and water shoes or sandals to wear while running through the sprinkler! At Jesus Time, we'll be hearing the stories of *Noah's Ark*, *Jonah and the Big Fish*, and *The Miracle of Fish*.

The third week of July will be a new theme about Construction. All week, the children will be working on a Lego creation, to be judge on Friday, the 22nd. We can't wait to see what creative things they will make. We will also have our last Chapel visit with Pastor before he retires on the 19th.

The last week of July will focus on the power of prayer. We'll talk about the prayer the Lord taught us, and hopefully by the end of the month, everyone will be able to say it by heart.

God's blessings!

Ms. Amy

August 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!!

ELDERS

Aug. 7 John Pruss & Don Pocernich
Aug. 14 Chuck Chronis & Doug Warren
Aug. 21 Darryl Warren & John Pruss
Aug. 28 Rick Williams & Chuck Chronis

Next meeting —
August 7th (following worship service)

GREETERS FOR AUGUST

August 7 Janet Houle & June Williams
August 14 Mary & Lloyd Koosman
August 21 Sandy & Jerry Frisco
August 28 Warren & Peggy Draeger



AUGUST Acolytes

August 7 Kathryn Draeger & Ben Cashman
August 14 Riley Heglund & Briana Klobucher
August 21 Tiffany Houle & Maggie Reardon
August 28 Alexis Warren & Kaitlyn Thimm

AUGUST Ushers

August 7 Todd Vyskocil & Dakota Tamke
August 14 Loren Munson & Larry Hildebrandt
August 21 Curt Harpster & Herb Ellis
August 28 Mike Cashman & Pat Colgrove

AUGUST ALTAR GUILD

Kathy Osmak 746-2346
Sue Spangle 682-8015
Lisa Warren 492-0488
Shayla Warren



OFFICIAL ACTS

Death - Edward Engelman 07/17/2011

Our Prayer Concerns AUGUST

Mission

Zion Lutheran Church
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.

Nursing Home & Assisted Living Resident

Roger Basina
Corrine Tolliver
John Wroblewski
Ed Torkko

Shut—ins

Ron Nevala
Walt & Agnes Schutte
Gloria Mills
Lois Hein
Clarence Houle

Illness

Otto & Dorothy Rusch
Roger Basina

Local & US Concerns

(fulltime and/or deployed military)



Steve Sorenson, son of Dave & June Sorenson, U.S. Navy, stationed in San Diego, CA

Christan Zwetow, granddaughter of Clarence & Madge Houle stationed at Fort Polk, LA

Aaron Aschenbrenner, son-in-law of Lynn & Chuck Ladd, stationed in Chippewa Falls, WI..