

The Mountain Top **Messenger**

Volume 49, Issue 5 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod MAY 2011

“GIVE US A ‘SIGN’ ”

Matthew 12:38b “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.”

Corporate executives, teachers & professors, pastors, doctors, nurses – all have a significant amount of education that prepares them for their positions. It takes hard work and study, and money I might add, to be able to earn a degree that “qualifies” people to do what they do. And, then, at graduation they are given a diploma that is physical proof of their qualifications, well, more or less, because the ability to apply that education in a practical and meaningful way is often another matter.

When you go to the hospital or doctor’s office, or walk into a classroom, or listen to a sermon, do you demand to see a diploma? Of course not! You take for granted that the person is qualified and properly certified [although there HAVE been imposters]. Sometimes diplomas are framed and hung in offices to for all to see.

Although Jesus was known and referred to as “Rabbi” or “Teacher,” He didn’t have a diploma from Concordia or a certificate from Jerusalem University. Neither did He have any document that stated He is the Son of God. So when He did or said something that the Teachers of the Law – the Pharisees, didn’t like or agree with, His authority was questioned: “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.”

Jesus basically responded with action that stood behind His words, with miracles that attested to His authority and gave evidence to Who He is. He didn’t stoop to offering “proofs.” There were, however, a couple of exceptions. He gave scoffers and skeptics the sign of Jonah, and He showed Thomas His wounds.

Today, to people of a scientific age, even so-called proofs are often not enough. For example, the more “proof” that comes in all the time that favor creation over evolution, the more people dig in their heels and throw out the evidence – because people do NOT want to answer to God. They’d rather remain in their denial and unbelief. Interestingly, Jonah, the only sign Jesus gave to those who rejected Him, was, for a time, one of the most “contested” texts of Scripture. Even the “sign” Jesus gave at the Pharisees’ request, is swiped away.

Need a sign? Want proof that Jesus rose from the dead? How about EVERY one of Jesus’ disciples who went to their death rather than deny the resurrection; they were absolutely convinced and wouldn’t have died for a lie. How about the Pharisees who stopped looking for the body; they knew they wouldn’t find it because they knew He was alive. How about the living, risen Lord Who lives in you, Who forgives, renews, and strengthens your life! And then, of course, there is His own Word and promise.

“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN AND YET HAVE BELIEVED.”



Zion's Ministry Staff and Church Officers

E-Mail: zionashland@ hotmail.com

Church Office715 - 682 - 6075
 LFOJ Child Care Center
 Administrator, Karyn Leino..... 715 - 682 - 6075
 Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center
 715 - 682 - 5185
 President, Nick Jarvela.....715 - 682 - 0385
 Elder Chairman, Darryl Warren.....715 - 292 - 6071

Stewardship Thoughts

What motivates the Christian Steward? It has been suggested that gratitude for the gifts given us is the reason for stewardship. However, Christian Stewards look upon the gifts entrusted to them as something to administer, not to do with anyway they wish. It is in gratitude we return our gifts to the Giver by using them in the service of our neighbor. Gratitude is a response to God's grace in Christ, not a motivator. It is the Gospel, the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ that motivates the Christian Steward. We are grateful for the Giver, not the gifts.

From your Stewardship Committee



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.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

is hosting an Estate Planning Workshop with Attorney, Paul Brown.

Date: Wednesday, April 27th, 7pm

Place: Hotel Chequamegon, Ashland

This is a free event.

For more information and to RSVP, please call Dave Pagels office at 715-685-0605.

CHALLENGE - LFOJ Child Care Center is in need of \$5000/\$6000 to resurface their playground. A member of Zion has issued a challenge to members of Zion to help them in their effort to raise money for this cause. This member will match up to \$500.00 of the amount that is collected in April and May 2011. Please make your check to: LFOJ - put in envelope marked LFOJ Challenge. Thank you!



Website - The new website for Zion will soon be up and running. Anthony with Eaglewing Enterprises has been a great asset in setting it up for us. If you have any questions, suggestions, and/or ideas, now or later, please call Lynn at the office. 682-6075 We will let you know in an upcoming bulletin when it will be available to access.



NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST – Thursday mornings from 6:00 to 6:50 AM

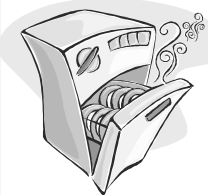
We are starting a new study entitled: "The Bible on Trial". You won't want to miss it. Please join us!

FROM THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE:

Kitchen Donations Requested:



The Memorial Fund Committee's Kitchen B Fund purchases congregational needs for Zion's kitchen; dinner napkins, Chinet plates (lg. & sm.), plastic cups, styrofoam cups, coffee (reg. & decaf.), coffee condiments, table coverings, saran wrap, baggies, etc., salt & pepper, dish soap, sponges & dish scrapers, new utensils when needed and any other necessities the kitchen committee agrees upon. Money for this fund comes from the family donation for services performed by the Serving Committee at the time of funerals at Zion. We are currently running low on funds and would appreciate any monetary donations anyone could spare. Make checks payable to Zion Memorial Committee with "kitchen fund" noted in the memo. Place your check or cash in a separate envelope and place it into the collection plate during any church service. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.



Zion Dishwasher Update:

By the time you read this notice, Zion should have already used the new dishwasher that was purchased with the aid of many memorial gifts. This has been a slow process, but we are very grateful for everyone's hard work on the project. Thank you. Zion is so very blessed to have such dedicated members.



**May 8th
Mother's
Day**

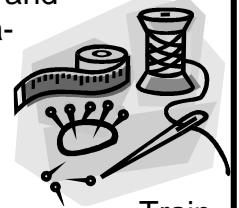
**ATTENTION ALL
QUILTERS!!!!**

**Only one month left before
summer break!**

The Sewing Circle meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm. More willing hands are always needed. **No need to be a seamstress as this work can be done by anyone.** So ladies please find a few extra hours twice a month to do the Lord's work.

Quilts made at Zion go to the Orphan Grain Train and also to local fire victims and baby quilts to babies baptized at Zion.

For more information on the Orphan Grain Train, pick up a brochure from the table in the narthex.



Scrapbooking

Friday, May 6th 5:00-10:00pm

If you need space, time, or inspiration to get caught up on organizing photos, getting your photos in albums, scrapbooking or cardmaking, come join us in the church basement, Friday night. You will have plenty of space to spread out to work. You will also have the opportunity to see what others do with their pictures to give you ideas. Soda, water and punch are provided. Please bring a snack to share. There is a \$5fee. Please RSVP to Jodi Truchon if you are interested in coming. (jbtruchon@yahoo.com or 866-267-8749) Thank you!

Committee for a Cross

We are looking for anyone that may have any ideas or suggestions and would be interested in being on a committee to investigate the possibilities of a lighted cross on the outside of the church. Thank you. God Bless. Please call Sandy at 715 682-5401 if you are interested.



Zion Lutheran Church

Council Minutes

April 18, 2011

The April 18, 2011 meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President, Nick Jarvela. Pastor Steckling opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

ROLL CALL: President – Nick Jarvela, Elder – Darryl Warren, Trustee – Jim Johnson, Financial Secretary – Mary Koosmann, Education – Dawn Reardon, LFOJ – Cheri Tamke, Treasurer – Karen Wahl, Secretary – Becky Sapper, Evangelism – Liisa Eyerly, Stewardship – Penny Mattson, Pastor Larry Steckling.

MINUTES: Motion by Mattson, second by Koosmann, to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2011 Council meeting as printed. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion by Warren, second by Mattson, to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed. The year-to-date balance as of 3/31/2011 was (\$2,088.06). Motion carried.

AGENDA: Motion by Eyerly, second by Tamke, to approve the agenda with one addition to Old Business. Motion carried.

BOARD REPORTS:

Next reports are due: May 9, 2011. Motion by Warren, second by Tamke, to accept the Board Reports as given.

Elders: Meeting with confirmands in May. There will be a meeting on May 11th at 6:30 pm led by District President Hoelter. The purpose of this meeting is to officially begin the call for a new pastor and is open to the members of the congregation. President Hoelter will give options for how the congregation is able to submit possible names.

Trustees: Changed to name on Zion's three parcels for consistency and to accurately reflect our legal name (Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church). This will help facilitate the combining of our three parcels on one quit claim deed which is needed prior to considering adding a sign to the 11th Street parcel. Bulbs were changed in sanctuary to be more energy efficient.

Financial Secretary: Envelopes will be given to new confirmands.

Education: May 8th is the last day of Sunday School. Children will celebrate this day as 'Sundae Sunday'.

Evangelism: Dinner fundraiser for the 11th street sign, they will begin researching types of signs. Lissa Eyerly will be resigning from the Board of Evangelism since they will be moving. Diane Cashman will be joining the Board of Evangelism.

Pastor: A new class is needed to address new member inquiries(7). Pastor will be conducting a wedding April 29, 2011 (Lauri Neibauer and Don Moreland). Don's daughter will be baptized on May 21, 2011. Request for funds and prayers by the District for those impacted by the recent Merrill tornado, Pastor has included them in the prayers on Sunday and Monday.

OFFICIAL ACTS:

Baptisms: 3/30/2011, John Truchon 3/30/2011, Brianna Evey-Katon

Outgoing Members:

Transfer, 04/04/2011, Susan Groom and children, Jesse, Magnus and Gracie to Peace Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI

Release, 04/13/2011, Carlee Anderson to Hope Lutheran Church (ELCA), Eau Claire, WI

Death: 03/24/2011, William F. Meyer

OLD BUSINESS:

Liisa showed the Council the structure for the church's new website. Lynn Ladd will provide information for updating the website to the webmaster on an as needed basis. The website will go live very soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

A retirement celebration will be held in Pastor's honor on July 31, 2011 following the church service.

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

May Servers for Worship Services 2011

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!!

ELDERS

May 1 Don Pocerlich & John Pruss
Mon. May 2 Chuck Chronis
May 8 Doug Warren & Chuck Chronis
Mon. May 9 Rick Williams
May 15 John Pruss & Darryl Warren
Mon. May 16 Don Pocerlich
May 22 Chuck Chronis & Rick Williams
Mon. May 23 Doug Warren
May 29 Darryl Warren & Don Pocerlich
Mon. May 30 John Pruss

Next meeting May 7th - at 7:30am

GREETERS FOR MAY

May 1 Jack & Karen Hultman
May 8 Scott & Becky Sapper
May 15 Clarence & Kathy Osmak
May 22 Scott & Tami Thimm
May 29 Wendell & Bonnie Friske

MAY Ushers

May 1 Brett Heglund & John Eyerly
May 8 Warren Draeger & Pancho Graves
May 15 Paul Osmak & Rick Nutt
May 22 Logan Tamke & Kevin Tamke
May 29 Francis Balmer & Ron Schwiesow

MAY Acolytes

May 1 Kathryn Draeger & Riley Heglund
May 8 Tiffany Houle & Ciera Maday
May 15 Michael Wittling & Briana Klobucher
May 22 Jacob Pruss & Dylan Williams
May 29 Ben Cashman & Maggie Reardon

OFFICIAL ACTS

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3/30/2011 – Brianna Evey-Katon
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MAY ALTAR GUILD

Shannon Esala 292-0711
Tami Thimm 682-4817
Tammi Heglund 685-9947
Kaitlyn Thimm



Our Prayer Concerns MAY

Mission

Zion Lutheran Church
Little Friends of Jesus Childcare Center
Missionaries Philip & Kerri Schielke & family



Thanksgiving

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

Nursing Home & Assisted Living Resident

Roger Basina
Ed Engelmann

Shut—ins

Corrine Tolliver
Ron Nevala
Walt & Agnes Schutte

Illness

Otto & Dorothy Rusch Jeanine Thimm Paul Nevala
Roger Basina

Local & US Concerns

Keith Spaulding a nephew of Janet Houle deployed to Iraq



Steve Sorenson, son of Dave & June Sorenson U.S. Navy, stationed in San Diego, CA

Christan Zwetow, granddaughter of Clarence & Madge Houle stationed at Fort Polk, LA

EMT-Field Medic James Pearce, son of Jim & Jeanne Pearce, stationed at Fort Riley, KS

Dan Meller, son-in-law of Pat & Katie Colgrove, stationed in Hayward, WI.

Aaron Aschenbrenner, son-in-law of Lynn & Chuck Ladd, stationed in Chippewa Falls, WI..