



# MONTHLY MESSENGER

**“Proclaiming Christ’s Gospel to All People”**

**Little children,  
let us not love  
in word or talk  
but in deed and  
in truth.  
1 John 3:18**

## **Pastor Carlson’s Annual Report**

Not everyone comes to the annual voter’s meeting. If you did not come, you are missing out on what is going on “behind the scenes” – so to speak.

It is important to know where we have come from. Zion lost a lot of people before the vacancy. Then there was Covid and a vacancy! There were many who “hunkered down” and did not come back. Then Zion got a new pastor.

In the three years I have been here, attendance has stabilized and we are beginning to grow. We are having more baptisms than funerals, many visitors, and people joining our congregation. Zion and Open Arms are now full partners in ministry. We are getting maintenance done that was put off far too long. Zion now has a “smart” heating system with new software, hardware, valves, and sensors. This spring Open Arms is getting high efficiency boilers. This all came out of our maintenance reserve fund. We have a lean, but balanced budget.

Looking ahead we have a lot of work to do together. As a congregation we need to do “stray sheep patrol.” This isn’t a job for the pastors or elders, but for every one of us. We are going to have “bring a friend Sundays” every month, after Easter. These will include grilling out. We will continue working together to carry out the Great Commission by inviting people to church and our partnerships with Lutheran Indian Ministries and Alaska Mission for Christ. We will continue serving the community through Open Arms, our garden, and our partnerships with the Rescue Mission and the Food Bank. Elia and I are working with the Lutheran Church in the Philippines to get workers for Open Arms.

Exciting things are happening. God is doing great things through all of us and will continue to do so.

Your fellow missionary in the harvest  
Pastor Andy Carlson

### Zion Service Times

#### **Divine Services**

9:00 a.m.

6:00 p.m.

#### Education Hour

10 :15 a.m.

Class for Kids 3-12

10:30 a.m.

Class for

Youth -Adults

#### Celebrate Recovery

**Fridays**

6:30 p.m.

Light Meal

7:00 p.m.

Large group

## Leadership & Staff of Zion Lutheran & Open Arms

### **ZION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

President — Jim Oleson  
Vice President — Cody Koch  
Treasurer — Karen Holmberg  
Secretary — Denise Dixon  
Seat A1 — Drew Brant  
Seat A2 — Kerry Gronewold  
Seat B1 — Bridger Koch  
Seat B2 — Paul Lyle

### **ZION BOARD of ELDERS**

Elder Chair- Dan Treakle  
Seat A1 - Steve Kunz  
Seat A2 - Mike Beifuss  
Seat B1 - Steve Peterson  
Seat B2 - Nathan Milan  
Seat C1 - Steve Wiese  
Seat C2 - Bill Slayden

### **CELEBRATE RECOVERY**

Dave & Liz Gerdes, (907) 347-3564  
[gerdes@gci.net](mailto:gerdes@gci.net)

### **BUILDING STEWARDSHIP**

[admin@zionfairbanks.org](mailto:admin@zionfairbanks.org)

Craig Robinson  
Dave Butherus  
Steve Powers  
Brett Helms

### **OPEN ARMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President — Erin Matray  
Vice President — Janice Witt  
Secretary — Linda Gronewold  
Treasurer — Ian Ludwig

### **Members at Large:**

Wendy Brant  
Lisa Carlson  
Doris Heilman  
Heather Koch  
Jen Shelton  
Kim Grage

### **OPEN ARMS CDC (907) 455-9466**

[www@openarmsfairbanks.org](mailto:www@openarmsfairbanks.org)

### **Administration:**

*Director, Elia Peterson*  
*Assistant Director, Open*  
*Financial Manager, Maria Vilchez*  
*Receptionist, Maylyn Tawney*  
*Accounting, Rebecca Burcell*

### **ZION LUTHERAN (907) 456-7660**

[www.zionfairbanks.org](http://www.zionfairbanks.org)

*Senior Pastor, Rev. Andrew Carlson*  
[acarlson@zionfairbanks.org](mailto:acarlson@zionfairbanks.org)  
*Specific Ministry Pastor, Rev. Scott Barkdull*  
[sbarkdull@zionfairbanks.org](mailto:sbarkdull@zionfairbanks.org)  
*Discipleship Coordinator, Heather Koch*  
[HKoch@zionfairbanks.org](mailto:HKoch@zionfairbanks.org)  
*Alaska Mission for Christ Coordinator, Nathan Milan*  
[nathanmilan@alaskamissionforchrist.org](mailto:nathanmilan@alaskamissionforchrist.org)  
*Administrative Assistant, Janice Witt*  
[jwitt@zionfairbanks.org](mailto:jwitt@zionfairbanks.org)  
*Building Sexton, Catherine Harding*

**For couples...**

## **THE COMPLEXITIES OF FORGIVENESS**

I forgive you. Is forgiveness as simple as saying those three words? Occasionally, it might be. Other times, it's much more complicated.

The truth is, forgiveness is a crucial part of a lifelong marriage. You will inevitably experience and inflict hurts in your marriage. Without forgiveness, however, your relationship can become brittle and bogged down by the anger and resentment of those past wounds. Learning to embrace the various aspects of forgiveness opens you up to the possibility of peace, growth, and even a stronger marriage.

While the benefits of forgiveness seem straightforward enough, forgiveness itself can actually be quite complex. Let's explore some of the reasons why.

### **1. There's a discrepancy between your head and heart.**

Sometimes you might want to forgive your spouse, but deep down you're still holding onto resentment. Logically, you want to move on, but you can't make your emotions match that desire. On the flip side, perhaps your spouse has fully forgiven you, but you're having a hard time forgiving yourself. In either situation, there are still emotions that are preventing one or both of you from truly moving forward from the situation. Emotions are hard to change, even if you want to, which can be frustrating and confusing.

### **2. It operates on its own timeline.**

Related to the previous point, you can't rush forgiveness, whether you're the person granting it or receiving it. In some situations, it's more of a journey than an action that can be checked off quickly. That journey might be shared or personal. It can take days, weeks, or sometimes even years. Whatever the case, it's a process that can only happen with enough time. This doesn't mean your relationship is on the rocks up until the point of full forgiveness. Life and marriage continue to move forward as the journey of forgiveness unfolds.

### **3. It can require intention – or not.**

For major betrayals or larger transgressions, forgiveness often requires a certain degree of intention and emotional "work." That might mean you and your spouse working through deeper issues together or separately. Or it could mean seeing a marriage counselor or talking to your pastor. Now think about the small lapses in judgment or consideration that you might experience (or commit) in your day to day life. You might not even realize that you're actually forgiving each other as quickly as the incident occurs; you do it without even thinking about it.

Continued on page 4

#### 4. It can be tied to deeper issues.

Sometimes you experience the discrepancy we talk about in #1, and you wonder why you're having such a hard time forgiving your spouse or yourself. Often an offense can cut extra deep when it touches on personal triggers, past hurts, or insecurities. This can complicate the situation. Suddenly, you're not only trying to work through the issue at hand, but also an issue from your past that you never really resolved.

##### Shifting your mindset around forgiveness

Sometimes you might think of forgiveness as the action that follows up an apology. And yes, there is a practical, actionable aspect to it. However, it's much more dynamic than that. It's not a static occurrence with a clear cut beginning and end. It can't be checked off a to-do list like a completed chore. Much like communication or resolving conflict, it's a thread that's woven throughout your relationship,. It will continue to change and evolve, requiring different amounts of energy and intention over the course of your marriage.

*Taken from Prepare-Enrich.com blog post on January 31,2024.  
Pastor Carlson is a trained Prepare/Enrich facilitator for couples.*





## Enduring Faith Lessons

- 4/7 The Wine Sign - The Wedding at Cana
- 4/14 Mountain Message - Jesus Preaches on the Mount
- 4/21 A Weather Wonder - Jesus Calms a Storm
- 4/28 A Life Restored - Jairus' Daughter

**College & Careers:** Let's get together for a ping pong tournament! It will be at Zion on Tuesday, April 16th at 6pm. Sliders will be provided to eat; please bring a snack or drink to share. See you there!



The Brown Bag Brigade is at it again! Zion's Youth are collecting for the Fairbanks Rescue Mission. They are in need of new men's and women's t-shirts and underwear, men's jeans size 32, 34, 36, women's jeans all sizes, deodorant, trial size shampoo and conditioner, shaving cream, disposable razors and more. In addition to perishable food items, they appreciate bulk foods such as canned vegetables. Visit their website for the most up to date wish list: <https://www.fairbanksrescuemission.org/ourwishlist>.

Zion Women's Event  
Craft Night  
Burlap Crosses  
Saturday, April 6th, 2-4pm



We will make a burlap cross craft and enjoy food and time together. Please bring a snack to share.

RSVP by April 4th to Heather at (907) 590-0471 or [Hkoch@zionfairbanks.org](mailto:Hkoch@zionfairbanks.org) or call Zion's Office at (907) 456-7660 so we can plan on supplies needed.

*"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20*

Please Note: If you are able to contribute any old 8x10, 5x7, or 4x6 photo frames that you would like to purge, we will upcycle them!



Zion Youth Event

**GAME NIGHT**

Sunday, April 28th, 12:30-3:30pm.

We will meet for games at the Brants house.

We will make our own pizzas!

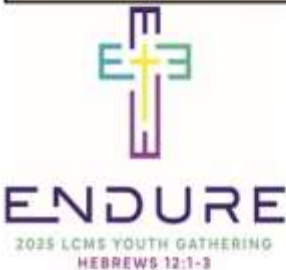
Please bring a snack or drink to share.

*Spring Fling Family Festival*



Thursday, April 18th  
3:30pm - 5:30pm

Join us for food, activities, games and fun for all!



Zion's High School Youth Group would like to thank all who gave at the Easter Breakfast! It is helping us reach our goal of attending the National Youth Gathering in July 2025. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your generosity and support.

# Men's Bible Breakfast



Saturday, April 20th

Breakfast at 9:00am

Bible Study at 10:00am

Your job...Your calling...Your life  
Come and enjoy fellowship time  
with other men and learn more of  
God's word!



# **10 Reasons to Take Your Kids to Church**

Research shows that kids who attend church regularly are happier, healthier, and better-adjusted. Here are 10 reasons why:

- #1 God Commands It
- #2 Church Teaches the Word of God (and we receive His gifts in the sacraments)
- #3 Church Provides a Loving, Supportive Community
- #4 Church Strengthens Families
- #5 Church Provides Opportunities to Help Others
- #6 Church Provides Kids with Good Role Models
- #7 Churchgoers Enjoy Better Health and Well-being
- #8 Church is a Great Place to Make Quality Friends
- #9 Churchgoers Are Happier
- #10 Taking Your Kids to Church Each Week Develops a Habit

\*For more in-depth reading on this topic go to the source article at this link:

[10 Reasons to Take Your Kids to Church \(parentingwithfocus.org\)](https://parentingwithfocus.org/10-reasons-to-take-your-kids-to-church/)





## **Men's Bible Study**

You are invited to come to a Men's Bible Study.  
From 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. Breakfast will be provided  
Next one is April 20, 2024

## **Home Bible Studies**

are held on Thursdays and align with the weeks lectionary.  
If interested in joining a home bible study contact any of the following hosts for details:  
**Paul & Ruth Lyle, Bill and Chris Slayden,**  
or the church office.

## **The Women's Bible Study**

meets every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m.  
The study is on Romans  
For more information contact Cheryl Treakle at  
(907) 347-6371.  
**All women welcome**

## **Bible Study for All**

The Bible Study on Wednesday mornings meets at 6:30 a.m.  
They are studying the upcoming Sunday's scripture readings.  
Anyone is free to come.  
Want more info, then contact Kerry at (907) 378-9653,  
Randy (907) 479-8363, or Pastor Carlson.  
**All are welcome**



# Different Ways to help support Zion Lutheran Church



Use your smartphone to download the free VanCo Mobile App.

Scan the QR code for a direct link to eGiving for Zion.

Visit our website and click Give Online.



OR



OR



For your information: if you would like to give to other areas in the church besides your general offering and want to give through simply giving (VANCO). Feel free to go to this app where there are three extra tiles to click on. They are: Mortgage Principal Reduction, Building Maintenance Fund and Youth fund for National Youth Gathering.

## **Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program**

We are enrolled in this program. You can participate by visiting

<https://www.fredmeyer.com>.

Once logged into your Fred Meyer account you can search for Zion Lutheran Church **either by name or HC894** and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires a valid email address and a rewards card. This is a great way to support Zion and has no effect on your reward points.



**A Ministry of Zion Lutheran Church**

We proclaim Christ's love to children and their families by providing a nurturing and educational learning environment.

**Embrace our Open Arms Employees:** A lovely little Easter basket was delivered to each Open Arms staff member this week. **THANK YOU** to those who donated their time and efforts making the baskets and providing artwork, baking cookies, packaging the jelly bellies with the Easter story, providing gift cards, making the Bible verse bookmarks, providing chocolates, donating money, and assembling the goodies in the baskets. **If you would like to assist with a future morale booster, contact Lisa Carlson @ (907)322-9987.**



THINK. ACT.

## HOPE

### ***Higher Power***

*Everything comes from God alone, Everything lives by His power.  
(Romans 11:36, TLB)*

### ***Openness to Change***

*Now your attitude and thoughts must all be constantly changing for the better.  
Yes, you must be a new and different person.  
(2 Corinthians 12:9 PH)*

### ***Power to Change***

*Lead me; teach me; for you are the God who gives me salvation. I have no hope  
except in you.  
(Psalm 25:5 TLB)*

### ***Expect to Change***

*I am sure God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in His grace  
until His walk with you is finally finished on that day when Jesus Christ returns.  
(Philippians 1:6, TLB)*

### **Friday Evenings At Zion**

**6:30 p.m. Light Meal**  
**7:00 p.m. Large Group**  
**8:00 p.m. Open Share**



***Celebrate Recovery has been serving individuals for over 25 years; at Zion for 13.  
This is a Christ-centered program. The 12 Steps are tied to Scripture and the 8  
Principles are based on the Beatitudes and they offer participants a clear path of  
salvation and discipleship; bringing hope, freedom, sobriety, healing, and the op-  
portunity to give back one day at a time through our one and only true Higher Power,  
Jesus Christ.***

***Dave & Liz Gerdes (907) 347-3564***

# Celebrate Recovery News

Celebrate Recovery had to put a pause on our children's program, "**Celebration Place**", **due to a shortage of staff**. We are **looking for volunteers** who love working with children so that we can staff up to relaunch Celebration Place. On Friday nights from 6:30-9:00pm, we need two people, a lead teacher and an assistant, and an alternate or two for when people are sick or on vacation. We will provide the curriculum materials. We prefer to have volunteers. Our best teachers have always been people that do it out of love of children and a sense of mission. We also prefer to have someone from Zion Church. However, as long as we have the funds, we can offer pay if we need to, and we will accept people from outside our church, but they must be practicing Christians.

Training will be provided, and you will be given the contact information for the Celebration Place regional director for ongoing support and problem-solving assistance. Zion Celebrate Recovery will also pay for you to be able to access CRs online training event.

Contact Liz Gerdes for more detailed information.at 907-347-3564.





## Trauma Healing Group @ Zion Lutheran Church

3/14/24 (Thurs.) 12 noon to 4:30 pm

3/15/24 (Fri.) 9 am to 4:30 pm

3/16/24 (Sat.) 9 am to 1 pm

# HEALING THE WOUNDS OF TRAUMA

A Small Group for Bible-based Trauma Healing



**Trauma Healing  
INSTITUTE**

POWERED BY



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

- Are you or someone you know struggling with grief?
- Do you have heart wounds that haven't healed?
- Are You struggling to forgive someone who hurt you?
- Want to be better equipped to help others experiencing pain and suffering?
- Wonder what God word says about your emotional pain?
- Has it been hard to find people who really care or understand?

These sessions are free.

For more information

and to register, go to:

**LIMhope.org**



*proclaim & practice the love of Jesus*

## CONNECT

**Address: PO Box 671929  
Chugiak, AK 99567  
Phone: 907-726-3062  
Website: [amclcms.org](http://amclcms.org)**



Alaska Mission for Christ is an LCMS non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Alaska. We aim to spread the Word of God to communities in need and provide support by offering spiritual guidance and practical resources.

AMC ministers to Alaskans via various activities such as youth programs, military witness, homeless care, crisis pregnancy support, building projects, and community outreach services. Through these efforts, Alaska Mission for Christ seeks to make an eternal impact in the lives of Alaskans and help them grow in faith.

We rely on volunteers and staff missionaries to share the love of Jesus, and we heartily hope individuals, congregations, schools, and parachurch organizations are moved to partner in this extraordinary mission of our Lord!



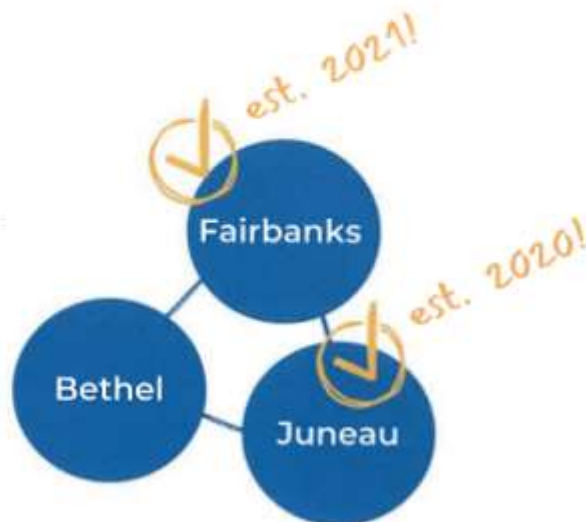
**WE LOVE  
BECAUSE  
HE FIRST  
LOVED US.**

1 John 4:19

## 7 YEAR VISION

Alaska Mission for Christ will cultivate **3** Lutheran Mission Centers that serve the holistic needs of the community through year-round ministry focused in

**GOD'S WORD,  
SACRAMENTS,  
& MERCY.**



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# PRAY FOR EASTER JOY

to spread throughout AK!

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Do you love telling others about Jesus?  
Have a heart for missions? Open to new  
adventures? We've got something for you!

**Alaska Mission for Christ is looking for  
passionate, faith-filled, Christ  
followers to fill various missionary  
positions in Alaska.**

Contact Jerry Simpson, Executive Director,  
if you're curious about what God might  
have in store for you in Alaska!

[JerrySimpson@amc-ak.org](mailto:JerrySimpson@amc-ak.org), 907-726-3062

## AMC Gear

Did you know that we have created a  
place to get AMC official clothing?

A portion of every purchased item is  
donated to our Impact Fund to be used  
where needed most. Wear your support  
and start conversations!

Visit us at [bonfire.com/store/amc-ak](https://bonfire.com/store/amc-ak).



# Parenting Tips

Parents are the most valuable and powerful teachers in a child's life. Children watch carefully how the important adults in their life act and react in every situation.

## Tips for Building a Positive Parent-Child Relationship

- Listen and empathize with your child.
- Create an environment where your child feels comfortable exploring.
- Show your love through gentle and loving touch (i.e., hugs) and by saying "I love you" often.
- Set aside time daily to interact distraction free.
- Spend quality time together including play.
- Set boundaries, rules, and consequences.
- Eat meals together and converse.
- Be in the moment with your child.
- Create family rituals and routines.
- Validate their feelings.





## **Volunteer Hour Ideas**

- Window washing (indoor/outdoor)
- Toy washing (indoor/outdoor)
- Fundraisers and events
- Yard maintenance
- Backyard clean-up
- Help with professional development days
- Playground reconstruction
- Classroom help
- Window washing
- Laundry
- Classroom donations
- Parent Committee
- Sunday church participation

Please see Ms. Elia regarding volunteer opportunities. For classroom donations, please see your child's teacher. Please turn in receipts to your classroom teacher.

You'll need to contribute 12 volunteer hours every fiscal year.

### **TUITION**

<b>Infant -</b>	<b>\$1,450.00</b>
<b>Wobbler-</b>	<b>\$1,300.00</b>
<b>Toddler-</b>	<b>\$1,210.00</b>
<b>Preschool</b>	<b>\$ 985.00</b>

#### **Meals are included in the tuition:**

**Breakfast is served from 7:45-8:30**

**Morning snack is from 10:00-10:30**

**Lunch is from 11:00-12:30**

**Afternoon snack is from 3:00-3:30**

## **New Happenings at Open Arms.**

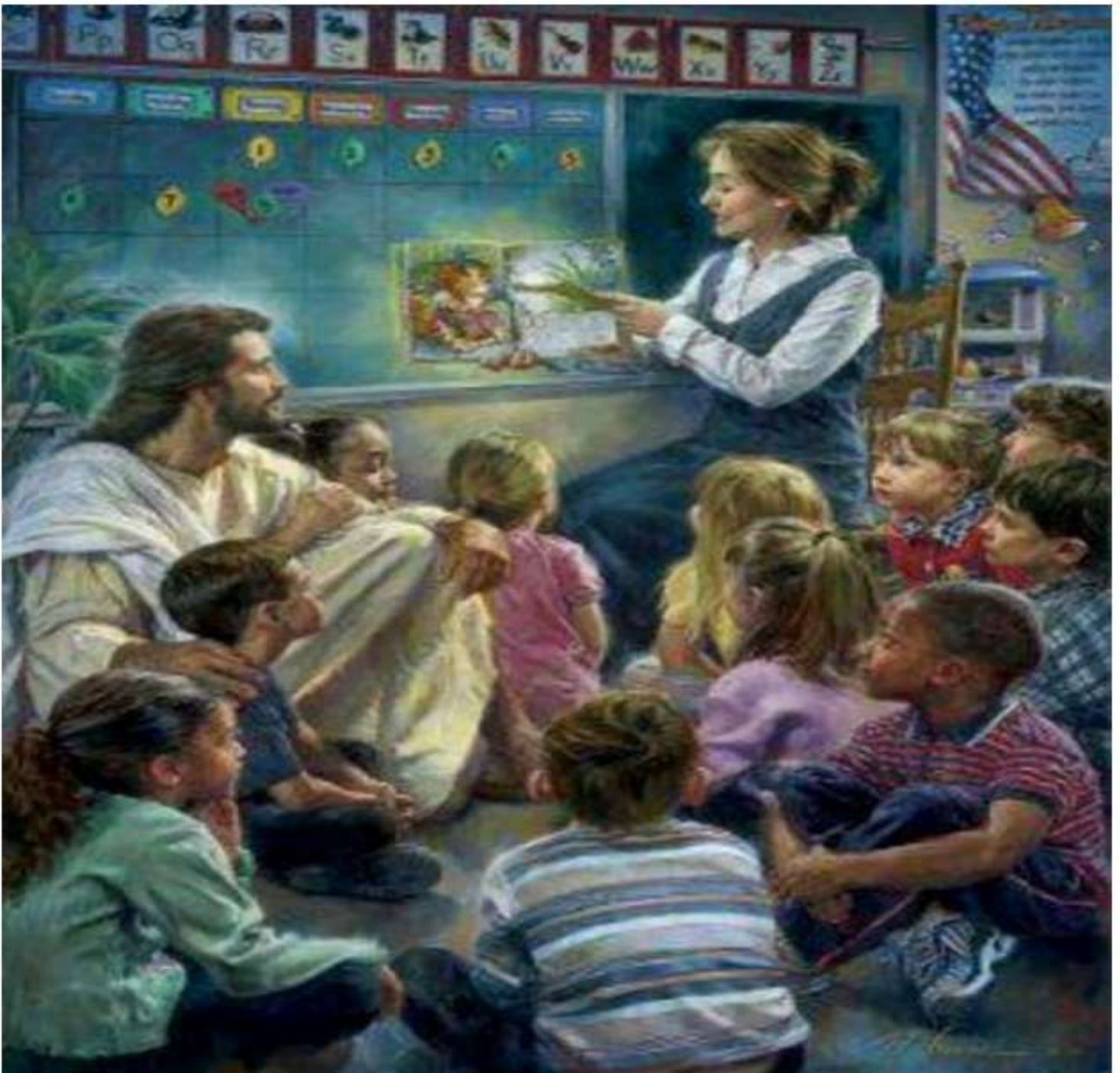


**On this Good Friday, I  
pray that your home  
and heart is filled with  
the love Jesus has  
showered you with.  
Blessed Good Friday!**

## OUR MISSION

TO PROCLAIM CHRIST'S LOVE TO CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES BY PROVIDING A NURTURING AND EDUCATIONAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*



## THINGS TO REMEMBER

4/5/ 2024 Summer program forms are due  
4/6/2024 Staff training in North Pole  
6/1/2024. Volunteer hours are due

### In the Spot light!

Please call us if your child will be absent, especially if he/she uses transportation to and from school.

Please label your child's clothing items.

Toys from home are not allowed, we are not responsible for broken or lost toys.



# Wobblers' Palm Parade



# Music Time!



# Toddler 2

Reading and  
writing,  
while building  
friendships.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Leslye	Korvola	April 01
Ashanti	Decaro	April 06
Tod	Witt	April 09
Debra	Greer	April 11
Vida	Helms	April 11
Sarah	Milan	April 12
Edward	Gillen	April 13
Florence	Caskey	April 15
Lance	Carlson	April 16
Autumn	Wiese	April 16
Emily	Matray	April 17
Franklen	Heffle	April 19
Caroline	Atkinson	April 20
Bridger	Koch	April 21
Thomas	Hester	April 25
Doris	Casey	April 26
Kaylynn	Penefield	April 26
Jimmy	Blevins	April 27
DeAnna	Fisher	April 27



Steven & JoAnn	Wiese	April 13
Craig & Madalyn	Lehrer	April 16
Robert & Cecelia	Rothermel	April 21

**On your birthday and anniversary,  
we pray God blesses you,  
and each day that follows.  
May you hear His voice,  
follow His footsteps,  
be comforted by His care,  
And live in His grace everyday.**



If we missed your Birthday or Anniversary and it was due to human error, I apologize. It may be because we don't have your birthday or anniversary dates in our records. We would like to be able to update our records to include your birthdays and anniversaries in our monthly newsletter. So if you notice you are not on the list, please contact us so we can get that in our records and next time you will be included on that months birthday and anniversary list.

Thank You!



# APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Open Arms Board meets  Pastors on Vacation →	3 6:30 a.m. Bible Study For All	4	5 6:30 p.m. CR meal 7:00 p.m. CR meeting  →	6 2:00 pm Zion Woman's Event Burlap Cross Craft
7 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Education Hour 6:00 p.m. Worship  →	8  →	9 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study  →	10 6:30 a.m. Bible Study For All  →	11  ←	12 6:30 p.m. CR meal 7:00 p.m. CR meeting	13
14 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Education Hour 6:00 p.m. Worship	15	16 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Elders Meeting 6:00 p.m. College and Career Ping Pong Tournament	17 6:30 a.m. Bible Study For All	18 3:30 p.m. Spring Fling Family Festival	19 6:30 p.m. CR meal 7:00 p.m. CR meeting	20
21 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Education Hour 6:00 p.m. Worship	22	23 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Leadership Council Meeting	24 6:30 a.m. Bible Study For All	25	26 6:30 p.m. CR meal 7:00 p.m. CR meeting	27
28 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Education Hour 12:30 p.m. HS Game Night At Brant's 6:00 p.m. Worship	29	30 				