

M A R C H 2 0 1 7

# Zion Lutheran Church

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**Sunday Worship-11:00 am**

**Sunday School- 10:00 am**

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## Lenten Thoughts...

The chocolate shop nearby is encouraging people not to give up chocolate for Lent. "Just give up something like red meat," they say, "or your negative attitudes." Over the years, I've been using Lent as a time to get my life back on track. I've given up things like desserts, drinking, and dining out to practice discipline — with the side hope of saving money and losing weight while I was at it.

This Lent, I'd like to propose we try something different. Let's give up using God for our own purposes, let's refrain from treating God as a means to an end; and instead, spend time contemplating the Trinity. Think of it as a combination of discipline and daydreaming. No more asking God for things or to do things for us (assuming that we're not in need of the basics). Just close your eyes or stare into space and imagine what God must be like on the basis of what God does as Father, Son, and Spirit, as creator, healer, and peacemaker.

It's not that using God is some kind of abomination or even the least bit inappropriate. Jesus himself teaches us to see God as a way to get our needs met. But here's the problem: when we focus primarily on what God can do for us, we can forget to love God for who God is. The Holy One simply becomes a tool or instrument (however great, unique, or indispensable God is thought to be) we use to accomplish our goals. Thomas Aquinas once called this phenomenon "mercenary love."

--Victor Thasiah, Elca.org



**Ash Wednesday** **Daylight Savings**  
**March 1, 2017** **March 12, 2017**

Lent services every  
Wednesday in  
March. Meal at  
6:30-followed by  
message.

March 12th-  
Pastor Dan's  
Bible Study: 1  
& 2 Timothy



Due to our Lenten Services--  
WELCA'S March meeting will NOT  
be held. The next meeting is April 4th.  
March Altar Guild: Cindy Rupp



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

During our Lenten Studies with Pastor Dan, Sunday school will have special activities for kids to attend. Come for supper, bring the kids and experience the season of Lent. These activities will not be held on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, or Good Friday. These are special services where the children are encouraged to attend and experience.

**Palm Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>:** We will be having a Palm Sunday Fair. There will be a meal right after church and then activities for anyone who wants to participate. We will be handing out "Holy Week Passports". Participants will go to different stations around the Church and receive a stamp for their passport when completing the activity. There will also be stamps for attending Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter! Join us as we experience Holy Week.

(If you would like to help with this activity, please sign up on the sheets at church or call Mary Jo)

And on Easter...an Easter party and egg hunt, of course!

## MINGLE ON MAIN

Perry's Mingle on Main...  
Upcoming opportunities for our congregation:

- We will be having a cookie bar at the first movie night, **March 31<sup>st</sup>**. This will be a fundraiser for the church with part going to a charity that the kids choose.
- **July 21<sup>st</sup>** is Crazy Days downtown. We may serve a potluck fundraiser that evening. This is depending on interest.
- **August** (no date yet) Meet a Maroon night. We'll have some kind of booth for our church, depending on interest.



This newsletter comes to you ‘in the middle of things.’ We’re in the middle of a building project. You might very well be in the middle of finishing your taxes! Most of life is lived, not in the completion of things, but in the middle.

I’m looking forward to getting my taxes done, the pre-emergent crabgrass preventer applied, the garage cleaned out, and on the list goes. I’d like all those things to be done, but that’s not where most of life is lived.

That’s where Lent comes in. *The great thing is that Christ does not just stand at the end of our journey, awaiting our best efforts to arrive on our own; rather, He accompanies us each step of the way.* Lent is not about my struggles at self-improvement and self-consecration. I *am* called to grow in discipleship, in godliness, in love for neighbor and concern for the world’s pain. But I am not called to engage in all these things independently of Christ.

I’m struck by the fact that according to the record of Mark, Jesus “appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons” (Mark 3:14-15). In a society such as ours,

saturated with notions of conditional grace, our attention is immediately drawn to *things we must do*. Jesus calls Christians to accomplish certain tasks, and we rush off to do them.

We look inward at attitudes and thoughts that need improving. Somehow, in all our self-preoccupation, *we lose sight of Christ*. And so, whenever we think about our Christianity, we feel so woefully inadequate and maybe even guilty.

But Jesus’ primary concern is that we “be with him.” The basis of Christian living is not self-improvement but the *ongoing presence of the living Christ*. He follows the Great Commission, the call to the Church to make disciples, baptizing and teaching them, with the promise, “and surely I am with you always” (Matthew 28:16-20).

Fellow pilgrim, take heart! Jesus is with you as you seek to follow his example and make a difference in your family, your workplace, and in this beloved church! He not only inspires us, he also empowers us, and fills us with his caring. He makes all the difference in the middle of things!

Warmly in Christ,  
Pastor Dan

## March Birthdays

6<sup>th</sup> - Teresa Kukuk  
8<sup>th</sup> - Brentley Beaver  
12<sup>th</sup> - Molly McKinley  
18<sup>th</sup> - Miley Houghton  
19<sup>th</sup> - Daniel Olson  
22<sup>nd</sup> - Wyatt Carson  
23<sup>rd</sup> - Shirley Beier  
31<sup>st</sup> - Cindy Rupp



## Anniversaries

10<sup>th</sup> - Ray & Teresa Kukuk  
31<sup>st</sup> - Russell & Reese Voise





February 20, 2017

Dear Members of Zion,

We have reached the point in our building project that we need to acquire a mortgage. If you remember when we first started this project, we talked about the need to potentially borrow over \$300,000 to complete our project. Well, because of very generous giving we are not going to need near that much.

We estimate that it will take roughly \$150,000 to finish the project. That is roughly one half of our original estimates. Great job everyone! There has truly be a tremendous outpouring of support for our new addition.

During our congregational meeting it was brought up that we should offer members of the congregation the opportunity to loan money to the church along with the bank or instead of the bank. So we are writing today to see if any member or members might be interested in loaning the entire \$150,000 or any amount less than that.

We have not settled on an interest rate, but if you think you might be interested, please contact our treasurer James Curtis or the Chairman of our Building Committee, Tony Kukuk. They will carry the information to the Church Council, and decisions can be made. We are under some time restrictions, so please contact us within the next week to 10 days.

Thank you,  
Zion Church Council

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## **WE ARE WELCA**

**What is WELCA? It's an easy way to say Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

***Quite a mouthful, we know. Our organization includes Lutheran women who gather in more than 7,000 locations in the U.S. and the Caribbean, for service, study, advocacy, fellowship and more! WELCA embraces all kinds of ministries that support our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. There is a place for you in Women of the ELCA.***



## Prayer Concerns

### We Remember our Friends & Family

Kenny Frank, Kim Williams, Mark Rupp, Wade Voise, Sonny Rupp, Pastor Olson, Melvin Williams, Dennis Schieffer, Lyndee Strader, Dorothy Voise, Bernice Schieffer, Verna Frank, Geraldine Finley, Leonard Rupp, Marvin Beier, Dava Kukuk, Dustin Kukuk, Jandree Potter, Mandee Potter, Loretta Longan, Sandy Little, Valerie Danner, Caleb Pierce, Jana Benningfield, Leta Faye Baetz, Melody Gale, Tyler Kukuk, Jane Makovec, Otto Davidson, Joey Hamilton, Jason & Randy Shiever. Chris Nance, Kevin Voise, Staci Matthesen, Molly Tucker, Hattie Hentges, Cindy VanMeter-Christy Kukuk's mother, Doc Miller, Pastor Geishien.

We also pray for our men and women serving our country- (Blake Avery & Brent McClendon), our Police (Josh Carson) and



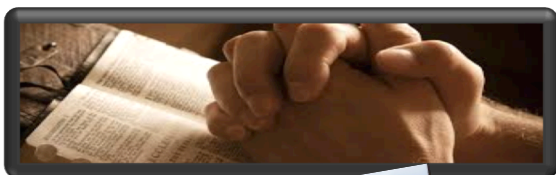
**Carson Avery**

**Whelan Carson**

**Katie Heim**

**Andrew Kukuk**

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Zion's Outreach project for March will be *canned meats*. Search your heart and help those in need.

Thank you for being a part of Zion's Church Family!



### Greeters

5<sup>th</sup>- James & Cheryl  
12<sup>th</sup>- Tony & Jan  
19<sup>th</sup>- Melista & Eric  
26<sup>th</sup>- Scott & Brittany

### Readers

Angela  
Teresa S.  
Vicky B.  
Will

### Ushers

Steve, James, Charles, Jeff  
Doug, Parker, Steve, Jeff  
Doug, Parker, Teresa K, Charles  
Kurt, James, Steve, Jeff

## Ponderings from Pastor Peter



A few weeks ago I stopped by the grocery store while I still had my clergy collar on. It's an interesting thing to do an everyday errand with a clergy collar on. Every so often a person is caught off guard when they see that white tab. This was certainly the case at the store as I came up with a cartload of groceries to check out.

The young woman who was at the cashier had just been in conversation with who I assumed was a friend of hers as I moved up in line. She had a tremendous smile on her face as she turned to look at me—and then she saw the collar. I could actually see that joyful smile falter slightly as her eyes zeroed in on that spot of white plastic around my neck. She had been caught red handed having fun at the work place and enjoying herself. Somewhere deep down that white tab likely triggered a fear in her that God had suddenly zeroed in on her and was pointing a threatening finger in her direction through me.

I flashed a smile in returned and chatted about her day. I joked a bit and before long that smile began to return as she could see that there was perhaps still a human on the other side of that collar. But it is truly amazing how quickly a person's behavior can change when they realize they are speaking with a pastor. Sometimes, what that collar represents can either open doors or slam them shut.

The collar that I wear at times can cause people to forget that I am a regular

sheep just like the next person. I sin and fall short... sometimes I even fall apart. I struggle with questions of faith at times, I occasionally release a foul word or phrase to the wind that I wish I hadn't... pastors are not immune to these sorts of things. Likewise, whatever position a person has in business, education, the medical field, etc.--that person is still a living breathing human being with pains and sorrows, joys and excitement.

As we are entering into our Lenten journey together—this can be a reminder to us of the struggle of Jesus the man. While yes we believe he was fully divine... he was also fully human. These days leading up to the cross are some of the most meaningful days in the church year to me. Why? Because it is in these days that we see our God as a man struggling through the challenges of life. Struggling with doubt, concern for the future, and eventually what might be seen as the fear of death itself. Christ's sacrifice on the cross was not an easy one... and yet it is why he came to be amongst us. All so that we could look to God and say, "You truly know what I am going through..."

Grace to you from the God who steps out of the heavens and into the mire of life. Blessings from the Most High who has lived through the pits of despair. And peace to you from Jesus, the man who lived and died and rose again—the one who has gone ahead before us, and holds the door open for us to get it.

Grace, Blessings, and Peace to you this Lenten Journey,  
Pastor Peter Olson



# March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm No Meal	2	3	4
5 Comm.	6 Church Council 6:30 pm	7	8 Lenten Service Meal-6:30 Service 7:00	9	10	11 Men's Breakfast 7:30 am at Zion
12 Bible Study 10:00 am Daylight Savings Begins	13	14	15 Lenten Service Meal-6:30 Service-7:00	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19	20 Spring Begins	21	22 Lenten Service Meal-6:30 Service-7:00	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Lenten Service Meal-6:30 Service-7:00	30	31	

No Monday night Bible studies during Lent.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2017



# The Lenten Journey...Come Join Us!



**Zion Lutheran Church**

P.O. Box 169  
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