

# The Mountain Top Messenger

Come Worship with Us...

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI JANUARY 2020

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2020, it is hard to believe that we have completed two decades in the 21<sup>st</sup> century already. As I begin to prepare for the new year, I have decided that there will be no new year's resolutions, statistically speaking they are rarely followed through anyway. What I have been doing is reflecting on all of the blessings I have received this past year. The more I have thought about it the more and more I realize what an amazing year it has been and how truly blessed I am. A while back I mentioned in a sermon message about the gentleman in England who ran an orphanage and kept track of all his prayers and how many were answered. I feel that I can say I have been blessed in a similar fashion. The Lord has indeed been good. So, as I move into the new year, I am going to stay the course and continue to trust in the Lord for all things. And in doing so, I will do my best to encourage all of you to do the same. As we journey in this faith and walk together I pray you will join me in trusting in the Lord always. I think there are great things in the future for Zion, we are truly blessed as a congregation and as Christ's body the church. I see it in all the activities going on around. I see it in our church family and our outpouring of caring and support for each other. I see it as you welcome new comers into our midst, I see it as you welcome those who return after being absent for a while. I see it in your support of me. As I said before I could not be any more blessed than I am right here at Zion as I try to do my best to serve as your pastor. This is a bit of a transition year for me, as some of you know I hit a milestone this year. As of the first of January, I am now a recipient of Medicare. I have had several people, most of whom are not from Zion ask me, so, when are you going to retire? As I tell them I am going to repeat to you, I have no intention of retiring any time soon. As long as the Lord will allow me and as long as you will have me, I intend to continue as your pastor. One does not step away from, or at least should not step away from the blessings of the Lord. I love you all, I care for all of you, and the Lord has called me to serve you and I will continue to do so along as I have His blessing and yours.

As I was writing this letter I was indeed blessed again, I received a message from my son Karl, his wife Kari delivered their fourth child Otto this morning at 8:01 am. Looks like a baptism in our future as we add yet another member of Zion into the Lord's book of life. God is good!

With that, I will wish you all a Happy New Year! I pray that the Lord bless you and all that you do this coming year.

*<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. (Eph 1:3-4a)*

God Bless!

Pastor Rick

**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 8-3

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



**Scripture Readings**

If anyone would be interested in reading the Old Testament, Epistle and Holy Gospel on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings please speak with Pastor. We can schedule ahead of time and give you the readings so you can look them over and feel comfortable with reading them. There is no limit on how many times you read either.

**A New Year's Prayer**

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain, But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making your path easy, But by making you sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you, But by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine, But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant, But by showing you when people and their causes need you most, and by making you anxious to be there to help.

**God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.**



**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>Linda Larson-Nelson</i>	<i>Tim Smith</i>	<i>Bob Heggie</i>
<i>Kevin Heggie</i>	<i>Kate Smith</i>	<i>Alice Balmer</i>
<i>Brad Prill</i>	<i>David Kaarre</i>	<i>Mary Siefers</i>
<i>Mary Bullis</i>	<i>Jim Bullis</i>	<i>Mike Dimich</i>
<i>Lloyd Koosmann</i>	<i>Jim Johnson</i>	<i>Theresa Koosmann</i>
<i>Marty Kaarre</i>	<i>Rachel Juoni</i>	<i>Helen Korpela</i>
<i>Rebecca Gurske</i>	<i>David Gustafson</i>	<i>Penny Mattson</i>
<i>Penny Larson</i>	<i>Chuck Ladd</i>	<i>Janice Clements</i>
<i>LeAnn Billing</i>	<i>Ellen Hudgeson</i>	<i>Curtis James</i>
<i>Raelyn Pearson</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.

<i>Walt Schutte</i>	<i>Arlene Zimmerman</i>	<i>Violet Basina</i>
<i>Madge Houle</i>	<i>Donna Graves</i>	<i>Nancy Zehe</i>

**PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION**

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

<i>David Wright</i>	<i>Emily Melecha</i>	<i>Tucker Melecha</i>
<i>Jprdan Thimm</i>	<i>Andrew Pruss</i>	

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. [Philippians 2:3-4](#)

2019 Annual Reports are due by January 12th. .  
Please email to [secretary@zionlutheranashland.com](mailto:secretary@zionlutheranashland.com) Thank you.





LWML

## Total Praise

*I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us ... (Isaiah 63:7a).*

Someone once observed, “The wise count their blessings; fools, their problems.” How true! We all know a person who constantly rattles off an infinite number of problems, and another who consistently speaks of life’s many pleasures and blessings. The difference? A heart of ingratitude versus a heart of thanksgiving.

A heart of thanksgiving for *all that the LORD has granted us* is not only a Biblically prescribed principle, but it is also essential to finding joy in life. First, gratitude instills in us contentment with what we have and invites us to take pleasure in those things available to us each day. Second, gratitude brings about peace of mind, and peace of mind opens us to see the best in ourselves and in others. Third, grateful people attract deep friendships and choice opportunities, which often elude complainers and problem-mongers.

Many of God’s wise people begin every prayer with words of thanksgiving, while others keep a journal in which they list several “gratitude points” each day. No matter how you count your blessings, add them up – and give Him total praise!

**Prayer:** We will tell of Your kindness by counting our blessings in gratitude total and true. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.



Sunday School Christmas Program - “Advent - The Lights of our Lord”  
Told the meaning of the Advent Wreath -  
Faith - Hope - Love -  
Peace - Christ Candle

## Pastor's children's message during the Little Friends' of Jesus Christmas Program



# MILITARY Care Packages

### Mission of the Month – Care Packages for the Military

We will be filling boxes with items. The boxes will be sent to Jordan and Andy and they will

distribute them to others. The boxes will be sent mid January. There is a wrapped box on the table in the Narthex to place the unwrapped items. On the box are tags of the items that can be purchased. Or if you would like to donate money to help with postage. Items can be brought in through Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>. More tags will be added as needed.

Although this was written some years back in November, I feel the theme is a good one for entering a new year. May God bless and keep us all at Zion as we seek to do his will and work in 2020.

November 8, 2008

-A. Ellis

Today was one of those days that a person **MIGHT** think his/her eyes were playing tricks. But northern Wisconsin thrives on surprise.

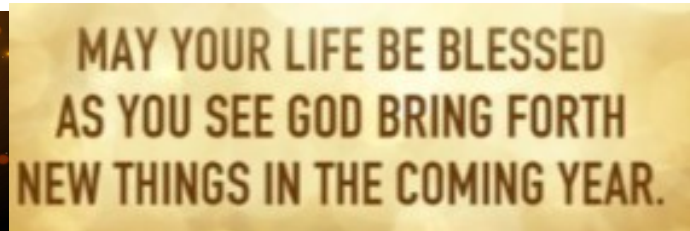
Herb and I were driving home from Superior (65 miles west of Ashland) after shopping for some building supplies. The wind-raked landscape that was a multi-color performance of autumn two hours earlier had now become a black-and-white movie set. Everything was painted white. Except for the yellow strip down the highway, we were traveling in a black & white movie. Yes, it had snowed while we were in the store and everything had been transformed into a white wonderland. It felt like someone had flipped the projector lens on the Highway 2 movie set.



I could not take my eyes off the landscape. Fallen leaves were now chips of white glaze. The underbrush was strung together with an artistic white net. Lanky evergreens were white steeples. Cattails were white stakes at attention and bare trees stood like bone-bleached skeletons. Everything was touched by the wild-wand of winter and our eyes were amazed with the new look as we steered our way home through this snow kingdom.

As we got closer to Ashland, the temperatures became warmer and in-a-blink, technicolor was restored.

I guess what struck me was how quickly things can change. We should not be surprised for we have known this reality first-hand. Like the time we heard that a healthy person has cancer. Or a leisure ride on the highway became a tragic accident. A barren wife gave birth to baby. A knock at the door brought a lost friend back. Yes, God travels the highway with us. It is easy to forget He is with us, so remembering is a nice surprise. Let us carry within us holy memory cards of faith that as situations are tweaked or transformed, we will remember and will believe that God is with us...and bless and encourage others around us.



# JANUARY

# 2020


SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> No Service	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Mite Sunday <b>Worship</b> <b>9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am LGP 2:00pm	<b>6</b> 10:00am Bible Study  Evangelism Mtg. 5:30pm  Dartball vs. St. Paul's 7:00pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Court Manor 10:15 AHRC 1:45  Confirmation 3:30-5:00pm <b>Worship</b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am <b>2019 Reports Due</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00am Bible Study  Dartball at Salem 7:00pm	<b>14</b> LFOJ Chapel 11:00am  Sewing Circle 1pm  LFOJ Brd. 5:30pm	<b>15</b> LFOJ Chapel 11:00am  Confirmation 3:30-5:00pm <b>Worship</b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>16</b> LWML 10:00am  Winkel - Ironwood	<b>17</b> <i>Newsletter Reports Due</i>	<b>18</b> Kaitlyn Thimm & Matt Hagen Wedding
<b>19</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Trustees' Mtg. 10:15am LGP 2:00pm	<b>20</b> 10:00am Bible Study  Council Mtg. 5:30pm  Dartball vs. Sanborn Methodist 7:00pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Confirmation 3:30-5:00pm <b>Worship</b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Food Shelf Sunday <b>Worship</b> <b>9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am	<b>27</b> 10:00am Bible Study  Dartball vs. Saron 7:00pm	<b>28</b> Sewing Circle 1pm	<b>29</b> Confirmation 3:30-5:00pm <b>Worship</b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	



**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.

January	Elders	Acolytes	Ushers	Greeters
Sun. 5	John Doug	Faith	Todd Vyskocil	Loren & Ellie Munson
Wed. 8	Randy			
Sun. 12	Darryl Scott	Adeline	Jim Johnson	Lipske Family
Wed. 15	John			
Sun. 19	Doug Darryl	Austin	Don Moreland	Bolz Family
Wed. 22	Scott			
Sun. 26	John Scott	Logan	Jerry Frisco	Rick & Sandy Nutt
Wed 29	Randy			
Sun.Feb.2	Darryl Doug	Gloria	Tim Bauer	Don and Lauri Moreland



**January 2020**  
**Brenda Schwiesow**  
**682-4292**  
**Ethel Guss**  
**682-3885**  
**Sharon Polencheck**  
**682-6499**

**OFFICIAL ACTS**

**Baptism:**  
 Iris Guadalupe Herrera Rodriguez  
 December 18, 2019

**FEBRUARY DATES**  
**26th - Ash Wednesday**  
**(soup/sandwich dinners)**  
**Tuesday - 29th Leap Day**

**NEW YEAR PRAYER:**

Thank You Lord for giving me  
 The brand new year ahead.  
 Help me live the way I should  
 As each new day I tread.  
 Give me gentle wisdom  
 That I might help a friend,  
 Give me strength and courage  
 So a shoulder I might lend.  
 The year ahead is empty,  
 Help me fill it with good things  
 Each new day filled with joy  
 And happiness it brings.  
 Amen.