



### Volume 17, Issue 4 April 2019

### A Word from the Pastor

I know this is hard to believe. In my home congregation, we always ran out of food at church potlucks. It wasn't because of our large Midwestern appetites. Try as she might, my mother offered more than one casserole and dessert. Still, we didn't have enough. We were a congregation that practiced scarcity. It wasn't only our table that was bare. Hospitality was limited to those who believed and acted "like us."

There is a world of difference between my home congregation and Zion. The way in which members of a congregation reproduce the love of God through genuine hospitality and a love for one another will indicate whether they are the body of Christ or simply a religious club.

We were recently challenged to grow in abundance, hosting the Grand View University Choir. We could have donated day old sugar cookies and called it good. Instead, our reception was laid out like a banquet, a delicious fiesta of delicacies. We were asked to host 38 choir members and staff. Again, it would have been enough to leave the light on, provide a place to sleep, and leave the students to their Snapchat. Instead, stories with their hosts abound about side trips around the city, from mountaintops to Antelope Island.

We are called to be a community of generosity, living in abundance, sharing hospitality. Watch how we shared the gift of music in our Children's Choir Day with Calvary Baptist Church. See the youth from neighboring congregations and how the Spirit shaped a new sense of community through their shared day of service. Listen to our witness, proclaiming hospitality for all God's children, advocating for refugees and families separated by punitive immigration policies. Remember again what it means to be "a new creation in Christ" with our welcoming statement, especially with the LGBTO+ community.

Hospitality is not a small or quick task. It is a continuous and sometimes strenuous way of life. And, as our Lord knows, our yen is to hold onto personal preferences and private needs.

I know this is hard to believe. Our hospitality comes from Jesus, himself. As he breathed on those disciples on that first Easter evening, he now breathes into us: "Peace. Receive the Holy Spirit." In that breath we share a new sense of grace, a banquet table of hospitality, and the generosity of our cup that overflows.

In and through Christ,

Paster Steve Kenz

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18

We are Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, committed to being a loving and welcoming community of faith in Jesus Christ. As a community of God we welcome all.

We rejoice in the manner in which diversity enriches, nurtures, and challenges the life and ministry we share in Christ. We embrace actions and attitudes within the Church that assure access to Word and Sacrament regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic or marital status, physical or mental capacities, age or race.



# It is Lent. Think of this season as God's gift to us. It is a homecoming journey, where we discover anew what it means to live as God's beloved. It is a time to pray and repent and reflect upon our baptism. Using the Affirmation of Baptism, we commend these thoughts and reflections and prayers to you. Each in their own way, connects us with the covenant God made in Holy Baptism. Pastor Steve Klemz has written a daily Lenten prayer booklet. We invite you to follow along as we

Pastor Steve Klemz has written a daily Lenten prayer booklet. We invite you to follow along as we pray together during this season. You can find the booklet at the link below or pick up a physical copy in the Narthex anytime during Lent.

bit.ly/2T3uHca

### **Lenten Bible Study**

"Conversations in Grace" | 12:15-1 pm

Wednesday, April 10 | Last one!

Bring a brown bag lunch and explore scripture and devotional writings on grace. Pastor Steve and Lisa Mensinger facilitate our discussion. No prior knowledge of scripture is needed. All are welcome!

### Lenten Worship

Midweek Lenten Worship begins at 7:15 pm with Holden Evening Prayer. Bible study and discussion groups will meet from 6:30 until 7 with Pastor Steve Klemz and Lisa Mensinger. Our traditional soup suppers precede the evening's events, beginning at 6 pm.

4/10 - Finding Your Voice John 9:1-41

#### Let Me Shine Preschool

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

There are new signs of life everywhere you look. The trees are budding, birds chirping, and daffodils blooming! These signs of life remind us of Jesus' love for us and the new life He gives us. Our sins are washed away and forgotten through His death and resurrection. We are made new and have hope in Him.

We had a wonderful Lutheran Schools Week and enjoyed our dress-up days and visits from Hogle Zoo! Also, the staff and I felt so loved and appreciated throughout the week as we celebrated Staff Appreciation! THANK YOU for spoiling us with all of the "sweet" treats!

Thank you for supporting the Usborne Book Fair by volunteering and/or purchasing books. We had a fantastic turn out and the school was able to order over \$800.00 in free books for our classrooms! In Christ.

Barb
Barb Ballif
Director



For God so loved the world, He gave his only begotten Son to die for us, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

On Sunday March 31st, we celebrated Ms. Susan Swidnicki's 20 years of service to musical ministry and joy. Alumni of Joyful NOIZ gathered together to perform original music and the entire Zion community celebrated Susan. So as Pastor Steve likes to say, Susan: "thank you and thank God for you."



### Sunday School

Greetings, Sunday School Families! As Spring is finally (maybe?) approaching, we are preparing to celebrate Easter! Please remember that all of the childrens' music programs (except for cherubs, who are welcome to stand with the other kids and get a palm) will be singing on Palm Sunday (April 14th) at the 10:30 service. Then we'll share Easter Egg Decorating Easter Brunch from 9-10 am on Easter Sunday (April 21). Pastor Steve will be visiting with the Sunday School classes on the 28th.

Happy Spring!

Melissa

### **Quilters Without Borders**

The next Quilters Without
Borders gathering will be at
Zion on Thursday April 4th at 7
pm. Quilters Without Borders
is a great opportunity to
connect through grace with
other congregations across
the valley. All are welcome to
attend, all you need to know
how to do is tie a knot! The
quilts will be gifted to the
Crossroads Urban Center.

We pray Christ's healing for Bonnie Judge and Terri Moffitt/Finner. We pray for strength of wholeness for Rhonda Joa, Ron Finner, Dianne Krehbiel. Continued healing and peace for Susan Swidnicki, Linde Wrathall, Louise Nelson, Cindy Haverkost; for healing peace and comfort for Barb Ballif and family as they mourn the death of herfather, Walter, and for David Chamberlin and family as they mourn the death of his father, Walter.

# Youth News



### **Service & Community**

Last month, youth from St. Matthews, Shepherd of the Mountain, Elim and Zion gathered for a day of service and fun. We explored living into our Vocation. Groups served meals at the Youth Resource Center and the Women and Children Shelter. Thanks to Thrivent for providing the food for these meals. Groups were also sent out to find ways to BE LOVE in the community either by picking up trash, donating pop-tabs to the Ronald McDonald House or leaving notes for the youth at Our Saviour's. Thank you to Chandler, Bob, Alex, Lisa and Pastor Steve who walked alongside the youth on Saturday.

### **Upcoming Events**

### Set up for Easter Brunch

Saturday, 4/20/19 from 10 am to 11:30 am

- \*\*Many hands make light work!
- \*\*Calling all youth! We need your help to set up for Easter Brunch.

### **Easter Egg Decorating**

Saturday, 4/20/19 from 9 – 10 am

- \*\*All ages are welcome
- \*\*Bring your own eggs or we will have eggs to purchase for a donation to ELCA World Hunger
- \*\*Explore 10 different ways to decorate your eggs.
- \*\*Bring a snack to share.

### **Organ Update**

It was a busy week for the organ renovation project the week of March 18th. Bigelow Organ Company built and installed two new "T" columns made of 11/2" thick poplar, which are 10' long. With the capable assistance of Alan Erdahl, they then hoisted and installed the new Swell box and Swell chests atop these columns. Total weight including new Swell pipes is estimated at 2500 pounds.

The new Swell wind chests support and provide wind to the six new sets of pipes yet to be installed in the Swell box. Unlike the organ's current wind chests which are mechanical, these new Swell chests are electro-pneumatically operated. This allows their individual ranks to be available on multiple keyboards and at multiple pitches, thus providing a broader and more flexible tonal palette to the organist.

The next steps will involve completing the final items of Phase 2:

- 1. Install new wind reservoir support deck
- 2. Install new wind reservoir and wind lines to Swell chests
- 3. Connect wiring from chests to relay (installed in Phase 1)
- 4. Install, regulate and tune new Swell pipes
- 5. Install and connect new offset chests in lower case, with bass pipes inlower case and behind Pedal division.

Once again, thank you so much to those of you who have given donations to support this project. We soon will be starting the second half of the project, so your donations are especially needed now. Please consider a gift to the project; mark your donation for the Organ Renovation. Thank you!



### Worship Volunteers

	10:30 am Assisting Ministers	Ushers	Altar Guild	Greeters	Counters
April 7	Denny	Volunteers	Ann Marie Mogren	Volunteers	Bob Hackworth
	Gross	Needed	Denny Gross	Needed	Ann Marie Mogren
April 14	Lisa	Volunteers	Marci Hall	Volunteers	Fred Strohaker
	Mensinger	Needed	Marsha Gilford	Needed	Sandra Kragthorpe
April 21	Eric Hinderaker	Volunteers Needed	Steve & Marie Newton Bruce & Lois Stewart	Volunteers Needed	Andrew Benseler Marci Hall Paul Mogren Bob Hackworth
April 28	Rachel	Volunteers	Carrie Hinderaker	Volunteers	Jane Erdahl
	Kibler	Needed	Holly Graham	Needed	Marci Hall

### **Library Corner**

The Library Guild meets Tuesdays at 10:30 AM. Come and be a part of this Small Group. We welcome any religious and children's books donated to the church library. When donating, please drop your books into the wooden drop box with a note. Please donate your fiction books to the public library. Thank you!

REMEMBER TO RETURN YOUR OVERDUE BOOKS!

Parents: Please assist your children when checking out the library books by making sure a full name is writ ten on the check out card. Also, remind your children to be respectful of the church library books!

# Holy Week



### **Palm/Passion Sunday**

Zion's Holy Tradition: Children lead our Palm Sunday worship on April 14th.

All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

### **Maundy Thursday**

Please join us as we worship on Maundy Thursday, April 18th at 7 pm.

Strange Night. Holy Night.
On this night we remember:
Jesus gathered the twelve
washed feet
commanded love
spoke of betrayal
broke bread
poured wine
and offered himself for us.
"Do this in remembrance of me."





### Holy + Great Friday

Please join us on April 19th as we worship on Holy + Great Friday. We will have a traditional worship service at 12 pm and a deeper exploration of what the day means to all of us at 6 pm.

Tree of Life and awesome mystery, in your death we are reborn...
One with you in joy and sorrow, we the river, you the sea
.~Marty Haugen, ELW 334

\*12 pm | Traditional Worship

\*6 pm | Deeper Exploration Worship

## **Our Easter Celebration**

#### **Easter Brunch**

Join us on Sunday April 21 from 8:30 to 10 am for our traditional Easter brunch, hosted by our Zion Youth. We will be serving pancakes, sausage, and fruit. We look forward to having you and celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord.

#### **Services**

Join us as we celebrate the the Resurrection of Our Lord. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Awakening Easter Celebration 8:15 am

Traditional Easter Celebration 10:30 am

Sunday, April 21
The Festival of the
Resurrection of our Lord

Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed.
Alleluia!

Even if we didn't sing it, the very stones would cry out:

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!



# To be featured in the Herald submit events or news to

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