

**Mt. Zion Ev. Lutheran Church**

**320 Mt. Zion Dr.**

**Ripon, WI 54971**

***The Sheppard’s Pen***

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND

 **April 2022**

**“The Eyes of the Lord Watch Over Us.”**

Are you worried? Some in school may be worried about the test they have and if they will get a good grade. Some worry about the illness that has struck or worry about death. Some are worried about food for tomorrow. Some are worried about inflation. Some are worried as they watch the events in Ukraine and elsewhere unfold. Some are worried about the threat of a nuclear war.

What are you worried about? As we continue through our lives, many things can be of great concern to us. When our eyes are on the terrible things going on in the world or focused on our personal hardships, we worry. How will this turn out? What will we do? Concern is good but worry is not. Worry comes from a place of fear in our own hearts. We may fear for the lives of others. We may fear for ourselves.

King David teaches us about fear of the Lord. The fear of the Lord is not the terror that fear often is. To fear him is to honor and revere him. In Psalm 34 we are told that David wrote the psalm after he had acted insane before Abimelek (Achish King of Gath) who then sent him away (1 Samuel 21). David endured the same troubles that are common to mankind. He struggled with temptation, sin, and guilt. He endured rough times because of his enemies. David wrote the following:

*Come, children, listen to me. I will teach you the fear of the Lord. 12Who wants to find pleasure in life? Who would love to experience many good days? 13Guard your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. 14Turn from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it. 15The eyes of the Lord watch over the righteous. His ears listen to their cry. 16The face of the Lord is set against those who do evil, to cut off memory of them from the earth.*

*17The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears. From all their distress he delivers them. 18The Lord is close to the brokenhearted. He saves those whose spirits have been crushed. 19Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him from them all. 20He watches over all his bones; not one of them will be broken. 21Evil will slay the wicked. Those who hate the righteous will be found guilty. 22The Lord redeems the soul of his servants. Anyone who takes refuge in him will not be found guilty.* (Psalm 34:12-22 EHV)

We worry, but we have no reason to worry. As David said, the Lord’s eyes are on the righteous. He hears the cry of those who are righteous by faith in the Lord. The Lord delivers them from all their distress. His final deliverance from distress occurs at the time he takes the believers’ souls to be with him in heaven. We call upon his name in our concern for others and for ourselves. He hears our pleas according to his promise that he hears the cries of the righteous. We have no reason to worry, no reason to fear. He has redeemed our souls and we will not be found guilty of sin before him.

**General Announcements**

**Holy Week Schedule**

Maundy Thursday worship with communion

6:30pm

Good Friday worship with communion 1:00pm

Good Friday Tenebrae 6:30pm

Easter SONrise worship 7:00am

Easter breakfast 8:00am

Easter Day Festival worship 9:00am

**Bible Studies**

In the Sunday Bible study hour (10:15-11:15am) we will focus on a series called “10 Lies About God.” In Monday’s Bible study (6:30-7:30pm) we will be finishing “More Prepared To Answer” in a couple of weeks. After that we will begin a study called “The Hand of God Among the Nations.” Please join us!

**Private Communion**

Pastor Sheppard is happy to offer private communion to those who prefer it; simply email him (revmikesheppard@gmail.com) or call him (920-745-0883) to schedule a time.

**Online Streaming**

We are livestreaming on Facebook Live Sundays at 9:00am. Services will also be uploaded to Rumble (Mt. Zion’s channel is ***mtzionripon***) and the link will be posted on the church website in the VIDEOS subheading under the MEDIA tab. Services will still be available on DVD. Please feel free to contact Pastor Sheppard with questions.

**Clavinova**

We have collected **$9,945** of the $10,242 needed to purchase a new Clavinova piano for our sanctuary. Thank you to all who have contributed so far! The Clavinova has now been ordered- we should have it in about 4 months.

**Altar Flowers**

**Lilies:** A sign up sheet has been posted on the flower chart for those who would like to purchase Easter lilies for the services. The price for lilies has gone up to $15.00 ($14.99 each). We can no longer get flowers from Hounsell’s, so checks should be made out to Websters. Please give cash or a check to Marilyn Ninneman. Any questions or if you are purchasing as a memorial let her know. Marilyn’s number is 748-6474.

If you wish to have flowers put on the altar in the future, **please contact Marilyn Ninneman at 748-6474 in addition to signing up on the flower chart.**

**Christian Family Solutions**

*Christian Family Solutions*is a WELS affiliated organization providing counselling services to the hurting. Both in person and video appointments are available for those in need by contacting CFS directly. Mt. Zion is a partner with them through the *Member Assistance Program (MAP).* Our church has a fund dedicated to assisting our members with the cost of these services. If financial assistance is needed, Pastor Sheppard notifies Christian Family Solutions and assistance will be given towards the cost of appointments. Video counseling by computer may be conducted at the church when necessary. For more information, visit [**https://christianfamilysolutions.org**](https://christianfamilysolutions.org)**.**

**Kitchen & Church Cleaning**

2 cleaning lists have been created - one is on the bulletin board upstairs and includes everything except kitchen tasks. Another list is in the kitchen for tasks to complete there. This is open to anyone in the congregation who is willing to help. When you complete a task, please write your name and date completed by that task. Thank you for your help!

**Helping Hands**

If you are interested in helping someone with technology, helping give rides to appointments in Ripon, Berlin, Oshkosh, or Fond du Lac, please let Joanne Gregor know. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please contact Lisa Tremore at 920-229-1297, Tammy Niemuth at 920-299-0240 or Joanne Gregor at 920-896-1518. **If you need assistance of any kind, please do not feel like you are imposing; this is why Helping Hands exists!**

**WLA Capital Campaign**

Winnebago Lutheran Academy is planning to build a new campus within the next 7-10 years. A new campus will provide a new and updated school facility that will benefit all the curricular and co-curricular activities at WLA. In September, 2020, land was purchased on the north side of Hwy 23 one mile west of I-41. The property extends from Hwy 23 to Hwy OOO, nearest to Streblow Dr. and the Community Church. The capital campaign will look to raise funds to eliminate WLA’s current capital debt, provide funds for the purchase of the new land, and to create a fund for minor improvements that need to occur to provide a safe learning environment on the current campus.

Please contact Kevin Ehlke with any questions you may have at 920-539-4041 or kehlke@wlavikings.org. If you would like to give in support of WLA’s current capital campaign*,* you can obtain a brochure from Mt. Zion, or go to [forward.wlavikings.org/donate](http://forward.wlavikings.org/donate).  Gifts can be mailed to WLA or given online at our website.  Thank you for your continued support of WLA!

|  |
| --- |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
|  |

 **New Member**



Eric Eckert is one of our new members. He loves spending time with family and friends and has never met a stranger! His keen sense of humor and warm and thoughtful heart shine through to everyone he meets. He greets everyone with a smile, a word of encouragement and a hug.

His favorite pastimes are watching movies and eating at Culvers.

Eric loves to serve his Lord and is very excited to become a member of Zion. He looks forward to serving the congregation as an usher.

**Technology Crew**

Mt. Zion would like to extend a big thank you to the tech crew who have been so faithfully livestreaming our services to Facebook, putting the videos on DVD and Rumble, and preparing the PowerPoint slides each week. Thank you for your service to our Lord!

**LWMS**

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society is collecting donations for the R.O.C. (Recreation and Outreach Center) in Watertown, WI. The ROC is a safe place where youth grades 7-12 can come and enjoy a free positive and fun environment. It is a place where teens can come and be comfortable, and receive excellent support and guidance in life in a Christ-centered environment. This is a great place for our teens who are attending Luther Preparatory School.

What can we do to help? There is a large container outside the church office where you can put donations for ROC. Suggested donations:

Paper plates, plastic cups, napkins, plastic

utensils

Trash bags – kitchen size and 33-gallon or

larger

Paper towels

Toilet Paper

Tissues

Sanitizing wipes

Toilet bowl cleaner

Glass cleaner

Lysol disinfectant spray

Ziploc bags- all sizes

Gift cards for GameStop or Walmart

PlayStation 4 controllers

Monetary donations can also be given to help pay utilities, rent, etc. Please make checks out to ROC. Deadline for the collection is Saturday morning, April 23rd at 8am. We will be taking these donations to the LWMS spring rally in Juneau that day. For more information, go to

https://watertownroc.org/

**Koiné: Footsteps to the Cross *Illuminated***

Koiné presents “Footsteps to the Cross *Illuminated*” on Saturday, April 9 at 5:00pm at Fox Valley Lutheran High School – 5300 N. Meade St. Appleton. Walk with Jesus from the Mount of Transfiguration to Mount Calvary, as two-time WAMI Award winner Koiné presents a musical passion play of hymns, scriptural narration, and dazzling multimedia. For over a decade, Koiné has delighted audiences throughout the world sharing their modern arrangements of traditional Christian hymns. Experience the Lenten message like never before in this very special presentation.

Admission is free.

**Update from President Schroeder on our Ukraine sister synod**

The situation for our brothers and sisters in the Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC) remains very dire. Thankfully, we have learned that none of the pastors or members have lost their lives, but at least some members report that their homes have been destroyed. Some of the pastors and members have relocated to places that are relatively safe and removed from the heavy fighting, but others remain in areas where military activity is taking place every day. We continue to pray for their safety.

Currently, collecting physical relief items (blankets, water, canned goods, diapers, etc.) to send to Ukraine is not the best option for assisting those impacted. The expense and logistical complexity of getting such items to those who need it make such an effort impractical. We will let you know when and if such efforts become possible.

In addition to gifts through the Ukrainian Lutheran Church, some have made gifts to WELS Christian Aid and Relief (CAR). With those funds, CAR has made grants to Direct Relief ([directrelief.org](http://directrelief.org)) to get aid to those who need assistance, especially for Ukrainian refugees in Poland. To date, WELS Christian Aid and Relief has sent $50,000 to Direct Relief. This highly rated disaster relief organization specializes in providing medical assistance and supplies where they are needed most. They have both the inventory and infrastructure to bring medical aid to an area quickly. We have worked with this organization for many years and trust their work.

Pastor Roger Neumann is the WELS liaison to the ULC; he is in almost daily contact with Bishop Horpynchuk, head of the ULC, and keeps us informed of the latest news and challenges. There are periodic Ukraine updates on the WELS website at [wels.net](http://wels.net).

*Prayer: Lord God, in this world of darkness and evil, the light of your saving gospel continues to shine. Through that good news you have brought people around the world from the darkness of sin and death into your marvelous light. But evil exists, and Satan’s work in this fallen world continues. As many in Ukraine are experiencing unimaginable hardships and suffering, we ask that you would be with them. Protect them, provide for them, and, above all, strengthen their faith and trust in you and your promises. We commend them to your gracious care, knowing that you have promised to be with them always. Even though they are now walking through the shadow of death, enable them to fear no evil. We ask you, in your love and wisdom, to restore peace and safety to those now enduring the horrors of war and bloodshed and to continue to let your gospel message be the comfort and hope that so many desperately need. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.*

**MLC Holy Week Devotions**

Martin Luther College has provided our church with booklets of devotions for Holy Week. These booklets can be found near the Meditations booklets.

**Pioneers Beginning at St. John’s, Princeton**

Attention Youth: St. John’s in Princeton has started a Pioneers group. If anyone is interested in joining either let Jo Meeker know or call Adam Burk at 920-229-2459 for more information.

On the Lighter Side!

**Honor Roll**

Congratulations to the following members who are on the honor roll of Ripon High School for the first semester: Lily Mack, Josephyne Pick, Miya Grunert, Alison Bradley, Adriana Rushani, Ella Weiske, Christian Grunert, Arjeta Rushani, Coral Niemuth, Willow Nitzke, and Mallory Wichman.

**Corrections for March Birthdays:** Marilyn Ninneman was born in **1935**, not 1925; Eugene Schliepp was born in **1954**, not 1959. Apologies for these two errors!



Lonnie & Jane Mann 4/4/1970 52 years

Dennis & Kathy Timm 4/8/1972 50 years

Martin & Connie Ernser 4/24/1981 41 years

Dennis & Robin Scott 4/24/1982 40 years

Dennis & Linda Schliepp 4/27/1974 48 years

Mike & Jo Meeker 4/29/1972 50 years

David & Kathy Sprague 4/30/1977 45 years

Rich & Sue Weckwerth 4/30/1977 45 years

****

Nicole Guell 4/2/95

David Smith 4/2/65

Andrea Schwandt 4/3/04

Mary Bradley 4/4/49

Frank Cole 4/4/98

Allison Taylor 4/7/07

Peggy Walkowicz 4/7/51

Connie Ernser 4/8/56

Gracie Niemuth 4/8/09

Ferd Roeder 4/8/36

Kathleen Dorsey 4/9/43

Liliana Villalobos 4/9/97

Lynne Hartman 4/10/42

Kyle Stollfuss 4/10/81

Lola Heschke 4/11/42

Christine M-Faulks 4/11/51

Cindy Beier 4/12/57

Kayla Tremore 4/12/00

Samantha Peoples 4/13/89

Dennis Gurke 4/14/46

Brenda Dolderer 4/16/61

Claire Ernser 4/16/91

Blake Stollfuss 4/17/12

Edgar Bradley 4/18/47

Taran Fischer 4/19/94

Nicholas Walker 4/19/93

Nancy Lemiesz 4/20/66

Mallory Wichman 4/21/05

JoAnn Milbrath 4/22/40

Gayle Walker 4/22/45

Nicholas Schwark 4/24/86

Brett Malkowski 4/26/02

Austin Fischer 4/29/93

Dorothy Frank 4/30/33

Mt. Zion Messenger

April, 2022

Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

320 Mt. Zion Dr. Ripon, WI 54971

Pastor Michael Sheppard

**Church Email: mountzionripon@gmail.com**

Church Website: www.mtzionripon.org

Pastor’s Office: 920-748-9734

Pastor’s Email: revmikesheppard@gmail.com

**Newsletter Articles**

**Since there will be more than one person assembling the newsletter, please email the church office with news/articles.** Deadline for articles for the May edition is April 22nd, 2022. Please either give news/articles to Jo Meeker or email them to the church office at **mountzionripon@gmail.com****.**

***We are always looking for human interest news from our members! If there is any incorrect information, please let us know that as well.***