

April 2024

Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday, April 7

Second Sunday after Easter/Communion

Sunday, April 14

Third Sunday after Easter/Communion

Sunday, April 21

Fourth Sunday after Easter/Communion

Sunday, April 28

Fifth Sunday after Easter/Communion



Pastor's Corner



Dear Friends in Christ,

Christ is risen! Alleluia!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

I write this article before we have even reached Palm Sunday in the liturgical calendar.

It's so easy for us to say that Christ is risen, but can we imagine what it was really like for the disciples when it happened? Good Friday was not good; it had no *wink, wink, nudge, nudge* element to it. There was no gathering of family and friends to look forward to. There was no Easter egg hunt or baskets of candy or pictures with the Easter bunny at the mall. There was no annual worship participation surrounded by choir and organ and brass instruments and joy. There was only fear.

- The women ran from the tomb and said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. [Mark 16:8]
- The disciples were in a closed-up, locked place because they thought they would be next. [John 20:19]
- When Jesus appeared after the resurrection, they were afraid because they thought he was a ghost. [Luke 24:37]

Let me repeat: They. Were. Afraid.

So why do we see them as heroes, as people who followed Jesus no matter what? Because Jesus came and stood among them when they were most afraid.

Because Jesus breathed on them his Holy Spirit and said he would be with them always. Their ability to disciple came about because they finally understood that Jesus was in their midst, even when things looked the worst for them. It was only because Jesus was with them that they were able to overcome their fears and grief and get on with the tasks he set for them: make disciples, baptize, teach, love one another.

This is why I can write the phrase, Christ is risen, before we have even reached the 2024 commemoration of that terrible Friday. This is why I have been able to say Alleluia! even during some of the darkest times of my life. It has nothing to do with me, and everything to do with Jesus standing among the ashes of my life and saying, "I will never leave you." May you, too, know the presence of our risen Lord among the ashes of your life, and may your fear always be changed to joy and thanksgiving through his love.]

Council Corner

Valued Zion
Congregation
Members:

On behalf of Amanda Spindler & I, I am sending this message to let you know that we did our annual audit of the church about 2 weeks *ago* and I am proud to report that Zion Lutheran is very compliant with the audit team.

Amanda & I have been auditing the church every year for years, we have never reported to the congregation but only to the council. I felt it was important to send a note out to everyone to let you know that there have never been any issues, and everyone involved in the handling of monies, bills, payroll & expenses has been doing a great job. Amanda and I check every year to make sure appropriate procedures are in place for the segregation of duties, where possible in governing key financials such as payments, and payroll, and that appropriate controls are in place for recording bank statements and vendor invoices.

Your council members and staff involved in these processes are being very responsible and our church is operating very effectively, and we should all be very proud of that. Special thanks to Amanda Spindler as she spends hours collecting all the data needed to be compiled and together, we work through the process of checks and balances in completing the audit.

Respectfully Dan Wieland and/ Audit Team

March Events

Baptism



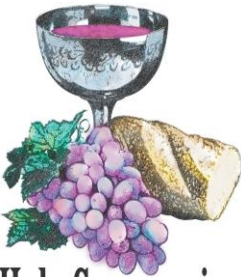
Wednesday night March 13 during Lenten worship, Averie Foster daughter of Clayton and Karey Foster received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Her baptismal sponsor was Christina Stensberg. May God bless Averie and her family.

Wedding

Congratulations to Courtney Reno and McKale Weichelt on the Christian marriage that was celebrated here at Zion on March 2. May God bless you both.

Funeral

Christian service and burial was held here at Zion for Pat Tietyen on March 16th. May God bless the family and friends of Pat.



Holy Communion

If anyone would be interested in taking the First Communion class on **April 7th** following worship. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or office@zionstratford.org and we will get you signed up for the class. First Communion will be held on **April 14th**

New Member Sunday

New Member Sunday will be held on **April 21st**

If you or others you know wish to receive a membership to Zion Lutheran Church please contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or office@zionstratford.org.

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday,
May 5th. This year's
confirmands will be Ryan
Christopherson, Jackson
Dahlke, Jaegar Ormond,
Riley Spindler, Colin Cournoyer, Charlie Kolbeck, and
Cody Randow.



Mentors for the youth are Connie Randow, Keith Grell, Tadd Schoenherr, Joel Christopherson, Tim Schoenherr, Paul Drexler, and Tammie Christopherson.



“Do you have a green thumb or just enjoy being outside? Would you be interested in keeping the flowers and landscape green and beautiful around the church & meditation garden? We are looking for multiple people to sign up for a week or more. Depending on how hot and dry the summer is, it could be one or more times per week. If this interests you please get in touch with Dan

Thompson, by email: at thompsoncustomdesign@gmail.com or text at 715-384-3431

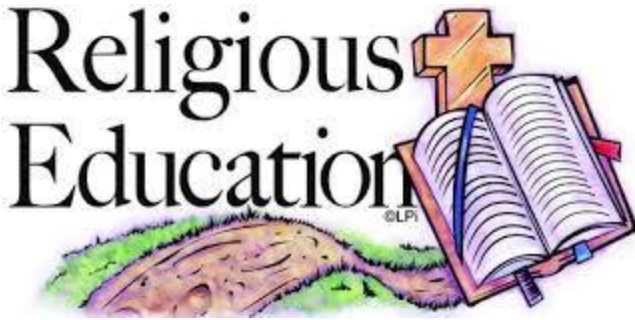
April's Faith Journey

Tuesday morning Bible Study

Bible study will be each Tuesday morning. We invite anyone interested in exploring the scriptures and a time of fellowship to join us on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m.



Date	Topic & Scripture Notes
<i>April 2, 2024</i>	<i>How to Live</i> Matthew 25:31-46
<i>April 9, 2024</i>	<i>Upper Room</i> Luke 22:1-23
<i>April 16, 2024</i>	<i>Crucifixion</i> Mark 15
<i>April 23, 2024</i>	<i>Resurrection Comparison</i> John 20; Luke 24:13-35
<i>April 30, 2024</i>	<i>Pentecost</i> Acts 2:1-41



Continue to pray for all the children and leaders as they continue their faith journey.

Little Lutherans/J-Team

April 10, 2024

Crucifixion/Resurrection

April 24, 2024

Pentecost

Little Lutherans and J-Team (K-6th grade) will be focusing on the Bible 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 p.m.**

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/>

Confirmation

April 3, 2024 CORE

Letters/Revelation

April 10, 2024 Elective

End Times

Class runs from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Confirmation students are required to participate in all CORE classes. Elective classes are selected by the student. Sermon notes and activity verification are required throughout the year and should be returned to the office or dropped in the basket in the narthex or on the information table in the lobby. Confirmation registration forms, class schedules, and more information available at:

<https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/7th-9th-grade/>.

Disciples For Christ

Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

Meet the Council and Share Faith Statements

The schedule and more information can be found at:

<https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation10th-12th-grade/>.

Faith Formation

On behalf of the Faith Formation Team, I am letting our valued congregation members know that we are looking out for the best interest of our young people here in Zion. In a continued effort to always make sure we are being responsible we are in the process of updating our policies and procedures for the prevention of Child Abuse. We are going to be doing Background checks on anyone who is volunteering here at Zion, our goal is to not deter volunteers but to enhance our trust in our congregation and those involved in all the activities we do for our young people here at Zion.

We will be using an electronic-based company called "Lifeway" through Clear Investigative Advantage out of Frisco Texas.

The process is very confidential, and the background check will be handled by Kathy in the office. Each background check will cost \$9.00 per volunteer, and we will be doing checks every other year.

The cost of background checks will be paid out of the Faith Formation Budget. As a Faith Formation Team, we are always looking to provide the safest, most comfortable environment for our youth here at Zion.

Respectfully Dan Wieland/ Faith Formation Team

Simply Giving

Your congregation works hard to support your faith journey, respond to your pastoral needs, and plan for educational and worship opportunities all year long.

Make it easy for yourself (and for us) by signing up for Simply Giving. Through Simply Giving, you can “set it and forget it” when it comes to donating to Zion’s ministry. Your donation will automatically come out of your account in whatever amount and on whatever schedule is best for you.

Forms are available just outside the worship space and can be completed and returned to the office. Or just give Kathy a quick call in the office and she will be happy to help you out.



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 good stewards (managers) of God’s gracious provision to fuel Jesus’ ministry.

January 1, 2024 through February 29, 2024:

- General Offering Received \$13,558.70
- Ministry Expenses (salaries, utilities, supplies, etc.) \$16,760.96
- **Giving vs. Expense Deficit \$ 3,202.26**

Undesignated Cash Balance (02/29/24)

\$ 4,206.88

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.

Building Update 2024

Total monthly principal payments	\$ 65,199.43
Total monthly interest payments	\$ <u>750.57</u>
Balance of loan as of 02/23/2024	\$ 6,427.95

Partners Bank

Building checking acct. balance as of **03/11/2024** \$1814.06

Payment Bi-Weekly	Start Balance	Payment Amount	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
12/01 & 12/15	\$71,627.07	\$3,100.00	\$213.69	\$2,886.31	\$68,741.07
12/29	\$68,741.07	\$1,500.00	\$103.58	\$1,446.42	\$67,294.65
01/12 & 01/26	\$67,294.65	\$3,100.00	\$200.62	\$2,899.38	\$64,395.27
02/09 & 02/23	\$64,395.27	\$3,100.00	\$132.68	\$2,967.32	\$61,427.95
02/13	\$61,427.95	\$55,000.00	\$.00	\$55,000.00	\$6,427.95

Thank you to all who gave generously to the building/debt reduction fund for many years. The remaining debt will be paid in full from our land sale receipts. This payment will be made Monday 04-01-2024.

Zion has a group of people who serve as disciples in prayer that pray for all prayer requests the church receives. If you would be interested in becoming a disciple in prayer please contact the church office and you will be added to the group. Group members receive all prayer requests by email. Contact the church office for all prayer requests. office@zionstratford.org or 715-687-4110. Did you know that you can submit your prayer requests on the website? <https://zionstratford.org/prayer>.



Evangelism

The Evangelism team would like to send cards to individuals or families who are hospitalized or have experienced a loss in their family. If you have someone that you wish for the church to reach out to you can contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or office@zionstratford.org.



The following books were purchased for the Zion Library in 2023. They will be featured in the library in January.

1. **The Mitten** by Jan Brett
2. **God Gave Us Love** by Lisa Tawn

Bergren; art by Laura J. Bryant

3. **Discovering Life in the Tree** by Petra Bartikova and Magdalenda Takacova
4. **The Light in Hidden Places** by Sharon Cameron
5. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** by Jeff Kinney
6. **Everything You Always Wanted to Know About God** by Eric Metaxas.
7. **The Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr
8. **Flight Behavior** by Barbara Kingsolver

Fellowship

Join us each Sunday following worship for coffee, tea, and hot cocoa fellowship. It is a wonderful time to catch up with friends, family, and other members of your congregation. Often, there are tasty treats to enjoy as well. Consider hosting a fellowship for your fellow members, it is as easy as signing up.

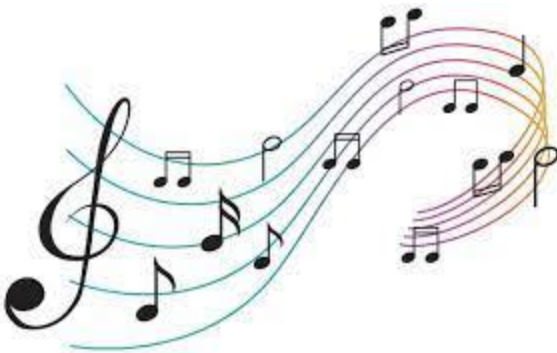
If you have never hosted a fellowship, no worries! Several people are willing to help you out with making coffee and setting up. Let the office know and those arrangements will be made.

Homebound Visits



Several members of Zion are homebound. This makes it difficult for them to come to church and receive communion. Pastor Amy makes frequent visits to these members and encourages other members of Zion to visit their fellow members and serve communion. Pastor Amy will walk you

through how to serve home communion. Consider disciplining the homebound by taking a few hours a month to visit with a fellow member and brighten their day.



***Choir
Rehearsal 8:00
a.m.***

April 7, 14, 21 and
28 in the balcony.
All are welcome to

join in the musical discipleship here at Zion. Come make your voices be heard.

***RaiseRight* new name for SCRIP**

RaiseRight is available year-round! Each order supports Faith Formation Youth Programs such as Camp Scholarships and National Gatherings.

Thousands of gift card options are available! Some of them are in stock, and always available for pickup, and others need to be ordered. To make our orders as profitable as possible, we will be placing special orders on the 10th of every month. Log into the Raise Right app to place your order or contact Kathy in the church office and ask for information on RaiseRight. She will provide you with a phone number. This phone number can be used to call or text in your order. Once your order has arrived, you will be contacted with details on how to pick up and pay for your order! Simple as that!

Many vendors offer e-cards as well! E-cards are sent via e-mail and can be ordered anytime! No waiting! Simply place your order on the Raise Right app and contact Janet or Wendy to send the order. The e-card will arrive in minutes!

Worship Duty Signup via Signup Genius

Please take a moment to sign up to participate in our worship service as an usher, reader, acolyte, media, communion assistant (server), or assisting minister. The spring signups are now available. Sign up by April 17 for May 2024. I appreciate and can't thank you enough for signing up! Brenda Huther

Here is the link for May:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0844A5A92B0-47523221-may2024>

Christ in Our Home

The devotional *Christ in Our Home* for April, May, and June is now available in the Narthex or the information table in the church lobby.

Stratford Food Pantry Drive

Stratford Food Pantry would like to extend a thank you to individuals who have generously given to the Food Pantry during the summer months. There continues to be a need in the Stratford community for support from the Food Pantry. Please prayerfully consider donating supplies to the Food Pantry. You can drop off donations in the lobby of the church or the Narthex here at Zion.

The Stratford Area Food Pantry provides food to individuals and families within the Stratford School District. If you need food, we are here for you! Hours are Tuesday mornings from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday evenings from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. or by appointment. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Dan Wieland at wieland.dandeb@gmail.com or 715-506-0020 and he will help you get connected.

Greetings from Crossways!

Our 2023 Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, March 16th, 2024 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Neenah. We are excited to share a report about the ministry of 2023 as well as plans for 2024 and beyond!

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., with the meeting from 10:00 AM - Noon. Light refreshments will be available. Congregations in good standing, may elect up to two individuals to have voting privileges at this meeting. Please let us know who your delegates will be by emailing info@crosswayscamps.org or completing the form below.

Please RSVP by March 6th!

Please RSVP by sending the following information to info@crosswayscamps.org:

- Name of delegate(s)
- Email address for direct contact with delegate

- **While we hope delegates will attend in person, we will also provide a link which will allow for remote attendance.** The link will be emailed to delegates prior to the meeting. If you or your representatives have any questions prior to the meeting, please be in touch. We look forward to sharing this time with you.

-

Technology Ministry

Website zionstratford.org

Look us up online at zionstratford.org. Zion's website is full of information at your fingertips. Weekly sermons you can listen to with a link to the scriptures of the week and attached bulletin. The events calendar can be used as a quick reference for events here at Zion. The monthly newsletter and council minutes are also available each month. The church office is taking care of loading the information, so please be patient as this is new to the office. Hope you enjoy the website of Zion Lutheran Church.

Council Minutes

Council minutes are available on the church website at 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.



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/>.

Mother - Elementary Daughter Bible Study

My name is Melissa Nesdahl. I'm from Sioux Falls and lifetime ELCA member. I write today to let you know of my new Bible Study for mother/elementary age daughter DUOs! Each chapter includes DUOble Study, DUOble Fun (activity/craft) and DUOble Prayer. The themes include The Mother-Daughter DUO, Media, Friendship, Words, Beauty, & Purpose.

I'm especially grateful to my mother-in-law, SD ELCA Bishop Emerita, Rev. Andrea DeGoot-Nesdahl, who wrote a foreword so beautiful I cried. Included in her words are, "I believe you and your child will better hear one another's voices, and God at work in you both, as you engage in this Bible Study."

This is my prayer. That this Study empowers mothers, strengthens relationships, fosters important conversation, and grows confidence in Christ.

I just wanted to let you know of the resource. <https://www.amazon.com/DUOble-...>



"...You must love
the Lord your God with
all your heart, all your
soul, and all your mind."

This is the first and greatest
commandment. A second is equally
important: "Love your neighbor as
yourself." All the other commandments
and all the demands of the prophets are based
on these two commandments."

Jesus Christ

(Matthew 22:37-40)

Zion Lutheran Church
213501 Legacy Street
Stratford, WI 54484-5908

www.zionstratford.org

Phone: 715-687-4110

Fax: 715-687-3541

Email: office@zionstratford.org

We're on the web!

Return Service Requested

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Office Closed 6pm Worship Team Meeting</i>	2 <i>10am Bible Study</i>	3 <i>6 pm Confirmation CORE class</i>	4	5	6
7 <i>9am Worship/ Communion 1st Communion class following worship</i>	8 <i>6pm Executive Team Meeting</i>	9 <i>10am Bible Study 7pm Faith Formation Team Meeting</i>	10 <i>3:15 pm JTeam/Little Lutherans 6pm Confirmation Elective class</i>	11	12	13
14 <i>9am Worship/ Communion 1st Communion</i>	15 <i>6pm Council Meeting</i>	16 <i>10am Bible Study</i>	17	18	19	20
21 <i>9am Worship/ Communion New Member Sunday 5:30 pm Disciples for Christ</i>	22	23 <i>10am Bible Study 6pm Evangelism Team Meeting</i>	24 <i>3:15pm JTeam / Little Lutherans</i>	25	26 <i>5pm Feed My Starving Children</i>	27
28 <i>9am Worship/ Communion</i>	29	30 <i>10am Bible Study</i>				

Date	04/07/2024 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM	4/14/2024 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM	4/21/2024 4th Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM	4/28/2024 5th Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM	5/05/2024 6th Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Marge Kollmansberger	Dan Thompson	Brenda Castellano	Darla Leick	Casey Dasler
Reader	Marge Kollmansberger	Dan Thompson	June Krueger	Darla Leick	confirmands
Acolytes	Avery White Brynn Wiesman	Cooper & Brynn Wiesman	Ella Schultz Averie Foster	Charlotte & Nolan Peirce	Dayton & Finley White
Ushers	Brian & Darla Leick	Mark & Sandy Andersen	Phil & Kerri Schultz	Rhonda Knoll Sharla Dreikosen	Gary & Mary Wussow
Communion Assistants	Marge Kollmansberger Tadd Schoenherr Angie Guralski	Nancy Schoenherr Amy Cournoyer Dan Thompson	Brenda Castellano Lois Miller June Krueger	Wendy Spaeth Brian & Darla Leick	confirmands
Basket Holder	Colton Trachte Jordy Trachte	-----	Averi & Mila Johnson	-----	Ellie & Turner Southwick
Communion Steward	Lindsay White	Sandy Andersen	Rhonda Thompson	Patti Casperson	Rhonda Thompson
Fellowship	Pat Emon	Faith Formation	Lois Miller	Peterson Family	Faith Formation
Host	Maryel Schoenfuss - Council Secretary	Brian Stroetz Vice President	Kevin Miller Treasurer	Dan Thompson Evangelism	Robin Curtis Property
Bell Ringer	Brian Leick	Mark Andersen	Phil Schultz	Kevin Miller	Gary Wussow
Media	Garrett Smazal	Rod Huther	Kevin Miller	Marge Kollmansberger	Ted Dasler