

**Mt. Zion Ev. Lutheran Church**

**320 Mt. Zion Dr.**

**Ripon, WI 54971**

***The Sheppard’s Pen***



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**MAY 2022**

**“Lord guard our hearts and mouths.”**

*3Set a guard over my mouth, Lord.  
Keep watch over the door of my lips.  
4Do not let my heart turn toward anything evil,  
to take part in wicked deeds with men who do evil.  
Let me not taste their delicacies.*

*5Let a righteous man strike me—it is mercy.  
Let him rebuke me—it is lotionon my head.   
My head will not refuse it.* (Psalm 141:3-5 EHV)

These verses are part of a prayer of David he wrote. He calls upon the Lord to guard his mouth describing his lips as a door. Why ask the Lord to do this? What is he asking? Doors allow us to pass in or out. Through the doors of our mouths pass delicious morsels. Out through those same doors come words. Good words and bad words, God-pleasing words and sinful words come out of our mouths. They come from within, from our hearts.

Sinful words come out when we are angry or hurt. We speak gossip that seems like a juicy morsel but is bitter. We stop to think about something we said and understand that we shouldn’t have said it. We have sinned. Sin from within our hearts directed our mouth. We try to guard our mouth from sinful uses, but fail and fall short of accomplishing it.

Yet our mouths also bring out words that are pleasing to God. They flow from a heart that rejoices in Christ’s redemption and forgiveness of our sins. The Lord who forgives your sin and mine is our refuge. His love and mercy he gives us in Christ Jesus.

As the psalmist says, *My eyes look to you, Lord God. In you I take refuge.* (Psalm 141:8 EHV) We, like David, pray that the Lord would guard our hearts and minds so that we do not taste the delicacies of those who do evil. We pray too that the Lord bring us correction through a righteous man. It is our desire as it was for David to honor and praise God in our lives. Praise God who created us, who redeemed us, and who forgives our sins for the sake of our Lord Jesus.

**General Announcements**

**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 continue 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](about:blank)) 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.

**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.**

**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!**

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**LWMS**

***Mark your calendar for Sunday, June 12th***

**Who: All members of Mt. Zion**

**What: Pie and ice cream social**

**When: After church on Sunday June 12th**

**Where: Church fellowship hall**

**You may eat in the fellowship hall or take the wonderful dessert home and enjoy at your leisure. Please stop down have a piece of pie with or without ice cream. Yum!!!!!!!**

**A Free will offering will be accepted for the *Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society Send One Sister (SOS) Fund.* Send One Sister (SOS)**was designed to give a woman, who might not otherwise be able to attend a national convention because of financial reasons, a chance to attend her first convention by using SOS funds. Mt Zion ladies would like to help the Beaver Dam LWMS Circuit send a few women to the convention in La Crosse in 2023.

**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!

**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.*

**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!



Fred and Pamela Krahn 5/6/1989

Donald and Faye Theune 5/14/2007

Terry and Sara Grunert 5/15/1999

Gary and Jacqueline Quade 5/16/1981

Steven and Lori Minch 5/17/1986

DuWayne and Susan Wichman 5/21/1983

Michael and Susan Sheppard 5/26/2002

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Raymond Ziebel 5/4/37

Andrew Bradley 5/5/82

MacKenzie Klettke 5/5/98

Quinn Ewald 5/7/10

Joshua Lemiesz 4/7/93

Benjie Niemuth 5/8/54

Cherie Anderson 5/9/47

Karen Baranczyk 5/9/47

Karen Reiser 5/10/43

Amber Sandstrom 5/10/99

Richard Weckwerth5/10/53

Kelly Hilke 5/15/74

Hailey Wichman 5/15/01

Justin Kohn 5/16/82

Sara Schneider 5/20/70

Isaac Stollfuss 5/21/08

David Schackow 5/22/55

Jane Mann 5/24/48

Carrielee Chappa 5/25/79

Katharine Lietzau 5/26/84

David Sprague 5/26/51

Paul Walkowicz 5/26/49

Ryan Sondalle 5/27/88

Christian Gonzales 5/28/11

Sarah Isaac 5/28/92

Kathryn Roeder 5/29/60

Michelle Sieler 5/30/98

Tobin Storzer 5/30/60

Diagram

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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](about:blank)

Pastor’s Office: 920-748-9734

Pastor’s Email: [revmikesheppard@gmail.com](about:blank)

**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 June edition is May 19th, 2022. Please either give news/articles to Jo Meeker or email them to the church office at [**mountzionripon@gmail.com**](mailto: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.***