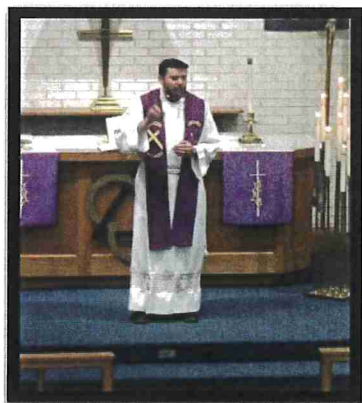


# Zion Lutheran Church

## Newsletter

March 2024



While leading a Bible Study a few years back a woman shared a family story. One Christmas, she was helping her mother with all of the food for the family meal. The desserts were prepared, the sides were well on their way, and the center of the meal was unwrapped to make ready its time in the oven: a large prime rib roast. This had been the dish of choice for some time in the family, and the smells that would soon be filling the house would bring forth memories of many Christmas gatherings of days gone by. Her mother laid out the roast grabbed a sharp knife, trimmed off and discarded an inch from one end, seasoned it, and put pan and roast in the oven.

Having spent a good deal of time learning from her mother over the years the skills of cooking from her mother, she asked what the reason was for cutting off the end of the roast (perhaps wondering what benefit it might add to the final result). Her mother replied, “I don’t really know. I learned it from my mother. She would always cut off the end of the roast. I guess you’ll have to ask her.” When the opportunity arrived to ask her grandmother the secret of her cooking the roast, she chuckled and said, “When I first started making the Christmas dinner, I didn’t have a pan that was big enough to cook the

roast in, so I would just cut off the end so it would fit.”

Traditions are wonderful things, especially in the Church. Paul uses the language of tradition (sometimes translated ‘delivering’ or ‘handing down’) often in his letter to the Corinthian congregations. For example: **Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you.** (1 Cor. 11:2); and, **For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures...** (1 Cor. 15:3ff). The long-standing practices of the church endure as they are handed on through the generations. Over the centuries elements of the tradition have been added or modified and minor variations exist in different places and times, but the rich tapestry of life in the Church remains centered in what was delivered from Christ through His Apostles.

As we consider traditions, it’s worth asking the question, “Why?” Often the answer highlights the wonderful truths revealed in Scripture (such as the use of an altar/table at the *center* of the chancel). At other times it’s much more mundane (such as the pulpit being higher so that the preacher could be heard). When false teachings invaded much of the church, Martin Luther and other reformers adjusted the liturgy that had been passed on but were careful to limit their modifications to those things that took away from the truth of the Gospel. Tradition is important and can reinforce true teaching.

One tradition I grew up with (and, I suppose, many have the same experience) relates to the reception of the Lord’s Supper. I was in eighth grade before I was first admitted to the Sacrament and I had in my mind it was directly connected to the rite of Confirmation. I was surprised when I learned that this is not the way Communion was dealt with for most of the Church through most of history.

So the question? Today, do we lop off a part of the roast and discard it because of the experiences of our great-grandparents (such

as not having the Lord's Supper each week because 150 years ago the pastor had several congregations he rode to on horseback)? Or are the traditions founded in something that is not part of the Lutheran heritage (such as withholding communion from a child until 8<sup>th</sup> grade because for a period of time false teachings entered the church which downplayed the Sacraments of Baptism and focused more on knowledge and individual experience)?

A number of people in the Lutheran Church have been considering such questions over the past decades and more congregations are coming to realize we've been lopping off the end of the roast for no reason but having done it last year, with the result that the gifts of the Supper from children who otherwise fit within the tradition handed to us from Paul. As we consider 1 Cor. 11:23-29, what is the most faithful tradition we can deliver to the next generation?

Your servant in Christ,  
Pastor Siebert

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 10 so set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night.**

### **Dart Ball Tournament**

The annual Hastings Zone LLL Dart Ball Tournament will be Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 5:00 PM at Zion Lutheran Church. It will be at Zion, but hosted by Faith Lutheran Church's Lutheran Laymen's League. Supper will be served at 5:00. Then let the friendly competition begin. You do not have to be a member of LLL to participate and all ages are welcome. In other words, you don't have to be bald or have gray hair. Please join us for an evening of fun, fellowship and "athletic" competition.



### **Holy Week**

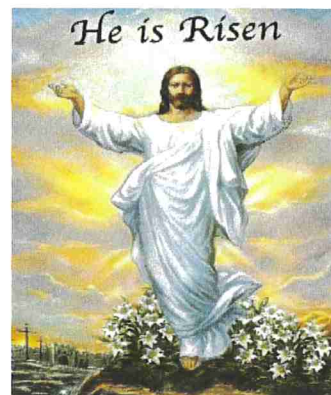
**March 23/24:** Palm Sunday Service with Holy Communion.

**March 28:** Maundy Thursday service will be at 7:00 with Holy Communion.

**March 29:** Good Friday Tre Ore Service will be at 12:00 PM and the Tenebrae Service will be at 7:00 PM.

**March 30:** Saturday Easter Vigil with Holy Communion will be at 6:00 PM.

**March 31:** Easter Sunrise service will be at 6:30 AM. Holy Communion will be celebrated at both the 6:30 and 9:00 services. There will be no Sunday School and Adult Bible class on Easter Sunday.





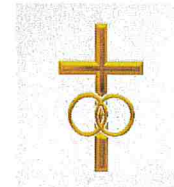
### March Birthdays

Jeff Halloran	March 1
Kathy Joynt	March 1
Leslie Garver	March 3
Christopher Davidson	March 7
Noah Siebert	March 7
Stacie Hueftle	March 8
Jessica Nielsen-Trausch	March 9
Austin Buss	March 9
David Berens	March 14
Madden Good	March 14
Wes Henricksen (81)	March 14
Martin Meyer	March 15
Riley Roesener	March 16
Jessica Pracht	March 19
Sawyer Kusters	March 20
Jacob Uden	March 20
Joan Quinn	March 22
Gloria Kottwitz (94)	March 24
Richard Koepke	March 25
LaDonna Halbmaier	March 25
Courtney Woita	March 25
Machelle Holliday	March 27
William Kusters	March 27
Andi Brown	March 30
Richard Gerhart (88)	March 30
Lori Uden	March 30



### March Baptism Birthdays

Jordan Torske	March 1
Bailey Johnson	March 2
Chris Lewis	March 2
Nicole Kathman	March 5
Colson Beatty	March 13
Christopher Warneke	March 15
Morgyn Miller	March 16
Darrel Joynt	March 20
Gary Eckhardt	March 22
Mark Utecht	March 25
Craig Hinrichs	March 26
Patrick Davidson	March 26
Lin Johnson	March 27
Leslie Garver	March 28
Staci Hueftle	March 28
Lynn Laaker	March 28
Allison Good	March 31
David Berens	March



### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Jesse and Julie Wright	March 12, 1976
Mark and Marsha Utecht	March 19, 1994



# March 2024

# Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 10 so set your clocks ahead on hour on Saturday March 9.	1	2 NO CHURCH SERVICE or Bible Study ACLEA FIRE 5:30 PM
3 9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	4 7:00 PM Board of Elders	5 8:30 AM ZCA Chapel with Wade Johnson 9:30 AM Bible Study 12:00 Lent Service 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:15 PM Lent Service	6 8:30 AM ZCA Chapel Camp Luther 9:30 AM Bible Study 12:00 Lent Service 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:15 PM Lent Service	7 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM LWML 6:00 PM Worship Service 7:15 PM Bible Study	8	9 6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion 7:15 PM Bible Study
10 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	11 10:00 to 3:00 Quilt Tying at Peace Lutheran Church	12 8:30 AM ZCA Chapel Camp Luther 9:30 AM Bible Study 12:00 Lent Service 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:15 PM Lent Service	13 8:30 AM ZCA Chapel Leah Werling, DCE 9:30 AM Bible Study 12:00 Lent Service 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:15 PM Lent Service	14 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday with Communion	15	16 6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion 7:15 PM Bible Study
17 9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	18 7:00 PM Executive Board Meeting	19 8:30 AM ZCA Chapel Leah Werling, DCE 9:30 AM Bible Study 12:00 Lent Service 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:15 PM Lent Service	20 8:30 AM ZCA Chapel Pastor Siebert 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Confirmation	21 12:00 Good Friday Ore 7:00 PM Good Friday Tenebrae	22	23 6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion 7:15 PM Bible Study
24 9:00 AM Worship with Communion (Palm Sunday) 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible	25	26	27	28	29	30 6:00 PM Easter Vigil Worship Service with Communion No Bible Study
31 6:30 AM Easter Sunrise and 9:00 AM Worship Service-both with Communion						