

The Contact

April 2023

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Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday is the day during Holy Week that commemorates the Washing of the Feet and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles, as described in the canonical gospels. It is the fifth day of Holy Week, preceded by Holy Wednesday and followed by Good Friday.

God's Global Barnyard

Barnyard banks were handed out to Sunday School students several weeks ago. This helps them learn that putting money in their banks allows them to participate in helping purchase animals for families around the world. Adults are also encouraged to participate by making donations as well.



Cow-\$500

Fish Farm-\$250

Goat-\$50

Pig-\$30

Honeybees-\$20

Chicks-\$10

Riley Padgett has issued a challenge to the congregation. He has purchased a cow for donation and challenges the congregation to match that \$500 Global Barnyard gift! Thank you Riley and everyone who accepts his challenge!

The deadline for donations is April 9th.

Message from Pastor Willie:

Siblings in Christ – greetings in the name of our crucified and risen Savior!

As I write this article, Holy Week approaches swiftly. Holy Week brings forward all sorts of faith memories and touchstones for each of us, recalling events and traditions that we grew up with in various congregations. Or maybe you grew up in the faith here at Zion! As I continue to learn the rhythms and traditions of the congregation, especially around Holy Week, a word keeps bouncing around in my mind. The word is “adiaphora”, literally from the Greek, “indifferent”. Specifically, indifferent things which are neither right or wrong, but neutral. In Lutheran Christianity, adiaphora means things which are neither forbidden nor commanded in scripture (Formula of Concord). I’ll give you a hint that next month I will write about central things – those things essential to the faith and commanded in scripture.

So, what practices do we have in Christianity which fall under adiaphora? Well, the list is long. Probably too long for this space. So, without any implied judgment on adiaphora, here are a few that come to mind:

The order in which the candles are lit and which candles are lit on which Sundays and in what order they are lit and extinguished. Candles can be used to signify a few things when one enters a worship space, but their use falls under adiaphora. Our practice at Zion is that the large candelabra are lit for every service. The lighting order doesn’t matter, though we’ve made up all sorts of lovely explanations to justify why we do it a certain way. The two candles on the altar are lit when we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion during the service. The large candle – the name and when we light it – is an entire subject of adiaphora by itself! Is it the Christ candle? The Paschal candle? The Baptismal candle? We see this candle lit for our evening vespers service in Lent, any service during which we baptize someone, during the seasons of Epiphany and Easter, and high feast days throughout the liturgical calendar. And if we forget to light it for one of those times, God’s grace and love for you does not end. Speaking of candles – what are the names of the Advent candles? And why do some Advent wreaths have a rose-colored candle? The answer is adiaphora.

Other worship related topics include the time of the worship service, if a bell is rung before worship and how many times the bell is rung, when we stand and sit in worship, the size and format of the bulletin, which liturgy setting, hymns, and prayers we use. Do we use the modern Lord’s Prayer? An older version of the Lord’s Prayer? Should we use debts, sins, or trespasses? Even our choice of scriptures for the worship service is adiaphora. We use the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) – which will be another Contact article topic in June. But which translation is the *right* one? Should the presiding minister, assisting minister, and acolyte(s) wear albs – this is adiaphora, though the albs have significance as a baptismal symbol. As the offering is collected, should the communion celebrant/presiding minister put on a chasuble to preside at Holy Communion? I don’t use one because I’m usually excessively sweating under my alb and I do not need another layer of liturgical clothing. Do we use wine or grape juice for Holy Communion? What kind of wine? What kind of grape juice – white or red? What kind of bread do we serve? Unleavened wafers?

Message from Pastor Willie Cont'd):

Unleavened bread? Yeast bread? All adiaphora – God’s promises are proclaimed, and Christ is present in, with, and under the bread and wine, regardless of the bread and wine/juice used. Are screens in the worship space beneficial or harmful? Do we respond to Pastor Willie’s question in the sermon? Do we clap in appreciation of a musical offering? Where does the choir sit? What songs should they sing? Do we say or sing “Alleluia!” during the season of Lent? All adiaphora.

What about Christian education? This is a central thing to the faith, as we make promises to the baptized to raise them in the Christian faith. However, the Sunday School and Confirmation curricula fall under adiaphora. The rite of confirmation, formally known as Affirmation of Baptism, is adiaphora because salvation does not depend on it.

By now I’ve probably raised a few hackles of protest. Hear me clearly – just because something is adiaphora does not mean that it has no importance to the community or individuals. It means that it is indifferent to matters of salvation and is neither commanded nor forbidden in scripture. Many of the things which are adiaphora have importance to both personal and congregational tradition. Knowing the difference between adiaphora and central things provides freedom to try something new or different as we grow in faith and serve in God’s Church together. It also provides freedom in knowing that these differences of opinion and tradition are indifferent to our salvation and faith. We are free in Christ to express our praise and thanksgiving and receive God’s promises in many and various ways as we serve in God’s Church together!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Willie Rosin

FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY.

Altar Guild:

Week 1: Richardsons

Week 2: Sheryl & Sarah

Week 3: Pusateris

Week 4: Starkweathers

Sub: Hanson

Lunch Bunch

April 13 11:30 a.m. @ Yacky Shack

Contact News

All newsletter information and articles for the May Contact are due by the end of day on **April 25th**.

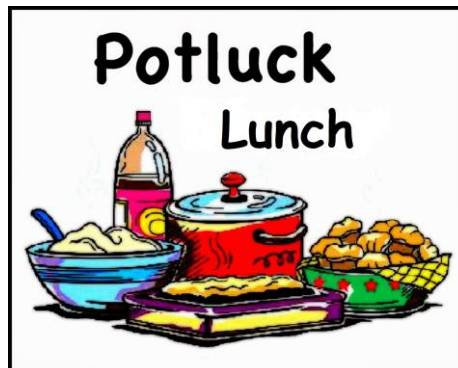
Thank You

Dear Zion Family,

I wanted to send out a huge thank you for the scholarship I received from the Zion Trust. The money covered a large portion of my spring semester and was a blessing for me to receive. Thank you so much for the support of my education.

Sincerely,

Karson Cantrell



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On April 11th we will have a lunch time potluck upstairs in Fellowship Hall beginning at 12 p.m. The potluck is open to anyone who would like to join us and bring a dish to share. Coffee and water will be provided. We will have a good will donation to help pay for the coffee. If there is enough interest this will become a bimonthly event. The next date would be Tuesday, June 6th.

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Birthdays:

Kelsie Dornbush 04/01/1991
Loryann Eis 04/03/1938
Josephine Gillespie 04/03/2013
Kathy Meyer 04/07/1944
Isabelle Rosin 04/07/2005
Sarah Perisho 04/08/1953
Kathy Rusch 04/08/1950
Mike Owens 04/09/1965
Jacob Evans 04/11/1986
Mary Schroeder 04/12/1975
Ron Knause 04/14/1948
Maura Garrett 04/15/2015
Dee Miller 04/17/1948.
Rick Weiss 04/17/1949
Vicki Pedersen 04/20/1954
Avery Zybarth 04/22/1959
Jane Keel 04/23/1953
Braedan Garrett 04/25/1986
James Haage 04/25/1953
Lori Andersen 04/28/1962
Cheryl Jacobsen 04/28/1956
Quinn Garrett 04/30/2022

Birthdays Over 80:

*Loryann Eis 04/03/1938
*John Evans 04/07/1938
*Riley Padgett 04/03/1938
**Helen Stange 04/03/1931
*Linda Maas 04/07/1941
*Jean Hyink 04/22/1936
*Helen Colony 04/26/1938
*Dorothy Thompson 04/28/1942

* 80-89 Years Young
** 90-99 Years Young
*** 100 Years Young



FFN RESUMES APRIL 12th

Confirmation & FFN: Family Faith Night Meets at Grace Lutheran Church every Wednesday beginning with a meal at 6:00 p.m. Groups begin at 6:30 p.m. with the night concluding at 7:30 p.m. You and your family are invited to join as you are able. Talk with Pastor Willie or Tyler Baars to learn more.

Graduate Sunday



Celebrating our high school graduates - Graduate recognition Sunday is May 21st during the 9 a.m. worship service. Graduates or parents of graduates, please bring to the church office a senior picture and brief description of your future plans by **May 1st**. These will be used on a display board on May 21st and in the worship bulletin for that day. Thank you!



Sunday School Flower Planting

The Sunday School will plant flowers in the cross after worship on Sunday, May 14th. Donations of flowers can be brought to the church beginning on May 7th. Thank you for helping with this project! Rain date for planting is Sunday, May 21st.

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Anniversaries:

Julie and Mark Evans 04/02

Greg and Kelly Gillespie 04/04

Peggy & David Starkweather 04/19

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Kristy Keith, Bill Tiecke, Patty Lange, Butch Doyle, Mary Butcher, Gary Sebbert, Evelyn Christopherson, Billy Rueckert & Pastor Pam Saturnia. The family and friends of Bill Mark

Usher Schedule

Jim Haage

Mike Batenhorst

Julie Haage



Christian Day Camp

Opportunity in Muscatine

Website: Scan QR code or go to:

<https://shepherdofthecross.org/christian-day-camp>

This Day Camp will be held at

Saulsbury Recreation area June 13-17 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily.

Registration is open for all kids who have finished grades K-6. Cost is \$10, which includes a T-shirt.



FREE Summer Music Camp

July 10-14, 2023, for students who have completed K-6th grade Wesley United Methodist Church in Muscatine K-2nd grade students meet 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. daily 3rd-6th grade students meet 9:00am-2:30 p.m. daily with lunch provided. Register at <https://wesleyonline.org/music/> by July 3, and by June 15 to guarantee a camp t-shirt.

FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY.

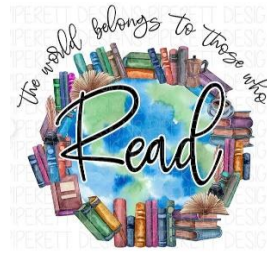
Upcoming Meetings:

April 27 - Joy Circle
Deborah Weiss will host

Reminders:

Fellowship of Christian Athletes meets at Louisa-Muscatine High School on Thursdays at 6:30 a.m. in Room 109. Casey Cantrell is the local Huddle leader.

Men's Bible Study meets every Wednesday morning at 6:30 a.m. at the All American Diner.



Z-book Club

The next Zbook Club, Monday, April 24,
5:30 p.m. at Diamond Daves

Bread Alone: A Novel Kindle Edition

by Judith R. Hendricks

Thirty-one-year-old Wynter Morrison long ago gave up on finding a suitable career and drifted into the role of trophy wife to an ambitious advertising executive. After her husband decides that their marriage was a mistake Wyn leaves behind her posh, pampered life and ventures north to Seattle, spending aimless hours sipping coffee at a local bakery. As the sweet aromas of freshly baked bread awaken memories of her apprenticeship at a French boulangerie, she feels the desire and ambition to bake bread once again.

Soon, Wyn finds--in the kneading of the dough and the scent of yeast hanging in the air--an unexpected and wondrous healing power that helps her to rediscover that nothing stays the same. Inspiring and beautifully rendered, **Bread Alone** is an uplifting debut novel guaranteed to warm the heart.

We have sign-up sheets for
Hospitality 2023 up/downstairs.

FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY.

Christians Underground -

We have an additional Bible study/discussion group opportunity in Muscatine called Christians Underground. Pastor Aleese Kenitzer from Shepherd of the Cross leads this group in discussion about the Revised Common Lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday. They meet weekly on Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. at Geo Johnz Pizza (203 E 2nd St.) for about an hour. This invitation is open to all three ELCA congregations in Muscatine.

Food For Thought

“The cross was not God’s invention - it was ours. In all our need for an eye for an eye, I have to wonder sometimes if God listened to us cry for blood and offered his own - if Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross was not to sate God’s wrath, *but to show God’s response to ours.* - Mike McHargue

Did you know?

We need your help!!

The church website needs new pictures. Please help by submitting church/church event pictures to zionmuscatine@gmail.com or drop them by the office.

We now have a “give” button on our website and on our Facebook page!!

It’s linked through Tithe.ly.

Evangelism Committee

The Zion Evangelism Committee has been inactive for several years. Rev. Bill Dyar volunteered to chair this committee and is looking for members to help with this committee. If you are interested in serving on the Evangelism Committee, please contact the Zion church office. Thank you!

YTD Food Pantry	YTD Bag of Blessings	YTD Quarters for Hunger
\$190	\$275	\$59.95

Total Offering Received For Week 3/26/2023	\$ 4,670
YTD Offering Received	\$ 50,643
Remaining Weekly Offering Required to Meet Weekly Budget	\$ 5,857 (per week)

April 2023 LSI Article and Story

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

At LSI, we work tirelessly to provide crisis childcare, in-home visits, and parenting classes to families across Iowa through our Early Childhood Services. In these services, we provide Iowa parents the support they need to provide a healthy, stable home for their children.

Through our Family Centered Services, we help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable. We also provide therapy services to adults, children and families to help build healthier, more secure homes.

You can make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Thanks to the support from faith-based organizations across Iowa...

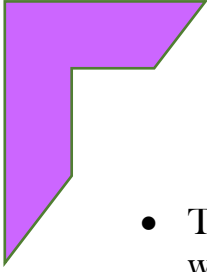
...a young mom now has the education and resources she needs to create a better life for her and her family,

...a person with a disability learned to be a little more independent,

...a former refugee found a new home in Iowa and has found new ways to successfully support their family.

All of these successes are possible with the support we receive from congregations and people like you! LSI is proud to provide these essential services to people all across Iowa.

Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!



Council Corner

- Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the updated format for the weekly bulletins. This is a step in the right direction to remain fiscally and environmentally responsible. We appreciate your patience and understanding through this process.
- A direct donation button has been added on the Zion Church Website as well as a linked post on the Facebook page. This is an effort to allow another method of contributions from our members and guests through Tithe.ly.
- Thank you to Bill Dyar for serving as Chair of the Evangelism Committee. This Committee has been on a hiatus for a quite some time. Bill is in need of members to join him on this Committee. If you are interested in serving or want to learn more about the Evangelism Committee, please reach out to Bill.
- The Worship Committee is actively working to bring back greeters for Sunday Worship.
- Welcome Cards will be sent out for Easter, letting our neighbors near and far know they are welcome to join us for the Easter Celebration.

Puzzle Page

Word Sudoku

April

The words or names that are used in the puzzle:

Palm Sunday
Flowers
Rain

Easter
Good Friday
Revival

Spring
Maundy Thursday
Hope

	Good Friday		Revival		Flowers			
Spring		Hope			Palm Sunday			Maundy Thursday
	Revival			Spring	Hope	Rain		
Revival		Spring		Rain	Maundy Thursday			
Palm Sunday	Hope				Good Friday	Maundy Thursday		
Good Friday					Revival		Rain	Palm Sunday
Flowers		Good Friday		Revival			Hope	
Hope	Spring		Flowers		Easter			
Easter		Revival			Spring			Good Friday

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 Bag of Blessings PALM SUNDAY 9:00am Worship 10:15am Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 5:00pm Building Use - AA	3 Pastor's Sabbath 6:30pm Building Use - AA	4 7:00pm Building Use - Scouts	5 6:30am Men's Bible 5:30pm Midweek Lent 2 6:00pm FFN 6:30pm Building Use - AA 7:00pm Choir	6 5:30pm Maundy Thursday	7 5:30 GOOD FRIDAY@ First Presbyterian Church 6:30pm Building Use - AA	8
9 EASTER 8:00&10:30am Worship 9:00amEaster Breakfast 10:15am Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 5:00pm Building Use - AA	10 Pastor's Sabbath 6:30pm Building Use - AA	11 12:00pm POTLUCK 7:00pm Building Use - Scouts	12 6:30am Men's Bible 5:30pm Midweek Lent 3 6:00pm FFN 6:30pm Building Use - AA 7:00pm Choir	13 11:30am Lunch Bunch @ Yacky Shack 6:30pm All Comm. Night	14 6:30pm Building Use - AA	15
16 Quarters For Hunger 9:00am Worship 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School 5:00pm Building Use - AA	17 Pastor's Sabbath 6:30pm Building Use - AA	18 1:00pm Group 5 MPR 7:00pm Building Use - Scouts	19 6:30am Men's Bible 5:30pm Midweek Lent 4 6:00pm FFN 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Building Use - AA 7:00pm Choir	20 6:30pm Council Mtg	21 6:30pm Building Use - AA Contact info due	22
23 Food Pantry 9:00am Worship 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School 5:00pm Building Use - AA	24 Pastor's Sabbath 6:30pm Building Use - AA	25 7:00pm Building Use - Scouts	26 6:30am Men's Bible 5:30pm Midweek Lent 5 6:00pm FFN 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Building Use - AA 7:00pm Choir	27 6:30pm Joy Circle	28 6:30pm Building Use - AA	29
30	1 Pastor's Sabbath	2	3	4	5	6