

The Mountain Top **Messenger**

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 12 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod DECEMBER 2012

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people (Luke 2:10 KJV). Yes indeed it is that time again, on Sunday December second we begin a new church year with the coming of Advent. A wonderful time as we prepare to welcome our Savior. A worldly time of shopping, travel, worrying about bills, and where to find that special gift for that special someone. Sometimes losing sight of the fact the we are receivers of the most special gift.

It seems everything speeds up during this month, even here at Zion things seem to be gearing up. Starting December 5th, Wednesday Advent Services begin at 6:30 p.m. We also have the LFOJ Christmas program on Thursday, December 20th at 6:30pm, the Sunday School Christmas program on Sunday, December 23rd during the 9:00am service, Christmas Eve services at both 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. and of course Christmas morning services at 9:00 a.m. A lot of activity, particularly when you add in all of the other things going on in our lives. So I hate to sound cliché but I am going to ask you to take time and remember; *the reason for the season*. And I don't know about you, but I am going to strive to be more politically incorrect and wish everyone I know and meet a Merry Christmas. I am so tired of the happy holidays, and holiday trees, and the like. How can we be ambassadors for Christ if we fail to even mention his name at this important time of the year?

So I ask you during this Blessed Christmas season, slow down just a little and remember; **For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11 KJV).**

Thanks be to God for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

A Blessed Christmas to you all.

Rick Williams, Deacon

Zion's Ministry Staff and Church Officers

E-Mail: zionashland@hotmail.com



Church Office 715-682-6075 (M/T/Th 8am-12noon, W-2-6pm)

Deacon - Rick Williams 715-209-0479

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

Sunday School 10:15am

Bible Studies: Sunday 10:15 am, Monday 10:00am, Men's Breakfast Bible Study -
Thursday, 6:00am

Stewardship Thoughts

We (Christian Stewards) were given a gift to share. This gift is one to be used, exercised, and exchanged. Sharing our faith as believers is not only health for our own lives but it also affects those around us.

What is God calling us to do in order to share this gift? What service opportunities does God show us that we can use to serve others? Do we find excuses to justify our unwillingness to serve? Do we think we've already done our part? Do we say we have nothing to offer? Do we just let someone else step up?

Christian Stewards are eager to use the gifts of the Spirit to joyously serve others in response to the gift of salvation given us in Christ Jesus. The One God sent to serve us.

Give us a heart, Lord, to gladly serve where You have directed.

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.



FLOWERS – anyone wishing to have flowers on the altar for a special occasion, such as a memorial to a loved one, an anniversary, special birthday, etc., please contact Ingrid. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. There are a few times during the year when flowers aren't placed on the altar but that should be noted.



Faith In Action

SNOW SHOVELERS NEEDED FOR FAITH IN ACTION!

A few snowflakes have been in the air and more are on the way. Volunteers are urgently needed to fill all the Faith In Action –Ashland County requests from senior citizens for help with snow shoveling in the city of Ashland. Volunteers are matched up with one household to shovel for. Some volunteers will be needed short-term as back-up shovelers to fill in for volunteers who are gone for the holidays or to fill in for Northland students over winter break. In addition to shoveling, Faith In Action has several seniors in need of a volunteer willing to help with light household chores every other week. Faith In Action takes requests from seniors in need of assistance with basic household chores, fix-it jobs, shopping, transportation, respite, lamp repair, Arts/ Sports Buddy, Pets 'N Pals visits, and companionship. If you are a senior in need of assistance or you would like to sign up as a Faith In Action volunteer call the Ashland County Aging Unit 715-682-4414 ext. 3 or email fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org.



fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org .

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans would like to invite our members to a special event at the Old Rittenhouse Inn, Bayfield. We will meet at the Inn at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, December 9th for their Wassail Luncheon Concert. Seating is limited and will be reserved on a first come basis by calling the Thrivent Financial office at 715-685-0605. Cost is \$10.00 per person.

Safe Church

Safe Church is a company that provides insurance along with safety and risk management. Safe Church has been a project headed by Jim Johnson and the Trustees. It has also involved several members of the church who volunteered their time to study short safety/risk sessions, do inventory of the church and other aspects. Why was this done? For one thing, it is a good thing to do. It gives us an outlook of how we stand with our facility and liabilities. Second, it has given us the opportunity to cut costs of our insurance. We are looking at a savings of close to \$800.00. Thanks to all who have worked on this project.

Poinsettia Box

Donations for purchasing poinsettias will be in the Narthex starting Dec. 2nd through Dec.



WEBSITE!

Have you checked out our Website? -

www.zionashland.org

We're always looking for suggestions or comments. The monthly newsletter is a link and the calendar is a separate link.

The Lutheran Witness

Interpreting the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. There is no better way to keep up on what's new in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The flagship magazine of the LCMS, *The Lutheran Witness* offers synodical news, reports from Lutherans around the world, features, columns, Q&A's, a Bible study, and so much more. This is the premier magazine for Lutherans who want to be informed and stay informed!

A monthly publication, *The Lutheran Witness* speaks directly about what's important to today's Lutherans: Christian life, missions and ministries, and people of faith.

LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTIONS for home delivery are due by Dec. 14th. Write checks out to "Zion", for \$22.00 in an envelope marked "LW" and drop off in the office. This is for a one year subscription.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:



LFOJ Program

Thursday, December 20th



ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING

on December 2nd, following the Church Service. This is the annual meeting and some of the items on the agenda will include 2013 Budget and approval of board members.




CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Saturday, Dec. 24th,
4:00pm and 8:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Sunday, Dec. 25th, 9:00am



Advent Services
Wednesdays,
6:30pm
Dec. 5.12.19

Youth Group

2013 Calendars—\$20

Nice pictures and a bible verse on each month. Check with one of the confirmands.

Thanks to all who bought pies for Thanksgiving. (Side note—they were good!)

Under the microscope, I found that snowflakes were miracles of beauty; and it seemed a shame that this beauty should not be seen and appreciated by others. Every crystal was a masterpiece of design and no one design was ever repeated. When a snowflake melted, that design was forever lost. Just that much beauty was gone, without leaving any record behind. -Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley 1925

Winter in Wisconsin is well known for snow: snow drifts, snow banks, snow fall, snow boots, snow plows, snow angels, snowboards, snow shoes, snow storms, snow fields, snow birds, snow etc. Snow is the vocabulary of life December through March.

Snow can be cold and dangerous for creatures. Snow can be beautiful and warm for an earth at rest. Snow can be as delicate as catching a flake on your tongue, or as deep and wide as a Midwest blizzard.



Snow images are used in *The Bible* for instruction:

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Isaiah 1:18b

The angel of the Lord descended from heaven came and rolled back the stone and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his raiment white as snow. Mt. 28:3

Dear Gentle Reader, In Wisconsin, we understand the beauty of sparkling-white snow. Once again, may our lives be blessed with fresh beauty and joy-filled instruction as we drive, plow, walk, slip, slide, ski, play, and seek God's promises in this season of winter. Snow angels hover near. **Behold and Be Blessed.**

Behold the snowflake.
Delicate bones of ice.
Born in the clouds...
Cast on the earth...
Down comforter of winter.

-A. Ellis



Share Portals of Prayer with Everyone You Know!

Christmas is just around the corner—have you decided what to get for your friends and family yet? For a limited time, you can give the gift of Portals of Prayer for our lowest price yet! Simply renew your current subscription (or start one for yourself) to Portals of Prayer for one year and qualify to give a friend or loved one their very own subscription at half the regular price.

Plus, you can give as many gifts as you want of any size—so feel free to share God's word with everyone you know! Simply call 1-800-325-3040 (Concordia Publishing House) to place your order by December 20th; *You can order online at www.cph.org—then click: "subscriptions"...'magazines'...'Portal of Prayer'*

A subscription covers four quarterly issues.

Pocket Size Portals of Prayer is \$13.00 per year

The New Digest-Size Edition is \$14.00 per year.

The Large-Print Edition is \$15.00 per year.

The Church will continue to offer a limited supply.



Sunday School Scoop

We've had a great start this fall for classes. Now we will start focusing on the children's Christmas program. The theme this year is "Away in the Manger" and it will be held during the morning worship service. It will be on Sunday, December 23rd at 9:00am. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

The following students had 100% attendance for October: Sophie Truchon, Daniel Truchon, Ayeisha Deragon, Kenny Harrelson, Jodi Harrelson, Lily Truchon, Ashlee Moreland, Kyle Sapper, Tia Warren, Brooke Sapper, Tiffany Houle & Kathryn Draeger

The children emptied their mite boxes of money collected for the first time in November. This is a LWML Mission project. The children will be doing this the second Sunday of each month.

The children sang during the November 18th service. If you weren't there you missed a great song. Starting in January they will be singing the third Sunday of each month through May.

There is still a plea out there for a Sunday School Superintendent. We hope that someone will be willing to give to the Lord their assistance for our Sunday School.

Thank you, Education Board

HOLLY LEAF PROJECT
Ashland Health and Rehabilitation Center
We will be posting leaves to take on the bulletin board in December. Each leaf will have a gift that will be presented to one of its residents. You can either drop off the present directly at AHRC or then to the

FYI - On Donations

We have been receiving many requests than usual for donations and financial assistance these last couple of months. The Church Council has decided that we will post on the bulletin board requests from groups, organizations, etc. and then individuals can decide on their own if they would want to make a contribution. Contact information will be included. At times there still may be a special freewill offering asked, but these will have to be approved by the Council and we will try to limit it to one per month.

LFOJ HAPPENINGS (You can read LFOJ's Newsletter on the bulletin board in the Narthex.)

The children will be singing at Ashland Health and Rehabilitation Center during December.

LFOJ Children's Christmas Program Thursday, December 20th 6:30pm

Come join us for the Center's Annual Christmas Program. It will be held in the Church Sanctuary. This year's program is "Miracle In A Manger". Join us afterward the program for refreshments downstairs in the fellowship hall.

Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center is accepting applications for **Two Part Time (under 20 hours per week) Assistant Float Teachers**, caring for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years of age (this includes School Age Children). Applicant must be at least 18 and willing to complete required courses within 6 months of hire. To discuss position, please call Karyn at 715-682-6075. For an application and more information, please visit our website at lfoj.org
Resume with references can be emailed to lfoj@zionashland.com.

UPDATES are VITAL!

Please contact the office with any changes to mailing and e-mail addresses and phone numbers. We sure would like your e-mail address to add to our congregational list. We frequently send out reminders or information that we wouldn't want you to miss. You can include any new information or changes on the attendance pad in the pews, leave a note in the office or give us a call.

CAMP LUTHER e-BREEZE

FALL COTTAGE RETREATS--Plan your individual or family fall getaway at Camp Luther. Cottages are available this fall at **HALF OFF** the regular \$130-140 per night rate (requires 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 through December 15. Book your family or individual retreat getaway by contacting Camp Luther at 1-877-264-CAMP.

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES COMING THIS WINTER!! Check out the dates and ages below! These events are great group builders and include devotions, bonfires, broomball, and other cool winter activities. Let our staff bring life to your winter youth group planning. **Jr. High Big Chill-January 11-13 Sr. High Sub Zero-January 25-27 Jr./Sr. High Deep Freeze-January 18-20**

FAMILY FLURRY RETREAT-February 1-3!! Bundle up the family for an exciting weekend of winter activities and growing together in faith at Camp Luther. The schedule and choices abound for activities with the group or for you as a family. Choose from tubing, broomball and much more, or just relax together away from it all. A guest pastor will lead adult/family Bible study, while camp staff will lead youth and children in age-appropriate studies as well. The maximum family cost is \$485! Register at www.camluther.com.

Camp Luther is a subsidiary 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.

Zion Lutheran Church

Council Minutes November 19, 2012

The November 19, 2012 meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President, Chuck Chronis who opened the meeting with prayer.

ROLL CALL: President – Chuck Chronis, Elder – Darryl Warren, Financial Secretary – Mary Koosmann, Education – Lynn Ladd, LFOJ – Cheri Tamke, Treasurer – Todd Vyskocil, Secretary – Becky Sapper, Evangelism – Lori Hebert, Stewardship – Penny Mattson.

MINUTES: Motion by Warren, second by Tamke, to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2012 Council meeting as printed. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion by Warren, second by Ladd, to approve the Treasurer's Report through October 2012 as given verbally. Motion carried.

AGENDA: Motion by Warren, second by Hebert, to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

BOARD REPORTS:

Motion by Mattson, second by Ladd, to accept the Board reports as given. Motion carried.

Trustees – Elevator was inspected and batteries replaced, the lowering solenoid will also be replaced. Fall cleaning to church and LFOJ gutters and drain systems.

Education – There is still a need for a superintendent. Lilly Harrelson volunteered to oversee the Christmas program practices.

LFOJ – LFOJ Christmas Program will occur the evening of Thursday, Dec 20th.

Evangelism – Care packages for Zion's college students (10-12) will be sent within the next week or two with support from the evangelism envelopes.

Financial Secretary – Looking for more individuals to assist as counters. This is a 15-30 minute commitment every other week, or as a substitute for a regular counter. 2013 envelopes will be distributed in early December. Contact Mary Koosmann if interested.

There were no official acts to discuss.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion regarding the outstanding mortgage (\$28,999.09). No changes will be made to monthly payments. The balance remaining on the mortgage is made up of little interest compared to principle and there is not a strong financial advantage to use current savings to accelerate mortgage payments.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Motion by Warren, second by Tamke, to recommend that Voters accept the 2013 annual budget as proposed by the Budget committee. Motion carried.

B. Motion by Warren, second by Tamke, to recommend that the Voters accept the individuals nominated for the various Board and Committee seats. Motion carried.

C. Motion by Warren, second by Hebert, to approve the agenda for the Annual Voters' Meeting. Motion carried.

D. Motion by Warren, second by Tamke, to provide guidelines on how to address requests for financial assistance from free will offerings. Organizations, beyond the BRICK, will have their request posted on the bulletin board. The BRICK will continue to be supported within the annual budget and monthly contributions. With Council approval, individuals requesting a free will offering with demonstrated need and unique circumstances, beyond those addressed by BRICK (such as missionary work, accident victims, etc.) will be allowed to have a freewill offering. These free will offerings should not occur on a routine basis, no more than once a month, if possible. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding current website and a possible new web designer. No action taken.

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

DECEMBER 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!!

Our Prayer Concerns DECEMBER

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 Chuck Gretzlock
David Hebert Dan Truchon Ron Nevala

Nursing Home & Assisted Living Resident

Roger Basina Ed Torkko
Corrine Tolliver Alice Hansen
Sharon Johnson Margaret Mahoney



Shut-in's

Ron Nevala Walt Schutte
Clarence Houle Gloria Mills Lois Hein

Local & US Concerns

(fulltime and/or deployed military)

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



Aaron Aschenbrenner, son-in-law of Lynn & Chuck Ladd, stationed in Eau Claire, WI



DECEMBER Acolytes

Dec. 2 Cooper Tamke & Carolyn Gurske
Dec. 5 Riley Heglund & Jordan Thimm
Dec. 9 Brooke Sapper & Ciera Maday
Dec. 12 Kathryn Draeger & Tiffany Houle
Dec. 16 Sydney Vyskocil & Kathryn Draeger
Dec. 19 Brooke Sapper & Carolyn Gurske
Dec. 23 Cooper Tamke & Eric Bochler
Dec. 24 4:00pm Sydney Vyskocil & Annie Ylitalo
Dec. 24 8:00pm Riley Heglund & Jordan Thimm
Dec. 25 9:00am Tiffany Houle & Ciera Maday
Dec. 30 Annie Ylitalo & Eric Bochler

ELDERS

Dec. 2 John Pruss & Doug Warren
Dec. 5 Chuck Chronis
Dec. 9 Darryl Warren & John Pruss
Dec. 12 Mike Cashman
Dec. 16 Don Pocernich & Chuck Chronis
Dec. 19 Darryl Warren
Dec. 23 Doug Warren & Mike Cashman
Dec. 24 4:00pm Darryl Warren, Don Pocernich
Dec. 24 8:00pm John Pruss, Chuck Chronis
Dec. 25 9:00am Doug Warren & Mike Cashman
Dec. 30 Chuck Chronis & Darryl Warren

GREETERS FOR DECEMBER

Greeters should arrive by 8:40am

Dec. 2 Pat & Katie Colgrove
Dec. 5 Ron & Brenda Schwiesow
Dec. 9 Scott Thimm Family
Dec. 12 Scott Sapper Family
Dec. 16 Nick & Jule Jarvela
Dec. 19 Steve & Deb Nesheim
Dec. 23 Robert & Lisa Guski
Dec. 24 4:00pm Ingrid Pocernich & Lou Pearce
Dec. 24 8:00pm Rick & Sandy Nutt
Dec. 25 9:00am Ethel Guss & Penny Mattson
Dec. 30 Roger & Linda Stenroos

DECEMBER Ushers

Ushers should arrive by 8:40am

Dec. 2 Don Moreland & Francis Balmer
Dec. 5 Jerry Frisco
Dec. 9 Patrick Colgrove & Larry Hildebrandt
Dec. 12 Herb Ellis
Dec. 16 Brian Klobucher & Ron Schwiesow
Dec. 19 Paul Osmak
Dec. 23 Logan Tamke & Jim Hebert
Dec. 24 4:00pm Jim Johnson & Nate Warren
Dec. 24 8:00pm Ken Philaja & Andy Pruss
Dec. 25 9:00am Dylan Williams & Ben Cashman
Dec. 30 Matt Draeger & Warren Draeger

DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Ingrid Pocernich 373-5174
Shannon Esala 292-0711
Daniela Maday 682-6594

