



Zion Lutheran Monthly

April 2021

Pastor's Corner

"Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!"

These are the words we start Easter with. Our entire Easter season is peppered with these words, salted with them so we may never forget. Jesus Christ truly has risen from the dead. Because we have been baptized into Christ, united to Christ through baptism, we will also rise from the dead (Romans 6). It is very right and fitting we shout, "*Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!*"

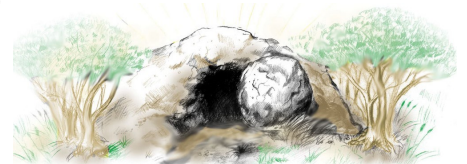
We need to say these words. We desperately need to be reminded of the reality of Christ's resurrection from the dead, because the reality we see around us is so often very different looking. We see our parents die, we see our spouses die, our friends, our family, even our children. We see the cold reality of death staring us in the face all the time. This is why we need the warm reality of the resurrection being shouted into our ears.



St. Paul understood what Christians like us go through. The church in the city of Thessalonica had Christians who were worried about the resurrection. They saw their loved ones die, just like we do. They saw spouses, friends, and children die as well. Seeing them die was just as hard for them as it is for us. St. Paul wrote to them, and you as well, saying:

[we do not want you to] grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep . . . For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words (*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*).

The reality of death we see around us is hard, it is bitter, it is heartbreaking. But the Easter proclamation "*Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!*" can soften the blow of death, comfort the sadness, and soothe the bitterness of death. We do grieve, but we do not grieve as those without hope. May we shout it out loud and remind ourselves constantly, "*Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!*"



— Pastor Grimenstein

Mission Moment:
**Promoting Zion's Internal, Local, and International
Missionary Efforts**

Blessed Lententide to My Beloved Supporters

PRAYER FOR YOU:

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that ... these my beloved supporters ... may continue to follow the example of His great humility and patience, and be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen!



The month of March was a little too emotional and hectic for the seminary family. Two seminarians lost their wives. One was in a tragic car accident where she died on the spot. The other had prolonged health issues. There were also two cases of miscarriages that occurred among the seminary wives which led to the wives' hospitalizations. (One of these wives, ironically, was the wife of the younger brother to the student who lost his wife in a car accident. So much tragedy in one family.)

Additionally, a seminary student on field work had a ghastly accident that required many stitches to his head. Another student was hospitalized from malaria and typhoid. There was also a student who had earlier in this same academic year lost his father, who now lost his grandmother. In all, the classmates of those seminarians were very supportive. In the case of the one whose wife died in the accident, the Seminary executive with his classmates paid the family a courtesy condolence, or what we here in the U.S. might give in support of outstanding expenses after a family tragedy.

The entrance exam was successfully carried out. A lot of the candidates made it. As pointed out in previous reports, the final list will depend on funding. We have until sometime in August, when they are expected to pay their fees, to compile the final list.

Even with the COVID-19 restrictions, we are still planning to carry out our Palm Sunday procession of close to 18 kilometers (11 miles) around the community with our banners and processional cross. It is an indirect evangelism. This involves all the students, the new Dean of Students, the new Rector, and myself.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for the bereaved families and the seminarians who are going through health issues, especially those still hospitalized.
- Pray that funding will be available for us to submit the final list of admitted candidates before the August deadline.
- Pray for safety and journey mercies to / from for the students during their Easter break.

Have a Blessed remainder of Lent, in particular Holy Week, and a Joyous Easter Season!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Wokoma

1 Tim 1:15

Chairman's Report

One Year of Testing Behind Us

Praise the Lord! Let's give thanks for the past year of trials and testing, in that your church has stayed the course well. Thank you, the members of Zion, for standing fast and supporting our efforts to maintain the worship services and availability of the sacraments as the Word continues to be preached in truth and purity. You all are a wonderful church and the Council sends their collective thanks for your efforts. Let's recall the words of the Psalmist in Chapter 91 and say of the Lord, *"My refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.*

Our overall operation is gaining relative strength each week. What is important to remember is this is the Easter Season! These are the weeks of Easter and this particular series of weeks are the reason Christianity is the way to the salvation in Christ the world so desperately needs. We are the mouthpieces to the unchurched, misguided and otherwise agnostic souls that have no sense of eternal purpose and life through the blessings of Easter and what Easter means to the entire world. Let's "Return to the Lord" in force and with a sense of purpose this year and continue to worship our God with a wonderful sense of community at Zion. The Elders and Pastor have certainly kept the doors open and the Word flowing this past year of tribulation. Let's fill the pews.

The Council and especially your Trustees are planning a lot of work this coming summer at the campus. There could be some minor inconvenience caused by construction in July/August ... thank you in advance for your understanding. (More on this later.) On April 25th after the 2nd service, we're going to have the regular quarterly Voter's Meeting, so please attend this meeting to stay informed on various items at Zion! A light, delicious luncheon will be served again. Save the date!

Easter!!! Praise the Lord! He is risen INDEED! Pray for the Christians on this planet, the LCMS Church and our ministries overseas. Pray for your parish at Zion and enjoy being a Christian. Salvation created! Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.



— Paul Klemash



Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 1st — 2:00 & 7:00 pm

Good Friday

Friday, April 2nd — 2:00 & 7:00 pm
(Prelude Music begins at 6:30)

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 4th — 8:00 & 10:30 am



Bridgeville Area Food Bank

This month's collection for the Bridgeville Area Food Bank is Sunday, April 11. The "items of the month" are rice, noodles and beans.

You are also welcome to help at the food bank every third Saturday of the month between 7:45 am and 12:00 pm at Bethany Presbyterian Church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday school check-in runs from 9:20-9:30 am. Classes begin at 9:30 am.

See the checklist below for what you need to know before, upon arrival, and leaving Sunday school.



April Lessons & Teachers

Dates	Lessons	Pre - K	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 6
		Room 205	Room 208	Room 207	Room 206
April 4	EASTER — No Classes				
April 11	Jesus Heals Jairus' Daughter	Megan Glasser	Megan Migyanko	Linda Kroeger	Tess Carter
April 18	Jesus Walks on Water	Barb Oechslein	Megan Meyer	Linda Kroeger	Tess Carter
April 25	Jesus Heals a Blind Man	Barb Oechslein	Carrie Lemonovich	Andy Weldon	Susie Bishop

The Apologetics Lessons taught by Michele Wallace are finished for the school year.

Apologetics students are encouraged to attend adult/teen Bible Study in the fellowship hall with Pastor Grimenstein as they are currently studying the book of 2nd Thessalonians.

Sunday School Checklist

We have been working hard to put appropriate safety measures in place. Information has been emailed to Sunday school parents with specific details regarding COVID-19 practices and requirements for Sunday school. Below is a Quick Checklist parents can use before arrival.

- Submit **Release Form regarding COVID-19 Matters** (www.zlcb.org/sunday-school)
- Submit the **COVID-19 Health and Safety Procedures Form** (www.zlcb.org/sunday-school)
- **Face masks** are required. Don't forget to send one with your child.
- All children will report to their designated **Temperature Check Station** before going to class.
- All children will **wash or sanitize hands** before entering and upon leaving their classroom.
- **No food or water** will be provided! Water fountains are closed. Parents can send a labeled water bottle, if necessary.

Virtual Sunday School Options

We will offer LIVE Sunday school lessons via Zoom to our students from 1st - 9th grades. Your teacher will email you requesting an RSVP to the virtual class. If you have not received an email and would like your child to participate, please contact Katie Gielarowski.

We Need You!

at Vacation Bible School

We are planning in-person VBS the week of **June 21 – 25 from 9am – noon.**

The VBS team is developing a safe environment for both students and volunteers. **At this point, our current and most important need is volunteers to help in areas such as the nursery and guiding children to VBS stations.** More details to come, but if you would like to help or have any questions, you



can contact Katie Gielarowski at sundayschool@zlcb.org, or in person. Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can share Christ's love with His children!

In the Spotlight



He is Alive!!!

During Chapel the week prior to Easter, I taught the children all about the Easter story. To help me tell the story I created a visual tool — “Resurrection Eggs” — to help explain each part of the story. I used 10 brightly colored “eggs” on the felt board, with a picture underneath each egg. The children were asked to remove the egg and see what was underneath. Each picture they uncovered helped to tell a part of the story. They loved it!

I also explained that this story can get “a little scary in the middle, but not to be afraid.... It has the best ending ever!!”

To help the children re-tell the story at home, we gave each student a set of “Resurrection Eggs”. The set also included a description sheet of each picture and how to help them remember what it represents. Information on Zion’s upcoming Holy Week service schedule was also included. Here are a few comments from our parents about the “Resurrection Eggs” take-home kit.

“I just wanted to thank you for taking the time and effort to send home a set of Resurrection Eggs with each student. I think it's a very clever way to share this important story with my boys and I really appreciate the learning tool.”

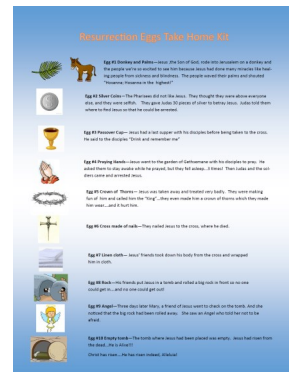
“This was adorable and so special. Rhea loved bringing her eggs home and sharing the story with all of us!”

“Thank you for sending home the resurrection kit. Carmelita recited it to us and was so happy and proud. That was a beautiful idea.”

“I just wanted to drop you a quick message to let you know how nice and helpful this is! IT's the little extra touches like this that make us just love Zion so much. Thank you for going above and beyond. Your hard work doesn't go unnoticed and is very much appreciated. Happy Easter!”



Chapel felt board with “Resurrection Egg” activity



Description sheet

Belize Mission Support: *meet Pastor Benjamin Flores*

At the Board of Elder's March meeting, the board voted to support a new international mission in Central America. Rev. Benjamin Flores (see pic below) will be supported in the amount of \$7,500 annually for a 3 year commitment from the board's *Pastor Discretionary Fund*. Zion Lutheran Preschool will be supporting the "*Little Lambs Lutheran Preschool*" in the amount of \$2,500 annually for a 3-year commitment (see next page).



Bolivian Pastor Benjamin Flores served as a vicar in Belize for the last few years. He was ordained in Bolivia this past November and will continue serving in Belize along with his wife, Karina, as alliance missionaries sent by the Bolivian Lutheran Church. Currently, the couple are working on their permanent residency applications in Belize. As a native Spanish speaker Benjamin provides cultural insights and recommendations on how best to share the gospel, plant Lutheran churches and show mercy to our Spanish speaking friends.



Cont'd ...

Belize Mission Support: *a Church & School*

Just outside of Belmopan in the small village of *Valley of Peace* (see map on prior page), missionaries recognized the need for a church and school that could serve the community and be a safe haven for children and their families to hear the Word of God.



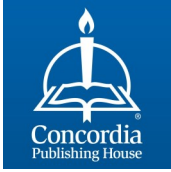
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church just had its first confirmands. The first individuals Pastor Flores connected with in Belize have now begun catechism classes and are learning more about the church and what it means to be Lutheran Christians. This family has invited their neighbors to participate in the classes with them and hear the Word of God. Along with catechism classes, Pastor Flores hosts Bible studies on Saturdays, which are attended by over 20 children. Recently, a group of 30 also gathered together for VBS. With God's grace, what was once only a vision, has now taken root.

Little Lambs Lutheran Preschool will teach students about Jesus and help them learn English, as oftentimes the parents of the children only speak Maya or Spanish. Learning English is essential for preparing the students for public school where they will have to speak the language.



Little Lambs Lutheran Preschool



From the CPH
Blog

The Beautiful Routine of the Liturgy

By Marie Greenway Feb 23, 2021

A day or two before Ash Wednesday, I remarked to my husband, “I can’t wait for Lent.” In a dreary year of isolation, anxiety, moral quandaries, political polarization, disease, and death, compounded all the more by the last few months of gloomy, wintry skies and cold weather, I am ready for spring. Lent means that spring is coming and that Easter is drawing ever nearer. It is a yearly routine that remains unchanging even in the face of a pandemic and societal disruption.



Routine and the “Merely Inconvenienced”

Among all the intense suffering we’ve witnessed recently, I might categorize a different group that my husband and I fall into as the “merely inconvenienced.” We give thanks that we haven’t lost jobs or loved ones to the pandemic, our mental health is generally intact, we don’t have a family of little ones to guide through online learning, and we have a wonderful church community to offer mutual support and encouragement. I remember early on in 2020 people criticizing another group of the “merely inconvenienced”: high school athletes who mourned the loss of their sports seasons. The sentiment of the criticisms was that these athletes shouldn’t complain because the loss of a sports season is inconsequential compared to all the other suffering happening around them.

These naysayers miss the point of all of the “merely inconvenienced.” Although, of course, we should be thankful for our blessings of health and an income, there is a very real suffering in the loss of those things we love that mark the seasons of our years. The loss of our routines is something to be mourned. Routine, and its partner, repetition, are vital aspects of humanity, and when we lose them, we lose the things that give us comfort and a purpose.

Routine and Repetition in the Church

Thus, God gives us the gift of routine and repetition in the Church Year and in the Divine Service. The Church Year grants us a great and glorious routine year after year, and it carries with it the liturgy, which gives our days and even our hours meaning and routine. At every Divine Service, we follow the same routine that guides us from confessing our sins, to hearing God’s Word, to receiving His salvation in the Eucharist. Although our hymnal presents us with various settings of the Divine Service, the components never vary.

Cont'd **The Beautiful Routine of the Liturgy**

The sameness of the liturgy, far from being dull and full of empty words, trains us, much like an athlete trains for his sport or a musician on her instrument. The athlete and musician are never criticized for repetition because it is well known that repetition sharpens skills and increases strength and stamina. The liturgy is our “training” for the life of a Christian. The text of the liturgy, taken from the Word, gives us the proper language to use to respond to God’s gift of salvation. We do not have to worry about coming up with something new and novel every day or about providing adequate language ourselves. Instead, God gives us the words. We then repeat these words week after week until we have them memorized, ingraining them in our minds and hearts.

A Routine for Our Salvation

All this routine and repetition is for our salvation. At the Divine Service each week, Christ offers His own body and blood to us in, with, and under the bread and wine. This Sacrament gives us forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, and it is not up to us to procure it. When what we do is limited, when our routines are disrupted, Christ comes to us in the Holy Supper, never changing, always repeating. He never tires of the sameness of the service. It is His gift to us that we do not have to figure it out on our own but rather can rely on His Word and His Sacraments. The liturgy is our routine that brings us to this Supper. Even when the routines of the world are disrupted and mourned, the routine of the liturgy is ever-present, with us for thousands of years and continuing into eternity.

The routine of the liturgy continues to draw us into the story of salvation and leads us to that which grants us salvation: Christ and His body and blood shed for us. Continue your training. Continue your salvific routine even amid the turmoil of the world. Spring is coming. Easter is coming. Christ’s resurrection is near.



Marie Greenway is a music teacher at Immanuel Lutheran School in Alexandria, Virginia.



Shout Out to Students



Lydia Grimenstein graduated from Point Park University in December of last year with a degree in Arts Management. She has been serving as the Assistant Manager of Patron Services at Pittsburgh Ballet Theater for two years and was recently profiled on Point Park’s website. To see the article, visit [Lydia Grimenstein Shares Passion for Dance at PBT](#). Lydia is thrilled to announce that in March she was hired as the Stewardship Specialist for the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis. She will be leaving us after Easter to move back to her “hometown”. We wish Lydia God’s richest blessings as she prepares to begin the next stage of her life.



Zion’s Forward in Faith Kitchen Campaign March Update

We’re pleased to announce that during March we raised **\$5,869.20**. This brings the total kitchen fund amount to **\$42,061.49** as of 3/29/21. This is a tremendous blessing as we work toward our goal of raising \$100,000 to complete the kitchen renovation during the period from 6/28/21 — 8/6/21.

On March 27th, the Contract Review team — consisting of Congregational Chair Paul Klemash, Vice Chair Mike Sterba, Head Trustee Paul Hayes, Treasurer Tom Carthy, and Trustee/Engineer Dan Harris — met with Trustee/Church Custodian Jim Oelschlager to review the final SDE (design/equipment) and ACS (construction) contracts. Contract signing is expected to occur before April 15th, 2021.



**Thank you to all who have generously supported the campaign in this early stage!
Please continue to support these efforts with your time, talents and treasure.**



**Lutherans
For Life**

www.lutheransforlife.org

888.364.LIFE

Lutherans for Life witnesses to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God. It serves through individuals who volunteer at pregnancy care centers, with hospice, through prayer, and in a wide variety of caring activities. It educates and encourages through conferences and workshops, printed resources and newsletters, Life Sunday materials and Bible studies, curricula, video, and through the website www.lutheransforlife.org

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

(Based on appointed readings from Lutheran Service Book)

April 4 – Resurrection of Our Lord – Sinful selfishness made human flesh an agent of death. Jesus Christ’s resurrection claims our bodies as instruments of life again. Since abortion and assisted suicide do not bring life, they cannot come from God—or from God’s people. Receiving life as His gift sometimes means waiting (Isaiah 25:9), but this wipes away tears from every face (Isaiah 25:8).

April 11 – Easter II – Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed (John 20:29) that even an embryo is a life worth having. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed that even becoming incapacitated or uncommunicative is a life worth living. Blessed are we who believe the Risen Savior proves every life precious!



April 18 – Easter III – “Repentance and forgiveness should be proclaimed in His name to all” (Luke 24:47). We should proclaim repentance and forgiveness even unto those who promote or take part in sins against the sanctity of life. If God blots out our guilt for killing the Author of life (Acts 3:15, 19), will He not do so for those who have had a hand in abortions?

*In
Appreciation*



To the Congregation of Zion Lutheran:

Our most sincere thank you for all the cards, notes, and prayers throughout Wayne’s illness. Thank you so much for the grapevine cross wreath and the thought of adding his favorite hymn “For All the Saints” to the wreath!

Your congregation has a special place in our hearts! Thank you for everything!

Blessings to all of you,

The Family of Pastor Wayne Hoffman
Noel, Greta, Seth and their families

April Service Participants

Date	Time	Acolytes
Apr 1 Maundy Thursday	7:00 PM	Elizabeth Lemonovich
Apr 2 Good Friday	7:00 PM	Will Schrag
Apr 4 Easter	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Will Schrag Sam Bishop
Apr 11	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Decklan Pasquini Christian Bonacci
Apr 18	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Noah Wallace Sam Bishop
Apr 25	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Decklan Pasquini Christian Bonacci

	Elders	Altar Guild	8:00 am Ushers	10:30 am Ushers
Apr	Roger Diederich Mike Wallace	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Shane Bryant, Bill Schrag, Ken Schrag, Tim Sheldon	Mike Kozak, Susie Bishop, Anna Gresh, John Lemonovich
May	Bob Schmidt Jim Neill	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Kathleen Conn, Michael Grimenstein, Janet & Larry Zreliak	Ross Chilcott, Bob Bonacci, Bill Koester & Chuck LaJeunesse

Parents ...



A Nursery Room for children 3 and under is now available on Sundays in the lower level near the Fellowship Hall (Room 101). Parent supervision is required as there are no nursery volunteer attendants at this time. In addition, the Family Care Room in the back of the sanctuary is equipped with a nursing chair and changing station items.



April

BIRTHDAYS

4th – David Hutula

5th – Bronco Golish

6th – Barbara Fisher

6th – Mildred Thielet

7th – Sandra Quinlan

8th – Rae Murphy

11th – Lydia Grimenstein

14th – Ryan Albert

18th – Lauren Liberatore

18th – Ava Pasquini

18th – Louis Schrecker

19th – Joy Golish

22th – Joan Cisko

25th – Mike Kroeger

25th – Mike Wallace

27th – Sarah Grimenstein

27th – Andrew Weldon

28th – Bob Schmidt

28th – Bethany Schrag

29th – Ryan Harris



April

ANNIVERSARIES

7th Tim & Carrie Albert



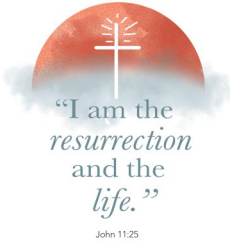
13th Chuck & Debbie LaJeunesse

18th Dale & Alice Miller

26th Carl & Karen Bauer



April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maundy Thursday 2:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm Worship	2 Good Friday 2:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm Worship	3
4 EASTER  8:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	5	6	7 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching	8 7:00 pm Elders Meeting	9	10 10:00 am Small Group Worship Service
11 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship FOOD BANK COLLECTION	12 6:00 pm 1st yr Confirmation 6:15 pm Grace Bell Choir 7:00 pm 2nd yr Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bell Choir	13	14 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching	15 7:00 pm Council Meeting	16	17 10:00 am Small Group Worship Service
18 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	19 6:00 pm 1st yr Confirmation 6:15 pm Grace Bell Choir 7:00 pm 2nd yr Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bell Choir	20	21 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching			24 10:00 am Small Group Worship Service
25 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Voter's Mtg. after 2nd Service	26 6:00 pm 1st yr Confirmation 6:15 pm Grace Bell Choir 7:00 pm 2nd yr Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bell Choir	27 7:00 pm Sunday School Mtg.	28 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching	28	30	

Sunday morning worship at 8:00am and 10:30am



Zion Lutheran Church
3197 Washington Pike
Bridgeville, PA 15017

