

# *The Mountain Top* Messenger

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 2 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod FEBRUARY 2014

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Well, here we are, February, as I write this we are feeling the effects of another “polar vortex”. Funny how it seems they are always trying to put a new spin or feel on everything these days, even the weather. Did you know that they are actually naming snow storms now? I believe the one that dumped 31 inches on us was winter storm Cleon. As I thought about this and as I watched the weather this morning and listened to the doom and gloom about the -10 wind chill in New York and -35 degrees in International Falls, pardon me it’s always -35 in In. Falls, or at least it has been for as long as I remember, it is America’s Ice Box. I began to think about how in our nation today everything has to be bigger, better, faster, newer, more powerful, and so on and so on and so on.

So the question came to mind, why has our country lost its zeal for Christianity? Why doesn’t talk of our Savior come to the forefront of our conversations? Why doesn’t the fact that one of these days our Savior is going to return and unless you know him and have faith in him, you are going to be damned to hell for eternity? So why doesn’t this seem to matter to most people? I can’t help but feel that, that information is just a little more important than worrying about winter storm Cleon, or Maximus, or Vulcan (those are some of the upcoming storm names) or the fact that it’s -35 in International Falls, those things will pass. The second coming of our Savior, now there, is something we should be prepared for, winter storm Cleon will at best leave its remnants with us until April or May before it melts. Christ’s return has eternal consequences and I believe deserves our full attention. Satan has done a wonderful job of convincing us the weather and all of the other things happening in the world are more important than our Savior. It’s time to spread the news that he and the world are wrong.

We have two exciting things going on right now. One is the Sunday morning Bible study, “The Great Deceiver” where we are learning about satan and how he negatively impacts our world and our life. The other is our Wednesday night sermon series “The God Questions”. Join us as we look at some of the questions that impact our lives and our relationship with our God.

Blessings to you as we continue on through the “Polar Vortex”, there is warmth on the other end. Spring begins in 55 days from the day I wrote this. The day of the second coming of our Lord and Savior is yet to be announced, be ready for both. But please if you have to pick one, make it the later. “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.” (Matthew 24:36)

I close now with the words of Paul to Timothy, while those words were addressed to Timothy they apply to us today as well:

<sup>20</sup> *Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge,* <sup>21</sup> *which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith. Grace be with you all.* (1 Timothy 6:20-21)

Vicar Rick Williams



# Zion's Ministry Staff and Church Officers

E-Mail: zionashland@hotmail.com  
Website: www.zionashland.org

Church Office 715-682-6075 (M/T/W 8am-12noon, Th-1-5pm)  
Vicar Rick Williams 715-209-0479 (M/T/W/Th 8:00-5:00)  
President, Chuck Chronis 715-208-0053  
Head Elder, Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

LFOJ Child Care Center - Administrator, Karyn Leino 715-682-6075 ext. 12  
Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center 715-682-5185

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**Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 am**      **Wednesday Evening Worship 6:30pm**  
Sunday School 10:15am  
Bible Studies: Sundays 10:15am Mondays 10:00am

## Stewardship Thoughts

Stewardship is an important part of LCMS theology. Stewardship begins with the cross and responds freely and joyously in thanksgiving to everything the Lord does for us. Our theology is biblically rooted, doctrinally sound, and historically based to lead us to live God-pleasing lives of stewardship. We are only limited by the gifts that are given us by the Lord. We must take care that we do not focus on things other than the cross – not budgets, mortgages, or paying the bills.

Our approach should not be needs-based but must flow from the Gospel which we receive through the preaching and teaching of scripture. We are not required by the Law to be stewards but are created and redeemed to be stewards. St. Paul describes stewardship life in Romans 12 as a practice that flows first from the mercies of God.

### 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.



**FYI - Lutheran Hour Sunday will be observed in March.**

### ZION FINANCIAL REPORT— Jan.-Dec. 2013

Giving	\$144,971.28
Actual Expenses	<u>\$134,364.77</u>
	\$ 10,506.51
M&I Loan Balance	(\$16,566.30)

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

## Soup and Sandwich Suppers!

Yum!

During the Lenten season on Wednesday nights prior to the service, various groups will take turns serving a delicious supper. Please plan on attending all of them. Then stay for the Lenten Service following at 6:30pm. The following are the group assignments:

Mar. 5 Altar Guild/LWML

Mar. 12 LFOJ

Mar. 19 Trustees

Mar. 26 Board of Education

Apr. 2 Youth Group

Apr. 9 Elders/

Evangelism



## Upcoming Dates for Your Calendar

Sunday, February 9th

Voters' Mtg.- after service

Wednesday, March 5th

Ash Wednesday 6:30pm

Wednesdays March 12-Apr. 9

Lenten Services 6:30pm

Thursday, April 17th

Maundy Thursday 6:30pm

Friday, April 18th

Good Friday Service 6:30pm

Sunday, April 20th

Easter Services 7:00am & 9:00am

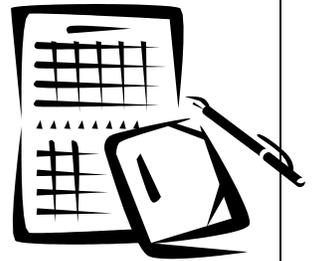
Tentative Date: Monday, April 28th

Mother/Daughter Event along with

Secret Pals Revealed 5:30pm?

Tentative Date: Sunday, May 4th

Women's Ministry Event 12:00-6:00pm



## Wednesday Night Services

Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> Vicar Williams started a 6 week sermon series entitled "The God Questions". Each week he will address a new question. The questions are:

Do I need God to be Happy?

Where is God when I'm hurting?

Does God punish us when we sin?

Is God against sex, fun, and pleasure?

Why does God allow Evil?

Jesus: dead or alive? Why does it matter?

So please come join us for this interesting series on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM.

Dear Family and Friends,

Walt Schutte is now on-line at Birch Haven.

His e-mail address is:

weschutte@icloud.com He is also on Facebook... if you want to "friend" him. Of course, Walt prefers a phone call (715-682-3212), but e-mail is also a nice surprise in his day. Walt is still working on "sending replies" so if you do not hear from him.... no news is good news. He enjoyed your message.

We eagerly await Jon, Vicki and daughters arrival later tonight in Mumbai. They are here for two weeks. We have fully escaped winter by being here.... but it sounds like the upnorth folks are hardy and getting out to enjoy the beauty of the season.

Sending greetings and love, Herb and Alice

## Scrapbooking and Projects Nights

Tuesdays February 11th and 25th 5:30pm

**Need some space or dedicated time to complete a project?**

Join the group and spread out your project whether it be photos, quilting, making cards or whatever. There's plenty of room for everyone! Plus, it is fun time and you may get some new ideas. Please RSVP to Lilly Harrelson if you are interested in coming. *If there aren't enough able to make on an evening, it may get postponed.*

Contact Lilly at: Lillyc\_00@yahoo.com 715-292-5699



Wanted sometimes seems harsh, that a request is being made that you just can't or don't want to do. Needed is a bit gentler but still can bring out the same ramifications. And to add to that we're always doing it. Need this, want this, it never stops. And, it isn't going to stop because there are always wants and needs in the world, at home, at work and at Church. So what does the Bible have to say about helping out:



**Hebrews 13:16**

*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

**Acts 20:35**

*In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

**Philippians 2:4**

*Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*

So do I have you thinking maybe you can help out? There are a number of ways you can help out at Church. Below are some of the current "Help Needed" items.

**Trustees:** one more person for their board. Speak with a Trustee if interested.

**Event Controller:** This is something new. This person would be responsible for seeing that jobs are getting taken care of for special events, such as a funeral or wedding. It would include that someone is opening the church when needed, snow/ice are removed, the church is clean, etc. The person doesn't have to do these things. They are responsible for talking to the people who would do them, such as the janitor, Trustee, Elder, secretary, etc. The Controller might have to take over in a situation if he/she can't assign someone to do the task. There is a job description on the bulletin board in the Narthex. It looks more scary than it actually is, so don't be timid. If you are interested and/or have any questions please contact Lynn in the office.

**Mini-Projects:** There are a few projects that could be done around the Church, some taking an hour or two and some that take longer. Speak with Lynn if you have some time to allow you to do some of these projects.

**Newsletter Article:** We would like to start a new page to the Newsletter, "Do You Know?" or whatever title we give it. We will have one or two family stories each month giving us a little information about members that have been here a long time and new members. There are very few people who know everyone else, and this will give everyone the opportunity to learn about others in the congregation. Once again, call the office if you are interested.

The family and friends of Ed Torkko celebrated his 92 years of Christian life at Zion Lutheran Church on January 11. The phone calls, cards, hugs and helpful hands were greatly appreciated. A special thanks to Vicar Rick, the church staff, and your wonderful members for ministering to each of us. All donations received have been dedicated to the Zion Lutheran organ fund. Kiitos, Terry Torkko

November 5, 2010

-A. Ellis

## The Woods

Upnorth we are familiar with "the woods." We often use this term to describe a forest or a wide stand of trees. I personally enjoy walking in our back-woods and witnessing first-hand the seasonal impact on the landscape. In the spring when the fiddle heads of ferns spring out of the ground. Or in the summer and the vegetation is in full bloom. The fall has to be my favorite time when I can wade in the mulch of fallen leaves. Winter has new challenges, but also can be a great opportunity if a path is plowed. It is the surprises that keep me coming back to the woods.

The phrase "out of the woods" is an idiom that refers to a situation related to trouble or danger. If a sick person is not fully recovered, we might express he/she is not "out of the woods." Yesterday my aunt described her friend's recovery as he is "coming out of the woods." We all understood that he is over the worst, and moving in the direction of full recovery. In these days, most of us know people who are struggling. The benefits of financial opportunity have not touched them, and they are not "out of the woods." Failed relationships have hid the path of hope and they are not "out of the woods." Still others face the debate of chemo treatments as an option "out of the woods." The stories vary, but difficulty and danger hangs heavy on those stuck in the woods.

Our faith invites us to enter the woods with those who feel caught by the events of life... that we may walk and talk the promises of the Creator.

For even in the woods we see the presence of God in the spring sprouts of hope, the full-bloom of summer mercy, the autumn mulch of grace, and the snow-plowed path of hope. The God of earthly landscape is committed to the 24 x 7 stories of His people. He is ever-ready and ever-eager to surprise those stuck in the woods with His goodness and peace.

Dear Friends, Behold God... and Be Encouraged. The eternal God is with us. We hope and pray His promises define each day in "your neck of the woods."

### ATTENTION ALL QUILTERS!!!!

The Sewing Circle meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM. More willing hands are always needed. No need to be a seamstress as this work can be done by anyone. So ladies please find a few extra hours twice a month to do the Lord's work. Quilts made at Zion go to the Orphan Grain Train and also to local fire victims and baby quilts to babies baptized at Zion.

For more information on the Orphan Grain Train, pick up a brochure from the table in the narthex.



## Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes January 20, 2014

The January 20, 2014 meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President, Chuck Chronis. Vicar Williams opened the meeting with prayer.

**ROLL CALL:** Chuck Chronis (President), Darryl Warren (Elder), Lynn Ladd (Education), Todd Vyskocil (Treasurer), Mary Koosmann (Financial Secretary), Penny Mattson (Stewardship), Lori Hebert (Evangelism), Cheri Tamke (LFOJ), Nick Jarvela (Trustees), Rick Williams (Vicar).

**MINUTES:** Motion by Ladd, second by Mattson, to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2013 Council meeting as printed. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Motion by Warren, second by Hebert, to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed. As of December 31, 2013 Zion had \$80,451.76 in assets and \$18,338.76 in liabilities. Motion carried.

**AGENDA:** Motion by Jarvela, second by Koosmann, to approve the agenda as printed with additions to new business. Motion carried.

**BOARD REPORTS:** Motion by Jarvela, second by Hebert to accept the Board Reports as given. Motion carried.

**Vicar's Report:** *Advent services and Christmas services completed. All shut-ins visited before Christmas. One baptism and four funerals were performed. Confirmations classes continue and are going well. First SMP class complete, halfway through second class. Communications with Cross Roads regarding public dinner.*

**Evangelism:** *Committee meeting February 12. Planning new member celebration and summer picnic.*

**Elders:** Planning to meet with confirmation students. Elders will be meeting first Sunday of each month.

**Trustees:** Attention to roof leaks. Continued maintenance at LFOJ.

**Education:** Planning Secret Pal gathering in combination with Mother / Daughter event. Discussion / planning of women's ministry, currently looking and considering materials. Sunday school is going well.

**Financial Secretary:** Nothing to report.

**Stewardship:** Nothing to report

**LFOJ:** Discussion of Health Insurance as it relates to the health care exchange.

**OFFICIAL ACTS:** Motion by Hebert, second by Ladd to accept the Official Acts. Motion carried.

**Baptism:** Bryson Michael Stenroos (12-01-13)

**Transfers:** Vicky, David and Amber Ovaska from St Paul's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

**Deaths:** Albert Leo Piff (11-20-2013), Roger Stenroos (11-25-2013), Francis Graves (12-23-2013), Ed Torkko (01-07-2014)

**OLD BUSINESS:** Capital Improvement Committee Update – planning meeting next week.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Lenten Suppers were discussed. March 5 – Alter Guild, March 12 – LFOJ, March 19 – Trustees, March 26 – Education, April 2 – Youth, April 9 – Elders/Evangelism

Discussion about possible Community Dinners. Work with different host churches and Cross Roads for planning.

Penny Mattson brought requests for additional tables and chairs for large group events as well as new carafes for serving. Decision was made to move forward with tables and chairs and continue researching carafes. Also request for someone to serve as Event Controller to oversee duties during funerals, baptisms etc. Listing of responsibilities to be posted in newsletter and on bulletin board. In addition, Chuck Chronis volunteered to fulfill janitorial duties as needed for the special events if staff janitor is not available. Lastly, decision was made to purchase two new vacuum cleaners.

Discussion regarding health insurance for LFOJ staff. Decision to table until additional information is obtained from staff.

Widows/Widowers support group discussed. Evangelism board to consider.

Nick Jarvela gathered information regarding the garbage and recycling service. It was decided that Zion and LFOJ will contract with Eagle Waste for service.

Board discussed health insurance options for Vicar. Decision of special fund will be brought to congregation for approval.

Vicar requested supporting a visit to Zion from Brad Alles for a one day seminar. Alles is a nationally known author from Milwaukee. Decision was made that the Board of Evangelism would consider this option.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Warren, second by Jarvela to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.



# FEBRUARY 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

## ELDERS

Feb. 2 John Pruss & Mike Cashman  
Feb. 5 Chuck Chronis  
Feb. 9 Doug Warren & Don Pocernich  
Feb. 12 John Pruss  
Feb. 16 Chuck Chronis & Darryl Warren  
Feb. 19 Doug Warren  
Feb. 23 Don Pocernich & Chuck Chronis

## FEBRUARY Acolytes

Feb. 2 Eric Bochler & Tia Warren  
Feb. 9 Carolyn Gurske & Heather Dickrell  
Feb. 16 Cooper Tamke & MaryBeth Barker  
Feb. 23 Jordan Thimm & Justin Esala

## GREETERS FOR FEBRUARY

*Greeters should arrive by 8:40am*

Feb. 2 Janet & Tiffany Houle  
Feb. 9 Harrelson Family  
Feb. 16 Brian & Linda Klobucher  
Feb. 23 Ingrid Pocernich & Lou Pearce

## FEBRUARY Ushers

*Ushers should arrive by 8:40am*

Feb. 2 Logan Tamke & Pat Colgrove  
Feb. 9 Jake Pruss & Warren Draeger  
Feb. 16 Ben Cashman & Jerry Frisco  
Feb. 23 Terrel Bolz & Scott Sapper



## Our Prayer Concerns FEBRUARY

### 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.

Military Aaron Esala - Navy

Illnesses Otto Rusch Riley Bretting  
Clarence Houle Matt Raspotnik Dale Houle

### Nursing Home & Assisted Living Resident

Elna Torkko Corrine Tolliver Sharon Johnson  
Otto & Dorothy Rusch Gloria Mills Walt Schutte

### Shut-in's

Gordon & Marianne Vyskocil Arlene Zimmerman  
Clarence & Madge Houle

## FEBRUARY ALTAR GUILD

Sandy Frisco 682-5401,  
Stephanie Wegener 682-9822  
Gail Anderson 682-3186



**ANNUAL REPORT 2013**  
Is available in the Narthex.

## OFFICIAL ACTS

**Death-** Edward Torkko 01-07-2014

**Transferred to Zion -** Vicky, David and Amber Ovaska from St. Paul's Lutheran Church (LCMS)