



# Zion Lutheran Church

## The Tidings

April 2026

### *Inside this Issue*

Pastor's Message

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Zion & Community Articles

Council

Calendar

Worship Servers

Finances



Watch worship services live  
on Sundays at 9:30 A.M. by visiting:

[www.zionferguson.com](http://www.zionferguson.com)

and clicking

LIVE STREAM

## Holy Week



## Worship

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2 at 7:00 PM

Ceremonial Handwashing

### GOOD FRIDAY

April 3 at 7:00 PM

Tenebrae Service

### EASTER SUNDAY

April 5 at 9:30 AM

*“Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” –Matthew 28:20b*

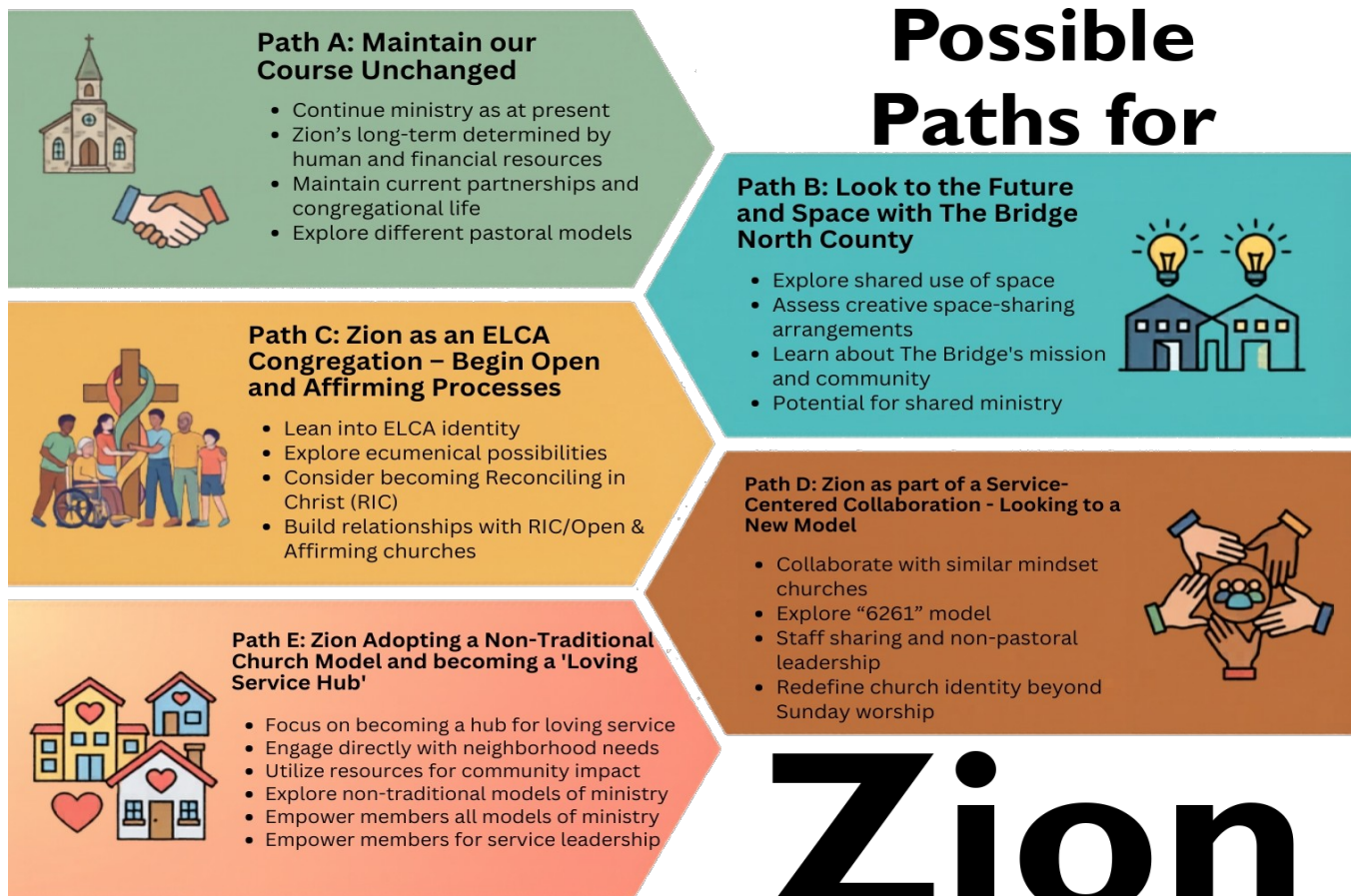
**Christ is Risen! Alleluia!** We’ve reached the ending of the story (even though we knew it was coming)! Life wins. Evil is vanquished by God’s power for Life and Love. Death does not have the last word. The tomb is empty!

Zion, the Holy Spirit—yes, the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead—is working among us. Over the next two months, we’ll begin the work of communal decision-making as we (1) hear about possible next paths/steps from our Task Force, (2) pray and discern and ponder what these things might mean and (3) work toward a formal decision about what our next steps will be. This will be a time for thinking, for learning, for questioning, for grieving, for praying, for celebrating, for following the Spirit’s energy, and for engaging in making some intentional and thoughtful moves about Zion’s future.

I find it is no coincidence that we are beginning this work in the Easter Season (did you know it’s intentionally ten days longer than Lent!). We know the end of the story—and that whatever we decide, our salvation is not at stake. We are free to consider what best serves the needs of our community, and what is the best way to steward our spiritual needs. We know the end of the story—and we know Jesus’ last words from Matthew’s gospel: **“I am with you always—to the end of the age.”**

**Below are five possible paths ahead identified by our Next Steps Task Force. Please come to the next Congregational Conversation—to learn more about what we’re learning, and to reflect on what these next steps (we can choose more than one) might mean. Your involvement and participation are so very helpful as we move toward a formal decision in mid-summer. God’s blessings of life and love and hope and joy and delight in the power of resurrection be with you.**

God’s peace,  
Pastor Matt



## April Birthdays

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Amber Tucker
- 26<sup>th</sup> Elliot Devenport
- 27<sup>th</sup> Roberta Harrison
- 29<sup>th</sup> Pr. Matt Schlake-Kruse

## April Anniversaries

- 19<sup>th</sup> Doug & Cindy Vogelsang



## Things to Know About April

- **Maundy Thursday and Good Friday** services at 7:00 PM
- **Office Closed** on 4/6
- **Congregational Conversations Fellowship** on 4/19 following worship
- **Baby Shower Donations** to be collected through May 9<sup>th</sup>
- **Tidings Deadline** is 4/20
- **Pokeno** will gather 4/23 at 11:30 AM
- **Noisy Change Day** is 4/26
- **Food Pantry:** we are still collecting mac n' cheese & spaghetti

## Alternative First Lessons in Easter

The Revised Common Lectionary, during the seven-week-long Easter Season, has perpetuated a potentially harmful practice of replacing the first reading from the Old Testament with a reading from Acts. For Christians not to read from texts shared with our Jewish kin during this liturgical season of the year is inherently problematic. God has exercised mercy and has worked deliverance and salvation throughout the biblical story apart from the specific events and dynamics of the passion and resurrection. Indeed, the early followers of Jesus and the gospel writers, in particular, learned how to interpret Jesus' life and death as redemptive precisely by looking at what God had been habituated to do with Israel. Those stories were the paradigms of salvation that the gospel writers used to tell their story of Jesus.

The Consultation on Common Texts has offered alternative Hebrew Bible Readings for Easter, which Zion will be using in worship this season.

Thanks,  
Pr. Matt

## Lunch & Learn Book Study Dietrich Bonhoeffer

In preparation for our 2026 Synod Assembly, we will be reading Life Together. We invite you to join us on Thursdays for a lunch-and-learn book study led by the synod staff. We will examine Bonhoeffer's writings in a time when we feel especially divided.

- **April 23 - Community**
- **April 30 - The Day Together**
- **May 7 - The Day Alone**
- **May 14 - Service**
- **May 21 - Confession and the Lord's Supper**

Thursdays, Noon - 12:45 p.m. on Zoom

Meeting ID: 842 4526 8827    Passcode: 894026

# A Message from the President

Dear Zion Family,

We continue to consider our future through our Congregational Conversations fellowship. We will have our next session on Sunday, April 19th after worship. Please prayerfully consider attending. We need engagement from everyone. Each voice is important as we consider what path or paths to take forward. I know not everyone may think they have great visionary skills, but you do have what is most important; a love of God, your neighbor, and your Zion family. God will equip us and send the Holy Spirit to help us as we discern what to do.

*"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and we shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructs the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolations. Through Christ our Lord, Amen."*

Pilgrim's Guide Via de Cristo (Way of Christ)

Blessings,

Pam



## Easter Vigil Hosted by Unity

Unity Bel-Nor is excited to host an Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4, 2026, at 7:00 PM. This beautiful service begins with the lighting of the new fire and the Paschal Candle, followed by the chanted Easter Proclamation. Scripture readings recalling God's saving acts—Creation, the Flood, the Red Sea, Jonah, and more—are shared by members of the congregation. Word and Sacrament are celebrated, and the evening concludes with food and fellowship. Everyone is invited to come with us on this journey from darkness to light, from story to sacrament, and from reflection to rejoicing.

## Celebrate Creativity with Atonement

Join us for a Community Fine Arts Fair & Ice Cream Social on Sunday, April 19, from 2 to 4 PM. This free event marks 75 years as a church and 70 years as a school, and is open to the public.

We'll feature an art exhibit and two 30-minute concerts. If your congregation includes artists or performers—painters, singers, dancers, musicians—we'd love for them to participate and share their gifts.

To sweeten the afternoon, an ice cream truck will be in the parking lot offering free ice cream to all who attend.

### **Interested in participating?**

Contact Sharon Carter Eichenberger at **314-791-7939** for details.

# EcoFaith Summit

## Saturday, April 18 at Bethel Lutheran

Looking for renewed energy and practical strategies to help your faith community heal creation? Join us for the 2026 EcoFaith Summit of the Upper Midwest! Doors open at 8:30 AM for refreshments, prayer, and meditation led by Pastor Scott Benolkin of Bethel and Eden Seminary Professor Clint McCann, followed by livestream of the Summit from Duluth, MN. At 11:45 AM we turn to our call to action here in St. Louis, followed by lunch and a focus on faithful action in the CSS with speakers including Bishop Donna Simon and the Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago [who will join us via Zoom]. Sending Worship is at 4:00 PM. Come for the full day or join us at 11:45 for local programming and lunch. To register, email: [brendalight3@gmail.com](mailto:brendalight3@gmail.com). There is \$10 donation fee at the door, but students are free.



*"The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer."*

-Dietrich Bonhoefer

Members of Central States Synod congregations are invited to join us for conference gatherings. While our synod assembly theme is "Life Together," we will be meeting online across the synod. That is why we would like to take this opportunity to gather in-person at the conference level. Our day together will include worship, synod updates, and a listening post. Following lunch, Pastoral Leaders will have time to gather and meet with the bishop and synod staff.

The Eastern Missouri Conference will meet Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 3 PM. Lunch will be provided, and there is no cost to attend. Visit [css-elca.org/conference-gatherings](http://css-elca.org/conference-gatherings) to sign-up. Please RSVP early so we can better plan our day together.

**Community Connections Breakfast**

When Faith Meets Struggle:  
Walking with Those Battling Addiction

Thursday  
APRIL | 9 | 2026  
from 7:30 - 9:00 AM

The Center in Ferguson  
CrossRoads Counseling Centers  
107 Carson Road, Ferguson, MO

To RSVP:  
[emailthecenter@stl-ccc.org](mailto:emailthecenter@stl-ccc.org) or  
by April 6th

CROSSROADS  
COUNSELING CENTERS

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**GIVE STL DAY**

**MAY 7, 2026**

For 24 hours,  
support LuMin St. Louis  
through the St. Louis Community Foundation.

Your donation supports inclusive, progressive  
campus ministry in the St. Louis Area

[www.givestlday.org](http://www.givestlday.org)

HELP US REACH OUR  
GOAL OF RAISING  
**\$5,000!**

# COMMUNITY Baby Shower

honoring  
expectant  
mothers and  
mothers with  
babies up to  
6 months old

## DONATION DRIVE

Items will be collected from now until May 9th

### Suggestions for donations...

Diapers (all sizes)  
Bottles & bottle brushes  
Bibs  
Formula  
Baby food  
Infant feeding spoons  
Pacifiers  
Receiving blankets  
Gift cards (Target, Walmart)  
Onesies (up to 12 mo)  
Sleepers (up to 12 mo)  
Wipes  
Gentle baby soap  
Burp Clothes  
Soft books

Wash cloths  
Infant toys  
Baby detergent  
Baby nail clippers  
Hats, socks  
Diaper cream

We kindly ask that all items donated  
be **NEW** or **GENTLY USED**.

#### CONTACT FOR PICK-UP:

Cathie Lehr	Phone: 314-809-4477	Email: clljuly@gmail.com
Stacey Miller	Phone: 314-249-9751	Email: stamiller78@gmail.com
Pat Ligon	Phone: 314-229-0384	Email: turningpointe3@yahoo.com



# **Zion Council Meeting Minutes**

## **Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 - 6:30PM (Zoom)**

**In attendance:** Pastor Matt Schlake-Kruse, Pam Statler, Kristen Kinney, Stacey Miller, Pat Martin, Jay Martin, Richard Schademann, Erma Miller, Johnnie Tucker

**Absent:** Jan Roevekamp

### **OPENING AND PRAYER**

- Prayer from Pam
- Council check-in – how is everyone?

### **PASTOR'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION**

- Looking for people to attend the virtual Synod Assembly on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Please let Pastor or Pam know if you are interested. There will be a meeting place in St. Louis to watch the meeting together.
- Have recently had issues with a man camping out in the stairwell on western side of the building. We have asked him to leave and are monitoring in case he comes back.
- Do you want a church cleaning day? Is anyone willing to organize it?
- Reviewing membership - Dorothy Scales and The Vogelsang family have been unable to be reached; Pastor will send a letter to them and ask them to reach out if they still want to connect with Zion.
- Possibly have 2 musicians interested in working with us on Sundays.

### **CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS AND NEXT STEPS TASK FORCE**

- Possible paths for next steps
  - Stay on current path (Richard)
  - Identity as a Progressive ELCA Church (Kristen)
    - Lean into justice minded ELCA identity and strong synod/bishop support; explore ecumenical possibilities with St. Stephen's and The Vine. Discern openness to becoming Reconciling in Christ (RIC)
  - Service-Forward, Less "Institutional Church" (Norma)
    - Emphasize service and community support over institutional maintenance.
  - Space to Share and Partnership with The Bridge North County (Pam)
    - Explore shared use of space.
  - Zion's Physical Spaces as Ministry Assets (Deb)
    - Re-imagine how space can be used for formation, teaching, and community life.
- Will discuss options at congregational conversations and will hopefully have an idea of what the next steps are in June.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Monthly Financial results, income statement, balance sheet and check register were presented
- Nothing major to report - \$4,323 loss for February - still earning more on what we've invested than what we've lost

## **SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

- Need 2 people to attend a virtual Synod Assembly on June 6th
- Will vote on members at the next meeting

## **UPDATES**

- **Great Rivers Collaborative (GRC)**
  - Meeting March 15th, 2pm
  - What are the congregations top Three Ministries
    - Laundry Love
    - Warming Center Meals
    - Community Baby Shower
    - Collecting Food For Saint Stephens
    - Work with Oak Knoll
- **Member Care Team**
  - Prayers for Judy Stoverink and Tony Harkins
  - Prayers for Carol Tillmann as she adjusts to independent living home
- **Community in Unity**
  - Meeting March 12th
  - Planning a community baby shower - plan to have it at Unity this year
- **Space Sharing**
  - No major updates
- **Property Concerns**
  - Tree is gone and trimming has been done
  - Going to purchase two Blink cameras for the western stairwell outside. Cameras alert phone app when movement occurs and records video clip. You can speak through the camera from your phone. Total cost for cameras and external storage is \$140. Pam's brother has volunteered to help install camera system.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING**



- Motion made to approve minutes from February meeting made by Stacey, seconded by Richard. Approved

## **CLOSING & MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 7:50**

**NEXT MEETING APRIL 14TH**

# Zion Lutheran Church

## April Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Mar 29 9:30am-Worship 10:45am-Fellowship & Cong. Convo. #5	30	31	Apr 1	<b>2 Maundy Thur</b> 7:00pm-Worship  A Tucker	<b>3 Good Fri</b> 7:00pm-Worship	4
<b>5 Easter Sunday</b> 9:30am-Worship 	<b>6</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	7	8	<b>9</b> 6:30pm-CIU	10	11
<b>12</b> 9:30am-Worship	<b>13</b> 1:00pm-Worship Team 6:30pm-Member Care	<b>14</b> 6:30pm-Council	15	16	17	18
<b>19</b> 9:30am-Worship 10:45am-Cong. Convo. #6  D&C Vogelsang	<b>20</b> <b>Tidings Deadline</b>	21	22	<b>23</b> 11:30am-Pokeno	24	25
<b>26</b> 9:30am-Worship & Noisy Change  E Devenport	<b>27</b> 6pm-Laundry Love  R Harrison	28	<b>29</b>  M Schlake-Kruse	30	May 1	2

# Zion Lutheran Church

## Serving on Sundays in April

	Apr 5	Apr 12	Apr 19	Apr 26	May 3
Presiding	M Schlake-Kruse	BJ Arnold	M Schlake-Kruse	R Schademann	M Schlake-Kruse
Music Accompanist	J Martin	J Martin	J Martin	J Martin	J Martin
Assisting Minister	R Schademann	P Statler	K Kinney	N Wolz	J Roevekamp
Lector	L Moore	N Wolz	D Balestier	K Kinney	K Malin
Children's Message	M Schlake-Kruse	N Wolz	M Schlake-Kruse	K Kinney	M Schlake-Kruse
Ushers	S Dunham	D Balestier	K Malin	J Roevekamp	S Dunham
Altar Guild	K Kinney J Kinney	K Kinney J Kinney	K Kinney J Kinney	K Kinney J Kinney	K Malin
Video Streaming	P Statler	K Kinney	B Budenholzer	P Statler	B Budenholzer

\* 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  
123 Carson Road  
Ferguson, MO 63135  
314.522.0100 Office  
office@zionferguson.com  
www.zionferguson.com



**Celebrating  
God's Grace**

**April 2026**

## **Zion Leaders**

### **Congregation Council**

Pastor: Matt Schlake-Kruse  
PMA: Richard Schademann  
President: Pam Statler  
Vice President: Stacey Miller  
Secretary: Kristen Kinney  
Treasurer: Jan Roevekamp  
Member At-Large: Jay & Pat Martin  
Member At-Large: Erma Miller  
Member At-Large: Rich Schademann  
Member At-Large: Johnnie Tucker

### **Member Care Ministry**

Ron Devenport  
Wanda Devenport  
Sue Dunham  
Linn Moore  
Richard Schademann\*

### **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: Richard Schademann  
Financial Sustainability: Pam Statler  
Alt. Worship: Deb Murrish

### **Team Members:**

#### **Worship Team**

Norma Wolz\*  
Bill Budenholzer

#### **Community in Unity Team**

Stacey Miller\*  
Pam Statler  
Bill Budenholzer  
Linn Moore  
Deb Murrish  
Kristen Kinney  
Justin Kinney  
Richard Schademann

#### **Education Team**

Norma Wolz  
Richard Schademann

### **Financial Sustainability Team**

Pam Statler  
Justin Kinney  
Jan Roevekamp

### **Alternative Worship Team**

Deb Murrish\*  
Kristen Kinney  
Christine Walters  
Bill Budenholzer  
Pam Statler