

**Mt. Zion Ev. Lutheran Church**

**320 Mt. Zion Dr.**

**Ripon, WI 54971**

***The Sheppard’s Pen***

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**October, 2021**

**How does this piece fit?**

A young twenty-one year old man nervously walked up the aisle. He was wearing black denim jeans, a black shirt with a rock band image on the front, and a chain connecting his wallet to his belt. He sported tattoos on his arms and hands, along with a few ear piercings. In contrast, those watching the young man had gray hair, dresses and suitcoats, and shoes that were polished. They smiled as he walked forward. What we can’t know by looking at the young man is that this young man was wearing the best outfit he owned. He had been struggling with drug addiction and legal problems. He seemed out of place as he walked down the aisle of the church so that he could confess his faith in Christ before the congregation. It was his confirmation day. He had been away from church for most of his young life. The congregation smiled as he walked forward because they were filled with joy.

Sometimes the way people dress displays social or economic status and at other times it displays culture or personal interests. In any community there can be those who are not socially accepted regardless of personal appearance. Those who have a negative reputation as a result of their actions or words, or those who are different, can be viewed as people with whom we do not associate.

In Jesus’ day, there were such people as well. Matthew was a tax collector. He worked representing the Roman authorities to collect taxes. In other words, people thought of him as a traitor. Tax collectors at that time were known for taking extra and therefore being wealthy. They were not invited to some homes for dinner. Jesus called Matthew to be his disciple and later he would go out with the other apostles and proclaim Christ crucified and risen.

Jesus spent time with Matthew and others who were socially unacceptable. They were people who were known to outwardly have sinful lives. The Pharisees challenged Jesus’ disciples about this. Jesus should be better than that - better than these people. Matthew recorded this in his Gospel.

*9As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting in the tax collector’s booth. He said to him, “Follow me.” Matthew got up and followed him. 10As Jesus was reclining at the table in Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners were actually there too, eating with Jesus and his disciples. 11When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” 12When Jesus heard this, he said to them, “The healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do. 13Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ In fact, I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”* (Matthew 9:9-13 EHV)

Jesus came for the sake of the ill. He came for the sinners of this world. He came to redeem all sinners. Here he was with “sinners” teaching and dining with them. These were those who understood sin and the need they had for God’s mercy. They were “sick” with sin. Jesus told the Pharisees,*“Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ In fact, I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners”* (Matthew 9:13 EHV). Jesus was quoting from the prophet Hosea. The Lord told the people of Israel through Hosea about their disobedience. Some worshipped idols. Others praised him with lips but did not trust him. They were rebellious. The Lord wanted their hearts to be firmly resting on him alone. The sacrifices the Lord had commanded were meant to be made by the people as loving acts of those who trust the Lord. But their hearts were not in it. So were the Pharisees who considered themselves to be righteous by their own actions. They looked at those who did outward sins as if they were worse than those whose sins were in the heart where no one could see them but the Lord.

*For I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,
    and the knowledge of God, rather than burnt offerings.* (Hosea 6:6 EHV)

The Lord has not commanded us to offer sacrifices as he did Old Testament Israel. But we have the same temptations that they experienced. We can have a view of other people that they are unacceptable for any number of reasons. We cannot accept as good any sinful deed or word. Yet we also remember that the Savior who came to this earth came for each one of us along with the rest of the world. When we consider that we are as sinful by nature as any other person, we can only say that if we haven’t done a particular outward sin, it is only by God’s grace. The Lord has had mercy on us, so we have mercy on others. We want them to believe in our Savior and enjoy the forgiveness of sins he purchased through his death on the cross. As we see someone that doesn’t seem to fit our expectations confessing faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we can smile in joy.

**General Announcements**

**Mueller Family Mealtrain Update**

Thank you to those who brought meals to Kim, Remington and Roman Mueller via Mealtrain. After October 18th, meals will no longer be needed. Kim and the boys appreciate everyone’s extreme generosity!

**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!!!

**Ladies Aid**

Ladies’ Aid meetings started up again in August. Our next meeting will be Tuesday October 12. The ladies have been discussing doing a deep cleaning of the entire church building. Men, women, and children are invited to help once they finalize a procedure.

**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!**

**Flowers**

Thank you to those who have put flowers on the altar during this year. 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.**

**Bible Studies**

Weekly Bible classes have begun! For the Sunday study we are watching the first season of the series “The Chosen” and discussing. Monday's study will continue in the book "More Prepared to Answer." Please join us!

**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.

**Friendship Pads**

Friendship pads are now back in the pews. Since we will not be passing the offering plates, please don’t forget to sign the pads each week.

**Online Streaming**

We are livestreaming on Facebook Live Sundays at 9:00am. Services will also be uploaded to Rumble (Mt. Zion has its own channel: ***mtzionripon***) and the link will be posted on the church website. Please note: the video links on the church website can now be found in the VIDEOS subheading under the MEDIA tab. Services will still be available on DVD. Please feel free to contact Pastor Sheppard with questions.

**WELS Military Services**

If you know a fellow WELS member who is serving in the military, please share with them this link -https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/special-ministries/online-referral/ It will allow them to sign up to receive the recently completed Christian Service Members’ Handbook. The book includes large sections from the Bible, prayers, devotions, songs/hymns, and portions of Luther’s Small Catechism.

**Online Offerings**

Don’t forget, you can now give offerings online with the **Give Plus app.**  There is a $1 fee for each transaction – you can choose to add a dollar to your offering to cover that fee, or it will be subtracted from the total amount you give. There is an online giving button on the church website labeled “Donation”.

**Other Local Events**

**Joint Reformation Service**

There will be a joint Reformation service on Sunday October 31st at 3:00 pm at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Fond du Lac.

**WLA Events**

October 24 4:30 pm Fall Concert

Nov. 4-7 WLA Theater: Bye Bye, Birdie

On the Lighter Side!

 

Mark & Kathy Roeder 10/1/1994 27 years

Chad & Karen Baranczyk 10/2/1999 22 years

Kevin & Anissa Schenning 10/2/2010 11 years

Dave & Darlene Patchett 10/3/1964 57 years

Dylan & Crystal Samuelson 10/3/2015 6 years

Marshall & Christine Faulks 10/10/1987 34 years

Gary & Gail Wichman 10/12/1974 47 years

Derek & Jillian Chitwood 10/172015 6 years

Eugene & Sharon Miller 10/18/1958 63 years

Dave & Lisa Tremore 10/22/1994 27 years

Richard & Janet Zellmer 10/22/1966 54 years

Dave & Kim Mack 10/27/2001 20 years

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Addisyn Kranz 10/1 8

Jason Roeder 10/5 22

Anisa Rushani 10/6 12

Dennis Hartman 10/7 81

Amber (Mildebrandt) Eveland 10/8 26

Kari Hielke 10/9 58

Allen Judas 10/9 84

Raymond Lemiesz 10/9 58

Phoenix Sanchez 10/9 4

Mike Schaub 10/13 61

Travis Schmudlach 10/13 49

Sara Retelle 10/14 44

Morgan Damm 10/16 22

Dave Mack 10/16 47

Stephanie Gabert 10/19 29

Tyler Lemiesz 10/21 28

Hailey Niemuth 10/21 3

Kathy Schaub 10/21 66

Grant Schneider 10/21 19

Kim Mueller 10/22 47

Chad Guell 10/25 33

Kathy Strook 10/25 71

Bob Zanto 10/26 87

Christian Grunert 10/28 18

Kevin Hartman 10/29 48

Ella Weiske 10/29 17

Rita Weisnicht 10/31 78

Mt. Zion Messenger

October, 2021

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

Please email the church office or **Kathy Roeder** **threehappybearz@gmail.com** with news/articles. Deadline for articles for the October edition is September 20th, 2021.

Cell Phone 920.229.7891

Email: threehappybearz@gmail.com

 Put in the subject line: For Mt. Zion Newsletter

***We are always looking for human interest news from our members! If there is any incorrect information, please let us know that as well.***