

Zion Lutheran Church

Newsletter

April 2023



Greetings and peace to you in Christ!

Here we are at the end of Lent drawing ever closer to the greatest celebration and festival of the Church-year: the remembrance of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – God in our flesh for us.

As we approach that day, we've given up the "Alleluias" and the *Gloria in Excelsis*: our responses and hymns are toned down from the normal praise the Church offers up for the work our God has accomplished for us. This is something that our congregation builds up to each year – it's something that the Church builds to as we await the Lord's final coming on the last day. This is the joy that we live in even now, so it might seem strange that the Church's practice during the last weeks before the Easter celebration that we begin to pare things back in our service. One might think, as an outward observer (one outside of the Christian faith), that we would slowly build to the climax of the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord.

So why the solemnity? Why the dropping of things from the service, and why the discarding of the song of the angels (*Gloria in Excelsis*)? Why the elimination of the word "Alleluia"? Why in the last two weeks of Lent (including Holy Week) do we eliminate the *Gloria Patri* (Glory be to the...)?

The answer to all of these questions is in the anticipation we have for the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. We do this, in a smaller way during Advent as we await the

commemoration of Christ's birth, but it comes to its pinnacle in Lent and Holy Week as we remember all that the Son of God accomplished for us on the Cross and in the Tomb that Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter morning and beyond.

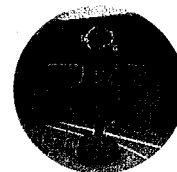
We hold back on the joy for a time, just as we don't hold on in its fullness, the joy that we will have in the life yet to come, the fullness of the resurrection of our own bodies – sinless and without spot or blemish. We experience the sufferings of this life and our "Alleluias" are half-hearted at best in these days, but there is a greater joy, a greater excitement, a greater fervor with which we will sing and proclaim His glorious name and shout of all that He has accomplished – that Lamb of God who was slain and has begun His reign.

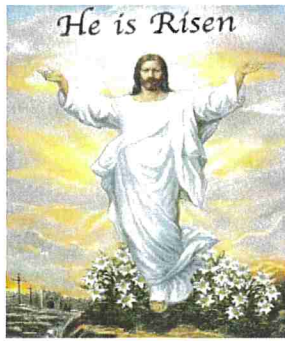
The reason that the Church subdues her rejoicing during this time is a recognition of the greater joy to come, that is promised to us all as the baptized of the Lord. "Alleluia cannot always, be our song while here below..." as the hymn goes.

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope, we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (Rom. 8:19-25)

Blessed Lententide and an Alleluia-filled Easter.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Siebert





Holy Week begins on April 2, Palm Sunday. Maundy Thursday service will be at 7:00 with Holy Communion. Good Friday Tre Ore Service will be at 12:00 PM and the Tenebrae Service will be at 7:00 PM. Saturday Easter Vigil with Holy Communion will be at 6:00 PM. Easter Sunrise service will be at 6:30 AM. Holy Communion will be celebrated at both the 6:30 and 9:00 services. A light breakfast of pastries, fruit, coffee and juice will be served between the services. There will be no Sunday School and Adult Bible class on Easter Sunday.

Give Hope to Guatemala

Hearts and Hands Against Hunger: We are excited to announce Hearts and Hands Against Hunger and Thrivent have partnered to coordinate a community event to help in the fight against world hunger. This event will allow community members young and old to come together in one place to assemble and package meals to be sent to Guatemalan children and families who do not have enough to eat.

Our goal is set at 150,000 meals and we need your help!

When: Saturday, April 22, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Where: PEACE Center Hearts and Hands Against Hunger Packing site, 622 N. Lincoln Ave, (the old middle school gym).

You may sign up individually or gather friends, families, church members to sign up for two hour packing session. You must be 12 years of age or older.

See flyers on the hymnal rack. Register by April 17.



Nicodemus Comfort Dog

The Lutheran Layman's League state convention was held on March 18, at Grace Lutheran Church in Fairbury, NE. One of the presentations was about Nico (Nicodemus). He is the LCC K-9 Comfort Dog for The Rock Lutheran Church in Seward, NE.

K-9 Comfort Dogs are friends who bring a calming influence, allowing people to open up their hearts and receive help in times of need. He interacts with people at churches, schools, nursing homes, events and in disaster response situations.

His first call to duty was to the mass shooting in Las Vegas NV. He has travelled to several states during times of disasters.

Nico's Bible verse is John 3:17: For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Follow Nico on Facebook!

Thank you to all who attended the lent suppers, enjoying a delicious meal and time of fellowship. LWML, LLL and Zion Altar Guild prepared and served the meals and appreciated the free-will offerings for mission projects.

April Birthdays



Evelyn Lee	April 2
Robyn Weber	April 2
Madison St John	April 3
Jordyn Pracht	April 3
DeNeeta Svoboda	April 4
Brian Hueftle	April 4
Matthew McGrath	April 5
Courtney Weber (Poppe)	April 5
Terry Kort	April 6
Cindy Kathman	April 7
Karen Ganskow	April 9
Traci Brittain	April 10
Jake Johnson	April 14
Royce Rehtus	April 15
Dakota Riales	April 15
Benjamin Kusters	April 16
David Joynt	April 18
Jeanne Ruxton	April 18
Jocelyn Hinrichs	April 19
Ashton Hartman	April 20
Eva R. Strong	April 20
Cooper Meyer	April 22
Lizabeth Weseman	April 23
Patricia Weseman	April 25
Joan Bockstadter	April 25
Patrick Davidson	April 25
Kathy Marble	April 27
Donald Fischer	April 28
Zayde Vanorsby	April 29
Brant George	April 30

April Baptism Birthdays



Jessica Nielsen-Trausch	April 3
Christopher Davidson	April 4
Courtney Woita	April 5
Michaela Hargis	April 5
Kay Struss	April 8
Madden Good	April 9
Richard Koepke	April 9
Gayle Kranau	April 9
Raven Adler	April 9
Dennis Kauk	April 10
Martin Meyer	April 10
Matthyw McGrath	April 11
Austin Buss	April 11
Janice Douglas	April 11
Arianna Kelley	April 14
Joan Quinn	April 14
Eric Fielder	April 15
Courtney Weber (Poppe)	April 16
Robyn Weber	April 16
Dakota Riales	April 19
Shane Aflague	April 22
Sawyer Kusters	April 22
Roger Sittner	April 22
Cindy Kathman	April 24
Jamie Critel	April 25
Jenna Critel	April 25
Jessica Critel	April 25
Jacob Critel	April 27
Detroit McIntyre	April 29
Jesse Wright	April 29
Richard Gerhart	April
Andi Brown	April
Lori Uden	April
Tyler Weseman	April

April Wedding Anniversary's



William & Crystal Kusters	April 3, 2004
David & Virginia Harlow	April 20, 1974

William & Karen Wilson	April 22, 1978
Bryan & Leslie Garver	April 22, 1995
Wes & Rose Henriksen	April 29, 2000

April 2023

Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>9:00 AM Palm Sunday Worship with Communion</p> <p>10:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class</p> <p>2</p>	<p>10:00 to 3:00 Quilt Tying at Peace Lutheran Church</p> <p>3</p>	<p>7:00 PM Elders Meeting</p> <p>4</p>	<p>8:30 ZCA Chapel with Pastor Siebert</p> <p>9:30 Bible-Hymn Study</p> <p>6:00 PM King's Kids</p> <p>5</p>	<p>7:00 Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion</p> <p>6</p>	<p>12:00 Tre Ore Good Friday Service</p> <p>7:00 Tenebrae Good Friday Service</p> <p>7</p>	<p>6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion</p> <p>8</p>
<p>6:30 Easter Sunrise Service with Holy Communion</p> <p>7:30-8:30 Easter Breakfast</p> <p>9:00 AM Easter Worship Service with Holy Communion</p> <p>9</p>	<p>10:00 to 3:00 Quilt Tying at Peace Lutheran Church</p> <p>10</p>	<p>6:30 PM Executive Board Meeting</p> <p>11</p>	<p>8:30 ZCA Chapel with Pastor Paul Duffy</p> <p>9:30 Bible-Hymn Study</p> <p>No King's Kids</p> <p>12</p>	<p>7:00 Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion</p> <p>13</p>	<p>12:00 Tre Ore Good Friday Service</p> <p>7:00 Tenebrae Good Friday Service</p> <p>14</p>	<p>6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion</p> <p>15</p>
<p>9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion</p> <p>10:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class</p> <p>16</p>	<p>6:30 PM Executive Board Meeting</p> <p>17</p>	<p>8:30 ZCA Chapel with Pastor Daniel Bremer</p> <p>9:30 Bible/Hymn Study</p> <p>6:00 PM King's Kids</p> <p>18</p>	<p>8:30 ZCA Chapel with Pastor Siebert</p> <p>9:30 Bible/Hymn Study</p> <p>19</p>	<p>8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Hearts and Hands Against Hunger</p> <p>6:00 PM Worship Service</p> <p>20</p>	<p>8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Hearts and Hands Against Hunger</p> <p>6:00 PM Worship Service</p> <p>21</p>	<p>8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Hearts and Hands Against Hunger</p> <p>6:00 PM Worship Service</p> <p>22</p>
<p>9:00 AM Worship Service</p> <p>10:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class</p> <p>23</p>	<p>8:30 ZCA Chapel with Pastor Siebert</p> <p>9:30 Bible/Hymn Study</p> <p>24</p>	<p>8:30 ZCA Chapel with Pastor Siebert</p> <p>9:30 Bible/Hymn Study</p> <p>25</p>	<p>6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion</p> <p>26</p>	<p>6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion</p> <p>27</p>	<p>6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion</p> <p>28</p>	<p>6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion</p> <p>29</p>
<p>9:00 AM Worship Service with Holy Communion</p> <p>10:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class</p> <p>30</p>						