

The Mountain Top

Zion Lutheran Church

Messenger

VOLUME 54, ISSUE #5 MAY 2017

The other day as I got out of my car here at church, one of the little people over at LFOJ called out to me; "Good morning pastor" to which I replied, "good morning" he then said something that caught me off guard, with a smile on his face he said "He is risen", it threw me for just a moment and then I replied, "He is risen indeed, Alleluia". He then burst out in a huge smile and ran over to his teacher and said, "it works!". She then came over and told me that they had told the children how long ago in times of persecution in the church Christians would identify each other by that challenge and response. And now these children know the response as well, my hat is off to the staff on a job well done. As I thought about that event I thought about us, we God's people at Zion. Are we as excited as that little child was when we mention the fact that our Lord and Savior has risen from the dead? We sometimes tend to over think these things; we sometimes doubt and question. We sometimes say oh yea, right. Richard Dawkins, the outspoken atheist, says, "Accounts of Jesus' resurrection and ascension are about as well-documented as 'Jack and the Beanstalk.'" Well, Mr. Dawkins has clearly not looked at all the evidence out there and its meaning. First and foremost is the fact that if the tomb was not empty, if Jesus had not risen, there would be no Christianity. If the ruling class of Jerusalem could have produced a body, there would be no Christianity. We also have several references in scripture to the fact that Jesus had appeared to over 500 people following His resurrection. Paul even encourages his readers to talk to them and says most of those 500 are still alive. And we could also look at the disciples, prior to seeing the resurrected Christ, they were behind locked doors, fearing for their lives. After seeing and being with the resurrected Jesus and receiving the Holy Spirit, they were bold to preach the Gospel, openly and in public regardless of the consequences and all except John, died a violent martyr's death. People do not do that kind of a thing for a lie. Which brings me back to where I was going. We question, we wonder, we doubt, but we push forward with reassurance and faith, which we receive from the Holy Spirit, God's Word, the Sacraments, and Christian fellowship. Sometimes we need to not think so much and just believe, just like little Preston did when he called out to me "He is Risen!", "He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!" Have faith like a little child. And remember what our Lord and risen Savior tells. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

God's blessing as we slowly begin to move from spring towards summer, may the Lord watch over all of you and all that you do.

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

He Is Risen!

Pastor Rick



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

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 Office Hours: M/T/W/Th 8:00am-5:00pm

(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



**Our Prayer Concerns
MAY**

Mission

Zion Lutheran Church (monthly missions, Sewing Circle) LWML Jordan Kroll Mission
Little Friends of Jesus Childcare Center

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: Bob Heggie, Kevin Heggie, Joni Frisco, Brad Prill, Dean Jansheski, Jean Wickman, Fran Fleig, Emily Hagstrom, Eddie Brown, Johnny Galligan, Alice Balmer, Mary Bullis, Sheldon Henri, Charles Ylitalo, Violet Basina, Tracy Steward, Tim Smith, Melissa Grage, Jim Bullis, Ellen Hodgson, Buzz Leciejewski, Joe Stach, Bob Schwiesow, Gerald Johnson, Tyler Lehto, Micah Leoso and those in our hearts and minds.

PRAYERS FOR HOMEBOUND

Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them. Walt Schutte, Arlene Zimmerman, Madge Houle



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, Johanna Pearce

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.

Prayer



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP



April started with the Sunday School singing Psalm Sunday (could you fill in the song they sang from the red hymnal) after carrying in the psalms and placing them at the altar. The Sunday School along with the teachers completed the stained glass crosses and can be seen hanging in the basement. The Sunday School students collected \$16.63 donations (the student's pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and even a dollar) for Lutheran World Relief March mission of purchasing chicks for families living in third world countries-thank you students. The

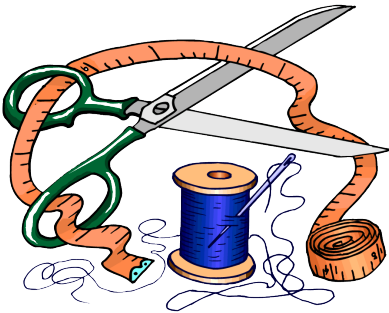
April mission was presented to the Sunday School class by Jule Jarvela with the LWML teaming with the Sunday School to raise money for LAMP (Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots) purchasing fuel for planes in areas of Canada only reached by plane. Each class received handouts and a collection container. I came up with an idea of each student making and painting a wooden plane with the LAMP sign along with the cross.

God's Blessings to each and everyone.

Submitted by Katie Colgrove

SEWING CIRCLE

May 7th, the Sewing Circle will be displaying some of the quilts that have been made during the church service. The quilts are for the Orphan Train and area victims. They also make quilts for newborn baptisms.



LAWN MOWING -



Spring is here and the grass is growing. The sign-up sheet is on the table by the office door. The church has the necessary equipment needed for mowing. Please contact Nick Jarvela (682-0385) for further information.

Stewardship Thoughts

Stewardship is a trust relationship. God spoke a perfect creation into existence with the first humans - Adam and Eve - as the first stewards. This was a perfect relationship in trust in The Lord and trust in each other at its center of operation. This trust was shattered by the disobedience of sin in The Fall. Humans then took over ownership of the creation and rebelled against the Creator/Owner.

Stewardship leaders are given the task of teaching stewardship as a matter of trust. Our stewardship is a mark of our trust in The Lord. The first article of the Apostles Creed confesses that The Lord is the one who makes and provides house, home, wife, children, land, animals and all that we have to support this body and life. This trust captures the core of stewardship. When the steward fails in the divine task of stewardship it is a lack of trust in the Lord's ability to provide. This lack of trust is unbelief and can lead to eternal consequences. Because of the grace of God revealed in Jesus' death and resurrection, it doesn't have to. But it can.

Stewardship leaders are called to teach a stewardship of trust. This trust needs to be proclaimed from the pulpit and taught in Bible classes on a regular basis. The people may be uneasy about this teaching but it is essential. Sure, it is easy in the busyness of life for believers to be engulfed and lose their way and fall into mistrust. God's Word of promises made and kept proclaimed and read, is the only corrective for this kind of forgotten trust. God never gave up on Israel's faithless stewardship. He never failed them. The Lord is the same today, yesterday and always. He will never fail. This we can trust.

The stewardship leader cannot control how other stewards in the congregation respond. The steward leader is the instrument the Holy Spirit uses in leading people to trust in The Lord. This is not a light responsibility. If a congregation cannot control its spending of money wisely without regard to its consequences of debt, we can't expect stewards of the congregation to be wise and better stewards. Actions speak louder than words!

The church is tasked to provide resources for ministry. If it is miserly and short-sighted in this regard, it also violates trust in The Lord to provide for His church. Scripture is clear about the church making disciples. Failure to do so violates trust in The Lord. Stewardship leaders are stewards of the trust of the congregation when it comes to being the people of God assembled around Word and Sacrament for the sake of the community.

Trust is a major component of stewardship. It is a gift from God to be guarded by both the individual Christian and the steward leader. When trust falters, the work of the Gospel is impaired. When restored by God's grace, it leads to amazing results. This is trustworthy and true.

LCMS e-newsletter StewardCAST

May Mission

Every 60 seconds a child dies from malaria.



Malaria is a serious disease. Most vulnerable are pregnant women & children. Anti-malarial drugs are used to help those infected, but distribution & availability prevent that from being highly effective.

Bed Nets are working!

Used at night when mosquitoes bite. They reduce deaths and illness!

Support the LCMS Malaria Project

Give mothers peace of mind, with a bed net to protect her and her children while they sleep.

For every \$10 donated, a picture of a child will be placed under the "net"...let's see how many children we can protect this month!

Checks can be made out to: LCMS - Malaria Project



March's Mission to Samaritan's Purse for the chicks was \$351



Altar Guild meeting will be Monday, May 8th at 6:00pm. Paula Pruss, Becky and Brooke Sapper are on duty for the month of May.

ALTAR GUILD

Come and See

-Alice J. Ellis:

After a long winter, a warm breeze challenges an upnorth skeptic to ask if spring will ever come? Do we dare to believe that beneath packed-crusty snow something is happening? Did we not see other years the shackles of winter melt? Did not dormant plants come to life and hibernating animals wake up? Did we not hear frogs sing the "halleluiah chorus" and ice-locked rivers carry the grace-notes of freedom. Even Chequamegon Bay has a history of working a spring wind to carry away sheets of winter that once again geese, ducks, eagles and others may play in fresh water. Do we dare to believe this dynamic shift of seasons can happen again?

Nature's annual performance can also help us understand why we question the bizarre events of Holy Week. Do we dare to believe a king rides into Jerusalem on a lowly donkey? Do we dare to believe a king washes the dusty feet of his disciples? Even Jesus' words of "his body and blood" at the Last Supper raise questions. Or how about a betrayal kiss by an inner circle disciple? But nothing prepares the skeptical observer for Good Friday when we stand on Golgotha and hear the pounding of nails and Jesus- the innocent one- is raised up to die on a cross. And if that is not enough Jesus says: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Who is this King of the Jews"? The ground shakes, the curtain rips...did hope just die?

No wonder at Easter we get up before dawn and rush to the tomb of Jesus. We are perplexed for the stone is rolled away and a snow-white angel greets us and proclaims: "He is not here; for he has risen." Our skeptical hearts melt, we are awake. We pronounce the words aloud for our own ears: He is Risen! We announce them out to each other: He is Risen! We are singing. For Jesus' resurrection threw off the shackles of despair, the shift of seasons, the course of history, and the slippery slope of death itself.



So let us pay attention to things happening around us that we may wake up and witness the rebirth of the crocus, the bright welcome of daffodils, the gentle beauty of blossoms, and travel this triumphant journey of Holy Week

to the cross and on to the empty tomb. That again we may speak life-giving words shaped by forgiveness infused with resurrection hope. For Jesus' resurrection adds a spring to our step, sets free great joy in our hearts, blesses those around us, and calls out to those who have no hope. The tomb stands empty. Come, see, and sing: He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!



Clear Direction

In the Word

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. ([Psalm 25:4](#))

Of the Word

Driving some streets and roads can be confusing. At some intersections, turning left is illegal. The driver is required to turn right, go a short distance, and then make a u-turn to head in the desired direction. Or, there might be a round-about – a marvel of traffic flow that sends all vehicles in a left-handed circle until the sought after exit is reached. "Who designed this?" is a common reaction.

Sometimes our life feels as frustrating. We think we know exactly where we should or need to be. However, circumstances seem to be forcing us in the wrong direction or trapping us in endless circles. We stubbornly focus on the destination we are certain is best for us.

Thankfully, our gracious Father has the path already planned for our journey. We can trust Him to lead us even when the route is difficult to understand. Our frustrations can turn to peace and joy when we daily ask God to direct our way. He loves us and wants to bring us safely home to Him.

Walking with my Lord

Lord, You are my Loving Father. Help me follow Your path for my life in each deciding moment. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Zion Lutheran Council Minutes: April 24, 2017

The April meeting was called to order by President Nick Jarvela. Pastor Rick Williams opened with devotion and prayer focused on seeking "rest in the stillness of God's presence."

Roll Call: Nick Jarvela (President/Trustees), Alice Ellis (Secretary/Evangelism), Lisa Guski (Co-Treasurer/LFOJ), Lynn Ladd (Education), Chuck Chronis (Stewardship), Pastor Rick.

Approval of March Minutes: Motion to accept by Guski. Second by Chronis. MMC.

Pastor's Report: A busy season with 14 worship services. Visitations completed Holy Week. Nursing Home Services on April 26th. Pastor going to Camp Luther April 30 & May 1. And District conference May 8 & 9.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept by Chronis. Second by Ladd. MMC.

Meeting Agenda: Add to Old Business A. Electrical Panels. B. Freewill offering for Detroit Church. Motion to accept agenda with changes by Chronis. Second by Guski. MMC.

Board Reports:

Trustees: Jarvela reported that Northland Fire inspected smoke detectors, panels, etc. They will submit a report. \$240 was spent on tools to be kept in locked cupboard. New dolly purchased. Small leak in higher roof still not located.

Education: Ladd reports S. School attendance has dropped. Board will discuss.

LFOJ: Food Program Review went great. Still working on deck bids; need is urgent. Schedule changes considered due to Ashland School District 4K program.

Evangelism: Game night canceled. Church will purchase meat for picnic. Date needs to be set. May seek Thrivent "team action" plan.

Motion to accept board reports by Ladd. Second by Chronis. MMC.

Official Acts:

Baptisms: Elizabeth Lucille Buttrick 4-2-2017 Allison Grace Mashlan 4-2-2017

New Member: Byron Anderson 4-13-2017

Old Business:

Electrical Panels: Insurance reported audit recommendations. Getting bids.

Freewill Offering for inner-city Detroit church. Will take offering 1st Sunday in June.

President Jarvela reminded Council that September/October be timeline for budget and board nominations. Next Council meeting, May 15, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

Motion to adjourn by Chronis. Second by Guski. MMC. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully: Alice J. Ellis

GRADUATES: High School, Trade Schools, College

If we could please get student's name, school graduating from, and future plans to report in our June newsletter that would be great. Hand into the office now through May 17th.
E-mail address: secretary@zionlutheranashland.com





CAMP LUTHER – THREE LAKES, WISCONSIN

For information on all programs and other connections , registrations, etc. visit www.campluther.com.

MEMORIAL DAY FAMILY RETREAT AT CAMP LUTHER

May 26-29, 2017

Start a new Memorial Day tradition and bring your family to Camp Luther this year. Join in on any or all of the staff-led favorite summer activities or do your own thing as a family in this very flexible schedule. A guest pastor leads the Adult Bible Study while staff teach the kids in age-appropriate groups..

SPEND A WEEK AT KEWEENAW BASE CAMP

Been to Camp Luther before? Ready for something new? Join us at Keweenaw Base Camp (KBC) this summer. Located in beautiful Upper Michigan, KBC is an extension of Camp Luther's ministry and has great programs available to high school students this summer!

Ignite- This is a 5-night program for 9th-12th graders that focuses on intentional, mission-oriented service. If you want to serve the local community, get your hands dirty, and be challenged with what it means to love like Jesus, this is the program for you!

The Edge- A 5-night program for 9th-12th graders that's all about stepping outside your comfort zone and pushing past your limits. Get ready for adventure trips, late night campfires, challenge course activities, intentional community building, and diving deep into the greatest adventure of all: What it means to follow Jesus Christ.

Venture- This is a 5-night program for 10th-12th graders that builds on "The Edge" with an overnight adventure trip and new challenge experiences, all with the same close-knit community feel and incredible staff who are ready to embrace the adventure alongside you.

CAMP LUTHER TO OFFER SUMMER COTTAGES AT KEWEENAW BASE CAMP

Camp Luther is excited to offer four units available for rental this summer at Keweenaw Base Camp. Units are available Friday to Friday. Each of these units are comfortably furnished with all that you need for a relaxing stay in the Keweenaw. They have fully stocked kitchens with everything you need to prepare meals during your stay and gas grills for your evening cookouts. Each also has a wood stove to take the edge off of those cool Keweenaw nights The units are available Friday to Friday from June through August. Book your cottage through Camp Luther by contacting Janette "Swoops" Marien (janette@campluther.com or 715-891-4064) or visit www.campluther.com and click on the "KBC Summer Vacation Rentals" tab at the top of the page.

CAMP LUTHER GOLF CHALLENGE

Golf for a purpose this summer and help raise funds for Every Kid to Camp.

Join us June 23 at 8:00 am at Rhinelander's Northwood Golf Club. This is an outstanding event for men, women, couples, and youth, with great prizes, great food, and great fellowship. The 2017 Hole-in-One Contest, sponsored by Eagle River Ford, will feature a 2017 Ford Truck! There are also various hole contests, putting contest, freebies and a reception and awards ceremony. Register online at www.campluther.com.

"CREATE YOUR OWN RETREAT" AT CAMP LUTHER

Looking for a place to host your next event? Camp Luther is your destination for year-round retreats, conferences, and gatherings. In the midst of God's beautiful creation, your group will be treated to comfortable accommodations, wonderful meals and a helpful staff. Join us soon and you'll come to know why thousands of people return to Camp Luther year after year.

Visit our website at www.campluther.com/adultfamily/other/create-your-own-retreat for more information.

Camp Luther is a subsidiary ministry of the North Wisconsin District-LCMS. Our mission is to build up all people in Christ for service and witness in the world.

HINTS AND TIPS

- Working or volunteering after 65 helps people live longer, healthier, and happier.
- Medicine can be more beneficial when it is joined together with a positive outlook on life.
- Giving up our strong emphasis on individualism and rediscovering community life (family, church, and neighbors) goes a long way to overcome loneliness.
- Congregations with staff and lay leadership in older adult ministry have a more dynamic ministry in enriching the lives of the 65+ crowd.
- Television watching is an overlooked health risk, especially when older adults spend four or more hours watching the tube. If you watch TV, keep it to a minimum.
- Falls are a common occurrence with older adults. Prevention is the name of



the game with the help of doctors, physical therapists, exercise classes, and removal of home obstacles.

The end-of-life issues need more attention by church and society. It is time for all of us to promote such conversations — end-of-life care, medical and non-medical issues, living well in later life, and aging well.

**MAY
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.

May	Elders	Acolytes	Ushers	Greeters
Wed. 3	Scott Thimm			
Sun. 7	Doug Warren John Pruss	Abbi Moreland	Larry Hildebrandt Clarence Osmak	Warren & Peggy Draeger
Wed. 10	Darryl Warren			
Sun. 14	Randy Spangle Andy Pruss	Ella Bauer	Jake Pruss Don Moreland	Ron & Brenda Schwiesow
Wed. 17	Scott Thimm			
Sun. 21	Darryl Warren John Pruss	Logan Esala Emily Dickrell	Jim Johnson Bruce Honkala	Nick & Jule Jarvela
Wed. 24	Randy Spangle			
Sun. 28	Andy Pruss Doug Warren		Curt Harpster Adam Hinch	Clarence & Kathy Osmak
Wed 31	John Pruss			
June Sun. 4	Randy Spangle Darryl Warren		Karl Williams Chuck Chronis	Thimm Family
June Wed. 7	Doug Warren			

OFFICIAL ACTS

New Member:

Byron Anderson 4-13-2017

Baptism:

Elizabeth Lucille Buttrick 4-2-2017

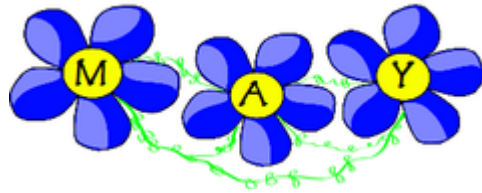
Allison Grace Mashlan 4-2-2017



Becky & Brooke Sapper
682-8867
Paula Pruss 682-1086

*Happy
Mother's Day*

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



2017

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 zionashland@hotmail.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Evangelism Mtg. 5:30pm <i>Pastor at Camp Luther</i>	2 LFOJ Chapel 11:00am	3 LFOJ Chapel 11:00am <i>Confirmation 4-5:30</i> Worship	4	5	6
7 <i>Mite Sunday</i> Worship 9:00am <i>Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15</i>	8 10:00am Bible Study Altar Guild Mtg. 6pm <i>Pastor at conference in Wausau</i>	9 Sewing Circle 1:00pm	10 <i>Confirmation 4- 5:30 (8th grade only)</i> Worship 6:30pm	11	12	13
14 <i>Mother's Day</i> Elders Mtg. 7:45am Worship 9:00am <i>Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15 Trustees Mtg. 10:15am</i>	15 10:00am Bible Study Council Mtg. 5:30pm	16	17 <i>Confirmation 4- 5:30 (8th grade only)</i> Worship 6:30pm	18 Winkel	19 <i>News letter Reports Due</i>	20 LWML 10:00am
21 Worship 9:00am Confirmation Sunday	22 10:00am Bible Study Council Mtg. 5:30pm	23 Sewing Circle 1:00pm	24 Worship 6:30pm	25	26	27
28 <i>Food Shelf Sunday</i> Worship 9:00am	29 <i>Memorial Day</i>	30	31 Worship 6:30pm			