

The Contact

April 2005

Pastor Paul D. Ostrem
Cheryl Hollich—Lay Associate
Wilma Roach —Secretary
Oscar Alvarez —Custodian

Phone Numbers	
Church Office	563-263-5074
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Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship Service 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.
9:15 A.M. Sunday School

Zion Lutheran Church
PO Box 585
6th & Sycamore St
Muscatine, IA 52761
563-263-5074

Return service requested

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What does it mean to live as Easter people? My guess is that many of us will answer that question in a variety of ways and there certainly are a variety of appropriate and faithful answers. One thing it means to me is that I am called to care for and to respond to the needs of hungry people. At the resurrection and throughout his earthly ministry, Jesus Christ affirmed life – not just life after death, but abundant life that begins now and continues for all eternity. His will is that all people experience this gift of life.

In January while I attended a convocation at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, I heard a presentation by Rick Steves, a self-described travel educator, a committed Lutheran who has produced videos for the ELCA and who hosts a weekly travel show on public television. He is funny and insightful. His work in travel has deepened his commitment to the needs of hungry people around the world. He mentioned to us that over half of the world's population tries to survive on \$2 a day. He said, "My children have more purchasing power than half the world." Then he added, "My cat has more purchasing power than half the world."

When we were done laughing, I thought about that last remark and knew that was probably true for us also, or close to it. Tiger may live better than half of the world by the time food and cat litter and vet bills are all added in. So we made a commitment that each time we buy cat food for our beloved pet, we would put a check of equal value in the offering plate for world hunger. This would be in addition to what we were giving at the time. It's probably a small thing, maybe more symbolic than anything, but it reminds us of the needs of others whom Jesus calls us to love, who in the grand scheme of things are more important than our cat. It's a small thing, but I believe small things add up for the benefit of others. The cost of a bag of cat food can do a lot of good for hungry people.

There are probably other more significant ways to live as Easter people, but not everything we do needs to be spectacular. In fact, the more we live out our faith in common, everyday ways the closer we may be to the Kingdom of God.

Lance Armstrong made them popular--those yellow cancer bracelets that say "LiveStrong." Other groups have copied the idea and some people have even made counterfeit ones.

Recently, I was at a Weight Watcher meeting and they too had cancer bracelets—white with various stripes. It said that 100% of the proceeds would go directly to support cancer research. Sounded good. I bought one—thought I could be "in" and also support the cause. Upon opening the cellophane bag, I noticed that this bracelet says, "Make A Difference."

As I was looking at that bracelet on my wrist, I couldn't help but think that it was a very appropriate "motto" for more than one reason. I may have bought the bracelet to support cancer research but I now wear it for a different reason. For me it has become a Faith Bracelet. We have just celebrated Easter--the most important celebration of the church year. We all know that Easter is not about eggs, rabbits, new clothes, and candy. So how do we live out that Easter message? How does that message of resurrection and new life make a difference in our daily life?

Make A Difference. Christ dying for our sins and his resurrection made a difference. Easter has got to make a difference in everything that I say and do. Holy Week is done and now I have to go about living Easter. So I wear my "make a difference" bracelet and remember that faith does make a difference in all that I say and do. May your faith also make a difference in your life.

P.S. If you want a bracelet, let me know. I'll be happy to get you one!

Blessings, Cheryl

PRAYER CORNER

“Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.”

THOSE HOSPITALIZED & THOSE WHO HAVE REQUESTED OUR CONTINUED PRAYERS:

Tim Stange Karen Padgett Helen Freitag
Lisa (Frieden) Dowell Art Miller
Betty Miller Vera Jarr Lorna Welk
Don White Doris Schreiner

Those who have lost loved ones:

the family of Irene Stange
the family of Esther Pankratz
the family of Mary Hafner (mother of Janice Martz)
Paul Gustafson and family at the death of
his grandmother

Other Special Needs:

- 1) Pray for the hungry and the homeless throughout the world, and for those who continue to deal with the effects of the South Asian tsunami.
- 2) Pray for our Bishops, Mark and Philip, and all who serve the Church.
- 3) Pray for our nation, for peace in our world, an end to all conflicts, and for all those who serve our nation on foreign soil, especially for Andy Ruden serving in Iraq.
- 4) Give thanks for the resurrection.
- 5) Pray for those who strive to be faithful in the midst of their daily work.
- 6) Pray for seasonable weather for the planting of crops.
- 7) Pray for those who make plans for the Synod assembly in June and the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August.

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Excellence can be attained if you care more than others think is wise, risk more than others think is safe, dream more than other think is practical, and expect more than others think is possible.

. . . . Author unknown

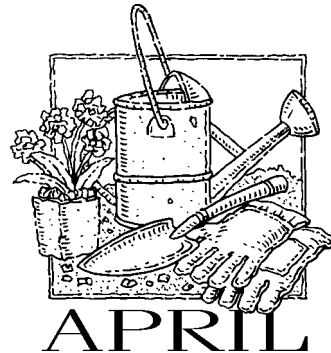


The Fellowship Committee invites you to express your warmest wishes to the following members of Zion who celebrate their 80th or older birthday this month:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO

BOB BROCKET	APRIL 5
WILMA AXEL	APRIL 12
*HELEN FREITAG	APRIL 15
MARIE CURRY	APRIL 17
RAY WICHERS	APRIL 17
CHET AXEL	APRIL 18

*90+ YEARS OF AGE



Last-minute Planning

It was the start of a holiday weekend, and the service station was crowded. Finally, an attendant hustled up to the local minister who had been waiting in line for some time. “I’m sorry about the delay, pastor,” the attendant apologized, “but it seems like everybody waits until the last minute to get ready for a trip which they knew they were going on all along”.

The pastor smiled and said, “I know what you mean. I have the same problem in my business.”

Thank You!

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for several recent donations of food to our residents. You are so generous in sharing your food with the less fortunate, you have been a blessing to the people who make their home here.

Sincerely,
Sr. Irma Ries, MCSA

Thank you for the beautiful birthday cards I received for my birthday.

Bernice Kublik

We just wanted to take a moment to thank you for bringing your altar chairs to us to have recovered. We really hope the members and guests of the church will enjoy them.

Thank you,
Marie Lindsay Interiors

To Our Church Family—We would like to thank everyone for the memorials, cards, prayers and kind words at the recent passing of Irene. Also, thank you to Pastor Paul for a fine service, Cheryl for her visits, and the organist, Anne Olson. Thanks to the Women of the Church for serving a delicious luncheon and to all the ladies who donated food. Your thoughtfulness was sincerely appreciated.

The Family of Irene Stange

To Family and Friends,
Thank you for the wonderful cards, the visits, phone calls and well wishes during my illness. It was greatly appreciated. Also a big thank you to the Youth Choir for their singing while at Lutheran Homes.

Jackwyn Opel

Dear Friends,
Your quilts are so beautiful! It is hard to find the right words to thank you. We wish you could see the resident's eyes light up when they receive one, they know the value of "handmade with love . . .

Sister Irma Ries, MCSA

Sarah's Story

At age six, Sarah's parents' rights were terminated. She was adopted at age seven but continued to be an aggressive child who didn't get along with her adoptive parents and siblings.

While at LSI's Beloit Residential Treatment Center in Ames, staff determined Sarah had bipolar disorder, and her attitude, behavior and self-esteem improved as she progressed through her treatment plan.

Today, Sarah is having positive experiences with her foster family. She and her adoptive mother are beginning to reconnect.



*Happy
Anniversary!*

*Ray & Helen Stange
April 15, 1951*

THANK YOU

Thank you to the many people who worked to make our Lenten, Holy Week and Easter observance a rich and meaningful time again this year. A special "Thank You" to all our musicians; to the ZLCW groups, the Church Council, and the Youth Committee for the Wednesday evening meals; to Karmon Bjella, Dave Starkweather, and Pam Dettmann for their part in the introductory dramas on Wednesday evenings; to the Youth Group for the Easter Breakfast; to Carl Tiecke for putting up and taking down the cross; and to the Worship Committee and Altar Guild for their work preparing the sanctuary for the various services.

Financial Report

If you would like to see the full report as the finance committee and council sees it and reviews it each month, please call or stop in the church office and we will gladly share it.

ZLC Monthly Financial Update

	February, 2005	2/12 Year	Year-to-Date
	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income			
Budgeted Income	\$ 49,764	\$ 50,000	\$ (236)
Unbudgeted Income	\$ 6,144	\$ -	\$ 6,144
Total Income	\$ 55,907	\$ 50,000	\$ 5,907
Expenses			
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 54,257	\$ 50,000	\$ 4,257
Unbudgeted Expenses	\$ 5,080	\$ -	\$ 5,080
Total Expenses	\$ 59,337	\$ 50,000	\$ 9,337
Income - Expenses	\$ (3,429)	\$ -	\$ (3,429)
Fund Balances			
Current Fund	\$	24,407	
Memorial Fund	\$	10,333	
Building Fund	\$	15,037	
Gateway Apartments	\$	28,187	

Needed

If you are graduating from High School or College in May, please let the church office know by May 8.

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Only when the last tree has died and the last river has been poisoned and the last fish has been caught will we realize we cannot eat money.

- - - Cree Indian proverb

Sowers . . .

Sowers will meet at Rose Marie Paul's home April 25 at 6:30 p.m. Bring your stitching or latest project and come join us. There is always good fellowship and good fun.



NEWSLETTER CHANGE

There are new postal regulations regarding bulk mail which will impact our church newsletter. Two changes will affect us:

1. We are no longer able to put staples in our newsletters.
2. The address label will have to be turned opposite of what we have been doing.

We will introduce these changes with our April newsletter. Our sheets will be held together by tape at the edge. When you open it your sheets will not be connected together.

The address label has also been changed so the reader at the post office can read the address automatically.

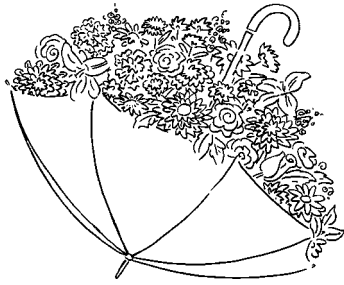
In the meantime we are looking into alternative ideas.

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Articles for the 'Contact' will be due in the office Monday, April 25 and assembly will be April 28, 9:00 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room. Come join us for good conversation and fun.



MARK 16:6



CARING BASKETS

The social Ministry committee would like to distribute "Caring Baskets" to Zion members currently residing at Lutheran Homes. The first basket will be shared during the month of May. We are also looking at sharing a basket in July and September/October.

The committee is asking for your assistance—search your home and see if you have any of the following to share for the baskets:

- Handkerchiefs
- Combs
- Jewelry— pins and bracelets
- Sun-catchers
- Window Suction cups (for the sun-catchers)
- Greeting Cards (individual or in boxes) and
- A book/strip of postage stamps

A box has been will be placed at the top of the stairs for your donated items. Thanks for your help.



SUPPER CLUB

Supper Club will meet at Moon River in Andalusia, IL on April 15th, at 6:00 p.m. If you have not joined us for a while come and enjoy the fellowship we have. Sign up on the bulletin board near the nursery.

ZLCW

Come Ladies, Children and Guests.
Worship the Lord, all the world!
Worship the Lord with joy;
Come before him with Happy Songs.
The Lord is good.

SPRING BANQUET

Date: April 18, 2005
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Zion Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall

Special Music Entertainment
You will need to make reservations.
ZLCW will be selling tickets after each
worship service.

Adults— \$7:00
Children (12 & under) —\$3.50



Parish Ed—Looking Ahead

Sunday, May 15—
Congregational Picnic at Fuller Park
games, prizes, fun

Sunday, May 22 =
Last Day of Sunday School &
Faith Stepping Stone—Graduation

Vacation Bible School-
At Zion Lutheran on Wednesdays,
June 22,29, July 6,13, & 20,
9:15 a.m.—Noon & Noon—3:00 p.m.

Mark you calendars now!

**“TO MOBILIZE WOMEN TO ACT
BOLDLY ON THEIR FAITH IN
JESUS CHRIST”**

April equals Spring. Spring equals the Spring Banquet. Banquet equals food and we all know food equals Lutherans! Women of all ages are invited to the Spring Banquet on Monday, April 18. Be sure to watch for posters and bulletin announcements for details.

There are gatherings coming up in our cluster, synod and on the churchwide level. This month Cluster 7 will meet at Grace Lutheran Church, April 23. Love gifts will be for the Tanzanian medical mission. If you would like to donate, please bring items to the church (box by the ZLCW bulletin board) or take them with you when you attend. Items requested include: Antibacterial bar soap, fingernail clippers, washcloths, zip lock baggies, toothpaste and toothbrushes, stickers for kids, hot wheel cars, fast food toys and Beanie Babies. Reservations will be made on Wednesday, April 20th.

Don't forget to check out the ZLCW bulletin board and also remember to visit the women's page on Zion's website.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

CLUSTER 7:

April 23	Spring Gathering at Grace Lutheran, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
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SE Iowa Synod:

June 17-18	Women's Gathering at Grinnell*
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Women of the ELCA:

April 14-15	Study Seminar for 2005-06 Lutheran Women Bible Study, see bulletin board for details.
July 8-10	Triennial Gathering in San Antonio, TX. Some funding available.

*Registration cost before May 1, is \$80.00. After May 1, cost is \$90.00. Registration is required. There will be a sign-up sheet for those interested.

**Block Party
Wednesday, June 16
5:00-7:30 PM**

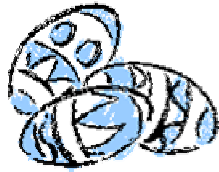
The plans are in gear for Zion's Block Party. Since it takes a lot of people to accomplish this, we need your help with the following:

- Please bring items for the *Recycling Sale* and put them in the designated Sunday School Rooms after May 22. We have applied to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for an additional \$300 to supplement the earnings from the sale. All the earnings will be given to MCSA for the Homeless Shelter. If you are interested in helping with the sale, contact Bill Chrisman, 264-8822.
- We are in need of new items or gift certificates from local businesses for the *Door Prizes*. Please ask your place of business, or your friend's business to donate these needed items. We can also use any unused items that you might have around the house. Bring them to Cheryl Hollich's office.
- If you can help *set up or take down the tables* contact Jeff Kokemuller, 264-5485.
- Donations of cookies and help with the serving of *food* is also needed. Sign up on the bulletin board or contact Bert Toyne, 263-5953.
- Several youth have volunteered already but more are needed to help with *games*. Contact Cheryl Hollich or Kathy Othmer, 263-0594.
- If you assist with the *Hospitality Tent*, contact Dyann Roby, 264-2762.

Finally, we need *entertainment*. Several of Zion's choirs may be entertaining but if you can play an instrument or would like to sing a solo or duet, contact Terri Hanson, 263-1964.

Since we are in the "City for Good", then everyone's help is needed. Let's make this another great Block Party!

Youth News



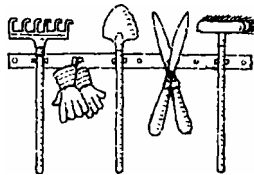
Easter Breakfast Thank you—

Thank you to everyone in the congregation for supporting the youth through donations to and attendance at the Easter Breakfast.



Movie Night Saturday, April 9, 6:30 PM

The Subberts, 2683 Northwood Drive, have graciously opened their home for this fun night. Bring something to drink and everything else will be provided. We should be done by 9:30 PM. Sign-up on the bulletin board.



Youth Volunteer Day Saturday, May 14 10:00-Noon

The youth are offering their services to anyone in the congregation who needs Spring help with their yard work, window

The youth are offering their services to anyone in the congregation who needs Spring help with their yard work, window cleaning, etc. It's our way of saying thank you to the congregation for all of their support.

Youth and adults are asked to sign up on the Youth bulletin board.



Summer Trip July 24-29, 2005 Imago Dei Village, Clintonville, WI

There will be a meeting for all youth and adults attending the trip on **Sunday, April 17, 11:30 AM** to discuss trip details. The following youth and adults have registered for the FaithVentures trip this summer—

Meredith Baird	Kirsten Schneider
Karly McDonald	Marissa Toyne
Zach Minder	Jake Woods
Ashley Moore	Taylor Woods
David Ostrem	Denise Baird
Philip Ostrem	Cheryl Hollich
Kathleen Pusateri	Bob Nicolai

Still interested...see Cheryl before this meeting!

Summer Camp

Attention youth—3rd Grade and up--If you are interested in attending summer camp this summer, look on the Youth bulletin board for fliers from Ewalu, Camp Shalom, and Riverside Bible Camp. See Cheryl for more details.

Lay Readers

		8:00 A.M.	10:30 A.M.
<i>April</i>	3	<i>Mark Perisho</i>	<i>Bonnie Nicolai</i>
	10	<i>Richard Jacobsen</i>	<i>Nancy Keel</i>
	17	<i>Susan Bantz-Gustafson</i>	<i>Fran Carter</i>
	24	<i>Dave Starkweather</i>	<i>Katie Chrisman</i>

Greeters

		8:00 A.M.	10:30 A.M.
<i>April</i>	3	<i>Jeff & Denise & Meredith Baird</i>	<i>Michael & Leslie Watson</i>
	10	<i>Dana & Sally Echelbarger & Family</i>	<i>Daryl, Linda & Holly Smock</i>
	17	<i>Keith & Mary Butcher</i>	<i>Kent & Mary Heckman & Family</i>
	24	<i>Jeff, Darcy & Madison Kokemuller</i>	<i>Jeff & Melissa Steele</i>

Acolytes

		8:00 A.M.	10:30 A.M.
<i>April</i>	3	<i>Zarah Batie & Kathleen Pusateri</i>	<i>Halston Phelps & Molly White</i>
	10	<i>Kirsten Schneider & Sara Subbert</i>	<i>Zarah Batie & Philip Ostrem</i>
	17	<i>Mario Alvarez & Brandon Bass</i>	<i>Justin Honeyman & Halston Phelps</i>
	24	<i>Molly White & Marissa Toyne</i>	<i>Mario Alvarez & Chelsea Echelbarger</i>

Ushers

		8:00 A.M.	10:30 A.M.
<i>April</i>		<i>Art Miller Dave Phelps</i>	<i>Riley Padgett Charles Meyer</i>
		<i>Bob Pugh Jacob Dornbush</i>	<i>Ernest Marolf Mike Watson</i>
		<i>Justin Dornbush Chuck Hoffman</i>	<i>Mark Perisho</i>

Hospitality

<i>April</i>	10	<i>Fellowship Committee</i>
	24	<i>Parish Ed. Committee</i>

Altar Guild

<i>Nancy Keel</i>
<i>Margaret Wiesner</i>

APRIL 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Easter Sunday	28	29	30	31	1	2 9:00 AM Council Retreat
3 Daylight Saving Time Begins 8:00 AM Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Study 10:30 AM Worship Service With Holy Communion 11:45 AM Youth Committee	4 5:30 PM Block Party Meeting	5 6:15 PM Fellowship Committee 7:00 PM Evangelism Committee	6 5:15 PM Youth Choir 6:00 PM Cherub Choir 6:00 PM Confirmation Class 6:15 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Senior Choir	7 1:00 PM Quilting Ladies 4:45 PM Planning Committee 6:00 PM Gateway 6:30 PM Social Ministry 7:00 PM Worship Committee	8	9 6:30 PM Youth Movie Night at Sara Subbert's
10 8:00 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Study 10:30 AM Worship Service	11	12 5:45 PM Memorial Committee 7:00 PM Stewardship Committee 8:00 PM Finance Committee	13 5:15 PM Youth Choir 6:00 PM Cherub Choir 6:00 PM Confirmation Class 6:15 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Senior Choir	14 6:45 PM Executive Committee 7:30 PM Church Council	15	16 6:00 PM Supper Club, Moon River, Andalusia IL
17 8:00 AM Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Study 10:30 AM Worship Service With Holy Communion 11:30 AM Youth Trip Meeting 2:00 PM Freese Open House	18 1:00 PM AARP 5:30 PM Vacation Bible School Meeting 6:00 PM ZLCW Spring Banquet	19 1:30 PM Group 4 - ZLCW 5:00 PM Parish Ed. Committee 6:30 PM Thrivent Meeting	20 5:15 PM Youth Choir 6:00 PM Cherub Choir 6:00 PM Confirmation Class 6:15 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Senior Choir	21 6:30 PM Property Committee 7:30 PM Group 5 ZLCW	22	23
24 8:00 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Study 10:30 AM Worship Service	25 Contact Articles Due 6:30 PM Sowers	26	27 5:15 PM Youth Choir 6:00 PM Cherub Choir 6:00 PM Confirmation Class 6:15 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Senior Choir	28 9:00 AM Assemble Contact 7:30 PM Group 6 - ZLCW	29	30