

The Mountain Top **Messenger**

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 1 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod JANUARY 2013

Happy New Year, last month we were celebrating the beginning of the church year, now we celebrate the beginning of 2013. We all made it through the December 21st end of the world debacle. When will people learn, *"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father"* Mark 13:32.

We had a wonderful Christmas worship season here at Zion. The Little Friends of Jesus Christmas program was wonderful and very well attended. The Sunday School Christmas program was outstanding, my hat goes off to the children, the teachers and helpers who put it together, and to all the parents, family, and friends that attended. We also had great participation at all the other services. What a wonderful way to welcome our Savior into the world.

I am looking forward to this year at Zion with great anticipation, many great things are in store of us. I thank you for your support last year and for your continued support as we move forward into 2013. As we continue on in our search for a Pastor, have faith in the Lord, He will provide. I did a search for Zion in on my Bible reference web site, the first verse that came up was, I thought, very appropriate.

"The Lord is great in Zion, he is exalted over all the peoples" Psalm 99:2

The Lords Blessings to you all as we enter the New Year, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Thank you,

Rick Williams, Deacon



Zion's Ministry Staff and Church Officers

E-Mail: zionashland@hotmail.com

Website: www.zionashland.org

Church Office 715-682-6075 (M/T/Th 8am-12noon,
W 2-6pm [subject to change])

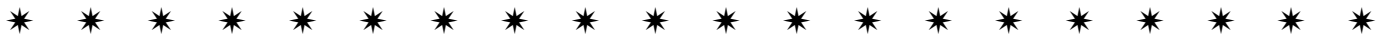
Deacon - Rick Williams 715-209-0479

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

Sunday School 10:15am

Bible Studies: Sunday 10:15 am, Monday 10:00am, Men's Breakfast Bible Study -
Thursday, 6:00am

Stewardship Thoughts

When many people hear the word stewardship they immediately think about money. Our Synod defines it this way: "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."

Notice four things: It is an activity, that is, something we do, but it is a free activity that brings genuine joy. It is an activity of the individual Christian and of the Christian Church. Stewardship is managing, but not just money; stewardship is managing all of life and life's resources.

Wow! That's a tall order and a high adventure! By Arleigh Lutz

From your Stewardship Committee

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.





Dear Friends at
The BRICK,

It is with great joy that we convey our deep gratitude for you congregational gifts of money for The BRICK November thanksgiving fundraiser. We are humbled and thrilled to report that over \$7500 was donated by area churches plus a \$1000 matching grant from Thrivent. This generous amount of money converts into a large contribution of food for needy people within our community. May God continue to bless your congregation and your call to serve others. Best wishes for a meaningful and merry Christmas season.

With Prayer and Thanksgiving,
The BRICK Committee: Sheila Urling, Sandy Frisco,
Eileen VanPernis, Ingrid Pocernich, Carl and Eleanor
Smith, Herb and Alice Ellis

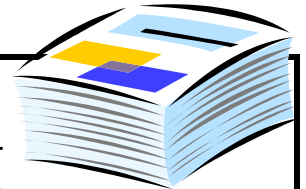
District Leadership Meetings
January 24th 7-9pm Ironwood, MI
Discussion with President Lueck concerning
issues facing congregational leaders.

It is my hope that you and other leaders will be able to join me at our annual leadership meetings that are held around the District. Our goal is to be a resource to you as leaders in some areas of ministry and encourage you as leaders of your congregation. It is also a great time to network with other congregations and to listen and learn from each other.

This year we will have a combination of District staff and pastors of our District leading our workshops. We will deal with how to deal with and respond to natural disasters, management and financial issues, caring for called workers, small town and rural ministry, and time for leaders to discuss issues facing them.
Pastor Lueck

ANNUAL REPORTS

Reports are due to the office by January 13th. The earlier the better. Plus, please e-mail them so I have them on the computer. zionashland@hotmail.com Any questions, call the office. Thanks, Lynn 682-6075



Altar Paraments

White: In addition to its use during Eastertide, white is the appointed color for such festive Sundays as Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday; and twenty-one minor festivals and occasions listed on the church year calendar in Lutheran Worship. In all, white serves as the best festive color for the church year.



Green is by far the most common color seen during the year. Lutheran Worship calls for its use during the seasons of Epiphany and Pentecost. The first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox (March 21), also known as Easter Sunday, determines the length of these two seasons.

Epiphany's message of Christ's revelation to the Gentiles along with the season's traditional emphasis on extending Christ's kingdom through missions, calls for the use of green-the color symbolic of growth.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

December was a busy month for the Sunday School as I'm sure for everyone else. The children had their weekly lesson along with program practice for the first three Sundays of December. Their program this year was, "Away in a Manger" and they were included in the worship service on December 23rd. It was enjoyed by everyone with



hearing the always wonderful story of Jesus' birth, the songs that were sung and the smiles on all the faces. Many thanks to all the teachers that helped, Lilly Harrelson and Lisa Guski for overseeing the practices and program, Katie Colgrove's sister, who sewed new costumes, Dan and Carla Schwantes for making

the banners, Don and Lauri Moreland for putting together the treat bags, and Katie for baking Jesus' birthday cake.



(Pictures are during practices)

The following students had 100% attendance for November: Daniel Truchon, Sophie Truchon, Jon Meller, Lily Truchon, Sydney Vyskocil

The Sunday School children's offerings this year are going to missions. The collections through December 16th are going to be sent to a Sunday School out east that was overwhelmed by Sandy Disaster.

The children emptied their mite boxes of money collected in November and December. This is a LWML Mission project. The children will be doing this the second Sunday of each month.

January Weather

Average temperatures for January: 22° high 1°

counting in windchill temp. Anyone remember that cold day? The warmest recorded temperature for January was in 1973 with a high of 52°.

The average precipitation is 1.32".



The Winter God (Jan. 2013)

-A. Ellis

Perhaps for many of us in northern Wisconsin the most challenging season to see God "out there" is during the barren-brittle winter. So I set my mind to consider His ways and I realized winter offers abundant evidence to instruct us about God's presence.

The biting wind of winter chills our bones and draws our breath. The winter God warms our hearts and breathes His spirit into our flesh and bones.

The sun on the white landscape often blinds our eyes. The winter God turns a blind eye to our sins and proclaims a forgiveness that makes us whiter than snow.

Winter ice can be a slip-and-slide hazard. The winter God is an unchanging rock and even when we fall, he picks us up and places us back on the well packed-road of faith.

Snowflakes are a fascination for their diversity and fragile beauty. The winter God knows how to reach all of us with our diversity and refashion our lives into eternal beauty.

Cabin fever defines the "shut in" feeling of winter. The winter God is in the business of plowing the corridor of faith and throwing open His heart of gentle grace and warm love.

Winter frost may sting our nose and bite our toes. The winter God took upon himself the sting of death and delivered an eternal invitation to come in out of the cold.

Brutal winter temps cause deer to yard up in the winter and birds to seek shelter. The winter God wraps us in His blankets of righteousness and beckons us to huddle with Him and be still.

Some may think the earth is asleep in the winter, but much is going on beneath the surface. The winter God also operates beneath the surface to awaken weary hearts to great grace and holy love.

Yes, we belong to the 4-season God. The God of spring-birth. The God of summer sun. The God of autumn color. The God of winter shelter. May the barren beauty of winter transform our hearts that together we cozy up to God for warmth and hope and proclaim the presence of the winter God among us: Immanuel



LFOJ Happenings!



There were plenty of smiles and prayers during the LFOJ Children's Christmas program on December 20th. It was a joyous time.

A few changes in staff again - We welcome new to our staff as assistant float teachers: Daphne Westman, Laurel Grehn, Kelly Robertson and Andrea Wedlund.

Check out the bulletin board for our monthly newsletter. **LFOJ**

Zion Lutheran Church - ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING

December 2, 2012

The December 2, 2012 Annual Meeting of Zion Lutheran Church was called to order by President, Chuck Chronis. Deacon Rick Williams opened the meeting with prayer. Thirty-six (36) voting members were in attendance.

2011 Budget

Motion by Lisa Guski, second by Nick Jarvela to accept the presented 2013 annual budget with a total of \$185,533. Motion carried.

Elections

Motion by Nick Jarvela, second by Rick Nutt to accept the nominating committee's recommendation for Board members with terms expiring in 2015, including: *Financial Secretary*: Mary Koosmann; *Elders*: Darryl Warren, Doug Warren, Chuck Chronis; *Education*: Janet Houle; *Stewardship*: Penny Mattson, Diane Cashman; *Trustees*: Nick Jarvela, Roger Stenroos; *LFOJ*: Lisa Guski, Cheri Tamke; *Evangelism*: Lori Hebert, Sandy Frisco, Jim Johnson. Motion carried.

Seminary Candidate

Motion by Don Pocernich, second by Ron Schwiesow to proceed with paperwork preparation to request a graduate from the Seminary, while continuing the call process. If a call is not been accepted then the paperwork would be submitted to for a Seminary candidate by required deadlines. Motion carried.

ADJOURN: Motion by Don Pocernich, second by Ron Schwiesow to adjourn the meeting. Deacon Rick Williams closed with prayer.

Standard Bulletin Announcements:

We have many standard announcements that are in the bulletin every week, such as The Nursery, Large Print Bulletins, etc. Sometimes there isn't room for all of them or then the print gets very small. So a separate sheet with these standard announcements has been made and will be handed out to those who are visiting or new to worship. You can take one every week if you would like but they will always have the same information on them.

Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes December 17, 2012

The December 17, 2012 meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President, Chuck who opened the meeting with prayer.

ROLL CALL: President – Chuck Chronis, Elder – Darryl Warren, Trustee – Jim Johnson, Financial Secretary – Mary Koosmann, Education – Lynn Ladd, LFOJ – Cheri Tamke, Treasurer – Todd Vyskocil, Stewardship – Penny Mattson.

MINUTES: Motion by Warren, second by Johnson, to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2012 Council meeting as printed. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion by Warren, second by Ladd, to approve the Treasurer's Report as stated. Motion carried.

AGENDA: Motion by Warren, second by Ladd, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

BOARD REPORTS:

Motion by Koosmann, second by Mattson, to accept the Board reports as given. Motion carried.

Trustees – Preventative maintenance done, tested fire alarms, updating PM check list, updating maintenance manual.

Financial Secretary - Need for more offering counters.

Education – The focus is on the Children's Christmas program that will be held during the 9:00 service on December 13, 2012. The children's offerings will be sent to a Sunday School that was effected by Sandy Disaster.

Pastor's Report – Only a few visitations this month due to illness. Taught catechism with confirmands, preparing for Christmas services.

There were no official acts to discuss.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

A. **Lenten Suppers** – Lenten services were identified and boards selected dates to host suppers: Feb 13 – Youth, Feb 20 - LWML/Altar Guild, Feb 27 – Trustees, March 6 –Education, March 13 – LFOJ, March 20 - Elders/Evangelism

B. **Appointment of Synodical positions** – Decision was made to re-nominate current president and vice-president.

C. **Announcement Sheet** – Lynn requested approval to print recurring weekly notices on a sheet separate from the bulletin, to everyone except those that acknowledge they don't need a copy. This will allow more room in the bulletin for new notices and for the font not to become too small. Approval given.

D. **Advent Survey** – Lynn requested approval to compose a survey for the congregation for their opinions on the use of the overhead projector during the Wednesday night Advent services. This could be expanded for additional purposes in the future.

E. **BRICK FYI** – Lynn shared letter from BRICK making Zion aware of possible abuse of donation requests. Confirmed that Zion supports families in need via the BRICK.

F. **Finance Committee** – Mary requested approval to modify the size of the counting teams from three to two if necessary. Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Ladd, motion carried.

G. **Deb Nesheim** – Daryl made the council aware that Deb is preparing for a 2 – 3 week mission. Zion will host some type of fund raiser to help support her mission financially. Possibly a pot luck or free will offering after the first of the year.

ADJOURN: Motion by Johnson, second by Warren, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.



SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN JANUARY 1!! Ring in the new year with a visit to www.campluther.com/summer to register online or watch our video!! Camp Luther has an exciting summer planned for children K-12. Register now to get the village you want on the week you want. Summer brochures should be in homes by early January. Register early - online, by fax or US mail! If there's a need, don't forget to ask about our Campership program.

CAMP LUTHER 2013 CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE - ORDER NOW!! Enjoy the beauty of Camp Luther all year around!! Order a Camp Luther Calendar with 13 gorgeous photos (includes January 2014) from Camp Luther! Call the Camp Luther Office at 715-546-3647 to order, or use the link online at www.campluther.com. The cost is \$10.

COTTAGE RETREATS--Enjoy a cottage retreat at Camp Luther this winter. Our cottages have everything you will need for a relaxing getaway in the midst of God's beautiful creation. A time to enjoy the blessings of being separated from the stresses of your everyday life. You could also spend time cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing, ice fishing, and tubing or settle into a comfy chair next to your fireplace. Camp Luther is currently offering a special rate that is 30% off of our regular rate of \$130-140 per night! This offer is good through March! Call the Camp office to take advantage of this excellent value. 1-877-264-CAMP.

FAMILY FLURRY RETREAT-February 1-3!! Bundle up the family for an exciting weekend of winter activities and growing together in faith at Camp Luther. The schedule and choices abound for activities with the group or for you as a family. Choose from tubing, broomball and much more, or just relax together away from it all. A guest pastor will lead adult/family Bible study, while camp staff will lead youth and children in age-appropriate studies as well. The maximum family cost is \$485! Register at www.campluther.com.

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES COMING THIS WINTER!! Sr. High Sub Zero-January 25-27
-This event is a great group builder and includes devotions, bonfires, broomball, and other cool winter activities. Let our staff bring life to your winter youth group planning. Go to www.campluther.com to learn more.

WINTER YOUTH CAMP!! March 1-3! It is all the fun summer camp only with snow and no mosquitoes! Your 4th-6th grader will have an exciting winter adventure, make friends and grow in their faith! There will also be broomball, tubing, snow shoeing, x-country skiing, snow angleball, Bible study, devotions and so much more. Hope to see you there!!

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

TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT

Herb and Alice will be in India January 16 to March 26th. Herb is hoping someone could sit on The BRICK board on his behalf while he is gone. Tom Potterton, the Board Chairman, mentioned that the replacement person should be from Zion. The Board meets once a month- usually the second Thursday. The Board communicates to the members via e-mail; the meeting place is at the M & I Bank usually at 5 pm. There are a couple of fundraisers in "the works" so it is important to have a Zion representative. Please contact Herb right away if this is something you could help out with. Thanks, Herb 715-682-8528.

JANUARY 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 JANUARY

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 Chuck Gretzlock Otto Rusch
David Hebert Dan Truchon Ron Nevala

Nursing Home & Assisted Living Resident

Ed & Elna Torkko Ron Nevala
Corrine Tolliver Alice Hansen
Sharon Johnson Margaret Mahoney

Shut-in's

Walt Schutte Gordon & Marianne Vyskocil
Gloria Mills Clarence & Madge Houle
Dorothy Rusch

Local & US Concerns

(fulltime and/or deployed military)

Steve Sorenson, son of Dave & June Sorenson, U.S. Navy, stationed in San Diego, CA

Aaron Aschenbrenner, son-in-law of Lynn & Chuck Ladd, stationed in Eau Claire, WI



GREETERS FOR JANUARY

Greeters should arrive by 8:40am

Jan. 6 Warren & Peggy Draeger
Jan. 13 Jim & Lori Hebert
Jan. 20 Moreland Family
Jan. 27 Loren & Eleanor Munson

JANUARY Acolytes

Jan. 6 Eric Bochler & Ciera Maday
Jan. 13 Carolyn Gurske & Tiffany Houle
Jan. 20 Brooke Sapper & Riley Heglund
Jan. 27 Annie Ylitalo & Kathryn Draeger

JANUARY Ushers

Ushers should arrive by 8:40am

Jan. 6 Scott Pearce & Randy Spangle
Jan. 13 Hunter Heglund & Loren Munson
Jan. 20 Curt Harpster & Scott Sapper
Jan. 27 Wendell Friske & Roger Stenroos

January ELDERS

Jan. 6 Mike Cashman & Don Pocernich
Jan. 13 John Pruss & Doug Warren
Jan. 20 Darryl Warren & Chuck Chronis
Jan. 27 Don Pocernich & Mike Cashman

Psalms 113:3 From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD's name is to be praised.

January 1st Sunrise: 7:47am
Sunset: 4:27pm
Amount of daylight 8:40



January 31st Sunrise: 7:28am
Sunset: 5:07pm
Amount of daylight 9:39

By the end of the month we'll be one minute short of an hour more of daylight!
Yahoo!

JANUARY ALTAR GUILD

Sandy Frisco 682-5401
Stephanie Wegener 695-9822
Gail Anderson 682-3196

