



The Tower Topics

March 2021 Website: www.cadillaczion.org
 Volume 31 Number 3 Church Office 775-9821
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**LENTEN
REFLECTIONS**
Part Four

Bringing one soul close to God by repentance is much better, in the eyes of God, than all other offerings, for there is nothing in the world better for God than the human soul, for everything in the world will perish except the soul because it is eternal.

St John Climacus
spirituallygrounded.org

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PASTOR'S PAGE

Thoughts from Pastor Scott

Learning from the Pandemic

It is nearing the end of February and I am still not sure what Holy Week will look like. I don't know about you, but I am getting better about not knowing exactly how life will be similar or different from week to week. It is one of the things that this time of pandemic has taught me...I don't have to have the future all figured out. As I wrote in a congregational letter recently, my focus has shifted to the very basic task of making the next best decision I can for Zion Lutheran Church. This means some long term decisions have had to wait their turn...including Holy Week (though this decision will be made by the middle of March). I have recently reviewed my 2020 goals with the congregation council. After admitting the goals I set in January of 2020 became obsolete in March of 2020, I wrote what my new 2020 goals became: answering the question again and again and again: how will we at

Zion Lutheran Church live during a pandemic? I am still helping to answer that question daily in small and large ways. As I told the council at our February meeting, answering this question day after day is exhausting. And I know I'm not alone in the exhaustion: teachers, school administrators, coaches, health care workers, small business owners, parents, those most at risk from covid, government officials...we've been doing this for over a year now and it is still not over.

While writing my rostered leader report for the bishop that I'm required to do at the end of each year, one of the questions asked was what my greatest learning over the previous year has been. I wrote this, "Through this time of covid-19...I am beginning to trust the resiliency that has begun to take hold for me. This was not taught in a classroom but in a key learning made clear over the past year." (con't on page 9)

Meet Your New Congregational Council
Serving from February 2021 to January 2022

Congregational Council Feb 2021-Jan 2022

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
|  Jeanette |  Andy |  Todd |  Pam |
|  Jennifer |  Eric |  Barb |  Lee |
|  Bruce |  Roger |  Jennifer |  Abby |

*Our Congregation
thanks you for serving*

Ministry Coordinator

Val Hanson



As I shared last month, during 2021 I hope to lead small discussion groups that focus on gratitude, gather a small task force to discuss new ways to be present and serve others in our community, and support our ministries in rebuilding following the pandemic. This month, I would like to explore how these goals support the pastoral mission of fostering connections to God, our neighbors and each other. The small discussion group time will include sharing a devotion, bible passage, or reflection each week that focuses on gratitude to God. The group time will also include sharing thoughts and experiences, which will strengthen our connection with each other. The community connections task force will explore opportunities for serving and being present with our neighbors. This may enable us to experience God in the world in new ways in addition to strengthening our church's relationship with our neighbors. Last of all, as a need arises or a gift is recognized, inviting people to participate in our ministries may provide them with opportunities to build relationships with others serving as well as with those being served. I hope you will feel more connected to God, our neighbors, and each other as you participate in opportunities at Zion that you find meaningful.

A late February announcement

Sledding Party at Diggin's Hill on Sunday, Feb 28, from 2:00-3:30. So, bring a sled and slide into some family fun. Hot cocoa, other hot drinks, and cookies will be provided. Please RSVP to Heidi Fenner if you plan to be there.



March Servers

Altar Guild:

Paula Campbell and Janet Steinbach

Disinfector-Between Services

07-Holly Williams

14-Kendra Vandervelde

21-Marie Mercier

28-following the 8:15 service Sue Anderson
following the 9:30 service Val Hanson

Greeter/Hand Sanitizer 9:00/10:30

07-Holly Williams/Lee and Peggy Jones

14-Kendra Vandervelde/
Jeanette Baumgras

21-Carol Neverth/Char Davis

28-8:15 Paula Campbell

9:30 Holly Williams

10:45 Barb Hazlett

Lector 9:00/10:30

07-Elsie Moore/Abby Zukauskay

14-Jennifer Sück/Lee Brown

21-Marie Mercier/Lindsey Torkko

28-8:15 Marty Solomon

9:30 To be determined

10:45 Barb Hazlett

Sound Techs 9:00-10:30

07-Michael and Tucker Vandervelde/
Scott Hanson

14-Joseph Baumann/Randy Mercier

21-Anne Koschmider/Maddie Masten

28-8:15 Eric Gustafson

9:30 Scott Hanson

10:45 Randy Mercier

Ushers 9:00/10:30

07-Roger Pitts/Char Davis & Deb Kulmacz

14-Michael Vandervelde/Marie Mercier

21-Karla Anderson/Rick & Patti Swanson

28-8:15 Cara Bosack

9:30 Roger Pitts

10:45 Beckie Kanipe

Lord,
give us an awareness that
we are always in your
presence, just as a fish is
in the ocean.

New prayer requests or updates as of February 28:

- *Pastor Don V, friend of Nailya C, Covid Complication
- *Sam K, grandson of Mary K, surgery
- *Harry H, hip surgery
- *Ashley R, granddaughter of Phil and Dar Kuusisto, COVID
- *Lyle M, Ron and Lola Ss brother in law, cancer
- *Dan T-Cancer
- *Richard H, health concerns
- *Keith Z, health concerns



Continuing prayer requests:

- John C
- Deb B
- Barb B
- June E
- Kay F
- Kim G
- Nancy G
- Norma J
- Allena M
- Dan S
- Janet S
- Elaine W
- * Ron W

Please note ... Friends and family members will be listed for one month. Please contact the church office after the one month period if you wish them to be included another month.

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

Would you like us to pray for you?

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



From Cradle to Cross



Sitting in the waiting room of a doctor's office one day, I glanced towards the corner of the room where sat a "seasonal overlap."

Often seasonal decorations become forgotten in some obscure corner of an office or place of business as days and weeks pass by so quickly moving from one season to the next, while business goes on as usual.

An interesting overlap of seasonal symbols was a Poinsettia plant relegated to a corner when just a short few months earlier, it was the primary focus of the room - its crimson blooms, strong and tall, announcing the season of celebration of the birth of Christ.

Recently someone had hurriedly place an Easter lily in front of its drooping remnants, the lily's bright white trumpets heralding an end to the death of the winter season of the soul, moving us into spring and the celebration of the resurrection of new life of the crucified Christ.

The journey from the cradle to the empty cross..... told in a glance at the plants in a dusty, out of the way corner of a room.

In the short span of 33 years, our Lord was born, ministered love and healing through out the land, gave His life for us and experienced resurrection, giving us the promise of eternal life.

Such a short time yet it's significance never ends. Christmas and Easter.....the two most celebrated holy days of the year.

Today, we celebrate them about 99 days apart. From the season of Christmas, when we are reminded of His birth, then through the seasons leading to our celebration of His resurrection at Easter.

We create a condensed version between Christmas and Easter of His actual 33 year lifetime, lived approximately 2000 years ago.

If we look at what has transpired in our world in the last year - the Covid pandemic, the long suppressed systemic racial issues surfacing, the national election, the events of Jan. 6th and all the before and after situations imploding across our land, we wonder how so much could possibly have happened in such a short period of time as one year.



And we wonder how we've actually been able to survive it all.

It is because of our belief in the truth of Christmas and God sending His Son for us, and the truth of Easter and God's Son, having obediently given His life for us and being resurrected as proof to His believers of His promise that there is no death, that we survive all things - yes, even pandemics.

As we remember the 500,000 who have departed this life, due to the pandemic, and all of our loved ones through out the ages, we are reminded by the Lily placed in front of the Poinsettia that they live.....eternally. Just as Christ lives.

He is risen

He is risen indeed!

Thanks be to God.



When life pokes and prods you, it's not punishment or abuse. You're being pushed out of the nest. Spread your wings and take flight. See how well you can fly!

From Melody Beattie

(Pastor's Page con't from pg 2)

We are in the midst of a Lenten season where we are exploring the question at the beginning of each midweek service, "what have you learned during the pandemic." A few folks have turned the tables and asked me that question. And these are my answers: 1) I have learned the importance of making the next best decision I can without looking too far ahead. 2) I have learned to trust that God is instilling in me the resiliency to make it through the current season while I entrust the next season to God's care. And finally, 3) I have learned the necessity of caring for my physical, spiritual, and mental health so that I have the strength to tackle the next question, the next decision, the next uncertain season.

I once had a colleague repeat this quote to me, "Never let a crises go to waste." One of my goals for 2021 is to ensure we don't...and that I don't. Reflecting on what we have learned in the past year is a way of turning the tables on this once in a generation crises. Blessed to be your pastor,

Pr. Scott



Reflections of Gratitude from Deb Delosa

Just a quick note from my journal. I never got to pick one up from church, but I've always kept a Blessings Journal. One of my top blessings from God that I'm grateful for is my porch. Sound strange? Well, that's me! I love my porch, as #3, I can have company over and still be far enough apart. #2, I love to watch the birds at the feeders. Best of all #1, I love to bundle up, take a blanket and a cup of hot chocolate and spend time with God in the evening. Everyone in the house is in bed, there's less traffic on the street and the silence is lovely. I do most of my praying and talking at this time and God listens and answers through the breeze in the pine trees, the quiet snowfall, the twinkling stars and the peepers in the summer. I'm so grateful for My Porch.



Drive Through Easter Egg Hunt: This COVID safe Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 27, from 11:00 a.m. until Noon. It is open to all children, so invite your friends, your neighbors, or your grandchildren. Those hunting for eggs will drive through the parking lot where our "Easter Blessings Brigade" will fill each child's basket with Easter eggs filled with treats and small gifts. You may bring your own basket or pick up a collection bag when you arrive. We ask everyone to please stay in their cars and wear masks to protect our Easter Blessings Brigade.

Drive Through

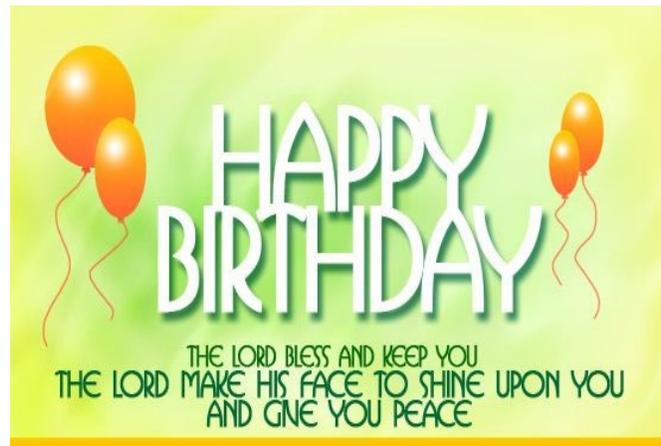


Supporting our Easter Egg Hunt: This year's Easter Egg Hunt, will be a Drive Through Hunt in order to maintain social distancing and keep everyone COVID safe. It will be open to the community, so you can help us bring a little bit of normalcy to area children. First, feel free to inform your neighbors or grandchildren they are invited (see the "Drive Through Easter Egg Hunt" article for details). You can also help by donating Easter candy or small gifts such as pencils or stickers. Finally, you can be a part of our Easter Blessings Brigade by joining us Saturday, March 27, and passing out plastic Easter eggs or other gifts to our Easter egg hunters. If you plan on being a part of the Easter Blessings Brigade, please arrive by 10:45 a.m. Also, for the safety of our families and neighbors, face masks are required.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Elsie N | 03/04 | Taylor C | 03/25 |
| Carla M | 03/08 | Hannah P | 03/25 |
| Hanisi S | 03/08 | Anders K | 03/25 |
| Paula C | 03/09 | Barbara B | 03/26 |
| Matt S | 03/09 | Marty S | 03/26 |
| Jennifer F | 03/12 | Nailya C | 03/26 |
| Jan M | 03/13 | Bruce N | 03/26 |
| Ryan S | 03/14 | Bob H | 03/28 |
| Todd B | 03/15 | Dale E | 03/29 |
| Siri U | 03/17 | Lori B | 03/30 |
| Keith J | 03/17 | Leslie K | 03/31 |
| Lynn G | 03/19 | Lettie S | 03/31 |
| Gordon E | 03/20 | | |
| Katie R | 03/20 | | |
| Phil K | 03/21 | | |
| Kellan K | 03/22 | | |
| Joe B | 03/23 | | |
| Maddy S | 03/24 | | |
| Elsie M | 03/25 | | |





Thank you for helping provide transportation to those in need Your generous support of our **January "Noisy" Offering** provided **\$203.09** for the purchase of bus passes.

Twice a year we provide the Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency (NMCAA) with \$300. This allows them to purchase 50 ten-ticket books. Each of these books have 20 50-cent coupons. That's a total of 1,000 coupons, and that's a lot of people in our local community who can get to doctor's appointments or to the grocery or to visit family and friends. Thank you for joining with us in making a such a huge difference in the lives of others in our local community.

Sunday, Feb 28 is our Noisy Offering which will help buy supplies for "Blessing Baskets" that are given to those in our community trying to overcome homelessness.

Thank you



March Reminders

Every Tuesday 1 p.m. to 2:30 Staff Meeting

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3 Midweek Lenten Service @ 12:00 on Facebook & Church's website | 16 Council Meeting @ 6:30 |
| 7 In-Person Worship 9:00 & 10:30 9:00 also online | 17 Midweek Lenten Service 12:00 on Facebook & Church's website |
| 8 Outreach Committee Meeting @ 4:00 | 21 In-Person Worship 9:00 & 10:30 9:00 also online |
| 9 Executive Council Meeting @ 4:15 | 22 First Communion Class on Zoom @ 6:30 |
| 10 Midweek Lenten Service 12:00 on Facebook & Church's website | 24 Midweek Lenten Service 12:00 on Facebook & Church's website |
| 14 In-Person Worship 9:00 & 10:30 9:00 also online | 27 Drive thru Easter Egg Hunt 11a.m.- Noon. |
| | 28 Palm Sunday Service Noisy Offering 8:15, 9:30 (also online) 10:45 |

Report Card



Student: J. Christ Grade 10

Course: English

Grade: C

Comment: Tends to write in archaic forms ("sayeth," "maketh," etc.)

Course: History

Grade: B

Comment: Excellent and enthusiastic pupil of ancient history but is baffled by the modern era.

Course: Earth Science

Grade: Incomplete

Comment: Totally misinterpreted a major assignment on the rocks and instead reported on "Rock of Ages." Needs to repeat class.

Course: PE

Grade: D

Comment: A troublemaker—e.g., during our unit on swimming, refused to work on technique and instead tried to walk across the pool.

General Comments: A charismatic boy but social concerns persist. Most disturbing is that he has organized a gang of 12 of his peers. Also, he should keep his hair at a tidy length and not wear sandals, in accordance with the school dress code.

From Pleacher.com (Taken from Reader's Digest)

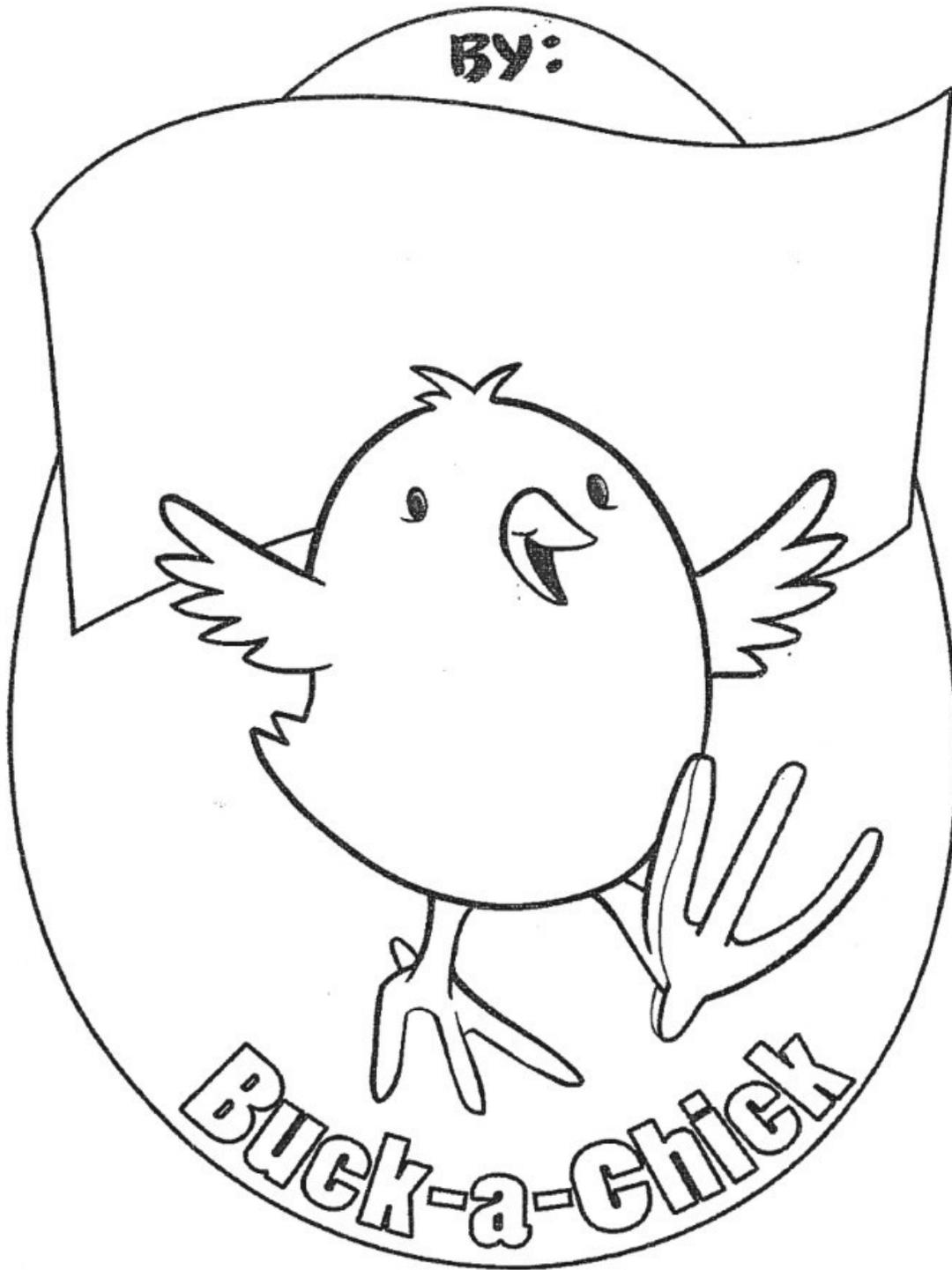
I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes 1,500 days in a row.

I decided to change calling the bathroom the John and renamed it the Jim. I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

Dear paranoid people who check behind shower curtains for murderers: If you find one, what's your plan?

Old age is not as bad as I thought. It's a good feeling when you just don't give a hoot anymore and you feel happy just to wake up in the morning.





Your gift of a chick makes a world of difference! It provides a family in need with eggs to eat and sell at the market. With this gift you can help a family escape hunger for good.

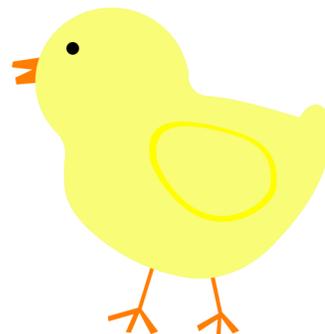


ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ELCA

World

Hunger



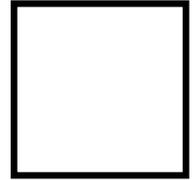
Buy a chick and feed the hungry!

Buy a chick and feed the hungry! Every year, around Easter, we participate in the ELCA's World Hunger Buck-A-Chick sale. By purchasing a paper chick for just one dollar, you can help a family escape from hunger. One dollar provides a family living in poverty with a chick. Soon enough, the chick begins producing eggs. Eggs made nutritious, protein-rich meals, and can be sold at the marketplace for income. And, thus, that one dollar helps families escape from hunger for good. During the month of March, you can help alleviate hunger by buying one of our paper chicks or a whole flock! A paper chick can be found in this month's newsletter or pick one up at church. Return the chick to the church office or place in the offering plate with a dollar or more. Checks should be made out to Zion Lutheran Church. Just be certain all donations are designated for the "Buck-A-Chick" sale. Your generous donations for our March 28 "Noisy" offering will also benefit the ELCA's World Hunger appeal.

(Paper chick on page 14)



Zion Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 314
350 Pearl St.



TOWER TOPICS March 2021



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

In Person & Online Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Sign up required

Palm Sunday In Person Services

8:15, 9:30 (also online), 10:45

Online Lenten Services

Wednesdays 12:00 Noon