

**Mt. Zion Ev. Lutheran Church**

**320 Mt. Zion Dr.**

**Ripon, WI 54971**

***The Sheppard’s Pen***

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**MAY, 2023**

**Why do we baptize infants?**

Why do we baptize infants? Why is that important? Our Savior directs his disciples to make disciples by baptizing and teaching them. Matthew 28:19 says, *19Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them inthe name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and by teaching them to keep all the instructions I have given you. And surely I am with you always until the end of the age.”* (EHV)

On the day of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter spoke of baptism for the forgiveness of sins and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. He stated that this promise was for the people and their children. Baptism is for people of all ages including infants. Acts 2:38,39 says, *38Peter answered them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of yoursins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call.”* (EHV)

King David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, explained that we are sinners from the moment when we are conceived. From that moment each of us is a human being, a new life, and a sinner in need of rescue. Psalm 51:5 says, *Certainly, I was guilty when I was born. I was sinful when my mother conceived me*. (EHV)

Jesus also spoke of baptism. He said: John 3:5,6 *5Jesus answered, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God! 6Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7Do not be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. 8The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”* (EHV) Baptism brings the sinner into God’s kingdom. For the Holy Spirit works faith and gives salvation to the one who is baptized. The Holy Spirit works a miracle.

Jesus further spoke of children who believe in him. Children are sinners in whom the Holy Spirit works faith through the gospel in word and sacrament. Baptism is for little children too. Mark 10:13-16 *13Some people began bringing little children to Jesus so that he would touch them. But the disciples rebuked them. 14When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said, “Let the little children come to me! Do not hinder them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15Amen I tell you: Whoever will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” 16And he took the little children in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.* (EHV)

In his *Large Catechism* Martin Luther spoke against those who opposed infant baptism.

At this point a question arises that the devil uses to confuse the world through his sects, the question of infant Baptism. Can also children believe, and may they rightfully be baptized? To this we answer briefly: Let simple and unlearned folk put the question out of their minds and let the learned discuss it.

But if you must answer the question, then answer as follows: The fact that infant Baptism pleases Christ is amply proved by His own activity, that is to say that the Lord sanctified and gave the Holy Spirit to many who were baptized as infants. And in our day still there is many a one from whose doctrine and life one perceives that he has the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is given also to us by the grace of God, so that we are able to interpret the Scriptures and to know Christ, which could not happen without him. Now, if it were so that God does not accept infant Baptism as valid, then he would not give the Holy Spirit, not even bit of Him, to anyone baptized in infancy. In short, in all the long time from the past down to the present, there could not have been Christians on earth if infant Baptism were not valid. Since as is perfectly recognizable in such church fathers as St. Bernard, Gerson, John Hus, and others who were baptized in infancy, and since the Holy Christian church will continue to the end of the world, our opponents must acknowledge that infant Baptism is pleasing to God. For he can never go against Himself, foster lies and evils, or give His grace and Spirit for such purposes. This is about the best and strongest proof for simple and unlearned persons. For this article of faith, “I believe in one holy Christian church, the communion of saints; etc.,” no one can take from us, no one can overthrow.

Furthermore, our prime concern here is not whether or not the baptized person believes; for if he does not believe, his Baptism itself does not on that account become invalid. Everything depends instead on God’s Word and promise. This point is perhaps a little subtle, but it is based on what I said previously, that Baptism is nothing else than water and God’s Word joined in and with each other; this means that when the Word comes together with the water, then Baptism is valid even if faith is lacking in the person being baptized. For my faith does not make Baptism what it is; rather, faith accepts what Baptism is. So Baptism does not become invalid even if it is wrongly taken or used, for it is bound not to our faith but to the Word.

For even though this very day a Jew were to come with deceitfulness and evil intent and we in good faith baptized him, we would nevertheless have to affirm that the Baptism was valid. For the water would be there together with the Word, even though the man did not receive it as he should have done. Here the situations is the same as for those who partake unworthily of the Lord’s Supper: they receive the true sacrament even though they do not believe.

So you see that the objections of the sectarians are worth nothing. As we said, even if infants did not believe (which, however, is not the case, as we have proved), yet their Baptism would be valid, and no one should baptize them again. It is here as with the Lord’s Supper, which is not nullified even for a person who might have received it with evil intent; he would not, in view of his misuse of it, be allowed to take it again in the same worship hour, as if he had not really received the Sacrament in the first place. That would be blaspheming and desecrating the Sacrament in the worst possible way. How could we dare to suppose that the Word and ordinance of God become wrong and invalid because of our wrong use of it.?

I therefore say this: If you did not believe before this, then believe now and confess, “My Baptism was indeed a right Baptism, but, sad to say, I did not receive it rightly.”

(Luther’s Large Catechism, CPH, 1978, pp.104-106)

**General Announcements**

**Pictorial Directory**

**It’s time to produce a new pictorial directory for Mt. Zion. This time we will do it all “in-house.” One (or two) of our members will take all the pictures over the summer months; we would like as many as possible to have their pictures taken at church. 2023 is the 80th anniversary of Mt. Zion, so the goal is to have the book ready by the end of the year. Watch the bulletin, newsletter, and Facebook page for further details about this project.**

**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.

**Sound System**

Donations to help update our sound system are still welcomed. We have ordered four new microphones at the time of this writing. 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.

**The Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society**

The **Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society** is hosting the 60th annual convention in La Crosse, WI this summer. Register for the 2023 Convention and join them June 22nd -25th.  Visit the website at [60.lwms.org](http://60.lwms.org/) to learn more and register for this year’s convention. Registration is open until the end of May. Contact your LWMS reporters, Joanne Gregor or Dianne Witkowski, with any questions.

**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

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!!!**

Second Impressions is continuing to grow, and we need more volunteers to help keep up with our growth! At this point-in-time, we especially need additional cashiers, help in receiving, cleaning, and people to help sort

and price clothing. Join our team and enjoy Christian fellowship and comradery while making a difference in our community! Stop in, call the store at (920) 907-9900, or send us an email at secondimpressionsfdl@gmail.com.

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

**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!), Clothing, Purses, Shoes, Jewelry, Tools & Hardware, Pictures & Frames, Home Décor, Christmas & Seasonal/Holiday Items, Arts & Crafts, Toys, Kitchen & Glassware, Books, Linens/Towels/Sheets.

**We DO NOT Accept the Following Items:**

Encyclopedias, Computers/Monitors, Children’s Car Seats, Cribs, or High Chairs, Incomplete Bed Frames, Mattresses, Organs/Pianos, Phones, Stereos, Selected Exercise Equipment, Microwaves, Paint or Chemicals, VHS Tapes, Window shades & blinds. If donating clothing, please donate **in-season** clothing (fall/winter). Please note that if you are donating items that have manuals (i.e. small appliances, etc), it is very helpful if you could include the manual whenever possible. Thank you!

**Stop by Second Impressions on Saturday, May 13 for the Car Cruise In. It runs from 9am to 3pm. There will be music, vendor booths, a brat fry, door prizes, and 50% off ALL clothing. Admission is free; hosted by the “F” Troop of Fond du Lac.**

**325 Winnebago Drive, Fond du Lac**

 **Phone: (920) 907-9900**

**On The lighter Side**



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| Donald and Faye Theune | 5/14/2007 |
| Gary and Jacqueline Quade | 5/16/1981 |
| Steve and Lori Minch | 5/17/1986 |
| Tom and Tamara Hartman | 5/20/1980 |
| Allen and Joyce Judas | 5/20/1967 |
| DuWayne and Susan Wichman | 5/21/1983 |
| Michael and Susan Sheppard | 5/26/2002 |

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| Raymond Ziebel | 5/4 |  | Isaac Stollfuss | 5/21 |
| MacKenzie Klettke | 5/5 |  | David Schackow | 5/22 |
| Quinn Ewald | 5/7 |  | Jane Mann | 5/24 |
| Joshua Lemiesz | 5/7 |  | David Sprague | 5/26 |
| Benjie Niemuth | 5/8 |  | Christian Gonzalez | 5/28 |
| Karen Baranczyk | 5/9 |  | Sarah Isaac | 5/28 |
| Karen Reiser | 5/10 |  | Kathryn Roeder | 5/29 |
| Amber Sandstrom | 5/10 |  | Kim Martinez | 5/30 |
| Richard Weckwerth | 5/10 |  | Michelle Seiler | 5/30 |
| Kelly Hilke | 5/15 |  | Tobin Storzer | 5/30 |
| Hailey Wichman | 5/15 |  |  |  |
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**Mt. Zion Messenger**

May, 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 June edition is June 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.***