

Zion Lutheran Church

Newsletter

May 2024



Pastor Siebert's Message

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

On the night in which Christ is betrayed a lot is recorded for us as to what happens: Our Lord washes the Apostles' feet showing His coming in humble service to His creation; He speaks words of comfort and instruction to the 12 (especially as relates to the giving of the Holy Spirit and the work He will accomplish); and, perhaps most memorably, He institutes the Lord's Supper and the eating and drinking of Christ's Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins. But in that upper room we are also given words that Jesus prays to the Father. These encompass nearly the whole of John chapter 17.

Of the notable things in this prayer from God the Son to God the Father is the fact that Christ is praying not only for those there gathered (who will soon be scattered, only to be gathered again through the Spirit and scattered into the world to preach the Good News of His life, death, and resurrection as eyewitnesses), but that our Lord is praying for us also.

²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. (John 17:20-23)

This unity for which Christ prays for us is the related to the unity that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit share. The three persons of the Godhead

are one, and there is one God yet there are three distinct persons of the Holy Trinity. Without delving deeper than God reveals this mystery, our Lord's prayer means at least this: Jesus brings us into communion with Himself in the Trinity (We have unity with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.); He imparts to us His glory (We are being conformed to His image and granted His righteousness and His kingdom); and we are brought into unity with one another (made one body; our Lord's one Holy Bride; and brothers and sisters in Him).

These are surely mysteries too deep to grasp fully this side of our resurrection, but we have the answer to Christ's prayer delivered in His own actions of bleeding, dying, rising, and ascending in glory. We have the words which underly the unity with the Triune God as Jesus speaks, "Peace be with you," breathing the Holy Spirit upon His Church; we have the forgiveness of sins, which underlies this peace spoken, with the authority of Christ in His Church; and we have the Holy Spirit who is sanctifying us as He dwells in the baptized, causing us to strive against the devil and our sinful flesh, forgiving one another, and desiring to be in unity with God's Holy Word and His teachings.

All of this is celebrated in the meal our Lord established in remembrance of Him (that is, in what He has done to set us free from separation from God and discord in our midst). Here we repent of false teaching and approach in communion with one another in the truth confessed together; we receive the forgiveness of sins in faithful eating and drinking; we gather together in the unity Christ prays for as often as we can; and we receive the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior in unity with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

To be sure, this is but a foretaste of the fullest revelation of this on the final and eternal day to come, but it is certainly a "Yes!" in answer to Christ's prayer that our Triune God is giving to us. May we be emboldened to come in repentant faith, lay aside all excuses and sinful causes of division, and bask in the mysterious unity, glorious hope, and communion of saints that is delivered and revealed at the Lord's table - you are the beloved of the Lord with each of the beloved gathered with you.

Your servant in Christ,
Rev. Benjamin Siebert

Ascension Day Service

We have much to celebrate in our Lord Jesus' glorious Ascension into heaven where He sits at the right of the Father! **Join us at Peace Lutheran Church, Hastings for the Divine Service on Thursday, May 9th at 7 pm as we celebrate our Lord's Ascension.** This is a joint service with Zion, Hastings. Pastor Ben Siebert will be our guest preacher. All Hastings Circuit congregations are invited. After the service we will have a reception with a pastry potluck. As you are able, you are invited to bring a treat to share. Drinks will be provided. Hope to see you there!



This year, Zion and Peace Lutheran Churches are joining together for one day ALL day VBS! The directors are Staci Hueftle and Jay Jay Morgan.

Volunteer opportunities:

Gardeners: small group leaders

Chef: in charge of lunch and snacks

Harvesters: Recess and Games

Farmhands: volunteers who get to run around throughout the day and make sure all needs are met

Hootenanny Band: music

Ranch Master: crafts

Registration forms will be in the narthex. Please take extra copies home for anyone you may want to invite!

A message from Chris and Sarah Warneke

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! We pray that you had a blessed Easter, rejoicing in the resurrection of our Savior. We thank God for sending His Son to die for us and for raising Him up again. In this time of joyous thanksgiving, we also thank God for the prayers and support that you have shown us this year. Thank you. You are a tremendous blessing to us.

We had a lovely Easter here in Fort Wayne. We attended Sunrise Matins and the Divine Service at Zion Lutheran in Fort Wayne. We were awed by the beautiful music, gorgeous flowers, and God's great love for us. Many of our seminary friends gathered for Easter lunch and we got together with other friends for a separate Easter supper celebration. It was a glorious day!

We have been keeping busy these last few months, as always. Over the seminary's spring break, we drove to Utah to visit our newborn niece, Ivy. The road trip was spectacular and we enjoyed some time to relax and enjoy each other's company, along with the company of family and friends. Chris's birthday was over spring break, so it seems like all of the different family members we stopped to visit along our route threw him a little party. We also loved seeing portions of the United States we hadn't seen before. We spent a day driving around Flaming Gorge Recreation Area in Southern Wyoming and were blown away by the gorgeous rock formations. It was such a blessing to have a nice road trip together before we will be a bit more stationary once he gets that big Call!

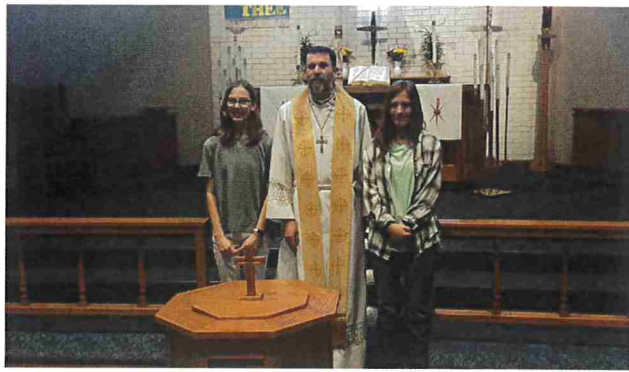
Call Day is rapidly approaching! On April 24, we will find out what congregation Chris will be called to serve. We cannot believe how quickly that date snuck up on us! We are looking forward to finding out what God has in store for us.

Thank you for all the prayers and support you have given us this year. We are so grateful for you.

In Christ,

Chris and Sarah Warneke

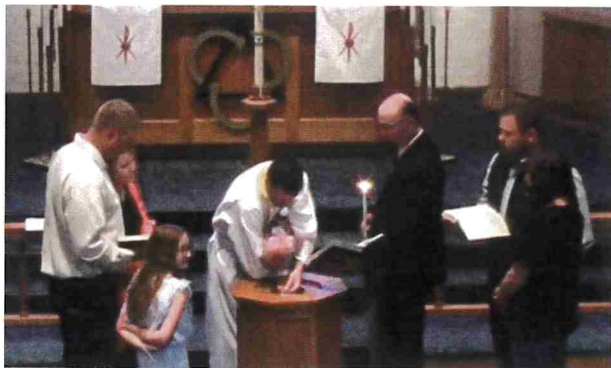
NOTE: since receiving this letter, we have learned that Chris and Sarah will be moving to Kansas. Chris has received a call from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Arkansas City KS and Trinity Lutheran Church in Winfield, KS.



**Rayna Holliday and Jayme Holliday
with Pastor Siebert
Confirmation April 14, 2024**



**Baptism of Reese Beatty
April 14, 2024**



**Baptism of Treyce Halbmaier
April 21, 2024**

Coming Up in June

Zion Lutheran Church

Salad Luncheon
Friday June 7th
 \$ 9.00
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
 Performance Center
465 S. Marion Road

Lutheran Layman's League Sponsored
 Zone 8 LLL



fish, pearl onions, salads,
 dessert and a drink will be served



Wisconsin Style Fish Feed



Friday 5:30 - 7:00 pm

June 14th 2024

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
 PERFORMANCE CENTER**

Free Will Offering



Proceeds go to pay for shipping to
 Mission Texas in the USA.



Zambia, Republic of Georgia, Honduras, Moldova, Panama, and Latvia
 through Orphan Grain Train.

May Birthdays



Chrisella Lewis	May 3
Beth Stark (age 85)	May 3
Abigail Lyons	May 4
Brandon Kelley	May 5
Susan Ray	May 7
Linda Koepke	May 9
Ella Brown	May 12
David A. Peterson	May 13
Julie Wright	May 17
Sage Dasher	May 19
Crystal Kusters	May 22
Larry Struss	May 25
Carol Fisher	May 27
Tiffany Steinkraus	May 27
Darrel Joynt (age 98)	May 28
Jim Pratt	May 29
Laurie George	May 31

May Baptism Birthdays



Gloria Kottwitz	May 1
Evelyn Lee	May 2
David Joynt	May 6
Traci Brittain	May 8
Madison St. John	May 12
Brant George	May 16
Kathy Marble	May 17
Benjamin Kusters	May 19
Jeff Halloran	May 24
Karen Ganskow	May 26
Susan Ray	May 27
Jacob Uden	May 27
Donald Fischer	May 28
Abigail Lyons	May 28
Linda Koepke	May 29

May Wedding Anniversary's



Bob and Beth Stark	May 5, 1963
Steve and Vicki Buss	May 24, 1975
Dick and Connie Gerhart	May 29, 1992

We Welcome New Members

Andrew and Amanda Piel and their children Karsyn age 8 and Rory age 7 who have transferred from Trinity Lutheran Church in Blue Hill, NE. Karsyn and Rory are students at Zion Classical Academy. Mitchell Lewis is transferring from Trinity Lutheran Church in Amarillo, Texas.

May 2024

Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	April 29 6:30 PM VBS Planning Meeting		1 8:30 ZCA Chapel with Pastor Josh Davis 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Confirmation Class	2	3	4 6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion 7:15 PM Bible Study
5 9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	6 7:00 PM Board of Elders	7 8:30 ZCA Chapel with Pastor Micah Gaunt 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Confirmation Class	8 9:30 AM Bible Study	9 6:00 PM ZCA Awards and Graduation 7:00 PM Ascension Day Service with Holy Communion at Peace Lutheran, Hastings	10 Zion Classical Academy last day of school	11 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM LWML 6:00 PM Worship Service 7:15 PM Bible Study
12 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	13 10:00 to 3:00 Quilt Tying at Peace Lutheran Church	14	15 9:30 AM Bible Study	16	17	18 6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion 7:15 PM Bible Study
19 9:00 AM Pentecost Worship Service with Communion 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	20	21	22 9:30 AM Bible Study	23	24	25 6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion 7:15 PM Bible Study
26 9:00 AM Holy Trinity Worship Service with Communion 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	27	28	29 9:30 AM Bible Study	30	31	June 1 Vacation Bible School 9:00 to 2:00

4.5%

6-MONTH FIXED-RATE TERM NOTE

 **Lutheran Church Extension Fund**
→ where investments build ministry

Lutherans Helping Lutherans

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has served as the financial extension of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) since 1978, offering funding and resources in support of the church. Our investors make it possible for us to provide customized loans and support services to new and growing ministries as well as loans for Rostered Church Workers who dedicate their lives to sharing the Gospel.

This limited-time offer is available for LCMS:

 **INDIVIDUALS**  **CONGREGATIONS**  **ORGANIZATIONS**

PICK A DURATION THAT WORKS FOR YOU!

*6 MONTHS	4.50%
1 YEAR	3.00%
*18 MONTHS	5.00%

At the end of the term, the funds remain yours to re-invest or redeem. Interest is compounded quarterly (March, June, September and December). Minimum \$500 to invest.

* New money only.

APPLY ONLINE TODAY AT LCEF.ORG/OFFER6

OR CALL 800-843-5233.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

→ where investments build ministry

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. Rates as of August 2023. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit lcef.org for details. 0823N128