

**Mt. Zion Ev. Lutheran Church**

**320 Mt. Zion Dr.**

**Ripon, WI 54971**

***The Sheppard’s Pen***

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**January, 2022**

**A New Hymnal?**

Just over thirty years ago, I remember in high school hearing about what some referred to as “the new hymnal.” At church we began to sing hymns that were printed in a book called “The Sampler.” -- new hymns that weren’t what we were used to. The year I graduated from Michigan Lutheran Seminary was the year when “the new hymnal” was sent out to our synod’s schools, congregations, and members. *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* wasn’t quite the same size as hymnals we were used to. It had different words that replaced King James English for current English. Of course, there was a time when *The Lutheran Hymnal* (1941) was “the new hymnal” recommended for use in our synod’s congregations. Prior to that it was the 1912 hymnbook. German hymnals were used in many congregations as well in our synod years ago.

This year our synod’s hymnal committee has completed its work. Now again we hear of “a new hymnal.” Some of you may have had a chance to look it over. Some may have opened one and turned quickly to see if favorite hymns are still there. Overall, the words of the various services are similar to those in *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*. As with anything new there are new things in it, such as hymns, psalms, and devotional services. Unfortunately, we might be disappointed if one of our favorites is not found inside. But we recognize that there are so many beautiful hymns, many familiar, that choices had to be made. God’s people of past generations have written hymns filled with the gospel and with the teachings of the Scriptures. Others more recently have written equally beautiful hymns that bring joy in praising the Triune God. Only so many hymns can be included. The hymnal committee needed to make choices.

Just as the first German hymnal expressed the truth of God’s Word in praise to the Almighty, many hymnals written in many languages in the five hundred years since have also served this joyful purpose. Now we are presented with Christian Worship with its changes, its blue cover and the stylized Chi-Rho symbol on the cover. Changes have been made inside as well. But the question to ask is: “Does it correctly proclaim the truth of God’s Word?” Our synod works always to proclaim God’s Word truthfully and boldly. After the diligent work of our synod’s hymnal committee, our synod in convention has now approved this hymnal for our use.

Before we at Mt. Zion begin to use *Christian Worship* (2021), we need to spend time together exploring its pages so that we understand what has been printed and how we may use it for our worship of our God. On Sunday, January 9th during the Bible Study hour, we will assemble in the church sanctuary to review together this hymnal and discuss how we will implement its use.

(Please note: Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal is often designated CW93 and *Christian Worship*, our new hymnal, is designated CW21.)

**General Announcements**

**Bible Studies**

On January 9th please join us in the sanctuary to discuss the new hymnal and implementing it. Beginning January 16, in the Sunday study we will begin watching the second season of the series “The Chosen” and discussing. Monday's study will continue in the book "More Prepared to Answer."

**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.

**Online Offerings**

The app for online giving has changed. Instead of the GivePlus app, those who wish to donate online with a smartphone will need to download a new app called *Vanco Mobile* from either the Google Play Store or Apple App Store. Your login credentials will remain the same with the new app. The GivePlus app will no longer be supported after January 31, 2022; however, **any recurring gift that you have already scheduled will continue to be made without interruption.** You may also continue to donate from the church website using the DONATION button.

**Choir**

Attention singers! We are always looking for new members to join our adult choir, especially men. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:15pm. During Lent rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Praising God while having fun is our motto. You don’t have to be the world’s best singer.  Everyone is welcome!!!

**Clavinova**

 We have collected $5,780 of the $9,934 needed to purchase a new Clavinova piano for our sanctuary. Thank you to all who have contributed so far!

**Kitchen & Church Cleaning**

2 fall/winter 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!

**Poinsettias**

Thank you to all who purchased poinsettias to beautify the church for Christmas! Thank you also to Ken Hielke for making the wooden holder for carrying the altar flower inserts. It was so much appreciated!

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.**

**Tshirt Sale**

Mt. Zion is having a T-shirt sale in January. Many of you purchased t-shirts in 2019 when we had our first sale with the new church logo. We are again selling men's t-shirts, sizes small to at least 3XL in various colors. We need a minimum of 18 shirts to complete an order. The cost will be approximately $7.00 per shirt. A signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board by the office.

**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. Recently, Tom Schermerhorn came to Mt. Zion on two Sundays to give updates on the land purchase, and to introduce our members to the capital campaign. This 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!

**2022 MOHW**

The 13th annual Men of His Word Conference (Theme: MORE THAN CONQUERORS) will be held at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center in Oshkosh on Saturday, February 19, 2022. Please go online at [www.menofhisword.org](http://www.menofhisword.org) to register and get details about schedule, breakout sessions, keynote speaker, cost, etc.

On the Lighter Side!

 

Gary and Katherine Gitzel 1/3/1986

Thomas and Lisa Henning 1/3/2013

Allen and Linda Judas 1/14/2000

Ferd and Mildred Roeder 1/19/2014

Larry and Sally Ehrenberg 1/23/1960

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Robert Kranz 1/1/1972

Kyle Hilke 1/2/2001

Vicky Dickerson 1/4/1971

Bennett Gonzalez 1/5/2009

Joelitta Meeker 1/7/1953

Lincoln Chitwood 1/8/2020

Dennis Timm 1/10/1952

Edward Manske 1/11/1939

Sara Miller 1/11/1981

Randal Revels 1/1/1964

Richard Zelmer 1/12/1945

Janet Brooks 1/16/1945

David Patchett 1/16/1944

Carter Bradley 1/17/2003

Lisa Henning 1/21/1987

Janice Ohlrich 1/24/1954

Caitlin Goeldi 1/25/1989

Vincent Goeldi 1/25/2020

Brittany Taylor 1/25/1996

Julius Zrinsky 1/25/2002

Lisa Schsandt 1/26/1968

Troy Gregor 1/28/1978

Sara Grunert 1/28/1978

Helen Timm 1/28/1929

Michael Jung Sr. 1/30/1973



Mt. Zion Messenger

January, 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 February edition is January 20th, 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.***