

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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TIOGA, ND 58852
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Zion Lutheran Church
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



APRIL 2020

It is hard for us to comprehend the severity of the Corona Virus outbreak both here in America and abroad. Some people have speculated that the death toll will reach into the millions. Many wonder how can disease and sickness cause us so much trouble in America and across the world when we have modern medicine, proper hygiene, and technology that is supposed to keep us safe? While many believe it is a matter of time before it gets better, not all feel that way. Some have predicted that this is just the beginning of things getting much worse. The stock market has recently tanked, yet some believe it will only worsen. Could America collapse economically? There is also a high level of tension between one of our greatest threats militarily in China. Is war with one of the largest armies of the world on the horizon?

And then there are those that look at our planet and wonder how much more damage can we inflict on the home we call earth, before we are past the point of no return. Some of the more radical liberal politicians and talking heads have predicted our planet's impending doom. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, made the claim that the world will end in 12 years if nothing is done to fix the environmental destruction brought on by climate change.

As Christians we know that the end of the world is indeed going to happen because the Bible is abundantly clear regarding that. That is a fact all Bible believing Christians can agree on. Unfortunately from the date of the writing of those passages to the present, Christians have wrongly guessed the timing of the end regularly. And this applies to more than just Christians. Even secular scientists and politicians have wrongly predicted "doomsday" over and over.

A best-selling book from 1967, predicted that mass starvation would occur around the world due to the planet's unsustainable population. Those that disagreed with this premise were ridiculed as ignorant (much as people who disagree with global warming theories today are ridiculed). "All serious students of the plight of the underdeveloped nations agree that famine... is inevitable," wrote Cal Tech professor Peter Bonner in a 1967 review of the book. However, the experts were wrong. Famine numbers dropped to fantastically low numbers thanks in part to communism's influence eroding, as well as farming technology improving.

And who can forget the failed presidential career of Al Gore. After his last political failure, he turned to stoking fear and environmental propaganda in his 2006 movie "An Inconvenient Truth." Gore claimed that in 10 years the world as we know it would pass the point of no return. Flood waters were going to cover low lying areas of land as the world's oceans would fill with melted icebergs. Interestingly enough, Gore and his wife purchased an 8 million dollar beach front home in Southern California just 4 years after his movie in 2010!

Being wrong about the end of the world is also something many evangelists, and popular Christians have to their credit as well. Popular Christian radio host Harold Camping wrongly predicted the 2nd coming of Jesus and judgement day multiple times. Instead of being taken in the "rapture" he died of complications from a fall. Late night Christian television regularly has a slew of talking heads pointing to signs of the end being practically upon us. It seems over time many have given up calling for an exact time and date since they too easily lose their credibility, but rather just point to signs that the end is near and try to whip up excitement for their show.

Regardless of how things turn out with the Corona Virus, China, climate change, or other possible cataclysmic events, we need to have a balanced Biblical outlook. There are multiple clear truths that can act as a light for us in these dark times. 2nd Timothy 3:1-2 says, "But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy," (ESV). As we get closer to the last days people will become worse not better. If you would keep reading the following verses you would read a long laundry list of how messed up and sinful the people will be in the end of times. We should not be shocked at the level of sinfulness

coming from those who are not in a right relationship with Jesus Christ. It is not a sign that God has forgotten us, or is somehow out of control of the situation in the world. Expect things to get worse, not better.

When Jesus was asked when the end would come, He had some very clear teachings on this point. In Matthew chapter 24 verses 4-8 we read the following:

⁴ And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are but the beginning of the birth pains (ESV).

Before the end, not only will people grow more open in their sinful behavior, but there will be many who claim to be Jesus Christ in the flesh, as well as multiple wars, famines, and natural disasters around the globe. And what’s crazy is that the Bible says this is only the beginning of end. This means that when these events happen, the end has not come, only the beginning of the end. That means that multiple years could still come and go before the real return of Jesus Christ!

So, when is the end going to be? Can we ever really know? The simple answer is we cannot ever know when the end is. Verse 36 of Matthew 24 records for us Jesus’ words, “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.” Some say well we can’t know the exact time, but we will know the season. Many Bible scholars have made a living of pointing out the signs of the end times. Yet again if we look to Matthew 24 for guidance we see in verses 36-39 that people on earth will be blissfully unaware when the end actually happens. For the Bible says that people will act as they did in Noah’s day right before the rains and floods came. People will be doing normal activities like eating and drinking, as well as making plans for the future like getting married. In fact God tells us that when Jesus returns it will be like a thief in the night, a complete surprise.

So where does that leave us? The end is coming. We should be prepared. The best way to be prepared is not to stockpile toilet paper, bottled water, and gold bars. First and foremost, we should look to our and our family’s spiritual condition. God’s message to the church of Sardis in chapter 3 is an admonishment to strengthen their spiritual condition. If we are right before the Lord, we have nothing to fear. Let us continue to pray for the welfare of others and be a reflection of the light shown to us in Jesus Christ. In times like now, we as Christians can demonstrate what it means to have a peace that passes all understanding. As things get progressively worse others will become not only more sinful, but more anxious and fearful. As Christians we can model what living a life without fear means. We do this not ignoring the dangers in this world, but by trusting in the one that promises to walk through those dangers with us. Lastly, I want to personally encourage all of us to try to avoid wasting time on those claiming to have figured out when the end is coming. Let us all do our part to help bring as many people as possible onto the life boat of Jesus Christ before it is too late.

Pastor 

WHAT IS SO GOOD ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY?

What is Good Friday and why do we call Good Friday "good," when it is such a dark and bleak event commemorating a day of suffering and death for Jesus?

For Christians, Good Friday is a crucial day of the year because it celebrates what we believe to be the most momentous weekend in the history of the world. Ever since Jesus died and was raised, Christians have proclaimed the cross and resurrection of Jesus to be the decisive turning point for all creation. Paul considered it to be "of first importance" that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and was raised to life on the third day, all in accordance with what God had promised all along in the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3)

On Good Friday we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by crucifixion as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins (1 John 1:10). It is followed by Easter, the glorious celebration of the day Jesus was raised from the dead, heralding his victory over sin and death and pointing ahead to a future resurrection for all who are united to him by faith (Romans 6:5).

Still, why call the day of Jesus' death "Good Friday" instead of "Bad Friday" or something similar? Some Christian traditions do take this approach: in German, for example, the day is called Karfreitag, or "Sorrowful Friday." In English, in fact, the origin of the term "Good" is debated: some believe it developed from an older name, God's Friday." Regardless of the origin, the name Good Friday is entirely appropriate because the suffering and death of Jesus, as terrible as it was, marked the dramatic culmination of God's plan to save His people from their sins.

In order for the good news of the gospel to have meaning for us, we first have to understand the bad news of our condition as sinful people under condemnation. The good news of deliverance only makes sense once we see how we are enslaved. Another way of saying this is that it is important to understand and distinguish between law and gospel in Scripture. We need the law first to show us how hopeless our condition is; then the gospel of Jesus' grace comes and brings us relief and salvation.

In the same way, Good Friday is "good" because as terrible as that day was, it had to happen for us to receive the joy of Easter. The wrath of God against sin had to be poured out on Jesus, the perfect sacrificial substitute, in order for forgiveness and salvation to be poured out to the nations. Without that awful day of suffering, sorrow, and shed blood at the cross, God could not be both "just and the justifier" of those who trust in Jesus (Romans 3:26). Paradoxically, the day that seemed to be the greatest triumph of evil was actually the deathblow in God's gloriously good plan to redeem the world from bondage.

The cross is where we see the convergence of great suffering and God's forgiveness. Psalms 85:10 sings of a day when "righteousness and peace" will "kiss each other." The cross of Jesus is where that occurred, where God's demands, his righteousness, coincided with his mercy. We receive divine forgiveness, mercy, and peace because Jesus willingly took our divine punishment, the result of God's righteousness against sin. "For the joy set before him" (Hebrews 12:2) Jesus endured the cross on Good Friday, knowing it led to his resurrection, our salvation, and the beginning of God's reign of righteousness and peace.

Good Friday marks the day when wrath and mercy met at the cross. That's why Good Friday is so dark and so Good.

Justin Holcomb

THE BLOOD

The Blood ASSURES me
It cleanses all my sin,
Its covering is my plea;
It brings Salvation free.

The Blood PROCURES for me
Protection from all ill,
A Refuge from the gale;
A Safety through the Vale.

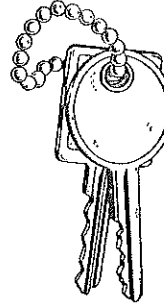
The Blood SECURES for me
A home in heaven free.
A joy that ne'er will cease;
And everlasting peace.

—Julia E. Martin



BORROWED

They borrowed a bed to lay His head,
When Christ the Lord came down;
They borrowed an ass in the
mountain pass
For Him to ride to town.
But the crown that He wore
And the cross that He bore
Were His own.



He borrowed the bread when
the crowd He fed
On the grassy mountain side;
He borrowed the dish of broken fish
With which He satisfied.
But the crown that He wore
And the cross that He bore
Were His own.

He borrowed the ship in which to sit
To teach the multitude,
He borrowed the nest in which to rest,
He had never a home as rude,
But the crown that He wore
And the cross that He bore
Were His own.

He borrowed a room on the
way to the tomb,
The passover lamb to eat.
They borrowed a cave, for Him a grave,
They borrowed a winding sheet.
But the crown that He wore
And the cross that He bore
Were His own.

The thorns on His head were
worn in my stead,
For me the Saviour died;
For the guilt of my sin the nails drove in
When Him they crucified.
Though the crown that He wore
And the cross that He bore
Were His own.
They rightly were mine.

—L. M. Hollingworth

SONNET TO THE CROSS

He bore the cross alone to Calvary
And wore a plaited crown upon His brow—
So at the Cross on bended knee I bow,
And give my all to Him who died for me.
Oh, sweetest hope which is His legacy,
'Tis more than all the world can give me now;
It seems I cannot realize just how,
He died for me so uncomplainingly!

The nails that pierced His hands, pierced too, his heart;
And with the sword men thrust into His side,
They drew the blood from Him which did impart;
New life, that you and I may still abide.
So, at the Cross I humbly bow my head—
For Jesus lives, He's risen from the dead!

"HOSANNA" (PALM SUNDAY)

"In the village," said the Savior,
"Find a donkey that is tied,
On which no one else has sat.
Bring it so that I may ride."



To the Master came the donkey,
Guided by the two he sent.
And they threw their cloaks upon it
Right before He climbed and went.

Toward Jerusalem He journeyed,
As the crowds were laying palms,
Shouting "Hosanna! Blessed is He
Who in the name of Yahweh comes!"

Then Pharisees commanded Jesus,
"Teacher, stop these words they shout!"
But Jesus said, "If they were silent,
Rocks themselves would still cry out."

Mitch Chase

SO CLOSE TOGETHER

Outside ancient Jerusalem was the Garden of Gethsemane. It was here the Saviour suffered deep agony of soul in prayer. Little more than 1500 feet to the east is the Mount of Olives...from whence Jesus' blessed feet left mother earth after His brief sojourn here. So close together...agony...and the triumphant ascension. Perhaps the poet had this in mind when she wrote:

Give me, dear God, a heart
That bravely sings
When searing trials come.
When joys take wings;
Teach me - before life's wan
Brief sun shall set -
That I can never scale
Bright Olivet.
And from her crest look up
Triumphantly.
Except I pass through dark
Gethsemane!

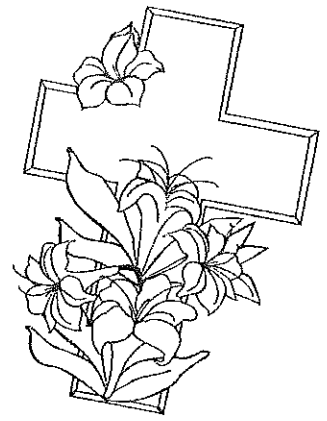
Winnie Lynch Rockett



THE CONQUERING CHRIST

They nailed Him to an ugly cross that bleak and dreadful day;
And thought forever from their midst they'd driven Him away.
But three days passed, and He arose, triumphant o'er the grave,
With Hell's keys in His might hands, and wondrous power to save.
And He ascended to His throne, the Spirit to send forth,
That men no more alone should be, and every life have worth.
He's coming back some golden day, and victory shall He bring
For He'll be Conqueror when He comes:
Our Lord, our coming King!

J. Melton Thomas



THE MIRACLES OF EASTER

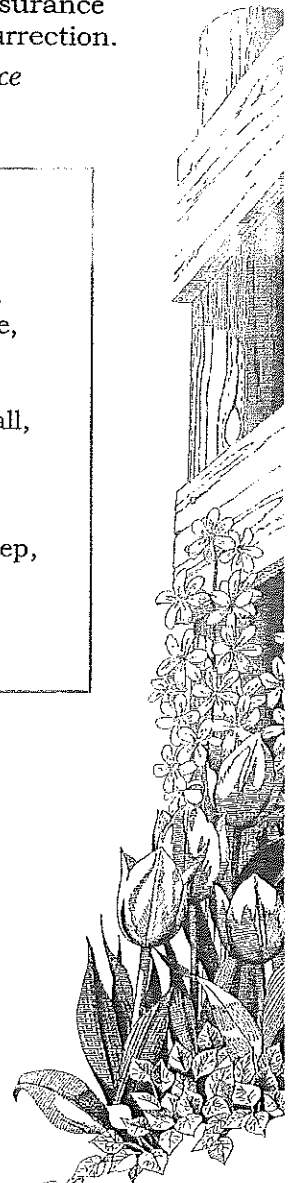
The sleeping earth awakens,
The robins start to sing,
The flowers open wide their eyes
To tell us it is Spring.
The bleakness of the Winter
Is melted by the sun.
The tree that looked so stark and dead
Becomes a living one...
These Miracles of Easter,
Wrought with divine perfection,
Are the blessed reassurance
Of our Saviour's Resurrection.

Helen Steiner Rice

EASTER

O glorious morn, glad Easter Day,
When Christ arose from the grave,
He shed His blood, my soul to save,
He is the Life, the Truth, the Way.
He gave His life to ransom all,
For all are sinners...through the fall,
But now God's children we can be
...All because of Calvary.
He died to save, He rose to keep
All His precious blood washed sheep,
Accept Him now, be saved today,
Rejoice, be glad this Easter Day!

Unknown



 "CHAIR-ITY" 
FUND-RAISER



Please help us raise money for the sanctuary chairs for the new church building.
Cost is **\$60 per chair**, any donation is appreciated!

- "Buy" a chair for **YOURSELF!**
- "Buy" a chair for a **FRIEND/S!**
- "Buy" a chair for each of your
FAMILY MEMBERS!

A purchase was made from one family who "bought" a chair for each of their grandchildren with this note attached: *"While we may not all get to sit in the church together very often, we pray that our grandchildren will love and fear the Lord; and that His love will be taught to them wherever they may be each day...whether in these chairs or in another chair in a Christian, Bible teaching church somewhere in the world."*

Scriptures shared were:

*"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
Proverbs 22:6*

"To teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds but would keep his commands." Psalms 78:5-7

Thank you to everyone who has "purchased" chairs so far!

HOSPITAL REGULATIONS REQUIRE A WHEEL CHAIR for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator.

On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him.

"I don't know," he said, "She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."

A LITTLE GIRL, DRESSED IN HER SUNDAY BEST, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" As she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either."

**GOOD NEWS
TRAVELS FAST**

A MOTHER ASKED HER LITTLE GIRL if she had been good at church that day. "Yes Mother," she replied. "A man offered me a big plate of money and I said, "No, thank-you."

A GUY WAS INVITED TO AN OLD FRIEND'S HOME for dinner. His buddy preceded every request to his wife by endearing terms, calling her Honey, My Love, Darling, Sweetheart, Pumpkin, etc.

The guest was impressed since the couple had been married almost 70 years, and while the wife was off in the kitchen he said to his buddy, "I think it's wonderful that after all the years you've been married, you still call your wife those pet names."

His buddy hung his head and whispered, "I forgot her name about ten years ago."



APRIL 2020 BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."</i> <i>Psalm 139:13-14</i></p>			<p>1 McCoy Lalim</p>	<p>2 Happy Birthday</p>	<p>3 Kendra Karg Todd & Angie Thompson</p>	<p>4 Don & Pat Sillerud Ellen Fox</p>
<p>5 Joshua Keller</p>	<p>6 </p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Emma Melberg Joy Lalim</p>	<p>9 Tony Kucera</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Erin Lalim Lorin Weisz</p>
<p>12 Rhonda Fuson</p>	<p>13 Gary & Peggy Anderson</p>	<p>14 Cody Uhlich LaVern & Ardella Kerbaugh Collin Christofferson Caleb & Heidi Melberg</p>	<p>15 Morgan Moberg</p>	<p>16 Tim Coughlin Sr. Garsee Thompson</p>	<p>17 </p>	<p>18 Morgan Kraft</p>
<p>19 Jack & Connie Seibel Keilyn Rehak</p>	<p>20 Chet Wolla Aaron Olson</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Amanda Michelson</p>	<p>23 Julian Pederson</p>	<p>24 Dan & Barb Larson</p>	<p>25 Duane & Kristi Knudson Bryan & Beth Moberg</p>
<p>26 Mark Anderson Ben Uhlich Dennis & Rhonda Rehak</p>	<p>27 Monica Miller David & Bree Pederson Terry & Kari Skalicky Dave Uhlich</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p><i>"No one ever injured their eyesight by looking on the bright side of things!"</i></p>	<p></p>



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.**



EASTER LILIES SHARED BY:

Debbie Iverson, in loving memory of Cliff Iverson and Larry Knudson.

Ronnie Lund, in loving memory of his parents; Ray & Bernice Lund.

Lori, Josh, and Marissa Olson, in loving memory of Larry.

Norma, Ronda, Robin & Dennis, and grandchildren, in loving memory of Ronnie Brilz.

Bruce & Glenda Lovdahl, in loving memory of their dear Aunt Inga.

Bruce & Glenda Lovdahl, in loving memory of son Michael, and grandson Gus.

Karol Jean Wolla and family, in loving memory of Jim Wolla, and Karol Jean & Jim's parents and siblings.

Duane & Kristi Knudson, in loving memory of our dads, and in honor of our moms.

Dewey & Phyllis Haustveit, in honor of our family.

Thank you for sharing your plants on the altar for the service that Pastor Carr records on Thursday evening for the Sunday worship time. Plants may be picked up any time on Good Friday, thank you!

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

~CLOTHES CLOSET~

THE CLOTHES CLOSET IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS. WE ARE NOT ACCEPTING DONATIONS AT THIS TIME, THANK YOU!



~APRIL~



- Due to the coronavirus, all public meetings at Zion remain cancelled until further notice.
- The church office is open during the week for help, encouragement, and spiritual direction.
- Pastor Rich is available, and can be reached on his cell phone at: 701-641-1736.
- New Sunday Worship Services can be seen on our website at 10:30 a.m., at zionfreelutheran.com, or on the Zion Free Lutheran Church Facebook page.
- The sermon can also be heard on Sundays at NOON on AM KTGO 1090 Radio Station.

We hope you will join us via the media!



"Our Daily Bread" devotional books for April-May-June are here, stop by the church if you would like to pick up a devotional book!

Our humble church Library on the second floor is open if you would like to stop by for a book to take home and read!



WMF Ladies Circle books and Bible Study books are available in the church office. Cost is \$12 for the Bible Study book.

~New Building Update~

Progress continues to be made on the new church building! We praise God and are so very thankful for all the helpers who volunteer their time and talents with various projects. Please continue to pray for wisdom for decisions being made, and continued gifts received to help complete this project, thank you!

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:1-3

