

# *The Mountain Top* **Messenger**

VOLUME 52, ISSUE # Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod APRIL 2014

Happy April, I would say Happy Spring, but that doesn't seem like it is here yet. Snow yesterday, snow predicted for Monday, snow predicted for Friday, it just doesn't want to give up. Well, I am going to let you in on a little secret, Spring is here. It doesn't look like it, it sometimes doesn't feel like it, but watch, listen, smell, and feel. The sun is up earlier and down later, days are longer, even though I haven't seen them I have heard more birds chirping, I don't know if you have noticed or not but I catch a whiff every now and then of that Spring freshness, and most importantly, have you felt the warmth of the sun? It is cutting through all that cold and ice and slowly winning the battle. Spring is here, it is just camouflaged by all that hold over white stuff, but it is here.

Kind of a long way to go to lead into this next point, but, we are rapidly moving toward Holy Week, there is no stopping it, it is coming. Just as there is no stopping Spring, there was no stopping Jesus on his journey to the cross so that He could die and save us from our sins. Much like the hidden Spring, we don't always see Him, we don't always remember what it was that He went through for us, we undeserving sinners. We sometimes lose sight of Him on the cross the same way that we lose sight of the grass beneath the snow. But God's love for us, in sending His Son to die for us, is a bit like that powerful Spring sun. The Spring sun melts through the snow and ice revealing the ground below, the ground waiting to awaken, and green up and grow. That knowledge of what Christ did for us on the cross, the love that He showed for us, does the same thing. It melts through all those things of this world that have hardened our hearts, his love causes us to awaken, to renew and refresh our faith and grow in His love. It causes us to reach up beyond the cold, hard, dead world and reach for the Heavens and soak in His Word and Sacraments, and stretch out and share that love with others.

So as Easter approaches and Spring continues, remember these words of our Savior.

*"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. (John 11:25-26)*

One final note, on Easter Sunday Alleluia returns, and it will be with joy that we can say;

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

Blessing to all of you this Easter season,

Rick Williams, Vicar

# Zion's Ministry Staff and Church Officers

E-Mail: [zionashland@hotmail.com](mailto:zionashland@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.zionashland.org](http://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 715-682-0070

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

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**Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 am Wednesday Lenten Services 6:30pm (April 2 & 9) Maundy Thursday April 17th and Good Friday April 18th, both 6:30pm.**

**Regular Wednesday night services with communion will start April 30th. No Wednesday services on April 16th and 23rd.**

## Stewardship Thoughts

The people who sit in the pews of our congregations may not get excited about stewardship. But if we were to start teaching it as taught to us in Romans 12, as the daily spiritual worship that we are called by God to offer acts of Christian generosity, people by the leading of the Holy Spirit would be far more open to the possibilities that God offers. This Christian generosity comes from the opportunities that God presents through us so that He may be working in the hearts of others. God gives His stewards no greater purpose than a way of life that flows from the Lord through the cross so we may pass it on to others.

### 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.



**Note from the office:**  
For various reasons, I haven't been putting in regular office hours lately. They have been fluctuating with times and days. This will probably continue through April. Please call ahead if there is something you need to get, to be sure that the Church will be open.  
Thank you, Lynn

Everyone Welcome to Attend

# "15 Questions of Life" Workshop

(About the Bible, God, Man, Origins, Ethics, & Purpose)

**Speaker: Brad Alles**

Milwaukee Lutheran High School Teacher and Author of the book, "Life's Big Questions, God's Big Answers"

**Saturday, April 5, 2014**

**9:00am - 4:00pm**

**(break for lunch 12:00 - 1:00)**

at

**Zion Lutheran Church**

**1111 Eleventh Ave West**

**Ashland, WI**

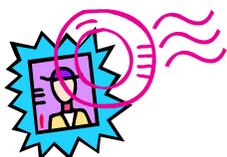
A free will offering lunch will be provided, therefore we will need everyone to please RSVP by Wednesday, April 3rd, 2014 for food planning. *It's not too late, so give the office a call if you are interested in attending.*

You can RSVP by calling Zion at 715-682-6075 or email the church at

[zionashland@hotmail.com](mailto:zionashland@hotmail.com)

Thank you and we hope you can make it!

God's Blessings



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.

# MOTHER - DAUGHTER - SPECIAL DAUGHTER - SPECIAL MOM - GRANDMOTHER -



## “NIGHT”



Moms come in all shapes, sizes and ages and so do daughters. We hope all the ladies and girls of Zion will join us for a special night of friendship, faith and fun.

## MONDAY - APRIL 28TH

### 6:30-8:00pm

Please sign up in the Narthex [starting April 13th]. We will have games, beverages, delicious treats and a special word. We hope you can all make it. If you have any questions please speak with someone on the Education Board

[Jodi Truchon, Lori Hebert,  
Laurie Bauer, Lynn Ladd,  
Lilly Harrelson, Janet Houle]





Do you like to work on the computer? How about working with 'word', 'publisher', etc. ? Would you like to try something new? Well, I may have what you are looking for. I would like to train someone as a back-up for the church office secretary. You can not predict the future and I feel we need to have someone who can step into the position if needed. It would mainly be to learn how to compile, edit and run-off the bulletins for Sundays and Wednes-



days, along with maybe the monthly newsletter. This isn't a part-time job (at least for now), but to fill in if the need arises. Please speak with me if you are interested. Thank you, Lynn

## 2014 GRADUATES



The office needs names of those who are graduating this year from High School, College or Tech School. Please include, names, parents' names, what you will be doing after graduation (going to what college with what goal in mind, found a job, waiting for the right job, etc.) You can e-mail ([zionashland@hotmail.com](mailto:zionashland@hotmail.com)), call the office or leave a message. I will include them in the May and/or June Newsletters.

## Lent Season Services

**Lenten Wednesday Service - April 2nd The Two Thieves**

**Lenten Wednesday Service - April 9th - Mary and John**

**Palm Sunday - April 13th 9:00am**

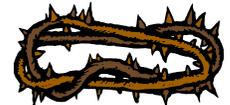
**Breakfast sponsored by the Youth - April 13th 10:15am**

**Maundy Thursday - April 17th 6:30pm**

**Good Friday - April 18th 6:30pm**

**Easter Sunrise Service - April 20th 7:00am**

**Easter Service - April 20th 9:00am**



Enjoy a great breakfast put on by the Youth of Zion on Sunday, April 13th, after the worship service. They are trying something new this year, moving it to the Sunday before Easter. This is a great time for fellowship and a good meal.



Thank you to Brenda, Nick and Jule for refurbishing the upstairs women's bathroom. It's WONDERFUL. If anyone would be interested in re-doing the men's and women's bathrooms in the basement, please speak with a Trustee. The Church will furnish the supplies.

Eight days ago in Mumbai, India, we boarded a plane to return back to our Wisconsin home in the USA. We traded summer-like 80+ degrees F. for extreme cold winter temps of -10 degrees F. You would think arriving in this bone-chilling reality would drive a person to get back on the plane, but it was not the warm weather that I was missing. Rather it was a view of the landscape that "hit me" the hardest. Where were the people? Back home, everyone was buttoned up in their homes and there were few signs of life.

About 25 million people live in the city of Mumbai, and many stories are lived on the sidewalks. It is a daily reality to see crowds walking to work, human-cargo buses, strings of hired taxis, and passengers packed-and-stacked in trains racing to the city center. Even more astonishing is to see the poor living a blue-tarp tent-life on Mumbai sidewalks. These squatters set up camp along property walls and live as "best they can." They brush their teeth if they have water, they take public bucket baths if they have water, they cook chai if they have water, and they eat their meals if they have enough money to buy food. They collect cardboard, sweep toilets, haul bricks, shovel gravel, or beg for a few coins to feed their hunger for the dream of a better life.

But Mumbai life is more than human stories for other creatures also occupy the sidewalks. Sacred cows roam freely and for a few rupees you can buy green grass to feed the cows and receive a blessing. In the late afternoon, owners usually track down these holy wanderers and milk them... all on the sidewalk. Stray dogs also occupy the sidewalks; most of them are dirt-brown, sleep all day, bark a lot at night, and paw through garbage heaps to find scraps of food. Of course, flocks of crows hover close by; these gossip gurus can't pass up a chance to witness the frenzy of daily life. Sidewalks also host some of Mumbai's best street food. The scent of spice, the honking of horns, and the clamor of creatures make Mumbai a city of extreme sights and sounds.

This reflection got me to thinking about how the story of God must seem extreme to newcomers. How out of the void, an extreme God created the heavens and the earth. How when the first humans broke the rules, God clothed them and sent them out with an extreme promise. And how God wiped the earthly slate clean with an extreme flood, and planted a rainbow promise in the sky. And if this doesn't seem extreme enough, consider God's investment in a 40-year wilderness classroom of stiff-necked people... and He called them "His Chosen."

But the story is not finished. Rather, God ramps up the stakes to a new level of extreme by sending His Son, a fragile baby in a lowly manger. And for thirty years Jesus worked and studied until He was ready for ministry. And then the story is defined by extreme events: water into wine, stilling the storm, healing the blind, feeding the five thousand, and more.

But the most extreme is yet to come when Jesus enters Jerusalem and the pace is packed-and-stacked right up to the cross; when in disbelief, we see the Son of God crucified on a cross. And with his last breath, Jesus is forgiving those who do not know what they are doing until He cries out, "*It is Finished.*" Then he dies, is laid in a tomb, and sealed shut with a large stone. Extreme dead-ending to God's extreme story.

But hold on. At dawn, women bring spices to the tomb of Jesus; when suddenly they see the stone is rolled away and an angel greets them with the "extreme-unbelievable" news: *He is not here, He is Risen!* The women are afraid. They are perplexed. They are amazed. They leave with great joy and run to tell others this extreme news.

Yes, God's story is extreme beyond human understanding. Extreme patience beyond measure. Extreme promise. Extreme sacrifice. Extreme mercy. Extreme grace. Love so great that He sent His only Son. As we draw near the empty tomb, let us not hold back, but rather become "His Chosen" and carry this extreme message to the blue-tarp sidewalks and proclaim with extreme joy: *He is Risen!* God's story was, is, and always will be about His extreme love for us that we may come to faith in Jesus Christ and believe the dream of eternal life: *He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia!*



## *Women's Retreat—Cafe Chocolat*

Does simply thinking about chocolate bring a smile to your face?

Try thinking about this—hanging out at a café with friends, while enjoying your favorite hot beverage, nibbling on a brownie or bit of chocolate pie, laughing, talking, and relaxing together—it's a perfect gathering!

Café Chocolat is a relaxing chocolate-themed retreat the women of our church are doing together. It includes worship, Bible Study, and time for laughter as well as time for quiet reflection. And while the name of our gathering sounds indulgent, we'll actually be using chocolate as a metaphor for **God's extravagant grace**.

**Sunday, May 4th at Zion**

**12:00-5:00pm**

**Please register by April 27th [sheet will be out April 13th in the Narthex]**

**Women participate in activities** together and friendships will grow naturally.

**This retreat will help women** draw closer to Jesus as they study his amazing miracles.

**Deepening Faith** The purpose of this entire experience is to have women feel affirmed and encouraged to grow closer to Jesus. Through study of the miracles of Jesus, women will see how God's grace is evident in their lives and the lives of others. You'll leave the retreat inspired to deepen your relationship with God.

**Relationships** Friendships are important. Critical, even! The best way to encourage friendships is to give opportunities for them to develop! Activities, worship, and time together all contribute to women sharing stories and growing closer to each other. The Café Chocolat retreat will help you do just that!

We will be offering this to the community, so plan on bringing a friend. If you could help us out either before and/or during this event it would be wonderful. You can contact Carla Schwantes at 715-774-3716.

*"Those participating will taste God's goodness through in-depth Bible study, unforgettable worship and a host of fun activities designed to help them slow down, enjoy their time together and grow closer to Jesus."*  
*We hope that you will join us....The Education Board*

## **Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes: March 2014**

The March 17, 2014 meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President, Chuck Chronis. Vicar Rick opened with devotions (Ps. 139: 1-4) and prayer.

**ROLL CALL:** Chuck Chronis (President/Elders), Mary Koosman (Financial Secretary), Lynn Ladd (Education), Todd Vyskocil (Treasurer), Lori Hebert (Evangelism), Scott Thimm (Trustee), Nick Jarvela (Trustee), Cheri Tamke (LFOJ), Penny Mattson (Stewardship), Rick Williams (Vicar), Alice Ellis (Council Sec.)

**MINUTES:** Motion by Ladd, second by Tamke, to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2014 Council meeting as printed. Motion carried.

**VICAR'S REPORT:** Home visits, Bible Study, and Lenten services going well. Rick did nursing home services this month. Schooling going well for Rick. He is signed up for Summer Intensive Course in St. Louis: June 21-26. Ashland Area Ministerial Assoc. will meet at Zion on May 1.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Motion by Ladd, second by Hebert, to accept treasurer's report Motion carried.

**AGENDA:** Motion by Jarvela, second by Mattson, to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

**DEFIBRILATOR:** Report by Thimm. Two bids received; if ordered through Ashland Fire Dept. a good discount available. Motion by Jarvela, seconded by Ladd, to purchase the Physio Defibrillator with accessories; approx. price is \$1700.00. Motion carried.

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

**Elders:** Initial interview of confirmands completed.

**Trustees:** Women's restroom upgrade. Men's restroom next. Rick Nutt joined Trustees. Squeak in boiler will be checked out. Jarvela asked who should receive Workman's Comp. correspondence. This will be worked out with Treasurer.

**Evangelism:** Approx. 65 at new member pot-luck. Brad Alles workshop on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Community is invited; posters and advertising are being circulated.

**OFFICIAL ACTS: Funeral:** Gloria Mills: 3/01/14

Motion by Hebert, second by Koosman, to accept the Official Acts. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

LFOJ: Motion by Jarvela, Second by Hebert, to accept Health Insurance Option D in September 2014. Tamke also included a need for a \$1000 fund raiser for LFOJ for the end-of-year-budget to end in the black.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Brad Alles Workshop, Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Motion by Tamke, second by Jarvela, to hire The Breakwater on April 5<sup>th</sup> to cater for the Alles workshop 2-piece chicken dinner @ \$6.99 per plate. Motion carried. Hebert will check on "lead time" for numbers signed up, and also if roast beef is also a possibility. Community is invited.

Altar Guild/Unleaven Bread: Discussion about using unleaven bread occasionally for communion to continue.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Tamke, second by Hebert, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully: Alice J. Ellis



# APRIL 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

### APRIL

#### 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 Riley Bretting  
Clarence Houle Matt Raspotnik Dale Houle

#### Nursing Home & Assisted Living Resident

Corrine Tolliver Sharon Johnson  
Otto & Dorothy Rusch

#### Shut-in's

Gordon & Marianne Vyskocil Arlene Zimmerman  
Clarence & Madge Houle Walt Schutte

Military Aaron Esala - Navy

## ELDERS

Apr. 2 Doug Warren  
Apr. 6 Don Pocernich & John Pruss  
Apr. 9 Chuck Chronis  
Apr. 13 Mike Cashman & Doug Warren  
**Apr. 17** Don Pocernich & Chuck Chronis  
**Apr. 18** Mike Cashman  
**Apr. 20** 7:00am Darryl Warren & Chuck Chronis  
**Apr. 20** 9:00am John Pruss & Mike Cashman  
Apr. 27 Doug Warren & Darryl Warren  
Apr. 30 Don Pocernich

## APRIL Acolytes

Apr. 2 Jordan Thimm & Jacob Graves  
Apr. 6 Sydney Vyskocil & Ashlee Moreland  
Apr. 9 Annie Ylitalo & Kyle Sapper  
Apr. 13 Kaitlyn Dickrell & Jordan Thimm  
**Apr. 17** Brooke Sapper & Eric Bochler  
**Apr. 18** Heather Dickrell & Sydney Vyskocil  
**Apr. 20** 7:00am Eric Bochler & Carolyn Gurske  
**Apr. 20** 9:00am Mary Beth Barker & Cooper Tamke  
Apr. 27 Justin Esala & Taylor Vyskocil

## GREETERS FOR APRIL

Apr. 2 Sandy & Jerry Frisco  
Apr. 6 Barker Family  
Apr. 9 Vyskocil Family  
Apr. 13 Harrelson Family  
**Apr. 17** Brian & Linda Klobucher  
**Apr. 18** Thimm Family  
**Apr. 20** 7:00am Ethel Guss & Penny Mattson  
**Apr. 20** 9:00am Moreland Family  
Apr. 27 Clarence & Kathy Osmak

## APRIL Ushers

Apr. 2 Chris Bolz & Andrew Pruss  
Apr. 6 Terrel Bolz & Warren Draeger  
Apr. 9 Jim Johnson & Ben Cashman  
Apr. 13 Karl Williams & Rick Nutt  
**Apr. 17** Scott Pearce & Randy Spangle  
**Apr. 18** Jake Pruss & Tim Bauer  
**Apr. 20** 7:00am Scott Sapper & Larry Hildebrandt  
**Apr. 20** 9:00am Logan Tamke & Dylan Williams  
Apr. 27 Jerry Frisco & Pat Colgrove

## APRIL ALTAR GUILD

Jule Jarvela 682-0385  
Janet Houle 682-2387  
Tiffany Houle 682-2387  
Diane Beiersdorff 278-3291



## OFFICIAL ACTS

**Death** - Gloria Mills: 3/01/14