

The Mountain Top Messenger

VOLUME 52, ISSUE # 3 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod MARCH 2014

According to my phone it is 37 degrees outside today, a veritable heat wave. The snow is melting, the streets are an absolute mess and thoughts of spring are already running through our heads. So what do I hear on this beautiful day? Someone said we are supposed to get 10 inches of snow, day after tomorrow. Suddenly all the thoughts of warmth and spring, crumble away and the thought of where am I going to put 10 more inches of snow flood the mind. Sometimes all it takes is a word to change us from happy to sad, calm to angry, and hundreds of other emotions. As we look at our world around us, all we see is change, one day fish oil is great for treating your cholesterol, the next day it doesn't do any good. One day coffee is bad, the next it's good, one day chocolate is bad, the next it's good. Gas prices, propane prices, food prices, up, down, up, down, up.... Seems they never come down farther than they go up, that the baseline just keeps moving up. So where do we find solace in this crazy world, where do we find peace, a peace that warms us even more than the sun on the first day above freezing in a very long time?

Where else, but the Word of God! Times change, people change (sort of), things change, but God's Word never changes. It's the same today as it was 2,000 years ago. The message that it brought forth then, is the exact same message it brings now. As Paul wrote in his second letter to Timothy,

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

What do we need to be complete and equipped for every good work? We need the Word of God. Through God's Word we learn, we understand, we grow, and discover the things that are truly important in life. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, our hearts and our minds are open and receptive to understanding God's Holy Word. We learn that the things of this life are only temporary, the snow, the gas prices, the food prices, and all the other crazy things this world can throw at us. We know that our true home awaits us in Heaven.

Please, read your Bible, join a Bible study, and let the peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ bring you comfort in this crazy world.

I also ask you to join us for our Wednesday Lenten "Soup and Sandwich Supper" and our Lenten series "Overheard" conversations by the Cross, more details inside the newsletter.

The Lord Bless you and Keep You,
Rick Williams
Vicar



Zion's Ministry Staff and Church Officers

E-Mail: zionashland@hotmail.com
Website: www.zionashland.org

Church Office 715-682-6075 (M/T/W 8am-12noon, Th-1-5pm)
Vicar Rick Williams 715-209-0479 (M/T/W/Th 8:00-5:00)
President, Chuck Chronis 715-208-0053
Head Elder, Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

LFOJ Child Care Center - Administrator, Karyn Leino 715-682-6075 ext. 12
Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center 715-682-5185

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Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 am **Wednesday Evening Worship 6:30pm**
Sunday School 10:15am
Bible Studies: Sundays 10:15am Mondays 10:00am

Stewardship Thoughts

Our church body, the LCMS, responded in record fashion to the human needs for mercy in the wake of a tsunami, 9/11, and Hurricane Katrina. The history of our Synod's corporate stewardship of mercy is laudable. These missions have been designated as "Mercy Ministries" and are very well supported with donations from our congregations.

Our own personal stewardship of mercy flows from the way we have been served by Jesus Christ. It includes our time and our presence even more than our treasures because it happens along the roadsides of life and leads us to care for those the Lord puts in our path. We should look to the Samaritan as an example and reap the blessings not fear the burden of personal stewardship in action.

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.



**Spring Ahead
March 9th**

ZION FINANCIAL REPORT— 2014 Budget January 2014

Giving	\$9,248.15
Actual Expenses	<u>\$13,636.11</u>
	(\$4,387.96)
M&I Loan Balance	(\$15,587.20)

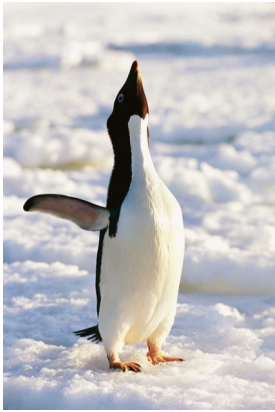
He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. [2 Corinthians 9:6]

Lenten Midweek Services
March 5th - Ash Wednesday
March 12th - April 9th

Walk on the Water

Herb and I went for a "walk on the water" today.

Now I better clarify that. Since we had warm temps and no fresh snow the past days, the snow has firmed into cement and you can walk right on top of the snow. This water is solid.



This hard-water invitation is also a source of tourism in northern Wisconsin. Just today there were car races on the ice on Chequamegon Bay. Fishermen hanging out at Ice Shack City. And last night they had a "Book across the Bay" ski race on the ice. In northern Wisconsin, we are quite used to making use of water as solid, liquid or gas (steam from power plant). Our sweet water is plentiful and a gift from our Creator.

Jesus took faith to a new level and walked on the water to rescue his friends in trouble (Mt.14). Peter also stepped out to meet him, but when he took His eyes off Jesus fear set in. Jesus reached out and caught him. Today I didn't consider that my eyes were locked on God when walking on top of the snow. But maybe I should have. For faith is not defined by church walls, prayer times, holy conversations... but rather faith is the day -in-and-day-out walk with our Creator. Seeing God in the daily routine. God at the office. God in the car. God in our thoughts and God in our actions. Locking the eyes of our faith on Him.

So let us remember, whether we are skating, skiing, snowmobiling, slipping, jumping, swimming, bathing, or splashing in baptismal water, walking on the waters of faith, or taking in the moist breath of life...we are called by God to be his sons and daughters. Enjoy the winter-walk of faith.

Spring is coming. Soon we will be wading in the waters of resurrection.



LADIES OF ZION



At the LWML meeting on February 15, 2014, it was decided that the business meetings would be held on the third Saturday of even numbered months (unless otherwise indicated) at 10:00am. On the odd numbered months (unless otherwise indicated) we will be meeting from 10:00am –



12:00pm to work on a Mission Project. Length of working time is flexible so ladies can drop in as their schedules allow. Maria Truchon is Project Chairman and will inform those attending of any supplies they would need to bring. Suggestions for projects are welcome. This would be a way to help others and enjoy a couple of hours with other women in the congregation.



Come join us on March 15th, 2014 at 10:00AM!!!!!!

LFOJ HAPPENINGS

Little Friends of Jesus (LFOJ) will be serv-

ing the

Soup

Sand-

Supper



and

wich

on



SOUP AND SANDWICH SUPPERS Starting Wednesday, March 5th - 5:15pm Lenten Service to follow at 6:30pm

Mar. 5 Altar Guild/LWML
Mar. 26 Board of Education

Mar. 12 LFOJ
Apr. 2 Youth Group
M-M-M-M GOOD!

Mar. 19 Trustees
Apr. 9 Elders/ Evangelism

Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes

February 17, 2014

The February 17, 2014 meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President, Chuck Chronis. Chuck also opened the meeting with prayer.

ROLL CALL: Chuck Chronis (President), Darryl Warren (Elder), Lynn Ladd (Education), Penny Mattson (Stewardship), Lori Hebert (Evangelism), Cheri Tamke (LFOJ), Nick Jarvela (Trustees).

MINUTES: Motion by Warren, second by Jarvela, to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2014 Council meeting as printed. Motion carried.

AGENDA: Motion by Jarvela, second by Warren, to approve the agenda as printed with addition to new business. Motion carried.

BOARD REPORTS: Motion by Hebert, second by Mattson to accept the Board Reports as given. Motion carried.

Evangelism: *Confirming date for visit by Brad Alles.*

Elders: Meeting with confirmation students has begun and will be ongoing. Discussion and approval of moving Easter breakfast to Palm Sunday as a trial, will evaluate for next year.

Trustees: Recycling and garbage collection contract has been renegotiated with Waste Management vs Eagle Waste as previously planned. Planning to inspect roof to be sure all vents are open and unblocked. Will be working with Alter Guild group to update upstairs women's bathroom. Capital Improvement Committee met and identified and assigned tasks.

Education: Sunday school received donation from Torkko Memorial. Soup and sandwich proceeds will go towards VBS 2014. Carla Schwantes has volunteered to head a women's ministry event, open to the community, on May 4th from 12:30 to 5pm, theme will be "Café Chocolat". Secret Pal Reveal/Mother-Daughter night planned for April 28th at 5:30pm.

LFOJ: Continued discussion and research for health insurance offered to staff.

OFFICIAL ACTS: Motion by Jarvela, second by Ladd to accept the Official Acts. Motion carried.

Baptism: Lucas Brian Bolz (01-16-2014)

OLD BUSINESS:

Capital Improvement Committee Update – met and identified and assigned tasks.

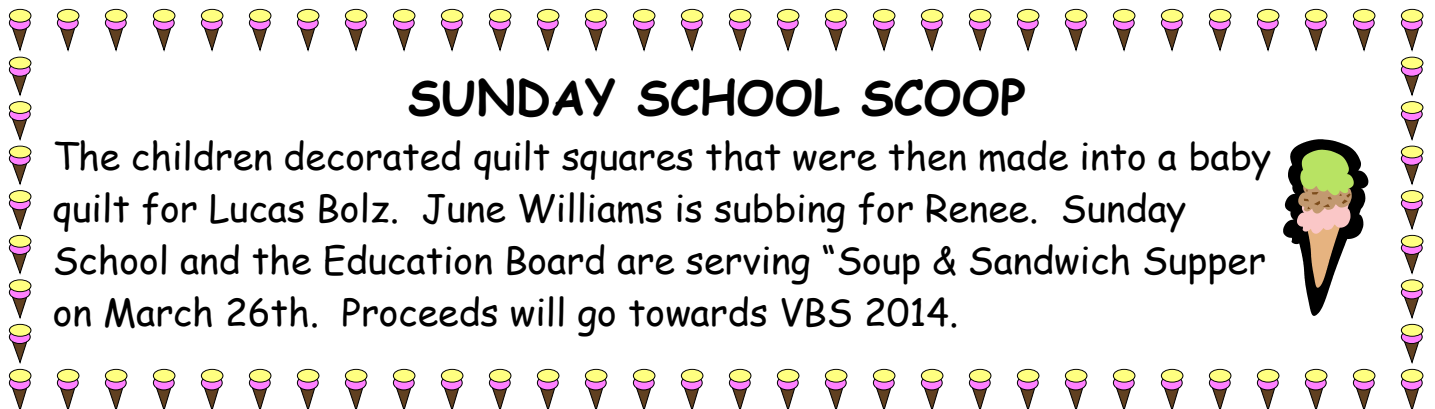
Organ – Organ committee formed and is planning on making site visits to area churches with organs Zion is interested in. Current organ is need of repairs, repairman will visit to identify issues and give estimate. Discussed potential fund raising for organ replacement.

NEW BUSINESS

Defibrillator – Decision to purchase defibrillator. Training to be determined.

New Member Celebration – Date of March 23 set planning to begin.

ADJOURN: Motion by Ladd, second by Hebert to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

The children decorated quilt squares that were then made into a baby quilt for Lucas Bolz. June Williams is subbing for Renee. Sunday School and the Education Board are serving "Soup & Sandwich Supper" on March 26th. Proceeds will go towards VBS 2014.





MARCH 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!!

Our Prayer Concerns

MARCH

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 Otto Rusch Riley Bretting
Clarence Houle Matt Raspotnik Dale Houle

Nursing Home & Assisted Living Resident

Elna Torkko Corrine Tolliver Sharon Johnson
Otto & Dorothy Rusch Gloria Mills Walt Schutte

Shut-in's

Gordon & Marianne Vyskocil Arlene Zimmerman
Clarence & Madge Houle

Military Aaron Esala - Navy

ELDERS

Mar. 2 Mike Cashman & John Pruss
Mar. 5 Don Pocernich & Chuck Chronis
Mar. 9 Darryl Warren & Doug Warren
Mar. 12 Mike Cashman
Mar. 16 John Pruss & Don Pocernich
Mar. 19 Chuck Chronis
Mar. 23 Doug Warren & Mike Cashman
Mar. 26 John Pruss
Mar. 30 Chuck Chronis & Darryl Warren

GREETERS FOR MARCH

Mar. 2 Jim & Lori Hebert
Mar. 5 Draeger Family
Mar. 9 Loren & Eleanor Munson
Mar. 12 Pat & Katie Colgrove
Mar. 16 Rick & Sandy Nutt
Mar. 19 Sapper Family
Mar. 23 Ron & Brenda Schwiesow
Mar. 26 Herb & Alice Ellis
Mar. 30 Nick & Jule Jarvela

MARCH Acolytes

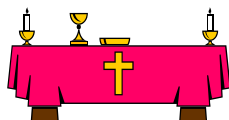
Mar. 2 Jordan Thimm & Carolyn Gurske
Mar. 5 Sydney Vyskocil & Heather Dickrell
Mar. 9 Annie Ylitalo & Kyle Sapper
Mar. 12 Kaitlyn Dickrell & Ashlee Moreland
Mar. 16 David Ovaska & Jacob Graves
Mar. 19 MaryBeth Barker & Cooper Tamke
Mar. 23 Eric Bochler & Justin Esala
Mar. 26 Brooke Sapper & Tia Warren
Mar. 30 Carolyn Gurske & Taylor Vyskocil

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism — Lucas Brian Bolz Feb. 2, 2014

MARCH ALTAR GUILD

Eleanor Munson 682-8155
Alice Balmer 682-0700
Irene Piff 682-6237



MARCH Ushers

Mar. 2 Curt Harpster & Nick Jarvela
Mar. 5 Jim Hebert
Mar. 9 Don Moreland & Henry Truchon
Mar. 12 Randy Spangle
Mar. 16 Brian Klobucher & Todd Vyskocil
Mar. 19 Jerry Frisco
Mar. 23 Loren Munson & Paul Osmak
Mar. 26 Tate Warren
Mar. 30 Ron Schwiesow & Scott Thimm