

# The Mountain Top Messenger

## Zion Lutheran Church

VOLUME 53, ISSUE # 10 **OCTOBER 2015**

Welcome to October, leaves are changing quickly, that crisp bite in the air, days are already so much shorter, a sign of things to come. As we slide into October a number of exciting things are coming our way. First week in October I will be in St. Louis at the Seminary for the Call Certification Ceremony. This is the last official step, besides successfully completing my current class, before ordination. A very exciting time for all of us here at Zion.

Also during the month of October, I am going to be doing something I really haven't done since becoming your deacon and then vicar. It is something that I don't believe has been done since before Pastor Steckling retired. I, along with the Stewardship committee, am going to be placing some special emphasis on Stewardship. Stewardship seems to be one of those things that when people hear about it they kind of moan a little bit, and say things like "oh no, not again", or "oh they're just looking for more money". I will tell you right off the bat, nothing could be further from the truth, Stewardship, is a very individual and personal thing. Truthfully it shouldn't be any different than me reminding you to pray, or attend the Lord's Supper, or attend worship on a regular basis, or read your Bible. Stewardship is all about you and your relationship with God, it is about being thankful to the Lord for all of the gifts he has given you and what you can do to show your Lord how much you appreciate what has been given. Is it all about money? Nope. Is it all about time and talents? Nope. It's all about relationships. Your relationship with God and what he has done for you. It's also about your relationship with your Church and all that it does for you and the people around you. And it's about your relationship with the world and how you show the world that you are a Christian through word and deed. There are going to be three special services in October, with three specific themes, I encourage you to attend them all. The Stewardship committee will also be working to distribute and collect new time and talent surveys during that time as well. In order to do the good works the Lord has prepared for us, we need the time, the talents, and the gifts, of all of you as the Lord has blessed and moved you to share them.

Blessings to all of you as we move into Fall and may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Blessings,  
Vicar Rick



**Church Office - 1111 - 11th Ave. W  
Ashland, WI 54806  
Phone # - 715-682-6075  
Website: [www.zionashland.org](http://www.zionashland.org)  
E-mail - [zionashland@hotmail.com](mailto:zionashland@hotmail.com)**

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



(Please call ahead if you need to speak with Vicar 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

## Do You Know ?- Jerry and Sandy Frisco

Where do we start? [This might take some extra space.] Gerald Stephen Frisco was born October 7, 1943 at Trinity Hospital, Ashland, WI. His parents were Irene and Steve Frisco and he was the youngest in the family with four sisters and one brother. His one remaining sister is Marianne Vyskocil. He grew up on the farm where he and Sandy still live today. Jerry attended Zion Lutheran Church, starting at the Ellis Avenue location with baptism and confirmation. The Storks picked him up for Sunday School each Sunday. Throughout the years he has probably given his time and talents to every committee and board that Zion has had to offer: President of the Church, an Elder, Sunday School teacher, Trustees, Bible Studies, Stewardship and of course Men's Club with dartball. Jerry has been participating in dartball since the early 70's and those times have been and are always fun with some competition mixed in. Back in the early years they had a large group of men and won most of the season's standings and tournaments. After his initial years of learning

the game and throwing when he was needed, he got a more steady position of following Joe Bock who was the lead thrower. He commented that now he just aims for the board and hopes he hits it.

He grew up on the farm and they were busy with chores all the time so couldn't go on vacations except they would attend his mother's side family reunions. He went to Shores Clearing School, which is now Gingles Townhall, through the sixth grade. His mother, who was school custodian, hauled water for the school since they didn't have indoor plumbing. Following grade he went to town for school until graduation. He went into the Air Force after graduation for four years and was stationed in Hawaii at Hickam Airforce Base which was between Pearl Harbor and Honolulu International Airport. He returned to Ashland and went to vocational school for welding and worked at Hy-Bob, disassembled DuPont and then with Ashland Industries.



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Jerry married Sandy on April 17, 1971 (and he knew the date) at Zion with Pastor Gatz performing the marriage. He inherited Brenda, Wes and Patti right off the bat, and they then added Stephen and Nick later on.

Sandra Jean Prill was born June 19, 1944 at home in Chippewa County. They had a housekeeper and her Grandmother during that time because the new mother had to stay in bed for ten days. Her parents were Dorothy and Arnold Prill. Sandy was the youngest in the family with two brothers and one sister. She grew up on a farm, one of the more modern farms in Chippewa County at the time. The family always went to church in Bloomer and she remembers going to teen-age Bible Class with Mr. Herbert Dietsche, as her teacher, a dedicated church member who lived his religion. As a child she vacationed out west, seeing the Black Hills, Yellowstone, and seeing family in the state of Washington, and than onto California.

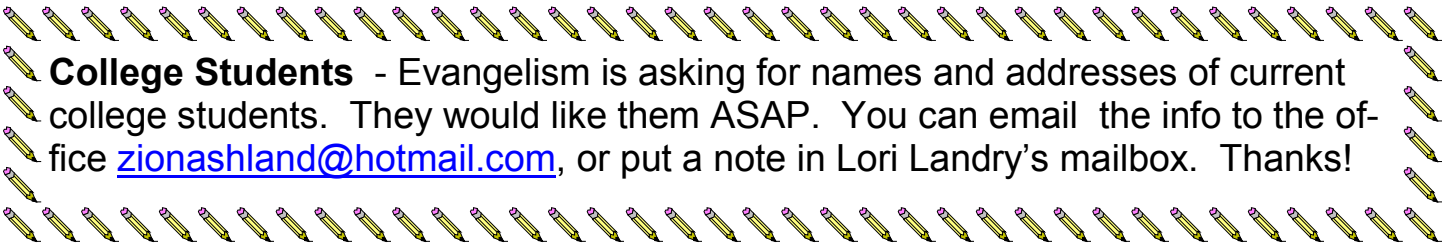
Going to the Minnesota State Fair was a must every year. She was very involved in 4-H and many other activities growing up. Even at a young age Sandy was a person you could count on. When she was in 8th grade her parents went to Missouri and put her in charge of getting her older sister and brother up to do the farm chores and the milking because they knew she was more responsible than her siblings. At 16 she was totally in charge of the 200 acre farm while her folks went to Philadelphia for her brother's graduation from the University of Pennsylvania. She attended a country one room school through 8th grade, once again no indoor plumbing, so had to haul in the water and use the outhouse. She graduated from New Auburn High School.

Then Sandy started her long list of schooling, jobs, cities, and states before settling back in the Northwood's. She attended the airlines school in Mpls., worked for Standard Oil, as a typist, worked in a fire tower as a fire watcher, worked in a factory as a welder and bender, bending parts for automobiles. She and the three children came to the Northwood's and lived with her Dad in Port Wing. She ended up going to the Vocational School in Ashland and started working at Munsingwear in the office, than a bookkeeper at Ison's and at Northland College in accounts payable. After marrying Jerry she was head secretary at the High School. She than had Stephen and Nicholas and would work at Jernstedt's Day Care. After Nicholas went to 1st grade she got a job at MMC and worked there in various departments for 28 years.

Jerry and Sandy have had many opportunities to do some traveling; visiting Salt Lake City, Yellowstone, Idaho. Another trip was to visit Wes while he was stationed at Ramstein AFB in Germany, and saw a lot of Europe. While in Europe she enjoyed the springtime flowers in Holland, the Swiss Alps, and Bavaria. Another memory was seeing the white crosses at the Military Cemetery in Luxembourg, of the soldiers who had given their lives for our country. Other vacations included bus tours to Hawaii, Alaska, and California. Another vacation was going out to West Point, N.Y. visiting their grandson, Jon Gilbertson at the West Point Military Academy and also going up to into Maine. They have traveled to Florida where two of their children, Brenda and Nicholas, live. Other trips include going to Minot, N.D. where Wes lives and Bemidji where Stephen lives. Of course Patti lives in town so those are short trips to town or out to their cabin in Grand View.

What keeps Jerry and Sandy busy these days? Lots of time working in their yard for both of them, with beautiful flowers and vegetable gardens. We can add endless hours of dedicated service to Zion and then the remaining hours for their children. It keeps their life enriched, happy and busy and they wouldn't have it any other way.

Jerry and Sandy feel very, very blessed for all the opportunities He has given them travel and the time and ability to serve their Lord and Savior.



**College Students** - Evangelism is asking for names and addresses of current college students. They would like them ASAP. You can email the info to the office [zionashland@hotmail.com](mailto:zionashland@hotmail.com), or put a note in Lori Landry's mailbox. Thanks!



The choir will start up on Wednesday, October 7th, at 5:30pm. Selection of music will be made for the Ordination, Advent and Christmas. Please let Fran know if you are interested but can't

**MONTHLY CHARITY** "Operation Christmas Child" - Filled shoe boxes will be sent, along with Gospel lessons around the world. More information and sample boxes are in the conference room. Maybe team up with someone to fill a box.



**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** *Bob Wolfram, Larry Korbein, Katie Stipetich, Diane Hyvonen, Bob Heggie, Kevin Heggie, Linda Stolarzyk, Sandi (Sorenson) Fletcher, Cheryl Hildebrandt, Wendy Meierotto, James Albright, Joni Frisco, Rodger Dewey, Deb Traaholt, Brad Prill, Dennis Pocernich, Gordon Vyskocil, David Frantz*

**Homebound**

*Dorothy Rusch, Mariann Vyskocil, Walt Schutte*

**PRAYERS FOR**

*Messiah Lutheran, Marenisco, MI as they prepare to close their church and disband their congregation.*

**Military**

Aaron Esala, David Wright



**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.

**Dartball is starting up in October. Schedule on the calendar (back page). Never played before? That's fine, there are plenty of players willing to teach you. It's an evening of good companionship and fun....plus good desserts and sandwiches.**

# SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP



Rally Day was held September 13th with installation of the teachers during the service and crafts and refreshments for the children after the service. Classes began on September 20th. The preschool class is going through stories of the Bible, the "Buzz" is the curriculum used by grades 1-5, "Lutheranism 101" by the confirmation class. Wednesday Confirmation classes started September 23rd.



If you know of a child that would like to join in that would be great. Give the office a call for more information. The children will be singing during the worship service at the end of October.



Thank you to everyone that participated in the school supplies backpack charity. We assembled 42 backpacks full of school supplies.  
Lisa Sunie

Sewing Circle meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at 1:00pm. They need your help and a leader. Be watching for an upcoming Sewing Circle Event.

## "This & That" for the Taking

October 7th - 11th

There will be a table set up in the Narthex of various items that have been sitting on shelves or stuffed behind doors and not used. If you have a use for any of the items feel free to take it.

### Help Needed

There are various projects throughout the church that need someone to tackle. Below is a partial list. No expectations on when they have to be done. Give the office a call if you could take on one of these.

**Keys:** go through our box of unknown keys (I bet you have a box like that at home too)

**Archives/old stuff/pictures:** need to be gone through and organized.

**Design new Zion brochure** - there are a couple samples already started as a guide.

**Black Metal cabinet** in office needs to be gone through

**Misc. boxes** in basement to be gone through and organized.



# Stewardship Thoughts

*October 2015 Stewardship Article*

The reason we come to Church on Sunday morning, as opposed to Sunday afternoon or Monday evening, is because it is the first day of the week. The first thing you do this week, before you do anything else, is come to Church. You begin your week with the Word of God, Prayer, and the Holy Communion. You give the first seventh, off the top, of your time to the Lord. He blesses that time. In that time, He forgives your sins, cleanses, and purifies you. He then sends you out into the world, into the week, as *His* in all your days and hours and life.

This is also the reason we pray before we eat. We want to establish that food is a gift from God and that He provides for us through it. Before we eat, we pray. This also blesses the food and makes it holy food because you are holy people.

Nonetheless, we have a tendency to compartmentalize our lives, to separate the spiritual and the secular, to put on different masks at work, with our friends, or at home. This is a fantasy. We are who we are wherever we are. We are the baptized and we never go anywhere alone. Everything we do is spiritual — including our use of time and food and money.

Now, you have a Christian duty to support the Church, to give of your time, money, and abilities so that the Ministry would be conducted among us and that the Gospel would be preached beyond us. How much you are to give is not dictated in the New Testament, unless it is everything. But how you are to give is clear. It is sacrificial, generous, first fruits, and proportional. You are to give a percentage offering—not an amount, but a percentage.

In the Old Testament ten percent was the norm. It's hard to imagine that St. Paul was thinking that "being generous" would be anything less than this. But whatever it is, the point is to set your offerings in comparison to your total income. That is what makes it a sacrifice, a spiritual gift. How much of what the Lord provides do you return?

Next, it is to be first-fruits giving. It comes off the top. You write the check, or pay your offering, before you pay any of your bills. It is your first obligation and sets your priorities. You don't pay your other bills and then give the leftovers to the Church. You make your offering first, in accordance with whatever promised percentage you made. This is not only first fruits, it is also sacrificial.

And you can always give more. Start with your commitment, with your percentage-based, first-fruits weekly offering, then as you have leftovers, give them out as it pleases you. But start with the Biblical model or percentage, first fruits.

That is how money is to be used and given by Christians. It is to be pressed into the service of the Gospel. It is not actually that hard. Start where you are and work toward greater faithfulness. Start now. Just take what you give now and figure out the percentage of your income and commit to keep that pledge for the year. Over time you can increase that commitment, that percentage. As your income fluctuates, going up or down, so will your offering amount. Set the percentage, then take that out of your check first each week. Make it a priority. It is the most important thing you do with your money. It is a spiritual exercise.

It will feel a little scary at first. Just do it. Take the risk. Set the money aside for the Lord and trust that He will provide. And over time you will find that you really can give more than 1% or even 10%, and even do so without regret. This kind of Biblical, disciplined, first fruit giving takes the unease out of it. It creates cheerful givers because when they drop the offering in the plate, they are already committed. They decided beforehand what to give. They don't think about it. They are glad to fulfill their promise and to be in God's house where He receives them according to grace.

Taking the backroads the other day, I noticed many fields of ripe sunflowers. I was reminded of this devotional that I wrote in 2011.



### Behold the Sunflower

When I look at my sunflowers, it is hard to believe these mega-plants began from a small seed sown in June. What kind of energy is packaged in such a device that within two months a 5 to 6 ft. green-structure is lifted up with a wood-fiber stalk supporting a large bright sun-yellow flower?

Sunflowers are not new to America. In fact, history indicates they have been here for thousands of years, and the products of sunflowers have made them part of the human story for centuries. I guess you would say my relationship with sunflowers is rather self-serving as I enjoy their majesty and beauty. For even before dawn they stand at attention with their bright dish-faces postured to catch the first rays of daybreak. As the day progresses, motor cells shift the flowers to track the sun to receive the full light until the setting sun. During this process, bumble bees cling to the flower-heads to feed on the nectar and set in motion the pollination and formation of seeds. Soon the flowers become weighty seed-heads

—a magnet for hungry birds. Even though the drooped heads no longer lift to track the sun, the faithful light completes the ripening process. The sun-flower relationship is a dynamic partnership and I marvel how this God-designed ecosystem blesses humans, birds, bees and other creatures.

In the *Book of Matthew* the kingdom of God is compared to a small seed of faith that grows up into a large tree with many branches to offer shelter to birds. To me, sunflowers echo the spiritual energy of sowing one tiny seed of faith that becomes a structure of countless God-opportunities. For God is eager for us to turn toward him at dawn, to follow Him in the heat of the day, and rest in His light when we bed down at night. He is our ever-ready sunshine... eager to stir vigorous growth that we may partner with Him to bless others. What a gift to observe sunflowers and other creative expressions of His presence that help us remember to *"turn our eyes upon Jesus and look full in His wonderful face."* Be lifted up and Behold the Son of God!

—Alice J. Ellis



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### **BOARD/COMMITTEE SELECTION**

During the entire month of October Zion will be accepting nominations for the various board vacancies. As our church continues to grow, so does our need for new leaders. Please prayerfully consider whether you or someone you know, could serve on one of these boards. You can speak with Lori Landry or the Vicar. There is a committee that will be contacting people also. The list of board vacancies is on the bulletin board along with board objectives. Some of the boards needing more members are Elders, Education, Trustees, Stewardship and there may be others not yet determined.

## Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes: September 2015

The September 21, 2015, Church Council meeting was called to order by President, Nick Jarvela. Daryl Warren opened with prayer. **Roll Call:** Nick Jarvela (President, Trustees), Mary Koosmann (Financial Secretary), Lynn Ladd (Education), Lori Landry (Evangelism), Diane Cashman (Stewardship), Daryl Warren (Elders), Lisa Guski (Co-treasurer, LFOJ), Alice Ellis (Secretary), Rick Williams (Vicar).

**Approval of May 2015 Minutes:** Motion Warren, second Ladd. Motion carried.

**Approval Treasurer's Report:** Motion Warren, second Cashman. Motion carried.

**Approval of Agenda:** Additions New Business: G. Talent Survey, H. Budget, I. Election. Motion Daryl, second Landry. Motion carried.

### Board Reports:

**Elders:** Warren said they met this past Sunday, regrouping after summer break.

**Trustees:** Jarvela reported that roof replacement is completed for \$29,400 (half has been paid).

Insulation duct needs one area to be secured. These projects are coming in under budget.

**Education:** Ladd reported that VBS went well with 40 children attending. Parents hope this will be offered next year. Rally Day was September 13<sup>th</sup>; teachers were installed during worship service. Sunday School Christmas Program is set for Saturday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation has 14 students. Reveal night for secret pals will be Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>. A Father/Son event is planned for October or November.

**LFOJ:** Guski reported that Dutch Bulb netted \$380.77 for center. Thrivent Action Team project approved for supplies/ refreshments for major flooring project beginning Friday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. Grandparent's Day project on 9/24 and 9/25. Next summer's goal is to replace the deck.

**Evangelism:** Landry reported that care packages to be sent to college students in November and then one week later another package for student's friend. College addresses are needed. It is suggested that the first Advent service be a soup and sandwich congregational supper with a special invitation to college students. Evangelism supports the monthly ministry of Lisa and Joann as needed.

**Stewardship:** Cashman reported that they will be meeting with Vicar Rick to go over talent survey. October 11, 18, 25 are Stewardship Sundays.

Motion to approve board reports by Guski, second by Koosman. Motion carried.

### Official Acts:

**Baptism:** Emily Rose Samarziya 08-23-2015

**Deaths:** David R. Kuester 7-8-2015 Merlin Fuhrman 09-12-2015

**Youth Confirmation:** Devin Tyler Sunie, Cody Alan Sunie, Carson Bruce Honkala 8-30-2015

**New Members:** Bruce and Joann Honkala (Wayne and Carson), Roger Hansen

**Release:** Kaitlyn Bochler, Fred Fromm

### Old Business:

Ordination: Committee in formation; plans underway, caterer approved Service will be December 13 at 2 pm.

### New Business:

Computer upgrades: Vicar gave report on need for a new computer for Secretary. Next meeting will have a item list and quote. Motion by Ellis, second by Landry. Approved.

Rusch Memorial: Gift to be directed by the Church Council as requested.

Voter's Meeting- December 6 after worship service.

Sewing tables: Ladd reported the need for new tables for the sewing circle.

Will bring a list of items needed and quote next meeting. Motion by Guski, second by Landry. Approved.

CLI Music Licensing: Vicar reported the need to renew annual fee (\$208) to use music. Motion by Warren, second by Ladd. Approved.

Sexton: A request from Chuck Chronis, Sexton, was read to increase his time to one more hour per week based on the need to do good work. Also Ladd will request that a \$50 custodial fee will be added to funeral expenses. Motion by Warren, second by Ladd. Motion carried.

Talent Survey. Stewardship presented their Time/Talent Survey, hoping to be handed out sometime in October or then November. Landry made a motion to approve the survey with minor changes, second by Guski. Approved

Budget. The Treasurers will be working on the 2016 budget in the next month and will get out to boards that have a budget line, what has been spent in the past year. All boards should keep only items that are necessary in their totals.

Elections: Lori Landry will seek two or more people to assist her in getting names of people interested in filling vacant spots on the various boards for 2016.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Warren, second by Cashman. All in favor, meeting ended with Lord's Prayer.

**Next Council meeting is Monday, October 19, at 5:30 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted: *Alice J. Ellis*



**OCTOBER  
Servers for  
Worship**

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.

- ELDERS**
- Oct. 4 Doug Warren & Chuck Chronis
  - Oct. 7 Randy Spangle
  - Oct. 11 John Pruss & Darryl Warren
  - Oct. 14 Chuck Chronis
  - Oct. 18 Darryl Warren & Doug Warren
  - Oct. 21 Randy Spangle
  - Oct. 25 Chuck Chronis & John Pruss
  - Oct. 28 Doug Warren

- Ushers**
- Oct. 4 LWML/Henry Truchon & Brian Klobucher
  - Oct. 11 Nick Jarvela & Bruce Honkala
  - Oct. 18 Rick Nutt & Alan Sunie
  - Oct. 25 Scott Thimm & Andrew Wickman

- GREETERS**
- Oct. 4 LWML
  - Oct. 11 Ron & Brenda Schwiesow
  - Oct. 18 Jerry & Sandy Frisco
  - Oct. 25 Roger & Sally Gustafson

- Acolytes**
- Oct. 4 Justin Esala (no communion)
  - Oct. 11 Ashlee Moreland & Logan Esala
  - Oct. 25 Taylor Vyskocil & Terell Butterfield
  - Oct. 18 Heather & Emily Dickrell
  - Oct. 25 Ella Bauer & Trish Bolz



- OFFICIAL ACTS**
- Death:** David R. Kuester 7-8-2015, Merlin Fuhrman 9-12-2015
- Baptism:** Emily Rose Samarziya 08-23-2015
- New Members:** Bruce & Joann Honkala (Wayne and Carson)  
Roger Hansen
- Youth Confirmation:** Devin Tyler Sunie, Cody Alan Sunie,  
Carson Bruce Honkala, 8-30-2015
- Released:** Kaitlyn Bochler, Fred Fromm

Please contact Renee Bolz (715-965-0944) if you are interested in having flowers on the Altar for a special occasion, memorial, remembrance, etc. Check the calendar on the bulletin board for Sundays already signed out.

June Williams 208-0984  
Tami & Kaitlyn Thimm  
682-4817

