



March/April 2025

The Voice of Zion

"The Lord Dwells in Zion!" Joel 3:21



Vol. 61 Issue 3/4

A Word from the Senior Pastor



I began my contribution to the March Voice around the first of March, but got waylaid by other things. I started again, but again was taken away from that task. March is gone. It's April. This is my contribution for the April Voice.

By the way, it's always my fault when the Voice is late. Melvia waits patiently for my contribution. Bless her, and

thank you for your patience.

We're getting to the end of Lent. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday when we don our ashes and begin our fast. I pray that as you have fasted or done some other Lenten discipline, you have considered your sinfulness and your sins. Remember, some of your sins may be unknown to you (Ps. 19:12), but your sinfulness is not. This season we have been considering the Ten Commandments, our inability to keep them, and their ability to show us our sinfulness. Confess, as we do in church, that you are "a poor, miserable, sinner" and confess "your sins and iniquities" that "justly deserve [God's] temporal and eternal punishment." Repent of them in contrition (sorrow) and have faith in your Savior.

Yes, a sinner's focus on his sins should move him to consider Jesus, to consider what He endured for us poor sinners that we might not receive the just punishment for our sins, to consider the grace that pours forth from Him in the forgiveness of sins, salvation, and life. Lent is a penitential season in which to consider God's word to you, to ponder it, and to receive from it refreshment. But remember that whatever disciplines you have done during Lent, the internals were the important things: repentance and life in the amazing grace of our God.

Welcome ...

To Samuli and Māra Siikavirta and their daughter Lidia. We received them on February 2. They are a delight-

ful family. We recently also met Samuli's parents from Finland, Pekka and Tuula. How nice to have them with us for a short time!

Samuli is an Assistant Professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Theological Seminary who comes to the United States from Finland. Māra is originally from Latvia, one of the Baltic countries south of Finland. Lidia is almost 9 months.

Of course, you are welcoming them personally, and perhaps you've been surprised. I'm sure you've received no quizzical looks because of any language barrier. No, their English is impeccable. Samuli spent eight years studying at Cambridge University in England, so the only complaint may be that "their English is too good."

Of course, that reminds me of a musical: "My Fair Lady." In it Professor Henry Higgins takes the "gutter snipe" Eliza Doolittle from the streets of London and transforms her appearance and speech into ... well, listen to Professor Higgins recall what Zoltan Carpathy thinks of Ms. Doolittle. He sings: "'Her English is too good,' he said, 'that clearly indicates that she is foreign. Whereas others are instructed in their native language, English people aren't. And although she may have studied with an expert dialectician and grammarian, I can tell that she was born Hungarian!'" Spoken: "'Not only Hungarian but of royal blood.' She is a princess!"

I don't think that Samuli or Māra are of royal blood, but they with Lidia are welcome at Zion as part of God's "chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people



for his own possession, that [here, they] may proclaim the excellencies of him who called [them] out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Pet. 2:9).

We bid welcome, too, to Benjamin and Jenny Wessel and their son Christopher. We received them on March 16. They also are delightful. Some of you who have been at Zion longer than I might remember the name Wessel. Benjamin’s father Loel served as a fieldworker at Zion in the 1990s, I believe. He now serves in Minnesota. Jenny’s father is also a pastor serving in Nebraska. Christopher just turned 1. The family has consolidated their disparate memberships into a family membership at Zion.



Benjamin is in his fourth year at the seminary. He is staying on after graduation for doctoral work. We’re glad to have them with us while he pursues that degree. Some of us got to hear Benjamin preach at the midweek Lenten vespers recently. His sermon was marvelous. Perhaps, as he’s able, he’ll consent to preach again.

We’re glad to have the Wessel family with us as Zion, more of the royal priesthood living in the light of Christ.

Beautification Project

The workers have really been busy, and they’ve accomplished much. As I write, the installation for the floor is complete with a few details yet to be done (transitions in doorways, for example). There’s a bit more to do with regard to lighting. A bit of touch-up painting is taking place. Pews are back in church, and will soon be secured. The carpeting in the narthex and mezzanine level has been removed, and the floor is being prepped for the carpet tile.

We’re still planning a Palm Sunday return to the church, but we did have a bit of a set back. As the big storms were passing through Allen County, a lightning bolt fell from the sky and hit the church. The sound of it was as if a bomb had exploded. The Lord had mercy on us. No fire broke out like that which destroyed St. Mary’s Catholic Church in 1993. We were shaken (the force of the strike literally shook some of the painters on the scaffolding), but no one was hurt. Praise the Lord.

However, the church did experience significant damage to many things electrical: the organ console, our security system, the sound system, the elevator, some of the new lights (including one of the lanterns on a new winch), the HVAC, outside lights, and probably more things that we haven’t found yet. We are making adjustments for the fast-approaching Holy Week and Easter. We still want to be in church for Palm Sunday.

Regarding the project, I’ll let the photos tell much of that story.

A Bit of Housekeeping

First, I want to announce to everyone that as we return to church in church, we’ll begin again with our Adult Bible Classes. Dr. Voelz’ class on the Gospel according to St. Mark will begin meeting again in Bauer Hall on April 27. I also want to announce a second adult/young adult/teenage class that will begin on the same day. The Education Council knows that Dr. Voelz’ class is wonderful and enlightening, but it can also be intimidating. That’s the “why” of this new class. It will meet in the conference room, unless we outgrow it. We’ll begin by considering our Lutheran Identity using Dr. Gene Veith’s new book *Embracing Your Lutheran Identity*. The class is ready. The books are here. Come to either class and deepen your knowledge of the faith you confess.

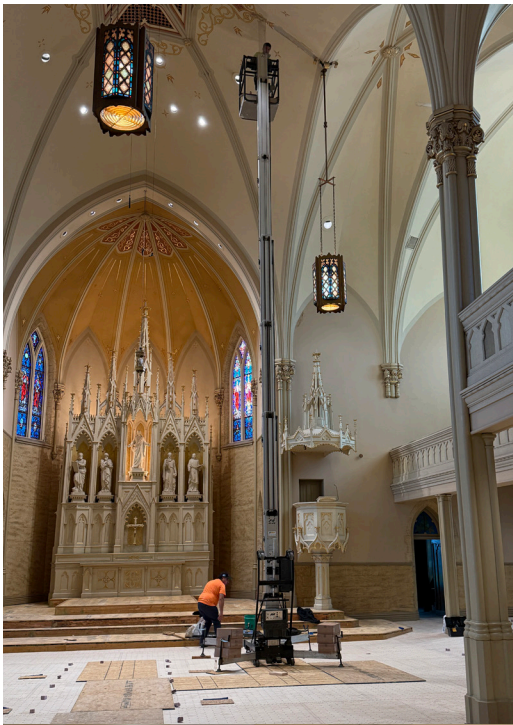
Second, the Council of Elders has decided to do a Congregational Survey associated with Re:Vitality, an LCMS program that may be able to strengthen our congregation and help us grow in membership. We’ll be gathering information through the CADDs survey (Congregational Assessment of Development/Decline Status) from April 13 to May 4. The preferred way to take the survey is online (lcms.cadds.alchemer.com/s3/&cong=C331117). You may also fill out a paper copy of the survey (available soon from the office), but then we’ll have to get someone to input the responses. It would be better for you to do it online. So, get ready. We want your opinion.

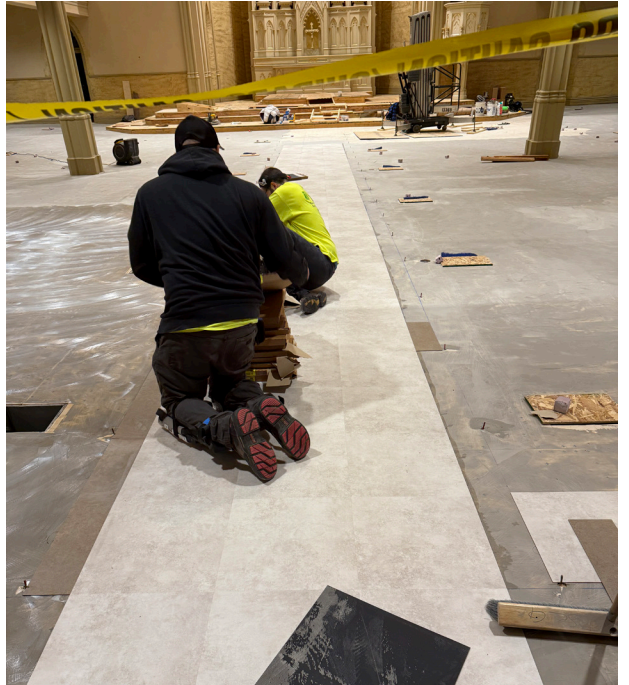
Update on Our Schools

First, a reminder. I hope and pray that you made a contribution and/or pledge to LSUS’s “Power Up” campaign. We desperately need the upgrades to our campus, especially electrical and HVAC. We’re making it through the year (figuratively) with duct tape and baling wire.

Second, here is some information on the capital campaign and building projects at CLHS.

- The Board of Directors has authorized the commencement of construction documents for the academic building and auditorium renovation projects.
- The two projects moving forward are the academic







wing and the auditorium.

- Academic Wing includes new construction as we build additional classroom spaces that infill the alley and complete renovation of the existing classrooms.
- The auditorium project reconstructs the flooring and seating, providing better sight lines, acoustics, and ADA accessibility. It also includes an expanded lobby with new restrooms.
- The total estimated cost for these critical updates is approximately \$45.5 million, \$36 million for the academic wing and \$9.5 million for the auditorium.
- \$13.5 million has already been secured in pledges and gifts, and the “A Bold Step” campaign aims to raise an additional \$18 million.
- The campaign is currently in its quiet phase, actively seeking funds.
- The campaign will transition to a public phase when we have enough financial support to announce a groundbreaking for an initial scope of projects, inviting full community participation. [Pastor: “enough” is defined as approximately \$9 million.]
- We request prayers, support, and involvement from our association congregations, and they can reach out to leadership with questions.

Walther on Law and Gospel

A faithful minister of the Gospel must be “animated by a sincere and ardent zeal to discharge his office properly and accomplish something of real value in the sight of God,” Walther begins his next lecture, not by “good times, money and possessions, honor and renown, in this world. His supreme joy must be the assurance that his labor in the Lord is not in vain” (p. 379-80).

Not every kind of zeal, however, is beneficial to Christ and His kingdom. Consider the Pharisees, the false teachers that opposed St. Paul, the heretics of the early church, the Anabaptists of Luther’s day, etc. Such false teachers exhibit more zeal than orthodox teachers do. Walther asks, “why is that so?” He answers: the task of “preachers of the pure doctrine of God’s Word” is “a thousand times more difficult” than that of false teachers. “Why is it so difficult? Chiefly because it is so difficult rightly to divide the Word of Truth, or to separate properly the Law from the Gospel, and in no wise to confound these two doctrines, as the Apostle Paul requires of every approved laborer in the vineyard of God” (p. 381).

Then Walter states his twenty-third thesis: “Thesis XXIII. *In the nineteenth place, the Word of God is not rightly divided when an attempt is made, by means of the demands or the threats or the promises of the Law, to in-*

duce the unregenerate to put away their sins and engage in good works and thus become godly; on the other hand, when an endeavor is made, by means of the commands of the Law rather than by the admonitions of the Gospel, to urge the regenerate to do good.”

The Law does not make a man “godly and righteous.” Period. In paradise, “the Law [had been] written into the hearts of men,” but it wasn’t man’s obedience that made him holy. “[M]an had been created godly and righteous in the sight of God” (p. 382). “This condition was changed by the Fall” such that God gave man the written Law. But that Law couldn’t improve man’s “condition, because God had to force them to comply with His will, — and forced obedience simply is no obedience” (p. 382).

But “what the Law could not effect is accomplished by the Gospel, by the message of the forgiveness of sins,” believers seeking to follow God’s “law [that] is written into [their] hearts” (p. 382).

The Law still serves the purpose of revealing men’s sins. It does not remove them; that’s done only by the Gospel. In fact, the Law increases sin. For example, “when a person conceives evil lust in his heart, the Law calls to him: ‘Thou shalt not covet’” (p. 383), making him aware of his sin.

This Law kills, as St. Paul writes: “*For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life*” (2 Cor. 3:6). Therefore, the Law cannot make one godly (p. 384); thunderously preaching the Law to the exclusion of the Gospel “will not at all improve the people” (p. 384). Rather the Spirit working through the Gospel, working faith in a person’s heart, does produce godliness and gives eternal life, of course, with the “preaching of the Law in order to alarm secure sinners and make them contrite” (p. 384). “[Y]ou must, indeed, preach the Law to [your congregation], but follow it up immediately with the Gospel. You may not present the Law to them today and postpone preaching the Gospel to them until a later time. As soon as the Law has done its work, the Gospel must take its place” (p. 385).

The rationalists are the worst at preaching a righteousness by the Law. “To make people godly, they preach ethics with great earnestness” (p. 386). “The situation among the papists is similar. They know nothing of the free grace of God in Jesus Christ. They preach ethics continually, interspersed with all sorts of references to Mary and the saints, but not a word of the Gospel” (p. 386). But sadly, this kind of preaching also happens among Lutherans, what Walther calls “the orthodox Church.” Some preach that a “state of grace” is attained

“only after much struggling and great anguish.” Other preachers, in an attempt to rein in gross sins, or to try to pull people out of a fruitless malaise, preach only “hell and damnation” (p. 387).

“God [does not] love service rendered under coercion. Preachers who have succeeded in abolishing certain evils by the preaching of the Law must not think that they have achieved something great. Even the most corrupt congregation can be improved, however, by nothing else than the preaching of the Gospel in all its sweetness. The reason why congregations are corrupt is invariably this, that its ministers have not sufficiently preached the Gospel to the people. It is not to be wondered at that nothing has been accomplished by them; for the Law kills, but the Spirit, that is, the Gospel, makes alive” (p. 388).

Luther said, “*any person who does not do this willingly [namely, seek godly living], simply in answer to kind admonitions, is not a Christian; and any person who wants to achieve this result by force applied to such as are unwilling is not a Christian preacher or ruler, but a worldly jailer.* A preacher of the Law comes down on men with threats and punishments; a preacher of divine grace coaxes and urges men by reminding them of the goodness and mercy which God has shown them” (p. 388). “To our Father in heaven ... forced gifts are repulsive” (p. 389).

Walther concludes with a long quote from Luther, echoing the same theme: the increased sin, hatred of the Law, anger and bitterness against God when a man is preached the Law and realizes that he cannot keep it. “[H]e falls into blasphemy, despair, and eternal death, unless he is rescued out of this condition by the Gospel of Christ.” The Gospel is the source of true godliness.

Church News

A. S. Ibrahim, “The plight of Christians in Syria: A bad situation for religious minorities has become much worse under the new Islamist government,” WORLD Magazine, March 17, 2025.

The headline says much. Christians are the most persecuted people around the world, and their persecution is most acute in Islamist nations. The former Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad was no saint, but he was known for protecting the ancient Christian minority in Syria. But with his ouster, “Syria came under an Islamist regime with unambiguous roots in al-Qaeda and ISIS,” and its “Islamist warriors [are] targeting, beating, and killing non-Sunni minorities, mainly Christians and Alawites.” “[G]ruesome and graphic videos” capture “many civilians [being] brutally snatched from their homes and piled in trucks, before being beaten and, in some cases, shot dead.”

These Islamists, likely at the behest of “the new Islamist regime,” view “Christians and Jews ... at the bottom of the list of humans: misguided infidels who twisted their original religions and should be fought as Allah’s enemies.”

Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, a leader of the terrorist group HTS, is now the nation’s interim president and will likely become Syria’s new president. What kind of president? “[T]he reality is that the Jolani of HTS is likely no different from the Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi of ISIS, Osama bin Laden of al-Qaeda, or even Yahya Sinwar of Hamas.” “[A]ll solutions are now bad in Syria.” “As for Christians and minorities now in Syria, a huge responsibility lays on the shoulders of the international community to exert pressure on the current regime to ensure their safety, before entire minority communities get annihilated in ISIS-style campaigns.” Lord, have mercy on our brothers and sisters in Syria.

Joshua McElwee, “Vatican approves Italian guidelines allowing gay men to become priests,” [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com), January 10, 2025.

Italian bishops approved the new guidelines that “allow gay men to enter seminaries as long as they abstain from sex,” and the Vatican has approved them for a three-year trial period.

The author writes, “the admittance of gay men into the priesthood has remained something of a taboo subject,” probably because of the sexual abuse scandal among priests in the Church. It has been common knowledge that some Roman Catholic seminaries have been filled with homosexual men. A report that came out in 2009 stated: “The church investigators ‘were obliged to point out the difficulties, in the area of morality, that some seminaries had suffered in the past decades ...’. ‘Usually, but not exclusively, this meant homosexual behavior.’” (Dennis Coday, “Bishops: Gay seminary problems ‘overcome’,” *National Catholic Reporter*, January 17, 2009).

The issue has been homosexual behavior, not homosexual inclinations. Both are sinful, we confess, but we also commend the homosexual person who refrains from acting upon his/her desires, even as we commend heterosexual persons who restrict their sexual activity to marriage. It doesn’t save any of them, but seeking to do God’s will is a fruit of faith.

You know that Roman Catholic priests are called to be celibate. (Lutherans pastors aren’t restricted so; obviously, they may marry, have children, etc.) That restriction surely is not for heterosexual priests only. Surely, it applies to men with homosexual inclinations, too. It makes me wonder: why even inquire about one’s

sexual inclinations? Why not merely ask, without regard to those, “will you promise to refrain from all sexual activity?” And if you can’t, then, as the pope has warned in the past, “leave the priesthood” (or exit the seminary).

“Marianne Duddy-Burke, who heads DignityUSA, a pro-gay Catholic group, said the Catholic Church has ‘reinforced a climate of secrecy’ in the seminaries that existed in the 1940s and 1950s. ‘It’s not that gays aren’t going into seminaries,’ she said, ‘it’s that closeted gays are going into seminaries’” (Coday, “Bishops ...”). Maybe back in the 40s and 50s they were closeted gays — gays who were active sexually — but today the guidelines are permitting only celibate gays.

I also wonder: what’s wrong with secrecy? I know we’ve gone through the 60s, and everything is about sex today. We’re immersed in it. This Voice is full of it.

I wish it weren’t so. My personal identity is not all wrapped up in my sexual inclinations, nor is yours. Our identity is as a baptized child of God. We are in Christ; we are one; we are heirs; and that has nothing to do with our sex or sexual inclinations. As St. Paul says, “*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise*” (Gal. 3:28-29).

As I think about these new guidelines, therefore, I guess I’m not all that disturbed about them. I know that none of Zion’s members thinks that their pastor never has or has had an impure thought. That’s an impossible standard for any person. And it’s not a prerequisite for the noble task of pastor according to St. Paul (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9). This poor sinner is privileged to proclaim Christ to you, and, since we can’t help but sin, I preach forgiveness and life in Christ’s name. Moreover, this message and the sacraments I administer are not dependent upon my goodness, but upon God Himself and the office into which the Spirit has placed me. I am but a “*servant[] of Christ and [a] steward[] of the mysteries of God*” (1 Cor. 4:1). God grant me faithfulness in this calling.

The New Administrations

In January, we had a new president and a new governor inaugurated. Both have been busy implementing their agendas. It seems many actions these days are taken by executive order (EO). Compared to action by Congress or the State General Assembly, executive orders can be done quickly. The problem with them is that they can also be quickly undone by the next executive (president or governor) unless codified into law by the legislative branch.

I have been gladdened by a number of EOs signed by President Trump. For example, he reinstated the policy

— for nearly 50 years passed annually by Congress as the Hyde Amendment — “to end the forced use of Federal taxpayer dollars to fund or promote elective abortion.” Conservative Christians say, “Well done.”

President Trump signed an EO to end “Radical Indoc-trination in K-12 Schooling,” indoctrinating students, for example, in the unbiblical, unscientific gender ideology, often without parental consent, that leads students to be confused about their sexual identity and can lead to “surgical and chemical mutilation.” Parents must be kept informed. A second EO on this front was signed to protect children from the ghoulish gender-transition industry that seeks to mutilate them by surgery (cutting off body parts) or by chemicals. This ideology is madness, and those who engage in it are evil. A boy cannot become a girl, nor can a girl become a boy. Adults can still decide to mutilate themselves. It’s wrong (Phil. 3:2 — “*look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh*”), but they can do it. These righteous EOs apply to children not adults. Well done.

In another EO dealing with transgenderism, the Trump administration asserts: “it is the policy of the United States to rescind all funds from educational programs that deprive women and girls of fair athletic opportunities, which results in the endangerment, humiliation, and silencing of women and girls and deprives them of privacy. It shall also be the policy of the United States to oppose male competitive participation in women’s sports more broadly, as a matter of safety, fairness, dignity, and truth.” Title IX, which guarantees equal opportunity for women to participate in sports and athletic events, will be interpreted as it was intended according to sex and not gender; that is, “women’s sports are reserved for women” — to those persons who are biologically female, not to biological males who claim a gender identity of “woman.” Nor will women be required to change clothes or “appear unclothed before [biological] males.” Well done.

President Trump has signed many more EOs, but I mention this last one: “Eradicating Anti-Christian Bias.” “It is the policy of the United States, and the purpose of this order, to protect the religious freedoms of Americans and end the anti-Christian weaponization of government. The Founders established a Nation in which people were free to practice their faith without fear of discrimination or retaliation *by their government*” (*emphasis mine*). Under the previous administration, there was “an egregious pattern of targeting peaceful Christians, while ignoring violent, anti-Christian offenses.” To be sure, Jews, even in America, often experience discrimination from other Americans. Muslims do, too. But generally not from the government. This EO listed specific incidents of

anti-Christian bias *by the government*. The First Amendment to the Constitution guarantees religious people to be free from government interference (neither establishing religion nor prohibiting the free exercise of religion). The government's actions were intolerable. Well done on this EO, also.

Indiana's newly inaugurated governor, Mike Braun, also issued an executive order, again regarding this social contagion of transgenderism that has infected our nation. It declares that "Indiana's Executive Branch will respect and enforce the biological binary of man and woman as a fundamental and deeply rooted principle of American legal history and tradition that is embedded in Indiana's statutes and Constitution." The EO clearly states: "that modern gender ideology is inconsistent with this fundamental and deeply rooted legal distinction between men and women. Modern gender ideology attempts to replace the biological category of sex with an ever-shifting concept of self-assessed gender identity. ¶ "Gender identity" reflects a fully internal and subjective sense of self, disconnected from biological reality and sex and existing on an infinite continuum, that does not provide a meaningful basis for identification and cannot be recognized as a replacement for sex. Modern gender ideology asserts the false claim that men can identify as and thus

become women and vice versa, and it would require all institutions of society to regard this false claim as true. ¶ Modern gender ideology falsely asserts there is a vast spectrum of genders that are disconnected from one's sex. Modern gender ideology is internally inconsistent, diminishes sex and gender as identifiable categories, yet nevertheless maintains that it is possible for a person to be born in the wrong sexed body." The EO directs Executive Branch agencies "to avoid using terms that obfuscate the fundamental, deeply rooted legal distinction between men and women, such as 'chest feeding,' 'birthing persons,' 'men with periods,' or 'people who menstruate.' These obfuscations—and others like them—are inconsistent with the fundamental distinction between men and women and serve to undermine or erase the unique experience and contributions that men and women bring to our society." Well done, also to Governor Braun.

Finishing up

Holy Week is almost upon us. God grant you a blessed week pondering Christ's sacrifice and Christ's victory over sin, death, and the grave. It's for us. I pray I see you at some (all) of these services. Don't miss the Easter Feast!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Punke



*Celebrating faith.
Connecting families.
Sharing hope.*

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families, and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

Directory Committee

Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church or simply go online and follow the instructions below. If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!
- Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church! You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Set your appointment with Universal today!



UNIVERSAL
CHURCH DIRECTORIES

*Gathering families,
Connecting generations.*



May 6, 2025, Tuesday, 2PM until 8 PM
Call the Church with a time that
work for you 260-744-1389.

2021 Dear Family Letter



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.*

Scan the QR Code or register at
ichooselife.org/fortwayneWS



260-471-1849 | \$5 COST
ADULTS & STUDENTS 7TH GRADE & UP.

Zion Notices:

SPRING 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.

April Birthday's

- 1- Nevaeh Holliday, Richard Lammert***
- 2- Phyllis Lattimore***
- 3- Reginald Coleman***
- 6- Bradley Carnahan***
- 7- Dwight Bieberich, Warren Muehl***
- 11- Juniper Muehl***
- 16- Jamell Washington***
- 17- Rafeal Ramirez***
- 18- A Sean Rogers***
- 19- Jessica Krause, Kevin Scott***
- 21- Sarah Hollman, Braelyn Scott***
- 22- Ahmari Thomas***
- 23- Tyler Jackson, Janeen Kaiser, Arthur Litke***
- 24- Timothy Shanks, Marvin Washington***
- 25- William McNair***
- 27- ClarAnn Bengs***
- 29- Jason Harrison, Tyler Muehl***



Thanks to all the ladies that helped out with the "No Sew Blankets for the Hope Center. We stopped in to drop them off and they were very happy to receive our gift to them.

hope CENTER

Invites you to our

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

APRIL 8, 2025 | 6:30 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30

ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM
4000 PARNELL AVE, FORT WAYNE, IN 46805

*God, who set me apart from birth
and called me by His grace*



GALATIANS 1:15

with guest speaker **AMY FORD**

Amy founded EMBRACE GRACE in 2012, a national nonprofit to equip churches all around the nation to have a pro-love focus and help women be brave and choose life, years after her own experience with an unplanned pregnancy in her teens.

Serving in Embrace Grace, she has seen first-hand how women have felt empowered to choose life for their babies because of the impact of the pregnancy centers in their community.

Register at ahcfriends.org or scan the QR code.
For assistance call 260-755-1068.





April Wedding Anniversary's

- 2- James & Judy Voelz 48 yrs***
- 3-Randy & Anita Werling 16 yrs***
- 19- Jeff & Stephanie Brooks 28 yrs***
- 20- Donald & Mary Beth Bieberich 57 yrs***
- 25- Richard & Diane Lammert 30 yrs***

...On This Day



CLHS:

Concordia Theatre Department Presents:

The Littlefield Gazette Does Not End Today - Spring Comedy

Saturday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 27 at 2:00 p.m.

Something is different about the company picnic this year. After 126 years woven into the fabric of this small town, the Littlefield Gazette is closing its doors. For the staff, this is the last hurrah: the perfect time to tell a secret, confess feelings for someone, plan a new future. What could they mean to each other now? And while we're at it, who brought the best pie? This rich ensemble collage of poignant, funny vignettes pays tribute to local news and explores what makes a community. This comedy is directed by Mr. Chris Murphy and Miss Hannah Mundt. Tickets available online or at the CLHS auditorium box office

Concordia Lutheran High School DECA Students State Competition Results

Twenty-four Cadets competed at DECA State Competition from Sunday to Tuesday, March 2-4. Jack Habegger, Sam David, and Kathryn Crook have qualified to compete at the DECA International Competition in Orlando, Florida from April 25 to April 30.

CLHS students who placed in the top ten of their events:

- Jack Habegger: 1st place Restaurant & Food Service Management
- Sam David: 4th place Hotel & Lodging Management
- Kathryn Crook: 5th place Marketing Communications
- Sophie Stevenson & Paikea Early-Aden: 5th place Business Law & Ethics Team
- Hannah Clark & Lilly Schlicker: 6th place Hospitality Services Team

Events included a 100-question written exam in addition to role plays. A record 2,500 students were in attendance for this year's DECA State Competition in Indianapolis.

Registration Now Open for CLHS Summer Camps and Classes

Concordia is offering more than 20 different summer camps as well as multiple summer school classes that are open to all students in the Fort Wayne region! With everything from sports and video games to music and drama, you'll find something for every student in your household! Scan the QR code for more information or to register now!

Concordia and B.L.A.S.T. Black History Month Speakers Reach More Than 500 Students

Concordia Lutheran High School, along with Black Lutheran Alumni Scholarship Team, or B.L.A.S.T., were very blessed during Black History Month in February to welcome a total of seven different guest speakers. Thank you to Joshua Cryer, Hadassah Harris, Joe Jordan, Mitch McKinney, Michael Patterson, Selena Ridley, and Angel Suttle for joining us as speakers and having great conversations with our students, faculty and staff. These speakers combined to have an impact on roughly 555 students. They shared their faith, their thoughts, and a living history of who they are as well as the impact they are making every day in their professional careers and communities.

Concordia Scholars for Class of 2029 Announced

Congratulations to Kamryn Barile of Holy Cross, Addison Childs of Emmanuel – St. Michael, and Khloe Vanderford of Woodside Middle School for being named Concordia Scholars for the Class of 2029! Exemplifying Concordia's best and brightest, Concordia Scholars receive up to \$2,500 per year as an academic scholarship. This student is academically exemplary and demonstrates integrity and good character not only at school but also in the church, home, and community. A Concordia Scholar must maintain a 3.50 or higher GPA at Concordia, remain in good standing with tuition payments, and maintain a record of positive behavior. This scholarship renews automatically providing the student continues to fulfill its requirements.



The Women of Zion chose to do something good for the Hope Center organization. About 10 ladies made 45 “No Sew blankets” for mothers at the Hope Center.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Altar Guild DaVanna Seifert/ Melvia Culpher pastor@zionfw.org church@zionfw.org			9:30 AM Men of Zion 7:00 PM Lent Vespers	7:00 PM Elder Meeting		11 AM Private Confession and Absolution
		1	2	3	4	5
		9:30 AM FW South Circuit 2:40PM Luther- anism 101	9:30 AM Men of Zion 7:00 PM Lent Vespers			9:00 AM Annual Spring Clean up
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Palm Sunday			9:30 AM Men of Zion 5:30 PM Divine Service	10:30 AM Book of Concord Holy Thursday Service 7:00PM	Good Friday Service 7:00PM	11 AM Private Confession and Absolution Holy Saturday 7:00 PM
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
7:00 AM Easter Sunrise Matins 7:45 AM Easter Breakfast 9:00 AM Festival Divine Service		12 NOON Administra- tive Council Meeting	9:30 AM Men of Zion 5:30 PM Divine Service			11 AM Private Confession and Absolution
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	5:30 PM CEA Board Meeting					
27	28	29	30			
					Sunday Service Schedule Divine Service of Word and Sac- rament at 9 AM each Sunday Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:30 AM	