

The Mountain Top **Messenger**

Volume 49, Issue 6 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod JUNE 2011

“IN HIS TIME”

For my confirmation “examination” each member of our class was asked to write an essay that we would then present to the congregation on Confirmation Day. Some of the members of my family who were present that day told me how well I spoke, and that I ought to consider going into the pastoral ministry.

I was pleased to receive the compliments, but had never before that day considered becoming a pastor. After all, as far as I was concerned, I wasn’t pastor “material.” I wasn’t! Believe me. At least not at that time. But in a few short months I was off to Concordia in Milwaukee [at that time a six-year school including four years of high school], all for the wrong reasons.

I started out well enough, but my grades spiraled downward from then on. I was more interested in having a good time than in my studies. After high school I was done with that and into the work force.

It was eight years later that God called me back. I felt like Moses who asked the Lord: “Who am I that I should go?” I had none of the qualities of pastoral material, except that I was involved in Bible study, and my faith in Christ had grown. The Lord led me to know it was time, and He blessed me with the gifts I needed to serve Him. He always does.

The point of all this is not to bore you with the details of my story, but to remind you that God’s time is always best.

His timing and the direction of the Holy Spirit are what I will be praying for on Zion’s behalf, and I would encourage you to do the same. As a Circuit Counselor I’ve seen congregations who have tried to speed up the process and have bypassed key steps in the calling process, and have created difficult situations.

Seek God’s will; be open to the Spirit’s guidance and direction; and wait for His time to carry out His plan for Zion Lutheran Church. May God bless your calling process!

In His time, in His time,
He makes all things beautiful
in His time.
Lord, please show me ev’ry day
as You’re teaching me Your way,
That You do just what You say
in Your time. [1978 *Maranatha! Music*]

Pastor Steckling



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

In the first Commandment Luther found the best news there can be: that He insists on being our God and providing us with all we need. It is clear that we belong to God, nothing we get out of life will be without His prior claim on us, and we are under unremitting obligation to Him. The First Commandment reminds us that we are not to dismiss God in our daily lives but to live our lives as a response to God's love in Christ. "Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!"

From your Stewardship Committee

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST -



Thursday mornings from 6:00 to 6:50 am. The current study is entitled: "FACING DISASTER LIKE A MAN". You won't want to miss it. Please join us!

Retirement Party:

Anyone wishing to help plan Pastor's Retirement Party should contact **Becky Sapper, 715/682-8867.**



FUN!

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.



CAMP LUTHER ACTIVITIES

From: Deb Wampfler [deb.wampfler@campluther.com] Look on the bulletin board in the Narthex for details on the following subjects:

- REGISTER ONLINE FOR SUMMER CAMP 2011!! KINDERCAMP !!**
- IMPACT- Hands On Leadership Camp!! (July 1-9 or July 29-Aug. 6)**
- YOUR GIFT TO CAMP DOUBLED!! "EVERY KID TO CAMP"**
- DINNER AUCTION!! CAMP LUTHER AT BEAVER CREEK RESERVE!!**
- Be an RV volunteer!**
- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR A.S.D. FAMILY RETREAT!!**
- WOMEN'S WEEKEND OUT!!**



Camp Luther is a ministry of the North Wisconsin District-LCMS. Our mission is to build up the Body of Christ for service to the church and witness to the world.

RE: Joplin Tornado

From: President Mirly

Date: May 25, 2011

Psalm 46:10-11 (ESV)

“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”
The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our fortress.

Rev. Gene Wyssmann and I were in Joplin yesterday to meet with Rev. Greg Mech, Jeremy Schamber, Principal of Martin Lutheran School, Jason Glaskey (DCE) and several lay leaders of Immanuel Lutheran Church. They want to thank all who have responded with prayers, assistance, and words of encouragement. The challenges that they face are beyond words, but their faith in Almighty God is very evident.

Communication by phone and other technology is at best intermittent. This has made the task of accounting for the whereabouts and well-being of Immanuel members very difficult. Pastor Mech, Immanuel's staff and various lay leaders have made every effort to personally contact every member within the path of the tornado. They believe that they have accounted for every member that lived within the path of the storm. They are not aware of the death of any of their members even though many of their homes were totally destroyed. They have not been able to contact all of the school families.

14 members' homes or apartments were totally destroyed. Countless others sustained significant damage. The parsonage has major roof damage. The school building suffered roof damage, but temporary repairs have already been made. The church has no apparent damage, but is without electricity.

DCE Glaskey shared that the teenagers of the congregation, especially those that lost their homes, are experiencing significant emotional difficulties. Several have requested that he go with them and their family to the site of where their homes once stood to help them begin to deal with their loss.

Rev. William Doubek, pastor of First Lutheran Church, Neosho, has several members that sustained complete loss of their homes in Joplin. An eight year old girl and six year old boy from one of his families were killed by the tornado. The mother of these children is injured and hospitalized, as is her two year old child. Our prayers go out to this family.

As we were leaving the church, Red Cross staff was arriving to establish a command center at Immanuel. The challenge is that the church does not have large enough refrigerators and freezers to neither store food, nor proper space for other donations that are starting to arrive.

Rev. Glenn Merrick and Rev. Carlos Hernandez with Lutheran World Relief will visit Joplin today. Mr. Jim Eckrich and a number of other associates from Lutheran Disaster Relief will also be in Joplin today. Both organizations are giving the following advice:

(cont.)

EVERY KID TO CAMP AUCTION

The "Every Kid to Camp" ministry auction committee is still in need of silent and live auction items. Silent auction items can be theme baskets, artwork, antiques, items you may have bought but never used and the like. Value is usually \$25 - \$75. Live auction items can be Packer tickets, boats, artwork, cottage use for a week, service projects, homemade wood items, quilts, various collections (coin/stamp/eggs/etc.) and anything of value \$75 and up. Please contact Sandi Sorensen (sandi@nwdlcms.org or 715-845-8241, ext. 23) or Lee Belmas (lee@nwdlcms.org or 715-845-8241, ext. 16) if you have an item or two you'd like to donate. It would be greatly appreciated. All money raised at this event will be used to send 3rd - 8th grade kids, who have never been to a week of summer camp at Camp Luther, to a week at no expense to their parents. Our purpose is to help kids build a stronger foundation of faith in Jesus Christ...one kid at a time! Your donation will make a difference in the spiritual lives of kids. Thank you and God bless you in all you do in life and ministry. [Lee Belmas, Director, "Every Kid to Camp"]



The book *A Northwoods Companion* states: Mark Twain understood the vagaries of spring and the cabin fever that overwhelms the north country when he wrote: *Every year they kill a lot of poets for writing about 'Beautiful Spring.'* *These are generally casual visitors, who bring their notions of spring from somewhere else, and cannot, of course, know how the natives feel about spring.* (Guess this story reveals my native perspective.) - A. Ellis



April 19, 2008

The Scent of Spring



Spring up north is a season of "firsts"-first crocus, first rain-shower, first robin, first swamp call of frogs...etc. Yesterday I had my first whiff of a familiar scent and I shouted-YES, the smell of skunk! To me, this aromatic baptism on the catwalk of creation affirms that SPRING has SPRUNG up north. For I have heard the call of the robin, seen the awakened black bear, tasted spring rain, wallowed boots in the mud, and now my nose has been tweaked by the musk-of-skunk.

In this season of rebirth, I applaud the resurrection of skunks (and other critters) from the den of winter to announce spring. May this transforming energy of life tweak all of our senses to God's perspective that we may order our steps in His word and proclaim the message of the first Easter: He is Risen Indeed! *"Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in the triumph, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere"* (2 Cor. 2:14).

Keep everyone in your prayers.

Send financial contributions to the organization of your choice. See addresses below.

Do not drive to Joplin to assist unless you are a qualified first responder. You will not be permitted into the area of the storm damage. Once search and recovery efforts have been completed cleanup volunteers will be requested.

Volunteers are being coordinated through United Way 211. Groups can register by calling 211 (landline) or (800) 427- 4626 (cell). Registration can also be done online at <http://www.211missouri.org/>.

Do not collect nor attempt to take clothing to Joplin.

The water utility hopes to have safe drinking water flowing through its system today. Bottled water is still needed.

Phone calls should not be placed to Immanuel Lutheran Church until further notice.

Volunteers of the congregation are attempting to keep the website updated. Please go to www.immanueljoplin.com

I have requested Rev. Mech to send me a daily list of needs. Please check the Missouri District website for daily updates. One immediate need is the loan of John Deere Gators (or equivalent) to be used to move supplies through the disaster zone. The authorities will not permit delivery by car or truck. If you or a member of your congregation is willing to loan a Gator type vehicle, contact Karen Siegel, 314.317.4565. She will assist you with necessary delivery information.

Agencies providing assistance:

The Missouri District Disaster Fund
The Missouri District - LCMS
660 Mason Ridge Center Drive, Suite 100
St. Louis, MO 63141

American Red Cross
P.O. Box 37243
Washington, DC 20013
1-800-RED-CROSS
<http://www.redcross.org>

Lutheran World Relief and Human Care
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63122

LCMS Orphan Grain Train
(402) 649-3893 or (402) 649-3896
ogtrelief@cablone.net

Lutheran Disaster Response
39330 Treasury Center
Chicago, IL 60694-9300

We give thanks and praise to God for the countless lives that were spared. We pray God's comfort and blessings upon all of the families that mourn the death of loved ones. We ask God to bless the ministry to the injured and upon all the recovery efforts. Please keep all the residents of Joplin in your prayers.

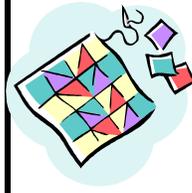
Through this disaster in Joplin we are once again reminded how temporary this world is. Thanks be to God that through faith in His Son Jesus Christ, all who believe in Him have His promise of a life that will never end. As the Scriptures teach, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain."

CONGRATULATIONS to this year's graduates, with the prayer that the Lord will guide them into their futures in the work force or in on-going education.



www.zionashland.org

Website - The new website for Zion is up and running. Anthony with Eaglewing Enterprises has been a great asset in setting it up for us. If you have any questions, suggestions, and/or ideas, now or later, please call Lynn at the office. The Newsletter will be on the website. As the months go by fewer and fewer hard copies will be printed.



This year, **Zion's Sewing Circle**, completed 75 quilts to be sent out to the needy. We have also sewn several quilts for fire victims in our area. We thank the Lord for all the materials and fabric that has been donated to this group. Thank the Lord for the busy hands sewing these quilts for the needy. We pray that those that receive these quilts will be blessed. The Sewing Circle meets September through May, on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome to join us. See you in the fall!

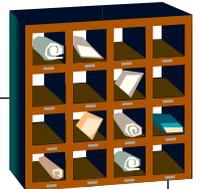
Scrapbooking: Friday
June 3rd 5-10pm

FUN!

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. Soda, water and punch are provided. Please bring a snack to share. There is a \$5 fee. Bring your friends. Please RSVP to Jodi Truchon if you are interested in coming. (jbtruchon@yahoo.com or 866-267-8749) Thank you!



Mailboxes - Do you check your mailbox in the Narthex? Please do so regularly. If there are items in it that don't belong please turn into the office. If you don't have a box let the office know!



PASTOR GATZ We would like to let the people of Zion know (those that still remember him) that Pastor Wm. Gatz is celebrating his 50th year of his Ordination into the Ministry on June 12, 2011, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 3637 Spring Arbor Rd., Jackson, Michigan at the 8:00 & 10:30am services. Pastor Gatz served Zion from 1966 -1972. Many blessings to the people of Zion congregation.
Trudy Gatz

PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!!

June 5 - Voter's Meeting; Mite Sunday

June 20 - Father's Day!

June 26 - Food Shelf Sunday - bring items by the last Sunday of each month.

July 13 - Anyone who might be available to help clean the pew cushions at 10:00am.

July 31 - Farewell to Pastor after the Worship Service



THE CALL PROCESS

If you hadn't heard by now, Pastor Steckling is retiring, effective July 31st. Zion started the Call Process with a Pre-Call Meeting on May 11th with Pastor Hoelter. We will try to keep you informed as the process proceeds. At any time you have a question or comment please contact the office. The following are a few of the current topics.

VOTERS' MEETING – In order to move forward with the process to fill the future pastoral vacancy there will be a Voter's meeting following worship on June 5 to approve an "Enabling Motion" for the creation of a Call Committee. The motion recommended by the Council reads: "We, the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church, hereby vote to create a call committee, consisting of not more than 7 members, in order to prepare a call list and lead the process to fill our pastoral vacancy."

Call Committee

Are you interested in being on the Committee?
What would you bring to this committee?

The committee will be selected (by the Church Council on June 6th) to represent a cross section of our Church members. There is a dedication of time and effort for this process. They could meet weekly for 1-3 months, then monthly (or as needed – more or less) until a Pastor has accepted a call. This process could take up to a year or longer. If you are interested, please submit your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, along with why you would be a good candidate, to the office (or in the "office secretary" mailbox in the Narthex) by June 1st.

There will be a couple other short-term committees that will need to assist in gathering and/or forming information. They will probably meet in June and have their tasks completed in 2-3 weeks.

REQUEST FOR NAMES OF PASTORAL CANDIDATES – Forms to nominate pastors to be on Zion's call list are available in the Narthex or ask in the office. Submit the completed form to the office secretary by June 5th. Please be sure to write clearly and thoroughly complete the forms.

MOWING SCHEDULE – It's spring and summer is around the corner. Along with the warmer temperatures and longer daylight hours comes about the summer outdoor chores, including lawn mowing. Please consider signing up to mow the lawn for the Church and around LFOJ. Sign up sheet in the narthex. Even two families at a time would be great.



Zion Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
May 16, 2011

The May 16, 2011 meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President, Nick Jarvela. Pastor Steckling opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

ROLL CALL: President – Nick Jarvela, Elder – Darryl Warren, Trustee – Jim Johnson, Financial Secretary – Mary Koosmann, Education – Dawn Reardon, LFOJ – Cheri Tamke, Treasurer – Karen Wahl, Secretary – Becky Sapper, Evangelism – Liisa Eyerly, Stewardship – Penny Mattson, Pastor Larry Steckling and Lynn Ladd.

MINUTES: Motion by Wahl, second by Koosmann, to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2011 Council meeting as printed. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion by Johnson, second by Eyerly, to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed. The year-to-date balance as of 4/30/2011 was (\$74.25). Motion carried.

AGENDA: Motion by Johnson, second by Mattson, to approve the agenda with additions to New Business. Motion carried.

BOARD REPORTS:

Motion by Johnson, second by Mattson, to accept the Board Reports as given.

Elders: Met with confirmands in May for their final interviews – the elders were pleased with the responses of the confirmands. Twelve adults have expressed an interest in attending adult membership classes. Rick Williams is considering leading a class in the fall.

Trustees: Front steps will be repaired and improved soon. Continuing with preventative maintenance at the Church and LFOJ. Looking for funds needed to repair the Bell Tower.

Little Friends of Jesus: Bids to replace play area woodchips with better materials came to \$6,400 and \$6,900. The \$500 challenge grant was met and exceeded for a total donation of \$1,130.00 by members of Zion's congregation.

Evangelism: The church website is now active and live www.zionashland.org Lynn Ladd will communicate updates, changes or edits to the Webmaster. Evangelism is communicating with the memorial committee regarding ongoing projects.

Pastor: Four individuals were confirmed on May 15, 2011. See Official Acts for names. Pastor will be taking vacation on June 14-27 and July 8-14, prorated 3 weeks for seven months employment in 2011 (5 weeks normally).

OFFICIAL ACTS:

New Members (confirmation): Allie Bochler, Douglas Gurske, Hunter Heglund, Shayla Warren 05/15/11

Wedding: Lauri Neibauer and Don Moreland, 04/29/11

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Council will meet on an as-needed basis for the summer months.

B. Motion by Johnson, second by Koosmann to approve recommending the following Enabling Motion for a June 5th Voter's Meeting: "We, the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church, hereby vote to create a call committee, consisting of not more than 7 members, in order to prepare a call list and lead the process to fill our pastoral vacancy." Motion Carried.

C. Individuals wishing to serve on the call committee, or other committees associated with the efforts to secure a new pastor, are asked to submit their name and what they would bring to the process to the Church Secretary by June 1st, 2011, so that the Council can select members to represent a cross section of our Church membership.

D. Council will meet on June 6th at 6:30 pm to select call committee members.

E. A form to nominate pastors to be on our call list will be available in the Narthex. Forms should be completed and returned to the Church secretary (please be sure to write clearly and spell names correctly).

F. Retirement Party: Anyone wishing to help plan Pastor's Retirement Party should contact Becky Sapper, 715/682-8867.

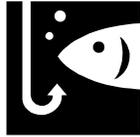
G. Board of Education will work with Elders and Altar Guild to create a process for the flowers and cake for future Confirmation Sundays.

Motion by Warren, second by Reardon to approve the real estate transfer fees of \$30, to have all three of Zion's parcels combined into one parcel.

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

June Servers for Worship Services 2011

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!!



GREETERS FOR JUNE

June 5 Linda Klobucher & Linda Stenroos
 June 12 Scott & Tami Thimm
 June 19 Nick & Jule Jarvela
 June 26 Rick & Sandy Nutt

ELDERS

June 5 Rick Williams & Doug Warren
 Mon. June 6 Chuck Chronis
 June 12 Don Pocernich & Chuck Chronis
 Mon. June 13 Rick Williams
 June 19 Doug Warren & Darryl Warren
 June 26 John Pruss & Rick Williams
Next meeting— June 11th - 7:30am

JUNE Ushers

June 5 Brian Klobucher & Jim Johnson
 June 12 John Hall & Jack Hultman
 June 19 Scott Pearce & Andrew Pruss
 June 26 Scott Sapper & Ron Schwiesow

JUNE Acolytes

June 5 Kathryn Draeger & Briana Klobucher
 June 12 Ciera Maday & Jacob Pruss
 June 19 Michael Wittling & Kaitlyn Thimm
 June 26 Maggie Reardon & Dylan Williams

OFFICIAL ACTS

Marriage: Don Moreland and Lauri Neibauer
 04-29-11
 Baptism: Abigail May Moreland 05-21-2011
 Confirmands: 05-15-2011 Allie Bochler, Douglas Gurske, Hunter Heglund, Shayla Warren

JUNE ALTAR GUILD

Eleanor Munson 682-8155
 Alice Balmer 682-0700



Our Prayer Concerns JUNE



Mission

Zion Lutheran Church
 Little Friends of Jesus Childcare Center
 Missionaries Philip & Kerri Schielke & family

Thanksgiving

To all of you who have worked faithfully and joyfully to serve our Lord by serving others and often go unnoticed

Nursing Home & Assisted Living Resident

Roger Basina
 Ed Engelmann
 John Wroblewski

Shut—ins

Corrine Tolliver
 Ron Nevala
 Walt & Agnes Schutte
 Lois Hein
 Clarence Houle
 Gloria Mills
 Donna Graves
 Roger Basina
 Donna Graves

Local & US Concerns

(fulltime and/or deployed military)



Janet Houle's nephews, Keith Spaulding in Oregon, Jonathan Nelson stationed in So. Carolina

Steve Sorenson, son of Dave & June Sorenson, 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

Little Friends of Jesus

Website: lfoj.org

Email: ljoj@zionashland.com

Volume 3

May 2011

Tid-bits from Administration

Staff Changes

Staff turn-over is an ongoing challenge in the early childhood field. Jesi Kelm has given her notice. She will remain on as an emergency substitute. Ms. Jesi has accepted a job position with Golden Living. She will continue working at LFOJ through the month of May.

Laurel Grehn 's last day with LFOJ was April 25. Ms. Laurel has decided to travel for the summer and "Spread her Wings". Ms. Laurel is interested in returning to LFOJ in the fall if a position should be available.

Please keep us in your prayers as we search for Assistant Float Teachers to take their places.

Summer Supplies

With the promise of warmer weather on the way, children will soon be needing sunscreen and water bottles for outside play. A signed medication form is needed for **each** child. Siblings in different rooms can share sunscreen, but we need a separate med. Form for each child's file.

Children Openings

LFOJ has a number of openings, both now and for the fall, in our Learner Room. In the past, our parents have always been the best source of referral for our center. If you know of anyone looking for care for 3 to 5 year olds, please have them call Karyn or Amy at the church office, 715-682-6075.

Happy Mother's Day

Strength and integrity, wisdom and kindness,
support and acceptance, laughter and
love.....

God wove them all together and created
Mothers!

Yours in Christ,
Karyn



Totville News

Happy Mother's Day to all our moms on May 8th.

We want to welcome **Emily K.** and **Garret M.** to the I/T room! Also, I want to wish my little **Oliver** a happy first birthday. Wow! Where does a year go so quickly.

This month, we'll be learning about Noah's ark and the great flood. We will also learn about baby animals.

Ms. Daphnie

Trike-A-Thon

May 2-May 6

Trike-a-thon is a fun, week long curriculum and fundraising program that teaches children ride-toy safety lessons through a series of interactive stories. Children receive these lessons from special St. Jude friends, Bikewell Bear and Pedals the Bunny, while raising money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. At the end of the Trike-A-Thon week, students ride bikes at our center to practice the safety lessons they have learned.

We ask parents to help the children gain sponsorship. This can be from grandparents, aunts, uncles, family friends, etc. The amount doesn't matter; any amount is fine. We encourage pledges to be a flat amount (if pledges are made per lap, a parent will need to be present to count). After the Trike-a-Thon, parents collect donations from sponsors, and return them to LFOJ. Children can earn fun prizes based on the amount of money raised.

Our 3/4 year olds will have their Trike-A-Thon on **Thursday May 5 from 11:00 to 11:30**. Our 4/5 year olds will ride on **Friday, May 6th from 11:00 to 11:30**. Spectators are welcome! It's for a great cause!

Thank you for your support!



Learner Lane

Spring brings unpredictable weather. Please dress your child in layers. Also, double check your child's cubby to make sure they have an extra set of clothes. Whether it be spills, or just playing outside, let's face it-kids can be messy!

We are in Unit 3 of our curriculum: Spring Weather (*Pillars of Cloud and Fire*, Exodus), Bugs (*On the Road to Emmaus*, Luke), Birds (*The Baptism of Jesus*, Mark) and Reptiles (*The Bronze Snake*, Numbers).

We had some goodbyes this past month. River and Ash H. and Ellie G. are no longer with us. We will miss you! However, we have a new face. Ian H. has been transitioning out from the I/T room. Welcome to the Big Room.

There is also a birthday this month. Happy birthday to Connor C., who turns four on May 9th.

With all that being said,
Happy Mother's Day!
Erin

School age Scoop

With the end of the year quickly approaching, and the warmer spring days, our school-agers seem to be more rambunctious than usual. We are grateful for the days where we can get outside in the afternoons. At least some of the children are anxiously waiting for summer at LFOJ, as many of them have commented about playing on outside the fence.

LFOJ will be running one School-Age Program this year. We are currently at our max with 14 full-time children. At this time we have 9 drop-in children. The drop-in children will be placed in the schedule based on the available openings after the full-time children are scheduled. If you have any questions, please call Karyn or Amy at the church office, 715-682-6075.

Preschool News

Here we are...the last month of preschool! What a wonderful year it has been! We have enjoyed this time with your child, and hope that this year has been a good experience for you and your child.

Our last month will go by quickly, as we have many fun days to fill our remaining days. We'll kick off May with our center's participation in St. Jude's Trike-A-Thon. Children will be fundraising to help kids in need, learning bicycle safety lessons as they go.

Jesus time for the month will focus on the first Christians. We'll hear of Paul's adventures, sharing the Gospel message with people like Lydia, Aquila and Priscilla.

The children will also be preparing for our annual Mother's Day Tea, to be held the 12th and 13th. Hopefully we'll have more spring-like weather to accommodate our gardening theme. The children will learn about what plants need to grow, and the different parts of a flower.

The following week, we'll head "down to the farm" with fun songs and stories, and some "moo-velous" activities. The kids have always enjoyed when we set up our make-shift barn (a large cardboard box we have saved over the years). During this week, we'll head to the nursing home for one last time.

May 23rd will be our last week of preschool. We will be saying good-bye to our preschool friends, and hello to summer vacation.

Preschool graduation for our 4/5 year old class will be held at Prentice Park. Parents are responsible for transporting the children to and from the event. The center has the small pavilion next to the playground reserved. Parents are welcome to bring a snack to share. Our graduation ceremony will be at approx. 10:15. Please pray for good weather!

Again, we thank you so much for your prayers and support over the past year! May God bless you and keep you until we meet again!

Ms. Amy and Ms. Julie