



Zion Lutheran Monthly

April 2015



God's Answer

"I don't know why God doesn't take me to heaven; why am I still here?"

"Where is God? Why has he let these things happen to me? Why doesn't he help?"

"Why does God allow for so much evil in the world? If he's all-powerful, why doesn't he do something about it?"

It's not hard to think of "gotcha" or rhetorical questions to ask God. The world is a hard, nasty place. Suffering, grief, and pain are part and parcel of our every-day experiences. God claims to be all-powerful and good. Why doesn't he keep the bad things from happening?

We've been in the season of Lent for over a month now. We've spent our mid-week Lenten services looking at a number of Bible passages that teach us about the suffering of Jesus, as we prepare for Holy Week, and our annual remembrance of the last week of the life of Jesus. Palm Sunday. Maundy Thursday. Good Friday. Easter Sunday.

Good Friday and Easter Sunday are God's answer to the questions we have, the suffering and grief we endure, and the despair we feel as we live in a world where God is invisible and death is inevitable. Good Friday is when God's love for us was on full display, as Jesus laid down his life as an amends-making sacrifice for our sins. Good Friday is God's answer to our questions of doubt concerning God's love for us and what faces us on the Day of Judgment. Easter Sunday, the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, is how God responds to our grief and suffering. Death, the ultimate source of grief and suffering, has been overcome. It has been defeated, transformed from eternal perdition to a temporary loss.

We may not think God's answer to the questions we have in sending his Son to die and rise is good enough. We want more. We want immediate relief on our terms. We want God to do what we think he should do; not what he knows we need him to do. But look to the cross. Peer into the empty tomb. Watch the Son of God shed his blood for you. And rejoice with the angels when his tomb is found empty. This is God's answer.

God bless you as you remember and celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ! God's answer. For you. For me. For all.

-Pastor Duncan McLellan

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Bowling Schedule!

Week 16: Friday, April 10

Week 17 Friday, April 24

All games are played at
6:30pm at

AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes



Pastor's Note:

Alissa and I would like to thank the members of Zion for their prayers as we are considering calls to Joy Lutheran in Cambridge, Minnesota and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Alexandria, Minnesota. I am honored to be your Pastor and see a bright future ahead for Zion, one that I would like very much to be a part of. However, when a congregation issues a "Call," they are telling you that they believe God wants you to be their next pastor. Their call deserves careful consideration and prayer. Please continue to pray for us, the ministry of Zion, Good Shepherd and Joy.

The McLellan Family

School News!

Happy April! I think Spring is finally here... just take a look in our classrooms and you will be convinced too. The children have been very busy learning all about the changes that Spring brings...budding trees, new growth in the ground, how a caterpillar can turn into a butterfly and of course the death and resurrection of Jesus.

April continues to be exciting and busy. On April 15^t and 16nd we will be hosting our annual Moms and Muffins breakfast. This is a time when moms can come to school with their child and enjoy muffins, fruit and beverages and lots of fellowship time with other moms, staff, and the children. We decorate with a Spring theme including flowers that the children planted in February!

We also spent a lot of time learning about the Easter story. I have the pleasure of teaching the chapel lesson this month, and honestly, it is my favorite lesson to teach. I use a set of plastic Easter eggs, each filled with an item that helps tell the story. The children are so excited to see what is in each egg, but will not understand why the last egg is empty, at least, not at first. "Mrs. Tracey...did you forgot to put something in the last egg?" This is what I usually hear when I open the last empty egg. I then explain that the last egg represents the empty tomb on Easter morning...Jesus is alive!!

Registration continues to go very well. We currently have 119 students enrolled for the next school year.

How awesome it is to have the opportunity to teach so many children about the good news of Jesus!

Have a wonderful Easter!

Blessings,

Tracey Harris



Chairman's Report

Church, Mission & Synod (CMS) & Plate Finances

March Income \$43,958.00
March Expenses 54,057.00
Unfavorable to Income - \$10,098.00

We transferred \$13,059 from the General fund to Kingdom, Trustee and Preschool Funds which caused the negative income for the month.

As of March 31, 2014, we are estimating \$2,600.00 cash on hand. All major bills through March have been paid.

May God continue to guide Zion in using our financial gifts and our talents to spread the Good News!

Bob Schmidt
Chairman

Special Voters Meeting – March 22

I'm pleased to announce at the Special Voters meeting on Sunday, March 22, the voter's of Zion approved a part-time Youth Ministry position. The focus of this position will be to build a ministry program for Zion youth.

In addition, we will have an opportunity to develop a cooperative relationship with Young Life in building a junior/senior high school and college ministry targeting students from the surrounding communities (South Fayette and Chartier's Valley).

Please pray for guidance and direction as Zion builds this new youth ministry program.

Bob Schmidt
Chairman

FREE coffee and donuts every **Friday??** Sounds like a great way to



Free Coffee Friday is happening every Friday morning from 7-8am in the church parking lot. Stop by for some breakfast and fellowship on your way to work!

If you are interested in signing up to volunteer, contact the church office at 412-221-4776 or talk to Pastor.

Women's Retreat

Women's Retreat!

We will be going to Camp Pioneer from May 1st - 3rd. We have selected the Bible Study for the weekend and planning is underway!

Please fill out the form located in the Narthex and return to Megan Pasquini by April 12th!

Men's Retreat: The men are going back to Camp Pioneer! April 17-19. We'll be meeting up with men from four other LCMS congregations in our district to spend a weekend focusing on what it means to go "All In" with our Christian faith. More information is available on the church website. Talk to Pastor Duncan if you have any questions. Hope you can make it!



Back to Basics

For 2015 Zion is going Back to Basics! We're spending time on Sunday morning going over the basic truths of the Christian Faith. We started with the 10 Commandments and are generally following the outline of Luther's Small Catechism. If you miss a week here or there, recordings of the sermons are available on our website (zlc.org). Also, at our Wednesday Evening Service of Prayer and Preaching, we take what we looked at on Sunday and take it a little bit more in depth. We also answer the questions that are asked on Sunday... or try to answer them as best we can at our Wednesday Evening Service of Prayer and Preaching. We hope you can join us for worship!

Food Bank

Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, April 12. The "item of the month" is rice, noodles, and beans. You are also welcome to help at the food bank every third Saturday of the month between 7:45am and 12:00pm at Bethany Presbyterian Church.



April Birthdays



- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Tom Richards | 13 Simon Kern | 23 Kim Anderson |
| 3 Bella Bechtold | 13 Jeffery Larson | 23 Norman Dill |
| 4 David Hutula | 13 Joshua Walleck | 24 Brittany Dill |
| 5 Samantha Walsh | 14 Ryan Albert | 24 Pamela Larson |
| 6 Barbara Fisher | 15 Josiah Ackerman | 24 Robert Morgan |
| 6 Michelle Hunsberger | 16 Jay Anderson | 25 Michael Kroeger |
| 6 Alyssa Mance | 16 Sara Vallelunga | 26 Felicity Neil |
| 6 Millie Thielet | 18 Joseph DePalma | 27 Norman Erbrecht Sr. |
| 7 John Endler | 18 Lauren Liberatore | 27 Heidi Holler |
| 7 Sandra Quinlan | 18 Ava Pasquini | 27 Andrew Weldon |
| 8 Rae Murphy | 18 Louis Schrecker | 28 Robert Schmidt |
| 8 Richard Quinlan | 21 Harry Jones | 28 Bethany Schrag |
| 11 Eric Geary | 22 Joan Cisko | 29 Ryan Harris |
| 11 Rachel Klemash | | |

April Anniversaries



- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 7 Timothy & Carrie Albert | 21 William & Melanie Becker |
| 8 Jeffery & Pamela Larson | 24 Jim & Patricia Neil |
| 12 Frank & Elaine Ivancza | 26 Carl & Karen Bauer |
| 13 Charles & Debra LaJeunesse | 29 Jay & Kim Anderson |
| 18 Dale & Alice Miller | |

Save the Date

Did you know we have a calendar of events in the church office?? If you would like to have an event at Zion please contact the church secretaries so we can add it to the calendar of events. You can email us at secretary@zlc.org



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

April

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
April 1 Lenten Service	7:00 PM		Elder
April 2 Maundy Thursday	7:00 PM		Carley Rockovich
April 3 Good Friday	7:00 PM		Josh Gielarowski
April 5 Easter	8:00 AM	Carl & Karen Bauer	Matthew Liberatore, Josiah Ackerman; Crucifer: Chris Yellig
	10:30 AM	Jay & Kim Anderson	Jennifer Fitzgerald, Sydney Harris Crucifer: Mitchell Fitzgerald
April 12	8:00 AM	Bill & Carole Schrag	Matthew Liberatore
	10:30 AM	Elsie DallaPiazza	Lara Luedeman
April 19	8:00 AM	Frank & Sandy Hervert	Augie Bishop
	10:30 AM	Norm & Brittany Dill & Family	Carley Rockovich
April 26	8:00 AM	Neil Ackerman	Josiah Ackerman
	10:30 AM	Eric & Michelle Hunsberger & Famiy	Chris Yellig
May 3	8:00 AM	Peter & Barbara Fisher	Augie Bishop
	10:30 AM	Chuck & Debra LaJeunesse	Lara Luedeman
May 10	8:00 AM	Wayne & Katheen Conn	Matthew Liberatore
	10:30 AM	Lois Klemash	Carley Rockovich

EDERS	Robert Oelschlager, David Hutula
ALTAR GUILD	Debra LaJeunesse, Carrie Lemonovich,
USHERS @ 8:00 am	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier, Jack Oelschlager
Ushers @ 10:30 am	Loren Luedeman, Vince Kimberland, Jim Oelschlager, Ted Siek

May

EDERS	Ken Wuerthele, James Neil
ALTAR GUILD	Barbara Oechslein, Megan Pasquini, Diane Schmidt
USHERS @ 8:00 am	Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag, Janet & Larry Zreliak
Ushers @ 10:30 am	Sam Dragan, Steve Gauger, Kari & John Gresh

Did you know that we have an awesome website?

If you haven't checked out our website (zlc.org) lately, you're truly missing out on one of the best things we have going. Daily updates, interactive surveys, literally hundreds of sermon downloads, informative videos, thought-provoking articles, and pictures from recent church events are just some of what you'll find on your church's website.

Check it out: zlc.org!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

April Unit: The Empty Tomb

The tomb where Jesus was buried was found empty. Jesus is alive!

This month, children will explore the empty tomb from the perspective of the gardener, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, the angels, and the guards. The Bible story reference is from Luke 23: 50 - 24:12.

Consider volunteering to lead in May (Paul) or June (Three Women of Faith).

Everest VBS - June 22 - 26, 2015

Registration opens Sunday, May 10th!

Visit the website for more information.

www.zlcb.org/vbs



Zion Lions Softball is Back!

Do you enjoy friendly competition? Do you like being part of a team? Are you looking to make some friends here at Zion? Do you strive for 'perfection'? Do you enjoy playing softball?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then Zion Lions Softball is the team for you! A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the back of the Narthex to join the team! We will be trying to improve our 'perfect' record from the past few years.

Have questions? See Pastor or call the church office at 412-221-4776.

