

The Mountain Top Messenger

Zion Lutheran Church

VOLUME 54, ISSUE #8

AUGUST 2017

Thought for today; when the world gives you more than you can handle, hand it over to God. Here we are in August, summer is starting to wind down. Walmart has restocked its shelves with school supplies, parents seem happier about that than most of the children. Preparations are underway for the upcoming Sunday School year, for confirmation, for Bible Study, and believe it or not, I just received a catalog in the mail with all sorts of ideas for the Advent season.

Regardless of what we do, time marches on, for some reason, the writing of these monthly newsletter cover pages always seems to accentuate how quickly time goes by, there is simply no slowing it down. So as I pondered this thought this month I began to realize why it is that we sometimes have such a hard time understanding and imagining eternity. How do you put eternity into perspective when in our busy world, we consider eternity the time we have to wait in line at the DMV or in the waiting room of the doctor's office anticipating the results of a lab report or an x-ray. When we look at the span of our lifetime here on earth it doesn't even register as a blip on the scale of eternity. Now the other thing about eternity is when it comes time to live in eternity there are two options, and only two. Eternity is very black and white, no grey areas. We will spend eternity in either Heaven or Hell, no purgatory, no middle ground, no second chances, no going back. But I think you know that.

So why talk about it? Because it is that small blip of our life, that few number of years that we have this side of eternity that determines our eternity. And all of it boils down to one simple action. Do we have faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as our Savior and Redeemer? Do we believe that through the means of grace we have been justified by His grace and thus saved to spend all eternity with Him in heaven? If you are reading this, I believe that your answer to that question is yes. I believe that you believe what we profess in our creeds, and I believe that we will be together with God our father forever. God has chosen us, the Holy Spirit has called us and dwells within us, and Jesus Christ has redeemed us and intercedes for us. We will be able to call Heaven our home.

That's great for us, isn't it? I think so! But it raises the question, what about everyone else, what about those who don't believe, or even worse yet, those who don't know because they haven't heard or been told? That is where we are supposed to come in, Jesus charged us to share His Word, to bring the Good News to those who don't know. That is the thing we are supposed to do this side of eternity, not so that we can reach Heaven, but because we are going Heaven. We are to share God's Word, through our words and through our actions and example the Holy Spirit can work in them and then through their faith they too can join us in Heaven for eternity.

Enough on that for now, just a couple of reminders, we have VBS rapidly approaching and still need help in a number of areas, please take look at the sign-up sheets and help where ever you can. The younger people, when they are introduced to the love and salvation of Jesus the better the chance they will learn it, remember it, and live it.

Thank you all for your support and always remember; If God is for us who can be against us?
No one!

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace! Amen.

Pastor Rick



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Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 Office Hours: Monday 8-5 Tuesday 1-5 Wednesday 12-8 Thursday 8-5 Friday 8-12 (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



A Plea for Quiet Time *By Pastor Don Ginkel*

We've lived in Denver for 20 years. Like many of you, my schedule has been full. The other day I decided it was time to have some quiet time. I bought a fishing license and new rod and reel. I wanted to be alone. The place: Echo Lake at the base of Mt. Evans, 10,800 feet. Didn't fish much, but the quiet time was awesome. The white capped mountains, forests, and deer. Time to get away from people and to better reflect on the promises of God. It was rewarding.

Is it time for you to get away by yourself for a day or just for an hour or so? Note that Jesus spent considerable time by Himself. Quiet time for Jesus with His Father was critical. It's important for us, too. My first congregation was at Creston, IA. No mountains or forests there, but late one evening, after finishing calling on some prospects, I drove past the Creston Cemetery. The Spirit nudged me into it. I spent the next hour sitting on a tombstone for some quiet time. It was most rewarding. I repeated that visit again and again.

Whether it's mountains and forests or just a cemetery, there is a place of quiet rest for you that's near to the heart of God. **Jesus' invitation is still "Come to Me." And His promise still holds true: "and I will give you rest" (Psalm 46:10).** Let's make time for quiet time.



Total Eclipse - July 21, 2017

“ 9 reasons why this eclipse is noteworthy “ can be found on the bulletin board.

Max view in Duluth, Monday, August 21, 2017 at 1:07pm.

Global Type: Total Solar Eclipse Duluth: Partial Solar Eclipse

Our Prayer Concerns AUGUST

Mission

Zion Lutheran Church (monthly missions, Sewing Circle) LWML Jordan
Kroll Mission Little Friends of Jesus Childcare Center

Thanksgiving

To all of you who have worked faithfully and joyfully to serve our Lord by serving others and often go unnoticed by all but our Heavenly Father.

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, Brad Prill, Jean Wickman, Fran Fleig, Eddie Brown, Johnny Galligan, Alice Balmer, Mary Bullis,, Sheldon Henri, Charles Ylitalo, Violet Basina, Tracy Steward, Tim Smith, Melissa Grage, Jim Bullis, Ellen Hodgson, Buzz Leciejewski, Joe Stach, Bob Schwiesow, Tyler Lehto, Doug Tutor, Patti Louko Berg, Barb Bjork, Joan Spalding, Carolyn, and those in our hearts.

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, Emily Melecha, Tucker Melecha



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.


*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

Tiffany Houle will be starting out at WITC before transferring to Concordia working on a degree in Early Childhood.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Important meeting for those who are currently involved with the Sunday School and anyone who would be interested.
Monday, August 14th - 6:00pm. Please RSVP to Lynn at 292-0592

VBS - August 7th—10th 8:45am—3:00pm
1st- 6th grade (this September's classes)
Call the office to register 682-6075

NEEDED - Sunday School Superintendent - there is a brief description on the bulletin board. If you are interested and/or have questions please contact the office or Pastor Rick.

September 10th - Sunday School Rally Day
September 17th - Classes begin



Pastor Rick's class at St. Louis in July for the ending ceremony of the completion of the SMP Program. Congratulations Pastor!

Stewardship Thoughts

Two words society and the culture does not want to hear are sin and discipline. Guess what, sin is what we are, and sin requires discipline to come to repentance. Discipline is necessary in all aspects of our lives, especially in the understanding of stewardship. Our sinful nature rejects the title and task of stewardship. We want to be the owner. This is not the basis of original sin, it is the beginning of all our sins. We want to reach out to grasp and lay claim to ownership to the things that belong to God by virtue of creation. While we are redeemed and restored by the blood of Jesus, we still aren't free from the covetous desire to own what belongs to God. Because of this sin stewards need discipline. Discipline includes the proclamation of God's Law. When we fail we need to hear the Law to see the need for the restorative word of the Gospel. The goal is not to crush or break; the goal is to come to repentance. Absolution is the key difference in disciplining stewards. Forgiveness proclaimed and believed restores the disciplined steward to a rightful response to The Lord.

What are the disciplines of a faithful steward?

- (1) A faithful steward is marked by a desire to learn more and more about The Lord who has made them to be as a steward.
- (2) The disciplines of a faithful steward includes pastors and stewardship leaders to be fearless. These vocations have been established by God for the sake of the kingdom and the believers who make up that kingdom. St. Paul admonishes that we are to preach Christ crucified, it is also important to recall that part of that proclamation includes preaching and teaching stewardship. For disciplined stewards to grow in a congregation, stewardship leaders cannot fear the topic.
- (3) The disciplines of a faithful steward requires corporate stewardship as well as individual stewardship. The church congregation needs to be responsible with the resources entrusted to it. If it is perceived the church is not a God-pleasing steward, the individual steward will not be.

God's Word does discipline the steward. It may not seem pleasant at the time but as it plays out by the leading of the Holy Spirit, this discipline will produce results in the individual and the congregation.

Secret Pal Reveal Night

Monday, August 21st
6:00pm

Come enjoy an evening of
comradery and fun
with some great refreshments.
Find out who your secret pal
was this past year.

Please sign up in the Narthex.....
(will be out there Aug. 11th)

- 1- if you can make it that evening
- 2- if you can't make it, but want to be included for the next round of secret pals.
- 3 - if you have never joined and would like to, there is an introduction sheet to pick up. New people are always welcome, high school and older.



Truths About Life Little Children Have Learned (from Pastor Ginkel July's newsletter)



1. No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
2. When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
3. Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
4. You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
5. Reading what people write on desks can teach you a lot.
6. Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
7. Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
8. School lunches stick to the wall.
9. You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.



Nature is too thin a screen; the glory of the omnipresent God bursts through everywhere.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Sweet Dreams

In August, I love to sleep with the bedroom window wide open. Sort of like sleeping under the stars with no bugs. The night is quiet and the air is scented with the perfume of sweet corn and ripe grasses. In the early morning, a fresh lake breeze awakens my senses and spirit to the gift of a new day.

Perhaps my habit to open the window echoes a longing to hang on to summer for August is busy resetting the seasonal clock. Birds dart and swoop to harvest grasshoppers while acorns beckon fast-growing fawns. Flowers now favor deep shades of lavender and gold-medal yellow. Sunflowers track the declining hours of daylight, and strawberries are packed in the freezer as appetites seek ripe blackberries. Summer is waning.

In His Son Jesus, God throws open the window and invites His sons and daughters to a new day of great grace. His compass resets the topography of unconditional love and stirs up hearty appetites for holy living. For God infuses open hearts with a sweet fragrance that awakens others to His eternal landscape.

For me, the seasons of northern Wisconsin construct a thin screen that displays a deep and wide landscape where God walks with us in the sweat of summer, the brisk air of autumn, the bone-chill of winter, and the dynamic pulse of spring.

There is no waning or weariness on God's part, but rather He steadfastly works for good in our lives. Keep the window open. The hope of God's glory and sweet rest under the stars are His gift for each new day...a lifetime...for eternity.

-Alice J. Ellis: August

Cierra Maday will be attending Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton for law enforcement.

LAW ENFORCEMENT



LFOJ

HAPPENINGS

4th of July

Parade

It was a fun morning for the children, parents and staff. The float won 3rd place.



AUGUST – MISSION OF THE MONTH

Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Labor Day is just around the corner and that signals the beginning of school in our area. But many children worldwide are not able to attend school simply because they do not have the required supplies. Education is the key to opening doors out of poverty.

Please donate items from the list below.

You may donate all or just some of these items.

(Note: you do NOT need to supply a backpack, just the school supplies)



Each School Kit must contain the following items:

4 Notebooks (70 sheet, college or wide ruled)

1 Ruler (must have centimeters on one side)

1 Pencil Sharpener

1 Blunt Scissors

5 Ballpoint Pens (blue or black, no gel ink)

1 Box of Crayons (16 or 24 count)

1 Big Eraser

Plain is best...do not donate items with symbols, flags, camouflage, etc.

\$390 was sent to LCMS for the Malaria Project!!!



Varieties of Praise

In the Word

... *be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart*

... [Ephesians 5:18b-19](#)

Of the Word

Scripture shows us a favorite form of praise is music. Psalms were sung in acknowledgment and thankfulness for God's unending love. As King David readied the materials and workmen needed for Solomon to build the Temple, he also organized musicians who would exalt God with lyres, harps, and cymbals. Almost 300 skilled singers were assembled. Now that is a church choir!

The Word of Christ dwells in us with songs, hymns, and spiritual songs. In [worship](#) we may gain spiritual strength by singing familiar hymns or popular contemporary Christian songs. Martin Luther truly understood the power of praise when he wrote, "The devil does not stay where music is."

Not every hymn or praise song may be your style of music. Whether traditional hymns on a pipe organ or contemporary songs played by guitars and drums, God accepts all praise that declares His majesty, unconditional love, and salvation through Christ. And to that, we can all respond ... "Amen and Amen."

Walking with my Lord


Lord, remind me that musical praise comes in many forms and that I am blessed to adore You in a variety of ways. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**AUGUST
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.

August	Elders	Ushers	Greeters
Wed. 2	Darryl Warren		
Sun. 6	Doug Warren Randy Spangle	Scott Sapper Alan Sunie	Wickman Family
Wed. 9	Scott Thimm		
Sun. 13	John Pruss Darryl Warren	Mike Cashman Patrick Colgrove	Janet and Tiffany Houle
Wed. 16	Randy Spangle		
Sun. 20	Andy Pruss Doug Warren	Jerry Frisco Carson Honkala	June Williams
Wed. 23	John Pruss		
Sun. 27	Randy Spangle Darryl Warren	Jim Johnson Don Moreland	Adam Hinch
Wed 30	Andy Pruss		
Sun. Sept 3	Scott Thimm John Pruss	Curt Harpster Larry Hildebrandt	Katie & Pat Colgrove
Wed. Sept. 6	Doug Warren		

Sue Spangle 682-8015
Kathy Osmak 746-2346



OFFICIAL ACTS
New member: Sharon Polencheck

Once, the former president of United States of America, Ronald Reagan, decided to put an end to this sad and extremely wrong social habit, so he declared a holiday, which he called National Senior Citizen Day. The purpose of this day is to honor and respect achievements and contributions of those, who lived their lives straight and honestly, perfecting our society and participating in developing and progressing of sciences and technical progress.

So, when is Senior Citizens Day in 2017? This holiday is annual and being celebrated on the twenty-first of August, so in 2017 it's going to be on August, 21st, too. People will get in touch with their parents and grandparents, spend some time together and share important life stories that will help them gain valuable experiences of previous generations

National Senior Citizen Day is being celebrated in United States of America, but not as federal holiday, just observance. That means that every structure, postal and governmental offices, stores and libraries are working by their usual schedules in normal mode.

So, what people do exactly? They attend to various public services dedicated to celebration with their elderly relatives or simply go visit them at home. The point of this important date is to bring families closer together, no matter how.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Court Manor 10:15am, AHRC 1:45pm Worship 6:30pm	3 LFOJ Chap- el 11:00	4	5
6 Mite Sunday Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am	7 VBS 8:45am—3:00pm → →	8 LFOJ Board Meeting 5:30pm	9 Worship 6:30pm	10 Fire Hall 8:00am	11	12
13 Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am	14 Sunday School Teachers Mtg. 6:00pm	15	16 Worship 6:30pm	17	18	19 LWML Mtg. 10:00am
20 Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am	21 Solar Eclipse National Senior Citizen Day Secret Pal Reveal 6:00pm	22	23 Worship 6:30pm	24	25	26
<small>27</small> Food Shelf Sunday Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am	28	29	30 Worship 6:30pm	31	Upcoming Sept. Dates Sept. 6 Confirmation/Parents Mtg. Sept. 10 S.S.Rally Day Sept. 13 Confirmation starts Sept. 17 Sunday School starts	