



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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March 2024 Newsletter

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MARCH SERVANT SCHEDULE:

	GREETER	LECTOR	COMM. ASST.	USHER
<u>3/3</u>	Steve & Michelle Trafton	Lana Papp	Bill & Vickey Cowen	
<u>3/10</u>	Karen Combs & Brian Sukut	Suzie Flentie		Hope & Brian Sukut
<u>3/17</u>	Tim & Cherie Errecart	Karen Combs		John & Jody d'Autremont
<u>3/24</u>	Brian & Lynette Sallee	Lynette Sallee	Hope Sukut & Amy Sallee	Bill & Vickey Cowen
<u>3/31</u>	Laurie Bentley	Lynn Franz	Karen Combs & Lynn Franz	Brian Sukut

***IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FULFILL YOUR DUTY, PLEASE FIND YOUR OWN REPLACEMENT**



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

We share God's call to experience purpose, wholeness, and community in Jesus Christ and faithfully steward his creation.



³Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. ¹⁴Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

As part of the sermon, February 25, I asked the church to share with me how they actively engage in ministry in the community. What I learned, from this exercise, is that the church of Zion is active in at least nineteen ministries of the community. This involvement includes time and resources.

Besides these known ministries, several members of the church offer rides to those in need; check-in on our elderly and shut-ins, shovel snow covered sidewalks where needed, and do various activities to lift up the youth of the community, and much more. All of these acts of loving-kindness show who we are as beloved and forgiven children of God.

A few mentioned their prayer life for the community, and attending worship to hear God's Word. As I contemplated these two responses, I wondered why everyone did not write these two important acts of compassion on their card. Obviously, everyone at worship engaged in prayer, and were hearing God's Word, but these two acts of loving-kindness were not included on many of the lists.

How many of us fail to realize that without hearing God's Word and without prayer, our body, mind and souls cannot be turned to God's will rather than our own will? Hearing scripture and knowing God's voice through scripture and prayer are the only way for us to know God's will for our lives, and God's will for us to use our gifts to God's glory. Otherwise, we are only feeding our own egos; essentially, we are creating our lives as an idol, and are putting ourselves in control of our lives rather than God.

While so many of the church are engaged in great ministry for the community, I want to remind you to never underestimate the power of worship and prayer. Worship and prayer are essential to community ministry. What you are engaging in on Sunday morning strengthens you for your work in the community. I give thanks to God each time you worship and pray with us at Zion. I know by doing so, we all are strengthened for what God is calling us to; both as individuals and as the church.

In Christ,

Pastor Audrey

2024 Trust Scholarship Applications are available on the narthex table or on the church website. Please call the church office if you have any questions.



Click [HERE](#) to see the March calendar.

Staying connected with our church just got easier. Just download the Instant Church app and you will have access to our church directory.



If you haven't already, please download this app. You can use your home computer or a smart phone. If you are no able to do either of these options, we Have printing hard copies in the office.

Teach Us to Pray: Lent 2024

It has been heard that Lutheran's don't pray; that either they don't take the time to pray; or they don't feel they know how. Some say they don't have the right words; others are just so unsure about prayer they don't know where to begin.

Being unsure about prayer is not new. Luke, chapter eleven tell us that Jesus' disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. In 1535 Martin Luther's barber asked Martin to teach him to pray. In the last few months a member suggested to pastor Audrey that it would be nice to have a refresher course on prayer. It seems longing to hear God's voice; longing to have a relationship with God is a natural response. However, opening a dialogue with God in order to know that voice does not come as easy.

Zion's focus during Lent of 2024 will be prayer. There are diverse ways to pray. We will look at how Jesus taught the disciples and Luther's response to his barber. We will pray with scripture, and learn to intercede for others when their "sighs are too deep" for words. We will challenge one another to be intentional in prayer; not just in emergencies but throughout our lives.

Join us Wednesday at 6pm as we worship and become more comfortable with prayer.



Wednesday Night Line-Up

- ***B.L.A.S.T. and Rainbow Choir**
will meet from 3:30pm-5:30pm
- ***Wee Singers** will meet from 5-5:30pm
- ***Confirmation** will meet from 4:00pm – 5:00pm
- ***Dinner 5:15 – 6:30pm**
- ***Worship 6:00 – 6:30pm**
- ***PZYG 6:45 – 8pm**



- * **Jessie**
- * **Tia**
- * **Becky**
- * **Augustus**
- * **Scot**
- * **Doris**
- * **Janet**

March 10, 2023

11:30am - 2:00pm

Menu:

Lutefisk with cream sauce and butter
Swedish Meatballs
Lefse
Scandinavian Cookies
Lutheran Coffee

Prices:

Adults \$20
Children 6-12 \$10
Children under 5 Free



Lutefisk
Dinner

March Social Concern is...

Scholarship Fund

The Zion Scholarship Fund administered by the Trust Committee. This fund was established approximately 30 years ago as a memorial for one of our members by his family. Students who are active members of Zion and who are pursuing a Bachelor's Degree or attending an accredited institution of higher learning (i.e. Technology/Trade School) are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Twenty Zion students have received scholarships from this fund over the past 5 years. Individuals and Zion Lutheran Church Women have financially contributed to it over the years. Since the cost of higher education has greatly outpaced inflation, financial support for students is more critical now than ever. Please consider contributing to this important Zion ministry to help keep the fund solvent long into the future.

If you would like to contribute, please make your check to Zion and note "Trust Scholarship" on the memo line.

B.L.A.S.T.

Believe, Learn, and Seek Truth

Calendar & Lessons:

- March 6th – We can shine God’s light.
March 13th- Jesus is the light in the darkness.
March 20th- Easter Lesson
March 27th- NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES
March 28th- Maundy Thursday Worship
March 29th- Good Friday Worship
- April 3rd- Its always good to be humble.
April 10th- We can always forgive.
April 17th – Jesus is always fair.
April 24th- Love always needs action.
- May 1st- Mother’s Day Project
May 8th- Last B.L.A.S.T. Lesson
May 15th- B.L.A.S.T. Tea Party



MARCH 15TH

6 – 8PM

ALL ARE WELCOME.

BRING A FRIEND.

**DROP THE KIDS OFF FOR
DINNER, CRAFTS, & GAMES**

**Please call or text Falan if
you plan on coming.**

406-380-0442



Hi Everyone. Rez here this month.

You may remember I am one of the cats that Pastor Audrey and Eric inherited with the house. I had been relegated to the outdoor “cat house,” but once they moved in and added the “dog” (yes, discriminatory because cats are smart too and can figure out how to use it) I became an indoor/outdoor cat.

I also have let everyone know I like to lay on laps, be petted, and sometimes fall asleep with a human. That brings me to my word for the day, “jealousy.” Jealousy is not good. Jealousy can cause hard feelings and can even lead to physical violence. Jealousy can disrupt an entire household; even if the majority of those in the household are not jealous. We should all know that if we don’t hog all of the attention there is enough love and attention for all.

But, in our house, we seem to have one animal that doesn’t trust there is enough for everyone. His name is Chance. You know, we were doing perfectly fine before Eric brought Chance for a visit and then left him here. Me and the outside cats, Robin and Lucy, had an understanding about there being “enough” for everyone and the dogs pretty much left us alone. But Chance does not understand that I guess. Chance gets all grouchy and mean if he thinks I am on Pastor Audrey or Eric’s lap too much. Even though we don’t even like the same food he will stand by his food dish and hiss... sometimes if I even walk by, he jumps at me. The thing is this behavior doesn’t just upset me. It upsets the dogs. When they hear the commotion they bark and come running. It upsets Pastor Audrey (she can really yell when she is upset.) It just isn’t good.

Pastor Audrey says jealousy is not a good look on any of us. She reminds us that none of us deserve what we have and we should just be grateful for what we do have; we have a warm house, good food, and there are enough laps in the house for cuddle time for all of us. She reminds us that there is enough love in this house for all of us too.

So, I guess my advice this month is that if you ever find yourself being jealous stop and look at what you do have; and then be grateful. I know I am grateful that there is now a warm house for me to come into when it is cold outside and Pastor Audrey and Eric provide really good food.

Until next time,

Rez



Care Packages --- Donations and Addresses Needed

Presbyterian and Zion youth group are collaborating with the Caring Ministry team to send care packages to former students who are away from home — either pursuing education or serving in the military. If you know of someone who should receive a package, please contact the church office or Pastor Audrey with his/her name and address. We also are accepting donations for the care packages. If you have something to donate, please bring it to the church. Items to consider include: toiletries, snacks, school/office supplies.

We would like to send these packages the middle of March. Thank you for helping us stay in touch with those in our faith family who are away from home!

Zion Lutheran Council Highlights from the Febraury 19, 2024 meeting

Election of officers:

Lloyd McKenna-President
Denise Goodwyn -Vice President
Bob Bjelland-Treasurer/Finance
Julie Comes-Secretary

Committee reports and assignments:

Financial-Bob Bjelllland
Caring Ministries-Kay Golik
Community Connections-Suzie Flentie
Facilities-Aaron Aanenson, Brian Sukut
Faith Formation-open
Mutual Ministry-Julie Comes
Stewardship-Lloyd McKenna & Denise Goodwyn
Technology-Chelsey Rogers is considering
Worship- Annette Fjellheim
ZLCW- Laurie Bentley

New Business:

- Installation of new Council Members will be Sunday March 10. During worship.
- Council approved Finance committee's recommendation to raise the hourly wage for sidewalk snow removal.
- Next meeting will be March 18, 2024

The Presbyterian Zion youth group hosted a first ever bake-off to fund their summer mission trip.

This was ENTIRELY the youth's work.

There were 49 entries.12 judges; a live auction for the baked goods; and a free-will offering soup lunch.

Final tallies with the anonymous \$500 match and donations was \$4668.74.

Each category winner took home \$40.

Way to be church PZYG. Zion, and First Presbyterian.

Winners were:

Quick Bread – Avis Simpson **Bar cookies** – Sharon Nordahl **Drop Cookies**- Lynette Salle

Pie- Laurie Bentley **Cake** - Lynette Sallee **Yeast Bread** - Lynette Sallee

A special thanks to our wonderful judges: Stan Olson, Scot Solberg, Brandon Cowen, Bill Cowen, Tanner Hoversland, Ryan D'Autrement, Aaron Aanenson, Will Briggs, Kylie Peterson, Sydney Wagner, Butch Sturtz, & Luana Sturtz.

Falan Aanenson for tallying the judges scores; Jayson Shobe; auctioneer, Debby Shobe; auction clerk, Cindy Geise, Stan Olson, Audrey Olson, Dawn Cowen, and Aaron Aanenson for working the kitchen, and everyone who stayed, made bids, and participated in the fun of the event.

Pictures on page 8>>>>>

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Palm Sunday: March 24th @ 9:30am

Wednesday: No Activities

Maundy Thursday: Worship @ 6pm

Good Friday: Worship @ 6pm

Easter Sunday: Sunrise Worship @7:30am

Breakfast @ 8:30am

Worship @ 9:30am



DUTY GUIDELINES FOR USHERS

1. Be on duty fifteen minutes before service.
2. If necessary, turn on lights in nave, chancel, and narthex.
3. Make sure guest register is open and working pen is with it.
4. Check bulletin for baptism or special events that may need attention. Check with pastor if you have questions.
5. Stand near the nave doors to distribute bulletins. As needed, usher persons to their pews (e.g., the infirm, new members, etc.) especially as last minute folks come in and see that the back pews are full.
6. Fill out the *Attendance Record*. Leave in the narthex or place in the offering plate.
7. **The Offering**
 - Offering plates will remain at the back (not passed through the pews).
 - Always look at the bulletin to see when the offering should be taken to the front.
 - Receive the offering in the choir loft and narthex, as needed.
 - Ushers come forward with the offering plates when the acolyte comes to the altar rail to receive the offering plates.
9. **The Communion.**
 - Ushers should open the narthex doors and take their positions in the aisle at the front during the singing of the “Lamb of God”, so that members can be directed forward while the pastor communes the assistants.
 - Ushers will move back pew by pew to maintain a steady line of communicants.
 - Inform the pastor if there are persons to be communed in their pew.
10. Tidy the pews after worship. Pick up papers and put hymnals and Bibles in place.

Communion Guidelines

Please come to the sacristy during the singing of the “Holy, Holy, Holy”.
(If that is not sung, come during the Offering.)

Wash your hands at the sink.

Decide who will:

- who will serve wine, who will pick up cups (if serving by trays),

During the singing of the “Lamb of God” come to the front and stand at the altar to receive communion.

Leave the emptied trays at the altar. Place the covers on the unused trays remaining on the tables.

Exit through the sacristy to take your seat.