



The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI JULY 2019

Sitting in the office today trying to keep cool, it is very warm outside today. Seems to me a month ago I was complaining of the cold and maybe even snow. It amazes me sometimes how quickly our prospective changes based on what's happening around us. The world around us is constantly in motion, things are always changing. The older I get the harder it becomes to take in all the things that change on what seems like a daily basis. Then as you look at some things that don't change that fast, but they do change steadily and as time progresses the change is bigger and bigger. I was doing visitations last week and 3 of the folks I visit are 90 years old or older. We talked about the changes they have seen in their lifetimes. One was telling me how they used to go to church and town in a horse drawn wagon in the summer and a sleigh in the winter, anywhere else they went they walked. No uber for them. Now it seems no one wants to walk. As I contemplated some of those things I began to think of the changes in the church, and not all the changes over the last 90 years, but the changes I have seen in my shorter lifetime. I remember dressing up for church, men in suit and tie, women in dresses. Women had their heads covered in church. Children always wore those clothes you only wore on Sunday or special occasions. And everyone went to church, stores were closed, there were no sporting events or school activities. Church might have been an hour and a half or maybe even pushing two hours if there was coffee and cookies afterwards, as well as Bible Study and Sunday School on top of that, and all the children went to Sunday School. And after church families often got together for Sunday dinner at someone's house. As we look back, or at least as I look back those seemed like simpler times, do I dare say better. Things change, times change, demands on our time and resources change, and now it seems, squeezing out that hour on Sunday is a challenge. It doesn't have the precedent that it once had, as much as I hate to say it, it seems that the attitude has changed to; if we don't have anything else going on we'll go to church. What used to be an every Sunday commitment is now a 'well, maybe we can fit it in once a month'. Now I am not pointing fingers, I see that happening here. Some think this is a new trend, but I can assure you it has been a long slow steady process, the attendance numbers in churches have been declining for years and the numbers here at Zion are no different than those in other churches, actually they are better than many and I thank you all for that. The problem is we have slowly succumbed to the world and society and its demand on your time and resources. Over the last few months I have had several people ask me about the slowly declining numbers at church, I have been

(Cont. on page 3)

Pastor Rick Williams -

715-209-0479

Office Hours:

M/Th/F 8:00am-4:00pm

Wed. 12-8p

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 8-3 T-Th 9-3

Days and times may change.

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

E-mail

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

Mark YOUR Calendars!

**Zion Lutheran
Annual Picnic**

Date: Sunday, July 21th

**Time: 10 a.m. Praise Worship
Service**

**Where: Prentice Park
Pavilion**

(Church back-up in case of rain)



For Your Information:

**Zion will provide meat/
buns/utensils.**

**There will also be a
sheet cake.**

Pot-luck picnic meal.

**Sign-up sheet in Nar-
thex for a dish to pass.**

**Bring a lawn chair and
beverage of choice.**



(cont. from front page)

asked repeatedly what can be done to help get the people back, I have even been asked if I don't care, because it doesn't seem like I am doing anything. My friends, I can tell you with confidence, I do not believe there is anyone in this church who cares more than I. I have spoken with some of my fellow pastors, I confided in them that I feel a sense of failure as the numbers slowly fall, that I feel responsible for those declines in worship attendance, Sunday school attendance, and Bible study attendance. I lose sleep at night, I worry, and I wonder where I have failed. I am thankful that I have a good support group, because they have lifted me up in prayer and shared God's Word with me, they have reminded me that it is not all about me. They have helped me realize this is a whole church problem, not just a pastor problem and as long as we continue to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit and properly teach the Word of God and faithfully administer the sacraments the church will prevail. Times change, people change (sometimes), the church changes, but with all of that there is one thing that never changes God! And God will always prevail. So, you might ask with that being said, what do we do? Well, the answer is simple! We do church, we participate in the Means of Grace; God's Word, Baptism, Confession and Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. We do it whenever and wherever we can. And even more importantly we take care of each other. We help each other, we take notice when someone is missing, we call a friend when they haven't been in church for a while, we encourage others to join us in church. Whether you realize it or not the world is longing for a solution to its problems and we have that solution; Jesus Christ! We may not be the church that we used to be, but we have what is really important, the true and proper belief in who our Savior is and what He has done for us. We cannot ask for anything more than that, we have been blessed with salvation and life eternal. Live life with that knowledge and share that message with everyone you meet. God Bless you in all that you do! And thank you so much for your love and support and I promise to continue to do my best to share God's Word, Sacraments, and love with you.

Ephesians 3

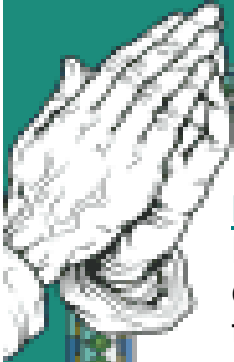
⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on 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

Linda Larson-Nelson	Tim Smith	Bob Heggie
Kevin Heggie	Joni Frisco	Kate Smith
Brad Prill	Johnny Galligan	Alice Balmer
Mary Bullis	Jim Bullis	David Kaarre
Lloyd Koosmann	Theresa Koosmann	Mike Dimich
Marty Kaarre	Rachel Juoni	Jim Johnson
Rebecca Gurske	David Renz	Ally Gumz
David Gustafson	Mary Siefers	Shalee Conley
Penny Mattson	Bentley Burgard	

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, Emily Melecha, Tucker Melecha



What God Doesn't Do

He remembers your sins no more. He holds no revenge or ill feelings toward you. He doesn't think about the last time you sinned and if you will fall again. Your sins are not in the memory of God. Your sins are never discussed within heaven; they, in no way, dull His love for you, and He remains today the One who knows you best and still loves you the most!

So dear Christian, **think about this often in the days ahead.** (*The Gospel of St. John*)



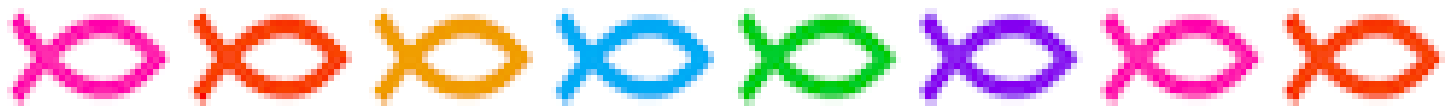
Baked in the Sun

It is tempting to label summer as a lush season that showcases the luxury of nature. But there is another side... that probably is closer to reality. Summer is also a ragged season. When nature begins to show the influence of sun-baked days. This reality of heat can be seen in the frayed wings of butterflies, the ruffled feathers of birds, or the stained petals of once-perfect flowers. As summer reworks nature, wear-and-tear takes hold to define August with feathery ragweed and the algae growth of dog days. Summer is wonderful... and summer is wearing.

Now for some, this decline may be discouraging, but others realize it is part of the cycle that eventually gives way to the freshness of autumn. When green leaves showcase brilliant colors, and butterflies and birds fatten up for a long migration south where rest and restoration awaits them. And green apples take on the red shine of ripeness, and furry bears plump up for winter. Truly each season has its own beauty... and upnorth invites us to witness this amazing transformation of seasonal shift.

I love thick slices watermelon, and ice-cube sips of lemonade... but soon the scent of apple cider and fresh pumpkin pie will fill the air... and I (with others) will stand back and sing the praises of summer memories, and welcome fall with crisp energy while warm sweaters hug our hearts and hope.

Summer has peaked and there is evidence that the season is fraying and reworking the fabric to reveal autumn. Dear Reader, I hope you are living in a place that invites you to get out and walk, or enjoy the view from an open window. We are participants in this ongoing drama, and we are given the eyes, ears, and voice to witness creation and proclaim God's artistic presence in our world. It is not too late to be blessed by buttery sweet corn and fresh-squeezed lemonade. Seize the day. Seize the God of all seasons! We are partners in this journey together.



8 "T"s of Stewardship

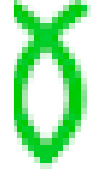


. By [John Heckmann](#) LWML Pastoral Counselor 2011-2015
(Previously published in the Treasured News Jan.-July 2013)
Revised August 2017 by
Rev. [Robert Mundahl](#) LWML Pastoral Counselor 2015-2019



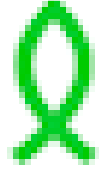
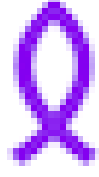
TIME
TREASURE
TOUCH
TRASH

TALENT
TESTIMONY
TISSUE
TECHNOLOGY



TOUCH

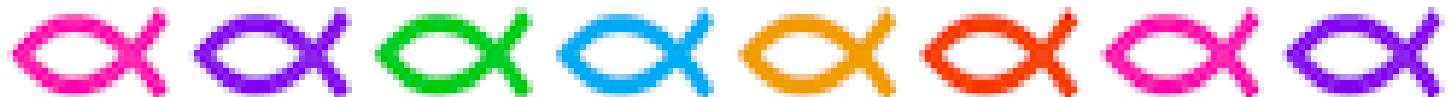
TOUCH refers to the relationships we have with God and with each other. It is similar to what St. John wrote about in 1 John 1:3-4: *"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you may also have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete."*



TOUCH also refers to the relationships we have with our families, neighbors, coworkers, and others in our communities and society. As God's stewards, we are to adopt the role of a servant in our dealings with each other (John 13:14-15), provide for our family members (1 Timothy 5:8) and carry each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2). In short, *"we are to use every opportunity to do good to others, especially to those who belong to the family of believers"* (Galatians 6:10).



While here upon earth in visible form Jesus went about everywhere doing good to all He encountered—those who loved Him as well as those who hated Him. In Matthew 25:40 Jesus said, *"I tell you the truth, whatever you did [fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, clothed the naked, and visited those who were sick or in prison] for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me."* How blessed it is to have many opportunities to "TOUCH" others in so many positive ways. What joy we will have when the King on the last day declares to us: *"Well done, good and faithful servant," (Matthew 25:21)* because you took the time and made the effort to touch one of the least of My brothers.





2019 Zion's VBS

August 5th – 7th

9:00am – 3:00pm

John 16:33 ³³"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Camp Luther is coming this summer to lead a three-day VBS Day Camp that will be jam-packed with all the fun of camp—including exciting games, engaging Bible stories, awesome arts and crafts, and lots of camp songs! We'll be exploring the theme of **TAKE HEART**, based on John 16:33. In the midst of the troubles this world brings our way, it can be hard to trust what God is doing, but Jesus has claimed victory forever and always through the cross. Join us as we learn how the story ends and what it means that Jesus has OVERCOME. The exciting days of faith-building and fun is open to anyone in Grades 1-6.

To register you can find a registration form by the office door or contact Lisa Guski or the church and we can email one.

Registrations are due by July 24th . We take a maximum of 30 campers and we usually have that many, so don't procrastinate. Another informational letter will be sent around the 25th for those who have registered.

There is a \$10.00 fee per camper to help cover expenses for some of the supplies and food.

Around July 14th there will be sign-up sheet to help provide breakfast and suppers for the counselors, help in the kitchen, and other possible requests.

Lisa Guski VBS Coordinator, 715-292-0042

lisa_beth_ladd@hotmail.com

Office – Lynn 682-6075

secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

Thank You and See You At Camp,
God's Blessings, Lisa





LFOJ - THANK YOU to all who have helped us get our new Gaa Pit. We love it!!!!
The Kids

LFOJ received from an anonymous donor (thank you) money to purchase and erect this new play station. The old play apparatus was no longer deemed safe and was removed. The Gaga Pit went in its place. Now the kids can't wait to get out there and play.



What is Gaga?

**You know that everyone's going gaga over gaga. But what is it?
Here's the 101 on how to play gaga ball:**

Gaga is a fast paced, high energy sport played in an octagonal pit. The more players the better! Dubbed a kinder gentler version of dodge ball, the game is played with a soft foam ball, and combines the skills of dodging, striking, running, and jumping, while trying to hit opponents with a ball below the knees. Players need to keep moving to avoid getting hit by the ball. Fun and easy, everyone gets a serious workout.

Easily addictive, people can't wait to get back in the pit. The games move quickly...after a few short minutes, the action heats up with a second ball, sure to get even the best players out within minutes. Once the game ends, everyone is back

As for the origination, there is still some debate. Most agree that the beginnings of Gaga ball have something to do with Israel. In Hebrew, “Ga ga” actually translates directly to “touch touch” or “hit hit.” One school of thought is that the game was invented in Israel during the 1950’s, made it’s way to Australia, and eventually landed at US Jewish camps, slowly but surely becoming part of the camp culture in the United States. However, there are critics who believe the game started at Camp Idylwold in New York by their owner John Crosley in the 50’s. At Camp Idylwold, they called it “Crosleyball,” and some Israelis who worked on staff that summer brought it home to Israel, where it took on the name of “Gaga.”

Anyway, it has finally hit Ashland, almost 50 years after its start. Its here to stay and its giving the kids a new game to play, allowing them to be outside and get some exercise while having fun.



The Story of the Fourth of July The Declaration of Independence

We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation.

But July 4, 1776 wasn't the day that the Continental Congress decided to declare independence (they did that on July 2, 1776).

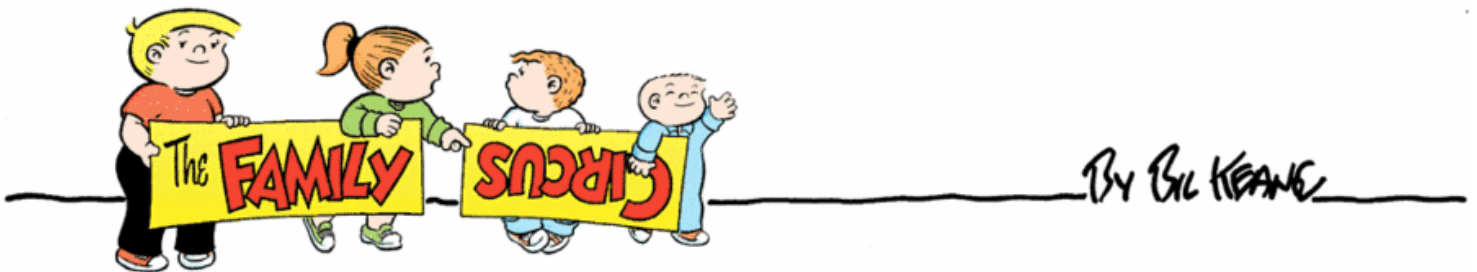
It wasn't the day we started the American Revolution either (that had happened back in April 1775). And it wasn't the day Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence (that was in June 1776). Or the date on which the Declaration was delivered to Great Britain (that didn't happen until November 1776). Or the date it was signed (that was August 2, 1776).

So what did happen on July 4, 1776?

The Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They'd been working on it for a couple of days after the draft was submitted on July 2nd and finally agreed on all of the edits and changes.

July 4, 1776, became the date that was included on the Declaration of Independence, and the fancy handwritten copy that was signed in August (the copy now displayed at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.) It's also the date that was printed on the Dunlap Broadside, the original printed copies of the Declaration that were circulated throughout the new nation. So when people thought of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 was the date they remembered.

In contrast, we celebrate Constitution Day on September 17th of each year, the anniversary of the date the Constitution was signed, not the anniversary of the date it was approved. If we'd followed this same approach for the Declaration of Independence we'd be celebrating Independence Day on August 2nd of each year, the day the Declaration of Independence was signed!





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.

ALTAR Guild  **July**
Ethel Guss 682-3885
Brenda Schwiesow 682-4292

ELDERS' SCHEDULE

- July 3 Darryl Warren
- July 7 Randy Spangle Doug Warren**
- July 10 John Pruss
- July 14 Andy Pruss Darryl Warren**
- July 17 Randy Spangle
- July 21 (Picnic) Scott Thimm**
- July 24 Darryl Warren
- July 28 Scott Thimm Andy Pruss**
- July 31 Randy Spangle
- Aug. 4 Andy Pruss Scott Thimm**
- Aug. 7 Doug Warren
- Aug. 11 Scott Thimm Darryl Warren**
- Aug. 14 John Pruss
- Aug. 18 Randy Spangle Doug Warren**
- Aug. 21 John Pruss
- Aug. 25 Andy Pruss Darryl Warren**
- Aug. 28 Randy Spangle
- Sept. 1 Doug Warren John Pruss**

GREETERS' SCHEDULE

- July 7 Brian & Linda Klobucher
- July 14 Roger & Sally Gustafson
- July 21 Picnic
- July 28 Don & Laurie Moreland
- Aug. 4 Warren & Peggy Draeger
- Aug. 11 Scott & Tami Thimm
- Aug. 18 Alan & Lisa Sunie
- Aug. 25 Herb & Alice Ellis
- Sept. 1 Loren & Ellie Munson

USHERS' SCHEDULE

- July 7 Loren Munson
- July 14 Jerry Frisco
- July 21 Picnic
- July 28 Mike Cashman
- Aug. 4 Tim Bauer
- Aug. 11 Chris Bolz
- Aug. 18 Jim Hebert
- Aug. 25 Nick Jarvela
- Sept. 1 Pat Colgrove

OFFICIAL ACTS

BAPTISMS

Baylee Marie Harspter June 16, 2019
Chase Michael Kokely June 23, 2019

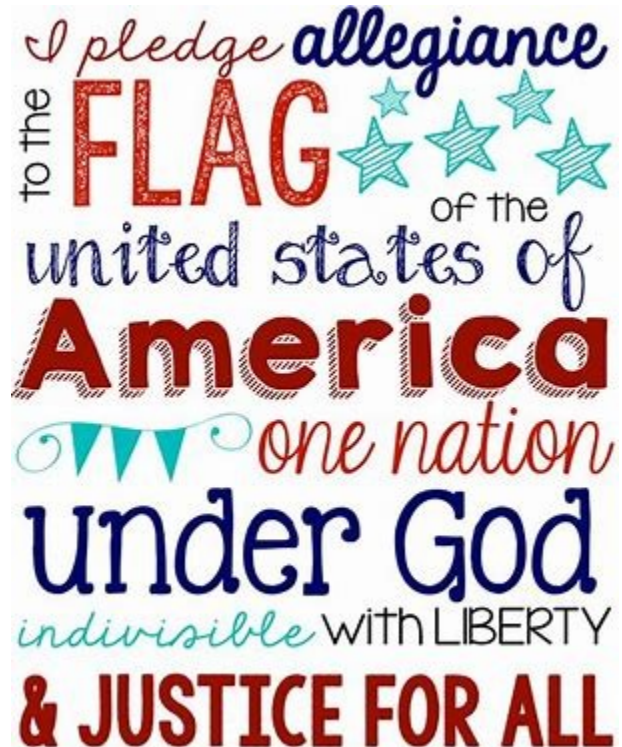
YOUTH CONFIRMANDS

June 2, 2019 Daniel Truchon,
Lily Truchon, Matti Darling

TRANSFERRED/RELEASED FROM MEMBERSHIP

Adam Hinch released to Salem Lutheran Church -WELS, Escanaba, MI

Pastor Stan and Alice Bahn, transferred to Divine Savior Lutheran Church





2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 LFOJ Chapel 11:00am 1:00pm Worship 6:30pm	4 Offices Closed	5	6
7 Mite Sunday Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am	8	9	10 Worship 6:30pm	11	12	13
				2019 LCMS Youth Gathering—Minneapolis, Mn →		
14 Worship 9:00am Gathering → → → → →	15	16	17 Worship 6:30pm	18	19 <i>Newsletter</i> <i>Reports Due</i>	20
21 Church Picnic Worship 10:00am	22	23	24 Court Manor 10:15am AHRC 1:45pm Worship 6:30pm	25	26	27
28 Food Shelf Sunday Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am	29	30	31 Worship 6:30pm			