

The Mountain Top Messenger

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 1 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod JANUARY 2014

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

The above statement comes from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. I felt as we begin this New Year it is important to remember these words. Particularly the understanding that God comforts us in all our afflictions so that we in turn are able to comfort those who are in any affliction. There are so many people out there who are struggling in so many different ways. Do we make it a point to go out of our way to comfort them? Do we reach out to those in need and share the peace and comfort that we receive from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ? I had a little debate with someone the other day. We heard the statement that if you dropped 100 calories a day from your diet you would lose 10 pounds in a year, they didn't believe it. I did, I believe science will, and has, proven it true and correct. So as I thought about that as I began to wonder if the same would hold true with passing on comfort to those afflicted. If we would take the time to show a little more comfort, a little more compassion to those afflicted, regardless of the affliction, be it through a death, health issues, financial difficulties, family difficulties, or maybe even a struggle with one's faith, could we make a positive, God pleasing effect on their lives. I dare say yes, and I believe the test and results of time would prove this out. Besides having the desired effect of making others happy, and being God pleasing, I would venture to say it would make you happier as well. So as we begin the New Year, reach out, comfort those in need whoever they may be and remember from Matthew 25:40 *"And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"* (The entire story is from Matt 25:31-46)

Three reminders for January - the Sunday morning Bible Study: "The Great Deceiver", a study of satan. This is a 4 week study from the Lutheran Hour folks. Secondly, we will be resuming Wednesday night services on January 8 and will continue through Lent, which is late this year and begins on March 5. And finally Monday morning Bible Study resumes January 6 at 10:00am, see you there.

God's Blessings to all of you this New Year!
Rick Williams, Vicar

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 (Monday-Thursday 8:30-4:30)
President, Chuck Chronis 715-208-0053
Head Elder, Darryl Warren 715-492-0488
LFOJ Child Care Center - Administrator, Karyn Leino 715-682-6075
Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center 715-682-5185

* * * * *

Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 am Wednesday Evening Worship 6:30pm
Sunday School 10:15am

Bible Studies: Sunday 10:15 am, Monday 10:00am

* * * * *

If you are interested in becoming a member of Zion please contact the Vicar, the Elder or the office and they will be glad to assist you.

Stewardship Thoughts

Stewardship is rarely taught during the month of December when there are so many other things to deal with, but it is a good time to teach Incarnational Stewardship [Incarnation—the Son of God became man]. The birth of Christ is the beginning and leads to Pentecost where the Spirit is out poured through the Gospel. Dead sinners are made alive in Christ and the original purpose of stewardship is restored.

Redeemed stewards by grace through faith are called to a response to manage what God has entrusted to them. They see created things as gifts from the Lord to be used for serving the Lord by serving their neighbor. Incarnational stewardship looks to Jesus and is the flesh and blood of Jesus in a world that needs the word in the flesh today. It looks to give rather than to receive.

From your Stewardship Committee

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 and Projects

January 14th and 28th
5:30pm

2nd and 4th Tuesday
of every month.

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 an evening, it may get postponed.*

Contact Lilly at:
Lillyc_00@yahoo.com

2014 BOARD MEMBERS & CHURCH OFFICIALS

*Zion Church Council Members (term expires 12/31/year)	
Church President	*Chuck Chronis (2014)
Council Secretary	*Alice Ellis (2016)
Financial Secretary	*Mary Koosmann (2015)
Church Treasurer	*Todd Vyskocil (2014)
Accountant	*Raelyn Pearson
Elders	Education
John Pruss (2014)	Jodi Truchon (2014)
Mike Cashman (2014)	Lori Hebert (2014)
*Darryl Warren (2015)	*Lynn Ladd (2014)
Chuck Chronis (2015)	Janet Houle (2015)
Doug Warren (2015)	Laurie Bauer (2016)
Don Pocernich (2016)	Lilly Harrelson (2016)
Evangelism	Trustees
*Lori Hebert (2015)	Loren Munson (2014)
Jim Johnson (2015)	Scott Sapper (2014)
Sandy Frisco (2015)	*Nick Jarvela (2015)
Alice Ellis (2015)	Ron Schwiesow (2016)
June Williams (2015)	Scott Thimm (2016)
Stewardship	Little Friends of Jesus
Ethel Guss (2014)	Pancho Graves (2014)
Diane Cashman (2015)	*Cheri Tamke (2015)
*Penny Mattson (2015)	Lisa Guski (2015)
	Fran Kuester (2016)
	Karyn Leino /Amy Mashlan (LFOJ)

CAMP LUTHER:

SUMMER REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
SUMMER STAFF POSITIONS AVAILABLE
FAMILY FLURRY RETREAT (Jan. 31-Feb. 2)
WINTER COTTAGE RETREATS
LOOKING FOR JUNIOR COUNSELORS
NEW ADVENTURES AT KEWEENAW BASE
CAMP (KBC)
NEW "GUITAR CAMP" AT CAMP LUTHER (July
13-18)
NEW "U.P. KAYAK AND HIKE CAMP" AT CAMP
LUTHER FOR PARENTS/CHILDREN IN
GRADES 3-6 (June 15-18)

Check out the bulletin board or their website
www.campluther.com for more information.

NEEDED:

The Trustees could use one more person in their Trustee Group. Please contact one of its members if you would like to try it out.

Vicar Rick
and June
would like to
thank eve-



ryone for all the cards, greetings
and gifts during this blessed season.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Mark your calendar—August 11-14th will be Camp Luther VBS



December was a very busy month for Sunday School—both for the students as well as the teachers. There were only two Sundays to practice for the program, but Lisa, Lilly and Jodi managed to get it together.

The Christmas Program was December 15th and this year's Christmas Program theme was "Silent Night, Holy Night". Lisa Guski and Lilly Harrelson headed the program with Jodi Truchon leading the music as well as Luke Barker on the guitar accompanying the "Little Angels" songs, and all the students memorized their parts; it was a very nice program!. After the program refreshments were served. This year each Sunday School student, as well as each teacher and helpers, were given a special ornament from the Sunday School—thank you to Gail Anderson from New England Store for ordering the ornaments.

On December 22nd we had a special craft and refreshments for Jesus' Birthday. Even though there was a blizzard outside, we managed to have a small group present. Thank you to Michelle Vyskocil for making the "cherry chip" cake for the party (mmmm-good).

The new lesson curriculum materials were handed out to each class to start out the new year. The plan for the month of January is to have January 12th Sunday as the special craft/film Sunday—please have the students circle that Sunday for attending, because we do have a special activity set up.

With the busy December month, we did not get the attendance sheet finished, so we will have both November through January listed in the February Newsletter.

Happy New Year and God's Blessings in the 2014 year.

Katie Colgrove

Dear Friends in Christ:

December 29, 2013

As we prepare for the New Year and the changes it's sure to bring, The BRICK is making a special request for volunteers to serve in our food shelf. There are two types of positions available: front desk work checking in our food shelf recipients, and food shelf attendant escorting recipients through the food shelf. We're especially looking for volunteers to fill our Wednesday morning slot and our Thursday evening slot (new!). Could you please include this request in your next Sunday bulletin and announcements, if possible? The BRICK exists because of the strong framework the Covenant Churches provide. Thanks so much for your ongoing support.

Liz Seefeldt, Director [The BRICK Ministries, Inc.](#)

420 Ellis Ave. Ashland, WI 54806

715-682-7425 ext.103

*Blessed is the (wo)man
Whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
And on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
That yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers. Psalm 1*



Jan. 2014

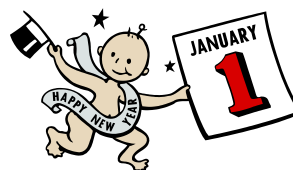
Holiday mail is broadcast to a wide audience. There are Christmas cards with news and snapshots to delight family and friends. Credit-card deals to be studied. Shiny fliers of new-tech gadgets. Last minute shopping coupons. Tax statements to ponder. And today the *Burpee* seed catalog came.

No doubt, market researchers concluded that winter spawns the dreams of gardeners. For the snow-white landscape invites us to consider the colors of spring. Winter hibernation whets our senses for growth. Winter inspires us to consider new schemes to harness summer sun. Winter offers space to think and plan.

So as I peruse the *Burpee* catalog, it is snowing outside. Gentle large flakes spread a white comforter over summer-spent roots. Protection from the cold. Moisture for the earth. Hmm...maybe next spring I will try the new seedless tomatoes...black beauty eggplant...or how about spineless okra? I can already envision lush plants heavy with summer fruit.

In northern Wisconsin, we are fortunate to have four distinct seasons. Each one has its own beauty. Each one hosts memories of the past... speaks to the beauty of the present... and shapes plans for the future. Winter melts into spring. Spring sprouts into summer. Summer ripens into autumn. Autumn washes into white winter. Nature's laws remind us to consider the all-season laws of God. For in 2013, we thrived in the tender care of our faithful and loving Gardener. May we again prosper in His grace and grow in fresh joy and great wonder in 2014.

Happy New Year! *Herb and Alice Ellis*



Zion Lutheran Church Annual Voters' Meeting December 1, 2013

The December 1, 2013 Annual Meeting of Zion Lutheran Church was called to order by President, Chuck Chronis. Paster Bahn opened the meeting with prayer. Thirty-four voting members were in attendance. Minutes from the 2012 annual meeting were read by Council Secretary, Becky Sapper.

Financial Report

Todd Vyskocil, Treasurer, reported that there is \$62,500 in our checking account and \$12,687 in the savings account for a total of approximately \$75,200 in available cash assets. There is currently a balance of \$18,520 remaining on the mortgage. We are currently under our 2012 budget by \$5,622.

New Business

Motion by Nick Jarvela, second by June Williams to accept the slate of nominated individuals for board members with terms expiring in 2015, including: *Council Secretary*, Alice Ellis; *Elders*, Don Pocernich; *Board of Education*, Laurie Bauer and Lillian Harrelson; *Board of Trustees*, Ron Schwiesow and Scott Thimm; *LFOJ*, Fran Kuester. Motion carried. There is a vacancy remaining on the trustee board.

Motion by Duke Kuester, second by Nick Jarvela to approve the 2014 annual budget with the total of \$163,785. Motion carried.

Motion by Jule Jarvela, second by Shannon Esala to approve the Synod's constitutional amendment to Article XII by changing "circuit counselors" to "circuit visitors". Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Johnson, second by Cheri Tamke, to update the Sexual Harassment/Abuse policy to add "Two adults will be in attendance at all youth functions with at least one adult with 6 months experience volunteering with youth as a member of Zion or with an established relationship with Zion, for example Camp Luther counselors." Motion carried.

Motion by Nick Jarvela, second by Ethel Guss to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Pastor Bahn closed the meeting with prayer.

There was no December meeting for the Church Council, it was cancelled due to weather.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Reports are due to the office by January 15th. The earlier the better. Plus, please e-mail the report so I have them on the computer. Or you can type them on the office computer. Any questions, call the office. Thank you, Lynn
zionashland@hotmail.com



Thrivent – Are you a policy holder? If yes, are you aware that you can direct Choice Dollars to a selection of many non-profit organizations? Read on.....

Choice Dollars Details

The Thrivent Choice® program lets members recommend where some of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' charitable outreach funds go by directing Choice Dollars®. The 2013 details are outlined below.

Member Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to participate in Choice Dollars, you must be a benefit member age 16 or older. Individual eligibility is also based on:

- Holding a Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership position; or
- Having \$800 or more in annual premiums of qualifying insurance products; or
- Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying products.

Member eligibility under current eligibility requirements is determined monthly, and these eligibility requirements are re-evaluated on an annual basis.

Amount of Choice Dollars Designated to You

- \$2.30 Choice Dollars per \$100 of annual premium on qualifying insurance products is designated monthly based upon the premium payments you made in the prior month.
- \$1.15 Choice Dollars per \$1,000 of contract value of qualifying products is designated on a quarterly basis. 25% of this amount will be designated to you each calendar quarter based upon the actual contract value at the end of the quarter.
- \$25 Choice Dollars for holding a qualifying Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership position is designated once each year.
- Choice Dollar amounts range from \$25 to \$2,500 for eligible members.

Choice Dollars Expiration Date

Choice Dollars designated during the calendar year can be directed until March 31 of the following year. For example, you can direct Choice Dollars designated to you in 2013 until March 31, 2014.

Organizations Eligible for Choice Dollars

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and congregations that meet program eligibility rules; and
- Recommended by a benefit member; and
- Approved by a Thrivent Chapter/chartered Thrivent FR Community leadership board before being added to the online catalog.

Directing Designated Choice Dollars

- You can direct Choice Dollars to as many organizations as you like. However, you must direct a minimum of \$5 Choice Dollars to each organization.
- Thrivent Financial will distribute Choice Dollars grant funds to organizations monthly.

Search Participating Organizations

You can look up their current list of organizations on their website:

https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/program/dollars_details/index.html

For more information or help call Dave Pagels at 716-685-0605 or go to the Thrivent Office at 623 Main St. E.

Important – you must sign-up every year for your distribution.

Simply Giving

endorsed by Thrivent Financial Bank and provided through VANCO
Alternative to weekly offering .

Direct Debit for Offerings

VANCO Services is providing Zion with direct deposit of offerings from members. It is a convenient, secure and easy method for contributions.

We will be using Direct Debit e.service®

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) provides a secure electronic transfer of an authorized donation/payment from an individual's checking or savings account into the Church's bank account. Vanco processes recurring, variable and one-time transactions.

About Vanco Services, LLC

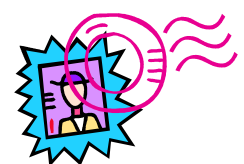
Vanco Services, LLC is a PCI (Payment Card Industry) Level 1 Compliant Service Provider specializing in electronic payment solutions. They provide secure and reliable processing for both recurring and one-time transactions. Vanco works with over 19,000 organizations in a variety of industries nationwide. With more than 20 years of experience in Automated Clearing House (ACH) processing, cash management and risk management, Vanco has earned its reputation as a trusted industry leader.

Security

Vanco provides the highest level of security and confidentiality in processing their clients' electronic transactions. It is their expertise in risk management and an unwavering commitment to security and confidentiality that has helped them become a market leader with a reputation for providing timely, accurate and secure processing services. To remain a market leader and to maintain a high level of service, they utilize the latest technology and incorporate risk management into every facet of their business.

If this is something you would like to look further into, please contact Lynn in the office. Application forms are available in the office.

LWML is collecting stamps for its Mission projects. If you choose to trim the stamps, please leave a 1/4" border. Place the stamps in the marked container in the Narthex.





JANUARY 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

Our Prayer Concerns JANUARY

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 Otto Rusch Marlene Kerr
Riley Bretting Clarence Houle Matt Raspotnik

Nursing Home & Assisted Living Resident

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

Shut-in's

Gordon & Marianne Vyskocil
Clarence & Madge Houle Walt Schutte

ELDERS

Jan. 5 Chuck Chronis Darryl Warren
Jan. 12 Don Pocernich & John Pruss
Jan. 19 Mike Cashman & Doug Warren
Jan. 26 Darryl Warren & Don Pocernich

GREETERS FOR JANUARY

Greeters should arrive by 8:40am

Jan. 5 Sandy & Jerry Frisco
Jan. 12 Ethel Guss & Penny Mattson
Jan. 19 Moreland Family
Jan. 26 Vyskocil Family

JANUARY Acolytes

Jan. 5 Jordan Thimm & Jacob Graves
Jan. 12 Angela Ylitalo & Kyle Sapper
Jan. 19 Kaitlyn Dickrell & Taylor Vyskocil
Jan. 26 David Ovaska & Ashlee Moreland

JANUARY Ushers

Ushers should arrive by 8:40am

Jan. 5 Chris Bolz & Larry Hildebrandt
Jan. 12 Jim Johnson & Rick Nutt
Jan. 19 Scott Pearce & Dylan Williams
Jan. 26 Karl Williams & Blake Zakovec

JANUARY ALTAR GUILD

Becky Sapper 682-8867, Michelle
Vyskocil 682-2498
Brooke Sapper, Sydney Vyskocil



OFFICIAL ACTS

Death - Albert Leo Piff 11-20-2013
Roger Stenroos 11-25-2013
Francis Graves 12-23-2013
Baptism —Bryson Michael Stenroos
12-1-2013

Amy and Michael Stenroos
Bryson and Carson
December 1, 2013
Bryson's Baptism