

# The Messenger



VOLUME XXXXI, No. 4, APRIL 2008

## Contents

Wisdom from the Word .....	1
News & notes.....	2,3,4,5
February stats .....	3
Board reports.....	5
Kids page .....	6

## Our mission

*The mission of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School is to preach and teach God's saving Word in all its truth and purity.*

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## Sing God's Truth

### Great Light in Our Darkness "How Lovely Shines the Morning Star"

***"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned" (Isaiah 9:2).***

Of all the spiritual analogies we find in the Scriptures, the one most often employed is the contrast of darkness and light. It is easy for us to appreciate: darkness is bad; light is good. Our Savior, Jesus, made use of this analogy more than once in the gospels. For instance, in John 3:19 Jesus spoke of himself as the Light of the world: "Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil." Light represents the holiness and perfection of God; darkness represents the deep blight of our human sin and imperfection. And nothing is darker than death.

When Jesus our light crashed through the strong walls of this sinful world, he was entering the very realm of darkness. He came to conquer those spiritual powers of darkness—sin and death—and their wily overlord, Satan. By his atoning death and powerful resurrection from the dead, Jesus did just that! He is the great light that we who were walking in darkness have seen. He is our Morning Star.

This side of heaven, however, we continue our struggle with the conquered powers of darkness. Though purchased by God for an eternity through Jesus' blood, at the present our sinful flesh still

clings feverishly to redeemed souls. Reflecting on this truth, Martin Luther described Christians as both saints and sinners, at the same time holy and sinful. We live in the darkness of sin while walking in the light of Christ. Yes, Christians live in darkness and light at the same time.

This paradox is touched upon in one of the greatest Christian hymns ever written, "How Lovely Shines the Morning Star" (CW 79). Often referred to as "the queen of chorales," it was written by Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608) and looks back fondly upon the day when Jesus' light first entered the world. It delights in the light that Jesus now provides through the dark days of this life. Finally, it looks forward with "deep yearning" (st. 4) to that day when God's people will shed the last remnants of their darkness and "there will be no more night" (Revelation 22:5).

We are encouraged to "lift up the voice and strike the string, let all glad sounds of music ring." Jesus has not only broken through the darkness, he has also promised to be with us "all the way . . . till trav'ling days are ended" (st. 5).

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## PROMISES

*People make promises throughout their lives. Some promises are more important than others. For example, the promises a bride and groom make on their wedding day to love and honor, to be faithful to each other for the rest of their lives are some of the biggest and most important promises either one of them will ever make. No promises though are more important than the promises a person makes on his/her confirmation day. Most of you reading this article have already made those promises. 18 young boys and girls will be making these same promises here at Zion on April 27th. What will they be promising? They will be promising to believe in the Lord Jesus as their only Savior from sin and follow him all of their lives. They will be promising to be in church regularly to hear God's Word and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. They will be promising to make God's Word a regular part of their lives. These promises are the most important promises because breaking them, falling away from the Lord, rejecting the Word and Sacrament, not following the Lord Jesus means a life of unbelief that will lead to damnation in hell. Sad to say, the devil has succeeded in leading many away from Jesus and down to his den in hell. Jesus doesn't want that for us. That is why He lived, died and rose again. That is why God made us his children through the waters of Holy Baptism. That is why He has given us His Gospel in Word and Sacrament. He has given us these means of grace so that the Holy Spirit can work in our hearts and keep us in our saving faith so that we one day will receive the gift of eternal life. Nothing in life is more important than that. Pray for these 18 children and all who have made these promises that they remain faithful to the Lord Jesus until their dying day so that they will receive the crown of life.*

*Your shepherd in Christ,  
Pastor Wilke*

## Ladies Society

The next meeting of the Zion Ladies Society will be held on April 3rd at 2:00pm in the church basement. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to come for an afternoon of fellowship.

## Ministrations

### In Memoriam

6. Lottie Behringer born April 12, 1916 and went to heaven March 10, 2008.

### Baptism

2. Haley Marie, daughter of Lawrence Bislew and Jamie nee Conlon. Born June 21, 2007. Baptized February 10, 2008.

## Divine Call Received

On Monday, March 17th, Pastor Sims received a divine call to serve at Emanuel Lutheran Church in New London, WI. This means that he currently holds two divine calls—one to Zion and one to Emanuel. His task now is to decide where he can best use his God-given gifts to serve in the Lord's kingdom. Please keep Pastor Sims and his family in your prayers as he considers this call. He would appreciate any questions, comments or words of encouragement you may have for him. Please feel free to contact him.

## Lakeside Ladies Guild

The Lakeside Lutheran Ladies Guild will be meeting at Lakeside on Wednesday, April 9th at 7:00pm. The program is yet to be determined. St. James, Cambridge and Bethany, Fort Atkinson will be serving. The men are invited to attend. See you there!

## Messenger Articles

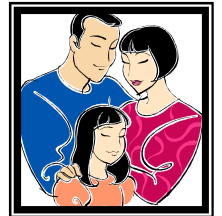
Please submit your articles by April 18th. Contact Becky Weidner at 623-5796 if you have any questions.

## Celebrating 150 Years

For some time now, the Anniversary Committee has been hard at work making plans for our congregation's 150th. We will kick off the celebration with a special service at 3:00pm on Saturday, May 3rd (on that date in 1858 the constitution was first signed). Pastor Herb Prahl, president of the WELS Western Wisconsin District, will be our guest preacher. The service will be followed by a special anniversary display in the church basement and festive meal and program over at school. Please save the date and plan on joining us!

## Say "Cheese"

In honor of Zion's 150th Anniversary, we are developing a Pictorial Directory. Please sign up for an appointment to have your photograph taken at school during several sessions April 8-12 and April 15-19 (weekdays 2:30-8:40pm and Saturdays 10:00am-5:00pm). Participants will receive a complimentary 8x10 photo, and a free pictorial directory. Schedule your appointment at [www.zioncolumbus.org](http://www.zioncolumbus.org) or following the service on March 30th. Our goal is to have all members photographed (families and individuals) to make Zion's 150th Anniversary Pictorial Directory complete!



## Photo Greeters Needed

If anyone is interested in being a host/hostess, greeting fellow Zion members and checking them in when their photos are being taken for the directory (April 8-12 & 15-19), please call Michelle Wolf (623-0354) for shift information.

**School News**—by Paul Ihde, principal

**Upcoming Events:**

- Fri. Mar. 28 Pre-Registration Info Distributed
- Thur. April 3 Zion Vocal / Piano / Band Concert at 7:00pm
- Sat. – Sun. April 5-6 LLHS Fine Arts Fair (band and choir perform in Sunday's 1:30pm concert)
- Tue. – Fri. April 8-11 Kindergarten Readiness Testing
- Fri. April 11 Early Release at 12:30pm  
Re-registration Cards and Payment Plan Forms are Due
- Mon. April 21 Zion 5-8 Grade Co-Ed Softball Begins
- Fri. April 25 Something Special for the 7th graders at Lakeside (no class for 8th graders)
- Sun. April 27 8th Grade Confirmation: Examination at 9:00am, Confirmation Service at 10:30am  
5-8 Grade Sing in the 10:30am service
- Tue. April 29 Softball vs. Juneau, Away at 4:00pm



**Treasurer's Report**

Needed monthly—General Fund .....	\$41,215.75
General received in February .....	28,487.02
Needed monthly—Missions .....	6,000.00
Missions received in February .....	10,147.46
Transferred from Undesignated Funds.....	38,400.00
Disbursements in February .....	42,768.39
Checkbook balance February 29th .....	17,856.77

**Summaries of other reports**—Receipts for

1. Synod Missions—February .....\$10,147.46  
Synod Missions since January ..... 16,486.14
2. Lakeside Operational—February ..... 1,780.44  
Lakeside Operational since January..... 3,388.58
3. Lakeside Building—February ..... 279.00  
Lakeside Building since January..... 525.25

**Happy Birthday!**

Delbert Desjarlais Sr.	3rd	80 years
Anita Monthie	6th	92 years
Wilma Will	6th	88 years
Arlene Kluetzman	8th	86 years
Rudolph Sennhenn	15th	87 years
Alvin Nehmer	22nd	80 years
Ruth Wolfgram	29th	84 years



APRIL

**Ushering Schedule**

**April 6th and April 13th**

<b>Team 1</b>	<b>Team 7</b>
7:45 am	10:30 am
Jeff Henning, Capt.	Steve Weiland, Capt.
Leo Fischer	Dave Harle
Michael Fischer	Mike Owens
Andy Fischer	Tony Owens
James Stadler	Gary Schuhmacher

**April 20th**

The youth choir will usher for both services.

**April 27th**

<b>Team 2</b>	<b>Team 8</b>
7:45 am	10:30 am
Delmar Vick, Capt.	Roger Gavitt, Capt.
Randy Vick	George Peeper
Kenneth Schultz	Eric Parpart
Dean Parpart	Bradley Sennhenn
	Neal Sennhenn

If you have any questions about the schedule, would like to be added as an usher or won't be able to serve any longer as an usher, please call Julie Doyle at 608 846-5103.

**Church Attendance**

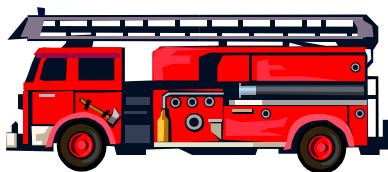
Date	Total	Date	Total
Feb. 24	393	Mar. 20 MT	192
Feb. 27 Lent	237	Mar. 21 GF	221
Mar. 2	424		
Mar. 5 Lent	237	Mar. 23 Sunrise	116
Mar. 9	324	Early	203
Mar. 12 Lent	225	Late	279
Mar. 16	387		

## Power Hour

The kids attending Power Hour in March were fired up to hear Sue Dynes and Dan Retzlaff share their interest in firefighting. After listening to a story, the children watched as Dan put on all his gear, then even got to try it on themselves. They practiced rolling up hoses and stop, drop, and roll. They also played musical fire trucks, Smoke-Smoke-Fire and Stop, Drop, and Roll tag before listening to more stories and enjoying a snack. Join us



Saturday, April 12th to hear Jason Nickels share his love of science with the kids.



## VBS Save the Date

Mark your summer calendars. The following are the dates for Zion's upcoming Vacation Bible School: **June 8th, July 13th, August 10th.**



Once again we will be having VBS one Sunday each summer month from approximately 11:30am to 1:30pm. Children ages 3 years old through sixth grade will enjoy a different Bible lesson, lunch and craft each time. Friends and family are welcome too.

## GIFT

A \$50.00 gift was given in honor of the birthday of Vera Hiller (March 3) and in memory of her life of service to Zion by our former teacher Jim Bakken and his wife Deb. They write, "It is our hope that this gift in her memory will prompt the membership of Zion Lutheran Church to reflect with thanks on all God's gifts to his church. It is also our hope and prayer that in reflecting on these gifts, your membership will be motivated to cheerful and unselfish zeal in the spread of the Gospel in the Columbus area and beyond."

## Book Reviews

**New** in the library this spring is a **Jesus, Savior Bible Box**. This kit contains items to teach your child about Jesus' important saving work. There is an Easter VHS, a 24-piece resurrection felt play set, two songbooks, a board book about the Lord's Prayer, and a talking, poseable Jesus doll. The Bible box is available for checkout in the church library.

Several other new books are listed below with reviews that are printed with permission from NPH's online catalog. More reviews will be printed in the Messenger each month. For more information about the library, contact Becky Retzlaff, 623-2623.



**Lord's Supper: The Lamb's High Feast**, by Arnold J. Koelpin. *People's Bible Teachings Series*

Part of **The People's Bible Teachings** series, which looks at the main doctrinal teachings of the Bible, *Lord's Supper* looks at what the Bible says about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This easy-to-understand volume, written for the average reader, includes background on the historical Passover context, and discusses the following: What the Lord's Supper is, the blessings it offers, and proper spiritual preparation for receiving Holy Communion. Author Arnold J. Koelpin emphasizes that the Lord's Supper is a life-giving meal that Jesus prepared before he died for his followers, then and now. Today, Christians celebrate this meal in which Jesus gives his people his life-giving sacrifice in person (real presence), and, thus, they receive God's forgiveness and blessings. The author also shows how Christians can respond to the gift of the Lord's Supper by serving and loving God and others just as Jesus came to serve and not to be served. Includes Scripture and subject indices, "Appendix 1-Luther's Small Catechism" and "Appendix 2- The Augsburg Confession of 1530."

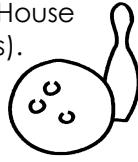
**Christ: He Is My Lord**, by Harlyn J. Kuschel. *People's Bible Teachings Series*

Part of **The People's Bible Teachings** series, which looks at the main doctrinal teachings of the Bible, *Christ* is a thorough study of what the Bible teaches about Jesus Christ and his person, work and office. By looking at Jesus through both the Old and New Testament Scriptures, this volume details the person of Christ (true God and true man), his humiliation and exaltation, his three-fold office (Prophet, Priest, and King) and his work (redemption) in a language that everyone will understand. The book asks the question, "Who is Jesus Christ" and demonstrates that the answer to this question determines a Christian's approach to all other biblical teachings. For example, a Christian's view of justification, the Trinity, Holy Baptism, and sanctification rests on truths about the person and work of Jesus Christ. Information in the 13 chapters will help Christians develop a strong personal defense against those who deny Jesus' existence and those who claim Jesus was just a great man and prophet, a humanitarian, or even a fraud. Includes Scripture and subject indices and endnotes.

## Family Ministry Board

by Leo Fischer, chairman

There will be an afternoon of family bowling on Sunday, April 20th at 2:00pm at Cardinal Ale House & Bowl (formerly Bobby G's). A sign up sheet will be out for those interested.



Also, the Family Ministry Board will be helping with the Church Anniversary celebration on Saturday, May 3rd.

Thank you to all those who came out and enjoyed the Lenten suppers and to the different groups that served.

## Lutheran Women's Mission Society

by Sylva Kehl, reporter

The LWMS Spring Rally will be held on Saturday, April 26th, 2008 at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Beaver Dam. The church is handicap accessible. The day begins at 9:45am with registration and light breakfast if desired. All ladies of our congregation are invited along with daughters, granddaughters, husbands and friends. Save this date to give all our thanks to God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The guest speaker will be Pastor Ben Kuerth from Victory of the Lamb Church, a home mission in the Franklin/Muskego area.

The service project for the Spring Rally will be for the WELS Blue Star families. Your donations of cards and stationary are requested. Items most desired are blank note cards, stationary all occasions, thinking of you and thank-you cards, especially those with religious thoughts that can be used by males or females. These are then made available to our military personnel. This request was made from the WELS Special Ministries. A big thank you for the most generous food items brought to our Fall Rally. The Wahl family delivered the two full van loads to WLS and MLC. Thank you!

May we joyfully help spread the Gospel.

## Elders Board

by Jeff Krakow, chairman

Confirmation day – April 27th, 2008! What a wonderful day for our eighth grade students. A day each of them is recognized as one who is properly prepared to receive Holy Communion. A day they publicly confess their belief in the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as taught from Luther's Small Catechism. A day they vow to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it. A day they vow to be faithful in the use of the Word and sacrament. Do you remember the day you vowed to do the same?

Do you remember studying Luther's Small Catechism? Do you know where that book is? Do you remember the last time you opened it? Do you remember why Martin Luther wrote it? I hope and pray your answers are yes. However, if you are more like me, you haven't thought much about it until now.

"Dr. Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism so that all Christians might have a short and simple summary of the main truths of the Bible." (Luther's Small Catechism-Preface) "When Luther found that many... parents did not know how to instruct children in the main teachings of the Bible, he wrote the Small Catechism." (LSC – pg. 24)

## Counseling Services

Are you having some problems in your marriage or with your children? Are you struggling with something or going through a difficult time in your life? Do you feel you need to talk to someone and get some help? Help is not far away. Your pastors are just a phone call away and are willing to meet with you to discuss whatever situation you might be in. If you would prefer a professional Christian counselor, Ron Paynter, a former counselor from Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service, is available to help. His phone number is 920-723-4283 and his business cards are also available on the information table at church.

"The Lutheran Church has always considered the catechism the very least that every Christian should know about Bible teachings. For over 400 years the catechism has served well as the basic book for teaching both young and old. Everything written in the catechism is based on the Bible.

Though the catechism is simple, we need to study it carefully to know and understand better the Bible truths it summarizes. Once Luther asked his son Hans how much he knew. Hans answered rather proudly, "The whole catechism, Papa, because I know that by heart." "Is that so!" Luther said. "If you really understand that much, you are wiser than I am. I still have to study it every day." May we, like the author of the Small Catechism, treasure the Bible truths it teaches us and study them diligently." (LSC – pg. 25)

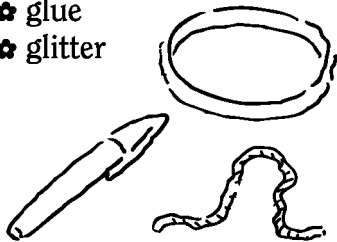
This isn't the only confirmation day in our church this year. We had a confirmation day for 11 adults in February. We have more adults waiting to take our Bible Information Class and become members of Zion. What truly wonderful blessings are happening here at Zion. Congratulations to our confirmed eighth graders and welcome to our new adult members. Let's all be sure to make all of them feel welcome in our congregation and may we all make diligent use of Luther's Small Catechism.

# kid's page

## Make a "Son" Catcher

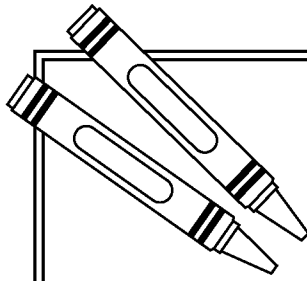
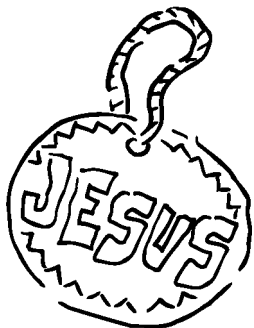
### You will need:

- ✿ round, clear plastic, food container lid
- ✿ hole punch
- ✿ yarn
- ✿ permanent markers in a variety of colors
- ✿ glue
- ✿ glitter



### How to make it:

- ✿ Using the markers and glitter, decorate the lid with the name of Jesus and some bright colors and shapes.
- ✿ Punch a hole in the top.
- ✿ Put a piece of yarn through the hole and tie it to make a hanger.
- ✿ Hang in a window to catch the sun.



## Just for KIDS

### One of a Kind

The scrambled words and phrases below are all found in the Bible. They all have something in common. Find what that is. First, unscramble the words. Next, transfer the circled letters in order to the lines at the bottom of the page.

- 1) eiVn \_ \_ ○ \_
- 2) iLLy fo teh elaVly  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 3) abLm fo dGo \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 4) estMar \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_
- 5) eJuss \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_
- 6) okRc \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_
- 7) rdBea fo eiLf \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_
- 8) higLt fo hte dorWl  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 9) voaSir \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_
- 10) doLr \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_
- 11) ishCrt \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_
- 12) ehSprhed ○ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 13) Teh doWr \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_
- 14) rncPie fo cePae  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

What do all these words have in common?

" \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ."

Names of Gods Son.

Answers: Vine; Lily of the Valley; Lamb of God; Master; Jesus; Rock; Bread of Life; Light of the World; Savior; Lord; Christ; Shepherd; The Word; Prince of Peace.