



# The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI SEPTEMBER 2018

Here we are, September, summer is unofficially over, school has started for quite a few people and will soon start for all the rest. The leaves are turning and there have actually been a few cool nights. The other day June and I noted how the clouds were beginning to take on that fall look. All signs that the wise should either start preparing for winter or prepare to head South. Now I mention being wise because it is a holdover from the sermon a couple weeks ago, and it has been stuck in my head. *“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.”* I believe we would all agree that the days are indeed evil, if you are not sure about that, a few minutes in front of the evening news, will probably convince you. Another mass shooting, a young college student murdered while out jogging, drug overdoses at an epidemic level. Not only is the world evil, but it is lost. It has lost its direction, it has turned in upon itself, and the world and the people in it are looking to themselves for answers, and they are coming up empty. So, with that being said, where does that leave us? We are told to be in the world, but not of it. We have to exist in this fallen and lost world, but we do not have to be overtaken by it. We are to live the life set forth for us by the Gospel. And what does that look like? Paul tells us clearly; *“Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”*

To paraphrase; How we live is important. We aren't saved by our works, only by the grace of God, but how we live is a witness to the faith and the gift of salvation that we have. In verse 10 we find a phrase that is connected to the first and those two phrases have had me praying, thinking, and contemplating; that phrase is; *“Try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.”*

Have you ever done that? Have you, as you go through your daily life, as you work, as you play, as you interact with others, both those within the church and those outside? Have you tried to discern what is pleasing to the Lord? The reason I mentioned that, I have been praying, thinking, and contemplating that phrase, because as I preached it, I realized, I do not do the job that I should be doing in living it. Far too often, the process of deciding what I am going to do or how I am going to act, discerning if what I am going to do is pleasing to the Lord, doesn't make the top of the list in my decision-making process. As I look at my actions, I find, more often than not, what drives my decision-making process, is what do I want? What is best for me? As I looked around I saw it in my daily life, as I drove around and saw people who weren't driving to my standards, as I went to the store and was angered because the checker took an extra minute to share pleasantries with someone they had not seen in a long time,

(cont. on next page)



# September 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Mite Sunday <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am	<b>3</b> <b>Offices Closed</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Court Manor 10:15am AHRC 1:45pm  <b>Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>6</b> <b>LFOJ Chapel</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School Rally Day 10:15am <i>Grandparents' Day</i>	<b>10</b> 10:00am Bible Study  Evangelism Mtg. 5:30pm	<b>11</b> Sewing Circle 1pm	<b>12</b> <b>Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am Trustees' Mtg. 10:15am	<b>17</b> 10:00am Bible Study  Council Mtg. 5:30pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Confirmation 4-5:30pm <b>Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  <i>Newsletter Reports Due</i>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am <i>Fall Begins</i>	<b>24</b>  Pastor will be at the	<b>25</b> Sewing Circle 1pm	<b>26</b> <b>Worship 6:30pm</b>  District Pastor's Conference in Eau Claire	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Food Shelf Sunday <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am						



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

September	Elders	Acolytes	Ushers	Greeters
Sun. 2	Andy Pruss Doug Warren		Ron Schwiesow	Lipske Family
Wed. 5	Randy Spangle			
Sun. 9	Darryl Warren John Pruss	Adeline	Pat Colgrove	Linda Stenroos
Wed. 12	Scott Thimm			
Sun. 16	Doug Warren Andy Pruss	Lily	Adam Hinch	Lori Landry
Wed. 19	Scott Thimm			
Sun. 23	Andy Pruss Doug Warren	Daniel	Chuck Chronis	Jerry & Sandy Frisco
Wed 26	John Pruss			
Sun. 30	John Pruss Darryl Warren	Austin	Warren Draeger	Adam Hinch
Wed. Oct. 5	Randy Spangle			
Oct. Sun. 7	Doug Warren Andy Pruss	Matthew	Mike Cashman	Nick & Jule Jarvela



	<b>September</b>
	Brenda Schwiesow 682-4292
	Ethel Guss 682-3885

**Pastor Rick Williams -**

715-209-0479

**Office Hours: M/Th/F 8:00-4:30 W 12:00-8:00pm**

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](http://www.zionashland.org)

**E-mail**

[secretary@zionlutheranashland.com](mailto: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

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when I thought negatively as I sat at the stop sign looking at the homeless guy looking for a little help. None of my thoughts in any of those situations came anywhere close to discerning what is pleasing to the Lord, only what is pleasing to Rick. That's all I am going to say about it for now. I hope I haven't shocked anyone by my admission that I am indeed a sinner in need of a Savior. And I hope that perhaps as I try to do my best to improve on ways to make the Lord the real number one in my life, I close and I challenge you to consider; *"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil."* And *"Try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord."*

I ask God's Blessing be upon you as we move into fall and so that we can be; <sup>20</sup> *giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,* <sup>21</sup> *submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ* .

Pastor Rick

All scriptural references from Ephesians 5:6-21 (ESV)

Discern [synonyms]

*distinguish, determine, differentiate, recognize*

# REVIEW

Martin Luther's Small Catechism - when was the last time you looked through your catechism? One year? Ten years? Forty years?

A review at any time is a good thing and more times the better. It helps us to keep refreshed in our beliefs and ideals. This will be a monthly addition to the Newsletter. We hope that you will review and enjoy, and maybe learn something that was forgotten.

### 3. The Power of Baptism

Third

*How can water do such great things?*

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." [Titus 3:5-8]

#### **How does baptismal water work forgiveness of sins, rescue from death and the devil, and give eternal salvation?**

God's words of institution put these great blessings into Baptism. Faith, which trusts this word of God in the water, takes the blessings out and makes them our own.

**Eph. 5:26** Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.

**Gal. 3:26-27** You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

#### **Why do the Scriptures call Baptism the washing of rebirth and renewal of the Holy Spirit?**

In Baptism, the Holy Spirit works faith and so creates in us new spiritual life with the power to overcome sin.

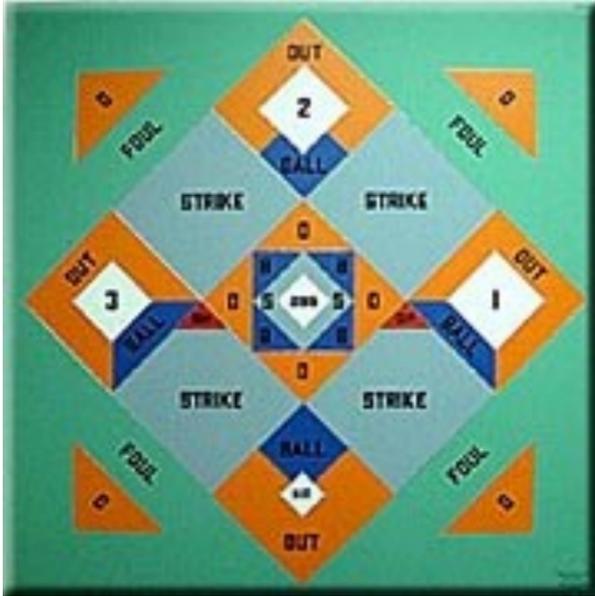
**Rom. 6:6** Our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin (NKJV).

**Titus 3:5-8** He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.

Here we are in September and it is time for our Sewing Circle to begin.

We meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. We will begin September 11, 2018 and we meet in the basement at Zion. The quilts we make go to the Orphan Grain Train, which goes to third world countries. Our drop off point is in Wausau, St. Mark's Lutheran Church. This is one of Zion's many missions that is done. We also make quilts for fire victims when the fire department notifies us of the need. We encourage anyone that would like to come, to come and join us. We mostly tie knots, pin the quilts and someone sews them at the sewing machine. Gods Blessings.



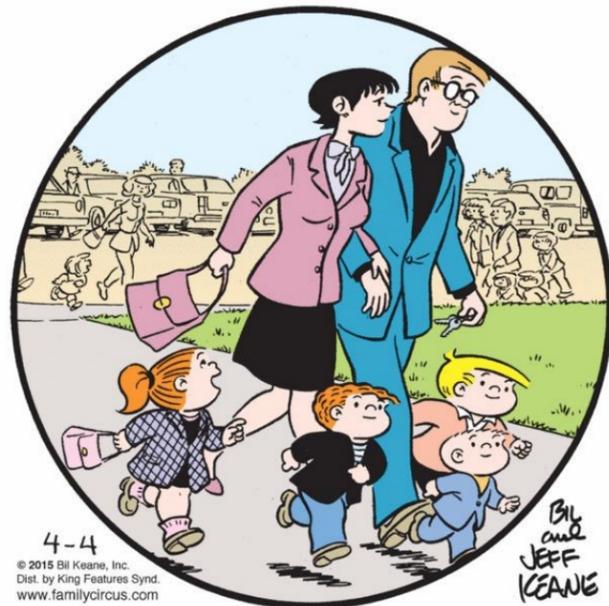


**MEN'S CLUB - DARTBALL** will soon be upon us. They are looking for a few new players. Please contact either Scott Sapper, 715-682-8867, if you would like to play. Practices and games will start the end of September. They rotate with seven other churches, Marengo St. Paul, Sanborn Methodist, Sanborn St. Anne's, Good Shepherd, Washburn Messiah Lutheran, Salem and Saron Lutheran. The season usually ends at the end of February,



beginning of March. It is a fun night of camaraderie and sport. They hope to see you

By all these  
*lovely* **TOKENS**  
**SEPTEMBER**  
 DAYS ARE HERE,  
*with summer's best of*  
**weather**  
 AND  
**AUTUMN'S**  
*best of* **cheer.**  
 ~HELEN HUNT JACKSON



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Bill  
 and  
 JEFF  
 KEANE

**"I like it when everyone in church sings about that Ollie Louya guy."**



**Sunday School Rally Day - September 9, 2018**  
**Classes for 3 yr. olds thru 8th grade start Sept.16th.**



## **FOOD SHELF SUNDAY**

**Last Sunday of each Month**

The BRICK appreciates your food donations each and every month. It truly helps our community giving those are need of food to sustain their life. It's

hard to believe that these days that are still some who are surprised by a layoff, lose their home, have a dysfunctional family, can't cope with things. They need a helping hand and Zion tries to provide **some help every month to The BRICK. Thank you Ron**

**Together**  
**we can**  
**make a**  
**difference**

**THRIVENT MEMBERS** Please remember, as a Thrivent Member through Thrivent Financial, you may qualify for grants. Each qualifying member can apply for 2 - \$250 grants per year. These can be used for community service projects/ events, education and fundraisers.

Some events/projects that Zion has done or could do include:

Sunday School

Vacation Bible School

Students outreach boxes

Quilters

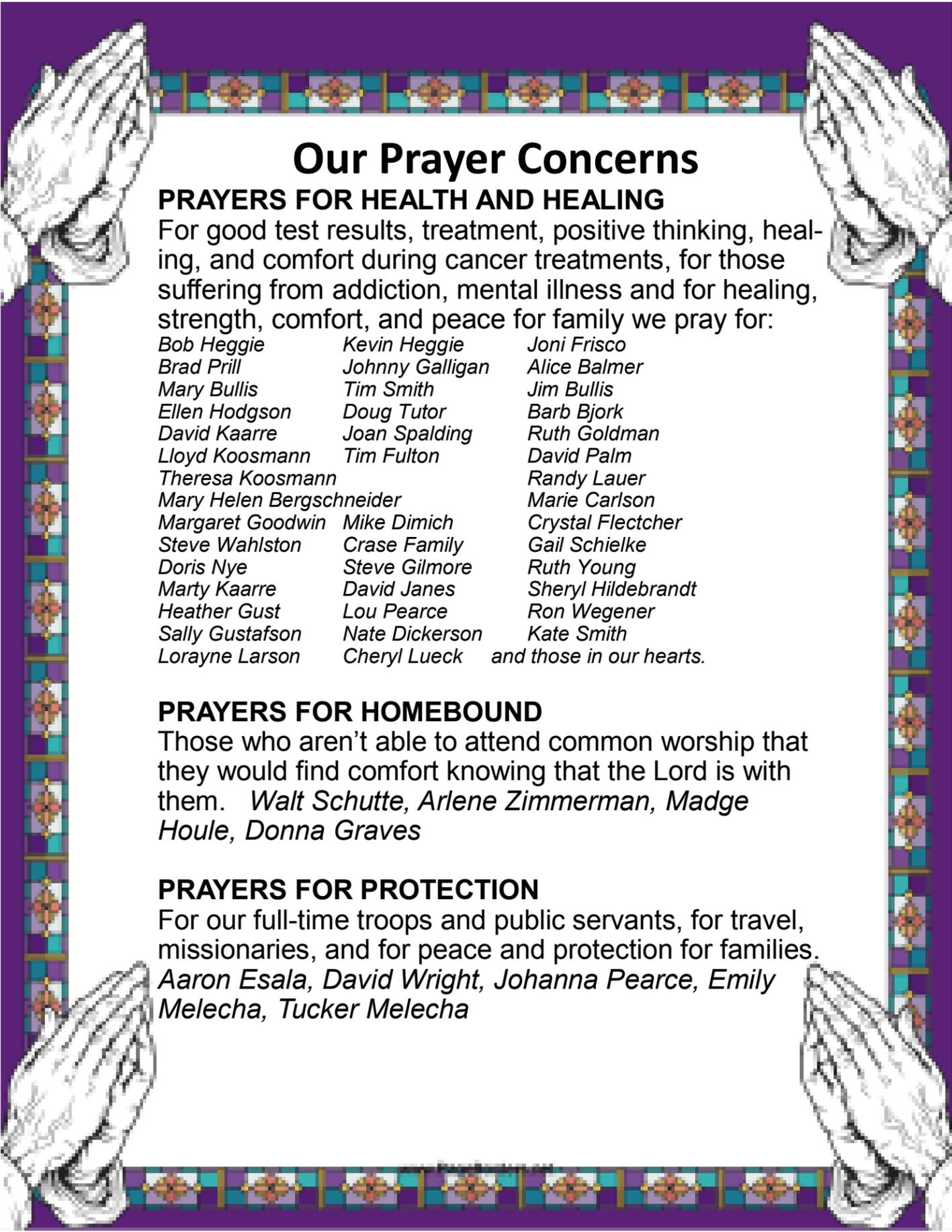
Community outreach with a program/speaker

Coats (Plus) for Kids

Zion Picnic

Spring planting yard event





## Our Prayer Concerns

### 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>Tim Smith</i>	<i>Jim Bullis</i>
<i>Ellen Hodgson</i>	<i>Doug Tutor</i>	<i>Barb Bjork</i>
<i>David Kaarre</i>	<i>Joan Spalding</i>	<i>Ruth Goldman</i>
<i>Lloyd Koosmann</i>	<i>Tim Fulton</i>	<i>David Palm</i>
<i>Theresa Koosmann</i>		<i>Randy Lauer</i>
<i>Mary Helen Bergschneider</i>		<i>Marie Carlson</i>
<i>Margaret Goodwin</i>	<i>Mike Dimich</i>	<i>Crystal Flectcher</i>
<i>Steve Wahlston</i>	<i>Crase Family</i>	<i>Gail Schielke</i>
<i>Doris Nye</i>	<i>Steve Gilmore</i>	<i>Ruth Young</i>
<i>Marty Kaarre</i>	<i>David Janes</i>	<i>Sheryl Hildebrandt</i>
<i>Heather Gust</i>	<i>Lou Pearce</i>	<i>Ron Wegener</i>
<i>Sally Gustafson</i>	<i>Nate Dickerson</i>	<i>Kate Smith</i>
<i>Lorayne Larson</i>	<i>Cheryl Lueck</i>	<i>and those in our hearts.</i>

### 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, Donna Graves*

### 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, Emily Melecha, Tucker Melecha*

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**VBS** was held August 6th—8th and as usual “raves” from the kids and parents. A BIG thanks needs to go out to Katie Colgrove who was the “Lead”: Kitchen help: Katie, Sandy Nutt, Maria Wickman, Jodi Truchon Housing for the counselors: Jerry and Sandy Frisco, Breakfast/Suppers – Lori Landry, Jule Jarvela, Sandy Frisco, Pastor and June, John and Paul Pruss, Assistants - Lily Truchon, Daniel Truchon, Justin Esala We couldn't have done it without all the help!

LWML Fall Rally  
Our Redeemer  
Lutheran Church  
E8223 Sanders Road  
Bessemer, MI  
906-663-4318



Saturday, September 15th  
Registration 9:30  
Rally 10:00am-2:30pm  
Registration fee \$5.00

Rally theme - Rejoicing in Baptism and  
Jesus Loves Music

Service and Devotions by Rev. Hyvonen

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#### **Committee to help with the Coats+ for Kids Project**



Last year Evangelism took on this project and it's just too much for our committee, and due to a few of the committee members won't be available this year we need your help. It has involved getting names of children who need winter-wear (there already is a list from the last couple years), purchasing the items and then distributing them. This is usually done around Oct./Nov. Lori Landy will guide and help those on the committee. Please consider engaging in this wonderful project for Zion, LFOJ, our Schools and Community. You can contact Lori at 715-292-2122. Thank you and God's Blessings - The Evangelism Committee.



## Stewardship Thoughts



Stewardship. Originally a combination of two Old English words, “sty” and “ward.” Steward meant a “keeper of the pigsty.” Over the centuries the term adopted a loftier definition: the keeper of a lord’s estate. A Christian steward is a keeper of a lord’s estate with two distinctions. In the Christians case, the lord refers to God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life. The other distinction is that the duties of a keeper are not a paid position - but a way of life.



When it comes to stewardship some see it not as a spiritual issue, but rather an institutional issue - repair the roof, build a new building or set next year’s budget. When addressed as a spiritual issue we see that stewardship impacts individual members who adopt an owner’s mentality: “I own my money. I own my life. I own this, I own that. I get to choose how I use it.”



The understanding at the foundation of stewardship that God is the one and only owner of all creation. He owns us by both creation and redemption.



Reverend Heath Curtis, pastor and coordinator of the LCMS Stewardship Ministry states, “stewardship falls under sanctification: how we are to live godly lives and grow in the image of Christ. Preaching and teaching of stewardship will always display our shortcomings, failures and sins.” “As our hearts get filled with Christ by Word and Sacrament,” states Rev. Dave Miller, pastor at Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Atlanta, GA, “God swaps out our old stingy, selfish, joyless hearts and transplants in us His own. One that is generous, selfless, joyful - ready to serve our neighbor.”



A Christian steward is a child of God, redeemed, forgiven, restored to a life of service to our neighbor to proclaim the Gospel out of love, because He first loved us. It is our response of gratitude to God for what He has done for us out of His mercy and love.



A Christian steward manages that which belongs to God. In the New Testament, stewardship never refers to giving, much less the giving of money, but rather to the office of administration or the management or implementation of a plan. We have different vocations in the home, church, and society to use all that God has given us to give glory to God joyfully. His plan for us.



So what belongs to God? Everything. James 1:17 says that every good and perfect gift is from above. This includes food on our table to our personal strengths and talents - all are gifts from God.



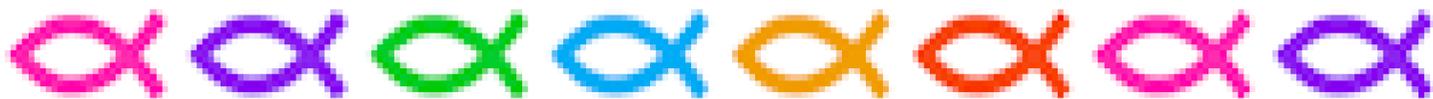
The Gospel is what makes stewardship Christian in content, method and motivation. The stewardship life is dedicated to the cause of the Kingdom. Stewardship is the expression of our faith.



LCEF Interest Time, “The Truth about Stewardship,” Rev. Dr. Wayne Knolhoff



Thanks to Shirley Ostrander 01-15-2004  
**HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?**





**Mustard Seed**



**Daily Devotions**  
Lutheran Women in Mission

## ***Walk me through my day, Lord!***

### ***In the Word***

*But I cry to you for help, O Lord; in the morning my prayer comes before you. [Psalm 88:13](#)*

### ***Of the Word***

*Where do you go to seek the face of God, to call on Him in times of need? Do you find Him in the beauty of a garden or the grandeur of the mountains? Is His presence more real to you in the serenity of a house of worship or the quietness of an evening walk? In the midst of daily challenges we can turn to God, who is our strength. The psalmist had experienced it personally when God directed him to write: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging ([Psalm 46:1-3](#)). God promises to be there and to be our strength to handle everything this world tries to throw at us. Alone, it's overwhelming; but we are not alone! He is always there guiding, encouraging and sometimes even carrying us through our daily trials.*

### ***Walking with My Lord***

***Heavenly Father, throughout the ages You have been a refuge and strength for Your people. Be my refuge and strength as well when I walk through today's challenges. Grant me the grace to live my faith through all I do. In Jesus' name. Amen.***