

# The Mountain Top Messenger

## Zion Lutheran Church

VOLUME 53, ISSUE # 1

JANUARY 2015

*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:1-4*

In this opening statement of the Gospel of John I see so many things that remind me of the New Year, things that bring to mind the world we live in and things that are happening right here at Zion Lutheran.

In these verses we see how everything, and I mean everything, revolves around the Word. The same Christ who was with God at the creation of the universe, is the same Christ who was born in Bethlehem, who lay in a manger, who died on the cross, was buried in the tomb, and who rose again on Easter day. He is the same Christ who now sits at the right hand of His Father and He will come again come to judge Heaven and Earth, and we, who believe in Him, will be with Him forever in paradise.

He is also the same Christ who came into the world to bring light into the darkness. Our world is enveloped in darkness, our world is ruled by the evil one, but Christ came into this world to shine forth his light, His light shines in the darkness, the darkness has not and will not overcome it. With all of that being said, the point I am striving for here is that we, we the people of Zion Lutheran Church, in Ashland, Wisconsin, we too are to shine that light into the darkness. We are a lighthouse in this dark and stormy world. I love lighthouses, lighthouses are there to steer people away from danger, to guide them to safety. That is our calling, that is the Great Commission, we are to spread God's Word, we are to bring light into the darkness.

My prayer as we head into the New Year is that we as individuals, as families and friends, as Christians, and members of Zion, do everything within our power to be that light in the darkness, to be that refuge for those that are lost, hurting, lonely, or confused. To be that beacon in the community that says come, we offer here the true Word of the one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. So we can share the words of our Savior when He said: *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* Matthew 11:28-30

God's Blessings to you all for a happy and safe New Year.  
Vicar Rick



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Website: [www.zionashland.org](http://www.zionashland.org)  
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**Vicar Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 Office Hours: M/T/W/Th 8:00am-5:00pm**

(Please call ahead if you need to speak with Vicar Williams as he may be visiting shut-in's, at a conference, etc.)

**Church President:** Nick Jarvela 715-682-0385

**Head Elder:** Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

**Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center:** 715-682-5185

**LFOJ Administrator:** Karyn Leino 715-682-6075

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## Do You Know ? Henrietta Lou Pearce

She likes to be called Lou. Lou is a lifetime resident of the area. She was born March 4, 1929 in Ashland. Her parents were Dorothy and Ben Buss. She was an only child but she loved going to her grandmother's house where there were many children all the time and lots of fun. They lived on a farm and she was always ready to work in the barn and help with the chickens. Back in those days no indoor plumbing and the outhouse was behind the chicken coop. One of her fondness memories was they had a drawing for a bicycle at the old Royal Theater. The Co-op had a stack of tickets for her and she won the bike!! They attended Zion Lutheran Church on Ellis Avenue and she was baptized and confirmed there.

Lou married Robert Wallace Pearce and they raised five boys and one girl. They continued attending Zion at Ellis and its newest home on Eleventh Avenue where the children were all baptized and confirmed.

Lou tries to make it to Church every week because she wants to hear the Lord's messages, to learn how to do things right. She enjoys watching westerns and won't watch any of those awful movies from 1960 on. She reads the Bible and wishes more people did that so they would learn to think the right way.

She's sorry that people don't take time for the Lord, if they did, it would be a better world.

What's her favorite dessert? All of them, and sometimes before supper.

If she could go anywhere, where would she go? Home! There's no place like home.

So there is your introduction to Lou, if you didn't quite know who she was. She loves everybody, so please say a loving hello the next time you see her.



# Stewardship Thoughts

*This was taken from a book I received 60 years ago on my confirmation.*

In thinking of myself as a church member, I need to keep in mind that my membership is not a lazy belonging to a church where I receive all the blessings, but don't have to do anything. Christian church membership calls for action on my part.

Building God's Kingdom is every Christian's privilege and duty. I can do this by using my God given talents and giving my time to serve my Lord and my church. The giving of money is very necessary for the building God's Kingdom. I must give generously so God's word can be spread everywhere. As an active member, prayer and personal witness are also important.

Ephesians 2:20 "He is using us all in what He is building—a Holy Temple built by God and all of us built into it." I need to be open to any opportunities for service and a willing worker. In his way I participate in reaching the world with God's message.

*In behalf of the Stewardship Board, Penny Mattson*

## Our Prayer Concerns JANUARY

### 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 & Dorothy Rusch, Dale Houle, Riley Bretting, Matt Raspotnik, Bob Wolfgram, Carl Sapper, Larry Korbein, Chuck Ladd, Holly Nemec, Katie Stipetich, Jeff Koosmann, Larry Oehlerking, Dave Pearson, Marge Douglas

### Nursing Home & Assisted Living Resident

Corrine Tolliver Sharon Johnson  
Otto & Dorothy Rusch

**Shut-in's** Gordon & Marianne Vyskocil  
Walt Schutte

### Military

Aaron Esala  
Tyler Heglund



## 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.

## Snow-shoeing With Sarah

I feel the urgency of the setting sun...  
 With a tromp-tromp on the crunchy snow  
 I walk the familiar hard-packed path.  
 I notice the deer also walk this highway  
 Stitched by the zig-zag of wolf tracks.

My mind seeks safety and shelter  
 As I hear the sigh of Sarah's shadow.  
 Wondering how she can even face  
 Chemo again. 4 hours of toxic  
 Drip-drip-drip. Icy chemicals flooding  
 The rivers of her veins and arteries  
 Drowning the good and bad cells

Sarah, who lost her hair last year from breast cancer  
 Now has to surrender the 2-inch new growth.  
 As cancer once again stalks and slays  
 Her dream of recovery.

God, here I am pacing to lose a few pounds  
 Marching on a well-traveled path  
 While Sarah is fragile and brittle  
 Gripping the edge of a hostile pit.

I am asking right now, to help me  
 To pray... and pray hard.  
 To say the right words for Sarah.  
 To not hold back.

To remind you that while she has breath  
 She is precious to a whole room full of students  
 Who are poised to welcome her back.  
 Precious to her family and me... her friend.

God, I hope and pray that Sarah and  
 I will snowshoe this path together  
 So we can mark time and celebrate life.

God, you rescue and resuscitate stories-  
 Please lift Sarah from the briny sinkhole  
 And lead her beside the still waters

That she may be restored with the fresh ingredients  
 Of your goodness and mercy.

The first light of evening is soft.  
 Let fresh snowflakes of your grace come down.  
 I am not ready to take off my snowshoes, God-  
 Sarah and I still have some miles to walk together.

-Alice J. Ellis

**Dear Friends, This month, I will be remembering my friend Sarah who passed on January 8, 2008. Each Sunday at Zion we are invited to pray for a long list of brothers and sisters facing challenges for God promises to hear our prayers wherever we are and whatever we are doing. Let us faithfully say "yes" to this prayer invitation. "For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him." (2 Cor. 1:20a). Thanks be to God!**

### ANNUAL REPORT 2014

It is planned to distribute the Annual Report by January 18th at the latest, before if all the reports get handed in early. This year we will also be including a copy of our membership directory. So if you have any changes before or after please contact the office. Our membership list needs some updating and it is a slow process to do, but we are working on it.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP



Sunday School students continue with lessons on "The Story" following the schedule as the Adult Bible Class. Classes took a couple weeks off to prepare for the Children's Christmas Program.

The Christmas Program "The Twas of Christmas" was coordinated by Lisa Guski and held on Sunday, December 14. The program was a huge success-Thank you Lisa for another great program.

Following the Christmas program on the 14th, was a pot luck put on by the Church Organ Committee, with the Sunday School providing the deserts. A great turn out for both!

The Sunday School students each received a cross necklace with the story of Jesus engraved in it and each given a leather book mark to go along with their new bibles.

The Sunday School will be taking two Sundays off, December 21st and December 28th over the holidays, and resuming again with "The Story" the first Sunday in January.

Katie Colgrove, Sunday School Superintendent

### 2015 BOARD MEMBERS & CHURCH OFFICIALS

\*Zion Church Council Members (term expires 12/31/year)

<b>Church President</b>	*Nick Jarvela (2017)	
<b>Council Secretary</b>	*Alice Ellis (2016)	
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	*Mary Koosmann (2015)	
<b>Church Treasurer</b>	*Carol Key/Lisa Guski (2017)	
<b>Accountant</b>	*Raelyn Pearson	
<b>Elders</b>	<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Evangelism</b>
<b>*Darryl Warren (2015)</b>	<b>*Nick Jarvela (2015)</b>	<b>*Lori Hebert (2015)</b>
Chuck Chronis (2015)	Chuck Porter (2015)	Jim Johnson (2015)
Doug Warren (2015)	Ron Schwiesow (2016)	Sandy Frisco (2015)
Don Pocernich (2016)	Scott Thimm (2016)	June Williams (2015)
John Pruss (2017)	Rick Nutt (2016)	Alice Ellis (2016)
Randy Spangle (2017)	Pat Colgrove (2017)	Ingrid Pocernich (2016)
<b>Education</b>	<b>Stewardship</b>	<b>Little Friends of Jesus</b>
Janet Houle (2015)	Diane Cashman (2015)	<b>*Cheri Tamke (2015)</b>
Laurie Bauer (2016)	<b>*Penny Mattson (2015)</b>	Lisa Guski (2015)
<b>*Lynn Ladd (2017)</b>	Paula Pruss (2017)	Fran Kuester (2016)
		Jule Jarvela (2016)
		Pancho Graves (2017)
		<i>Karyn Leino /Amy Mashlan</i>

## Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes: December 2014

The December 17th, 2014, meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President, Chuck Chronis. Vicar Rick opened with devotions and prayer Eph. 6:15 - Sandals of the Gospel – Our sandals are an offensive weapon. That we are prepared through Jesus and what are we waiting for to spread the good word.

**Roll Call:** Chuck Chronis (President), Mary Koosmann (Financial Secretary) . Lynn Ladd (Education), Todd Vyskocil (Treasurer), Nick Jarvela (Trustees) Cheri Tamke (LFOJ), Rick Williams (Vicar).

**Minutes:** Motion by Cheri, second by Nick, to approve the minutes of Nov. 17, 2014, as printed. Motion carried.

**Vicar's Report:** Sunday and Wednesday services going very well. Sunday and Monday Bible Studies going well. Met with the Elders and will be setting up a training program for their continuing education, covering Luther's Catechism, the Church's Constitution and By-Laws. Tickets and hotel are set for Jan. 11th trip to St. Louis. Visitation for December are on track, only two remaining. Did the weekly service at the two Nursing Homes on Dec. 10th. Had Chapel Services for LFOJ on the 2nd and 3rd. LFOJ Christmas program is Dec. 18th. Received transfer paperwork for Lipske's and the Elders approved transfer. Performed 2 baptisms on Dec. 7th. Met with Evangelism and will be meeting with Stewardship and Education in January.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tabled for January, 2015

**Agenda:** These items were added:

Nomination for District President, Thank you to Council Members, Letter from Raelyn, Clarification of Financials

Motion by Nick to approve agenda with additions, second by Todd. Motion carried.

### **Board Reports:**

Trustees: New organ – Trustees will be meeting on Dec. 17th to check on the requirements and placements for electrical and speaker placement for the new organ.

Financial Report: 2015 envelopes have been handed out.

Evangelism: 14 care packages out to the Zion College students the first week in December. Evangelism met last Monday--the 8th with Vicar Rick and reviewed the "by laws" of Evangelism and what our exact mission should or needs to be versus what we've been doing. Those in attendance were asked to review the list and next month we will discuss in more detail and come up with our plan for 2015. Lori Landry, Chairman

Stewardship: We will be meeting with Vicar Rick and going over the "by-laws" and talking about a new time/talent listing. Hope to have something to report at January's meeting. Diane Cashman, Chairman

Education: The Education Board met on December 10th. We have another member who has requested to drop from the board, Lilly Harrelson. We now have three members and should have six members. We will be putting out another plea for members. We are very excited to announce that we have a high school student who will be on the board, Lexie Warren. We are looking at possible projects for 2015 – Women's Ministry Retreat, Mother/Daughter Banquet, Father/Son Minute-to-Win-It Night, and looking into family devotions/ministry. Lynn Ladd, Chairman

Motion to accept board reports by Lynn, second by Mary . Motion carried.

### **Official Acts:**

Baptisms: Braelyn Leigh Zawchenuk 12-7-2014 Matthew Steven Coverston 12-7-2014

New members: Chad, Jaimie and Parker Lipske 12-7-2014 from St. Paul's Church, Marengo, WI

### **New Business:**

#### A. Nomination for District President

Motion to nominate Pastor Dwayne Luek for District President by Nick second by Cheri. Motion carried.

#### B. Thank you to Council Members

Motion to thank all who have served on the Church Council and will be finished at the end of 2014 by Cheri second by Nick . Motion carried.

C. Letter from Raelyn – Nick will be meeting with Raelyn to resolve any questions there are about the financials.

D. Clarification of Financials – Todd expressed that the payment for the organ has been made by the Church. The Memorial Fund has paid directly to the Church the money that they have for the organ. There is also money from the Thrivent account that is going towards the organ. The deficit is also from the new boiler system. The congregation approved a loan for the boiler and roof from LCEF that is being used.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Nick, second by Cheri. Motion carried. Council will meet January 19, 2015. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

*Respectfully Submitted, Lynn Ladd*

**2011 - \$163,672**

**2012 - \$153,884**

**2013 - \$144,675**

**2014 - \$129,884 (Projected)**

### **Do You Know? Did You Know?**

What are the above figures? Our expenses for the Church? Wouldn't that be nice, that each year it has gone down. That is not the case. This list is our "giving" amounts. They have drastically gone d-o-w-n each year. Why do you think that is?

There may be several reasons for that. People may think we don't need as much money now that we haven't been paying for a Pastor. That is partially true. We were able to save some money in 2011 and 2012 to be used for emergency situations. But now over 50% of that money has been used for unexpected expenses. Do you remember the years prior to 2011, when the church had to borrow money to meet expenses? We have been blessed we haven't had to do that.

So another reason giving may be less is that people think we're doing fine with what is received, because nothing has been said. That's right, nothing has been said and maybe this should have been brought up earlier.

When was the last time you received an increase in wages or income? It seems whenever we do get ahead with income there are more increases in bills like water, electric, insurance and on and on. Some think the Church can get by and when things get better for themselves they'll start giving a bit more. Will that day ever come? Doesn't the church have expenses that increase annually also? The church has maintenance issues also to handle, that is why a loan for \$90,000 was taken out for the replacement of the furnace and roof.

So what are we asking for? Mainly two things – give what you feel the Lord deserves and do it regularly. We have approximately 150 envelopes assigned to members of the congregation. If each one of those persons/families would increase their offering by \$5.00 we would take in an additional \$39,000.00 a year. WOW! But there is a catch. Not everyone who has an envelope uses them. And some only use them when they are in Church and don't fill the missed Sundays' envelopes. What about you?

To make it easier we have a direct deposit for offerings through Vanco. You can have your offering taken out on a certain date, once a month, weekly, whatever you decide. If you would like information on this opportunity contact the office. There is also a small information sheet on the bulletin board.

So do you let the person that sits in the pew behind or ahead of you take care of it? Now is the time for you to reflect on the gifts God has blessed you with and give to God what is his, because none of what we have is ours.

**2015 CAMP LUTHER SUMMER REGISTRATION IS OPEN!** An exciting summer is planned for children Pre-K through High School. Register early for your favorite dates and housing locations. Camp Luther will begin accepting registrations January 1 through our registration system at [www.campluther.com](http://www.campluther.com). You can also register by fax or regular mail. Send your children or grandchildren to Camp Luther and watch them grow!



**CAMP LUTHER SUMMER STAFF POSITIONS AVAILABLE** *You can make a difference this summer!* We are looking for a variety of staff including counselors, lifeguards, program coordinators and trip leaders. Go to [www.campluther.com](http://www.campluther.com) for further details and applications. *Application deadline is February 5th.*

**CAMP LUTHER FAMILY FLURRY RETREAT (Feb 6-8)** Bundle up and bring the family for a week-end of winter activities and growing together in faith. Families can join in our staff led activities or do things on your own. There is something for all ages. Activities include tubing, broomball, snow shoeing, x-country skiing, Bible study and devotions.

**2015 CAMP LUTHER CALENDARS** Our beautiful calendars are here for 2015. These are comprised of the winning submissions from our 2014 photo contest.

**CAMP LUTHER IS LOOKING FOR JUNIOR COUNSELORS** Junior Counselors are an integral part of the ministry of Camp Luther each summer. JC's assist counselors with nearly every aspect of the summer camp program. They also work hard to keep Camp Luther clean and polished for our many guests. Applicants must currently be a high school sophomore, junior or senior. JC application deadline is February 28th!!!

**ADVENTURES AT KEWEENAW BASE CAMP (KBC)** Camp Luther has branched out into the beautiful U.P. of Michigan. Campers attending "*The Edge*" (Grades 9-12) will discover new and exciting ways to grow their faith and challenge themselves as part of a group. Group building activities and wilderness training will help prepare them for excursions into the wild of the Keweenaw. Daily activities include backpacking, swimming, challenge course elements, high ropes, and much more.

**NEW CAMPS OFFERED IN 2015 AT CAMP LUTHER** Camp Luther is adding a variety of new and exciting camps in 2015. Our newest additions include Sailing Camp, Water-Ski Camp and Lifeguard Camp.

**CAMP LUTHER WINTER COTTAGE RETREATS** Enjoy a cottage retreat at Camp Luther this winter. Our cottages have everything you will need for a relaxing getaway in the midst of God's beautiful creation. You can spend time outside cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing, or tubing. When you are done, settle into a comfy chair next to your fireplace. Stay for a weekend or a week. Camp Luther is currently offering a special rate that is 30% off of our regular rate. Check out "Cottage Retreats" on our website.

*Camp Luther is a subsidiary ministry of the North Wisconsin District-LCMS. Our mission is to build up believers in Christ for service to the church and witness to the world. Visit [www.campluther.com](http://www.campluther.com) today for more information on all of the above and other upcoming programs.*

**Mail Boxes –** Please check your mailboxes, Secret Pals have been dropping off greetings, 2015 offering envelopes and other items may be in them.

**JANUARY  
2015  
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!! If you would like to be added or taken off one of our lists please contact the office. Greeters and Ushers should arrive 20 minutes before services start. Thank-you to all who serve.

**Elders**

Jan. 4 Don Pocernich & Doug Warren  
 Jan. 7 John Pruss  
 Jan. 11 Darryl Warren & Randy Spangle  
 Jan. 14 Chuck Chronis  
 Jan. 18 John Pruss & Darryl Warren  
 Jan. 21 Doug Warren  
 Jan. 25 Chuck Chronis & Don Pocernich  
 Jan. 28 Randy Spangle

**Greeters**

Jan. 4 Ethel Guss & Penny Mattson  
 Jan. 11 Jerry & Sandy Frisco  
 Jan. 18 Guski Family  
 Jan. 25 Sapper Family

**Acolytes**

Jan. 4 Taylor Vyskocil  
 Jan. 11 Jacob Graves  
 Jan. 18 Ashlee Moreland & Ella Bauer  
 Jan. 25 Kyle Sapper & Abbi Moreland



**Colors of the  
Liturgical Season**

**White**

In addition to its use during Easter-tide, white is the appointed color for such festive Sundays as Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday; and twenty-one minor festivals and occasions listed on the church year calendar in Lutheran Worship. In all, white serves as the best festive color for the church year.

**Green**

Lutheran Worship calls for the use of green during the seasons of Epiphany and Pentecost. The first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox (March 21), also known as Easter Sunday, determines the length of these two seasons.

The days of Epiphany may entail a total of, but not more than, eight Sundays. The season of Pentecost, on the other hand, can last from 22 to 28 Sundays. Green is the appointed color for all but a few of the Sundays during these seasons. Consequently, green may be used an average of six to eight months of any given liturgical year!

**Ushers**

Jan. 4 Luke Barker & Don Moreland  
 Jan. 11 Terrel Bolz & Loren Munson  
 Jan. 18 Scott Pearce & Karl Williams  
 Jan. 25 Jake Pruss & Dylan Williams

Brenda Schwiesow  
 682-4292  
 Ethel Guss  
 682-3885



**OFFICIAL ACTS**

**Baptism:**

Braelyn Leigh Zawchenuk 12-7-2014  
 Matthew Steven Coverston 12-7-2014

**New Members:** Chad, Jamie and Parker Lipske 12-7-2014