

The Mountain Top **Messenger**

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 2 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod FEBRUARY 2013

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

Have you caught on yet that the more I have to write about the smaller the size of the font I use to fill the page. This month I believe the font will be a little smaller, I have a number of things to fill you in on.

On January 24th Sandy Frisco, Lynn Ladd, and I went to Trinity Church in Ironwood to attend the district leadership conference. The opening was just that; very eye opening. Following the opening we went into breakout sessions to talk about a variety of topics. One of the most unsettling things for me was President Lueck's talk about the size of the churches in the North Wisconsin District. In the NW District there are 218 congregations, as of 2012, 56% or 126 of those congregations had an average Sunday worship attendance of 100 or less. 41 of those congregations worship 35 or less each Sunday.

Another interesting fact was that as of 2012 the second largest religious affiliation was "none", 19.3% of the adult population of the United States checked the box that said no religious affiliation or "none". There was only one group larger and that was Roman Catholics at just over 20%, Lutherans were well down the list. Further it was stated of those that checked "none" the largest subsection was those under 30 years of age at 32%. So to put those numbers in prospective 1 in 5 adults and 1 in 3 adults under 30 have no religious affiliation. I found those numbers amazing and disturbing; however, it certainly helped to explain the drop in church attendance. It also points to the growing number of people who need to hear about the Saving Grace of our Lord and Savior.

So what can we do about it? There lies the challenge. In the session I attended, and the general theme of the conference was exactly that; what are the goals for your church? Before we could leave we were required to submit a goal for our church, not only did we have to submit a goal, but we also had to list a time frame for the accomplishment of the goal and our contact information so President Lueck could follow up and check on our progress toward our goal. The goal we selected for Zion; bring our average Sunday worship numbers back up to 125. One of the key elements of a goal is it has to be achievable; I believe this is an achievable goal. I do not believe it is a goal that I or any one person could achieve. However if we work together, as we have been hearing over the past several weeks, if we work together as the Body of Christ, it is a goal we can achieve. And when we reach that goal, we can set another, and then another. I look forward to working with all of you as we work to attain that goal.

That's enough on that for now, if you would like to learn more about the conference and what we learned please come talk to us.

The other thing I wanted to start letting you know about was the upcoming Lent services. This year for the Wednesday Lenten services we are going to be looking at The Trials of Jesus, each week as we go through Lent the message will be from the prospective of Jesus' accusers, starting with the Voice of Satan on Ash Wednesday, followed by Judas, Annas, Caiaphas, Herod, and then Peter. There are also connected services for Holy Week, I am really excited about this program and hope you will all attend. Also don't forget the soup and sandwich dinner before each service. It all starts Ash Wednesday, February 13th at 5:30 p.m.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and thank you.

Rick Williams, Deacon



Zion's Ministry Staff and Church Officers

E-Mail: zionashland@ hotmail.com

Website: www.zionashland.org

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

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



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

Many non-Christians believe that it is important to care for creation and preserve it for future generations. This is call Conservation. Without these efforts many natural resources would be damaged or destroyed so that future generations would have a much lower quality of life.

Christians support the efforts of these people because it is part of what we understand as stewardship. We obey God, are good stewards of His creation and manage it well. We find the stewardship command in Genesis. As God's creatures we are to work the Garden and take care of it for God's purposes.

From Arleigh Lutz!

From your Stewardship Committee

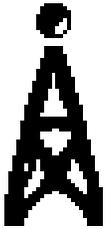
NEED A PRAYER?

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.



Adult New Member Class

A new instruction class will be starting in February. A preliminary meeting to discuss days, times, content, etc. will be held on **Sunday, Feb. 10th, 6:00pm** in the conference room. Please speak with Deacon Rick Williams if you are interested or you know someone who is. Once they select days and times we'll let you know because this is a good refresher class for current members and all are welcome! It will run for about 5-6 weeks.



91.1 FM

Ashland's only Christian music radio station is back on the air at 91.9 FM! They are in need of supporters to keep the station from being sold.

Listen in and donate as God moves you.

The contacts are 1-888-720-9730 or www.life973.com. Thank you.



CHOIR PRACTICE

on Wednesdays at 6:00pm to practice songs for Lenten services, Holy Week and Easter. Please join us!! We have lots of fun while singing praises to the Lord.

GOALS COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES SPEAKERS

PLANNING CELEBRATIONS OUTREACH INITIATIVES

What do these mean? They are only a few of the words mentioned during the Regional Leadership meeting on Thursday, January 24th at Ironwood. It was very moti-

Lutheran Church Extension Fund - Scholarships

1. Seven scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,000, will be awarded to seven graduating high school seniors or current full-time post-secondary students at an accredited institution with at least one year of courses remaining. Candidates must also be members of a congregation belonging to the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod located in one of the following districts: Iowa East, Iowa West, Minnesota North, Minnesota South, North Dakota, North Wisconsin or South Wisconsin.

2. The application **deadline is April 1, 2013**—all applications must be post-marked no later than this date. The applicant's name must be on each page of the scholarship material submitted. Applications will not be considered valid unless all material requested is submitted with the application.

The scholarship will be awarded on merit and need, and distributed following successful completion of one semester (or term) at the accredited institution the student is attending.

3. For more information and details go through the following website:

www.lcefuppermidwest.org/scholarships/





VBS - Summer 2013

August 12th—15th 9:00am-3:15pm

Mark it on your calendar NOW!

CAMP LUTHER is coming!!!!

Grades 1st-6th (2012-2013 status)

Evening events for the youth! Yah!!!!

Counselors from Camp Luther will be coming to Zion to run the summer VBS this year. It is going to be grand!!!!

BUT....we are still going to need HELP. We will need someone to oversee the preparation of the camp (won't have to plan lessons, music, crafts). **We'll need volunteers to help the counselors, kitchen help, snack donations, and other items here and there. Please keep it in the back of your mind as we get more information and be ready to say, "Yes, I can help!"**

Or let one of the board members know now you want to be a part of this fun, exciting event. We'll keep you posted with upcoming information.

The Education Board

Mission Trip: TANZANIA

Update posted by Debra Elmore-Nesheim

The \$3500 goal has been surpassed!...

The \$3500 goal has been surpassed! I'll be able to afford anti-malaria meds, shots and the added plane ticket from Minneapolis to Atlanta (where the team will meet). Praise God and thanks to all who answered His call. By you donating funds and prayers to this mission to serve others, you are glorifying the Lord. And through your donations, lives will be changed. You have already changed your life and mine! "...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:15b

Watch for trip & team updates! Debra





Wednesday Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday - February 13 through March 20th
6:30pm

Theme: The Trials of Jesus

Soup and Sandwich Suppers 5:30pm

Maundy Thursday March 28th, Good Friday, March 29th

6:30pm

Easter Sunday, March 31st

7:00am and 9:00am

Breakfast 8:00am

Sunday School Scoop

January flew by as fast as the wind was blowing this year. Sunday, January 20th the children recited Martin Luther's morning prayer.

The Lesson themes for February are: Jesus Heals Many, The Transfiguration, The Temptation of Jesus, Jesus Heals Ten Men with Leprosy

Congratulations to the following children who had 100% attendance for December. It was a difficult month with the illnesses going around, plus the holidays. Jordan Thimm, Cooper Tamke, Kathryn Draeger, Tiffany Houle, Ella Bauer, Abbi Moreland, Jacob Graves, Ashlee Moreland, Lily Truchon, Taylor Vyskocil, Tia Warren, Addy Bauer, Kenny Harrelson, Austin Vyskocil, Jodi Harrelson, Sophie Truchon, Daniel Truchon

We are still in need of a Sunday School Superintendent. This can be a shared position. Please speak with one of the Education Board members if you are interested.



LFOJ Happenings

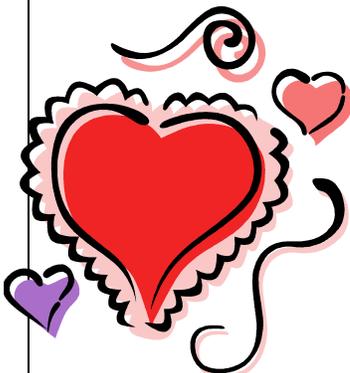
LFOJ is working with a technical consultant to renew its enrollment in the state of WI Youngstar program. Numerous criteria are expected and the center qualifies under the majority of them currently.

State Licenser came for visit on 11/27. Visit went well, with only a few violations in regards to missing paperwork in staff records. That paperwork has already been taken care of.

In February the children will be having chapel with Deacon Rick. They are getting familiar with him and a closeness is developing.

They will be visiting the Nursing Home. The people at the home thoroughly enjoy having them come to visit and/or perform.

Of course with it being February, there will be the exchange of valentines and expressing the love for Jesus.



Arctic Blast of Wind

Today the February sun-light was on and nature cranked up the volume to perform a full-blown concert... using all "wind" instruments. The first indicator of this windy-weather shift played like a bagpipe howl. Then the wind chimes rang a warning to birds and deer and waves of snow were twisted into cones of energy. The right-angles of buildings cracked the cadence of the relentless river of air and punctuated the music with an occasional clap of the vent. We were under assault by a winter Arctic Blast.

When evening shut down the light, a new drama unfolded for highway drivers as wind-driven snow flapped a white sheet to erase oncoming headlights. Even the glow of a slivered moon could not pierce the white cloud that hung over the earth. For those of us hunkered down us at home, we prayed with grateful hearts and snuggled under the comfort of warm-quilts.

Wind has been and continues to part of the human story that God is writing. The wind dried the earth after the Big Flood and the winds held back the waters of the Red Sea. When the storm raged, Jesus awoke and calmed the winds. At Pentecost a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind. This week tornadoes ganged up to cause human death and great destruction. Wind can blow our minds and cause us to stand back in shock and awe.

The wind is also a teacher: *"The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit"* (John 3:8). The wind instructs us to learn about the Spirit. For God's work may show up like a steady lake breeze, a snappy gust of wind, a life-changing storm, a twist of air, a gentle breath, a halt of energy, an upward draft, a calm over dangerous waters. He surpasses all weather-patterns, all forces of nature, all things of this earth.

What a privilege to be sons and daughters called to give witness to His work in our lives that others may respond to His howl from the cross, His offer of refuge amidst a storm, His warm-love when life is cold, His amazing grace in the tunnel of despair... Dear friends, His Spirit is at work today. May our thoughts, words and actions welcome the winds of God's holy work- our rest and our hope.



VOTERS' MEETING - Sunday, February 10th

(Following the service)

There will be a discussion and possible vote on the Specific Ministry Pastor Program (SMP) which is an additional option available to Zion to fill our vacancy. In 2007 the LCMS Convention passed the SMP Program which is designed to meet the need for pastors for mission and ministry in the Church where a pastor with a seminary degree might not be available. These men are identified by the ministry and mission opportunity where they will serve in consultation with their district president. It is a designated type of ministry, declared at the outset. Rick Williams has expressed a desire to commit to this program. When his application is submitted and accepted, Rick would begin a 4 year program designed by the St. Louis Seminary. He would serve a 2 year Vicarage beginning as early as April 2013, continue his education while serving us and be ordained after that vicarage is completed. He would then need to complete 2 additional years of study to complete his training. This four year program would all be completed at Zion. More information will be available at the meeting. For information before the meeting, you can speak with the Elders or Call Committee members.

CAMP LUTHER FEBRUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPENED JANUARY 1!!

Visit www.campluther.com to register online or to watch our NEW video. Camp Luther has an exciting summer planned for children K-12, and some for adults, too! This summer's theme is "LIVE LOVE[D]" and is based on 1 John 4:10-11. Register now to get the village you want on the week you want. Summer brochures were mailed to households at the end of December and to churches/schools in January. If you need information, please visit the website or call us for a brochure 1-877-264-CAMP. If there's a need, don't let that hold you back - ask about our Campership Program.

WINTER YOUTH CAMP!! March 1-3! It is all the fun summer camp only with snow and no mosquitoes! Your 4th-6th grader will have an exciting winter adventure, make friends and grow in their faith! There will also be broomball, tubing, snow shoeing, x-country skiing, snow angleball, Bible study, devotions and so much more. Hope to see you there!! It's not too late to register; sign up NOW!

REGISTER FOR GRANDKIDS CAMP TODAY AND YOU TOO WILL BE ABLE TO SAY....

"It was a very special weekend with my grandchild." We offer this very unique and meaningful opportunity to spend some quality time with your grandchild **June 21-23** or **August 9-11**. This special weekend will reap benefits all year long. Register online at www.campluther.com.

DO YOU SHOP ONLINE?? WOULD YOU LOVE TO HELP CAMP LUTHER FINANCIALLY??

Go to www.goodsearch.com and join both Good Shop and Good Search, so that whether you are searching or shopping, you will be giving to Camp Luther. Add Camp Luther as your charity and that's it. Just by using Good Search after that, you will be giving to Camp Luther. It's a win-win. There are coupons for you too!!

BRICKS FOR MORTGAGE REDUCTION!! Leave your mark as part of the legacy that is the ministry of Camp Luther. You can support the effort to reduce and remove the mortgage and also leave a remembrance on a brick in Camp's beautiful courtyard. Your gift of \$500 or more makes a difference!! Go to www.campluther.com to learn more.

Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes

January 21, 2013

The January 21, 2013 meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President, Chuck Chronis. Deacon Rick Williams opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

ROLL CALL: President – Chuck Chronis, Trustee – Nick Jarvela, Education – Lynn Ladd, LFOJ – Cheri Tamke, Treasurer – Todd Vyskocil, Secretary – Becky Sapper, Evangelism – Lori Hebert, Deacon – Rick Williams.

MINUTES: Motion by Sapper, second by Jarvela, to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2012 Council meeting as printed. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion by Ladd, second by Tamke, to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed. Motion carried.

AGENDA: Motion by Hebert, second by Jarvela, to approve the agenda as printed with additions to new business. Motion carried.

BOARD REPORTS:

Next reports are due February 11, 2013. They can be emailed to: zionashland@hotmail.com

Trustees Nick Jarvela and Roger Stenroos are the newly elected members of the Board of Trustees.

Nick was elected as Board chair. Ongoing monthly maintenance to Church and LFOJ completed.

Education Christmas program was held on December 23 and was a great success. The kids did a fabulous job. Next meeting of the Education Board will discuss VBS, Confirmation Sunday, and parent/teacher curriculum survey.

Little Friends of Jesus Two new assistant childcare teachers were hired. State Licensor visit on 11/27 went very well.

Evangelism Two new members on the Evangelism Board (Jim Johnson, Sandy Frisco). The board will be meeting next week to plan out the year's activities.

Deacon's Report Rick limited his visitations while sick and is now getting back to seeing shut-ins. He purchased a program for Lenten service and is offering a 5-6 session instructional "new member/ refresher" class for 2-5 individuals. More people are welcome to attend and an informational meeting regarding this instructional class will be held on February 10 at 6:00pm.

OFFICIAL ACTS:

Motion by Jarvela, second by Ladd to approve the transfer of Lois Hein to Zion Lutheran Church in Gilman, Wisconsin. Motion carried.

There were no old business items to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. A financial report including income, expenses and debt will be included in the monthly newsletter.

B. Board of Education is considering strategies for addressing VBS 2013 and vacant Sunday School superintendent position.

C. Council agreed that Zion's commitment to the BRICK was an annual \$1,600 contribution. Any additional requests and freewill offerings from Zion's members are given to the BRICK and do not replace Zion's budgeted commitment to the BRICK. The BRICK is having a meeting with all 17 covenant churches on January 31 to discuss its vision and relationship with covenant churches.

D. Property requests should go through the Board of Trustees and recorded on the checkout sheet. All property should return in good condition. Donations for use of church property would be appreciated to help cover the costs of wear and replacement of property as needed.

E. Motion by Jarvela, second by Hebert to give a \$500 towards Debra Nesheim's mission trip to Tanzania. Motion by Sapper, second by Hebert to acquire a 2013 Chamber of Commerce membership for Zion Lutheran Church.

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

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. 3 Chuck Chronis & Don Pocernich
 Feb. 10 Mike Cashman & Darryl Warren
 Feb. 13 Don Pocernich & Chuck Chronis
 Feb. 17 John Pruss & Doug Warren
 Feb. 20 Darryl Warren
 Feb. 24 Darryl Warren & John Pruss
 Feb. 27 Mike Cashman



GREETERS FOR FEBRUARY

Greeters should arrive by 8:40am

Feb. 3 Sandy & Jerry Frisco
 Feb. 10 Brian & Linda Klobucher
 Feb. 13 June Williams & Janet Houle
 Feb. 17 Vyskocil Family
 Feb. 20 Steve & Deb Nesheim
 Feb. 24 Rick & Sandy Nutt
 Feb. 27 Ethel Guss & Penny Mattson

FEBRUARY Acolytes

Feb. 3 Cooper Tamke & Sydney Vyskocil
 Feb. 10 Jordan Thimm & Ciera Maday
 Feb. 13 Tiffany Houle & Riley Heglund
 Feb. 17 Eric Bochler & Carolyn Gurske
 Feb. 20 Brooke Sapper & Annie Ylitalo
 Feb. 24 Kathryn Draeger & Cooper Tamke
 Feb. 27 Riley Heglund & Ciera Maday

FEBRUARY Ushers

Ushers should arrive by 8:40am

Feb. 3 Dylan Williams & Tim Bauer
 Feb. 10 Nate Warren & Ron Schwiesow
 Feb. 13 Scott Thimm & Steve Nesheim
 Feb. 17 Henry Truchon & Jim Johnson
 Feb. 20 Rick Nutt & Logan Tamke
 Feb. 24 Nick Jarvela & Robert Guski
 Feb. 27 Chris Bolz & Todd Vyskocil

FEBRUARY ALTAR GUILD

Eleanor Munson 682-8155
 Alice Balmer 682-0700
 Irene Piff 682-6237



OFFICIAL ACTS

Transfer: Lois Hein to Zion Lutheran Church, Gilman, WI 01-21-2013

Our Prayer Concerns FEBRUARY

Mission

Zion Lutheran Church
 Little Friends of Jesus Childcare Center
 Jordan Kroll 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.

Shut-in's

Gordon & Marianne Vyskocil
 Clarence & Madge Houle Gloria Mills Dorothy Rusch

Nursing Home & Assisted Living Resident

Ed & Elna Torkko Ron Nevala
 Corrine Tolliver Alice Hansen
 Sharon Johnson Margaret Mahoney
 Otto Rusch Walt Schutte

Illnesses

David Hebert Dan Truchon Ron Nevala
 Ken Philaja Mary Koosmann Chuck Gretzlock
 Patty Kegel

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 Eau Claire, WI