



Rejoice! He Lives!

Zion's Weekly Announcements

Sunday, April 18, 2021

GOOD MORNING!

Friends, **we welcome you** in the name of the one God who has defeated death forever by raising Jesus from the tomb. We too now walk in new life!

Alleluia! Christ is risen! As we recall our glorious heritage as Christians, let us join together in joyful worship remembering our Lord's act of salvation for each of us. **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

A PRAYER: Lord Jesus, open my mind to understand Scripture as it is proclaimed here today, as You did for those disciple that were gathered with fear, trouble, and doubt on that Easter evening. Amen.

A THOUGHT: Prayer of Love

Gracious Lord, Thank you for spending 33 years with us: for announcing Love from the high heavens; for introducing Love in an obscure manger setting; for living Love in a family framework; for sharing Love with the poor and deprived and diseased; for showing Love to the unlovable and unloving; for letting little children feel Love in your arms; for suffering on a cross because of Love; for loosing Love upon the world to take up residence in us; for your Love that will not let us go. Amen.

—Forrest Nees

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The best mathematical equation ever given: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 15:22 – "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."

Summary of Today's Lessons

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Preaching of Repentance and Forgiveness of Sins Makes Us Pure

The risen Lord Jesus taught His disciples *"that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead"* and *"that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations"* (Luke 24:46–47). Therefore, St. Peter preaches repentance and forgiveness to the people of Jerusalem. As he proclaims that Jesus fulfilled all that *"God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets"* (Acts 3:18), he also convicts the people of their sin, because they *"delivered over and denied"* this Lord Jesus and *"killed the Author of life."* Yet God *"glorified his servant Jesus"* and raised Him from the dead (Acts 3:13–15). St. Peter calls the people to repent, so that their *"sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord"* (Acts 3:19–20). Through this forgiveness of sins and by faith in this forgiveness, the Father shows His love for us in order that *"we should be called children of God; and so we are"* (1 John 3:1). Thus, we hope in Him and are made pure even *"as he is pure,"* because *"he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin"* (1 John 3:3, 5).

OUTREACH THOUGHTS

Luke 24:36-49: Jesus gives a mission statement to all His followers: "Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations." Thanks be to God, we are not left on our own in this great task. Luke tells us that we have been clothed with power from on high. The Holy Spirit guides and directs our witness and He takes our message of repentance and forgiveness and brings about faith in those who hear.

STEWARDSHIP PONDERINGS

John 20:19 – “Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’”

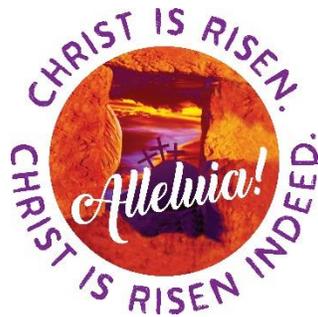
The peace we have in Jesus is what makes a life of good works possible. Since we know that it is Jesus who saved us – not our works – we are now free to do good works. Good works shouldn’t be done out of self-interest but for the right reasons – out of thanksgiving toward God and love for our neighbors.

The JOY of the Resurrection

We Christians simply cannot get over the reality of the Resurrection. For us, the fact that God raised Christ from the dead proves that Christ’s way alone is God’s answer to the sins and horrors of the world. The truths Christ brought when he walked on Earth stand solid and irrefutable. The light he brought is the only light that never goes out for it is the eternal light of God’s glory.

Christ’s life is truly the clearest example of how God intends for us to live. Christ’s way is the way that makes the most sense for living on this earth. The true saints have proven that over and over.

The hope which Christ offers us is the only true and lasting hope. Ultimately, it is our only real assurance that life can be good and joyous for everyone. Read the words St. Paul wrote to the church at Rome and apply it to your own life: “Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his” (Romans 6:4-5, *NRSV*).



BIBLE QUIZ

If that is not a tremendous cause for abiding joy, then what is?

After the Resurrection, two of Jesus’ friends went into the temple in Jerusalem to pray. Before entering the house of worship, they saw a crippled man begging for money from those passing by. Peter had not worked for a while, and his purse was empty.

Nevertheless, he felt sorry for the man and said to him, “I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you ...” (Acts 3:6, *NRSV*). Peter also spoke one of the lines below. What did he say?

- A. “Take this bread and eat it.”
- B. “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.”
- C. “I can’t offer you healing, but I will pray for you in the temple.”

The answer is in Acts 3:6 *NRSV*.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Date: Saturday, June 26, 2021

Time: 5:00 PM-11:00 PM

Location: Zion Lutheran Church
924 Bridge Avenue
Albert Lea, MN 56007

Rain Date: Sunday, June 27, 2021

Sponsored by Zion’s Beautiful Feet Team

Co-Chairs: Diane Hanson and Jeff Brown

Luminaries decorated: \$10 each

Plain luminaries: \$10.

Footsteps: \$1 each

Elaine Nelson is making another beautiful quilt that that will up for donation. Diane & Dean Hanson will donate a star again. More news to come! Join us for our **Planning Meeting** on Tuesday, April 20 @ 6:30 PM.

THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

A friendly church is one where worshipers greet one another warmly and sincerely.

A friendly church is one where members seek out newcomers and make them feel welcome and important. Visitors hear that the congregation can help meet various needs: spiritual nourishment, Christian education,

fellowship, friendship, service opportunities, support and comfort during difficulties and more.

A friendly church has something for everyone. It becomes a loving home where people desire to return frequently for spiritual, social, physical and emotional support.

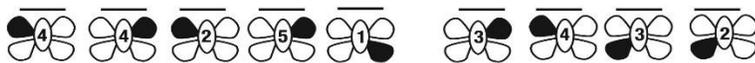


Puzzle!

Use the code to uncover the angel's message in Matthew 28:7 (NIV).



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Answer: "He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him."

HOW CRUCIAL IS THE RESURRECTION?

We cherish the birth of Jesus, his wisdom, his loving deeds, his courage in the face of a brutal death, but it is Christ's resurrection which is absolutely crucial to Christian beliefs.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul explained that the Resurrection was the foundation of our Christian belief system. He insisted that if Christ had not been raised from the dead, then we who believe in eternal life have no hope for it at all. "If the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:16-17, NRSV).

Finally, Paul expresses very clearly how critical the Resurrection is to our Christian hope. "If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied" (1 Corinthians 15:19, NRSV)

+ This Week's Calendar +

Sunday, April 18, 2021 – Third Sunday of Easter

9:00 AM – Online Service and In-Person Service with Holy Communion

10:30 AM-1:00 PM – Drive-in Holy Communion

6:00 PM – Lutheran Hour on KATE Radio (1450 AM)

Monday, April 19, 2021

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

9:00 AM – Austin Circuit Meeting @ Our Savior's, Brownsdale, MN

6:30 PM – Relay for Life Meeting @ Zion

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

9:00 AM – Quilters @ Zion (Quilting Rooms)

7:00 PM – Confirmation @ Zion

Thursday, April 22, 2021

– Recording Sunday Service (afternoon)

Friday, April 23, 2021

– Pastor's Day Off

Saturday, April 24, 2021

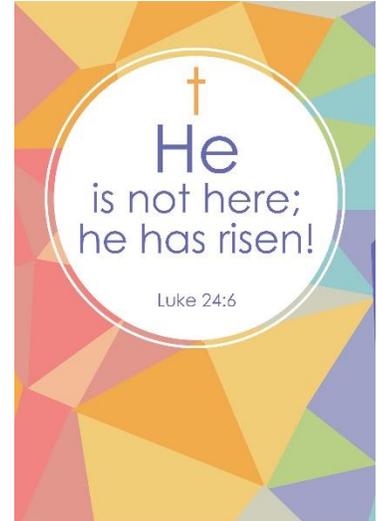
– Recording Sunday Service (afternoon)

Sunday, April 25, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

9:00 AM – Online Service and In-Person Service with Holy Communion

10:30 AM-1:00 PM – Drive-in Holy Communion

6:00 PM – Lutheran Hour on KATE Radio (1450 AM)



PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY: The appointed Scripture readings for **The Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)** - Acts 4:1-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, and John 10:11-18.

Easter Sunday – April 11, 2021

In-Person Attendance: 50

YouTube Views: 58

In-Person Communion: 49

Drive-In Communion: 7

FOOD COLLECTION

The area food shelf needs your donations. We are collecting food for the local food shelf that is at First Presbyterian Church. Drop your food items in the tote by the church mailboxes.

THE GREATEST ORNAMENT

"The church knew what the psalmist knew: Music praises God. Music is as well, or better, able to praise him than the building of a church and all its decoration; it is the church's greatest ornament." —Igor Stravinsky

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
and afternoon by appointment

Friday: Office Closed • Saturday: by appointment

Church Phone: 507-373-8609

Church Email: zionalbertlea@gmail.com

Pastor: Matthew L. Lehman

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