

Zion Lutheran Church

April 2023



Christ  
is  
Risen!

**Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands**

**Sunday, April 2**

*Palm Sunday / Communion*

**Thursday, April 6**

*Maundy Thursday / Communion*

**Friday, April 7**

*Good Friday*

**Sunday, April 9**

*Easter Sunday / Communion*

**Sunday, April 16**

*Second Sunday after Easter / Communion*

**Sunday, April 23**

*Third Sunday after Easter / Communion*

**Sunday, April 30**

*Fourth Sunday after Easter / Communion*

## Pastor's Corner



Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

I always thought of the liturgical year--Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost--as a more leisurely way to mark time. That was before I was called as a pastor! I'm surprised by how much of my thought process revolves around the concept of BE and AE, or Before Easter and After Easter. As in: I can work on the graduation service After Easter; or, I'll have time for those calls After Easter; or, I must get those hymns chosen, bulletin sent in, or music arrangements made Before Easter. The church year seems to have so many deadlines and "musts" and "shoulds" that it's easy to get lost in those things rather than in the Story itself.

As I prepared the order of worship for my very first Easter Sunday as an ordained pastor, I looked in vain for the Easter template in Evangelical Lutheran Worship - the primary hymnal we use.

There's an order for mid-week Lenten worship, one for Palm Sunday, one for Maundy Thursday, one for Good Friday, and one for the Easter Vigil. No special worship order for Easter. Then I remembered... there's a reason for that. The "busy-ness" of Lent and Holy Week and Easter Sunday had made me forget that we are an Easter people. No matter what the liturgical calendar says, or how active the congregation's calendar is, or what the chronological calendar tells me about date and time... we followers of Christ celebrate Easter every Sunday.

The point is that I had been thinking about it all wrong, and maybe you have, too. Easter isn't just one Sunday among many; Easter is a way of life for the body of Christ. Easter is living one's whole life not just patterned after Christ, but as the body of Christ.

How are you being called to live your life as the body of Christ? Not just on Easter Sunday, but every day? I pray that all your Easters - all your days - are filled with love, service to others, and joyous thanksgiving.

to God for God's redeeming Word of Life.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Amy

## ***Easter Message from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson April 2023***

*Matthew 28 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it... the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said... go quickly and tell his disciples."*

Dear Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Join me and that great cloud of witnesses this Easter in the acclamation:

Christ is Risen,



He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

The gospel reading for this Easter is from the book of Matthew. Matthew is the only gospel writer that records an **earthquake** on Easter morning. The women arrive at the tomb and are greeted by an earthquake, an angel rolling back the stone, and the news that their Lord and Savior wasn't there, **JESUS HAD BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD**. What? The women were filled with shock and fear. The aftershocks of this earthquake are still felt. The news that death doesn't win and is defeated by the power of God in Christ Jesus continues to shock and amaze us.

What if we imagined Easter not as a lovely spring ritual filled with pastel-colored eggs and candy but as the violent earthquake that it is? Few living in the Midwest have experienced an earthquake. A pastor born in California remembers her mother putting rubber bands on the kitchen cupboard handles so the china dishes wouldn't fall out when there was an earthquake. When has a death

of a loved one shaken the foundation of your world? When have you realized how fragile life can be? Christ's resurrection from the dead, his victory over sin, death, and the devil shakes up everything. It is the good news that can even shake us loose from our grief.

What if we experienced Easter as a violent earthquake more like a fresh egg dropped to the floor than one hard-boiled and beautifully decorated? What if the Easter Earthquake shakes us awake, shakes everything out of the cupboards and closets so we are forced to do spring cleaning and decide what to put back and what to throw out? What if we get rid of stuff that doesn't work and give more space to what's important? What is really important? What is God's will for you? What are our Easter priorities?

What if this year the Easter Earthquake cracks open and rolls away the stone from our hearts, shakes loose old ideas, breaks down rock-hard prejudices, and opens us up to new ways to love our neighbor and to share this amazing good news that Jesus lives? What new life might rise up from the rubble? What new relationships might develop? Like a chick struggles to break free of the egg's shell, new beginnings are rarely easy, but they are worth it.

The good news is that Christ's resurrection from the dead and his victory over death is good news even to those who have experienced a literal shifting of tectonic plates beneath the earth. On February 6, 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Turkey and Syria leaving over 50,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands more wounded, displaced, or homeless. More than 10,000 aftershocks have been felt since February 6 leading to more deaths, fear, and trauma. The aftershocks will continue for a long time.[1]

This Easter, in response to the earthquake that opened the tomb and to the good news that Jesus has been raised from the dead, I encourage you to give a gift to the Lutheran Disaster Response to

help the victims of the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Here is a link to help you do that. [https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis?\\_ga=2.89763675.1129066314.1679579365-256581953.1608055964](https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis?_ga=2.89763675.1129066314.1679579365-256581953.1608055964)

Suddenly there was a great earthquake...

In Christ,

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson".

## **Events here at Zion in March**

### **Baptism**

March 26th at the Font, Raegan Rae Murphy the daughter of Chris and Alison Murphy, born December 15, 2022, has received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Raegan's baptismal sponsors are Mike & Jenny Wilke. May God bless Raegan and her family.

### **Zion Hosted the Chequamegon Conference Assembly**

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with hosting the Chequamegon Conference Assembly on March 16 here at Zion:

June Krueger

Cory Wiesman

Janet Schoenherr

Dan Wieland

Amber Knetter

Nancy Schoenherr

Deb Wieland

Mary Wussow

## **Lent Soup and Sandwich**

Thank you to all the groups that served soup and sandwich following Lenten services this month. Those who served were Council, Worship Team, Choir, Bell Choir, Faith Formation, JTeam / Little Lutherans, Property Team and Evangelism Team.

## **Holy Week Worship Schedule**

**9:00 am April 2 Palm Sunday Worship / Communion**

**5:30 pm April 6 Maundy Thursday / Communion**

**5:30 pm April 7 Good Friday Service**

**7:00 am and 9:00 am April 9th**

**Easter Services / Communion**

## **Easter Lilies/Palms**

Lilies may be given in honor, or in memory, of family and friends. The cost of the lilies this year is 14.00. Donations can be given toward the purchase of palms. Forms can be found in the church, church office, Facebook, and [www.zionstratford.org](http://www.zionstratford.org).

## **Tuesday morning Bible Study**

Bible study will now be held on **Tuesday** mornings at 10:00 am. We invite anyone interested in exploring the scriptures and a time of fellowship to join in on Tuesday mornings. There will be no Bible study on **April 4th** during Holy Week.

## **Monthly Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for the May newsletter is April 21. To submit an article about an upcoming ministry opportunity, please email the church office at [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org). Thank you.

## **Zion Church Cancellations**

Zion will now be posting cancellations on WAOW channel 9.

## Noisy offering

There will be a noisy offering at all Sunday services during Lent. All the funds collected during Lent will be going toward the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response in support of the people of Turkey and Syria that have experienced devastating earthquakes.

## Faith Formation for All Ages

### Little Lutherans/J-Team

Little Lutherans and J-Team (K-6th grade) will be focusing on various aspects of Worship this year with games, crafts, and Bible stories. **These faith formation classes will be held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 3:15-5:15 pm.**

Children may arrive anytime between 3:15 and 3:50 pm, for those coming from a non-Stratford school district. Information and calendar can be found at: <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/k-6th-grade/>.



### Disciples for Christ

Disciples for Christ (10th grade) will meet on **Sunday, April 16 at 5:30 p.m.** Schedule and more information can be found at: <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation10th-12th-grade/>.

### Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday will be **May 7th**. This year's confirmands will be Trenton Cournoyer, Trevor Zawislan, Mason Oertel and Caleb Wrench.



## **First Communion Class**

If your son/ daughter is interested in a First Communion class, please contact the office 715-687-4110 or at [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org) or contact Pastor Amy at [pastoramy@zionstratford.org](mailto:pastoramy@zionstratford.org). The date has been set for First Communion; it will be **April 16**. First Communion class will be held on **April 2** at 10:15 am following worship service.

## **Senior Scholarship**

Scholarship applications have been sent to members of Zion that will be graduating from High School this spring. The deadline for the scholarship applications is **April 21, 2023**. Awarded scholarships will be given during the Senior Sunday celebration on **May 21, 2023**.

## **Senior Sunday**

Graduating seniors have been invited to attend Senior Sunday on **May 21, 2023**. Students will be honored and receive a blanket during the service. Reminder for graduating seniors, send into the church: 1. Senior picture 2. Baby picture 3. Information about future plans and favorite church memory.

## **New Member Sunday**

There will be a New Member Sunday on **April 30th**. If you wish to join the church or know someone who wishes to join here at Zion, please let the church office know at 715-687-4110 or email [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org).

## **Crossways Camp 2023**

Any confirmation students that are interested in attending Crossways Camp at Waypost, **July 9 - 14, 2023**. If interested contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org) or contact Pastor Amy at [pastor@zionstratford.org](mailto:pastor@zionstratford.org).

## **Northwest Synod Assembly**

Looking for two volunteers, a man and a woman, to attend Northwest Synod Assembly on **April 29, 2023** in Rice Lake at Bethany Lutheran Church. If interested contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org).

## **Directory**

The church directory is finished for March 2023 through March 2024. If anyone would like a copy of the directory contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or at [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org).

## **Let's Watch The Chosen Together!**

Time to continue watching "The Chosen" here at Zion. **April 23** at 6:00 pm is the date and time chosen to continue watching the series of the life and time of Jesus. All are welcome to join in the fun.

## **Library News**

Lenten and Easter Materials are featured this month. We have a wide variety from adult novels and children's stories to Bible studies and meditations. Some are displayed on the central bookcase, and many others are kept in their usual spot on the bookcases to the left of the door near the media resources. Come in to explore. Just sign the card from anything you want to check out and put it in the slot on the desk. If you need help, call Sandy Borman at 715-687-2368. Have a meaningful and meditative Lenten season.

## Information Technology

Thank you to Mary Wussow and Brenda Huther for taking on the task of working with the slides for Sunday morning worship and any other media needs that arise. Thank you, Leon Tietyen, for your many years of service working with the media. If anyone is interested in helping out with this form of ministry, please contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org).



## Treasurer's Report

To keep everyone informed of the financial status of Zion Lutheran, we include a monthly Treasurer's Report in the newsletter. The overall purpose is to be transparent about how Zion is building a culture of generosity and being a steward (manager) of God's gracious provision in order to fuel Jesus' ministry.



Through February 28, 2023 **income** received to the Current (general offering) was **\$27,406.50**. This money is used to provide financial support for the ministry budget expenses such as faith formation, evangelism, worship, staff salaries, property, etc. This amount does not include the 10% benevolence.

Thank you to everyone who is going above and beyond to financially support the mission and ministry of Zion.

The ministry **expenditures** were **\$25,976.61** as of February 28, 2023. Our expense budget is \$ 238,486.82. We currently are at 10.9% of expenses. Thank you to the ministry teams for being good stewards.

As of February 28, 2023, the church's **undesignated cash balance** is \$19,576.92. This is money that is not specifically designated to a specific purpose, such as utilities, mortgage debt reduction, lawn mowing, GermanFest, etc. The undesignated cash balance is like our savings account or reserve fund when our expenses are more than our income. This can be quickly depleted if actual income doesn't match expenses.

As of February 28, 2023, our **benevolences (ministry to the world)** were:

Crossways Camping Ministry	\$ 2.00	0.1% of goal
ELCA 10% Benevolence	\$ 2,938.50	18.4% of goal
Lutheran Social Services	\$ 150.00	8.3% of goal
Missionary Support	\$ 312.00	8.9% of goal
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 511.00	15.7% of goal

As of February 28, 2023, the balance available in the **GermanFest/Crisis Bank** account is \$11,553.40.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Zion's ministry in Jesus' name with financial gifts. It takes all of us together to fuel our ministry plan.

With a grateful heart, Marge Redetzke, Council Treasurer

## **SCRIP: Shopping Supports Ministry**

Your Scrip gift card purchases (gift cards to tons of stores across the country) provide funds for Zion youth experiences like mission trips and regional/national youth gatherings! Let's prepare for Zion youth to participate in upcoming opportunities by using Scrip cards for your shopping and gift-giving needs. It's easy! Simply contact June Krueger by phone or text, 715-897-0617, to check stock or place an order. Each card purchase returns a percent back of Zion, netting hundreds of dollars to the youth fund each year. Thank you for continuing to support Zion youth experiences!



## **Choir**

Choir Rehearsals are held at 8:00 AM in the balcony. Next rehearsal dates: **April 2, 23, 30, May 7. There will be a choir practice on April 6th in the evening, time to be determined.** New members and all voices are always welcome. For more

information, contact Mary Wussow at [music@zionstratford.org](mailto:music@zionstratford.org).

**Feed our Starving Children** We have 20 spots on Saturday April 22 from 8am to 10am at Zion United Methodist Church (across from Aldi) in Marshfield. We will need volunteers to fill those slots. Children 5 and older are welcome to participate with parental supervision. If interested, please reach out to Brandon Aschenbrenner via text or call (715.803.0009) or via email ([basch48@yahoo.com](mailto:basch48@yahoo.com)). There is also a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

## **Fellowship**

Come join us in fellowship following worship each Sunday. If you wish to host a fellowship, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the fellowship area. There are no longer restrictions on only bringing pre packaged food. Feel free to bring in home made goods. See you at fellowship.

## **Altar Guild Needs Families & Individuals**

The Altar Guild is seeking a few people to help keep the Chancel area looking great! A two month-a-year commitment is all that's asked of anyone. There's a book in the room to the south of the Chancel area you can look through to see if this is something that might interest you. Contact Marge Kollmansberger at [mpkollman@yahoo.com](mailto:mpkollman@yahoo.com) Please prayerfully consider participating in this ministry.

## **Birthdays & Anniversary**

The listing of the dates for birthdays and anniversaries will now be posted in the weekly Monday email, in the weekly Sunday announcements, and on the Sunday PowerPoint announcements. This is to protect people's privacy and not make it easier for scammers to have access to this information. If you would like a complete monthly list to send out cards, please contact the office.



Spring is a time we look forward to the return of the plants and flowers that we all enjoy. Come and enjoy Zion's Meditation Garden. It is a beautiful space to find a few moments of quiet in this busy world. If you wish to help care for the garden contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or at [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org).

## **Calling all Ushers, Assisting Ministers Media, Acolytes, etc.**

For those people interested in signing up to serve at worship services please go to [SignUpGenius.com](http://SignUpGenius.com) on the web or use the free app. Search for sign-ups using the email address: [hutherbk@yahoo.com](mailto:hutherbk@yahoo.com). Sign-ups are usually available each month until the 17th of the following month. At that point, the service schedule needs to be completed and sent to the church office.

## **Serving in Worship Substitutions**

On vacation? At a sporting event? Family wedding? If you are scheduled to serve in worship as an assisting minister, acolyte, communion server, reader, usher, etc., and are unable to serve on that date, please look at the calendar and contact another person to switch with you. Thank you

## **Homebound Visits**

Zion's Homebound Members are ready for home visits from congregation members. It helps them to feel connected, Less lonely, and cared for. The commitment is one or more members per month. If you can serve this way, please contact Pastor Amy Heinz at [pastor@zionstratford.org](mailto:pastor@zionstratford.org).





## **Crossway camps job opportunities**

The investment of our Summer Staff is what makes our transformational programs possible. You can make a life-changing impact on a young adult by connecting them to join our team. Your encouragement may be just what they are waiting for. If interested go to [www.crosswaycamps/employment](http://www.crosswaycamps/employment).

## **Marathon County Transportation Program**

Recruiting volunteer drivers to take people to their medical appointments and grocery shopping. If you have free time and would like to help people, we have a flexible program that works for your schedule. People in need of transportation will be matched with volunteer drivers in their area. Drivers will be reimbursed at 65.5 cents a mile to help with expenses. If you have questions about the program or are interested in an application, please call Jenny McKenzie at 715-841-5101 or email [jmckenzie@nocen.org](mailto:jmckenzie@nocen.org). Your interest is greatly appreciated!

## **Blood Donation**

### **April 25**

Save a Life

Please donate blood

Location: Stratford VFW

Time 3:30 – 6:30 pm

No appointment is necessary.

# Technology Ministry

## **Council Minutes**

Council minutes are now available on the church website at [zionstratford.org/publications](https://zionstratford.org/publications). You can also get a copy of the minutes by contacting Kathy in the church office or on the Information table by the church office.

## **Prayer Requests**

Did you know that you can submit your prayer requests on the new ZionStratford.org website? You can also let people know that people are praying for them too. Check it out at <https://zionstratford.org/prayer>



Listen on  
**Podbean**

## **Sermons by Phone or Podcast App**

Audio recordings of Sunday sermons are now available by calling **848.204.2721**. You can also find it on the podcast apps *PodBean* and *Bullhorn* under the podcast name "Open Doors Open Hearts Open Hands." You can also find a recording and a copy of the bulletin at <https://zionstratford.org/publications/>.

**Building Update 2023**

Total monthly principal payments	\$ 31,253.54
Total monthly interest payments	<u>\$ 1,196.46</u>
Balance of loan as of <b>02-24-2023</b>	\$ 98,618.08

Partners Bank

Building checking acct balance as of **03-01-2023** \$ 9,459.85

Payment Bi-Weekly	Start Balance	Payment Amount	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
12/02 & 12/16	\$129,871.62	\$3,100.00	\$389.36	\$2,710.64	\$127,160.98
12/30	\$127,160.98	\$1,550.00	\$191.62	\$1,358.38	\$125,802.60
12/30	\$125,802.60	21,600.00	\$ .00	21,600.00	\$104,202.60
----- 01/13 & 01/27	----- \$104,202.60	----- \$3,100.00	----- \$311.94	----- \$2,788.06	----- \$101,414.54
02/10 & 02/24	\$101,414.54	\$3,100.00	\$303.54	\$2,796.46	\$98,618.08

**Thank you all that continue to give generously toward the Building Fund.**

Date	04/02/2023 Palm Sunday 9:00 AM	4/06/2023 Maundy Thursday 5:30 PM	4/07/2023 Good Friday 5:30 PM	4/09/2023 Easter 7:00 AM	4/09/2023 Easter 9:00 AM	4/16/2023 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM	4/23/2023 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM	4/30/2023 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM	5/07/2023 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Dan Thompson	Dan Wieland	.....	Brenda Huther	Darla Leick	Marge Kollmansberger	Riley Spindler	Dan Wieland	Darla/Jill
Reader	Dan Thompson	Mary Wussow	Jill Dasler	Brenda Huther	Darla Leick	Patti Casperson	Riley Spindler	Dan Wieland	confirmands
Acolytes	Emmercyn Schiller Lily Cournoyer	Abby & Hudson Ballerstein	Connor & Sierra Kreft	Charlotte & Nolan Peirce	Jackson & Jevin Spindler	Cooper & Brynn Wiesman	Ella Schultz Ruby Casperson	Reese & Reid Spindler	Anika Weber Avery White
Ushers	Ryan & Amy Cournoyer	Wendy & Jasmine Grell	Rod & Brenda Huther	Frank & Angie Guralski	Tadd & Janet Schoenherr	Tom & Nancy Schoenherr	Phil & Kerri Schultz	Sharla Dreikosen Amber Knetter	Rod & Brenda Huther
communion assistants	Dan & Rhonda Thompson Barb Wrench	Dan & Deb Wieland Sandy Andersen	.....	Brenda Huther Wendy Spaeth Barb Wrench	Jill & Casey Dasler Darla Leick	Marge Kollmansberger Brenda Castellano Brenda Garrigan	Riley Spindler June Krueger Lois Miller	Dan & Deb Wieland Carmella Moon	confirmands
communion steward	Rhonda Thompson	Deb Wieland	.....	Amy Grell	Amy Grell	Wendy Spaeth	Rhonda Thompson	Patti Casperson	Jill Dasler
Fellowship	Stacey Spindler	.....	.....	Easter	Easter	Wiesman Family	Wussow Family	New Member	Confirmation
Host	Faith Formation: Ray White	.....	.....	FFY: Casey Dasler	FFY: Casey Dasler	President: Dan Thompson	Secretary: Carmella Moon	Vice President: Maryel Schoenfuss	Treasurer: Marge Redetzke
Bell Ringer	Ryan & Amy Cournoyer	Jasmine Grell	Brenda Huther	Frank Guralski	Tadd Schoenherr	Nancy Schoenherr	Phil Schultz	Brenda Huther	Brenda Huther
Media	Rod Huther	Rod Huther	Ted Dasler	Connor Kreft	Marge Kollmansberger	Connor Kreft	Kevin Miller	Rod Huther	Ted Dasler

# April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>9am Palm Sunday Worship / Communion 10:15 am 1st Communion Class</i>	3	4 <i>No Bible Study</i>	5	6 <i>5:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship / Communion</i>	7 <i>5:30 pm Good Friday Worship</i>	8
9 <i>7:00 am / 9:00 am Easter Worship / Communion</i>	10 <i>6pm Executive Team Meeting</i>	11 <i>10 am Bible Study</i>	12 <i>3pm JTeam / Little Lutherans</i>	13	14 <i>Youth Retreat April 14—16</i>	15
16 <i>9 am Worship / Communion First Communion 5:30 pm Disciples for Christ</i>	17 <i>6 pm Council Meeting</i>	18 <i>10 am Bible Study 7 pm Faith Formation</i>	19	20	21 <i>Scholarship Deadline</i>	22 <i>8am—10am Feed Our Starving Children</i>
23 <i>9 am Worship / Communion</i>	24 <i>6:30 pm Evangelism Team Meeting</i>	25 <i>10 am Bible Study</i>	26 <i>3 pm JTeam / Little Lutherans</i>	27	28	29
30 <i>9 am Worship / Communion New Member Sunday</i>						