

Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

9:00 am Sunday, March 30, 2025

RECEIVING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AT ZION

As intended by Christ and as practiced by the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church throughout her history, "Closed Communion" is observed in this congregation, in which the Lord's Supper is distributed only to those:

- (a) who have been **baptized** in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- (b) who have been **instructed** in the truth of Holy Scripture as taught in the Lutheran Confessions, who have been **confirmed** in this Lutheran faith, and who now confess the same doctrines that are taught in this congregation, holding membership in a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod;
- (c) who **believe that in this sacrament the real body and blood of Christ are truly distributed to them and orally received by them**, bestowing on them the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation;
- (d) who **sincerely repent** of all their sins, and desire to receive God's forgiveness in this holy meal.

Guests at our services, before receiving the sacrament, are requested to affirm these facts with one of our pastors. Thank you for honoring our practice. If you are looking for a church home, would like to be a member of Zion, or would like to learn more about the Christian Faith, please speak to one of our pastors about our membership classes.

✠ = *appropriate to make the baptismal sign of the cross*
When "rise" or "kneel" is indicated, it is *appropriate to sit if needed*

Greeting And Announcements: *The Lord be with you!* **And also with you!**

[Rise] Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

The Office of Confession of Sins and Absolution

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father; beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord Who made heaven and earth.
I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord. And You forgave the
iniquity of my sin.

O almighty God, merciful Father; I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

The Congregation rises, turns towards the entrance of the nave, and faces the Cross of Christ, the reminder of Christ's promise to come and dwell among His people as they are gathered in His name.

Introit of the Day



[Antiphon] *Have mercy on | me, O God, || according | to your stead- fast | love__ ; || accord- ing to your abundant | mer-__ cy || blot out | my trans- gres-__ | sions.*

Verse 1: **Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iq- ui- ty, || and | cleanse me from my | sin__ ! || For I know my trans- | gres-__ sions, || and my sin is | •ever• be- fore__ | me.**

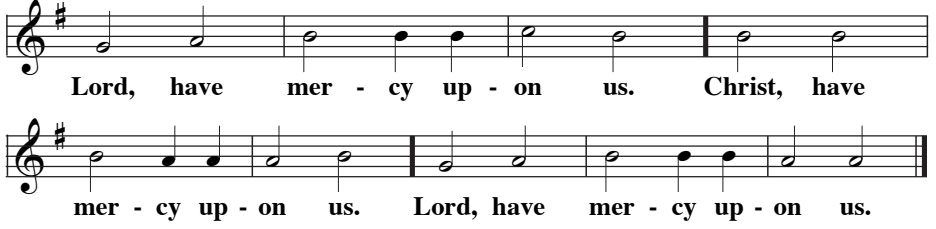
Verse 2: *Against you, you only, | have I sinned || and done what is | e- vil in your | sight__, || so that you may be justified | in your words || and | blame- less in your | •judgment•.*

Verse 3: **Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iq- ui- ty, || and in sin | did my •mother• con- | ceive me. || Behold, you delight in truth in the | in- ward •being•, || and you teach me wisdom | in the se- cret | heart.**

Gloria: **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son: || and | to the Ho- ly | Spir- it; || As it was in the be- | •ginning•, is now, || and will | be for- •ever•. A- | men!**

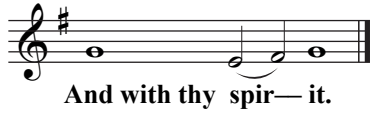
[Antiphon] *Have mercy on | me, O God, || according | to your stead- fast | love__ ; || according to your abundant | mer-__ cy || blot out | my trans- gres-__ | sions.*

Kyrie



Salutation

The Lord be with you.



Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Lent: *Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



Collect for Lent: *Merciful and everlasting God, who did not spare Your only Son, but delivered Him up for us all that He might bear our sins upon the cross, grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



[Be Seated] + **The Office of the Word of God** +

Old Testament Reading..... **Isaiah 12:1-6**
 [After the reading] *This is the word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle of the Day **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**
 [After the reading] *This is the word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

[Rise] **Tract**



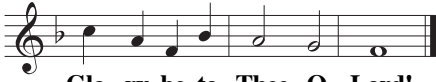
[Deacon] *The father said | to his servants, || “This | my son was | dead |, || and is a- | live a- gain; || he was | lost |, and is | found.”*

All: **O** come, let us fix our | eyes on •Jesus•, || the founder and per- | fec- tor of our | faith |. || who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame || and is seated at the right hand | of the throne of | God.

Holy Gospel **St. Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**

[The Gospel is announced.]

[The Gospel is proclaimed.]



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord!



Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

Confession of Faith (The Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

[Bow] **And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, And was made man;**

And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sits at the right hand of the Father; And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen!

[Be Seated] **Hymn of the Day..... God Loved the World .. Burgundy Hymn 571**

[Rise for stanza 6.]

Sermon

[Rise] **Prayer of the Church**

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs: [After each petition]:..., **Lord, in Your mercy: Hear our prayer.**

[After the final prayer]:..., **one God, now and forever Amen.**

[Be Seated] **Offerings, Voluntary**

[Rise] **Offertory Hymn Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God**



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Thy pres - ence, and



take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

Thy sal-va - tion; and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

Preface

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

And with thy spir - it.

We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface for Lent, Sanctus

It is truly meet, right and salutary ever more praising You and saying:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry; Ho - san-na Ho - san-na, Ho -
 san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is He, Bless-ed is He, Bless-ed is He that
 com-eth in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na, Ho - san-na, Ho-san-na in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

[Pastor chants:] *Our Father who art in heaven; but deliver us from evil.*


For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glo - ry for -
 ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Words of Institution, Pax Domini


The peace of the Lord be with you always!

A - men.

Agnus Dei



1-3. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world,



Stanzas 1 and 2 Stanza 3

have mer-cy up - on us. Grant us Thy Peace. A - - - men!

[Be Seated]

Distribution Hymns What Wondrous Love Burgundy Hymn 543

Today Your Mercy Calls Us Burgundy Hymn 915

[Rise] Eucharistic Benediction

The Body and Blood of your Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting! ✠ Depart in Peace! Amen!

Post-Communion Canticle The Nunc Dimittis



1. Lord now— lettest Thou Thy
servant, de- part— in — peace, ac- cord- ing to Thy Word.

2. For mine__ eyes have seen
Thy Salvation,
which Thou hast pre- pared__ be— fore the face of all__ people.



3. a Light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the Glo- ry of Thy peo-ple Is - - - ra-el.



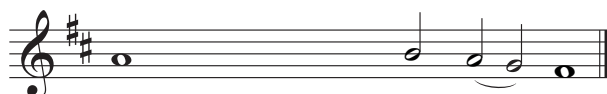
4. Glo— ry__ be to the
Father, and to__ the __ Son, and to the Ho- ly Ghost.



5. As it__ was in the
beginning, is
now, and e- ver shall be, world with- out end. A-men.

Post Communion Rite

As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup:



Ye do show the Lord's death till He__ come.

Prayer of Thanksgiving ... now and forever:



A ——— men.

The Lord be with you.

Bless we the Lord.



Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



During the Recessional, the Congregation turns and faces the Processional Cross, the symbol of Christ's promise to remain with and lead His people as they now go and live in the world in His name.

Recessional Hymn As Rebels, Lord Burgundy Hymn 612
[*Sung to the tune, Eirene, LSB 690.*]

Postlude

Holy Week Schedule

✠ ✠ ✠

Palm Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday Divine Service, 9:00 a.m.

✠ ✠ ✠

The Triduum: The Three Day Vigil

✠ ✠ ✠

Part I: Holy Thursday, April 17

Divine Service 7:00 p.m.

✠ ✠ ✠

Part II: Good Friday, April 18

Divine Service 7:00 p.m.

✠ ✠ ✠

Part III: Holy Saturday, April 19

The Great Vigil of Easter

Divine Service 7:00 p.m.

✠ ✠ ✠

The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunrise Matins 7:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast 7:45 a.m.

Festival Divine Service 9:00 a.m.

(No Sunday School and Adult Bible Class this Sunday)

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Psalm Tone for Introit and Tract: from The Anglican Chant Psalter, copyright © 1987 by The Church Hymnal Corporation; used by permission.

Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Old Testament Reading is Isaiah 12:1-6

You will say in that day:

“I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
that you might comfort me.

“Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.”

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:

“Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that his name is exalted.

“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.

Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

The Epistle is 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Gospel is Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: ...

“There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’” And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

Hymns for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

LSB571 God Loved the World So That He Gave *Heiliges Lippen und
Hertzens-Opffer, Stettin*

1. God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.
 2. Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.
 3. God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
 4. Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.
 5. If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.
- △ 6. Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To Thee, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

LSB543 What Wondrous Love *A General Selection of ... Hymns and Spiritual Songs*

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

2. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down Beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.
3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I AM.
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing.
While millions join the theme, I will sing.
4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing His love for me,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.

LSB915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

Oswald Allen

1. Today Your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.
2. Today Your gate is open, And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav'n.
3. Today our Father calls us; The Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father's home.
4. O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

LSB612 As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered Stephen P. Starke

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LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

Sung to the tune Eirene, LSB690

1. As rebels, Lord, who foolishly have wandered
Far from Your love—unfed, unclean, unclothed—
Dare we recall Your wealth so rashly squandered,
Dare hope to glean that bounty which we loathed?
2. Still we return, our contrite words rehearsing,
Speech, that within Your warm embrace soon dies;
All of our guilt, our shame, our pain reversing
As tears of joy and welcome fill Your eyes.
3. A feast of love for us You are preparing;
We who were lost, You give an honored place!
“Come, eat; come, drink, and be no more despairing—
Here taste again the treasures of My grace.”

The Fourth Sunday in Lent



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

2313 Hanna Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46803 | 260-744-1389

pastor@zionfw.org, church@zionfw.org | website: www.zionfw.org

Zion Lutheran Church is the body of Christ at Hanna and Creighton in Fort Wayne, Indiana that:

- Receives Christ's gifts in Word and Sacraments; and
- Responds to God's love in Christ by
 - Reaching out to those who do not know His love; and
 - Revealing His love in acts of kindness and mercy.

The Pastoral Ministry at Zion

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Douglas D. Punke, MDiv (341-5397)

Field Workers:

Matthew Harrison, Nathaniel Demlow

The Teaching Staff at Lutheran South Unity

Principal:

Amber Bahr (744-0459; www.lsusfw.org)

Teachers:

Yvonne Schwantz (8th, MS ELA), Michael Cullen (7th, MS Science), Chase Mertz (6th, MS Social Studies), Danielle Ramsey (5th), Abbey Kohler (4th), Tiffany Scheurich (3rd), John Fink (2nd), Hannah Fink (1st), Rachel Wiegman (K-A), Michelle Madden (K-B), Natalie Reynolds (Art), Open Position (Music), Lizzy Hoham (Progress Partners Coach), Cathie Wakeland (Literacy Coach), Lee Buxton (PE)

The Support Staff

Organist and Director of Parish Music:

Michael Hollman, MM

Church Office Manager:

Melvia Culpher

PRAYERS FOR TODAY

- + For the church, especially those bearing the cross of persecution, including Bishop Juhana Pohjola and Dr. Päivi Räsänen
- + For those who serve our Lord at home and abroad, especially our fieldworkers Matthew Harrison and Nate Demlow, and for Paul Mroczenski vicaring in Puerto Rico
- + For our nation; for our leaders; for our military, including James Hall
- + For our schools, especially Lutheran South Unity School, Concordia Lutheran High School, and Concordia Theological Seminary
- + For those who travel
- + For the aged and the homebound
- + For those who are on hospice care, especially Marq Rogers
- + For the ill, distressed, and those suffering affliction, including Nate Demlow, Melvia Culpher, Debra Busche, Carl Albersmeyer, Sarah Hollman, Richard Lammert, Connie Houser, Estella Ramirez, Bill Weinrich, Dwight Bieberich, Willodean Bates, Dick Hollman, Elaine Seifert, Bob Ockree, Joe Harrison, Louisa Porter, Marlow Hogan, Marissia White, Gary Phillips, David Groth, Gary Castle, Ron Rastl, Robert & Jenny Hobby
- + For God's blessing on all godly marriages, especially Dave & Janeen Kaiser
- + For the gift of life and for length of days
- + For the gift of rebirth by water and the Spirit
- + For those who mourn the death of loved ones, especially Tanya Padgett, Nick Wiley and the family of Alice Padgett, and David & DaVanna Seifert and the family of Jerry Seifert
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed, including Alice Padgett and Jerry Seifert
- + For our communicants and for a fruitful use of the most Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood

IN THE SERVICE TODAY

Today is the Divine Service for the Fourth Sunday in Lent. The Cross Bowl is given in celebration of the 51st wedding anniversary of Dave & Janeen Kaiser. Please complete an attendance communion card, including the names of all children, and indicate if you are communing. Non-members, please read the back of the card.

CALENDAR

March 30, 2025 thru April 5, 2025

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Bauer Hall
MON.		LSUS Spring Break starts	LSUS
TUES.			
WED.	9:30 AM	Men of Zion	Conference Room
	7:00 PM	Lenten Vespers	Bauer Hall
THURS.	7:00 PM	Council of Elders	Conference Room
FRI.			LSUS
SAT.	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Bauer Hall

April 6, 2025

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Bauer Hall
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ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDUCATION HOUR is on “summer break” during our beautification/renovation project in church. We hope to be able to pick things back up in April after the Easter feast with Dr. Voelz’ class on the Gospel according to St. Mark meeting in Bauer Hall. A second adult/young adult class will begin in April also. It will meet in the conference room, unless we outgrow it. This class will take up our Lutheran Identity using Dr. Gene Veith’s new book *Embracing Your Lutheran Identity*. We’re ready. The books are here.

ATTENDANCE AND COMMUNION REGISTRATION in being done the Great Hall. Please fill out a card, indicate who is here and who is communing, and place it in the offering plate.

LENT SEASON: Lenten Vespers are each Wednesday evening at 7 PM. We are doing a catechetical review of the Commandments. This Wednesday fieldworker Matthew Harrison will be preaching on Commandments 6 & 7. There are NO Lenten meals before our Vespers services this year due to space constraints. We are serving Holy Communion after Vespers for those who desire it. Therefore, please exit out of Bauer Hall promptly after prayers so that we can hold our brief communion service.

SURVEY: The Council of Elders has decided to do a Congregational Survey associated with Re:Vitality, an LCMS program that may be able to strengthen our congregation and help us grow in membership. We’ll be gathering information through the CADDs survey from April 13 to May 4. The preferred way to take the survey is online (we’ll supply the link). You may also fill out a paper copy of the survey, but then we’ll have to get someone to input the responses. We’ll give you more information soon, but for now, get ready. We want your opinion.

SAVE THE DATE: on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, Zion will be taking part in getting an updated Church picture directory. More information will be forthcoming in April.

CLEAN UP: Warmer weather means it’s almost time for spring-cleaning at Zion! So please consider helping between 9 a.m. and noon on Saturday, April 12. We’ll be spreading mulch and sprucing things up inside and out, so bring shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, and anything else you need. Refreshments will be served! Call Kevin Leininger at 615-9896 for more information.

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE: 1 Peter 3:18—“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.” Last week’s verse was 1 John 3:16

CTSFW: The Symphonic Band of Martin Luther High School, Greendale, WI will be performing a concert on Saturday, April 5th, at 6:30 pm at Sihler Hall located on the Seminary campus.

WE CAN FACE COMPETING PRIORITIES when we think about planning our estates someday. Part of that tension flows from immediate needs versus long-term needs in our lives. You can list the members of your family today, but what happens to inheritance if family situations change? What happens if one of your children gets married or a grandchild is born, and they are not listed in your will or trust? Your attorney can place language in your legal documents to address these matters. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can highlight the concerns you have with your attorney to ensure they are addressed. For assistance contact Mark Muehl at 260-241-4845 or mark.muehl@lfnf.org.

RLNI: The 4th Annual Spring Banquet of Right to Life of Northeast Indiana is Saturday, April 12th, hosted this year at Mirage Banquet Hall in Decatur. Doors open at 5:30 pm, and the program begins at 6:30 pm. For more info, visit ichooselife.org/springbanquet.

THE LCMS FOUNDATION has the following opportunities available for employment: Vice President for Investment Services, Gift Processing Support Specialist, Gift Processing Specialist, and a Gift Planning Counselor for the Upper Midwest. Please visit www.lcmsfoundation.org/careers for more information.

For the family of God’s Priestly People at Zion

God calls His own people a “Royal Priesthood.” God makes us kings and queens, princes and princesses who are bound together by the Holy Spirit in Baptism for the Christian benefit of each other. Priests **PRAY** — They talk to God about their neighbor! Priests **TEACH** — They talk to their neighbor about God! Priests **OFFER SACRIFICES** — They offer to God the sacrifice of broken and contrite hearts; they offer their bodies and work as holy services to God for their neighbors. Join in this priestly work of prayer with your fellow members.

Morning Prayer

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
Mark 12:1-12
Mark 12:13-27
Mark 12:28-44
Mark 13:1-23
Mark 13: 24-37
Mark 14:1-11

DAILY LECTIONARY

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

Evening Prayer

Isaiah 12:1-6
Genesis 42:1-34, 38
Genesis 43:1-28
Genesis 44:1-18, 32-34
Genesis 45:1-20, 24-28
Genesis 47:1-31
Genesis 49:29–50:7, 14-26

THE DAILY PETITIONS OF THE CHURCH

[Daily] **O Lord, have mercy upon us. O Christ, have mercy upon us. O Lord, have mercy upon us.** Let us pray:

[S] For the joy of the Resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; for diligent preaching and hearing of God’s Word of Law and Gospel; for our pastors; for the teachers and students of our Sunday School; for our Bible Class leaders and their students; for our catechumens; Lord, in Your mercy,**hear our prayer. Amen!**

[M] For workers; for the unemployed; for farmers; for seasonable weather; for businesses small and large; for our leaders, federal, state and local; for the economic welfare of the nations on earth; for peace in our world; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[T] For the tempted; for the addicted and despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; for the lonely; for the sick, the hospitalized, and the needy; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[W] For fathers, mothers, and families; for those adults who must rear their children alone; the teachers and students of Lutheran South Unity School and Concordia Lutheran High School; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[T] For the Church and her pastors; for the training of ministers of the Word; for missionaries of the Church; for the leaders of the Church, including Matthew, our synod president, and Richard, our district president; for those who have not heard the Gospel; for the fruitful use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord’s Body and Blood; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[F] For the preaching of the Cross; for those persecuted for the sake of Gospel; the confession of the orthodox Lutheran faith in our community; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[Sat] For faithfulness unto life’s earthly end; for the revival of those who have withered in the faith or fallen away; for the dying; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[Daily] **The Our Father**

TO PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21

Philippians 3:4b-14

Luke 20:9-20



What Doctor Luther Says:

About Relying on God Alone and Praising Him

Note the fine, threefold summary of the psalmist [Psalm 118:14, a song echoed in Isaiah 12:2]: The Lord is “my Strength,” “my Song,” “my Salvation.” The first indicates that he trusts wholly and completely in God, that God does, speaks, and quickens everything in him; and he will not boast of his own power, ability, knowledge, wisdom, holiness, or deeds. He will be nothing; in him God will be all and do all. . . . He trusts and relies on no man or prince, on none of this world’s power, wealth, friends, alliances, support, wisdom, deeds, comfort, or help. He trusts in God alone, in contrast to himself and all the world’s might, wisdom, and holiness. This is expressed even more impressively in the song: God alone shall be his strength, trust, and defiance. Next, the psalmist cannot keep still about this. He turns it into a psalm and sings; he preaches, teaches, confesses, and declares what he believes about God. Faith cannot do otherwise; it always confesses what it believes (Rom. 10:10). The world cannot bear to hear that its power and wisdom, its holiness and piety, its counsel and deeds, are condemned and rejected, that the help and trust of men and princes should be cast out and despised, and their teaching be held vain and false. . . . In the third place, God is his salvation and will not utterly abandon the singer and his song. God helps him in life and death and grants him victory. Though all the gates of hell and the whole world rage and rave, God, in the end, will be our salvation; we and our psalm and teaching shall survive, and all the adversaries shall founder. The Word of God abides forever. No amount of raging, blustering, blasphemy, or cursing will change this.

Luther’s Works, 14:77-78.

As many of you know, Marq Rogers was diagnosed with Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma back in 2020. It was located only in his neck, but over the past several years, it has spread to his lungs. Marq has gone through numerous radiation treatments and surgeries these past few years. Back in July, Marq had a lobectomy to remove some nodules in his right lung. As of February 2024, the nodules in his lungs have increased in size and number. The doctors shared with Marq earlier this month that there is nothing else that can be done. Marq entered hospice care at his home earlier this week. Marq's medical needs are being met via Heartland Home Health Care but Marq and his family could use some love in the form of meals.

Marq, in particular, can tolerate soft foods (pasta, pizza, soup) he does enjoy smoothies as well. If you would be able to bless Marq, Alesa and the entire family with a meal please sign up. **Please contact Alesa prior to stopping by with your meal. You can reach her at 260-702-2169.** Please plan your meal to feed 5-6 people, as there are many family stopping in to help care for Marq and spend time with him.

Address: 2327 Weisser Park Avenue, Fort Wayne

**Order Your 2025
Easter Flowers for
Easter Sunday
Now!**

PLEASE PRINT



Name : _____

Given in Loving Memory Of: _____

Other Dedication _____

Qty.	Description	Price Each	Total Amt \$
_____	6 1/2" Lilies (1 stem)	\$26.00	_____
_____	6" Tulips	\$20.00	_____
_____	6" Hyacinths	\$20.00	_____
_____	6" Hydrangeas	\$28.00	_____
	General Donation		_____
	Total Amount Enclosed		_____

Pick Up Flowers after 9 am Service on Easter Sunday _____
Give Flowers to a Shut-In _____

*Return this form and monies to the church office by
Sunday, April 13th, to have your dedication
printed in the bulletin.*

Summary of meeting of the Council of Elders, March 6, 2025
(The following summary is being provided in accordance with the congregation's bylaws, §VIII)

Attendance:

Elders present: R. Lammert (chairman), A. Litke (secretary), F. Jackson, W. Krause, J. Teasdale.

Elders absent: T. Muehl, K. Vlot.

Pastor present: Pr. Punke.

Pastor Punke led the elders in a devotion by continuing the reading Article V of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession.

The Council of Elders welcomed Rev. James Teasdale as its newest member. Jim was appointed to fill the vacant 2024–2027 term.

In his pastor's report, Pastor Punke included updates on transfers in and out of the congregation, on the sick, on other issues among the members and friends of Zion, and on prospects for a new adult catechesis class. He also reported on his contacts with members who have recently become inactive, on the Erwin Brand Scholarship, on the Lutheran Schools Association, on LSUS, and on CLHS's capital campaign. Pastor Punke also noted that the beautification project is on schedule, and is still expected to be completed by Palm Sunday.

The elders reviewed Pillar 1, Goal #1: "Starting January 1, 2025, Zion will experience a 10% increase in average worship attendance by March 31, 2025." The elders will pursue this goal starting in its May meeting by developing strategies for contacting longer-term inactive members and ways to involve them again in the congregation.

The elders reviewed Pillar 2, Goal #1: "In January of 2025, Zion will commence an annual opportunity for providing resources and training for members to gain confidence in inviting neighbors to Zion." This goal is currently on hold; the elders will schedule another *Every One His Witness* workshop for the fall.

The elders reviewed Pillar 2, Goal #4: "The Council of Elders will conduct the CADDs survey before Lent 2025." In order to coordinate schedules with the synodical office that conducts the CADDs survey, Zion will conduct this survey from April 13

through May 4. The Congregational Assessment of Development/Decline Status (CADDs) survey is a tool developed by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to survey congregational members and others who have a stake in the congregation. The survey is primarily an online tool (although we will provide a paper copy of the survey to anyone who is unable or unwilling to use an online form). The leadership of the congregation will use the results of the survey for future planning.

The elders continued to review the document of the Council of Elders on Communion Procedure. The council will finish the review in the April meeting.

The meeting was concluded with the praying of Responsive Prayer 1.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard A. Lammert, Chairman

LSUS NOTES

Praying for You!

Please pray for these students/staff:

Evonize	Kenny
Angel	LeShon
Raidyn	Brandon
Judah	Tianna
Daleyza	Mrs. Johnson
Nyomi	Ms. Mittelstaedt



Cherished Connections: Grandfriends' Day at LSUS

LSUS hosted its beloved Grandfriends' Day, a heartwarming event that brought together students and their cherished grandparents and special friends on March 14th. This annual tradition is a wonderful opportunity for different generations to connect, share experiences, and create lasting memories.



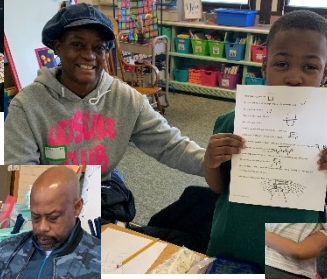
The day was filled with fun as guests were welcomed into the school and attended a

special chapel service with the students. They also had the chance to see firsthand what their loved ones are learning, engage in fun projects, and tour the campus. The event highlighted the importance of family and community, reinforcing the values of connection and appreciation.



A special thank you goes out to everyone who attended and helped make this day so meaningful. Seeing the smiles and hearing the laughter throughout the school was a reminder of just how special these relationships are. We look forward to celebrating Grandfriends' Day again next year!





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OPEN ENROLLMENT

2025- 2026



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS LOOKING FOR A GREAT SCHOOL?

LUTHERAN SOUTH UNITY SCHOOL WOULD LOVE TO SHARE OUR CHRIST-CENTERED SCHOOL WITH YOU.

TOURS ARE AVAILABLE SO WE CAN SHARE HOW OUR SCHOOL CAN BENEFIT YOUR CHILD.

CONTACT BARB JOHNSON -- ADMISSIONS
BJOHNSON@LSUSFW.ORG
260-744-0459

RE-ENROLLMENT FOR CURRENT LSUS FAMILIES IS ON FAST DIRECT NOW.



Encouragement Found in Scriptures:

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." - John 8:12

2025 LWML Fort Wayne Three Zone Gathering

***Blessed Are You* theme based on Matthew 5:1-12**

Saturday, May 3, 2025

Emanuel Lutheran Church,

800 Green Street, New Haven , IN

Door # 11

Doors Open: 8:30a.m.

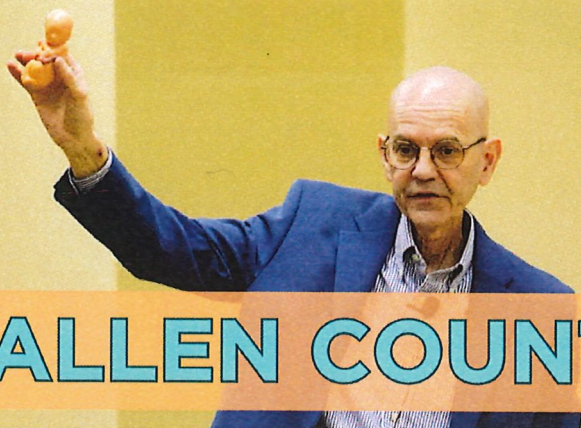
Breakfast: 9:00 a.m.

Registration: \$7

Gifts From the Heart In-gathering: Monetary offerings for Point of Grace Mission in Kenya and NEW GIRLS underwear size 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16
Come together in faith and fellowship for an inspiring morning with the Lutheran Women in Mission. Enjoy a warm tea party atmosphere with delightful conversations, uplifting discussions and a chance to strengthen your faith through worship!

RSVP to your congregational representative by April 26, 2025





ALLEN COUNTY



RIGHT TO LIFE
WORKSHOP

APRIL 26TH, 2025

SUBURBAN BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

6318 W. CALIFORNIA RD.
FORT WAYNE, IN 46818

*Mike Spencer, ProjectLifeVoice,
will equip you to speak confidently and
graciously to the most pressing moral issue
of our time: abortion.*

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ichooselife.org/fortwayneWS



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ADULTS & STUDENTS 7TH GRADE & UP.

LIFE NEWS—APRIL 2025



LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE

lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

Planned Parenthood kills babies. Over 350,000 babies every single year lose their lives at a Planned Parenthood abortion center. So why are we still funding it? That's the question Marjorie Dannenfelser of SBA Pro-Life is asking ... "The New York Times recently published a lengthy article exposing Planned Parenthood's lack of standards and cruel attitude toward patients," Dannenfelser said in an email to Life News. "Planned Parenthood's blatant disregard for life and the health and well-being of the people that they claim to serve has gotten so bad that even the press can't keep these stories from coming out anymore ... Aside from being the biggest abortion business in the U.S., Planned Parenthood has been able to dodge the PR nightmare that comes with doing such a poor job with anything other than killing babies in the womb. Until now," she added. Dannenfelser explains how Planned Parenthood puts the lives of women having abortions in jeopardy by slowing down their access to lifesaving medical care in cases of botched abortions ... "If Planned Parenthood can't be bothered to get an ambulance on-site ASAP to save their own patient from their lackluster 'health care,' why do they deserve YOUR hard-earned tax dollars??? They don't." Time to defund Planned Parenthood. (lifeneews.com, 3/25/25)

Speaking up For Life

"In the resurrection we find solace in our mourning, in our uncertainty, and in our troubles. Our longing for escape finds its hope in the resurrection of Christ. It is God's approval upon the redemptive work of His Son. It is the assurance that as He was raised from the dead, so shall we, and all who have 'fallen asleep in Him' shall be raised to life eternal." *Pastor Robert Fleischmann, Christian Life Resources*

"So, what can we do? We must keep doing what we have always done. We must continue to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. We must be sure our own church members, families, friends, and co-workers understand the value that God places on all human life." *Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life*

"Scripture and prayer are our strongest weapons to change hearts, and we must persist and never give up, no matter how disappointing things get with evil laws being enacted or evil intent coming our way." *Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, Lutherans For Life*

"It is He who sustains us each and every day. It is He who brings us into the world and He who draws our earthly lives to a close at the proper time. It is He who was born for us, He who died for us, He who rose for us, and He who reigns on high for us. His is the pattern of our lives." *Deaconess Bethany Stoever, Director-at-Large, LFL of Kansas*

For Such a Time as This

by Pastor Michael Salemink



"And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14b).

Frodo: "I wish it need not have happened in my time."

Gandalf: "So do I, and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

Are we living in the bad times or the good times? Have we come to the best of times or to the worst of times?

Perhaps both. Human selfishness has wrought considerable wickedness in our world. Sins such as our own have brought great evil upon us. Death threatens to run rampant over our land, and our people have made treaties with its demons in order to have a hand in their own demise. Its grip has grown already too great for any of us—or even all of us together—to arrest.



By abortion and assisted suicide, the Ancient Enemy nibbles and gnaws at either end of our race's lifespans. It convinces us to constrict both our own worth and our neighbor's to comparisons of popularity, to competitions of property, and to contests of potency. And we have nothing more than words with which to mount any kind of resistance to this intangible adversary.

But the words we have are not our own. They exert an authority that does not come from us. These words of Almighty God's truth impart an answer that commands the hearts of humankind. These words of Incarnate Christ's love apply an antidote that transforms the very times themselves. Even in the hearts of mortals, they constitute life-saving words that implement repentance and reliance. Even on the lips of sinners, they amount to life-giving words that enact reconciliation and resurrection. Gospel words of forgiveness, faith, and fellowship forge the former times into the fullness of time from this time forth and forevermore.

So let us rejoice, and let us exclaim. For the words of eternal life pertain to us, and they prevail in our time.

When the worst of times witness the Heavenly Father's victory, they become the best of times. Blessed are we to behold it and to have a hand—that is, a voice to be heard—in such a time as this!

ADVENTURE AWAITS



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Assistance
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Children - Youth - Teens - Families

Camp Lutherhaven

ALBION, IN

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John 3:17



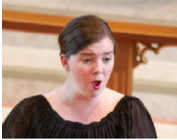
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For tickets and more information visit
www.bachcollegium.org



2024-2025 Season



Sarah Shafer



Daniel McGrew



Edward Vogel



Ashlee Bickley



Brad Tatum



Leighann Daihl Ragusa

Sun Nov 10 at 4 pm – Concert I Zion Lutheran Church, 2313 S. Hanna St., Fort Wayne

Ashlee Bickley, *mezzo-soprano*
Daniel McGrew, *tenor*
Edward Vogel, *baritone*
Leighann Daihl Ragusa, *flauto traverso*
Sung Lee, *oboe/oboe d'amore*

J.S. Bach: *Ich lasse dich nicht, du segnest mich den*, BWV 157
J.S. Bach: *Ich armer Mensch, ich Sündenknecht*, BWV 55
J. Brahms: *Warum ist das Licht gegeben dem Mühseligen*, Op. 74, No. 1 [a cappella]
J.S. Bach: *Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin*, BWV 125

Sun Dec 1 at 2 pm – *Messiah* Sing-Along Queen of Angels Catholic Church, 1500 W. State St., Fort Wayne

The joy of singing *Messiah* is open for everyone in our annual *Messiah* Sing-Along, with **Thomas Remenschneider** directing. Bring your own score or borrow a copy we will have available. Holiday cookies will be served.

Sun February 16 at 4 pm – Concert II Trinity Lutheran Church, 1636 St. Mary's Ave., Fort Wayne

Sarah Shafer, *soprano*
Ashlee Bickley, *mezzo-soprano*
Jonathan Busarow, *tenor*
Keith Brautigam, *baritone*
Brad Tatum, *cornò da tirarsi*
Sung Lee, *oboe/oboe d'amore*
Luke Conklin, *oboe/oboe d'amore/recorder*

J.S. Bach: *Herr, wie du willst, so schick's mit mir*, BWV 73
J.S. Bach: *Komm, du süße Todesstunde*, BWV 161
A. Bruckner: *Motets; selection* [a cappella]
Zwei Totenlieder, No. 1, WAB 47
Vexilla regis, WAB 51
Zwei Totenlieder, No. 2, WAB 48
J.S. Bach: *Christus, der ist mein Leben*, BWV 95

Sun April 27 at 4 pm – Concert III Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 917 W. Jefferson Blvd., Ft. Wayne

Sarah Shafer, *soprano*
Ashlee Bickley, *mezzo-soprano*
Mark Vogel, *tenor*
Edward Vogel, *baritone*
Esteban Hernandez Parra, *viola*
Sung Lee, *oboe/oboe d'amore*
Jenni Kirby, *oboe/oboe d'amore*
J.S. Bach: *Wer da gläubet und getauft wird*, BWV 37
J.S. Bach: *Alles nur nach Gottes Willen*, BWV 72
U.W.v. Wassenaer: *Concerto armonico III in A major* [instrumental]
M. Duruflé: *Tantum ergo*, Op. 10, No. 4 [a cappella]
T. Kverno: *Corpus Christi Carol* [a cappella]
J.S. Bach: *Mein liebster Jesu ist verloren*, BWV 154

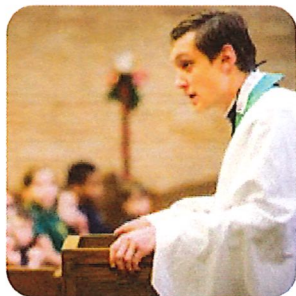


"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now," writes St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians (PHIL. 1:3).

THANKS
be to
God
for those
who work in our
congregations
and schools!

With this same gratitude, we thank the more than 11,000 church workers who serve our Synod with the Word and mercy of Christ. Throughout this month, congregations and schools are encouraged to show their appreciation for all church workers.

For teachers especially we give thanks, who teach God's Word to our children, dedicate countless hours to the classroom, who love the children of God they teach and who live a life of service to Christ and His church.



For all church workers, from pastors to deaconesses to directors of Christian education, parish music, family life and outreach, who teach God's Word and point us to Christ. Tell them "Thank you!" this month for all they do!



Set Apart to Serve seeks to create an intentional culture of church worker formation and recruitment in every LCMS congregation, school and entity. Visit resources.lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve to learn more.


**SET APART
TO SERVE**