



The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI FEBRUARY 2019

Well perhaps it's the cold, but my brain seems to be very sluggish on developing a topic for this month's newsletter. As I am writing I saw a forecast for windchills as low as -50 for tonight and shivered. I don't hate winter, but I have found the older I get the less fond of the cold I have become. Anyway, as I wondered about weather I may have stumbled upon a topic that has absolutely nothing to do with weather.

It comes for the Gospel reading at last night's Wednesday night service and the message that went along with it. It was the Gospel message of Jesus' first miracle in Cana. There are several interesting things about that reading. We wondered what Mary thought Jesus could do about the wine crisis, and then there was Jesus rather abrupt response, and then the even more interesting were the directions Mary gave to the servants following Jesus response. Remember what she said to the servants after Jesus replied to her comments? She said; "Do whatever he tells you." I do not believe that anyone hearing this story for the first time would have been able to guess what Jesus would do based on the information at hand. And I am quite sure that Mary had no idea what Jesus was going to do either. However, Mary did know two things, first she knew Jesus had heard her comment and secondly, she trusted that he was going to do something about it. As I spoke in the message last night and on the preceding Sunday, the way that Jesus handled this situation is the same way that our prayers are handled, they are heard, and they are handled, and very much like this story, we may not know how they will be handled, we must, like Mary, trust that they will.

Along with that, when we are sending our prayers and requests to the Lord we must be ready, just like the servants to "Do whatever he tells you". Sometimes we miss or even forget that the Lord does indeed speak to us. He speaks to us through his word, He speaks to us through his church, He speaks to us through the opportunities he creates for us in our lives to serve Him and His church. We need to always be on our toes to recognize those opportunities. Maybe it is something that we hear in the scripture readings in church or in the pastor's message. Perhaps it is an

Pastor Rick Williams -
715-209-0479

Office Hours:
M/T/Th 8:00am-5:00pm
W 12-8:00pm

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 8-3pm
Days and times may change upon need of work.

Church President:

John Pruss 715-292-4825

Head Elder:

Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

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

LFOJ Administrator:

Karyn Leino 715-682-6075

Website

www.zionashland.org



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1111—11TH AVE WEST
ASHLAND, WI 54806
715-682-6075

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am
Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm
Sunday School 10:15am (Sept.-May)
Bible Studies

(cont. from first page)

opportunity to help someone in need that we hear from a fellow church goer, friend, neighbor. It could be the Holy Spirit calling us to witness to someone who needs to hear the good news of the Gospel or needs to hear about the forgiveness of sins that Christ has won for them. Whatever the case may be, just as Mary spoke to the servants at the wedding, I am reminding you, "Do whatever He tells you." With that being said, I pray you stay in the Word, stay safe, stay warm, and as I close I want to leave you with the words of Paul to the young Pastor Timothy, they apply to all of us today just as much as they applied to him two thousand years ago, it seems people never change.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, (2 Timothy 4:1-3)

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 with favor and give you peace.

Pastor Rick

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	Johnny Galligan
Alice Balmer	Mary Bullis	Tim Smith	Jim Bullis	Ellen Hodgson
Doug Tutor	Barb Bjork	David Kaarre	Joan Spalding	Ruth Goldman
Lloyd Koosmann	Tim Fulton	Randy Lauer	Theresa Koosmann	Mike Dimich
Crystal Flectcher	Margaret Goodwin	Doris Nye	Marty Kaarre	Steve Wahlston
Steve Gilmore	Heather Gust	Ruth Young	Mary Helen Bergschneider	
Sandy Fletcher	Sheryl Hildebrandt	Cheryl Lueck	Ron Wegener	Kate Smith
Linda Larson-Nelson	Larry Steckling	Wendy Clark	Rebecca Gurske	Rachel Juoni
Sue Dimich	Gary McLaughlin	Ingrid Pocerlich	Pastor Gatz	Jim Johnson

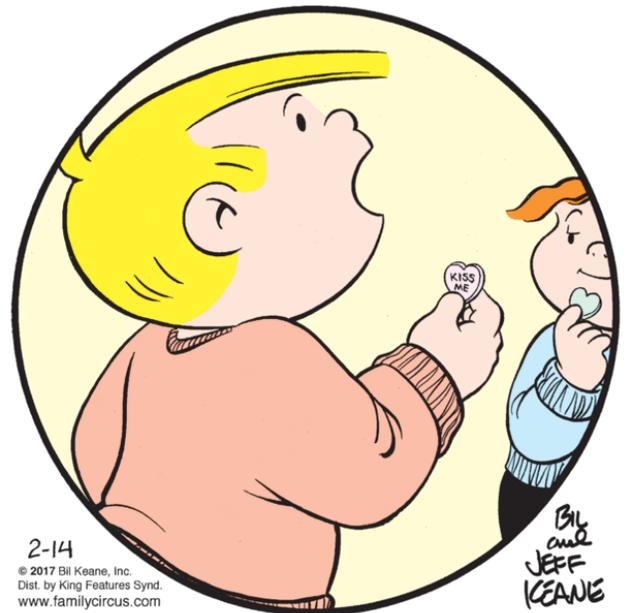
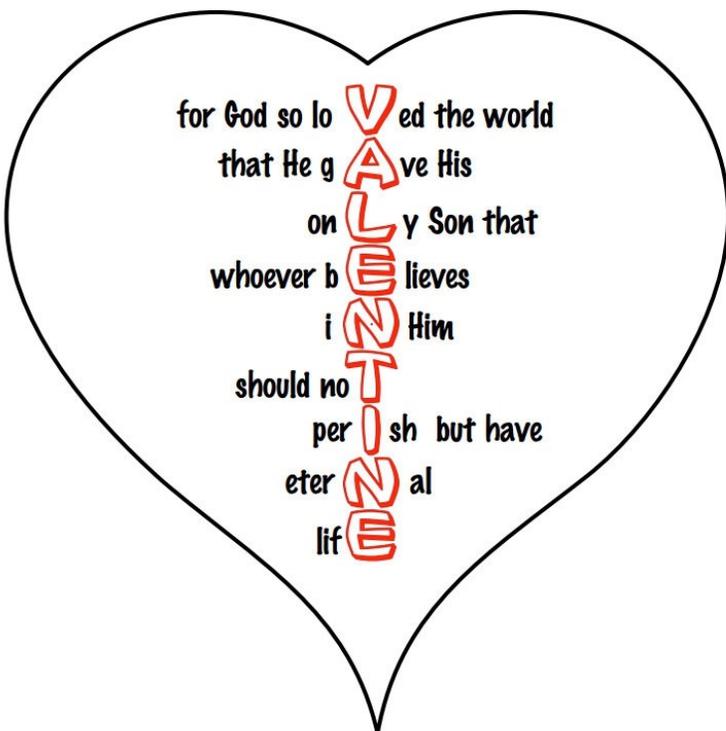
and those in our hearts.

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. *Walt Schutte, Arlene Zimmerman, Madge Houle, Donna Graves Violet Basina*

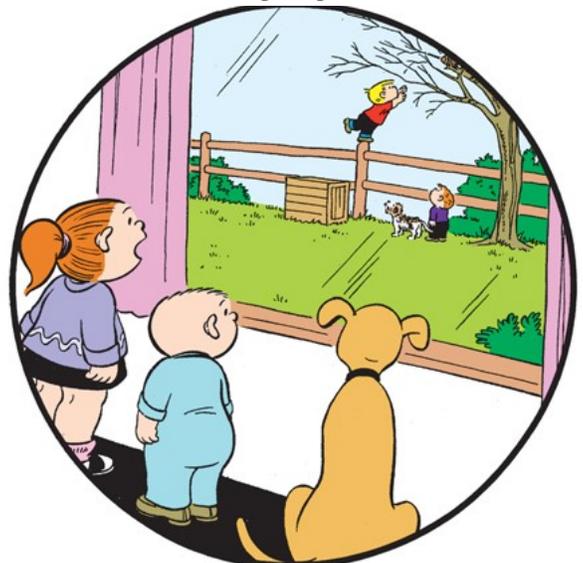
PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families. *David Wright, Johanna Pearce, Emily Melecha, Tucker Melecha*

John 3:16



“This one says ‘kiss me.’ Can’t I have one that says ‘you da man?’”



“Billy better hope his guardian angel didn’t get laid off.”

March 27, 2017

The Book of Genesis begins with the story of creation. Each time I go back to this familiar text, I see new things. But what always stands out to me is that "God saw it was good." Imagine His delight and artistic imagination to speak all things into being. Amazing upon amazing.

Today Herb and I stopped at Amnicon Falls (just east of Superior, WI) for a spring picnic. Amnicon means "where the fish spawn." This state park is a couple of miles from the highway and I am always fascinated by the ever-changing seasonal beauty of Amnicon Falls. Today was especially good (with the extra bonus of sharing it with Herb).



Near the parking lot is a covered bridge. This bridge was built in the 19th century, and in the 1930's the Civilian Conservation Corps put a roof on the bridge. Looking south from the bridge, you can see the upper falls flowing over a bedrock of basalt... a result of volcanic action many eons ago. Then looking on the other side toward the lower falls, you see layers of sandstone. Amnicon Falls provides eye-witness evidence to the power of volcanic action, earthquakes, and glacial influence.

Today spring run-off was in full force, so Amnicon River was roaring as we sat near the river and ate meatloaf sandwiches. After lunch, I took my favorite path along the river to take photos. The warmth of spring has punched holes in the river ice sheets, and in some areas, ice chunks were being tossed and carried by the rapid water. The fast-moving water caused pools of foam, and thin trails in the ice. Fascinating...

and if I would return in a few days, things would look different. Spring is a season of change. Today "I saw it was good." I suspect God also "saw it was good."

I am sure that we will visit Amnicon Falls a few more times this year... spring, summer, and fall. Sometimes the roads are not open during the heavy snow months although hardy folks snowshoe in. The Book of Genesis gives us seven snapshots of God's work to create the earth. We don't know the details, and we can only speculate about divine timing. But we understand that God placed an altar of beauty on this earth so that His greatest creation, **us humans**, can see evidence of Him through his handiwork. Many parts of earth have lost their state of beauty and lushness, but even then God dwells in places that are bone-dry and barren.

Amnicon Falls is a treasure, and the sound of water and the pine-scented air are a gift to the senses...and our world. Amnicon Falls reminds us to be generous in our care of our planet, so others may dwell in a landscape of clean water and clean air. Dear Reader, I hope where you live there are views and experiences that stir you to join with God and see: It is good.

-Alice Ellis



Mustard Seed Daily Devotions



Living in the Spirit ... Is God's Gift

In the Word

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God... [Ephesians 2:8](#)

Of the Word

Lights on the dashboard signaled trouble, and she was many miles from home. Slowly she rolled into a farmyard, hoping that someone was there. The farmer came out, assessed the problem and offered a ride to the nearest town. Several hours later when the car was once again drivable she offered fervent thanks and a cash gift. The farmer warmly accepted her gratitude but vehemently refused her money. "Helping you was my gift to you," he insisted. "If I take your money, my help isn't a gift anymore."

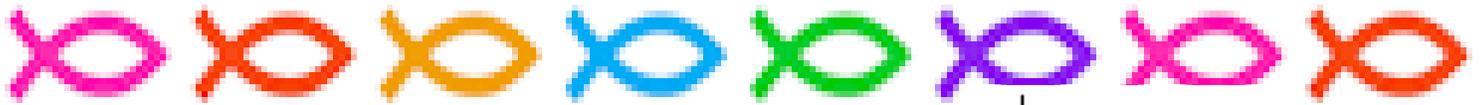
So it is with God's grace; it is a gift. Grace is not earned. It cannot be bought for any price in any currency by any individual. It is a gift, a precious gift given by a loving God.

We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us ([1 Corinthians 2:12](#)).

It is impossible to comprehend a holy God who would freely give the gift of His grace to sinful people who turn their backs on Him. Only by His Spirit can we believe the good news that His gift is ours.

Walking with my Lord

Thank You, Lord, for the gifts of faith and salvation. When my faith weakens, strengthen me with



8 "T"s of Stewardship



. By John Heckmann LWML Pastoral Counselor 2011-2015
(Previously published in the Treasured News Jan.-July 2013)
Revised August 2017 by
Rev. Robert Mundahl LWML Pastoral Counselor 2015-2019



TIME
TREASURE
TOUCH
TRASH

TALENT
TESTIMONY
TISSUE
TECHNOLOGY



THE 8 T's OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP



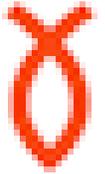
Christian Stewardship is concerned with God's gifts and the way we use them. There are many passages in the Bible that are concerned with a giving God and a receiving people. How the receiving people use all that comes from a giving God is, in my book, what Christian Stewardship is all about.



Our Missouri Synod has this as their definition of stewardship: ***“Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.”***



We read in Luke 6:20-38
And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.



“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.



“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

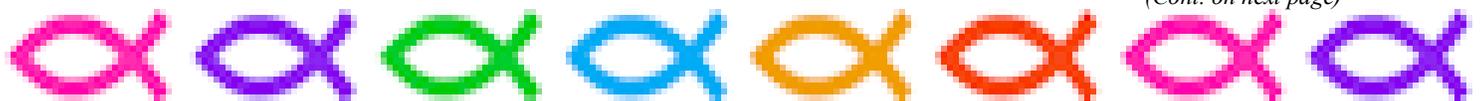


*“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.
“Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. “Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. ² “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.*



²⁷ “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹ And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

(Cont. on next page)



FEBRUARY MISSION

“SOUPER” BOWL SUNDAY



During the month of February we will be collecting Soup and other non-perishable items for the BRICK.
Drop off your items in the narthex.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE BRICK.

Monetary donations also accepted, make your checks out to the BRICK.

(cont. from previous page)

³² *"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. ³⁷ "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."*

Malachi 3:10 ¹⁰ *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."*

This is the only place in the Bible that I know of where God calls on us to put Him to the test.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work

The motivation in all of this is always the Gospel. It is always my response to God for all that He has given to me. It is never something I have to do. It is always done cheerfully and eagerly. When it becomes something I "have to do" then the whole concept is lost.

When we are talking about Stewardship, pray about what you will give and then give it. I would also suggest to you that the way to do this is to always decide what percentage of your gross income you want to give and then take it right off the top. In our household, the first checks we write each month are to St. Paul Lutheran Church, to Jesus Is Lord Mission Society, to the LWML and to whatever other religious or charitable organization we are supporting at the time.

The other thought, and then we will get to the Eight T's of Stewardship is to arrive at a percentage to give and then increase that percentage one percent a year. Deb and I have been blessed to do that. As that money or time or talent is given first, it is never missed. Ask me sometime how that works.

The Eight T's of Stewardship

The Eight T's are: **Time, Talent, Treasure, Testimony, Touch, Tissue, Trash, and Technology.** You know the first three; the last four go like this: testimony (Christian witnessing), touch (relationships), tissue (care of our bodies), trash (care of God's creation), and technology (our use of the electronic devices and tools with which God has blessed us)

We will take one of the "T's" each month, and March will start out with Time.

Zion Lutheran Council Minutes: January 2019

Call to order by President: John Pruss. Pastor Rick Williams led us in 2 Kings 6, the ministry of Elisha. We are challenged to keep our focus for even in the small things of life, God cares for us.

Roll Call: John Pruss- President, Nick Jarvela-Trustees, Lisa Guski-Treasurer/LFOJ, Darryl Warren-Elder, Lori Landry-Evangelism, Alice Ellis-Secretary, Pastor Rick.

November Minutes: Motion to approve by Landry. Second by Guski. MMC.

Pastor's Report: Good Advent/Christmas season. Pastor preaches at Little Girl's Point: 1 and 3rd Sundays. Confirmation classes going well. Chapel for LFOJ. Pastor will attend Best Practice conference in Phoenix, February 18-26.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve by Warren. Second by Landry. MMC.

Meeting Agenda: Approve with 4 additions to New Business by Guski. Second by Jarvela. MMC.

Board Reports:

Trustees: Jarvela reported all maintenance completed as needed. Robert Guski, hired as new sexton.

LFOJ: Guski reported need for assistance teacher. Fundraisers going well. Milk Moola ends March 31. 2019 background check guidelines being addressed. Pea gravel will be delivered in the spring.

Evangelism: Landry reported 24 college care packages sent. Coats Plus project doubled this year. Plans to talk to other groups collecting winter clothing to coordinate efforts. Snowpants and boots needs increased this year.

OFFICIAL ACTS: Deaths: Laura Reynolds 12-25-2018

New Business:

Soup and Sandwich: Will begin at 5 pm during Wed. of Lenten services. Unless otherwise designated, offerings will be for Pastor Martin Kaarre. **Soup and Sandwich Schedule:** March 6, Altar Guild. March 13, LFOJ. March 20, Zion Council. March 27, Education/Confirmation. April 3, Trustees. April 6, Elders/Evangelism.

Excel Energy: Jarvela reported two power poles will be replaced. Trustees will meet with Excel Energy/NSP to talk about this plan...including need for easement?

Furnace: Contract is signed with Blakeman for maintenance and cleaning- \$460. This needs to be done every 2 years.

Front Stoop: Need to repair broken front entrance to Zion to make it easily handicap accessible. Trustees will get estimate.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Guski. Second by Jarvela. MMC.

Next Church Council Meeting: **February 18, 2019 at 5:30 pm.** Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully, *Alice J. Ellis*



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

February	Elders	Acolytes	Ushers	Greeters
Jan.Wed. 30	Andy Pruss			
Sun. 3	Randy Spangle Scott Thimm	Lily	Bruce Honkala	Darling Family
Wed. 6	John Pruss			
Sun. 10	Darryl Warren Randy Spangle	Daniel	Warren Draeger	Rick & Sandy Nutt
Wed. 13	Andy Pruss			
Sun. 17	Doug Warren Scott Thimm	Matthew	Don Moreland	Linda Stenroos
Wed. 20	John Pruss			
Sun. 24	Andy Pruss Darryl Warren	Faith	Ron Schwiesow	Lori Landry
Wed 27	Scott Thimm			
Sun. 3	John Pruss Andy Pruss	Austin	Tim Bauer	Brian & Linda Klobucher
Wed. 6	Scott Thimm	Adeline	Mike Cashman	Vyskocil Family
Sun. 10	Darryl Warren Doug Warren	Daniel	Chuck Chronis	Bolz Family
Wed. 13	Andy Pruss	Lily	Jerry Frisco	Nick & Jule Jarvela
Sun. 17	Doug Warren John Pruss	Faith	Jim Hebert	Wickman Family
Wed. 20	Scott Thimm	Matthew	Nick Jarvela	Karen Wahl
Sun. 24	Andy Pruss Darryl Warren	Austin	Adam Hinch	Scott & Becky Sappe
Wed 27	John Pruss	Daniel	Loren Munson	June Williams
Sun. 31	Darryl Warren Doug Warren	Matthew	Karl Williams	Sunie Family



February
Jule Jarvela 682-0385
Janet Houle 682-2387

OFFICIAL ACTS
Laurie Reynolds 12-25-2018

2019



FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
FEBRUARY					1	2
3 Mite Sunday Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am LGP 2:00pm	4 10:00am Bible Study Evangelism Mtg. 5:30pm Dartball make-up night if needed	5 11:00am LFOJ Chapel	6 11:00am LFOJ Chapel Confirmation 1:30-3pm Worship 6:30pm	7	8	9
10 Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am 8th Gr. Confirmation 12:00pm	11 10:00am Bible Study Dartball Tournament	12 Sewing Circle 1pm	13 Confirmation 3:30-5pm Worship 6:30pm	14	15 <i>Newsletter Reports Due</i>	16
17 Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am Trustees' Mtg. 10:15am LGP 2:00pm	18 Council Mtg. 5:30pm Dartball Tournament Pastor is gone to Arizona for conference	19	20 Worship 6:30pm	21	22	23
24 Worship 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am → → → → →	25 Dartball Tournament → → → →	26 Sewing Circle 1pm → →I	27 Confirmation 1:30-3pm Worship 6:30pm	28		