

April

2023



The Mountain Top Messenger

April 2023

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, LCMS ASHLAND, WI

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders: April 2 nd Scott Mjaundy Thursday 6 th JohnS/ Andy 7 th JohnP 9 th 7:00am Doug/ Andy 9:00am Scott/ Darryl 16 th JohnP 19 th Andy 23 rd Doug 26 th Darryl 30 th Scott						1
2 8:45am Sun. School 9:00am Worship 9:45am Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	3 10:00am Bible Study	4	5 No Wednesday night service	6 Maundy Thursday 6:30pm	7 Good Friday 6:30pm	8
9 EASTER 7:00AM 9:00AM 2:00pm LGP	10 Offices Closed	11 1:00pm Sewing Circle	12 No Wednesday night service	13	14	15
16 8:45am Sun. School 9:00am Worship 9:45am Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	17 10:00am Bible Study	18	19 6:30pm Worship Service	20 Winkel 9am 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	21	22
23 8:45am Sun. School 9:00am Worship 9:45am Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study	24 10:00am Bible Study	25 1:00pm Sewing Circle	26 6:30pm Worship Service	27	28	29
30 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study	1 MAY 10:00am Bible Study	2	3 6:30pm Worship Service	4 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	5	6

Easter is rapidly approaching, less than two weeks away. It seems as if this time of Lent has flown by. It has been somewhat of an exhausting time. Winter seems to just keep on keeping on. We have also had to say goodbye to a number of members of our church family. In the last two months the Lord has called home, Dave, Ann, Nancy, Richard, and Wendell. They will all be missed by family and friends; however, it is a great reminder of what this season is all about. As we prepare to revisit our Lord's death and blessed resurrection. It points us to that day when all of those who have been called home in the faith will experience resurrection. The spectacular day when our Lord returns, that day when every knee shall bow and every mouth confess that Jesus is Lord. And all of those who have gone before us, and we as well, whether we have been called home or are still alive, will receive our glorious, resurrected bodies. The apostle Paul explains it this way:

⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵ "O death, where is your victory?"

O death, where is your sting?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 15:51-57)

In less than two weeks we celebrate that victory of our Lord Jesus Christ. A victory that completes God's plan of salvation, and brings us into the fold as adopted children of God. And as His children we all share in the inheritance that is ours eternally in Heaven. We, you and I, and all those who have gone before us will be gathered together into that place of eternal joy and peace. While we can only imagine how wonderful it will be, we can be assured that it is far greater than anything we have ever imagined. And to that end we will all be reunited. There are times that I simply sit and try to understand, to soak in, all that God has done for us. It can truly boggle the mind. It is some of those times that I have to remind myself, I don't have to understand it all, I don't have to know it all. I simply need to accept it, accept it as a child accepts the leading of a loving parent. And even though it may seem selfish, it really is not, it is perfectly acceptable to realize that he has done it all for me.



April Altar Guild

Eleanor Munson 715-682-8155
Jane Hauser 715-779-5298

OFFICIAL ACTS WITH CHRIST IN PEACE
Richard Barringer
Wendell Friske 3-24-2023

"Let everything you do be done in love." - 1 Corinthians 16:14

"We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence." — Pope Francis

"The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies." - Kate McGahan

Yes, he did it for the whole world, but he also did for me. And just as He has done it for me, He has also done it for you. Trust and believe. Trust and believe that on that Easter morning, when Jesus was resurrected and freed from that tomb, He did it for you! He did it for you because He loves you and wants you to be with Him forever!

As has been said many times, "we are an Easter people" and indeed we are.

Thank you, Lord, for the blessing of Easter and life eternal.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Pastor Rick



Driving Test

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and asked his Dad if he could start using the family car.

The Dad said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car"

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks, the Dad said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

His Dad replied, "Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?"



Places of the Passion Holy Week

Palm Sunday
9:00am
Bethphage

Maundy Thursday
6:30pm
The Upper Room

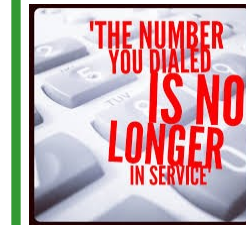
Good Friday
6:30pm
Golgotha

Easter Sunday
7:00am & 9:00am
The Garden Tomb



How do we contact him/her? That is a good question that has been asked lately.

There are times when we want to reach someone and we can't because their current phone number has



changed, been disconnected, unreachable. One current one is reaching our webmaster for our website. There hasn't been

a newsletter added since December. We have a phone # and email address and tried numerous times to reach him and received no replies. Since this is a business contact and not from around here we don't know how to contact him through someone else. This could happen with our members, when we don't get notified of change of address, email, phone #. Or we have a member who is on their own, leaves town and we would like to contact them, but their cell # isn't working, and we don't know who else we could contact. In most cases we would know who to contact but we don't want to take that as a sure thing. So, can you help us out? Can you give us a name or two along with their contact information that we could call if we needed. We won't put those names and numbers in our directory to publish, but to have in the office. It would be greatly appreciated.



"Easter is the demonstration of God that life is essentially spiritual and timeless."

— Charles M. Crowe

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

— Audrey Hepburn

When you read this, you will never think of Thunderstorms the same way again.

This should make you smile!!

A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with lightning.

The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school. She also feared the electrical storm might harm her child. Full of concern, the mother got into her car and quickly drove along the route to her child's school. As she did, she saw her little girl walking along.

At each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up, and smile. More lightning followed quickly and with each, the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile.

When the mother drew up beside the child, she lowered the window and called, "What are you doing?"

The child answered, "I am trying to look pretty because God keeps taking my picture."



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1111-11TH AVE WEST
ASHLAND, WI 54806**

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am live streamed
Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm
Sunday School - 1st - 7th grade Sunday 8:45am
Bible Studies

Sunday 10:15am Monday 10:00am 1st/3rd Thursday 6:30pm Women's Group

**Pastor Rick Williams -
715-209-0479**

**Office Hours:
M/T/TH 9:00-5:00
W 12:00-8:00 F Off**
Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

**Office Secretary Lynn Ladd
715-682-6075**

**Office Hours
M-W 9:00-2:30**
Days and times may change upon need of work.

**Church President:
John Pruss 715-292-4825**

**Head Elder:
Darryl Warren
715-492-0488**

**Website
www.zionashland.org**

**E-mail
secretary@zionlutheranashland.com**

**Little Friends of Jesus
Child Care Center:
715-682-5185**

**LFOJ Administrator:
Autumn Hedrick
715-682-6075**



PRAY LIST

**PRAYERS FOR
HEALTH AND HEALING**
For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during

cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:

Brad Prill
Alice Balmer
Frances Balmer
Penny Larson
Vi Basina
Dave Pearson
James Fletcher
Sheryl Hildebrandt
Harold Larson
Diane Beiersdorff
Linda Stenroos

Riley Bretting
Cindy Lazorik
Doug Preuter
Mike Trimble
Jamie Klema
Mike Ariens
Dwayne
Carol Schuelke
Molly Colgrove and
daughter
and those in our hearts

PRAYERS for Homebound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home

Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them.

Arlene Zimmerman Violet Basina Alice Balmer
Frances Balmer

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.

David Wright Jordan Thimm Andrew Pruss

Project Night Night donates over tens of thousands of Night Night Packages each year to over tens of

Project Night Night



thousands of Night Night Packages each year to homeless children 12 and under who need our childhood essentials to have a concrete and predictable source of security and an increased exposure to high-quality literacy materials during their time of upheaval. Each Night Night Package contains a new security blanket, an age-appropriate children's book, and a stuffed animal — all nestled inside of a new canvas tote bag. By providing objects of reliable comfort, Project Night Night reduces trauma and advances the emotional and cognitive well-being of the children we serve.

Every child who receives one of our Night Night Packages leaves the shelter owning a book which encourages reading and family bonding, a security blanket

which can be cuddled, and a stuffed animal which can become a cherished friend. We have one objective – to deliver our Night Night Packages to every homeless child in the country who needs one.



Story written by a 6-year-old with her dad

One [day](#) Annie was walking around. She gently picked up an Easter egg and shook it. She said, "No, there is nothing interesting in this one. I am an Easter egg hunter." She found a little purple egg and shook it. She picked it up and took it.

Another girl walked by her and joined. Her name was Kyla. Another came by and joined in. Her name was Emma. One more girl came by, and her name was Mia. They reached down and picked eggs up. Annie carefully picked up a purple egg. "I [love](#) Easter egg hunts," said Kyla.

The girls looked and looked for eggs, but they were only able to find empty ones. Annie looked over her shoulder and saw an injured puppy walking down the street. They went over to pick the puppy up. They took the puppy to the vet to have it checked out. The vet said that the puppy needs food, water, rest and love.

The girls decided to [adopt](#) the puppy. They loved it, played with it and gave it food and water. It played fetch. The egg hunts were so fun, but they played with their puppy instead.



One morning they woke up and found their Easter egg baskets full of beautiful eggs containing delicious candy. They ate one piece of candy and found a note under the candy. The note said: *Thank you for taking care of the puppy. Love, Katie.*

The girls didn't know who Katie was or how the eggs got there. Maybe it was magic?

They met Katie at school. They learned about math. Katie walked to school with them. They walked out of school together.



An Easter Prayer

*God, give us eyes to see the beauty of the Spring,
And to behold Your majesty in every living thing
And may we see in lacy leaves and every budding flower
The Hand that rules the universe with gentleness and power
And may this Easter grandeur that Spring lavishly imparts
Awaken faded flowers of faith lying dormant in our hearts,
And give us ears to hear, dear God,
the Springtime song of birds
With messages more meaningful than man's often empty words
Telling harried human beings who are lost in dark despair
Be like us and do not worry for God has you in His care.
—Helen Steiner Rice*



The Importance of Relationships

By Carey Nieuwhof

The truth about our culture is this: thanks to an abundance of technology, we have never been more connected as a culture before, and we've never felt more disconnected. As our lives have moved online, and as people have become more mobile and even (in growing numbers) location independent, people have never felt more lonely. We know our neighbors less than we ever have before. Note to self: it's really hard to love someone you don't know.



Our social media feeds give us the illusion of community. But read between the lines and you'll see intense loneliness and even the re-emergence of tribalism where we only (virtually) associate with the people who agree with us. When I talk to people in my community and around the world who are working through life issues, I always ask them "Who are you talking to about this?" The number one answer? Nobody.

People may have friends, but few have deep friendships, friendships that can carry the weight of life and faith and hope and meaning and existence. The church hasn't done a great job of community in the past. We claim to be friendly, but that usually only means we're friendly to each other. And catching up on what happened this week and talking about sports or the weather is hardly what Jesus had in mind when he told us to love one another.

But the truth is the real mission of the church is relationship. It defines the vertical nature of our faith (love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength) and the horizontal essences of Christianity (love your neighbor as yourself). If anyone can get relationship right, it should be the church. So ask yourself as a church leader: what are you doing to forge the deepest relationships you can forge in this life?

People always make time for the things they value most. If they're not making time for church, that tells you something.

A witty saying

The devil whispered in my ear, "You're not strong enough to withstand the storm."
Today I whispered in the devil's ear, "I am a child of God, a warrior of Christ, I am the storm."

Listen...

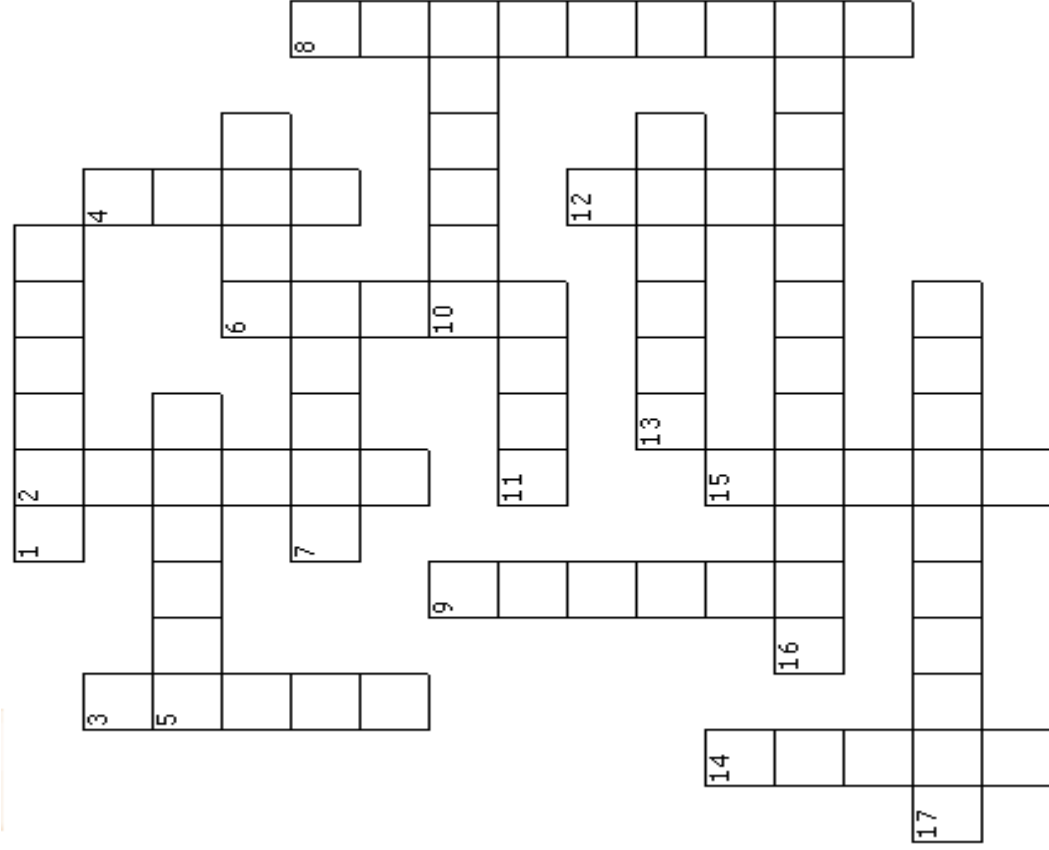
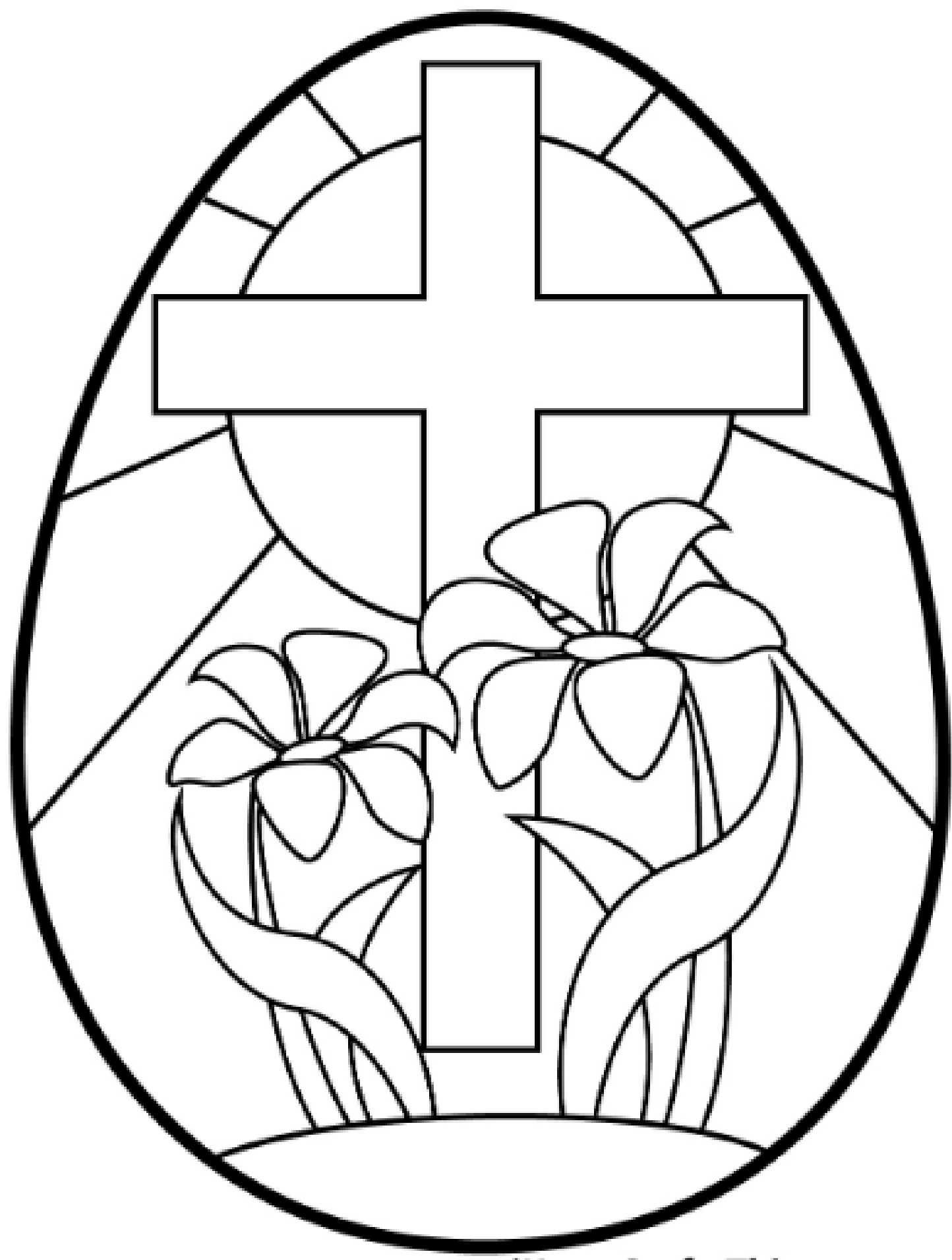
to the birds sing in the dawn or dusk to praise God for Spring!



An elderly woman

was filling out an application for residency in a retirement village. She was a bit nervous answering all the questions about her health, fearing she might be refused admission. But, she finally finished the form and then signed her name and filled in the place where it asked for her current address. After "Zip" she printed: "Normal for my age."





BUNNY
CROSS
HEAVEN
MAGDALENE
PETER
SPRING

CHRIST
EGGS
JUDAS
PALM
PILATE
STONE

COLT
GARDEN
LENT
PALMSUNDAY
RESURRECTION
THOMAS

PIERCED S
I A S L R U R P
E C S A S A T K
C N E S C I B L
E P D W O R N B
S N Q F Z V I Y
O O S L S O E F F
F I N E H Y K R I E K A U Q H T R A E
D R O B E Q B T J T O S T D O O Y U V X X C L Z S E V E I H T
E T H R E E D A Y S S I C L K F I H O V I E J C F A G W A N
A P O S T L E S S D E L E O U L G N O I X I F I C U R C N U
T N J T N Y Q V Y C P V R T I C R O W N O F T H O R N S T V
H I G H P R I E S T H E R F V G J U D A S I S C A R I O T I
R U V B C Y L U
R S K P S T P C
B E T R A Y A L
Q B E R T Q O S E F F
T D V S N X N G
F O R A A H E O
N B M I K E R L
V O O B I B Y G
R P V I N W C O
Q D R T G V F T
D M J J C F O H
B L O O D E N A
C B X V L S O J
I S G P L E M E
S R M I T T I S
A E A X S S U
T N L V T H Y S
P I G O C R S C
P U N E A V R H
D E U V L O E R
M A L N G S I I
T A R A C C D S
C I R K M M L T
V R Z Y N B O Y
R Y O R E E S G
K I C S Y D S G
P N H N S Q E S

K Z O U K H J R C Y J F I N E H Y K R I E K A U Q H T R A E
D R O B E Q B T J T O S T D O O Y U V X X C L Z S E V E I H T
E T H R E E D A Y S S I C L K F I H O V I E J C F A G W A N
A P O S T L E S S D E L E O U L G N O I X I F I C U R C N U
T N J T N Y Q V Y C P V R T I C R O W N O F T H O R N S T V
H I G H P R I E S T H E R F V G J U D A S I S C A R I O T I
R U V B C Y L U
R S K P S T P C
B E T R A Y A L
Q B E R T Q O S E F F
T D V S N X N G
F O R A A H E O
N B M I K E R L
V O O B I B Y G
R P V I N W C O
Q D R T G V F T
D M J J C F O H
B L O O D E N A
C B X V L S O J
I S G P L E M E
S R M I T T I S
A E A X S S U
T N L V T H Y S
P I G O C R S C
P U N E A V R H
D E U V L O E R
M A L N G S I I
T A R A C C D S
C I R K M M L T
V R Z Y N B O Y
R Y O R E E S G
K I C S Y D S G
P N H N S Q E S

ANGELS
APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
BLOOD
CALVARY
CROSS
CROWN OF THORNS
CRUCIFIXION
DARKNESS
DEATH
EARTHQUAKE
EASTER
GOLGOTHA
HIGH PRIEST
JESUS CHRIST
JOSEPH
JUDAS ISCARIOT
KING
LAMB

MARY
NAILS
PASSOVER
PIECES OF SILVER
PIERCED
PILATE
RESURRECTION
ROBE
ROMANS
SACRIFICE
SIMON OF CYRENE
SOLDIERS
SON OF GOD
SPEAR
STONE
TEMPLE
THIEVES
THREE DAYS
TOMB

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - Ashland WI
Treasurer's Report as of February 2023

Monday, March 27, 2023

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Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Over/Under YTD+(-)	Annual Budget
Income					
BUILDING CAP PROJ FUNDRAISER	0.00		0.00		
EDUCATION FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
EVANGELISM FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
GEN. FUND ENVELOPE RECEIPTS	11,287.25	13,968.00	26,072.25	(1,863.75)	167,620.00
GEN. FUND INTEREST EARNED	0.00		0.33		
GENERAL FUND LOAN PROCEEDS	0.00		0.00		
LFOJ FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
Member services\$ etc	0.00		0.00		
Mission MISC IN/OUT	(909.87)		(909.87)		
ORGAN FUNDRAISER	0.00		0.00		
Special Gifts	0.00		0.00		
STEWARDSHIP FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
Transfers in/out general fund	(86.12)		(100.12)		
Trivent Choice Dollars	0.00		0.00		
TRUSTEE FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
YOUTH FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
Total Income	\$10,291.26	\$13,968.00	\$25,062.59	(\$1,863.75)	\$167,620.00
Expense					
CHOIR DIRECTOR SALARY	0.00		0.00		
Guest/vacancy pastors	248.84	25.00	248.84*	198.84	300.00
MILEAGE OR TRAVEL EXPENSES	0.00	42.00	0.00	(84.00)	500.00
ORGANISTS SALARY	0.00	337.00	0.00	(674.00)	4,040.00
PASTOR'S SALARY	3,818.18	4,136.00	7,679.32	(592.68)	49,636.00
SECRETARY SALARY	967.50	926.00	1,991.25*	139.25	11,115.00
SEXTON SALARY	175.00	275.00	354.38	(195.62)	3,300.00
SMP PROGRAM VICAR ED	0.00		0.00		
Treasurer Salary	88.00	275.00	192.50	(357.50)	3,300.00
Church Salaries	\$5,297.52	\$6,016.00	\$10,466.29	(\$1,565.71)	\$72,191.00
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS	0.00	42.00	0.00	(84.00)	500.00
EMPLOYER'S FICA TAX EXP	386.23	473.00	825.78	(120.22)	5,677.00
HEALTH & DISABILITY INS.	0.00	125.00	0.00	(250.00)	1,500.00
PASTOR'S HOUSING ALLOW.	1,153.84	1,250.00	2,307.68	(192.32)	15,000.00
PASTOR'S PENSION PLAN	0.00	453.00	0.00	(906.00)	5,441.00
PASTOR'S PROFESSIONAL EXP	0.00	42.00	0.00	(84.00)	500.00
Pastor's retirement Savings	0.00		0.00		
SEC. PENSION PLAN	0.00		0.00		
Employee Benefits	\$1,540.07	\$2,385.00	\$3,133.46	(\$1,636.54)	\$28,618.00
ELECTRICITY - CHURCH	1.00	417.00	2.00	(832.00)	5,000.00
FUEL - CHURCH	795.62	542.00	1,590.63*	506.63	6,500.00
INTERNET SERVICE & SOFTWARE	149.99	92.00	299.98*	115.98	1,100.00
TELEPHONE - CHURCH	119.97	121.00	199.94	(42.06)	1,450.00
WASTE DISPOSAL	0.00	146.00	761.10*	469.10	1,750.00
WATER - CHURCH	0.00	125.00	247.85	(2.15)	1,500.00
Church Utilities	\$1,066.58	\$1,443.00	\$3,101.50*	\$215.50	\$17,300.00
BUILDING CAPITALIZED PROJ	0.00		0.00		
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	233.50	167.00	502.50*	168.50	2,000.00
ORGAN PURCHASE EXPENSE	0.00		0.00		
PRESCHOOL BLDG. MAINTENANCE	0.00	167.00	0.00	(334.00)	2,000.00
PROPERTY/WORK COMP INSURANCE	0.00	679.00	0.00	(1,358.00)	8,145.00
Snow Removal	192.50	167.00	192.50	(141.50)	2,000.00
TRUSTEE SPECIAL PROJECTS	0.00		0.00		
Church Maint. & improvements	\$426.00	\$1,180.00	\$695.00	(\$1,665.00)	\$14,145.00
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	0.00	8.00	0.00	(16.00)	100.00

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - Ashland WI
Treasurer's Report as of February 2023

Monday, March 27, 2023

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Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Over/Under YTD+(-)	Annual Budget
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	372.05	42.00	372.05*	288.05	500.00
KITCHEN SUPPLIES	0.00		0.00		
Member services in and out	0.00		0.00		
MUSIC	0.00	8.00	0.00	(16.00)	100.00
Office Supplies	21.32	125.00	312.25*	62.25	1,500.00
POSTAGE	48.04	33.00	48.04	(17.96)	400.00
Software Fees	120.06	250.00	748.40*	248.40	3,000.00
Technology - Marketing	815.95	167.00	1,482.85*	1,148.85	2,000.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	275.42	250.00	313.38	(186.62)	3,000.00
Church Supplies	\$1,652.84	\$883.00	\$3,276.97*	\$1,510.97	\$10,600.00
\$ FOR CONFER/ CONVENTIONS	0.00	83.00	0.00	(166.00)	1,000.00
\$ TO EDUCATION	276.86	292.00	276.86	(307.14)	3,500.00
\$ TO EVANGELISM	0.00	83.00	0.00	(166.00)	1,000.00
\$ TO LFOJ CHILD CARE SUPPORT	0.00		0.00		
\$ TO STEWARDSHIP	0.00	8.00	0.00	(16.00)	100.00
\$ TO YOUTH PROGRAMS	0.00	83.00	0.00	(166.00)	1,000.00
BRICK MISSION	135.00	135.00	270.00	0.00	1,620.00
MISSION varoius	97.14		97.14		
MISSIONS TO SYNOD	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	12,000.00
OVERALL OFFERINGS PD TO SYNOD	0.00		0.00		
PUBLICATIONS LUTH WIT. ETC	0.00	42.00	0.00	(84.00)	500.00
Ministry Disbursements	\$1,509.00	\$1,726.00	\$2,644.00	(\$905.14)	\$20,720.00
interest on line of credit	0.00		0.00		
LOAN FEES	0.00		0.00		
Mort. & credit card interest	82.61	250.00	182.18	(317.82)	3,000.00
PRINCIPAL payment	952.68	1,035.00	1,901.41	(168.59)	12,425.00
Total PRIN. AND INT. payments	\$1,035.29	\$1,285.00	\$2,083.59	(\$486.41)	\$15,425.00
Ordination Expenses	0.00		0.00		
principal to principal from bl	(952.68)		(1,901.41)		
TRUSTEE CONTROLLED DISBURSEMNT	0.00		0.00		
Total Expense	\$11,574.62	\$14,918.00	\$23,499.40	(\$4,532.33)	\$178,999.00
Difference	(\$1,283.36)	(\$950.00)	\$1,563.19		(\$11,379.00)



"The Easter Bunny really knows how to count. He gave us each the same number of jelly beans."

