



The Mountain Top Messenger

MAY 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders: May 1 st Doug May 5 th Scott May 8 th John P May 12 th John S May 15 th Darryl May 19 th Randy May 22 nd Andy May 26 th Doug May 29 th Scott June 2 nd Darryl June 5 th John P						
May Altar Guild Linda Klobucher Lori Anderson			1 10:30-12:00 Hospice 6-wk Session 6:30pm Worship Service	2	3	4
Regional Hospice Services: 6-Week Session May 1, 8, 15 10:30am - 12pm Monthly Meeting: May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21 1:00-2:30PM			5 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	6 10:00am Bible Study	7 1:00pm Sewing Circle	8 10:30-12:00 Hospice 6-wk Session 6:30pm Worship Service
12 Mother's Day 8:45 Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study	13 10:00am Bible Study	14	15 10:30-12:00 Hospice 6-wk Session Hospice 1:00-2:30pm Monthly Mtg. 6:30pm Worship Service	16 9:00am Winkel	17	18
19 Pentecost 8:45 Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	20 5:30pm Council Mtg Pastor at Conference	21	22 6:30pm Worship Service	23	24	25
26 The Holy Trinity 9:00am Worship Service 2:00pm LGP	27 Offices Closed	28	29 6:30pm Worship Service	30	31	

Well, I am looking for the May flowers. Been kind of an interesting spring, 70° one day, 30° the next, here is hoping May becomes more stable. I am guessing what I am about to say goes along with that idea. I had a discussion the other day about contentment with someone. I often consider myself to be a fairly content person, or I am at least far more content than I used to be. I do feel that contentment seems to become a little easier as you get older. When I was younger I had a lot of grand ideas and desires, and now that I have gotten older I have come to the realization that some of those things I was looking for or looking at, were things that really weren't important or essential to my life. Now I am not saying that I don't look at some things yet today and say boy I would like to have that, or boy that would be fun. But now it is more in passing as opposed to becoming a want.

As I looked at the scriptural basis for contentment, I saw one reference to contentment by Jesus:

Luke 3:14 Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

Jesus was telling the soldier to be happy with what he had, it wasn't uncommon for soldiers of the day to threaten people to extort money for themselves, kind of like the bully at school after your lunch money. Most of the rest of the references come from Paul, with one from Hebrews and one for 3 John. Perhaps the two that I relate to the most are Paul's comment in

Philippians 4:11: Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

Paul adds to this that he knows what it is like to have plenty, and he knows what it like to have nothing, and whether he is living in abundance or poverty, it really doesn't matter because it is all really about Christ. And regardless of where his fortunes lay, God will take care of him. The author of Hebrews puts it this way in

Hebrews 13:5; Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

That's quite a challenge in this world today, a world that revolves around money and materialism, the gods of this world. I challenge you to watch 30 minutes of TV, spend 30 minutes on the internet, or even listen to the radio, read a newspaper (if you can find one). And not be blasted by deluge of items that you need to buy, that you can't possibly live without, and see a myriad of ways to try and make you more wealthy. I also challenge you to come back to me with a single ad that tells you, that you should be content with what you have. I don't believe it can be done, no one is going to pay for an ad unless they can profit. So this raises the question, how!! How can we be content in a world that is totally against our contentment? Well, perhaps we need to listen to Paul again, this time in his writing to the Corinthians, 2 Corinthians 12. In chapter 12 Paul is speaking to God about the thorn in his flesh, Paul asked the Lord three times to take his thorn away, (we do not know what the thorn was, but it is believed to be a physical ailment of some kind, perhaps epilepsy) But the Lord says the following to Paul;

(continued on the next page)

⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am **content** with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

When we are confronted and assaulted by the gods of this world we need to be content in Christ. We can say no to all of the things the world is trying to convince us that we need, must have, can't live without. We can be content with the blessings the Lord has given us in the things that we do have. Is it ok to buy something new? Want something new to improve our lives? Sure, as long as we are not doing it out of greed, covetousness, or worldly desire. It's ok as long as you live within your means. Remember sometimes we may experience weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. Because as Paul says; "For when I am weak, then I am strong." Trust me when I say contentment brings happiness.

Remember New Member Brunch – May 19, 2024 Following Worship at 10:30

Church Picnic – Prentice Park, August 4, 2024 10:00 AM

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.

In His Service, Pastor Rick

A boy was in tears because he didn't have PJs for Pajamas Day.

His bus driver came to the rescue

By Rachel Paula Abrahamson

School bus driver Larry Farrish Jr. is known in his community for going above and beyond. Now he's touching the hearts of strangers after an act of kindness went viral.

Farrish Jr., who drives buses in Louisville, Kentucky, recently noticed a little boy named Levi was having a rough morning.

"Normally when I pull up, he's standing there waiting for me with a big smile, but on this day, he was sitting on the ground with a jacket over his head," Farrish Jr., 35, tells TODAY.com. "I asked him, 'Hey buddy, what's going on? What's wrong?'"

That's when Levi, a first grader at Engelhard Elementary School, explained through tears that he didn't have pajamas for Pajama Day. Farrish Jr. closed the doors, and watched as Levi slid into a seat away from his friends.

Farrish Jr. says knowing that Levi wanted to participate but couldn't, filled him with sadness.

"I thought, 'I gotta fix this,'" Farrish Jr. says.

After Farrish Jr. finished up his morning routes, he headed to a Family Dollar store and purchased two pairs of pajamas for Levi. Then he

Jr. recalls. "He was so excited — you should've seen how his face lit up."

Farrish Jr. adds that Levi hugged the pajamas to his chest.

Mr. Larry, as the kids call him, turned Levi's whole day around.

"I can tell Mr. Larry is nice and his heart is filled with joy," Levi said in a news release. "When he got me the pajamas, I did a happy cry."

Farrish Jr., who previously worked as a correctional officer and a truck driver, says he's found his calling.

"I've been driving buses for seven years. It's my passion because I get to build bonds with the children," he says. "I truly love every minute of it."

After Jefferson County Public Schools posted on its Facebook what Farrish Jr. did for Levi, people started sharing their own stories.

"Mr. Larry is the absolute best. We were blessed with him as our bus driver for 4 years. Top notch human," one person wrote.

Added another, "Larry is the absolute best and kiddos know they are in great caring



Your gift today will reach your neighbors with the very least who are living in some of the most remote and forsaken regions of the world. **Thank you for giving generously to save and change lives.**

PERSONAL CARE KITS SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use. • Bath towels vary in size. The 52" X 27" size listed in the guidelines is the maximum size. 20" x 40" is a good guideline for a minimum size.

- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- All items should be new and in good condition.
- Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.



Active volcano in Antarctica spews tiny crystals of gold worth \$6,000 a day

It sounds like a dream, but it's true in Antarctica, gold rains from the sky. Tucked in among the glaciers, fiery Mount Erebus is the southernmost active volcano on Earth, providing a bit of heat amid the frozen landscape.

The volcano regularly pumps out plumes of gas and steam and has been known to eject boulders of partially molten rock known as "volcanic bombs."

While volcanic bombs are exciting, it's the bursts of gas spraying tiny crystals of metallic gold that surprise scientists, who estimate the volcano spews around 80 grams of gold a day -- that's worth around \$6,000.

The gold has been found hundreds of miles away from Mount Erebus. Antarctic researchers have detected traces of the gold dust in ambient air up to 621 miles away from the volcano.

Happy Mothers Day



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am live streamed

Wednesday Service 6:30pm church service

Sunday School - 1st - 7th grade

Bible Studies— Sundays 10:15am Mondays 10:00am



APPRECIATION

BEAUTIFUL

BREAKFAST

CANDY

CHARMING

COMFORT

DEVOTED

FLOWERS

FORGIVING

GIFTS

GUIDANCE

HUGS

JEWELRY

JOY

KISSES

LAUGHTER

LOVE

MATERNAL

MOM

MOTHER

NURTURE

PERFUME

PROTECTIVE

SHARE

TELEPHONE

TENDER

THE BEST

WARM



Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479

Office Hours: M /T/Th 9-5 Wed. 12-8 Fri. off

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours M/W/Th 8:30-2:30

Days and times may change.

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: JoAnn Martiknois 715-682-6075

Website www.zionashland.org **E-mail** secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

PRAYERS for Home-bound, 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.

*Ingrid Pocernich
Arlene Zimmerman
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
Jordan Thimm
Andrew Pruss*

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:

Brad Prill
Vi Basina
James Fletcher
Sheryl Hildebrandt
Harold Larson
Diane Beiersdorff
Linda Stenroos
Steve Key
Tim Erickson
Patty Hmielewski
Jean Wickman
Janet Houle
Pam Ekholm
Colleen Pool

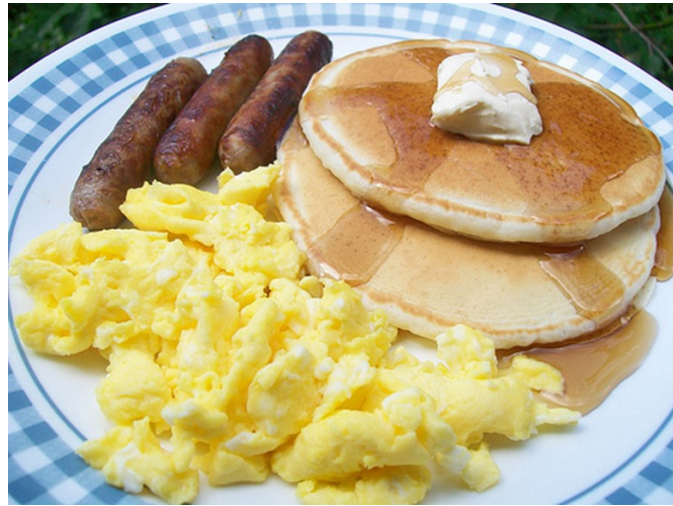


Riley Bretting
Mike Trimble
Jamie Klema
Mike Ariens
Karen Piff
Molly Colgrove
Linda Parrish
Cory Nyara
Chuck Sandor
John Belany
Carl Kubley
Andrea Gunderson
Carolyn Bucky
Chuck Cynthia
and those in our hearts

Please let us know if there are any names that can be removed from the list.

Dear Lord, Teach me, O Father, to be a fearless advocate for the suffering, the oppressed, and the forgotten. Empower me with the courage to stand against injustice and share the boundless love You have bestowed upon me. In Jesus' name. We pray. Amen.

Dear Lord, As we lift our friends, family, and strangers in prayer, we ask for Your infinite wisdom to guide their paths. Provide the support they require, both spiritually and physically, to overcome the challenges they face. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



New Member Brunch

**Sunday, May 19th
10:15am social and prayer
10:30am brunch**

Church will provide for the scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage links, yogurt. A sign-up sheet is on the small table in the Narthex for other needed items.



ROOF PROJECT

At the Annual Meeting held February 18, 2024, Head Trustee, Nick Jarvela reported that Zion has hired KulpRoof from Stratford, WI to do the repairs to the Church roof and secured a loan of \$65,000.00 from Lutheran Church Extension Fund to pay for the work. A motion was made and passed to

begin a campaign to help in repayment of that loan. All monies collected would be put on the principal with hopes of quicker repayment and lower interest costs. A box has been placed in the Narthex and the chart will reflect the amount of the donations. Work on the roof will be done this summer.



KBJR6-TV – Sundays 9:30-10 a.m. Watch online mslnorthland.com

NOTICE

Memorial Day to Labor Day
Due to sports programming on NBC “My Savior Lives” will be moved to changed to 6.3 or My 9Sports
Every Sunday 19 9:30am and 9:30pm

APRIL LFOJ NEWSLETTER

Did you know? April is National Garden Month!

TOTVILLE NEWS:

Our Bible stories for April are “The Man who said Thank you, The Man who Couldn’t see, The Ten Plagues, and Noah’s Ark. We’ll make handprint flowers for the bulletin board. Since the weather has been getting warmer, we’ve taken advantage of it by spending a bit more time outside. Hopefully, we can put away snow pants and mittens for a few months. -Denise and Nikki



TODDLER TIDBITS/LEARNER LANE:

Spring is here and summer is coming! We welcomed a new friend to our Toddler group, Wesley! Our little Miss Kali just turned 3 years old. They sure do grow fast! We are looking forward to planting flowers and watching them grow, just like us, this summer! Desiree and Emily

UPDATES:

Thank you to everyone who helped out or stopped by the Culver’s Fundraiser on April 2nd! We raised over \$350! We had an anonymous donor match that, so our total was \$700! The money was used for new rocking chairs for the Infant room!

Our next family night is coming up this Wednesday, April 24th! We will have pots available to decorate, seeds to plant, and areas around the center where we can also plant flowers! The event is from 5-7 P.M. We hope to see lots of families there!

God Bless,

Tressa Groom, LFOJ Director

JoAnn Martikonis, LFOJ Administrator