



The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI MAY 2019

Well my friends, here it is May, (all most), and as I had mentioned previously I am looking forward to starting the Red Letter Challenge here at Zion. My plan is to begin on May 5th and run the program for the following 6 weeks. Now a number of you have asked, what is the Red Letter Challenge? The following comes from the Red Letter Challenge website and I think it does a fair job of explaining what we are getting into. I will also spend some time on May 5th going over this information as we start out. This program will also use Sunday morning Bible Study and I am also looking for a volunteer or two to run a once weekly home study group for the same six week period, these meetings can be held either at your home or the church. If you are, or might be interested please let me know. Look through the material below and prayerfully consider your involvement in the Red Letter Challenge. Happy Easter! Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

What is the Red Letter Challenge?

The mission of Red Letter Challenge (RLC) is to help people live more like Jesus. Sadly, when people think of Jesus-followers it is a far cry from who Jesus actually is. After all that Jesus has done for us, we cannot be content with the picture and representation that we are sharing. We must change the story and perception of who Jesus is. At RLC, we believe that if people truly met the real Jesus, they would really fall in love with Him.

So how do we change the story that we are telling?

We go back to Christ's words. You know, those red letters in your Bible. It turns out he had a lot to say to His followers about what we are called to do and how we are called to live.

The RLC is unique because it takes Christ's literal words and gives you practical daily challenges based on those words. The RLC will give you targets to shoot for to help you measure how you are practically following after Him. RLC believes that Jesus followers want to be the best Jesus followers that we can be not out of obligation, but out of gratitude for what Jesus has done for us!

Do you have what it takes to really follow Jesus? To truly do what He said?

I believe you do!

The RLC will help you:

- 1) Have a deeper relationship with Jesus.
- 2) Receive God's forgiveness in your life and give grace to others.
- 3) Give you a greater heart of service.
- 4) Help you become more generous.
- 5) Give you confidence to speak about what Jesus has done in your life.

(Cont. on next page)

Ready to take the challenge?

Who is the Red Letter Challenge?

As the great NBA theologian Allen Iverson once said in a press conference,

“I mean listen, we’re sitting here talking about practice, not a game, not a game, not a game, but we’re talking about practice.”

Okay, so maybe he’s not a theologian, but the former NBA star points to a reality that is true for nearly everybody – practice isn’t as much fun as the game!

Too many people think that to follow Jesus Christ, they have to wait on the sidelines until they have all of their life in order. They believe they have to wait until they understand the Bible and have read through the entire thing before they can do what He says to do.

I believe **the time to do what Jesus is asking is today**. This Challenge is for you, whether you have been firm in your faith for decades, you’ve just come to faith in Jesus Christ, or you’re wrestling with this whole God thing for the first time.

No matter where you’re starting, **doing the words of Jesus will help you find the life you were made for**. I believe few things stretch our faith more than actually getting involved and doing the things God is asking us to do. When we feel unequipped and unprepared (which you will feel at times in this Challenge), God will use those moments to give, shape, and form your faith.

This Challenge is for anybody and everybody. Young and old. Men and women. Churched and unchurched. New Christian, life-long Christian, non-Christian. It’s for anybody who’s looking for something more in life.

How do I do the Red Letter Challenge

Okay, you are ready for the Challenge, but how does it work? What’s this going to look like?

In the workbook, the first five days will serve as an introduction. You’ll learn more about each of the five major principles that Jesus calls His followers to embody. From there, on each of the following 35 days, you will see a quote directly from the mouth of Jesus. The quotation will be followed by a devotion, one or more companion Bible readings, and a Challenge of how you might live out those specific words on that day. Some will be very specific and others will be very broad. Each day you will be encouraged to complete the Challenge.

The rhythm of a follower, or a disciple, of Jesus is to be both a hearer and a doer of what God says. That’s why for each day there’s a corresponding Bible story or passage as well as a Challenge for how to implement Christ’s words into your life. Too many followers of Jesus read the Bible but never put those words into practice. Likewise, there are many who do good works but aren’t sure why they are doing them.

Putting God’s words into practice is much more effective when you are not alone. Many times it is hard to do what God asks. Some of the days you might feel like you want to give up. That’s why I suggest bringing someone along with you in this Challenge. Pick someone you trust. Do the Challenge with this person and use each other as accountability partners. Or even better, grab a few friends, your staff, or even your entire church, and invite them to come alongside you on this journey.

We live in an interactive world, and we want to know how this Challenge is going for you and how it is impacting you and your community. This Challenge will move you in many ways. You will have a lot of feelings and emotions as you go through it. This workbook is designed to capture those feelings, thoughts, and emotions. Be honest and fair with yourself as you complete the Challenges.

Pastor Rick Williams -
715-209-0479

Office Hours: M/W/Th/Fri
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.

Office Secretary

Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075

Office Hours M-W 8-3

Days and times may change upon need of work.

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:

Karyn Leino 715-682-6075

Website

www.zionashland.org

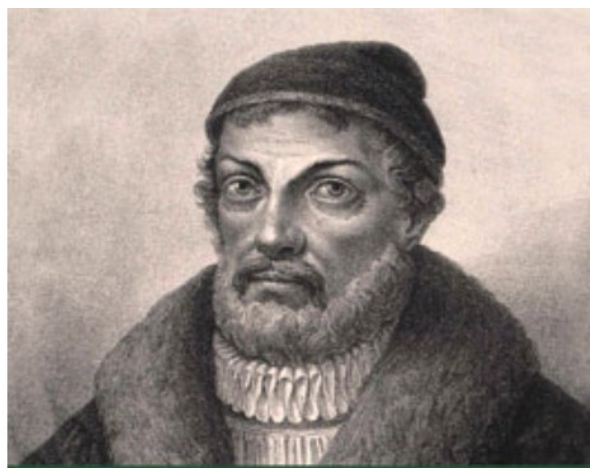
E-mail

secretary@zionlutheranashland.com



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1111—11TH AVE WEST
ASHLAND, WI 54806
715-682-6075

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am
Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm
Sunday School 10:15am (Sept.-May)
Bible Studies
Sunday 10:15am Monday 10:00am



Nikolaus von Amsdorf

Martin Luther called him “a theologian by nature.” He was Luther’s close friend and contemporary—born three weeks after Luther but living two decades longer. He was the only nobleman in Luther’s inner circle and one of the first Evangelical bishops. Known by his colleagues as a “fierce enemy of all corruption and adulteration of true Lutheran, Evangelical truth,” his contributions during the theological controversies after Luther’s death shaped numerous articles of the Formula of Concord.



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 :

<i>Bob Heggie</i>	<i>Kevin Heggie</i>	<i>Joni Frisco</i>
<i>Brad Prill</i>	<i>Johnny Galligan</i>	<i>Alice Balmer</i>
<i>Mary Bullis</i>	<i>Jim Bullis</i>	<i>David Kaarre</i>
<i>Lloyd Koosmann</i>	<i>Theresa Koosmann</i>	<i>Mike Dimich</i>
<i>Marty Kaarre</i>	<i>Rachel Juoni</i>	<i>Jim Johnson</i>
<i>Rebecca Gurske</i>	<i>David Renz</i>	<i>Ally Gumz</i>
<i>David Gustafson</i>	<i>Mary Siefers and those in our hearts.</i>	

If you are aware of the status of any of the following people, please inform the office or Pastor.

Tim Smith, Ellen Hodgson, Barb Bjork, Joan Spalding, Tim Fulton, Randy Lauer. Margaret Goodwin. Steve Wahlston, Ruth Young, Kate Smith, Linda Larson-Nelson. Wendy Clark

PRAYERS for Homebound, 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. *Walt Schutte, Arlene Zimmerman, Madge Houle, Donna Graves 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, Emily Melecha, Tucker Melecha*



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"How many 'Talk to God' minutes does our family plan allow?"



I CAN TALK TO GOD WHEREVER I AM WITHOUT A CELL PHONE...

6-9

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"...and I never get a busy signal."



8 "T"s of Stewardship



By John Heckmann LWML Pastoral Counselor 2011-2015
(Previously published in the Treasured News Jan.-July 2013)
Revised August 2017 by
Rev. Robert Mundahl LWML Pastoral Counselor 2015-2019

TIME
TREASURE
TOUCH
TRASH

TALENT
TESTIMONY
TISSUE
TECHNOLOGY

TREASURE

TREASURE, or money, is what people most often think about when they hear the term “stewardship.” And it is true that money and, specifically, the wise use and management of money are important parts of Christian stewardship. One of the Bible passages that speaks to the wise use of money is 1 Timothy 6:17-19: *“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of life that is truly life.”*

There are only a few things we can do with money—earn it, give it, save it, spend it and bequeath it. Good stewardship means striving to keep a healthy balance with these uses. For example, one can get so concerned with earning that he overworks at the expense of his health and relationships. Or, one can get carried away with spending and not have anything left for giving and saving.

The above Scripture passages affirm that God gives us all kinds of good gifts for our enjoyment, but adds that we are to use these gifts for more than our own enjoyment. Our cold and selfish natures encourage us to use money and goods only for ourselves, adopting some strange strategy like, “God helps those who help themselves.”

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But the new nature within us because of the working of the Holy Spirit urges us to use all our gifts, including the gift of money, for the common good and for the expansion of God's kingdom on earth. What joy will follow us into heaven when our glorious Lord commends us for our wise use of money and says, *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"* (Matthew 25:21)

Did you know Jesus talked often about money? Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables were concerned with how to handle money and possessions. In the Gospels, an amazing one out of ten verses (288 in all) deal directly with the subject of money. The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions. (Howard L. Dayton, Jr., Leadership, Vol. 2, no. 2)



Zion Evangelism Committee joined with Zion Sunday School to prepare Easter baskets for the house-bound in our congregation. Our prayers were tucked in these baskets as they were delivered to precious folks within our faith community. "He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia."

Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting: April 15, 2019

Call to Order: By President John Pruss. Pastor Rick devotion was from Luke - Harvest is plentiful but the laborers are sparse. It is important to go out and share the word. It is our job to help prepare for when he comes. He opened the meeting with prayer.

Roll Call: John Pruss-President, Nick Jarvela-Trustees, Lisa Guski- Treasurer/LFOJ, Darryl Warren- Elders, Mary Koosmann-Financial Secretary, Pastor Rick.

March Minutes: Motion to approve by Jarvela. Second by Warren. MMC.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rick reported 8 services since March meeting. Lenten Wednesday conclude, pulpit exchange completed. Confirmation continuing, nearing completion. Visitations completed for April, LFOJ Chapel, Sunday and Monday Bible Studies, no April Winkle, District Conference May 13-14, 4 kids and 2 adults going to NYG in Mpls in July, planning on starting Red Letter Challenge in May.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept as printed by Jarvela. Second by Warren. MMC.

Agenda Approval: Motion to accept by Warren with additions: Second by Guski. MMC.

Board Reports:

Trustees: Working on stoop, no contractor signing, took heat tape out of scuppers.

Education: Working on VBS

LFOJ: Guski reported Fundraisers in April: Dutch Mill Bulbs. Formal Parent/teacher conferences 3/11/19.

Evangelism: Easter baskets for home-bound were distributed throughout April by Pastor and Team. Motion to accept Board reports by Guski. Second by Koosmann MMC.

Motion to accept official acts by Warren. Second by Guski. MMC.

Old Business:

1. SPLI - Filled out grant application – can cancel enrollment if we don't get grant. District office said it's legit.
2. Easement Murray at Xcel – easement is complete. They will deliver paperwork. Once returned we will receive check from them.
3. Lent money – 3 envelopes in safe to be sent to Rev. Martin Kaarre.

New Business:

Adjourn: Motion by Guski. Second by Koosmann. MMC.

The meeting closed with *The Lord's Prayer*. Council will meet again on May 20, 2019, at 5:30 pm.



NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT
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"I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." Genesis 12:2

Dear Friends of the North Wisconsin District,

Grace and peace to you as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

With the accounting of 2018 fully behind us, it is time once again to boldly say **THANK YOU** for your partnership in ministry. May God bless each of us as we seek to be a blessing, reflecting His love in our communities and throughout the world!

As your District Resources team, our mission is simple: *to encourage, network and equip Lutheran congregations of the NWD—LCMS to vigorously make known the love of Christ.*

To achieve that mission, we intentionally focus on three outcomes...

- Professional Church Workers
- Congregations
- District Ministry Resources

To learn more, the goals to achieve these outcomes are found in the strategic plan, under the About Us tab of the NWD—LCMS website at www.nwdlcms.org.

I have included here some of the highlights of our progress in 2018. As always, please contact me with any questions about our shared ministry and your ongoing support.

Thank you again for your prayers and your financial support. May God continue to bless our partnership in 2019.

Rev. Dwayne M. Lueck
District President

2018 Expenses: \$2.35 million

2016 Expenses: \$2.58 million

39% of Gifts to Synod Ministry

216 NWD Congregations
38 Stand-alone PS/CC
19 Elementary Schools
3 High Schools

Professional Church Workers

- Strategies to address worker debt
- Counseling
- Called worker placement
- Youth worker care
- Connecting to Synod Resources
 - Conferences
 - Tools

Congregations

- Call support ordained/commissioned
- New compensation support tool
- Performance review support
- Circuit visitor training
- National Youth Gathering prep
- Board training and development
- Strategic planning
- Early Childhood regional meetings
- Schools
 - Accreditation support
 - Curriculum mapping
 - Technology integration
 - New principal development
 - Colloquy/Lutheran ethos
 - Professional development

District Ministry Resources

- Camp Luther
- King Veterans Home
- Peace Campus Center
- Deaf Ministry
- Hmong Ministry
- Peru
- Mission Mini-Grants




SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 Confirmation 1:30-3:00pm Worship 6:30pm	2	3	4
5 Mite Sunday Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am	6 10:00am Bible Study Evangelism Mtg. 5:30pm	7	8 Confirmation 3:30-5:00pm Worship 6:30pm	9	10	11
12 Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am	13 10:00am Bible Study Pastors' Conference →	14 Sewing Circle 1pm LFOJ Board Mtg. 5:00pm	15 Confirmation 3:30-5:00pm Worship 6:30pm	16	17 <i>Newsletter Reports Due</i>	18 LWML 10:00am
19 Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am Trustees' Mtg. 10:15am	20 10:00am Bible Study Council Mtg. 5:30pm	21	22 Worship 6:30pm	23	24	25
26 Food Shelf Sunday Worship 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am	27 Offices Closed	28 Sewing Circle 1pm	29 Worship 6:30pm	30	31	



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

May	Elders	Acolytes	Ushers	Greeters
Apr. Sun. 28	Randy Spangle Scott Thimm	Lily	Rick Nutt	Herb & Alice Ellis
May Wed. 1	Doug Warren			
Sun. 5	Andy Pruss Scott Thimm	Matthew	Scott Sapper	Rick & Sandy Nutt
Wed. 8	Randy Spangle			
Sun. 12	John Pruss Scott Thimm	Austin	Curt Harpster	Moreland Family
Wed. 15	Darryl Warren			
Sun. 19	Randy Spangle Andy Pruss	Adeline	Jordan Thimm	Loren & Ellie Munson
Wed 22	Doug Warren			
Sun. 26	Darryl Warren John Pruss	Daniel	Ron Schwiesow	Kathy & Clarence Osmak
Wed. 29	Randy Spangle			
May Sun.5	Andy Pruss Darryl Warren	Faith	Don Moreland	Jerry & Sandy Frisco

May
 Sue Spangle 715-681-1093
 Kathy Osmak 715-746-2346
 Sandy Nutt 715-663-1110




A Mother's Prayer For You

I said a Mother's Day prayer for you to thank the Lord above for blessing me with a lifetime of your tenderhearted love. I thanked God for the caring you've shown me through the years, for the closeness we've enjoyed in time of laughter and of tears. And so, I thank you from the heart for all you've done for me and I bless the Lord for giving me the best mother there could be!
 ~ Anon.