




# The Mountain Top Messenger

JUNE 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
 <b>Elders:</b> June 2 Darryl June 4 John P. June 9 Randy June 12 John S. June 16 Scott June 19 Andy June 23 Doug June 25 Darryl June 30 JohnP July 3 John S. July 7 Andy July 10 Doug						
<b>2</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm Mellen	<b>3</b> 5:30pm LFOJ Board Mtg.	<b>4</b> 10:30am LFOJ Chapel	<b>5</b> 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16 Father's Day</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 1:00pm Hospice Group Gathering 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>20</b> 9:00am Winkel Glidden 	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Baptism	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>27</b> 1:30pm Northen Lights Service	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP <i>Food Shelf Sunday</i>	<b>June Altar Guild</b> Jule Jarvela 715-682-0385 Judy Nevala 715-682-2927		<b>OFFICIAL ACTS Baptism</b> 05- 04-28-24 Oskar Pierre 05-04-24 Weston Duane Bond			

Summer? I think it's close anyway, I do see some 70's in the forecast. May was quite the month and June looks to be just as busy. What's the old saying, "make hay while the sun shines"? June is starting out with a bang, and some grinding, scraping, pounding sounds. The crew showed up to start replacing the roof on the sanctuary today. Believe it or not, and weather dependent, they said it should only take 4-5 days. So if you are at worship on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> you can check on the progress. I pray everything goes safely and efficiently. Not sure we will know what to do without that steady drip, drip, drip from the back of the sanctuary on those rainy days. 

We had a nice turnout for our new members brunch a few weeks ago and it was good to get everyone together and welcome our new family members.

I wanted to mention it here in the newsletter, and I am sure it will be other places as well, but the sewing circle is going to do a fund-raising raffle with some of their beautiful quilts. It will be done with a silent auction type format and all of the quilts are located in the conference room along with the bidding information. The craftsmanship is amazing please be sure to take a look.

We finished up our series on "All Things New" sermon series from the book of Ezekiel and I thought it went well. I would be curious to hear any thoughts or opinions you might have as I strive to improve. For the summer months I will be preaching from the standard lectionary, meaning my sermon messages will be based on the standard readings for each particular Sunday, I do have the leeway to choose whether the message will come from the Old Testament, Epistle, or Gospel readings or a combination thereof. I will probably be looking at a new series come this fall or for sure by Advent Season. So again, any thoughts or comments on any of the sermon series we have done are welcome and encouraged.

This season following Pentecost is a season of looking at the teachings of Jesus, the other seasons, Advent, Lent, Easter, are quite specific, but the season following Pentecost is more of a general review of the life and teaching of Jesus, so if there is something specific that you would like to see or hear about the teachings of Jesus, we could see where it fits into the lectionary and try and help answer any questions you would like. We are also going to be trying to finish up on our Ezekiel Bible study on Sunday mornings and I will be open to ideas for our next topic. I have a thought in mind, but I would again like to hear your thoughts and comments.

This first Sunday in June, I am going to be talking about the differences between the Lutheran understanding of the theology of the Cross and the more secular theology of Glory. In scripture Jesus tells us we must take up our cross and follow him, we aren't assured of a rose garden this side of heaven, as a matter of fact we told life in this world will be hard, there will be tribulation, but the end result will make it all so worthwhile. Our treasure is stored up for us in Heaven. The teaching of the theology of glory teaches that because you are Christian everything will be great, God will heap blessings on you, and you should have your best life now. Two big problems there, first scripture doesn't teach that and second, if you're not having your best life now, then you must be failing as a Christian. God must be mad at you or maybe your not trying hard enough. When things go wrong under the theology of glory, faith can easily fail. We would probably not have an issue with attendance and membership and even new members if scripture really did teach such a theology. Who

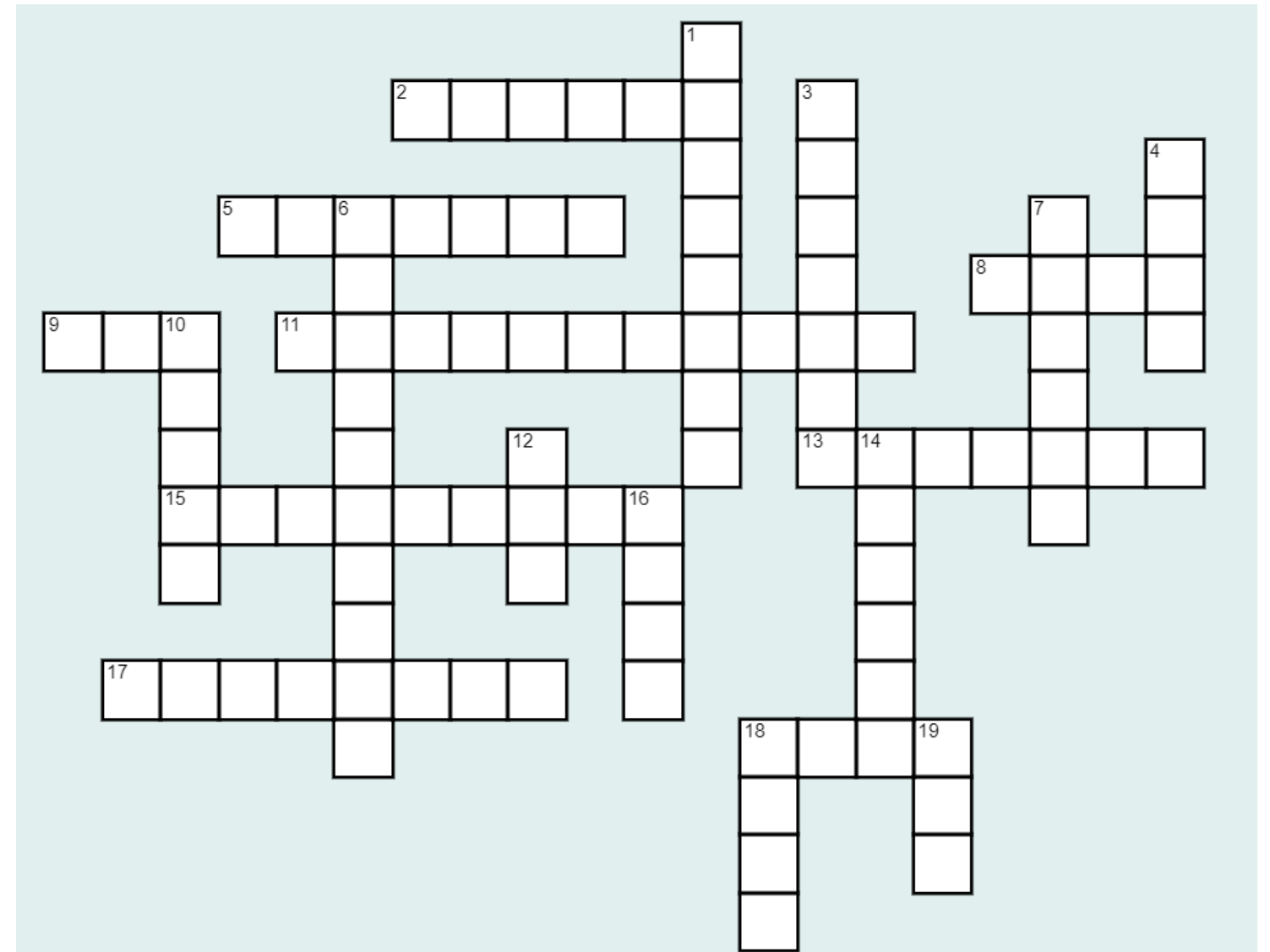
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wouldn't want to come to church every Sunday if God would grant your every wish, money, health, prosperity, and you name it just because you worshiped him. What's really kind of funny to me is that God really does grant that to us, just not his side of heaven. So, I guess the question would be, do you want all of that for this human lifetime on earth where things can fall apart in a moment, or would you rather have them in heaven for an eternity where they can never fail. I am quite confident you cannot have it both ways. Well again if anyone would like to discuss this further let me know, I'm always open to a good discussion.

I think that's enough for now, the sun is shining, the wind isn't blowing, and I need to soak up some vitamin D. So for June, I close with this.

The Lord Bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you Peace.

In His Service, Pastor Rick



ANGLERS	BARBECUE	CARD	CAMP
JOHNSON	DAD	DAUGHTER	GOLD
GRANDFATHER	HARVESTMEN	JUNE	NIXON
OFFSPRING	POEM	SON	SPOKANE

**Had an Easy Winter of Very Little Snow Shoveling -  
Need the Lawn Mowed Now**

Sign up on the sheet by the little table in the Narthex. Church has all the equipment, just need **YOU** to **SIGN** up. Ask a friend to join you and it won't take that long. Thanks.  
Contact Nick at 682-0385 with any questions.





## ROOF PROJECT

At the Annual Meeting held February 18, 2024, Head Trustee, Nick Jarvela reported that Zion has hired KulpRoof from Stratford, WI to do the repairs to the Church roof and secured a loan of \$65,000.00 from Lutheran Church Extension Fund to pay for the work. A motion was made and passed to begin a campaign to help in repayment of that loan.



All monies collected would be put on the principal with hopes of quicker repayment and lower interest costs. A box has been placed in the Narthex and the chart will reflect the amount of the donations. The Sewing Circle is having a silent auction on quilts for the money going to the fund. Work on the roof **HAS STARTED** and may even be completed by the time some of you read this. Exciting!



See where the arrow is pointing? That is one of the workers on the other side of the roof. You may need a double strong magnifying glass. Depending on rain days, they should be done by next week.



**Sunday Worship Service**

9:00am Live-streamed

**Wednesday Evening Service**

6:30pm

**Bible Studies**

Sunday 10:15am Monday 10:00am (Sept.-May)

**Sunday School**

1st—8th grade Sunday 8:45am (Sept.-May)

**Confirmation Sunday**

9:45am (Sept.-May)

**Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479**

**Office Hours: M/Th 9-5 Tues. off Wed. 12-8 Fri. 9-3**

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

**Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours M/T/W 8:30-2:30**

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: JoAnn Martkonis 715-682-6075**

**Website** [www.zionashland.org](http://www.zionashland.org) **E-mail** [secretary@zionlutheranashland.com](mailto:secretary@zionlutheranashland.com)

### PRAYERS for Home-bound, 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.

*Ingrid Pocernich  
Arlene Zimmerman  
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  
Jordan Thimm  
Andrew Pruss*

### 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:



Brad Prill  
Vi Basina  
James Fletcher  
Sheryl Hildebrandt  
Harold Larson  
Diane Beiersdorff  
Linda Stenroos  
Steve Key  
Tim Erickson  
Patty Hmielewski  
Jean Wickman  
Janet Houle  
Andrea Gunderson  
Pam Ekholm  
Brad Campbell

Riley Bretting  
Mike Trimble  
Jamie Klema  
Mike Ariens  
Karen Piff  
Molly Colgrove  
Linda Parrish  
Cory Nyara  
Chuck Sandor  
John Belany  
Carl Kubley  
Carolyn Chuck  
Mary Dahl  
Sandy Bosma  
*and those in our hearts*

**Dear Lord, "We come to You today with heavy hearts, as we lift up those who are in need of prayer. We ask that You would bring healing and restoration to their body, mind, and spirit" Amen.**



**INSPIRATIONAL FICTION CONTEMPORARY** Isabella Krieg

It had been sitting on my kitchen table for about two months now. It slowly cemented itself in place as unopened letters, shopping catalogues, and magazines slowly piled around it, until only my face was left, reflecting on the small part of the screen which was still visible. After Mom died, I took the computer along with boxes of other things without really thinking. It completely slipped my mind that it needed a password until it was already in my possession. I knew it at some point, but it must've gotten lost somewhere along my time growing up.

After another night sharing another dinner with the computer as my date, I brought my plate to the sink to be cleaned. I looked back at the computer, this once magical machine which was now a silent observer of my mundane life. I wondered what Mom would do in this situation. She'd probably know the password already. And if not, she'd somehow magically find it (as mothers do), then proceed to scold me for not looking hard enough (as mothers do). I looked back at the mountain on my table and heard my mother's voice fussing over the mess.

"Fine," I sighed. I'd look once more.

I pulled out the boxes from under the chairs. I'd collected them because of my curse of nostalgia, I couldn't bear to see any of her stuff go. Unfortunately, the majority of her possessions were now in the hands of someone else. James said everything had to sell, but I fought to keep my share.

"It's junk," he said. Junk. He called it junk.

Among the boxes included books, clothes, and jewelry. Pages my mother once flipped through, dresses she once wore. In other boxes were photo albums with pictures of my parents as children. There were a few of me and James, but the majority of them had been uploaded onto the computer (this being the main motivation behind my need to unlock it). One of my mother's notebooks were sticking out of this box. It was a book of recipes, most of which she had found online. James probably would've thrown it out, but I grabbed it so I could look at her handwriting again. Going through everything reminded me of the archaeology class I took in college. I felt as if I were excavating some archeological dig site, handling each fragile artifact with care. I started to flip through the notebook, but it opened up quickly to a page with an index card in it. A jumble of numbers and letters had been scribbled in what was unmistakably my father's handwriting. The sequence felt familiar. I looked over to the computer, I had to try it.

I tore down the mountain of my own junk and broke the computer free. After plugging it back in and a couple of tries to turn it on, the computer woke up and I was faced with the same barrier I had met last time. Only now, I had a possibility. I typed in the combination a couple of times, since there was a zero that could've been an O, a four that could've been a nine. After deciphering the code, I was finally in.

I started with the file explorer first to see if I could find my baby photos. There was a folder titled "Lila 1st Birthday," and as the name suggested, there were photos of me as a newly one year old girl. James had his arms around me with a big smile on his face, that charming smile he carried with him into adulthood. I clicked around and found pictures of school events, family vacations, and what seemed like endless birthday parties. Old photos are always interesting. They say, "this is me and I was here!" It was evidence of a point in your life, even if it doesn't show the argument you had with your mother that morning. Even if you had no recollection of the day at all. I could name everyone in the photos, our extended family and friends could all be found- younger versions of them at least. However, one person seemed to be notably missing from these pictures- my father. Save for the fact he was the one taking a majority of the photos, he seemed to have masterfully avoided a good portion of group pics and candid background shots. He did have a fair share of portraits, taken by my mother or any other family member, so he was not totally unaccounted for.

*(cont. on next page)*

E	S	U	T	W	B	W	O	V	A	R	M	F	L	A	G	D	A	Y
C	D	S	U	J	E	G	U	M	U	E	A	E	N	Z	D	L	U	C
I	N	R	X	C	S	D	T	A	K	M	L	U	O	F	I	M	A	H
T	E	O	E	N	C	C	D	E	O	M	M	R	W	Q	H	X	L	T
S	P	C	I	Y	V	R	O	I	N	U	H	Y	H	W	U	S	E	N
L	X	C	Z	T	C	N	O	I	N	S	Y	V	C	P	E	I	X	E
O	E	G	M	N	A	E	R	L	D	G	S	S	H	B	K	V	A	E
S	D	E	S	L	Q	C	S	Y	A	D	Y	T	R	I	H	T	N	T
X	A	M	B	N	P	Y	A	D	S	R	E	H	T	A	F	Q	D	E
C	N	I	P	K	Z	O	M	V	Y	G	J	N	A	Y	G	U	R	N
H	O	N	E	Y	S	U	C	K	L	E	P	O	E	E	C	O	I	U
Q	M	I	L	O	N	G	E	S	T	D	A	Y	W	D	T	W	T	J
G	E	A	A	A	T	K	B	A	R	B	E	C	U	E	R	W	E	L
D	L	Z	J	P	A	M	O	L	P	I	D	U	N	D	C	A	N	E
V	Q	R	E	M	J	P	I	C	N	I	C	U	M	U	D	W	G	T
X	I	A	O	W	K	U	L	T	M	Z	H	F	P	X	R	A	K	T
N	R	H	D	S	E	W	N	O	I	T	A	U	D	A	R	G	Y	M
L	X	K	O	C	E	L	F	E	N	K	I	E	H	P	X	E	F	K
X	S	T	R	A	W	B	E	R	R	Y	C	D	N	S	B	K	A	W

ALEXANDRITE	GARDEN	LEMONADE	SOLSTICE
BARBECUE	GEMINI	LONGEST DAY	STRAWBERRY
D-DAY	GRADUATION	OUTDOORS	SUMMER
DIPLOMA	HONEYSUCKLE	PEARL	THIRTY DAYS
FATHER'S DAY	JUNE	PICNIC	VACATION
FLAG DAY	JUNETEENTH	ROSE	WEDDING

### **Silent, Strong Dad**

KAREN K. BOYER

He never looks for praises.  
He's never one to boast.  
He just goes on quietly working  
For those he loves the most.  
His dreams are seldom spoken.  
His wants are very few,  
And most of the time his worries  
Will go unspoken, too.  
He's there...a firm foundation  
Through all our storms of life,  
A sturdy hand to hold onto  
In times of stress and strife.  
A true friend we can turn to  
When times are good or bad.  
One of our greatest blessings,  
The man that we call Dad.

### **BY AMY REAY**

I was born blind. I, like my father, had congenital (at birth) bilateral (both sides) cataracts. My vision was far worse than dad's though. My dad was always there (along with my mom) to cheer me along. He showed by example that the only limits we have are self-placed. I knew he understood my struggles. He and I sang and danced together and were a team in caring for my mom through her death from cancer when I was 18. He was my hero. He was HIGHLY educated, sang beautifully and could play any instrument instantly like a pro. I didn't see him much the last 20 years of his life. He was in MN & I in OR and was busy with my husband & 5 kids and couldn't afford to fly back and forth. I talked to him every Sat except for the last one. (Kid drama). Early Sun am the call came that he'd died in his sleep. I miss him and am so thankful I had him. He showed me what a real man was, and how he treated others taught me about life, God, and unconditional love. I was daddy's girl.

### **Father's Day In Heaven**

RON TRANMER

I love you and I miss you, Dad,  
and though you've passed away,  
you'll never be forgotten,  
for I think of you each day.

If heaven celebrates this day  
how special it will be.  
A gathering of the many dads  
upon our family tree.

Your father and grandfather  
and great grandfather too.  
How wonderful it is, if they  
can spend this day with you.

May you know how much I love you,  
though I'm here and you are there.  
Happy Father's Day in heaven  
to the best dad anywhere!

### **BY ISABEL DEAN**

My lovely dad passed away July 1, 1995. He had a heart of gold and would help anybody. He taught me everything I needed to know, and that's made me who I am today. I have a lot of happy memories of times spent together, and I'll treasure these forever. He's missed and loved more every day. I know I'll see him again one day. My lovely mum passed in 2002 and they are back together. Miss you and love you always Dad. God Bless. Thanks for the memories. Wish you were still here.



### **Dad, What's It Like In Heaven?**

PATRICIA A FLEMING

If time exists in heaven,  
Do you still rise with the sun?  
Do you and Mom share breakfast  
Before your day has begun?

Can the heavens hear your laughter  
As you sit and reminisce  
About the time we had together  
And other people that you miss?

And Daddy, do you still take walks  
Along heaven's seas?  
And when you gaze upon the surf,  
Do you remember walks with me?

Are you standing with those brave  
young men  
Upon its perfect shores?  
Finally by their sides again,  
Your comrades from the war.

Do you gather with your family  
Beneath heaven's glow?  
And gaze upon those mountains still  
That once you called your home.

Is music all around you,  
All those songs you held so dear?  
Do you and Mom still sing together,  
The way you did when you were here?

Do you ever have long talks with God  
About those left behind?  
Do you tell him all the stories  
Of all our grand and treasured times?

I think that heaven must be grateful  
To have you there each day,  
To bring your easy laughter  
And your silly sense of play.

And I'm sure that God already knows  
The special father you had been  
And how I wish that you were here  
To guide my way again.

But I carry you inside my heart.  
You are never far from me.  
I see you in my smile  
And in who I grew to be.

And I'm sure that on this Father's Day  
God will help you celebrate  
All those dads who changed the world  
with love.  
What a party that will make!

*(Continued from previous page)*

My father was a hardworking man. He was a kind man, but it was his quiet and reserved demeanor which defined him. Him and I didn't really do much together, we enjoyed simply being in each other's company. He had a lot more to talk about with James, whether it be sports or politics or whatever new blockbuster movie was out. Mom and I aren't big movie people. Well, Mom wasn't. I'm still not.

I clicked around some more and came across some word documents. They were titled as "Letters 2008" or "Letters 1999" depending on whatever year they came from. I opened a file from 2002. The letter was addressed to no one in particular, but my name was one of the first words to come up.

*Today Lila had her first ballet recital, a junior version of the Nutcracker. She was a snowflake among many, but she shone brighter than everyone else*

The words struck me, I'd never heard him express himself so poetically. I looked through more documents and found letters upon letters containing accounts of activities I had participated in, awards I had won, and any other minor achievement I had gained. I started to fight back tears, as if I had any one to hide them from. I'd gotten the occasional "I love you" from my father, he wasn't heartless, but this was just another level. This was a documentation of me as a person, and my father as a selfless observer. Just like his photographs, each word seemed to be chosen carefully. So many moments I had forgotten about, now came with detailed descriptions, and a couple of photographs embedded between the text.

My father, the working man. He had a tendency to preoccupy his mind with bills, work, and more work. To live was to work, and he was good at living. While it may seem as though his life was all a giant chore, I now believe he made it his canvas, each day a new chance to make art. He found rhythm in routine, saw patterns in money. He captured the color and form of our daily lives. I wished I had paid more attention. I wished he were here. I wished all the things people wish when they're grieving. Mostly, I wished someone were able to capture him the way he was so perfectly able to capture us. Always the artist and never the muse I suppose. I went back to look at the photographs with the newfound lens of my father's eyes. With a second look I realized; though these were all portraits of everyone else, they were very easily portraits of himself. He took them deliberately because he had a vision, because he knew how to capture his essence in the scene. The right angle, the right lighting, the right moment, everything was accounted for. It seemed so perfectly planned, as though I could zoom into the reflection of someone's eye and see his face staring back. In every image of myself, I could see me looking back at him. When I saw a picture of Mom, I saw how much he loved her. When I saw a picture of James, I saw how similar the two men had become.

I turned off the computer and thought about calling James. There were plenty of photos of him, but not as many letters. I ended up emailing him the photos through the old computer, the machine helping me out once more. I didn't mention the letters. James and my father had many things shared together. This one could be between him and me.

*Reading is a great pastime and through life, it can give us a smile, remind us of a memory, make us look at ourselves more closely, help us laugh, and on and on. Remember we have shelves filled with books that you can take and read for enjoyment, getting answers to thoughts or questions, to learn something new, etc. The books are in the conference room. If you are looking for a specific theme and need some help contact Liisa Eyerly, she'll give you a helping hand.*



**MAY LFOJ NEWSLETTER**



Happy Mother's Day month to all the moms and mom figures in our lives!

*Dear parents and guardians,*  
Summer is approaching! We love seeing the sun!  
Only a few more weeks of school! We hope you have fun plans this summer!

**TOTVILLE NEWS:**

We hope everyone had a great Mother's Day. It was a beautiful weekend, a good day to enjoy the weather. The children have been spending a bit more time outdoors since mother nature has been cooperating!

Congratulations to Kase, Tressa, and Mike on the arrival of their new baby girl. In a few weeks she will be joining us here in the Infant Room!

We have been reading various Bible stories and other books during story/music time. Even though the younger children aren't able to sing along quite yet, they recognize songs and are learning the actions for them.

-Denise and Nikki

**TODDLER TIDBITS/LEARNER LANE:**

During the month of May, the toddlers and learners focused on the themes of spring and nature. We had some recent birthdays in our classroom. Our friend Josie turned 3 this month! We also focused on Mother's Day and talked about how important our moms are to us!

Some other exciting events we had included saving a robin who was stuck in a tree with string and fishing line wrapped around its legs. The kids got to watch as we set the bird free from the line and safely observed it in a closed container. A lot of our friends have been reaching big milestones that we have been working really hard on such as walking, sharing, and potty training.

We would love to give a big congratulations to Tressa from all the students and teachers!

- Desiree and Emily

**UPDATES:**

We have received several grants this month. \$500 from Walmart bought us New Rocking chairs and some \$250 grants from Thrivent and parishioners of Zion, is buying us paint to color our world.

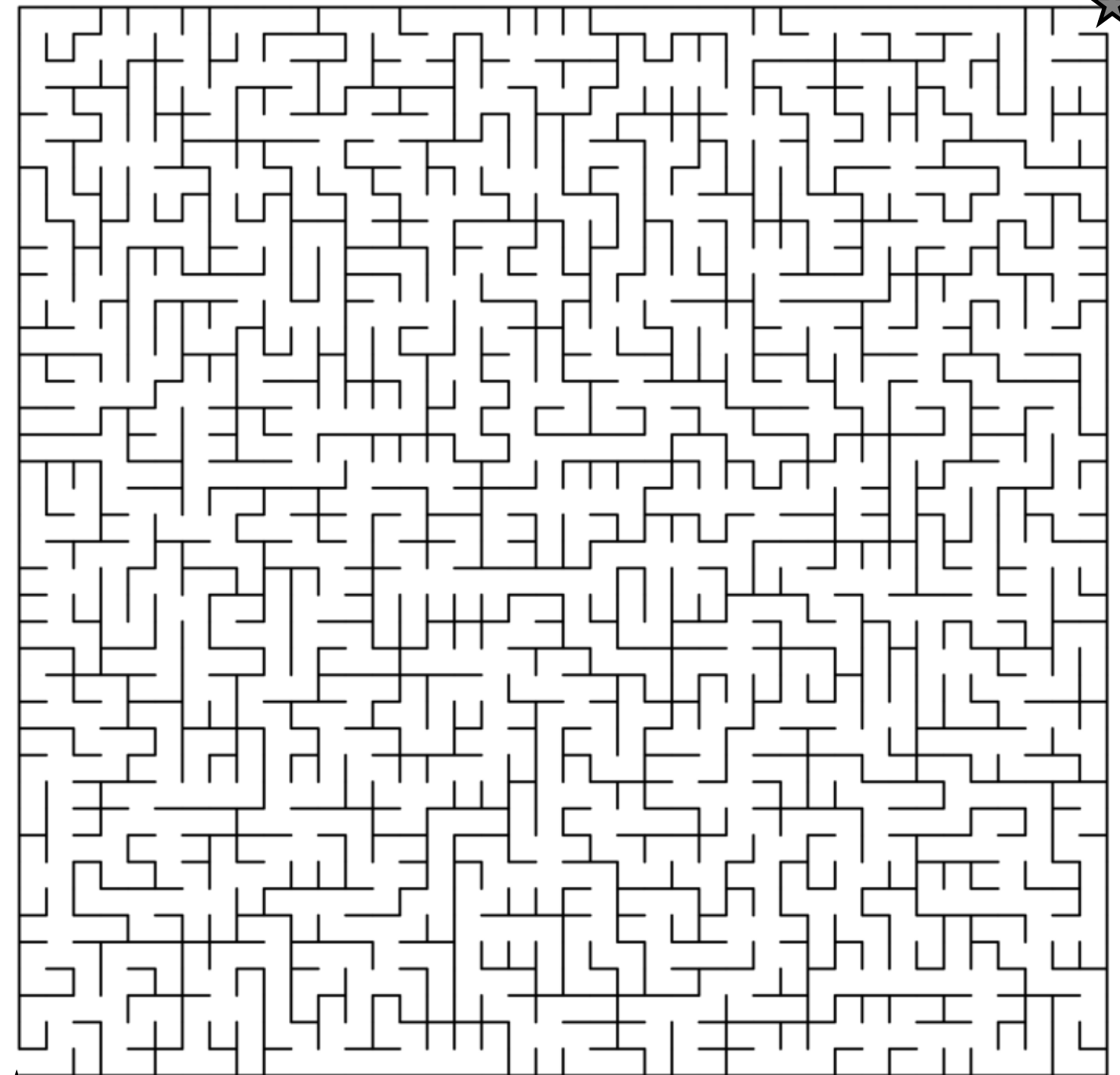
We are getting ready to plant the gardens! We will have tomatoes, beans, and peas! Families are welcome to come and help plant. We can let you know the days/times.

God Bless,  
Tressa Groom, LFOJ Director  
JoAnn Martikonis, LFOJ Administrator



The LFOJ Board is looking for new members. We are looking for 1-2 members from our congregation. We meet 10 times a year and you do not need to have a child or a child at LFOJ to join. Please contact Shannon Esala if you're interested. 715-292-0711

*Little Friends of Jesus is asking for your help. If you have a Thrivent account, you can get a grant for up to \$250 to help us paint our classrooms. Last summer we painted the outside, this summer we want to paint a mural on the wall and a fresh coat of paint to spruce up the rooms. We are also saving up and fundraising to get a new dishwasher. If you are interested, please see JoAnn, or catch her in her office. Thank You.*



**"80" Aged to Perfection**

I have been blessed with a loving church family and would like to invite you to my 80th Birthday Party at the Ashland School District office (2000 Beaser Ave.) from 1-3:00pm, Saturday, June 22nd. Please **no** presents, just your presence. Enjoy our music, refreshments and comradery. God is Good!. Sandy Frisco





(coninude from the previous page,)

### Fear NOT

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. –

2 Timothy 1:7 <sup>7</sup> For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

There is a total of 365 verses that tell us to fear not! One for every single day of the year! Take that devil!

### Biblical Languages

The original Bible wasn't just written in Hebrew but also Greek and Aramaic. The latter two are in the New Testament.

### Where was the Bible written?

With 40 authors, the Bible has been written on 3 continents! Asia Africa Europe

### What is a Bible?

When you head to a bookstore, you will see all kinds of non-religious "Bibles." Like this BBQ Bible... We kind of get this idea that "bible" means to be an ultimate guide. And don't get me wrong, the Bible is the ultimate guide for mankind to know and walk with God.

### What is the longest word in the Bible?

And I went unto the prophetess; and she conceived, and bare a son. Then said the LORD to me, Call his name **Mahershalalhashbaz**. Isaiah 8:3

### What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?

Psalms 117, it only has 2 verses.

## CAN YOU SPARE SOME TIME?

We are looking for anyone who might be interested in helping out with our live-streaming production weekly services. We would like to find one or more people to assist with the production of our services and also the posting of those services online. If you think you might have an interest in helping out please contact me or leave a note in the office. We sure could use a couple of subs. We have one new one, thanks Jim, sure could use one or two more. Thanks, Pastor Rick

## If You Hear This 4-Word Phrase When You Pick Up the Phone, Hang Up Immediately

By Brooke Nelson Alexander

Experts are warning about a robocall that starts with the simple four-word phrase "**Can you hear me?**" in hopes of recording your response and using it to commit fraud.

These four words are a red flag that you might be dealing with a phone scammer. Here's what you should do.

If you've been getting more robocalls lately, you are not alone. iPhone call scams have increased a whopping 118% in the past year, according to First Orion, and millions of Americans have fallen victim to phone scammers using AI voice scams looking to steal their money and identities.

### Why this phone scam is so dangerous

In general, all phone scams "are designed to do two things: gain information about you that can be used to impersonate you through identity theft, and get you to give money to the scammer," says Adam Gordon, an instructor at ITProTV, which provides professional IT training.

In this particular phone scam, a recorded voice will ask, "Can you hear me?" when a victim answers the call. The phrase is designed to trick the victim into responding "**yes,**" while the person or computer on the other end is recording\*. From there, the scammer can use the recording to access important online accounts, make purchases and commit fraud like identity theft. All they have to do is play the recording of your voice saying "yes" when asked to authorize a log-in or agree to a major purchase.

"This phone scam is particularly frightening because they simply rely on the human behavior of answering a quick question," says Matthew Shirley, director of offensive cybersecurity operations at Fortalice, a cybersecurity services company.

By getting right to the point, the scammer catches victims off guard and forces them to act fast before they have the chance to think rationally. Scams on Uber and Facebook Marketplace also rely on this strategy, so it's important stay vigilant across the board.

\* Example: "Just think about what someone with a recording of you saying 'yes' can attempt to access, unlock, change or authorize in today's remote-centric and faceless world,"

### The danger of chatbots and AI

This phone scam also reveals the sneaky potential of new chatbots and artificial intelligence (AI) technology to imitate human speech. These days, "AI chatbots are so advanced that they give the 'human touch,' being able to masquerade as a human successfully in many cases, and can be indistinguishable from a human in situations like a phone call," Gordon says.

Unfortunately, scammers are now using this new technology to fool victims into believing they are speaking with a real person on the phone. In a new version of the "Can you hear me?" phone scam, the call begins with a human-like voice saying "Sorry, I'm having issues with my headset."



This tactic makes people think that a real person is on the other line. It also "gives a little room for interpretation of pacing," like odd delays, which would ordinarily tip off the victims that they might be dealing with a phone scam, Shirley says.

Keeping these iPhone privacy settings up to date can boost your smartphone security and privacy, but they might not protect you in this case. Luckily, we've got the scoop from experts on why this phone scam is so dangerous, what you should do if you respond and how to avoid falling victim in the future.

Part 2 will be in the July newsletter







**Close-up of one of the quilts**  
**13 beautiful quilts to take a bid on.**

**The Sewing Circle is putting on a Quilt Raffle in the conference room. It is a silent auction and will run for the month of June. There are thirteen quilts and each has a minimum bid listed. Proceeds will go towards the roof project.**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Church Picnic**  
 Sunday, August 4th 10:00am  
 Prentice Park

**Wednesday Night Services 6:30pm**

If you are going to be away for the weekend please join us on a Wednesday. Sunday and the following Wednesday have the same service.



**May- June Mission Lutheran World Relief**

**PERSONAL CARE KITS** Helping people get through crisis at home, in their country, with their family, city. etc. around the world. More information in the Narthex.

Samaritan's Purse would like to thank Zion's Congregation for their gift of \$156 for the Chickens and Poultry Projects.



**The Bible**

How many times have you seen someone sleeping in the middle of a sermon? And how many times do you feel sleepy when reading the Bible? Sure, we love God with all our hearts, but as humans, our bodies sometimes go against what we want. We often feel sleepy because our mind is not stimulated enough by what we are doing. Yet, every time we go to the theaters to watch a newly released Marvel movie, it is rare to find someone dozing off. Because everyone is curious about it, if possible, no one will want to blink. However, many of us don't realize there are stories and facts about the bible that can be as exciting as an action film. Most of us do not know that the Bible is much more intriguing and fascinating than any fictional film out

there. It is just like a movie with amazing stories that are exciting and can touch our hearts. The only difference we do not see is that we have to use our imagination to picture the characters and places mentioned. However, if needed, you could get a children's bible for pictures as entertainment as well. In this article, we listed down some facts about the Bible that will get you glued on your seat!

**Thou Shall Not Steal**

Apparently, thieves missed the "Thou shalt not steal" part of the Ten Commandments. According to experts, the Bible is the most commonly stolen book. The Holy Bible is available for free at many places of worship, so perhaps there's less guilt associated with pilfering a copy. Let's hope they make it to the part about "repentance" in their stolen copy of the good book.

**The Shortest Verse in the Bible Is 2 Words**

Most Bible verses are known for being pretty long, especially when you are trying to memorize them; however, John 11:35 (KJV) is only two words: "Jesus wept." This verse references the tale in the Gospel of John where Jesus grieved for Lazarus, whom He then famously resurrected

**The Earth Is Round**

While it can be translated differently depending on how you look at it, a passage in the Bible does describe the world as round or sphere. This passage can be found in:

Isaiah 40:22 King James Version  
<sup>22</sup> It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

**Where is God?**

The book of Esther is the only book in the Bible that never mentions God's name. All other books in scripture mention God.

*(continued on the next page)*



## New Members to Zion - 2024



Kim Terry



JoAnn Martkonis



Fred & Andrea Dollens (son Andrew)



Cassidy Irwin



Tony and Candance William

### Why You Shouldn't Keep Plastic Wrap in a Drawer (From Readers Digest)

If you've used plastic wrap before, chances are you've struggled with the universal problem. The sticky food saver might just be *too* sticky. You're trying to stick it to the bowl or pan but the wrap seems to be a lot more interested in sticking to itself. And since you should **never** wrap your leftovers in aluminum foil, you're stuck wrestling with the thin sheets of plastic.



According to Lynell Ross, certified health and wellness coach and nutritionist trained in food safety, the problem may not be your brand, it might just be how you're storing it. Most of us slide our plastic wrap in a kitchen drawer or cupboard, right next to the aluminum foil and wax paper, but Ross recommends something a little different: store plastic wrap in your freezer. "The cold air in the freezer makes the plastic wrap much easier to handle. By freezing the plastic wrap the molecular structure of it changes, causing the surface to weaken chemical bonds,"

Ross isn't the only one. U.K. based food writer Liana of Liana's Kitchen learned this trick from her mother-in-law. "I find it regains its stickiness within about one minute of being out of the freezer, which is perfect timing for getting whatever I need wrapped or covered up," Liana said. "If ever I am out of freezer space I'll just pop the plastic wrap in about 10 to 15 minutes before I need it. This is usually enough time for the freezer to work its magic." . "

"It is safe to put the plastic wrap in the freezer, and in addition, when you double wrap foods that you bring home from the supermarket, you prevent freezer burn," Ross added. "The thin plastic on meat and poultry from the grocery store is too thin to protect foods well



Sticking with God is the same as becoming sold out to Him. It is a state of completely surrendering to Him to take charge of our lives.

If we claim that God is our anchor, we must allow Him to indeed assume that position in our lives. But with all the challenges in our world today, can one genuinely stick with God?

Yes, it is possible. Jesus Christ extends an invitation to us in Matthew 11:28-29, stating that His yoke is easy and burden light. If there is any yoke we should allow on our necks, it should be His. This is not to say that there will be no challenges, but He assures us that He has overcome the world.

#### Encouraging Bible Verses about Clinging To Jesus:

**Hebrews 10:23, NIV** Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

**Psalms 63:8, ESV** My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.





**Faith Dickrell**

Faith will graduate from Ashland High School this year. She is taking a break to figure out her next new adventure.



**Taylor Vyskocil**

Taylor graduated Magna Cum Laude from Saint Scholastic. She majored in biochemistry. She will be attending the College of Mayo in Rochester for a year to earn her Medical Laboratory Science degree.



**Adeline Bauer**

Adeline will be attending UW Eau Claire this fall, majoring in Sciences and Disorders. She plans to run cross country at UW Eau Claire



**Austin Vyskocil**

Austin will graduate from Ashland High School and will be attending the College of Saint Scholastica for Physical Therapy.



**Cadence Colby** (parents Brian & Danielle)



**Jeff Smuda** (wife Vicki, sons Jacob and Joel)



**Matt Papka**

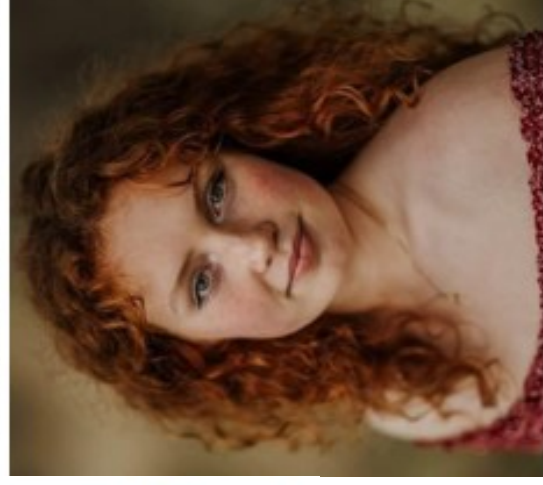


**Brooke Sapper**  
Master of Arts (Public History), Loyola University

**Kyle Sapper**  
Bachelor of Science, UW-La Crosse. Accepted into the Master's program at Viterbo University to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.

**Cadence Williams**

Cadence will be graduating from Ashland High School. She will either be attending River Falls or Northland College where she will be studying pre-vet in her pursuit to become a veterinarian. If she decides to attend Northland College she will also play soccer for them.



**New Members of Zion**

These are from the New Member Brunch held last month. There were a few who weren't able to make it and we hope to get their pictures soon. All of them will have a picture and short bio that will be attached to the "member directory" and handed out to those who have a directory.