

# MT. ZION HERALD

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## Holy Saturday is Where We Live

*Read Exodus 13:17-14:14*

The people of Israel came out of Egypt equipped for battle (13:18). But this fight would not be won by any strength of their own, for their hearts were weak and fickle. They quickly lost hope in the face of their powerful enemy, blaming the Lord's servant Moses for their predicament. They even wished they could go back to their slavery in Egypt, thinking that would be better than death.

So it is with us when we face difficulties and afflictions in life. We look for people to blame, including God. We wonder why He lets us suffer and why our enemies seem to have the upper hand. We

imagine in our hearts that it would be better to go back to the slavery of the world's ways. We forget that we have been called out of this world in baptism, to die with Christ in order that we may live with him forever. "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like

his" (Ro 6:5).

In the face of perils and uncertainty, we are called not to grumbling but to faith. "The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent" (14:14). "Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps 46:10). The bones of Joseph (13:19) are a

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reminder of the faithfulness of the Lord who brings good out of evil, who faced our devilish enemy and crushed him on the cross. Though you may not be able to see it yet, the battle is won. “It is finished” (Jn 19:30).

In many ways, this event and this day of the church year represent where Christians live every day. We exist between Good Friday and Easter, freed from the slavery of sin, but not yet at our final destination, the resurrection of the body. Salvation has been accomplished, but it has not yet been fulfilled; our redemption is complete, but it is not yet revealed in all its glorious fullness. We live in an in-between time. “Beloved, we

are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is” (1 Jn 3:2). Like Israel with its back against the Sea, we seem to be fatally threatened by the powers of sin and Satan and the grave, hemmed in, terror on every side. But in the name of the Lord we have the victory (Ps 118:11). When Christ appears in the clouds in great glory, He will deliver us, transforming our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him to subject all things to Himself (Phil 3:21).

-Pastor Koch

## **A Personal Note from Pastor Koch**

Let me express my gratefulness to everyone who was involved in the recognition of my 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as pastor here at Mt. Zion. Though an event like this feels a little uncomfortable and awkward for me, it was also very encouraging and appreciated. Your generous gifts were a wonderful and undeserved surprise. I receive all of this as a sign of your love for the Gospel of Christ that I am privileged to minister to you. All glory be to Him for any good that he works through fallen vessels like me. As St. Paul said of us pastors, “we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us” (2 Corinthians 4:7). May God continue to bless Christ’s ministry of forgiveness, life, and salvation here at Mt. Zion in the years ahead!

***Thank  
You!***

# What to Look for in a Church

*By the Rev. Rick Stuckwisch*

Fifteen years ago, in July of 2009, when one of my young parishioners was applying to various colleges and considering where she might go to church in each case, I put together a list of ten things that she and other young people (and their parents) should look for in a church. I had long since forgotten about that list until recently, when a colleague mentioned that he had found it to be helpful and had shared it with other pastors and students. In going back to look at the pastoral counsel and advice I offered to those under my care at that juncture, it struck me that it might be helpful to others now, as well, both pastors and laity. If nothing else, it offers food for thought. So, with that in mind, here are ten important things that a Christian should look for in a church, listed more or less in order of their relative significance (beginning with the most important):

Faithful Preaching: Faithful preaching will take up the appointed Scripture Readings of the day, especially the Word and works of the Lord Jesus from the Holy Gospel and proclaim that to the people as the speaking of God to them. The sermon will not only talk about the Law and the Gospel, but will command what God commands, forbid

what God forbids, and forgive sins in the Name of Christ Jesus. It will be the preaching of repentance, unto faith in the forgiveness of the Cross: preaching to and from Holy Baptism, to and from the Holy Communion. Such preaching is not a break in the midst of the Liturgy, but a fundamental and constitutive part of the Liturgy. It moves from the lectern to the

Altar, from the Word of the Holy Scriptures to the Word-made-Flesh in the Sacrament. Not every sermon will be great; nor should every sermon be the same. But you should be able to tell within a few weeks whether the preaching is consistently faithful or not. If not, then look elsewhere; because, if the

preaching is not right, everything will falter.

The Regular and Reverent Administration of the Holy Communion: Look for a congregation where you will be given the opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper every week. There may not be any such congregation in some areas, but that is the benchmark. Frequency by itself is not the sole criterion, however. Look for a congregation that clearly practices closed Communion, because that is the catholic and evangelical practice of the Church. Look for a prominent use of the chalice, even if individual cups are also



offered as an option. Look for a congregation in which both young and old are being catechized and communed. In general, ask yourself whether the Sacrament is being administered with care and dignity. That's a judgment call, to some extent, but you should be able to tell whether the Sacrament is being handled as the very Body and Blood of Christ, or as though it were little more than fish 'n' chips at the pub.

Hymnody: Not every hymn will say everything, but every hymn should say something, and what it says should be a faithful confession of the Word of God. Look for a predominance of strong, solid hymns which fit the season of the Church Year, touch upon the Readings of the day, and serve the liturgical purpose of their place in the Service. A few weaker hymns in the course of the Service are not necessarily a deal breaker, so long as the larger context bolsters them with a real meat-and-potatoes diet. Look especially for the regular singing of hymns by Martin Luther, Philip Nicolai, Paul Gerhardt, and Johann Heermann.

Catechesis: Look for a church in which the pastor is personally and actively involved in the ongoing catechesis of the young and the old. And along with that, look for a congregation where fathers and mothers are seeking ongoing pastoral catechesis for themselves and participating in the ongoing catechesis of their children.

Confession and Absolution: Look for a church where regular opportunities for Individual Confession and Absolution are provided and publicized, and where

the practice is taught and encouraged. If you are not able to find a congregation where that is the case, then look for a pastor who readily responds to your request for Individual Confession and Absolution.

Daily Prayer: Look for a church where regular opportunities are provided for the parish to be gathered together for the Word of God and prayer during the week, whether for Matins, Vespers, Evening Prayer, or otherwise. Likewise, look for a congregation in which the people of God are encouraged and assisted in the regular practice of daily prayer within their homes and families.

Service Book and Hymnal: Look for a congregation that uses the Church's service book and hymnal (whether that be the *LSB*, or *TLH*, or *LW*). If everything is printed out each week, look for a consistency of practice from one week to the next, preferably following the order and form of the Service as published in one of the Church's books. Every congregation has its own local practices and "flavor," to be sure, but those characteristics should not deviate widely or wildly from the agreed-upon norms of the official service books. Parishioners should not be asked to pray and confess (or give their "Amen" to) words they have never seen or heard before.

Vestments and Other Adornments: Look for a church where the pastor is vested in his conduct of the Liturgy. Vestments cover the person of the pastor while adorning the Office he serves in the Name and stead of Christ

Jesus. These are good things; not absolutely necessary, but significant and meaningful. Similarly, look for a church where the paraments, architecture, artwork, and other adornments are all used to focus on Christ and His Cross and His Means of Grace. In particular, look for a crucifix; not because it is necessary, but because the prominent display of a crucifix is a good indication that the congregation focuses on the Cross of Christ.

Decorum and Demeanor: Look for a church where the decorum of the Divine Service and the demeanor of the pastor convey an ambience of dignity, rather than a casual sloppiness. You should be able to discern that there is a seriousness about what is being done, and that the pastor and people actually believe themselves to be in the presence of the

Holy Triune God. At the same time, look for a relaxed confidence in the pastor's conduct and the congregation's practice. Anxiousness and over-earnestness do not resonate with the grace and peace of the Gospel.

Parish Communications and Announcements: In whatever is posted, printed, or announced, look for a focus on the Church's life in the Means of Grace and in works of mercy. Other things happen in the routines of a parish, which is surely fine and good, but it ought to be clear that the Gospel of Christ Jesus is the heart and center of things, the defining emphasis of the congregation. Faith and love depend upon the Gospel, and Christians live from the Gospel. So, look for a church where the Gospel is the focus of everything that happens.

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

### **Happy Birthday to the following Mt. Zion Members:**

1 <sup>st</sup>	James Nieznanski	17 <sup>th</sup>	Jack Snodgrass
5 <sup>th</sup>	Timothy Krogen	19 <sup>th</sup>	Emil Gohr
8 <sup>th</sup>	Michael Halverson	19 <sup>th</sup>	Samantha Jump
9 <sup>th</sup>	Julie Stack	20 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Brondos
11 <sup>th</sup>	John Kalchbrenner	25 <sup>th</sup>	Carrie Trotter
12 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Rott	26 <sup>th</sup>	Marvella Szuta
13 <sup>th</sup>	Robert Turzai	29 <sup>th</sup>	Marlaina Socha
14 <sup>th</sup>	Allen Jaeger		

### **Happy Anniversary to the following couples:**

14 <sup>th</sup>	George & Barbara Rott (62 years)
15 <sup>th</sup>	Eric & Amy Lawson (29 years)

## Altar Guild for April

Marlaina Socha and Coral Taylor

### April Assistants & Communion Helpers Schedule

Sunday, Apr. 7, 9 AM	Tim Krogen	Communion helper – Emil Gohr
Sunday, Apr. 14, 9 AM	Andrew Brondos	Communion helper – Gordon Hakala
Sunday, Apr. 21, 9 AM	Blake Taylor	Communion helper – Emil Gohr
Sunday, Apr. 28, 9 AM	Joe Beiler	Communion helper – Gordon Hakala

#### Saturday Usher:

Saturday, Apr. 6, 5 PM	Eric Lawson
Saturday, Apr. 13, 8 PM	Joe Beiler
Saturday, Apr. 20, 5 PM	Kyle Wendtland
Saturday, Apr. 27, 5 PM	Matt Kalchbrenner

### Membership Changes

Transfers in: Jane and Jill Widenski from Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Franklin, WI

Transfer out: Sarah Williams to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Union Grove, WI

### Ladies Guild

The Ladies Guild would like to thank everyone for their donations to the food drive for Hope Lutheran Church. The bake sale will be held on April 20-21, 2024. Our next meeting will be April 16<sup>th</sup>. All ladies are welcome.

# Daily Bible Readings

*(Readings in italics are optional extended readings)*



Mon., Apr. 1	Ex. 15 :1-18 Heb. 9 :1-28	<i>Ex. 35 :22—38 :20</i> Luke 7 :36-50
Tues., Apr. 2	Ex. 15 :19—16 :12 Heb. 10 :1-18	Thurs., Apr. 18 Ex. 38 :21—39 :8, 22-23, 27-31 Luke 8 :1-21
Wed., Apr. 3	Ex. 16 :13-35 Heb. 10 :19-39	Fri., Apr. 19 Ex. 39:32—40:16 Luke 8:22-39
Thurs., Apr. 4	Ex. 17:1-16 Heb. 11 :1-29	Sat., Apr. 20 Ex. 40 :17-38 <i>Lev. 1 :1—7 :38</i> Luke 8 :40-56
Fri., Apr. 5	Ex. 18 :5-27 Heb. 12 :1-24	<b>Easter 4</b> Lev. 8 :1-13, 30-36 Luke 9:1—17
Sat., Apr. 6	Ex. 19 :1-25 Heb. 13 :1-21	Mon., Apr. 22 Lev. 9 :1-24 Luke 9 :18-36
<b>Easter 2</b>	Ex. 20 :1-24 Luke 4 :1-15	Tues., Apr. 23 Lev. 10 :1-20 <i>Lev. 11 :1—15 :33</i> Luke 9 :37-62
Mon., Apr. 8	Ex. 22 :20—23 :13 Luke 4 :16-30	Wed., Apr. 24 Lev. 16:1-24 Luke 10:1-22
Tues., Apr. 9	Ex.23 :14-33 Luke 4 :31-44	Thurs., Apr. 25 Lev. 17:1-16 Luke 10:23-42
Wed., Apr. 10	Ex. 24 :1-18 Luke 5 :1-16	Fri., Apr. 26 Lev. 18 :1-7, 20—19 :8 Luke 11 :1-13
Thurs., Apr. 11	Ex. 25 :1-22 <i>Ex. 25 :23—30 :38</i> Luke 5 :17-39	Sat., Apr., 27 Lev. 19 :9-18, 26-37 Luke 11 :14-36
Fri., Apr. 12	Ex. 31 :1-18 Luke 6 :1-19	<b>Easter 5</b> Lev. 20:1-16, 22-27 Luke 11:37-54
Sat., Apr. 13	Ex. 32 :1-14 Luke 6 :20-38	Mon., Apr. 29 Lev. 21 :1-24 Luke 12 :1-12
<b>Easter 3</b>	Ex. 32 :15-35 Luke6 :39-49	Tues., Apr. 30 Lev. 23 :1-22 Luke 12 :13-34
Mon., Apr. 15	Ex. 33 :1-23 Luke 7 :1-17	
Tues., Apr., 16	Ex. 34 :1-28 Luke 7 :18-35	
Wed., Apr. 17	Ex. 34 :29—35 :21	

**Mt. Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Quarterly Voters' Meeting**  
Sunday, March 17, 2024

President Scott McIntosh called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m. 23 members signed the attendance sheet.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes from the December 2023 Voters' Meeting were approved as printed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Emil Gohr presented a written report for February 2024. The new air-conditioner and furnaces have been paid in full. The report was approved as printed.

**President's Report:** Scott McIntosh noted that the cost of the Easter breakfast has been covered. Please sign up if you are able to help.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Koch thanked the congregation for marking his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Mt. Zion and for the generous cash gift. He appreciated the celebration and was encouraged by it. He shared the schedule for Holy Week services and encouraged all to attend. He reported that Jason Leon and Harper Nicholson will be confirmed in May.

**Membership Changes:**

**Transfers In** - Jane and Jill Widenski from Risen Savior Lutheran, Franklin, WI

**Transfer Out** - Sarah Williams to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Union Grove, WI

**Board Reports**

**Elders:** Nothing new to report

**Trustees:** Michael Halverson reported that the church roof leak was repaired by Billy Halverson. The vents need to be painted to prevent further rusting. Pastor noted that there is a leak in the parsonage roof that Billy will assess and repair.

Jeremy is still working on sacristy updates and is interested in purchasing the old church mower for his personal use. Repairs will be made and a price proposed to Church Council for the sale of the mower.

**Finance:** Gene Miller mentioned the furnaces and air-conditioning units were paid in full thanks to generous donations from members, including a \$17,000 gift from one family.



**Education:** Sunday School and Bible Class will continue until the weekend before Memorial Day. Summer Bible Class will be based upon The Chosen once again.

**Outreach:** Pastor Koch stated that we should form a small committee to determine how to welcome our new neighbors in the newly constructed apartments. An initial mailing was suggested. Dan Kohlmeier and Jeremy Tietzen will research targeted mailing requirements.

**Old Business:** Additional windows will be replaced as funds are received. Donations to this fund are encouraged.

**New Business:** Pastor Koch noted that Wendy Prostek's 25th anniversary as our organist is approaching. He suggested that we recognize this milestone with a potluck celebration in late May or early June. Watch for more details.

The revised rules for the use of our facilities was presented and approved as amended.

Pastor Koch requested permission for the burial of Jonah and Mary Schultz's miscarried child on church property near the three crosses. It was moved, seconded, and approved. It was also suggested that we compose a set of guidelines for the burial of miscarried children on Mt. Zion's property.

Pastor also requested voters' approval to add Divine Service, Setting 2 into our liturgical rotation after Easter. It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept this change.

With no further business presented, it was moved, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Pastor Koch closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Kohlmeier  
Secretary

# Treasurers Report For February 2024

Beginning Balance Retained in Checking 23941.74

## RECEIPTS

Plate Offerings	135.75
Weekly envelopes	13302.93
Communion/Altar	59.00
Flowers	416.00
Furnace Fund	19000.00
Buck-of-the-Month	68.00
Rebate	707.44
Initial Offerings	50.00
Bulletins	30.00
Hall Rental	40.00
Ash Wednesday	492.00
Lent	187.00
Additional Deposits	1625.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	60.00
Interest	<u>0.22</u>
TOTAL	36173.34

## DISBURSEMENTS

Salaries	6973.78
F.I.C.A.	562.95
Utilities	1945.99
Pension/Insurance	3367.39
Car Milage Allowance	307.70
Pastor's Home Equity Fund	1812.50
Continuing Education	33.31
Church & Parsonage maintenance	21539.00
Grounds maintenance	143.63
Sunday School	156.30
Prepaid Expenses	2009.92
General Insurance	1916.10
Mission Project	1000.00
Music/Choir	52.73
Worship supplies	228.13
Dues,Subscriptions,Fees	1096.81
Office Supplies	194.55
Postage	<u>269.04</u>
TOTAL	43609.83

LCMS Extension Fund general use 1833.82

## Restricted Funds in Checking


Communion/Altar	0.00	Food Pantry	70.00
Missions	0.00	Mt. Zion Care Team	374.27
Gift & Memorial	2623.79	Pastor's Home Equity Fund	0.00
Buck of the Month	235.26	Ladies Bible Study Books	236.00
Sunday School Offerings	515.76	Window Fund	1084.00
Diapers	150.00	Furnace Fund	0.00
TOTAL	5289.08		

## Operating Fund Status as of February 29

Fund	I	Fund
F.T.M. 36173.34 Rec'd	I	Y.T.D. 88340.21 Rec'd
<u>43609.83</u> Disbursed	I	<u>71834.96</u> Expenses
(7,436.49)	I	16505.25 Retained in checking
	I	<u>5289.08</u> Restricted Funds
		11216.17 Actual operating funds

Emil C. Gohr, Treas. 03/16/24

# APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Jr. Catechesis – 6:30 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Lucas Cranach & Albrecht Durer, Artists Divine Service– 5 pm
<b>7</b> Divine Service-9 am Sunday School & Bible Class – 10:15 am	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Jr. Catechesis – 6:30 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Divine Service– 5 pm
<b>14</b> Divine Service - 9 am Sunday School & Bible Class – 10:15 am	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Ladies' Guild Meeting – 1 pm  Elders-6:30 pm Church Council- 7:00 pm	<b>17</b> Jr. Catechesis – 6:30 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Johannes Bugenhagen, Pastor Divine Service– 5 pm Ladies' Guild Bake Sale- 4:30 pm Buck of the Month
<b>21</b> Anselm of Canterbury, Theologian Divine Service – 9 am Sunday School & Bible Class-10:15 am Ladies' Guild Bake Sale – 8:30 am Buck of the Month	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Johann Walter, Kantor Jr. Catechesis – 6:30 pm	<b>25</b> St. Mark, Evangelist	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Divine Service– 5 pm
<b>28</b> Divine Service – 9 am Sunday School & Bible Class – 10:15 am	<b>29</b>				<b>Private Confession &amp; Absolution:</b> Sat. 4:15-4:45 or Sun. 8:15- 8:45 or by appointment	

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