



The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI SEPTEMBER 2020

Where has the summer gone! I know it is only coming up on September, but fall is beginning to appear all around. If you drive by Northland College, you will notice the maple tree on the front lawn is now almost 50% red with the color change. The weather forecast this morning said the highs for early next week will be in the 60's. It just doesn't seem right. I feel like we were kind of gypped out of summer, thanks to the sometimes overly oppressive heat and humidity and even more so by all the social distancing. It really makes we wonder what is ahead for us this fall and pardon the word, winter. So as I tried to figure out what to write in an uncertain world, a world with all sorts of confusion, both natural and manmade, I thought today would be a good one to talk about that one thing that is certain; Jesus Christ! yesterday, today, tomorrow, never changing. I don't think you can come up with anything else in all that we think we know, that doesn't change, except for Jesus. He is the rock, the rock on which His church is built, the rock on which we are to build our faith, the rock on which we are to stand regardless of what is going on around us. As I was looking for scripture to help reinforce my thoughts today I came to the letter to the Hebrews, and as I read the passage that I am about to share with you it helped me to again understand that God's word does not change either. The inspired words that the authors shared with the Hebrews about their lives in that first century still apply today. As we look at the world around us, the unrest, the uncertainty, the confusion of truth, we see that human nature doesn't change a whole lot either. So, as you read the following scripture read it slowly and perhaps even more that once or twice, and see how it fits into your life and life of those around you both near and far:

Hebrews 13:1-9a ¹Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. ⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear;
what can man do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace,

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When I was attending the seminary, one of my homiletics professors said that as we prepared a sermon message, we should read and reread the appointed text a minimum of 15 times, and felt that 50 would be even better. He felt we should read it and reread it to a point where we could think of and speak the text from memory, not necessarily exact memorization but so that the context and meaning of the text became second nature. It is a practice I have tried to maintain in my sermon prep and I often use it even in my regular study of the Word, not just sermon prep. I mention all of this because I want to do my best to help you understand that while two thousand years have passed since its writing, two things don't change, God's Word and God's Love, Love through Jesus Christ.

Oh, and the other thing that doesn't change, our sinful nature, try as we might, we are all sinful human beings. We can work at it, we can try our best to do our best, but we always fall short. Thankfully as you may have guessed, Jesus, who doesn't change, came into the world to save sinners, you and I, and because of His life, death, and resurrection, He has solved our problem of sin. For the last few weeks I have been repeating over and over again (wonder where I learned that) Romans 10:9-10 ⁹*because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* ¹⁰*For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*

This is the foundation of our faith and our belief and as long as you believe and confess, I have done my job. And if I have indeed done my job then we can all agree with Paul the following statement:

³¹*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?* ³²*He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?* ³³*Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.* ³⁴*Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.* ³⁵*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?* ³⁶*As it is written,*

*“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

³⁷*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* ³⁸*For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:31-39)*

My friends, be strong, be safe, be healthy. I long for day when we will all be able to worship together again in person, and even more so, I long for the day when we, God's children, will all stand together before His throne of Glory forever and ever. Amen

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am in-church service and live streamed
Wednesday Evening Service - live streamed 6:30pm
(a more in-depth look at Sunday's service)
Sunday School - 3yrs.—5th grade At-home lessons
Bible Studies—currently cancelled.

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 Office Hours: Mon. 8-5 Tues. off
Wed. 12-8 Thurs. 8-5 Fri. 8-12 Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours M-W 8:30-2:30
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 **E-mail** secretary@zionlutheranashland.com **Facebook**

Are you interested in being a positive influence in the life of a child?

**Little Friends of Jesus
Child Care Center**

is accepting applications for:

- Two Assistant Child Care Teachers (20 hours per week)**
- Lead Child Care Teacher (30 - 40 hours per week)**
- Part-time Cook (hours 9:30-12:30 M-F, year round)**

Applicant must be 18 years of age.

To discuss a position and requirements, please call Karyn at 715-682-6075.

For an application and more information, please visit our website at lfoj.org

Resume with references can be emailed to:

lfoj@zionlutheranashland.com.

Old applicants, please re-apply!



Sunday School - We will not have in-church classes. Class lessons will be sent by email and/or pick-up packets. The first lesson will probably start September 20th. It will be bi-weekly.

Do You Know?

1.) How many books are there in the New Testament?

- 12
- 27
- 39
- 66

2.) What is the common name given to the first four books of the New Testament?

- the Gospels
- the Revelations
- the Synopsis
- the Acts

3.) Which of the following are NOT one of the first four books of the New Testament?

- Matthew
- James
- Mark
- Luke

4.) Who wrote most of the books in the New Testament?

- Peter
- James
- John
- Paul

5.) Which of these are NOT books in the New Testament?

- 3 Peter
- 3 John
- 2 Thessalonians
- 1 Corinthians

6.) Who wrote the Acts of the Apostles?

- Matthew
- Luke
- Paul
- Peter

7.) Which of these women is mentioned in the New Testament?

- Hannah
- Martha
- Rebekah
- Sarai

8.) Which of these books comes first in the New Testament (relative to the others)?

- Revelation
- Ephesians
- Romans
- Hebrews

9.) Which of these books comes last in the New Testament

- Revelation
- Galatians
- The Acts
- Colossians

10.) Which of the following correctly describes the first four books of the New Testament?

they are narratives about the life and ministry of Christ, written by four different authors

the first gives the details of Christ's birth; the second, of His childhood; the third, of His ministry; the fourth, of the last week of His life

the first includes the most important commandments, the second contains the second-most important commandments, and so on

Sewing Circle

Due to the Virus the Sewing Circle will be on hold until further notice, and we can feel safe to meet again. If you choose to sew at home the measurements for the fabric is for the top needs to be 60 x 80 inches, we like something with a design or flowers, or something colorful and the bottom we usually use a solid color fabric with the measurement of 64 x 84 inches. We welcome anyone that wants to sew tops or bottoms at home and drop them off at church. If you like to get some of the material at the church give Sandy a call at 715-682-5401 Thank you and God Bless you.

- 10. First Answer
- 9. Revelation
- 8. Romans
- 7. Martha
- 6. Luke
- 5. 3 Peter
- 4. Paul
- 3. James
- 2. the Gospels
- 1. 27

He has made everything beautiful in its time;
also he has put eternity into man's mind. Ecc. 3:11a.

Dear Friends,

This time of year has its own gain and its own loss. When I walk around our 40-acres, it is easy to remember what it "used" to look like just a couple of weeks ago. Lush full trees, full spread of wild flowers, parade of green ferns, gentle-clear streams, and vigorous-tall grasses swaying in a soft breeze. Now spent leaves carpet the ground, flowers are dried seed pods, creeks are puddles, ferns have drooped arms, and grasses are brittle- brown. Autumn winds and rains are reworking the beauty of summer into a stew of mulch that will soon return to the earth.

But this is not a half-empty lament, but rather a half-full chapter in our story of the seasons. For bare-bone trees in autumn make it easier to cast our vision forward to see a full-blown sunrise and sunset each day, while red berries and shiny rose-hips provide accent colors to the stark landscape. I accept this slowdown of nature as an invitation to a more leisure pace, and get out our warm-wooly sweaters to shelter us. Even those back-burner projects are starting to look good. A quilt to sew. Photos to sort. Letters to write. Bread to bake. The shorter daylight drives us to spend more time indoors, read good books, take numerous coffee breaks and cozy up to the home-fires.



Seasonal changes often catch us a little off-guard, but change also invites us to set our vision to the bigger picture of faith: God's timetable of eternity. Where the story is not half-empty... or half-full... but it is heaped and overflowing with forever love and holy beauty. Where we will spend "forever" in the presence of our loved ones who have gone before us in the light-filled presence of Jesus. No schedules. No clocks.

Yes, autumn is a time to acknowledge and observe the changes. To celebrate a bigger view, to walk in the brisk air, to watch birds work the wind, and enjoy creation's shades and textures of golden-brown. The summer memories are tucked safely in our hearts,



Mustard Seed

Daily Devotions

Lutheran Women in Mission

Simple Trust Wise Words

In the Word

A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction. Proverbs 16:23

Of the Word

What can happen at 90 degrees below zero on the Fahrenheit scale? Your breath freezes in midair and falls to the ground.

Cold, icy words become the building blocks for icy walls that separate people from each other. The best way to avoid those walls is to be quiet when your heart turns cold. Pause. Ask God to warm your heart and your words. *A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction (Proverbs 16:23).*

If the icy wall has already been constructed, chisel away at it with God's Word. *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs (1 Corinthians 13:4-5).* When God enables us to live out these words, icy walls melt.

Spend time in prayer today. Ask God's forgiveness for your cold, icy words. Ask Him to help you forgive a person who has hurt you. Then stand back. Watch God change that icy wall into a refreshing mountain stream.

Walking with my Lord

Lord, forgive me for the cold, icy words that come out of my mouth. Help me forgive those whose words have hurt me. In Your forgiving name I pray. Amen.

Mustard Seed: **Simple Trust**. Elaine Bickel, author. 19/29 ©2011 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. www.lwml.org

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www.lwml.org

A few books authored by Paul L. Maier are on the table in the conference room. (free).



Martin Luther—A Man Who Changed the World



The Very First Christmas (for children)



The Very First Easter (children 10+)

Hidden Picture

God wants us to take care of our bodies and eat healthy foods. This family is picking apples at an orchard together! Can you find the hidden objects? How many apples can you count?





2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
ELDERS: September: 6 John 13 Darryl 20 Scott 27 Randy						
		1	2 6:30pm Prayer Service	3	4	5
6 9:00am Service Drive-up Communion 2pm LGP	7	8	9 6:30pm Prayer Service	10	11	12
13 9:00am Service	14	15	16 6:30pm Prayer Service	17	18	19
20 9:00am Service Drive-up Communion 2pm LGP	21	22	23 6:30pm Prayer Service	24	25	26
27 9:00am Service	28	29	30 6:30pm Prayer Service			

**Sundays - Regular in-house service with communion along with live-stream.
Drive-up communion after service - Sept. 6, 20**

“Giving” budget per week \$3262

Bi-weekly \$6524

June 15th and June 22nd \$5490

June 29th and July 5th \$4424

July 12th and July 19th

26th and August 2nd \$5103

Aug. 9th and Aug. 16th \$5175

Attendance:

July 19	23	July 26	34
August 2	17	Aug. 9	18
Aug. 16	18	Aug. 23	22

You just stepped into a new month of blessings as you will shine as bright as the Sun and be valued as precious as the Diamonds. The heavens will protect your path and be there for you., Amen!
I wish you a pleasant September.

September
Jule Jarvela
715-682-0385

