



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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April 2021 Newsletter

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April SERVANT SCHEDULE:

	USHER	LECTOR	COMM. ASST.
11	Aaron Aanenson	Falan Aanenson	Falan, Foss, Cameryn
18	Foss Wilson	Lana Papp	Lana, Falan, Cheyenne
25	Kathy Task	Karen Combs	Karen, Linda Robenson



APRIL CALENDAR

1	9:00am	Quilting
	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Worship
2	12:00pm	Good Friday Worship @ First Presbyterian Church
4	8:00am	Easter Worship
	9:30am	Easter Worship
	11:00am	Easter Worship
5	Church office closed	
	4:00pm	Bible Study Leaders Meet
	5:30pm	Caring Ministry
7	12:00pm	Men over lunch at the elks
	12:00pm	Women's Podcast group
	3:30pm	BLAST
	No Confirmation	
8	9:00am	Quilting
	1:30pm	Ruth Circle
	4:00pm	Hosanna Circle
11	9:30am	Worship
13	9:30am	Rachel Circle

14	6:45am	Men's Bible Study
	12:00pm	Men Over Lunch at the Elks
	3:30pm	BLAST
	3:45pm	Confirmation
15	9:00am	Quilting
18	9:30am	Worship Affirmation of Baptism
19	7:00pm	Church Council Meeting
20	10:00am	Staff Meeting
21	12:00pm	Men Over Lunch at the Elks
	3:30pm	BLAST
22	9:00am	Quilting
25	9:30am	Worship
28	6:45am	Men's Bible Study
	12:00pm	Men Over Lunch at the Elks
	3:30pm	BLAST
29	9:00am	Quilting



Pastor's Page

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. (John 12:23-26)

We have had an unseasonably mild spring this year! As tempting as it is to put flowers in my planters I know that we could still get another freeze (or two), so I will wait. Many of us have felt like those grains of wheat Jesus uses as an illustration in this passage from John, having been buried in the earth since the pandemic started. But signs of new life are beginning to emerge.

One of my Facebook friends said she has finally returned to work in the office rather than from home. With more people getting vaccinated we are feeling freer to gather with friends and travel farther from home. Little by little, life is coming after the death and darkness of this past year.

But we have not quite yet made it through to the other side of this pandemic. The Central Montana Health District is still strongly encouraging wearing masks and keeping distance when we gather. We are all longing to sing together again—trust me, I get it! On Easter Sunday you will be invited to sing a verse or two, **with** your masks on. Like spring in Montana, we must wait a little longer to return to a full sanctuary and gathering without masks.

I wonder what will be new for us as we come into our post-COVID life. What needed to die in order for something new to appear in the ways we live and relate to one another? In Jesus' conversation with his disciples, he directs them to the dying of our inward-looking lives so that the birth of a life of serving God and others can bloom forth.

A few of our members did some phone calling this year, especially to those we knew could not worship at church. It wasn't often, but what if our new life included more intentional check-ins with one another? Our new video equipment is helping us reach out beyond our walls and city limits to many others. How can this tool help us both worship with and serve those who connect with us online?

I hope we are willing to be surprised by what comes about in the coming year. (See the article on Faithful Innovations on page 5.) No one really expected Jesus to rise from death (even though he told them he would, several times)! We are an Easter people, who follow the risen Christ in lives of service to God and our neighbors. May we be awakened to new possibilities in the coming days, months, and years!

Pastor Lynne

<p>Pastor Lynne will be on vacation April 5-11. Call the church office if you have pastoral care needs.</p>



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP, FAITH IN ACTION, OUTREACH, FELLOWSHIP,
NEWS, EVENTS, CAUSES, HAPPENINGS, COMMUNITY,
STEWARDSHIP, MINISTRY, CONNECTIONS & MORE!

Holy Week and Easter Worship

April 1	Maundy Thursday	7:00pm- Worship at Zion
April 2	Good Friday	Noon—Ecumenical Worship at First Presbyterian
April 4	Easter Sunday	8:00am – Worship at Zion 9:30am – Worship at Zion 11:00am – Outdoor Worship at Zion

The 11:00 service may be held in the parking lot if the weather allows, which will also allow us to sing more hymns. We will have one congregational hymn, singing with masks on, as part of the indoor services.



March Social Concern is...

Farm in the Dell

The Heart of Montana Farm in the Dell is working to provide a lifelong home for individuals with developmental disabilities (farmers) to live and work in an agricultural setting. Your donations will be used to further the mission and enhance the production of the farm with the ultimate goal of bringing "farmers" home on the farm in Central Montana. Currently, we are working on cultivating the ground and growing our pumpkin patch for the Fall Festival and are looking for individuals to assist with that endeavor. We always have volunteer opportunities on the farm doing odds and ends or if you are interested in being a board member please contact us.



Thank you for your generous support to Council on Aging in February! Zion gave them \$900 for their loving service to the elders in our community!

We have not yet assigned a Social Concern for the month of June. If you have a suggestion, contact someone on the Caring Ministry committee, Lana Papp or Alicia Balster.

Growing in Faith

Zion Lutheran Church has many ways to grow in faith all while getting to know the people in our church family. Weekly worship services take place on Sundays at 9:30 am. For even more ways to make connections & grow in faith take look at what's happening at Zion every week!

- **ZLCW Circle Bible Studies:**
 - Hosanna Circle** – Bible study meetings the 2nd Thursday of the month at 4 pm in the Fireside room. Contact person: Lynette Sallee 406-535-5236*
 - Rachel Circle** – Bible study meetings the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room. Contact person: Debby Shobe 406-535-5864*
 - Ruth Circle** – Bible study meeting the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Contact person: Kathy Trask 406-535-5601*
- **Women's Podcast group**— The Podcast group meets the first Wednesday of the month from 12:00 – 1:00pm. Check the calendar for where they will be meeting next.
- **Men over Lunch**—Join this lively men's group each Wednesday at 12:00 pm for good food and good company! Men Over Lunch meet at the Elks
- **B.L.A.S.T.** – Stands for Believe, Learn, and Seek Truth. 2nd -6th grade kids meet Wednesdays after school at 3:30.
- **Confirmation Classes** – 7th & 8th grade kids meet at 3:45 pm on Wednesdays in classes designed to teach bible lessons in preparation for the Affirmation of Baptism.

Have you found our worship services online?

The easiest way to find our online worship videos is to go to our website: www.zionlewistownelca.com

On the front page of the website are two icons:

 will take you directly to our YouTube channel where you can watch at the same time as an in-church service. Previous services are also available here. Check out Playlists to find funerals and Children's Time videos.

 will take you directly to the Zion Facebook page. Click on the More tab and scroll down to Videos to find some of our past worship videos.

On our website you can also point to the Worship tab and a drop-down menu will show Video Worship Services. These videos are from previous services along with access to a bulletin for each service.

Faithful Innovations

For the past few months a team of Zion members has been working with leaders in the Montana Synod in a process known as Faithful Innovations. It is a process by which we listen for and observe the presence of God in the world—in individual lives, in our congregation and in our community. In faithful response, we will try something new, or be innovative! The hope is that we will learn to follow the movement of the Holy Spirit to guide our ministry as a congregation in ways that respond to the needs around us, rather than keeping on with what we've always done...because we've always done it.

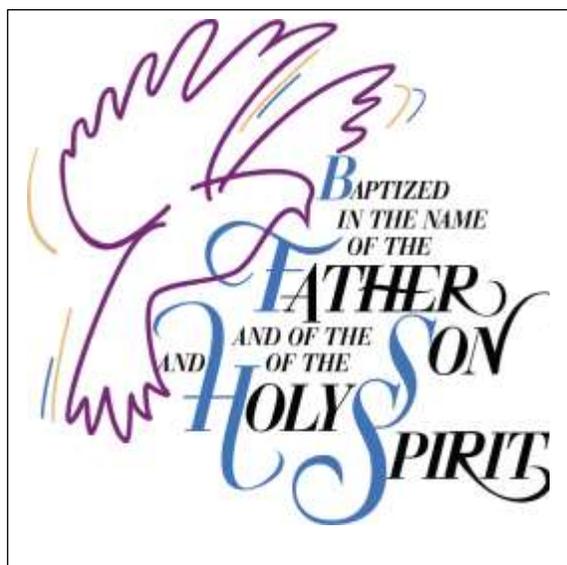
Faithful Innovations involves three seasons—listening, experimenting, evaluating. For the past few months our team has been engaging in conversations with others to hear where they have known God's presence in their lives. We still have some listening to do in our congregation and around the community to see if there are any needs that we might address.

Once we decide on a particular need, we will form an experiment, which just means trying something new! It will have a particular time period, and after that we'll look back at it and see what worked or didn't work, what might be adjusted, and whether it is something we want to continue. We have an outstanding team who are ready to try new things, but we can't do this without the rest of the congregation!

We will meet with our coach, Pastor Ben Quanbeck (King of Glory LC, Billings), this month to determine our next steps. Don't be surprised if you are asked some interesting questions! Or maybe you would like to help us out with some of our conversations or experiments to learn where God might be calling us to serve.

Please hold our Faithful Innovations team in prayer, and be ready to join in if asked!

Monte Solberg, Lori Ann Lutz, Jamie Sura, Lana Papp, Pastor Lynne Ogren



Affirmation of Baptism

April 18

On Sunday, April 18, we will rejoice with Cameryn Aanenson, Abbie Arntzen, and Rylee Cowen as they confirm the faith of their baptisms. We give thanks for their dedication to their instruction and for their families and Confirmation Companions who have journeyed with them these past two years. We pray this day will be a day they will treasure as an important moment in their ongoing lives of faith.



We have been interviewing each of the kids for the E-Blast every Monday. I thought it would be a great way for the congregation to get to know each of these wonderful kids.

Vacation Bible School is in the works. I will get more info out a.s.a.p. -Falan 😊



Upcoming Lessons

- 7 The Empty Tomb
- 14 Doubting Thomas
- 21 The Great Commission
- 28 The Good Shepherd

May 5th is our last Wednesday for the school year. We are planning a Family Tea Party



Updates to Zion Directory

We are getting ready to reprint another church directory. We know that many people have dropped their landlines and we need to be sure we have the correct numbers in our database.

If you have any changes to your phone, address, or family members please contact Falan in the church office, 538-5082 or zionelca@midrivers.com.

FaithTalk Conversation Cards

Has your family been using the FaithTalk cards we delivered a month or so ago? How is it going? What have been some good conversations you have had together?

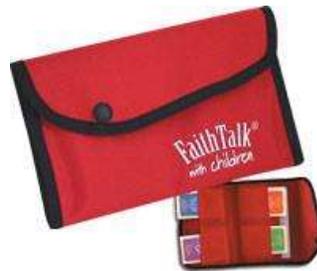


Send us your story so we can share it with others! Email

Falan, zionelca@midrivers.com

or

Pastor Lynne pastorlynn@midrivers.com



Zion Trust College Scholarships

Applications to receive the Zion Trust Scholarship for the 2021/2022 school year are due **April 15, 2021.**

You can pick up a copy of the scholarship form in the office Monday-Friday 9am – 2pm.

Or you can request on through e-mail. zionelc@midrivers.com.



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