

# Focus

Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI

April 2020

## *Easter Greetings to Our Zion Families!*

All of us have had to change our lives because of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of these changes involves the way we worship. We miss seeing and interacting with everyone at Zion. Pastor, Jill, and Debbie have provided us with a way to worship at home. Services are available on our website. If you have not yet been able to get to these services, we are including directions at the end of this letter. You can also request a DVD from the office to listen and view a service. As we watch and listen, we can feel the hope of Easter coming alive for all of us. There may be members who do not have the technology to access one of these services. We hope they will contact Zion's office for help with other options. If you are able to help one of these individuals, please give them a call. A few members have offered to do errands and shopping for members as needed. Please call the church office for more information about that.

The work at Zion is still in progress. Pastor is available by phone or email and is still working to prepare weekly messages to us. Our organist, Jill, is available to be a part of these services as well as Debbie keeping the office work and communications going. Our custodians, John and Calvin, have cleaned and sanitized our building.

Your Zion Council wants to take this time to wish everyone a blessed and happy Easter as we celebrate in this new way. We

pray it is over soon and we can get back to normal. Please include the health care workers in your prayers. Many are working beyond their normal times and separating themselves from their families, while fighting the danger of the COVID-19 virus as they strive to keep us all healthy. Washing your hands, staying home, and keeping the physical/social distance guidelines are three things we can all do to help.

During this time, Zion members and staff need your prayers to continue God's mission among us. Members also have to be reminded that the bills need to be paid. Your giving is important to our mission. You can continue to give in three ways. Those of you on electronic giving, please continue. If you would like to begin electronic giving, visit our website: [www.shawanozion.org](http://www.shawanozion.org) where you can be directed to start an electronic giving program.

A second way to give is to mail your contribution to Zion. If you use a Zion contribution envelope you will have to put it inside another envelope to mail it. Make sure your envelope number is on the check or included with your mailing.

Our third choice to give is to drop your contribution off in the secure drop box located under the carport on the Union Street side. There is also a box containing devotional booklets and other information we think you might want. *Continued....*

Zion Lutheran Church  
1254 S. Union St., Shawano WI 54166-3461

Rev. Scott Ludford, Senior Pastor  
Debbie Bernard, Administrative Assistant  
Jill Sousek, Organist and Music Director  
Jennifer Greiert, Parish Nurse

Phone: 715-526-2017  
E-mail: [zion@shawanozion.org](mailto:zion@shawanozion.org)  
Web site: [www.shawanozion.org](http://www.shawanozion.org)



**E-mail address:**

Pastor Scott..... [sludford@msn.com](mailto:sludford@msn.com)  
Debbie / Office ..... [zion@shawanozion.org](mailto:zion@shawanozion.org)  
Jennifer Greiert..... [nurse@shawanozion.org](mailto:nurse@shawanozion.org)

*Council letter continued.*

Zion thanks all of you for your support as we celebrate God's great sacrifice and his gift of the resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and have a happy Easter!

~ Zion Church Council

**How to get to online services**



- Go to our website:  
[www.shawanozion.org](http://www.shawanozion.org)
- Move down on left side to see a list of services by date
- Choose the service you wish to listen to and double click on it
- This will open a "YouTube" page where you will see a screen with the service titles again by date
- Click again on the screen you want to open to view the service.

If you are having trouble, please call someone you know for help.



**Save the Date!**

**Vacation Bible School**  
**June 8 - 12 from 9:00am - 12:00pm**  
VBS registration coming soon!



**Aluminum Can Collection Bin behind the garage!**

The Youth would appreciate your donations—which must be bagged —as a fund raiser.



**Youth Fundraisers!**



**Kwik Trip Car Wash Cards**

We have cards available for sale!

**\*\$6 for 5-Count Card.** Save \$2.60 per car wash with the Kwik Trip Ultimate Car Wash Card!  
Contact the office weekdays.

*Happy Birthday*



**Jim Yeakey... 80 on April 1**  
1710 Estates Lane Apt. 3, Shawano

**Ronald Grosskopf... 80 on April 3**  
W5026 Lake Drive, Shawano

**Susan Draper... 80 on April 10**  
940 E Ridlington Ave, Shawano

**Robert Schmidt...90 on April 19**  
N5252 Cty. MM, Shawano

*Happy birthday to the 63 other members celebrating in April!*



**Coming to a Church Near You:  
A Brown Bag Lunch Bible Study!**

**Rev. Dennis Nelson will be offering an ongoing weekly Bible study at Zion  
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.**

**Stay tuned for a beginning date!**

It's exactly as advertised... bring a sack lunch and dive in to the Bible. The study group will use *Invitation to the Psalms: A Reader's Guide for Discovery and Engagement*, by Rolf and Karl Jacobson.

Rolf A. Jacobson is professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Karl A. Jacobson is assistant professor of religion at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



**Please purchase your book ahead of class  
(available on Amazon for \$20)**



**Financial Stewardship Update**  
General Fund as of February 29, 2020

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Variance</i>
<b>YTD Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 48,196</b>	<b>\$ 62,021</b>	<b>-\$ 13,825</b>
<b>YTD Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 66,519</b>	<b>\$ 54,728</b>	<b>-\$ 11,791</b>
<b>YTD Total Net Revenue</b>	<b>-\$ 18,323</b>	<b>-\$ 7,293</b>	

This report does not include special offerings such as Building Funds, Restricted/Special Funds, memorial gifts, etc.

**Treasurer's Report** by Gordon Holten, Council Treasurer

As these figures show our General Fund picture through February, revenues were under budget by nearly \$14,000 and expenses over budget by \$11,791. Also notice that Total Net amounts are negative. Throughout 2019 monthly balances were mostly negative, many lower than -\$10,000. General Fund balance at end of February 2020 is -\$22,795.

Obviously this negative trend cannot continue without serious financial problems.



**Sound Equipment Operators Needed for the summer County Park Services!**

If you are interested in helping to transport and operate the sound equipment for services at the county park, please contact the church office 715-526-2017 or Mike Eidahl 715-584-6542 .

**Training is available!**



**Memorial Gifts February 2020**

*Special gifts "in honor of" or "in memory of" to:*

**General Fund**

By: Dejon Polzin

In memory of Yvonne Wolf's sister and in memory of Jack Weldon's daughter.

**In Memory of Tom Rhode:**

- **Building Fund** by Kelvin & Joanne Olson
- **Music Fund** by Lorin & Winnie Preston  
Carleen & William Christianson  
Margaret Duches, Marilyn Dahl  
Roy & Audrey Ganzel

**Thank you!**

Dear Zion,

Thank you to everyone for prayers, cards, call, and visits before, during, and after my surgery. I appreciate all the kindness! Thank you Pastor Scott & Debra, and Parish Nurse Jennifer for visits.

~ Eileen Elertson

Dear Church in Society Committee of Zion,

Thank you for the generous gift to Wolf River Lutheran High School. I have added this gift to the Tuition Scholarship Fund , which helps young families send their children to Wolf River. Thank you for this wonderful gift.

~ Jerry Jiter, Principal

Dear Church in Society Committee of Zion,

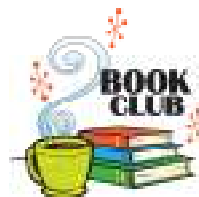
Thank you so much for your donation to Safe Haven! We have had a very busy start to 2020 and without support such as Zion's we could not continue our mission! Again, thank you from all of us at Safe Haven.



**Sponsor a worship bulletin in honor or in memory of someone!**

The \$20 sponsorship fee goes into the General Fund to offset the bulletin cost.

Contact the office to reserve your sponsor date!



**Book Club's Current Read...**

for May: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

Club meets the second Wednesday 3:30 pm in the church library. Interested in reading and discussing this book, join us! Questions? Suggestions? contact Joni Shebuski 715-526-6453 or Sharon Erickson 715-524-4280.

**Stay tuned for announcement of May's Club date! Keep reading!**



**“... she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Jesus.” -- John 20:14**

Imagine this. You have mourned the loss of a dear friend and teacher. You have watched him be murdered. Then he has been buried, and you haven't really had time to prepare or to celebrate his life. Now you have come to the cemetery, only to discover that the grave has been disturbed and the body of your dear friend is missing. All the gospels have a version of the empty tomb story. In some, the story is detailed and continues into the next days and visions of Jesus. In one, we only know the disciples to be afraid. In each, the women come to the graveside because it is their task to prepare their friend for the services of remembrance that are to come. Imagine it. They come to the tomb and find it empty. What emotions would you feel: fear, disbelief, uncertainty, loss, anger?

The resurrection is a confusing story and apparently was equally confusing for those who were present at the time. Mary Magdalene, whose very life had been transformed by Jesus, came to the tomb early in the morning. Despite what Jesus may have said about the future resurrection, it is clear that Mary had come to see the dead. She believed that death was final. When she saw the empty tomb, she assumed that someone had stolen the body.

What other explanation could there be? She reported this bad news to two of Jesus' closest disciples, and they ran to the tomb. They also saw the empty tomb, but the story continues to be confusing. "Then the other disciple ... also went in and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead."

So what was it that the disciple believed? Their belief, apparently, was weakened by misunderstanding. What was their response to this earth-shattering event? "Then the disciples returned to their homes."

It was Mary who stayed around. Seeing is not believing; because we often interpret what we see by what we already believe. Because Mary believed that death was final, she did not recognize Jesus when she saw him. Even being addressed by two angels did not change for her the cold reality of death. It was only when Jesus addressed her personally that the prison of her mind was opened to believe that Christ had been raised from the dead. When she believed, she was able to see. Despite her confusion, she did not leave, and, in her staying, she became the first evangelist. Sometimes, in our confusion, we have to continue to stick around until we can be addressed in a way that alters our beliefs so that we can see with new eyes.

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and today we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus who we proclaim as our Lord. What does this mean for you? What does this mean for us who identify ourselves as Christians? Simply phrased, "God wins." Sin doesn't win. Hate doesn't win. Political power doesn't win. Fear doesn't win. **Coronavirus-19 certainly will not win!** God wins. In spite of the sacrifice Jesus made, or maybe because of the sacrifice, God honored and honors him above all others.



We are called as Jesus' followers to make the same proclamation the apostles and disciples made in the first century. We are called to preach to the people and to testify to the power of God through Jesus: sins are forgiven, life is restored, and love overcomes hate and even death. How we choose to preach and testify is up to us. We can preach from a pulpit or through our actions in the world. We can say we are redeemed or we can act like we are. We can testify in church or we can make our whole lives a testament to the power of resurrection and hope. This year, celebrate, truly celebrate, the resurrection!

In God's Ministry,  
Pastor Scott Ludford



**First Communion Class**  
to be offered  
after Easter via ZOOM.  
Watch your email for more info!



To connect with our youth visit  
[www.facebook.com/  
ZionYouthShawano](http://www.facebook.com/ZionYouthShawano)

## From Your Parish Nurse...

### *April is Parkinson's Awareness Month*

Every April, the Parkinson's Foundation engages the global Parkinson's community to support Parkinson's Awareness Month. The Foundation raises awareness about Parkinson's and how the Foundation helps make lives better for people with the disease, by improving care and advanced research toward a cure.

The theme is start a conversation, a call to action that urges people to talk about Parkinson's with their loved ones, friends, neighbors, care team and community. Awareness is the key toward a world without Parkinson's disease. Every day people in our community face obstacles.

Symptoms generally develop slowly over years. The progression of symptoms is often a bit different from one person to another due to the diversity of the disease. Not everyone will experience all the symptoms. Parkinson's is a progressive neurological condition. This means that it causes problems in the brain and gets worse over time. People with Parkinson's disease don't have enough of the chemical dopamine because some of the nerve cells that make it have died.

It can be hard to tell if a person has Parkinson's disease. A tremor which is a slight shaking in your finger, thumb or hand while at rest is a common early sign of Parkinson's disease. Handwriting appears to getting smaller than it was in the past and words are crowded together. Loss of smell and trouble smelling foods like bananas, dill pickles, or licorice could be an

early sign. Trouble sleeping by thrashing around in bed with sudden movements and acting out dreams when you are deeply asleep. Your arms don't swing like they used to when you walk. Sometimes stiffness goes away when you move. If it does not, it can be a sign of the disease. An early sign might be stiffness or pain in your shoulder or hips. People sometimes say their feet seem "stuck to the floor." A soft or low voice or your voice sounds hoarse. Sometimes you might think other people are losing their hearing, when really you are speaking more softly. Have you been told that you have a serious, depressed or mad look on your face, even when you are not in a bad mood? This is often called facial masking. Dizziness or fainting when you stand up out of chair. This can be a sign of low blood pressure and can be linked to Parkinson's disease. Everyone has a time when they stood up and felt dizzy, but if it happens on a regular basis you should see your doctor. Another notable sign is stooping, leaning or slouching when standing. You are not standing up as straight as you use to.



No single one of these signs means that you should worry, but if you have more than one sign you should consider making an appointment to talk with your doctor to create a plan to stay healthy. For more information go to [www.parkinson.org/understandingparkinsons](http://www.parkinson.org/understandingparkinsons).

*Psalm 21:7 for the king trusts in the Lord. The unfailing love of the Most High will keep him from stumbling.*

~ Jennifer Greiert, Parish Nurse

## *The Parish Records*

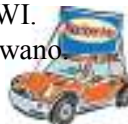


### Deaths:

- † Pauline "Foxy" Sohr March 19, 2020  
Service held March 27 in Appleton. Celebration of Life service to be held at later date.
- † Kathryn Wolfarth March 23, 2020  
Private service held in Marriottsville, MD.

### Transfer In:

- † Deb Larson from Zion ELCA, Grand Rapids MI.
- † Philip Goes from Zion ELCA, Marinette WI.
- † Ken Herm from Resurrection LCMS, Shawano.



### Transfer Out:

- † Janice Dillenburg to Elias Lutheran ELCA, Tilleda
- † Susan Carriveau to Peace Lutheran ELCA, Leopold

### Removed by Request:

- † Bill & Sandra Kanerva and daughter Cassandra.



### **Walkers Wanted!**

Please join the Zion Walkers team at this year's American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

**Friday, June 26 ~ 6pm—11pm**  
at Shawano County Fairgrounds.

Contact Kathy Beyer at [mrs.kathybeyer@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.kathybeyer@gmail.com).



### *God's Work, Our Hands*



### **Zion's Prayer Chain**

If you have a telephone prayer chain request, please call Co-Chairs, Winnie Preston 715-851-9576 or Eileen Ellertson 715-526-3500.

## Church in Society's Wee Care Program continues during school closure!

During the school year volunteers pack and deliver Wee Care food bags to the schools for distribution. Last month packed bags were picked up by families at our Union Street Entrance B. Nancy Wise is pictured getting the bags ready in the entryway. School staff distributed the food.



## Online Services!



*Zion would like to thank everyone involved in the ability to stream our services online!*

Special thanks to Clint WhiteHorse, Doug Wegner, Jenny Hanson, Keith Milner, Randy Steffen, and Jill Sousek.

## New Floor Cleaning Equipment!

Zion purchased a carpet cleaner/extractor and a floor scrubber. We are now able to clean the floors better than ever, in a fraction of the time, and much more economically!



*Front row l-r Mike Eidahl, John Phalen, Russ Wise. Back: San-A-Care training staff/*



**We are ready for April showers!**

We thank Jim Wiegert of Wiegert Enterprises for the great job repairing the west entrance.