

The Mountain Top Messenger

Zion Lutheran Church

VOLUME 53, ISSUE #6 JUNE 2015

Welcome to summer, I just love watching the change of seasons in this beautiful part of the country. As the grass greens up, as the leaves pop out, as the flowers spring forth everywhere, the wonders of God's creation is visible for all to see. I wonder sometimes if Pentecost was set in spring time to remind us also of those wonders of God. One day the disciples were sitting in that upper room, still scared, still wondering what happened? I wonder if some of them were just wishing things could go back to the way they were before. Then just as the rush of spring, a mighty wind blows into Jerusalem, right into that upper room, each of the disciples is instilled with the Holy Spirit, each has divided tongues of fire appear to them and rest on each of them, and they began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. You remember the story; people from all over the world were able to understand them each in his own language, even though none of the disciples had ever spoken those languages before. Just a simple taste of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Two things come to mind as I think of the story of Pentecost, first wouldn't it be great if we still had little tongues as of fire resting on us when we had received the Holy Spirit? It would sure take the guesswork out of who to evangelize; just look, flame or no flame. The second thing was in regards to the speaking in tongues. As I thought about it, we do still speak in tongues in a sense even today. We speak the language of the Triune God, through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. A language that is foreign to so much of the world today. With the power of the same Holy Spirit that came to the disciples, we too, are to share God's language of Hope and Salvation to the world so that they can hear and understand the message. Same task, same message, the only thing that has changed is time. As I have said time and time again, the message never changes. So as we head into summer, thank the Lord for all his beauty in our wonderful part of the world, thank Him for the Holy Spirit which he so freely shares with us and thank Him for the opportunity to share His Word of Hope and Salvation with all those who do not know His language of love for the world. After all our time to share is growing short; when's he coming?

The Lord bless all of you with His grace and peace. I pray you all have wonderful summer and enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Vicar Rick



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Vicar Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 Office Hours: M/W/Th 8:00am-5:00pm Tu 1:00-5:00pm, F 8:00am-12:00pm

(Please call ahead if you need to speak with Vicar 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



Do You Know ? The Guski Family (Robert, Lisa, Jeffrey, David)

Lisa was born November 7, 1983, in Ashland, parents are Charles and Lynn Ladd. She was baptized and confirmed at Zion. She taught Sunday School through her high school years and has started again with teaching the preschool class. She attended the Youth Gathering in New Orleans her junior year and highly recommends all youth to attend one. She is on the LFOJ Board and is co-treasurer for the Church. She is the director for Lori Knapp Companies. She enjoys scrapbooking and playing tennis and hopes to find some time to start them up again. Robert was born February 10, 1982, in Ashland, parents are Tom and Angie Guski. He is employed at MMC. His time is spent mainly with the boys but enjoys biking, hiking and camping when he has a chance. Robert and Lisa were married January 3, 2009 at Zion on a ☐ 20° blizzard Saturday. Robert became a member in 2012. Jeffrey,



5 years old and David, 2 years old, keep them very busy. Jeffrey will be starting Kindergarten this fall and David loves it at LFOJ. The outdoors is Jeff's passion, no matter what the weather or temperatures are for the day. He can't go more than a day without seeing his Papa Chuck. David, a new two year old, is spreading his wings with "mine", "me-do", "no" and all the typical two year old antics. He just wants to be like his big brother and will follow him around copying every task no matter the consequences or bruises it creates.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP



First off, I would like to give a big thank you to all the Sunday School teachers for their time and talents this last season. This was a big challenge for them preparing each lesson for "THE STORY". They accomplished the plan of getting through "The Story" in the Sunday School year. On Sunday, May 10th, also Mother's Day, the pre school and Kindergarten Class sang two songs in the beginning of the church service with their teachers,

Lisa Ladd and Tiffany Houle leading them. The first grade-sixth grade along with their teachers sang "I Love To Tell The Story" before the sermon with Sydney Vyskocil playing piano-how fitting the song after studying "The Story". Following the service all the students, teachers and some moms and dads helped to put together potted flowers for someone special, followed with crafts and finally the sundae ice cream treats for everyone.



Some teachers along with the Board of Education met on May 18th to discuss plans for the following fall Sunday School session. Some sample curriculums were ordered. Monday, June 15th, 5:30pm, we will have another get together to review the samples, possibly make a final decision on the curriculum and to clean out our storage closet and classrooms. We encourage ALL teachers and board members to attend. Anyone else that is interested can sure join in. We'll have pizza, beverages and goodies that night to keep us "going".

The next big event will be August 10th -13th when we meet with Camp Luther counselors for VBS. Sign-up will be at the end of July, we will take 40 children, K-5th grade. We will also need class assistants and kitchen help. We hope that you will consider helping out for a day or two or all four. We will keep you posted. The children will be singing during the Wednesday night service on August 12th.

Thank you for having faith in me to be the Sunday School Superintendent.
God's Blessing To Everyone

Katie Colgrove



More pictures from the last day of Sunday School.....planting, creating and eating.



Our Prayer Concerns JUNE

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 *Riley Bretting, Bob Wolfram, Larry Korbein, Katie Stipetich, Isaiah Majetich, Diane Hyvonen, Bob Heggie, Kevin Heggie, Duke Kuester, Linda Stolarzyk, Penny Mattson, Sandi (Sorenson) Fletcher, Cheryl Hildebrandt, Wendy Meierotto, , Bill Brooks, Heather Gust, James Albright*

Homebound

Dorothy Rusch, Gordon & Mari-Vyskocil, Walt Schutte, Merlin Fuhrman

Military

Aaron Esala



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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.



Stewardship Thoughts

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our first-fruits give! (LSB 781:1–2).



In many congregations these stanzas are sung every Sunday when the offerings of God's faithful people are received. It's a sung reminder of who God is and who we are in relation to Him, of what God does for us and gives to us, and how we respond to His generosity.

We are stewards of God's varied grace to us. As stewards we acknowledge that God owns all things and that everything in heaven and on earth belongs to Him (1 Chron 29:14; Ps 24:1; Ps 100:3; 1 Cor 4:7; 1 Cor 6:19). Even we ourselves—all that we are and all that we have—are His. We are His because He created us, preserves us, redeemed us, and sanctifies us. As the stewards of what He has done for us and given to us, we give of our first fruits to Him and His Church.

And the Lord receives them and presses them into a use all His own. He sanctifies it. He hallows it. He uses it to ensure that the Word of God is still preached among us. He uses it to ensure that there is water for Baptism, bread and wine for His Holy Supper. He uses what He gives to you and what you give back to Him for your good. Everything that happens in the church is purchased with the giving of the saints from what God has provided them. Holy giving from holy people pressed into holy service.

But there's more. For our giving does not just make the liturgical life of the church possible. It's not just the necessary means by which the vessels and sacramental elements, the hymn books and pastors are made available. The giving of God's stewards is part of the liturgy itself, part of the Divine Service. It is one of our responses within the liturgy where we, not just with words spoken or sung, but with deeds declare, live out and live in, the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Pet 2:9). Our offerings are part of God's sanctifying work that He has us do in the Divine Service for the life of the world.

That's what makes our stewardship so precious and significant. God hallows what we give and employs it to sanctify us and others. And that is why we sing: "And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!"

Ladies Sewing Circle

The Ladies Sewing Circle is pleased to report that 206 quilts and blankets will be shipped out via the Orphan Grain Train that works in partnership with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and the International Lutheran Laymen's League. The quilts and blankets will be delivered to needy people in disaster areas following fires, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes and earthquakes in the United States and other countries. They also donated another 13 quilts to the local homeless because of fires and other disasters.

They would like to thank Debra Heggie for sewing many baptismal blankets. A thank you goes out to Evelyn Wrege for sewing with Mary Koosmann at Mary's home. A big thank you to Madge Houle for 25 years of sewing with the Ladies Sewing Circle.

The Ladies Sewing Circle thanks those who donated material used in the quilts and blankets. They can always use more.

They are in need of a leader as our present leader is stepping down due to health reasons. Please contact Lynn in the office if you are interested.

Wishes and blessings to all and see you in September when we start up again.



Pictures from "Daughters of Christ" Event—May 11, 2015



“JUST BECAUSE MOMENTS”

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them. Proverbs 3:27 (NLT)

Excerpts from: **Just Because Moments** by Julia Bettencourt

One of the best ways to encourage and motivate others involves being a blessing to them. I was raised with a philosophy that we make "just because" moments happen for other people. My dad was real good about doing things like that. Out of the blue, he'd drop someone off a bag of green beans or tomatoes from the garden or when he'd fish, he'd sometimes show up on someone's doorstep with a mess of fish all scaled, cleaned, and ready to fry up in a pan or put in the freezer.

I know I've been the recipient of many wonderful just because moments and they were abundant blessings given to me straight from the Lord by way of a good friend or sometimes from people I didn't even know very well. It's amazing how the Lord knows just when we need a just because moment to lift our spirits and motivate us in some way.

Being a blessing doesn't even necessarily have to cost anything. Just spending time with someone can be a wonderful just because moment. Little things can mean so much to people. Praying for someone and then letting him or her know you did can just bless someone's heart. Sometimes just an encouraging word or even a "hello" and a listening ear is all it takes to bless someone in a significant way. We don't always know what's happening internally in someone's life and when we put out the effort to be a blessing and they are at that point where they really need some encouragement, it can make a big difference in their lives.

I think sometimes we get so busy going about just doing that we forget the importance of doing for others. We forget the importance that people are what really count in this life. Being a blessing to other people is such a wonderful way to show the love of God flowing through us.

So, when's the last time you made a "just because" moment happen for someone?

This was the theme for this years "Daughters of Christ" Event. It was a fun night, enjoyed by all. We felt the theme was important and sometimes we need reminders to take the time to think of others. So we are going to pass on two of the tasks from that night.

1. There is a book circulating amongst us, entitled, "Be a Good in the World" by Brenda Knight. It gives ideas for doing those "Just Because Moments". Whoever has it now will look it through, put their name in the front and then pass it on to another person. If you ever have another idea of a "Just Because Moment", write it somewhere in the book. Keep it circulating.
2. "Just Because Moments" - there is a box on the small table by the office door. It has slips in there to take and fill out when you do a "Just Because Moment". Then you turn it back in to the box. Now these should be random acts, that just happen. Each month one will be selected and that person will pick out a special something from our collection. We will publish some of the good deeds each month. If you don't want it to be publish just say so on the sheet. We are hoping this will be a continuous project, never ending, because doing good deeds, being nice to people, etc. should never cease.

Thank you,
The Education Board

June- month of humming and hammering

A. Ellis (June 2011)

The month of June has its own personality as creation recreates life after our upnorth winters of hibernation. There even is a new partnership between humans and creatures as both are busy outdoors with summer projects. The birds are darting around gathering food and nest building, while bees buzz for pollen and construct new hives. Likewise humans are dashing around with plants to set into the earth, fences to build, boats to clean up, lawns to mow, barbeque grills to fire up, air-conditioners to install... and more. To the casual observer this frantic pace seems opposed to the fresh life of vegetation and the long hours of summer daylight. But to us who live here, it all makes sense. If we get all of these projects done in June, we can swim in July and drink lemonade in August. One month of hard and steady work can mean two months of picnicking and celebrating summer.



Yes, there are many things about June that are like no other month in the year. Maybe it is the emerald green grass that fuels our hands and feet. Or the mad-pace of hummingbirds that reminds us that we can flap our wings again after the weight of heavy winter coats. How about the swamp call of frogs to plant a song on our lips while we work? Or the thrill of newborn life in the twitchy tail of a doe who just had her fawn? Or the rat-a-tat-tat of woodpeckers to set our heartbeat. I can already see the first beans sprouts and tender corn plants. The strawberry blossoms are at their best, and the grass grows with no intention of holding back. At night, we keep our windows open to hear the birds. Their chatter brings memories of teen-age slumber parties when we would finally fall to sleep at dawn. The air is charged with the hum and hammer of hope. June helps us to feel young again.

So dear friends, hope you can get your projects done so we can all "kick back" for fun and games in July and August. The God of all seasons continues to run with us... and He will be our rest when we are weary at the end of the day. God bless you and your plans for this month of meaningful work and fresh-born hope.



BIBLE STUDY

Monday morning Bible Study will take a break and not meet during the summer. They will start up again in the fall with 2 Samuel. Sunday morning class will continue at 10:15am, after the service, except no class on June 7th.

LFOJ Flooring Project

We have reached our financial goal for the flooring project. We have been fundraising for seven years to finance this project. The entire center will have new flooring. We are so excited for the wonderful change.

We are now working on scheduling a date to have this project completed. Thanks to our planning and with the State and County approval, we will NOT have to close the center. They will work on the Infant/Toddler room and kitchen area over the weekend so that we will not have to move the Infant/Toddlers and we will still be able to cook for all of our hungry children. The learner children will switch from upstairs to downstairs and the school-aged children will relocate to the church basement. We are praying that this will last three days at the most.

We want to take this time to thank parents, staff, Zion Congregation, etc. that helped to make this possible. We are truly Blessed.

God Bless, Ms. Karyn

Stay the course: teach, learn, live

The headline was eye-catching: “Christians lose ground, ‘nones’ soar in new portrait of US religion.” The article’s first line was even more alarming: “The United States is a significantly less Christian country than it was seven years ago.”

That Religion News Service article, reporting on a recent Pew Research Center report regarding the state of religion in America today, was meant to shock and awe. And it did, because the numbers don’t lie. The percentage of atheists and agnostics in the United States is growing. Persecution of Christians is on the rise. Christian morals and values are increasingly denounced in the public square.

This shouldn’t scare us, and frankly, it shouldn’t surprise us. The Church has always been in the minority, because the Word of God has always been a stumbling block to those who don’t believe it. We are witnessing today what the apostles, the church fathers, the reformer and our LCMS forefathers all observed in their lifetimes as well.

The good news? The Word of the Lord endures, regardless of public opinion and irrespective of cultural whims. Our Lord is timeless and unchanging. His love endures, despite polls and statistics.

That’s why it’s important for Lutheran Christians to continue focusing on parish education, on teaching the faith in our homes, schools and churches — regardless of what the popular culture says.

It’s important that we set aside time each day — as families or singles, grandparents or confirmands — to spend in God’s Word and to pray. It’s important that we know our catechisms, our hymnals and, most importantly, our Scriptures. It’s important that we commit Bible verses and hymns and prayers to heart. It’s important that we teach. It’s important that we study.

This month, let’s rediscover together the rhythm of that learning and teaching, of ordering our days around Christ and His Word, despite the world’s distractions.

Let’s focus again on daily devotions, whether done alone, in your congregation or with your family. Let’s recognize that our Lord has given us the ability to share His Gospel with “nones” and with all others, putting His Word in our hearts and on our lips.

And let’s study together what He has to say, so that we aren’t scared or surprised. Instead, let’s live in and by His mercy and forgiveness, day in and day out.

LCMS Education Ministry

Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes: May 2015

The May 18, 2015, Church Council meeting was called to order by President, Nick Jarvela. Vicar Rick opened devotions asking, "Who is my neighbor?" He reminded us that we are to align our priorities to Jesus' example: *To show mercy, and do likewise.*

Roll Call: Nick Jarvela (President, Trustees), Lynn Ladd (Education), Lisa Guski (Co-treasurer), Darryl Warren (Elders), Cheri Tamke (LFOJ), Alice Ellis (Secretary/Evangelism), Rick Williams (Vicar).

Approval of April Minutes: Motion Ladd, second Guski. Motion carried.

Vicar's Report: New members' class started 5/10/15. Classes will meet Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:00 pm for 6 weeks. Vicar has finals this week. Vicar attended Pastor's conference April 27 and 28. "The Story" classes finished May 10th. Monday morning Bible study recessed until September. LCMS District Convention June 7-8. Vicar is setting up summer schedule for LFOJ.

Treasurer's Report: (as printed).

May Agenda: C. New Business: Council summer schedule

Board Reports:

Elders: Paperwork in process for Rick's ordination in December. Elders will work on clarification of marriage policy; also in collaboration with Trustees clarify use of buildings.

Trustees: Checked LFOJ playground surface. Intent to have a contractor look at the roof. When weather is nice, stripes will be painted in parking lot.

Education: Daughters of Christ event was fun and successful. Men's event will be held in Sept.

Reviewing Sunday School curriculum in progress.

LFOJ: Meeting minutes submitted.

Evangelism: New member welcome dinner successful. Backyard ministry plans still in process.

Approval of Board Reports: Motion Ladd, second Ellis. Motion carried.

Old Business:

LFOJ: Tamke reported carpet project is close to financial goal. Warren made a motion to transfer Thrivent Saving dollars (\$999.16) for this need. Guski second, motion carried.

Also a gift was received to bring the carpeting goal to 100%. Praise the Lord for many generous gifts.

New Business:

Kitchen Committee: Funeral Money. Tamke made a motion that designated funeral money (usually \$100) be given to Kitchen committee to replenish kitchen items. Second by Ladd, motion carried.

Jarvela reported that trustees recommend boiler maintenance contract from Blakeman Heating and Plumbing. Warren made a motion to accept recommendation, second by Ladd, motion carried.

Council Summer Schedule: Warren made a motion that council will not again until September unless a need arises. Ladd second, motion carried.

New Member/Adult Instruction

"What it Means to be a Missouri Synod Lutheran" Class
June - Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00pm,
for approximately 5-6 weeks.

Anyone considering membership at Zion or just wishing a refresher is welcome. The class has started but it's not too late for you to join in. Plus if you can only make it one or two weeks as a refresher that's fine.

**JUNE
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.

ELDERS

Jun 7 John Pruss & Randy Spangle
 Jun 10 Doug Warren
 Jun 14 Darryl Warren & Chuck Chronis
 Jun 17 John Pruss
 Jun 21 Doug Warren & Chuck Chronis
 Jun 24 Randy Spangle
 Jun 28 John Pruss & Darryl Warren

_Acolytes

Jun 7 Taylor Vyskocil
 Jun 14 Ashlee Moreland
 Jun 21 Kyle Sapper
 Jun 28 Ella Bauer

GREETERS

Jun 7 Jerry & Sandy Frisco
 Jun 14 Ethel Guss & Penny Mattson
 Jun 21 Lou Pearce
 Jun 28 Rick & Sandy Nutt

Ushers

Jun 7 Curt Harpster & Nick Jarvela
 Jun 14 Brian Klobucher & Clarence Osmak
 Jun 21 Rick Nutt & Paul Osmak
 Jun 28 Andrew Pruss & Scott Thimm

ZION'S GRADUATES



Ashland High School:

Allie Kay Bochler will be attending UW Stevens Points in the fall of 2015, majoring in Psychology.

Douglas Gurske Hunter Heglund

Shayla Warren will be going to UW-Green Bay with a major in communications and a minor in marketing.

Washburn High School:

Noah Lucas Barker has enlisted in the Coast Guard and begins basics in August.

Chippewa Valley Technical College: **Megan Ylitalo** graduated May 8th with a Business Management degree.

Western Technical College-LaCrosse **Amber J. Ovaska** graduated April 25th with Therapeutic Massage and will be returning in the fall to complete her degree in Business Management and Entrepreneurship.



Sue Spangle 682-8015
 Kathy Osmak 746-2346
 Maria Truchon 682-9508



Call Renee at
 715-965-0944