

Zion Lutheran Church
411 3rd Ave. NE
Little Falls, MN 56345
320-632-5792

ZION STEWARD

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2019



Office Administrator: Barb Johnson
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Church Office: 320.632.5792
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Saturday Worship: 6:30pm
Sunday Worship: 9:00am
Creative Worship 11:15am

Communion 1st & 3rd weekend
Sunday School @ 10:15am
Sunday Adult Bible Study @ 10:30am

Childhood Knowledge

Ephesians 4:14-15(ESV) ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

Back in my early childhood days, I was out walking around town one afternoon with one of my uncles in south Minneapolis. I wasn't very old; so, everything I saw was interesting to me. That day we happened to come across a man who was extremely short. Looking at his face, he seemed to be quite old to me—probably in his 30s or 40s. However, he wasn't any taller than me. I asked my uncle why this man was so short. With a little smile on his face, my uncle responded, "Oh, he walked too much and wore his legs down." Like all good little boys, I believed just about everything I heard. I immediately stopped all unnecessary walking. I didn't want to wear my legs down. Eventually my mom noticed that I wasn't running and playing with the rest of the kids and asked me for an explanation. I told her about not wanting to wear my legs down. She laughed and explained to me about what we then called "midgets."

I remember hearing other things back then that I really believed to be true for quite awhile. I heard that if you dropped a penny from the top of the Empire State Building that it would travel so fast that it would imbed itself in the sidewalk below. I was told that if I went swimming sooner than one hour after I ate, I'd likely get cramps and drown. Somewhat later, I was provided with this tidbit of information: "The Great Wall of China is the only man-made structure that can be seen with the naked eye from the moon." All of these bits of wisdom sounded plausible and true. However, they are just as untrue as when I was told that very short people got that way by wearing their legs down.

Yeah, we can all be fooled into believing some things that may seem reasonable and true. Often times whether we believe these things or not doesn't seriously affect our lives. I've never been to the top of Empire State Building, but if I would have visited that place as a child—I probably would have tempted to throw a penny off just to see if he would have become imbedded in the sidewalk or not. Keep in mind, it wasn't that I didn't believe what I had heard; rather, I just wanted to see how far into the concrete that penny would be buried with my own eyes.

For matters such as I've mentioned, we likely learn the truth—eventually. But spiritual matters are a little different. If we're taught something that is spiritually wrong or in error, we might never learn the truth. As a little boy in Sunday school, I remember my teacher attempting to end the class by telling us to close our eyes, bow our head, and fold our hands. I was probably about five at the time. I immediately asked my teacher, "Why?" The teacher looked a little surprised at my question, but he said, "Why what, Gary?" I replied, "Why do we fold our hands?" To this day, I'm still impressed with the age-relevant answer he provided. He smiled and said, "Well, Gary, God doesn't want us to anything with our hands when we're praying." I was satisfied with the answer and promptly folded my hands, bowed my head, and closed my eyes. I was in my 30s before I could pray without folding my hands. Even when driving, I'd fold my hands on top of the steering wheel when I prayed.

"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways" (1 Corinthians 13:11). Spiritually speaking, many never give up their childish ways. If they've been mistaught, untaught, or fairy-tale taught, these folks hold on to these untrue, unsaving beliefs. The law is written on everyone's heart; so, everyone understands right and wrong. But the Gospel message of salvation in Jesus Christ alone is foreign information. This is the heart-opening wisdom that everyone needs to hear and respond accordingly. The power to open hearts and minds is only available through God's Holy Word, the Bible—and those divine words should be in all of our hearts and on our lips.

I enjoy gardening... planting crops and watching them grow, harvesting the fruits or vegetables and enjoying a meal cooked with fresh from the garden beans, peas, lettuce, cucumbers, squash, or carrots, just to name a few of my favorites. But gardens come with weeds... just as soon as the first plant pops out of the ground, thousands of weeds also pop up, and they keep coming... I dig them up, pull them up, work the soil, mulch around the plants, and still the weeds return... it is a never-ending battle. It is the price we pay to have a garden and grow the crops we enjoy.

This is the curse of sin... "Then God said to the man, 'You listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree, although I commanded you, "You must never eat its fruit." The ground is cursed because of you. Through hard work you will eat {food that comes} from it every day of your life. The ground will grow thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat wild plants. By the sweat of your brow, you will produce food to eat until you return to the ground, because you were taken from it. You are dust, and you will return to dust.' (Genesis 3:17-19)".

We deal with the curse of sin every day as Christians and or as members of the body of Christ. We know that Jesus died and rose for the forgiveness of our sins. We know that we will receive forgiveness and eternal through faith in Him. But we are never satisfied with God's grace and forgiveness. We continue to look for more... happiness, wealth, acceptance, power, and self-gratification... we misuse what God has given to us and worship the gifts instead of the giver. Our selfish desires grow like out of control weeds in a garden.

I once heard... "Weeds are just good plants growing where we don't want them to grow. Every plant has some purpose or value." There may be some truth to that, however, if we let them grow, the weeds will choke out the crops we want and take over our gardens.

Satan is very good at sowing weeds into the teachings of Christian churches and causing discord, conflict, and distractions that keep them from focusing on Jesus Christ. Last week I heard a report from a news station in the Twin Cities of a church that is being "kicked out" of their denomination's conference for "caring for LGBT people". The reporter only talked about the unfairness of this action and only interviewed members of the church who felt hurt by the action. Nothing was said about the reason that was behind the decision. My understanding is that the denomination isn't opposed to "caring for LGBT people" but how they interpret the word "care" is different than how this congregation interpreted "care". The reason that the congregation was being "kick-out" of their church body was because they had stopped calling sinful behavior 'sinful behavior'. In their desire to 'care for all people' they had embraced the sinful behavior of the people as 'acceptable' (without judgement).

Jesus came to save sinners, ALL SINNERS! We belong to the Christian church because we recognize that 'we are sinners in need of a Savior'. We are members of Zion because we have accepted God's judgement for our sin, 'we are sinners in need of a Savior'. We recognize our need to confess our sin regularly because 'we are sinners in need of a Savior'. We are not better than others, more blessed, more deserving, or more worthy to receive God's grace and mercy... we are here because we have received God's grace and mercy. We care for others who are stuck in the darkness of unbelief and show love to them by leading them to the forgiveness found in Jesus Christ. Patting them on the back and pretending that their sin is acceptable to God is not showing 'care'.

God's LAW is intended to break the sinner's pride-filled heart. God's GRACE brings peace when the sinner confesses their sin and acknowledges their need for a Savior. Pulling weeds is tedious, hard work. Sometimes the good plants are so embedded with the weeds that it is impossible to remove one without pulling up the other. Decisions have to be made "to pull or not to pull" but ultimately it is necessary to remove as many weeds as possible for the sake of a healthy fruitful garden.

June 10, 2019

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Vice President Barb Jelinski called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting opened with a reading by Don Stover. In attendance were Pastor Gary Hendrickson, Mike Beseman, Nancy Christensen, Nancy Peterson, DCO Peter Keyes, Don Stover, Barb Jelinski, Amanda Dawson, Marlyn Poppen, Christian Ganz, Carol Prozinski, Sheldon Prozinski, and Bev Messinger.

Motion made by Don Stover and seconded by Carol Prozinski to approve the agenda with correction; motion carried.

Motion made by Don Stover and seconded by Marlyn Poppen to approve the minutes of the last meeting (May 13, 2019) as written; motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Hendrickson reported:

1. During the previous month (May), there were **no** baptisms, confirmations, funerals, releases, transfers, nor professions of faith.
2. **Calls:** Twelve (12) calls to homebound members and one (1) hospital visit. There were no member visitations or others (visitors/referrals, etc).
3. **Homebound Calls:** Calls were limited in the past month due to the unavailability of our members who are homebound. I attempted multiple times, unsuccessfully, to make contact with every one of them. This month, I'm already off to a good start – finding many of those unavailable last month to be available now.
4. **Polka Praise Service:** The next one will be September 22, 2019.
5. **Pastors' Circuit Meeting:** None scheduled for the summer.
6. **Adult Confirmation Class:** We've completed six (6) of twelve (12) scheduled sessions. There remains seven (7) in weekly attendance – two (2) members (Diane Colombe and Derik Lipke) and five (5) others (Brittney Carwell, Randi Graves, Courteney Patraw, Alyssa Cogswell Lipke, and George Booth) indicating interest in becoming members. I anticipate this class will end on July 16.

DCO REPORT: Director of Christian Outreach, Peter Keyes, stated he would be presenting information in other areas of this report.

TREASURER'S REPORT Don Stover reported:

Operating Account

1. Income vs. Expenses for May = negative (\$578). Both 2019 and 2018 were four (4) Sunday months.
2. Income vs. Expenses year-to-date = positive \$7,987. Expenses in general have been low as certain budgeted projects have yet to be incurred. Both 2019 and 2018 have had twenty-one (21) weeks of offering activity. The \$7,987 of income is a positive variance of \$11,228 from the loss of \$3,241 that was present last year. Major reasons for the positive variance include Offering Income positive of \$1,678; Property Expenses less in 2019 of \$2,187; no boiler loan in 2019 positive \$3,447; and no bookkeeper salary and related taxes positive by \$2,882.
3. Vacation Bible School (VBS) purchases in May totaled \$256.
4. Evangelism expenses included Mother's Day flowers (\$128), Polka Praise Musicians (\$225), and dues for Little Falls Chamber of Commerce membership (\$110).
5. Annual circuit due assessment fees were paid (\$183).
6. Grounds Maintenance included the final snow plowing bill for \$390. The full amount of this bill was generously credited by Todd Seward and his company to help offset the damage caused by the previously frozen sewer line. The credit is shown in the Church Repairs and Maintenance Account where the original sewer line damage expenses were recorded.
7. Church Repairs and Maintenance included a semi-annual payment of \$925 for HVAC maintenance. The snow plowing credit of \$390 mentioned above was a credit in this account.

Building Fund

1. The May loan payment of \$3,742.18 was comprised of \$1,199.15 of principal reduction and \$2,543.03 of interest. The Building Loan at the end of May was \$786,321.
2. The Building Fund investment balance at the end of May was \$34,701.
3. Building Fund income during May was \$2,678.31. This is comprised of:
 - a. Offerings (4 Sundays) = \$1,928.42
 - b. Memorials – \$50 in memory of Violet Husby
 - c. Thrivent Choice Dollars = \$85 *Thank you for your designations!!!*
 - d. Lenten denial folders applied from 2018 = \$584.89
 - e. Table/chair sale = \$30

Revolving Funds

1. The May Door Offering for the Puerto Rico Mission totaled \$411.
2. The Youth Fund had net transfer in of \$537 Offering Income.
3. Altar Flowers account balance = \$185
4. Lutheran Witness subscription balance = \$118.28

BOARD REPORTS

BOARD OF ELDERS: Sheldon Prozinski reported no activity for May; however, they did review the proposed congregational survey which will be discussed later.

TRUSTEES: Mike Beseman reported:

1. Keith Schumann talked to Frank Gosiak about the sidewalk railings. This work should be starting within three (3) weeks.
2. Keith Schumann also talked to CME – they will give us a price to replace all six (6) lights.

YOUTH AND EDUCATION: Amanda Dawson reported:

1. Youth and Education will meet tomorrow (Tuesday, June 11).
2. Around seventeen (17) attended VBS on most days.

STEWARDSHIP: Marlyn Poppen reported:

1. We received a request from an individual to be a future recipient of a door offering. Request is tabled at this time until more information is made available to make a determination.
2. We discussed the proposed congregational survey.
3. We also talked about ways to make Zion more welcoming to visitors – invite to fellowship hour, sit with someone you don't know, etc.

EVANGELISM: Nancy Christensen reported:

1. We did not meet due to VBS last week but will meet in July.
2. Pens will be provided to all men Saturday (June 15) and Sunday (June 16) for Father's Day.
3. Pastor Hendrickson also stated they are completing a coffee cup design; once approved, ordered, and received, they will be provided to all members.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Bike Rack** – DCO Peter Keyes will talk to Keith Schumann about the status of the bike rack and Jerry Knafla about the **Outside Cigarette Receptacles**.
2. **Centershot Ministry Program** – Per DCO Keyes, a meeting will be held within the next few weeks. Our target date to implement the plan is January 2020.
3. **Tech Conference** June 8 – Don Stover attended the MN North District Technology Conference that was held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Alexandria. There were approximately fifty (50) people that attended. Don attended three (3) sessions – (a) an overall session that focused on how to reach potential church members and how to keep existing members engaged; (b) a presentation by Concordia Technologies on their "Church 360" web based software (this is an enhanced web based version of the current desktop based – no web based – Shepherd's Staff software that we currently use; and (c) Online Giving – this was presented by VANCO Solutions and addressed how contributions

can be made to the church via electronic means, such as direct withdrawals from checking accounts, and the use of credit and debit cards to make contribution.

4. **Table/Chairs Sales** (Nancy Peterson) – \$300 was received for the remaining chairs.
5. **Congregational Survey** (Carol Prozinski) – Council reviewed the proposed congregational survey and made suggestions for final print and distribution to all members.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Shepherd's Staff Software Licensing and Use** – Shepherd's Staff Software Licensing and Use – by reclassifying how we use this software; we will reduce our annual fee from \$500 to \$250. In addition, see item 3. under Old Business.
 2. **Steeple Repair** (DCO Peter Keyes) – The tin is loose around the louvers, causing the wood underneath to be compromised. Keith Schumann is trying to get a few estimates for repair cost, trim, etc. *This needs immediate attention!*
 3. **Quilter's Request** (Barb Jelinski) – ZLW would like to have an area in the church to display quilts so people can see them. *Did you know they are available to purchase?* Pastor Hendrickson recommended placing some on the front pews as no one usually sits up front. Another idea was to hang one in the Narthex by the TV. Barb will bring the information to the ZLW when it meets in August.
 4. **Council Meeting in July** (Carol Prozinski) – There will be a council meeting in July (8th).
 5. **Audio Visual Recommendation** (Christian Ganz) – Mark Sloop (who receives the church sermon telecasts) will be switching to a new system and has requested e-mail vs DVD receipt. Item will be put into the congregational survey as to how many views the services on TV. Christian will also do more research and bring the information to the July Council Meeting. DVD's will still be made for homebound members.
- Motion to adjourn was made by Amanda Dawson and seconded by Nancy Christensen; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m., closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Upcoming meetings and important dates:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| July Council Meeting | - Monday, July 8 – 6:30 p.m. |
| Quarterly Voters Meeting | - Sunday, July 28 – 10:30 a.m. |

/s/

Beverly Messinger
Recording Secretary

Women's News

LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY BIBLE STUDY

Monday, July 15 at 9:00 a.m.

The Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Bible study will meet on Monday, **July 15** at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Since we have not received the Summer LWQ yet, watch for the specific Bible study information in future bulletins.

WOMEN'S DAY OUT

Monday, July 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Following the LWQ Bible study on Monday, **July 15**, we will get together for fellowship and brunch at Kip's Cafe in Swanville. We will carpool from church at 10:00 a.m. Contact Nancy Peterson at 632-5759 if you plan to attend. We will be celebrating July birthdays! Bring a friend!

ZLW MEETING

There will not be a ZLW meeting in July! Enjoy the summer break!

LWML RETREAT AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP

The 2019 LWML Retreat will be held at Lutheran Island Camp near Henning, MN on **August 9-11**. The theme this year is "Every One His Witness" --- a Lutheran evangelism program that teaches you how to witness to friends, coworkers, and any other non-churched people you may know. Rev. Bruce Timm will be the facilitator. More information is on the LWML bulletin board. The retreat registration form may be downloaded at lwmlmn.org or contact Barb Jelinski. The registration deadline is **August 1**, 2019. If you are interested in going only for the day on Saturday, **August 10**, that is possible, too!

ZION TV BROADCAST TIMES

Zion services are broadcast on Charter Cable Station channel 180 every week
9am Sunday
9pm Sunday
9am Monday

FOUND

There is a dark green men's rain jacket in the coat room that has been there for about a month. If you know who it belongs to, please contact Barb in the office.

Mayagüez, Puerto Rico



Mayagüez
Puerto Rico

\$1,450 needed

Photos




*Support our team
Puerto Rico Mission Trip*



Lutheran Island Camp

CHOOSE ONE! Adventure Camps

Join us for one of our great adventure camps this summer. Whether it is learning to perform, riding horse, traveling to Wyoming, going on a shopping trip, going to the BWCA, or catching fish, Lutheran Island Camp is the place for your next great adventure. Adventure Camps include:

Horse Camps	Crow Wing River Trip	Otter Tail Adventure
Big Fish Camps	Performing Arts Camp	Teen Trek BWCA
Guys Being Guys	Girls Week Out	Autumn Adventure
Western Adventure	Wyoming Horse Trip	Adult and Family Horse Camps.

Sunday School & Families

- > **CHILDREN**, while you are enjoying your summer vacation from school, don't forget to check out the books and videos in the church library. There are many books, games, crafts, and videos to choose from; stop in after worship and explore the hidden gems that can be found!

Youth Activities

- > **NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING CONFERENCE – JULY 11 – 15, 2019** ***Please keep these youth and leaders in your prayers... Over 30,000 will gather for this event in the Twin Cities metro area for the gathering. We pray that God will use this experience to help ALL of the youth and their leaders to grow in their faith in Him.
- > **Cookbooks** - We still have several books available for sale. (\$10.00)
- > We have "Lutheran" t-shirts available for sale. (CLEARANCE / REDUCED SALE price \$7.50)

Adult Ministry

- > **TUESDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS** – Dan Hughes is leading the class... 5:00pm – Fellowship Hall.
- > **TRACT OF THE MONTH: "STRESSED but Connected"**
 - o *Unresolved issues. Financial trouble. Neglected health. Everyone feels stressed out. Right? WRONG! Everyone has stress, but not everyone is stressed out. If you've accepted stress as a way of life, this booklet is for you. From setting personal boundaries to eliminating procrastination, these sensible strategies will help you manage stress before stress manages you...* Look for this booklet in the Project Connect display.

Outreach Ministry

- > **CENTERSHOT**: Archery with a Christ-centered purpose! We will be holding a dinner the end of August to raise awareness and funds for the launch of the Centershot program at Zion. Continue to watch for more details as we make plans to start this new outreach ministry in our community.
- > **FACEBOOK**: Continue to follow us on Facebook. www.facebook.com/zionlf.
- > **ZION'S WEBSITE**: www.zionlf.com. Share our link with your friends.

Outreach / Puerto Rico Mission Team

- > We have six members from Zion that will be going on a Mission trip to Puerto Rico with others from the MN North District of the LCMS on July 20 - 27. The team will assist missionaries in the city of Mayaguez or Ponce. Our primary task will be construction projects as determined by the missionaries. Our expected cost is \$1,000 per person. Currently we have raised about \$4450 of the \$6,000 needed for our group from Zion. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**
- > We have also created a series "Greeting Cards" to sell to raise funds for our mission trip. The suggested price is \$1.50/each or you may donate what you are able.
- > Donations can be made to ZION LUTHERAN --- Memo line: PUERTO RICO MISSION.
- > **KEEP OUR MISSION TEAM IN YOUR PRAYERS DURING THE WEEK OF JULY 20 -27.**

Contact: DCO Peter Keyes (text/call) 320-232-3108 or email mrpjkeyes@yahoo.com.

- > **LISTEN, LEARN, LIVE with LOVE; PRAY ALWAYS.**

July Servants

July		Elders	Ushers	Readers	Visitor Host	Acolyte	Organist	FH Servers
6	COM	Craig Bohnsack	Marie Holey & Jennifer Hanson	Jennifer Hanson	Marie Holey	Elder	Peggy Dolney	
7	COM	Jerry Knafla	Eugene Doucette & Dennis Hollermann	Don Stover	Julie Doucette	Elder	Peggy Dolney	Marlyn Poppen & Ginny Fitch
13		Chris Roe	Mark Hengenmuhl	Colleen Duncan	Paul Gulsvig	Elder	Carol Prozinski	
14		Herman Johannes	Harvey Axel & Marcel Bellefeuille	Katie Schumann	Darlene Axel	Elder	Carol Prozinski	Karen Dickmann & Linda Dickmann
20	COM	Sheldon Prozinski	Mike Beseman & Julie Dancer	James Rebischke	Mike Besseman	Elder	Carol Prozinski	
21	COM	Mike Gohl	Ben Messinger & Bailey Dawson	Amanda Dawson	Norma Naill	Elder	Carol Prozinski	Barb Jelinski & Linda J. Dickmann
27		Chris Roe	Duane Schmidt	Duane Schmidt	Judy Drewlow	Elder	Peggy Dolney	
28	Blended	Craig Bohnsack	Wayne Ganz & David Dickmann	Dan Gilder	Karen Dickmann & Carolyn Ganz	Elder	Peggy Dolney	Bev Messinger & Amanda Dawson

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

7/1	Laura Stumpf	7/21	Lois Peterschick	7/9	Gary & Linda Dickmann
7/3	Aiden Martinson	7/22	Judy Miller	7/9	Greg & Diane Colombe
7/3	Kandy Saulter	7/24	Ethel Kuhl	7/22	Dan & Katie Hughes
7/5	Barb Jelinski	7/26	Cathy Peterson	7/26	David & Karen Dickmann
7/7	McKayla Schulke	7/27	Eric Martinson	7/28	Jerry & Pat Knafla
7/9	Kayla Bohnsack	7/27	Joslynn Prozinski		
7/12	Gary Irwin	7/28	Norma Nail		
7/15	Dan Gilder	7/30	Robert Holz		
7/18	LaVonne Rausch				

July 2019

Zion Lutheran Church, Holidays in United States

Jul 2019 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9am - Worship 30	5pm - Elders 7pm - Evangelism 1	5pm - Bible Study 6:30pm - Adult Info 6:30pm - B of Ed 2	3	Independence Day 4	5	6:30pm - Comm 6
9am - Comm 7	5:30pm - Trustees 6pm - Stewardship 6:30pm - Council 8	5pm - Bible Study 6:30pm - Adult Info 9	10	11	1pm - Frndship Club 12	6:30pm - Worship 13
9am - Worship 9am New Members 14	9am - LWQ 11am - 11am - W Day Out 15	5pm - Bible Study 6:30pm - Adult Info 16	17	18	6:30pm - Comm 19	6:30pm - Comm 20
9am - Communion 21	22	5pm - Bible Study 23	24	25	6:30pm - Worship 26	6:30pm - Worship 27
9am - Blended Service 28	29	5pm - Bible Study 30	31	1	2	6:30pm - Comm 3