

The Mountain Top

Messenger

Zion Lutheran Church

VOLUME 53, ISSUE # 2 FEBRUARY 2016

February, two months into the New Year already, Ground Hog's Day rapidly approaching. I don't know if you have every really thought about it or not, but whether he sees his shadow or not, no matter how you cut it, we still have at least 6 weeks of winter left. It is in a sense a reminder that regardless of how things are hyped up in the media certain things in life are inevitable. Benjamin Franklin is credited with the saying "but in this world nothing is certain but death and taxes". According to EnglishClub.com there are three possible interpretations of Ben's statement: 1) *We cannot be 100% sure about anything (except dying and having to pay the taxman - in this case the idea of death and taxes are added for humor).* 2) *We cannot escape taxation (in this case the idea of death serving only to highlight the certainty of taxes).* 3) *We can be absolutely sure that we will die (in this case the idea of taxes being added for humor).* So which is it? I believe, in a Biblical sense, I have the answer, none of the above. Option 1) Incorrect, for as Christians we know with 100% certainty there are Biblical truths we can count on. 2) Incorrect, while it doesn't seem like it today in the United States, taxation is not a certainty, and I would feel safe in saying in some parts of the world there are people who have never, nor will ever, pay taxes. 3) This too, believe it or not, is also incorrect. We are not all assured we will die. Now you might say, but we all die? Well right off the top of my head I can think of at least two cases where that is not the truth, remember Elijah? Or Enoch? Now besides those two, as far as I know everyone else has died. But does that mean that all of us reading this will die? The best I can do for you is say maybe, because should our Lord and Savior return before our death, then those of us alive right now will never die! Now none of us, no one, except the God himself, knows when that day is, so between now than then, yes, we may die. But that is where the comment to option 1) comes in. Because of those 100% truths of the Bible, God's written Word, because of God's promise to us, because of what Jesus Christ did for us through His death and resurrection, we have a 100% assurance that we, like Jesus will be raised from the dead, into everlasting life. As Paul told the Corinthians (1 Cor. 15:50-58): *We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*⁵² *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.*⁵³ *For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.*⁵⁴ *When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:*

*"Death is swallowed up in victory."*⁵⁵ *"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"*

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers (and sisters), be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

The one thing that we can be completely assured of is that through the power of the Holy Spirit, by faith we have been saved and we will be raised imperishable, immortal, to live forever in the presence of our savior. That is even surer than death or taxes.

I would also like to that the opportunity here to again thank everyone for their support, prayers, and hugs over the last couple months, feel free to keep them up. We have an amazing church family and I pray for you all daily and thank God for all of you.

Next time I write we will be looking forward to spring, so until next month; The Lord Bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you and give you peace. Amen

Pastor Rick



**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



Our Prayer Concerns FEBRUARY

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, Joni Frisco, Rodger Dewey, Brad Prill, David Frantz, Patsy Kontny, Dorothy Rusch, Gordon Vyskocil, Janice Kuralle, Nancy Zehe, Dean Jansheski, Larry Kaspar, Sandy Frisco, Ingrid Pocerlich, Janesa James, Jean Wickman, Fran Fleig

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 public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.

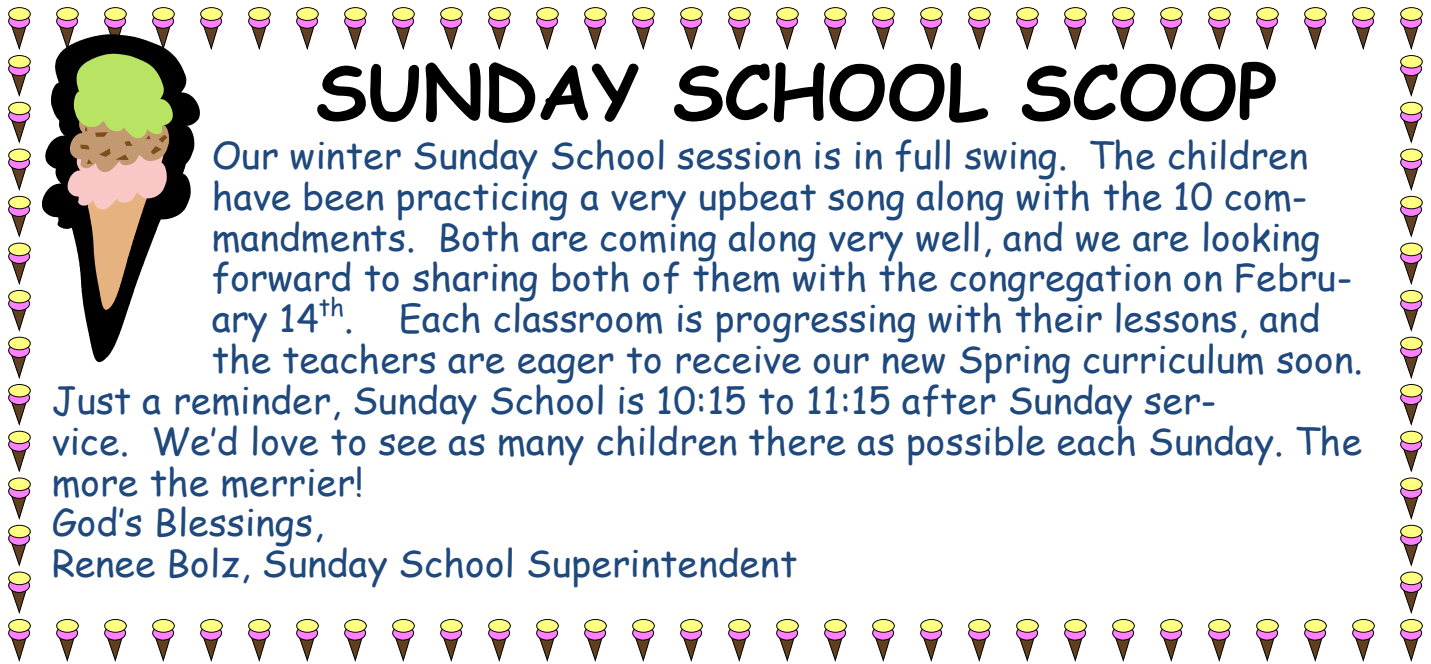
Aaron Esala, David Wright



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

Our winter Sunday School session is in full swing. The children have been practicing a very upbeat song along with the 10 commandments. Both are coming along very well, and we are looking forward to sharing both of them with the congregation on February 14th. Each classroom is progressing with their lessons, and the teachers are eager to receive our new Spring curriculum soon.

Just a reminder, Sunday School is 10:15 to 11:15 after Sunday service. We'd love to see as many children there as possible each Sunday. The more the merrier!

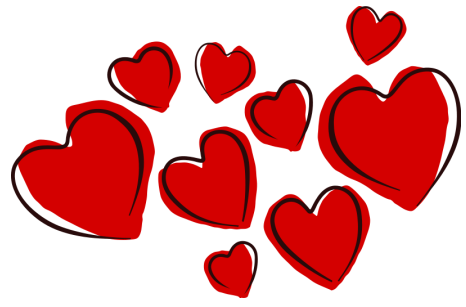
God's Blessings,
Renee Bolz, Sunday School Superintendent

POSITIONS STILL NEEDED Please continue prayers for guidance for filling in positions still needed at Zion. Elders 2-4 positions, Board of Education 2-3 positions



2015 Annual Report is on the counter across from the bulletin

Adult Instruction Class – will be starting Monday, February 1st, 5:30pm for approximately five weeks. Those interested in becoming members of Zion and anyone who would like a review are encourage to attend.



SEWING CIRCLE "QUILT AROUND" EVENT
Sunday, February 21, 2016
10:15am after the service
A newly made quilt will be given away.

Please plan to join in for some refreshments (sponsored by Thrivent Action Team) and see what the Sewing Circle does. Last year they sent out over 200 quilts to area people who lost their homes, to the world and new baby quilts to those baptized at Zion. They have a great need for supplies and will have a big basket out for those who can help out: white or black thread, batting, full size flat sheets, large pieces of material.

Stewardship Thoughts

For this month's writing we go to the ESV The Lutheran Study Bible, where five reasons to give tithes and offerings are listed.

The Lord speaks against insincere offerings intended to impress other people (Is. 1:10-17; Mt. 6:20-24; Mk 12:41-44). He desires that we give cheerfully and that we honor His generous gifts to us. Scripture includes the following good reasons to present tithes and offerings to God:

- 1) Thankfulness to God for the blessings He provides us through the Gospel (Dt. 14:22-29, Rom 15:25-28; 2Co. 9:7).
- 2) Desire to support the mission of preaching the Gospel so that others may partake of God's peace and salvation (Rm 15:28b; Php 1:3-5; 4:14-20).
- 3) Desire to show support and care for church workers (Nu 18:21-24; Ne 12:44; gal. 6:6-7; 1Tim 5:17-18).
- 4) God commanded tithing under the Old testament, by which he has set before us an enduring example of faithful giving (Lv 27:32; Gn 14:18-20; Heb. 7:1-10).

50 God challenged His people to test His generosity by demonstrating their generosity in giving to His temple (Mal. 3:6-12)

Early in Israel's history, the priests at the temple received offerings of grain, fruit, or animals. Later, offerings of money were placed in a chest at the temple, which stood by the entryway so that people could deposit their money (2Ki 12:0; 2Ch 24:4011); the passing of offering plates is a modern innovation.

CAMP LUTHER

Check out their website: www.campluther.com for the following programs

2016 CAMP LUTHER SUMMER REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

An exciting summer is planned for children Pre-K through High School. Register early for your favorite dates and housing locations. Camp Luther will be accepting registrations through our registration system beginning January 1 at www.campluther.com. **CAMP LUTHER IS LOOKING FOR JUNIOR COUNSELORS**

Junior Counselors are an integral part of the ministry of Camp Luther each summer. JC's assist counselors with nearly every aspect of the summer camp program. They also work hard to keep Camp Luther clean and polished for our many guests. Applicants must currently be a high school sophomore, junior or senior. JC application deadline is February 26th!!!

NEW FOR 2016 PHOTOGRAPHY CAMP

Students in grades 6-8th grade are invited to Camp Luther July 17-22 for a wonderful new opportunity. You'll spend the week with a camera in your hands, taking photos and creating life lasting memories. Photography Camp participants will do more than capture moments with their camera, but will be joining in many Trailblazer Camp activities throughout the week!

HELP THE YOUNG LEADERS IN YOUR FAMILY TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL! TRY "IMPACT CAMP"

Youth in grades 8-10 are invited to attend a unique 9 day camp that includes all the fun of camp activities with the additional benefit of service opportunities and training for leadership in the church and community back home. There is even an off-site adventure trip and a chance to attend an IMPACT reunion weekend in the fall.

EVERY KID TO CAMP

Our children and grandchildren are constantly being influenced by the world around them. Reaching our children with the Gospel while they are young is crucial if we wish to counter the negative influences of our culture. According to researcher George Barna, by age nine, most of the moral and spiritual foundations of a child are in place. Lifelong habits, values, and attitudes are formed between the ages of 5-12.

Support Every Kid to Camp and help place our children in an environment that focuses on faith in Jesus Christ that will help to provide the positive Christian foundation they need. Visit www.campluther.com and give today. If you know of a young person that would be blessed through Camp Luther please contact Camp Luther to request a Every Kid to Camp certificate.

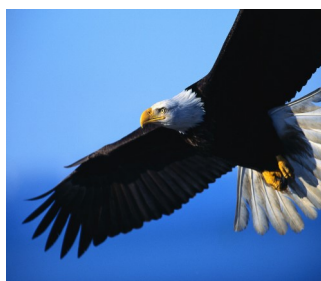
CAMP LUTHER SUMMER STAFF POSITIONS

Camp Luther is still seeking applicants for some key leadership position on our summer staff. A summer at camp will absolutely change your life! Visit campluther.com for more information and visit nloma.org for information on positions available at our sister camps across the country. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, serve and grow at camp this summer.

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

Friday morning started out with the pleasant temp of 26° F., but by the time I was heading to school an Arctic blast blew in from the north and the temps were dropping. I noticed along the bay that rising thick columns of steam from the power plant were quickly absorbed by sky-waves of high tide. I was already scheming how to announce morning recess with the students "indoors" since I was not eager to face nature's blower plugged into a stiff wind and set by the temp of winter-ice.

When I was just a few blocks spotted a bird high up in the sky. an early-bird pigeon testing the But when I was positioned to look it was a bald eagle and this critter turned into the wind. He was not but rather he held his wings posed like a dancer and let the wind do the work. This bird-pilot was out for a morning joy-ride.



from the school, I I figured it must be force of nature. up, I realized that was intentionally working his flaps,

and let the wind do the work.

So there you have it. Me seeking shelter in the social hall, and an eagle facing the wind for the ride of his life. Truly the forces that blow into our days are a matter of perspective. What is a hardship to one person becomes an opportunity to another. While disciples toss with fear in a boat, Jesus chooses to walk on the water. When the Children of Israel face death by the Egyptians, Moses stretches out his hands (wings) and parts the Red Sea.

There doesn't seem to any human-response formula to the events that turn our lives upside down, but it is worth remembering that we belong to the all-sufficient God when difficulties blow our way. Now it is evening. The wind chimes are ringing and temps dropping for we are not out of this Arctic blast yet. Join me in learning from eagles. That as we are tossed by forces out-of-our-control, God's grace will power us to spread our wings of faith for the joy-ride of our lives.

Join us for a "Souper" Sunday – February 7th - Wear your favorite team jersey to worship. Donate into the soup kettle (cash donations) and/or bring canned items. Join us for soup after Bible Study and Sunday School. Sign-up sheet for Souper Bowl Sunday on the ledge across from the bulletin board. We will need soups, breads, and beverages.



Zion Lutheran Council Minutes: January 2016

The December 13, 2015, Church Council Meeting was called to order by President, Nick Jarvela. Pastor Rick opened with devotions and prayer. The devotion was a comparison between Crew Ships and Aircraft Carriers as it could correlate with churches. On Crew Ships the people are entertained, the staff wants everyone to feel good, they are internally focused, especially when there may be up to 8000 people to keep happy. While Aircraft Carriers empower all members to reach and serve others, with efficiency and knowing their roll.

Roll Call: Nick Jarvela (President), Lynn Ladd (Education), Lori Landry (Evangelism), Chuck Chronis (Stewardship), Daryl Warren (Elders), Lisa Guski (Co-treasurer & LFOJ), Carol Key (Co-Treasurer), Mary Koosmann (Financial Secretary) Pastor Rick.

December 2015 Minutes: Motion to accept minutes by Warren, second Chronis. MMC.

Pastor's Report: There were 12 worship services and Advent went well, along with the Sunday School Children's and LFOJ's programs. There were two funerals. Several requests for membership have been made and will be starting an adult instruction class soon, hoping to finish by Easter. The week in St. Louis and classes was very good. Again need to catch up on visitations. New bibles have been ordered and the series is going well. Lenten series is picked out and will start with Ash Wednesday on February 10. Have Winkel and LFOJ Chapel yet for this month.

Treasurer's Report: . Motion to approve report by Warren, second by Landry. MMC.

Meeting Agenda: Motion accept agenda by Warren, second by Guski MMC.

Board Reports:

Elders: There is a Circuit Elders meeting in Glidden on February 7th, hoping that most Elders can attend.

Trustees: Jarvela reported that bids for replacing windows is in the works, so once spring comes, the project can get done immediately. The City has an inspector going around to area business checking on sewers/faucets/etc. for cross contamination. Four items were found in default. Blakeman has taken care of them.

Education: Ladd reported Renee Bolz is taking over as Sunday School Superintendent and Chad and Jaimie Lipske will be helping in the preschool room.

LFOJ: They have had one teacher give notice and currently trying to fill that position. They would like a member of the congregation to join the LFOJ Board.

Evangelism: Landry reported February 7th is "Souper" Bowl Sunday with proceeds to go the The Brick.

Stewardship: Chronis reported they met on January 17th and trying to complete the Time/Talent project.

Motion to accept board reports by Chronis, second by Landry. MMC.

Official Acts:

Death: Dylan Williams 12-15-2015, John Meller 01-06-2016

New Business:

A. **Soup & Sandwich** 2/10 Altar Guild/LWML, 2/17 Sunday School, 2/24 LFOJ, 3/2 Youth Group/Stewardship 3/9 Trustees 3/16 Evangelism/Elders

Money to pay for new bibles

Motion to have money taken from memorial Fund and Thrivent Choice Fund (50/50) made by Warren, second by Landry. MMC

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

NEXT Church Council Meeting is February 15, 2016, at 5:30 pm. Respectfully: LCL

OFFERINGS – Not able to make it to church each Sunday/Wednesday because of weather, family outings, illness, etc. or forgot your offering envelope. We have a solution – Vanco Services, which is a direct withdrawal from your account to the Church's account. If you would like more information please contact the office.

FEBRUARY 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

Feb. 7 Darryl Warren & Scott Thimm
 Feb. 10 John Pruss & Scott Thimm
 Feb. 14 Randy Spangle & John Pruss
 Feb. 17 Randy Spangle
 Feb. 21 Doug Warren & Randy Spangle
 Feb. 24 John Pruss
 Feb. 28 Darryl Warren & Scott Thimm
 Mar. 2 Doug Warren

GREETERS

Feb. 7 Wickman Family
 Feb. 10 Rick & Sandy Nutt
 Feb. 14 Ron & Brenda Schwiesow
 Feb. 17 Karen Wahl
 Feb. 21 Brian & Linda Klobucher
 Feb. 24 Janet Houle
 Feb. 28 Lipske Family
 Mar. 2 Lori Landry

ZION FINANCIAL REPORT—

Jan.– Dec. 2015

	Budgeted	Actual
Giving	\$164,056	\$156,677.09
Expenses	\$164,056	\$154,379.47
		\$ 2,297.12

LCEF & BMO Credit Line

Beginning Budget \$95,714.71 YTD \$87,915.32

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



ACOLYTES

Feb. 7 Ella Bauer & Logan Esala
 Feb. 10 Ashlee Moreland & Jayson Lunda
 Feb. 14 Tia Warren & Trista Bolz
 Feb. 17 Kyle Sapper
 Feb. 21 Heather Dickrell & Emily Dickrell
 Feb. 24 Taylor Vyskocil
 Feb. 28 Abbi Moreland & Terrel Butterfield
 Mar. 2 Justin Esala & Jayson Lunda

USHERS

Feb. 7 Luke Barker & Karl Williams
 Feb. 10 Mike Bochler & Todd Vyskocil
 Feb. 14 Tim Bauer & Andrew Wickman
 Feb. 17 Jerry Frisco
 Feb. 21 Adam Hinch & Rick Nutt
 Feb. 24 Curt Harpster
 Feb. 28 Henry Truchon & Paul Osmak
 Mar. 2 Brian Klobucher

OFFICIAL ACTS

Death: John Meller 01-06-2016

Brenda Schwiesow 682-4292
 Ethel Guss 682-3885

