



2021



The Mountain Top Messenger

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders: Sept. 5 th Scott Sept. 12 Doug Sept. 19 John Sept. 26 Andy Oct. 3 Darryl						
Wednesday in-church services will begin Oct. 13th						
			1 6:30pm Prayer Service	2	3	4
5 9:00am Service 10:30 Bible Study 2pm LGP	6 Labor Day Offices Closed	7 Sewing Circle 1-3pm	8 6:30pm Prayer Service	9	10	11
12 9:00am Service 10:30am Bible Study Sunday School Rally Day 10:30am	13	14	15 6:30pm Prayer Service	16 Winkel Butternut	17	18
19 9:00am Service 10:30 Bible Study Sunday School 2pm LGP	20 10-11am Bible Study Council Mtg. 5:30pm	21 Sewing Circle 1-3pm	22 6:30pm Prayer Service	23	24	25
26 9:00am Service Sunday School 10:30am	27 No Bible Study NWDF Fall Pastors' Conference Wausau . . .	28	29 6:30pm Prayer Service	30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2
						Pastor on Vacation → → → → →

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI SEPTEMBER 2021

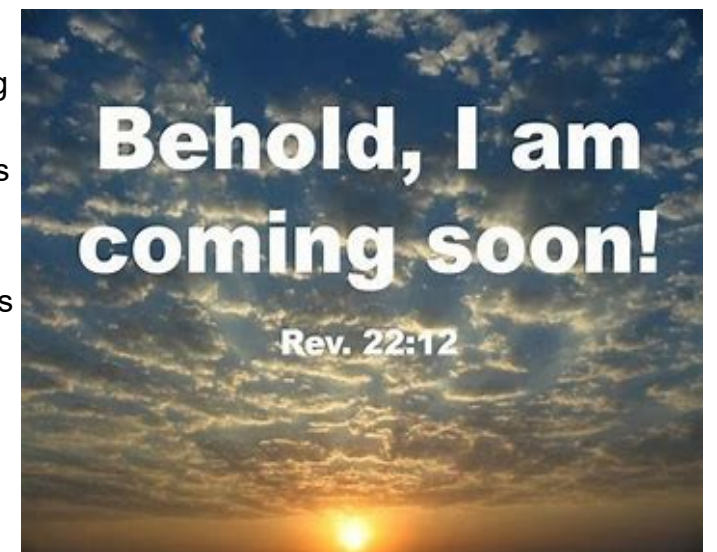
We as I was starting to prepare this month newsletter, I came to the realization that September marks the beginning of my 9th year as Deacon, Vicar, Pastor, here at Zion in a full-time capacity. That seems totally unbelievable to me. Where has the time gone. As the realization of the amount of time I have been serving you, God's people here, I began to look back and all that has gone on over those years. The baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals. Members leaving, new members joining, past members returning. The Bible studies, Sunday schools, the meetings, the potlucks. So many happenings, so many goings on, all taking place in Christ's Church. As I look back I am in awe. I am overwhelmed at being so fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve the Lord here with all of you. Now don't get me wrong, this is not a retirement speech. It is just me reflecting on all that we have done and wondering about what glorious things are to come.

So now that all that is behind me, what to talk about now? I am at a bit of a loss. I could talk about how fast it seems fall is sneaking up on us. I drove down to Glidden the other day for the monthly Winkel with the circuit pastors and could not believe how the leaves are turning already, just the third week in August and I bet they were close to 25% foliage. Makes me wonder what might be in store for us as we move ahead. I guess all of this, including the rapid approach of fall, got me thinking about what pastor Steve always used to say; "When's He Coming?" and we all know the answer "soon!".

So, I was thinking about how true that is each and every day, hour, and minute bring us closer to that glorious day. As I look around, I can't help but feel even the natural world, God's creation, knows it too. Following creation, God said His creation was very good, it was paradise. Sometimes I think we fail to take into account that all of God's creation fell into sin and became subject to death that day that Adam and Eve partook of the fruit. Things have changed a bit since that day and I truly believe all of God's creation longs for Christ's return. I know I do.

So, what do we do until then? We keep having baptisms, confirmations, welcoming new members, doing weddings, sharing potlucks, doing Bible studies and Sunday school; we remember those who have left us and are already with the Lord. We support each other, we build each other up, we share the message of Christ's salvation with all. And we wait. For the Lord is good and keeps his promises. So while this isn't real long, I believe I have said enough. Thank you for all of your support, past, present, and future. And when is He coming? Soon!

God Bless you all!
Pastor Rick



Altar Guild September
Jule Jarvela 715-682-0385
Tami Thimm 715-682-4817





ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

1111 11th Ave. W
Ashland, WI 54806

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am in-church service and live streamed
Wednesday Evening Prayer Service 6:30pm live-streamed starting Oct. 13th in-church and live streamed
Sunday School -10:15am 1-7 grades starting Sept. 12th
Bible Studies—Sunday 10:15am starting Sept. 12th
Monday mornings 10:00am starting Oct. 13th

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479
Office Hours: M 9-5 T off W 12-8 Th 9-5 F 9-3
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

PRAYERS for Homebound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home

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
Violet Basina
Madge Houle
Nancy Zehe

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.

David Wright
Emily Melecha
Tucker Melecha
Jordan Thimm

*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*



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:

Brad Prill	Madge Houle
Alice Balmer	Penny Larson
Francis Balmer	LeAnn Billing
David Gustafson	Vi Basina
Andrea Gunderson	Dave Pearson
James Fletcher	Colton Ledin
Brett Everman	Judith Wismeth
Walt Schutte	Harold Larson
Cheryl Hildebrandt	Sherry Gurski
John Schutte	Larry Tody
Nancy Beiersdorf	Haylee Fisher
Danny Pocerich	James Lavoisier
Lisa Thomson	Sally Gustafson
Russel Joyner	Carmella Kortekaas
Tyler Hildebrandt	

and those in our hearts

SEWING CIRCLE

Here we are in September, our church has in-church services, Sunday School and Bible Study will begin soon. It must be time for our Sewing Circle to start making quilts again, taking it week-by-week.

We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:00.- 3:00 p.m. We would love to welcome anyone that would like to join us. You don't need to know how to sew, we have many different jobs in constructing our quilts, plus many who will help you out. Our first day will be Tuesday, September 14th.

Thanks, Zion' Sewing Circle.



There are a lot of fun back to school facts. The following is a look at some fun school facts that can make back to school more interesting:

People who work in schools do not get paid very well. This is no secret, but it is a fun fact for kids to know that bus drivers tend to make about \$16.56 an hour on average, cafeteria workers \$11.60, and custodians about \$14.20. Of course, principals and teachers make more than this. On average in the US teachers make about \$50,758, and principals earned \$97,486 for public schools in the US.

People may not love school, but lots of people go to school. In fact, over 78 million kids, teens, and adults enroll in school each year. There are over 7.2 million teachers not to mention aides and other school staff to help meet the needs of public education.

Most Japanese schools don't have janitors. Instead children do the cleaning daily as part of a practice rooted in Buddhist traditions that associate cleaning with morality.

Schools that ditch schoolyard rules are actually seeing a drop in bullying, serious injuries and vandalism, while concentration levels in class are increasing. Turns out giving children too many rules hurts their development.

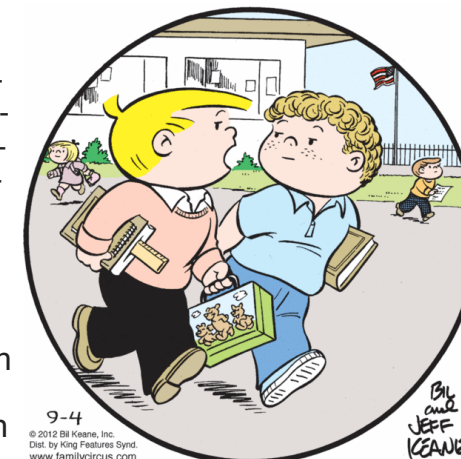
A high school football coach got half the fans of his own team to cheer for the other team, because the other team was from a maximum-security juvenile correctional facility and didn't have

School has changed over time. Some of the most significant changes have to do with who goes to school, and how much schooling people get. Until reformers like Horace Mann of Massachusetts and Henry Barnard of Connecticut began to push for tax-funded schools only the very wealthy ever got an education. In the 1840s the belief that universal education would improve society by producing better citizens, unite society, prevent crime and end poverty helped take Thomas Jefferson's ideas of education and put them into place. However, even after that, it wasn't until the 1930s that people got more education than about eight years. Some people got higher education, but High School did not exist until the Great Depression. During this time, the job-strapped communities decided it would be to their advantage to keep teenagers in class and out of the workforce where they would be a low-

Mussolini was expelled from school when he was 10 for stabbing a classmate. He did the same thing at his next school.

Jim Carrey, at age 15, Jim Carrey quit school and became a janitor to support his family. They were living out of a van at that time.

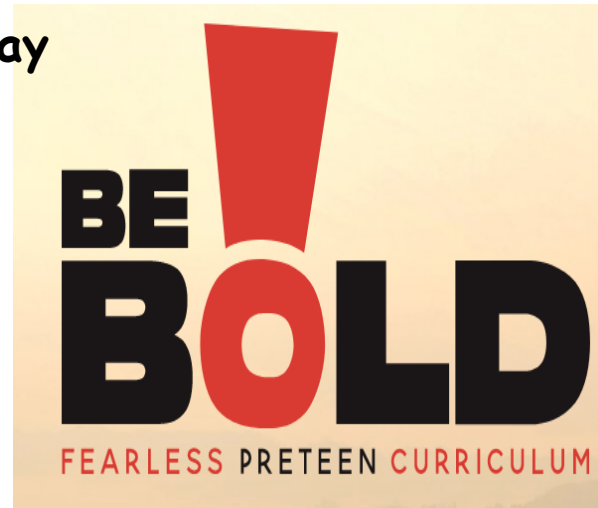
Charleston, Arkansas was the first southern school system to integrate (not Little Rock, Arkansas). When asked how it could be done without violence, an attorney named Dale Bumpers said, "We'll just do it." The board integrated the schools without announcing it to the press, and there was no violence.



9-4
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"The hardest part about goin' back to school is getting my voice to whisper again."
Bl and Jeff Keane



2021-2022 Sunday



Grades 1-3

Grades 4-7

Sunday School Rally Sunday September 12th 10:15am
Classes begin September 19th

A Brief History of Sunday School

October 12, 2009 by Jeri Tanner

For many of us, Sunday school is a deeply rooted tradition, although it is actually a rather modern institution. Have you ever wondered about the origins and history of Sunday school? If so, here are a few facts you may find interesting.

The idea of a "Sabbath school" for poor and uneducated children began in England in the late 18th century. Visionary evangelicals like [Robert Raikes](#) devised a plan to gather poor, uneducated working children into education classes on Sundays, the children's only day off. Clean clothes and learning materials were provided, and instruction given in reading, writing, hygiene and good citizenship. The churches hoped that this effort would serve the dual purpose of bettering the future of society and curbing the rampant delinquency. Though neither evangelism nor religious training were the expressed goals of the new schools, there was the hope that the morality taught, being based on the truths of Scripture, might bring about a transformation in the hearts of the children. And so the Sabbath or Sunday school was born.

By the early 1800's, the goals of the Sunday schools were changing. Young, newly converted Presbyterians saw the Sunday School as an opportunity to teach the gospel and doctrine to children; in fact, many Sunday School leaders began to lobby for free public schools for the needy, so that they could concentrate on religious instruction. The regeneration and conversion of children now became the goal. As this focus grew, Sunday school students were often encouraged to memorize large portions of the Bible, earning prizes and incentives for doing so. This idea was dropped when it was realized that the students were more interested in the prizes than in God's word!

In America, the first national Sunday School effort began in 1824; its stated purpose was to organize, evangelize and civilize. The focus was intentionally evangelical, and so within the next 100 years the Sunday School had become the primary outreach arm of the church. The Sunday School organization now expanded to include all ages. Sunday School became a way for unbelievers to be introduced to, and then assimilated into, the life of the church. By the late 1800's, Sunday School was looked to as the main hope for church growth, a view that continued until the mid-twentieth century. Sunday School attendance has seen a slow decline in the last 50 or so years. One factor generally agreed to be a reason for this is the shift away from evangelism and toward discipleship and fellowship over the last half century or so. Studies do indicate that where Sunday Schools are thriving and growing, church membership increases.

The idea of Sunday School as a primary opportunity for evangelism may be new to some of us. Is it possible that a return to that model could help revitalize our churches? Has Sunday School attendance declined in your church, or is it thriving? One thing is certain, much has changed since the idea of a Sunday school for the reform of unruly street children was first envisioned!

Tamyra Mensah-Stock, U.S. Wrestler

After winning gold in the women's free-style 68-kilogram final at the Tokyo Games, American wrestler Tamyra Mensah-Stock, 28, joyously attributed her success to God.

"It's by the grace of God I'm even able to move my feet," said a breathless Mensah-Stock, who had wrapped herself in an American flag. "I just leave it in His hands, and I pray that all the practice . . . my coaches put me through pays off. And, every single time, *it does.*"

Mensah-Stock almost gave up wrestling after her dad died in a car accident on his way home from one of her matches in high school. She wanted to quit until she realized that her dad, her biggest supporter, would've wanted her to keep on going.

"[My dad] would've been the loudest one here," Mensah-Stock said in tears. "He would've been so proud."

Following her victory, Mensah-Stock became the first black woman to win an Olympic gold medal in wrestling for Team USA.



Helen Maroulis, U.S. Wrestler

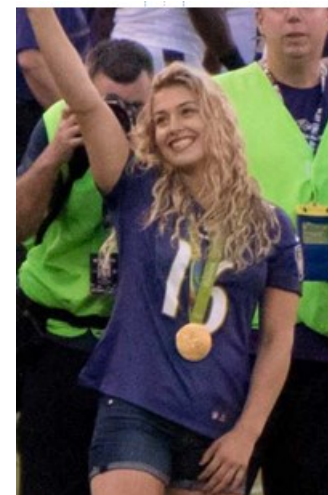
Shortly after winning bronze in the women's freestyle 57-kilogram final, American wrestler Helen Maroulis, 29, tweeted: "And Jesus said to him 'anything is possible to him who believes' (Mark 9:23). Never lose faith, never give up."

Jesus' words in Mark 9:23 are undoubtedly meaningful to Maroulis, who had been forced to retire from professional wrestling in 2019—just three years after becoming the first female American wrestler to ever win an Olympic gold medal.

After suffering a traumatic brain injury and a PTSD diagnosis, Maroulis was convinced that her blossoming career was over until she felt God calling her back to the sport in the summer of 2020.

Following months of healing and training, the two-time Olympic medalist managed to beat the odds and qualify for the U.S. Olympic wrestling team headed to the Tokyo, where she would ultimately win a bronze medal.

The Olympian's recent victory is, above all, a powerful testimony to God's ability to do the impossible.



Sydney McLaughlin, U.S. Track and Field

A day after winning gold in the 400-meter hurdles and breaking her own world record, American track star Sydney McLaughlin, 22, put up a lengthy post on Instagram giving glory to God.

“What an honor it is to be able to represent not only my country, but also the kingdom of God,” she wrote. “What I have in Christ is far greater than what I have or don’t have in life. I pray my journey may be a clear depiction of . . . obedience to God . . . And He has prepared me for a moment such as this. That I may use the gifts He has given me to point all the attention back to Him.”

McLaughlin has certainly pointed all the attention back to God throughout her career by constantly proclaiming her belief in Jesus to her over one million fans on social media.

In an interview with the TODAY show, McLaughlin declared that “after a year of so much uncertainty, I really found stability in Christ and in my faith.” The stability McLaughlin is likely referring to dates back to her baptism in November 2020 when she wrote on Instagram:

“Running was instilled in me at such a young age . . . But why did it take me so long to realize that I had been running the wrong way? . . . Once I accepted You as my coach, as my number one supporter, and as a part of my team, I realized that I wasn’t running alone. You helped guide my feet in the right direction . . . With You by my side, guiding my steps, there is no race I can’t win.”

And, sure enough, McLaughlin won both of the races set before her in Tokyo, including the women’s 4x400-meter relay on Saturday, August 7—the day of her 22nd birthday.



Fiji Men’s Rugby Team

On Wednesday, July 28, the Fijian men’s rugby team made history by winning their nation’s second ever Olympic medal. After securing gold in the final match, the team was seen huddling together and praising God in song.

Titled “E Da Sa Qaqa,” meaning “We Have Overcome,” the song includes lyrics that credits God for their victory.

Wednesday’s win was certainly a huge victory for the men, who were forced to spend months training in Australia—away from their family—in preparation for the Tokyo Games. Fiji has been battling a severe Covid-19 outbreak and, in order to reduce the spread of the virus, the men were not permitted to return home.

In an emotional video taken immediately after the gold-winning performance, the men were shown standing in a circle, pointing heavenward and singing the beautiful Fijian hymn. Without a doubt, they—and the nation of Fiji (whose government declared July 28, the day of the team’s victory, a national holiday)—are deeply grateful that God rewarded them for their hard work and sacrifice.

How Music Offers a Positive Surge of Inspiration and Creativity

by **Holly Lebowitz Rossi** Posted

Whether you are listening to it or making it, you’ll immediately find more joy and energy.

“Life seems to go on without effort when I am filled with music,” wrote Mary Ann Evans, who wrote in nineteenth century England under the pen name George Eliot.

Many people turn to music to relax and calm down as a way of decreasing the “effort” of daily life. But music has just as much to offer when we need a boost of energy, a positive surge of creativity, focus and inspiration.

This isn’t just anecdotal information. Scientific research has connected music with an increase in brain chemicals associated with improved mood, including dopamine, and it may also decrease brain chemicals associated with stress responses, such as cortisol. By reducing anxiety, music can help us make more space for joy in our lives as well.

There’s more good news—music can bring us these benefits whether we are listening to it recorded, hearing it performed live, or making it ourselves.

Listening to music has become a mainstay of meeting my family’s energy-boosting needs during the pandemic.

With two adults and one 4th grader all working from home, having a headset connected to a classical music playlist has done more for me than blocking out the external sounds of classes and conference calls. It’s helped me feel noticeably more focused and productive, as if the music is awakening parts of my brain that would otherwise be searching for something else to pay attention to.

I’ve seen this benefit work for my 10-year-old as well. We recently tasked him with loading the dishwasher, which sometimes elicits grumbles and claims of being “too tired” for the job. One day, not delighting in this argument, I put on his favorite playlist of pop, dance-ready songs and watched with admiration as he sprung into action. Before long, the dishes were done, and his energy was restored. Music is now a daily accompaniment when it’s chore time.

Are you using music to improve your energy and boost your mood? Try adding these to your routine:

--Sing in the shower or at the kitchen sink, or at the dinner table, or in the car, or....

--Have a family or solo dance party when you need a boost.

--Pick up an instrument and learn a new tune.

--Pair music-listening with daily tasks or have lead-in music for tasks that require extra energy.

--Watch live musical performances to benefit from the energy of the musicians.

How do you use music to keep yourself effortlessly energized?

