

The Contact
March 2023



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Lent, in the Christian church, a period of penitential preparation for Easter. In Western churches Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, six and a half weeks before Easter, and provides a 40-day period for fasting and repentance (Sundays are excluded), reflecting of Jesus Christ's fasting in the wilderness before he began his public ministry.

Please join us @ 5:30 p.m. on March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 for Mid-week Lent services!

There will be meals following each service. Sign -up sheets are in the office.
Adults \$8
10 & Under \$6

Menus are in the "Council Corner" on page 12.

Shepherd of the Cross Midweek Lenten Gatherings - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

If our 5:30 p.m. midweek Lent worship time does not work for your schedule or if you are looking for something a little different than strictly midweek worship, you are invited to join Shepherd of the Cross on Wednesday evenings during the season of Lent. And we have invited Shepherd of the Cross folks looking for a midweek worship service to join Zion!

The following is the midweek Lent information that Shepherd is providing for their people which is centered in large group and small group time rather than a formal worship service: This Lent, we'll be gathering on Wednesday evenings to dive further into the themes presented on Sunday mornings. Embracing our Lenten theme of "Seeking," our Wednesday gatherings will encourage us - individually and collectively - to authentically seek God and seek relationship with one another. Our time each week will be a combination of large group and small group time and will incorporate Scripture, prayer, and music. If families with kids are interested in joining us, we'll be sure to have opportunities for our kiddos as well!

Grace Lutheran Church Midweek Lenten Gatherings-6:00-6:30 p.m.

After Ash Wednesday, they will meet the next 5 weeks through Lent for a mid-week service which will last approximately 30 minutes. Grace confirmation students will help conduct those services.

Message from Pastor Willie:

Zion Lutheran family – greetings in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

As we journey through these forty days of Lent with one another, I encourage you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. and midweek services on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. In each of these services - and every other worship service here at Zion – you will encounter a symbol in the worship bulletin or the order of service in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal - ✠. This symbol is an indication that you are invited to make the sign of the cross and that I will make the sign of the cross as I lead the worship service. For example, in this season of Lent the trinitarian invocation we will use at the beginning of the Order for Confession and Forgiveness goes like this: “Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**” Which is preceded by the following rubric: *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.* Rubrics are guidelines for both worship leadership and the assembly gathered in worship to unite us with the whole Church in common worship practice.

Some of you may be familiar with this practice. Some of you may see others in worship making the sign of the cross and wondering “Why are they doing that?” Or the common assumption I encountered growing up, “Did they used to be Catholic?” So, *Pastor Willie, why DO we mark the sign of the cross?* Well, I’m glad you asked! :)

The sign of the cross, whether over the torso, starting at the forehead, down to the lower chest, to the left shoulder, and then to the right shoulder, or marking a simple cross on your forehead is a sign and remembrance of baptism. *The Use of the Means of Grace*, the ELCA’s document of priorities and explanations of what we do and why we do it, has this to say about the gesture: “These interpretive signs (laying on of hands, signing with the cross, and anointing with oil at baptism) proclaim the gifts that are given in the promise of God in Baptism...The sign of the cross marks the Christian as united with the Crucified (28A).”

Making the sign of the cross is an ecumenical gesture commonly practiced by Lutherans, Episcopalians, Orthodox, and Roman Catholics, is also becoming more common in other Protestant denominations. This sign of the cross is not only a remembrance of baptism. It is also a remembrance of the death and resurrection of our Lord: the center of our faith. The sign of the cross is a treasured part of our heritage as Lutherans because the practice was encouraged and used by Martin Luther himself. Luther made provisions for using the sign of the cross on at least three occasions.

- In Holy Baptism The text of Luther’s 1526 Order of Baptism called for the sign of the cross to be made over the candidate as a part of Baptism. "Receive the sign of the holy cross on both your forehead and your breast" (Luther’s Works 53:107). *Worship Formation & Liturgical Resources: Frequently Asked Questions*

Message from Pastor Willie Cont'd):

- At Ordination. In his order for the Ordination of Ministers of the Word, Luther says of the benediction: "The Ordinator blesses them with the sign of the cross" (Luther's Works, 53:126).
- In Daily Prayer. Luther instructed his followers to make the sign of the cross at both the beginning and the end of the day as a beginning to daily prayers. In the Small Catechism, in the section on morning and evening prayers Luther says: "When you get out of bed, bless yourself with the holy cross and say 'In the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.' " This same instruction is given for bedtime.

So when do we normally make this sign in worship? As I mentioned earlier, at the invocation in orders for confession and forgiveness. It also occurs during the proclamation of forgiveness at the end of the order. Each baptismal candidate is marked with the sign of the cross after the baptism as a sign of the seal and promise of the Holy Spirit. We include it during the Post-Communion Blessing and the Blessing during the Sending rite. Many individuals make the sign of the cross as they come forward to receive Holy Communion, dipping their finger into the baptismal font and remembering their baptism before receiving Holy Communion and then again after receiving the body and blood of Christ.

In this season of Lent, as we spend time in prayer, devotion, and self-reflection both personally and corporately, if you have not included making the sign of the cross a part of your worship or prayer practice, I encourage you to try it out as a remembrance of your baptism and remembrance of our Lord's birth, life, death, and resurrection to which we are united in and through Holy Baptism. Hopefully this takes some of the mystery out of the practice of making the sign of the cross as we worship and pray together.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Willie Rosin

FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY.

Ushers:

Riley Padgett, Mike Watson,
Mark Perisho, Bill Toyne

Altar Guild:

Week 1: Richardsons
Week 2: Sheryl & Sarah
Week 3: Pusateris
Week 4: Starkweathers
Sub: Hansons

Acolytes:

3/1 Dalton Bozarth
3/5 Preston Schroeder
3/8 Mason Smith
3/12 Dalton Bozarth
3/15 Jackson Evan
3/19 Mason Smith
3/22 Preston Schroeder
3/26 Jackson Evans
3/29 Mason Smith

Lunch Bunch

March 9 11:30 a.m. @ Applebee's

Contact News

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

AROUND ZION

Fat Tuesday Shenanigans

Sheryl Mercer found the prize in the
"King Cake"



FAITH. FAMILY.. COMMUNITY.

Birthdays:

Rosin, Abner 03/01
Rosin, Ezra 03/01
Pusateri, Dave 03/04
Owens, Chris 03/05
Danner, Mary 03/06
Timm, Jerry 03/08
Heckman, Kent 03/08
Baird, Jeff 03/09
Schroeder, Jami 03/09
Stange, Ann 03/10
Carle, Inge 03/11
Frye, Abigail 03/19
Toyne, Bill 03/20
Schmitt, Virgil 03/22
Dornbush, Jason 03/24
Evans, Julie 03/26
Pusateri, Gail 03/27

Birthdays Over 80:

* George Blackwood 3/7
* Wilmer Denker 3/13
* Richard Koll 3/16
** Irmgard Shoppa 3/25
* Rose Marie Doyle 03/29
* Pat Minder 03/30

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

Anniversaries:

Scott & Michelle Richardson 3/23
Jennifer and Zachary Taylor 3/27



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Trivia Night

The Zion Youth will sponsor a Trivia Night on Saturday, March 18th. The proceeds from this event will be used to help send Zion high school youth to the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. The cost is \$5.00 per person or \$40 per table. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with the game beginning at 6:00 p.m. The event normally ends around 8:00 p.m. Come and test your knowledge on a variety of topics including our church, the Bible, and Muscatine history, enjoy a social time with friends and family. Drinks will be provided, and you are welcome to bring snacks for your table or for all to share. We will also have a silent auction of baskets donated by the church committees and the youth. Reserve your seat or table by signing up on the bulletin board by the elevator. Hope to see you all there!

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Special Anniversaries over 50

Larry and Reita Driskell 03/02/1968

Linda and John Brade 03/15/1966

Altar Flowers

Mar 5 Mark & Julie Frye

Mar 12 Ruth Starkweather

Mar 19 Riley Padgett

Mar 26 Peggy & David Starkweather

March Assisting Ministers (AM) and Readers

Mar 5 Wendy Brendel/R

Mar 12 Jim Haage/ AM

Mar 19 Julie Haage/R

Mar 26 Tyler Baars AM

Communion Assistants

Mar 5 Vivien Halloran

Mar 12 Terri Hanson

Mar 19 Bob Nicolai

Mar 26 Sara Reusswig

Living Lutheran

Website:

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/16931/Living-Lutheran>

Individual Price \$19.95 total for 12 issues through the year.

Audio available in CD format

Website link to subscribe to e-digest:

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe/> 1-800-328-4648

Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



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.



Local Scholarships Available

Over \$900,000 in scholarships are

available for Muscatine and Louisa

County high school graduating seniors.

Awards range from \$500 one-time awards,

up to \$20,000 four-year awards for a

variety of post-secondary options. High

school applications close on March 10,

2023, at Noon.

<https://www.givinggreater.org/scholarships>

FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY.

Upcoming Meetings:

Mar. 2 6:30 p.m. All Comm.
Night

Mar. 9 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch
@ Applebee's

6:30 p.m. Council Mtg

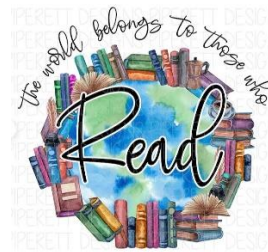
Mar. 21 1 pm Group 5 MFR
Hostess Nancy Tietge

Mar. 23 6:30 pm Joy Circle
MFR Hostess Jan Pohl

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

Meets Monday March 13th @5:30 p.m. at Diamond Dave's. Join them for dinner and conversation! Reading: "The Keeper of Happy Endings" by Barbara Davis.

An enchanting novel about fate, second chances, and hope, lost and found, by the Amazon Charts bestselling author of *The Last of the Moon Girls*.

We have sign-up sheets for

Hospitality 2023 up/downstairs.

(Brownies with nuts are always welcome, per our office admin). 🍪

Thank You

2/10/23

Dear Friends, we would like to take a moment to thank you for your donation of \$107.08.

We are pleased to accept your contribution and will use it toward food for those in need in Muscatine County. Your support also encourages us in our efforts to empower people to work out of poverty.

Sincerely, Nik Horn

Resource Development Officer MCSA

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.

Prayers Around Zion

If you see someone falling behind-walk **beside** them. If you see someone being ignored, find a way to **include** them. **Always** remind people of their worth. One small act could mean the world to them. With the **Lord** in their life they are **never alone**.

AROUND ZION



Our Sunday school kids learning about Moses' encounter with the glory of the Lord on Mt Sinai.



We celebrate with our siblings in Christ in the Pare Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania! Six new pastors were ordained.



From Elaine Petersen.

March 2023 LSI Article and Story

March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month! Take time this month to recognize social workers in your life and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa, we want to give thanks to all our social workers who do such important work every single day. Without you, LSI wouldn't be able to provide the essential services that Iowa families need. Our social workers provide a variety of services to families in Iowa, such as crisis childcare, in-home programs, and classes for parents. These services provide families the support and education they need to care for their young children.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's 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.

Social Work is Rewarding Work

A child saying “mom” for the first time at 3 years old, a parent getting a job that brings them joy – these’re successes that are important to Mallory Berkenpas, Service Coordinator in LSI’s Early Childhood department in Sioux City. Mallory has been an employee of LSI for more than a decade and has held many different roles in supporting children and families. “My heart lies in working with children and families and prevention work, because I’ve seen the value in it. I see how important it is. I wish more people knew and understood and valued the work that is done in the early childhood period because it is so crucial,” said Mallory. She expressed that one of the most rewarding parts of her job is being able to see, experience and walk this journey alongside these families, who along the way, make these small or big strides – whatever that means for them. “Maybe the child says ‘mom’ for the first time at 3 years old, which is something that has happened in our program. That’s a big win for this child that didn’t speak from zero to three years old, and did because of the interventions we helped that family find,” said Mallory. “All of those successes are so important to me and also my staff – being able to see them grow, build their skill set and feel good about their work.” “Social work can be so hard... so I think being able to see those small and big wins along the way is important,” said Mallory.



Council Corner:

Property is still in need of a chairperson. If you are interested, please reach out the Pastor Willie or Tyler Baars.

The visit of Pastor Mrutu has been put on hold to allow for proper planning for both congregations to ensure a successful visit. Continued conversations between the Pastors and the Synods are taking place. More details will be shared as they become available.

Weekly offering collections and amount needed have been added to the weekly bulletin. This Council Corner will continue in the Contact, this being the first, to communicate updates from Church Councils previous month's meeting.

Completed Building Projects:

The faucets in the kitchen have been replaced/upgraded.

Upcoming Building Projects:

□ Flooring in the Fellowship Hall from the brick wall out to the first set of dividers will be replaced. The flooring has been ordered and should be complete in the coming weeks.

□ The sound system upgrade for our current needs continues to be explored. This includes added microphones and mic lines. We are dealing with supply chain issue that are resulting in this delay. More details will be shared as they become available.

□ Quotes were received and approved to install the needed lines and boosters to supply Wi-Fi throughout the entire building.

Reach out the Tyler Baars or Pastor Willie with any questions.



Hospitality:

Worship Committee and Council have decided to return to cookies and treats for hospitality rather than the current all individual packaged items. This will not only create less waste but will also reduce the amount of spending on items. A sign-up sheet is available for on the nursery bulletin board or by contacting the Church office. Similar to the flower sign up, you have the option of sponsoring hospitality. You are welcome to sign up for an available Sunday and either provide treats (10 dozen) or make a contribution in the amount of \$30 for the purchase of treats for your chosen Sunday. A rotation of which group will serve hospitality will continue as normal. The updated schedule for 2023 is now available and has been shared with Committee/Group leaders. If you have any questions, please contact the Church office.

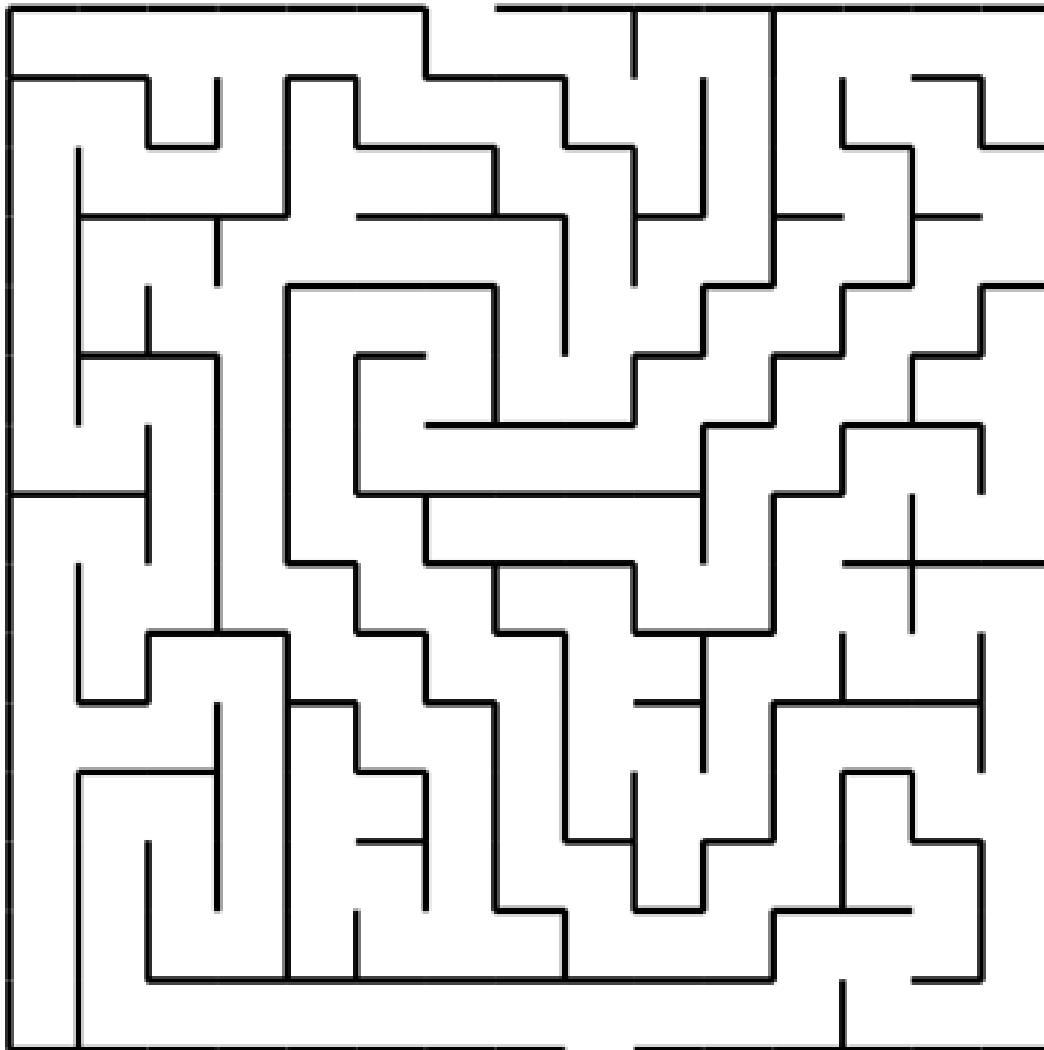
Lenten Meals:

Wednesdays following the Lenten service.

Date	Group Serving	Menu
3/1	Youth/Parish Ed	Chicken Noodle Casserole, Green Beans, Desserts
3/8	Council	Walking Tacos, Desserts
3/15	Group 5	Sloppy Joes, Potato chips, Jell-o Salads, Desserts
3/22	Joy Circle Group 6	Baked Potato Bar, Applesauce, carrots/Celery, Desserts
3/29	Men's Bible Study	Ham Sandwiches, Baked Beans, Potato Chips, Carrots/Celery, Desserts

Puzzle Page

Zion Lutheran Church



GOD

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Bag of Blessings 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Fellowship 10:30a.m. Sunday School 5:00 p.m. Building Use - AA	27 6:30 p.m. Building Use - AA	28 7:00 p.m. Building Use - Scouts	1 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible 5:30 p.m. Midweek Lent 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Building Use -AA 7:00 p.m. Choir 	2 6:30 p.m. All Committee Night	3 6:30 p.m. Building Use - AA	4
5 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 5:00 p.m. Building Use - AA	6 6:30 p.m. Building Use - AA	7 7:00 p.m. Building Use - Scouts	8 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible 5:30 p.m. Midweek Lent 2 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Building Use -AA 7:00 p.m. Choir	9 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch @ Applebee's 6:30 p.m. Council Mtg.	10 6:30 p.m. Building Use - AA	11
12 Quarters for Hunger 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Fellowship 10:30a.m. Sunday School 5:00 p.m. Building Use - AA	13 5:30 p.m. Z Book Club @Diamond Dave's 6:30 p.m. Building Use - AA	14 7:00 p.m. Building Use - Scouts	15 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible 5:30 p.m. Midweek Lent 3 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Building Use -AA 7:00 p.m. Choir	16	17 6:30 p.m. Building Use - AA 	18 Trivia Night 5:30 p.m. Doors Open 6:00 p.m. Trivia Begins
19 Food Pantry Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 5:00 p.m. Building Use - AA	20 6:30 p.m. Building Use - AA	21 1:00 p.m. Group 5 MPR 7:00 p.m. Building Use - Scouts	22 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible 5:30 p.m. Midweek Lent 4 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Building Use -AA 7:00 p.m. Choir	23 6:30 p.m. Joy Circle	24 6:30 p.m. Building Use - AA Contact info due	25
26 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 5:00 p.m. Building Use - AA	27 6:30 p.m. Building Use - AA	28 7:00 p.m. Building Use - Scouts	29 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible 5:30 p.m. Midweek Lent 5 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Building Use -AA 7:00 p.m. Choir	30	31 6:30 p.m. Building Use - AA	1