

# The Mountain Top

# Zion Lutheran Church

## Messenger

VOLUME 54, ISSUE # 3 MARCH 2016

Grace, Peace, and Mercy to you from God our Father and Jesus Christ His Son, our Savior as we prepare to celebrate Easter. As part of my Lenten Devotional time I have been reading the book 40-Day Journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer. I have mentioned Pastor Bonhoeffer before, he was a Lutheran pastor in Nazi Germany during World War II. He was a very prolific writer and had the opportunity to stay out of Germany prior to the start of the actual hostilities of WWII but chose to go back to his homeland to oppose the Nazi's. Bonhoeffer spent the last year and a half in a concentration camp and was executed on April 9, 1945, two weeks before U.S. Army liberated the camp.

In my devotional for this morning I read about Bonhoeffer's thoughts about "cheap grace". I believe I have mentioned them either here in the newsletter or in a Sunday sermon message or Bible study. The point being, after reading them again I felt, particularly during this time of Lent, they were worthy of repeating, so bear with me, Bonhoeffer wrote:

*Cheap grace means grace as bargain-basement goods, cut-rate forgiveness, cut-rate comfort, cut-rate sacraments; grace as the church's inexhaustible pantry, from which it is doled out by careless hands without hesitation or limit. It is grace without a price, without a cost... Cheap grace is preaching forgiveness without repentance; it is baptism without the discipline of community; it is the Lord's Supper without the confession of sin; it is absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without the living, incarnate Jesus Christ.*

We see cheap grace in the world around us, we see it in the feel good mega churches of today. Cheap grace tells people that because of God's grace, their sins are forgiven, they don't have to do anything. They can continue to live as if they are part of this world and no one will be the wiser. To the minds of those living under cheap grace it has the illusion of being the best of both worlds.

The problem, if our grace is cheap, then so is what our Lord accomplished on Easter morning. This issue has been a problem from day one of the church. The apostle Paul addresses the issue with the Christian's in Rome and that message is intended for us as well. Paul wrote:

<sup>15</sup> *What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!*

<sup>16</sup> *Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?* <sup>17</sup> *But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,*

<sup>18</sup> *and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (Romans 6:15-18)*

So a reminder as we head into Easter, we are not slaves to sin, we are not bound to this world or its ways. Our grace comes through our faith in Christ so that we no longer live to the ways of this world but in righteousness through our faith in Christ.

God's blessing to you this Easter Season.

Look! The tomb is empty! Praise be to God!

Pastor Rick



**Church Office - 1111 - 11th Ave. W  
Ashland, WI 54806  
Phone # - 715-682-6075  
Website: [www.zionashland.org](http://www.zionashland.org)  
E-mail - [secretary@zionlutheranashland.com](mailto:secretary@zionlutheranashland.com)**

**Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 [pastor@zionlutheranashland.com](mailto:pastor@zionlutheranashland.com)**

**Office Hours:**

**Monday  
8-12/1-5**

**Tuesday  
8-11:30-12:30-5**

**Wednesday  
12-8**

**Thursday  
8-12/1-5**

**Friday  
OFF**

(Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor Williams as he may be visiting shut-in's, at a conference, etc.)

**Church President:** Nick Jarvela 715-682-0385

**Head Elder:** Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

**Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center:** 715-682-5185

**LFOJ Administrator:** Karyn Leino 715-682-6075



## Stewardship Thoughts

Now that we have entered the season of Lent, the topic comes up about giving something up (sacrificing) for Lent. This ultimately involves our possessions. In and of themselves possessions are neutral, neither good nor bad. They are gifts from our Heavenly Father to use for our enjoyment. (Remember that the next time you get a ding, major dent or scratch in your new vehicle.) As the LCMS Center for Stewardship states, it is our sinful nature, through our desires, that puts our possessions on a plane that is contradictory to God's plan for us. Are desires wrong? Of course not! Our desires are gifts from God. But as with God's gifts in this fallen sinful world, Satan is hard at work deceiving and distorting what God provides. It is when our desires for possessions become uncontrolled that greed arises. In the Gospel of Luke, particularly in the narrative of Jesus' parables, possession often become snares through theft, hoarding, flagrant consumption and exploitation. The needs of the poor and needy are dismissed. Also in Luke. Mary sings that God "has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things and the rich he has sent away empty." (Luke 1:53-53)

As we journey through Lent, let us come with a spirit of repentance and a desire (gifts of God) to be the steward Jesus wants us to be. As Psalm 51:17 states, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."

**Donations for Easter lilies are being taken in the Narthex.**



### **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.

### **Our Prayer Concerns**

### **MARCH**

#### **Mission**

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

#### **Thanksgiving**

To all of you who have worked faithfully and joyfully to serve our Lord by serving others and often go unnoticed by all but our Heavenly Father.

#### **PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING**

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:

*Larry Korbein, Katie Stipetich, Diane Hyvonen, Bob Heggie, Kevin Heggie, Linda Stolarzyk, Sandi (Sorenson) Fletcher, Cheryl Hildebrandt, Wendy Meierotto, Joni Frisco, Rodger Dewey, Brad Prill, David Frantz, Patsy Kontny, Dorothy Rusch, Gordon Vyskocil, Janice Kuralle, Nancy Zehe, Dean Jansheski, Larry Kaspar, Ingrid Pocernich, Janesa James, Jean Wickman, Fran Fleig*

#### **PRAYERS FOR HOMEBOUND**

Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them. *Gordon & Mariann Vyskocil, Walt Schutte, Dorothy Rusch*



#### **PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION**

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families. *Aaron Esala, David Wright*

At the time of Jesus' death sunlight curtain ripped, rocks split, and the earth ly a "knock your socks off" event. So handle the after-shock of the empty dead body is gone, the grave clothes are the stone is moved, the seal is broken, says, *He is not here.*



failed, the quaked. Tru-how do we tomb? The lying vacant, and the angel

I was in teaching in Seattle on February 28, 2001, when a 6.8 earthquake hit. Strange in itself, I had taught a lesson earlier that morning on what to do in the case of an earthquake. Well, let me tell you ... teaching about an earthquake is lot different than going through an earthquake. First, when the quake begins it takes a moment to believe the floor is moving; then you freeze in place because you feel dizzy, and then you dive for cover. I huddled under a table-desk with my student Disney. The other 8<sup>th</sup> grade students had just been dismissed for lunch. I told Disney when the room stops moving we will dash for the outside. Maybe not such a good idea, but I was not eager to stay in a building with an ominous old roof.

After forty-five seconds the room was still, and we dashed for the door and joined many others outside. Because this quake came from deep within the earth's crust, there were no after-shocks; but students teased me about the "prophetic" lesson that morning. For several days, it was quite amazing how everyone in Seattle was bonded by a shared question: *where were you when the quake struck?* There were many stories of fear and faith.

It is dawn and we are standing at the tomb. Did we ever believe the Easter drama would become something greater than the Son of God dying on a cross? But it did. Did we expect the tomb to be empty? But it was. This reality after-shock is taking hold. God's power surpasses the things of this earth... and the things that we understand. Yes, the quake of the cross set in motion an even more dynamic energy... Christ raised from the dead!



Be ready this Easter when the pastor calls out, *Christ is Risen...* and we Reply, *He is Risen Indeed...* to have your socks knocked off. The Good News of the empty tomb releases the grip of sin and death, and secures the eternal hope of resurrection. We are bonded by our shared question: *where were you when the stone was rolled away?* Behold. Be Amazed. Believe. Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!



## Zion Lutheran Council Minutes: January 2016

The December 13, 2015, Church Council Meeting was called to order by President, Nick Jarvela. Nick opened with prayer

**Roll Call:** Nick Jarvela (President), Lynn Ladd (Education), Lisa Guski (Co-treasurer & LFOJ), Mary Koosmann (Financial Secretary)

**January 2016 Minutes:** Motion to accept minutes by Guski, second Koosmann MMC.

**Treasurer's Report:** . 2015 financials have been completed, all tax documents submitted for the year.

**Meeting Agenda:** Motion accept agenda by Ladd, second by Guski MMC.

### Board Reports:

**Trustees:** Jarvela reported one of the boilers had failed and Rick Nutt was doing monthly checks and noticed it, called Blakeman's and they talked Rick through a restart. Has been working fine since that point and Blakeman will take care of any future problems.

**LFOJ:** Waiting lists have been updated. LFOJ will be serving Soup/Sandwich on 2/24. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be upcoming. Finally getting a contractor to look at the deck, steps and ramp for a bid for a new complete project.

### Old Business:

Plowing – Nick spoke with neighbor and discussed the early hours of plowing and informed them that it shouldn't be any earlier than 5:00am.

Meeting closed with **The Lord's Prayer.**

Respectfully submitted, LCL

Eye glasses can be brought to the office for distribution by the Lion's Club .

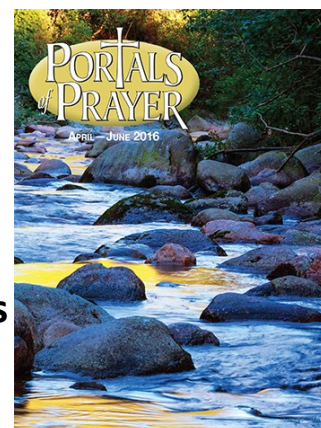


Ingrid Pocerlich would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, letters and visits. It is so appreciated! Ingrid will be at Northern Lights in Washburn for the next

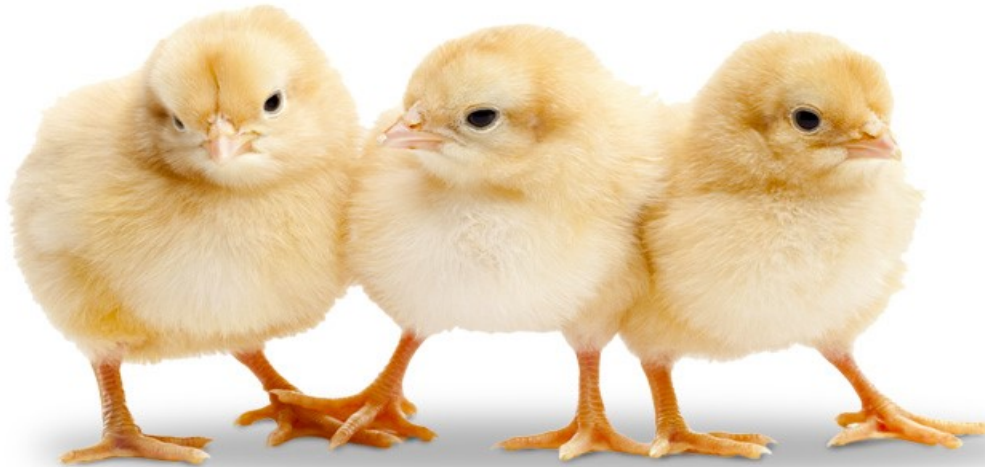
couple months. She would love some visitors. Give them a call at 715-373-5621 to see if she is in her room when you would arrive.

## ATTENTION

The LWML is collecting old Portals of Prayer and used postage stamps. They can be placed in the containers located on the bottom shelf below the personal mailboxes in the narthex. Thanks.



# March Mission



## Baby Chicks

God's compassions "*are new every morning*" (Lamentations 3:23). So are fresh eggs, for families who raise chickens supplied by Samaritan's Purse. Your monetary donation will provide chicks or other poultry that will soon lay enough protein-rich eggs to feed a family, with enough left over to sell or trade at market.

Every \$14 buys a dozen chicks.

Donation jar in the Narthex during  
the month of March.

**Wednesdays, Mar. 2,9,16 Soup/Sandwich Supper 5:00-6:00pm**  
**Mid-week Lenten Services 6:30pm**

**Sunday Lent Services March 6, 13 9:00am**

**Palm Sunday March 20 9:00am**  
**Youth Group serving breakfast after service**

**Maundy Thursday Service March 24 6:30pm**  
**Good Friday Service, March 25 6:30pm**

**Easter Sunrise Service, March 27 7:00am Easter Celebration Service 9:00am**



**Holy Week  
& Easter**

**Are you a policy holder with Thrivent?**

**Have you signed up for Thrivent Choice?**

**It isn't money from "your" account, but from Thrivent's charitable outreach funds.**

## **Thrivent Choice**

With Thrivent Choice®, you can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go. Since 2010, members have used this program to direct \$300 million to churches and nonprofits nationwide.

## **How Thrivent Choice Works**

### **Eligibility requirements**

Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. Eligible members are designated Choice Dollars that they can direct to enrolled charities.

### **Choosing a charitable organization**

There are thousands of participating organizations. You can direct Choice Dollars to as many participating organizations as you'd like, but you may not direct less than five Choice Dollars to an organization.

Zion greatly appreciates the choice dollars it currently receives, as does LFOJ. We encourage everyone who hasn't signed up for this outreach to please contact them now, find out more details and maybe join in with the thousands of others who participate.

For more information go online at [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) or call the Ashland office at 715-685-0605.

### **PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST Served by Zion's youth**

**March 21st 10:15am**

Please join in on a good breakfast after the service. This is a fundraiser for the youth trip to New Orleans in July for the National Youth Gathering.

When thousands of participants converge on New Orleans in July 2016 for the LCMS National Youth Gathering, they will be meeting under the theme "In Christ Alone."

**Please help support our youth during their fundraisers so they will be able to participate. It is an experience they will never forget.**





I love the theme of the 2016 Youth Gathering: In Christ Alone. If you haven't read it yet, check out the thematic primer for an in-depth study of the theme. We find the roots of this message in Paul's book to the Philippians. The theme echoes the tenants of our Lutheran faith: Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Scripture Alone.

There is also a powerful, modern hymn that bears the same name, In Christ Alone. I would like to take time to reflect on the lyrics of this hymn, especially as it makes a strong connection to our current Lenten reflections.

**In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand**

In the first verse, I am reminded of several passages of Scripture. As the melody of the song streams through your mind, let your fingers take a walk through the Bible and look at these passages: Psalm 62:5-8; John 8:12; Psalm 28:6-9; Ephesians 2:19-22; Romans 8:38-39; Ephesians 3:16-19. What verses come to mind when you reflect on your Savior Jesus? Share them in the comment section below.

**In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness**

**Scorned by the ones He came to save  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live**

In my Lenten reflections, I often find myself following Christ's journey from the cradle to the cross. The second verse of Keith Getty and Stuart Townend's song takes the same route. Christ's journey reflects the message of our salvation. Christ's actions are the fulfillment of God's promises. Read Romans 6:3-4.

**There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ**

Although our Lenten worship is more focused on the passion of Christ, we know the story does not end with the cross but leads to the empty tomb. All of the sin that is a part of our lives and this world finds its release in the resurrection of Jesus. We live in confidence that Christ has conquered everything. We can stand because of Christ alone!

**No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand**

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ shape our lives. When this Lenten season is ends, the journey from cradle to cross moves heavenward. The hope of the resurrection points to Christ's ascension. Like the disciples, we look to God's Word and anticipate Christ's glorious return. This is what we will celebrate at the 2016 Youth Gathering.

By: Jennifer Probst



**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!! 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.

Becky Sapper 682-8867  
Michelle Vyskocil 682-2498



**ELDERS**

Mar. 2 Doug Warren  
Mar. 6 Darryl Warren & Doug Warren  
Mar. 9 Scott Thimm  
Mar. 13 Darryl Warren & Andy Pruss  
Mar. 16 John Pruss  
Mar. 20 John Pruss and Andy Pruss  
Mar. 24 Scott Thimm & Darryl Warren  
Mar. 25 Doug Warren  
Mar. 27 Darryl Warren & Andy Pruss  
Mar. 27 Doug Warren & John Pruss  
Mar. 30 Scott Thimm  
Apr. 3 Darryl Warren & Doug Warren

**Acolytes**

Mar. 2 Justin Esala & Jayson Lunda  
Mar. 6 Trista Bolz & Justin Esala  
Mar. 9 Heather & Emily Dickrell  
Mar. 13 Terell Butterfield  
Mar. 16 Jayson Lunda & Tia Warren  
Mar. 20 Abbi & Ashlee Moreland  
Mar. 24 Ella Bauer & Logan Esala  
Mar. 25 Kyle Sapper  
Mar. 27 Tia Warren  
Mar. 27 Taylor Vyskocil  
Apr. 3 Ashlee Moreland & Trista Bolz

**GREETERS**

**(Please remind visitors to sign the guest book)**

Mar. 2 Lori Landry  
Mar. 6 Vyskocil Family  
Mar. 9 Lou Pearce  
Mar. 13 Sunie Family  
Mar. 16 June Williams  
Mar. 20 Sapper Family  
Mar. 24 Thimm Family  
Mar. 27 Loren & Ellis Munson  
Mar. 27 Moreland Family  
Apr. 3 Ethel Guss & Penny Mattson

**Ushers**

**(Please check that bookmarks are in the correct readings in the large Bibles)**

Mar. 2 Brian Klobucher  
Mar. 6 Jordan Thimm & Jim Hebert  
Mar. 9 Mike Cashman  
Mar. 13 Cooper Tamke & Loren Munson  
Mar. 16 Pat Colgrove  
Mar. 20 Jake Pruss & Alan Sunie  
Mar. 24 Adam Hinch & Scott Sapper  
Mar. 25 Chuck Chronis  
Mar. 27 Ron Schwiesow & Jim Johnson  
Mar. 27 Don Moreland & Bruce Honkala  
Apr. 3 Chris Bolz & Todd Vyskocil

**MARCH 27TH**



Daylight savings time

March 13th



GRANDPARENTS  
and grandchildren  
WELCOME

COMPLIMENTARY  
8x10 Portrait & Directory

**WE NEED YOU**

*to make our new family  
directory complete*

Sign-ups and information begins in March - look for detailed information in the Narthex. Free 8x10 picture, discounts on package purchases. Please ask questions, SIGN-UP!, enjoy this event.

Picture dates:

Thursday—Saturday March 31—April 2

PETS   
*are*  
WELCOME

**FEED THE NEED**  
FOOD DRIVE INFORMATION

Little Friends of Jesus  
 Preschool and Daycare  
 1111 11th Ave. W.  
 Ashland, WI 54806  
 715-682-5185  
 Zion Lutheran

# MARCH 2016



Church  
 1111 11th Ave. W.  
 Ashland, WI 54806  
 715-682-6075  
 secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>*** Daylight Savings Time March 13th</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Soup/Sandwich 5-6pm Confirmation 6-8pm <b>Lenten Worship</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Mite Sunday <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am	<b>7</b> 10:00am Bible Study  2016 Dartball Tournament Play at Zion 7:00pm	<b>8</b> LFOJ Chapel 11am Sewing Circle 1:00pm	<b>9</b> LFOJ Chapel 11am  Soup/Sandwich 5-6pm Confirmation 6-8pm <b>Lenten Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13 *** Elders Mtg. 7:45am</b> <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am Trustees Mtg.	<b>14</b> 10:00am Bible Study Church Council Mtg. 5:30pm 2016 Dartball Tournament Play at Zion 7:00pm	<b>15</b> <i>Newsletter Items Due</i>	<b>16</b>  Soup/Sandwich 5-6pm Confirmation 6-8pm <b>Lenten Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  LWML Mtg. 10:00am
<b>20 Palm Sunday</b> <b>Worship 9:00am</b> <b>Youth Breakfast 10:15am</b>	<b>21</b> 10:00am Bible Study  2016 Dartball Tournament Play at Zion 7:00pm	<b>22</b> Sewing Circle 1:00pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Maundy Thursday Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Good Friday Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Food Shelf Sunday <b>Easter Worship 7:00am &amp; 9:00am</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Confirmation 6-8pm <b>Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
				Church Directory Pictures		