

The Mountain Top

Zion Lutheran Church

Messenger

VOLUME 54, ISSUE #4 APRIL 2017

April! Spring! Easter! It is all about new beginnings. April Showers bring May flowers, I tried to think up something catchy to say about that but alas nothing witty. What I did think about is how spring is a time of rebirth. We see the animals coming out of hibernation, often bringing their newborn young with them. The new shoots of life springing forth from the gardens. And then this year on April 16, we see Christ, burst forth from the grave. The conqueror of death has risen in new birth to life everlasting at the right hand of God His father. It is a truly amazing thing to behold and understand. It is the fulfillment of the scriptures, it is the completion of God's plan of redemption for His people, **us!**

That to me is the amazing part, **us**, God, from the beginning of time created us and claimed us as his own, our first parents let him down, and all of us from that time have continued to do so as well. But, because of his love for us and because he cared so much for his creation, also from the beginning of time, he put in place his plan of salvation. We see and hear it in His Word, we feel it and hear it in the water and words of baptism, and we see, taste, and hear it as we share in the Lord's Supper. He did all of this to save us. That's how special we are to Him.

I would be willing to bet that sometime in your life, perhaps even right now, you haven't felt that special. The trials and tribulations of this world weighing you down, you sometimes question, "where is God in all of this". You feel abandon. Well I am here to tell you right now with all certainty, that is not the case. God loves you, he has known you and loved you even before you were created. God cares about you, more than you can ever imagine. How do I know? Because God, in all his majesty, sent His son into this world, to feel the trials and tribulations that are weighing you down. He lived a life of pain and hurt in this world, and then, he died on the cross to save you from all your sins, he took them, your doubt, your pain, your mistrust, your questioning thoughts, and he offered himself up to God to save you. And guess what, it worked, God accepted the sacrifice of Jesus, he removed all of our sin, all of your sin. How do we know? Because he raised Him from the dead, sacrifice accepted, sins forgiven, now and forever. Even though we sometimes doubt, we hurt, we feel alone, we are in pain, know that God is with you and will never leave you. And whether it is that we leave this earthly live in death or are called home on that day when Christ returns, we shall see God, our Father face to face and live with him forever.

I read something the other day that hit home with me and I thought I would share it. It said, when you feel like you have been buried, simply know that you have been planted. Our spiritual life is all about growth, we are constantly given the opportunity to grow. Faith is never stagnant; we must nurture it and allow it to grow.

The world thought Jesus was buried, but as we celebrate on Easter morning, we know that he was only planted, because he rose from the grave, he conquered death, and lives and reigns forever and ever with God the Father. God's plan fulfilled, our futures secured. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

God Bless you all this Easter Season,
Pastor Rick
Christ is Risen!
He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!



**Church Office - 1111 - 11th Ave. W
Ashland, WI 54806**

Phone # - 715-682-6075

Website: www.zionashland.org

E-mail - secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 Office Hours: M/T/W/Th 8:00am-5:00pm

(Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor 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



LWML Spring Rally



The Ladies Circle of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mellen, cordially invites you to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Spring Rally for Zone #1 of the North Wisconsin District on Sunday, April 23, 2017. Registration is at 12:30pm with lunch to follow. Registration fee is \$5.00 per person.

The Rally theme is "God's Word: A Road Map for Life". Service and devotion will be by the Rev. John Deitz, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Butternut and also the Vacancy Pastor at Immanuel.

The Gifts of the Heart Ingathering for this Rally will be for the Food Pantry in Mellen. Any non-perishable food items are welcome.

Call pooling will be available.

Our Prayer Concerns APRIL

Mission

Zion Lutheran Church Little Friends of Jesus Childcare Center
LWML Zion Sewing Circle Zion's Monthly Mission

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.

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for: *Bob Heggie, Kevin Heggie, Joni Frisco, a Brad Prill, Dean Jansheski, Jean Wickman, Fran Fleig, Emily Hagstrom, Eddie Brown, Johnny Galligan, Alice Balmer, Mary Bullis,, Sheldon Henri, Charles Ylitalo, Violet Basina, Sheryl Hildebrandt, Tracy Steward, Tim Smith, Nick Frisco Family, Kayla Stach, Melissa Grage, Jim Bullis, Ellen Hodgson, Buzz Leciejewski, Joe Stach Bob Schwiesow, Gerald Johnson, Tyler Lehto*

PRAYERS FOR HOMEBOUND

Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them.

Walt Schutte, Arlene Zimmerman, Madge Houle

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.

Aaron Esala, David Wright, Johanna Pearce



Community Grief Support Group Offered

Beginning April 20, 2017 through May 25, 2017, Regional Hospice is offering a 6-week grief support series for adults who have experienced the death of someone in their life. The group will meet from every Thursday from 6 p.m. -7:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian-Congregational church located at 214 Vaughn Avenue in Ashland (please use the accessible entrance on Vaughn Avenue). Anyone seeking a safe, supportive environment following loss is welcome to attend. If interested, please contact Regional Hospice at (715) 685-5151 for more information.



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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

The Scoop for March 2017

The month of March continues with the stories of the Bible. The Sunday School classes are also taking part in the mission of the month of purchasing baby chicks for third world countries. To get started each student received a little basket with a little yellow wind up chick and two plastic eggs to put their change in to go towards the mission. The mission for the month of April LWML will be presenting the Sunday School class with information on LAMP (Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots) and their needs.

God's Blessings.

Submitted by Katie Colgrove

Sunday School Superintendent



LAMP – MISSION

In the month of April the LWML and the Sunday School of Zion are teaming up to raise money to make a donation to LAMP (Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots). Funds raised will help to purchase fuel for planes that fly to the remote areas of Canada to bring materials and teachers to spread the Word of God to the indigenous people

through Sunday School and Vacation Bible School.

If you do not participate in either of these groups but would like

to donate there is a container in the Narthex marked LAMP where you can place your donations.



APRIL MISSION



Chequamegon Humane Association Inc. 

Keeping animals off the street since 1980

www.CHAadopt.org

First Class postage stamps
Plain clay cat litter
canned dog food
cat treats
laundry detergent (powdered preferred)
Ink cartridges epson 126/127



Stewardship Thoughts

WHY?

We've all seen the HOW and WHAT of stewardship through the budgeting process and preparation and voting on the budget ending in blind, subconscious submission of the Sunday offering. What if the congregation were willing to take the time to start with the WHY of stewardship as it is delivered to us from the Word of God? If so, there would be a far better

grounding of stewardship among those who have been called by God to be part of the body of Christ in the local congregation. The WHY of stewardship starts with creation, the cross, Baptism and the Christian life. The Christian steward has been created, and through Holy Baptism, recreated (born again) to be a steward of all things for God and God's purposes. It has nothing to do with paying bills, but everything to do with being faithful to The Lord and reaching out to others.

Stewards are caretakers and managers for the gifts God has entrusted to them; the most important the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord has made and redeemed us to steward all things entrusted to us for the sake of others. The steward does not exist to sustain the church. Scripture tells us The Lord is tasked with sustaining the church. The task of the steward is to be faithful with those gifts The Lord has given. This faithfulness is then used by The Lord to bring the Gospel to those who do not know it. Money is given to the local congregation so the preaching of the Gospel and education of the young and old alike may be carried out. The local congregation partners with other congregations to accomplish the mission of the Church locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

It is the Gospel that serves as the WHY of stewardship. Stewardship is not about our benevolence toward others or even the congregation. It flows from who God made us to be and for whom The Lord has made us to serve. When giving is proportional and sacrificial, when service is rendered to others in response to the way The Lord has served the individuals who make up the congregation, the Gospel is carried forth and a difference is made by the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word.

It is time for pastors and people alike to commit to discovering the WHY of stewardship from the Scriptures and Confessions.

LC-MS e-newsletter StewardCAST

LFOJ HAPPENINGS



On March 15, 2017, LFOJ was audited by the Department of Public Instruction, CACFP (Food Program). The DPI, CACFP completes an audit with Little Friends every three years.

In the last three years LFOJ had one error calculating one Parent's Income Statement.

Correction Plan was to submit Tami Biordi, CACFP Nutrition Program Consultant an email stating that the correction was noted and changed. Email was submitted on March 15, 2017

Tami stated that all the records were extremely organized and at DPI standards. What takes 6 ½ hours only took 4 hours because of the accuracy and good record keeping. She also stated that we have a wonderful program and she thoroughly loved observing the Infant/Toddler room and Learner room. She was very happy with the Family Style Dining and was thrilled that all the staff sat with the children to eat.

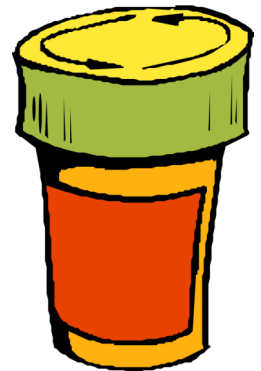
We are good for three more years ☺

God Bless,

Karyn

RECYCLING PILL BOTTLES

New **LWML** mission project currently in progress at Zion!



Please save your empty over-the-counter and old prescription bottles for use in developing countries where medicine - when available - is often dispensed into hands, pockets, leaves or any available container. **WE CAN HELP!** Please place your clean, empty pill bottles in the special container located under the individual church mailboxes. We can help improve health care quality in developing countries

Little Friends of Jesus Preschool Request

Would you please consider donating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to offset tuition for student that will enroll in the LFOJ 2017/2018 4 year old preschool year?

LFOJ has voted to not collaborate with the 4K Ashland School District due to Christian education limits. LFOJ will continue to have their own 4 year old Christian centered preschool program.

Parents will now have the choice between a state funded 4K program and our private funded 4K program that is Christ centered. We want to make it easier for parents to continue to provide their children with a Christian based 4K experience without financial constraints. Our 4K program does not normally show a profit for the Center and is more of a community service that we feel is important to provide.

Since the public 4K program will be free to parents we are looking into starting a scholarship program to help those families who would like a Christian program but can't afford it. We are asking for your financial help to continue our mission and Zion's.

HOW TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

Online

1. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
2. In the Direct Choice Dollars section on the right, click **"Get started now."**
3. Log in, enter your user ID and password, and answer your security question. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click **"Register for account access."**)
4. Find the number of Choice Dollars available to direct.
5. Locate the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
 - a. To direct to a previous organization:
 - Click **"Direct Now"** next to the organization's name, or
 - Click on the **"View activity history"** link, scroll down and click on the **name of the desired organization**.
 - b. To direct to a new organization, **enter keyword(s)** like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click **"Search."**
6. Choose **"Direct All"** or **enter a specific number** and click **"Direct Now."** Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

Dutch Mills Bulb Fundraiser

Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center is hosting a Dutch Mills Bulb Fundraiser. Spring is a great time for planting and Dutch Mills has a beautiful assortment of blooming bulbs.

Booklets will be distributed on March 13th. Please consider passing the book among family, friends or co-workers, that would certainly assist us in raising even more is possible profits. Booklets will be available at Zion. Dutch Mills offers quality flower bulbs at a great price, and 50% of each package will go to the center. The profits of this fundraiser will go toward replacing the deck at the center.

The sale will begin Monday, March 13th and will go through Friday, March 31st. Orders will be delivered mid-April, just in time for planting.

Thank you to Chad & Jaimee Lipske for helping us to coordinate this great fundraiser.



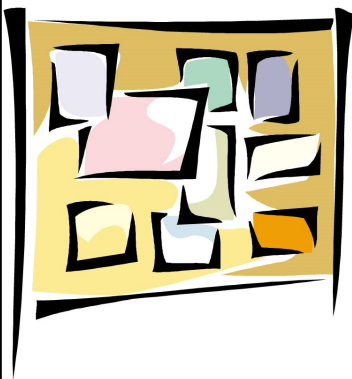
On the Bulletin Board

Daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and whenever we receive notices they go on the bulletin board. Here are some examples.....

Northwest District LCMS "The Happenings" - a newsletter from our District Office with various, interesting articles.

Camp Luther "The Breeze" - lets you know of what is available for campers and events going on.

Lutheran Hour "The Lutheran Layman" bi-monthly newsletter.



Flower Chart - where you can sign-up throughout the year to provide flowers for the Altar in memory of someone or for a special occasion.

Then there are spots for LWML, Memorial Committee, LFOJ, Sunday School, LCEF, Camp Luther, Community Events/Needs, Church Info., etc.



This is the Express Lane?

In the Word

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ([Colossians 4:2](#))

Of the Word

Holding five items, you scan the store's crowded check-out lanes and strategically plot your choices. An express lane opens! You triumphantly out-manuever several shoppers and become the second one in line. Only then you notice the brimming cart ahead of you -- the thrill of victory becomes the agony of defeat. Although tempted to count aloud the woman's items, you ponder the options. What if ... she is a single mom, rushing to purchase needed groceries before picking up children at daycare? What if ... you prayed for her instead of grumbling? What if ... you prayed for the tired-looking cashier, or the upset people behind you, or those who cannot afford to buy even five items?

Continue steadfastly in prayer, ... ([Colossians 4:2a](#)). We often overlook opportunities to pray. Sitting at a long traffic light gives us time to pray for family and friends. Delayed by the after school surge of walkers and bicyclists, we can pray for students and teachers. Thank God for the possibilities to be in prayer for others. They are not interruptions. They are invitations to be in conversation with Him.

Walking with my Lord

Lord, thank You for the many opportunities You give me each day of my life to continue steadfastly in prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Zion Lutheran Council Minutes: March 20, 2017

The March meeting was called to order by President Nick Jarvela. Pastor Rick Williams opened with devotions and prayer focused on Genesis 18. We are encouraged to be vigilant in our prayer life.

Roll Call: Nick Jarvela (President/Trustees), Alice Ellis (Secretary), Lisa Guski (Co-Treasurer/LFOJ), Lynn Ladd (Education), Lori Landry (Evangelism), Daryl Warren (Elders), Pastor Rick Williams.

Approval of January Minutes: Motion to accept by Gusk. Second by Warren. MMC.

Approval of February Minutes: Motion to accept by Warren. Second by Guski. MMC.

Pastor's Report: Pastor has completed shut-in visitations and nursing home services. LFOJ Chapel. Lenten services, confirmation, Bible study are doing well. Pastor's academic classes are complete in July.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept as printed by Warren. Second Landry. MMC.

Meeting Agenda: Add to new business request by LWML for LAMP donations in April. Agenda approved by Warren. Second by Guski. MMC.

Board Reports:

Elders: Warren reported that elder/family lists have been circulated.

Trustees: Jarvela reported on response to LFOJ flooding. Soup and sandwich money will be used to purchase some needed tools and dolly to keep locked at church. Will review handles on

LFOJ doors. Furnace passed inspection.

Education: Looking at a mission for Sunday School students.

LFOJ: Grateful for flooding fix by Jarvela. The CACFP Food Program met inspection requirements; now good for three years. Will pursue bid for deck/ramp. Spring bulb fundraiser in March.

Evangelism: Hoping to schedule a Zion Family Game Night.

Motion to accept Board Reports by Warren. Second by Landry. MMC.

Official Acts:

Baptism: Carson Larson on March 11, 2017.

New Business:

LWMP Request for donation boxes in narthex in April for LAMP. Sunday School will also participate in this mission opportunity. Motion to accept this request by Warren. Second by Guski. MMC.

Next Church Council Meeting: April 24, 2017. (Please note: FOURTH Monday in April.)

Motion to adjourn by Warren. Second by Guski. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully, Alice J. Ellis

Palm Sunday April 9 9:00am
Youth Group serving breakfast after service

Maundy Thursday Service April 13 6:30pm

Good Friday Service, April 14 6:30pm

Easter April 16
Sunrise Service 7:00am
Easter Celebration Service 9:00am



**Holy Week
& Easter**

CAMP LUTHER - Three Lakes, WI

CAMP LUTHER CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST

Help share the beauty, fun, and spiritual growth of Camp Luther and Keweenaw Base Camp through your photos! We are collecting entries for our 2017/2018 Calendar. Submit your photo via email to sojo@campluther.com or place on a cd or dvd and mail to Camp Luther. **Deadline is April 15!**

WORKBEE WEEKENDS AT CAMP LUTHER *April 28-30 and May 5-7, 2017*

Volunteers have always played a major role in keeping Camp Luther clean, beautiful, and in good condition. Today, Camp Luther continues to be blessed by hundreds of individuals who faithfully participate in Workbee Weekends. Individuals or entire families can help get Camp Luther ready for the summer by participating in various work projects. The weekend is FREE and camp provides all meals, as well as time for fellowship and devotions. Projects vary, but there is something for everyone. Register under the "Get Involved" tab at <http://campluther.com>.

MEN'S FISHING/GOLF RETREAT AT CAMP LUTHER *May 16-19*

Fishing, Golf, Bible Study and Devotions-what more do you need for a manly get away? This schedule is packed with plenty of time for your sport of choice AND plenty of time for being in God's Word together. Gather a few friends or bring your congregation's Men's Ministry Group. Housing is in cottages as available. For more information check out www.campluther.com.

SIDE-BY-SIDE RETREAT AT CAMP LUTHER *April 28-30*

Are you looking for a way to get your youth group involved in serving? Join us at Camp Luther for our Side-by-Side Retreat! You will participate in a variety of housekeeping and maintenance projects around camp during the day, and then have time for fun activities in the evening. Visit www.campluther.com/adultfamily to get your youth group signed up!

MEMORIAL DAY FAMILY RETREAT AT CAMP LUTHER *May 26-29*

Start a new Memorial Day tradition and bring your family to Camp Luther this year. Join in on any or all of the staff-led favorite summer activities or do your own thing as a family in this very flexible schedule. A guest pastor leads the Adult Bible Study while staff teach the kids in age-appropriate groups. More information can be found on our website at www.campluther.com.

GUEST MEDICS NEEDED AT CAMP LUTHER

Camp Luther is looking for licensed physicians, nurses, physician's assistants, practical nurses, certified trainers, EMT or paramedics, persons certified in emergency response or equivalent to serve as Volunteer Medics this summer. Weeks still in need of a Medic are June 23-30 and August 4-11. More information can be found under the Get Involved tab at <https://campluther.com>.

CAMP LUTHER "CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE" CAMPS FOR 2017

CYOA camps are weeklong programs for 6th-8th graders that focus on one specific activity by offering 3-4 hours of skill building in that particular area each day. CYOA camps run concurrently with Camp Luther's youth camp program which allow campers to participate in many of their favorite youth camp activities throughout the week as well. Here are three great camps to check out this summer...

***NEW CYOA IN 2017* Sailing Camp (July 16-21)**

Learn how to sail and ride the wind and the waves throughout the week.

Guitar Camp (June 25-30) This is your chance to learn how to play the guitar, or to build your skills if you've already been playing for a while.

Photography Camp (July 30-August 4) Spend the week with your camera in hand, building your photography skills and capturing awesome pictures.

SPEND A WEEK AT KEWEENAW BASE CAMP

Two NEW cabins are being built at KBC, and reservations are being taken for summer 2017! Enjoy a week (Friday-Friday) in one of these two-bedroom cabins and relax in the beauty of the Keweenaw Peninsula. Contact Janette "Swoops" at janette@campluther.com or 715-891-4064 for more information and to book your stay!

Camp Luther is a subsidiary ministry of the North Wisconsin District-LCMS. Our mission is to build up all people in Christ for service and witness in the world.

Walt's Words: Gems of Wisdom

During the past 20 years I have been interviewing older adults and asking the question, "What advice do you have for the next generation when they retire?"

Here are a few of their responses:

- Plan for it
- To me life is like the back nine in golf. Sometimes I play better, sometimes I don't
- The older I get, I seek to enjoy these days of living
- Don't hang on to the past; seek today to experience something new
- Sense God's presence and then experience His love in Jesus
- You must learn day by day to broaden your outlook on life
- I live my life and I don't worry about my age
- I take life more calmly. I say, "This too shall pass!"
- It is easier to get forgiveness rather than permission
- My approach to life – I may fall, but my goal in life is to get up every time I fall



Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes ended up in Zambia this year! Zambia has 15.5 million people and is located in Southern Africa 46% of the population is 14 years old or younger

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST Served by Zion's youth

APRIL 9th 10:15am



Please join in for a good breakfast after the service. This is a fundraiser for the youth to earn money for various activities, such as a Youth Group Weekend to Camp Luther or the 2019 LCMS National Youth Gathering Minneapolis, MN.

Please help support our youth during their fundraisers so they will be able to participate. These experiences will never be forgotten.

Thank you to all who have donated to their fundraising events so far!

**APRIL
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**
- Apr. 2 Scott Thimm & John Pruss
 - Apr. 5 Scott Thimm & Doug Warren
 - Apr. 9 Darryl Warren & John Pruss
 - Apr. 13 Andy Pruss & Doug Warren
 - Apr. 14 Scott Thimm
 - Apr. 16 7:00 John Pruss & Andy Pruss
 - Apr. 16 9:00 Scott Thimm & Darryl Warren
 - Apr. 19 Doug Warren
 - Apr. 23 Andy Pruss & Randy Spangle
 - Apr. 26 John Pruss
 - Apr. 30 Randy Spangle & Darryl Warren

- Acolytes**
- April 2 Emily Dickrell
 - April 9 Abbi Moreland
 - April 16 7:00 Abbi Moreland
 - April 23 Ella Bauer
 - April 30 Logan Esala
 - May 7 Abbi Moreland
 - April 5 Jayson Lunda
 - April 13 Ella Bauer
 - April 14 Logan Esala
 - 9:00 Emily Dickrell



- Ushers**
- Apr. 2 Ron Schwiesow & Cody Sunie
 - Apr. 5 Scott Sapper
 - Apr. 9 Jim Johnson & Brian Klobucher
 - Apr. 13 Mike Cashman & Adam Hinch
 - Apr. 14 Alan Sunie
 - Apr. 16 7:00 Jim Hebert 9:00 Jordan Thimm
 - Apr. 23 Paul Osmak & Adam Hinch
 - Apr. 30 Jerry Frisco & Pat Colgrove
 - May 1 Larry Hildebrandt

- GREETERS**
- Apr. 2 Wickman Family
 - Apr. 5 Lori Landry
 - Apr. 9 Sapper Family
 - Apr. 13 Ethel Guss & Penny Mattson
 - Apr. 16 7:00 Loren & Ellie Munson
 - Apr. 16 9:00 Ingrid Pocernich & Lou Pearce
 - Apr. 23 Pat & Katie Colgrove
 - Apr. 30 Rick & Sandy Nutt
 - May 7 Warren & Peggy Draeger



- ALTAR
Guild**
- Brenda Schwiesow 682-4292
 - Ethel Guss 682-3885