

The Mountain Top *Zion Lutheran Church*

Messenger

VOLUME 54, ISSUE #10 **OCTOBER 2016**

Well, fall is in full swing, Sunday school is up and going, confirmation classes have resumed, the air is crisp, the squirrels are scurrying around like crazy storing nuts for the winter, and every morning I hear the geese heading South. I am always amazed at this world that our God created. The other night in confirmation class we talked of the ways that we see the wonders of God in his creation around it. We talked of the beauty of nature around us, the dazzling sunrises and sunsets, the bounty of wildlife that we, living in the North, are blessed to see and share the world with. As we talked, we watched a short video entitled "What would you ask God". The premise of the video was, if you could ask God one question what would it be? In the video that question was asked of middle school and high school students, and the varying number of questions helped point to how each of us relates to God in his or her own way. Following the video, I asked each of the confirmands that same question and they had even more questions. Questions like: God, what am I going to be in my life? God, can people in heaven or hell see the people in the other place? God, will there be cats and dogs in heaven? God, is there a heaven? And how do I get there?.....

Let those sink in for a minute; all outstanding questions, most we can answer through scripture, but not all. We talked about all of those questions, we looked at what God's Word has to say about all of them. As we talked about those questions and heard what God had to say about them the discussion grew, until we ran out of time for the day. We did have time to talk through all of them, but I feel this discussion will lead to more and better questions, I am a firm believer that one of the best ways to learn is to ask questions and I am looking forward to more questions.

How about you, regardless of your age, do you have questions? If you could ask God one thing, what would it be? It is ok to question God. And if we pray, if we talk to other Christians, if we read God's Word, if it is God's will the answers to those questions will be revealed to us. Now, there are some questions out there that, at least for now, cannot or will not be answered. Does that mean there is no answer or that we shouldn't ask? No! It simply means God in His infinite wisdom has chosen not to show us the answer, yet. But by all means ask. And if you have one of those questions, if you have been struggling for an answer, please by all means, come share with me, perhaps we through God's Word and prayer, can find the answer together.

I leave you this month with the words of our Savior from Matthew Chapter 7 verses 7 & 8: *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."*

Lord Bless you and keep, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace! Amen.

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

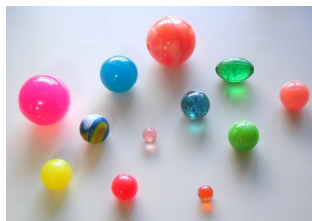
LFOJ Administrator: Karyn Leino 715-682-6075



October Mission Operation Christmas Child

Fill a shoe box with small items (like toys, gum, toothpaste, socks, sunglasses, etc.) for a child. Recycle your own shoe box or pick one up in the conference room.

More information/list of suggested items can be found in the conference room. Last year our boxes ended up in Malawi, Africa.



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Our Prayer Concerns OCTOBER

Mission

Zion Lutheran Church Little Friends of Jesus Childcare Center LWML
Jordan Kroll Mission in China Zion Sewing Circle Monthly Missions

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: *Katie Stipetich, Diane Hyvonen, Bob Heggie, Kevin Heggie, Linda Stolarzyk, Sandi (Sorenson) Fletcher, Wendy Meierotto, Joni Frisco, Brad Prill, Dean Jansheski, Larry Kaspar, Ingrid Pocernich, Jean Wickman, Fran Fleig, Jean Ekholm, Patsy Kontny, Emily Hagstrom, Eddie Brown, Johnny Galligan, Alice Balmer, Mary Bullis, Jim Fletcher, Sheldon Henry, Brenda Herlevi, Bob Hebert, Charles Ylitalo, Melissa Grage, Violet Basina, Wes Frisco, Sheryl Hildebrandt, Michaela Key, Tracy Steward, Tanja Wisner*

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.

LFOJ HAPPENINGS

Good Day,

Thank you all for donating, helping &/or attending the LFOJ Garage Sale on Saturday, September 17. LFOJ raised \$536.45 to go toward our new deck/ramp that we pray will be replaced in the Spring of 2017.

At this time we have a few collectable items that will soon be placed on the Auction Site/The Online Garage Sale in Ashland/Bayfield County (Facebook).

The remaining garage sale items have been disbursed amongst the following;

Ashland Cares Washburn School District Christmas Store

Assembly of God (Washburn) Youth Group

Operation Christmas Child (Christmas Shoe Boxes) Area Thrift Shops

We are truly blessed that we have Parents, Staff, Zion Congregation and a Community that are so giving and involved.

God Bless You All,

Karyn

Stewardship Thoughts

We will look at the stewardship of life this month and if it is written as intended, we will be removed from our comfort zones and perceive stewardship from a biblical perspective.

Let's look at the connection of the harvest and stewardship. The farmer can only do so much, as prepare the soil for planting and plant the seeds. He can't make it rain, can't control the temperature or humidity to produce a bumper crop, can't make the cows give more milk, or the hen to lay more eggs or control the prices of commodities. The farmer is totally at the mercy of God's provisions. The steward does not control the outcome. The only thing the steward has to offer is faithfulness. We are at total dependence on God. If you don't think so, attend a funeral service. See any U-Hauls at the cemetery?

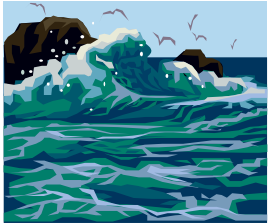
Learning the stewardship lesson of dependence upon the Lord and interdependence of the world, which the steward is called to work and keep as is stated in Genesis 2:15, is the first step to embrace a stewardship of life not dictated by culture, but cultivated in scripture. The myth the American dream promotes that the individual is in control of his or her destiny is contrary to the teaching of biblical stewardship. The individualism and idolatry bred by the American dream has contributed to the convoluted idea that stewardship is only about money. Some of this thinking is rooted in the idea that money is the measure of life. Such thinking not only controls the wealthy but includes all people. Those who buy scratch-off lottery tickets, play high stakes bingo, and who can ignore the Powerball? Those who can least afford to participate, participate as a means to get out of the hole of debt and onto Easy Street.

Stewards aren't called to live on Easy Street. We are called to see creation as a gift. Money is not life. Life is what the Lord calls the steward, created and re-created in Holy Baptism, to manage. This management was not made for the manager. Created in God's image, Adam was to carry out his vocation of stewardship for the sake of others and for the glory of God. He was to be fruitful and multiply for the sake of future generations. He was given dominion over the created order, not to enrich himself or to make his life labor free, but to work so that the produce of the creation was maintained and preserved. This maintenance and preservation was not for the man, but for everyone else.

Stewardship needs to be not about money, but about life. The education catechesis, and sharing of the stewardship of life, flows from the Gospel. This change in the culture of stewardship will occur as the congregation looks at biblical examples in a different way; not to see the gifts themselves such as the widow's mite or the Macedonian collection, but view the reason for the gifts, love for the Lord shown to the neighbor. When life is stewarded like this, the budget isn't balanced. Something greater happens. The Gospel is shared! This is stewardship of life!

The River of God is full of water.... Psalm 65:9b

October of 2009, I was able to spend two nights with friends in Copper Harbor, Michigan: 4 hours from Ashland in the Keweenaw Peninsula. This postcard town is situated on the open water of Lake Superior sheltered by two spits of land.



On our way to Copper Harbor they were forecasting a major storm to blow in over the Lake. We settled into our cabin, and then the wild weather struck. The pitch of blasting wind and roar of crashing waves sounded like a stuck bass chord on a pipe organ. Fortunately, our cabin was cozy and I was surprised the howling did not keep us awake that night.

In the morning light over the Lake, we could see furrows of white foam and tight-wound curls of waves. The wind was plowing the water. The height and weight of this awesome energy was a power beyond human scale. Copper Harbor was abuzz with everyone comparing notes on the best place to get photos of 25-foot waves. We fired up our cameras too. Even then we could not get enough of this storm-charged event.



The power of the water got me thinking about baptism, my own baptism when I was one-month-old. My godparents were Les and Nellie Heffner. I am sure Rev. Schedler followed the *Order of Baptism* and announced my name aloud to those present. Then he marked me with the sign of the cross and sprinkled water on my forehead proclaimed eternal promises in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There were no crashing waves or howling winds, but the height and weight of God's power reached down and deep into my soul. My inner compass was aligned to God. To the river of living water. To the gift of holy love. To the power of forgiveness. To the invitation of faith. To the hope of eternal life. God held nothing back.

By the time we headed home from Copper Harbor, the storm was now a memory. My baptism is not a conscious memory, but what happened that day continues to drive the events of my life. Even now, I can't find the right words to express what God did, is doing, and will do for me. This gift of grace is for all of us, dear friends, as we walk and talk this adventure of faith. For we belong to an awesome God who sets in motion deep waves of grace to plow the landscape of our faith. Let us compare notes of His faithfulness and be blessed and encouraged by His power and love. For God holds nothing back... we are His beloved.

Zion Lutheran Council Minutes: September 19, 2016

The September 19, 2016, Church Council Meeting was called to order by President, Nick Jarvela.

Pastor Rick Williams opened with devotions and our call to pray based on Mat. 6:7. We should not heap on empty phrases, but rather speak fervently and boldly from our hearts.

Roll Call: Nick Jarvela- President/Trustees, Alice Ellis-Secretary, Lisa Guski- LFOJ/Co-treasurer, Lynn Ladd- Education, Chuck Chronis- Stewardship, Lori Landry-Evangelism, Daryl Warren-Elders, Pastor Rick Williams. (Mary Koosmann phoned to report her absence.)

May 2016 Minutes: Motion to accept minutes by Warren, second by Ladd. MMC.

Pastoral Report: Pastor Rick had a full summer schedule; he completed two classes and now enrolled in fall classes. Pastor, other adults, and young folks attended the National Youth Gathering July 14-21; they hope to bring a report to the congregation soon. Confirmation classes have started. Pastor has had many visitations of home-bound, sick members, and jail visitations. Pastor plans to attend the fall conference September 26-28 in Marquette.

Treasurer's Report: Motion accept by Warren, second by Landry. MMC.

Meeting Agenda: Motion to approve proposed agenda by Warren, second by Ladd: with additions: LFOJ Deck, Budget updates, and 2017 Budget. MMC.

Board Reports:

Elders: Warren reported of plan to individual elders to members to increase contact and communication.

Trustees: Jarvela reported that trustees are trying to locate source of puddle on basement wall in ladies' restroom when it rains.

Education: Ladd reported on success of VBS. Also Katie Colgrove has accepted interim Sunday School Superintendent position. Rally Day was September 11th. Brooke Sapper and Sidney Vyskocil will oversee the Sunday School Christmas program on December 18th at the 9 a.m. service. Pastor Rick is using a new curriculum, "Confirmation Builder" for confirmation students.

LFOJ: Guski reported staff changes and the center has a full roster of children. The fundraiser garage sale was a success. Grandparents' Day will be Thursday, September 29.

Evangelism: Landry reported that evangelism will meet October 3 and plan activities.

Motion to accept board reports by Guski, second by Landry. MMC.

OFFICIAL ACTS:

Adult Baptism: Byron Alfred Anderson, 5-19-2016

Deaths: Mariann Vyskocil 06-25-2016 Dorothy Rusch 07-11-2016 Nina Fox 08-13-2016

New Members: Scott Barylski 9-11-2016

Old Business:

Window Replacement: Jarvela reported the windows are ordered from KV Tech at the cost of \$14,000.

New Business:

Nursery Class: Pastor reported a request for a nursery class during Sunday School; parents will oversee class.

Letter from Crossroads Outreach: Jarvela reported that Crossroads has received city grants and will seeking a list of skilled volunteers to help with these projects. We will communicate these needs in the newsletter.

Archive Restoration: Ladd reported an opportunity to create a digital file of our records in the event of a building loss and deterioration of documents. Ladd will approach the Memorial Committee in regards to a need for \$500 to secure our records.

LFOJ Deck: Jarvela checked the deck (and will check again) to be sure the pillars are safe at this time. It is recommended to have information, bids, deck design, etc. by spring and go forward on this project. The congregation will also be invited to participate in this need for the preschool.

Budget Updates: It is encouraged that "anticipated" projects be communicated several weeks in advance so members have time to consider, ask questions, and donate. Also it is recommended there are quarterly budget meetings to inform interested members.

2017 Budget: Lisa will get out boards' current budget lines so they can use them to prepare for 2017. Plans are set to have the budget ready for the Nov. 21st meeting for final review and then present to the congregation at its annual meeting on December 4th.

Adjourn: Motion by Chronis, second by Guski. MMC

The meeting was closed with **The Lord's Prayer**.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 17, 2016, at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully: *Alice J. Ellis*

Sunday, December 4th is Zion's annual meeting, please plan on attending.

In each month's newsletter the most recent approved Treasurer's Report, Balance Sheet and Consolidated Fund Activity Report will be included. So in October's newsletter the reports will be January through August, 2016, If you ever have any question about the reports or line items, please speak with co-treasurers, Carol Key or Lisa Guski, Zion's President, Nick Jarvela. An answer to your question may not be immediate if further information needs to be looked up but someone will get back to you.

The Church Council discussed finances and starting in 2017 there will be a quarterly meeting, dates and times to be forthcoming.

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 deserts and sandwiches.



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 Nick Jarvela or Pastor Rick.. There will be a list of board vacancies on the bulletin board along with board objectives. Some of the boards needing more members are Elders, Education, Stewardship and there may be others not yet determined.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Rally Day was enjoyed by all in attendance and Sunday School classes have begun. The children are busy with hearing stories from the bible.

We are still hoping someone who might co-work as Sunday School Superintendent. So if you are interested please speak with Katie Colgrove, the interim-superintendent.

Sydney and Brooke are busy getting the Christmas program prepared, costumes arranged, etc. So mark your calendars for Sunday, December 18th for the Sunday School Christmas Program.



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!! 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.

October	Elders	Acolytes	Ushers	Greeters
Wed. 9/28	Doug Warren			
Sun. 10/2	Randy Spangle Doug Warren	Abbi Moreland	Jim Hebert Nick Jarvela	LWML
Wed. 10/5	John Pruss			
Sun. 10/9	Darryl Warren John Pruss	Trista Bolz	Mike Bochler Terrel Bolz	Roger & Sally Gustafson
Wed. 10/12	Andy Pruss			
Sun. 10/6	Scott Thimm Andy Pruss	Emily Dickrell	Jerry Frisco Ben Cashman	Pat & Katie Colgrove
Wed. 10/19	Doug Warren			
Sun. 10/23	Andy Pruss Randy Spangle	Jayson Lunda	Adam Hinch Brian Klobucher	Lipske Family
Wed 10/26	Scott Thimm			
Sun. 10/30	Doug Warren Darryl Warren	Logan Esala	Loren Munson Cody Sunie	Wickman Family
Wed. 11/2	Scott Thimm			
Sun. 11/6	11/6Randy Spangle Darryl Warren	Tyrell Butterfield	Jordan Thimm Clarence Osmak	Adam Hinch



OFFICIAL ACTS
New member
 Scott Barylski 09-11-2016

Shannon Esala 292-0711
 Gail Anderson 682-3186
 Diane Beiersdorff 278-3291



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



October 2016

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 secretary@zionlutheranashland.com
 www.zionashland.com

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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2 Mite Sunday Worship 9:00am LWML Sunday Bible Study/Sunday School 10:15am	3 10:00am Bible Study Dartball vs. Good Shep- herd 7:00pm	4	5 Confirmation 4-5:30 Worship 6:30pm	6	7	8
9 Worship 9:00am Bible Study/Sunday School 10:15am	10 10:00am Bible Study LFOJ Mtg.5:30pm Dartball vs. Messiah 7:00pm	11 Sewing Circle 1:00pm	12 Confirmation Activity Night Worship 6:30pm	13	14	15
16 Worship 9:00am Bible Study/Sunday School 10:15am GS 5-7pm	17 10:00am Bible Study Church Council Mtg. 5:30pm	18	19 Confirmation 4-5:30 Worship 6:30pm	20 Winkel - at Trinity - Iron- wood	21 <i>Newsletter Items Due</i>	22
23 Worship 9:00am LFOJ Recognition Bible Study/Sunday School 10:15am	24 10:00am Bible Study Dartball at St. Paul's 7:00pm	25 Sewing Circle 1:00pm	26 Court Manor 10:15am, AHRC 1:45pm Confirmation 4-5:30 Worship 6:30pm	27	28	29
30 Food Shelf Sunday Worship 9:00am Bible Study/Sunday School 10:15am GS 2-4pm	31 10:00am Bible Study					