



Zion Lutheran Church

The Tidings

March 2024

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Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 24th
Worship at 9:30 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, March 28th
Worship at 6:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, March 29th
Tenebrae Worship at 7:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, March 31st
Worship at 9:30 AM



Zion's Future

Yesterday, Pam Statler and I attended a Great Rivers Collaborative (GRC) meeting held at Atonement Lutheran Church. It was a follow up to the meeting in January with Bishop's Associate Dave Whetter and Director of Evangelical Mission Rev. Aimee Appel; they both are from the CSS office and facilitated the discussion that day.

Just a reminder, the GRC was created out of a discussion that occurred at an Eastern MO Conference Meeting in May 2023, and then an initial meeting was held here at Zion in July that was also facilitated by Bishop's Associate Dave Whetter.

The meeting yesterday included some new congregations and fresh faces joining for the first time. So we now have seven congregations as part of GRC: Zion, Unity, Living Christ, Shepherd of the Hills, Good Shepherd Hazelwood, St. Philips, and Atonement.

As most of you know, there have been conversations previously among the pastors of Zion, Unity, Living Christ, and Shepherd of the Hills about partnerships and how that might work. Yesterday, the conversation became very open when both Living Christ and Shepherd of the Hills discussed their financial issues that need to be addressed soon.

Because St. Philips is somewhat distant and Good Shepherd just joined, they are catching up on what we have been doing. Atonement has a new pastor coming on board March 4th, but they are still a factor; even though they are fairly large compared to the rest of the GRC churches, they too have financial concerns.

Both Pam and I have been very open with you as to conversations that have been taking place, and we intend to continue to keep you informed; we understand how important transparency is to our Zion family. In my view, there are really two major things that the GRC is trying to accomplish: 1.) how can we help each other by joining forces in mission activities, and 2.) having discussions that go beyond that, for instance, two churches merging to become one, or other combinations of the sort.

You've already heard me say that I'm flexible. I want to make sure that Zion is fully aware of the possibilities that are out there. I'm committed to my retirement of 1 Sept '26 (or sooner should that make sense for Zion), and Zion has other possibilities for pastoral support.

As we go forward, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pam or me. Out of everything that we are doing, we must always remember first and foremost that we need to stay focused on doing God's work in this world that we are a part of. God is good and full of GRACE!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Larry



March Birthdays

7th Jason Martin
10th Esther Negwer
Jayda Tucker
11th Ethan Robinson
15th Fannie Cole
16th Alissa Robinson
17th Ara Tess
Dorothy Scales
19th Ruth Lemons
29th Steven Kaiser

March Anniversaries

14th Justin & Kristen Kinney

Maundy Thursday Seder

Seder and a Hagaddah tell the story of the first Passover – when the Israelites ate their last meal in Egypt quickly. They wanted to be ready when Pharaoh told them to leave Egypt.

Zion celebrated a Seder many, many years ago. Some of us have wanted to do it again for quite a while, and this year will be the time. On Maundy Thursday, we will have our worship service and then go into the Upper Room to celebrate the Seder, led by a couple of Zion members.

I hope you will plan to come to learn more of what our Jewish ancestors went through (and Jesus too). I am so looking forward to it, and I hope you are too.

In Christ's Love,
Norma

Midweek Soup Suppers & Devotion

Our soup suppers will continue throughout Lent on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:30 PM. The supper is followed by a short Lenten Devotional reading and leader led discussion. If you cannot make it in person but would like to join in the message, the devotion portion of the evening begins at 7:15 PM and is available on Zoom. If you would like to be emailed a link, please contact office@zionferguson.com.

Worship Server Volunteers Holy Week

We are looking for some volunteers to help out during worship for Holy Week. For Maundy Thursday, we are in need of a lector, two ushers, and two people to strip the altar. For Good Friday, we need one usher and multiple readers. Please contact the church office if you are available to help out for either or both of these services.

Easter Flowers

Let's celebrate Easter on March 31st by adorning the sanctuary with color! Please consider loaning us your flowering spring bulbs and other plants or baskets that you purchase for your own garden. You may bring your labeled plants to church during office hours 9am to 3 pm Holy Week. You may take your plants home after the Easter service. Thank you so much!



A Message from the President

Dear Zion Family,

As I mentioned last month, Stacey Miller, Kristen Kinney and I went to a Great Rivers Collaborative (GRC) meeting in January where we learned more about each congregation. In the February 18th meeting we recently attended, Shepherd of the Hills shared information about their membership, attendance, finances, leadership, worship styles and community ministries like the other congregations shared in January.

We then discussed next steps and decided that each congregation should bring their officers to talk together at a meeting on Sunday, March 18th at 2PM. I am working with our elected officers [Stacey Miller, Kristen Kinney, Justin Kinney] and Pastor Larry to coordinate their attendance at that meeting.

This will just be a start of the conversation between congregations interested in trying to figure out a possible new path forward. Each congregation has their own issues, but the *common* issue is a lower attendance which typically results in lower contributions levels. Some congregations have Pastors who are close to retiring while others have Pastors who want to continue to work full-time. We will start to share what options are out there to explore.

We will continue to keep you updated. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Blessings,

Pam



From the Desk of PMA Richard

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Lately I've been aware of two dogs who have recently "crossed over the rainbow bridge"...my son Matt's border collie of eleven years named Brodie and our own Bill's beloved Belle. Bill has rescued a sweet and beautiful dog named Falcor (perhaps you've seen the two of them walking the grounds of Zion) while Matt has recently fostered a cat to be a temporary companion to his cat Jillian and is attempting to foster an abused border collie until the dog has been sufficiently socialized to be "adoptable" and until Matt is ready to commit to another dog on a permanent basis. Losing a beloved pet can be a very painful experience which takes time to heal from, but fostering, adopting and loving our pets can be one way God can show God's love for all of creation.

This season of lent reminds us that just as these two men have shown love to the "least of God's creatures", so God, through the death and resurrection of Christ has rescued not only all of humanity but ALL of creation. Thank God we all have the opportunity to show love to those who need our healing touch the most!

Food Pantry

Our goal has been met and exceeded! Wow, this must be the most rapid results ever. 60 cans were donated, 5 boxes of crackers and 2 can openers. Thank you! Thank you! for your generosity and support. If you are able, please consider also donating more can openers because some people need them.

Our next request is for mac and cheese or any kind/size of dry pasta. We will continue to collect crackers any kind or size.

Thanks,
Kristina

Alternative Worship

The Alternative Worship Team has been using this time to regroup, review and evaluate where we have been, and explore ideas for the future. We have been visiting other congregations and viewing streamed worship services, having conversations with people who plan worship, and reviewing worship resources. We will be meeting this month to discuss our findings and look at possible worship opportunities.

Easter Sunrise Service

The annual Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service will be held Sunday, March 31st at 6:30AM at January-Wabash Memorial Park. Bring your own chair, if desired. Sharing a brief meditation for the informal service will be The Rev. Aaron Rogers, Pastor of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Clergy from various churches and ministries in Ferguson will also participate. All are invited to begin the celebration of resurrection and new life!

Community in Unity

During our January fellowship hour, Zion members and friends signed Valentine's Day cards for our neighbors at Oak Knoll. A special thanks to Bill and Deb for supplying the cards and delivering them to the Oak Knoll residents.



Feed My Starving Children

FMSC provides millions of lifesaving meals every year to children in the poorest of nations. Many of those meals are made at MobilePack events where kids and adults of all ages hand-pack nutritious meals specifically designed to assist in preventing under-nutrition. Planning for the July 2024 North County FMSC MobilePack is underway, and we need your help to staff several committees. Please let Randy Henning (314) 922-5805 know if you'd like to attend an informational meeting at 2:00 PM on Sunday, March 3rd at Lutheran Church of the Living Christ to learn more about FMSC and how you can help by joining one of the committees.



Zion Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 – 6:30PM (Zoom Meeting)

Present: Pastor Larry Lemke, Pam Statler, Kristen Kinney, Justin Kinney, PMA Richard Schademann, Stacey Miller, Sue Dunham, Erma Miller, Johnnie Tucker

MEETING BEGAN AT 6:34 PM

WELCOME AND DEVOTION

- The Gospel lesson for this Sunday is in Mark 1:9-15.
- Our journey through life is a journey with Jesus Christ.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Pastor Larry thanked everyone for birthday wishes for him.
- Charlie and Jayda will be attending Lutheran North High School next year.
- The police chief spoke at the Ferguson Ministerial Alliance meeting.
- Pastor Larry volunteered to participate in the Easter Sunrise service.
- The Roth family sent their appreciation to everyone who helped with Mary Roth's funeral. The Worship team will provide soup, salad, and dessert for the first Lenten Supper on February 21st. The supper will start at 6:30 pm followed by a devotion at 7:15 pm. Pastor Larry will do the devotion on the 21st and volunteers will do devotions on the following Wednesdays.
- Pastor's required report to the Central States Synod and ELCA has been submitted. Zion's report is in progress and should be completed by the end of the week.
- Pam will assume administrative assistant duties while Andi is on maternity leave. Pam's scheduled date to begin is March 4th.
- The old copier will be picked up on March 4th. The new copier is scheduled to be delivered next Wednesday. We expect to save at least \$200/mo. in copier expenses.

ASSISTANT TO PASTOR'S REPORT

- Report sent.
- Confirmation is going well.

CONFIRM APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 2024 COUNCIL MEETING

- **Motion made by Sue to approve minutes as published, seconded by Kristen, motion carried**

GREAT RIVERS COLLABORATIVE (GRC) CONGREGATIONS

- Pam, Kristen, and Stacey gave highlights from the meeting in January. Most of the GRC congregations are facing issues similar to Zion. There will be a GRC meeting this Sunday at 2:00 pm at Atonement.
- We discussed having a committee that deals with discernment and next steps for the congregation.

SPACE SHARING UPDATE

- Pastor Larry and Pam met with Nathan this morning. The Bridge North County meets on Wednesday evenings.

TEAM REPORTS

- **Worship:** Pastor Larry
 - Dooley's Florist prices are much higher than Geraldine's. The Worship committee will try artificial flowers and see how it goes. People will still be able to purchase real flowers for special celebrations.
 - Sign-ups will be available for Lenten Suppers after February 21st.
 - The team discussed Holy Week and having a Seder meal. We will have a Tenebrae service on Good Friday. Easter is March 31st.
- **Member Care Ministry:** Sue
 - Updates on Zion members.
- **Property:** Pam, Johnnie
 - We are working on furnace issues. The boiler inspection today went pretty well.
- **Treasurer:** Justin
 - Reviewed report.

STRATEGIC GOAL REPORTS

- **Financial Sustainability:** Pam
 - No update.
- **Community in Unity:** Stacey
 - Updates on Laundry Love and the Ferguson Warming Center.
 - Valentine's Day cards have been delivered to Oak Knoll residents. We discussed doing more activities with Oak Knoll.
 - Our next meeting will be held on April 11th.
- **Education and Faith Formation:** Pastor Larry
 - We began an 8-week bible study on Revelations this past Sunday.
- **Alternative Worship:** Pam, Kristen
 - The team members have been talking to people about worship styles. The Alternative Worship team will meet on March 8th to reassess the program.

SHOUT OUTS FOR PEOPLE SHARING TALENTS AND TIME

- Bill for reattaching sound cables before Mary Roth's funeral.
- Kristen and Justin for providing transportation for Jayda and joining Altar Guild.
- Andi for all that she does at Zion.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 12TH AT 6:30 PM.

CLOSING PRAYER & MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:21 PM

Zion Lutheran Church

March Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Mar 31 Easter 9:30am-Worship 	Feb 26 6pm-Laundry Love	27	28 10am-Bible Discussion 6:30pm-Soup Supper 7:15pm-Lent Service	29 Happy Leap Year!	Mar 1	2
3 9:30am-Worship 10:45am-Bible Study	4	5	6 10am-Bible Discussion 6:30pm-Soup Supper 7:15pm-Lent Service	7 3:30pm-Confirmation Class  J Martin	8	9
10 9:30am-Worship 10:45am-Bible Study  E Negwer  J Tucker	11 10am-Member Care  E Robinson	12 1pm-Worship Team 6:30pm-Council	13 10am-Bible Discussion 6:30pm-Soup Supper 7:15pm-Lent Service	14  J&K Kinney	15  F Cole	16  A Robinson
17 9:30am-Worship 10:45am-Bible Study 2:00pm-GRC Mtg.  A Tess  D Scales	18	19  R Lemons	20 10am-Bible Discussion 6:30pm-Soup Supper 7:15pm-Lent Service	21 3:30pm-Confirmation Class	22	23
24 Palm Sun. 9:30am-Worship & Noisy Change 10:45am-Bible Study	25 Tidings Deadline 6pm-Laundry Love	26	27 10am-Bible Discussion	28 Maundy Thur. 11:30am-Pokeno 6:30pm-Worship	29 Good Fri. 7:00pm-Worship  S Kaiser	30

Zion Lutheran Church

Serving on Sundays in March

	Mar 3	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24	Mar 31
Presiding *Preaching	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke
Music Accompanist	L Augustine	L Augustine	L Augustine	L Augustine	L Augustine
Assisting Minister	J Roevekamp	N Wolz	R Schademann	P Statler	J Roevekamp
Lector	K Kinney	L Moore	Li Lemke	S Miller	D Balestier
Children's Message	L Lemke	N Wolz	L Lemke	N Wolz	L Lemke
Ushers	L Wolk	J Roevekamp	S Dunham J Tucker	L Wolk	S Dunham J Tucker
Altar Guild	J Kinney	J Kinney	J Kinney	J Kinney	J Kinney
Video Streaming	P Statler	K Kinney	B Budenholzer	B Budenholzer	K Kinney

* Scheduled servers are subject to change at the discretion of organization leaders.
If you have a schedule conflict, please inform the Church office of any changes or schedule swaps.

Zion Lutheran Church
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**Celebrating
God's Grace**

March 2024

Zion Leaders

Congregation Council

Pastor: Larry Lemke
PMA: Richard Schademann
President: Pam Statler
Vice President: Kristen Kinney
Secretary: Stacey Miller
Treasurer: Justin Kinney
Member At-Large: Sue Dunham
Member At-Large: Erma Miller
Member At-Large: Jan Roevekamp
Member At-Large: Johnnie Tucker

Member Care Ministry

Dorothy Kaiser*
Ron & Wanda Devenport
Linn Moore
Sue Dunham
Deborah Balestier

Committee Chairs

Finance: Pam Statler
Property: Johnnie Tucker
Stewardship: Pam Statler

Organizations

Hospitality: Annis Tucker
Norma Wolz
Altar Guild: Deb Balestier

Team Leaders

Worship: Norma Wolz
Community in Unity: Stacey Miller
Education: Larry Lemke
Financial Sustainability: Pam Statler
Alt. Worship: Deb Murrish

Team Members:

Worship Team

Norma Wolz*
Kristina Oswald
Bill Budenholzer

Community in Unity Team

Stacey Miller*
Pam Statler
Bill Budenholzer
Linn Moore
Linda Lemke
Sue Dunham
Deb Murrish
Kristen Kinney
Justin Kinney
Nikki Tucker
Richard Schademann

Education Team

Larry Lemke*
Norma Wolz
Stacey Miller
Linda Lemke
Jason Martin
Andi Martin

Financial Sustainability Team

Pam Statler
Bill Budenholzer
Jan Roevekamp

Alternative Worship Team

Deb Murrish*
Kristen Kinney
Christine Walters
Bill Budenholzer
Pam Statler