

# *The Mountain Top* **Messenger**

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 2 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod FEBRUARY 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The call to Pastor Smiles has been returned and the next call may take place on February 2nd. Doing a quick time line in my head indicates that I may continue to be your vacancy pastor through the Lenten Season and possibly through part of the Easter Season. I have said, from the beginning of my time as vacancy pastor of Zion, that I would serve in this capacity up to one calendar year ending in the middle of August 2012. Please continue to pray for the Call Committee as they continue to work diligently to have the vacancy filled.

The Lenten Season is a penitential time of the church year, where special emphasis is placed on the suffering and death of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This season begins this year on Wednesday, February 22 and is known as Ash Wednesday. The people of the Old Testament would cover themselves with sackcloth and put ashes on their heads to indicate that they were truly sorry for an act that they committed that could bring disaster or death to others. The Book of Esther records one of these incidents.

During the Lenten Season, special mid-week service will take place each Wednesday through March 28th. There are forty days in Lent. The Sundays are not counted, as they are celebrations of our Lord's resurrection. I would invite all to participate in these mid-week services as we prepare our hearts and minds knowing that Jesus died to redeem us from eternal death and suffering and paid for our sins on the cross at Calvary.

Knowing full well that I may serving you for awhile, plans have been made to insure regular services, adult instruction classes and Bible studies. I would like to thank all of you who have made this time of the vacancy a true blessing to both Diane and me. I look forward to meeting more of you and getting to know better those I have already met. God bless all of you!

We have to trust in God, knowing that He will send the right man to be your pastor according to His will, not ours. Again, pray for the Call Committee, the next pastor, and his family to whom a call will be extended. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Your servant in Christ,  
Pastor Hyvonen



### Zion's Ministry Staff and Church Officers

E-Mail: zionashland@hotmail.com

Church Office .....715 - 682 - 6075  
LFOJ Child Care Center  
Administrator, Karyn Leino..... 715 - 682 - 6075  
Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center  
715 - 682 - 5185  
President, Chuck Chronis.....715 - 682 - 0070



### 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.

### Stewardship Thoughts

The third principle of stewardship life from LCMS—"God's stewards are saints as declared by our Lord, and sinners who fight sin and its consequences each day.". Paul wrote in Romans 7:25, "I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin."

Christian stewards recognize that the potential for great good or great evil lies in the way stewardship is presented and received. They do not set aside the proper application of Law and Gospel in serving Christians and do not appeal to their sinful nature or selfish interests. They approach everyone with faith active in love.

From your Stewardship Committee

The Lighted Cross committee has worked very hard on this project. We've gotten a beautiful design, but no estimates of the cost from our Metal Artist. The project has been put on hold until the cost estimates have been obtained.

God knows when and if this project will be completed. For now it is on hold.

Thank you to all that have worked on this project. God Bless.



**Camp Luther** has 325 Every Kid to Camp awards available for Summer 2012! If you have youth grades 3-8 who haven't ever been to summer camp (here) before we want to get them to camp! Its 100% FREE!

Here's the rules. Children grades 3-8 are eligible. They do not need to be a member of your congregation. They must register using a special registration form provided by Camp Luther. Awards are for Pathfinder (grades 3-6) and Trailblazer (grades 5-8).

If you know of eligible children please contact Camp Luther with their name, address, phone and email, and will we get you the award and registration form. If you have any questions feel free to contract anyone at Camp Luther.

**THANKS** - The Church now has on loan a brand new riding lawn mower and self propelled lawn mower (for church use only).



Thanks to the anonymous donor. Please keep this in mind when the sign-up sheet for mowing is put out in the spring that equipment is available on-site. We hope that many will sign-up now that equipment will be available.

**YOUTH GROUP TRUTH PROJECT** will meet on the following Wednesday nights: Feb. 1, 8, 29, Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28, Apr. 11, 25.



Head's Up—March 4th the Altar Guild will start taking donations for Easter lilies. A box will be placed out in the Narthex.



**Soup and Sandwich Suppers!**  
Yum!

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

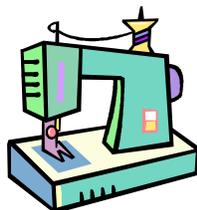
- Feb. 22 Altar Guild/LWML
- Feb. 29 Board of Education
- Mar. 7 Youth Group
- Mar. 14 LFOJ
- Mar. 21 Trustees
- Mar. 28 Elders



**Board of Education** - will be meeting on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, at 4:15pm. If anyone has any agenda items they would like to be discussed please contact the office.

We would like to **THANK** the donor of the new Singer Sewing machine for the Sewing Circle. It is much appreciated.

Also we would like to welcome any newcomers to our sewing circle. Thank You. Sewing Circle



**CAMP LUTHER BREEZE**  
Camps and activities are listed in their monthly "Breeze" on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



My first Valentine stories go way back...back to grade school days. As young students, we worked together to decorate our classroom with colorful paper chains and bright posters of love and friendship. Scissors in hand, we designed pink and red paper hearts to paste on the class Valentine Box. The teacher would give us a class list to remind us that each student should get a valentine. No one should be left out.

But we were kids and we had kid-questions. Would I get a Valentine from the girl I did not play tag with last week? What about the boy who pulled my pigtails? Should I give a nice card to the girl who lost my mittens? Who would get the most cards? Who would get the most candy? Who likes me? Who doesn't like me? These concerns would dance in our room as we watched classmates feed their hand-printed valentines into the slot of the special box.

On February 14<sup>th</sup> the Valentine box was opened. Quickly each desk had a pile of cards and a feast of sweet candy. Magically our kid-questions disappeared. We were liked and we were loved. We sang out words of love and celebration to each other.

God understood the fragile condition of humans. So He placed his valentine story in a simple stable and invited everyone to come. As Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, he went out to meet people at beaches, hillsides, homes, temples, gardens, roadsides, parties, every place. He talked to the proud, the poor, the rich, the thief, the lame, the blind, the young, the old... soldiers, parents, teachers, everyone. Jesus walked and talked love to everyone-everywhere. No one was left out. As his course was set for Jerusalem, the story speeded up. For when the Cross was lifted up, the fullness of God's divine love was revealed: A perfect love that first loved us. A sacrificial love that announced forgiveness. An eternal love that said, *You are Mine!*

God's expression of holy love born over 2000 years ago, continues to heap valentines on our daily stories through loving words, heart-spoken prayers, sweet hymns, bird-songs, good laughter, treasured friendships, family hugs, restful sleep, daily food, warm clothing, safe shelter, and so much more. Let us joyfully bring and sing God's "*You Are Mine*" song to everyone-everywhere. That we may celebrate together...we are liked and we are loved!

Love and prayers,

Feb. 2012  
-Alice J. Ellis

**CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE**— Pastor Smiles has declined the call to Zion. A letter from him is posted on the bulletin board. There will be a Voters' Meeting on Thursday, February 2nd, at 7:30pm to vote on a Pastor to call. There will also be some other business to discuss. Please keep the Call Committee, Pastor Hyvonen and Diane, Zion and future prospects all in your prayers.

## **LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES** *People Of Christ With The Message Of Hope*

### **Sunday, February 5, 2012 – Lutheran Hour Ministries Sunday**

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of Bringing Christ to the Nations-and the Nations to the Church. LHM produces Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast, as well as Internet and print communications, dramas, music, and outreach materials, to reach the unchurched in more than 30 countries. LHM's flagship program, The Lutheran Hour, is the world's longest-running Christian outreach radio program. It airs weekly on more than 1,350 stations.

LHM proclaims God's truth in a world where Satan tries to quiet down, drown out, and shut up the message of hope that we have in Jesus Christ. LHM works to proclaim that message loud and clear all over the world through Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast, as well as Internet and print communications, dramas, music, and outreach materials.

LHM is a congregational outreach ministry supporting The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and partnering churches worldwide. It is independently funded by generous Christians who want to spread the pure and powerful message of the Savior's love in their own communities and throughout the world.

**FAITH IN ACTION** – Even a mild winter can create challenges for many senior citizens, keeping them homebound more than usual. *FIA*-Ashland County works to connect seniors with caring volunteers from their community who can provide a variety of services. These volunteers often bring a bit of sunshine into a long winter week. Volunteers can provide a friendly visit and a game of cards, assist with basic household chores, take on minor fix-it jobs, help with shopping, provide respite, or assist with snow removal. *Pets N' Pals* volunteers can visit a senior with a trained therapy dog. *Arts and Sports Buddies* can take seniors out to area events. *FIA* depends on volunteers from becoming a volunteer, receiving volunteer services, or making a donation.

Call the Ashland County Aging Unit at 682-4414 ext. 3  
or e-mail [fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org](mailto:fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org).

# Zion Lutheran Church

## Council Minutes

January 16, 2012

The January 16, 2012 meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President, Chuck Chronis. Pastor Hyvonen opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

**ROLL CALL:** *President:* Chuck Chronis, *Elder:* Darryl Warren, *Trustee:* Jim Johnson, *Financial Secretary:* Mary Koosmann, *Education:* Lynn Ladd, *LFOJ:* Cheri Tamke, *Treasurer:* Todd Vyskocil, *Secretary:* Becky Sapper, *Stewardship:* Penny Mattson and *Pastor Hyvonen.*

**MINUTES:** Motion by Warren, second by Johnson, to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2011 Council meeting as printed. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Motion by Warren, second by Koosmann, to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed. Total assets as of 12/31/11 were listed as \$25,010.95. Motion carried.

**AGENDA:** Motion by Johnson, second by Warren, to approve the agenda with additions to new business. Motion carried.

### **BOARD REPORTS:**

Motion by Johnson, second by Koosmann to accept the board reports as given. Motion carried.

**Pastor:** Six services were held between 12/21/11 and 1/15/12; All shut-ins, except one, were visited; Met with Confirmation classes twice; held three adult instruction classes; Made plans for two baptisms; held three bible studies; Met with potential new members, elders, Council president, Pastor Baumeister, and Lutheran Hour ambassador.

**Elders:** Elders will meet with the confirmands twice during the year; the first time will be in February.

**Trustees:** Held first meeting with new and returning trustees and discussed maintenance procedures and assignments. LFOJ is relocating to the office between Secretary and Pastor's office. A new rider mower and self-propelled push mower is being made available for use on the church property this summer by a benefactor who is also willing to sell the mowers to the church.

**Financial Secretary:** The end-of-the-year statements were either placed in church mailboxes or mailed during the first week of January.

**Education:** Four new individuals joined the one person education board. First meeting will be held on January 31 to review board responsibilities.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Board/Group assignments were made for serving each Lenten Soup and Sandwich Supper.

B. Koosmann will review checks written by treasurer via the on-line account as a checks/balance at the request of the treasurer. Vyskocil also requested to be informed of a maximum dollar amount he was authorized to write for items not explicitly covered in budget. Sapper will review old minutes to see if this was discussed previously.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Koosmann to present and endorse Pastor Hyvonen's negotiated salary request to the members at the next Voter's meeting for approval.

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

# LITTLE FRIENDS OF JESUS

Website: lfoj.org

Email: lfoj@zionashland.com

Volume 3

January 2012

## Tid-bits from Administration

### A New Year-New Board Members

We would like to wish all our families a new year filled with blessings. We would like to thank each and every one of you for choosing Little Friends to be your child's home away from home.

As many of you know, LFOJ is governed by a board made up of members of Zion Lutheran Church, LFOJ Administration and childcare parents. With the new year, we thank **Todd Vyskocil** (2 years) and **Scott Thimm** (4 years) for their time and commitment to the center, and hope our paths will cross from time to time. In their place, we welcome **Lisa Guski** and **Fran Kuester** to the LFOJ Board. Other board members include: **Cheri Tamke (chairperson)**, **Pancho Graves**, and **Herb Ellis**. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the center, please feel comfortable in bringing them to the board.

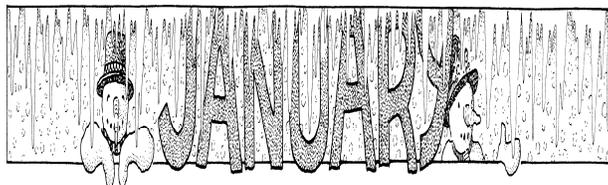
### Infant/Toddler Opening

The center currently has two full-time openings in our Infant/Toddler room. LFOJ does maintain a waiting list for clients, however, those on our waiting list are all expectant mothers!

As an added incentive, if a current family refers a new client, they will receive a full-day credit. Our parents have always been our best source of referral, so if you know of someone with a child between six weeks and two and a half years old, please have them contact LFOJ Administration at (715)682-6075.

### Cash Payments

Effective immediately, any cash payments need to be given directly to Amy or Karyn, instead of being placed in the payment boxes. We are working on a new cash payment procedure with the LFOJ Board, but until something is in place, please see Amy or Karyn. We will not be responsible for lost payments.



## Totville News

Happy New Year everyone! It's hard to believe that Christmas has already come and gone. We have a busy month planned in the Infant/Toddler room. We will be doing many projects and activities revolving around winter. We will also be putting together a picture collage for the classroom, and are asking families to bring in pictures (which will be returned later). Pictures can include your child, yourself, siblings, pets, etc.

Our Bible stories for the month of January will be: *The Boy Who Went Away*, *Simon and His Boat*, *The Boy Who Shared His Lunch* and *The Man Who Helped*.

Just a reminder to please send along warm clothes for the children each day, as we like to spend outside. Also, if you could, bring an extra set of mittens for your child, as a lot of times the first pair get too wet. We do like to get outside in the morning and afternoon.

Cassie



## Learner Lane

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas.

Thanks again to Jane Stadler, who donated supplies and her time to decorate Christmas cookies with the children in December. Also, thank you to the families who gave gifts to the center and staff for Christmas. It is greatly appreciated.

For the month of January, our Bible Stories and themes will be:

\*Jan. 2-**The Sun**

(Creation, Genesis 1:1-10)

\*Jan. 9-**The Land**

(Lot Chooses Land, Genesis 13:5-8)

\*Jan. 16-**Seas, Lakes and Rivers**

(Catching Lots of Fish, Luke 5:1-11)

\*Jan. 23-**Plants**

(The Garden of Eden, Genesis 2:7-10)

We officially welcome Hailey H. who has "graduated" to the Learner Room at the start of the new year. Happy Birthday this month to Kyliie H. who turns 3 on the 17th, and to Andy K. who turns 4 on the 30th.

Ms. Carolyn

### Emergency Closings

With winter upon us, we would like to remind parents of our emergency closing policy. In the event of school closing, preschool classes will be cancelled, but the daycare will remain open pending enough staff can arrive to meet state required staff-to-child ratios.

School-age children who were scheduled for before/after school care are given first priority, with other children being added as space is available. School-age parents should contact the center before coming to confirm that care is available, and that drop-off times are okay.

In inclement weather, the center may make the determination to close early or completely. Late Start Times or Emergency closings due to winter weather conditions will be announced on radio stations WJJH (96.7 FM) and WEGZ (93.3 FM) or the NBC Channel 6 News. For emergency conditions that arise during the day, parents will be contacted at work and asked to pick up the child as soon as possible.

## Preschool News

It's wonderful to be starting out the new year with our preschool friends. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness, remembering our staff during the Christmas season. And hats off to our kids for putting on a fabulous Christmas program...we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

As we kick off 2012, our first month is filled with many fun themes. We begin with "Time for Bed", a kid-favorite. Check your calendar for our Pajama Days. Our Jesus time will talk about Joseph escaping in the night with Mary and Jesus, to avoid wicked King Herod.

Next, is our Transportation unit (another favorite, especially for our boys). We'll be talking about planes, trains and any thing else on wheels. We'll be heading over for our monthly Chapel visit.

The week of the 16th is our "Winter Wonderland" theme. Hopefully, we will continue to get more snow, as the children are enjoying using the new sleds the center got as gifts. We'll do a science experiments, watching snow melt and making frost. Our Bible story for the week will be Jesus' baptism. Just a reminder, there will be no preschool on Friday, 1/20.

The following week is our Ocean Life theme, as we hear how Jesus called a number of fishermen to follow him.

Finishing off the month, we'll talk about our Five Senses. At Jesus time, our preschoolers will hear how Jesus cares about our needs when he heals a blind man.

Also this month, we will be putting together our mid-year progress reports for our 4/5 year old class. Watch your child's cubby later this month.

It is our attempt to get outside each day with our preschoolers. It works best for us to take the children outside at the beginning of our preschool session. If the temperature is a little on the chilly side, we may wait until the last 15 minutes. Please allow the children to get dressed at home with little or no help. (Imagine trying to help 10 preschoolers get dressed for outside play.) This is great practice for them for school. They may surprise you how much they are able to do by themselves.

Looking forward to serving your family in  
the new year!

Ms. Julie and Ms. Amy

# FEBRUARY Servers for Worship Services

Our Servers for our Worship Service are very important. We ask that if you are unable to serve on your designated date, please find someone else to take your place. We really appreciate your help in this matter!!

## ELDERS

Feb. 5 Darryl Warren & Doug Warren  
Feb. 12 Chuck Chronis & Mike Cashman  
Feb. 19 Doug Warren & John Pruss  
Ash Wed. Feb. 22 Chuck Chronis & Mike Cashman  
Feb. 26 Rick Williams & Darryl Warren  
Wed. Lent Feb. 29 Doug Warren

## FEBRUARY Acolytes

Feb. 5 Jordan Thimm & Alexis Warren  
Feb. 12 Kaitlyn Thimm & Annie Ylitalo  
Feb. 19 Maggie Reardon & Kathryn Draeger  
Ash Wed. Feb. 22 Jacob Pruss & Tiffany Houle  
Feb. 26 Ciera Maday & Briana Klobucher  
Wed. Lent Feb. 29 Michael Wittling & Ben Cashman

## GREETERS FOR FEBRUARY

*Greeters should arrive by 8:40am*

Feb. 5 Loren & Eleanor Munson  
Feb. 12 Ingrid Pocernich & Lou Pearce  
Feb. 19 June Williams & Janet Houle  
Ash Wed. Feb. 22 Mary & Lloyd Koosmann  
Feb. 26 Karen Wahl & Stephanie Wegener  
Wed. Lent Feb. 29 Linda Klobucher & Linda Stenroos

## FEBRUARY Ushers

*Ushers should arrive by 8:40am/6:10pm*

Feb. 5 Tim Bauer & Matt Draeger  
Feb. 12 Todd Vyskocil & Wendell Friske  
Feb. 19 Jim Hebert & Paul Osmak  
Ash Wed. Feb. 22 Roger Stenroos & Ken Philaja  
Feb. 26 Logan Tamke & Randy Spangle  
Wed. Lent Feb. 29 Gerald Frisco

## FEBRUARY ALTAR GUILD

Jule Jarvela 682-0385  
Janet Houle 682-2387  
Tiffany Houle



## Our Prayer Concerns

### FEBRUARY



### Mission

Zion Lutheran Church

Little Friends of Jesus  
Childcare Center

### 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.

### Nursing Home & Assisted Living Resident

Roger Basina  
Ed Torkko  
Corrine Tolliver  
Agnes Schutte  
Alice Hansen  
Sharon Johnson



### Shut-in's

Ron Nevala  
Walt Schutte  
Clarence Houle  
Gloria Mills  
Lois Hein

### Local & US

### Concerns

### 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 Chipewa Falls, WI