

# ZION PROCLAIMER

April 2025

## "A Noble Note"

I wasn't really gifted with the talent of speaking or writing. I have always been jealous of people's ability to just sit down and write something meaningful or to comfortably stand up and speak in front of others. Even though I end up writing and speaking, it takes me a great amount of energy and time to get to that point. I remember my stress level rising to the maximum amount when I entered into my first preaching class in the seminary. Not only did I have to write a sermon, but I felt like I had to create something profound and enlightening that would change someone's life. I felt defeated even before I began.

My professor must have noticed my anxiety, because after class he pulled me aside to check on me. I told him that I felt like I had to have the perfect words in order to explain the Gospel, and that it had to be the greatest message in order to be "acceptable" and "effective". In other words, I felt that this was too important of a task for someone like me.

I will never forget what he told me: "It's okay to plagiarize the Gospel". In other words, we don't have to come up with the next big thing or recreate a new way to tell the Good News of Christ crucified and risen. We don't have to come up with our own meaningful words to give the Gospel meaning or effectiveness. God has already given us everything we will ever need in His Word and His Spirit! With these gifts, anyone can confidently share the Gospel!

I'm sharing this with you right now because, with this warmer weather, we will be interacting with people more, and sometimes that brings us to an opportunity to share our faith in Jesus. And I know many of us panic over this because we're too afraid of saying the wrong thing or we feel unqualified. And so, we tend to leave it to "the professionals".

But let me encourage you with the same advice my professor gave me: "It's okay to plagiarize the Gospel". Our message today is the same message the angels proclaimed on that first Easter morning when Jesus rose from the dead: **"He is risen and He is alive!"**

You don't need to sound like a pastor in order to share your faith. You don't have to be able to write like Paul in order to point someone to Jesus. You don't need to have a doctorate in order to support the truth of the Bible. All you need to do is be yourself, be open and honest with others, and be ready to give a reason for the hope that you have (**1 Peter 3:15**).

God has given you His Words to use. God has gifted you with His Holy Spirit to guide you and direct you. God has given you everything you need in order to join Him in His mission in furthering the kingdom of God. You may not realize it yet, but God is already working through you. And as sloppy and unprepared as your words might be, He is still accomplishing much through you.

Are you still nervous? Don't be. Because God has already given you everything you need. I'll even help you out by giving you a few Bible verses to keep close by for the moments God is nudging you to share:

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

**Galatians 3:13-14**

**Ephesians 2:4-10**

**Philippians 2:5-8**

**Titus 3:4-7**

**Romans 5:6-11**

**Romans 6:23**

*In His Service,  
Pastor Andy Noble*

# Zion Lutheran Church

Box 59

Arcadia, IA 51430

712-689-2441

revfish@westianet.net

On the 3rd Tuesday of the month Pastor Andy is out of the office due to Carroll Circuit Pastor's Meeting.

*The Board of Elders meets monthly at the Church. Please feel free to contact any member of the Elder Board about any aspect of our ministry here at Zion.*

Doug Ehlers  
Kurt Branning  
Randy Bruhn  
Jeff Luetje  
Kyle Bass  
Ryan Middleton

## Elders

### APRIL LIST OF DUTIES

#### CHURCH COUNCIL

President:	Chris Toft
Vice President	Kevin Skinner
Secretary	Kathy Kraus
Treasurer	Mary Bruhn
Bd Evangelism	Shelley Lenz
Bd Education	Chad Wittrock
Bd Stewardship	Lajeane Shiney
Trustees:	Dwight Ehlers, Kyle Lenz Curtis Ehlers
Financial Sec.	Paulette Von Glan

#### USHERS

Doug Schuette	Dan Wittrock
Derrick Cornelius P	Paul Ehlers
Tyler Ehlers	Ty Muhlbauer
Doug Ehlers	Jeremy Ehlers

#### CHANCEL DUTIES

Dawn Luetje & Lajeane Shiney


#### PARISH DUTIES

Dawn Luetje & Sara Skinner

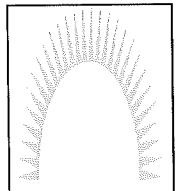
#### MARTHA CIRCLE

Carm Thiedeman & Linda Mumm

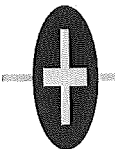





**LADIES AID & EVENING CIRCLE MEETINGS**  
**EVENING CIRCLE:** The Evening Circle will meet at 1 pm on Wednesday, April 2nd here at the church. Hostess is Lajeane Shoney



**CHANCEL**

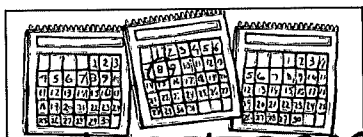


**CIRCLE**



**Sewing Group**

The Sewing Circle will be meeting on Monday, April 15th at 9:30 am. Everyone is invited to come and join.



**QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING**

**CHANCEL CIRCLE**  
 Dawn Luetje  
 Lajeane Shoney

**PARISH CIRCLE**  
 Dawn Luetje  
 Sara Skinner



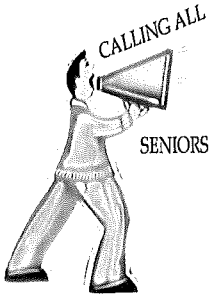
**CARROLL ZONE**  
 LWML Spring Rally

LWML Carroll Zone Spring Rally will be held on Saturday, April 12 at Zion Manning from 9 to 11:30 am

The Quarterly Voter's Meeting will be held Sunday, April 6th following our worship service. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend



*The Rite of Confirmation was held on Sunday, April 13th. The following 3 students received the Rite of Confirmation. Marissa Schrad, Lacey Middleton, Laynie Muhlbauer. The students will be reading their faith essays on Wednesday, April 9th. A reception will be held for them following the 6:30 service.*



Just a reminder that Zion has 3 scholarships available for Zion Seniors who are going on to college. They are the Zion Memorial the Violetta Anderson Scholarship and the Lila Thiedeman Scholarship. The Lila Thiedeman is for a student going to ISU. Applications and information for the scholarships are available from the church office and need to be returned by Sunday, April 27th.



Register at <https://vbsmate.com/zionarcadia>

Plans are currently underway for our 20245 Vacation Bible School "EPIC Australian Adventure" An unforgettable journey with Jesus

Classes are open for children 4 years old (MUST be 4 by September 5th and will be attending preschool this fall)

We ask that ALL persons interested in attending this year, please call the church office (689-2441) to register, or go on line at <https://vbsmate.com/zionarcadia> so that we can order materials accordingly.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** If you would be willing to help out with VBS this year, teaching, craft, snacks, etc, please contact the church office or sign up using the vbsmate.com website.

Please watch for more details as time gets closer to V.B.S.

**V. B. S.**

**June 4-6, 2025**

**8:30-11:30**



We are in need of teachers for our Vacation Bible School this year. VBS will be held (God willing) Wednesday-Friday, June 4-6, 2025. If you would be willing to help teach or help in one of the classrooms, please contact the church office as soon as possible so that we can get materials ordered.

Please note we are only planning 3 days this year Wednesday to Friday

**8:30-11:30 Am**



# April

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

6

Read  
Isaiah 43:16-18.  
Draw what you hear  
in this verse.

7

Read  
Psalm 126:2.  
What is one great thing  
the Lord did for you today?

8

Read  
John 16:20.  
Look up the  
word "lament."

9

Read  
1 Thessalonians 4:13.  
How do you show your  
hope in sad times?

10

Read  
Ecclesiastes 4:9.  
Pray for your  
future spouse.

11

Read  
Proverbs 31:25.  
Memorize this verse.

12

Read  
James 5:13.  
Choose a song to sing!

13

Read  
Philippians 2:9-11.  
Shout: Jesus is Lord!

14

Read  
Psalm 118:26.  
Draw a picture of your  
church's sanctuary.

15

Read  
Habakkuk 3:18.  
What's one thing that  
brought you joy today?

16

Read  
Romans 12:9.  
Memorize this verse.

17

Read  
Hebrews 10:23.  
Recite the  
Apostles' Creed.

18

Read  
Isaiah 52:13.  
Create a cross and tape it  
as high as you can reach.

19

Read  
Isaiah 65:17.  
Look up the  
word "former."

20

Read  
Job 19:25.  
Sing "I Know That My  
Redeemer Lives."

21

Read  
Psalm 16:9-10.  
Show us what it looks  
like when your whole  
being rejoices!

22

Read  
Psalm 95:4-5.  
Describe your favorite  
place on Earth.

23

Read  
John 20:18.  
Ask an adult how they  
have seen the Lord.

24

Read  
1 Corinthians 15:57.  
Memorize this verse.

25

Read  
Isaiah 65:20.  
Pray for those who have  
experienced the loss of  
a pregnancy.

26

Read  
Ecclesiastes 7:14.  
Say: God made today!

27

Read  
Revelation 1:7.  
Draw what you hear in  
this verse.

28

Read  
Acts 5:19-20.  
Ask an adult about a time  
they shared about Jesus.

29

Read  
Colossians 4:6.  
Create actions for  
this verse.

30

Read  
2 John 4.  
Memorize this verse.



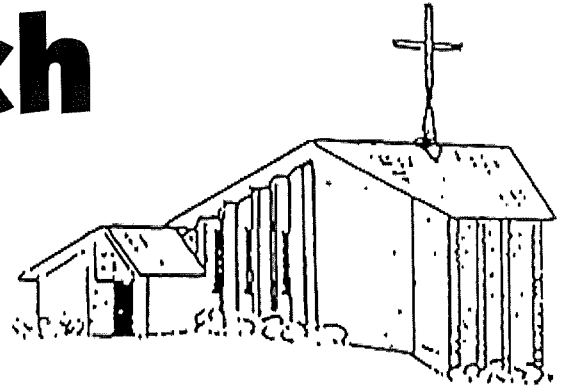
# APRIL

*Birthdays & Anniversaries*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Cassie Audino Shirley Bald Matt McNelly	3	4 Greg Hansman	5 Brandon Koch
6	7 Kaleb Riesberg	8	9 Colton & Anna Neumann	10 Dave Leiting Otto Vonnahme	11	12
13	14 Jax Cleveland Dawn Segebart Paul & Susan Ehlers	15 Donald Vetter	16 Jeff Vetter	17 Michael Bair Steve Mumm	18 Lisa McNelly Faihn Neumann	19 Hillary Haggge Nicole Liechti Michael Rickers
20 Randy & Monica Neumann	21 Rhett Petersen	22 Jacob & Kim Kraus	23 Jaggar Luetje Kendra Schuette	24 Kimberly Bauman Judy Gronau Macie Schrad	25 Kyler Bruch Jeremy & Magen Fineran	26
27 Rich Hanson Beth Wittrock Ron & Bonnie Cornelius Steve & Bonnie Schmitz	28 Makayla Schrad	29 Rorie Haggge	30 Bo Ebelhare Jess Gallagher Jeff Schmitz Doug & Alison Ehlers			

# United Church Westside

will be holding their



## 42<sup>nd</sup> Drive-Thru Windsor Chop Supper

### SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Drive-Thru at United Church Westside

(Please drive to the north on Main Street in front of the church.)

from 5-7 p.m.

*Serving:*

**Thick-cut Windsor Chops**

Along with generous portions of

**Potatoes, Green Beans,**

**Salads, a Dinner Roll**

**and a Cookie!**

*Tickets:*

**\$15**

*Thank You For  
Your Support!*



On a Mission  
to Support

Christ's Mission!

April 2025

409 Kenyon Road, Suite B — Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501  
515-576-7666 Fax 515-576-2323 [www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org)  
Contact email: [sue@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:sue@iowadistrictwest.org)

### Remembering your favorite ministries in your estate planning



Have you remembered your favorite ministries (including your local LCMS congregation) in your estate planning? Many times when I ask people this question the response is: "[We are going to do that someday]" Maybe the Holy Spirit will move someone that is reading this article to get started on doing this now. Procrastination is one of the greatest obstacles to getting things done in life. Ask the Lord for guidance and then email me or call me for assistance. With my help, you can select the ministries that are important to you and you want to support even after you go to be with the Lord in Heaven. I will give you some ideas on how to accomplish this with the assets that God has given you to manage. I will schedule a second visit with you in a few weeks to help you not procrastinate on getting these decisions made. We will work with your financial advisors to get your future gift in place. You will be joyful knowing that the Lord is using you to help fund the mission of His Kingdom. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Jim Schroeder  
Iowa District West Christian Estate Planning Counselor  
515-490-7371  
[jim@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:jim@iowadistrictwest.org)

For more information on Iowa District West activities,  
view *The Messenger* at [www.idwlcms.org/publications.php](http://www.idwlcms.org/publications.php)

### IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (ILSTO)

Through a donation to ILSTO, you can 1) Reduce your Iowa tax bill and 2) Fund Tuition Assistance at our Iowa LCMS schools. In 2024, ILSTO awarded \$550,000 in tuition assistance. Due to smaller donations in 2024, we will award \$500,000 for the school year 2025-26. With your help this can be close to \$1 million for the following school year 2026-27. You may donate cash, appreciated stock, grain, or RMD before December 31. You may also direct Thrivent Choice Dollars with no tax consequences. Now is the time to check with your tax advisor to see how this can affect your taxes and help our Lutheran school families with financial assistance. There are additional tax benefits for C Corporations. For more information, check out our webpage at [lowalutheransto.com](http://lowalutheransto.com) or call Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991.

**MEDICAL STAFF NEEDED AT CAMP OKOBOJI ...** Preferably an LPN or RN; must be able to dispense meds and administer first aid, have malpractice insurance and be able to use the computer program connected with the camp software "CircuitTree." While this is a volunteer position, meals and lodging will be provided. A small stipend is negotiable to cover your expenses.

JOY CAMP is a four-day-camp for individuals with special needs. We hold two sessions each summer. This year's dates are: Session One June 5-8 & Session Two July 10-13. If interested, please "private message" our Facebook page for additional information: [facebook.com/joy.camp](https://www.facebook.com/joy.camp).507 or email Dawn Ludwig ([star\\_trek\\_fan@live.com](mailto:star_trek_fan@live.com)) Thank you!

### THE ART OF NEIGHBORING WORKSHOP

**Date:** May 17 — **Time:** 10 AM-12:30 PM  
**Location:** Christ Lutheran Church, Ankeny, Iowa

Join us for an engaging workshop to build stronger, more meaningful connections with your neighbors!

**Who Should Attend:** Everyone is welcome, whether you're just beginning to connect with your community or are a seasoned pro.

**Register now:** <https://forms.office.com/r/CU6CmY8c9D>

Don't miss this opportunity to learn the art of neighboring and make your community a better place to live. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Calendar of Events

April 18... Good Friday, District Office Closed  
April 20... Easter Sunday





# Update

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 26      **CAMP OKOBOJI ANNUAL MEETING**  
May 2-3      **VOLUNTEER WORK WEEKEND**  
May 5-7      **CTS CONTINUING EDUCATION AT CAMP**

**Summer Staff:** We are sitting at 11 Summer Staff which is a great improvement over last year. You can still encourage youth within your congregations to consider serving as Summer Staff. Invite youth (at least 16 years of age) and college students to consider serving with us in 2025 for an unforgettable summer at the lake. Application profiles can be completed at [NLOMA.ORG](http://NLOMA.ORG).

**Discipleship Director:** With the departure of Liv Simmons, we are looking for our next Discipleship Director. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them contact me – [adam.campokoboji@gmail.com](mailto:adam.campokoboji@gmail.com) or 469-964-8165.

We also are in need of additional cleaning staff as well as a summer cook! Please spread the word.

Please remember **CAMP OKOBOJI AUXILIARY ACTIVITIES** held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. The day of the Annual Meeting, the Auxiliary hosts the Grocery Shower (to support the dining hall), the Theme Basket Auction (to support camper scholarships) and the Bake Sale (to support miscellaneous expenses).

**Join us for VOLUNTEER WEEKEND: An opportunity to share your time and talents to assist in preparing camp for the summer. Room and board provided for volunteers! Please contact the office, (712) 337-3325, for lodging arrangements and sign up to help.**

## *Thank You!*

THANKS to volunteers and groups who give so generously of their time and talents in serving Camp Okoboji.

- A special thanks to all of the volunteers who help with our Annual Fund mailing each year!

## NEEDS/WANTS:

- Gas grills
- Outdoor Rocking Chairs
- Laundry soap, bleach and hand soap
- Queen size mattress pads
- New commercial grade vacuums, coffee pots, toasters, crock pots
- Thrivent Action Team Cards (contact Kellie Jones for potential projects; 712-337-3325)
- Also, ask us about our Amazon Wish List!

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The Rev. Dr. Steven Turner

Iowa District West, LCMS

[steve@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:steve@iowadistrictwest.org) / 515-576-7666

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Dear Friend in Christ,

Activity around the district office this time of year, mostly revolves around the 42<sup>nd</sup> convention of Iowa District West. As previously shared, the theme for our convention is based on Psalm 145, with special focus on verse 4: *"One generation commends your work to another."* We will be celebrating Easter this month. Easter certainly is an important time for Christians to gather and celebrate the joyous reality that *Christ has risen, He has risen indeed!* The resurrection of Jesus is a time for renewal of daily living in the promises of God and hope of eternal life. This joyous time offers opportunities to bridge the generation gap within many of our churches focusing on a sense of unity and a shared purpose among all age groups.

Many Easter traditions are passed down from one generation to another. In our family, we had our Easter egg hunt on Saturday in our backyard. This was to avoid the conflict, as a parish pastor, with Easter morning worship services and annual youth-led Easter brunch. I have very fond memories of watching my four children, and now, my four grandchildren, search for eggs filled with candy and seeing the joy on their faces with each new discovery. You too can probably fondly remember your personal and your congregation's unique Easter experiences that cross generational lines.

The celebration of Easter really begins with Maundy Thursday. The faithful gather not only to remember the events of Holy Week, but also to celebrate with our savior in His Holy Supper and receive nothing less than His very body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and strengthening of our faith. Good Friday is the solemn observance of Jesus' suffering and dying on the cross for all our sins. Some of our congregations have added a Holy Saturday service. Holy Saturday is a day of prayer, reflection and anticipation, marking the time between Jesus' death on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Easter traditions passed down through generations, create a beautiful picture of shared experiences. These sacred times provide a common ground for all members of the church. Our members with children now take on the role of storytellers, sharing the historical and spiritual significance of Easter with their children. This communication of our faith not only preserves the church's traditions, but also *"commends Your work (that is God's work) to the next generation"* (Psalm 145:4).

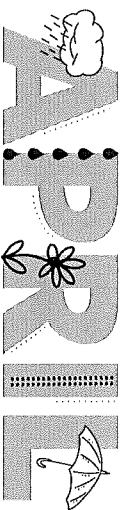
Engaging in intergenerational activities during the Lenten and Easter seasons, can strengthen the bonds between different age groups. Organizing events such as Easter egg hunts, craft sessions,

and potluck meals allows for meaningful interactions. For instance, children can learn the art of making traditional Easter decorations from their grandparents, while teenagers might assist in organizing and planning an Easter breakfast. Simple efforts like this can foster mutual respect and understanding, breaking down age-related barriers. A note for older folks like me, don't criticize these young Christians because they are doing things a little differently than we did. Just thank them for their efforts today!

Music plays an important role in Easter celebrations, offering another opportunity to connect generations. Easter hymns resonate with the themes of resurrection and hope. I always chose very familiar Easter hymns because I wanted the congregation to fully join in the celebration, and I wanted the many Easter visitors to feel that joy as well. Choirs comprised of members of all ages can perform together, blending traditional and modern elements.

Easter is a powerful reminder of the resurrection and the promise of our new life in Christ. By embracing intergenerational ministry, a congregation can create a vibrant, multi-generation community where every member, from a little child to a senior saint, feels valued and engaged. Through shared traditions, congregational activities, mutual support, and most importantly, corporate worship, Easter celebrations are a unifying force, bridging the generational divide and strengthening the bonds of faith.

Your Partner in the Gospel,  
President Steve Turner



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 3:45 <i>Midweek</i> 6:30 <i>Ash Wed</i> <i>Service/HC</i>	3	4	5
6 9:00 <i>Chr Ed</i> 10:00 <i>DW</i> 11:00 <i>Council</i> <i>Meeting</i>	7	8	9 3:45 <i>Midweek</i> 6:30 <i>Midweek</i> <i>Lenten Service</i> <i>Reception for</i> <i>confirmads</i>	10	11	12
13 9:00 <i>Chr Ed</i> 10:00 <i>DW/HC</i> <i>Rite of</i> <i>Confirmation</i>	14	15	16	17 6:30 <i>Maunday</i> <i>Thursday/HC</i>	18 6:30 <i>Good Friday</i> <i>Service</i>	19
20 7:00 <i>Easter</i> <i>Service/HC</i> 8:00 <i>Congreg.</i> <i>Breakfast</i>	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:00 <i>Chr Ed</i> 10:00 <i>DW</i>	28	29	30			

**USHERS**

Doug Schuette Dan Wittrock  
 Doug Ehlers Jeremy Ehlers  
 Ty Muhlbauer Wade Ragaller  
 Damon Ehlers Paul Ehlers

**Chancel Circle**

Dawn Luetje  
 Lajean Shiney

**PARISH CIRCLE**

Dawn Luetje  
 Sara Skinner

**ACONYLTES**

4/2 Lane  
 4/6 Audrey  
 4/9 Eliza  
 4/13 Audrey, Macie, Kash  
 4/20 Laynie, Lacey, Marissa  
 4/27 Sutton

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**118 W Tracy St**  
**Box 59**  
**Arcadia, IA 51430**  
**Rev. Andy Noble**  
**712-689-2441**  
**zionluth@westianet.net**

**Non Profit Organization**  
**Arcadia, IA 51430**  
**Standard mail**

**FRIENDS WHO CARE**

Christian Education	9:00 am
Divine Worship	10:00 am



**ALLELUIA!**

**He Is Risen!**