

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



TOWER TOPICS

March 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
4 yrs through 6th grade meets
2nd & 4th Sundays during 9:00 Service

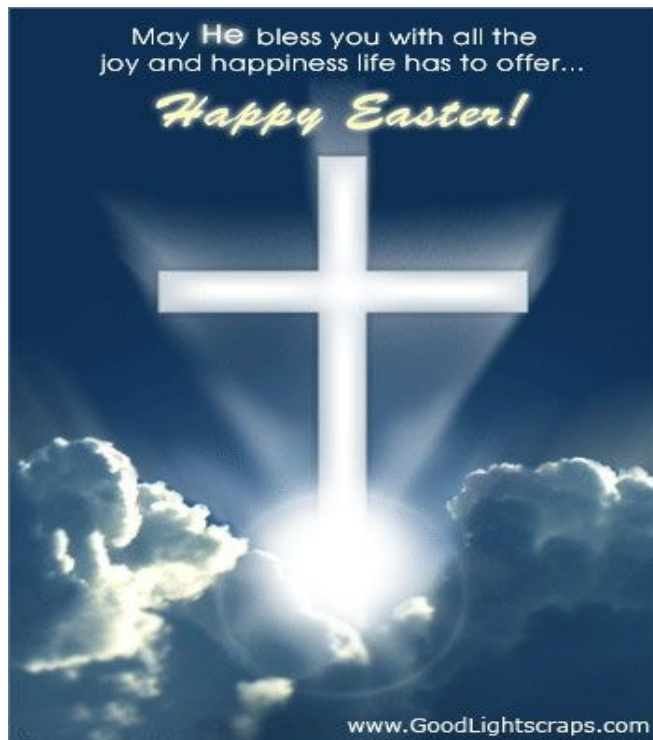
Holy Week
Palm Sunday - 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Online 9:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday - 5:30 Meal, 6:30 p.m. Service
Good Friday Service - 12:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday - communion - 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Online 9:00 a.m.



March Tower Topics

March 2024
Volume 35 Number 3
Rev. Scott Torkko

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



Birthdays	9
Buck—A—Chick Article Form	9 10
Book Club	7
Calendar	3
Congregational Council 2024	6
Easter Egg Hunt	5
Just A Thought from Judie	12
Lunch Bunch	7
Ministries Coordinator's Message: Val Hanson	5
Noisy Offering	12
Pastor's Page	4
Prayer Requests	8
Prayer Shawl Group	7
Requests for Help	11
Senior Soup Luncheon	7
Server's Pages	13 14
Stitchery/Quilters Group	7
Time for a Smile	15
Widow's Fellowship	7

March Calendar

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 16 Easter Egg Hunt 10am |
| 2 Confirmation Retreat | 17 Worship w/communion 9am
Worship w/communion 10:30
Zion 101 11:45 |
| 3 Worship w/communion 9am
Worship w/communion 10:30
Zion 101 11:45 | 18 TOPS 5pm |
| 4 Fellowship meeting 4pm
TOPS 5pm | 19 Staff Meeting 1pm
Council 6:30 |
| 5 Staff meeting 10:30
Worship & Music meet 3:30 | 20 Lenten Service 6:30
Ensemble Rehearsal 7:10 |
| 6 Prayer Shawl 1pm
Lenten Service 6:30 | 21 Women's Lunch Bunch
Bells Rehearsal 5:30 |
| 7 Bells rehearsal 5:30
150th Zoom 6:30 | 22 |
| 8 | 23 Soup 4 Seniors |
| 9 | 24 Worship 9 & 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:15 am
Zion 101 11:45 |
| 10 Daylight Savings begins
Worship 9 & 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:15 am
Zion 101 11:45 | 25 Stitchery 9:30
TOPS 5pm |
| 11 Stitchery 9:30
Outreach meeting 4pm
TOPS 5pm | 26 Staff meeting 1pm |
| 12 Kids Hope Bowling 1pm
Executive Council 4:15 | 27 Widow's Gathering |
| 13 Library meeting 3:00
Book Club 4pm
Lenten Service 6:30
Ensemble Rehearsal 7:10 | 28 Maundy Thurs. meal 5:30
Maundy Thurs. Service 6:30 |
| 14 Staff meeting 10:30
Bells Rehearsal 5:30 | 29 Good Friday Service 12:00
Good Friday Service 6:30 |
| 15 Set up for Easter Egg
Hunt 10:30 | 30 |
| | 31 Easter Services w/
communion 9 & 10:30 |



PASTOR'S PAGE

Thoughts from Pastor Scott



Sabbath Rest

I have begun talking about a sabbatical again. Many of you remember that my first attempt at a sabbatical ended with a worldwide pandemic exactly 1 month before I was set to be away. I postponed my sabbatical for a month when covid hit. A few weeks later I realized it simply wouldn't happen. Some asked me when I'd get back to the possibility. But as soon as the question was asked, life began to happen as we came out of the pandemic, Lindsey was pregnant, Fiia spent 60 days in the NICU, Dezi was launched into adulthood, and life slowly began to find a rhythm again over the course of several years. 5 years after that first attempt, I've initiated a second conversation about a sabbatical. I have promised that if this attempt causes another worldwide pandemic, I'll never mention the word again.

Many of you may remember that our synod suggests a sabbatical be offered to pastors every 5-7 years. A sabbatical is not a vacation. Rather, it is a time of renewal (typically 3-4 months) for both the pastor and the congregation. I have begun to think about this time of renewal with the question the Lilly foundation asks of pastors in their sabbatical grant applications: "What would make your heart sing?" It's a great question. It's a question that opens up possibilities which may otherwise remain hidden. It's a question that leads to reflection on joy, love, renewal, and gratitude. It's a question that will continue to center my thinking and our conversation.

A sabbatical isn't just about the pastor. The Lilly foundation is clear that just as a sabbatical is about the pastor finding renewal, so too is the congregation given an opportunity for renewal. Congregational leaders and I will be talking about what renewal for Zion may look like during my proposed sabbatical. How will Zion join me in being renewed?

I know that many people, in many different vocations, do not have the opportunity for a sabbatical even though they need one, and even as they likely deserve one. I do not take for granted the gift Zion has given me in exploring the possibility of being away for an extended period of time to find renewal. I confess that I am no more deserving of a sabbatical than most of you. I receive this possibility as nothing less than an act of grace to me from Zion.

Finally, there is a lot going on around here at the moment: the 150th anniversary of Zion, estate gift decisions, many more staff than when I arrived 15 years ago, and the regular activities that provide a center for our life together. In some ways I lament providing another major initiative for our leaders to work through. However, I suspect I will lead better in the year to come, and in the year following the sabbatical, than I otherwise would. This feels like the right time to have the conversation. And so it begins...again.

Blessed to be your pastor, Pastor Scott



*Ministry
Coordinator
Val Hanson*



Recently, the quality of warmth in a church was the topic of discussion during a book study that the office staff was completing together. It turns out that it is very important for visitors and young people to feel that the congregation is inviting and caring. According to the book, warmth is one of the most effective indicators as to whether your congregation will maintain and acquire members-especially young adults and teens. Just making eye contact and smiling matters. Showing interest in items a child may have with them or asking about an activity you know someone is interested in matters. I've seen several people at Zion make it a point to strike up a conversation with others that they don't recognize or know very well, and that goes a long way in creating an atmosphere of warmth. A more organized way that we can create a welcoming feeling is by greeting people as they enter the building. To that end, I am working to build a new roster of greeters. The job of the greeters will be as it was before we lost them during the pandemic—to arrive about 20 minutes before worship each Sunday to stand at the doors and greet people as they come in. Greeters will also provide an obvious person who can offer help for visitors who need to know things like where to hang their coat or where the bathroom is located. If you would like to help be a welcoming presence at Zion, let me know that you would like to be on the greeter roster. It is my hope that we can continue to build on a good thing that we already have going and find new ways to make everyone feel as valued and welcome as possible.



Children's Easter Egg Hunt and Activity Day Children in preschool through fifth grade, bring your friends and family and join us Saturday, March 16, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. We're having an Easter Egg Hunt! After the hunt, you can enjoy a Jelly Bean Walk, Cookie Decorating, Games and a Craft. We are also in need of teen or adult volunteers to greet and direct guests, help with crafts, supervise the frosting of cookies, run games and give out prizes. If you could help, please sign up on the church bulletin board or contact Val

CHURCH COUNCIL

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL FEB 2024-JAN 2025

Jeanette Baumgras

Andy Blank

Pam Dahlstrom-Treasurer

Bill Fagerman

Eric Gustafson-Secretary

Barb Hazlett

Terry Kanipe

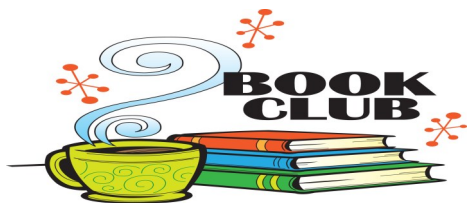
Dave Monson

Carol Neverth-Vice President

Bruce Norkoli

Jennifer Sück-President

Scott Swanson



The book club will be meeting Wednesday, March 13th at 4:00 p.m. They will be discussing the book "As Bright as Heaven" by Susan Meissner. The discussion leader is Marilyn Ulander.

Widow's Fellowship

The newly formed Widow's group will be meeting on March 27th at 1:00 at Michigan Coffee located at Cadillac West.

This is a time for talking and sharing interests, challenges and feelings. We invite widows to come join us.



The Lunch Bunch will meet on March 21st at the Truck Stop on 13th St. in Cadillac at 1:00 p.m. instead of noon. (Note time change for March only.)

Please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board at church, so we have a count for the restaurant.

Group Meetings at Zion



Soup 4 Seniors will be held on Saturday, March 23rd @ 12:00. Just as a reminder Soup 4 Seniors is usually on the 4th Saturday of the month. Come and enjoy some good soup and good fellowship. Please let us know you are coming by signing up on the bulletin board.



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.



Prayer Shawl Group will meet in the Fellowship Hall the first Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

Why not bring your yarn and needles and join us?



New/updated



Prayer Requests

- *Joyce K, friends of John & Sue A, as she grieves her son, Karl's death
- *Nyla C, friend of Elsie M, small cell carcinoma
- *Dennis T's family as they grieve his passing
- *Jackie D, health concerns
- *Kevin S, Connie F's son, health concerns
- *Al W, friend of Randy & Marie M, cancer
- *Andrea O, recovery from surgery
- *Dre W, friend of Dan & Sherry S, health concerns
- *Ted C, friend of Larry & Mary C, cancer
- *Ashley C, friend of Larry & Mary C, strength, emotional support, & good health
- *Chad W, Bev W's husband, declining health issues

Please Note: Prayer requests will be listed in the bulletin for one month. After that time, requests will be moved to the continuing prayer request list. Please pick up a complete prayer request list on the table outside the sanctuary. Please contact the church office if the prayer request changes.

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

Continuing prayer requests

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



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



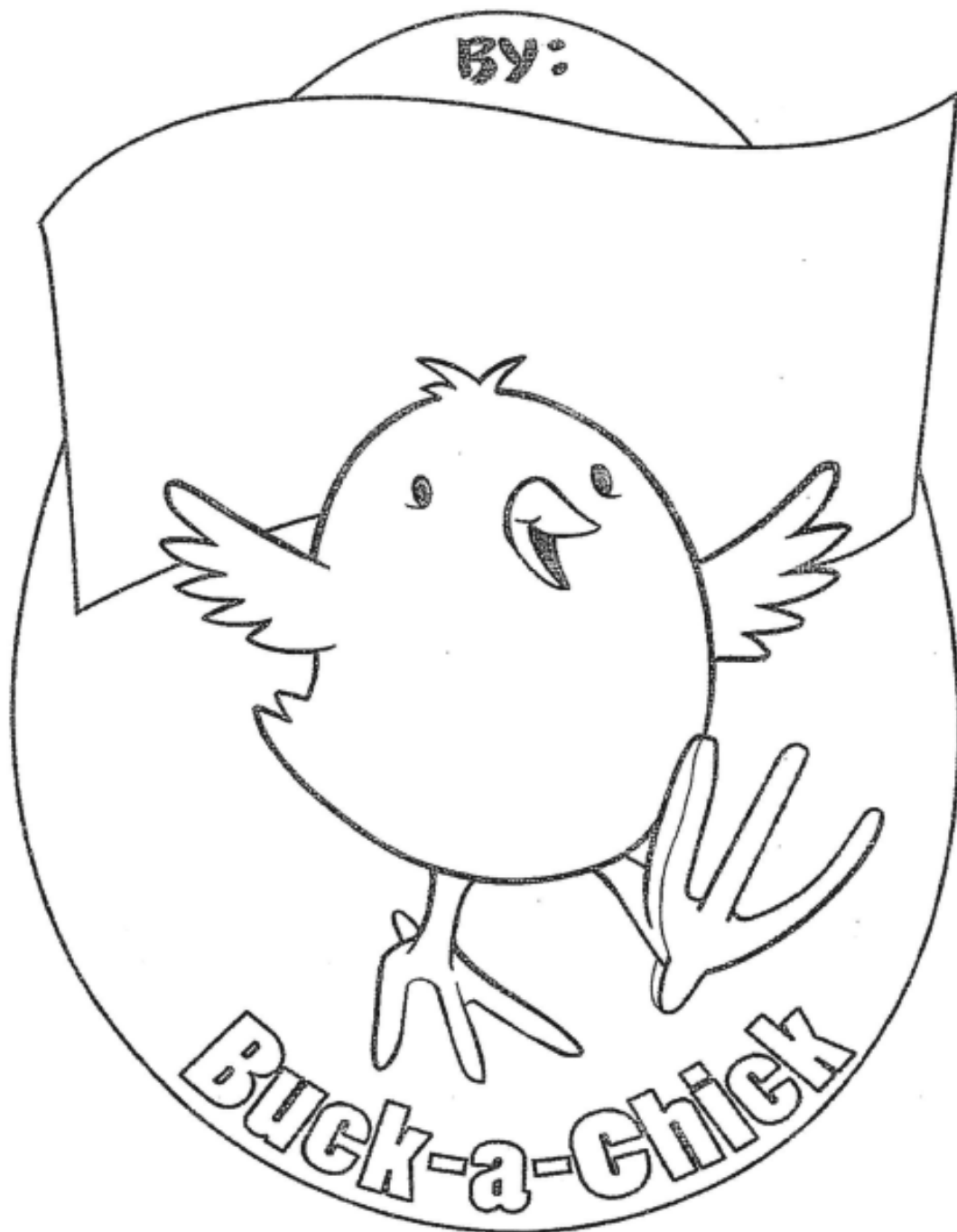
Buy a chick and feed the hungry!

With Easter in March this year, it's time for our annual participation 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.

Since Easter Sunday is the last Sunday in March, there will be *no* Noisy Offering in March. So, please, buy lots of "paper chicks." (Form on the next page.)



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.



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 28, at the Fox Hill Event Center. If this is something you would like to help with, please let Heidi Fenner know.

The Zion 150th Anniversary Recipe Book Committee is seeking Swedish Family Recipes or any nationality recipe. 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.

HELPING SALAVATION ARMY WITH LUNCH FOR THE UNHOUSED

The Outreach Committee would like to start a new program that would help Salvation Army provide lunch once a month for the unhoused in our community. The Salvation Army provides a warming area and lunch daily to the unhoused people in our area. They could use our help. We would like to provide a lunch once a month to be served at Salvation Army.

Teams of 4 people would be formed for each month. These people would communicate with each other to decide on a menu for their month. Ideas for lunch could be chili and rolls, soup and salad, spaghetti and garlic bread, sloppy joes and chips, macaroni and cheese, hot dogs and fries, or pizza. Dessert for each lunch would also be welcomed. These items do not have to be homemade. Workers at Salvation Army will heat up or prepare the food. Prepared frozen items like soups, meatballs, sloppy joes, and taco meat from Gordon Foods work fine. Each team is asked to provide food for 30-40 people.

We have selected the third Wednesday of the month to provide the lunch. Items are to be dropped off at Salvation Army on Wright Street the Tuesday before.

We will be grouping people in fours to form teams. You may indicate people you would like to work with on a team. If we could get a good number of people to participate, a team would only have to provide lunch once a year.



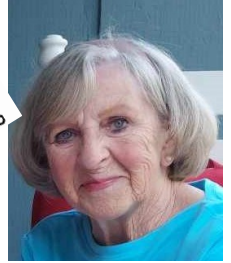
Noisy Offerings

Thank you for helping provide transportation to those in need

Your generous support of our January 28 "Noisy" Offering provided \$244.90 to help with 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.



Just a thought
from Judie



As spring knocks on the door, the month of March brings the end of the Lenten season, the celebration of Easter and the blessed realization of the Resurrection.

The journey to the cross and the heaviness of sorrow for the suffering of our Lord is over. And so is our concept of "death." With His resurrection, He brought to us an understanding that life does not end but goes on forever. Though we enjoy all the Easter treats of colored eggs, varieties of candies, and festive dinners, the greatest and lasting joy is knowing that Christ conquered death and in doing so, offers everlasting life for us all.

We see it all around us as the stark, bare trees return to life with green buds bursting with the energy of growth. The sleepy seeds awaken and poke their heads through the earth and the whole world around us begins to resurrect and return to life.

There are reminders everywhere of the cycle of life.....but the greatest assurance for each of us is that our life is eternal. Thanks be to God. Easter blessings.....



March

Serving Schedule

<p>Sunday, March 3</p> <p><u>Communion Assistants</u> 9:00 Jennifer Sück, Michael Vandervelde, and Kendra Vandervelde 10:30 Bobbie Brown, Lee Jones, and Sally Smith</p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 9:00 Lois Durham 10:30 David Koenig</p> <p><u>Sound Techs</u> 9:00 Joseph Baumann 10:30 Maddie Houle</p> <p><u>Ushers</u> 9:00 Woodie and Lois Durham 10:30 George and Carolyn Lackey</p> <p><u>Coffee Hour Hosts</u> 9:00 Woodie and Lois Durham 10:30 Mazza Family</p> <p><u>Altar Guild</u> Paula Campbell and Janet Steinbach</p> <p><u>Helping with Communion Clean Up following 10:30 worship</u> Charles and Teresa Raab</p>	<p>Wednesday, March 6 6:30 PM</p> <p>Sound Tech: Randy Mercier</p> <p>Usher: Bob Shumway</p> <hr/> <p>Sunday, March 10</p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 9:00 Jennifer Sück 10:30 Millie Zukauskys</p> <p><u>Sound Techs</u> 9:00 Scott Hanson 10:30 Randy Mercier</p> <p><u>Ushers</u> 9:00 Cara Bosack 10:30 Phil Kuusisto</p> <p><u>Coffee Hour Hosts</u> 9:00 Schneeg Family 10:30 Ron and Sue Smith</p> <hr/> <p>Wednesday, March 13 6:30 PM</p> <p>Sound Tech: Randy Mercier</p> <p>Usher: Jim and Sally Smith</p>	<p>Sunday, March 17</p> <p><u>Communion Assistants</u> 9:00 Nancy Anderson, Elsie Moore, and Scott Swanson</p> <p>10:30 Jeri LaRocque, Helen Potter, and Niki Schultz</p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 9:00 Dave Koenig 10:30 Abrielle Koschmider</p> <p><u>Sound Techs</u> 9:00 Scott Hanson 10:30 Anne Koschmider</p> <p><u>Ushers</u> 9:00 Carol Neverth and Bob Shumway 10:30 George and Carolyn Lackey</p> <p><u>Coffee Hour Hosts</u> 9:00 Marty Solomon and Maxine Swanberg 10:30 Brian and Susan Knoth</p> <p><u>Altar Guild</u> Paula Campbell and Janet Steinbach</p> <p><u>Helping with Communion Clean Up following 10:30 worship</u> Sue Anderson</p>
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March

Serving Schedule

<p>Wednesday, March 20 6:30 PM</p> <p>Sound Tech: Randy Mercier</p> <p>Usher: Paula Campbell</p> <hr/> <p>Sunday, March 24</p> <p><u>Crucifers</u> 9:00 Garrin Schneeeg 10:30 Tristan Fenner</p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 9:00 Barb Hazlett 10:30 Don VanDyke</p> <p><u>Sound Techs</u> 9:00 Eric Gustafson 10:30 Randy Mercier</p> <p><u>Ushers</u> 9:00 Becky Gustafson 10:30 Rick and Patti Swanson</p> <p><u>Coffee Hour Hosts</u> 9:00 Karla Anderson, Carol Goodwill, and Carol Neverth 10:30 Bonnie James and Cheryl Ray</p>	<p>Thursday, March 28</p> <p><u>Communion Assistants</u> 6:30PM Bobbie Brown, Dave Monson, and Jennifer Sück</p> <p><u>Lector</u> 6:30PM Marilyn Bridges</p> <p><u>Sound Techs</u> 6:30PM Randy Mercier</p> <p><u>Ushers</u> 6:30PM Bruce and Chris Norkoli</p> <p><u>Altar Guild</u> Paula Campbell and Janet Steinbach</p> <p><u>Helping with Communion Clean Up following worship</u> Dave Monson</p>	<p>Friday, March 29</p> <p><u>Acolytes</u> 12:00PM Abrielle Koschmider 6:30PM Ronin Schneeg</p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 12:00 PM Millie Zukauskus 6:30 Jeanette Baumgras</p> <p><u>Sound Techs</u> 12:00PM Eric Gustafson 6:30PM Randy Mercier</p> <p><u>Ushers</u> 12:00 Becky Gustafson 6:30 Karla Anderson</p>	<p>Sunday, March 31</p> <p><u>Communion Assistants</u> 9:00 Sue Anderson, Marilyn Bridges, and Mike Coy 10:30 Bobbie Brown, Colleen Luhtanen, and Dave Monson</p> <p><u>Crucifers</u> 9:00 Ashlynn Becketel 10:30 Abrielle Koschmider</p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 9:00 Elsie Moore 10:30 Marie Mercier</p> <p><u>Sound Techs</u> 9:00 Scott Hanson 10:30 Anne Koschmider</p> <p><u>Ushers</u> 9:00 Jeff and Penny Johnson 10:30 Beckie Kanipe and Marie Mercier</p> <p><u>Altar Guild</u> Paula Campbell and Janet Steinbach</p> <p><u>Coffee Hour Hosts</u> 9:00 Roger and Rhonda Pitts and Deb Kulmacz 10:30 Helen Potter and Niki Schultz</p> <p><u>Helping with Communion Clean Up following 10:30 worship</u> Charles and Teresa Raab</p>
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**I WENT BY THE HOUSE
I GREW UP IN, AND
ASKED IF I COULD GO IN
AND LOOK AROUND.
THEY SAID NO AND
SLAMMED THE DOOR.
MY PARENTS CAN BE
SO RUDE.**

**TIME
FOR
A
SMILE**



How to frighten the new generation:

put them in a room with a rotary dial phone—an analog watch—and a T.V. with no remote.

Then leave directions on how to use in cursive!!



My wife left me because I am insecure.
No wait, she's back.
She just went to get coffee

justsomething.co

**My boss told me to
have a good day...
...so I went home.**

FUNNY JOKES - WWW.PUN.ME

My patience is basically like a gift card....Not sure how much is left on it, but we can GIVE IT A TRY!

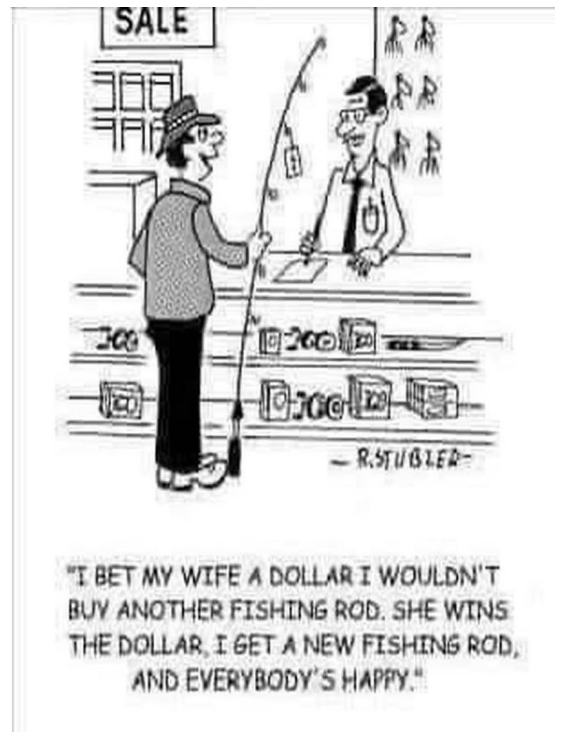
A child asked his mother:
"Mom! Can you give me some money?"

His mom: Why?

Child: I will give it to an old man.

Mom: well done! Ok, where is the old man?

Child: He is at the end of the street.....He is selling ice-cream.



"I BET MY WIFE A DOLLAR I WOULDN'T BUY ANOTHER FISHING ROD. SHE WINS THE DOLLAR. I GET A NEW FISHING ROD, AND EVERYBODY'S HAPPY."

**DRIVER: "WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO
WITH THIS SPEEDING TICKET?"**



**OFFICER: "KEEP IT, WHEN YOU COLLECT
FOUR OF THEM, YOU GET A BICYCLE."**

My wife accused me
of being immature.
I told her to get out of my fort.

justsomething.co

Little Johnny comes home from his first day at school.
His mother asks: "What did you learn today Little Johnny?"
Little Johnny replies: "Not enough Mom. I have to go back tomorrow..."