



Mt. Zion Ev. Lutheran Church
320 Mt. Zion Dr.
Ripon, WI 54971



The Sheppard's Pen

By Pastor Sheppard

“Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68 EHV)

After Jesus had fed five thousand people with a miracle, the people followed him to Capernaum. There Jesus told them that they were seeking him because they had eaten and had their fill, not because of who he is. When he explained to them that he is the bread of life that came down from heaven, many stopped following him. They did not understand what he was speaking about. They did not understand that he was referring to himself as the one who removes the hunger for forgiveness that sinners have. Jesus our Savior is the bread of life. In him we have our thirst and hunger for God's forgiveness satisfied.

But in the midst of our lives here, we can become distracted from our Savior and what he accomplished for us on the cross. We can lack understanding of some things we read in the Bible. We can, like others, stop following our Savior as he teaches us in his Word. We may become focused too much on this earthly life and our daily physical needs. We may become focused too much on the earthly possessions we have.

Jesus asked his disciples if they would leave him too. They answered, “Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life.” No one else could give them what Jesus did. They had come to believe that he is God's Son, the Savior promised through the prophets. They believed that only he could give them the words that give eternal life.

We too follow Jesus for the same reason. We believe that Jesus has the words of eternal life. Having paid for our sins, he has brought us to faith. In him our thirst and hunger for forgiveness before God is satisfied. As we follow our Savior we learn from him in his Word, putting into practice what he tells us. As we follow our Savior we gladly hear God's word when we worship together as a congregation.

Council Highlights

Current Mt. Zion Church Council Members:

President: Mark Roeder

Vice President/Financial Secretary: Tim Lynch

Secretary: Rick Retelle

Treasurer: Ryan Pollesch

Worship Elder: *open position*

Member Nurture Elder: Steve Ohlrich

Family Nurture Elder: Rick Niemuth

Evangelism Elder: *open position*

Support Elder: Ken Hielke

Offering Statements:

Members' offering statements are in their mailboxes at church. If they have not been picked up by February 3rd, they will be mailed.

Membership Transfers:

Scott and Debra Patchett to Mt. Olive in Suamico, WI.

Nicole & Prestyn Wagner and Hali & Madison Walker to St. John's in Princeton, WI.

"To the Ends of the Earth": Recently some of our members viewed the new WELS Evangelism movie "To the Ends of the Earth." There are still some copies on a table in the entryway for those who would like to give one to someone.

Church Sign: The council is looking into getting a church sign for the parking lot on Joy Avenue, to let visitors know that they are indeed at Mt. Zion.

Ladies' Aid Highlights



LWMS

The spring rally will be at St. John, Pardeeville on April 22, 2019. All ladies are welcome, so mark your calendars.

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus In the Heartland

The 56th annual convention will be held June 27-30 at the Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center in Des Moines, IA. It is hosted by the Wild Rose Circuit. Save \$20 by registering early now through April 1st. Online registration and more information can be found at www.lwms.org.

Befriend A Missionary for 2019-2020

Pastor Paul D. Nitz, One Africa Team, Malawi Mission

Pastor Nitz has been serving in Malawi for 25 years since graduating from the Seminary, and works with a team of 9 other missionaries. He teaches 16 students from Malawi and Zambia at the Lutheran Bible Institute. He hopes to add students from Uganda, Liberia and Rwanda in the future. Pastor Nitz is married to Susan and they have 6 children. 2 of their sons are studying to be pastors, and 2 of their children are in high school in Malawi. In addition, they have 1 daughter-in-law and 1 grandson.

<https://www.facebook.com/OneAfricaTeamWELS/>

Pastor Lincoln Albrecht, River of Life Lutheran Church, Goodyear, AZ

Pastor Albrecht is married to Jenni. They have 3 children ages 6, 4, and 2.

<https://www.facebook.com/RiverOfLifeGoodyear/>

Illumine Church, Rock Hills, SC

Currently there is not a missionary at Illumine Church, as the missionary serving there accepted a mission call to Seattle WA. We will continue to support his former mission, and pray that a new missionary will be sent to serve there soon. Website at illuminechurch.com



Pathways to Christ Retreat

Sisters in Christ, please join us for the 19th Pathways to Christ Retreat on March 8-10 at LaSure's Hall in Oshkosh. The 2019 theme is "I have learned the secret of being content," Phil. 4:11-13. On Friday night we will begin the retreat with a presentation by

Jarrold Pfarr focusing on "Believe and Be Love." On Saturday our three speakers Naomi Schmidt, Julie Karula and Nicole Smith will keep us focused on our journey to contentment. On Sunday Pastor Leon Ehlerdt will share with us a Bible Study and then lead us in worship. Sound intriguing? Additional information, along with registration forms, can be downloaded from our website:

<http://pathwaystochrist.org>. If you don't have internet access, the church office can provide you with a brochure.

Helping Hands



Mt. Zion's Helping Hands continue to serve our members. Please let us know if you or a family member needs help. If you are interested in becoming a helping hand, please fill out a form found on the table by the window as you enter church, or you could contact Lisa Tremore at 920-229-1297, Tammy Niemuth at 920-299-0240 or Joanne Gregor at 920-896-1518.

Update From Brazil

Greetings from summer in Brazil!

We pray you had a good Christmas, and are ready to step off into the new year hand in hand with the Christ child. What a blessing to know that we do not walk alone into the future!

Our Christmas celebration was a blessing to us, and hopefully to the people. The Festival on the 9th of December was well attended and everyone did their part, down to the cooks. And when we are all together, we surely sing the roof off!

Christmas Eve was also a blessing, with half the attendance but much heartfelt singing and reading of Scripture, and the Lord's Supper. And this morning we did not have the use of our van, because it had a mechanical problem, and the machinists that the mechanics depend on were all on vacation. But we still had a good attendance. Many more of our people have their own transportation, and fewer and fewer need a ride in the van.

And then there was the wedding, on the 15th. And I would like to tell you about the wedding, because weddings in general are so different here in Brazil, starting with the laws about marriage. Pastors, priests, etc., cannot sign marriage certificates. That has to be done at a registry office where the couple goes in some time before the date to indicate how they want their marriage contract drawn up, and then schedule a time (10 minutes worth) to have the contract read to them and to sign it in front of witnesses. So this civil marriage is a legal contract, and costs money, and can only happen on week days. Among other things, the contract specifies how the couple plan to deal with their finances and other assets, whether holding them in common, partial separation or complete

separation. (The young moderns suggest that keeping finances separate makes it easier to get a divorce!)

In the contract the bride can specify what name she will take. Most Latins use two last names, their mother's and their father's. If the bride takes her husband's last name, she usually drops one of the others, though we have seen some brides keep both and end up with three last names, and other brides who don't take their husband's last name. It is entirely up to them.

The other form of marriage supported by the government is the "stable union" which you would call common law marriage. About one third of all couples in the country have this kind of union, which confers the same benefits of inheritance as a civil marriage, but the bride does not take the husband's name, and they need to acquire another document if they want to purchase anything in both their names. Proof of a legal stable union is having lived together as a couple openly for 5 years and/or have children together. Fathers must have their name included on any child's birth certificate, except in unusual circumstances.

So the wedding I'm about to describe was between a 19 year old member and a 20 year old distant cousin. Our member just finished her 2nd year of college in accounting, and has a good job in the finance department of our local mall. Her husband, who owned his own barber shop in another town, hopes to do the same thing again here, once he knows the lay of the land. He plans to study to become a member in our church.

In a Brazilian wedding, there are not bridesmaids and groomsmen, with coordinated colored clothing. Rather, the couple chooses sponsors, couples who have been married for some time, so they can counsel the newlyweds (and !!! give more costly gifts to get the new

household going). It used to be that there was one couple sponsoring the bride and another the groom. But the "fad" now is to have up to 10 of these sponsor couples. I think our young couple had 8 sponsor couples, though I didn't count for sure. The women wore any long dress they wanted to, and the men were in suits of whatever color. There was a flower girl who went up the aisle first strewing rose petals, and then again because everything was not ready for the procession. There was also a little boy and girl preceding the bride up the aisle.

This wedding did not take place in church, but at a rented events place, with the wedding set up for outside, and the receiving line and supper, and later dancing, in a covered pavilion. (They had borrowed the pews from our church for some of the seating and to form an aisle.) It was supposed to start at 6 p.m., and we were there on time. But the bride was not ready until 7:30 and the bride's mother finally at 8:30. By then it was dark.

There was recorded music going on over the speaker system, until a contracted keyboard player took over before the service and played romantic music on her keyboard over the sound system. The first people to go down the red carpeted aisle were the mother and step-father of the bride. While they walked down the aisle, one of the pair of wedding managers (hired for this) read a tribute to the mother of the bride, supposedly written by the bride herself, with background music. Then the 8 sponsor couples walked down spaced apart, while a tribute to sponsors in general was read again with background music. Then the groom was escorted down the aisle by his parents, again to the reading of a tribute supposedly from him to them. By that time we had all these people standing on either side of the flower covered arch that formed the altar area, facing the people. The groom stood in the middle facing us also, waiting for his bride. She was escorted down the aisle by a cousin we did

not know, and given to her groom. Then the sponsors and parents were seated in the special chairs placed at the front on both sides of the aisle, facing the altar, and the service could begin.

That's when Charlie met some real challenges as the pastor. First of all, there were two chairs placed in front of the altar for the bride and groom to sit on, but Charlie could see that the very bouffant dress of the bride would never fit in that chair, so he quietly requested someone to remove those two chairs.

Then, the wedding that was meant to start in daylight was now in darkness, and there was no light in the altar area. Charlie had to hold a microphone in one hand and his Bible and service in the other. Not only was it dark, but along the aisle there were two spotlights meant to highlight the bride and groom, but shining directly in Charlie's eyes. He could not see the faces of the couple for the glare of the light. That was OK for the sermon, which he had memorized, but when it came to reading the rest of the ceremony, he was in trouble. He managed for a bit, until one of the managers realized his difficulty and stood by him with the flashlight on her cell phone. Thus the wedding service ended.

The bride and groom turned around and were also blinded by the light of those spotlights on the ground. But they walked out, followed by all the other participants. The bride and groom went right to the room that had a table set up for gifts and a decorated table where the cake would be placed later on. There they received their guests, starting, as usual, with the participants of the wedding. But for each person or couple that greeted the newlyweds, they turned around to have their picture taken with the couple, so it took a long time to have everyone go through the line. Charlie and I, as well as Gilberto, who was in attendance, finally had our picture

taken with the couple, and then left the festivities, for it was around 10 p.m. and the next day was Sunday. According to the bride's aunt, who is a member of our church, there was eating and dancing until about 1:30 a.m. The place had to be turned over at 2 a.m. and cleaned for the next event in the morning. Our church benches came back around 8:30, in time for the 9:00 service.

So there you have our experience with the wedding. I was glad Gilberto's daughter and little boy were there. We sat together and she could clue me in on the latest fads, as the last wedding I had attended was some years ago.

We again thank you for cards, letters and gifts on behalf of us personally and the Brazilian mission. We wish you all a New Year filled with the blessings of our loving God.

Charlie and Beth Flunker

Recent Events

Youth Group

On December 31st, the Youth Group took a trip to Plaza Bowl. 20+ people attended. A great time was had by all eating pizza and bowling.



Happy Birthday Lucille Moll!!

January 8 was Lucille's 99th birthday. She was very excited to be 99 years old, and was thrilled to receive so many cards and notes remembering her birthday. For those that sent her a card or note, your thoughtfulness meant a lot to her and was greatly appreciated. The Lord willing, we will be able to flood her with cards for her 100th birthday.

Upcoming Events

Youth Group

In February the youth group will be heading to Nordic Mountain near Wild Rose for a snow tubing outing. The date will be announced in the church bulletin.

Peace Lutheran School Choirs

The choirs from Peace Lutheran School will be enhancing our worship at Mt. Zion on Sunday, February 24th. Please join us to hear the children sing and play hand chimes.

New Member Potluck and Pine Car Derby

Our annual new member potluck and pine car derby will also be on Sunday February 24th after Bible Class. All are welcomed to join us!

Father/Daughter Dance at St. John's, Princeton

From Tiffany Bargaenquast of St. John's, Princeton: "The dads and daughters of your church family are cordially invited to join us for our first Father/Daughter dance, which will take place on Saturday, February 9th from 6-8pm at the St. John's Lutheran School gym, 227 Harvard St. in Princeton. There will be games, light snacks, refreshments, a DJ, a photo booth, and of course lots of fun! Girls (ages 3-12) may be escorted by Dad, Grandpa, Uncle or any other special person that fits that role. This is a FREE EVENT open to the public. 'Sound Sensations'

will be providing the entertainment. All you need to do is show up! Dress as fancy or as casual as you please.”

Any questions: Call 920-295-4400

2019 Men of His Word Conference

The 10th Annual MOHW Conference will be held at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center in Oshkosh on Saturday, February 9, 2019. This year’s theme is “BUILT ON THE ROCK.” Additional details and online registration are available at www.menofhisword.org for the first 650 men. Adult registration fee is \$60 for adults and \$30 for youth after Jan 27th. Please join us for a day of fellowship in God’s Word that you will not soon forget!

Performances at WLA

Winnebago Lutheran Academy Theatre Department presents “Murder on the Overland Flyer,” an interactive fundraiser for the theater department. It takes place on Saturday, February 23rd. Registration and appetizers are at 6:00; dinner is at 6:30. Tickets, which are \$35 for single and \$60 for double, are available at hometowntickets.com or in the WLA Office.

The Theatre Department will also be presenting “Holder Posey, the Felonious Photographer” by Billy St. John on March 8th at 7:00 and March 9th at 2:00. Advance tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. For tickets at the door, add \$2 to the above prices. Tickets for this performance are also available at hometowntickets.com or in the WLA Office.

Featured Recipe

Chicken Casserole

Kari Hielke

- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 1 c. mayonnaise or salad dressing
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- ½ tsp. curry powder
- 4 c. cubed, cooked chicken or turkey
- 1 (16 oz.) pkg mixed frozen vegetables
- 1 c. shredded cheddar cheese
- ½ c. (one stick) butter
- 2 c. crushed corn flakes
- 2 tsp. parsley flakes

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix soup, mayo/dressing, lemon juice, and curry powder in a 2-quart casserole dish or 9x13 pan. Stir in chicken and vegetables. Sprinkle with cheese. Combine butter, corn flakes, and parsley flakes. Spread over casserole. Bake for 45 to 50 minutes. You can also make casserole ahead and refrigerate overnight before baking.



February Birthdays

Joan Stibb	2/1
Emma Kranz	2/3
Julia Luther	2/3
Heidi Eilertson	2/4
Sophia Dibelius	2/6
Myles Pierce	2/6
Jerry Witkowski	2/6
Alicia Bradley	2/7
Mary Clement	2/7
Samuel Jung	2/7
Todd Zellmer	2/7
Corissa Revels	2/9
Shirley Erdmann	2/10
Miya Grunert	2/10
Samantha Storzer	2/11
Dianne Olsen	2/13
Arjeta Rushani	2/13
Becky Schliepp	2/13
Coral Chappa	2/14
Berniece Ziebell	2/14
Cassandra Beier	2/15
Donna Hilke	2/15
Elaine Schmuldach	2/15
Megan Storzer	2/16
Linda Huelsman	2/17
Kody Ramsey	2/18
Eunice Lemiesz	2/19
Ronald Lemiesz	2/22
Ben Isaac	2/23
Derek Chitwood	2/24
Ken Hielke	2/25
Carolyn Miller	2/25
Darla Weber	2/28
Avis Lindeman	2/29

Birthday Club Celebration February 3rd





Anniversaries

Jeff and Laura Weckwerth	2/2
Maurice and Debra Picchiottino	2/3
Alan and Peggy Kutz	2/20

Mt. Zion Messenger

February, 2019

Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Pastor Michael Sheppard

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Church Website: www.mtzionripon.org

Pastor's Cell Phone: 920-745-0883
Pastor's Email: revmikesheppard@gmail.com

The deadline for the March newsletter will be Friday, February 15th. Please email the church office, Mary Clement (maryclement1940@icloud.com) or Sue Sheppard (sheppwoman52602@yahoo.com) with articles.