
The Zion Messenger

October 2020

In her life, Maxine Wright of Bremen, Georgia, collected angel figurines. She also collected stories. Here's one about one of her angels.

“One day as I was dusting, I discovered that one of my figurines had been broken; the same one that my granddaughter Jessica had been looking at the day before. As I learned later, she had accidentally dropped the little angel; breaking one of the wings. Horrified at what she'd done, she immediately put it back in its' place, but said nothing to grandma. Upon finding the broken angel the next day, for some reason I didn't throw it away. As I gently put it back in its place, I began to think back to the mistakes (accidents) I'd made in my life -- bad decisions and judgments, harsh words spoken to loved ones, paths I wished I'd never gone down. And I recalled how it was always somebody else's fault not mine.” Looking at that little angel with the broken wing, Maxine Wright was reminded of another 'story'. It's the story that's been called, 'Greatest Story Ever Told.’”

That story goes like this: Long ago God our heavenly Father made a perfect world. The best part of God's perfect world, were His two perfect people. Those two people, Adam and Eve, so lovingly created, God placed in a beautiful garden. God put them there as caretakers. They were to have dominion, to enjoy God's creation, including the fruit of every tree of the garden except for one. The rest of that story we read about in Genesis 3, especially the part of the story where God made a most incredible choice. God chose not to throw Adam and Eve away. Instead He chose to send His Son Jesus, who came down and loaded onto Himself their brokenness, their sin, but not just theirs alone. Jesus took up their sin, our sin, all sin of all people of all time, He took it up and carried it to the cross where He Himself was broken so that we might be restored. This work of restoration our Lord began in baptism and will continue through life until the Day of Resurrection when the Good work He began in Christ Jesus, will be brought to perfection.” Philippians 1.6

Until then, Maxine writes, “I can look at each new day with hope and purpose. I can face life with a smile, knowing that whatever comes my way, Jesus is with me.” Such is the power of faith. “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.” That's what the Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4.13. Faith enables you to see true beauty, even in the brokenness of life. Looking down at her broken angel Maxine realized why she never threw it away. God never throws away the pieces of a broken vessel. A day or so later Jessica came over. Grandma hugged her and told her not to worry about it. It was just a 'thing' and it could be replaced.

Long ago Isaiah wrote, “A bruised reed he will not break, a smoldering wick he will not quench, until He brings justice to victory.” Question: What is feebler than a cracked reed or barely flickering wick? Answer: A broken sinner. Think about that the next time you find yourself dealing with a fellow member of the greatest of all collections . . . the Body of Christ. Jesus went about restoring, healing, and strengthening the very same. God reckons as useless none of these, for them, the broken of the world Christ has won the victory! And that's Good News.

Bible Study & Sunday School

Called to Vote, A Christians Approach to Elections

This new bible study offered at Zion, beginning Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary and on ZOOM. This four-week study doesn't tell Christians which political party to vote for. It sparks thoughtful and biblical conversation about voting in a democracy and our duty to do so as Christian citizens. *Called to Vote* reminds us that "we go to the polls informed by God's Word and our own best thinking. But we should never forget to distinguish between the two." Topics include:

- Distinguishing between God's Word and our own human judgments
- Distinguishing, but not separating, God's two modes of ruling
- Distinguishing oneself as ruled from oneself as "ruler"
- Repentance and involvement in politics

Contact church office or pastor K for more information.

ZOOM Bible Study

ZOOM Bible Study Continues. Anyone and everyone is invited to join the ZOOM Bible Study every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. This Sunday we begin a new set of lesson based on the Scripture Readings for each Sunday. The group is a discussion format lead by Paul Miller. The Bible Study pdf is available on the church website. Don't print! It's 129 pages!

Sunday School Update

Classes will resume in-person this weekend, Sunday, October 4, from 9:30-10:15am in the school building. The online video for children will also continue to be posted to the Facebook page each week for those who would prefer a virtual option. For those families who plan to have their children attend virtually, please contact Rachel Mosser (rachel.mosser@zion-school.org) if you would like materials for use at home. Also, please join our NEW Facebook group for Sunday School updates and announcements. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2929378880495711/?ref=share>

As a reminder here is our COVID PROTOCOL:

- Social distancing and groupings will be kept (locations of classes will reflect the number of children in each class).
- Masks will be required of all students and teachers.
- Proper sanitation of class areas and supplies will be maintained.

If you have any questions or concerns or would like to volunteer as a teacher/helper (even on a substitute basis) please contact Rachel Mosser (rachel.mosser@zion-school.org).

Text Message System

The church office will be utilizing a text messaging system to share important information and reminders, such as COVID information, inclement weather issues, important meeting reminders, etc. Congregation members will need to accept the invitation sent via email and add their own cell phone number to text system. This system will also let us send messages to specific groups. For example, we will be able to send a text to the parents of Confirmation students to inform them of any schedule or class changes. If you have not received an email inviting you to receive text message, have questions, or need help signing up, please contact Kim in the church office at 635-2880 or zionlutheranstaunton@gmail.com.

*Please note: this system is different than the Google Group system. Since this is an optional feature, you have to voluntarily submit your cell phone number through the email prompts.

School Calendar

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|-----------------|---|
| October 9 | School Improvement Day (12:30pm dismissal) |
| October 12 | No School - Columbus Day |
| October 16 | End of First Quarter - No Early Dismissal |
| October 21 & 22 | Zion Parent Teacher Conferences - No Early Dismissals |
| October 23 | No School |
| November 3 | No School - Election Day |

Trunk or Treat

On Sunday, October 31, ZECEC will host a modified Trunk or Treat event. We will have cars drive through our school drop off/pick up lane to receive treats for Halloween. Please watch for more details and times. Normally, we would ask people to volunteer to enter a car but due to Covid, we will only be asking families to send in a bag of candy or other treats to make up at least 300 treat bags to be passed out. All candy and treats should be sent in to school or church office by Thursday, October 22, so bags can be assembled. Any help in making this a special event for both our school families and the community is greatly appreciated. Any questions can be addressed to Pam Kleckner.

October

2020

Zion Lutheran Church

Staunton, Illinois

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|------------|---|--|--------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | | | 5pm Worship w/C |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C | | | 8:30am virtual Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 6:30pm Confess/Sacrament 7 pm Bible Study | 10am Bible Study 7:30pm Men's Club | | 5pm Worship w/C |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C | | | 8:30am virtual Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 6:30pm Confess/Sacrament 7 pm Bible Study | 10am Bible Study | | 5pm Worship w/C |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C | | 7pm Elders | 8:30am virtual Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 6:30pm Confess/Sacrament 7 pm Bible Study | 10am Bible Study | | 5pm Worship w/C |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C | | | 8:30am virtual Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 6:30pm Confess/Sacrament 7 pm Bible Study | 10am Bible Study 7pm Alumni & Friends | | Trunk or Treat 5pm Worship w/C |
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