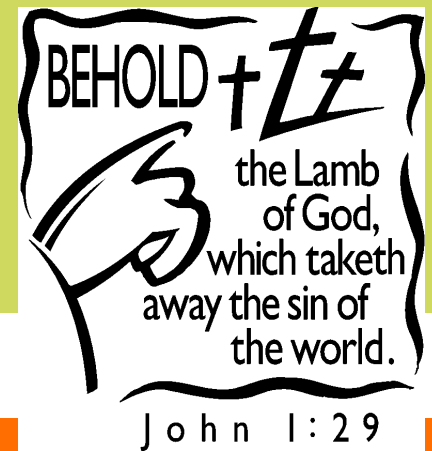




March 2024



Pastoral Ponderings

From Pastor Phil.....

This year, the month of March holds some significant dates. We continue through the season of Lent, and come at the end of March to Holy Week. This point in the year is rough as we really come face to face with the consequence of sin. The Law of God is just and wise, and in it, the penalty for sin is death. All sin is a rebellion against God, therefore all sin is treated the same way.

When we think about sin, it becomes worthwhile to consider our catechism from so many years ago. Sin comes to us in two ways. Original sin is the one that gets us and causes the most problem. Original sin is that inward rebellion that you just inherit. Since you are a human, born on planet earth, you are sinful. It is something that you inherited all the back to Noah, and then to Adam. There's no escaping it. It is the worst virus to plague mankind. There's nothing we can do about it. We simply have it.

The other form of sin is what the historic church has called "actual" sin. I really don't care for this name as it downplays the reality of original sin. Instead, I prefer to call this "active" sin. This is the stuff that original sin causes you to do. Don't want to go to church? That's ok. You don't have to. Original sin sets your will against the will of God and you act out on it. Active sin is the stuff that we do that does not bring glory to God Himself. This is the outflow of our sinfulness.

March 24-31

Holy Week:

*Palm Sunday Weekend
@ 5pm, 8am &*

10:30 a.m.

*Maundy Thursday @
3:30 & 7:00 p.m.*

*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! ☺*

The cross of Jesus deals with both of these sins. By the work of Jesus on our behalf, all mankind, all the world, receives an incredible promise. It's a promise of hope. It's a promise of life. It's a promise of salvation. Jesus, doing His good work on our behalf, comes to us and brings us everything. The rebellion of original sin is done away with at the cross. Death, the consequence of sin, is destroyed in the empty tomb. The devil loses his ability over us as he no longer has a say. His authority is broken. As we come to Holy Week at the end of the month, we take a good hard look at ourselves and see everything that is lacking. We take an even harder look at the cross of Jesus, and there we find forgiveness of every single thing.

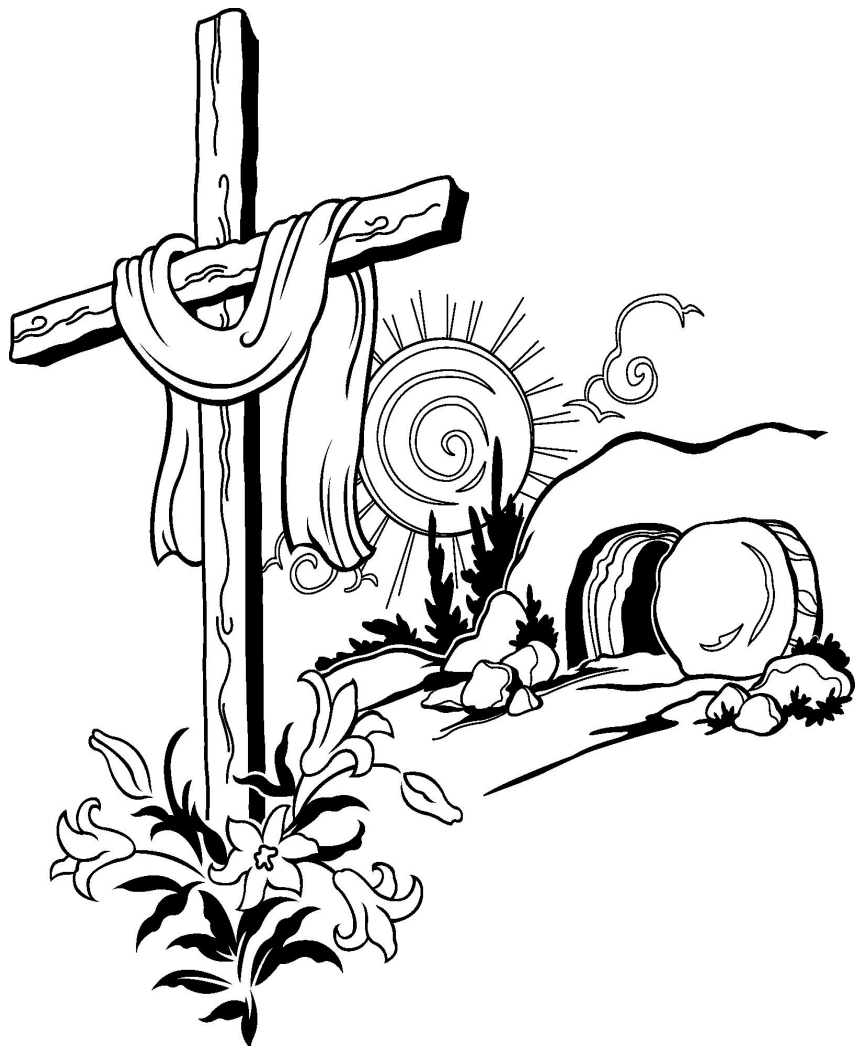
Brothers and sisters, as we move through the season of Lent into Holy Week, we mourn. As we move into the festival of the Resurrection, we cast off our ashes and rejoice that Jesus has set us free. Our enemies are destroyed. Christ has conquered all. He is our risen Savior.

Blessed Resurrection,

Pastor Phil

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,..."

1st Peter 1:3



YOUTH NEWS

March youth meetings:

March 10: Middle school youth 3 - 5 p.m./High school youth 4 - 6 p.m.

March 23: Winter Jam at Enterprise Center: We will meet at Zion at 2:30 p.m. Money will be needed for dinner. We plan to eat at the Spaghetti Factory. The fee for Winter Jam is \$15. Please have exact change. (No change will be given - it is considered a donation.)

March 24: Middle school youth 3 - 5 p.m./High school youth 4 - 6 p.m.

Trivia Night: April 6

Save the date! 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

Upcoming Gathering Information

It takes volunteers from all across the Synod to put on a National Youth Gathering every 3 years. Have you prayerfully considered how you can serve the youth of the Missouri Synod? See the link below to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

Gathering Ambassadors | Open Until March 15, 2024

Gathering Ambassadors (formerly Community Life Builder or CLB) are adult volunteers ages 26 and older. These volunteers serve in many different capacities for the duration of the Gathering.

Gathering Ambassadors are servant leaders and trusted voices, helping participants have a safe and remarkable experience. The Gathering Ambassador application is open for all LCMS pastors, church workers, and lay people.

As a Gathering Ambassador you commit to:

- Paying a volunteer registration fee of **\$400.00**
- Stay in dedicated Gathering housing (provided by the Gathering)
- Serve the Gathering July 16–23, 2025
- Wear your yellow and serve Gathering participants with a smile

The application to serve as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) will open for young adults ages 19–25 in July. The application for Team Flex will open for adults 18+ in early 2025.

Visit lcmsgathering.com/volunteers to learn more about volunteer opportunities for the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering.

March 2024

Zion Lutheran Church

Holy Week March 23-30
Easter Resurrection March 31st!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Lenten Services	On Wednesdays	At 3:30 & 7pm			¹ School's Early Dismissal	² 5pm Divine Service
³ 8 & 10:30 Divine Services (P.H. Choir @ 10:30) 9:30 Sun School	⁴ National His Service Station Noon-2 D.Q. Fundraiser Night	⁵ Lutheran 6:30p Elders' Mtg	⁶ Schools 8:30 Chapel 9 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood 3:30 & 7p Lenten Serv 5:30 Pub Confirmation	⁷ Week Field Trip Day @ Edison's 10-Noon Pr. Phil @ His Service 6:30 Trustees 7:30p Men's Club	⁸ Special Friends School's Early Dismissal	⁹ 5pm Divine Service
¹⁰ 8 & 10:30 Divine Services 9:30 Sun School Youth Group 3-6	¹¹ His Service Station Noon-2 6:30p School Board Mtg	¹² Pastors' Circuit Mtg.	¹³ El Indio F.R. 8:30 Chapel 9 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood 5:30 Pub Confirmation	¹⁴ 7pm Ladies Aid	¹⁵	¹⁶ 5pm Divine Service
¹⁷ 8 & 10:30 Divine Services 9:30 Sun School	¹⁸ His Service Station Noon-2 5pm Evangelism	¹⁹	²⁰ Little Italy's F.R. 8:30 Chapel 9 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood 2:30 Heritage 5:30 Pub Confirmation	²¹ Zion School "Rock Your Socks" Day 6p Parish Ed Mtg	²² The last day to Submit Articles For April Messenger	²³ Holy Week Begins 5pm Divine Service Youth "Winter Jam" @ Enterprise Center"
²⁴ Palm Sunday 8 & 10:30 Divine Services 9:30 Sun School Zion Youth 3-6	²⁵ HOLY WEEK Easter Break for Zion School	²⁶ HOLY WEEK 6:30p .Council Mtg.	²⁷ HOLY WEEK 10:30 Glenwood 5:30 Pub Confirmation Asian Bistro F.R.	²⁸ Maundy Thursday 3:30 & 7pm Services	²⁹ Good Friday 3:30 & 7pm Services	³⁰ Holy Saturday Holy Saturday Vigil @ 5pm
Easter Sunday 31 6am Sunrise 10am Resurrection He Has Risen Indeed!	Every Monday Pastor Phil is at His Service Station Noon-2p	Zion School Resumes on April 2		Every Thursday Pastor Phil is at His Service Station 10-Noon		

????????????

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.



Lent 2024

The Messiah's Sacrifice

2/14 Ash Wednesday	3/6 Thirsty
2/18 Deaf Ears	3/10 Abandoned
2/21 Betrayed	3/13 Accused
2/25 Lifted Up	3/16 Mocked and Abused
2/28 Forsaken	3/20 Pierced
3/3 Scorned	Holy Week: March 23-31, 2024

Join us in worship!

Wednesday 3:30p & 7:00p
Saturday 5:00p
Sunday 8:00a & 10:30a

311 S. Elm St, Staunton, Ill. 62088

MARCH

This is a monthly prayer guide for your daily use. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. As you lift up the countries and mission grants listed, pray that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ would be heard by those who live there or are served by our mite offerings. Each country listed has been a recipient of a mission grant from LWML at some time since 1942. What a joy it is to bring these prayers to our Father's listening ears!



1. For a clean heart (Psalm 51:10).
2. For LWML Mission Grant #6.
3. For China, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
4. For the work you do.
5. For things that make you smile or laugh (Psalm 68:3).
6. For the Lutheran Women in Mission Vice President of Communication.
7. For the country of Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast).
8. For the LWML Mid-South District.
9. For trials that strengthen and refine you (James 1:2-4).
10. For your basic needs.
11. For the country of Cuba.
12. For wisdom (James 1:5).
13. For government and world leaders.
14. For church leaders.
15. For the Czech Republic.
16. For the LWML Gulf States District.
17. For your family.
18. For the city/community where you live.
19. For the Dominican Republic.
20. For friends who are nonbelievers.
21. For LWML Mission Grant #7.
22. For your coworkers.
23. For the country of Ecuador.
24. For the persecuted.
25. For your enemies (Matthew 5:44).
26. For the country of Egypt.
27. For the missions of your church.
28. For those in nursing home facilities.
29. For those who clean and maintain your church.
30. For those facing life changes.
31. For those with serious illness.

Lutheran Women in Mission

Your Mite Offerings Make an Impact!

Read below to find out how your mite offerings work within our **church**, our **community** and our **world**. The following are examples of good stewardship.

Mission Moment - In the National LWML

Equipping Young Leaders - LCMS Youth Ministry - \$50,000

Survey results show that the best way to keep young people connected to the church is to give them chances to serve and lead. This grant will allow LCMS Youth Ministry to expand their current programs to equip young leaders. **Mission Moment Note:** Our Zion youth have benefited from this expansion of Youth Lead seminars and programs. We have seen a positive impact on our kids as they have started to take the helm in leading other youth, having Bible studies, organizing and leading a youth retreat at Rustic Acres in the summer of 2023. The future looks bright!

Water and the Word - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya - \$80,000

Students and orphanages lack clean water and regular access to pastoral care. Water and the Word installs water harvesting equipment, filters, hand wash stations, and clean water storage systems. After installation, a pastor visits with the schools, makes sure that the clean water systems are working properly and provides pastoral care to individuals. This grant will provide clean water and cover travel expenses for pastoral care to students in 12 additional schools and orphanages in Kenya.

Mobile Kitchen - Forged by Fire Services, Gulf Coast Region, U.S. - \$85,000

Forged by Fire Services strives to actively make known the love of Jesus Christ through its actions and words by providing warm meals, bottled water, and spiritual care to people in times of need following a disaster or economic downturn. This grant will allow the purchase of a mobile, self-contained kitchen trailer unit. The kitchen will benefit smaller communities in need that are often overlooked by larger organizations.

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!



Please make note that April's Messenger articles will be due before Friday March 22nd.

The release date of the April Messenger will be on March 29, Good Friday, at 1:30 p.m.

Please help me spread the word.

Thank you!

-Lisa



**FOR WE DO NOT HAVE A HIGH PRIEST WHO IS
UNABLE TO SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR WEAKNESSES,
BUT ONE WHO IN EVERY RESPECT HAS BEEN
TEMPTED AS WE ARE, YET WITHOUT SIN.**

— HEBREWS 4:15 ESV —

