

WELCOMING ALL, GROWING & SHARING GOD'S LOVE



"True love involves enduring sacrifice for one another — the greatest sacrifice of all being demonstrated by Jesus."

— John 3:16; 15:13

ZLCW

PERSONAL CARE KITS

This year during Lent, ZION Lutheran Church Women (ZLCW) would like to provide this opportunity for all members to contribute to Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR).

When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other safe place, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self-care, critical germ fighting and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty.

When choosing items for Personal Care Kits, please follow these guidelines:

- ✓ Give new items only.
- ✓ Do not donate items that have any religious symbols, messages or ZION's name on any item.
- ✓ Do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

The following are needed for each Personal Care Kit:

- ✓ One light-weight bath-size towel (20"x40" to 27"x52") Dark color recommended.
- ✓ Two or three bath-size bars of soap (8-9 oz.) any brand, in original wrapping, no mini or hotel size bars.
- ✓ One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- ✓ One sturdy comb (no picks or fine-toothed combs)
- ✓ One metal nail clipper.

A plastic container will be provided under the Bulletin Board near the elevator for items to be placed. Thank you for your contributions to this worth-while cause. If you have any questions, contact Karen Childs at 715.526.2445 or Dorothy Eidahl at 715.526.2650. R

HEALTH MINISTRY

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVE

ZION's next **Blood Drive** will be held Mon., April 15. Please track your 56 days, so you may donate at our Blood Drive. R



THANK YOUS



Thank you so much for helping me with my college endeavors. I am currently in a dog training class that has taught me so much about behavior. There is so much to learn about the animal world and am excited to continue my education. This is a picture of CJ the service dog in training that has been with me this semester! R

~ Faith Ugoretz

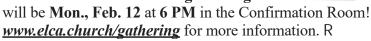
Thank you for the loan of the wheelchair. It was just what we needed. God bless you all. R

~ Loan Closet Patron

YOUTH

ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

ZION Youth (Gr. 8-12) come to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering July 16-20! Second Registration Info Meeting will be Sun., Feb. 11 at 9 AM in Room 101. The first **Planning Meeting**







PASTOR'S COLUMN

In Martin Luther's explanation of the Second Article of the Apostle's Creed, he states: "All that Christ has done and is doing. His birth, His life, His suffering and death, His resurrection and ascension, His rule at the right hand of God, and His promise to come again – all this was done and is being done that we might be His own people." The question we should be asking, "Do we want to be God's people?

That's not a flippant question, lightly asked nor easily dismissed. It's a question that probes the very foundation of our lives and it's goals. Do you really want to be God's own? Because it is such a probing, disturbing question, that it is a good one to be asking on **Ash Wednesday** (February 14) and throughout the season of Lent.

On Ash Wednesday, we begin another Lent (40 days – not including Sundays), listening to and meditating on all our Lord has done for us that we might be His own. And we begin it with a day of ashes. Ashes placed on our foreheads have for centuries been a symbol of regret for one's sinfulness, our brokenness from God and a desire to be forgiven and changed. The great "I AM," says to us, "I love you, and I want you to be My own!"

Think of this, have you ever heard a more presumptuous statement? Shall the Creator of the universe say to any of us, "I love you?" Shall the Master of the galaxies with their millions of light years, the Lord of the eons care one whit about any of us? But that is exactly what Jesus of Nazareth is showing to us in the people he

encounters the last days of his life on the journey to Jerusalem and the cross. This was God coming to show us His love.



Very likely few of us will ever know the experience of having a famous person visit our home. But if we suddenly learned that an honored guest was about to come to our house, we probably would hurry to get ready for that visitor. We would want our house and family to present the very best appearance. We would want the guest to feel welcomed and would take steps to show them that they are. We would want that person to know what their visit means to us.

This illustrates what Lent is all about. A most honored guest once visited the world we live in. The Son of God took up residence in human flesh and lived among us as one of us. Both by his coming and by what he did while here, Jesus changed the course of human history. Once touched by the

grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ, the world can never be quite the same again. The age-old promises of God became reality and established a new



hope and new direction for all who will receive Christ as their Lord.

In a very real though less dramatic way the Savior continues to come to people with the mercy and love of the heavenly Father. Through God's Word, Jesus wants to bring to us the life and hope he won for us all by his life, suffering, and death. We will explore this Lenten season what Christ's coming means to us through his interactions with people in those last days of his life.

We will hear the stories about Mary and Martha, Bartimaeus, Judas Iscariot, Malchus, Pilate's wife, Barabbas, and Simon of Cyrene; all of whom Jesus encountered and had interactions with before being hung on the cross.

You are invited to attend the mid-week Lenten Worship Services at 11 AM and 6 PM on the Wednesdays leading up to Holy Week. A free-will dinner will be available on those evenings from 4:30-6 PM. For those of you who cannot worship in person, the 6 PM service will be recorded live through YouTube. Palm Sunday is March 24.

May God bless you to become a blessing to others! R

~ Pastor Scott Ludford



ASH WEDNESDAY February 14 Worship: 11 AM & 6 PM; Lenten Supper: 4:30 PM

Wednesdays., **Feb. 21**, **Feb. 28**, **March 6**, **13 & 20** Worship: 11 AM & 6 PM; Lenten Suppers: 4:30 PM





FRIENDLY VISITORS

WOULD YOU LIKE A VISIT, A CALL OR COMMUNION FROM US?

What do we do? We decide which of the following we're comfortable doing and want to do — serve Communion, visit, make phone calls, etc. You choose. Some are more comfortable doing all of them. Some prefer to just visit or call. Time spent on this is up to you also. We meet as a "Friendly Visitors" group, two to three times a year. If you are interested in helping us or have questions, please call Marah Nelson at 715.526.8058 or text 715.584.3780. Or call the ZION Office at 715.526.2017 and leave your info. If you have a neighbor and/or someone from ZION who would like a visit, phone call, or Communion, please let us know. If it is you, call and let us know how we can help. We currently reach out to ZION members in Shawano, Clintonville, Green Bay, Milwaukee and even Florida! There is no age limit for people benefiting from our services. Hope to hear from you and may God Bless you! R

ZION'S TREASURER

Thank you to all members for their generous contributions in 2023. This led to a \$5,092 balance against our spending plan. We are hoping 2024 will be just as great! R

LENTEN SUPPERS



ZION committees, Confirmation parents and everyone is invited to host a meal. Signup sheet to serve a meal is located on the bulletin board by the elevator. *Everyone is welcome to attend*.

Free-will dinners will be on **Wednesdays** at **4:30 PM** before Lenten Services. R

IN MEMORY OF

DONNA KRUSELL given by:

R Her Sister, Ruth Patrick...... Wee Care fund

TED RUDIE given by:

HARLAN MARTIN given by:

R Mary MartinJoel Yeakey Endowment fund

FUNERALS

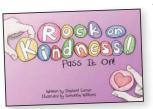
R William "Bill" Heling ~ 1940-2023......Jan. 27, 2024

R **Donna Krusell** ~ 1956-2024......Jan. 23, 2024

NEW LIBRARY BOOK

ROCK ON KINDNESS! PASS IT ON!

*By Stepheni Curran.** This book added to the ZION Library in 2023 is about a 7-year-old girl named Ally whose favorite hobby is painting and hiding rocks to



bring happiness to others. In the story, Ally, creates opportunities for the reader to make predictions and learn new vocabulary as she introduces the reader to her five best friends who will be receiving

her painted rocks. The five best friends include Ty, Katie, Noah, Latifa, and Max. Ally explains how she met every friend and notes how she met every friend and notes their uniqueness as these friends differ in terms of race physical appearance, preferred language, religion, etc. Despite these differences, Ally finds similar ties between herself and every friend introduced. The theme of moving past differences to find common interests and create friendships is reiterated throughout the story. R

Now Hiring!

DIRECTOR of YOUTH & FAMILY

ZION is seeking to fill a faith-based Director of Youth & Family position. This position will be full-time with benefits and be ideal for a self-motivated person who can bring excitement to our youth, as well as get families involved in the life of ZION's ministries. Salary to be determined by experience, education and/or certification.

HEALTH & WELLNESS COORDINATOR

ZION has an exciting opportunity for a self-motivated, enthusiastic person to fill this part-time position (12-15 hours/week) which includes office hours and out-of-office visitation time. You must have good communication skills while working in a team setting. Knowledge of Shawano County medical and health resources is important. Pay will be determined by experience and training.

If interested in either position, pickup an application or submit a resume with references by Feb. 29, 2024 to the church office or email *zion@shawanozion.org*.

^{*}Author Stephani Curran lives in Gresham, Wis. Her books are available locally as well. There is an article about Curran displayed in the Library.

