

The Mountain Top Messenger

VOLUME 52, ISSUE # 12 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod DECEMBER 2014

Happy December to all of you. I was reading through scripture the other day, 1 Timothy, one of my favorites, right after 1 Peter, and came across these verses:

1 Timothy ¹⁵ *The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.* ¹⁶ *But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.* ¹⁷ *To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

As we begin the new church year, enter Advent, and prepare to welcome our new born Savior into the world, it is important to remember why the baby was born. We see the innocence of a child when we look at the baby born that Christmas night. We sometimes forget about the cross that the child Jesus is headed toward. In "The Story" we have been learning about God's upper story and our lower story and how the two combine. When we think of God's upper story, His love for us, and how as Paul says in Romans 5:8 *"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* In the lower story we remember that we are all sinners each and every one of us, and even with that knowledge, God sent His Son to this earth, to take on our humanity, lead a sinless life, and to die for us, to redeem us, to sanctify us, to justify us. So as we think of Paul's message to Timothy, *"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost,"* we remember that we too are included in that list of sinners, and even though we are sinners, we have our Lord's assurance that, through our faith in Jesus Christ, we have been guaranteed to be together with Him for life eternal.

So as we prepare for Christmas and the celebration of the birth of our Savior I will try not to be cliché as I say; remember.... Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

June, Dylan, and I would also like to personally wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Please join us for Advent Services on Wednesday nights December 3rd, 10th, 17th, and Sunday December 21st. And Christmas Eve services at 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM, and Christmas morning services at 9:00 AM.

Blessings to all of you this Christmas season and I close with the words that in my opinion sum it up the best:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

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 and give you peace. Amen.

God's Blessings,

Vicar Rick

Zion's Ministry Staff and Church Officers

E-Mail: zionashland@hotmail.com
Website: www.zionashland.org



Church Office 715-682-6075 (M/T/W 8am-12noon, Th-1-5pm)

Vicar Rick Williams 715-209-0479 (M/T/W/Th 8:00-5:00)

President, Chuck Chronis 715-682-0070

Head Elder, Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

LFOJ Child Care Center - Administrator, Karyn Leino 715-682-6075

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

* * * * *

Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 am

Wednesday Evening Worship 6:30pm

Sunday School 10:15am

Bible Studies: Sundays 10:15am Mondays 10:00am



Advent Services 6:30pm December 3, 10, 17
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 4:00pm and 7:00pm
Christmas Morning Service 9:00am
New Year's Eve Service 6:30pm

Stewardship Thoughts

Many people have come to the mistaken belief that Stewardship is a personal matter—just between God and themselves. The “proper perspective” must be taught by Pastors, church leaders and other faithful stewards so all can learn the truth from a biblical and confessional position.

We were not created to be owners but to be stewards and keepers and workers in God's Kingdom. Also there must be a balance between the giving of our time, talents, and treasures so we do not over emphasize one area at the expense of the others.

We are called by virtue of our Baptism to be faithful stewards. Faithful stewards with a “proper perspective” know the joy of serving the Lord with all of their life and life's resources.

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



Lisa Guske has the Children's Christmas Program planned-the title for this year is "The Twases of Christmas". November 9th she handed out the speaking parts and started practice on the songs. The Children's Christmas Program is scheduled for Sunday, December 14th at the 9:00 am service. She has scheduled the final practice for Saturday, December 13th from 10:00 am-11:30 am- Sunday School students please mark your calendars for that date and time! Also, please notify her if you will not be in the program on the 14th. There will still be Sunday School classes on December 21st and 28th.

I would like to thank the Sunday School Teachers for all their time and work on the last Sunday's Fall Dinner, which was a great success, for the church organ fund raiser. The food was great, the attendance was great, with a couple of surprise appearances, and the donations for the new organ were wonderful.

THANK YOU.

Last Sunday the Sunday School's lesson was on the story of Ruth, moving right along with "The Story", the students are working on the books of the Bible. The recent project I am working on is Walking with and Following God—handed out Children's Footprints to color for the project.

God's Blessings to All

Katie Colgrove, SS Superintendant

Poinsettia Box

Donations for purchasing poinsettias will be in the Narthex starting Nov. 30th through Dec. 14th.



ZION FINANCIAL REPORT—

Jan.-Oct. 2014

	Budgeted	Actual
Giving	\$139,987.70	\$107,897.70
Expenses	\$139,987.60	\$180,634.66

*(\$ 73,036.96)

*Part of this deficit includes the payment on the organ and new furnace.

He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
[2 Corinthians 9:6]

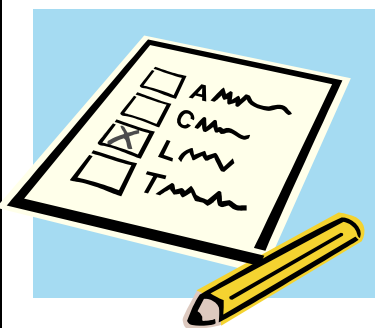
HOLLY LEAF PROJECT

Ashland Health and Rehabilitation Center (AHRC)

We will be posting leaves to take off the bulletin board around Thanksgiving. Each leaf will have a gift suggestion that will be presented to one of its residents. You can either drop off the present directly at AHRC or then to the office by December 15th. *AHRC would like to thank all of those who have sent over gifts in the past!! The residents*

Think quick and hard.....which of the following boards would you be interested in getting involved in for the next 2-3 years. The Nomination Committee is still looking to fill the following spots:

President Treasurer 2 Education 1 Stewardship



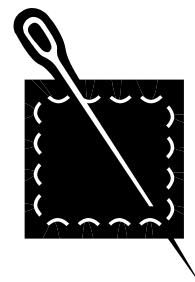
We need these positions filled and we are hoping to fill them easily. **Dec. 7th is the Annual Voters' Meeting** (10:15am, after worship) where positions will get the final approval from the congregation. Please let Nick Jarvela or Chuck Chronis know if you are interested.

ATTENTION ALL QUILTERS!!!!

The Sewing Circle meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM. More willing hands are always needed. No need to be a seamstress as this work can be done by anyone. So ladies please find a few extra hours twice a month to do the Lord's work.

Quilts made at Zion go to the Orphan Grain Train and also to local fire victims and baby quilts to babies baptized at Zion.

For more information on the Orphan Grain Train, pick up a brochure from the table in the narthex.



ADVENT WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES

6:30pm

DECEMBER 3, 10, 17

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES—December 24th

4:00pm and 7:00pm

**CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE —December 25th
9:00am**

Interpreting the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. There is no better way to keep up on what's new in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The flagship magazine of the LCMS, *The Lutheran Witness* offers synodical news, reports from Lutherans around the world, features, columns, Q&A's, a Bible study, and so much more. This is the premier magazine for Lutherans who want to be informed and stay informed!

A monthly publication, *The Lutheran Witness* speaks directly about what's important to today's Lutherans: Christian life, missions and ministries, and people of faith.

LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTIONS for home delivery are due by Dec. 17th. Write checks out to "Zion", for \$22.00 in an envelope marked "LW" and drop off in the office. This is for a one year subscription.

ORGAN FUND NEARING COMPLETION

POTLUCK CHRISTMAS DINNER PLANNED FOR 2ND SUNDAY IN DECEMBER

Excitement is building at Zion Lutheran Church as the Organ Fund at Zion nears its goal. While we are only \$4,700 from success, we have much for which to thank God.

- 1. It is a CONGREGATION effort**, as was demonstrated at the last Organ Fund Dinner, organized and served by Katie Colgrove and the Sunday School girls (some guys too). Our thanks to everyone (and there were many) who helped to make that event a delicious success.
- 2. Many MEMORIALS and THANK-OFFERINGS** were donated by families of the congregation in loving memory of dear ones who have gone to be with the Lord and in gratitude for special blessings received from God. This also includes some families who permitted their unused Bell Tower memorials to be applied to the Organ Fund.
- 3. THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS** that were not designated for anything else were now made available for the purchase of the new organ. Over \$16,000 was authorized by the Church Council for this effort. What a blessing! Just thinking about that helps a person realize what a blessing it can be for God and His Kingdom at Zion when in a similar way people may set aside in their Wills a portion for Zion Lutheran Church to be used for future kingdom needs.
- 4. PRAYERS and spiritual support are vital in this effort.** As St. Paul indicates in 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9, the believers gave themselves FIRST to the Lord and then to the Apostle to distribute to the saints in need in Jerusalem. Giving ourselves to God with FIRST-FRUITS remains a vital ingredient in the church. We are not just in the business of raising money for God; instead our generous giving is an indicator of the fact that we FIRST GIVE OURSELVES TO GOD and then to the effort of obtaining a NEW ORGAN to help us express our faith and joy in worship. It is the love of God made evident in the death and rising of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins that motivates believers to be generous. Just think how important it is for us to know that a loved one has departed this life in faith and peace and joy, because they knew that Jesus after His death and resurrection had gone ahead to prepare a place for them and that He opened the grave on the other side into Heaven.
- 5. The FELLOWSHIP of Believers** creates good will among Christians in a congregation as they lend support to one another in accomplishing great things for God. When we work together, and eat together, and pray together we grow in faith and joy as a congregation. As Acts 2 demonstrates, such actions cause other people to want to be part of the FELLOWSHIP of Believers. It is one of the most effective evangelism outreaches possible when people hear and see what God is doing among the Christian members of Zion Lutheran Church. It also helps us to get along with each other and put the best construction on everything when we sometimes get into squeaky spots in our failure to communicate adequately with each other. It teaches us to work together, pray together, sing together, and play together.
- 6. A CHRISTMAS POTLUCK MEAL** by the CONGREGATION is the next planned event to help us meet our goals. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14th after the Sunday School Christmas Service is when we are hoping that EVERYONE will participate in bringing a dish to pass. The Sunday School Christmas Service is at 9:00 a.m. on the 14th of December. There is no Sunday School or Bible Class that day, so around 10:30 a.m. we hope to gather in the Fellowship Hall for a delicious dinner and Christian fellowship. The SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN will be bringing the CHRISTMAS COOKIES for dessert, so please say Thank You to them. Please bring casseroles, salads, etc. for the meals. Brenda Schwiesow (715-682-4292) and Sandy Frisco (715-682-5401) will be coordinating the details, so you can call them or talk to them if you have questions. Thank you, ladies, for the leadership you are willing to give. Lets make this CHRISTMAS POTLUCK a real high point in our congregation as we gather for Fellowship, Food, and Faith. There will be a basket for FUNDS also, but there is so much more to it than just completing the funding of our ORGAN PROJECT. The fellowship is vital.

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7. We are expecting the organ to be completed in January and installed in February. It would be exciting if we could dedicate the **NEW ORGAN** on February 15th, which is TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY, the last Sunday before Lent. Time will tell when the actual dedication will take place. We are hoping for an accomplished organist to give a concert on the new organ at that time as well. **WHAT IF WE SURPASS OUR GOAL?** Wouldn't that be great? Actually there will be some additional costs that extra money can fund. Some of these costs will be for electrical hook-up and alterations that may be needed. We have wanted to complete the ORGAN PROJECT without having to dip into our regular work program for expenses. Please continue to pray that we find a buyer for our present Pipe Organ, so that we can remove the present organ and pipes by the time the new organ is installed.

THANK YOU for all that you are doing for the Lord through this entire effort. And remember to thank God for all He is doing for us and through us. Keep praying and encouraging one another in your faith.

**BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL... AND FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS...
HE FORGIVES...HE HEALS...HE REDEEMS...HE CROWNS...HE SATISFIES.
BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL! Psalm 103**



The Fall Dinner that was held on November 9th had over 100 in attendance. Katie Colgrove and the Sunday School teachers prepared, served and cleaned-up the event. It was a wonderful meal and the opportunity for people of Zion to talk with each other was tremendous. There is should become an annual event.



Sweet Song of Jesus

Incarnate flesh-dwelling Word
The apple of the Father's eye-
Hand-picked from the host of heaven
Composed and cradled in a holy cry.



The angels' glad tidings announced
The heavenly hymn of eternal worth.
The tempo propelled the Shepherds
To go and see the Bethlehem birth.

O' may we hear the sweet music of Jesus-
God's love-song conceived in His Son.
The grace note of hope in a manger,
Heaven's peace-on-earth Chosen One.



-Alice J. Ellis

Share Portals of Prayer with Everyone You Know!

Christmas is just around the corner—have you decided what to get for your friends and family yet? For a limited time, you can give the gift of Portals of Prayer for our lowest price yet! Simply renew your current subscription (or start one for yourself) to Portals of Prayer for one year and qualify to give a friend or loved one their very own subscription at half the regular price.

Plus, you can give as many gifts as you want of any size—so feel free to share God's word with everyone you know! Simply call 1-800-325-3040 (Concordia Publishing House) to place your order by December 20th; *You can order online at www.cph.org—then click: "subscriptions"...'magazines'...'Portal of Prayer'*

A subscription covers four quarterly issues.

Pocket Size Portals of Prayer is \$13.00 per year

The New Digest-Size Edition is \$14.00 per year.

The Large-Print Edition is \$15.00 per year.

The Church will continue to offer a limited supply.

Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes: October 20, 2014

The meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President Chuck Chronis. Vicar Rick opened with devotion from the book "My Utmost for the Highest".

Roll Call: Chuck Chronis (President), Todd Vyskocil (Treasurer), Rick Williams (Vicar), Lynn Ladd (Education), Darrell Warren (Elders), Ron Schwiesow (Trustees for Nick), Lori Landry (Evangelism), Diane Cashman (Stewardship), Mary Koosmann (Financial Secretary).

Minutes: Motion by Warren, second by Landry to approve the minutes of Sept. 15, 2014 as printed. Motion carried.

Vicar's Report: Attended retreat in St. Louis, George Schwiesow funeral, 2 baptisms, Winkel in Ironwood, next Winkel Nov. 20th here at Zion, Continuing on The Story with emphasis on Wednesday night, Monday morning Bible study continuing, Professional Church Workers Conference Thurs and Friday, Hope to have visitations completed by end of next week, Gideon's to visit on Nov. 16, LFOJ Chapels last Tues and Wed, Received the Seifert Grant for school for \$3600.00 and he can apply again for it next year.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Warren, second by Koosmann to accept report. Motion carried.

Agenda: One item added. Combining Stewardship and Evangelism Committee to one. Motion by Landry to approve agenda with additions, second by Ladd. Motion carried.

Board Reports:

Trustees: Only one Boiler is installed at this time.

Evangelism: Had movie night, Showed "God's Not Dead", 23 attended, Care packages for college students is the next project and are going out the first week in Dec.

Motion to accept board reports by Koosmann, second by Landry. Motion carried.

Official Acts:

Funeral for Rita Elaine Anderson 09/29/14 and George Schwiesow 10/09/14. 2 Baptisms.

Motion to accept official acts by Landry, second Schwiesow. Motion carried.

New Business:

130th Anniversary: Discussed again.

Thank you letter: Read by Chuck from Faith Lutheran Church in Idaho for our monetary donation.

Nominating Committee: In place and will start contacting people soon.

Ordination: Vicar ordained in Dec. 2015, need to budget for food, etc. Lynn will call Trinity Church in Ironwood to find out how much they spent.

Evang/Stewardship: Diane and Lori discussed if we can combine together to help make one strong committee and it is okay and was approved by the committee. Will start this the beginning of 2015.

Fall Dinner: Nov. 9th, given by the Sunday School. Fundraiser for the new organ.

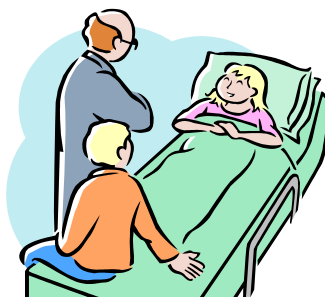
Credit card amendment: Discussed that the minimal amount is \$5000.00 and request was for \$2000.00. Committee proposed \$5000.00 as a minimum. Motion to accept by Warren, second by Schwiesow. Motion carried.

Adjourn: Motion by Cashman, second by Landry. Motion carried. Council will meet November 17, 2014. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully, Diane Cashman

Shut-in's/Inpatient Hospital -

If you, yourself, or you know of someone who isn't able to make it to worship services due to health or other reasons, and would like a home/hospital visit, please contact the office or Vicar Rick.



Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes: November 2014

The November 17th, 2014, meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President, Chuck Chronis. Vicar Rick opened with devotions and prayer to remind us that we need to be prepared for the “coming” continually.

Roll Call: Chuck Chronis (President), Lori Landry (Evangelism), Lynn Ladd (Education), Diane Cashman (Stewardship), Todd Vyskocil (Treasurer), Darryl Warren (Elders), Nick Jarvela (Trustees) Cheri Tamke (LFOJ), Rick Williams (Vicar).

Minutes: Motion by Darryl, second by Nick, to approve the minutes of Oct. 20th, 2014, as printed. Motion carried.

Vicar's Report: Confirmation, visitation schedule, Bible Studies on Sunday and Monday are going well. Finished another semester of SMP classes, the next one will be Jan. 12-16 in St. Louis. Looking forward in the next month to receive two new families through transfer and four baptisms.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Darryl, second by Lori, to accept report. Motion carried.

Agenda: These items were added: checking account and removal of names. Motion by Nick to approve agenda with additions, second by Lynn. Motion carried.

Board Reports:

Trustees: New boilers up and running and full payment made. Training to be scheduled in a couple weeks. Changed insurance companies, with same coverage or better and at a \$2500 savings.

Evangelism: Care packages going out for about 16 students by the beginning of December. Motion to accept board reports by Lynn, second by Lori. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Review 2015 Budget: Currently there is an increase of \$6,190.80, but will be checking into a couple of line items that might be reduced. Emphasized that expenditures are more than offering income, that some of the money that was in savings has been used. Motion by Nick to approve the budget with a couple possible changes for the Dec. 7th Annual Meeting, second by Lori. Motion carried

Review Board Candidates: The nomination committee is still trying to seek some of the empty spots for various positions. Motion by Lori to approve for those people who have already agreed to serve to be presented to the congregation, second by Todd. Motion carried.

New Business:

Checking Account: Todd asked if the current checking, which has been grandfathered in since 1967 could be updated to a new current status. Motion to upgrade checking account by Nick, second by Lori. Motion carried.

Removal of Names: Vicar Williams found in an old binder a list of names back to 2004, that had requested release or transfer. Lynn asked how these names should be handled. It was decided the names would be presented to the voters at the Annual Meeting on December 7, 2014.

Adjourn: Motion by Lori, second by Nick. Motion carried. Council will meet in December. The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully, Lynn Ladd



SECRET PAL

There are 18 women in the church that are secret pals. Have you figured yours out yet? Don't be too sure, you may be surprised. We hope everyone has been contacted by their secret pal by now or will be shortly. Keep them in your prayers! If for some reason you aren't able to continue with your "name" please let Lynn, in the office know, and it will get taken care of. ENJOY!



DECEMBER 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!!

Our Prayer Concerns DECEMBER

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, Marlene Parkhurst, Katie Stipetich, Jim Morzenti, Bernie Henderson, Lilly Harrelson

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



ELDERS

Dec. 3 Doug Warren
Dec. 7 Darryl Warren & John Pruss
Dec. 10 Chuck Chronis
Dec. 14 Don Pocernich & Mike Cashman
Dec. 17 Doug Warren
Dec. 21 Chuck Chronis & Don Pocernich
Dec. 24 4:00 Chuck Chronis & Don Pocernich
Dec. 24 7:00 Darryl Warren
Dec. 25 9:00 Mike Cashman
Dec. 28 Doug Warren & Darryl Warren
Dec. 31 John Pruss

GREETERS FOR DECEMBER

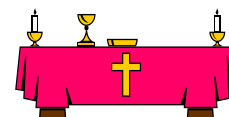
Dec. 3 Linda Stenroos
Dec. 7 Pat & Katie Colgrove
Dec. 10 Jim Johnson
Dec. 14 Vyskocil Family
Dec. 17 Lori Landry
Dec. 21 Harrelson Family
Dec. 24 4:00 Moreland Family
Dec. 24 7:00 Brian & Linda Klobucher
Dec. 25 9:00 Loren & Eleanor Munson
Dec. 28 Herb & Alice Ellis
Dec. 31 Karen Wahl

DECEMBER Acolytes

Dec. 3 Justin Esala & Taylor Vyskocil
Dec. 7 Tia Warren
Dec. 10 Heather Dickrell
Dec. 14 Taylor Vyskocil
Dec. 17 Ellie Bauer & Jacob Graves
Dec. 21 Kyle Sapper & Justin Esala
Dec. 24 4:00 Ashlee & Abbi Moreland
Dec. 24 7:00 Tia Warren
Dec. 25 9:00 Jacob Graves
Dec. 28 Heather Dickrell
Dec. 31 Kyle Sapper

DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Shannon Esala 292-0711
Ingrid Pocernich
373-5174
Daniela Maday
682-6594



DECEMBER Ushers

Dec. 3 Tim Bauer & Eric Bochler
Dec. 7 Henry Truchon & Ron Schwiesow
Dec. 10 Chris Bolz & Scott Sapper
Dec. 14 Scott Thimm & Cooper Tamke
Dec. 17 Ben Cashman & Rick Nutt
Dec. 21 David Ovaska & Todd Vyskocil
Dec. 24 4:00 Jim Hebert & Jim Johnson
Dec. 24 7:00 Herb Ellis & Brian Klobucher
Dec. 25 9:00 Andrew Pruss & Curt Harpster
Dec. 28 Randy Spangle & Paul Osmak
Dec. 31 Larry Hildebrandt & Andrew Pruss