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March News

April News

“Is it worth the risk,” asked one of the church elders? Pastor James Coates replied, “Is it worth the risk not to?” The men all agreed with their pastor. No matter what, they would push forward, regardless of what the state dictated. That was it then. The church leadership was committed to their course of action. Even though it would be illegal, they would hold church services. If Coates was arrested and imprisoned, he hoped that the church would take care of his family. While those actual words may or may not have been used, that conversation did happen, and Pastor James Coates did lead his church in civil disobedience. And unfortunately, Coates was both arrested and imprisoned.

One might think that Coates was leading an illegal house church in China, or an underground Christian meeting in North Korea. Unfortunately, this event happened in a place many likely never thought possible, Canada. Restrictions imposed beginning in November of 2020 through the orders of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, demanded that churches gather at a maximum of 15% of building capacity and that all who attended must wear masks and distance from each other.

With over 400 members (none of which contracted Covid) seeking spiritual direction and comfort in this worldwide pandemic, Pastor Coates understood that his calling to shepherd his flock overruled the state’s mandate of extreme measures. Was he right in exposing his congregation to this virus? With less than a 3% mortality rate from Covid 19 in Canada, the government believed their draconian measures of suppressing public religious expression was warranted. Pastor Coates and their board of Elders understood differently.

The impact of the prolonged lockdown, coupled with the isolation of many people has left some questioning if life is still worth living. The Toronto Star reported that 1 in every 10 Canadians considered suicide since the pandemic began. Surely the government understands the important role that Christian churches play in both the spiritual and mental health of the population? It appears from the actions taken by the Canadian government that the public expression of the worship of God is a crime worth punishing.

Pastor Coate’s church has since been a lightning rod of public opinion. Cries have ranged from calls to shut down his church for good for endangering the public’s health, to those that champion Coates as a modern-day prophet willing to stand up to the system. Like it or not our world is heading toward increased open hostility toward practicing Christians. This threat to Christians is not isolated to Canada either. Some churches in California have been threatened with similar civil punishments for violating the state’s mandates concerning public worship.

Now is the time for all people to choose what is really important. There seems to be a fast-approaching time where Christians and the practice of Christian faith is no longer accepted in our society. It seems that our country is in a state of transition from being a post-Christian society, to an anti-Christian society. We are moving from a general apathy of conservative Christian principals and values, to an open hostility of them. Now more than ever we need to strengthen our faith, as we prepare for the coming open hostility toward true Christians. Instead of arming ourselves with more guns, stockpiling food stuffs, and looking to the latest social media platforms to do battle with “the people,” we need to listen to what God inspired John to write to the church in Sardis. In Revelation 3:2-3 God told the church a message we today in America need to hear:

Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. (NIV)

Throughout history God has allowed great siftings to occur periodically with His followers. I believe this was done to cause "Christians" to really believe and do what a Christian is called to believe and do. Those who just offer lip service regarding their faith, fall away during these times. The American church, and yes even my congregation have people who are convenient Christians. I pray that you are not one of them. But if you are, heed the words of John to the church in Sardis. Turn from your apathy, turn from your slumber. Take advantage of good churches while they are still open, read your Bible while you still can, unite in fellowship with other Christians. Strengthen what you have, before you realize that it is too late.

Pastor Jim

Pray for the sick



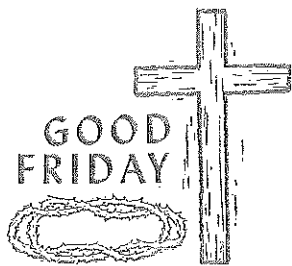
Worship with us



THE SIMPLICITY OF PRAYER

Prayer is so simple,
It is like quietly opening the door
And slipping into the very
presence of God;
There in the stillness
To listen to His voice;
Perhaps to petition
Or only to listen.
It matters not;
Just to be there in His presence
Is prayer.





Salvation? How can the salvation of all mankind happen in this way? In this ignominious, inglorious way? How can this be? That all of the sins of all who have ever lived or are living or will live are paid for on a criminal's cross? Aren't criminals most in need of forgiveness? Can criminals even be forgiven? How can a Man who hung on a criminal's cross pay for all the sin of all people?

And in Jerusalem of all places. Why not Rome, the political capital of the world? Or Athens, the cultural capital of the world? Or Alexandria, the educational capital of the world? Or Ephesus, one of the economic capitals of the world? Or Corinth, certainly one of the sin capitals of the world? Yes, that's it, why wasn't sin paid for in one of the greatest sin centers of history?

It just doesn't make sense. How can this Friday be Good? And how could salvation happen in this way?

No blaring trumpets, no glorious angels, no parades of power and purity, just another Friday crucifixion in the ancient Roman empire. Amazing. Excruciatingly painful, but almost ho-hum for the Roman soldiers. Just one more criminal to throw on the trash heap of history and off we go for a few drinks and a good time of gaming.

Yet salvation did come this way. Yes, it did!

REST

I just read an article about sickness. It mentioned the truism that one of the principles of healing is rest. If you are sick, you need to rest.

The opposite is also true. People who are constantly pushing or being pushed, who work long hours and who are stressed out by trying to constantly meet various demands get sick.

So, one of the best ways to stay well is to get rest. I don't just mean 8 hours of sleep. We all vary and some do just fine on less. What we all need is time to ourselves. We need time to re-create our inner selves, time to communicate with our Creator and Father. We need time to remember who we are by creation and redemption. Anyone who is too busy to know God is too busy for their own good.

If you have not been in touch with God lately, something is wrong. Take time to meet Him. It is the healthy thing to do.

Pastor Jay L. Warren

Many times we may somehow think we're invincible in this life, or even led to believe that we are not "needy" of a Savior. When hit with life's struggles or face to face with painful events, we quickly remember, we need help. We need a Savior.

We have One, who also was broken, in ways we could never fully comprehend, yet he remained strong, and chose to endure it all — for us.

He extends grace to remind us we don't have to stay stuck in our struggle and pain. He holds good in store through it all, able to bring greater purpose, greater beauty, greater strength. He never intends for us to remain in the pit of our despair. For he breathes fresh life.

God brought beauty out of the brokenness of the cross, he gives beauty for our ashes. His sacrifice offers forgiveness for our sin. The power of the Resurrection gives hope for our future.

There's such power there. God sent His Only Son. He loved. He gave. There was no other way...but this.

This Good Friday may we take a closer look at the reality of it all. The suffering of the cross. The huge sacrifice that Christ paid. The pain that was endured. The great cost of His gift. The love that was shown. The freedom He offers. It's not a flowery picture of fluff and stuff. But it's the most powerful story ever told.

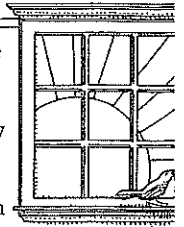
Incredible sacrifice. Amazing grace. Lavish love. Use this Good Friday to focus on what Jesus did for you.



Using God's daily gift

Let every dawn of morning be to you as the beginning of life, and every setting sun be to you as its close; then let every one of these short lives leave its sure record of some kindly thing done for others, some goodly strength or knowledge gained for yourself.

—John Ruskin



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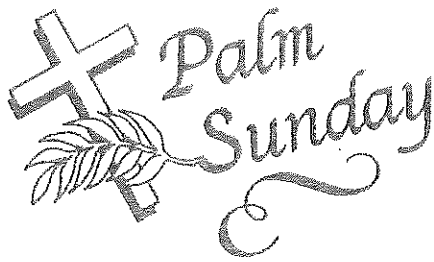
Perfect communion

When the Bible says that God 'knows' us, it means that He knows everything, that He reads our most secret thoughts. When Jesus says that the Father knows Him and that He knows the Father, He means that between Himself and the Father there is a perfect communion of love and of will. He wills all that the Father wills.

—Suzanne de Dietrich
Free Men



- I've read the last page of the Bible. It's going to turn out all right.
—Billy Graham
- Creativity is so delicate a flower that praise tends to make it bloom, while discouragement often nips it in the bud. Any of us will put out more and better ideas if our efforts are truly appreciated.
—Alexander Osborn
- Plan ahead! It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark. Still, when it was floating, he had to worry more about the woodpeckers inside than the flood outside.
—Anonymous
- I am obliged to bear witness because I hold a particle of light, and to keep it to myself would be equivalent to extinguishing it.
—Gabriel Marcel
- To say "It is not his fault; he was not free to choose" is to rob a person of his humanity and reduce him to the level of an animal who is bound by instinct.
—Harold S. Kushner
- Love is perhaps the only glimpse we are permitted of eternity.
—Helen Hayes



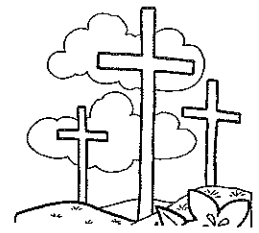
does He need from you, to fulfil some part of His great plan in this broken world; in this prophetic age we are living in? Is it a gifting, a special talent, your time, your career, maybe part of your finances? Does He need your knowledge, your wisdom or your work experience? Whatever He needs, as He speaks to you, do not hold it back, but release it freely, just like the village folk released the colt. If "The Lord needs it," and you release it, He will do amazing things through what you offer Him!

Palitha Jayasooriya

Scripture tells us about the crowd welcoming Jesus with shouts of "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Hosanna means "Save now." The people were looking for Jesus to save them from the cruel Roman occupation. They were looking for Jesus to save them from a cruel and harsh world.

And so I wonder, what are we asking Jesus to save us from today? Hosanna, Jesus save us from Covid-19! Hosanna, Jesus save us from hopelessness and despair! Hosanna, Jesus save us from loneliness and isolation. Hosanna, Jesus, save us from economic ruin and a scarcity of resources! What are you asking Jesus to save you from today?

*from a Palm Sunday meditation,
Northminister Presbyterian Church,
Indianapolis, IN*



GOD KNEW

When God made the rocks of iron and ore
Do you ever suppose that He
Was thinking of the nails they'd form
To nail Him on a tree;
And when God made the trees so tall
Was he seeing far ahead
The cross to be made from lumber
Where His Son's own blood was shed;
And when God made man's muscle
And gave him brain and will
Did God believe these creature men
Would use that power to kill?
Oh, yes, God knew of all of this
And yet because of love
For sinful men He came to earth
And left His home above
He took on Him the form of man
And then men's sins He took
And then redeemed by faith in Him
Our names within the Book.

Mrs. Winnifred Myers



We are drawing closer to the week that leads up to Palm Sunday. As Jesus was preparing to make His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, a prophecy given by Zechariah many years before, would have been on His mind. Jesus therefore asks two of His disciples to go to a nearby village, where they would find a tied colt that no man had ridden. He asks the two disciples to untie the colt and bring it to Him with the words, "If anyone asks you, 'why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it'..." (Mark 11:1-3).

That colt became a symbol of the Palm Sunday story and became part of the fulfillment of the prophecy given by Zechariah which said, "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9). "The Lord had need of it" and thankfully, the people released it to the disciples (Mark 11:4-6). Thus began Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Mark 11:7-10).

Today, as we approach Palm Sunday, what is Jesus asking from you? What

I MET THE STRANGEST MAN...

He said that he believes the Bible but never reads it. He says prayer changes things...but he never prays. He said he thinks well of the church...but he never attends. He said people need the Lord...but he doesn't lead them to Him. He said a man should be honest with God about money matters...but he never tithes. He said the church needs dedicated people...but he isn't one. He said the Lord is coming soon...but he lives as though He never will. He is a strange man, indeed!

Often we allow ourselves to be upset by small things we should despise and forget. Perhaps some man we helped has proved ungrateful, some woman we believe to be a friend has spoken ill of us, some regard we thought we deserved has been denied us. We feel such disappointments so strongly that we can no longer work or sleep. But isn't that absurd? Here we are on this earth, with only a few more decades to live, and we lose many irreplaceable hours brooding over grievances that in a year's time will be forgotten by us and by everybody. No, let us devote life to worthwhile actions and feelings, to great thoughts, real affections and enduring undertakings. For life is too short to be little.

Andre Maurois

Lent is a time for repentance

Repentance is the process by which we see ourselves, day by day, as we really are: sinful, needy, dependent people. It is the process by which we see God as He is: awesome, majestic and holy.

—Charles Colson
in *From Against the Night:
Living in the New Dark Ages*



The resurrection gives my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances.

— Robert Flatt

Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there.

— Clarence W. Hall

God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, "I love you."

— Billy Graham

"The cross was two pieces of dead wood; and a helpless, unresisting Man was nailed to it; yet it was mightier than the world, and triumphed, and will ever triumph over it."

— Augustus William Hare

"By the cross, we, too, are crucified with Christ; but alive in Christ. We are no more rebels, but servants; no more servants, but sons! 'Let it be counted folly,' says Hooker, 'or fury, or frenzy, or whatever else; it is our wisdom and our comfort. We care for no knowledge in the world but this, that man hath sinned, and that God hath suffered; that God has made Himself the Son of Man, and that men are made the righteousness of God.'"

— Frederic William Farrar

An Easter Wish

The world springs up
All fresh and sweet,
With wings of faith
Upon its feet...

To reach toward God's
Eternal blue
With love that polished
It like new -

Would that each heart
Were more like it:
By hope made strong
And faith made fit

A heart that hopes
And prays and sings
And soars by faith
On Easter wings.

- June Masters Bacher

THE LORD'S DAY IS SPECIAL

There is something special about the early morning hours of a typical Sunday. Traffic is light, and the few people up at this hour seem to be in a friendly mood. All of God's creation seems to be at rest. The quiet, hushed reverence of a Sunday morning proclaims the truth that God is a living, active force in His world.

The best way to preserve the sanctity of Sunday is to seek God's presence in a house of worship. We will see you at Church Sunday in a spirit of reverence and thanksgiving.



Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;
Death is strong, but Life is stronger;
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right...

— Phillips Brooks, "An Easter Carol"

For I remember it is Easter morn,
And life and love and peace are all new born.

— Alice Freeman Palmer

Once more to new creation Awake,
and death gainsay,
For death is swallowed up of life,
And Christ is risen today!

— George Newell Lovejoy

Angels, roll the rock away;
Death, yield up thy mighty prey:
See, He rises from the tomb,
Glowing with immortal bloom.

— Thomas Scott, "Easter Angels"

I think of the garden after the rain;
And hope to my heart comes singing,
At morn the cherry-blooms will be white,
And the Easter bells be ringing!

— Edna Dean Proctor, "Easter Bells"



Spring BUCKET LIST

MAKE A BIRD FEEDER
HAVE A PICNIC
FLY A KITE
HAVE A BONFIRE
SPEND A DAY AT THE ZOO
GO FISHING
PLAY FRISBEE IN THE PARK
GO CAMPING
PLAY WITH SIDEWALK CHALK
DYE EASTER EGGS
TAKE A FAMILY WALK
FEED THE DUCKS
BLOW BUBBLES
VISIT A FARM
GO ON A NATURE HUNT
PLANT FLOWERS
MAKE PLAY DOUGH
HAVE AN OUTDOOR TEA PARTY
GO BIRD WATCHING
BAKE CUPCAKES
PAINT ROCKS
PLAY HOPSCOTCH
MAKE MUDPIES
BUILD A FORT
MAKE A SUNCATCHER



PICK BERRIES
ROAST S'MORES
GO TO A PETTING ZOO
FIND A LOCAL FAIR
PLAY HIDE & SEEK IN THE DARK
GO STAR GAZING
LOOK FOR TADPOLES
MAKE FLOWER DECORATIONS
HAVE A GARAGE SALE
GO ON A SCAVENGER HUNT
HAVE AN EASTER EGG HUNT
PLANT A GARDEN
PLAY IN THE RAIN
TAKE FAMILY PICTURES
HAVE A BOARD GAME NIGHT
SKIP ROCKS AT THE LAKE
HAVE A FAMILY DINNER DATE
MAKE A NEW LEMONADE RECIPE
JUMP IN PUDDLES
GO TO A DRIVE IN MOVIE
SMELL THE FLOWERS
MAKE FLOWER CROWNS
LOOK FOR RAINBOWS
READ A BOOK ABOUT SPRING
MAKE A WIND CHIME

EASTER BLESSINGS

"Behold the Man!" And so it was
Revealing words that Pilate said.
There He stood, both grieved and weary,
Paltry price upon His head.
Judas heard the death bells tolling,
Stumbling from the place he ran—
Nevermore to see his Master—
Yet the Saviour loved the man.

On His brow the thorny circlet
Crowned Him King, yet pierced His head.
Harsh the wounds that marred His visage
Yet for us His blood was shed.
Shed for saints and shed for sinners,
Men He knew, men yet unborn.
Only men in flesh betrayed Him,
Yet for ALL was Easter morn.

Still He lives to ransom sinners;
Still He lives to be our Guide.
Gone from earth He yet befriends us
Through His Spirit at our side.
In our hearts if we but give Him
Welcome as our dearest Friend;
Stays to comfort, cheer and help us,
Easter blessings without end.

Mable Hale Livingston

A CROSS IN MY POCKET



I carry a cross in my pocket
A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic,
Nor is it a good luck charm
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.

It's not for identification
For all the world to see
It's simply an understanding
Between my Savior and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or a key
The cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me, too, to be thankful
For my blessings day by day
And to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do and say.

It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to His care.

So, I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but me
That Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life
If only I'll let Him be.

~ Verna Mae Thomas

A THOUSAND EASTERS

*There have been a thousand Easters
Since the Man of Galilee
Came to write the crowning news of history.
But I never knew an Easter
Like that glad first dawn could be,
Till the Lord of all the Easters lived in me!*

*There have been a thousand Easters
With their glory breaking through;
They have made a thousand, thousand hopes come true.
But you'll never know an Easter
Like those first disciples knew
Till the day the Lord of Easter comes to you!*

—Unknown

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Several years ago, when my daughter and son-in-law were stationed in Hawaii, they invited us to vacation with them on the island. During our visit, we decided to experience the beauty firsthand and hike a trail on Diamond Head.

After about 30 minutes of climbing the picturesque footpath, my legs ached and heart pounded. We were rounding a curve when I saw before us a set of 99 steps to climb. "I just can't make it," I said plopping down on the bottom step.

"Grab hold of my back pockets, and I'll pull you up, Mom," my 17 year-old son suggested. With my fingers hooked in his jean pockets, I drew from his youthful strength for the climb. When we arrived at the top, we were rewarded with a breathtaking view of Honolulu and the splendid grandeur of Waikki Beach.

As my eyes surveyed the majestic shoreline, I remembered a portion of 2 Chronicles 16:9, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him."

Remembering the seemingly impossible endeavor of climbing the 99 steps, I thought, how wonderful to know God is not looking for the most athletic, most talented, or best looking person. His eyes are searching for the heart right with Him in order to show Himself strong.

Just as I had needed my son's physical strength for that adventurous climb, I know I must have God's strength to face situations in life which cause me to sit down in defeat. Financial burdens, physical pain, or personal grief can consume my energy making simple everyday tasks take such effort to perform they become like mountains to climb.

God never meant for me to climb alone. His eyes are ever searching for the heart that is right with Him to say, "Grab hold of Me and I will pull you up."

Mary Ann Lenz



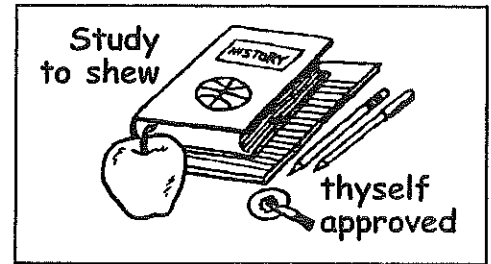
Marshmallow Easters

As I watch my eager children
On a sunny Easter day
Rummage through their Easter baskets
Munching candy all the way,
I reflect and stop to wonder
If the affluence we share
Teaches chocolate-covered crosses
Are the only kind we bear.

—Peggy Ferrell

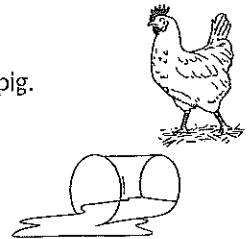
It is just a step to the Father's love
No farther than the heart;
No farther than a faith that knows
God sets each life apart.
It is just a step to the Father's work,
No farther than the door;
No farther than the lonely soul
So easy to ignore.
It is just a step to eternity
No farther than the Spring;
No farther than the laws of life
That govern everything.

—Peggy Ferrell



WISE ADVICE FROM A FARMER'S WIFE

Whenever you return a borrowed pie pan, make sure it's got a warm pie in it.
Invite lots of folks to supper. You can always add more water to the soup.
There's no such thing as woman's work on a farm. There's just work.
Make home a happy place for the children. Everybody returns to their happy place.
Always keep a small light on in the kitchen window at night.
If your man gets his truck stuck in the field, don't go in after him. Throw him a rope and pull him out with the tractor.
Keep the kerosene lamp away from the milk cow's leg.
It's a whole lot easier to get breakfast from a chicken than a pig.
Always pat the chickens when you take their eggs.
It's easy to clean an empty house, but hard to live in one.
All children spill milk. Learn to smile and wipe it up.
Homemade's always better'n store bought.
A tongue's like a knife. The sharper it is the deeper it cuts.
A good neighbor always knows when to visit and when to leave.
A city dog wants to run out the door, but a country dog stays on the porch 'cause he's not fenced-in.
Always light birthday candles from the middle outward.
Nothin' gets frustrations out better'n splittn' wood.
The longer dress hem, the more trusting the husband.
Enjoy doing your children's laundry. Some day they'll be gone.
You'll never catch a runnin' chicken but if you throw seed around the back door you'll have a skillet full by supper.
Biscuits brown better with a little butter brushed on 'em.
Check your shoelaces before runnin' to help somebody.
Visit old people who can't get out. Some day you'll be one.
The softer you talk, the closer folks'll listen.
The colder the outhouse, the warmer the bed.

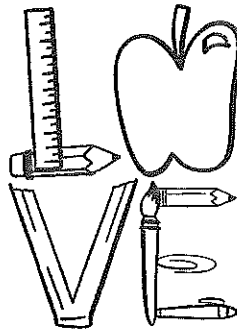


THOUGHTS FROM A TEACHER

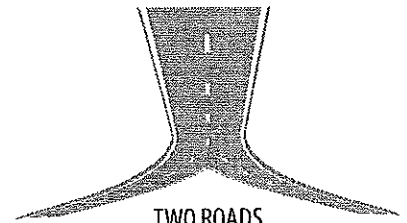
When I look around my classroom I couldn't tell you who crawled first, who walked before one year old or spoke in sentences by 15 months. I can't tell you if their parents breast fed or bottle fed. No clue if they still wear pull-ups at night, because I'm sure many do! I don't know if they potty trained at 18 months or 4 years old. I don't know if their mom ever left them to cry it out for a few minutes or if they strapped them to their bodies 24/7. You know what I can tell when I look at my kids? I can tell which families value kindness and manners in their homes. I can tell when a child feels loved and secure at home (and at school which sadly isn't always everyone's school experience!) I know who has pizza and movie Friday nights and which mom reads in different voices for bedtimes. I see how kids handle scary situations like thunderstorms. I can see who has a solid routine at home and who has chores and responsibilities. I can hear how you speak to your children by how they speak to others. When I look at my little friends I don't see their milestones, I see who they are; their heart, their actions, their inner voice, their struggles and triumphs, and I see you; and all the love you pour into them. We are always supposed to talk about testing and benchmarks and data during parent teacher conferences and I had a mom last time look at me and say "I don't worry about all the reading and math, she will get there. I want to know...how is she, as a person? Is she kind? Does she include others?"

That too took my breath away and is something that will always stick with me!!

Go easy on yourselves mamas, just love your little ones...it's all they need.



I'm not looking for the sunset,
As the swift years come and go;
I am looking for the sunrise,
And the golden morning glow,
Where the light of Heaven's glory
Will break forth upon my sight,
In the land that knows not sunset,
Nor the darkness of the night.
I'm not going down the pathway
Toward the setting of the sun,
Where the shadows ever deepen
When the day at last is done;
I am walking up the hillside
Where the sunshine lights the way,
To the glory of the sunrise
Of God's never ending day.
I'm not going down, but upward,
And the path is never dim,
For the day grows even brighter
As I journey on with Him.
So my eyes are on the hilltops,
Waiting for His invitation
To the Home beyond the sky.



The road of life is the road we take
In our everyday thoughts and deeds,
A selfish road for the most of us
Made of our own joys and needs
The road of prayer, on the other hand,
Is the road we take at night
When we blindly grope for the Hand of God
And beg for His guiding light.
A mortal travels the saints' own road
On Heaven's great thoroughfare
When the road of his life is blended with
The wonderful Road of Prayer.

Nick Kenny



Deep in the heart of taxes

There is nothing new about a government levying taxes. About 500 B.C., when Persia controlled Jerusalem, some enemies of the Jews sent a letter to Artaxerxes, the Persian king. The letter warned that the Jews were rebuilding the walls and foundations of Jerusalem and that if the king did not stop them, the Jews would not have money to pay Artaxerxes "tribute, custom, or toll" (Ezra 4:13). Artaxerxes ordered the work stopped and all taxes paid.

When Caesar Augustus required that a census be taken in order to levy a tax against the Jews, Joseph had to register in Bethlehem, the city of David, "because he was of the house and lineage of David" (Luke 2:4). Joseph and Mary paid taxes just as we do.

Neither Jesus nor St. Paul suggested tax dodging. Jesus said, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's ..." (Matthew 22:21). St. Paul counseled: "Pay all of them their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due ..." (Romans 13:7). So ... we also pay our taxes. Hopefully, our government will keep allowing charitable deductions.



At 16, Scottish-born Patrick was sold as a slave in Ireland. After six years he fled to Europe where he studied in monasteries. He later returned to Ireland spreading the gospel and building churches. We know him today as Saint Patrick (387-493), the patron saint of Ireland.







Using letters found in the words

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY





MARCH 2021 ZION ACTIVITIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>"To lose one's wealth is sad indeed, to lose one's health is more. To lose one's soul is such a loss that no one can restore."</i></p>	<p>1</p> <p>1 pm Quilters</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5 pm Confirmation 6 pm Fellowship Meal 7 pm Lenten Service</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9 am Prayer Time @ Community Center</p>
<p>7 Mission Sunday Offering 9 am Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service Choir Practice</p> <p>1:30 pm Baby Shower for Erin (Weisz) Mondry</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>1 pm Quilters</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 pm Deacon/Deaconess Meeting 7:30 pm Trustee Meeting 8:15 pm Church Council Mtg.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5 pm Confirmation 6 pm Fellowship Meal 7 pm Lenten Service</p>	<p>11</p> <p><i>Zion WMF</i> Circles Meet: <i>Circle 1 – 9:30 am</i> <i>Circle 2 – 2 pm</i></p> <p>7 pm Community Outreach Service at the Community Center</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7 pm Community Outreach Service at the Community Center</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9 am Prayer Time @ Community Center 7 pm Community Outreach Service at the Community Center</p>
<p>14 Daylight Savings Time Begins!</p> <p>9 am Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service Choir Practice 7 pm Community Outreach Service at the Community Center</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1 pm Quilters</p>	<p>16</p> <p><u>Circle 3 meets at church - 7 pm</u></p>	<p>17 St. Patrick's Day</p>  <p>2 pm Ladies WMF</p> <p>5 pm Confirmation 6 pm Fellowship Meal 7 pm Lenten Service</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9 am Prayer Time @ Community Center</p> <p>~SPRING BEGINS!~</p> 
<p>21</p> <p>9 am Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service Noon – Benefit Meal for Bree Rose</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>1 pm Quilters</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5 pm Confirmation 6 pm Fellowship Meal 7 pm Lenten Service</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>9 am Prayer Time @ Community Center</p>
<p>28 Palm Sunday 9 am Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service Choir Practice</p> 	<p>29</p> <p>1 pm Quilters</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>~Holy Week~</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p> <p><i>"Suffering with truth decay? Brush up on your Bible."</i></p>



APRIL ZION 2021 ACTIVITIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." Matthew 28:6</i></p>				1	2 7 pm Good Friday Service	3
<p>4 Easter Sunday</p> <p>9 – 10 am Easter Breakfast</p> <p>10:30 am Easter Celebration Worship Service</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1 pm Zion Quilters Meet</p>	6	<p>7</p> <p>5 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Youth Meal & 7 pm Youth Group at the Community Center</p>	<p>8</p> <p><i>Zion Circles Meet:</i></p> <p><i>Circle 1-9:30 am</i> <i>Circle 2-2 pm</i> <i>Circle 3-7 pm</i></p>	9	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9 am Sunday school & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service Choir Practice 6:30 pm Varsity/Adult Volley Ball at the Community Center</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1 pm Zion Quilters Meet</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 pm Deacon/Deaconess Meeting 7:30 pm Trustee Meeting 8:15 pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Youth Meal & 7 pm Youth Group at the Community Center</p>	<p>15</p>	16	17
<p>18</p> <p>9 am Sunday school & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service Choir Practice 6:30 pm Varsity/Adult Volley Ball at the Community Center</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1 pm Zion Quilters Meet</p>	20	<p>21</p> <p>5 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Youth Meal & 7 pm Youth Group at the Community Center</p>	22	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10 am WMF Women's District Spring Rally at Zion Tioga, ND Speaker: Michael Rokenbrodt</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9 am Sunday school & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service Noon-Mission Festival Dinner</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1 pm Zion Quilters Meet</p>	27	<p>28</p> <p>5 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Youth Meal & 7 pm Youth Group at the Community Center</p>	<p>29</p>	30	<p><i>"We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges."</i></p>



RADIO MINISTRY

If you would like to sponsor a Sunday broadcast or contribute to the radio fund in honor, or 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. You can also watch us online at our website:

zionfreelutheran.com

MARCH USHERS:

Wilmer Roloff

Cody Knudson

Terry Skalicky

APRIL USHERS:

Jacob Smithberg

Tyler Lalim

Ryan Nielsen

Bruce Lovdahl

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 OPEN TO EVERYONE!

HOURS ARE: MONDAY 2 – 7 P.M.

SATURDAY 9 – 12 NOON

IF YOU HAVE A NEED FOR AN ITEM FROM THE CLOTHES CLOSET DURING OFF HOURS, PLEASE CALL RICK RAAN AT 641-6099. THANK YOU!

THE CLOTHES CLOSET IS OPEN IN THE FORMER CHURCH BUILDING: 221 N. MAIN STREET.



A 3-CD set is available of Pastor Carr's Sunday Sermons of "A Journey Through the Word". Suggested price \$30, or free-will donation, please call the church office if you are interested.

The "old building" church pews are available if anyone is interested in obtaining a church pew – Call the office or talk to Lee Olson for more information.



March 11 – 14th at 7 p.m. "A Preacher in the Patch" Community Outreach Services at the Tioga Community Center – Come each night and be blessed!



Sunday, March 21st - Noon - Benefit meal for Bree Rose who is going through medical treatment and traveling for some appointments.

Join us for Lenten Service and fellowship meal each Wednesday before Holy Week – Meal, 6 p.m., Service 7 p.m.

Good Friday Service 7 p.m.



**Easter Sunday, April 4th – Breakfast 9 – 10 a.m.
Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.**



Saturday, April 24th – WMF District Rally at Zion – 10 a.m.

Sunday, April 25th – Mission Festival Dinner after the service. Michael Rokenbrodt, AFLC missionary assistant to Uganda, and now in the Seminary, will be our speaker for both Saturday and Sunday.

