



B.A.S.I.C. Newsletter

Brothers and Sisters in Christ at
Zion Lutheran Church of Mondovi



August 2024

Take a “Beautiful Savior” into a Beautiful Summer

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.” (Psalm 19:1)

Summer is the time of vacations, the time for trips into the great outdoors. As we make our travel plans, maybe we can learn a valuable lesson from the following little story:

A family was on its way to a Sunday outing at the lake. It was mid-morning when they drove by a church. Worshipers, dressed in their Sunday best, were seen gathered at the front entrance.

From the back seat of the car came the voice of five-year-old Karen: “Daddy, aren’t we going to church today?” In the front seat both father and mother exchanged embarrassed glances. Since the question had been addressed to him, the father felt obliged to answer.

“We can worship God at the lake,” was his short reply. There was a brief moment of silence. Then from the back seat came the sage observation of which only a five-year-old is capable: “But we won’t, Daddy, will we?”

The father had sought refuge behind an evasion all too popular today, even among church members. It is true that our Lord can be worshiped at the lake. He can be worshiped in the forests, in the mountains, and along streams. But in her five short years Karen had learned that while God could be worshiped from hills or dales or lake cabins, He usually isn’t.

It will call for a conscious effort on our part to include God in our vacation plans. The majestic mountains may tell us of His might, the beauty of a wooded lake may tell us of His wisdom, but only the Gospel of our Savior’s tender mercy can tell us of God’s love. And it is this love that we are to recall and celebrate in conscious acts of Christian worship - not only in the hushed silence of the sanctuary, but also in God’s great out-of-doors. On mountaintops, in forests and valleys, beside the blue waters of lakes and streams the Christian heart can sing:

“Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flowers of blooming spring;

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorrowing spirit sing...”

Oh, come, let us worship the Lord!

Your Vacancy Pastor-Mark Benning

Parish News

Quarterly Voters' Meeting

August 11th at 10:30

There is a *short* Quarterly Voters Meeting scheduled for August 11th before the Pre-Call Open Forum meeting at 11:00 that day. At the Voters Meeting updates will be given on the work being completed on the maintenance and beautification outside of our church building. Information will also be given on what remains of the balance due of the parking lot. At 11:00 a.m., there will be a "Pre-Call Forum Meeting.

The Call Committee

The second meeting of the Call Committee was Wednesday evening, July 17th. The committee continued to make progress on the Congregational Self Study. The Self Study is scheduled to be completed by Wednesday July 24th.

The final part of the Self Study is tabulating the results of the Pastoral functions, traits, and abilities surveys. There were 68 total surveys; 60 members, 6 youth, and 2 non members. A total of 368 ovals (choices) were filled in. The top six traits are: People Skills (41); Preaching Delivery (32); Worship (28); Preaching Content (23); Leadership (21) and Teaching Ability (21).

Please mark your calendars for the following important dates:

1. *Nominations are due by July 31st.*

2. *The Open Forum Meeting is immediately after the Quarterly Voters meeting, approximately 11:00 a.m. Sunday August 11th.* Pastor Wessel will be on hand to lead the review of the Congregational Self Study. Everyone's input is appreciated.

After the Open Forum meeting The Self Study is forwarded to Pastor Lueck, District President. The next step, the Call Meeting, will be scheduled after Pastor Lueck returns a call list (based on our survey). Please, keep the Church, Call Committee, and Process in your prayers.

Members of the Call Committee are Dan Heike, Jeremy Anderson, Jane Reineke, Laura Nowasky, Joel Lewiston, Matt Mohn, and John Schultz.



Following is a Breakdown of the Call Process and What's going on in the Call Process?

There are several different steps that the congregation takes in the process of issue a Divine Call to a Pastor. We are in the middle of our process. Please reach out to any of the Call Committee if you have any questions about next steps.

- ✓ Pre-Call Meeting with President Lueck and Circuit Visitor Pastor Wessel
- ✓ Call Committee meets to organize and decide timelines
- ✓ Congregational Survey is sent to members (due 7/17)
- ✓ Call Committee meets to evaluate/compile surveys (7/17)
- Members can nominate possible candidates – Nominations forms due 7/31
- Congregation meets to review documents and information (tentative 8/11)
- Information sent to the North Wisconsin District Office
- North Wisconsin District President sends candidate list to congregation
- Call Committee meets to review candidate information and make recommendations to Zion
- Congregational Call Meeting - Congregation votes to extend a Divine Call to a candidate

BUFFALO COUNTY FAIR



The Evangelism Committee of Zion Mondovi is once again sponsoring a booth during the 4 days of the Buffalo County Fair. This is represented by members of Zion who have volunteered their time to visit with people and share God's work and word as fair goers wonder through the commercial building. We have a new game this year... "Plinko". We have many prizes for the game with other freebies to give away on our table too. Besides little trinkets with Zions name on most, we have free Bibles with *giant print* and also a Bible Story book for children. Be sure to stop by the booth to say "Hello" and try the new game!

Parking Lot Project Pledge for Matching Funds Sheets can be found in the Resource Center. Thank you for your prayerful offering toward the Parking Lot Project enhancing our church.

Confirmation 2024-25 Orientation Meeting – Students in grades 6-8th grade are invited to be part of this year’s confirmation class. Confirmation is a great time to learn about what we believe, why we believe it, and how we live out our lives as disciples of Christ. We will be holding an orientation night for students and parents on **Wednesday, August 28 at 5:30**. This will be a time to share information, get to know each other and answer any questions you may have. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Benning, or Jane Reineke.

Sunday School – “Fall Sunday Education Hour” – It may be hard to believe, but fall is right around the corner. We have begun planning for our fall education hour. Sunday School Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 8. This day will include class for Sunday School (4k-5th grade), Middle School & High School, and Adults. We plan to do a pot-luck at church after classes that day. Watch for more information in the bulletin

Midweek Morning Bible Class – “*God at Work*”

Our Midweek Morning Bible Class is taking a closer look at how God is at work in our lives and in our world through us today. What is my purpose in life? How can I know what I am supposed to do with my life? Exploring the book “*God at Work*” by Gene Veith we learn more about our Christian “vocation” or “callings” in life, whether we’re employed or retired, and how God is working through them. This interactive class is open to anyone and will meet every Thursday morning at 10:00 am at the outdoor Pavilion on the west side of Mondovi’s Mirror Lake.

**Christian Education Committee and Sunday School Teachers
next meeting will be August 13, 2024**

**Zion Lutheran Ladies Society will meet on August 8, 2024-
discussing plans for the German Dinner & Bake Sale on Sunday
October 20, 2024**

**Council Meeting for July was canceled due to many members
being unavailable. The next Council meeting is on August 8th
at 6:00 pm.**



Giving Thanks

Lutheran Youth Fellowship

John 15:12 says, “My command is to love each other as I have loved you” and that is exactly what our group did during our week in Shoshone Mountain Retreat near Wallace, Idaho.

Four adults and seven youths left the Zion parking lot in Mondovi on Friday, June 14th to caravan 1,178 miles for a week of adventure, serving others, and growing in faith. On the way out, we took a detour to see Mount Rushmore, attend church in Missoula, and tour a real silver mine in Wallace, Idaho. Upon our arrival to Shoshone, we began our week of Idaho Servant Adventures by meeting other adults and youth from Minnesota, Colorado, Idaho, and Washington. We were divided and put in mixed groups with other youth for a total of 6 servant teams and 1 team that would stay at camp and run a day camp for local public school kids that are bussed in daily. The needs in Northern Idaho are great, and we excitedly accepted the challenges that came our way.

The servant groups that we participated in completed a wide variety of tasks out in the community, such as cutting down trees, splitting and stacking wood, organizing and fixing a shed, sanding and staining a deck, painting, power washing, weeding, helping with food distribution, mowing and weed wacking, setting up army tents, and much, much more! Each afternoon we arrived back at camp exhausted but filled with the satisfaction of a day well spent helping others and sharing God's love. We enjoyed daily morning and midday Bible studies, as well as more evening worship and praise to fill us spiritually so we could pour ourselves into serving others.

The day camp group served approximately 63 youth, ages 6-12. It was challenging at times to build a rapport with the young kids, knowing it would only be for four days and how great their needs were. A highlight was when all the adult group leaders and camp leaders would debrief at the end of every service day. Upon everyone's arrival back from all their adventure, we would all gather on the porch on these big wooden rocking chairs and really connect. It was a joy to hear about all the work accomplished, new friends helped, and all the memories made.

Each afternoon we had a few hours of recreation time after the debrief, which was time for the youth to rock climb, zip line, use the giant swing, fish, swim, tube, visit the horses, or catch a nap. The evenings were busy with programming that included a speaker, worship, and campfire on the days that it didn't rain. Many new friends and memories were made.

We would like to thank everyone that made this trip possible. Those that bought Butter Braids when we ask, those that donated egg bakes for the

Easter Breakfast, those that came and ate Easter Breakfast. Also, all those that donated unwanted items to be sold at our thrift sale, bought items or baked goods, and even trusted your vehicles to us to be detailed. Through your financial support and prayers, this trip was made possible. Thank you for blessing us with this amazing servant experience!

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.” 1 Peter 4:10-11

June 16-21, 2024 Idaho Servant Adventure Attendees:

Dan Linse, Melissa Linse, Amanda Osenga, Mike Lueloff

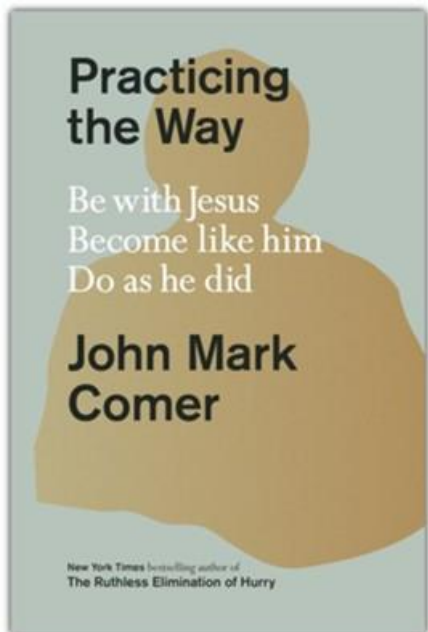
Gabe Linse, Ben Linse, Ellie Osenga, Ethan Lueloff, A.J. Loscheider, Issaiah Hill, Izzy Mohn



God
IS *good.*

Men of Zion- Saturday Men's Group

Our Saturday morning monthly study with Breakfast will be taking a break this summer during July and August. Schedules are pretty much all over the place! We will resume on Saturday, September 21. We will pick up with the book we started in June - *Practicing the Way*.



In September, we will review Goal #1 - *Be With Jesus* again. It will be a good review for some and new to others! This is a very practical study on what it means to be an 'apprentice' of Jesus. We are providing this book for all who are interested and want to join us. Please let me know if you need a copy of this book. I will make sure to have one ordered and available for you. May God grant you rest and revitalization this summer! Hope to see you soon.

David Reineke

Zion Lutheran Church of Mondovi

Photo Directory

The directories have arrived. They show our beautiful church and wonderful members. Please be sure to pick yours up in the Resource Center or at the church office. There is 1 for each Zion family. Thank you for adding to our church pictorial directory.



Summer Education Hour continues through the month of August. This hour starts around 10:30 and we finish at 11:30. We are using Hebrews 11 as the basis for both the adults and children of our congregation to learn and grow. We have studied how God has used the circumstances of individuals and groups to further His Kingdom. We would love to have you join us. "Faith is being of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1



John Schultz with a check for \$217.25 raised for the Food Pantry. They also donated 91 pounds of food!

Vacation Bible School

Thank you so much to all who were part of this year's VBS "The Great Jungle Journey." The Children also took up a collection of food items and monetary gifts for the Mondovi Food Pantry. Here is a photo of a few of the VBS kids presenting



ZION CHOIR NOTES

Our August pop-up choir date is August 18. Everyone is invited to join us at 8:00 to practice for that service. We will begin our fall rehearsal schedule (Thursdays at 6:30) on Thursday, Sept. 5. Once again, we'd love to have you join us! We practice each Thursday for about an hour. We sing, but we also laugh, learn and grow as we celebrate the gift of music. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Reineke.





Evangelism Committee Meeting Notes June 25, 2024

Mondovi Fair 2024 update:

- August 1-4. We will get 2 booths this year.
- Themes: Journey through the Jungle
 - 2 tables will be used
 - Extension Cords
 - Electric Fan
 - Journey through the jungle board as background at the booth
- Some giveaways currently on-hand:
 - Regular and large print Bible
 - Story Books
- Additional items to order:
 - Fans
 - Ref Magnets – 125pcs ordered
 - Jar Gripper -
 - Pocket Cross – 175pcs ordered
- Game Prizes
 - T-shirts
 - Zion baseball caps
 - Bracelets
 - Cross Necklace
- Games: Plinko Games – Will check next meeting to make sure we get everything to setup.
- Put sign-up sheet for volunteers for 2hr shift taking care of our booth.

Next meeting July 23, 2024, at 6:00pm



August Birthdays

3-Brooklyn Bechel
3-Zachary Hegg
3-Chelsina Sessions
4-Mya Hollister
4-Ronald Moyer
5-Lori Grossell
7-Henry Ebner
7-Kurt Engen
7-Ruth Graese
7-Chris Hill
7-Tracy Smith
9-Dan Linse
10-Emily Benning
10-Danielle Erickson
10-Remy Erickson
10-Tanner Osenga
11-Hugo Ebner
14-Dillon Dziekan
14-Dustin Dziekan
14-Payton Schmidtknecht
15-Tyler Hayden
15-Dedri Johnson
16-Devin Sutton
19-Ruth Larson
20-Azle Campbell
22-Jane Reineke
23-Jean Sandberg
23-Joshua Hill
24-Miguel Corpuz
29-Julie Heck
29-Gary Parker
30-Janice Parker
30-Mary Brion
31-Bonnie Arnold
31-Byron Sessions
31-Raymond Waldbillig

August Anniversaries

2-Josh & Shauna Sie
5-Kurt & Donna Engen
15-David & Jane Reineke
18-Ryan & Julie Vollmer
19-Deborah Deutscher & Chuck Girtman
21-Joe & Kelly Grossell
22-Quinn & Joann Buchholz
22-Tom & Elizabeth Leasum
28-Travis & Laura McDonough
31-Nate & April Winberg

Thank you to “Thrivent Choice Dollars” donator:

Donna Engen



Official Acts



Gifts and Memorials

❖ *In Honor of Jeremy & Candy
Anderson Anniversary
Parking Lot Fund
Deborah Deutscher*



FAITH

Reminder of “First Sunday Loose Offerings”

Twelve charitable organizations were approved. The name of each organization was put into a hat. Elders drew names for each month. Each month “First Sunday Loose Offerings” will be donated as follows:

January	Apple Pregnancy Center
February	Mondovi Backpack Program
March	North Wisconsin District Church Worker Debt Relief
April	Lutheran Public Radio (LPR)
May	Main Street Living
June	Scenic Hills Youth Ranch
July	LCMS Disaster Relief Fund
August	Mondovi Area Food Pantry
September	Mondovi Area Clergy Association (MACA)
October	Rev. Michael and Irene Paul
November	Camp Luther
December	Hope Gospel Mission

Mondovi Area Food Pantry

The Mondovi Area Food Pantry is the August recipient of Zion’s loose plate offerings. The number of families served has almost doubled since early 2023. The Pantry is financially supported by the people and organizations in Mondovi, Eleva, and Gilmanton. There is no government support. Like everyone else, higher food costs have put a strain on the budget.

Over 475 families and 1211 individuals have benefitted from the resources at the Pantry between January and June. For years every family has been offered a pound of butter, a 1 gallon milk voucher at Hansen’s, and two or three meat choices. Each visitor takes home about 65 pounds of food. The number of out of area visitors is increasing, no one is turned away.

The shelves are stocked yet the warehouse is about as low as it’s been in years. Food donations are always appreciated. Monetary donations go farther. The Pantry buys shelf stable food and grocery products from Feed My People (FMP) at a lower cost than retail. A can of tomato soup purchased from Feed My People costs about \$0.74.

The staff at the Mondovi Area Food Pantry thanks everyone for supporting this important service for almost 40 years.

Mondovi Area Food Pantry is located at 125 East Hudson Street in Mondovi. The Pantry takes donations, either food or monetary.

Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mondays: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Growing in Faith

Our Monday Evening Bible Study is taking a summer break. Please watch the bulletin and this area of the Newsletter for updates for the Fall start date.

On Thursday Mornings at 10 am, a weekly summer Bible Study will be offered on “God at Work” in vocation, at the Mirror Lake Pavilion.

Men’s Group *will meet again in September*. Please watch the bulletin and this area of the Newsletter for the date. We enjoy breakfast, watch & discuss a video, and encourage one another as men of faith.

Rachel Circle is a women’s Bible study that meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm. Feel free to join these ladies anytime.

You are most welcome to Worship
Sunday - 9:00 a.m.
Wednesdays – 7:00 p.m.



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