

**Mt. Zion Ev. Lutheran Church**

**320 Mt. Zion Dr.**

**Ripon, WI 54971**

***The Sheppard’s Pen***

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**April, 2024**

**The Sundays after Pentecost (The Trinity Season)**

Christ and his work for our salvation continues to be at the center of our worship throughout the year. The first half of the church year, Advent through Easter, focuses on our Savior and the work he did for us. The second half of the church year focuses on Christ as he works in us, the church.

The first Sunday of this season is Holy Trinity Sunday, also called the first Sunday after Pentecost. The focus of this festival is God who is Triune: one God in three persons and three persons in one God. Often on this day of the church year, the congregation confesses our faith with the Athanasian Creed, which is a clear confession of the Trinity and the two natures of Christ - human and divine.

The Sundays that follow Pentecost continue until the end of November when it is again time for Advent. The color on the altar for this season is Green. The last Sunday after Pentecost is called Christ the King Sunday, and falls at the end of November.

Previously, the last four Sundays of the church year were set apart as End Times. Each Sunday had a specific focus: Reformation, Last Judgment, Saints Triumphant, and Christ the King. Although these four Sundays are no longer set apart as a separate season of the church year, those last four Sundays after Pentecost do focus on the end times.

During this season we may also find a few festivals and occasions. October 31st is the festival of Reformation. October 31st is the day when Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-five Theses on the church door in Wittenberg. This may seem drastic to us but at that time the church door was where notices would be placed. Martin Luther intended to debate issues, such as indulgences, in the Roman Catholic Church. The questions proposed by these theses and the answers of scripture sparked the Reformation.

Such national holidays as Fathers’ Day, Mothers’ Day, Independence Day, Memorial Day, and Labor Day are not part of the church year. They provide us with an opportunity to consider topics like Christian parenting and the two kingdoms in which we live: God’s kingdom and the earthly state. (The two kingdoms are also reflected in the two flags which stand in the front of our church sanctuary.)

Occasions such as Christian Education, Father’s Day, Mother’s Day, Nation and many more are listed in our hymnal. The occasions listed can be a focus of any Sunday or midweek service throughout the church year. Some congregations have specific customs regarding when these occasions are held. Some occasions such as church anniversary or dedication of a church building may occur less often.

This concludes our brief overview of the Christian church year. Next month we will focus on the architecture of our church building. The sanctuary has much symbolism reminding us of God’s love and blessings to us in Christ.

**General Announcements**

**Pictorial Directory Update**

Good Impressions is currently putting together our directory. Last month we said each family would be given one book free of charge, and a 5x7 paper copy. Please note that the council is still determining whether to charge a small amount per book; we will let everyone know if there is a cost for your book and what that will be **If anyone would like a digital copy of your picture that Miya Grunert took of you with the background, please contact Miya at** ***miyagrunert@gmail.com******.***

**Council Minutes**

The approved church council minutes will be posted monthly on the bulletin board by the office. For your convenience, the councilmen are listed below. Please continue to pray for them and support them in their work.

**President:** Mike Meeker

**Vice President:** Ken Hielke

**Secretary:** Mark Roeder

**Treasurer:** Tom (TJ) Sitter

**Worship Elder:** Rick Niemuth

**Support Elder:** Rick Retelle

**Member Nurture Elder:** Gary Wichman

**Family Nurture Elder:** Tim Lynch

**Evangelism Elder:** DuWayne Wichman

**Bible Studies**

Monday evenings at 6:30pm we are looking at Luther’s Large Catechism; Tuesday mornings at 9:00am we are studying the book of Ruth; and Sunday mornings at around 10:15am we are continuing the series called “Influencing God’s Children.” Please join us for one or more of the classes!

**Greeters**

Many greeter slots have been filled already – thank you! If you are interested in being greeters for a few Sundays in 2024, please sign up on the sheet on the podium by the library.

**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 our services 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.

**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)**.**

**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!**



Since 2005, children have been supporting the Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society (LWMS) Kids C.A.R.E. (care about reaching everyone with the gospel) program. Through Kids C.A.R.E. our children learn about and support our synod’s home and world mission projects. Mt. Zion has participated in Kids C.A.R.E. since 2013. This year’s Kids C.A.R.E. project will be a home mission program, Missionary Kids Retreats. This year we will support our WELS missionary kids with our prayers and offerings to help them attend these much-needed annual retreats. You can donate to this mission using the blank line on your offering envelopes. Please consider giving an offering to Missionary Kids Retreat as well as keeping this year’s Kid C.A.R.E. project in your prayers.

**New Member Welcome Potluck**

Our annual New Member Welcome potluck will be held April 14th after the voters’ meeting, at approximately 11:00am. All members are invited to bring a dish to pass and welcome our 5 new members that joined Mt. Zion last year.

**Latch hook Rug Update**

An insert has been in the bulletin seeking people to help work on the rug. Later this month, times will be set up to learn how to latch hook, as well as a calendar for working on it in groups. Watch the weekly bulletin and next month’s newsletter for details.

**LWMS**

*Beaver Dam Circuit Spring Rally*

*NEW DATE: Saturday, April 27, 2024*

*NEW RALLY SITE: Zion Lutheran Church, KINGSTON* 326 Vine Street Kingston WI

F**eatured speaker at the Beaver Dam Spring Rally will be Pastor Daniel Sims, Director of WELS Christian Aid and Relief.**His talk will be about God sending us to serve in a volatile world to people in need of compassionate care and spiritual nurturing.

We will be sending offerings to:

1. **Children’s Ministry Outreach** Your gifts will assist home mission congregations looking to begin programs to reach this special demographic by sharing Jesus through music, crafts, and fellowship as parents/caregivers and their young children interact in a safe, caring, and welcoming environment.
2. **New World Mission Fields** More than 7,000 people-groups in the world live without access to the good news of Jesus Christ. With these unreached people-groups and the Great Commission in mind, the Board for World Missons is looking to approve new locations to plant world mission fields. Mission fields have already been planted in London and Bangladesh. Locations being explored include Senegal, Dubai, New Zealand, Native American tribes, and Australia. Your gifts will allow for thorough follow-up research as well as exploratory trips to each new location.
3. **Native Christian Ministries, Peridot-Our Savior’s Lutheran School, Peridot, Arizona**. The donations collected will go to support Peridot’s two building projects: 1) a new school and 2) teacher housing. With a student/teacher ratio of 38:1, school expansion and on-reservation housing to accommodate a bigger teaching staff are badly needed.
4. **Christian Aid and Relief**The mission of Christian Aid and Relief is to reflect Christ’s love and compassion to souls suffering from disasters and hardships. Because of what Christ has freely done for us, we eagerly show we care by offering our time, talents, and treasures to those in need. We are able to carry out this ministry of compassion because of your heartfelt prayers and generous financial support.

We at Mount Zion are able to send generous offerings for these mission projects by hosting a pancake breakfast, a Lenten Supper and through free will offerings given by our members through their envelopes (mark on the envelope LWMS)  as well as baskets located at the back of the church various times of the year.. God bless your offerings!!!

***MARK THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR : APRIL 27***

We hope that women (and men) can attend the rally on April 27th to learn more about our missions. Look for more information to follow in the bulletin as it gets closer to the date.

**Second Impressions**

**Store Hours**

Tuesday thru Friday **9** AM – **6** PM

Monday and Saturday **9** AM – **3** PM

**Donation Accepted Times**

 Monday **10** AM – **3** PM

Tuesday thru Friday **10** AM – **4** PM

 Saturday **10** AM – **3** PM

**New Items Arrive Daily**...**Come** **Over And Check Them Out!**

**From the Second Impressions Facebook page:** Because Wisconsin is doing all of the seasons right now, we have a huge selection of both coats and swimsuits available!

We received a great donation of Red Kap work pants.

Lots of other treasures to peek at, as always.

**Donations:**  Thank you to everyone who has so generously donated to our store! We can always use any type of donation. Items ACCEPTED include, but are not limited to: Furniture (Please call ahead before donating large furniture!), In-Season Clothing, Purses, Shoes, Jewelry, Tools & Hardware, Pictures & Frames, Home Décor, Christmas & Seasonal/Holiday Items, Arts & Crafts, Toys, Kitchen & Glassware, Books, Linens/Towels/Sheets.

**Student Needs Closet**

Thank you for your contributions so far for the Student Needs Closet!

There are two boxes near the water fountain (by the office) where donations can be placed. Each month there will be a list of items that are needed for the closet. Information about the items for the closet will be in the weekly bulletins, as well as the monthly newsletter.

By supporting and collecting donations for The Student Needs Closet, we can help the students of the Ripon Area School District, help Emmy Jess (and Miya) maintain and stock the closet; along with using this as an opportunity to serve the Lord in our community.

**Items needed for the Ripon Area School District Student Needs Closet**

**High Priority:**

Mens’ shampoo

Mens’ body wash

Mens’ deodorant

Womens’ deodorant

Bar soap

**Also need:**

Girls’ shampoo

Feminine products

Body wipes and/or baby wipes

Toothbrushes

Chapstick

Fabric freshener (travel size)

Band-aids

**Could also use:**

Kleenex

Toothpaste

Combs/brushes

Body mist/spray

Travel size laundry detergent

**On The lighter Side**

**Caramel Apple Cheesecake Bars**

**By Donna Mueller**

Crust and Filling:

2 c. flour

½ c. brown sugar, firmly packed

1 c. butter, softened

¾ c. + 2 T. sugar, divided

3 lg. eggs

11/2 t. vanilla

3 Granny Smith apples, peeled cored and finely chopped

½ t. cinnamon

¼ t. nutmeg

Preheat oven to 350. In a medium bowl, combine flour and brown sugar. Cut in butter and mix until crumbled. Press into a 9x13-inch baking pan lined with aluminum foil. Bake 15 minutes or until lightly browned. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese with ¾ c. sugar until smooth. Add eggs one at a time and vanilla, stirring after each addition. Pour over warm crust In a small bowl, stir together apples, remaining 2 T. sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg. Spoon evenly over cream cheese mixture.

Streusel Topping:

1 c. brown sugar, firmly packed

1 c. flour

½ c. quick cooking oats

½ c. butter, softened

½ c. caramel ice cream topping

In a small bowl, combine brown sugar, flour, oats and butter. Mix and sprinkle over apples. Bake 40-45 minutes, or until filling is set. Drizzle with caramel topping and let cool. Serve cold.



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| Lonnie and Jane Mann | 4/4/1970 |
| Dennis and Kathy Timm | 4/8/1972 |
| Martin and Connie Ernser | 4/24/1981 |
| Dennis and Robin Scott | 4/24/1982 |
| Dennis and Linda Schliepp | 4/29/1974 |
| Mike and Joelitta Meeker | 4/29/1972 |
| David and Kathleen Sprague | 4/30/1977 |
| Richard and Susan Weckwerth | 4/30/1977 |

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| David Smith  | 4/2 |  | Katherine Tremore | 4/12 |
| Andrea Schwandt | 4/3 |  | Samantha Peoples  | 4/13 |
| Mary Bradley | 4/4 |  | Dennis Gurke  | 4/14 |
| Cole Frank | 4/4 |  | Rueben Goeldi  | 4/15 |
| Allison Taylor | 4/7 |  | Brenda Dolderer | 4/16 |
| Connie Ernser | 4/8 |  | Blake Stollfuss  | 4/17 |
| Gracie Niemuth | 4/8 |  | Edgar Bradley  | 4/18 |
| Ferd Roeder | 4/8 |  | Taran Fischer  | 4/19 |
| Kathleen Dorsey | 4/9 |  | Nicholas Walker  | 4/19 |
| Liliana Villalobos | 4/9 |  | Nancy Lemiesz  | 4/20 |
| Lynne Hartman | 4/10 |  | Mallory Wichman  | 4/21 |
| Kyle Stollfuss | 4/10 |  | JoAnn Milbrath  | 4/22 |
| Lola Heschke | 4/11 |  | Gayle Walker | 4/22 |
| Christine Faulks | 4/11 |  | Austin Fischer | 4/29 |
| Cindy Beier | 4/12 |  | Dorothy Frank | 4/30 |
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**Mt. Zion Messenger**

April, 2024

**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**

Deadline for articles for the May edition is April 22, 2024. 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.***