

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion's Good News

APRIL
2021

Holy Week and April Schedule

Maundy Thursday - April 1st
Online Worship.

Good Friday - April 2nd
Noon to 3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross private devotions.
Outdoor Worship at 5:30 p.m. Tune into FM91.5



Easter Sunday - April 4th
Outdoor Worship at 8:00 a.m. in our parking lots.
Tune into FM91.5. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Indoor Worship at **9:30 a.m.** *Please remember to sign up by Thursday of the scheduled service. Use the sign-up link or call the church office.*

Sunday, April 11th
Online Worship.

Sunday, April 18th - Indoor Worship at 9:00 a.m.
Please remember to sign up by Thursday of the scheduled service. Use the sign-up link or call the church office.
New Member Sunday!



Sunday, April 25
Outdoor Worship at 9:00 a.m. in our parking lots. Tune into FM91.5. Holy Communion will be celebrated.
Bring your own coffee.

Easter Blessing

For everything there is a season, and Spring, it seems, is certainly the season of hope. This remains true even in these times of uncertainty. Each Spring brings themes of rebirth, resurrection, and rejuvenation.

Although gathering places remain very quiet, nature remains active. We can see this with the robins coming back, the trees budding, flowers sprouting up, and the grass turning green. Our world is in a state of renewal. I believe these changes stand as reaffirming signs of better days to come.

As a kid, I loved when Dad would bring in a branch from a tree, usually one of our apple trees, and we would hang Easter eggs (not plastic) on it. These were eggs that we patiently and carefully opened with a needle at both ends and that we blew the white and yoke out of, leaving an empty shell.

If you have been in the east entrance of the church building lately, you have probably noticed the Easter egg tree. The colorful eggs make it hard to miss. This is a special Easter egg tree which was put together by our J-Team and Little Lutherans. Each egg contains an Easter Blessing. Those blessings are for you!! Simply open an egg, remove the paper inside, and read the blessing. Each blessing is surrounded by the love and prayers of our young people.

Let me share a blessing for you and your family, however your family is configured.

May you and your family be **blessed** as you celebrate the true meaning of **Easter**, from the reflection of **Good** Friday to the joy of **Easter** Sunday and the promise of eternal life. **Best** wishes to you this **Easter**. ... May you be **blessed** with a home filled with harmony, joy, and love.

He is risen! He is risen indeed!



Pastor Sue





Support our Troops!

Military Care Packages

Evangelism team is looking at sending care packages to our members that are active in the military and currently we have 7 of them. We are looking for monetary donations. Our team will then put together care packages and send them out for Flag day, which is on June 14th. We are looking at sending things like cheese curds, granola bars, gift cards, snacks and are looking for any monetary donations you would be willing to contribute to this. You can put in an envelope, marked military care packages and mail in to church or drop off in church office by Friday, May 28th! Thank you!!

Confirmation Classes

All classes meet in the Family Center.

You do not need to pre-register for classes.

The first Wednesday of the month is a required class.

April 7th ~ 6:00 p.m. **Sacraments**

April 14th ~ 6:00 p.m. **The Letters of Paul**

April 21st ~ 6:00 p.m. **Personality Types**

April 28th ~ 6:00 p.m. **VIPS New Testament**



We will meet on
Wednesdays,
April 7th and 21st.
Afterschool
until 5:15 p.m.



Disciples For Christ

“Meet the Council” on Sunday, April 18th

For Disciples and their mentors.

5:30 p.m. in the Family Center



God Bless
Lily Cournoyer
on her First Communion.
March 21, 2021



Pastoral Acts

Pastor Sue officiated at the Baptisms of Levi Balz and Allison Hom.



New Member Sunday

We will be receiving new members to Zion on Sunday, **April 18th**.
If you are interested, or know of anyone interested in joining,
please call the church office at 715-687-4110.

Baptismal Chests

I am reaching out to our Zion family as we are looking for your support/help. As many of you know you have received a baptismal chest when your little one was baptized here at Zion.

These chests were constructed by two long time members Harold Wrench and Rich Krueger. They have stepped away from the building of these chests as they are enjoying retirement, and have set the hammers down with this project.

With that being said we are asking / looking for some support.

- 1) Are any of you younger woodworkers of the congregation interested in taking on this project and helping us carry it into the future for upcoming families? Get a group of members together to build chests.
- 2) Do any of you have the chests at home and you are not utilizing them or would wish to donate back them back to the church for another young member to enjoy?

Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated.
Please reach out to me or to Lori in the church office if you are interested in building chests or donating a chest.

Respectfully,
Dan Wieland - Faith Formation



Cemetery Reminder

All memory flowers, etc. need to be removed from the cemetery on both Hwy 153 & 97 by April 15th. Anything remaining after that date will be removed by the Cemetery Team. This will help us when getting the cemeteries ready for Memorial Day 2021. If you wish to keep flowers, etc. for next year, please remove them yourself. Thank you for your help!

Council Minutes

Zion Lutheran Church Council met on Monday, March 15, 2021
Vice President Brenda Castellano called the meeting to order
Marge led with devotions.

During the meeting the council:

- Approved the Secretary Report.
- Approved the Treasurer Report.
- Approved the Ministry Teams Reports.
- Motion made to accept Continuing Resolutions Evangelism & Faith Formation.
- Discussion and motion made to approve German Fest request.
- Looking for Synod Assembly members.

Respectfully submitted by
Maryel Schoenfuss, Secretary

*** A full copy of the Secretary's Minutes is in the office.

Building Update 2021

Payment					
Bi-Weekly Dates	Start Balance	Payment Amount	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
12/04 & 12/18	\$242,466.85	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 728.97	\$ 2,371.03	\$ 240,095.82
12/18	\$240,095.82	\$17,500.00	\$.00	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 222,595.82
01/04 & 01/15	\$222,595.82	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 688.36	\$ 2,411.64	\$ 220,184.18
01/29	\$220,184.18	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 331.80	\$ 1,218.20	\$ 218,965.98
02/12 & 02/26	\$218,965.98	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 658.09	\$ 2,441.91	\$ 216,524.07
Total monthly principal payments				\$ 25,942.78	
Total monthly interest payments				<u>\$ 2,407.22</u>	
Balance of loan as of 02-26-2021				\$ 215,300.85	
Partners Bank					
Building checking acct balance as of 03-01-2021				\$ 31,159.42	

Vacation Bible School
July 18th - July 21st.
Rocky Railway. Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through
 More information to come!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Marilyn Suckow
Don Kroening
Harold Wrensch
- 2 - Colin Schwarze
- 4 - Carla Spindler
Darlene Pawlik-Plank
Jett Schoenherr
- 5 - Mason Johnson
Anne McShane
- 6 - Lois Miller
Marjorie Kollmansberger
- 7 - Barbara Jannusch
BreAnna Grell
Tristyn Zawislan
- 8 - Sharol Hinkelmann
Macie Frueh
- 9 - Lindsay White
- 10 - Jacob Hughes
Isabelle Multerer
- 11 - Amy Cournoyer
Dennis Kuyoth
Alex Spaeth
Sharon Mikelson
- 12 - Lydia Burrows
Sara Mercer
- 13 - Mark Andersen
Laura Aschenbrenner
Teresa Bornbach
Savannah Schillinger
Averi Johnson
- 14 - Al Grell
- 15 - Austin Cole
Troy Ballerstein
- 16 - Sara Dasler

- 18 - Carmen Van Der Leest
Marsha Sipple
- 20 - Alayna Hoesly
Kali Thompson
- 21 - Nancy Schoenherr
Nathan Zawislan
Juliet Fellenz
Lisa Niskanen
- 22 - Ray Carl
Emily Meyer
- 23 - Kohle Hilgemann
- 24 - Nicole Curtis
- 25 - Dylan Fischer
- 26 - Logan Gliniecki
- 27 - Dylan Schoenherr
- 28 - Ryan Brubaker
- 29 - Rachel Anderson
- 30 - Jason Dennee
Tim Garrigan



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 - Bernie & Kecia Krueger
- 7 - Bud & Marilyn Suckow
- 8 - Jason & Candy Landwehr
- 9 - Terry & Charlotte Schoenherr
- 14 - Mike & Kim Johnson
- 22 - Mathew & Angela Schiller
- 25 - John & Kathy Zuelke
- 27 - Ted & Jill Dasler
- 27 - Benny & Rhonda Knoll

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Carmella Moon
V. Pres.: Brenda Castellano
Secretary: Maryel Schoenfuss
Treasurer: Marge Redetzke
Evangelism: Cory Wiesman
Faith Formation: Ray White
 Jasmine Grell
Property: Lee Spindler
Stewardship: Amy Cournoyer
Worship: Lois Miller

PASTOR: Sue Eidahl
Home Phone: 687-4381
E-mail: eides@zionlc.com

Secretary: Lori Lang
E-mail: office@zionlc.com

**WAYS TO CONNECT
WITH ZION**

Write us at Zion Lutheran Church,
213501 Legacy Street, Stratford, WI
54484-9632

Phone us at 715-687-4110
7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or leave a
voice mail message.

Or email us at office@zionlc.com or
directly to emails above.

WEB SITE: www.zionlc.com

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
9:00 a.m.**

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March Calendar

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The 21st of each month.

ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

Wednesdays by 9:00 a.m.

WEEKLY E-MAIL

Goes out on Monday morning. Email
office@zionlc.com to be added to the
receiver list.

PLEASE keep the office updated:

- Address, Phone & Email changes
- Births, Deaths, Hospitalizations

Zion is on Facebook.

You can go to our website at www.zionlc.com
and click on the link to
the Facebook page.



Crosses We Don't Choose

Then Jesus told them, "... take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24b

Dear Members and Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

My friend Julie's mom had dementia. Julie picked up that cross and carried it as her beloved mother faded away. Paul was in second grade when he was diagnosed with diabetes. It was a cross he would carry for the rest of his life. Erica's drug addiction was a cross she and her family carried for years until she found sobriety. They were all crosses they didn't choose.

Jesus carried his cross on the road to his crucifixion. Along the way he falls, and a man named Simon of Cyrene is forced to pick up Jesus' cross and carry it the rest of the way to Calvary. Simon was most likely a reluctant cross bearer. Most of us are reluctant cross bearers. We don't choose the pain or suffering we've been dealt, and yet we carry the load. We don't choose to carry another person's cross when they are too weak to carry it themselves, but we are at times compelled by love to do so.

This month marks the one year anniversary of the pandemic. It is a cross that we've all carried to one degree or another. For some it has been an inconvenience and for others a heavy burden of suffering and profound grief. Theologically there is no way to put a positive spin on the coronavirus or 2020. It has been a cross we didn't choose. The strain of carrying this cross is evident in our country and congregations. We are all weary of it.

On Palm/Passion Sunday and Good Friday we are drawn into the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, and death. We walk alongside him in the crowd as he carries his cross, our cross, compelled by love. We walk with a suffering Jesus straining under the weight of this cross, stumbling, falling, getting back up and finally letting go, letting another carry it. Jesus knew pain in his human body, and so Jesus knows our every weakness. Jesus himself was beaten, knew suffering and was unable to carry the weight this cross. He falls to the ground under the weight of his love for us.

As a church we invite others to walk in the way of Jesus knowing that they are carrying crosses they didn't choose for themselves. We invite others to walk in the way of Jesus because as a community of faith we shoulder the burden and carry it all together. We help another carry their cross out of love. We are Simon of Cyrene.

Maybe that is what this past year has taught us; that we need each other; we aren't alone. We've been isolated, quarantined, but not alone. We can't take our congregations for granted. We need our faith communities and the relationships with other believers because we can't carry our own crosses. We follow the way of Jesus together bearing our neighbor's crosses out of love.

It is in the cross that Jesus carried and on which he was crucified that we can know the love of God and salvation. This is Luther's Theology of the Cross. It is in the crosses that we as a community of faith carry together as we follow in the way of Jesus that we too see and know the love God.

Dear friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, I am grateful for you, that during the pandemic, we were able to walk in the way of Jesus together. May you each know the joy of Easter! Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

¹ Inspired by an article titled Crosses we don't choose in March 10, 2021 Christian Century by Debie Thomas
² Simon of Cyrene Matthew 27:32