

The Mountain Top

Zion Lutheran Church

Messenger

VOLUME 54, ISSUE # 7 JULY 2016

Welcome to July, the midpoint of summer, again it hardly seems possible. Sometimes it feels like these monthly newsletter covers are written about a week apart. I believe most of us are into the busy parts of our summer, with family vacations, camping, time at the cabin or lake, fishing, four wheeling, Saturday night at the speedway, and so many other activities all squeezed into a few months of the year.

As I was listening to my usual morning radio station this morning, I might add, it is a secular radio station, they announced that on Thursday mornings at 9:00 they are going to have their weekly hour of nice. During that hour of radio, they can only say positive things about all of the topics they discuss on the radio, whether it be news, sports, weather, or just some of the other topics they discuss. It is a bit of a struggle for them to be nice for that hour, in fact sometimes a down right challenge. As I listened to it and as I thought about it, my thoughts went to the small catechism, eighth commandment and Luther's explanation: "*You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor*" What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

The last portion of the explanation was the part that really stood out to me, "but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way." I spent some time pondering just how difficult a task that truly is. Watch the evening news, see how closely they follow any part of that, as a matter of fact, they, I believe, run quite the opposite, particularly if the news item runs contrary to their desired position. But then as I thought about it even further, are we any different? One question that pops into people's minds, at least it did into mine is, who is my neighbor? Particularly a neighbor that I need to be nice too? Well, after a few moments I realized that Jesus addressed that very question for us; remember? A lawyer asked Jesus that very same question, and if you remember (Luke 10:25-37) the lawyer and we are taught, through the story of the good Samaritan, that those who show mercy are the good neighbor. You and I are to show mercy to everyone, defend them, speak well of them and explain everything in the kindest way.

It sounds so easy doesn't it, well I think you will agree with me when I say it is not, sometimes it is very difficult, the old sinful Adam sneaks in and before long we fall back into our old sinful ways. So here is the challenge for this month, pay attention to what you say and how you say it, if you need to start out with "an hour of nice" do so and then make it two, or three, or perhaps even a whole day, a week, a month, a year. However, don't be disheartened if you fail, pick yourself up, pray for forgiveness, and start again. You will never be fully successful this side of heaven. Our niceness, our kindness, our speaking well of our neighbors is one of the primary ways that we can show the world who we are and what it means to be a Christian and lead a Christian life. And remember how we are live; "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And he [Jesus] said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." (Luke 10:27-28)

Couple quick notes; I will be in St. Louis for schooling from June 26 – Jul 1 and I will be with the youth at the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans from July 14 – July 21, Pastor Bahn will be preaching on July 17th.

God Bless You and keep you, Amen! Pastor Rick



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Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 Office Hours: M/W/Th/F 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



In Christ Alone

We Stand

LCMS YOUTH GATHERING

NEW ORLEANS · JULY 16-20, 2016

Seven youth and five adults will leave Ashland August 14th, heading down for this year's Youth Gathering. According to others who have gone in the past, it is something that is never forgotten. What a wonderful opportunity to share and learn of our Lord with 35,000 others. During the five days of the Gathering, youth spend time together in God's word, worship, service, and fellowship with others from across the synod. This event is organized by LCMS Youth Ministry in Saint Louis, MO.

Parts of the Gathering will be livestreamed.

Please join us on:

Saturday, July 16 @ 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 17 @ 8:30 p.m.

Monday, July 18 @ 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 19 @ 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 20 @ 9:30 a.m.

All livestreamed events can be found at lcms-gathering.com. Or look at this website for more information on the gathering.

**ZION FINANCIAL REPORT—
Jan.-May 2016**

Giving	\$66,571.35
Actual Expenses	<u>\$63,209.36</u>
	\$ 3,361.99

Loan Balance (\$84,556.11)

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

Retro-Sunday Service August 14th 9:00am

The early 60's

We will be using the service from the old red, The Lutheran Hymnal.

We are hoping people will dress as they did in those days - men in suits, women in dresses with hats and gloves, etc.

Then bring a change of clothes or a trip home and join us for the church picnic at Prentice Park at noon. It will be a fun day for all. We hope to have everyone participate in 60's themed games at the picnic.



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.



Prayer Requests

Our Prayer Concerns AUGUST

Mission

Zion Lutheran Church Little Friends of Jesus Childcare Center LWML
Jordan Kroll Mission in China Zion Sewing Circle Monthly Missions

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: *Larry Korbein, Katie Stipetich, Diane Hyvonen, Bob Heggie, Kevin Heggie, Linda Stolarzyk, Sandi (Sorenson) Fletcher, Sheryl Hildebrandt, Wendy Meierotto, Joni Frisco, Brad Prill, Patsy Kontny, Dorothy Rusch, Dean Jansheski, Larry Kaspar, Ingrid Pocernich, Jean Wickman, Fran Fleig, Jean Ekholm, Emily Hagstrom, Eddie Brown, Roger Peters, Johnny Galligan, Alice Balmer, Herb Ellis, Mary Bullis, Jim Fletcher, Sheldon Henry, Brenda Herlevi, Bob Hebert, Mariann Vyskocil*

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 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, Johanna Pearce*



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP



WE NEED YOU! We are trying another approach for filling the positions needed for our children's programs, with dividing up some of the responsibilities. This will mean we need more people, but their duty won't seem so overwhelming. Brief descriptions are posted on the bulletin board and below.

Sunday School – we already have the following covered: craft coordinator, opening devotions, attendance, handing out notes to children.

We still need someone to oversee:

- 1-teachers/curriculum
- 2-parents/children
- 3-Christmas Program Coordinator

Teachers/Curriculum Coordinator - Meet (or talk) with the teachers and see how the their classes are doing. Order curriculum and/or extra supplies. Set up calendar for the year if not already scheduled.

Parent/children Coordinator – Informational notes for parents. Children's attendance. *These two positions will need to work together so everyone is on the same course of action. They will report to the Education Board and/or Pastor with updates, suggestions and help with problems.*

Christmas Program Coordinator - Select program and have it reviewed by the Pastor. Compile program/parts for children, set practice dates/times.

VBS – we need the following help to oversee:

- 1-registration
- 2- Camp Counselors
- 3-Kitchen (snacks, lunch)
- 4-camp guide (assigned now)

1 Registration – Post notices of camp dates, take pre-registrations, have forms available for participants, have first day registration covered.

2- Camp Counselors - Set up their housing [already done], oversee the people who can provide breakfast and suppers for them.

3- Kitchen – Set-up morning snack and lunch – We need 2 people/day who would take one day (or more) of setting up morning snacks and lunches. Morning snacks could include fruits, crackers/cheese/peanut butter, yogurt, etc. We would like to still provide lunch for the children if we get the people to do it. Usually we have spaghetti, hot-dogs, grilled cheese, and on Thursday Little Caesar's Pizza for lunch. The menus can change with whoever takes over. If we don't get the help for lunch we will then have to request the parents provide lunch for their child, but we will still need help with set-up and clean-up.

If you would be willing to give it a try for one or more of our needs please speak with Pastor or Lynn in the office. ASAP Thanks!

Stewardship Thoughts

This month our stewardship focus will be on whole life stewardship as taken from the LCMS Stewardship Ministry letter "StewardCAST". Whole life stewardship goes beyond envelopes, offering plates, budgets and balance sheets. The first two chapters of Genesis makes it clear the Lord created us, through Adam and Eve for the purpose of being stewards of His perfect creation. There isn't anyway to read that account in a solely financial manner. Our first parents were stewards of all creation. It took their whole lives to be faithful. After the fall (Genesis 3), sin altered the concept of whole life stewardship and the thinking changed from that of steward to owner over time. Adam and Eve stole from God! Because of this sin, stewardship emphasis has become a financial transaction. Stewardship is not just one of the things that we do in our life with the Lord, stewardship is our life.

The Gospel of John, Chapter 21 tells of the disciples fishing all night and catching nothing, but at Jesus' direction, they dropped their nets on the opposite side of the boat and caught 153 large fish. If we cast our stewardship nets in the wrong spot or too narrowly we will find ourselves in the disciples dilemma—empty. That often is the case if the stewardship focus is only on money and bill paying. If we follow the Lord's direction as the disciples did, we will find our ministry flourishing. We need to change direction and think that the child of God is a steward by virtue of creation and redemption. Thinking thusly, our focus will be on how the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies and keeps the individual in the faith. When this thinking governs, we will believe our lives belong to God and not ourselves.



Expanding this, we begin to be concerned about the giver of the gifts. How is their health, the kids, the job? These issues either encourage or discourage faithful stewardship in the local congregation. Did a local plant lay off people, what about the condition of marriage in the community? These things affect stewardship. The greatest cause of family debt and bankruptcy is a serious or unforeseen illness or hospitalization and will affect stewardship.

The whole life stewardship outlook would look at the giving patterns of individual families—not the amount. If faithful givers suddenly stop giving this becomes a pastoral care problem. Family ministry is a part of stewardship ministry. Marriage counseling and coaching that saves marriages by the grace of God IS a stewardship ministry. Courses and care for those who have suffered divorce is also a stewardship ministry. Conducting studies on getting and keeping families out of debt is a stewardship ministry. This approach is not just more money for the congregation, it will lead to more faithful stewards who will open up even further ministry of the Gospel.

VBS - August 8th-11th Camp Luther "Start a Fire"

There will be sign-up sheet in the Narthex about July 11th. It is for children in grades 1-5, friends, relatives can attend also. More information as it is planned. We have a maximum of 40 kids and we usually get that many so don't delay in signing up. See you there!

This poem was written four days after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 when we were faced with images of desperate people trapped in a stadium with no food, water, and the situation rapidly deteriorating. Here is it 2016, and once again in Texas we see devastation and death related to flooding... and just today people fleeing from a major fire in Los Angeles. In fact, the refugee situation is on a global scale as terrorism, wars, earthquakes, and other tragedies displace large groups of people. With this in mind, I felt it was appropriate to revisit this poem and think about our responsibility as keepers of the eternal treasure in Jesus Christ.

- A. Ellis

American Refugees

**Is it the vacant stare of lost hope
Or the poverty of the forgotten
Swallowed in a whimper of hunger
In a swamp of waste and despair?
We are stunned. It is us.
It is America. It is our people.
It is me. Peeled back to the core
Filled with shame and remorse
For turning my back on my brother...
My sister. Labeling them as the "other"
Not willing to throw off the Emperor's
Clothes of American success:
The right presentation, the thirst for recognition,
The six-figure salary, the loaded SUV,
The never-ending check-list of stuff.
God help us shed this immoral skin and
Clothe us with the heart of a servant
To pick up basins to bathe the
Swollen ankles of neglect
That we may live the Kingdom of God
And be the compassion of Christ
The love of sinners, the shelter in
The storm, the bread of life,
The living water of hope.
Redemption came at a high price
Beyond measure of an earthly income.
Do we have the faith to put our signature
On the blank check of love and mercy?
Look closely into the shattered mirror
For it is there we see the image of Christ!**



**JULY
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.

JULY	Elders	Acolytes	Ushers	Greeters
Sun. 3	Andy Pruss Darrel Warren	Logan Esala	Jim Johnson Adam Hinch	Janet & Tiffany Houle
Wed. 6	John Pruss			
Sun. 10	Doug Warren Randy Spangle	Terell Butterfield	Bruce Honkala Rick Nutt	Warren & Peggy Draeger
Wed. 13	Andy Pruss			
Sun. 17	Randy Spangle Darrell Warren	Logan Esala	Paul Osmak Clarence Osmak	Loren & Ellie Munson
Wed. 20	Doug Warren			
Sun. 24	Scott Thimm John Pruss	Abbi Moreland	Cooper Tamke Jake Pruss	Rick & Sandy Nutt
Wed. 27	Darrell Warren			
Sun. 31	Scott Thimm Doug Warren	Emily Dickrell	Jordan Thimm Don Moreland	Karen Wahl
AUGUST Wed. 3	Randy Spangle			



Linda Klobucher 746-2064
Lori Landry 292-2122
Paula Pruss 682-1086

"The Art Of Law & Gospel" by RJ Grunewald
A layman's view of what the Law and Gospel are. RJ is currently in Pastor Rick's SMP class. A copy of his writing can be found by the Newsletter.

Thursday, July 28th - 6:00pm Meeting to discuss Zion's children's and youth's Christian Education. We would like ALL teachers and leaders from Sunday School and VBS, Elders, Education Board Members, parents and anyone else that would like to participate. This is a very important meeting and new programs may be discussed. If you can't make it but have ideas to share please speak with Pastor.

**Pastor Marty Kaarre's Book
"Breathing Holes 2"**

More stories supplying fresh air for unconventional people.
\$20.00 (\$10.00 of every book payment is donated to LFOJ)
Checks payable to Zion Lutheran

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 Preschool and Daycare
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Mite Sunday Worship 9:00am	4 	5	6 Worship 6:30pm	7	8	9
10 Worship 9:00am	11	12	13 Court Man- or 10:15am, AHRC 1:45pm Worship 6:30pm	14 Youth Gathering	15 New Orleans	16 → →
17 Worship 9:00am Youth Gathering	18 New Orleans	19 → →	20 Worship 6:30pm → →	21 →	22	23
24 Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am	25	26	27 Worship 6:30pm	28 Sunday School / Confirmation Structure Meeting 6:00pm	29	30
31 Food Shelf Sunday Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am	1 August Bible Study 10:00am	2	3 Worship 6:30pm	4	5	6