



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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## NEWS FROM ZION MARCH 2018

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### Pastor's Page

#### Christ is risen! April Fools?

*<sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God...<sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.* 1 Corinthians 1:18 & 25

Our Lenten season began with Ash Wednesday, which happened to fall on Valentine's Day this year. And with holy humor Easter Sunday happens to fall on April Fools' Day. How appropriate that this season of baptismal preparation and renewal is bookended with these two seemingly unrelated holidays that help us see our relationship with God in refreshing ways.

Valentine's Day has come to be a day to lavish loving messages and trinkets on our closest relationships. On Ash Wednesday we heard the message of God's steadfast love and mercy for us and all Creation. Over the course of this season we are hearing the covenant stories on Sunday mornings in which God reminds us of God's commitment to the world God created and declared "good." The new and final covenant came in Jesus Christ who embodied the love of God, especially on the cross which to our human perspective may seem foolish.

How prophetic, then, that Easter would coincide with April Fools' Day, a day to make a fool of someone by tricking them in some way. Some people are much more adept at pulling

pranks than others and some of us handle being tricked better than others. I wonder if the women felt rather like a prank had been sprung on them when they showed up at the tomb to take care of Jesus' body after his crucifixion and it was not there that first Easter morning.

Mark's gospel has another tricky issue, there are two possible endings. The shorter one, ending with chapter 16, verse 8 has the women fleeing the tomb in terror and amazement, saying nothing to anyone about what they had seen. This is the presumed original ending to this gospel, but obviously the women would have had to eventually tell someone or the story would not have been written.

Truth be told, most of us are not good at telling others about Jesus either. In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians he admits that the gospel seems foolish, even crazy, to those who have never heard it. How could someone who was dead no longer be dead—and not just revived but eternally alive? Who would believe it? How can we prove it? How can we make sense of it all in our own minds?

That's just it, Paul says. God uses what seems like a foolish proclamation—a proclamation made by faith alone—to bring others to faith. Our human wisdom and ways of understanding the world around us require proof and detailed explanations. Paul says we are to tell the story of Jesus—his life, his death, and his resurrection—as a statement of faith. As foolish

as that story seems, it is God's good news of salvation for the world and God has the power to change hearts in and through our feeble attempts to tell others the depth of God's love for us and all people.

On April 1<sup>st</sup> we will proclaim together, "Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!" Let us set aside our fear and apprehension and proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ to the world!

*Pastor Lynne*

## Behind the Scenes Worship Helpers Needed

### ***Communion Preparation for Wednesdays***

Our Wednesday evening worship service is well established with a number of folks attending regularly. Many come directly from work and they find this day and time fits their busy lives quite well. We celebrate Holy Communion each week at this service and we need some help with set up and clean up.

Even if you do not attend the Wednesday service the set up for Communion could take place earlier in the day. If this is a behind the scenes task you would like to take on, even once a month or for a month or so at a time, please contact Pastor Lynne or Lana in the church office, 538-5082. Thank you!

### ***Worship Activity Bags for Children***

Several of our youngest worshipers appreciate the activity bags we have to keep their hands busy during worship. We are in need of people to replenish the supplies on a more regular basis. This task can happen at the volunteer's convenience.

## Zion Council Notes from January

- I. Guest presentation by Pastor Joe Leavengood and Joe Eckhardt regarding Love INC (In the Name of Christ), a national program run by local churches. A local chapter is being formed, Heart of Montana, to facilitate assistance for people in need in Fergus, Judith Basin and Petroleum counties and provide a venue for Christians from various churches to network and provide those services. Four churches are on board; six churches are needed to start. It currently has a development board in the process of organizing. Joe Eckhardt has donated office space. Joe L is the treasurer. It needs an executive director and will need volunteers to run the clearinghouse and to work. After an initial interview with a client, Love INC would organize church members to follow up on needs. Scot Solberg is currently on the planning board. Council discussion. Lynne will check with Bozeman ELCA churches to get info on how well it works. Scot will be asked to come to the February council meeting and give his input. Love INC will be an old business agenda item in February.
- II. Facilities—the church is still waiting on the elevator man from Billings; so far the elevator has been working. Eric Ogren has ordered a double deck CD player which will allow both recording and playing at the same time. It could also have a flash drive which could record, then digitally be rendered into a podcast on the website. Eric is also creating a binder with the info on how to run the sound system.
- III. Youth & Family - There will be a February 11th Sweetheart dinner to raise money for youth trips. In March there will be a trip to Spokane for the "Rock and Worship Road Show." Six families participated in the winter party at Pederson's last month.
- IV. Pastor Concerns. There has been no interest on the nursery attendants' position. Lynne will visit with parents of small children to get their input. One idea is to use the TV in the narthex and parents could take the children there and still follow the service.
  - a. Annual meeting January 28. There are delegates for St. John's, Flathead Bible Camp but not for the synod assembly. Nominations from the floor will be taken. Karen Combs has agreed to have her name on the ballot for council. Lynne moved and Jon seconded to accept Karen's name. Motion carried. Council position names are now Polly Weichel, Holly Hesper, Cherie Quigley, Brandon Cowen and Karen Combs. The booklet and constitution are available for members to read before the meeting.

President Cindy Giese also thanked Jon, DeeAnn and Annette for their service on the council.

# Salvation Army Phone Volunteers Needed

The Salvation Army provides a great service to our community. From the funds gathered during the Red Kettle drive before Christmas they are able to support people in need with temporary housing for a night or two in a motel, fast food restaurant gift cards, Central Montana Shuttle rides to/from Great Falls or Billings, and vouchers to the Central Montana Variety store for food basics.

Our local Salvation Army committee is looking for people to answer the cell phone which people call to request these services. Each volunteer takes the phone for a month at a time and is available to answer it Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Other volunteers are able to fill in if there is a day or time when the designated volunteer is unavailable. The phone volunteer then vets the callers to determine what is needed and what kind of help they have previously received and makes sure they receive the appropriate assistance. A full training will take place prior to the first month of service.

Contact Pastor Lynne if you are interested or for more information, 538-5082.

## Lay Pastoral Associates

In January we expressed the desire for more people to participate in the Lay Pastoral Associate training through the Montana Synod. (See the January newsletter in the Zion website for that article.) This month we will explore how additional LPAs might be engaged in ministry here at Zion Lutheran.

- An LPA might lead adult Bible studies, either for Sunday Adult Forum or during the week.
- An LPA might coordinate our visitation to homebound members.
- An LPA might assist with worship planning and leadership, including occasional preaching, writing of prayers, or developing a theme throughout a season.

These are just a few ideas, but the opportunities could grow depending on a particular person's gifts and interests. The training covers instruction in the Bible, Catechism, Church history, pastoral care, preaching, and teaching. The learning takes place over two years with a combination of retreats with other LPA candidates and independent learning using video presentations and readings. Pastor Lynne serves as mentor to all our LPAs and will journey through the training with those who take it on.

Please speak with Pastor Lynne if you are interested in exploring this opportunity. Visit the full explanation of the training on the synod website for more detailed information: <https://www.montanasynod.org/become-an-lpa.html>

# SUMMER CAMP

**Now is the time to register for summer camp!** Check out these two great options in Montana: [www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net) and [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)

**Did you know?** Zion Lutheran offers scholarship for those who attend summer bible camp! Whether your child attends Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp or Christikon, families can request up to \$200 per child for a full week of camp or \$100 for a half-week. Please contact the church office or speak with Pastor Lynne for more information, 538-5082.

**Early registration deadline for FLBC is April 1<sup>st</sup>, with a savings of \$50. Before May 1<sup>st</sup> saves \$25.**



# Communion Instruction for Children & Youth

## Communion Instruction for Children & Youth

- One of the commitments parents make at their child's baptism is to provide for the hearing of the word of God and sharing in the Lord's Supper. It is the practice of this congregation to have parents determine the age at which their child is ready to receive Holy Communion. Readiness is not so much about their intellectual understanding as it is their ability to recognize that this is one of the means by which believers encounter the living Christ and receive God's forgiveness.
- To that end we will be providing Communion instruction for elementary aged children on **Wednesday, April 11 following the Wednesday worship service, approximately 6:45 p.m.** Families who are interested in this instruction will need to pick up a Communion instruction booklet prior to this date to read together. Pastor Lynne will meet with the child and one or both parents on April 11<sup>th</sup> to complete the instruction and answer any questions that arise from the reading.
- If that date and time do not work for your family, contact Pastor Lynne to make other arrangements, 538-5082.

## Stephen Ministry

As our Stephen Ministers move on with their training, it is time to begin seeking care receivers for them.

We All Know Someone . . . (or maybe you are that someone)

Someone in crisis who doesn't know where to turn. Someone who is tense, upset, worn out--- needing someone to talk with, someone to care.

You would like to help, but how?

There are three easy steps.

1. Listen and care for your friend in your own relationship together.
2. Ask your friend for permission to share his or her need with the Stephen Leader team and reassure them that all information shared will be confidential.
3. After permission to share has been granted, contact the Stephen Leader team with your friends contact information.

Confidentiality is the foundation of Stephen Ministry. When you report a need, you are the first important link in this process of confidentiality. You can help maintain confidentiality by:

1. Telling a troubled friend about Stephen Ministry and then asking for permission to report their needs for care to the Stephen Ministry team.
2. Never talking about a need unless you have permission from the person to mention it.
3. Never asking a Stephen Minister about the caring relationship he or she may be a part of

If you, or someone you know, is at the end of your rope, Stephen Ministers can help tie a knot so you can hang on.

To find out more about how to go about a referral for yourself or someone who is hurting please contact your Stephen Leader team, Pastor Lynne 380-0760, email [pastorlynne@midrivers.com](mailto:pastorlynne@midrivers.com); Kris Descheemaeker 535-6869 email [krisd@midrivers.com](mailto:krisd@midrivers.com); or Roger Woltermann 538-8851 email [rnbwolt@midrivers.com](mailto:rnbwolt@midrivers.com)

## ***EASTER BREAKFAST***

The Zion Lutheran Church Council will be hosting an hour of food and fellowship on Easter Sunday, April 1, between the two church services. Breakfast breads and rolls, fresh fruit, juice and coffee will be available in the Fellowship Hall downstairs to all church attendees to celebrate this special day together before or after church services. Please join us.



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## Social Concern of the Month:

# Clearinghouse Connections

What is Clearinghouse Connections? A community-based emergency resource and referral program that assists Fergus County residents with unforeseen emergencies. The goal is to help people by first connecting them with available community resources or through financial assistance. Funds are obtained by donation only and dispersed back to community members in emergency situations after all other resources have been exhausted.

Who is eligible? Fergus County residents that encounter an unforeseen emergency and have exhausted all other available resources. Monetary assistance is limited to one time in a twelve-month time period, per resident/household; not to exceed \$500.00.

What is the process? A referral is made by faith-based organizations, service agencies or community members. Once a referral is made an application and a release of information form must be filled out with District 6 HRDC and the applicant must meet with the case manager to determine eligibility for the unforeseen emergency. The applicant will be referred to other available community resources or will receive financial assistance through Clearinghouse Connections board member's decision. No money is given directly to the applicant. Funds are dispersed to the vendor or provider.

What Type of assistance has been given? Housing, Utilities, Transportation-Medical, Gas Vouchers & Vehicle Repairs, Medical-Dental-Optical-Prescriptions, and Other Emergencies

The program is working. In the course of 13 years. Clearinghouse Connections has dispersed \$47,892.72 from August 2004 to September 2017, the average per year is \$3,684.06 to the community to meet emergency needs. Clearinghouse spent \$5,067.93 in the year of 2017 to help 16 applicants in unforeseen emergencies in Fergus County with rent, water bills, power bills, emergency motel stay, vehicle repairs and emergency gas for transportation. The greatest need is financial. We are asking for assistance through donations, fundraisers or any other ideas to help those in need.

The Clearinghouse Connections Advisory Board is made up of local churches and entities.

To contribute to the good work of Clearinghouse Connections, submit your check or online gift to Zion Lutheran, designated "Clearinghouse."

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## Newsletter Info!

If you have any information that you would like included in the April Newsletter please have it emailed or dropped off at the church office by  
**Monday, March 19th**

Emails can be sent to:  
**kwirtzberger@gmail.com**

## We Need Your Email Addresses!

We have been sending out weekly E-Mail Blasts! This is a great way for you to stay informed on different church events and weekly news.

If we do not have your email address please call the church office at 535-5082  
or  
email Katie at kwirtzberger@gmail.com

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# Announcing: "Everyday Spirit"

*St. James' Episcopal Church Online Course Series  
Lewistown, MT*

St. James' Episcopal Church is thrilled to introduce our new and innovative online course program, "Everyday Spirit." We invite you to join us beginning this March in a series of online courses aimed at feeding and nurturing the human spirit.

We've scheduled our first online course in March on the topic of "Working with Grief and Loss." Our course facilitators are all Montana residents:

- Jennifer Granot, M.A., Hospice/Home Health Social Worker, will offer an introduction to grief and loss. (March 5)
- Kim Barta, MA., online teacher, M.A. and Licensed Psychotherapist, speaks on turning grief and loss into health and wisdom. (March 12)
- Peggy Barta, LCSW, LMFT, will discuss "ambiguous losses." (March 19)
- Judy M. Kellogg, B.S. in Exercise Physiology and a Certified Health and Fitness Instructor, instruct participants on exercises designed to show how movement helps with the grieving process." (March 26)

Terri O'Fallon, one of our course producers, is the program host. Terri is a highly experienced teacher and online course developer with a PhD in Integral Studies with a concentration in Learning and Transformative Change. Terri recently moved back home to Lewistown after living many years in the Seattle area.

Terri is working on this project with the Rev. Jean Collins, and with Kathy Marcel, also an experienced online course developer and a teacher with advanced degrees in online learning and law. Kathy moved to Lewistown from Colorado last fall to work on this project.

There are no prerequisites to participate in any course. The only requirement is access to a computer and the Internet or to a phone. The course fee is \$39 for the entire course of four sessions, or \$10 for each individual session. Organizations can participate for \$95. After completing a course, participants may download it and review it indefinitely.

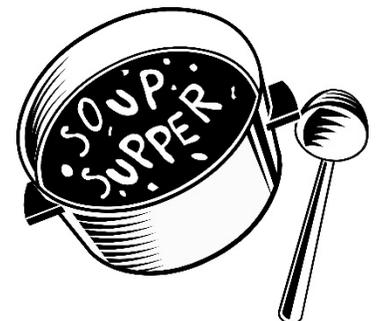
*For more information and to register and purchase the course, VISIT OUR WEBPAGE: [stjameslewisownmt.com](http://stjameslewisownmt.com)*

We look forward to seeing you online on Monday evenings, March 5, 12, 19, and 26, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Mountain Time, to explore working with and healing grief and loss. We hope to offer a new online course every few months or so covering a variety of topics and practices aimed at feeding the human spirit and supporting "the angels of our better nature."

Please write to us with any questions or topic suggestions for future courses at: [sagewater2@gmail.com](mailto:sagewater2@gmail.com)

## **SOUP SUPPERS AND LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP**

Our Soup Suppers continue through most of March. Come between 5:00 and 5:45 pm for soup, then join us for worship at 6:00 pm. Our focus this season is the salvation stories from the Old Testament, told in creative and interactive ways. Signup sheets for the suppers are on the table in the narthex.





# The ZION Bulletin Board



## Family Fun at CAMP ZION!!!

March 4th - 10:30am – 11:45am

Parents, please join your kids and “board the bus” upstairs for Camp Zion! Families will check out cabins, game and craft stations to play, create, snack, and even get a little crazy!! We will all come together at the large group campfire for our closure to the morning adventure! This is going to be a ton of fun and will give you and your kids a sneak peek into life at Bible camp!!

### MARCH ALCOLYTE SCHEDULE

3/4/18 – Rylee Cowen

3/11/18 – Sophie Ziolkowski

3/18/18 – Tate Mangold

3/25/18 – Cameryn Aanenson

## HELP WANTED

Central Montana Nursing and Rehab Center, is looking for individuals in volunteering to help residents attend and participate in activities. The need is for help getting residents to and from activities. Some residents prefer to remain in their room and a volunteer to visit with them would also be appreciated.

If interested contact Misty Glidewell, Activity Director, 366-9148.

### MARCH SERVANT SCHEDULE

USHERS	GREETERS	LECTORS	COMM. ASSISTANTS
3/4/18 – Kris Descheemaeker	3/4 – Scott & Diane Lutz	3/4 – Kay Golik	3/4 – Roger Woltermann
3/11/18 – Jim Fredrickson	3/11 – Loyd & Pam Bowen	3/11 – Karen Combs	3/11 – Pat Fredrickson
3/18/18 – Dan Knepper	3/18 – Betty Osterholm	3/18 – Bob Bjelland	3/18 – Karen Combs
3/25/18 – Wayne Leininger	3/25 – Bob Papp	3/25 – Dana Leininger	3/25 – Vickey Cowen

# Do you do Social

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<https://www.facebook.com/Zion-Lutheran-Church-Lewistown->

