

The Mountain Top Messenger

Zion Lutheran Church

VOLUME 53, ISSUE #5

MAY 2015

As I look back it seems that every month I start out by saying “it’s May already” or whatever month it is, it seems that sometimes we get in a bit of rut. I know I feel that way sometimes, with the routine of services on Sunday and Wednesday, the visiting with those who are unable to attend regular services, the different meetings, helping with confirmation, and the class work, every once and a while I have trouble remembering what day of the week it is. Now, I have a feeling I am not the only one that feels that way, where does the time go? As I was thinking about this I began to think of how much of that time I spent in prayer and/or study of God’s Word. I will admit, being in the position I am blessed to be in, I have probably a greater opportunity to be immersed in Word and Prayer than anyone out there, and yet as I look at each day I see times where I missed the opportunity simply because I became distracted by the world. So where is all this heading? This quarter at school we are studying the teaching of the catechism. I have found this class to be one of the best to date simply in the amount of new information I have learned. I did not grow up with the catechism; I memorized the Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord’s Prayer, but never with Luther’s explanation. I am doing so now, what a wonderful little book Luther’s Small Catechism is. And I have learned so much about how and why it was written the way it was. Did you know that Luther’s Small Catechism is actually only the first 34 pages of the Catechism we use now? All the rest is the Synodical explanation and definitions. Did you know that the Catechism is in the order it is for very specific reasons to help teach about Law & Gospel, and Prayer? Do you know why Luther started the explanation of each Commandment with “We should fear and love God”? Or why each article of the Creed ends with “This is most certainly true”? Did you know that Luther kept his Small Catechism on his person always and whenever he had a free minute he read it again and again? Did you know Luther also wrote a Large Catechism as well? The Small Catechism was intended for the laypeople and the Large Catechism was intended for Church Leaders and Clergy.

Following the conclusion of “The Story” I am considering a Sunday morning Bible study on the Catechism, I believe it is something we all can use and I hope you will consider attending. Also I do have some copies of Luther’s Small Catechism, they are about 30 pages long and will fit into a shirt pocket, if you are interested in having one for yourself please let me know.

In other news we are moving forward with a number of projects, the youth are beginning their fundraising efforts for the 2016 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Evangelism is working on the “Backyard Mission” project as well as the New Member Dinner, Stewardship is working on a new Time and Talent survey, Education is planning their annual “Daughters of Christ” Event, Father/Son Event and starting summer VBS plans and I am planning on starting a New Member/Adult Instruction “What it Means to be a Missouri Synod Lutheran” Class Sunday nights starting May 3rd at 6:00 p.m. Anyone considering membership at Zion or just wishing a refresher is welcome. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex or you can call the office.

Blessing to you as we continue in this Easter season as we await the Ascension of our Lord.

The Lord Bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you Peace.

Vicar Rick

Vicar Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 email: deaconrickat Zion@gmail.com

Office Hours: M/W/Th 8am-5pm Tues. 1-5pm Fri. 8am-12pm

(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



Do You Know ? Diane Beiersdorff

Diane was born Diane Broeninman, November 1943 on the way to the hospital to Ashland, in the car. The transmission fell out of the car on Highway 13 by racetrack road. Her parents were Edward and Marvelyn Broeninman who lived in the Bass Lake area at the time. They lived by Walt Schutte. Her Dad and Walt went to school together. Her siblings were Anna and David (twins) and Randy. She was baptized at home and confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran in Mellen.

They were busy all the time. One of Diane's activities was 4-H along with Lucy Marita and Lois Thewis. She earned many blue ribbons with her entries in dairy, gardening and canning. One year she received the Grand Champion Holstein Ribbon with "Beauty", her heifer. Back then Sears would provide seeds for those who would put in an individual garden, separate from the family garden. At the end of the summer, the county agent would come out and judge the garden. Diane married John Beiersdorff in Rockford Illinois. It was in the 60's and during civil rights time. John was a teacher and the only male teacher on the floor. One day an eighth grade girl came after John with a switch blade and was going to swipe it across his face. Luckily someone was behind her and grabbed her arm. So that was enough of Rockford, Illinois. John resigned and they were fortunate he acquired a teaching job in Chippewa Falls. Diane substitute taught while they lived in Chippewa Falls. They lived there a couple years until they moved up here in 1967 when he applied and obtained a teaching job for Ashland Public Schools, teaching science. Diane was a stay-at-home mom until the youngest went to school. Then she worked at Munsingwear until they closed, Ashland Forge making scissors until they closed and ended at MMC working in foods until her retirement in 2006.

Diane now enjoys her 11 grandchildren and 3 great-grand children along with sewing, yard work, and gardening. She's one of the ladies that keeps our outside entrance looking so beautiful during the spring, summer and fall. She is involved with Altar Guild, the "counters", Bible Studies and whenever and wherever help is needed.





“Daughters of Christ”

“Just Because Moments”

Monday, May 11th

6:30-8:00pm

Proverbs 3:27(NLT)

²⁷ Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them.

Last year's event was a "hit" and we hope that you can join us again for fellowship, devotions, pictures (again), fun and refreshments. Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex so we have some idea of how many will be attending.



Our Prayer Concerns MAY

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 Riley Bretting, Bob Wolfram, Larry Korbein, Holly Nemec, Katie Stipetich, Isaiah Majetich, Diane Hyvonen, Bob Heggie, Kevin Heggie, Duke Kuester, Linda Stolarzyk, Penny Mattson, Sandi (Sorenson) Fletcher, Cheryl Hildebrandt, Wendy Meierotto, Les Pufall, Bill Brooks, Heather Gust, James Albright

Homebound

Dorothy Rusch, Gordon & Mariann Vyskocil, Walt Schutte, Les & Marvelyn Pufall, Merlin Fuhrman

Military

Aaron Esala, Tyler Hadland,
David Wright



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



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Sunday School is drawing to a close with the last class on May 10th. That will be a celebration Sunday with the children singing during the morning service at 9:00am. After the service there will be crafts to do, followed by an ice cream treat.

I would like to thank all the teachers who taught this year for their time and talents. We would appreciate your input at a meeting on Monday, May 18th at 6:30pm. We will be reviewing many curriculums and making a selection of what will be used next year. We are always looking for more teachers to join our group, especially in the preschool. It has been nice that we have two or three teachers per class and they rotate Sundays so if you need to be gone one week the class is covered. If you are thinking of teaching and would like to come and see what the curriculum could be in the fall please come to the meeting. There will be goodies!



Don't forget that Camp Luther will be joining us for VBS again this summer. It is set for August 10th -13th. We will have sign-up sheets for the children in July. We limit the count to 40. There will be another sign-up sheet for helpers. Even though the Camp Luther counselors handle most of the activities they still need some help, along with help in the kitchen, registration table, treats, etc. We'll keep you posted closer to the dates.

Have a great summer!

God's Blessings!

Katie Colgrove, Superintendent

Education Board

New Member/Adult Instruction

"What it Means to be a Missouri Synod Lutheran" Class, Sundays at 6:00pm starting May 3rd for approximately six weeks. Anyone considering membership at Zion or just wishing a refresher is welcome. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex or you can call the office.

Stewardship Thoughts

We pray in the Lord's Prayer for daily bread. The *Small Catechism* teaches that "Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like." This is a pretty comprehensive list of what God provides for our daily bread. But all of this, eventually, and finally, will be taken away from us—not because God is punishing us, but because this is not the goal of life. There is more to life than these things. In fact, we will truly live when all these things are taken away, and we no longer need to pray for daily bread.

For God our Father in heaven is calling us home to Himself. We are just sojourners here. We are on a journey in the wilderness of this world toward our true home, the land of promise, in heaven. Everything that we have in this world and this life will be left behind.

But as much as we long for heaven, as much as we eagerly await that time when our Lord will take us from this vale of tears to Himself in heaven, we still struggle with letting go of what we have in this world. We still suffer the temptation to hold on to this life and this world and the things of this life and this world. But this is not our true home. And as good as this life is, and it is often by God's grace very good, the life to come in His kingdom far exceeds it.

And giving, stewardship, is a practice that teaches us to look to, long for, and trust in the eternal realities rather than the earthly. It teaches us to loosen our hold and let go of those things that keep us earthly minded, so that we may look what our Father in heaven has in store for us for all eternity. It teaches us to concentrate on what God has done, is doing, and will do for us instead of the constant work-a-day world and noise that we have here. It teaches us to long for that better country, the heavenly one. For God is not ashamed to be called our God. And He has prepared for us a city, His city, not made with hands.

Thus we give generously to the church, to our family, to those in society. We release our grasp on what would keep our focus on the here and now, so that we would be free to receive and rejoice in what our future shall be in heaven. We invest where moth and rust will not destroy. We put our treasures so that our hearts will follow them (Matt 6:21; Luke 12:34). For we are only of any earthly good, when we are truly heavenly minded. Make this your practice for your own good eternally and your neighbors' good temporally.

Bethesda Lutheran Communities is accepting scholarship applications for the 2015-16 academic year for Lutheran high school, college and seminary students with a career objective in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

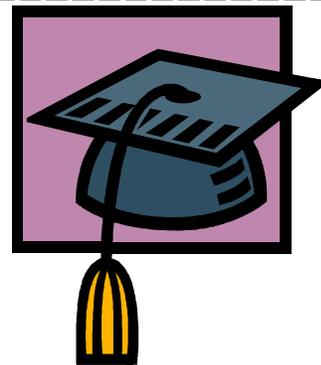
Bethesda will award five Lutheran student scholastic and service scholarships: two \$3,000 awards for current college students; one \$3,000 award for a seminary student; and two \$500 awards for high school seniors. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average. Other application requirements include documentation of volunteer or paid service to people with developmental disabilities, an essay and letters of recommendation. The application deadline is Friday, May 1, 2015.

To be eligible, a student must be an active communicant member of a Lutheran congregation. Bethesda staff will review applications and make selections in July. Awards will be directly applied to school fees at private or public four-year, post-secondary institutions.

Share this link (BethesdaLutheranCommunities.org/scholarships) or forward this email to students or others who may be interested. For questions, call 800-383-8743, ext. 4428, or email chris.dovnik@mailblc.org.

Thank you for helping to get the word out!

Chris Dovnik Program Coordinator Bethesda Lutheran Communities





April 9, 2015

This evening our son Jon sent a photo of our granddaughters, Sophie and Amelia, on a tulip farm in Skagit Valley, Washington. I remember visiting that garden in May of 2011 on Mother's Day with Herb, Jon, Vicki and girls. With the cold spring, the tulip crop was running late and the timing was perfect; everything was in full bloom. While the girls skipped among the rows, I strolled to soak in the beauty. For there were ruby red tulips, bright pink tulips, royal lavender tulips, glorious golden tulips, sunshine yellow, neon orange, baby-pink, velvet-red, pure white, creamy white, mahogany, peach, salmon, magenta, purple, bronze, single-colored, multi-colored... it was like looking at a rainbow box of crayons and every color was there, and every tulip was gorgeous. We were told that we could not pick any of the tulips unless their stems were broken. Sophie had a sharp eye for these injured ones, so she soon had a bouquet for us to keep.

Of course, I felt like I was in photography heaven. Shoot a photo here, one there, oh...don't miss these... Sophie with the tulips, Amelia with the tulips, all of us with the tulips.... The possibility of colors and people could provide math fun for anyone who wanted to get a snapshot of every combination. Such joy!

After a long winter, there is something magical about tulips and their show-stopper performance. Since spring hail or blustery winds can change nature's stage within minutes, the fragile-gown of tulips calls for a celebratory "walk (skip or jump-for-joy) in the garden." Our lives also have tulip quality; for we are called by God to skip and sing on His amazing landscape of glory. To proclaim the good news of His love and mercy and especially bring in the injured and broken ones. Yes, folks, we are just coming off the Easter. And Skagit Valley has pulled out all the stops to produce a live-show of hope through tulips: **He is Risen. Alleluia.** Sounds like our spring needs glorious tulips to celebrate resurrection joy: **He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

A. Ellis

New Member Celebration

Potluck Dinner

Sunday, May 17th

11:30am



You won't want to miss it!

Meet all the new members.

It will be fun with a few surprises included.

Sign-up in the Narthex will be forthcoming.

LFOJ HAPPENINGS

LFOJ will be replacing the old carpeting and linoleum through the entire center as soon as the money for the projected bid is received. The carpeting and linoleum is the original since the center opened in 1997. LFOJ has been working on this project for the last two years with numerous fundraisers and financial donations. LFOJ board members voted on the bid from Custom Carpet on Monday,



April 13. The total amount needed for the flooring project is \$12,750. Little Friends of Jesus has raised \$10,220.54, thanks to the LFOJ parents, LFOJ Staff, LFOJ Board and Zion Congregation. The remaining amount that LFOJ needs to raise is \$2529.46. LFOJ will have a freewill offering on **May 3rd**. Your financial support &/or prayers will be much appreciated.

Who is my neighbor?

The Zion Evangelism Committee is exploring a “backyard” mission opportunity to serve others in our local community. It is difficult to predict exactly what this project will look like, but it could include: rebuilding a porch, painting walls, installing sinks, washing windows, yard work, putting in an entry ramp...the possibilities can cover a wide swath of needs right in our own neighborhoods as recommended by members of our congregation. This is a brief outline of how this ministry will work:

Evangelism committee creates a list of members who are interested to serve and organize volunteers into project teams.

Zion members recommend a project for a “neighbor” that we can do; our first preference is to serve those outside of our congregational family.

Teams meet to select project(s) and a leader will contact the resident to get their permission and input.

Dates are set for the projects. Money is allocated; Thrivent “action team” seed money is applied for. Building materials are organized. T-shirts received from Thrivent.

Team(s) meets for final details: phone calls, time, duties, food, etc.

Project date arrives: work begins and is accomplished according to time-line.

Share a celebration meal at the end with Zion workers and project residents.

Teams meet to evaluate success and recommend ways to improve.

At this time, Evangelism hopes to do AT LEAST one (or more) project during the dates of August Vacation Bible School. We are now ready to get started and organize members of Zion’s congregation who are willing to be part of this work to serve others. We need: construction workers, painters, telephone supporters, material organizers, photographers, food preparers, prayer partners, donations, computer support... we need YOU.

At our May Evangelism meeting, it is important that interested members show up to learn more about this ministry, and to help

get the ball rolling. If we are serious about doing our first project in August, we need to get started now. We will meet on Monday, May 4, at 5:30 pm. This is a great time to ask questions, and be included in the grassroots planning of this good work. (If you cannot attend, but are interested, please let us know.)

We are not the first congregation in this area to be part of the Backyard ministry, but this is new for Zion. The need is right here in our own neighborhood. Please say “yes” to God’s call to bless others in His name and in turn be blessed. Thank you.

Evangelism Committee: Lori Landry, Ingrid Pocernich, Sandy Frisco, Mike Cashman, June Williams, Alice Ellis.



Sharing Christ's Gifts on Sunday

Sunday is not a Christian Sabbath nor is it an attempt to historicize the past. Rather, Sunday is the day symbolic of the continued presence of the risen Christ who remains active in our midst.

Sunday is the expression of all Christian liturgy — the result of which is what we become: the body of Christ, the oil of healing for the world, the sweet smelling aroma of prayers lifted before the throne of the Father.



Sunday is the first day. It is the day of primordial creation when God called all things into existence from nothing. Sunday is the beginning of all that will be in Christ. It is the day of light. Darkness and light forever separated by God. Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

Sunday is the day of resurrection, the inauguration of a new creation given through Christ's sacrifice, accepted by the Father, for the life of the world. Sunday is more than a little Easter; it is the symbol of the new age begun and completed in the paschal mystery.

Sunday is the day of Eucharist. In the eating of His precious body and the drinking of His sacred blood, faith grasps and appropriates to itself what the eye cannot see. In the Eucharist, the church becomes the Kingdom of God manifest in the world, so that the love of Christ would abound in acts of love and charity.

Sunday is the eighth day, the day of eternity beyond the weekly cycle, symbolizing the kingdom, which has no end.

Is there anything that Sunday doesn't mean? In the words of Robert Taft, "For the Early Church, Sunday was indeed everything. ... It is the day symbolic of all days, for the purpose of all Christian liturgy is to express in a ritual moment that which should be the basic stance of every moment of our lives" (Beyond East and West, p. 52).

The Synod's seminaries prepare men to rejoice in Sunday, the day when they feed the lambs on the very bread of life. Pastoral formation holds at its heart the care of souls — soothing consciences and granting hope, life and salvation in Christ alone. Pastoral care rejoices to share these gifts in Sunday worship, a time when our lives and vocations are sanctified, where we are strengthened for this pilgrimage of life.

Join us this May as we celebrate the formation of faithful pastors through our Synod's seminaries.

To learn more, go to lcms.org/themes/may.

In Christ,

Rev. Bart Day
Executive Director, LCMS Office of National Mission



When Helping HURTS

It was about 9:30 p.m. when the heavy hospital room door closed on the last of entire day's worth of visitors. Keith, my husband, had been diagnosed with a life-threatening autoimmune disease and had been in the hospital for several weeks. Our amazing support system of friends and family wanted to see him in person and show their support.

As the day had progressed, I watched my usually strong and energetic husband, now fragile with disease, become wearier with each new visitor. At times the fatigue would become too much, and he would just close his eyes in the middle of a conversation. The left half of his face was paralyzed, and I could see the smile on the right side grow more faint with each passing hour. It was awkward, wanting people to feel welcomed and show our thanks after they had made a long drive to come see him while at the same time trying not to encourage a long visit. By day's end, I felt drained. I could only imagine how Keith felt as he fell asleep.

The 26 days Keith spent in the hospital, followed by months of downtime in our home, gave me a new perspective on what it means to help others. There are things to be aware of when we step in to be helpful, whether in times of celebration, such as a birth, or a time of suffering. We all want to jump into action, but following guidelines will ensure that your ministry actually helps instead of hurts. Here are four to consider.

Pray.

Cover those in need with prayer. Pray alone, and pray as a group. During a critical time in the hospital, our church set up a 24-hour-a-day prayer chain, with each person committing to pray for one hour. We were humbled, blessed, and encouraged by this, knowing that even at 3 a.m. Keith was being prayed for. I recently read about a church family who surrounded the home of a dying man; they held hands and prayed together outside as he went home to be with the Lord inside the walls of his earthly house.

Bring food.

Assign one person to create a schedule so the family doesn't have to keep track of it. A basket of healthy fruit and snacks in the hospital or at home helps greatly. If you bring a meal, make it something that can go in the freezer or can be refrigerated for several days. Quick delivery of a meal is best. This isn't the right time to bring your family to visit. Always pay attention to dietary requests.

Listen to the requests of the patient and family.

If they ask for no visitors, don't consider yourself an exception. On the other hand, if the person or family is lonely and asks for company, go see them in person. In all cases, don't invite yourself; it's hard for people to say no. If you do visit, always keep your visit short; no more than 30 minutes is best.

Help with everyday needs.

When life changes, everyday responsibilities still remain. Mowing, gardening, house cleaning, grocery shopping, auto maintenance, and child care may be needed. This list can get long and is different in every situation. Take the time to assess the needs of each family or individual.

God calls us to come beside those in need. Part of doing that is serving in a way that is most helpful and most easily received. Sometimes this requires putting our own desires aside. When we do so, we will make an impact that will be remembered and appreciated for life.

Brook Hickle

**MAY
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

May 3 Chuck Chronis & John Pruss
 May 6 Doug Warren
 May 10 Darryl Warren & Randy Spangle
 May 13 John Pruss
 May 17 Doug Warren & Chuck Chronis
 May 20 Randy Spangle
 May 24 John Pruss & Darryl Warren
 May 27 Chuck Chronis
 May 31 Randy Spangle & Doug Warren
 Jun 3 Darryl Warren

Acolytes

May 3 Ella Bauer
 May 10 Abbi Moreland
 May 17 Jacob Graves
 May 24 Justin Esala & Tia Warren
 May 31 Heather Dickrell

GREETERS

May 3 Janet & Tiffany Houle
 May 10 Dan & Carla Schwantes
 May 17 Lipske Family
 May 24 Wickman Family
 May 31 Clarence & Kathy Osmak

Ushers

May 3 Jerry Frisco & Chad Lipske
 May 10 Herb Ellis & Andrew Wickman
 May 17 Henry Truchon & Larry Hildebrandt
 May 24 Jim Hebert & Pat Colgrove
 May 31 Warren Draeger & Erick Bochler



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



OFFICIAL ACTS

Death: Sharon Johnson 03-30-2015, Irv Brittig 04-08-2015, Otto Rusch 04-13-2015, Corrine Tolliver 04-17-2015

Baptism: Molly Anne Rooni 03-22-15 Blaine Ruth Henri 04-12-15

New Members: Alan and Lisa Sunie, Cody and Devin from Good Shepherd Church, Ashland, WI 3-29-2015