

**Mt. Zion Ev. Lutheran Church**

**320 Mt. Zion Dr.**

**Ripon, WI 54971**

***The Sheppard’s Pen***

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 **September 2022**

**Who is at Fault?**

I remember a story I heard when I was in high school. It recently came to mind and I want to share it with you. One night a burglar broke into a house by opening the skylight in the kitchen. As he came down from the sky-light he fell onto the island in the middle of the kitchen landing on a butcher’s knife that was left lying on the countertop. Later the man sued the family who owned the house where he was injured while breaking in to steal from them. I don’t know if the story is a real story or just a fabricated one. I don’t know the outcome of the court proceedings if it is a true story. But the question comes to mind: “Who is at fault for this man’s injury?” The burglar had no legitimate reason for entering the house the way he did and the family had no reason to expect someone to enter that way.

Whatever the outcome of this story, it has brought to mind what happens when sinners are confronted with our sin. When God in love addressed the man in the garden asking him if he had eaten from the tree which God told him not to eat, the man blamed God who created the woman whom he also blamed. When God lovingly addressed the woman, she blamed the serpent (Genesis 3). Isn’t this the natural inclination of sinners to seek to justify their sin both to themselves and to others? “It is not my fault I sinned, I…” or “It’s not my fault, someone else…” or “It’s not my fault, you…”

What is our reaction when our sins are brought to our attention by others? We don’t like the consequences that our actions bring. Do we blame the person who talks to us about a public sin? Do we try to justify ourselves by blaming God, or other people? Do we seek to make it the fault of our congregation or its leaders? When trying to justify ourselves, we may blame anyone around us. But does blaming others really justify us? No. While other people might accept our excuse, there is one who does not accept excuses for sin.

We cannot justify ourselves before God no matter what we think, say or do. We have disobeyed our God. He spoke directly to Adam and Eve in the garden after they sinned and gave them the opportunity to confess their sin. We cannot say to God that we are not guilty of any sins. Our sin is our own and is no one’s fault but our own. Yet we have the reaction to being confronted with our sin that we try to justify ourselves in our own minds and before other people. Other people might let us get away with it but God does not.

How then can we be justified before God? Only through our Savior Jesus Christ. Only through his suffering and death on the cross does the sinner stand with the status of not guilty before the judge. Trusting in Christ we acknowledge our sins, our disobeying God. Trusting in our Lord Jesus Christ we turn away from the sinful desires of our hearts rather than blaming others for them. Trusting in him we stand forgiven before God. Being justified through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we do not continue to live according the sinful nature. We drown the sinful nature with daily contrition and repentance.

*23Now the statement “it was credited to him” was not written for him alone, 24but also for us to whom it would be credited, namely, to us who believe in the one who raised our Lord Jesus from the dead. 25He was handed over to death because of our trespasses and was raised to life because of our justification.* (Romans 4:23-25 EHV)

**General Announcements**

**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.

**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!**

**Sunday School**

**We are still in need of a teacher for the 7th and 8th grades starting this fall. Please talk to Pastor Sheppard or Jo Meeker if you are interested.**

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**Church Picnic**

**Church Picnic:** Join us on September 11th after our service for our annual church picnic. There will be fun games for children and adults. This will be the first day of our Sunday School with games for the children. Adults are invited to participate in a Cornhole tournament or Bible Bingo. After the activities we will have lunch.

**LWMS**

Mount Zion members:Come join us on Sat., Sept 10, at 9 a.m. to make plastic crosses for CAMM (Cental African Medical Mission). You will be given supplies to make 10-14 crosses. Darlene Patchett will instruct you how to make the crosses.  The crosses will be sent to CAMM along with EMPTY PILL BOTTLES (so save them also) on Oct 15 LWMS Rally (more info to come on the rally). While you are finding out about the crosses a brunch of quiche, fruit, various breads, coffee  and juice willbe served.  Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board by Sept 1 so supplies can be bought. Monetary donations are also accepted to cover the cost of mailing crosses and pill bottles.

Thanks LWMS Committee

**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 August edition is September 19th, 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***

**Timber Rattlers Game**

Twenty-six members from Mt. Zion attended the TimberRattlers game on Friday, August 12. We enjoyed a picnic style meal before taking our seats. The Rattlers got off to a slow start but made a good game of it before losing to the South Bend Cubs 6-9. Fireworks lit up the sky above the park as we left for home.

Kids C.A.R.E. The 2021-2022 Kids C.A.R.E. project, Outreach to Roma, has

come to an end. Mt. Zion contributed $564. Thank you so much for your

generosity which will help our Bulgarian missionaries share the gospel

message with the Roma people. Pleas continue to keep Kids C.A.R.E. in your

prayers

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On the Lighter Side!



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| Robert and Karen Reiser | 9/1 |
| Tim and Jean Lynch | 9/2 |
| Raymond and Nancy Lemiesz | 9/3 |
| Thomas and Robin Sitter | 9/7 |
| Pamela and Timothy Sondalle  | 9/8 |
| Bruce and Cindy Beier | 9/10 |
| Randal and Cynthia Revels | 9/17 |
| Michael and Audrey Dorsey | 9/19 |
| Mark and Debbie Weiske | 9/20 |
| Lyle and Kathleen Strook | 9/21 |
| Nicholas and Krista Sanchez | 9/28 |

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Michael Jung Jr 9/1/1996

Chandler Nitzke 9/1/2000

Darlene Patchett 9/1/1946

Melanie Holdorf 9/7/1972

Kaitlin Jacoby 9/8/2004

Pamela Sondalle 9/8/1963

Jacqueline Quade 9/10/1960

Chloe Jacoby 9/11/2002

Terry J. Grunert 9/12/1973

Samuel D. Smith 9/12/1995

Jonathan W. Niemuth 9/18/1983

Kim A. Mack 9/19/1975

Joanne R. Gregor 9/21/1950

Vicki Guell 9/23/1970

Susan Weckwerth 9/23/1949

Riley Baranczyk 9/24/2003

Rick Retelle 9/24/1967

Pamela Krahn 9/25/1967

Carol Rosenberg 9/25/1934

Nicholas Goeldi 9/26/1988

**Mt. Zion Messenger**

September, 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