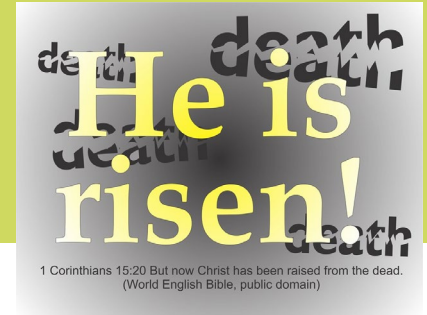




April 2024



Pastoral Ponderings

From Pastor Phil.....

For some time, I had taken a prolonged break from social media. I had been on it since the MySpace days (and last I looked, the profile still existed!) moving into Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and on and on. Post Covid, I didn't like how people were acting to each other. It seemed like the worst of mankind was getting worse, and the "best" of mankind was seemingly disappearing. Bad behavior was getting worse and more frequent, and love for our neighbor was quickly becoming a thing of the past. As I was visiting with a member or two about something I would like to see here at Zion we began to discuss social media and the need to be in the world market place. It occurred to me that I hadn't looked at anything in some time, so I logged on. A friend of mine had posted about how at one time the beginning of Spring was considered the New Year, and that resolutions were to be made at that time, instead of in the middle of winter. This kind of makes sense if you think about the idea of life bursting forth in the Spring.

As we move into April, we just finished celebrating the Festival of the Resurrection. This is our new beginning. It evokes all manner of emotion from us as we hear, joyfully, the work of Jesus given to us. We don't need to be afraid of death. Jesus overcame it, and we have the promise of eternal life. We don't need to worry about satan because that hateful old foe has been defeated. Most certainly, he is still trying to create problems, but he is just doing what he does. His defeat has been accomplished. Sin has no authority over you. It has been thrown down. Jesus took our Old Adam and placed it in the tomb, and has been left there.

With the Spring, we see new life burst forth all around us. We start to consider the planting of gardens, and how our flower beds will be laid out. We sit on our porches and enjoy a cup of coffee as we see kids running around in the street and begin, or continue, to make plans for the Summer. All of these are activities rejoice in the idea of life. That promise of life is given to us today as the Father continues to uphold everything that is given as a gift, and we rejoice knowing that all the promises of God are given to us.

*The Remainder of
Holy Week &
Easter Weekend:*

*Good Friday @ 3:30 &
7:00 p.m.*

*Holy Saturday Easter
Vigil Service @ 5:00
p.m.*

*Easter Sunrise @
6:00 a.m.*

*Resurrection Service @
10:00 a.m.*

He is Risen Indeed! 😊

Join Us!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the promise of the ages, and the continuing of others. Jesus has done all the good work for us, we are promised life and eternity. The promise is of a new Spring that will go on into eternity. The promises of God find their yes in Jesus. Paul reminds us in 2nd Corinthians 1:20:

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.”

Brothers and sisters, our glory is found in Jesus, and we rejoice in Him as His new creations.

Christ is risen!

Pastor Phil

Important Dates in the Life of the Church:



Confirmation Examination – Saturday, April 27 at the 5:00 p.m. service.
(Examination to occur during worship)

Confirmation Sunday – Sunday, May 5th at the 10:30 a.m. service.



Ascension Day – May 4,5



Pentecost – May 18, 19

The Meaning of the Widow's Mite

During the time of Herod, mites were the smallest denomination coin in Judea. The term "widow's mite" is based on Luke 21:1-4.

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "Truly I tell you," he said, "This poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

As the Bible reminds us, even small offerings can make an enormous impact. The Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" - offerings above and beyond the support given to Zion. Combined, these amount to millions of dollars for funding mission grants and providing ongoing support for various other Lutheran Women in Mission programs.

If you don't have a mite box, there is a basket on the glass counter in the narthex. Please pick one up and fill it with your "mites." Our next "ingathering" of mite offerings will be after Easter, April 6-7. At that time, you can bring your box, dump the contents into the giant mite box. Take your mite box home with you and begin placing offerings in it again.

We thank you for your generosity. Let all that you do be done in love. (1 Corinthians 16:14)

Lutheran Women in Mission - Your Mite Offerings Make an Impact!

Here are some examples of how your mite offerings work within our church, our community and our world. The following are examples of good stewardship.

Mission Moment - In the Southern Illinois District

Braille Centers in SID - \$8,000

There are four Braille Production Centers in our district. Each of these centers make Braille and/or large print books for the blind and visually impaired, thereby showing the love of God to people so they can grow in their relationship with God. The centers will use the funds for special sized heavy paper, binding spirals, front and back covers, cartons and corrugated cardboard for shipping and packing tape. The outreach of Lutheran Braille Workers is global, reaching many different countries and language groups.

Camp Wartburg's "Shepherding Sheep" Camp for people with disabilities -\$5,000

“Shepherding Sheep” is a camp which connects young people who are willing to serve with youth and adults who are challenged by mental and/or physical disabilities. This \$5,000 grant would help several disabled people afford camp where they can be loved by staff and learn that they really matter to our churches and especially to Christ.

Lutheran Campus Ministry at LCMS-U@SIUE, Edwardsville - \$3,500

In every stage of life, the church is present to offer age-appropriate education and discipleship that seeks to confirm in the lives of people the all-encompassing extent of Christ’s call to life and salvation. The work of LCMS-U@SIUE is to raise up young people who know who their Lord is and who they are in Him. The grant will be used to purchase Bibles, catechisms and other study materials needed for weekly Bible study and distribution on campus as well as support monthly fellowship opportunities.

DON'T FORGET TO MAKE DONATIONS IN YOUR MITE BOX. IF YOU NEED ONE, THEY ARE ON THE GLASS CASE IN THE NARTHEX OF CHURCH. OUR NEXT MITE INGATHERING WILL BE RIGHT AFTER EASTER, APRIL 6TH WEEKEND!
---Submitted by Sue Miller, LWML

Trivia Night: April 6

Youth group will be hosting a trivia on Saturday, April 6 at the Staunton Country Club. Please plan to join us! The cost to play is \$15 pp and tables of 8-10 are welcome to participate. Bring your own snacks! Water and soda will be provided (while supplies last). All other beverages must be purchased from the Country Club. You can reserve a table by emailing Kristi.Cook@zion-school.org or texting 618-972-5239. We will also be having a 50/50 drawing and silent auction. We will run our silent auction differently. Raffle tickets will be sold for the silent auction items. You can drop your tickets in the bags of any item you want a chance to win. We have some great items including 2 Cardinal tickets, 2 Holiday World tickets, 2 Knights Waterpark day passes, a dozen mini bundt cakes from Nothing Bundt Cakes along with a punch card for one cake per month, etc. Proceeds will go toward sending 4 adult leaders to the National Youth Conference in July and to continue our fundraising goal for the 2025 National Youth Gathering.

Upcoming Fellowship Events:

July 16-18: Retreat at Rustic Acres for youth entering 7-9th grades in the fall. Middle school youth (entering 7-9th grades in the fall) are invited to Rustic Acres Campground as our high school leadership team leads a retreat centered around the topic of our identity in Christ. The retreat is July 16-18. Youth will participate in devotion writing, Bible study sessions, servant event, prayer service, worship service, community building and free time activities at the campground. Registration is due by June 16. Spaces are limited. Registration forms will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. Blank registration forms are also on the glass case in the church narthex. You may place your form and check in the “blue paper pocket” on the bulletin board in the narthex. No Cash. Please write “Youth Retreat” in the memo of your check. Kristi Cook will check the bulletin board frequently for your registration and payment. Or you may mail in your registration forms to: Zion Lutheran Church 311 South Elm St. Staunton, IL. Thank you! ☺

April youth meetings:

April 6: Trivia night at Staunton Country Club

April 14: Middle school youth 3 - 5 p.m./High school youth 4 - 6 p.m.

YOUTH NEWS

2nd Annual Youth Retreat

Chosen

July 16-18

When:

JULY 16TH AT 5PM
THROUGH
JULY 18TH AT
NOON

Where:

Rustic Acres
Jellystone Park
12246 Binney Rd
New Douglas, IL 62074

\$60
per person

Who:

Youth
entering
7th-9th grade
in the fall

Join us for a 2 night retreat at Rustic Acres!
Our Youthlead team will be leading Bible study sessions, fun team building activities, servant event, and some time to relax at the pool and by the bonfire.
Space is limited! Registration will be first come first serve.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN UNTIL JUNE 16



Zion has a new QR Code! Use it to access our website...

Happy Easter! "Flat Jesus" will be handed out to children/youth following the Easter services. Take Jesus with you wherever you go, vacations, outings, etc. Use #ZionStaunton to post photos of where you and Jesus have been. We're excited to see your photos! - The Board of Evangelism.

April 16, 2024 Zion Lutheran Church is hosting the Mid-State Circuit-1 Pastors' Conference in the Parish Center and Chapel.

Opening with refreshments at 8:30 a.m.

Ending is at noon. Questions? Ask Pastor Phil.

Zion's Alumni & Friends News

Did you know the Alumni & Friends Organization was started in the 1990's to support the growth and mission of Zion Lutheran School and Church. Originally the funds came from a small membership fee. Later the group took over the annual dinner auction. In 2019, a Newsletter and Annual Appeal letter was sent to Zion members, past alumni that attended Zion, people that were confirmed at Zion, or are a friend of Zion. With the annual funds and memorials received since 2019, the front school door and window have been replaced, the school front landscaping by the new window was replaced, a lighted cross was given as a memorial to Rink Calcari, the school back door and repairs to the concrete drainage were done, 36 gym lights were replaced with energy efficient LED lights, and church roof repairs were made. The 2023 Appeal Letter was for needed upgrades to Zion School and Church Security Systems. The goal was \$10,000 for the first phase of upgrades. With your great response, Alumni and Friends received \$11,171.00 toward the project, with final plans to be available soon.

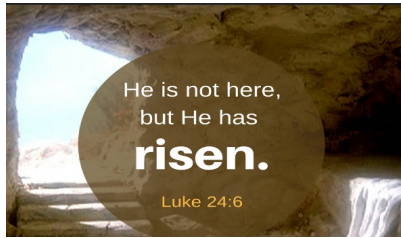
Zion Alumni & Friends will again offer a scholarship this spring. To be eligible, you must be a graduating high school senior and an 8th grade graduate of Staunton Zion Lutheran School. The applicant must be enrolled in or accepted by a university, college or vocational school after graduation. If you are interested in applying, please pick up an application at the Zion Lutheran Church office. Look for copies in the narthex, too. Completed applications should be turned into the church office by Friday, April 12, 2024. Or you may mail it to Zion Lutheran Church 311 S. Elm St. Staunton, Illinois




Happy Easter! "Flat Jesus" will be handed out to children/youth following the Easter services. Take Jesus with you wherever you go, vacations, outings, etc. Use #ZionStaunton to post photos of where you and Jesus have been. We're excited to see your photos! - The Board of Evangelism.

April 2024



Zion Lutheran Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>March 31st is Easter at 6am & 10am He is Risen Indeed!</p>	<p>No School Today¹ Church Office Is CLOSED Today only Noon-2p Pr. Phil at His Service Station D.Q. Fundraiser</p>	<p>Zion School ² School Classes Resume Church Office Is OPEN</p>	<p>³ 8:30 Chapel 9:00 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood 5:30 Confirmation</p>	<p>⁴ 8:30 Bible Study 10-Noon Pr. Phil at His Service Station 6:30 Trustees</p>	<p>⁵ 5pm Worship & Mite Box Collection 7p Youth Group TRIVIA Night</p>	
<p>⁷ 8 & 10:30 Worship/ Mite Box Collection 9:30 Sun School</p>	<p>Eclipse Day⁸ Noon-2p Pr. Phil at His Service Station NO School Today</p>	<p>⁹ 6:30 Elders Mtg</p>	<p>¹⁰ 8:30 Chapel 9:00 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood 5:30 Pub Sch Confirmation El Indio Fundraiser</p>	<p>¹¹ 8:30 Bible Study 10-Noon Pr. Phil at His Service Station</p>	<p>¹² 5pm Worship 5:30-8:30pm Zion School's Formal Ball</p>	
<p>Voters' Mtg. ¹⁴ 8 & 10:30 Worship 9:30 Sun School Joyful Noise Choir @ 10:30 service 11:30 a.m. Voters Meeting Youth 3-5.4-6</p>	<p>¹⁵ Noon-2p Pr. Phil at His Service Station 6p Evangelism</p>	<p>¹⁶ Circuit Pastors' Conference at Zion Staunton 8:30 to noon</p>	<p>¹⁷ 8:30 Chapel 9:00 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood 2:30 Heritage 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 SID Mission Event Little Italy's Fundraiser</p>	<p>¹⁸ 8:30 Bible Study 10-Noon Pr. Phil at His Service Station 6pm Parish Ed 7p Alumni & Fr</p>	<p>²⁰ 5pm Worship</p>	
<p>²¹ 8 & 10:30 Worship 9:30 Sun School</p>	<p>²² Noon-2p Pr. Phil at His Service Station</p>	<p>²³</p>	<p>²⁴ 8:30 Chapel 9:00 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood 5:30 Confirmation Zion School "Family Night" Asian Bistro Fundraiser</p>	<p>²⁵ 8:30 Bible Study 10-Noon Pr. Phil at His Service Station 7p Ladies' Aid</p>	<p>²⁷ 5pm Worship Questioning of Confirmands</p>	
<p>²⁸ 8 & 10:30 Worship 9:30 Sun School</p>	<p>²⁹ Noon-2p Pr. Phil at His Service Station</p>	<p>³⁰ 4:30 Stewardship 6:30 Admin Council</p>	<p>Pr. Phil is at Glenwood on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday Pr. Mark on the 2nd Pr. Kraemer on 4th</p>	<p>On May 1-2 Parent/Teacher Conferences At Zion School</p>	<p>Sunday, May 5 at 10:30 am Is Confirmation! 😊</p>	



Zion Youth Group Presents


Trivia Night


Tables of 8-10 \$15 per person

When: April 6, 2024 Where:
 Doors open @ 6pm, Staunton
 starts @ 7pm Country Club

50/50 RAFFLE- SILENT AUCTION

BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS! WATER AND SODA WILL
 BE PROVIDED (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST) ALL OTHER
 BEVERAGES MUST BE PURCHASED FROM THE
 COUNTRY CLUB.

Inviting all Congregations of the Southern Illinois District

Concordia The Reformer Seminary Mission Event Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 6:30 p.m. with refreshments following. At Zion Lutheran Church, 101 S. Railway St., Mascoutah, IL

Speaker – Erin MacKenzie, Volunteer Coordinator, Latin America & the Caribbean.

The Southern Illinois District voted to work in partnership with Concordia the Reformer Seminary in the Dominican Republic to support with our prayers and financial gifts the work that is being carried out in the Dominican and throughout Latin America. Through this Seminary God is preparing pastors and deaconesses to serve in congregations throughout Latin America, Lutheran churches are being planted, workshops are training hundreds of men and women throughout the region, Spanish language resources are being prepared and sent to congregations. As Philip said, "Come and see," God is working in this place, preparing leaders and inviting us to encourage and support this work. We invite all District congregations to attend the event and we encourage your congregation, as in 2 Corinthians 9:5, to "arrange in advance for (a) gift" to be brought as an offering for this work that evening.

In Christ,

SID Dominican Mission Task Force

*Come, let us return to the Lord:
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.
After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.*

- Hosea 6:1-2 ESV -

