

the herald

NEWS OF ZION LUTHERAN | ANOKA

APRIL 2024



ZION
LUTHERAN + ANOKA

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

In-Person Worship

5 pm (Sat)
8, 9 & 11 am (Sun)

Livestream Worship

9 & 11 am (Sun)

Cable TV

10 am & 5 pm (Sun)

Radio Broadcast

106.1 (BOB-FM)
9:10 am (Sun)

Gospel Readings

April 6-7

John 20:19-31

April 13-14

Luke 24:36b-48

April 20-21

John 10:11-18

April 27-28

John 15:1-8

Zion Super Sale

Zion Super Sale - June 6 & 7

There will be a meeting of the Zion Super Sale leaders on Tuesday, April 16 at 4 p.m. in the Legacy Room. This includes department heads and other Super Sale leaders.

Do you have things in your home or garage you don't use anymore, but that are still in good shape? Now is the time to label a box 'Zion Super Sale' and start a collection of discards. If you have difficulty parting with an item, think about the joy it might bring to someone else. Item drop off and set up will take place June 2-5.

It's Time to Register for Kids Summer Camps!

To register your child for any of the below camps, go to www.zionanoka.org and click on Zion Kids Camps 2024.

Family "Blessing Bus" VBS

For families with kids age 0-5 plus siblings
Sundays from 10-10:50 a.m., June 9, 16 & 23

Zion Sports Camp

For kids grades K-5
June 24-27 (M-TH) 9 a.m.-noon

KidSing Jr.

For kids age 3-7
June 12, 19 & 26 (W) 9:30-10 a.m.
July 17, 24 & 31 (W) 9:30-10 a.m.

Pre-K "Blessing Bus" VBS

For kids age 3-5
July 9-11 (T-TH) 9-11 a.m.

K-5 "Blessing Bus" VBS

For kids grades K-5
July 15-18 (M-TH) 9 a.m.-noon

Camp Create It

For kids grades K-5
July 29-Aug 1 (M-TH) 9 a.m.-noon
Family Program: 11:30 a.m.-noon TH

Weekly Worship Opportunities

In-Person Worship

Saturdays @ 5 pm and Sundays @ 8 am, 9 am & 11 am

Livestream Worship

Sundays @ 9 am & 11 am

Radio (BOB-FM, 106.1)

Sundays @ 9:10 am

Cable TV Channel 6 Broadcast

Sundays @ 10 am & 5 pm

a message from your pastors



We continue to live out our Alleluias in April as we journey through the Easter season. Easter is seven weeks (a week of Sundays!) and an overarching theme of the Easter season is one of belonging. From Thomas still finding his place despite, or perhaps because of, his doubts, to our place in the sheepfold and on the vine, to the embrace of the Spirit, we are reminded repeatedly about our place in God's family. We will revisit some of the "I AM" statements we learned about during our mid-week Lenten services, but this time, because of the open tomb, we will see God's Word through the eyes of Easter people.

Have you ever played with Russian nesting dolls? I like that illustration of our life in Christ: Jesus is within God, and we are in turn within Jesus as his sheep, his fruit, his people. Just like those smaller dolls inside the larger doll, we are embraced and protected at every level. We are not just with Jesus but within Jesus, as much a part of him as he is of God.

And when we become comfortable and secure, the more we can share. Like a child who meets a relative for the first time, they are timid and unsure of what to say, but after a while, they know that person is family who cares for them and so they begin to open up.

It is this unity, this belonging within God and within the body of Christ, that drives our Easter season. This is a time of welcome as we say: "hello" to Mike Pancoast, our new Interim Associate Pastor; a "glad you're here" to visitors among us; and a "welcome back" to snowbirds who are returning home this spring. We all have a place in God's family.

Pastor Connie

God's Grace - What's It Good For?

By Colleen Nelson

When our oldest was in elementary school he was on an errand with his grandparents. During the drive, he spotted a license plate that looked different from the norm. When her curious grandson asked about it, my mother went into a lengthy explanation of vanity plates. When she finished, he asked if these plates cost more money and when she answered, "Yes" he thought about it and then responded with, "What's it good for?" In other words, he was looking for something tangible in return for the extra cash they had laid out.

There have been endless discussions when it comes to God's grace and how we go about receiving it. In reality, we don't 'go about it' at all. It's difficult for us to fathom that God's grace comes to us freely and by no means, is it earned or paid for by us. So, when we do come to an understanding that this precious gift of grace is due entirely to God's perfect love and generosity, we then look beyond the gift. We ask ourselves, "What's it good for?" Some might use it as a bargaining chip when they find themselves in a fix, "Please God—grant me your grace this time and I promise I'll never do it again." We often see this played out in movies. Some might wait until they've exhausted their own reserves and finally ask, "God, I don't know what else to do but ask for your grace." While others might be skeptical and figure, "What would it hurt to turn to you, God?" Our Lord is overjoyed to hear from us and grants his grace, in all things. However, Jesus does speak to bargaining with God in Matthew 5:33-34b "You have heard it was said to those of old, you shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn. But I say to you, 'Do not take an oath at all.'" So, what is God's grace good for? A deeper question might be, "How might I share my story, about God's grace in my everyday life, with others?"

welcome

Men of Zion Retreat

The 18th Annual Men's Retreat to Pasha Lake Cabins, Ontario, Canada is scheduled for July 27- August 3. Cost has yet to be determined. If you are interested in attending, please contact Brad Jacobson at Mozretreat@gmail.com or call 763-443-3902 and leave a message.



WOZ Spring Event

On Saturday, April 13 at 1 p.m., the Women of Zion are sponsoring a spring event featuring Doug Ohman, Minnesota photographer, author and storyteller. Come hear Doug as he presents *Historic Churches of Minnesota*. You will meet many of the people Doug visited as he explored the history of some of the state's oldest churches. This event is free. Invite your friends and neighbors!

New Member Welcome Brunch - RSVP by April 21

If you have become a new member of Zion in the past twelve months (since March of 2023), we invite you to a Welcome Brunch on Sunday, May 5 at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A meal will be served and pastors and congregation leaders will join us. The brunch will simply be an opportunity for us to get to know you better and enjoy time of fellowship and good food. If you are a newer member and able to attend May 5, please RSVP by calling the church office 763-421-4656 or emailing Suzanne sgaboury@zionanoka.org by Sunday, April 21.

Cinnamon Roll Sunday - April 21

On Sunday, April 21, Zion youth will be serving fresh-baked cinnamon rolls during the coffee hour as a fundraiser for their mission trip to Tacoma, Washington this summer.

Annual Plant Sale - Orders Begin April 21

Save the date! Zion's annual flowering plant sale will take place on Saturday, May 4 from 8 a.m. to noon. Plants are sold on a first come, first served basis. Watch for the pre-order form on April 21.

Upcoming Baptism Class - May 5

If you are expecting, have had a baby or adopting and would like to know more about baptism, we will be having a baptism class on Sunday, May 5 at 12 p.m. in the Library. Please contact Kristine at kjohnson@zionanoka.org to register for the class.

Zion Pre-K 2024-2025 Registration

It's time to register for Zion Pre-K. We are taking registrations for the 2024-25 school year. All 3 through 5-year-olds welcome. Register at www.zionprekanoka.org or scan the QR code. Share with all your friends and family!



Zion Pre-K Summer Camps Registration

Zion Pre-K staff will lead multiple sessions of Z+ and Summer Camps! Classes are from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. For children ages 3 (by January 1, 2024 and **potty-trained**) through age 5 (not yet in Kindergarten). To register go to: <https://www.zionprekanoka.org/class-descriptions-zion-pre-k/>.

pastoral updates

Grace and peace to you, Zion Lutheran Church.

Allow me to introduce myself—my name is Pastor Mike Pancoast, and I will be your interim associate pastor!

Just a few things about myself:

I have been serving in ordained Word & Sacrament ministry for nearly 28 years in a variety of settings, from larger multi-staff congregations to smaller, rural, multi-point congregations and everything in between. The call to ministry has had me serve in Hayward and Rice Lake, Wisconsin; Minot, North Dakota; Becker, Minnesota (where we currently live); and most recently over the last 7 years, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Princeton, Minnesota.

Originally from Texas, I moved to the Midwest in 1992 to attend Luther Seminary in St. Paul with the intention of going back to Texas. But while at Luther, I met my wife Kari, and, well, here I am, having lived in the Midwest now for more than half of my life! Kari and I have been married for 28 years, and she presently serves two small congregations in Northeastern Minnesota Synod, Bethel Lutheran-Little Falls and Immanuel Lutheran-Hillman.

We have 4 young adult children: Olsen (25); Laura (23); Anna (21); and Eleanor (19), all of whom are either graduates or working toward being graduates from Concordia College-Moorhead. We also have 3 dogs, a 14-year-old Lhasa-Chon mix (Kirby); a 12-year-old English Springer Spaniel (Sourie); and 4-year-old Soft-coated Wheaten Terrier (Gene).

I am a non-Hodgkins Lymphoma survivor, having been in full remission for almost two years. My hobbies include cooking (anything and everything, BUT ESPECIALLY smoked meats), and I am an avid cyclist, enjoying skinny-tired road bikes; knobby-tired gravel bikes; fat-tired mountain bikes; and an extended-framed cargo bike that I have aims to load-up and ride cross-country someday!

I will be with you beginning Saturday and Sunday, April 20 and 21 and look forward to getting to know you and proclaiming with you the hope that is ours through the promises of our Lord Jesus Christ during our time together. Until then, I bid you peace.

Pastor Mike Pancoast

News from the Call Committee

The Zion Lead Pastor Call Committee held its first meeting on Sunday, March 17 to start the initial steps on the road to identifying our new senior pastor. In attendance was Rev. John Hulden from the ELCA Synod, who outlined the overall call process we will be following and to educate us on the resources and assistance the Synod will have during this process. Our first step as a committee will be to complete a Ministry Site Profile (MSP), an extensive 12-page document which identifies who we are as a congregation and our goals for the future. This is a key document to help us better understand ourselves so that we may make an informed decision on our future leader. Once drafted, the MSP will be reviewed by the Church Council and then sent to the ELCA Synod for final approval. We ask for your support and prayers during this time.

Steven Randall - Church Council President

Emma Lindberg - Chair

Patti Hiatt - Communications

Mary Sheie - Devotions

Nathan Nordquist

Don Timm

Amy Gerlach (Alternate) - Communications

Erik Johnson (Alternate)



Small Group Study - "Acts: The Revolution of Faith"

In this six-session study of Acts, bestselling author and pastor Randy Frazee guides small group members through the growth of the early church. Frazee reveals what the author's words meant to his original readers - and how they apply to us today. Books are on sale now at the front desk for \$14 and you can sign up for a study at the Welcome Desk.

Week of April 8: *Here's the Church* / Acts 1:1-6:7

Week of April 15: *Sticks and Stones* / Acts 6:8-9:31

Week of April 22: *Saints Among Us* / Acts 9:32-12:24

Week of April 29: *The Power of Grace* / Acts 12:25-16:5

Week of May 6: *Elephant or Virus?* / Acts 16:6-19:20

Week of May 13: *Cry Uncle* / Acts 19:21-28:31

Adult Faith Forums

Adult Faith Forums are held Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Below is the upcoming schedule:

- April 7: Katie Weiland, Zion's Director of Middle and High School Ministries will facilitate a lecture and discussion about the ideal woman and how she has changed from Biblical times and across the generations in the Modern Era. The focus is on women, but men are invited to come as well.
- April 14: "Inspiring Intergenerational Relationships": Rachel Circle members will present information and lead a discussion about ways to foster the wellbeing of both younger and older generations. We will view the video "Say it Now" to inspire a discussion about activities that can strengthen and promote intergenerational relationships at Zion. Young and old are invited. Bring your own ideas to add to our growing list.
- April 21: Pastor Mike Pancoast presents *Get to Know Your New Interim Pastor*

Noisy Offering for Camp Ministries

Thank you to everyone who brought in their Noisy Offering in March! We gathered \$441 which will go toward our camp ministries. The next weekend our Noisy Offering buckets will be out is April 6 & 7. We will also have a bucket at the Welcome desk if you would like to drop off your Noisy Offering during our normal office hours.

Lutheran Late Night - April 12

Join us at Zion from 7-10 p.m. on Friday, April 12 for Lutheran Late Night! This event is for middle and high school students and functions like a lock-in, but you go home at the end of the night. Snacks will be provided and night games will be played. This month our friends from Grace Lutheran in Andover will be joining us. Hope you can make it!

Zion Pages Book Group

APRIL 22 | 6:30 P.M. | THEATER

We will be discussing *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine: A Novel* by Gail Honeyman. This uplifting story of an out-of-the-ordinary heroine is soon to be a major motion picture produced by Reese Witherspoon. Zion Pages meets the 4th Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Theater. All are welcome!

Summer Stretch

Zion is partnering with Grace Lutheran in Andover for Summer Stretch! Students who have completed grades 4-8 are invited to join us on Thursdays during the summer for service projects (Feed my Starving Children, Global Health Ministries...etc.) and recreational activities (Urban Air, Bunker Beach...etc.) around the area. Register for all six Thursdays or just drop in - the choice is yours. High School students can also participate as a Junior Leader for a discounted price! Email kweiland@zionanoka.org for more information.

care for our world and each other

News from the Zion Creation Care Team (formerly Zion EcoFaith Team)

The year was 1970. People were protesting the US war in Vietnam. The Kansas City Chiefs beat the Minnesota Vikings in the Super Bowl. The cost of an average home was \$24,300. And on April 22, the first Earth Day was celebrated; to this day, it continues to inspire us to reflect on the past, to look at the realities of the present and to dream of the future and the possibilities to care for God's Creation.

But let's back up. Americans were beginning to question the pollution caused by our post-World War II affluence before the first Earth Day. Why did the environment have to suffer so that we could have a 'better' life? It was discovered that there were cancerous effects to nuclear fallout. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* was a best seller in 1962. The photo taken of Earth ("Earthrise") during the 1968 Apollo 8 mission displays the incredible beauty and fragility of our home. Though it had previously burned over a dozen times, the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, heavily polluted with industrial waste and oil, burned again in 1969. It was the disastrous 1969 Santa Barbara, CA, oil spill that appeared to galvanize Americans, especially students and politicians. After visiting the spill site, Wisconsin U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson realized that since there were teach-ins against the Vietnam War, the same could be held for the environment. His intent was to get substantial public support for environmental advocacy. On April 22, 1970, millions of Americans participated in rallies, marches and educational events across the country in the first-ever Earth Day. Later in July, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created. Additionally, Earth Day led to the passage of the Clean Water Act (1972) and the Endangered Species Act (1973). Today, there are countless organizations worldwide devoted to caring for our wondrous planet. From a faith perspective especially, resources abound. Along with your Bible, please check these out:

<https://www.earthday.org/christin-environmental-resources/> and www.creationcare.org

For this upcoming Earth Day, how will you care for creation? The Zion Creation Care Team would love to know! Please join us for our next meeting, Tuesday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Thank You Recent Radio Broadcast Fund Donors

Marlin & Darla Fillipi

John & Judy Allen

JoAnn Butler

Tom & Lucie Eisenreich

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Craig Bakken

Lois Peterson

Okie & Pam Okerstrom

Bev Fraser in memory of Joan Sanchez

Janis & Randy Korus in memory of Ethan Owens, grandson of Paul & Jan Lindbloom

Bev Fraser in memory of Marcia Carlson

Ken & Sandy Benson in memory of Don & Chere

Fauteck

about our people

Baptisms

Mar 9 - Harrison Eppel

Deaths

Marcia Kawecki

Marcia Carlson

Everett Wheeler

Helen Fenstermacher

Shirley Lemke

Steve Althouse

Deaths

Mel Iseminger

Harry Lydeen

Kirk Ziegler

Tom Mulligan

Don Boeshans

David Baack

Weddings

Jessica Johnson-

Quade & Dalton

Johnson

New Members

Dalton, Jessica & Olivia Johnson

Josh Brenden, Alyssa

Navarro & Sigurd

Brenden

Jake, Katelyn & Eloise Swan

community news

Zion Foundation : Making a Difference For Those With Mobility Issues

According to the World Health Organization, over 70 million people have lost full use of their lower extremities due to accidents, disease, explosions or birth defects. They reside in impoverished and/or developing countries which are lacking the infrastructure and related resources to support them.



There is a volunteer organization founded in 1984 that works tirelessly to help provide people with a means to lead productive lives. Mobility Worldwide is an international faith-based volunteer powered organization that manufactures hand powered carts. They also reservice and distribute a variety of mobility aids to over 40 countries. To date the national organization has provided over 100,000 carts to people in need of transportation in difficult environments.

Last year the Zion Foundation received a request for a grant to help address this problem. Vern Silvernale, a member of Zion and a volunteer with Mobility Worldwide, submitted a grant request on behalf of the organization. The Zion Foundation awarded a grant of \$2,000.

The donation from the Zion Foundation helps fund a Mobility Worldwide shop right here in Minneapolis. Last year the Twin Cities operation manufactured, assembled and shipped its 2,000th cart.

If you would like to find out more about Mobility Worldwide and how you could help further this worthwhile mission, visit their website <https://mobilityworldwide.org/affiliates/minnesota-twin-cities/>. If you would like to learn more about the Zion Foundation and its work in our community visit: <https://www.zionanoka.org/zion-foundation/>.

Social Justice Team Meeting: April 8

The next meeting of the Social Justice Team will be Monday, April 8 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. At the meeting, we plan to discuss the podcast "On Being" by Isabel Wilkerson which can be found by scanning the QR code to the right. Don't have time to listen prior to the meeting? That's okay! We'd still love to see you.



The Social Justice Team would also like to invite the Zion community to learn about and explore BIPOC-owned businesses in the Twin Cities as a way to understand, recognize, and support the invaluable contributions that the BIPOC community makes in our state.

BIPOC-owned highlight:

The Get Down Coffee Shop

We've been busy exploring, imagining, listening, sharing, learning and building. The Get Down Coffee Co. is not just a coffee shop. It's a Black-owned coffee company, roasting and selling its own coffee.

As the owner and leader of The Get Down, Houston [White] is building his team from within the North Minneapolis community. He leads The Get Down in ways that honor his core belief in the power of human connection and cultural collision. The Get Down opened its roasting facility in 2022 in Northeast Minneapolis, with the first retail coffee bar located within the new Houston White HQ at 1500 North 44th Avenue, MPLS.

Check it out! <https://getdowncoffee.com/>



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news from Zion Pre-K



We enjoyed visiting with Zion organist Mary Jo Gothmann and hearing her play a piece on the organ. Afterwards, we each got a turn to play the keys and hear the pipe sounds.

WELCOME

You are invited, you are welcome to come and experience God's love at Zion Lutheran Church.

CONTACT US

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