

The Mountain Top

Zion Lutheran Church

Messenger

VOLUME 53, ISSUE # 12 DECEMBER 2015

Ad-vent noun 1.) The arrival of a notable person, thing, or event. 2.) The first season of the Christian church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays. 3.) The coming or second coming of Christ.

As I looked at the definitions for Advent I found them quite interesting. Of the three definitions listed they only acknowledged that the third one was a statement of Christian theology. So I guess that means the first two are just acceptable truths and not subject to Christian theology. I found that interesting as well. Now it is possible to have advents without a Christian understanding. At least for the first definition, the other two not quite so much. We all have our own personal advents. Advent of your wedding, or your child's graduation from school. Or in my case the advent of my becoming your pastor. But all of those first definitions of advent, at least in my opinion, are lower case advents. We are getting ready to celebrate the upper case Advent. The arrival of a notable person, that person being Jesus Christ, the son of the living God. Without His arrival there is no Season of Advent, and there cannot be a second coming if He didn't come the first time. So as we prepare to celebrate Advent, with a capital "A" let us remember as the often heard saying goes, "Jesus is the Reason for the Season". Let us open our hearts and our minds as we prepare to celebrate the most notable arrival of that most notable person, Jesus. And because of His arrival, we can also remember in our hearts and prepare for His second coming as well.

As I had mentioned in our sermon series on stewardship, throughout this year I am going to do my best to keep our role as stewards of God's good gifts at the forefront of our daily lives as Christians. Along with that I am going to remind you of a few events that are either going on now or coming soon. First is the million thanks program. Please take a few moments from your day to write a thank you to those how help keep our country safe, past and present. This program ends on November 29th. Next is the project which is the Ashland Fire Department toy drive, we are a drop off point for that drive so please bring a new unwrapped toy in for those who are less fortunate. All toys need to be dropped off by December 13th. We have the Holly Leaf Project through Ashland Health and Rehab. And then a reminder of the Fiesta dinner. This dinner will be taking place the first Wednesday night of Advent, December 3rd from 5:00 to 6:15 and a special invitation has gone out to students at Northland College to join us for dinner. If you would like to help out there is a signup sheet in the hall or contact Lori from the Evangelism committee, otherwise please join us for dinner and then worship afterward.

In closing this month's newsletter, I would like to take a moment again to thank everyone for all of their prayers, help, and support, as my ordination draws near. Please plan on attending the service at 2:00 pm on Sunday December 13th, and also please come to the dinner afterward as well. The service will be conducted by Pastor Hyvonen and the actual installation and ordination by President Lueck of the district office.

"Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and gracious unto you, the Lord give you peace. Amen

Your brother in Christ,
Vicar Rick



**Church Office - 1111 - 11th Ave. W
Ashland, WI 54806
Phone # - 715-682-6075
Website: www.zionashland.org
E-mail - zionashland@hotmail.com**

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



LFOJ REMODEL

Everyone at LFOJ would like to thank all who helped with the remodeling with time and donations. It has brought about a wonderful new feeling to the center.



Please join us for the children's Christmas program, "Peace On Earth", on Tuesday, December 22nd at 6:30pm in the Church Sanctuary. Refreshments will be served afterwards.



God's blessings to you all. We hope your holidays are filled with love and joy as we celebrate our Lord's birth.

Thanks, LFOJ Staff



ZION FINANCIAL REPORT—

Jan.– Oct. 2015

	Budgeted	Actual
Giving	\$136,710	\$128,039
Expenses	\$136,710	\$136,730
		(\$8,591)

LCEF & BMO Credit Line

Beginning Budget \$95,714.71 YTD \$94,444.39

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



Poinsettia Box

Donations for purchasing poinsettias will be in the Narthex now through Dec. 6th

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.

Our Prayer Concerns

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.

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 Wolfram, Larry Korbein, Katie Stipetich, Diane Hyvonen, Bob Heggie, Kevin Heggie, Linda Stolarzyk, Sandi (Sorenson) Fletcher, Cheryl Hildebrandt, Wendy Meierotto, James Albright, Joni Frisco, Rodger Dewey, Brad Prill, David Frantz, Randy Mashlan, Patsy Kontny, Sam Dymesich, Randy Spangle, Dorothy Rusch, Sandy Frisco, Loren Munson, Doug Tutor, Gordon Vyskocil, Janice Kuralle, Nancy Zehe

PRAYERS FOR HOMEBOUND

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

Gordon & Mariann Vyskocil, Walt Schutte, Dorothy Rusch

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

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

Aaron Esala, David Wright



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SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP



"JOY To The WORLD" is the Sunday School Christmas program theme. They will be exploring various countries that LCMS has shared the world of our Lord, and what their Christmas traditions are. It will be held Saturday, December 19th, 2:00pm, so please plan on attending. Refreshments will be served following the program. The children will be practicing on the two previous Sundays, Dec. 6th and 13th during their regular Sunday School time, so it is imperative that they be there. They will have regular classes on Sunday, December 20th and be off on December 27th.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

OF

RICHARD F. WILLIAMS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015

AT 2:00PM

There will be catered dinner fol-

MEXICAN FIESTA DINNER

Wed. Dec. 2nd 5:00-6:15pm

Open invitation to Northland students
and all members.

Sponsored by the Evangelism Board

ATTENTION ALL QUILTERS!!!!

The Sewing Circle usually meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM. For this December we will meet **December 1st and 8th**. 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.

We have four new tables and soon to arrive four cushion chairs. We will also be purchasing a new sewing machine. We have plenty of room for more eager people to help.

There is a special event being planned for January for February. More information to follow.



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:

2 Elders 2 Education 1 Stewardship

We need these positions filled and we are hoping to fill them easily. **Dec. 6th 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.

SECRET PAL

There are 12 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!

Time & Talent Survey - Have you had a chance to fill one out yet? Please do one soon. The Stewardship Board is hoping for a 100% return. You can find the yellow sheets on the table at the Sanctuary entrance. You can return them to the box on the table or in the office. If you need one mailed, contact the office.



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. 16th. 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.

Advent within Advent



Saturday AM: Dec. 13, 2008

Local weather reporters announced the advent of a winter storm. For we are perched on the cusp of a major weather front packed with howling winds and heavy snows. Ashland shoppers wasted no time getting out for milk and the basics. People were even stocking up library books - including me. The landscape view from our window showcased nature's creatures scurrying for food. Earlier I have even seen a bald eagle piloting over the Fish Creek slough eager to harvest a high-protein meal.

It is hard to compare two advents: advent of a winter blizzard and Advent season of Christmas. Whereas a winter storm slams in, Baby Jesus arrives in the calm of the night. Nature's fury speaks to human frailness. Christmas tells us that God took on fragile human flesh. Before a winter storm, we rush to stock up food and stoke up home fires. In Christmas, God tenderly invites us leave our comfort zones and hasten to the Bethlehem manger.

But most things are not what they seem. A winter storm blankets the earth; then snow stops and winds are quiet. Life returns to normal with only a plowed memory of nature's beauty and beast. In Christmas, Bethlehem baby-steps grow into a stormy march to a cross. For the birth of Jesus is not the same old routine, but rather a call to be transformed by the love of God's only Son.

Sunday 7 AM: Third Sunday in Advent

This morning I woke to wind chimes ringing as the first snow squall hit. Now it is 10 a.m. and the nor'easter slams in with a high-pitched howl and a full cargo of snow. Yes, we are in the throes of a winter blizzard. Bean soup is already simmering on the stove and oatmeal cookies are baking in the oven. The good news is that this storm will pass. But the best news is that our lives are refashioned by the Christmas message (God is with us) and the forever victory of the Cross. Light the rose-colored Advent candle. Rejoice... the Savior is coming.

Stewardship Thoughts

As we were getting ready to write this article on stewardship we read the LCMS Stewardship article. It applied stewardship principles as it relates to preparing an entry in the county fair. Well and good until the concept of the “Good, Bad and the Ugly” was introduced. The other approach was the “I, Me and Myself” emphasis. The “selfie”. Yikes! There has to be a better way. There is. Let’s shift our thinking from “me” to “our”. Everything, and we mean EVERYTHING, is a gift from God. Even us. As we are fearfully and wonderfully made according to His image. (Psalm 139:14) We are not self-made men or women. We brought nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it when we depart. All of us have gifts and abilities given by our gracious Heavenly Father to share with each other and the church—for we are the church to build up the body of Christ here on earth. So as we listen to our pastor speak about stewardship, let our minds be receptive to “sharing” and “our” concepts in our relationships to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and the church and each other. What we do here on earth is our gift of thanks to Jesus for what He has given us—Eternal life through faith in Him.

Your Stewardship Committee



Choir Practice
for the
Ordination
(Dec. 13th,
2:00pm)

will be Sun. Dec. 6th, after
the service and before the
meeting and Wed. Dec. 9th



Advent Services 6:30pm December 2, 9, 16

Sunday School Children’s Program

2:00pm Saturday, December 19th

LFOJ Christmas Program

6:30pm December 22

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

4:00pm and 7:00pm December 24

Christmas Morning Service

9:00am December 25

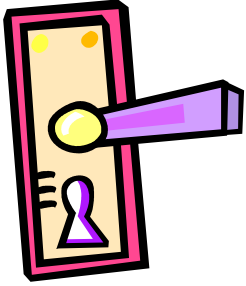
New Year’s Eve Service

6:30pm December 30

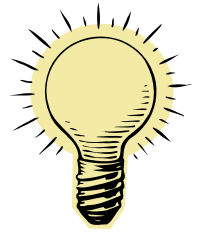
HOLLY LEAF PROJECT

Ashland Health and Rehabilitation Center (AHRC)

We will be posting leaves to take off the bulletin board soon. Each leaf will have a gift suggestion that will be presented to one of its residents. You can drop off the present directly at AHRC or then to the office by December 16th. *AHRC would like to thank all of those who have sent over gifts in the past!! The residents sure have big smiles*



TIME.....something that many people say they don't have enough of. That could be true, although who controls it, we do. One big request that we have that needs a bit of time is when you are the last one out of a room to be sure to check that



lights are out, water is turned off, stove burners are turned off completely, etc. If you are the last one out of the church you may need to check the entire church, the bathrooms (up and down), kitchen, entrance doors, etc. In the last few months the following has occurred....entrance door unlocked, ceiling fans on in Sanctuary, lights on, stove burner on (very dangerous), water running. Don't assume others have done their duty, you be the responsible one. Thanks!



December Charity Ashland Fire Dept. Toy Drive

Please donate new, unwrapped toys to be distributed to needy children in our community.

Toys are needed for children ages infant to 14. Drop off your donations at Zion by Sunday, December 13



31 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes were filled this year.

Another update:
Our **42 school kits** ended up in Serbia!

Zion Lutheran Council Minutes: November 2015

The November 16, 2015, Church Council Meeting was called to order by President, Nick Jarvela. Vicar Rick opened with devotions from Gal. 6 related to our present theme of Stewardship: Vicar reminded us to not become weary in this journey as "saints and sinners." He then prayed for our meeting.

Roll Call: Nick Jarvela (President), Mary Koosmann (Financial Secretary), Lynn Ladd (Education), Lori Landry (Evangelism), Diane Cashman (Stewardship), Daryl Warren (Elders), Cheri Tamke (LFOJ), Carol Key & Lisa Guski (Co-treasurers), Alice Ellis (Secretary), Vicar Rick.

October 2015 Minutes: Motion to accept minutes by Landry, second Warren. MMC.

Vicar's Report: Full schedule with academic studies, confirmation, sermon preparation, and worship services. Zion hosted the community AAMA meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Weekly financial report in bulletin a good idea. Motion to approve report by Ladd, second by Cashman. MMC.

Meeting Agenda: Update on computer and sewing circle purchases in Old Business. Motion accept agenda by Warren, second by Ladd. MMC.

Board Reports:

Elders: Warren reported discussion about church security concerns to include text alerts, camera, and lights. This conversation includes the Trustees.

Trustees: Jarvela reported on security concerns, south driveway fill, removal of stair on left side of choir loft, fabric on back of piano, Gas and CO detector install in the kitchen. Check-list for leaving building to be posted.

Education: Ladd reported about "Joy to the World" Sunday School Christmas program on Dec. 19.

LFOJ: Tamke reported approved fundraising ideas of garage sale and t-shirt sale in 2016. Christmas program will be Tuesday, December 22 at 6:30 pm. Lisa Guski will audit LFOJ financial accounts.

Evangelism: Landry reported that 14 "treat boxes" were sent to college students and then 14 more for each student to share with a friend. Mexican Fiesta Night will be celebrated December 2 (first Wed. in Advent) with special invitation to college students. Sign up in Narthex.

Stewardship: Cashman reported that talent surveys are circulated to members and some are already returned. It is hoped that all will be returned by November 30th.

Motion to accept board reports by Key, second by Tamke. MMC.

Official Acts: **Baptism:** Travis Buttrick 11-15-15. **New Member:** Otto Korpela 11-08-15.

Old Business:

Nomination Committee: Landry reported on nominees. Still room on committees for new members. The need will be shared in the bulletin and newsletter.

Budget 2016: Guski and Key provided information. Motion to accept proposed budget for 2016 Landry, second Koosmann. MMC.

Ordination Update: Ladd reported that invitations are sent, catering arranged, preparations going forward for Vicar Rick's ordination on Sunday, December 13th at 2:00 pm.

Purchase Updates: New computer is purchased for the office, Omer Nelson did the wiring. Setup is still needed. 4 new tables received with appreciation by the Sewing Circle; chairs on order. Gratitude for the Rusch Fund for these purchases.

New Business:

Term for committee members: Will remain at 3 years.

Zion Insurance: Policy through Holden Agency, Hasting Co. Building will be measured to evaluate if coverage is adequate.

Copier: A proposal for a new copier was received. Vicar Rick talked about a black-and white copier, vs. a color copier. Payments are the same from previous copier. Motion by Warren to purchase color copier with "color code" for designated person(s), Landry second. MMC.

Adjournment: Motion by Warren, second by Tamke. MMC. Meeting closed with **The Lord's Prayer**.

NEXT Church Council Meeting is December 14, 2015, at 5:30 pm. (Note: one week earlier).

Respectfully: Alice J. Ellis

Did you forget your envelope at home again? Are you going to be gone for a week or two or longer? Sometimes our offerings don't make it to church. One solution is to sign up for a direct deposit for your offerings. You can schedule it once a month, every week or whatever, plus you can select the date for the transfer. Another idea is to do a combination. Have a portion of your giving to the direct deposit and still turn in an offering envelope when you are at church. Below is a brief description of Simply Giving.

Simply Giving

endorsed by Thrivent Financial Bank and provided through VANCO

Direct Debit for Offerings

VANCO Services is providing Zion with direct deposit of offerings from members. It is a convenient, secure and easy method for contributions. We will be using Direct Debit e.service®

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) provides a secure electronic transfer of an authorized donation/payment from an individual's checking or savings account into the Church's bank account. Vanco processes recurring, variable and one-time transactions.

About Vanco Services, LLC

Vanco Services, LLC is a PCI (Payment Card Industry) Level 1 Compliant Service Provider specializing in electronic payment solutions. They provide secure and reliable processing for both recurring and one-time transactions. Vanco works with over 19,000 organizations in a variety of industries nationwide. With more than 20 years of experience in Automated Clearing House (ACH) processing, cash management and risk management, Vanco has earned its reputation as a trusted industry leader.

Security

Vanco provides the highest level of security and confidentiality in processing their clients' electronic transactions. It is their expertise in risk management and an unwavering commitment to security and confidentiality that has helped them become a market leader with a reputation for providing timely, accurate and secure processing services. To remain a market leader and to maintain a high level of service, they utilize the latest technology and incorporate risk management into every facet of their business.

If this is something you would like to look further into, please contact Lynn in the office. Application forms are available in the office.

**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!! 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

- Dec. 2 Doug Warren
- Dec. 6 Darryl Warren & Chuck Chronis*
- Dec. 9 John Pruss
- Dec. 13 Doug Warren & Chuck Chronis
- Dec. 13 2:00 Darryl Warren
- Dec. 16 John Pruss*
- Dec. 20 John Pruss & Darryl Warren
- Dec. 24 4:00pm Chuck Chronis & Doug Warren*
- Dec. 24 7:00pm Darryl Warren
- Dec. 25 9:00am John Pruss
- Dec. 27 Darryl Warren* & Doug Warren
- Dec. 30 Chuck Chronis

GREETERS

- Dec. 2 Linda Stenroos
- Dec. 6 Truchon Family
- Dec. 8 June Williams
- Dec. 13 Stan & Alice Bahn
- Dec. 16 Jim Johnson
- Dec. 20 Honkala Family
- Dec. 24 4:00 Thimm Family
- Dec. 24 7:00 Vyskocil Family
- Dec. 25 Lou Pearce & Ingrid Pocernich
- Dec. 27 Moreland Family

Linda & Briana

Klobucher 746-2064

Renee Bolz 965-0944

Lori Landry 292-2122



_Acolytes

- Dec. 2 Jayson Lunda & Heather Dickrell
- Dec. 6 Terrel Butterfield & Ella Bauer
- Dec. 9 Abbi Moreland
- Dec. 13 Logan Esala & Taylor Vyskocil
- Dec. 16 Jayson Lunda & Tia Warren
- Dec. 20 Trista Bolz & Ella Bauer
- Dec. 24 4:00 Justin Esala
- Dec. 24 7:00 Tia Warren
- Dec. 25 Kyle Sapper
- Dec. 27 Heather & Emily Dickrell
- Dec. 30 Jayson Lunda & Ella Bauer

Ushers

- Dec. 2 Mike Bochler
- Dec. 6 Todd Vyskocil & Pat Colgrove
- Dec. 9 Warren Draeger
- Dec. 13 Cooper Tamke & Jerry Frisco
- Dec. 16 Rick Nutt
- Dec. 20 Paul Osmak & Nick Jarvela
- Dec. 24 Jim Hebert & Brian Klobucher
- Dec. 24 Curt Harpster
- Dec. 25 Larry Hildebrandt
- Dec. 27 Bruce Honkala & Scott Thimm
- Dec. 30 Jake Pruss

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism:

Travis Leo Buttrick 11-15-2015

New Members:

Otto Korpela 11-08-2015

Transferred: Dan & Carla

Schwantes 11-22-2015 to Trinity Lutheran Church, Wausau, WI