

Zion Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 314
350 Pearl St.
Cadillac, MI 49601



TOWER
TOPICS
April
2024

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

In house Worship Services

9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Online Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Communion

1st & 3rd Sundays

Sunday School

For ages 4 yrs through 6th grade

2nd & 4th Sundays during 9:00 Service

The Tower Topics April 2024

Next time a sunrise steals your breath or a meadow of flowers leaves you speechless, remain that way. Say nothing, and listen as Heaven whispers, "Do you like it? I did it just for you.

Max Lucado
the word for the day



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April 2024
Volume 32 Number 4
Rev. Scott Torkko

Website: www.cadillaczion.org
Church Office 775-9821
Email: zionlutherancadillac@gmail.com

1 Office Closed
TOPS 5pm

2 Staff Meeting 1pm
Fellowship meeting 4pm
Property Committee 6pm

3 Prayer Shawl Meeting 1pm
Education Meeting Zoom 6:30

4 Ensemble rehearsal 7pm

5
6

7 Worship w communion 9 & 10:30

8 Stitchery 9:30
Philharmonics 4pm
Outreach committee meeting 4pm
TOPS 5pm

19

20 Dennis Trauiss Memorial 11 am

21 Worship w communion 9 & 10:30

22 Stitchery 9:30
TOPS 5pm

23 Staff Meeting 1pm

24

25 Bell Rehearsal 5:30
Ensemble Rehearsal 7pm

26

27

28 Worship 9 & 10:30
Sunday School 9:15



9 Staff Meeting 1pm
Executive council Meeting 4:15

10 Library Meeting 3pm
Book Club 4pm

11 Bell Rehearsal 5:30
Ensemble Rehearsal 7pm

12

13 Great Lakes Adventist Academy Concert 6:30

14 Worship 9 & 10:30
Sunday School 9:15

15 TOPS 5pm

16 Staff Meeting 1pm
Council Meeting 6:30

17

18 Women's Lunch Bunch
Bell Rehearsal 5:30
Ensemble Rehearsal 7pm

29 TOPS 5pm

30 Staff Meeting 1pm





PASTOR'S PAGE

Thoughts from Pastor Scott



Seeking Faithfulness

I was asked to share a letter with my nephew who is getting married in May. His father will gather a group of supportive men, cook dinner on the grill, and then we will all take turns sharing with my nephew wisdom as he enters a new stage of his life. I participated in a similar ceremony for him when he turned 15. It was a meaningful time of welcoming my nephew to a new stage of life and to encourage him as he continued to grow and develop.

This time, my letter will center on the distinction between perfection and faithfulness. Lee Brown taught me the difference. It happened after worship at coffee hour one Sunday. I was struggling with one thing or another that happened during worship, I can't recall what it was. What I can recall is Lee's words that freed me that day, "Pastor, we don't expect perfection. We expect faithfulness."

I've thought about that distinction often. Perfection demands being right. Faithfulness demands that we care well for those around us as we seek an answer. Perfection provides the consequences of guilt and regret. Faithfulness begins with God's grace in mind, recognizing that whether things work out perfectly or not, God loves us still. Perfection only cares about the final outcome. Faithfulness recognizes God's presence with us on the journey, so that we care as much about the journey as we do the outcome.

I had a few restless nights when Zion leaders were making decisions four years ago about what to do about Covid. And then one night, I remembered Lee's words, "Pastor, we don't expect perfection. We expect faithfulness." And with that, I was free from trying to get Covid right. I was free to care for others, to listen to them, to admit I'd never been through a pandemic before and so I was doing the best I could even if it didn't look like much.

I urged my nephew in my letter to strive after faithfulness. Perfection is too high a bar, I told him. There is life to be found in striving for the sort of faithfulness that begins with grace in mind and that holds our ego in check.

Paul wrote a letter to the Christian community in Corinth. The community was fighting amongst itself. Some in that community may very well have been right. But Paul was clear: just because you are right, it doesn't mean you have been faithful...they are two different things...and faithfulness is the higher calling.

I don't know who needs to hear all of this, but as my nephew launches into adulthood and marriage all at once, it seems to me that faithfulness is the place Jesus would have him begin. The same is likely true for you.



*Ministry
Coordinator
Val Hanson*



UPDATE

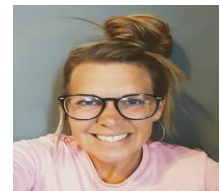
I am amazed at how God is working among us. When I look back, I see a variety of dedicated people showing up and giving of themselves throughout the month of March. There were so many things going on: Lent and Holy Week worship, grant writing, formation of a task force, the Easter Egg Hunt, Zion 101 lunches and presenters, music rehearsals, and 150th celebration preparation—just to name a few. In addition, it’s no small thing that people faithfully continued carrying on the work that quietly happens month after month: caring for our building, preparing for worship, removing snow, volunteering on Sunday mornings, attending committee meetings, creating the communication articles and the newsletter, caring for others through shopping, sending cards, visiting those shut in or in the hospital, and so on. We’ll continue with this important work in April as we keep growing and changing. I’m especially looking forward to New Member Sunday on April 14 and Youth Sunday on April 28. I am thankful that you and I are both part of this vibrant faith community

And His Spirit is moving among us

One of the activities our Kids Hope students and mentors have come to look forward to at the end of winter is our bowling party at the Pines. This year all of our Forest View mentors between Zion and Cherry Grove were able to attend and were joined by their students. 19 students and mentors came together to bowl, eat pizza and have an opportunity to have fun outside of the school building. Lots of coordination took place for this event to happen. Thank you to Ms. Horton for getting all the permission slips, the WexExpress for transporting our students from school and then back, the Pines for graciously opening the kitchen on a day where they would normally be closed and every mentor for rearranging your schedules to make sure it was a successful event.

Through conversation with Ms. Horton I learned that one way we can continue to support our students over the summer is by providing them with summer learning/activity packets. Thanks to the generosity of our Zion congregation we have available funds to help provide this support. Over the next few weeks I will be working with Ms. Horton to create and order items to send home with each student over the summer break.

Thanks,
Niki Schultz
Kid’s Hope Director



Thank You!

Received from
CAPS to
Zion Lutheran
Church



Cadillac Area Public Schools

421 S Mitchell Street Cadillac MI 49601

TO: Cadillac Area Community Groups
FROM: Cadillac Area Public Schools Board of Education
DATE: February 12, 2024

Cadillac Area Public Schools recognizes the kindness and generosity of numerous community groups that support CAPS students. Special thanks to the following organizations that were instrumental in making the holiday's extra special for CAPS Kids. We applaud the many individual community members that made the holiday's memorable for our students.

- Walmart: Shop with a Hero
- Meijer: Shop with a Cop
- Zion Lutheran Church
- Toys for Tots
- Salvation Army

CADILLAC AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Elizabeth Rzepka-Alto, President

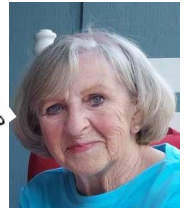
Judy Coffey, Secretary

- Steve Anderson, Vice President
- Eric Baker, Treasurer
- Scott Koenig, Trustee
- Anne Engels, Trustee
- Nicole Schultz, Trustee

Jennifer Brown, Superintendent



Just a Thought
From Judie



The Empty Cross A Post Easter Message

During the Lenten season, small wooden crosses are given out for our congregants to wear. They are symbols of the greatest gift ever given.

For 33 years, the man called Jesus walked this earth, enlightening others with His Father's messages of love and guidance.

Some listened, understood and for them, it was a life changing experience. And some rejected this man so vehemently that they demanded His crucifixion.

His beaten and bruised flesh adorned a wooden cross, raised on a hilltop for all to witness the excruciating death of His body.

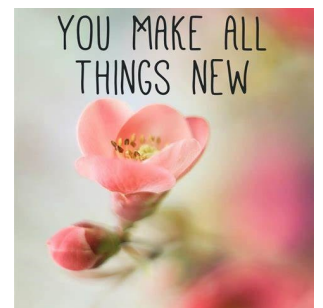
Yet, 2000 + years later, the symbol of the empty cross adorns the altars of churches across the earth - it is worn around the necks of countless people - it remains the reminder, for all those who believe, of God's gift to His

children and the willingness of His Son Jesus to deliver it.

The message of the "empty" cross resonates across the ages to continually remind us that the life sacrifice Jesus made was for us and for our atonement.

The good news that lifts our hearts and minds from the sadness of death and the grave is that because of that sacrifice, all believers will be "made new" and given the gift of everlasting life.

The empty cross is our reminder. He has risen. He lives, and so shall we.



150 Years Anniversary

Celebrating 150 years as a congregation!

Join us Sunday, May 5, as we start our celebration of Zion Lutheran Church's 150th anniversary. Worship will be at our regular times of 9:00 am and 10:30 am.

Bishop Satterlee will join us to preside and Nailya is working on special music. In addition, the Fellowship Committee will be hosting *special* coffee hours following both services. Watch future bulletins for more information about how you can assist with these special coffee hours.

In June, there will be two special events. The Fellowship Committee will host a strawberry picking event on Saturday, June 22. On Sunday, June 23 at 2:00 pm, we will have a Victorian Garden Party. There will be strawberry desserts of all different kinds. Plus, a Barbershop Quartet will provide musical entertainment and there will be other Victorian period activities. Fun for the whole family!



You've Helped Provide Housing for the Homeless

The Outreach Committee continues to be filled with gratitude for the outpouring of support you give to our monthly Noisy Offerings. Your generosity in supporting our **Noisy Offering** allowed us to send the **New Hope Center \$196.61** to assist them in providing emergency shelter to the homeless in our area.



Helping feed area children

The Cadillac Area Backpack Program (CABP) provides nutritious food items to students who are at-risk of hunger when they leave school for the weekend and have no access to school meals. Unfortunately, there is a huge need for this program. You can help support this important ministry that provides food items to at-risk children by supporting our April 28 Noisy Offering. Save up your loose change and help us make a "loud noise" of caring for the most vulnerable in our local community.





The Zion 150th Anniversary Recipe Book Committee is seeking all kinds of recipes. Help us fill a bound recipe book to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Zion Lutheran Church! Please drop off neatly printed recipes to the recipe inbox on the table just outside of the church offices by Sunday, April 14. Please be sure to include your name on the submission.



Calling all Youth Actors and Actresses!!

The 150th Anniversary Planning Committee is looking for YOU !! We need your help putting on a skit for our 150th Anniversary Dinner celebration being held Saturday, September 28th at the Fox Hill Event Center.

If this is something you would like to help with, please let Heidi Fenner know.

Great Lakes Adventist Academy

in concert

April 13 @ 6:00

At Zion Lutheran Church



BOOK CLUB



The book club will be meeting Wednesday, April 10th at 4:00 p.m. They will be discussing the book *Take My Hand* by Dolen Perkins-Valdez. The discussion leader is Marie Mercier.

A NOTE OF



To Penny Stange
from all the
Soup 4 Seniors
Lunch Bunch

Soup 4 Seniors wrapped up their Saturday luncheons on March 23rd with more of Penny Stange's delicious homemade soup, bread and desserts. We hope that Penny will return in the fall, so watch for an announcement in the Tower Topics and the church bulletin.



Join the Lunch Bunch on April 17th at noon at Lakeside Charlies for lunch and lots of good fellowship.

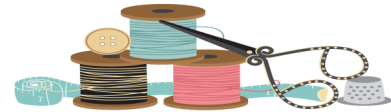
Group Meetings at Zion



The newly formed Widow's group will announce their next meeting time in the church bulletin. Watch for it.

This is a time for talking and sharing interests, challenges and feelings.

We invite widows to come join us.



Stitchery Group meets the second and fourth Monday of each month in the "All Purpose Room" at Zion @ 9:30. a.m. New helping hands are most welcome. No quilting skills necessary.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer Shawl Group will meet in the Fellowship Hall the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Why not bring your yarn and needles and join us?



Elena, daughter of Gray Vand Michelle S, and granddaughter of Kendra & Michael V was welcomed into our church family through Baptism March 17, 2024. God's blessings on mom, dad and little Elena.



New Prayer Requests and updates

- *Gloria L, Lavonne E's daughter, health concerns
- *Chad W, Bev W's husband, declining health issues
- *Twila J, Niece of Sandy H, health concerns
- *Billy D, Nephew of Sandy H, health concerns
- *Doug K, Deb K's husband, health concerns
- *Alea S, Deb K's granddaughter, health concerns
- *Donna M, friend of Mike & Marty S, health concerns
- *Danny S, brother in law of Ron & Sue S, health concerns.

To add a prayer request to our list, please contact Pastor Scott or email at Zionlutherancadillac@gmail.com



Zion's Prayer Chain is happy to pray for requests that you have throughout the week. To request prayer, contact Linda Carlson.

Recent deaths within our church family: Dennis T Feb. 26, 2024.

Please keep his family in your prayers.

Memorial service April 20, 11:00 at Zion.

Continuing prayer requests

- *Deb B
- *Jean B
- *Linda C
- *Steve D
- *Nancy G
- *Cassie J
- *Bob L
- *Dick M
- *Jan M
- *Wendy M
- *Jerry P
- *Denny R
- *Janet S
- *Louise W
- *Fatima, Nailya's Sister



SERVING

in

APRIL

Sunday, April 7

Altar Guild

Nancy Anderson, Anne Brus,
& Melissa Sjogren

Communion Assistants

9:00 Cindy Evarts, Allen Meyer,
& Kendra Vandervelde

10:30 Gareth James, Dave Monson,
& Sally Smith

Communion Clean Up

Charles and Teresa Raab

Lectors

9:00 Carolyn Emerson

10:30 David Koenig

Sound Techs

9:00 Joseph Baumann

10:30 Randy Mercier

Ushers

9:00 Cara Bosack & Carol Neverth

10:30 Marie Mercier &
Millie Zukausky

Coffee Hour Hosts

9:00 Elsie Moore & Chris Venema

10:30 Janet Steinbach & Barb Taylor

Sunday, April 14

Lectors

9:00 Katie Bussey

10:30 Barb Hazlett

Sound Techs

9:00 Scott Hanson

10:30 Maddie Houle

Ushers

9:00 Marty Solomon &
Maxine Swanberg

10:30 Phil Kuusisto

Coffee Hour Hosts

9:00 John & Sue Anderson

10:30 Burt & Peg Hines &
Marie Mercier

SERVING


in

APRIL

Sunday, April 21	Sunday, April 28
<p><u>Communion Assistants</u> 9:00 Nancy Anderson, Bill Fagerman, & Jennifer Sück</p>	<p><u>Lectors</u> 9:00 Ashlynn Bechtel 10:30 Hannah Freeman</p>
<p>10:30 Helen & Howard Potter, & Colleen Luhtanen</p>	<p><u>Sound Techs</u> 9:00 Scott Hanson 10:30 Kellen & Anne Koschmider</p>
<p><u>Communion Clean Up</u> Marie Mercier</p>	<p><u>Ushers</u> 9:00 Audrina Runyan & Roger Pitts</p>
<p><u>Lectors</u> 9:00 Jennifer Sück 10:30 Don VanDyke</p>	<p>10:30 Emmett Damgard & Phil Kuusisto</p>
<p><u>Sound Techs</u> 9:00 Eric Gustafson 10:30 Randy Mercier</p>	<p><u>Coffee Hour Hosts</u> 9:00 Ginger Schneeg, Bruce & Chris Norkoli</p>
<p><u>Ushers</u> 9:00 Woodie & Lois Durham 10:30 George & Karolyn Lackey</p>	<p>10:30 Caden Benzenberg & Family</p>
<p><u>Coffee Hour Hosts</u> 9:00 Craig & Margie Johnson 10:30 Melissa Penney & Marilyn Pratt</p>	



**TIME
FOR
A
SMILE**

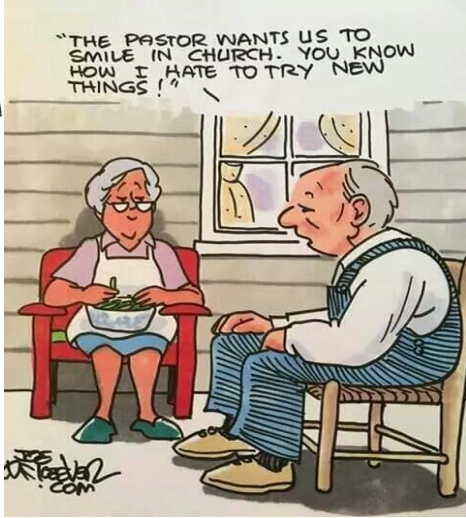


"Has your son decided what he wants to be when he grows up?" I asked my friend. "He wants to be a garbageman," she replied. "That's an unusual ambition to have at such a young age." "Not really. He thinks that garbagemen work only on Tuesdays."

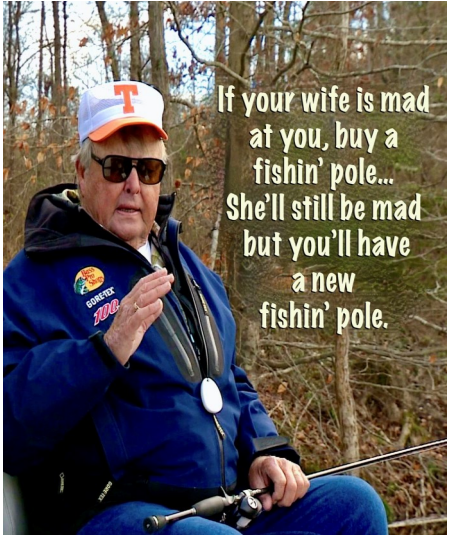
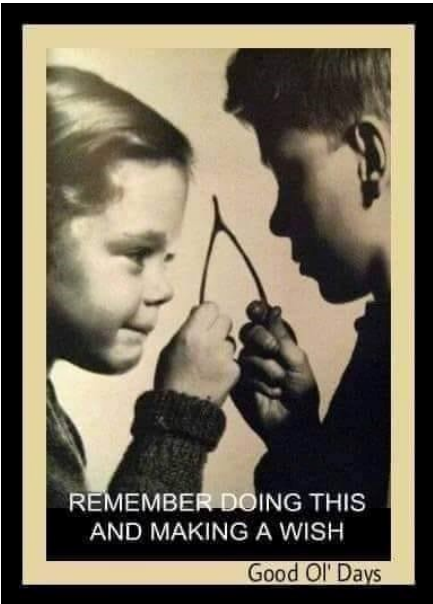
After hearing a sermon on Psalm 52:3-4 (lies and deceit), a man wrote the IRS, "I can't sleep knowing that I have cheated on my income tax. Enclosed is a check for \$150. If I still can't sleep, I'll send the rest."



Hanging up with my 90-year-old mother, I sighed, then said to my 96-year-old uncle, "She's so stubborn." He shook his head sympathetically and warned, "You're going to have trouble with her when she gets old."



After a rough day spent corralling my rowdy kids, I'd had enough. "I think I'm going to sell them," I hissed to my sister. "You're crazy," she said. "For thinking of selling them?" "For thinking someone would buy them."



40 years of ministry prepared Pastor Lou for his retirement years.

I don't like it when people text me in abbreviations at this old age. They be like "GM!" Well, General Motors to you too

