

Zion Messenger

A Monthly Publication of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church--Elgin, ND

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April 2024

Alleluia He has risen!!! He has risen indeed!!!!

May Almighty God bless you with an overabundance of grace, mercy, and love!!

I know for some of you this might be a bit premature, but I wanted to get it out there since we are so close to Easter. We are in the midst of Holy Week, the most important time for Christians. We have been focused on self-examination and trying to better ourselves and nourish our souls. We are meant to follow Jesus' example of how to treat one another and especially on how to love one another.



³⁴ "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35 NRSVUE)

This is a *commandment*, not "if you please" or "when you feel like it." Jesus is very clear that we need to live differently from the society that tells us to take care of ourselves. For too long, many of us have been told to turn a blind eye to the people who are suffering. Society tends to blame them for their own misfortune. Maybe, to some extent, it could be their fault for some people, but not for all of them. Here's something to think about ...

Jesus loves everyone, the righteous and the unrighteous; and He died for everyone. What He did was for the entire human race, bar none. Will everyone accept the gift He has offered us? Maybe not, but there is hope for every single soul on this planet. We have been told to love one another, the same way Jesus loves us.

Jesus was consistently found where good, decent people, would not go. He was with the outcasts and the shunned. In healing them, Jesus restored them to their families and communities. He let them know

that they were loved and that God would forgive them if they repent. Probably most importantly, He treated them with kindness and let them know that they mattered.


If you are able, look up this link on the internet: <https://dakotamediaaccess.net/CablecastPublicSite/show/10708?site=2>.

This is a short interview with Sr. Kathleen She is the driving force behind Ministry on the Margins. It will give you an idea of how desperately we are needed by the men and women who are struggling in our area. I cannot speak for her, but I will say that she is working to better these people's lives. As she does, she is having a direct impact on the rest of us who live in this area. She helps those who are on the margin of society and gives them hope and love.

Jesus conquered sin and death, and He has offered us the gift of Salvation! What will we do out of gratitude for what Jesus has done for us? Martin Luther said that we have been freed to do good works for others. Jesus tells us to love one another.

(continued on page 2)

Happy Easter



Maundy Thursday, March 28, 6:30 - We remember Christ's last meal with his disciples and his commandment to love one another.

Good Friday, March 29, 6:30 - We gather in solemn devotion as we reflect on Jesus' passion, and we depart silently, anticipating His resurrection.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Easter Sunday, March 31, Worship Services at 7:30 and at 9:30. We celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord and sing praises to God! Breakfast is served 8:00-9:30.

WELCA News

Serving - Group 1 serves next.

Thank you! - WELCA is deeply grateful for all of you who brought food and helped with our Lenten casserole suppers. We are thankful also for all who came to eat and participate in fellowship with one another. The proceeds of \$441 from the suppers will be used to purchase paper products for the food pantry this year, as no one has yet registered for Bible Camp.

Heart River Cluster Spring Gathering - Saturday, April 20, at English Lutheran Church in Hazen, beginning at 9:00 MDT. The theme is "Come Unto Me," with the topic focusing on caregivers of people with dementia and Alzheimer's. RSVP by **April 16** to Robin Bentz at (701) 390-3697 if you wish to attend and carpool.

Synod Women's Convention - June 21 & 22 (Friday-Saturday) at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck. The theme is Peace Like A River.

Next Meeting - Thursday, April 11, at 1:30

Five Complete First Communion Class

Ivy Schock, Shaylee Finck, Senora Schock, Axel Schock, and Jackson Leithold were recognized on Sunday, February 25, 2024, for completing a First Communion class. The class, "Come to God's Table," also includes participation by the parents and was taught by Pastor Mike.



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Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Pastor's Message

(continued from page 1)

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I hope and I pray that people will see our Christian love in action and know that we are followers of Jesus Christ. So that we can be that breath of fresh air, that bit of hope for the world, that light shining in the darkness! So that we can be an attraction to those who truly need the peace, love, and forgiveness Jesus has to offer.

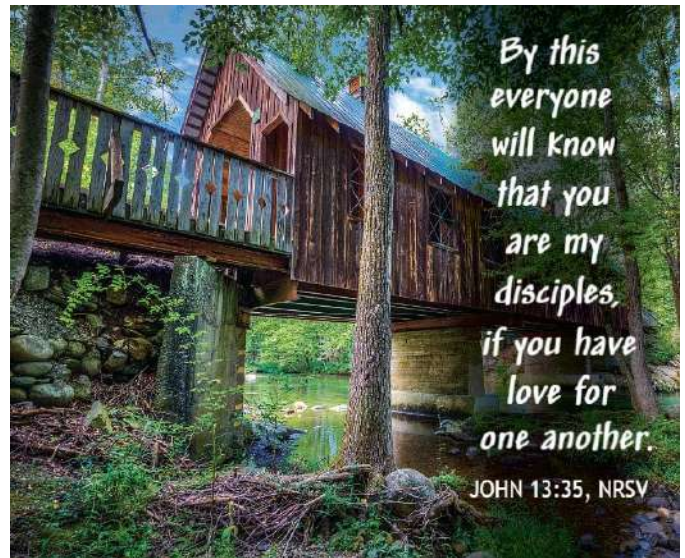
²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Let us give the glory to God! Lean on Jesus, ask for His help, and move forward in confidence! God has proven His love for us. How will we show God we love Him?

May Almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit continue to bless you and remain with you, always! Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Michael S. HarriSon



Offerings & Gifts - March (as of 3/27/24)

	Undesignated	Attendance
March 3	\$1,547	71
March 6	445	35
March 10	1,861	104
March 13	427	32
March 17	2,075	68
March 20	285	24
March 24	1,395	87
March 28 (M Thurs)		
March 29 (G Fri)		
March 31		
Total Undesignated	\$8,035	Avg Sun Attend: 83
Bulletins	20	
Parish Education	100	
Thrivent Choice	342	
Sunday School	22	Avg SS Attend: 17

Income & Expenses - Year to Date

Income	Undesignated	Other
\$27,197	\$24,761	\$2,436
Expenses	Budgeted	Designated Funds
39,151	39,105	46
Income vs Expense		
-11,954		

Stewardship (Mission Action)

by Connie Isaak, Coordinator
East Missouri River Cluster

Have you encountered someone who says our beliefs are crazy?

We believe in things that we cannot see, touch, or really prove. But God brings evidence of His love into our lives through our life experiences, and we can then see with our hearts—not our eyes. Sharing these experiences and our stories can then warm our hearts and, maybe, the hearts of others. A little of this warmth and encouragement is definitely needed in our world of challenges. Isn't this how faith is—sharing God-given victories? Rejoicing (even when we don't feel like it), finding joy in the small pieces of our lives, replacing worry with praise...

This brings to mind the verse in Proverbs—Chapter 3, verse 6: *In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.* As we have reached out to others in our need, let's make ourselves available to those God directs us to. We can literally become a "godsends" to others. I am definitely going to watch for ways I can share my story by words or maybe just by my actions.

Reprinted from The Western Whirlwind, March 2024 Issue



Zion's
Annual Church Dinner

Ham
Fried Chicken
Meatballs

Sunday, April 7
11:00 - 1:30
Elgin Community Center
Free Will Donation

Au gratin potatoes
Salads
Desserts

Proceeds to Country Community Cupboard, Ministry on the Margins,
and Zion Women

Can you help us?

WELCA is still in need of people to sign up to bring fried chicken, meatballs, salads, and desserts for Zion's dinner on April 7. WELCA is providing the ham, and a friend of Zion is providing the potatoes.

The dinner is the biggest fundraiser for WELCA, which in addition to doing a number of projects and supporting missions on behalf of Zion, also purchases many supplies for our church. Your help is greatly appreciated.

We will be setting up at the Community Center on Saturday, April 6, after the craft show, about 3:00 pm.

Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024 - We celebrated Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and the children that processed into waving palm fronds.



The Sunday School students signed "Jesus Loves Me" at worship. After worship, the youth decorated eggs and made Easter baskets that were distributed to residents of Dakota Hill, JM Care Center, and shut-ins. Thank you, Stephanie & Shawn Lince for the supplies and making deliveries!



Women Assemble Personal Care Kits

Six of our women assembled and packed 50 personal care kits last month for Lutheran World Relief. The kits were made possible with part of our proceeds from our annual dinner last spring.

The kits will be shipped this spring to LWR's distribution center in Minnesota, where they will be distributed to wherever disaster and devastation strikes. Last summer when targeted missile strikes destroyed Kakhovka Dam in Ukraine, flooding multiple villages and forcing thousands of people from their homes, 3,000 hygiene kits were distributed to them. In 2023 alone, more than 50,000 Ukrainians were affected by the war and received basic supplies from LWR.



**WHEN I LOOK AT MYSELF I DON'T SEE HOW
I CAN BE SAVED. BUT WHEN I LOOK
AT JESUS I DON'T SEE HOW I CAN BE LOST.**

Martin Luther

A wakeup call

God — let me be aware.

Let me not stumble blindly down the ways,
Just getting somehow safely through the days,
Not even groping for another hand,
Not even wondering why it all was planned,
Eyes to the ground unseeking for the light,
Soul never aching for a wild-winged flight,
Please, keep me eager just to do my share.
God — let me be aware.

God — let me be aware.

Stab my soul fiercely with others' pain,
Let me walk seeing horror and stain.
Let my hands, groping, find other hands.
Give me the heart that divines, understands.
Give me the courage, wounded, to fight.
Flood me with knowledge, drench me in light.
Please — keep me eager just to do my share.
God — let me be aware.

—Miriam Teichner

An Easter Prayer

From the grave's depths, Lord Jesus Christ, you emerged, breaking the hold of sin, death, and hell, that those who trust in you might share in your righteousness, life and beloved community with God the Father and all God's children.

We bow in awe before your majesty, giving thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to us. By the power of your Spirit who lives within us, may we share the astonishing news of your resurrection with others, that they also may know your saving grace. Amen.

Seeking Rummage Sale Coordinator(s)

Our church council approved having a rummage sale in conjunction with the Highway 21 Treasure Hunt in June. We need someone to coordinate it—to lead the organization of it, be a point of contact for it, arrange the setup and take down, help ensure it is “staffed” during sale hours, ensure ad would be listed in flyers, etc.

One of the most recent purchases we made with rummage sale proceeds was some of the new tables in Fellowship Hall.

If you and/or a friend are interested or have any questions, please contact Virginia at (701) 400-9393.

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
March 10, 2024**

Present: Terry Bentz, Sydney Richardson, Brandy Fuchs, Rhonda Haas, Jackie Seibel, Travis Friedt, Kenny Friedt, Pastor Mike HarriSon, Virginia Rivinius, Kayedenn Rivinius, Chris Gathright, John Schock. Absent: Blake Ulrich.

Meeting was called to order by President, Terry Bentz with a prayer.

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Kenny Friedt and seconded by Brandy Fuchs to approve the February minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Brandy Fuchs and seconded by Rhonda Haas to approve the report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Continuing with Bible Study on Thursdays which seems to be going well, one Sunday out of the month at Dakota Hill for a service, possibly looking at doing an additional Sunday. Pastor is also looking at doing a service at the Care Center.

Correspondence: Received a Thank You from the ENL school for the donation to the playground.

Committee Reports:

1. **Mission Endowment Fund** – Motion made by Brandy Fuchs and seconded by Kayedenn Rivinius on the distribution of \$1,250 to the Western Synod. Motion carried.
2. **Parish Education** – No update.
3. **Property** – Doug Rivinius's neighbor Pete Gilmour will be coming to the church this week to look at the soffit by sanctuary windows. Doug also talked with Steve Winkler at Gooseneck about borrowing the lift for the altar lights. The concrete work and both entrance walls are being taken to the Property committee to meet about and bring back options to the Council.

Old Business:

1. **Committees** – A list of each committee was looked at. An email will be sent out to the people who are currently on committees to see if they want to stay on or be taken off.

New Business:

1. **Synod Assembly Delegates** - Still looking for a couple to attend in Watford City. Pastor had someone who was interested, he will do a follow up.
2. **CD Renewal** - \$50,000 CD coming up for renewal. Discussion was held on taking \$10,000 and transferring to savings and putting \$40,000

in a CD. Motion made by Brandy Fuchs and seconded by John Schock for a \$40,000 CD for 6 months. \$10,000 will be transferred to savings. Motion carried.

2. **Organist Salary** – Discussion was held about Todd's salary. Currently getting \$37 per service. The budget allows for an increase to \$41. Motion made by Travis Friedt and seconded by Jackie Seibel to increase Todd's salary to \$41 per service. Motion carried.
3. **Rummage Sale** – Discussion was held on the possibility of a Rummage Sale during Highway 21. Looking for someone to head the rummage sale. Motion by Brandy Fuchs and seconded by Sydney Richardson for the Church to have a Rummage Sale.

Other Business:

1. **Ushering & Greeting** – Discussion was held about options for ushering during service. Pastor will touch base with Virgil on options. Looking for options on how to get people to sign the guestbook when attending service. Ideas will be brought back to Council next month.
2. **AED & Restroom Signage** – Discussion was held regarding getting signs to put up so people know where the AED and restrooms are in the church.
3. **Sewing/Storage Rooms** – Discussion was held about cleaning out the storage room. Church will be keeping the iron boards & machines but will be getting rid of the fabric. It was also brought up about putting some shelving up.
4. **Church Dinner** – WELCA will be having the Church dinner on Sunday April 7th at the Community Center.
5. **Piano Tuning** – Motion made by Brandy Fuchs and seconded by Kenny Friedt to approve the additional expense on finding someone to tune the new piano. Todd is taking care of finding someone to do that. Motion carried.

Adjournment – Motion made by Brandy Fuchs and seconded by John Schock to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Sydney Richardson
Council Secretary

"Your primary job is to bless. It's your calling. And in doing so, you'll see the blessing comes back from God himself and pours out all over you."

~ John Trent



Abbreviations

- A - Acolyte
- AG - Altar Guild
- C - Communion
- L - Lector
- G - Greeter

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2	3	4	5	6 AG: Thelma H Joleen R Jill F	
9:30 Worship 10:30 S School / Confirmation / Fellowship 11:00-1:30 Zion Annual Dinner @ Community Cntr A: Landon E L: Yvonne C: Ronae G: Shelby, Thelma	7	8	9	10	11	12	13 AG: Velvet F Twyla S Milt & Marie K
9:30 Worship 10:30 S School / Confirmation / Council Meeting / Fellowship A: Clay L: Nicole C: Sydney G: George & Chris Kathryn H Verrick S	14	15	16	17	18	19	20 AG: Sherri R Rosemary P 9:00 Heart River Cluster Spring Gathering @ Hazen, English Lutheran Chelsey T
9:30 Worship 10:30 S School Confirmation / Fellowship 1:30 Worship at Dakota Hill A: Kade L: Senora C: Rosemary G: Shelby, Jackie	21	22	23	24	25	26	27 AG: Robin B Kaci U
9:30 Worship 10:30 S School Confirmation / Fellowship A: Jackson L: Robin C: Joy G: Kenny & Doris Ron F	28	29	30	<p><i>Zion's Mission Statement</i></p> <p><i>We are to become alive in Christ, going forth to preach, teach, and share our God-given blessings along with God's word whenever called.</i></p>			