

Zion Lutheran Church
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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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PERMIT #3

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



APRIL 2019

This year on April 1st my daughter Lydia is gone on a school trip. While I miss her, I won't miss the pranks or April Fool's jokes she loves to play on everyone in the house. Oftentimes her April Fool jokes are harmless, but they are rather annoying. One year she decided to switch all the breakfast cereal around. She took the bags out of all the boxes and switched them. There are no doubt many who are reading this who have a household member like my daughter, or are perhaps are a prankster themselves.

While harmless jokes can be fun, the reality is that no one like to be made out as a fool. April Fool jokes have a way of making a person feel foolish. But what about those people who live in a state of foolishness? Are there people who don't just fall victim to a joke, but live as fools? When I think of a fool, it is a person who is ignorant of reality, someone who sees a truth but doesn't recognize it. Webster's 1828 dictionary defines a fool in a number of different ways. "One who is destitute of reason, or the common powers of understanding," is the first definition. The second definition explains a fool as, "a person who acts absurdly; one who does not exercise his reason; one who pursues a course contrary to the dictates of wisdom." Simply put a fool doesn't use his or her God given mental facilities as they ought to. A fool would look at a sheet of white paper, and say that it was black. A fool would look at a round ball, and argue that it is really a square.

I believe our current culture lifts up fools, and oftentimes puts them in positions of power and authority to teach others how to be fools. I was recently looking through some internet posts and found a woman arguing with a man on a college campus that there are literally hundreds of different genders. She claimed that a person couldn't even provide a number for all the different genders. The man responded by saying that claiming a person's gender is determined by how they self-identify is foolish and wrong. The woman surrounded by her peers on a campus where she is probably paying tens of thousands of dollars per year to be educated, was totally convinced her position was accurate, and that this man was ignorant and foolish.

While the depth of foolishness is breathtaking in our culture, this problem of "learned scholars" being fools is not new. Esteemed naturalist Charles Darwin published a book called *The Origin of Species* that marks a turning point in academia's embracing of foolishness. Observations of nature used to be a way that humanity saw the holy fingerprints of God. The vast complexity of creation screams there is a God, yet Darwin's theory opened the door for God denying scientists to prop up their atheistic worldviews. John Dewey, humanists and atheist, as well as the creator of the once important "Dewey Decimal System" used in libraries everywhere, is considered by many as a pillar to the American education system. Dewey took Darwin's theory of a Godless evolution, and applied it's principals toward education. Dewey espoused a progressive socialist model of education that taught truth and knowledge come from observation and experience rather than a set standard as found in the Bible.

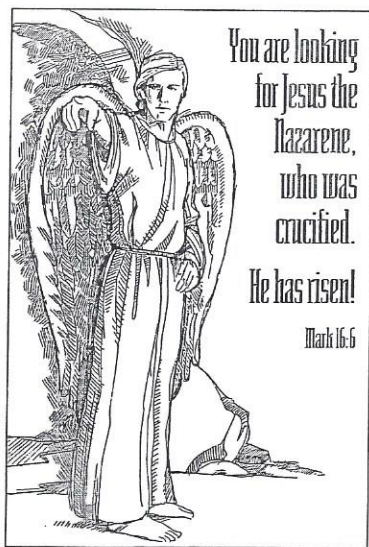
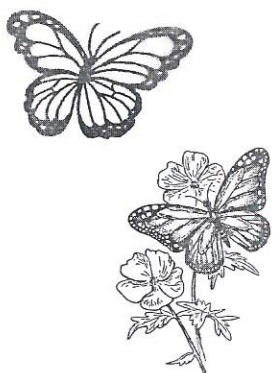
Now in part thanks to Dewey, we have young adults attending colleges being told that gender is fluid, that God is a myth, and that truth is relative to how you feel. Bible believing Christians are looked at by many with scorn and anger. We are mocked for believing in absolute truth, and looked down upon as not being enlightened. We are labeled as weak minded, and basically called fools. Not surprisingly, the Bible explains how long before Dewey, this trend of denying truth, and mocking Christians is not new. The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth this message:

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? (1 Cor. 1:18-20)

The Bible explains how there will be people claiming to be wise, but in their practice they will be complete and utter fools. I think this truth has become more and more clear as time progresses.

As we will soon be entering into Holy Week we will worship God who was killed on the cross, buried in a sealed tomb, and then three days later rose from the grave. This truth is beyond the ability of science to explain, replicate, or even understand. As a result, many "wise scholars" of our day will call us fools. Accept the culture's label, and wear it proudly. For as verse 25 of 1st Corinthians chapter one says, "For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength." (NIV)

Pastor Joe



WHY DID JESUS FOLD THE NAPKIN?

The Gospel of John tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed at the head of that stony coffin.

The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him." Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. So they ran both together; and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together (rolled up or folded up) in a place by itself. (John 20:1-7

Is That important? Absolutely! Is it significant? Yes! In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition. When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it. The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished. Now if the master was done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, "I'm done." But, if the master got up from the table, folded his napkin and then laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because...the folded napkin meant, "I'm coming back!"

Jesus is coming back!!!

ALLELUIA!

CHRIST IS ALIVE!

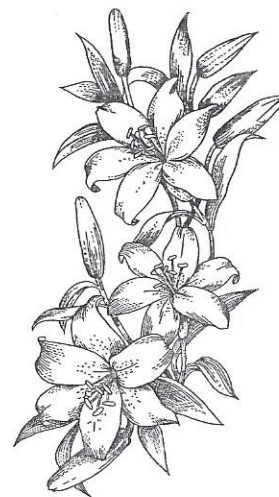
Easter

Let every heart be filled with joy,
A joy of thankfulness to our Savior and King!
He is victorious over sin and death.
He conquered death to give us a new life.
A life blossoms through His unending love.
It is for a cause and without condition
The love that brings healing and reconciliation,
A pure love that creates in us real peace.
Peace that springs from his sacred heart,
A heart that bleeds for our affliction.
It is full of mercy and compassion,
A heart wounded for our sins and vainglory.
Rejoice! Jesus is truly risen from the dead
For us to live once again,
To live without blemish of pride,
And live a life unselfishly for others in need.

Estela Canama



E -nvision His love deeply
A -ccept His love willingly
S -eek His love continually
T -rust His love implicitly
E -mbrace His love whole-heartedly
R -eturn His love generously



GOD PLANNED IT ALL

He planned the sacrifice...
He planted the tree...
He placed the iron ore in the earth...
He chose Judas...
He set up the government that would put Jesus to death...
He planned it all for you and me!

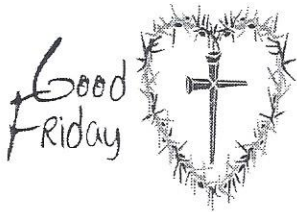


What the Robin Told

The wind told the grasses
and the grasses told the trees.
The trees told the bushes
and the bushes told the bees.
The bees told the robin
and the robin sang out clear:
Wake Up! Wake up!
Spring is here!

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.
Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.
And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.
For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfil.

Robert Frost



THE THIEF UPON THE CROSS

Two thieves were hanging very near our Lord the day He died.

Each one could see the cruel spear pierce through Christ's bleeding side.

Each heard the prayer He whispered low as

darkness dimmed the view:

"Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they really do."

Amid the clang of shield and sword and boisterous cheers that day,

One thief looked upon the Lord and men could hear him say,

"If thou were He, God's only Son, the angels would be near;

But You are helpless, there are none to take You down from here."

But when the other thief did see the Lord upon the tree,

He breathed the words, remembered yet "Dear Lord, remember me.

Remember me when you shall come into Your Kingdom fair".

"My blood," said Christ, "has cleansed your sin, today shall you be there."

Great was the faith that thief displayed upon the cross that day.

He saw no marks on Christ that said He was the Life - the Way.

And yet, that thief, in faith believed, and in his dying hour

He showed for all eternity that faith, not works, has saving power.

Donald Laverne Walker



The Jelly Bean Prayer

Red is for the blood He gave, green is for the grass He made.

Yellow is for the sun so bright, orange is for the edge of night.

Black is for the sins we've made, white is for His grace which saves.

Purple is for the hours of sorrow, pink is for our new tomorrow.

A bag full of jellybeans—Colorful and sweet—

Is a prayer, a promise, A dear person's treat.



PALM SUNDAY

The crowds were waving palm fronds,

"Hosanna!" was the cry

As Jesus neared Jerusalem

While on His way to die.

For He must die; God willed it,

And so our Saviour saw

Amidst the waving palm fronds

The shadow of the cross.

Loise Pinkerton Fritz

THE CRUCIFIXION

I laughed and mocked as He walked that day, up a hill to redeem my soul.

I joined the crowd to spit and jeer, and I watched His sorrow grow.

I drove every nail deep in His hands with every sin in my heart.

My rebellion shoved the thorns in His head and my strife tore His robe apart.

I used my hatred to give Him a bitter drink and I glared down on Him with pride.

I thought of past disappointments, and with my anger I pierced His side.

I denied His power and ignored His worth and stood waiting for His life to end.

I watched the last drop of His blood fall, not knowing my grief would begin.

I looked around to find His accusers, but no one was there but me.

I looked at my hands; they were stained with blood and then I began to see.

Conviction slowly entered my heart and I dropped all my weapons of choice: the pride, the anger, the hatred, the lust, and then I heard His voice.

"Forgive her Father, I died for her, I paid the price for her soul.

I bore her sickness and all of her pain and now I have made her whole."

He looked down on me with loving eyes. He saw my present, my future, my past.

He knew I needed a Savior and my soul had found Him at last.

I looked around to find His accusers, but no one was there but me.

Fran Peck

JUST A KID

Who says that I am just a kid,
too young to know what Jesus did

When He hung there on Calvary
for Mom and Dad and kids like me?

Why, didn't He say, as plain as could be,
"Suffer the little ones to come unto me."

While on their heads He laid His dear hand,
For He knew, that somehow they'd understand.

Don't children know when they're naughty and bad,
When they grieve Mom and worry Dad?

Well, that shows how early they learn about sin.

'Tis then they should open their hearts
and let Jesus in.

So it's up to you BIG folks to show us the way

How to live for Jesus in school and at play,





To tell us the story, how He died on the tree

To save everyone, even a kid like me.





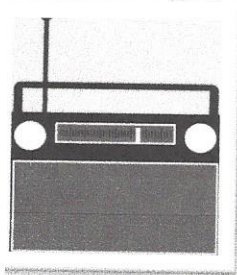
APRIL 2019 BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>"Sometimes life goes by in a trickle and sometimes life goes by in a flood. It's in those rainy seasons you find out how well you can swim."</i>	1 McCoy Lalim	2  <i>Happy Birthday</i>	3 Kendra Karg Todd & Angie Thompson	4 Don & Pat Sillerud Ellen Fox Marlys Overdorf	5 Joshua Keller	6 
7	8 Emma Melberg Joy Lalim	9 Tony Kucera	10	11 Erin Lalim Lorin Weisz	12 Rhonda Fuson	13 Gary & Peggy Anderson Ron & Norma Brilz
14 Cody Uhlich LaVern & Ardella Kerbaugh Collin Christofferson Caleb & Heidi Melberg	15 Morgan Moberg	16 Tim Coughlin Sr. Garsee Thompson	17	18 Morgan Kraft	19 Jack & Connie Seibel Keilyn Rehak	20 Chet Wolla Aaron Olson
21	22 Amanda Michelson	23 Julian Pederson	24 Dan & Barb Larson	25 Duane & Kristi Knudson Bryan & Beth Moberg	26 Mark Anderson Ben Uhlich Dennis & Rhonda Rehak	27 Monica Miller David & Bree Pederson Terry & Kari Skalicky Dave Uhlich
28	29	30 	<i>"A person's reputation is precious, but a person's character is priceless."</i>			<i>"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."</i> I Cor. 13:4&13



APRIL ZION 2019 ACTIVITIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1 pm Zion Quilters Meet	2	3 5:30 pm Food & Fellowship Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6 pm Christian Ed. Meeting 6 pm Choir 7 pm Lenten Service 8 pm Youth Group	4	5	6
7 9 am Sunday school & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service <u>Two years ago</u> today we had a Ground Breaking Ceremony at the new building site after the service!	8 1 pm Zion Quilters Meet	9 7 pm Deacon/Deaconess Meeting 7:30 pm Trustee Meeting 8:15 pm Council Meeting	10 5:30 p.m. Food & Fellowship Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6 pm Choir 7 p.m. Lent Service 8 pm Youth Group	11 Zion Circles Meet: <i>Circle 1-9:30 am</i> <i>Circle 2-2 pm</i> <i>Circle 3-7 pm</i>	12	13
14 Palm Sunday 9 am Sunday school & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 	15	16 	17	18	19 7 p.m. Good Friday Service	20
21 Easter Sunday 8:30 – 10 am Easter Breakfast 10:30 am Worship Service 	22	23	24 5:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Choir 7:15 pm Youth Group	25	26	27 WMF Women's District Spring Rally in New Leipzig, ND 9 a.m. MT
28 9 am Sunday school & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service	29	30			"A clean CONSCIENCE makes a soft PILLOW."	



RADIO MINISTRY

Anyone who would like to sponsor a Sunday broadcast or contribute to the radio fund in memory of a loved one, please contact the church office, thank you! The radio broadcast is \$100 per Sunday. Our radio broadcast can be heard on Sundays at noon on AM Radio Station KTGO 1090.



Our church service is on the local NCC TV Station channel 17 on Thursdays, at noon and 8 p.m.

USHERS THIS MONTH

APRIL HEAD USHER: Jim Smithberg

Roger Blestrud

Neal Nelson

Danny Hoium

~Special Offering Baskets~

FIRST SUNDAY of each month is Mission Sunday.

THIRD SUNDAY of each month is New Building Project. We will have a basket in the back of the church on these two Sundays for special offering.

If your birthday or anniversary is missing from our Newsletter and you would like to be included, please call the church office

~CLOTHES CLOSET~

HOURS TO SHOP ARE:

MONDAY 4-7 P.M. & SATURDAY 9-12 P.M.

IF YOU HAVE NEW OR GENTLY USED CLOTHES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE (PREFERABLY THAT GO WITH THE SEASON WE ARE IN) PLEASE DROP THEM OFF AT THE CHURCH. THANK YOU!

VOLUNTEER HELP IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED!



Youth News

Youth FLY Convention - July 1 - 6, 2019

YMCA Camp, Estes Park, CO

Theme: "I AM"



2019 AFLC Annual Conference - June 11-14

Spruce Lake Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA

Theme: "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord."

More info on website: aflc.org



APRIL



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

Palm Sunday, April 14th - The children will be singing at the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service.

Sunday, May 7th - Last day of Sunday school for the Children's Program, adults will continue to meet at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings.



~New Building Update~



Thank you to all who came out to help with our work day in March! We focused in on the stud walls and other various projects inside of the building. We are thrilled to get a visual of where the rooms are at because of the wall boundaries taking shape. We are grateful for an opportunity that presented itself to us from an oilfield construction project going on in Tioga, for the temporary use of some of our parking lot area. This allowed us to get the ground base and gravel for the front half of the parking lot installed. We are thankful and truly appreciate our volunteers and all who help with this project daily. Please continue to pray for the funds needed to complete this project, the safety of our workers, and the Building Committee as they seek God's wisdom and direction for upcoming decisions.

"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." Psalm 127:1

