

ZION PROCLAIMER MAY 2018

"DOSE OF WISDOM"

Luke 24

¹⁵While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them... ²⁵And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself... ³⁰When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! This is the most unusual Easter we have lived through in America in our lifetimes. We have never been in lockdown during Easter, because of a pandemic from the youngest of us to the oldest of us. As different as these days are, the good news is that we have Jesus who like he did in the Gospels comes to us again and again. I highlight these verses from **Luke 24** which was our Gospel Lesson for last Sunday, April 26th. **v.15**—Jesus himself drew near and went with them...**v. 25-27** emphasis on **v. 27**—he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself...**v. 30** he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. **v.31** their eyes were opened and they recognized him. Jesus wants His disciples to know He is with them. He wants His disciples to know the Scriptures. He wants His disciples to know Him in the breaking of the bread in Holy Communion. Jesus DOES NOT leave us alone. He comes to us and is with us. He shares everything He has with us so we may have life and hope. This is what we need now isn't it. We need the life and hope of Jesus-post resurrection like He gave to those two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

In light of Governor Reynold's revised state of Public Health Disaster, we will resume corporate worship at Zion on May 3. However, things will not just snap back to the "old normal." We need to take certain precautions and considerations because of the health risks in our world currently. Also some ministries that have been completely stopped will need some time to be restarted. We will do what we can when we can as we seek to gather around God's Word and Sacraments for comfort and hope in this time. With all of that in mind, here is what our worship will look like:

1. Normal Service Time. We will observe our normal service time of 10:00.
2. Ushers. We will need ushers as we will distribute communion, but the ushers will not be handing out bulletins or receiving communion cards.
3. Masks are encouraged. All attendees are encouraged to cover their nose and mouth because it greatly hampers the spread of the virus from an asymptomatic carrier. We are working on having some masks available, but it is best if worshippers make arrangements for their own.
4. Hand sanitizer positioned prominently. We also recommend that worshipers wash their hands upon arrival.
5. Alternating seating. Each pew will only be half-filled, and those halves alternate from right to left.
6. No formal collection of Offering. Offering trays will be left in the Fellowship area for people to place any offerings they may have brought. We will NOT pass the plates through the congregation.
7. The Lord's Supper. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper corporately as we will use walk through communion.

8. Service Attendance Capped. We will only be seating approximately 40-50% of our capacity, following the spirit of the governor's guidance to restaurants. Therefore, once all the allocated spots are filled, we may have to turn people away. If this becomes a problem, we will look at adding additional services on Sundays in the future. This for us at Zion would be about 150 people.
9. Fellowship after the service. People gathering need to follow the spirit of the governor's guidance remembering to distance themselves 6ft from each other.
10. Disinfecting after service. We will ask for volunteers to use provided supplies to do a cursory surface cleaning after each service, wiping down pews and hymnals to limit the spread of any contagions that may be present. Take things a week at a time.

Pastor and the Elders will continue to monitor the situation and discuss how changes impact our worship together. We may tighten or loosen restrictions as the situation dictates. For some of you, it's too soon to take these actions. If this is your opinion, I pray for your forgiveness and understanding. For others of you, we should have been doing this long ago. If this is your opinion, I pray for your forgiveness and understanding. If you are not comfortable coming to worship, I understand, and I pray you would know God's peace. If you are comfortable coming to worship, please follow the above guidelines to help our members who are still tentative about meeting together; it's a simple way to serve our neighbor and give him or her peace of mind.

If there is anything people need or if there is any way we can help as a church, please let us know. There is a small account to help people in need that we have set aside.

I love you all and cannot wait to see people in person once again. This is by far the hardest time I have served through as a pastor in my 17 years of ministry.

God's Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Dose

This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ...



Philippians 1:9

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to the Ar-We-Va class of 2020. We would especially pray that God would continue to shower His grace and blessings upon our fellow members of Zion who will be graduating, they Dalton Ehlers & Makayla Hanners.



A Word For Graduates

Congratulations to the members of our congregation who are graduating! No doubt you are looking forward to the next phase of your lives with excitement, anticipation and perhaps a little apprehension.

We hope these words, adapted from Phillips Brooks, will serve graduates well as they embark on their journeys:

"Do not pray for an easy life; pray to be a stronger person. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers but for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you will be the miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself and the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God."

²¹ My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight, preserve sound judgment and discretion; ²² they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck (Proverbs 3:21-22)

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

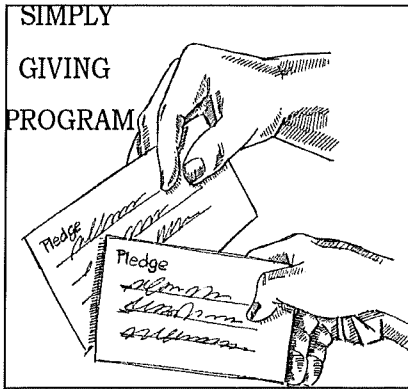
*Thank
You!*



Thanks to everyone who has remembered us so far with their offerings and donations during this pandemic time.

Don't forget, even if we don't meet here physically, we still have expenses for the church to pay, so please remember to give if you can.

Thank you also to Tammi Brunner for helping live stream our services on Sunday mornings.

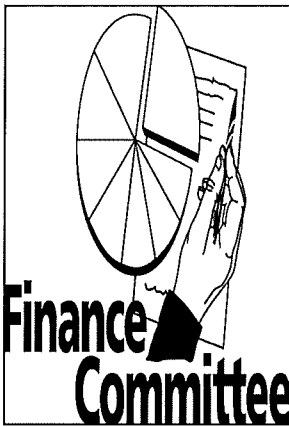


In the busy times we are currently in, handling the finances of our congregation is requiring more and more work. In an effort to save our financial people time we ask that you consider an old idea, that of the Simply Giving Program. To refresh your memory, Simply Giving is a program where once a week, once a month, or twice a month, your offering is automatically deducted from your checking account and automatically deposited into the church's account. All you will need to do is once a week (or whatever you choose) is to record the amount in your check register. That is all there is to it. The amount is set by you and doesn't change unless you request it to be changed or discontinued. Special services like Advent, Lent, Christmas, etc are **NOT** automatically deducted and

we would encourage you to use your offering envelopes for those services just like in the past. For each person our Financial Secretary has to handle 52 envelopes and bookkeeping entries per year, and when you multiply that by approximately 275 envelope numbers, that is a significant amount of work that could be avoided by using the Simply Giving Program. An additional bonus would be that our giving throughout the year would be more consistent. We prayerfully ask that you consider making this small change that would be of big help. To learn more about this program, please contact the church office

Thank you for your help

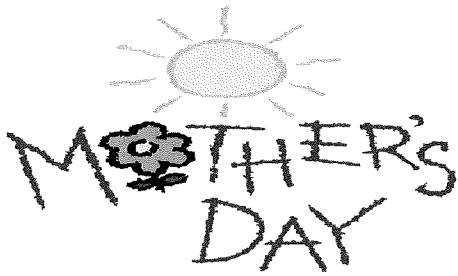
Stewardship Committee



OFFERINGS (Jan-April)	\$42,679.02
Thrivent Choice \$	717.00
SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING TO DATE	225.00
FISH BOWL	92.25
Lutheran Witness	45.29
Non Budget Income	\$31,480.02
(borrowed \$5,000 from bank)	
(received PPP loan of \$28,082.23)	
TOTAL INCOME	\$74,348.59
EXPENSES (Jan-April)	\$18,615.72
Sunday School Mission Project	\$ 246.00
Total Expense	\$16,315.67

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

Jesus said we are to love our neighbors, and we are to serve and support them. We violate Scripture's principles when we ignore the interests and needs of others. We were not created for the purpose of spending all our time looking out for our self-interests. If we ignore God and others, we may hear Him saying to us, "You fool" as Jesus said to the Rich Fool in the Parable (Luke 12:13-21)



The Best mother that I LOVE

When God set the world in place,
when He hung the stars up in space,
when He made the land and the sea,
then He made you and me.
He sat back and saw all that was good,
He saw things to be as they should.
Just one more blessing He had in store;
He created a mother, but whatever for?
He knew a mother would have a special place
to shine His reflection on her child's face.
A mother will walk the extra mile
just to see her children smile.
She'll work her fingers to the bone
to make a house into a home.
A mother is there to teach and guide,
a mother will stay right by your side.
She'll be there through your pain and strife,
she'll stay constant in your life.
A mother will lend a helping hand
until you have the strength to stand.
She'll pick you up when you are down,
when you need a friend she'll stick around.
A mother is one who listens well,
will keep her word; will never tell.
A mother never pokes or pries
but stands quietly by your side,
giving you the strength you need,
encouraging you to succeed.
A mother is one who can be strong
when you need someone to lean on.
You're more than a mother to me;
a reflection of Him in your face I see,
a love that knows no boundaries.
I'm glad that you chose to be
all this and more to me.
You share a love that knows no end,
you're more than my mother,
you are my friend.

Susan Jordan

Joys of motherhood

- A hug for no reason.
- Belly laughs.
- The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
- Smiles and giggles.
- Mud pies.
- Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
- Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
- Quiet moments on the couch.
- Reading aloud together.
- A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
- Watching your child be kind to another.
- Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
- A child's look of surprise and joy.
- A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
- The words "I love you" — and a sticky kiss.

—Unknown

GOD'S GIFT

My Mother is a special gift,
A special gift that God gave to me.
I'd be lost and lonely without her,
If God took her away you see.
I love her so very much,
That I couldn't bear to live without her healing
touch.
Thank-you God for giving me such a loving
Mother,
For I wouldn't want to be a part of no other.

By Melanie Reid

A mother's prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of my children. Help me rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout my days.

I want my children to love you, worship you and serve you as best they can. Grant me the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent me from provoking my children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

Fill our household with abiding love and respect, and help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.



Over the years, Memorial Day has become a big holiday weekend. It's now the unofficial start of summer, rather than a day of tribute to the departed it was originally meant to be.

Even if we plan fun events for Memorial Day weekend, it's important to stop long enough to bow our heads and pay respect to our departed loved ones — especially those who fell in battle while helping preserve America's liberties.

Let us take time to make the pilgrimage to various cemeteries and pause long enough to say, "Thank you, Father, for these special lives, for sacrifices made and for friendships we have shared."

The price of freedom

In the song "What Did He Die For?" Twila Paris reminds us why we observe Memorial Day — and why we worship Jesus as our Savior. The first verse tells of a 21-year-old soldier fighting for America's freedom during World War II. The second verse recalls another young man, many centuries prior, sent by his Father to win eternal freedom from sin for the entire world.

The chorus offers this challenge:

"What did he die for when he died for you and me,
Made the sacrifice so that we could all be free?
I believe we will answer each to heaven
For the way we spend a priceless liberty.
Look inside and ask the question, What did he die for?"

Memorial Day challenges us to live so as to honor the sacrifices made by members of the military. We value our freedom because of the heavy price people have paid for it. Likewise, every day we're challenged to live so as to honor Jesus' supreme sacrifice. He calls us to spend our "priceless liberty" using our blessings to bless others.

How will they know?

A well-known 1960s song by Peter Scholtes answers an implied question: How will others know we're Jesus' disciples? Not by how we understand family values. Not by our politics or theology. Not by how many Bible verses we've memorized, how often we attend church or how much offering we give.

Rather, the song's title and refrain say it all: "They'll know we are Christians by our love." Jesus put it this way: "Everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35, NIV).

Sometimes love involves words — teaching, proclaiming, bearing witness to God's presence. But if words aren't backed by actions, they soon fall flat. We can, as

Memorial DAY



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

Planting Together

May 2020

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515-576-7666 Fax 515-576-2323 www.idwlcms.org
Contact email: sue@lowadistrictwest.org

On a Mission to Support Christ's Mission!

New Life!



Spring is such an amazing time of the year. It's a time to start over! The world takes on an entirely different look. Everything is new, fresh and exciting as nature wakes up and begins its life cycle again. The frogs are singing in praise to God for they survived the cold of winter. The trees are waking up. The branches now burst with buds and flowers.

Years ago, I took my young grandkids into our backyard. We carefully pulled the old dead leaves from our hosta plants and to their surprise they found new green shoots. With the old dead leaves removed, the shoots were exposed. There was excitement as they uncovered each hosta. The cycle of life in God's creation is so magnificent.

It reminds me of the wonderful job God does with each of us. He takes the old, dead, sinful covering from us when we confess our sins. He renews our lives with His forgiveness. God forgives and cleanses us just as He renews His creation with new life. Nature is doing what it was created to do. Birds are singing. Trees and flowers are forming leaves and blooming just as they were created to do.

Are you, as one of God's special creations, doing what you were created to do? You are a unique creation with your special set of skills, interests and abilities. What has God designed for you to do? Are you growing new life shoots during this Easter season? Invite you to take some time to think and ponder.

Ellie Menz, IOWAY Director
Ellie@lowadistrictwest.org

Junior Youth Gathering IDW 2020

Save the date and start promoting the Iowa District West Junior Youth Gathering that will take place on October 17-18, 2020 at the Sheraton in Des Moines. The theme is centered around the study of the Ten Commandments. The gathering team is busy planning another high quality event that will foster spiritual growth and the strengthening of relationships as we focus on God's Word and His commandments. Registration materials will be sent the beginning of August.

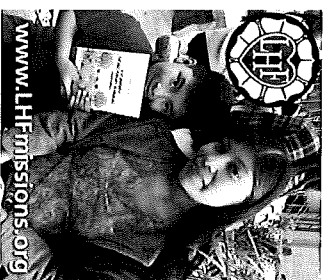


Senior Youth Gathering IDW 2020



The Iowa District West Senior Youth Gathering will take place November 20-22, 2020 at the Holiday Inn at the Airport in Des Moines. Our theme is "20/20 Faith" and our theme verse is Hebrews 12:1b-2. Our eyes are an important part of our body. They enable us to see. Our faith is the same way. Satan and the world try to put blinders on us so that we only see his lies, temptations, and deceit. When that happens, our faith suffers. We begin to doubt, get lonely, and become lost. Jesus breaks the blinders of sin so that we can clearly see His grace. Fixing our eyes on Him allows us to see the joys and strength of faith. Jesus strengthens us to go out into the world as more than conquerors. He walks through this life right beside us, bringing us all the way to heaven! Registration materials will be sent in early August.

The **Lutheran Heritage Foundation** (an LCMS Recognized Service Organization) provides free resources to you and your church for sharing the Gospel with neighbors and friends who don't speak English as a first language. Books like Luther's *Small Catechism*, devotions and children's Bible storybooks are available in more than 100 languages – and also make excellent gifts when going on short-term mission trips! To search LHF's Publications Database, go to www.LHFmissions.org/Publications.



Calendar of Events

May 11...Pastors Golf Day, Ida Grove

For more information on Iowa District West activities, view *The Messenger* at www.idwlcms.org/publications.php

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Eric Wiese Annalee Wittrick Ryan & Jenni Middleton	2 Claire Lenz Joel Mumm Kelly Riesberg
3 Katie Riesberg	4	5 Lori Grundmeier Michael & Ashley Eggers	6 Rob & Julie Klink	7 Beth Hansman	8 Shelby Dirks	9 Doug Bender Sheryl Liechti
10	11 Jenny Kuhl Jeff Meyer	12 Terry Strathman	13 Marissa Schrad	14 Merlin Brockman Michelle Hage Mark Rickers	15 Liam Petersen	16
17 Jerry Thiedeman	18	19 John Vetter	20 Steve Hoogstraat Paul Wiese	21 Brian Kraus	22	23 Linda Mumm Pam Wiese
24	25 Jeff & Cheryl Vetter	26 Jacob Hanson Jackie Petersen	27 Caity Heimann	28 Emmett Neumann Rich & Janet Rose (59 yrs)	29 Pastor & Rebecca Dose	30 Paul & Pam Wiese
31 Ron Cornelius Nick & Jessica Gallagher						