



June, 2011

THE BELL RINGER

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Greetings Zion/Clarion Family,

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

We continue through the season of Easter for seven weeks, through the Day of Pentecost. Easter is the season of new life. Flowers have bloomed, trees are mostly in full leaf, baby birds are hatching, (we have new Robins in our bushes,) the crops are sprouting. We as a congregation have new life as well.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Clarion has officially been received as a member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, LCMC. We are one of 624 USA congregations, and a total of 692 from 10 countries, as of May 20, 2011.

For us here at Clarion what has changed? Not much. We still follow the same liturgy, sing the same hymns, have the same committees, read the same Bible. We still welcome all people to experience the love of God, and grow in faith; first as disciples, then as apostles. The life and ministry of Clarion continues as it has.

There are a few changes:

Money received as "Benevolences" in our offering envelopes will now be divided between New Life Africa International and Mendota Lutheran Home, our two major mission projects. At our congregational meetings we will discuss how best to financially support LCMC.

We will now be invited to attend Annual Gatherings of LCMC rather than Synod Assemblies. We will have two delegates, and of course, as many visitors who wish to attend. The next Gathering will be Oct 2-5, 2011 in Des Moines.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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(815) 539-7029

Pastor Kevin Weeks

Home (815) 539-7820
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Website

www.zionofclarion.org

We will be working with different congregations. There are currently 22 LCMC congregations in Illinois, 16 of those in northern Illinois (roughly north of I-80), with six of those in the Chicago area.

At our May Council meeting, we discussed the reality that some may still have questions about the change to LCMC. We are still Clarion, we welcome all people to encounter Jesus as the Christ, and grow in faith as a beloved child of God. If you wish to discuss any concerns about our new home with the LCMC, please let us know and a council member and pastor would be willing to visit with you.

May you continue to celebrate the New Life that Easter brings.

Shalom,
Pastor Kevin <><

Semi-Annual Meeting on

Sunday, June 5th, 2011

immediately after worship service

Please plan to attend

Benevolence Report – April

Beginning Balance, 4/01/11	\$ 1,085.00
Receipts for April	<u>1,772.75</u>
Subtotal	\$ 2,857.75
Expenses for April:	
Mission Support	\$ 71.50
Lutheran World Relief	310.00
Disaster Relief	60.00
Mendota Lutheran Home	171.25
Mendota Food Pantry	2,132.50
New Life Africa	<u>112.50</u>
Total Expenses for April	\$ 2,857.75
Ending Bank Balance 4/30/11	\$ 0
Direct Gift to Mendota Food Pantry	\$25.00
Direct gift to LWR	\$50.00

Treasurer's Report – April

Beginning Balance 4/1/11	\$ 274.84
April Offerings:	9,629.20
Gifts for snow removal	1,100.00
Gifts for church sign	4,042.00
Relay for Life	600.00
Transfer from Savings	<u>1,000.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 16,646.04
April Expenses:	<u>12,995.79</u>
Ending Balance 4/30/11:	\$ 3,650.25

Barb Donahue, Treasurer

MAF -- Mission Aviation Fellowship

“Today we flew another flight for Danita who runs an orphanage in Ouanaminthe. Churches are asking her to take care of children that are brought to them. Some of these kids are badly injured and cannot make a nine-hour trip by road, so she approached MAF about flying those with the most serious injuries. The other day we flew a child in a complete body cast and another with a broken upper leg which was hurting immensely. Today she had more kids that need to go by air. We are happy to help her!” -- John Woodberry, MAF Manager of Disaster Response and Security. Find out more at www.maf.org

MEMORY VERSE

Our Parish Education Committee understands the value of learning scripture and memorizing it to carry with us through the day. Our youth were given memory verse books this year for parents to use in teaching their children the Holy Scriptures. The Parish Education Committee has chosen verses through the year for us as a congregation to focus on. During the seasons after Pentecost, which occurs on June 12, 2011, our memory verse will be found on page 8, in the 1st Grade section of the booklet.

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.”

May you and your family grow in God’s amazing Grace as you learn scripture together.

YOUTH SUPPORT

The youth committee is looking for volunteers to occasionally provide a food item or treat for the monthly youth meetings. You may sign up on the list in the narthex and will receive a phone call when something is needed. Please, help support our youth.

In June, the youth team will be helping out at La Moille Buffalo Days. On July 9 & 10 we will be participating in the LaSalle County Relay for Life in Mendota. You can sign up now to be part of the team!

Tuesday, 28th at 7:00 pm—Youth Team Committee meeting.

Evangelism

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

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.



Baby Bottle Fundraiser



Abigail Women's Clinic in Mendota is holding their 9th annual baby bottle fundraiser. If you would like to participate, we have baby bottles in the narthex. They ask you to take these bottles home and prayerfully put in your loose change (or quieter money) between Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Congregational Fun Night

On Sunday, June 19th we will be going to the outdoor amphitheater, Summerwood, which is located at First Free Evangelical Church in Rockford. Caedmon's Call, a Christian music group, will provide a great performance for all ages. The tickets are \$10.00. Sign up on the chart in the narthex or contact Christy Liesse or Leslie Motter

VBS - Vacation Bible School

This year's VBS will be on Sunday, July 24 through Thursday, July 28 from 6:00 to 8:00pm. Please sign up in the narthex to help run VBS. A planning meeting with Parish Education will be on Thursday June 2 at 7:00pm.

HOLY COMMUNION

You have probably noticed something new in our Holy Communion worship services this Easter season. Our post communion canticle is different from what we have used for several decades. The Worship Committee found a Jon Ylvisaker song, titled "Every time I feel the Spirit" set to a catchy and popular tune, a traditional American spiritual. The words are the "Nunc Dimittis" from Luke chapter 2:29-32, which come from the first two words in the Latin translation. The words of the song begin, "Now let your people depart in peace, for we've partaken of the feast. You are the Savior of all the earth, a light to guide us from our birth."

The story in Luke 2 is of course the birth of Jesus. Here is part of that story. ²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."
Luke 2:22-32 (NRSV)

We borrow from those words of Simeon. At we leave the communion table we acknowledge that we now go in peace for we have seen salvation; Jesus in the bread and wine. And we go forth to bring the light of Jesus into a dark world. May those old words and a new tune assist your spiritual growth.



June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1 Marion Ayers
Joyce Sondgeroth
- 4 Mark Geuther
Leah Carolynn Stamberger
- 9 Dylan Olson
- 10 Alan Stamberger
- 12 Nathan Furar
- 14 Maurice Faber
- 15 Cole Faber
Camryne Pohl
George Stuepfert
- 16 Elwin Goetz
- 17 Pam Hohertz
- 20 Brad Slutz
- 21 Kerrigan Stuepfert
- 22 Brady Becker
- 23 Jesse Rod
- 24 Pat Peterson
- 26 Calvin Faber
Paul Faber
- 27 Chanlor Pohl

Baptismal Anniveraries

- 5 Colleen Stegmann
- 20 Andrew Stamberger
- 22 Noah Lee
Jessica Forristall
- 25 Landon Lee
- 26 Jacob Weeks
- 29 Trey Everett Max Lee

Wedding Anniversaries

- 3 Brad and Carol Slutz
- 6 Larry & Kathy Forristall
- 10 Jayson and Rebecca Stamberger
- 13 Rich and Nancy Sibigroth
- 20 Fred and Sylvia Sprung
- 23 Tyler and Staci Martin
- 24 Kevin and Julie Lee
- 26 Brandon and Ashley Swanson

Congratulations to Larry & Kathy Forristall who will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on June 6th, 2011

Illinois Regional LCMC gathering

The LCMC Regional Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, June, 11, 2011, at Living Waters Church in Peoria, Il from 9:30-3:00. Lunch will be catered.

The Spring Gathering is for church leaders and pastors who are seeking support, inspiration, networking opportunities or for those seeking information about LCMC churches and our mission.

See bulletin board for more info including how to register.

LDR

Lutheran Disaster Response, LDR, is jointly supported by ELCA & LCMS. They have committed funds for those who suffered tornados in Alabama and flooding of the Red River in North Dakota and Minnesota as it crested on May 14. They are preparing to assist those who are affected by flooding of the Mississippi and its tributaries. They operate through affiliate organizations that are already on the ground working in the areas that have been hit by disasters. They continue to stick around caring for the spiritual needs of those people even after physical recovery. Any benevolence dollars directed toward "disaster" or disaster response" or similar wording will be forwarded to Lutheran Disaster Response. Check out their website for details, www.ldr.org.

We have a member from Council doing some research, contacting folks in areas near the flooding to see if there are some other more specific ways we as a congregation could help out.



June Services

Date	Greeter	Reader	Piano/Organ	Special Music	Acolytes	Communion
Sun. June 5 9:00 a.m.	Gloria Cogdal & Carolyn Motter	Sarah Weeks	Myron Goetz	Clarion Choir	Alan & Baylee	
Sun. June 12 9:00 a.m.	Buffalo	Days	Ecumenical	Service		
Sun. June 19 9:00 a.m.	Jim & Janet Hamacher	Lauren Motter & Lauren Silfies	Lorraine Stamberger		Elizabeth & Luke	
Sun. June 26 9:00 a.m.	Jim & Annette Stamberger	Gloria Cogdal	Kristi Koch		Lauren & Morgynn	Chris & Wilbur Stamberger Jim Hamacher Larry Forristall

Mendota Lutheran Home Offerings

Thanks to generous giving, the Mendota Lutheran Home has received enough money to purchase the whirlpool bathtub at a cost of \$14,000.00. The next major project is a new garage for the new bus. Cost will be approximately \$30,000 and it will be located on the south side of the Lutheran Home. All Zion donations for the Mendota Lutheran will be designated for the garage unless otherwise specified. Prayerfully consider your support.



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

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)

Relay for Life Opportunities

We will be holding a rummage sale at the church on June 18 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in conjunction with "More on 34". We are collecting children's toys & games. Also wanted are home décor items, small appliances, dishes, kitchen items, small household furnishings, jewelry, scarves, and purses. Please NO CLOTHING OR LARGE FURNITURE! Items may be left in the parish hall. We'd love help on Friday baking bread to sell and sorting items. We also hope to be selling grilled pork chop sandwiches and hot dogs. Leftover items will be donated to Lilly Pad in Peru.

The night of the Relay for Life, July 9, we will be working with some other churches to run a dessert concession stand. We will put a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who are willing to bake bars, pies, or cookies for sale. More info will be coming.

We are still looking for donations and pictures for our boards in the narthex honoring both victims and survivors of cancer. Contact Chris Stamberger or Sarah Weeks with any questions concerning the Relay for Life.

Congregational Offerings

Congregational receipts from offerings often go down during the summer months, and as mentioned at our last Council meeting, especially on such days as when we all head over to La Moille for Buffalo Days Ecumenical worship. I have seen this effect for decades, but I still do not understand the reasoning behind it. When we give our tithes and offerings to God, we give in response to His overwhelming grace and love for us. God's love does not decrease on those days when we are not in worship. Many folks give offerings in relation to their income; the more one is blessed, the more one can bless others and support the ministries of the Church. Family income does not decrease when we are not in worship. So why do some people not give tithes and offering when they are not in attendance or worshipping elsewhere? Someone suggested at Council that perhaps people view their offering as an entrance ticket to worship; if they do not worship, they do not need to pay. Interesting thought As your summer schedule changes your worship schedule, prayerfully consider the reasons you share the resources with which God has blessed you. Have a great summer. And celebrate with JOY that you have been blessed in order to share your wealth with others. (Any Clarion offering envelopes collected at the Buffalo Days Ecumenical worship service will come back to our congregation.)

Lutheran CORE

Here is a summary of Lutheran CORE from their website, www.lutherancore.org:

"The over-arching goal of Lutheran CORE is to be a voice for the Word of God within the church. We are, therefore, a confessing and confessional movement within the Lutheran church. We seek the renewal of Lutheran churches according to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and we endorse the Common Confession as a summary of Lutheran convictions for our time and place. Lutheran CORE is open to all who share our commitment for renewal — congregations, lay people, pastors, and other reform movements.

We are committed to prayer for the Lutheran churches and their leaders. We seek for ways to dialog with both synodical and churchwide leaders. We will continue to support our church, when its decisions and actions conform with the Word of God. We will speak the truth in love when our church diverges from the Word of God."

As part of their role in keeping us grounded in the Holy Scriptures, they offer educational and worship events such as those listed below.

Aug 9, 2011	Lutheran CORE Convocation
Aug 10-11, 2011	Theological Conference, "Salvation Today"
Aug 11-12, 2011	North American Lutheran Church Convocation (obviously not CORE, but they coordinated schedule and facilities)

All held in Hilliard, OH, suburb of Columbus. See brochure on missions bulletin board or visit www.lutherancore.org

THRIVENT ACTIVITIES

Thrivent at the Ballpark

Thrivent is sponsoring a "Night at the Ballpark" on Monday, June 27 at 7:00 pm at Modern Woodman Park in Davenport. Tickets are \$3.00. See Wilbur or Chris Stamberger if you are interested in attending.



Financial Independence: It Is Women's Work

Thrivent is sponsoring a workshop for women on Saturday, June 11 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the AmericInn in Princeton. Lunch will be served and spa treatments will be available. While the focus is for the working woman who has not yet retired, all women may attend. Call June Ohlson at 815-875-1593 to register. More info is on the "Events" bulletin

June 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 7:00p—Parish Ed	3	4 8:00a—Worship Committee
5 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Semi-Annual Meeting	6	7 7:00p—Hannah Circle	8	9	10	11 9:30-LCMC gathering
12 <i>Pentecost</i> 10:00 am Ecumenical Buffalo Days Service	13	14	15	16	17	18 8:00-2:00 Relay for Life Rummage Sale
19 <i>Fathers Day</i> 9:00 am Worship Service Caedmons Call concert	20	21 7:00p—Church Council	22	23	24	25
26 9:00 am Worship Service With Holy Communion Youth Mission trip begins	27 7:00p-Night at the ball-park	28 7:00p-Evangelism Committee 7:00p-Youth Team Comm.	29	30		



Pentecost begins

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Address Service Requested

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LA MOILLE, IL 61330



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