



# The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI JANUARY 2019

God's Blessings to all of you as we enter the New Year and I pray that all of you had a Merry Christmas as well. First and foremost, June and I would like to thank you all for the numerous cards and gifts, we are doing our best to thank each of you personally, but I have to admit as much as my mother tried to instill it in me, getting Thank You cards out in a timely manner has never been my strong suit. So with that being said I beg your forgiveness in my tardiness or if we missed anyone.

Speaking of forgiveness, as we enter into the new year my mind was on forgiveness. Partly because of some of the readings we had at Christmas time, and particularly the reading from Hebrews chapter 10 which speaks of Jesus as being the sacrifice to end all sacrifices. As I thought of that and considered the Old Testament sacrifice system I began to have a much better realization of just how blessed we are to have Christ in our lives. If you were an Old Testament Jew and had sins or guilt that were troubling your life you had one shot a year to have those sins forgiven and then you had quite the process, a process of works by the Law, that you had to complete to have those sins forgiven. And then once that sin was forgiven if you happened to sin again, you would have to live with that sin and guilt until the next year when those sins were atoned for in the Temple. Not a very forgiving process. But when Christ came, when God entered our world, lived a sinless life and then died on the cross to take our sins to the grave that whole process changed. Christ died once for all. Because of His death and even more importantly, His resurrection, all of our sins, past, present, and future have been atoned for. We, who by faith, seek God's forgiveness, receive it, no waiting for the annual ceremony, no having to present animals to the high priest for sacrifice, no having to fulfill rituals of works demanded by Law. Just forgiveness because of what Christ has done for you. Not only that, but because of the Means of Grace; Baptism, the Lord's Supper, God's Word, and confession and absolution we are able to receive God's forgiveness often. Luther speaks of dying daily to sin, he suggested every morning when you wake up, make the sign of the cross, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to remind yourself of your baptism, ask God's forgiveness of your sins and start everyday anew.

(Continued on next page)

**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.

**Office Secretary**

Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075

Office Hours M-W 8-2

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](http://www.zionashland.org)

**E-mail**

[secretary@zionlutheranashland.com](mailto:secretary@zionlutheranashland.com)



**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  
Sunday 10:15am Monday 10:00am

---

---

*(continued from previous page)*

So, as you start this New Year, remember your baptism, remember what Christ did for you by dying and rising again. Remember each and every day your baptism, remember that your sins are forgiven because of what Christ did for you, and through your faith in Him, you too will rise again, and you will be with Him for eternity.

Again, the Lord bless you and your families this New Year and every year until our Lord returns in all His Glory. Pastor Rick

And now I close with a text from Hebrews 13

*"<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."*





## **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

<i>Bob Heggie</i>	<i>Kevin Heggie</i>	<i>Joni Frisco</i>
<i>Brad Prill</i>	<i>Johnny Galligan</i>	<i>Alice Balmer</i>
<i>Mary Bullis</i>	<i>Tim Smith</i>	<i>Jim Bullis</i>
<i>Ellen Hodgson</i>	<i>Doug Tutor</i>	<i>Barb Bjork</i>
<i>David Kaarre</i>	<i>Joan Spalding</i>	<i>Ruth Goldman</i>
<i>Lloyd Koosmann</i>	<i>Tim Fulton</i>	<i>Randy Lauer</i>
<i>Theresa Koosmann</i>	<i>Mike Dimich</i>	<i>Crystal Flectcher</i>
<i>Margaret Goodwin</i>	<i>Doris Nye</i>	<i>Marty Kaarre</i>
<i>Steve Wahlston</i>	<i>Steve Gilmore</i>	<i>Heather Gust</i>
<i>Ruth Young</i>	<i>Mary Helen Bergschneider</i>	
<i>Sandy Fletcher</i>	<i>Sheryl Hildebrandt</i>	<i>Cheryl Lueck</i>
<i>Ron Wegener</i>	<i>Kate Smith</i>	<i>Linda Larson-Nelson</i>
<i>Larry Steckling</i>	<i>Wendy Clark</i>	<i>Rebecca Gurske</i>
<i>Rachel Juoni</i>	<i>Sue Dimich</i>	<i>Gary McLaughlin</i>
<i>Ingrid Pocernich</i>	<i>Laura Reynolds</i>	<i>Jim Lumberg</i>
<i>Penny Larson</i>	<i>and those in our hearts.</i>	

## **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*



## **A New Year's Wish to Help Those in Need**

**May** all who need a New Year miracle be blessed.

**May** whoever has had a bad year face this new year with hope in their heart.

**May** all of those who have had heavy burdens this past year have their load lightened and the opportunity to enjoy the New Year.

And **May** the person reading this prayer have a happy and prosperous New year.

**Philippians 4:13** *I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*



## Project Night Night

Project Night Night donates a tote filled with a blanket, a book and a stuffed animal to children staying at homeless shelters, with the goal of providing a sense of comfort in a difficult situation. You may donate items from the list below.

- **BLANKETS** should be NEW or newly handmade. We appreciate quilted, fleece, knit, crocheted, and store-bought blankets. The ideal size is 50" x 60" or smaller.
- **BOOKS** appropriate for ages 0 to pre-teen.
- **STUFFED ANIMALS** smaller than 20 inches. Stuffed animals must be NEW at this time.

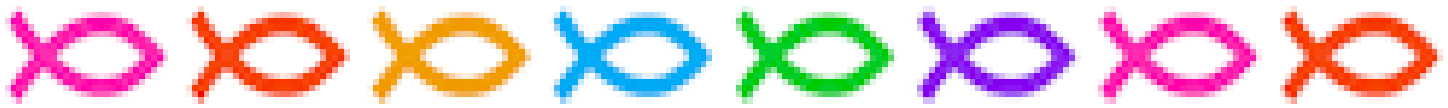
### Tips:

- "Like New" means top quality and "nice enough to give as a gift."
- No Beanie Babies.
- No books or stuffed animals with battery compartments.
- No stuffed animals that make noises -- such as singing, reciting prayers, etc.
- No religious, commemorative or holiday stuffed animals or books.

Right after World War II, Germany became a divided country. The Soviet Union was in control of East Germany, and civilians in West Berlin were starving to death. Operation Vittles was the US Air Force's attempt to bring food and supplies into West Berlin.

In 1948, a pilot named Gail Halvorsen was flying the aircraft that was in charge of dropping necessities like food and coal. He noticed that a group of German children were watching him through a fence at the end of the airfield, so he said hello. He was touched to see how generous the kids were with one another. This inspired him to start dropping packages filled with candy from tiny parachutes.

As he flew over, he would wiggle the plane back and forth so that the children knew when the candy was coming. This earned him the nickname "Uncle Wiggly Wings." Chocolate wasn't going to solve the issues in their country, but witnesses say that it brought much-needed hope to children to let them know that the



## Stewardship Thoughts



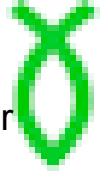
This article of stewardship will focus on the stewardship tipping point. A good way to end the year and start a new year for the individual and the congregation.



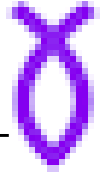
The call for individual stewards to be faithful does not originate with any congregational need. It starts with the purpose of the individual. This purpose is found in creation. The steward was created for the purpose to be faithful. We are created to be instruments of God's generosity to share.



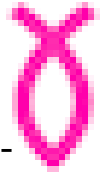
To hoard any gift as a personal possession for our own use is to be less than faithful. The steward either shares what The Lord gives and the neighbor is blessed, or the steward hoards and the steward and neighbor are damaged. That simple.



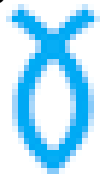
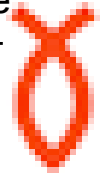
To change the concept of stewardship in the individual and the congregation, a tipping point has to be found. Pastors must not be afraid to preach stewardship from the pulpit. Don't be afraid you won't be liked because of this. The testimony of the Scripture supports you. Preach it! Teach it! Admit stewardship isn't a popular topic, it may be the tipping point in favor of stewardship.



Stewardship leaders also help in providing tipping points beyond the pastor. We need to stop treating stewardship as a necessary evil to meet the needs of the budget. Give up this. Do this. Do that. We need to stop talking about stewardship in connection with the budget. It's not about the budget, it's about sharing who we are, a redeemed child of God. We need to share this message with our neighbor. We need to share the joy of who God created and redeemed us to be - a steward of all of God's riches for the sake of our neighbor. To share - not hoard.



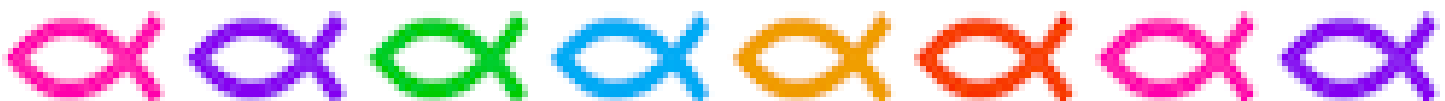
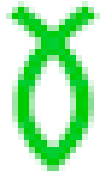
When the pastor and the people are convicted by God's Law and healed with the Gospel, even in stewardship, great things happen. The more the purpose of stewardship is taught and the joy of faithful stewardship is shared, the more the congregational stewardship culture will begin to tip. Once tipped, it will keep going.



*LCMS Newsletter StewardCAST*



*To subscribe to StewardCAST, register online at [lcms.org/enews](http://lcms.org/enews). Select StewardCAST from among the "Stewardship and Giving" newsletters.*





Jan. 1, 2019

-A. Ellis

Nothing like a brand-new calendar to help us remember that the new year spreads a clean sheet on the gift of time. Things of the past have slipped into history, and now 2019 is an unexplored landscape ready for fresh tracks and new trails.

For many folks the idea of a "fresh start" may sound like the previous events are devalued, but the opposite is true. Weddings, reunions, births, deaths, vacations, storms, rainbows, wars, peace and so much more... all provide evidence about the faithfulness of God. God was. God is. And God will continue to be there day-in-and-day-out through the thick and the thin.

So dear friends, we don't know what lies ahead, but we do have a rich record of the promises of God and we are called to set our footsteps on the path with Him. Earthly time is marked by clocks and calendars, but in Christ we are empowered by the rhythm of an eternal landscape. Looks like a full calendar for 2019. God is with us. All is well. Happy New Year

### To Maintain A Healthy Level of Insanity

At lunch time sit in your parked car with sunglasses on and point a hair dryer at passing cars. See if they slow down. Page yourself over the intercom. Don't disguise your voice. Every time someone asks you to do something, ask if they want fries with that.

In the memo of all your checks write, "For Marijuana."  
Skip down the hall rather the walk and see how many looks you get.  
Sing along at the opera.

When the money comes out of the ATM scream, "I won! I won!"

Tell your children over dinner, "Due to the economy, we are going to have to let one of you go."

Put decaf in the coffee maker for 3 weeks. Once everyone has gotten over their caffeine addictions, switch to Espresso.



## High School Seniors and College Students!!

LCEF Scholarships The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) - Central Region Scholarship applications are available now January 31, 2019. NWD graduating high school seniors or current full-time post-secondary students at an accredited institution with at least one year of courses remaining are encouraged to apply. Click here for more information.



**2018 Annual Reports due January 16th. Please send them by email to [secretary@zionlutheranashland.com](mailto:secretary@zionlutheranashland.com)**



**Kitchen** Anyone who uses the dish washer in the kitchen make sure to turn it off.

A big thank you to Chuck Chronis for all of the years he has spent as Church Sexton keeping the Church clean and tidy. The work you put in was reflected in the cleanliness and appearance of the church that many of us may have taken for granted.

Thank you again Chuck and enjoy your next endeavor whatever it might be

Robert Guski will start as our new sexton in January.

Nick Jarvela, Chairman, Board of Trustees

*the Happenings*

Enjoy the District's "the Happenings" online at [www.nwdlcms.org](http://www.nwdlcms.org)

### 2019 National Youth Gathering

US Bank Stadium, Minneapolis, MN, July 11-15, 2019!



Looking for updates about the already planned District Event for the NYG? Want to sign-up on the Facebook group page to stay connected with your NWD NYG coordinators, Samantha and Tara? Check out important updates on the [NWD website under the tab Missions/ Youth Ministry](http://www.nwdlcms.org) or directly at <http://www.nwdlcms.org/youth-ministry.html>.

Looking to **volunteer**? - Visit... <http://lcmsgathering.com/gathering-volunteers/>

# LFOJ



*Learner children made quilts for foster children.*

They really do care!  
"Your food stamps will be stopped effective March 2, because we received notice that you passed away. May God bless you. You may reapply if there is a change in your circumstances." - Department of Social Services, Greenville, SC.

2018 Sunday School Program  
December 16th  
The children sang and told the story of the Nativity.



Thanks to Jaimie and Chad Lipske, Lisa Guski, and Katie Colgrove for preparing and implementing the program and our musicians Michelle and Taylor Vyskocil. It was enjoyed by all.





**Mustard Seed**

**Daily Devotions**

Lutheran Women in Mission

## ***Begin with God...He Is Faithful***

### **In the Word**

Will God always be faithful?

*The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.* [Psalm 145:13b](#)

### **Of the Word**

We live in a world that is not always faithful. Spouses are unfaithful, children are rebellious, families are torn apart. Human love that was pledged does not last.

But God is different. He comes to us and says, "I am always here. I will never leave your side." *The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made* (Psalm 145:13b).

God never finds someone He loves more nor does He run off and leave us alone. *Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations ...* (Psalm 119:89-90a).

God's Word is eternal ... it will last forever. He has been faithful to those who came before us and will be faithful to those who come after us. His words and promises are unchanging. God is aware of the heartbreaks life brings. He knows when we have challenges in our health or work or family. To lighten our burdens He calls us to come to Jesus for the help He promises.

*God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful* (1 Corinthians 1:9). No matter what we face in life, we can depend on God. He is faithful.

### **Walking with My Lord**

**Faithful God, I am grateful that I can depend on You at all times and in all circumstances. Forgive me for the times when I have been unfaithful to You and to others. Help me to remember that Your faithfulness is forever. Send Your Holy Spirit to strengthen me. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**EPIPHANY** has a remarkable “epiphanizing” splendor all of its own. Actually, it has more than one splendor. It has *splendors* Like a brilliant diamond with many facets, each facet of Epiphany has its own unique splendor, and, like a diamond crafted with all its facets, it is a jewel of radiant beauty. Scripture readings appointed for the Epiphany Season of 2007, together with other Epiphany readings, show us these facets of the festival day and the Sundays that follow. These readings manifest glorious truths about Jesus whose birthday we celebrated at Christmas. And by God’s power, the Good News of God actually “epiphanizes” us.

God emboldens our faith and sets our lives ablaze to be what Christ called us to be: the light of a dark world, His people who “epiphanize” the lives of other people, and revelations to them of Jesus’ saving manifestations.

### **Origins of Epiphany**

Epiphany is both a day and a season on the church calendar. The day is January 6; the season is the time between the close of the Christmas celebration and the beginning of Lent.

The word epiphany has a variety of meanings intimately related to one another. Epiphany means the shining of a light, a shining forth, a manifestation, an appearance, or a revelation.

The Day of the Epiphany, with Easter and Pentecost, is one of the three oldest and most important festivals observed by Christians. This is true even though today the festival seems to be little understood and under-celebrated.

The Festival of the Epiphany apparently had its origin in the east at the beginning of the third century. By the end of the third century, January 6 had become the accepted date for the celebration of the festival. In those days, Epiphany Day commemorated the birth of Jesus, His Baptism, and His first miracle at Cana in Galilee. At the outset, it was a splendorous, multifaceted commemoration. In the middle of the fourth century, the Western Church moved the celebration of Christmas as the birthday of Jesus to December 25. So the Epiphany festival took on new meaning for the western, and many eastern, churches. In the west, the visit of the Wise Men came to have the position of prominence on Epiphany day, and, in time, other events of the day were assigned to the Sundays of the Epiphany season.

Today, for example, we commemorate the baptism of Jesus on the First Sunday after the Epiphany.

### **Season of Light**

Epiphany is a day and season of light, just as the word “epiphany” denotes. Every year on the feast day, we hear the words of the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, “Arise, shine for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you” (Is. 60:1).

Epiphany enlightens us as it proclaims great Scriptural truths. The time of celebration emphatically declares that Jesus, who was born at Bethlehem, is true God made man. It announces that God has appeared among us as the Promised One to be the Savior of all people of every nation, Gentiles as well as Jews. At Christmas we emphasize that God became man. Epiphany puts the spotlight on the truth that this human being born in Bethlehem is truly God; He is the God-man.

Jesus is the true light who enlightens every person. As the Nicene Creed clearly states, Jesus is “God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God.” Jesus Himself announced: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). It is with compelling reason that Epiphany is often spoken of as the Festival of Lights.

### **A new era**

When Jesus went to the Temple at the age of 12, He made clear that He was in His Father’s House (and about His Father’s business) as God’s own Son. And the Father Himself was manifesting Jesus as His Son when Jesus amazed those who heard Him (Luke 2:41-50). A new era had begun. Now God is present among people in a new way. He is present in Jesus rather than in the Old Testament Temple. The old was passing away and the new promised day was dawning. As the New Testament reveals, God is now present among us also in the presence of Jesus in His Word, in the Holy Supper of His Body and Blood, and in all His people who are very much the Body of Christ.

The Baptism of Jesus, which we commemorate on The First Sunday after the Epiphany, brilliantly announces by the very voice of God the Father that Jesus is the Son of God and shows that He is God together with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Luke gives us this account: “[W]hen Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form, like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son: with you I am well pleased”” (Mark 3:21-22).



# 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> <b>Offices Closed</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Mite Sunday <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am LGP Service 2:00pm	<b>7</b> 10:00am Bible Study Evangelism Mtg. 5:30pm Altar Guild Potluck Dinner Mtg. 6:00pm Dartball at Sanborn Methodist 7:00pm	<b>8</b> Sewing Circle 1pm LFOJ Mtg. 5:30pm	<b>9</b> Court Manor 10:15am AHRC 1:45pm Confirmation 3:30-5pm <b>Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am 8th Gr. Conf. 12:00pm	<b>14</b> 10:00am Bible Study Dartball vs. St. Paul 7:00pm	<b>15</b> LFOJ Chapel 11:00am	<b>16</b> LFOJ Chapel 11:00am Confirmation 1:30-3:00pm Worship 6:30pm	<b>17</b> Winkel -	<b>18</b> <i>Newsletter Reports Due</i>	<b>19</b> LWML 10:00am
<b>20</b> <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am Trustees' Mtg. 10:15am LGP Service 2:00pm	<b>21</b> 10:00am Bible Study Council Mtg. 5:30pm Dartball at Salem 7:00pm	<b>22</b> Sewing Circle 1pm	<b>23</b> Confirmation 3:30-5pm <b>Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Food Shelf Sunday <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am	<b>28</b> Dartball at Good Shepherd 7:00pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Confirmation 3:30-5pm <b>Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>31</b>		



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

January	Elders	Acolytes	Ushers	Greeters
Dec. 30 Sun.	Darryl Warren	Matthew	Tod Vyskocil	Pat & Katie Colgrove
Wed. Jan. 2	Scott Thimm			
<b>Sun. 6</b>	Randy Spangle John Pruss	Faith	Scott Sapper	Jerry & Sandy Frisco
Wed. 9	Darryl Warren			
<b>Sun. 13</b>	Andy Pruss Doug Warren	Daniel	Jordan Thimm	Adam Hinch
Wed. 16	Randy Spangle			
<b>Sun. 20</b>	Scott Thimm Darryl Warren	Austin	Curt Harpster	Herb & Alice Ellis
Wed. 23	Doug Warren			
<b>Sun. 27</b>	John Pruss Scott Thimm	Adeline	Adam Hinch	Lipske Family
Wed 30	Andy Pruss			
<b>Feb. Sun. 3</b>	Darryl Warren Scott Thimm	Lilly	Bruce Honkala	Darling Family
Feb. Wed. 5	John Pruss			



**January 2019**

**Eleanor Munson 682-8155**  
**Irene Piff 682-6237**  
**Dawn Reardon 209-6778**



**Servers For Worship - Please let the office know if you would like to be removed from one of our servers' lists or you may have been missed and you would like to serve on one of them.**

