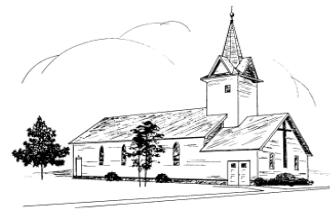




# The Messenger

Newsletter of St. Jacobi and Zion



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Sundays after Pentecost

August/September 2009

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## Enjoying the Gospel Showers

I love thunderstorms. The cat isn't too fond of them, but I love them. The feeling as the temperature drops with the front, watching the dark clouds roll in, and then the free fireworks show that God puts on for us whether it's early July or not are all wonderful.

Since we've been in a far more agriculture-centric region for the past year, I've gathered a far deeper appreciation for rain. It means far more than something fun to watch from the porch or ensuring that the grass will be green. The rain, for many of us, is a crucial component of our livelihood. Whether it directly affects your work or not, the right amount of moisture at the right times can have an impact on all of us.

God uses the picture of rain to describe the work that he does. He says through the prophet Isaiah, **"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:10-11)**. The gospel, God's Word and his Sacraments, are a rain of grace that he showers on us because he loves us so dearly.

Rain doesn't always do what it's supposed to do. We saw very clearly this spring that too much water can cause great destruction. The melting snow overwhelmed the frozen ground. But God's Word is different. It always does what God wants it to do. It always achieves his purpose. It is always effective.

What a comfort it is to come to church on a weekend knowing that God is going to do what he wants with his Word—namely, strengthening your faith. The rain of the message of Jesus crucified for you waters your faith and makes it grow, bud, and flourish. You bring nothing to the equation and you don't need to do anything to make it work. God sends his Holy Spirit to you to build you up and strengthen you through his Word.

That's a shower that is really worth admiring, far greater than any thunderstorm could ever be! Sometimes we can get a little lax in the summer in our church attendance or our personal and family devotions. We get busy and distracted and get out of the habit. But now as the school year approaches and all the children get ready to hit the books, why don't we all hit the Book?

If it's been a long time since you took part in the Bible Class on Sunday morning or during the week, why not come back to it this fall as things get started? If you've never come to a Bible class or are intimidated to do so, just come and listen. Come to watch and benefit from the amazing gospel shower we find in God's Word. When you feel more comfortable you can participate more and splash in the puddles. Playing in the rain of God's love is awesome!

How great God is to give us so many blessings! It is my prayer that in the coming months we can all join together in classes and in public worship, in our conversations and our personal devotions, in praising God anew for his love, his forgiveness, and his unending mercy. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

Pastor Shrimpton

## Younger Elder Report

### Greetings Members:

Here's the report for the first e-newsletter and the regular paper newsletter. The Elders and Pastors have made several visits this second quarter of the year. (Remember our visits also include our regular members as well as our members who need spiritual encouragement.) Also we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Church Building. Let's say a prayer of Thanks that the Lord has blessed us with such a beautiful place to Worship.

Play Ball--- That's the sound we heard in June as several of our younger members played MYO softball and ran the concession stand. They played Monday thru Thursday nights. It was fun to watch them play for the fun of playing the game without the pressure of win! win! win! and of course we can't forget to say Thanks to the friendly face who served the cold beverage or tasty snack from the concession stand. Next June I highly encourage all of you to head up to the ball diamond and support our younger members. I'm sure they would appreciate a friendly face from church cheering them on in addition to Mom, Dad or Grandparents.

The Cleaning List is being reviewed and revised. If you are not on a cleaning group and would like to be, please let the Pastors or Roger Frey know. Likewise if you would like to be taken off, also let the Pastors or Roger Frey know. Thanks to all who serve.

A new school year is rapidly approaching and we have started getting the playground equipment and Parking Lot lines ready for painting. I'm looking for some younger members who would like to help paint. So if you're 12+ to 18+ and would like to volunteer, let Tom Fried know. I'm thinking on a Sunday evening at 7:00 pm or any evening that would work better for those who can't make Sunday work for them. Thanks younger members for prayerfully considering helping with this project.

Lastly, the Church Services, Communion, Ushering, Young People's Ushering all seem to be running smoothly. Also the Friday night mowing is working

out well. God's Blessings to everyone as you enjoy what's left of summer.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Tom Fried

## Wednesday Morning Bible Class

On September 9 we will be resuming our Wednesday Morning Bible Class at 10:00am. We will continue our study of the book of Revelation, beginning with Chapter 8.

If you feel like you've forgotten what we studied before the summer break or weren't able to be there for that earlier study but would like to jump in now, we will be having a brief review at the start of the class to jog our dusty memories and get everyone up to speed. Please join us!

If you're interested in this alternate Bible study (which is always different from Sunday morning's class), but cannot make it for the Wednesday morning time slot and would like the class mirrored at an alternate time during the week, please contact Pastor Shrimpton.

## Moms' Group

Moms' Group meets monthly in the fellowship room at Zion and is open to all families from our parish and the community. We have a Jesus story and song time, a craft, a snack, and lots of free play time. The kids really enjoy the social time, and it's very good for the moms, too! We had seven moms and 17 kids who participated last year as schedules permitted, from member families and from the community. This is a good outreach opportunity for our parish and we appreciate your support!

This fall we will plan to meet the first Tuesday of each month (second Tuesday in September) at 10:15am in the fellowship room. Toys, craft, and snack are provided – families should come prepared to have fun! Questions? Call Melissa Berg at 649-7792 or Karen Shrimpton at 845-2038.

## GPLHS Update

At the board meeting on Saturday, July 11th it was reported that the school ended well in the black, making it seven (7) years running. Enrollment to date for the 2009-2010 school year will be 118. Hiring an assistant for the Development Director to help with records, mailings, and publicity was also discussed. Delegates received updates on the kitchen remodeling and purchase of a curtain for the stage area. We ask the Lord's continued blessings on the faculty, staff, and students in the coming school year.

## Young Adults

In July, we had the first meeting of what we hope will be a revitalized Young Adults group for the parish. Any members of the parish from college-age through 30-something are welcome and encouraged to attend. We won't likely have regular monthly gatherings or meetings, but we'll try to get together every so often for fun and fellowship as well as service to the congregations. If you're interested or would like more information, simply ask Pastor Naumann or Pastor Shrimpton.

A campout for the whole parish is being planned for early September, organized by the Young Adults. Watch the bulletin for more details!

## Trustees

A little update on the trustees. First a big thank you to all who have helped in any way to keep the grounds and building in good upkeep and repair. Some ongoing projects in the future include the east entrance overhang is in need of replacement. Some thought and talk has been done on how to redo it. The windows in Pastor Shrimpton's office need to be replaced; a quote is being sought. The heat tapes in the gutters are not working; they will be repaired before winter.

-- Robert Ernst and Ron Hepper, trustees

## LWMS Rally

What a privilege to be one of over 1000 who attended the 46th annual convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society in Denver, CO June 25-28. The theme, "Missions with an Altitude," provided opportunities to meet missionaries and their wives, and to hear first-hand about the mission work being done.

Of special interest was a presentation by Rachel Hartman, wife of missionary to Mexico Mike Hartman, who spoke on "Missionary Life Behind the Scenes," giving us a glimpse of life there from a woman's standpoint. She is a gifted writer and we may see her articles in "Forward in Christ." Other presentations included information about Mormons, Muslim Women, Africa, Our Community, and others. There were displays of interest from many of our missions, with missionaries or their wives there to add their input.

The purpose of LWMS is to increase interest in and to support mission endeavors of WELS through prayers, offerings, and project support. The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual LWMS Convention will be held in St. Louis, MO June 24-27, 2010. The theme will be "Show Me Your Ways, O Lord."

-- Maria Schlomer

## Young People

The Young People will begin meeting again in September. We normally will meet on the third Wednesday evening of each month at 8:00pm (though, note that September will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday due to Pastors' Conference). Everyone from Catechism age (7<sup>th</sup> grade) through the end of high school is welcome and encouraged to attend. We've tried a nice Bible Study over supper at Pizza Ranch, game nights, movie nights, cookouts, etc. We're excited for any and all ideas for activities and ways to serve the Parish. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact Pastor Shrimpton.

## Service Time Change

Please remember that on the weekend of September 12 & 13 we will switch to our school year schedule. That means our weekend schedule is as follows: Saturday worship at Zion at 7:00pm. Sunday worship at St. Jacobi at 8:30am and at Zion at 10:45am. Bible Class at St. Jacobi will begin at 9:30, and Bible Class & Sunday School will begin at 9:45am at Zion.

## August Birthdays

2	Becky Pfitzer	24	Delores Fritz
5	Charles Bieber		Karen Pfitzer
	Shirley Burns		Nard Spiry
6	Addie Rorvig	25	Alex Keller
8	Carol Fried		Norman Pfitzer
9	Ione Enderson	26	Greg Frey
	Corrine Schlomer		Kristin Volk
10	Betty Swanson	28	Darwin Crabbe
16	Dylan Prusha		Richard Schlomer
21	Gus Ottenbacher	29	Grace Beaman
22	Allen Walth		Gwen Ringler
23	Everett Fowler		Jonathan Schlomer
		30	Ted Raugutt

## September Birthdays

1	Jennifer Larson	21	Robena Moser
7	James Aman	22	Twyla Pfitzer
	Grant Gosch		Jim Pfitzer
8	Hudson Filler	23	Marvin Schlomer
	Ed Fried	24	Ron Landis
11	Ruth Fried		Jared Larson
	Judy Hough	25	Mike Andrews
	Dennis Naasz		Tracy Goetz
13	Gery Giese		Marvin Naasz
	Aundrea Kramer	27	Dave Spiry
14	Renita Reichert		Susan Voller
15	Raelyn Aman	28	Becky Schlomer
16	Hilary Filler	29	April O'Connell
	Jesse Larson		Danne Schlomer
17	Bob Ernst	30	Dorothy Schlomer
19	Alvin Allerdings		

## August Ushers

**Zion** – Marion Schlomer, Lyle Walth Ralph Rabenberg, Ron Landis, Jeff Frey, Ron Hepper, Evan Salverson, Tim Pfitzer, Bob Ernst  
**St. Jacobi** – Vic Schlomer, Everett Fowler

## August Cleaners

**Zion** – Pastor and Barb Naumann, Garrett TenBroek, Dwight and Judy Sackreiter, Betty Kuehl, Memorie Carlson, Cindy Ringler  
**St. Jacobi** – Carol Schlomer and Colleen Schlomer

## September Ushers

**Zion** – Tom Fried, Roger Frey, Glen Landis, Alan Landis, Ron Pourier, Jason Rabenberg, Helmuth Eisenbeisz, Tom Volk  
**St. Jacobi** – Tim Gonzales, Allen Walth

## September Cleaners

**Zion** – Lyle and Faye Walth, James and Susan Aman, Viola and Betty Mitchell, Tom and June Volk  
**St. Jacobi** – Mary Gonzales and Judy Hough

