

The Contact April

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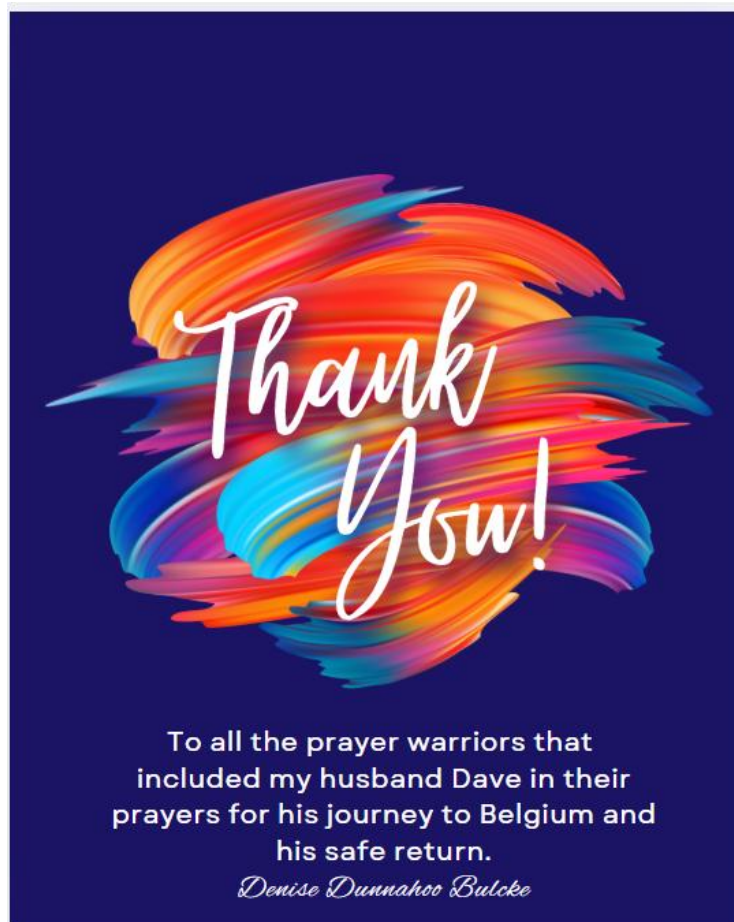


MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday

With Maundy Thursday commemorating the Last Supper, Christian denominations who observe this day universally celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion, which they teach was instituted by Jesus on this night. In the Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church and in certain Anglican congregations, the Mass of the Lord's Supper begins as usual, but the Gloria is accompanied by the ringing of church bells, which are then silent until the Easter Vigil.

In many mainline Protestant denominations, the stripping of the altar and other items on the chancel also occurs, as a preparation for the somber Good Friday service. The stripping of the altar represents the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion.



Message from Pastor Willie:

*“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” - Isaiah 43:19*

Back on March 13th I put the first seeds into the ground in my garden for the 2025 growing season – not counting the 800ish cloves of garlic I plugged in the ground at the end on October 28, 2024. Every time I plant seeds I participate in the practice of hope. I hope that the garlic cloves I set aside for seed last year are healthy and disease-free and pest-free. I hope that the seeds I used this year, which are at least several years old, will germinate. I hope that IF they germinate when they should that a freeze does not kill off the tender new shoots. This past Sunday morning, as the temperature dipped to 26 F at our house I panicked as I forgot to bring my pepper and tomato seedlings in from the deck where I had set them the day before to get some good sunlight and exposure to wind to strengthen the stems and acclimate them to outside conditions. As I left the house for worship, I hoped that I would return to see that the tomatoes and peppers had recovered from the cold – and they did.

As we enter the vibrant season of spring, we are invited to witness the miracle of new life. The earth, once barren and cold, is coming alive again—flowers bloom, trees bud, and the air is filled with the sounds of renewal. We can see this right outside Zion in the beauty of the magnolia tree and daffodil blooms when you drive into the parking lot. This season mirrors the resurrection hope we celebrate in Christ, reminding us that no matter how dark or desolate life may seem, God is always at work bringing new life.

*“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43:19)*

Here, God promises to create something new—a way through the wilderness, rivers in the desert, reminding God’s people of God’s steadfast faithfulness and providence. Just as the spring season breaks the stillness of winter with new growth, God is constantly at work in our lives, even in places that seem lifeless.

We will celebrate this theme of new life when we gather on Easter to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ with shouts and songs of that “A” word we omit from the liturgy and scripture readings in the season of Lent. In this ultimate act of renewal, God broke through the despair of death and sin, bringing forth new life for all who believe. The resurrection is the ultimate “new thing” God has done—a promise that in Christ, death is not the end. It is a passage to new and eternal life.

As we celebrate Easter, we are reminded that, through Christ, God is making all things new. The same God who brought water to the desert and parted the Red Sea for Israel’s deliverance from Egypt is now bringing life and hope through the resurrection. Christ’s victory over death gives us the confidence to face our own challenges with the assurance that God is always working to bring new life out of old struggles. In the springtime of our faith, we are called to recognize the new things God is doing in our lives and in the world around us. Perhaps it’s a renewed sense of purpose, a new opportunity for growth, or the restoration of a relationship once thought lost. Whatever it is, we are invited to see God’s hand at work, to embrace the hope of resurrection, and to share that hope with others. Let this season of spring remind us that, no matter how dry or difficult life may seem, God is always at work bringing new life. In Christ, all things are made new.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Willie Rosin

Holy Week 2025

Faith Together Muscatine

Palm Sunday Worship (April 13)

Grace, Shepherd of the Cross, Zion | 9:00 am

New Era | 11:00 am

Maundy Thursday (April 17) and Good Friday (April 18) Worship

Zion | 5:30 pm (Maundy Thursday) 6:30 p.m. (Good Friday @ First Presbyterian

Grace | 6:00 pm

Shepherd of the Cross | 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil Worship Service and Meal (April 19)

New Era | 4:00 Worship, 5:30 Meal

Easter Sunday Worship (April 20)

Zion | 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Grace, Shepherd of the Cross | 9:00 am

New Era | 11:00 am



Birthdays Over 80

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

April Birthdays

- *Loryann Eis 04/03
- *Riley Padgett 04/03
- *Kathy Meyer 04/07
- *Jean Hyink 04/22
- *Helen Colony 04/26
- *Dorothy Thompson 04/28

April Birthdays

- Kelsie Dornbush 04/01
- Josephine Gillespie 04/03
- Isabelle Rosin 04/07
- Sarah Perisho 04/08
- Kathy Rusch 04/08
- Mike Owens 04/09
- Jacob Evans 04/11
- Mary Schroeder 04/12
- Ron Knause 04/14
- Maura Garrett 04/15
- Dee Miller 04/17
- Rick Weiss 04/17
- Vicki Pedersen 04/20
- Avery Zybarth 04/22
- Jane Keel 04/23
- Braedan Garrett 04/25
- James Haage 04/25
- Lori Andersen 04/28
- Richard Jacobsen 04/28
- Quinn Garrett 04/30

Lunch Bunch

Apr 13 11:30 @ Yacky Shack
May 10 11:30 @ Mamma Mia

Contact News

Newsletter information and articles for the next Contact are due by **May 2**.


Tithe

Total Offering Received For Week 3/30/25	\$4395
YTD Offering Received	\$57448
Remaining Weekly Offering Required to meet Weekly Budget	\$4071


YTD MCSA	YTD Laundry Love	YTD Quarters for Hunger
\$320	\$220	\$248.57
SHP	Synod Ben/Outreach	Youth
\$320	\$138.50	\$548.25

God's Global Barnyard


An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.




Cow
A cow's milk, meat, fertilizer and calves can quickly strengthen a family's financial security.
\$500




Chicks
Chicks begin laying eggs at just a few months old, offering nutritious, protein-rich meals for families who are hungry.
\$10




Goat
Fresh milk from a goat is very nutritious and can be used to make products like yogurt and cheese to sell at the market.
\$50



Honeybees
Bees pollinate plants and boost crop growth — helping the wider community. Soaps and candles can be made from their wax and sold at the local market.
\$20



Pig
Within months after birth, piglets grow to weigh over 200 pounds — bringing a big payoff at the market.
\$30



Fish Farm
A fish farm and training in good business economics can provide a lifetime of meals for a community.
\$250

Give through your congregation by visiting

ELCA.org/goodgifts or by sending a check to

ELCA Good Gifts, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

Please indicate your gift in the memo line of your check.

FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY.

Birthdays Over 80

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

May Birthdays

*Ria Meyer 05/23

May Birthdays

Cindy Hank 05/03
Tyler Baars 05/06
Beth Batenhorst 05/08
Ella Schroeder 05/08
Jacob Dornbush 05/09
Allen Miller 05/10
Leslie Watson 05/10
Mason Smith 05/11
David Hanson 05/12
Grace Rosin 05/12
Ellie McCleary 05/14
Oliver Thompson 05/17
Briar Evans 05/18
Stacey Ramos 05/19
Asher Dornbush 05/20
Reita Driskell 05/20
Alexandria Steele 05/26
Carolyn Dittman 05/27
Braelynn Steele 05/29
Natalie Taylor 05/29
Lexi McCleary 05/30
Cheryl Jacobsen 5/31

Upcoming Meetings:

Joy Circle.

Apr. 24 6:30 p.m.


May 22 6:30 p.m.

Group 5

Apr. 15 1:00 p.m.

May 20 1:00 p.m.

Z BOOK CLUB Meeting



May 5 | 5:30PM
@ Diamond Dave's
563-263-5074
Zion Lutheran Church

When the World Tips Over Kindle Edition by Jandy Nelson (Author)

Years ago, the Fall kids' father mysteriously disappeared, cracking the family into pieces. Now Dizzy Fall, age twelve, bakes cakes, sees spirits, and wishes she were a heroine of a romance novel. Miles Fall, seventeen, brainiac, athlete, and dog-whisperer, is a raving beauty, but also lost, and desperate to meet the kind of guy he dreams of. And Wynton Fall, nineteen, who raises the temperature of a room just by entering it, is a virtuoso violinist set on a crash course for fame . . . or self-destruction.

Then an enigmatic rainbow-haired girl shows up, tipping the Falls' world over. She might be an angel. Or a saint. Or an ordinary girl. Somehow, she is vital to each of them. But before anyone can figure out who she is, catastrophe strikes, leaving the Falls more broken than ever. And more desperate to be whole.

With road trips, rivalries, family curses, love stories within love stories within love stories, and sorrows and joys passed from generation to generation, this is the intricate, luminous tale of a family's complicated past and present. And only in telling their stories can they hope to rewrite their futures.

Yard signs available for sale \$6



HATE HAS NO HOME HERE.

نفرت کے لئے یہاں کوئی گھر نہیں ہے
לשנאה אין בית כאן
El odio no tiene hogar aquí.

FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY.

April Anniversaries

*Julie & Mark Evans 4/2

Greg & Kelly Gillespie 4/4

*David & Peggy
Starkweather 4/19

* 25+
**50+

May Anniversaries

Brandon & Kathleen Davis 5/8

*Doreen & Neil Borde 5/14

**Tim & Vivien Halloran 5/30

* 25+
**50+

Usher Schedule

April

Richard Jacobsen
Rosendo Ramos
Mike Carter
Julie Frye

May

Jim Haage
Julie Haage
Mike Batenhorst
Susan Smith

Altar Guild:

Week 1: Richardsons
Week 2: Perishos
Week 3: Pusateris
Week 4: Starkweathers
Sub: Hansons



Reminders:

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

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 currently meet weekly on Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran church for about an hour. This invitation is open to all four ELCA congregations in Muscatine.

Re:Storied is a course intended to introduce participants to the whole of the Biblical narrative while also providing opportunities to tangibly practice dwelling in God's Word.

Participants will be encouraged to engage in Bible readings and reflections outside our group time. To share reflections and dive deeper, participants may participate in an optional 30 minute time from 6:00 – 6:30.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS



Kristy Keith, Butch Doyle, Billy Rueckert, Linda Brade, Beth Simpson, Karolyn Subbert & Tammy Welk.



Thank you

Dear family & friends,

Dave Roby entered heaven on March 1, 2025. He can now hear, shoot traps, and hunt ducks without heart problems. Our grief is love, and we are grateful for your kindness.

With warmest regards,

Peace from

Dyann Roby, Christy Roby, Jen Peters,

Jeff Roby, and their families



LSI serves Iowans of all ages; from families with newborns navigating parenthood, to Refugee and Immigrant elders, and children of all ages. One of the most vital populations LSI supports is young parents, especially those navigating the challenges of early motherhood. Cheyenne F., a Family Support Specialist for LSI's Healthy Families America (HOPES) program, shares the impactful work she's doing with young mothers in need of support.

She shares that she had the privilege of working closely with NF, a young mom who has shown incredible growth and resilience.

The Healthy Families America (HOPES) program is an evidence-based child abuse prevention program that provides support to prenatal families and families with children ages 0-5. LSI's Family Support Specialists work with families like NF's to provide the guidance and resources needed to break cycles of abuse and neglect and build strong, healthy foundations for children and parents alike.

NF's journey began in June 2023 when she reached out for help. At 19 years old and pregnant, NF was living in Muscatine County and knew she needed extra parenting support. Through the HOPES program, Cheyenne began building rapport with NF right away and learned about NF's challenging upbringing, which included bouncing from foster home to foster home starting at age 6.

"NF had faced so much inconsistency and pain in her early years," shared Cheyenne. "It was clear that she had a lot of unresolved trauma, but it was equally clear that she wanted to make a positive change in her life, especially for her baby."

Throughout the course of their work together, Cheyenne and NF focused on building trust and creating a safe space for NF to share her experiences and challenges. NF revealed that after High School, she fell into a pattern of poor choices, including run-ins with the law. NF got pregnant, and although she knew the father, he didn't want to be involved in her pregnancy or her life. Despite this, she had two strong support networks: her foster parents and her current roommate.

Cheyenne shares that NF struggled with controlling her behavior, and she feared she might end up back in jail, which unfortunately happened. When she was incarcerated, Cheyenne made sure to stay in contact with her foster parents and provided them with regular updates and support.

When NF was released from jail, she confided in Cheyenne that she was considering running away with her baby, which prompted Cheyenne to share valuable resources with her to support her mental health, housing, and employment.

"I knew that if NF ran, it could jeopardize the progress we had made. But with the right guidance and resources, NF began to see a different path forward," Cheyenne shared.

Cheyenne expressed her excitement about NF's progress stating, "NF has made such huge strides. She started attending therapy twice a week and has also found a job at a local consignment store. She's enrolled in anger management classes and is committed to creating a better future for herself and her baby."

Today, NF's baby is thriving, meeting all developmental milestones. NF continues to meet regularly with Cheyenne and enjoys engaging in evidence-based activities that are tailored to her needs as a young mother. "I'm so thankful for the HOPES program. I don't know where I'd be without the support of Cheyenne," NF shared.

It's stories like NF's that remind us why the work we do is so important. With the right support, anything is possible.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

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.



2025 . APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 7:00 PM SCOUTS	2 6:30 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 5:30 PM MIDWEEK LENT & FFN 6:30 PM AA 7:00 PM CHOIR	3 6:30 PM ALL COMMITTEE	4 6:30 PM AA	5
6 Q FOR HUNGER 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL/ STORIES	7 PASTOR'S SABBATH CONTACT INFO DUE	8 12:00 POTLUCK 7:00 PM SCOUTS	9 6:30 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 5:30 PM MIDWEEK LENT & FFN 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 6:30 PM AA 7:00 PM CHOIR	10 11:30 AM LUNCH BUNCH@ YACKY SHACK 6:00 PM COUNCIL MEETING	11 6:30 PM AA	12
13 LAUNDRY LOVE 9:00 AM WORSHIP/PALM SUNDAY 10:15 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:30 AM ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6:00 PM WORSHIP 6:00 PM RE-STORIED BIBLE STUDY	14 PASTOR'S SABBATH	15 1:00 PM GR 5 MFR 7:00 PM SCOUTS	16 6:30 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY NO BELL CHOIR NO FFN 6:30 PM AA 7:00 PM CHOIR	17 5:30 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY	18 6:30 PM AA 6:30 PM GOOD FRIDAY@ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN	19 4:00 PM EASTER VIGIL @ NEW ERA
20 SHP 8:00 AM EASTER WORSHIP 9:30 AM BREAKFAST 10:30 AM EASTER WORSHIP 6:00 PM RE-STORIED BIBLE STUDY	21 PASTOR'S SABBATH	22 7:00 PM SCOUTS	23 6:30 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND NO BELL CHOIR 6:30 PM AA 6:30 PM FFN @ GRACE LUTHERAN 7:00 PM CHOIR	24 6:00 PM JOY CIRCLE	25 6:30 PM AA	26
27 MCSA - MUSCATINE CENTER FOR SOCIAL ACTION 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL/ STORIES 10:30 AM ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6:00 PM WORSHIP	28 PASTOR'S SABBATH	29 7:00 PM SCOUTS	30 6:30 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 6:30 PM FFN @ GRACE LUTHERAN 6:30 PM AA 7:00 PM CHOIR			



2025 . MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 6:30 PM ALL COMMITTEE	2 6:30 PM AA	3
4 LAUNDRY LOVE 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL/ STORIES 6:00 PM WORSHIP	5 PASTOR'S SABBATH CINCO DE MAYO 5:30 PM Z BOOK CLUB @DIAMOND DAVE'S	6 CONTACT INFO DUE 7:00 PM SCOUTS	7 6:30 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:00 PM FFF@GRACE LUTHERAN 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM AA	8 11:30 AM LUNCH BUNCH@ MAMMA MIA'S 6:00 PM COUNCIL MEETING	9 6:30 PM AA	10
11 MOTHER'S DAY 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM FELLOWSHIP 6:00 PM RE-STORIED BIBLE STUDY	12 PASTOR'S SABBATH	13 7:00 PM SCOUTS	14 6:30 A.M. MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:00 PM FFF@GRACE LUTHERAN NO BELL CHOIR 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 AA	15	16 6:30 PM AA	17 SEIA SYNOD ASSEMBLY
18 Q FOR HUNGER 9:00 AM WORSHIP/GARDEN BLESSING 10:15 AM FELLOWSHIP 6:00 PM WORSHIP	19 PASTOR'S SABBATH	20 1:00 PM GROUP 5 7:00 PM SCOUTS	21 6:30 A.M. MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:00 PM FFF@GRACE LUTHERAN NO BELL CHOIR 6:30 AA	22 6:30 PM JOY CIRCLE	23 6:30 PM AA	24
25 MCSA - MUSCATINE CENTER FOR SOCIAL ACTION 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM FELLOWSHIP 6:00 PM RE-STORIED BIBLE STUDY	26 PASTOR'S SABBATH MEMORIAL DAY	27 7:00 PM SCOUTS	28 6:30 A.M. MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 6:30 AA	29	30 6:30 PM AA	31