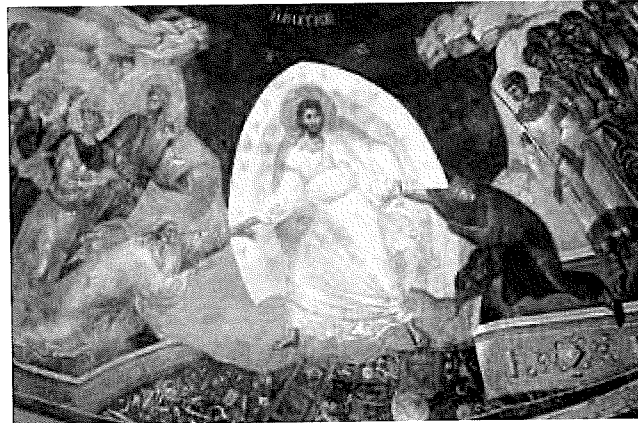


## *Dose of Wisdom*

### Training for the Great Vigil



There seems to be a need for some training of the mind in preparation for our Easter celebrations, especially when it comes to the Great Vigil. The Great Vigil is the solemn service of Saturday night before Easter morning, in which we welcome the end of Lent and the coming of Easter.

One of the elements of the liturgical reform which has taken hold in many segments of Christendom is the recovery of the Great Vigil. For a very long time there was little or no concept of what the Great Vigil was, or what it was for. Indeed The Lutheran Hymnal itself has no propers listed for the Great Vigil. There's only a little reference to "Holy Saturday, Easter Eve," having only a collect and two readings, the Gospel being a reference to the burial of Jesus (St. Matthew 27). So even there, although the collect for Easter Eve contains the traditional reference to "the glory of the Lord's resurrection" on "this most holy night," nothing else does. There was no Great Vigil among Lutherans in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The recovery of this ancient and venerable tradition has been a key ingredient in the rediscovery of liturgical beauty and importance for Lutherans.

But still there is resistance, particularly among people who hadn't grown up with the tradition, and for whom therefore it represented something new. Actually it's something very old, which, like many venerable traditions, fell into disuse between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries when Rationalism was on the rise. The recovery of Confessional Lutheranism has brought with it an awakening of liturgical piety, and a renewed appreciation for the Great Vigil.

The Vigil is a bit lengthier than a regular Sunday mass, but for those who are aware and appreciative of what's going on, time does not seem to be a factor. It requires a little disciplining, a little training of the mind to grasp and appreciate the majesty of this holy night, but when that discipline is achieved, the Great Vigil begins to stand apart as an awe-inspiring ceremony.

It's actually an accumulation of four services set end-to-end, each building on the former, until finally Easter formally arrives.

Beginning at dusk, the congregation gathers around an open fire for the Service of Light. The paschal candle is lit and a procession forms to enter the church. When the long procession finally wends its way into the church, and hand-candles are lit, the solemn Exsultet is chanted, a beautiful and melodious proc-

lamation of Easter's arrival. There is high ceremony here, done with purpose: we are witnessing and partaking in the celebration of the renewal of all creation in the resurrection of our Lord.

The Service of Readings follows, in which several Old Testament readings foretelling this grand event are read. The service concludes with the great canticle called the *Benedicite Omnia Opera* in which now the rejoicing of all creation is openly expressed. Also known as the Song of the Three Children (the three men in the fiery furnace), it speaks of the rejoicing of all creation: angels, heavens, waters, sun, moon, stars, showers, dew, winds, fire, winter, summer, dews, frost, cold, ice, snow, nights, days, light, darkness, lightning, clouds, mountains, hills, green things, wells, seas. floods, whales, all that move in the waters, fowls, beasts, cattle, and children of men. Here, as before, we observe that all creation bends toward its Creator who has renewed all things by rising from the dead.

Then follows the Service of Baptism, in which any confirmations are also held, as well as a calling to mind of Baptism for all in attendance. This follows fittingly, since it is through Baptism that we have become participants in the renewal of creation.

Finally, the Service of the Sacrament marks the point of entry into Easter. The lights come up, the celebrant is vested, the lilies seem to trumpet, and we sing the Gloria in Excelsis with gusto; the organ keeps its silence no more, and even the bells are rung. This is the Church's finest hour: Christ is risen! And so we feast, coming to the altar to receive His Body and Blood in the Sacrament.

This crescendo of rejoicing continues at sunrise, when in the bright array of the morning sun we recall the moment in which the women at the tomb, and Jesus' disciples, first learned of His resurrection. Easter Sunrise is more festive still than the last part of the Great Vigil. Now we are in full-throated song and music, our choir is at its very best, and our hearts sing in glad harmony with our voices.

The best way to gain the full effect of this great liturgical Feast is to witness it from Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, when the Church is at its darkest and most somber. From the deepest depths to the highest heights we go in just three days, as the liturgy of the Church mimics Christ Himself, who went through death to resurrection. So we sing a mournful tune during the Holy Three Days, but it gives way to a heady rejoicing when we celebrate that Easter has come, and with it, our victory over the grave. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*God Bless your training,*

*Pastor Dose*



### *Midweek Lenten* SCHEDULE

March 01	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 08	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 15	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 22	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 29	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
April 02	10:00 am	Palm Sunday/Rite of Confirmation
April 06	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday/HC
April 07	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service
April 08	7:00 pm	Easter Vigil
April 09	7:00 am	Easter Service/HC

# WOMEN IN MINISTRY L.W.M.L.

**LADIES AID:  
NO MEETING  
See you in April**



## EVENING CIRCLE

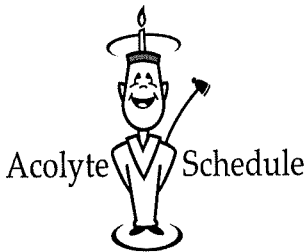
The Evening Circle will be meeting on Wednesday, March 1st following the Midweek Lenten Services. We will be working on the confirmation banners



Daylight Savings time officially begins on March 12th this year. So remember to set your clock **AHEAD 1 hour** when you retire on Saturday evening, March 11th

## Thrivent Financial Members

If you have not designated your 2022 Thrivent Choice dollars, do it now! The March 31 deadline is fast approaching.



- 1st Jacob Hanson & Payton Gallagher ( Wed)
- 5th: Grant Wilken & Jaxx Luetje
- 8th: Connor Julin & Anna Schuette (Wed)
- 12th Justice Luetje & Joy Luetje
- 15th: Annalee Wittrock & Lacey Middleton (Wed)
- 19th: Jax Cleveland & Laynie Muhlbauer
- 22nd: Hannah Dose & Marissa Schrad (Wed)
- 26th: Kendyl Riesberg & Madison Stork
- 29th: Cara Schuette & Audrey Hill (Wed)



## Midweek Snack List

March 01	4 pm	Hannah Dose
March 08	4 pm	Marissa Schrad
March 15	4 pm	Faith Neumann
March 22	4 pm	Annalee Wittrock
March 29	4 pm	Connor Julin
April 05	4 pm	Jax Cleveland



A reception for our New Confirmads will be held on Wednesday, March 29th , following our Midweek Lenten Service. Everyone is invited to attend.



## Midweek Lenten SCHEDULE

March 01	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 08	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 15	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 22	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
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April 02	10:00 am	Palm Sunday/Rite of Confirmation
April 06	7:00 pm	Maunday Thursday/HC
April 07	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service
April 08	7:00 pm	Easter Vigil
April 09	7:00 am	Easter Service/HC

### MARCH LIST OF DUTIES

#### USHERS

Keith Vetter      Rick Vetter  
Jeff Luetje      Kim Brockman  
Gene Thiedeman   Michael Brockman  
Rob Klink

#### CHANCEL DUTIES

Diane Witt, Allison Ehlers

#### PARISH DUTIE

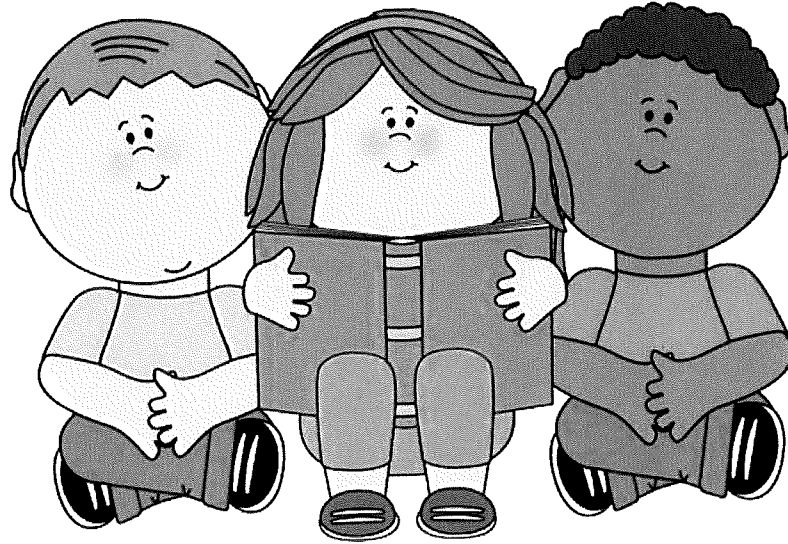
Diane Witt-

#### MARTHA CIRCLE

Cathy Meyer & Paulette Von Glan

#### ACOLYTES

1st    **Jacob Hanson & Payton Gallagher (Wed)**  
5th:    **Grant Wilken & Jaxx Luetje**  
8th:    **Connor Julin & Anna Schuette (Wed)**  
12th    **Justice Luetje & Joy Luetje**  
15th:    **Annalee Wittrock & Lacey Middleton (Wed)**  
19th:    **Jax Cleveland & Laynie Muhlbauer**  
22nd:    **Hannah Dose & Marissa Schrad (Wed)**  
26th:    **Kendyl Riesberg & Madison Stork**  
29th:    **Cara Schuette & Audrey Hill (Wed)**



# DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW OR GENTLY USED CHILDREN'S BOOKS?

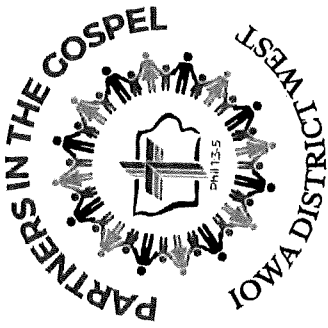
I'm looking for new or gently used  
children's books ranging from ages 3-9  
for my first year classroom!  
I appreciate all the help! Thank you!

Maddie Owen

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Questions? Please feel free to call or text me!

Cell: 712-830-5014



On a Mission  
to Support  
Christ's Mission!

March 2023

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

A Time for Renewal



Mark 1:35 **And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.**

The context of this text is very important. Jesus had a very busy day. He was *busy* healing the sick. He was *busy* driving out demons. He was *busy* preaching. He was *busy* dealing with all the problems of the people. And so, Jesus slips away early in the morning and takes *time* to be refreshed in prayer. This Lent, I would encourage you to take *time* or maybe make *time* for renewal and prayer.

Time. The Bible makes much of (*kairos*) time. It is often used in the ordinary sense of a unit of measure—days, weeks, years—and to designate seasons or generations. In other instances, *kairos* designates a completion, a fullness, an appointment that must be made or has been made. "The time has come. The kingdom of God is near."

Renewal. Renewal suggests that something once was new, but over time and through misuse (or lack of use) it has become worn out, faded, and old. The challenges and pressure of life can sometime make us feel a little overwhelmed. The Lenten season can seem that way for some of us.

**Jesus went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed.**

A Time for Renewal. It is 40 days. It is a good time for private reflection, congregational worship, small group Bible study, prayerful contemplation. It is a good season and a time to think of repentance and renewal through private and corporate confession and absolution.

President Steve Turner  
[steve@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:steve@iowadistrictwest.org)

**Heartland Lutheran Singles** exists to organize activities and events for LCMS and other conservative Lutheran singles in Western Iowa and surrounding states. Our goal is to have positive activities which foster friendships, teach biblical values, and encourage one another.

Why a Singles Ministry? Reason 2: God didn't leave us on this earth to do ministry alone. Our purpose is to have a relationship with Him and then with others. Share what you have, what you know, and live the example. We would like to create a singles ministry to develop life-long relationships. But we need your help. We need people to spread the word.

If you are interested in joining this group, please complete the brief survey at <https://forms.gle/X2ZhsxBd3rDoXj3k7>.

Contact Pastor Mark Kluzek for results: [Godcares1000@gmail.com](mailto:Godcares1000@gmail.com) or 712-675-4617. We need to know which church (and town) you belong to, male/female, and age group: 20-39, 40-59, 60+. If you would like updates, you can share your contact information.

**IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (ILSTO)**

Thank you again to all who donated to ILSTO this past year as we received \$902,397. While this fell short of our goal, it was \$75,000 more than donations in 2021. Now is the time to talk to your tax advisor about the advantages of an ILSTO donation. You will feel much better about writing a check to support students than one to the Department of Revenue. Please help ILSTO make our new goal for 2023 of \$1,078,184 so that more students may benefit from our program. Call Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991 for more information.

**Calendar of Events**

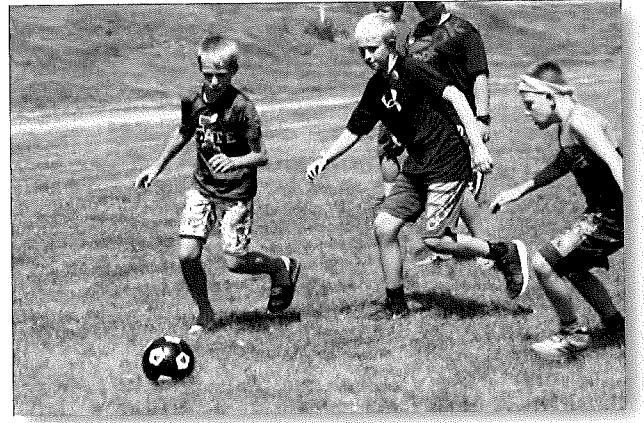
March 18...Art of Neighboring Workshop, St. Paul, Carroll

**Save the Dates!**

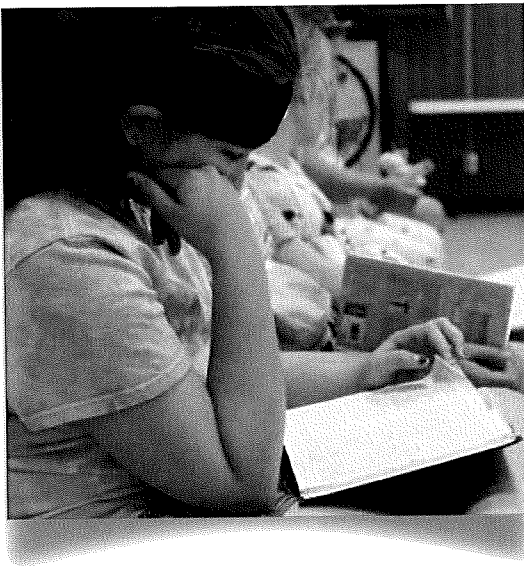
May 1-2... Pastors Conference, St Paul Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge  
May 13...Organist Workshop, Zion Lutheran Church, Manning  
9am-4pm—Kantor Kevin Hildebrand, Presenter

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

**REGISTER  
NOW!**



Register  
Youth & Family  
for Camp this  
summer at  
[campokoboji.org](http://campokoboji.org)



## CAMP OKOBOJI SUMMER 2023

### Discipleship Programs

June 2-4.....Kids' Kamp  
June 8-11.....JOY Camp #1  
June 25-29...Cub Week #1  
July 2-7.....July 4 Family Retreat  
July 9-15.....Junior High Week  
July 13-16.....JOY Camp #2  
July 16-22.....Cub Week #2  
July 23-29.....Youth Week (High School)  
July 30-Aug. 4...Family Retreat #1  
August 6-11.....Family Retreat #2

### Other Events

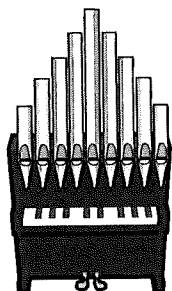
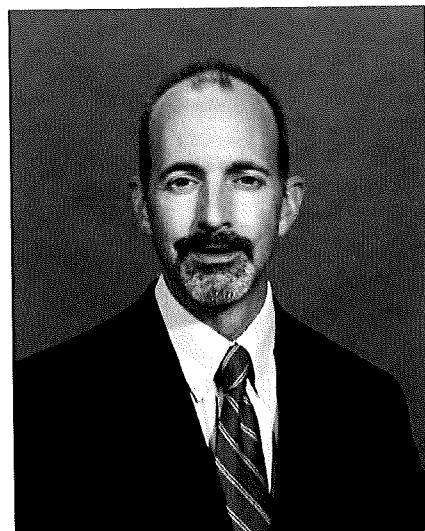
January 27-29.....Family Ice Fishing Retreat  
May 6-7.....Spring Volunteer Work Weekend  
June 11-14.....Living Proof Dance Camp  
June 17.....Camp Okoboji Auxiliary Quilt Auction  
June 18-24.....Minneboji Lutheran Camp  
August 17-20.....Warrior Rock Camp  
May 30-Sept. 5.....Sunday Morning Worship  
1st Sundays of the Month (May-October)....  
.....Omelet Brunches!



For more information  
and to register, visit  
[campokoboji.org](http://campokoboji.org)

# Iowa District West Organist Workshop

Kantor Kevin Hildebrand, Presenter  
Concordia Theological Seminary



Saturday, May 13, 2023

9 a.m.—4 p.m.

Zion Lutheran Church  
1204 Center St, Manning, IA

## What Topics Will Be Included?

- Getting to Know Your Instrument and Registrations
- Playing Hymns and Leading Newer Hymns
- Playing Settings of the Liturgy
- Selecting Good Repertoire (for all ability levels)

## Who Should Attend and Why?

- Part time organists, full time organists, and student organists
- Enjoy learning from a skilled teacher and from each other as we explore how to better lead the church's song!

**Registration and Lunch are FREE**

(compliments of Brotherhood Mutual Ministry Partner Program)

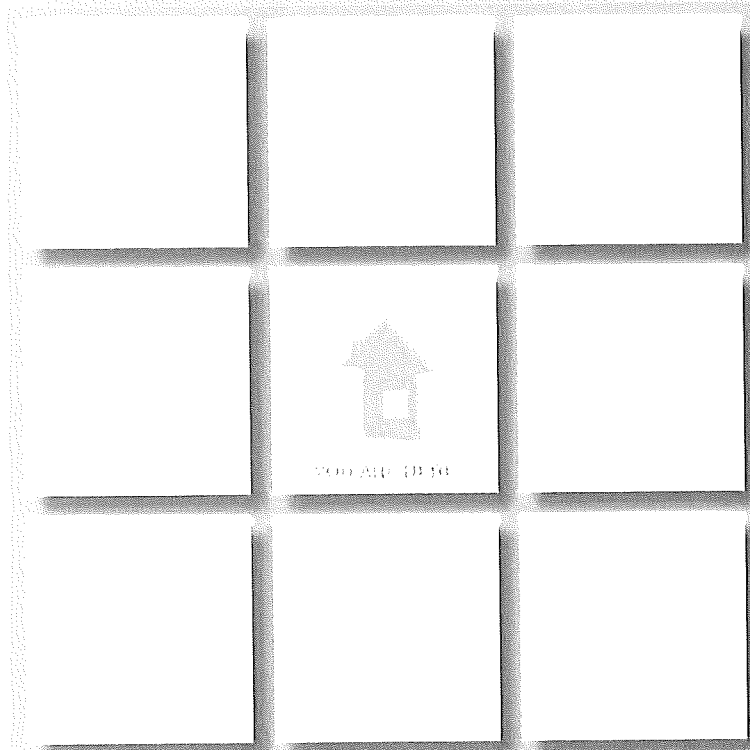
***RSVP by May 8 to Pastor Timothy Frank***

***pastorfrank239@gmail.com; Cell: 712-269-3683***



# ART OF NEIGHBORING WORKSHOP

What if Jesus meant that we should love our literal neighbors? If you want to learn how to reach your community so that you can confidently connect and make a lasting impact, join us for this free workshop!



## Details

**When:** March 18 from 9am - Noon

**Where:** St. Paul Lutheran in Carroll, IA

**Speaker:** Rev. Keith Haney, Assistant to the President

**Cost:** Free to Attend, Lunch Provided

**Register:** by Sat. March 11 at [www.idwlcms.org/news.php](http://www.idwlcms.org/news.php)

## Schedule

**9am** - Registration & Refreshments

**9:30am** - Who is Your Neighbor?

**10:15am** - Break

**10:30am** - How to Reach Your Neighbor

**11:00am** - Soup & Sandwich Lunch

# **PRAYER BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY**

**Iowa District West LLL/LHM**

**When: Saturday, April 29, 2023**

**8:30 am Registration & Breakfast; 11:30 Closing**

**Where: Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church  
2214 East Second Avenue, Indianola, Iowa**

**Speaker: Pastor Kevin Johnson  
(Holy Cross, Carlisle)**

**Topic: The Importance of Lutheran Education and  
Evangelism**

**Cost: \$15**

**Spread the word among the grandpas and  
grandmas,  
the fathers and mothers, and the sons and  
daughters of your family and your church!**

**For more information,**

**contact John Tews**

**[valleyinsjt@gmail.com](mailto:valleyinsjt@gmail.com)**



# MARCH

Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> Lydia Dose Alex Gallagher Nicole Winey Mark & Jolene Stoelk	<b>2</b> Susan Ehlers	<b>3</b> Ryan Neumann Dale & Nicky Lenz	
<b>5</b> Kurt Branning	<b>6</b> Megan Gehling Wyatt Neumann	<b>7</b> Garrett Cleveland Merle Witt	<b>8</b> Jeff Luetje Patty Vetter	<b>9</b> Nick Bender	<b>10</b> Jeff & Hollie Schmitz	<b>11</b> Kyela Cleveland Kris Kean Shane Kraus Dwight & Melissa Ehlers
<b>12</b> Keith Kaspersen	<b>13</b> Morgan Furrer	<b>14</b> Timothy Dose	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Kyle Liechti Chad Wittrock Jeff & Cheryl Vetter	<b>17</b> Pat Branning Karlie Muhlbauer James Vetter Matt & Lisa McNelly	<b>18</b> Scot Muhlbauer Cheryl Vetter
<b>19</b> Dustin Ewoldt Kash Riesberg Lee & Lajean Shiney	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Cat Luetje Randy & Lisa Stoelk	<b>22</b> Derrick Cornelius Edna Hansman Jane Vetter	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Alyssia Gierman Jill Kasparbauer Andrew Skinner Gary & Shelli Lenz	<b>25</b> Steve & Linda Mumm
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Braydon Lay Danielle Nelson	<b>28</b> Heather Cornelius Maggie Ragaller Aaron & Sara Peterson	<b>29</b> Brooke Bass Connor Julin Scot & Stacie Muhlbauer	<b>30</b> Tom Hoogestraat	<b>28</b>	

# March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 4:00 <i>Midweek</i> 7:00 <i>Lenten Ser</i> 7:30 <i>Evening Cir</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:00 <i>Chr Ed</i> 10:00 <i>DW/HC</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 4:00 <i>Midweek</i> 7:00 <i>Lenten Ser</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00 <i>Chr Ed</i> 10:00 <i>DW/HC</i> 11:00 <i>Council</i>	<b>13</b> 9:30 <i>Quilting</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 4:00 <i>Midweek</i> 7:00 <i>Lenten Ser</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00 <i>Chr Ed</i> 10:00 <i>DW/HC</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 4:00 <i>Midweek</i> 7:00 <i>Lenten Ser</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00 <i>Chr Ed</i> 10:00 <i>DW/HC</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 4:00 <i>Midweek</i> 7:00 <i>Lenten Ser</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

## USHERS

Keith Vetter Rick Vetter  
 Jeff Luetje Kim Brockman  
 Gene Thiedeman Michael Brockman  
 Rob Klink

## MIDWEEK SERVERS

March 01 4 pm Hannah Dose  
 March 08 4 pm Marissa Schrad  
 March 15 4 pm Faith Neumann  
 March 22 4 pm Annalee Wittrock

## CHANCEL CIRCLE

Diane Witt & Alison Ehlers

## PARISH CIRCLE

Diane Witt

## ACOLYTES

1<sup>st</sup>: Jacob Hanson & Payton Gallagher  
 5<sup>th</sup>: Grant Wilken & Jaxx Luetje  
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 26<sup>th</sup>: Kendyl Riesberg & Madison Stork  
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**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**118 W Tracy St**  
**Box 59**  
**Arcadia, IA 51430**  
**Rev. Ben Dose**  
**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

