

**Mt. Zion Ev. Lutheran Church**

**320 Mt. Zion Dr.**

**Ripon, WI 54971**

***The Sheppard’s Pen***

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**May, 2024**

**Form follows function?**

When you come into church for worship, do you stop and look at the architecture of the church building? Some parts of the church building are utilitarian such as the kitchen and the restrooms. In those instances, form follows function. We can choose different tile for the floor and paint colors, but restrooms and kitchens follow a general form. Other rooms within a church building are arranged with the same idea of form follows functions.

Have you considered the architecture of the church sanctuary? There form follow function as well; however symbolism is also included in the design. The basic function of a church sanctuary is a place for Christians to gather around God’s word and sacraments. The word “church” in the Bible refers to the gathering of believers in Christ. Church buildings are called church because believers gather in them. The church is the people.

In the ancient New Testament church, Christians began gathering in homes for worship. As the New Testament church grew, Christians began to use or construct buildings that resembled local government buildings called basilica. A raised platform was at one end on which a government official might sit.



Over the course of history, the Christian church has used architecture, church design and art, not only to beautify the worship space but also to proclaim the gospel. The floor plan, sanctuary structure, and all elements began to be used with symbolism in mind. Churches were designed in the shape of a cross.

 



Hexagons and Octagons have been used as symbols in the Christian Church. Jesus was crucified on the sixth day and so a hexagon reminds the Christian of our Savior’s sacrifice on the cross. Jesus rose on the first day of the week which is also the eighth day so the octagon reminds the Christian of Jesus’ resurrection on Easter.



Longer sanctuaries may emphasize the transcendence of God. The people are often farther away from the altar. Lutherans wish to emphasize the means of grace- the gospel in word and sacrament. The altar, baptismal font and pulpit stand prominently in the sanctuary. To further emphasize the means of grace, Lutherans included the seating of the people closer to the altar and font. (see above diagram.) Many different layouts are found in American Christian churches. Their theology determines the design and layout constructed. Clear materials used on pulpits or lecterns for example emphasize the person delivering the sermon or message whereas a wood or stone pulpit is meant to emphasize God’s Word.

The layout of the sanctuary at Mount Zion is a variation of the basilica design. The sanctuary is rectangular with the altar at one end on a raised chancel. This variation includes an area for the choir to sit on one side. This layout emphasizes the importance of the means of grace through which the Holy Spirit works faith and salvation.

Form follows function is an idea used quite often. The forms used in church architecture not only follow function but follow theology and make use of symbols to remind and teach. Next month we will begin to take a look at the many symbols included in our sanctuary here at Mount Zion.

*A church building is for worship, for the intellectual and emotional interaction between the Bridegroom and his bride, between Christ and his Church. The church comes to pray, confess, sing, listen, and offer. God comes in the Word and the sacraments, in water at baptism and in bread and wine at Holy Communion* (*Christian Worship Manual*, p.68).

**General Announcements**

**Pictorial Directory Update**

Good Impressions is currently putting together our directory. **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. An abbreviated version will be included in this and future newsletters.

Council Meeting Minutes

March 12th, 2024

President Mike Meeker called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Pastor Sheppard gave a devotion on Hebrews Chapter 12, Verses 4-11 EHV.

**Members Present:** Mark Roeder, Pastor Sheppard, Ken Hielke, Gary Wichman, DuWayne Wichman, TJ Sitter, Mike Meeker, Rick Retelle, Rick Niemuth.

**Secretary’s Report:** Presented by Mark Roeder. Motion to accept as printed by Ken Hielke, 2nd by Gary Wichman.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Presented by Ken Hielke. As of December 31st, 2023 (see attached).

\*Checking Account BMO 70,510.67

\*Checking Account Horicon 6,244.00

\*Less Dedicated Funds

\*Total Cash Available

\*Arnold Bornick Education Fund Money Market 16,015.81

\*12 Month CD 111,398.00

\* Motion to accept by Ken Hielke, 2nd by DuWayne Wichman.

**Worship Elders Report:** Rick Niemuth

\*No Report

**Support Elders Report:** Submitted by Rick Retelle.

\*Handrails in bathroom stalls: After discussion we felt that there is no need for handrails in the stalls as there are designated handicap bathrooms on both levels and that is sufficient.

\*Bruce to do lawn mowing again this year.

**Member Nurture Elders Report: Presented by Gary Wichman**

\*Motion to release Amber Terbeest, 2nd by Ken Hielke

**Family Nurture Elders Report:** Submitted by Tim Lynch.

\*Easter Breakfast – planning done

\*Brewer game is July 12th

\*Newcomer’s potluck is April 14th after church.

**Evangelism Elders Report:** Submitted by DuWayne Wichman

\*Advertising for Easter was submitted and has a copy of the ad. Cost $112.44 for 1 week.

\*March 23rd Brat Fry Websters. Served 250 sandwiches and sodas. Cost was $350.

**Pastor’s Report:**

1. **Devotion:**

*4You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood in your fight against sin. 5Have you also forgotten the encouragement that addresses you as sons?*

*My son, do not regard the Lord’s discipline lightly,
and do not become weary of his correction.
6For the Lord disciplines the one whom he loves,
and he corrects every son he accepts.*

*7Endure suffering as discipline. God is dealing with you as sons. Is there a son whose father does not discipline him? 8If you are not disciplined (and all of us have received it), then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9In addition, we have earthly fatherswho disciplined us, and we respected them. Should we not submit even more to the Father of the spiritsand live? 10They disciplined us for a little while, according to what seemed best to them, but God disciplines us for our good, so that we may have a share in his holiness. 11No discipline seems pleasant when it is happening, but painful, yet later it yields a peaceful harvest of righteousness for those who have been trained by it.*

(Hebrews 12:4-11 EHV)

1. **Ministry of the Word**
2. **Mileage:** February miles TBA.
3. **Sunday School:** Continues.
4. **Bible Study:** The Monday study is continuing to study Luther’s Large Catechism. Tuesday morning study continues to study Revelation. Sunday study is looking at the series “Influencing God’s children”.
5. **Confirmation:** Confirmation class has three eighth graders and three seventh graders.
6. **Bible Information Class:** No classes are ongoing at the moment but continuing to talk with prospects.
7. **Shut-ins:** Continuing to visit and administer communion.
8. **Statistics**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **February 2024** | **Total** | **Average** | **1st****Quarter Totals** | **1st****Quarterly Ave.** | **Year to Date Ave.** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Worship Attendance** | 352 | 88 (4 Sundays) | 694 | 87 | 87 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Communion Attendance** | 152 | 76 (2 Sundays) | 310 | 78 | 78 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Private Communion** | 17 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Bible Information****Class Attendance** | 0 | 0 (0 classes) |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  **Bible Study Attendance** | 43 | 4 (10 Classes) |  |  |  |
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| **Hospital Visits** | 5 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Pastoral Counseling Visits** | 26 |  |  |  |  |

**Old Business:**

\*Nothing to report

**New Business:**

\*DVD player for Pastor Ziebell. Payment out of Audio/Video Fund $120

\*Update on tree removal: Done.

\*October is the 60th anniversary of the church building.

\*Next Council Meeting 4/9/24 at 5:15 pm

\*Next Quarterly Meeting 4/14/24 after church

**Motion to Adjourn:** Made by Ken Hielke, 2nd by Rick Niemuth at 6:17pm. Carried.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer

**Ladies Aid Minutes**

Ladies Aid Meeting March 12, 2024

Our meeting began with Pastor Sheppard leading us with the Common Table Prayer. Hostesses Lisa T. and Tammy N. served dessert to eleven members.

Pastor had a devotion from Hebrews 12:4. Just as a parent uses discipline to teach and correct their children our loving Heavenly Father allows difficulties and struggles in our lives that will work for our good.

We sang hymn #125, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", accompanied by Sue S. on piano.

Business meeting began at 6:50pm led by President Niemuth.

Jo M., Treasurer, gave Treasurer's report. Ending balance on March 12, 2024 for Gen. Fund: $589.88; LWMS: $169.98; Helping Hands: $266.69. Motion by Lisa T. and seconded by Ardis G. to accept report.

Minutes of February 13, 2024 meeting handed out for members to read by Secretary Dianne Olsen. It was noted name of play at upcoming trip to The Fireside is "No Nunsense" not "No Nonsense". Motion to then approve minutes made by Jo Meeker and seconded by Donna Mueller. Dianne O. gave Sunshine report. Today's balance in fund is $41.72.

President Niemuth stated she received brochures from New Beginnings and Institutional Ministries. Also a thank you from WLCFS sent for memorial for Taylor Baccus.

**Old Business**

1. Joanne Gregor gave Helping Hands report. States birthday cards written for Avis Lindeman, Laurene Henning, and Bernice Ziebell were so appreciated. She updated us on the latch hook tapestry started by Carol Kapp. There were "workshops" on March 5 and 9 to learn or refresh on how to latch hook. Joanne will have some type of survey in bulletin to get input of days and times Mt. Zion members may want to help with project.

2. Beaver Dam Circuit Spring Rally is April 27,2024 in Kingston. There will be signup sheet re: car pooling. Joanne commented Spiritual Growth Leader position is open for Circuit- something to consider.

3. Ladies Aid will provide tacos for March 20 Lenten supper. Tammy N. and Jo M. coordinators. Servers and desserts needed. Donna M., Joanne G., and Dianne O. volunteered to help serve.

**New Business**

1. Election of officers at April meeting. President and Treasurer are open.

President Niemuth stated she will step down after this term.

2. Spring Banquet scheduled for May 14. Committee includes Kathy Strook, Sue Sheppard, Jo Meeker, and Dawn Toman. Sue S. asked for input re: entertainment. She asked opinions on a painting party, the cost was around $35. She questioned if we ever ask those attending to pay part of cost. Do not think in past we did. Carol R. asked if students from WLA music/band might provide entertainment. Lisa T. also asked in their forensic did any skits etc. Sue commented some students gong to London soon, and May is busy month. States she does have Mr. Witte's number.

3. Donna M. handed out info to those interested re: bus trip to Fort Atkinson May 30 to The Fireside and Jones Farms.

4. Lisa T. gave update re: Women of the Bible study. She had a survey in bulletin. Consensus is for Thursday at 10am and Wednesday 7pm. There will be sign up sheets once all organized.

5. Carol Rosenberg and Ardis Grahn met with someone from Crossroads in Green Lake re: their catering services and shared information. This is in regards as another option to offer families for funeral luncheons here at church.

March birthdays acknowledged. Pastor led us with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dianne Olsen

**Bible Studies**

Monday evening Bible study is finished for the season. Tuesday mornings at 9:00am we are studying the book of Ruth. The last Sunday morning Bible class will be May 12th- until then we will be studying the book of James. We are starting a **Women’s Bible Study** on May 1st and 2nd. There will be 2 sessions studying the same topic (women of the Bible) - Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM and Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM. 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.

**Spring Banquet**

The annual spring banquet hosted by the Ladies Aid will be Tuesday May 14th. A potluck meal will be served beginning at 6:00 PM. Our entertainment for the evening will be Mr. Rich Pinski, a retired WELS music teacher who sings and plays accordion at various venues. All members of the congregation are invited, and bring friends/relatives! If you are able, please sign up on the sheet by the library so we know approximately how many places to set. Hope to see you there!

**Confirmation**

Confirmation Sunday this year is May 19th. Our confirmands will be examined and confirmed during the service.

**Latch hook Rug Update**

On April 23rd we had another latch hook learning/review session. Watch the weekly bulletin and upcoming newsletters for details on when groups can work on the rug.

**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**

**4-Ingredient Peanut Butter Granola**

From kristineskitchenblog.com

**Ingredients**

* 5 cups old-fashioned (rolled) oats (either regular or gluten free
* ½ cup honey
* ½ cup peanut butter (or other nut/seed butter)
* 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
* Optional chopped walnuts, pecans, etc.

 **Instructions**

1. Preheat oven to 275 degrees.
2. Place oats in a large bowl. Add chopped nuts if desired. Combine honey and nut butter in a 2-cup liquid measuring cup. Heat in the microwave for about 45 seconds, until the nut butter starts to melt. Whisk the nut butter and honey to blend. Add in vanilla and whisk to incorporate.
3. Pour the nut butter mixture over the oats and stir until well combined. Spread granola in an even layer on a large rimmed baking sheet. Bake for 20 minutes, stir, then press granola into an even layer on the baking sheet. Bake 10-15 minutes more until granola becomes light golden brown.
4. Let cool completely on the baking sheet. The granola will become crisp as it cools. Store granola in an airtight container or containers for up to two weeks.

Note: this makes enough granola to fill 2 quart jars or 4 pint jars with some leftover.



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| Donald and Faye Theune | 5/14/2007 |
| Terry and Sara Grunert | 5/15/1999 |
| Gary and Jacqueline Quade | 5/16/1981 |
| Steve 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 Ziebell 5/4 |
| MacKenzie Klettke 5/5 |
| Dennis Zanto 5/5 |
| Joshua Lemiesz 5/7 |
| Quinn Ewald 5/7 |
| Benjie Niemuth 5/8 |
| Karen Baranczyk 5/9 |
| Cherie Anderson 5/9 |
| Karen Reiser 5/10 |
| Amber Sandstrom 5/10 |
| Richard Weckwerth 5/10 |
| Kelly Hilke 5/15 |
| Hailey Wichman 5/15 |
| Ruth Schwark 5/18 |
| Isaac Stollfuss 5/21 |
| David Schackow 5/22 |
| Jane Mann 5/24 |
| David Sprague 5/26 |
| Katherine Lietzau 5/26 |
| Christian Gonzalez 5/28 |
| Sarah Isaac 5/28 |
| Kathryn Roeder 5/29 |
| Tobin Storzer 5/30 |
| Michelle Seiler 5/30 |

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**Mt. Zion Messenger**

May, 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 June edition is May 24th, 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.***