

# *The Mountain Top* Messenger

VOLUME 52, ISSUE # 10 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod OCTOBER 2014

Well another month has flown by, it hardly seems possible. I am almost half-way through my current class at the Seminary. We are studying the means of Grace, Baptism, the Word, Holy Communion, and Confession and Absolution. The first four weeks of the class have focused on baptism and it has been very interesting and has really helped me understand the importance and significance of child and infant baptism. During my visit to the seminary the first full week of October we will be working on Holy Communion. All of those lessons, not only emphasis the Sacrament, but also God's Word and the part it plays in those Sacraments. The final weeks of the class will focus on Confession and Absolution and bring it all together.

As I study all of this information, and as I partake in worship, visitations, and all of my other interactions with all of you here at Zion I am in awe of the blessings that God has bestowed on this congregation. So many of you volunteer so much of; your time, your talents, and yourselves, to the mission and outreach of this church. You may not always hear it, you may not always see it but it is there. This church is continually doing the good work of the Lord. Just today I was stopped by a gentleman who I have known for years in this town, he is a respected member of the community and fairly outspoken, he stopped me and said, "I went to grandparents' day at the daycare yesterday, what an amazing program you have there!" he continued, "the teachers, and other staff, and the facilities, all top notch, your church should be very proud, you are doing a wonderful job." I thanked him for his kind words. I know this man, he was sincere and I know he will share this information with all of his friends. Every opportunity like this helps spread the word of Zion and reminds people that we are here. So I want to thank you all for all that you do and for working together. I do want to issue one caution here however and just a point to remember, the devil doesn't waste his time on lost causes, and we at Zion are far from a lost cause, just know that we are a target, we have to stay sharp, keep on our toes and not let him find any chinks in our armor. He will do whatever he can to try and slither his way in. So stay ever vigilant, ever watching ourselves and each other. And through our prayers and our continued desire to do God's good work we will prevail.

On an exciting note before I close this month, I was at the hospital yesterday and am pleased to announce the arrival of Paul and Allison Osmak's little girl, Olivia, born on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> and Karl and Kari Williams little girl, Anna, born on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup>, God's blessings to both your growing families. They are beautiful little girls.

John 17: <sup>20</sup> "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

In Jesus prayer above, he prays to His father, that we will be one with Him, and because we are one with Him the world will see Him through us. Let us all be one as our Savior has requested so that we may show Him and His saving Grace to the world.

The Peace of the Lord be with you. Amen  
Vicar Rick

# Zion's Ministry Staff and Church Officers

E-Mail: [zionashland@hotmail.com](mailto:zionashland@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.zionashland.org](http://www.zionashland.org)



Church Office 715-682-6075 (sporadic hours until further notice)  
Vicar Rick Williams 715-209-0479 (M/T/W/Th 8:00-5:00)  
President, Chuck Chronis 715-682-0070  
Head Elder, Darryl Warren 715-492-0488  
LFOJ Child Care Center - Administrator, Karyn Leino 715-682-6075  
Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center 715-682-5185

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**Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 am Wednesday Evening Worship 6:30pm**

Sunday School 10:15am

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

## Stewardship Thoughts

Stewardship cannot be limited to financial gifts. Sound and steady stewardship formation that moves beyond a focus on things financial and into day-to-day signs of care and service to others is the key to training our eyes. We can see the ways that the Lord uses stewardship in our lives for the good of our neighbors and the extension of the kingdom.

The focus of stewardship is love—love for God and love for one another. Love expressed in ordinary ways works miracles. God teaches us that we are loved and are called to love others. When we daily use the elements of our lives to be stewards of the love that we have received, He does extraordinary things through us. This is the most untapped area of stewardship in local congregations. When God's people do little things, like show kindness to others, great things happen!

## NEED A PRAYER?

Zion Lutheran Church has two active prayer chains—a day-time 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.



## LWML

By—Margaret L. Grottko

LWML—what does it all mean?  
What is there about it? What good can we glean?  
What makes it so special that touches my heart?  
Is there some wisdom that I can impart?

L is for Lutheran, a faith I hold dear.  
W is for Women, I am one, it's clear.  
M is for Missionary, which God calls us to be.  
L is for League, many should that agree.

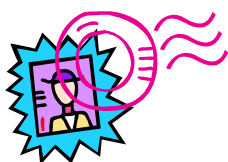
But all that's so formal, albeit sincere,  
Why should that matter to all of you here?  
God calls us together from many a parish  
Grants us friendships and love, fellowship that we cherish.

We hear of God's loving concern for our lives,  
He lifts flagging spirits, faltering faith He revives.  
We join Christian sisters in study and song  
And find full forgiveness for all we do wrong.

With money and gifts we spread God's love and cheer  
To missions abroad and those locally near.  
There's a lot to be said for Christ's peace in our heart,  
The fun and good visits before we must part.

With souls well nourished from God's Holy Book,  
We join to break bread—how those Lutherans can cook!  
And then we all visit as only women can;  
The topics will spread o'er a very wide span.

But when is detected a deep, troubling grief,  
With deep, caring hearts we pray God's blest relief;  
For these friends are like sisters we love very much.  
The love of our Savior reaches hearts that we touch.



LWML is collecting stamps for its Mission projects. If you choose to trim the stamps, please leave a 1/4" border.

Place the stamps in the marked container in the Narthex.

There are also crochet and knit hat patterns for mission distribution.

## SEWING CIRCLE

1:00pm

**Oct. 14th and Oct. 28th**  
(2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month)

We have some new members and would like even more. You don't need to be a seamstress. We have stuff for everyone to do.

## ADDRESS CHANGE

We will no longer have PO Box 31. So please use our street address: 1111-11th Ave W. for your mailing address.

## Martin Luther and the Reformation



How could Luther succeed when others had failed? This seminar explores the background of reform efforts, the life of "a man who changed the world," and other 16th century reformers.

**October 28, 2014**

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church  
Weston, WI 54476

More information in the Narthex. If you are interested in attending please speak with Vicar Rick.



**IT HAS BEEN ORDERED!** The congregation voted on September 14th to purchase a digital Allen L1-22 organ. The benefits are numerous: good sound, reliable, does not need to be tuned, not frequent repairs, built in USA. The total cost is \$38,710 to be paid in three installments: first payment upon order, second when delivered, third when installed. The estimated time from the order to installation is 3 to 4 months, with an estimated time of arrival in late January, early February. There is enough money in Zion's Memorial Fund for the first installment. The organ committee is encouraging the congregation to give "special gifts" to honor a loved one, celebrate an anniversary, etc. A Memorial in honor of a loved one or a Thank offering in honor of a special blessing in your life can be very meaningful for individuals and families as well as for the congregation. Each time the organ is used to give praise to God, it also incorporates the memory of loved ones whom we remember through our gifts to God. Often people are motivated to give generous and meaningful gifts to God for something that is used in the worship life of a church.



St. Paul was inspired to record in Scripture the following:  
 2 Corinthians 8: "1 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: 2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. 3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. 6 So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well. 7 But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also." NKJV



## LFOJ HAPPENINGS

LFOJ is looking for ideas for fundraising. They are in need to replace the hard surface floors. One idea was a cookbook, but they need someone who will manage it. So if this is a project you would like to help with please contact LFOJ (682-6075)



October 12th Sunday Service will be LFOJ morning. The children will be singing "Be Strong and Courageous"

The top picture is the 3 year old pre-school with Ms. Amy and Ms. Julie. Left picture is from Grandparents' Day that was recently observed.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

The Sunday School teachers met August 28th at 6:00pm. Vicar Rick opened the meeting-showed a short film on "The Story". The teachers decided where their classes would be-the Pre-school/Kindergarten age group are now back in the original "small" children's class room. There are six classrooms with many teachers.

Would like to thank Vicar Rick for purchasing "The Story" kit and for getting this 31 week Bible study-covering the entire Bible involving Pre-school age children to the Adult Bible Study lessons, including Wednesday night services - done at the same time-so far so good!

We presented Bibles on September 7th-Rally Day Sunday-to all Pre-school, Kindergarten, 1st Graders-5th Graders and to the first year Confirmands and a few "very interested 2 1/2 year olds" -Vicar Rick did the Blessing of the Bibles. The Sunday School and Confirmation Teachers were recognized during the service.

I want to thank all the Sunday School Teachers for volunteering to teach, especially for "The Story" series. After the service the Sunday School Teachers, Parents, Students worked on coloring their own crosses to be blessed the following Sunday for Holy Cross Sunday, September 14th. The Students and Congregation presented their crosses and were blessed by Vicar Rick.

The Sunday School purchased a "cork board" covering for the movable boards in the basement to be able to utilize the entire boards-thank you Pat Colgrove for picking out the covering and installing it.

Thank you to Eleanor and Loren for purchasing and donating a VCR-TV combo for the Sunday School area, thank you Lisa Guske for donating a TV stand/VCR unit for the Sunday School area; seems like they are all being utilized during class time.

Lisa Guske has, again, agreed to organize the Christmas Children's Service; just three months away...plans have started, with the program scheduled for Sunday, December 14th during the service. So mark your calendars. Stop down sometime and sit in with a class. We would enjoy having you.

Blessings to All

Katie Colgrove, SS Superintendant



## What a Difference a Day Makes

Today is a fresh fall-like day, cool wind, jacket temps, and shifting signs of the season. For yesterday gale-force winds blew in with a roar and swept away much of summer. Our local beaches were erased with crashing waves, seagulls were ruffled, patio chairs overturned, branches broken, corn stalks tangled, sunflowers cut down, spent flowers stripped, milkweed matted, screen tents collapsed, docks splintered, boats swamped...and all we had left were memories of life before the storm, and a fresh heap of debris on our lakeshore. Where did the lemonade comfort of summer go? Folks, this is life upnorth. Where each season has its own beauty-and-beast drama, and nature drives the calendar forward.

On-going change has always defined the stories of God's people. Abraham was called to pull up stakes and set out for a new landscape. Moses was called out of the palace to lead a chosen people on a 40-year journey in a desert. Queen Esther risked fame and fortune to save a nation. The widow Ruth moved with Naomi to a foreign land. John-the-Baptist set up shop in the wilderness. James left his net to become a fisher of men. Saul (Paul) was struck blind on the road to Damascus. Each person was transformed by God's waves of love and responded in faith, "Lord, use me."

Yes, the landscape of faith never was about the comforts of earthly life. For when people hear God's call their lives are overturned, new opportunities grab imaginations, plans are energized, and trust is pitched into God's lifeboat of hope. The amazing reality of this holy storm is that sins are not heaped on the beach, but rather are erased by God's redeeming love. When people say "yes" to God, dramatic change blows in and divine peace sets up tents in human hearts.

Today is clean-up day in Ashland. Some things will never be quite the same, and some things will be better than before the storm. God is also in the clean-up business. He sweeps people off their feet, and proclaims they are righteous in Him. Those who have been washed by His amazing grace start to see themselves as pilgrims on a journey. Pilgrims who live in tents, pilgrims who engage the nitty-gritty of life, pilgrims who care for the broken, pilgrims who sing a marvelous song, pilgrims who are marked by the cross, pilgrims who set their anchor in the living God. What a difference a day makes on the landscape of faith. Today God is calling us to be bent and blown by the wind of His Spirit and respond with living words of life, "Lord, use me."

## Special Congregational Meeting: Zion Lutheran, September 14, 2014

38 voting members signed in:

Meeting was called to order by Chuck Chronis, President.

Vicar Rick opened with prayer.

The agenda was approved.

New Business:

### Purchase of Organ:

Pastor Bahn gave the presentation. The organ committee recommended the purchase of a digital Allen L1-22 organ. The benefits are numerous: good sound, reliable, does not need to be tuned, not frequent repairs, built in USA. The total cost is \$38,710 to be paid in three installments: first payment upon order, second when delivered, third when installed. The estimated time from the order to installation is 4 to 5 months. Pastor Bahn noted there is enough money in Zion's Memorial Fund for the first installment. He encouraged the congregation to give "special gifts" to honor a loved one, celebrate an anniversary, etc. The committee will place special organ offering envelopes in the pews.

MMC by Scott Thimm to order the Allen organ. Second by Nick Jarvela. Member vote unanimous.

MMC by Becky Sapper to list Zion's pipe organ for sale. Second by June Williams. Member vote unanimous.

### Capital Improvements:

Todd Vyskosil reported on an opportunity to increase our loan and borrow \$90,000 more from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) for boiler replacement and roof repair. Nick Jarvela, Trustee, joined Todd to explain the two bids on the boiler. There is even the possibility of a rebate from the state when a more efficient system is installed. They hope to get the new boiler installed this fall.

MMC by John Pruss to add \$90,000 to our present balance with LCEF for the purchase of a new boiler and roof replacements. Second by Fran Kuester. Member vote unanimous.

### Circuit Visitor:

Pastor Bahn volunteered to represent Zion at the Circuit meeting. John Pruss volunteered to be a lay representative if his work schedule makes it possible to attend the meeting.

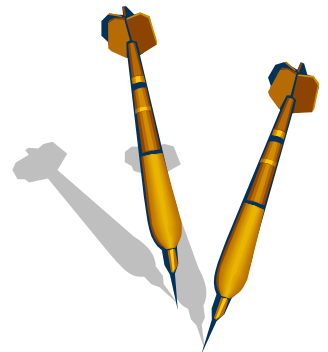
MMC by Nick Jarvela to accept Pastor Bahn and John Pruss to represent Zion. Second by Ron Schwiesow. Member vote unanimous.

MMC by Ethel Guss to adjourn the meeting. Second by Fran Kuester. Member vote unanimous. The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Alice J. Ellis, Secretary

## MEN'S CLUB - DARTBALL

The Men's Club Dartball Season will soon be upon us. They are looking for a few new players. Please contact either Jerry Frisco 682-5401 or Scott Sapper, 715-682-8867, if you would like to play. They rotate with eight other churches, Marengo St. Paul, Sanborn Methodist, Sanborn St. Anne's, Ashland Good Shepherd, Washburn Messiah Lutheran, Salem Baptist 1, Salem Baptist 2 and Ashland Saron Lutheran. Zion had a good season last year. But the best part of it is the camaraderie that is had and the fun. In this league, however, the number of wins and losses are not nearly as important as participating in good Christian fellowship within our community. The season usually ends at the end of February, beginning of March. They are always looking for new players, no experience necessary. You'll have some great teachers.



## Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes: September 2014

The September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President, Chuck Chronis. Vicar Rick opened with devotions and prayer to remind us to approach God with child-like trust.

**Roll Call:** Chuck Chronis (President), Mary Koosmann (Financial Secretary), Alice Ellis (Secretary), Lori Hebert (Evangelism), Todd Vyskocil (Treasurer), Nick Jarvela (Trustee) Cheri Tamke (LFOJ), Rick Williams (Vicar).

**Minutes:** Motion by Tamke, second by Hebert, to approve the minutes of August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014, as printed. Motion carried.

**Vicar's Report:** visitation schedule, Bible Sunday and Holy Cross Sundays went well, classes from "The Story" have begun, Vicar back in class, work completed ahead with Ladd, September 28<sup>th</sup> will focus on Liturgy explanations, Rick in St. Louis, October 6-10, October 5<sup>th</sup> LWML Sunday, Rick and 5 Zion members attended Mission U in Wausau.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Jarvela, second by Tamke, to accept report. Motion carried.

**Agenda:** These items were added: Zion mailbox, second credit card for Vicar Rick. Motion by Hebert to approve agenda with additions, second by Jarvela. Motion carried.

### Board Reports:

**Trustees:** Go over bids for new furnace within a week.

**Evangelism:** Will offer community family movie nights first Tuesday of each month.

Copyright issues are being addressed. College care packages will go out in early December. Discussion about a winter concert after the holidays.

Motion to accept board reports by Hebert, second by Koosmann. Motion carried.

### Official Acts:

Release Bonnie Nutt to St. Stephen's Lutheran, Monona, WI.

Release Nick Frisco.

Motion to accept official acts by Koosmann, second by Vyskocil. Motion carried.

### New Business:

**130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** discussion tabled.

**Church mailbox:** New locked box to be installed east side of building. Mail will be delivered about noon.

**Digital Organ:** Thrivent Choice Dollar Funds (\$16,925.07) to be transferred to Memorial Fund for purchase of the new organ. Motion by Jarvela, second by Hebert. Motion carried.

**Second Credit Card for Vicar:** Rick Williams will have a card for Zion account for travel, etc. Amount of available balance increased to \$2000.00. A receipt is required for each transaction before it is paid out. Motion to provide a card for Vicar by Koosmann, second by Hebert. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Tamke, second by Vyskocil. Motion carried. Council will meet in October. The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully, Alice J. Ellis



# OCTOBER 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!!

## Our Prayer Concerns OCTOBER

### Mission

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

### 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.

### Illnesses

Otto & Dorothy Rusch, Dale Houle, Riley Bretting, Matt Raspotnik, Bob Wolfgram, Carl Sapper, Larry Korbein, Chuck Ladd, Holly Nemeck, Marlene Parkhurst, Katie Stipetich, Jim Morzenti, Bernie Henderson, George Schwiesow

### Nursing Home &

#### Assisted Living Resident

Corrine Tolliver Sharon Johnson  
Otto & Dorothy Rusch

### Shut-in's

Gordon & Marianne Vyskocil  
Walt Schutte

### Military

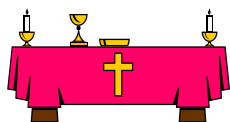
Aaron Esala  
Tyler Heglund



**Wednesday**  
**October 8th** Choir  
starts – 5:15pm  
(trying again)



## OCTOBER ALTAR GUILD



Penny Mattson 682-6056,  
Lou Pearce 682-2597,  
Dawn and Maggie Reardon  
682-0312,

## ELDERS

Oct. 1 Chuck Chronis  
Oct. 5 Don Pocernich & Mike Cashman  
Oct. 8 John Pruss  
Oct. 12 Darrell Warren & Doug Warren  
Oct. 15 Chuck Chronis  
Oct. 19 John Pruss & Darrell Warren  
Oct. 22 Doug Warren  
Oct. 26 Chuck Chronis & Don Pocernich  
Oct. 29 Mike Cashman

## GREETERS FOR OCTOBER

*Greeters should arrive by 8:40am*

Oct. 5 LWML  
Oct. 12 Rick & Sandy Nutt  
Oct. 19 Loren & Ellie Munson  
Oct. 26 Sapper Family

## OCTOBER Acolytes

Oct. 5 Jacob Graves & Heather Dickrell  
Oct. 12 Justin Esala & Taylor Vyskocil  
Oct. 19 Ashlee Moreland & Ellie Bauer  
Oct. 26 Kyle Sapper & Abbi Moreland

## OCTOBER Ushers

*Ushers should arrive by 8:40am*

Oct. 5 Larry Hidlebrandt & Scott Sapper  
Oct. 12 Randy Spangle & Todd Vyskocil  
Oct. 19 Curt Harpster & Jim Hebert  
Oct. 26 Ben Cashman & Jim Johnson

## OFFICIAL ACTS

**Released** - Bonnie Nutt to St. Stephen's  
Lutheran, Monona, WI.  
Nick Frisco.