



AUGUST



The Mountain Top Messenger

August 2023

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, LCMS ASHLAND, WI

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders: Aug. 2 Scott Aug. 9 John S. Aug. 16 John P Aug. 23 Scott Aug. 30 Darryl Sept. 6 Doug		Aug. 6 Doug Aug. 13 Andy Aug. 20 Randy Aug. 27 Andy Sept. 3 John S				
		1	2 6:30pm Service	3	4	5
6 9:00am Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	7	8	9 6:30pm Service	10	11	12 Ylitalo Wedding
13 9:00am Service 10:15am Bible Study	14	15	16 6:30pm Service	17 Winkel 9:00am Glidden	18 Painting at LFOJ (Times worked out by those who are helping.)	19
20 9:00am Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm Mellen	21	22	23 6:30pm Service	24	25	26
27 Church Picnic 10:00am	28	29	30 6:30pm Service	31	Sat. Oct. 21st Harvest Dinner Potluck with entertainment Time TBD	

Welcome to August. I am writing this afternoon from my airconditioned office on what is forecasted to be the hottest day of the year so far. And so far? Not yet anyway, yesterday was warmer. Anyway, days are getting shorter and this whole heat thing, at least for us, is going to be short lived. I am thankful that I don't live anywhere in the deep south.


Well, if you remember last month I asked for ideas, suggestions on what I should write about in these upcoming newsletter covers. And low and behold, I found out that at least a few of you out there read them. I know this because I did indeed receive a couple of suggestions. Now a few of them were pretty in depth and may wind up being future Bible studies. And even a couple of the ones I have slated now for the next couple months could also easily be turned into Bible studies as well or at least more in-depth discussions. So thank you for your suggestions and if you have any that are still floating around out there, please send them to me. With that being said, let's dive into question one.

And just because I think it will help the discussion, I am going to include the original question; What if when we get to heaven God says "you didn't believe all that stuff those guys wrote that became the Bible, did you?" So what do we have to base our belief on that the Bible is inerrant?


Now as I pondered the above, I realized it kind of boils down to two interrelated questions. First one being "did you believe all that stuff?" and second on what do we base our belief that the Bible is inerrant. As I looked at the first part, I realized that one in a way speaks to me, the pastor. Why? Because one of the ways our faith comes is through hearing, and if you believe what you are hearing then the responsibility falls on the speaker to make sure you are receiving the truth. Scripture tells us that the preacher is responsible to preach the word rightly. When I was ordained as pastor part of what I swore to was to rightly preaching, teaching, and administering the sacraments. If I don't do that, you can believe that you are indeed receiving the word of God, when in fact it may be tainted. That is one of the reasons I have always said that if I ever preach or teach anything to you that contradicts what seems to be good sound doctrine you should call me on it, challenge me. After all, I am not perfect, I too am a fallen sinful human being.

(Continued on the next page)

OFFICIAL ACTS
 Baptism:
 Ava Deloris Edna Williams
 07-16-2023



August
 Kim Westman 715-682-6571
 Lynn Ladd 715-292-0592
 Katie Colgrove 715-209-2512



(continued from the previous page)

So back to the question if God asks you “did you believe all that stuff?”. If your answer is truly, yes I did, because the servant that you called to teach told me so. Who will God hold responsible? Now we’ll clarify this by saying I believe we all have a responsibility to make sure that what we are receiving is the true and inerrant word of God. You can’t just be along for the ride and say, well he’s the pastor, he’s always right, I don’t need to check up on him, or read my Bible, he’s done all that.

This I feel leads us to the second part of the question, “What do we have to base our belief on that the Bible is inerrant?”. I spent quite a bit of time working on this one, as a matter of fact when I sat down to write this part I had 6 pages of typewritten notes. And as I looked at them I said to myself “self, now what?”. Here’s what I came up with; there are many different ways to approach the issue of inerrancy in Scripture. Some of them have names you may or may not heard of, things like Deductive Justification, Inspiration, Divine Authority, Sufficiency, Accuracy vs. Truth, Meaning of “Word of God”, and Textual tradition of the New Testament. All of these aforementioned ways can be used to either defend or refute inerrancy. One of the problems is we need to draw a line somewhere. In the early Lutheran church when writing the preface to the Book of Concord it was stated this way; “we have in this same book (Book of Concord) professed exclusively and only, in accordance with the pure, infallible, and unchangeable Word of God,”. Dr. Luther taught in the Large Catechism, “I and my neighbor and, in short, all people may err and deceive. But God’s Word cannot err.” This is more than self-deprecation, as if Luther is just being meek and modest. Rather, this is testimony to the reformer’s belief that the Scriptures are inerrant. And we can turn to scripture itself, we look at 2 Timothy 3:16, *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,* ¹⁷ *that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

Now I could keep writing about this for hours, perhaps even days, but for me personally it comes down to a personal decision between you and God. Do you Believe that the Bible is God’s Holy Word? Do you believe that it is the writing of men inspired by the Holy Spirit to share God’s Word and not their own? After all, we do confess it in the words of Nicene Creed, when we say, I believe in the Holy Spirit... who spoke by the prophets. In the end I believe it all boils to a single word: Faith. We either believe or we don’t, there really is no middle ground.

Well, I hope this helps, if it raises questions, please, please, please, let me know. Now go out there, read God’s Word when you have a moment, and enjoy the last month of summer. God Bless, Pastor Rick

"Dear Lord, your word says many things about faithfulness, I pray now for our pastor that he will continue to be faithful to You and to Your church. Help him to always seek Your direction in his life and the life of Your church." Amen.

SET APART TO SERVE

LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT



DID YOU EVER CONSIDER SERVING IN THE CHURCH OR AT AN LCMS SCHOOL?

Are you thinking about a second career in full-time church work?

Many LCMS pastors, teachers, deaconesses and commissioned church workers held other successful careers before pursuing a second career in service to Christ’s church. You could do the same!

Have you been praying about a full-time vocation in the church? You can use your experience and skills from your current work as a second-career church worker.

Ready to learn more about opportunities to pursue a second career in full-time church work? Our seminaries and Concordia universities are happy to answer your questions. Visit lcms.org/sas for more information.

Our Lutheran schools, located all around the country, are seeking educators who are interested in a Lutheran school setting. If you are interested, speak with a local LCMS school administrator about open positions in your area.

FIND SCHOOLS IN YOUR AREA.



Interested in SEMINARY EDUCATION?

weareyourseminaries.org



Interested in TEACHING?

locator.lcms.org/school

LFOJ PAINTING PARTY



Friday - Saturday

Aug. 18th

Aug. 19th

Never heard of a painting party. Well, you better

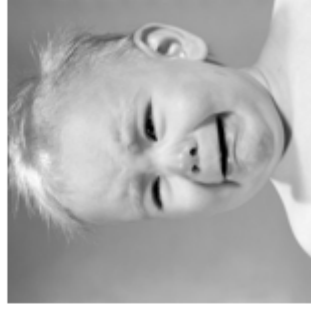
come and see what it’s all about.

LFOJ could use some help with sprucing up their building. They hope to see you there!!

Attitude By Charles Swindoll

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude in life. Attitude is more important than fact. It is more important than the past, than education, money or circumstances, than failures, than success, than what other people think, say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company - a church - a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for the day. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you. We are in charge of our attitude.



SPONSORA BROADCAST

You can sponsor a broadcast of My Savior Lives Northland!

In Memory of loved one, In Honor of, In Celebration of, in Recognition of or whatever you think is appropriate.

Your Sponsorship will be recognized on the broadcast you select with a slide and voiceover. With your donation of \$200 you will sponsor a single broadcast. You can extend that sponsorship by either choosing 2 broadcasts or a whole month of broadcasts.

Be sure to submit the form and make your payment through the PayPal button or Mail a check to: MSL Northland | Mount Olive Lutheran Church | 2012 E Superior St. | Duluth, MN 55812

Upcoming Broadcasts:

July 30th Brad Felix Chisholm, MN
Aug. 13th Kirk Schield Superior, WI
Aug. 27th Mark Pesp e Cohasset, MN
Aug. 6th John Bonk Two Harbors, MN
Aug. 20th Fritz Raedole Babbitt, MN

Church Picnic



SUNDAY AUGUST 27TH 10:00AM-1:00 PM

Items provided by Zion: brats, hamburgers, hot dogs and buns, coffee, soda, juice, ketchup, mayo, mustard, plates, utensils

Feel free to bring your beverage of choice and a lawn chair.

Items needed: 2 sliced onions (white and red), 2 diced onions (white and red), 1 bottle relish, 2 cans or 1 large jar sauerkraut, 2 sliced tomatoes, 2 packages cheese slices, 1 head of lettuce (leafed and ready). Desserts.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1111-11TH AVE WEST
ASHLAND, WI 54806

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am live streamed

Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm

Sunday School - Starts in September

Bible Studies Sunday 10:15am

Starts in September: Monday 10:00am 1st/3rd Thursday 6:30pm Women's Group

Pastor Rick Williams -
715-209-0479

Office Hours:

M/Th 9:00am-5:00pm T off
W 12-8:00pm F 9-2

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

Office Secretary Lynn Ladd
715-682-6075

Office Hours M-W 8:30-2:30
Days and times may change upon need of work.

Church President:

John Pruss 715-292-4825

Head Elder:

Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

Website

www.zionashland.org

E-mail

secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

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

LFOJ Administrator:

JoAnn Martikonis
715-682-6075



PRAY LIST

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:

Brad Prill
Alice Balmer
Vi Basina
James Fletcher
Sheryl Hildebrandt
Harold Larson
Diane Beiersdorff
Linda Stenroos
Steve Key
Caelee Aschenbrenner

Riley Bretting
Cindy Lazarik
George Lazarik
Doug Preuter
Mike Trimble
Jamie Klema
Mike Ariens
Carol Schuelke
Karen Piff
Ann Esala
Molly Colgrove
and those in our hearts

PRAYERS for Homebound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home

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

Arlene Zimmerman Violet Basina Alice Balmer

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

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

David Wright Jordan Thimm Andrew Pruss

Immanuel, Mellen and Trinity, Ironwood Congregations while they seek for a new Pastor.



HARVEST DINNER

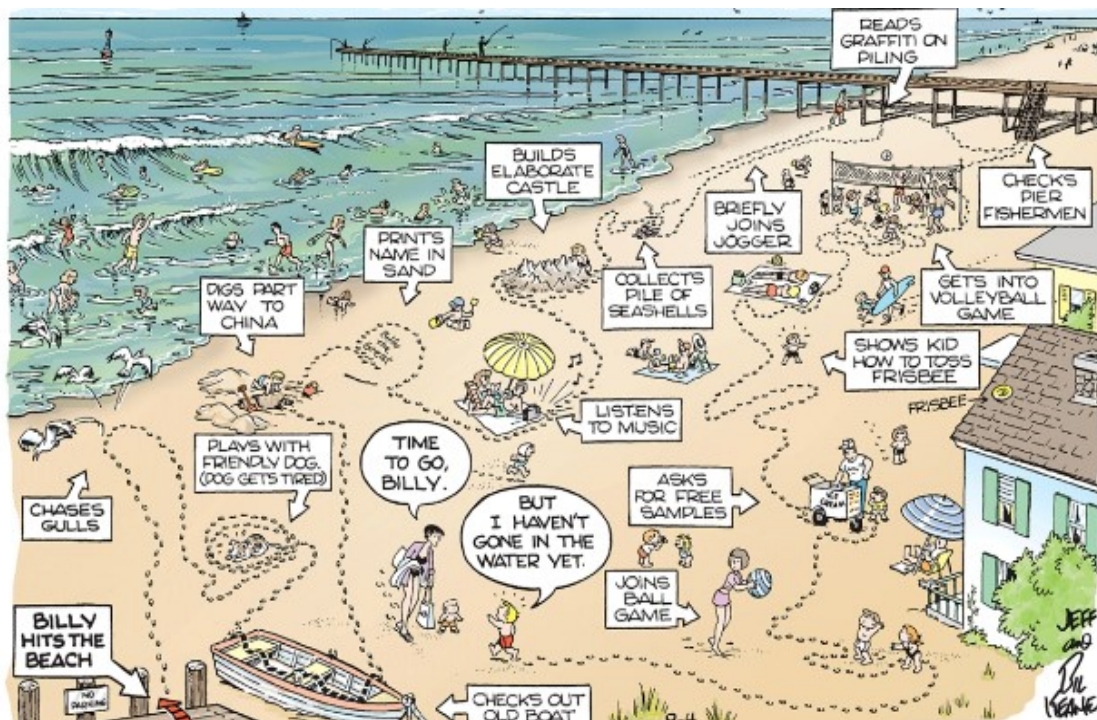
**PUT THIS
on YOUR
CALENDAR!**

POTLUCK

Saturday, October 21 Time to be announced closer to the date.
Entertainment For All*

Please spend the evening with us, sharing stories, music, laughter, great food, and getting to know each other.

*If you would like to share your talents please tell Pastor, the office, Lori Anderson, Liisa Eyerly. All ages are encouraged to participate.



Between Arrogance and Despair

By Martin Luther (Faith Alone - 365 Devotional Readings)

*God opposes arrogant people, but He is kind to humble people
James 4:6*

We shouldn't become proud in times of prosperity nor despair in times of trouble. On the one hand, we must keep our arrogance in check by fearing God. On the other hand we should cling to His mercy in those times when we think He is angry with us. By doing so, we won't crash into heaven with our big heads or fall flat on the earth.

But the person who is humble and has a broken heart is neither proud nor full of despair. Yet, it's difficult for us to avoid both arrogance and despair. In our weakness, we sometimes swerve to the right and sometimes to the left. Whenever we feel overconfident or full of despair, we must make an effort to resist such tendencies. We cannot give in to either one. When an archer misses the bull's eye, he is still awarded points for hitting the target. Similarly, God is pleased when we at least fight against arrogance and despair. Even if we may not show enough joy in times of trouble or enough reverence for God in times of prosperity, He won't hold that against His faithful people. We have Christ as our mediator. Through Him, we are considered true saints even though we have barely started to act like holy people.

In summary, those with many troubles should lift their spirits by acknowledging God's mercy and remembering what Christ has done for them. Those with few troubles should drive out arrogance by living in fear (holy awe) of God.

Christian Lady and the Parrot

A very devout Christian woman went to a pet store. She saw a parrot which she adored and decided to buy it. The owner said, "Lady, I couldn't sell you that parrot. He was owed by a sailor and he cusses a blue streak." But the woman could not be dissuaded. She believed that the parrot, with Christian love and firm discipline, could be retrained. She took the parrot home.



The parrot began cussing and swearing. She warned the parrot that she was going to put him in the freezer for 10 minutes to teach him to hold his tongue. When the parrot continued to swear, the woman put the caged parrot in the freezer. After 10 minutes, she took him out. The shivering parrot seemed remorseful. "Ppplease, llllady," the parrot said, "Wwwwould yyyou ttttell mmmme jjjjust oooooone tttthing? Wwwwwhat ddddidd tttthe tttturkey ddddido?"