

**Mt. Zion Ev. Lutheran Church**

**320 Mt. Zion Dr.**

**Ripon, WI 54971**

***The Sheppard’s Pen***

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**February 2023**

**The Lord Points Out His Servant!**

*1Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight. I am placing my Spirit on him. He will announce a just verdictfor the nations. 2He will not cry out. He will not raise his voice. He will not make his voice heard in the street. 3A bent reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not snuff out. He will faithfully bring forth a just verdict. 4He will not burn out, and he will not be broken until he establishes justice on the earth. The coastlands will wait for his law.**This is what the true God says, the Lord who creates the heavens and stretches them out, who spreads out the earth and everything that it produces, who gives breath to the people on it and life to those who walk on it. 6I am the Lord. I have called you in righteousness. I will hold on to your hand, and I will guard you. I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people, to be a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon, and to bring those who sit in darkness out of prison. 8I am the Lord; that is my name. I will not give my glory to another, nor my praise to idols. 9Look, the former things have taken place, and I am declaring new things. I am making them known to you before they spring forth.* (Isaiah 42:1-9 EHV)

The Lord has many servants. The pages of God’s Word speak of many servants who served God, whom he called to serve to fulfill his purposes. We remember Isaiah whom the Lord called to preach his word to Israel. The Lord called such men as Moses and David his servants. They served the Lord as leaders of Israel. They at times used force as they led the people of Israel. They brought justice, but not to all the nations. But out of all of them, there is one servant to whom the Lord directly points. He delighted in his servants, but this servant upon whom the Lord would place his Spirit would announce a just verdict for the nations. God’s justice condemns sinners and all people fall under that condemnation because of their sin. This servant would do something no other servant would do. Moses brought justice as he led Israel. But this servant would bring justice for the nations. He would bring the verdict of not guilty. He would give righteousness to the unrighteous. He would do this without force. He would be gentle.

Jesus is the servant spoken of here in this section of Isaiah. He came in gentleness and humility. He came to bring justification for sinners as he suffered and died. He brought a new covenant accomplished by him for sinners. While our Savior did heal many who were blind during his earthly ministry, Jesus brought sight to us who were blind in our trespasses. He freed us from the darkness of the prison of sin, death, and hell. The Lord appointed him for this purpose and now that purpose has been accomplished.

Long before our Savior’s birth the Lord spoke of his servant who would bring us righteousness from God. As we begin the Lenten season this year, we will follow in “His Final Steps.” We’ll follow our Lord Jesus, the Servant of the Lord, as he walked through the events of Holy Week, walking to the cross to offer himself as the payment for our sins. We will see him on Easter step out of the tomb in victory. Join us on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023 as we begin to follow his final steps.

**General Announcements**

**Mt. Zion Church Council**

These are the members of the church council for 2023. You may address any concerns to the appropriate council member.

**President:** Mike Meeker

**Vice President:** Ken Hielke

**Secretary:** Mark Roeder

**Treasurer:** Todd Zellmer

**Worship Elder:** Rick Niemuth

**Support Elder:** Rick Retelle

**Member Nurture Elder:** Paul Walkowicz

**Family Nurture Elder:** Tim Lynch

**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.

**Sound System**

As you may be aware, we have started a fund for a new Audio/Visual system. The improvements are necessary to accommodate our recent and future technology additions. The current amount in the fund is $9,475.00. We are coming up with a plan as to what should be repaired/replaced first. If you wish to contribute to the fund, you may use the regular church envelopes and write Audio System next to your donation. Thank you.

**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)**.**

**Altar Flowers**

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.**

**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!**

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**Kids C.A.R.E.:**

In September, we launched the LWMS Kids C.A.R.E. home mission project, “Mi Amigo Jesús” (My Friend Jesus), for the Family Ministry Outreach Fund–Hispanic Ministries. This Kids C.A.R.E. project will support home mission congregations that want to begin or expand outreach efforts to their Hispanic families and communities with toddler/early childhood social interactive programs, such as Mornings with Mommy. You can support this home mission by using your weekly offering envelopes. Thank you for your support. Please keep Kids C.A.R.E. in your prayers.

**Mission Festival/New Member Welcome**

Mt. Zion’s Mission Festival and New Member Welcome will be held Sunday, March 5th. Pastor Wayne Shevey from Wisconsin Lutheran College will give a presentation about WLC. A pancake and sausage breakfast will be served with a freewill offering collected for LWMS. Our new members from 2022 will also be recognized at that time.

**Church Phone Directory**

An updated phone directory is being produced for our members. There will be sheets on 2 tables on either side of the drinking fountains for you to check your family’s information and make corrections as needed.

**LWMS**

**Meet one of our new Befriend a Missions for the year 2023**

Pastor Benjamin J. Berger is serving Ascension Ev. Lutheran Church, a Home Mission at 320 N. 72nd Street, Harrisburg, PA  17111. He is married to Rebecca.

When asked to talk about his mission church, he responded:

1. We're in the midst of a strategic planning process to lay out short term and long-term plans for the ministry.
2. We're working on a building renovation plan.
3. The church is a mix of old and new. Some folks have been at Ascension since almost the beginning, but many are new in the last several years. We've got a good bunch of young families and have recently started a young adult group to minister to the 18 to 30 somethings.
4. We hope to start a small group ministry in the coming year.
5. We're still trying to figure out how best to connect with and engage with our community. Plenty of opportunities!
6. COVID led us to upgrade our online streaming capabilities. It's not perfect, but certainly is a blessing to our ministry. Our next step is to upgrade our sound system (same as Mt. Zion), especially since the audio is not great on the stream.

On a personal note, Pastor Berger’s birthday is November 20 and his wife Becca’s is November 20. Becca works at the local library where she is a supervisor. They are praying their bat litigation efforts are successful as they are dealing with a bat problem in their attic. (If you have ever experienced bats in the attic the screeching noises are quite annoying at night.) Pastor and his wife are praying for the gift of children in God’s time.

Please keep Pastor Berger and his wife in your prayers as he serves in a WELS home mission field.

**WLA Capital Campaign Update**

The Forward in Faith capital campaign concluded recently. This campaign was the first step towards a new WLA campus. Over the past two years, over $2.6 million has been given to the campaign, and another $400,000 in gifts have been given outside the campaign. The land loan will be retired soon.

**2023 Men of His Word Conference**

**MAN UP: in a man down world**

This year’s theme states succinctly what Christian men are supposed to do (Man Up!) and how the world/society is treating men (a man down world).

Joshua 24:14a encourages us, “**Fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly and faithfully**” (EHV). Joshua was delivering his "farewell sermon" to the Israelites, encouraging them to "man up" by honoring the LORD, removing spiritual distractions and keeping focused on a life of grateful, devoted service to God. Joshua urged the people to make God-pleasing use of their sanctified freewill by choosing to serve the LORD, not false gods, and by being faithful to the LORD, not foolishly pursuing their sinful whims of the past. Without being prideful, Joshua directed the people to observe himself and his own family as examples, by saying, "As for me and my household - we will serve the LORD!" Join us to learn how you can MAN UP in this man down world.

The 14th Annual MOHW Conference will be held at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center in Oshkosh on Saturday, February 18, 2023. Additional details and online registration are available at www.menofhisword.org . The registration fee is $60 for adults and $30 for youth – these rates increase to $75 and $37 respectively after January 29th. Please join us for a day of worship, praise and fellowship in God’s Word!

**Synod News**

**100 Missions in 10 Years**

At the 2021 Synod Convention, delegates enthusiastically approved a WELS Home Missions initiative to plant 100 home mission churches and enhance 75 ministires in 10 years beginning in 2023. During the same time, we want to support 75 enhancement grants to help existing congregations reach more souls, often in other cultures. This is a BIG challenge. An impossible one you might say. But this initiative isn’t as much about planting more churches but about sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. It’s about aggressively reaching lost souls. We pray that God will bless our efforts, trusing that he is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. Learn more about this initiative, stay up to date on progress, and learn how you can get involved in this synod-wide church planting effort at **wels100in10.net.**

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| Joan Stibb | 2/1/1943 |
| Julia Luther | 2/3/1949 |
| Heidi Eilerson | 2/4/1978 |
| Myles Pierce | 2/6/2002 |
| Jerome Witkowski | 2/6/1953 |
| Mary Clement | 2/7/1941 |
| Samuel Jung | 2/7/2006 |
| Todd Zellmer | 2/7/1970 |
| Shirley Erdman-Schroeder | 2/10/1945 |
| Miya Grunert | 2/10/2006 |
| Samantha Storzer | 2/11/1997 |
| Dianne Olsen | 2/13/1950 |
| Arjeta Rushani | 2/13/2007 |
| Bernice Ziebell | 2/14/1936 |
| Elaine Schmudlach | 2/15/1940 |
| Megan Storzer | 2/16/2001 |
| Eunice Lemiesz | 2/19/1940 |
| Ronald Lemiesz | 2/22/1973 |
| Ben Isaac | 2/23/1990 |
| Derek Chitwood | 2/24/1987 |
| Kenneth Hielke | 2/25/1962 |
| Avis Lindeman | 2/29/1936 |



Randy and Tammy Weckwerth 2/2/2022

Maurice and Debra Picchiotino 2/3/1984

**Mt. Zion Messenger**

February 2023

**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 March edition is February 21st, 2023. 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.***