



July & August, 2011

THE BELL RINGER

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Greetings Zion/Clarion Family,

Summer is in full swing, I hope you are finding time to get outside and enjoy the pleasant weather. Many recent conversations with folks lead me to believe that many are more busy during the summer than during the school year. This could be a good thing if those activities are restful and God focused. However, if they are simply more busy and causing stress, that is counter-productive.

Hearing of vacation plans for people remind me of Sabbath keeping. In Genesis chapter 1 and 2, we have the order of creation, with God resting on the 7th day. God gave us Sabbath. During the time of Moses, God gave us 10 commands, including the third about keeping the Sabbath holy. God is serious about the Sabbath, the rest and time he gave us to reconnect with him and with each other.

Many folks remember that God did Sabbath rest on the 7th day, after all creation was created. Some folks look at Sabbath as something that is done AFTER everything else is done. We work, and then, finally, when our work is done, then we can rest. That is the order of God and creation - 6 days of work, then a day of rest.

However, remember humanity was created on the 6th day. Then only one day later the Sabbath is instituted. SO,

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... the first full day for Adam and Eve was the Sabbath. Their life BEGINS with Sabbath. Sabbath is a starting point, not an ending point. Sunday, the Christian Sabbath is also the FIRST day of the week. Sabbath time prepares us to work in the Kingdom. Sabbath is not a reward for our labors and time to recover from our work. Sabbath is a starting point, time to connect with God so that he can direct us in our work for the following days.

In addition to weekly Sabbath, may you find other Sabbath time this summer, time to hang out with God in new ways that remind you how dearly God loves you, and prepare you for the tasks he has for you to do, growing his Kingdom. Sabbath is not just a time to rest because we are so tired from our time of work. Sabbath is a starting point, time to connect with God so that we might be rightly prepared with vision and direction from God, to do his bidding in the world around us.

Have a grace filled, Sabbath filled summer.

Shalom, Pastor Kevin <><

Benevolence Report – May



Beginning Balance, 5/01/11	\$ 0.00
Receipts for May	<u>1,593.50</u>
Subtotal	\$ 1,593.50
Expenses for May:	
Lutheran World Relief	20.00
Lutheran Disaster Response	150.00
Mendota Lutheran Home	1,179.25
Mendota Food Pantry	10.00
New Life Africa	184.25
Zion Youth Mission Trip	<u>50.00</u>
Total Expenses for May	\$ 1,593.50
Ending Bank Balance 5/31/11	\$ 0

Treasurer's Report – May



Beginning Balance 5/1/11	\$ 3,650.25
May Offerings:	10,191.87
Easter flowers	194.75
Gifts for church sign	30.00
Relay for Life	575.00
Transfer from Special Funds	<u>218.41</u>
Subtotal	\$ 14,860.28
May Expenses:	<u>8,804.30</u>
Ending Balance 5/31/11:	\$ 6,055.98

Barb Donahue, Treasurer

Another Child Foundation (anotherchild.org)

Another Child Foundation is based in Princeton, IL and has worked with orphans and disadvantaged families in Romania for the last 10 years. Our Sunday School youth have supported their ministry. They are currently working with "Shoes for Orphan Souls" to collect new shoes and send them around the world (shoesfororphansouls.org) They have sent over 2 million pair of shoes to children in 74 countries since 1999. They are collecting NEW shoes, socks and shoelaces from June 15-July 15. These are NEW shoes, preferably athletic shoes in boys and girls sizes 1-7. Please take them out of the shoe box, remove tags and paper, tie and/or rubber band the pair together before placing in the box in the narthex. There are radio stations in the area that are also promoting this shoe donation effort.

New Funeral Pall

The family of Clarice Luetje has donated a funeral pall to our congregation in her memory. They requested a pall be used at her funeral, and upon discovering that we do not have one, they donated one to be used at her funeral and any other subsequent funerals.

The Pall is a fabric draped over the casket during the funeral. The word "pall" comes from the Latin "pallium" meaning cloak. According to some historians, when someone in ancient Rome died, they would cover the body or casket with the cloak of the deceased as they carried it to a burial place. The pall bearers would walk with those carrying the body, holding on to the pall to keep it from sliding off or blowing away. Today we use the term pall bearer to refer to those who carry the casket.

It became popular in the Middle Ages to cover the casket with a brightly colored or patterned fabric. Later, black was often used. Today they are usually white, some rather simple with others more ornate. Today, the white funeral pall reminds us of several things: Christ's triumph over death at the resurrection, baptismal garments which symbolize that we are washed in the blood of the lamb and in that forgiveness we are washed white as snow, as God looks at us he sees us all the same - as his beloved children.

This gift of a funeral pall, while being new to us at Clarion, connects us with older traditions in the Christian Church. It may be useful in reminding us of God's continued amazing grace.


MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 5:16 *Jesus said:* "Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."



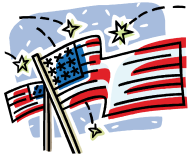
Please remember our military members in your prayers. They are:
Josh Morehead
John Labriola

July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 8:00a—Worship Committee
3 9:00 am Worship Service	4 	5 7:00p—Hannah Circle	6	7 7:00p—Parish Ed	8	9 6:00p—Relay for Life
10 9:00 am Worship Service With Holy Communion	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 9:00 am Worship Service	18	19 7:00p—Church Council	20	21	22	23
24 9:00 am Worship Service With Holy Communion 6:00 pm VBS	25 6:00 pm VBS	26 7:00p—Evangelism Committee 7:00p—Youth Team Comm. 6:00 pm VBS	27 6:00 pm VBS	28 6:00 pm VBS	29	30
31 9:00 am Worship Service						

August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:00p—Hannah Circle	3	4 7:00p—Parish Ed	5	6 8:00a—Worship Committee
7 9:00 am Worship Service	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:00 am Worship Service With Holy Communion	15	16 7:00p—Church Council	17	18	19	20
21 9:00 am Worship Service	22	23 7:00p—Evangelism Committee 7:00p—Youth Team Comm.	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 am Worship Service With Holy Communion	29	30	31			



July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 6 Byron Faber
- 7 Kathryn Karstens
- 11 Kyle Rod
- 12 Brooke Lee
- 13 Lynn Furar
- 17 Chase Cartwright
Joe Peterson
- 20 Steven Koch
Lance Geuther
- 21 Megan Forristall
- 24 Mark Stamberger
Luke Becker
- 25 Ryan Forristall
- 30 Pastor Ann Ziegert
- 31 Carolyn Motter

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 2 Nick Larabee
- 6 Ed Stuepfert
- 10 Cole Faber
- 11 Madeline Larabee
- 12 Emily Karstens
- 21 Zach Geuther
- 27 Abbie Wendelken
- 31 Pam Hohertz
Haylie Barrera

Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Pastor Leo and Linda Patterson
- 7 Ray and Carolyn Motter
- 9 Tom and Suzanne Krzyzek



August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 2 Mike Silfies
- 5 Brianna Martin
- 9 Jane Faber
- 11 Matt Motter
- 12 Jim Stamberger
- 14 Janet Hamacher
Ardell Stuepfert
- 15 Hailey Goetz
Andrea Stamberger
- 16 Suzanne Krzyzek
Barbara Stuepfert
- 17 Dale Hansen
- 18 Josh Morehead
- 19 Bethany Sarff
Angie Stamberger
- 22 Mason Koch
- 25 Sheila Kyle
Chris Stamberger
Caleb Sarff
- 27 Josh Faber

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 1 Bryce Walter Martin
- 3 Justyn Olson
- 8 Kade Jackson
- 11 Brooke Motter
Collette Motter
- 14 May Geuther
- 16 Jasmine Schabacker
- 18 Brooke Lee
- 29 Nichole Rhae Schabacker

Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Gary and Beth Barrera
- 8 Mark and Nora Geuther
- 17 Joe and Pat Peterson
Wilbur and Chris Stamberger
- 18 Lyle and Ruth Geuther
- 19 John and Pam Hohertz
- 20 Ken and Joyce Sondgeroth
- 23 Richard and Carol Wheeler
- 24 Chad and Allison Geuther
- 28 Don and Sheila Kyle

New Prayer Group

Something new! All ages are welcome!. We will meet in the parish hall from 8:30-8:45 am each Sunday morning. Join us as we glorify God, pray for each other, our churches, schools, government, military, families and businesses.



Ethiopian Church Relief Fund

A relief fund has been established to help Christians in Ethiopia who have recently experienced persecution by Islamic radicals. Over 100 churches and homes have been destroyed, and over 3,600 people displaced, beaten or killed.

This is a joint effort by

Lutheran CORE, LCMC, (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) and NALC, (North American Lutheran Church)

Donate online at www.lutheran-core.org, or through Clarion. All funds received will be forwarded to the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, (the Lutheran church in Ethiopia.)

Thank you

Many thanks to Ron Geuther for installing a new garage door on the parsonage shed



We Remember

Our deepest sympathies and prayers are with the family and friends of Loren Ayers upon his death on May 30th, 2011. May God comfort family members and friends in their loss.



VBS - Vacation Bible School



This year's VBS theme will be "Shake It Up Café -Where Kids Carry out God's Recipe". The school will begin on Sunday, July 24 and run through Thursday, July 28 from 6:00 to 8:00pm each evening. This year's monetary offering will go to the Mendota Food Pantry and each child is also asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the pantry as well. Registration forms for children aged 3 through 6th grade can be located in the narthex along with a sign-up sheet for anyone who is willing to help run VBS. If you have any questions, contact Susan Stamberger at 638-2605 or any other Parish Ed committee member—Kristi K., Angie J., or Megan F.

CLARION SUMMER GET-TOGETHER

Three church committees—Evangelism, Parish Ed and Youth Committee will be meeting soon to decide whether we should have a summer Pork Chop Dinner to raise money for youth activities and a church picnic associated with Rally Day in September or to combine the two events. When a decision has been made, an announcement will be made at worship service, and will be placed in the church bulletin and on the prayer chain. Any September event will be in the next Bell Ringer.

Thank you

Thanks for all the cards & prayers when Loren & I fell. And your words of encouragement when we moved to Yorkville by our family. And again for all of your prayers when Loren passed away. To Pastor Kevin for his visits, his many prayers and phone calls. It will always be remembered. Thanks so very much. God bless all!
Marian Ayers & family



Relay for Life Update

Thanks to everyone for your donated items for the rummage sale. What a great success! We had a great turn out in a prime location along 34. Our profit was over \$900, which puts our Relay for Life account over \$2000! Thank you also to those who baked bread, helped arrange and price all of the items for sale, and worked the day of the sale. Thank you to the Novaks, also for donating part of their profit from the sale of jams & jellies, salsas, and pickles. It was a fun day to be together and raise money for cancer research.

The Relay for Life will be here soon. On Saturday, July 9, at 6 p.m. the event will begin with the survivors' lap followed by the caregivers' lap. Then we're off and walking for the next 12 hours. Our camp will be set up and marked with a cross for our Clarion Cross Walkers team. Many have signed up officially, but all of you are invited to come any time and join the walk around our field at Lake Mendota. Bring a lawn chair and sit and visit for a while. We're looking forward to being part of this community event. The youth will be spending the night and participating in fun events overnight. Come join us when you can! There will also be food vendors selling food throughout the evening.

We have been invited to provide baked goods for sale during the evening. We won't be running the sales table, but if you'd like to bake bars, cookies, or any other yummy snacks just let Chris or Sarah know. We may have a baking day on Friday the 8th in the morning. Bread baking was such a fun day, it might be fun to do it again. We'll let you know!

Deer Ridge Ministries

They provide retreat experiences for pastors to encourage them in their calling, promote methods of self-care, and provide ways to help them keep their ministry and their marriage in healthy balance.

So far this year they have hosted pastors from Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Illinois, and Washington.

This is what the guests say ... "We deeply appreciate your ministry to us. I think this is one of the most valuable and needed ministries today. Thank-you for all you do and all you have been through to provide this for us. Thank you to the donors."

"Thank-you, Thank-you, Thank-you! These retreats have been an integral part of sustaining our marriage and our ministry as well as keeping us "Spiritually healthy." Thank-you as well for the prayer coverage. We felt freedom to rest knowing our families and church was being prayed for during our visit."

Want to help make this ministry possible?

Pray for pastors & spouses, and Deer Ridge Ministries

Help clean up on Fridays after pastors leave

Send money

See more details on the above at their website, drmretreats.org

Supply beef or pork, It would be especially helpful if they could choose how to package the meat, but are willing to accept anything. - call for details

Their retreat facility is located in Freeport, IL. Find out more at drmretreats.org or 815-543-6250.

Celebrating new life:

Hadley Brynn Cole, born on May 23, 2011 was welcomed by her parents Brad & Jenica Cole. CONGRATULATIONS and GOD'S BLESSINGS



Deadlines:

Bulletin information to Jacob Weeks before Wednesday at 8:00pm. Email at: j.weeks12@yahoo.com; phone: (815 539-7820)

Bell Ringer information to Barb Donahue by the 20th of each month Email at: barb61330@yahoo.com (phone: 815 638-2638)

Thank you letter from NLAI, Kenya

Dear members of Zion ,

Once again we would like to send a thank you letter for your gifts given in the 1st quarter of 2011. Thank you so much for your total payment of \$814. Without this help we would not be able to do what we do here in Kenya. We are grateful! The children and the youth have once again had a short holiday in April, since the school system here is such that children go to school 3 months and then have one month off. It's like that all year round. But at our school we usually push it a week or two, so that the children can have more time for social activities and also get the food that they need. Several of the children go on holidays at their relatives' place if they have any they can visit. Some stay just one day, others a whole week and a few stay for several weeks. The ones that are left at the children's home are cared for in a special way. There are always several activities and small events during the month.

More children have come to the children's home and a lot of youth have started at higher education- university and college. It is a joy for us, but it also costs a lot of money, so we are thankful to you all for support to the children and the youth and the work in NLAI.

Thanks for your prayers for all of us. May God richly bless each and everyone who is part of lifting and carrying this great work. We need your help with the work; by ourselves we could not do this.

Kind Regards,

Susanne and Leif Madsen, New Life Africa International



LCMC will be holding their Annual Gathering on Sunday evening, October 2nd through Wednesday noon on October 5th, 2011, in Des Moines IA. They are asking for two delegates from each congregation and encourage other visitors to attend. More details can be found at www.lcmc.net.

LCMC produces a quarterly newsletter, *By the Word*. There is a copy hanging in the narthex, or read it on their website; www.lcmc.net, click on newsletters.

WoW -- Women of the Word, Illinois, held a Spring Gathering on March 15 in Emden, IL, with over 50 women attending. They will host a Fall Gathering in Peoria. This is a women's organization of the LCMC. See LCMC, *By The Word*, newsletter for more information (hanging in the narthex.).

NOTES FROM THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Zion will no longer be paying for the Lutheran magazine beginning with the September issue; anyone who wishes to continue receiving it can order it on their own.

A motion was passed to add a line item to the budget to fund LCMC @ \$500 to \$900 annually. While no funding is required, a nominal amount is useful to cover administrative costs.

Suggestion to establish a Building Fund to cover maintenance & improvement projects.

A new Record book will be kept to better track Memorials.

Records for the scholarship fund be reviewed.

Keith Rosenwinkel will form a committee to begin work on the new constitution.

Pastor Kevin led a discussion for a new worship idea. Beginning next fall, it would involve 31 weeks of worship and teach some of the major stories of the Bible in chronological order. We would be using a "story Bible" and related materials for both church lectionaries and Sunday School. Separate "story Bibles" are available for all age groups. Pastor Kevin is looking for feedback regarding this plan.



July/August Services

Date	Greeter	Reader	Piano/Organ	Special Music	Acolytes	Communion
Sun. July 3 9:00 a.m.	Don & Christy Liesse	Leslie & Cara Motter	Myron Goetz	Clarion Choir	Alan & Baylee	
Sun. July 10 9:00 a.m.	Marilyn Goetz & Lori Rosenwinkel		Lorraine Stamberger		Lauren & Luke	Brent & Cari Becker
Sun. July 17 9:00 a.m.	Kay Stuepfert & Barb Donahue	Chris Stamberger	Lorraine Stamberger		Elizabeth & Morgynn	
Sun. July 24 9:00 a.m.	Gloria Cogdal & Carolyn Motter	Christy Liesse	Kristi Koch		Lauren & Baylee	Christy Liesse Barb Donahue Sarah Weeks Suzanne Krzyzek
Sun. July 31 9:00 a.m.	Leslie & Cara Motter	George Stuepfert	Kristi Koch		Alan & Elizabeth	
Sun. August 7 9:00 a.m.	Jim & Janet Hamacher	Newt Lundquist	Myron Goetz	Clarion Choir	Alan & Baylee	
Sun. August 14 9:00 a.m.	Jim & Annette Stamberger	Sarah Weeks	Myron Goetz		Elizabeth & Luke	Chris & Wilbur Stamberger
Sun. August 21 9:00 a.m.	Elwin & Ray Motter	Dean Madsen	Kristi Koch		Alan & Morgynn	
Sun. August 28 9:00 a.m.	Don & Christy Liesse	Lauren Motter & Lauren Silfies	Kristi Koch		Lauren & Luke	Jim Hamacher Larry Forristall Brent & Cari Becker

Evangelism

Anyone who needs a ride or is willing to offer rides to church should contact Carolyn Motter. She can be reached at 815-538-2606.

Mendota Lutheran Home --- Garage update

The concrete has been poured and construction will likely begin in early July. More than \$11,000 has been raised toward the more than \$30,000 cost. Generously consider how God wants you to support this project.



Vacation Bible School
July 24-28, 2011

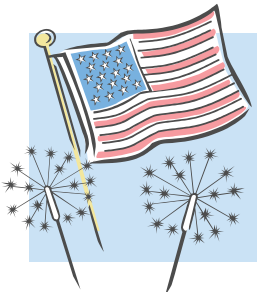
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