

APRIL 2024 SPOTLIGHT

A Few Thoughts from Pastor

People God dearly loves,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! *He is risen indeed! Alleluia!* Our Easter acclamation resounds during this month of April as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Because Jesus is risen from the dead, we know that all His Words are true. Because Jesus is risen from the dead, we know that He truly is our God and Savior. He has won His victory over death and the grave *for us*. Because Jesus gives His resurrection victory to us, we have eternal life by faith even right now. Because Jesus gives His resurrection victory to us, we know that He will raise us from our graves on the Last Day and bring us to the fullness of everlasting life. One day of one week is not enough time to celebrate such good news. The season of Easter lasts fifty days, the same amount of time from the first Easter to the first Pentecost, giving us ample time to shout our Alleluias and sing our praises to our Crucified and Risen King.

Consider how the Crucified and Risen King came to His disciples the first Easter evening. John 20:19-20 tells us that the disciples had locked themselves away for fear of being arrested and killed, just like their Lord had been. Without waiting for an invitation, without asking the disciples to open the door, Jesus comes into the room and stands among them. He doesn't chastise them for their fear. He doesn't rebuke them for their little faith. He doesn't scold them for abandoning Him. Instead, He speaks: "Peace be with you." After making sure His disciples know who He is by showing them the wounds in His hands and His side, Jesus makes sure they know what He has come to bring. He repeats: "Peace be with you."

This is what the Risen Lord comes to bring His disciples, then and now. Because Jesus has died and risen for us, our sins are forgiven. We no longer are God's enemies; we are at peace with Him. God desires that peace to be proclaimed to us and all people. That's why Jesus, on that first Easter evening, sent His disciples, just as He had been sent by the Father. He breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any; it is withheld" (John 20:21-23).

The disciples went forth and preached that news to the world after Pentecost. They proclaimed to those who rejected Jesus that they would have no peace and no forgiveness, for these gifts are found only in Jesus. They proclaimed to those who received Jesus by faith that forgiveness and peace were theirs. This message of peace and forgiveness in Christ alone is still proclaimed by the entire Church. That is why you, dear saints, have been placed by God at Zion Lutheran Church. God desires His Gospel to be proclaimed in Bunker Hill, that peace and forgiveness are found in Jesus Christ alone, and so He has called you to be His Church here.

That is why the Lord also continues to lead you and guide you in the process of calling your next pastor. God desires to give you a pastor who will proclaim peace and forgiveness in Christ to you; He desires to give you a pastor who will proclaim peace and forgiveness in Christ to your community. As you prepare to extend a call to a pastor this month, know that the Risen Lord Jesus is among you with His peace. He would not have you be worried or troubled. Rather, He gives to you His peace, because He already knows who your next pastor is. He gives to you His peace, because He is the One who cares for you in Word and Sacraments. Above all, He gives to you His peace, because He has died and risen for your forgiveness. Alleluia! Christ is risen! *He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

In Christ,
Pastor Appel

Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor’s possessions are his: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership to you? Paul says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since you belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.

April 2024 News and Notes

The new Circuit Visitor, Rev. Tim Appel from Faith-Godfrey, will be our primary contact with the District during our vacancy. If any immediate need or emergencies arise, please contact the Elders or Pastor Appel at **(210) 846-0188**. You may also contact **Kelsey Hamilton** (Church secretary) at **618-401-7663** (cell) or **zionbunkerhill@gmail.com**.

Zionbunkerhill.com website is up and running! The monthly calendar is available to view and much more! Also, any emails to be sent to Kelsey should be sent to **zionbunkerhill@gmail.com**.

If anyone wishes to provide fresh fruit for any month in 2024, contact Gordon Heuer at 618-535-1844 (call or text). Remember “fresh fruit and doughnuts” is the breakfast of champions.

Announcement: If you are interested in helping to record the services please contact Joe Manar.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT MAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH

MITE COLLECTION BOX: Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4), the LWML Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program. Our LWML Mite Box is in the back of our church in the narthex. Please feel free to donate at any time. YOUR mites make a big difference!

Pastor Mark Girardin will be our primary pastor for the duration of the vacancy.

Shut-In Visits – Pastor Kelly Mitteis will be visiting our Shut-Ins during the vacancy.

ThriVe Metro East 30 Year Anniversary Experience- will be held Friday, April 5th, 2024, in the Commons at Lewis & Clark Community College in Godfrey, IL. More information available on the poster board wall outside the office.

Zion Lutheran Church, 1301 N. State St., Litchfield, is having a drive-thru sausage dinner on Sunday, April 7, 2024 from 11:30am-5:30pm. The menu includes Ron Hemann’s famous pork sausage, mashed potatoes, sausage milk gravy, sauerkraut, green beans, applesauce, cranberry sauce, bread and dessert. Cost is \$15. 5lb. packages (link or bulk) of Ron Hemann’s fresh sausage and cooked sausage links will be available for pre-order Feb 20 – March 20 by calling 217-324-2393.

Thank you to our church family who have so generously reached out with comfort upon Harv’s passing. We appreciate your prayers and many acts of kindness. Most Sincerely, Monica, Max & Hannah, Caleigh, Nathaniel & Otto.

Blessing Box- Our Youth Group has completed the Blessing Box. They are planning to have it installed the beginning of April. We are asking for donations of Non-Perishable Food Items for the Blessing Box. If you are able to contribute, please leave your items in the Youth room. Thank you!

VBS Meeting: There will be a Vacation Bible School planning meeting after church on Sunday, April 14th. If you are the least bit interested, please stay and bring your calendar. It takes many adults to make that week successful. Thanks.

St. Peter’s Lutheran Church Salad Luncheon- Saturday, April 20th from 11am-1pm. Cost is \$10. Please RSVP by April 9th to the Church Office at 618-888-2250.

Giving for March 2024

Plate and Envelope: \$13,426.55

Building Fund: \$240.00

Lent: \$290.00

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSIONS

1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH OFFERINGS
JANUARY- WYCLIFF BIBLE TRANSLATORS
FEBRUARY- THE ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN
MARCH- UNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL
APRIL- LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS
MAY- LCMS MISSIONS-“CLAUSING FAMILY”
JUNE- VBS
JULY- BUNKER HILL AREA FOOD PANTRY
AUGUST- BETHESDA
SEPTEMBER- LCMS LUTHERAN RELIEF
OCTOBER- LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION
NOVEMBER- LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES
DECEMBER- LCMS MISSIONS- “CLAUSING FAMILY”

The April Sunday school mission will be designated to Lutheran Bible Translators

March Sunday school perfect attendance:

Sunday school/Church Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>N-8</u>	<u>H.S.</u>	<u>Adult Bible Class</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Church Attend.</u>
3/3	18	0	20	6	92
3/10	12	0	22	6	73
3/17	11	0	25	7	98
3/24	13	0	24	7	102
3/31					
2/28	*Mid-Week.....				24
3/6	*Mid-Week.....				21
3/13	*Mid-Week.....				24
3/20	*Mid-Week.....				26
3/28	*Maundy Thursday.....				41

Special Intercessions

Christopher Wittman- (Son of Debbie Karnes/Higgins) is taking a break from his job as a fork lift driver to take the next doses of chemo. His scans show no growth.

Dale Jones- Possible surgery in 3 months. Doing well. Her cell phone is 618-339-4957.

Declan Welch- actually doing really well! He is now weaned off the dextrose completely, but they have left the G.I. tube in just as an emergency backup; the Dr's want to leave it in until he is two years old. A huge praise is that his tumor markers which were over 500,000 are now down to 400! When he had his scans and lab work, everything came back good! He continues with PT to help him reach milestones. His right side is tight, so they are trying to get that loosened through PT. But it is amazing how far he has come, and we know that God is at work! Thank you so much for all your prayers! From Grandma Laura Welch.

Denise Baker- (Son Trevor & Parents Ivan & Dorothy) has been moved from ICU to the Intermediate Unit at Memorial Hospital in Springfield.

Glen Allen Smith- home and working on standing with physical therapy. Family cares for him.

Joyce Lehman- experiencing frailness but continues well at Gillespie Care Center.

Linda Volentine- suffering effects of Parkinson's with memory loss and dementia. Pray also for Marvin.

Mark Robinson- returned home.

Mary Ann Hilyard Hicks- complications from cancer.

Paul Hamby of Bethalto- (husband of Holly Dillard-Hamby) Is on transplant list.

Randy Brown- (Nephew of Rodger & Joni Wood) "Infection is responding to treatment. Staying positive."

Ray Bonnell- Still battling lung cancer tumor in left lung. Currently no treatment. Next CT Scan in May. Many THANKS for prayers and thoughts.

Rod Greeling- Prayers requested for Dr. Rod Greeling (husband of Rhonda Rust Greeling, son-in-law of Doris Rust) doing much better at home, walking with a walker and has therapy 2 days a week.

Sherry Rice Scheldt- In AMH with pulmonary problems.

Steve Stagner- Steve & Dana request prayers for Steve's foot to heal.

Terry Likes (of Bunker Hill)- came home 4 weeks ago after spending 2 weeks at AMH then 4 weeks for nursing/rehab for daily antibiotics thru picc line for sepsis. So HHRN is coming 2-3 times weekly to check on his foot wound, so it was almost cleared completely when he had to go back in the hospital. Pray for strength & for his foot to heal.

Tim Likes (of Bunker Hill)- at home doing ok, but not great. Has been hospitalized in the last month due to critically high potassium and lungs filling with fluid and kidneys causing it. Doing dialysis at home 3 times a week. Cleared to resume his place on transplant list as long as his health hold up. Please send prayers.

Jake Portugal- Doing good continues chemo until November.

Neighbors Dealing with Cancer

Jake Portugal, Chris Gosch, Terry Dillard, Jake Hanner, Mona Brown, David Jackson & Dennis Bennett

Denise Baker- 2332 E. 200 N. Road, Pana, IL 62557 (For anyone who wishes to send Get Well Cards)
Thanks for all of the cards, prayers and Pastor Sharp for visiting her.



LWML LADIES OF ZION MEETING MARCH 21, 2024

Our President opened our meeting with 8 ladies present.

Pastor Mitteis led us in Bible Study. It was on the story leading to Palm Sunday. Jesus was at Mary & Martha's home where Mary anointed Jesus feet with Very Costly perfume. Then on His entry into Jerusalem on a donkey on the Sunday of Passion Week. We want to be followers of Jesus.

The Secretary read the minutes of the January meeting. There was no additions or corrections. A motion was made by Verlene to accept the minutes. Ruth Ann seconded it.

The Treasurer's report was given. No corrections were made. It will be filed as read. We will see Pastor Mitteis is reimbursed for the Bibles he got for Shelter Care. The LWML Southern IL Newsletter was passed out.

A thank you note was read from our Zone President thanking us for hosting The Prayer Breakfast in February. About 30 ladies attended.

Shelter Care-Pastor Mitteis led the devotion and singing. Ruth Ann served apple sauce and mandarins. Louise will serve next. We will be having a Bible Study at Shelter Care, two times a month led by Pastor Mitteis in addition to our devotion day.

Visiting-Verlene visited many shut-ins. Next to visit is Jane and Margie.

Organizational Leader-Verlene

The Blessing Box is about ready to put up. Donations of non-perishable items can be placed in the Youth room.

The Metro Spring LWML Rally will be April 13 at Our Redeemer, Carrollton, IL. Let Margie know by April 7th if going. Susan made a motion to give \$50 for the ingathering to buy bedding. The Fall Work Shop is at Emmaus, Dorsey on October 19th.

The LWML District Convention is September 13 & 14 at Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School at Centralia.

A motion to adjourn was made by Susan and seconded by Verlene.

We closed with singing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" followed by The Lords Prayer.

Refreshments of mint green ice cream and brownies were served by Ruth Ann.

Respectfully Submitted,

Louise Weidner, Secretary

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 8am-Secretary in Office	3 6pm-Youth Group	4	5 8am-Secretary in Office	6
7 Mission Sunday 8:45am-Sunday School 10am-Divine Service 6pm-Elder's Meeting Confirmation-Virtual Class	8	9 8am-Secretary in Office	10	11 1pm-Shelter Care	12 8am-Secretary in Office	13
14 8:45am-Sunday School 10am-Divine Service Confirmation-Virtual Class	15 7pm-Council Meeting	16 8am-Secretary in Office	17 6pm-Youth Group	18 1pm-Ladies of Zion	19 8am-Secretary in Office	20
21 8:45am-Sunday School 10am-Divine Service 6pm-Confirmation	22 7pm-Voters Meeting	23 8am-Secretary in Office	24	25	26 8am-Secretary in Office *Last Day to Submit Newsletter Articles	27 Happy 85 th Birthday Sally Bruckert
28 8:45am-Sunday School 10am-Divine Service 6pm- Confirmation	29	30 8am-Secretary in Office Newsletter Mailing Happy 88 th Birthday Louise Weidner	** Adult Confirmation Class will be on Sunday's at 4pm** SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING TO DISCUSS PASTOR CALLS: APRIL 7TH (2-4pm)			

APRIL+APRIL+APRIL+APRIL+APRIL



Happy Birthday!

1st Glenda Meehan, Bill Klopmeier, Jr.
2nd Melinda Bertels
3rd Lyle Henrichs, Samantha Scroggins
6th Brynlee Gray

9th Makayla Kessinger

11th Nancy Perdun, Laura Isenburg

13th Cindy McCarty
14th Richard Sawyer
15th Peggy Pruitt
16th Dylan Wright
17th Dale Mansholt

20th Sharon Rhodes
24th Jamie Fryman
26th Charlyn Pitts, Morgan Gray
Kade Karnes
27th Sally Bruckert,
David Spickerman
29th Diane Kravanya, Kristina Douglas
30th Louise Weidner, J.W. Hanks

Happy Anniversary!

12th Gary & Judy Kraner
William & Peggy Pruitt
17th Eric & Gina Henrichs
21st Garrett & Ashley Trimm
Brad & Krisha Jarden
24th Bill & Pat Farris

Baptismal Birthdays

1st Gary Kraner
3rd Mike Briskovich
Bill Klopmeier, Jr.
4th Zachary Weidner
5th Lindsey Kahl, Harold Wieseman

7th Amelia Hamilton, Bo Hamilton,
Memphis Marquardt
8th Lyle Henrichs
10th Doris Rust

11th Leanne Anderson
12th Melinda Bertels, Jacob Darr

13th Dale Rather
15th Glenda Meehan
18th Margie Wilson
21st Mary Jo Henrichs, Cathy Hughes,
Charlene Sauerwein

22nd Carolyn Mansholt
23rd Landon Gray

25th Lindsey Watts, Anthony Davidson

27th Ashley Trimm, Michael Sandwich
28th Paige Smith

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Matthew 28:19 ESV