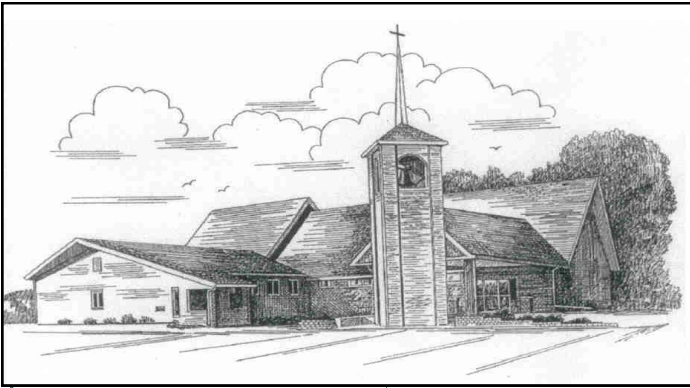




*Zion Lutheran Church
Arlington, MN*

April Newsletter

April 2026

Church Address:
814 W. Brooks St, PO Box 371
Arlington MN 55307
Phone: 507-964-5454
Email: zion.elca.814@gmail.com

Note from Pastor Gretchen

Chattin' It Up...

- Office News
- Paving the Way
- April Worship Assistants



Inside this issue:

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Holy week begins with Palm Sunday on March 29, with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem where crowds wave palm branches and cry out "Hosanna" which means "save us". On this day during our worship, we will carry palm branches to the baptismal font where we enter Jesus' story, and Jesus enters our story.

Throughout Holy Week, we participate in the story of Jesus' passion. The mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ is not primarily a past event but is experienced in the present by the baptized community that is drawn by the Spirit into a future promised by God.

On Maundy Thursday, April 2, we hear the story of Jesus' last supper, and we share in Holy Communion. On Good Friday, April 3, the Lord's passion will be read from the gospel of John as candles are extinguished after each reading and song.

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Continued from page 1

On Easter morning, April 5 (weather permitting) gather at Zion's cemetery for a 'sunrise' worship service at 7:00 AM followed by a light brunch of fruit and baked goods at church. If the weather is inhospitable for outdoor worship, gather in the church basement. Check the church website and Facebook page for updates. Signs will also be posted on the church doors that morning. Worship at 9 AM in the sanctuary with Holy Communion, and will feature the Alleluia chorus on the organ, Easter Garden, and festive singing.

I look forward to celebrating these holy days with you!

Gratefully,
Pastor Gretchen

LENTEN & HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Sunday March 29—9:00am

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. Gather for festive worship including Palm parade

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Thursday April 2—6:30pm

Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion.

Save us from the time of trial

Friday, April 3—6:30 pm

Good Friday worship this year will be Tenebrae service of Light and Darkness.

and deliver us from evil.

Sunday, April 5 - 7:30 am, Easter Sunrise worship in the cemetery (weather permitting);
9:00 am, Festive worship with Holy Communion in the sanctuary.

***For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.***

In the Lives of our Members

- 2 Linnea Bullert
- 2 Brenda Woehler
- 6 Larry Klunder
- 8 Brett Barfnecht
- 10 Hylma Matzke
- 17 Avery Aalfs
- 22 Elissa Lovaas
- 29 Evan Pautsch
- 30 Lillian Beneke
- 30 Emmilia Wark



April 14, 2012 Jacob & Kari Schauer

April 27, 1973 Wayne & Ann Werner



Hold up in prayer....

Christy Hebeisen in her battle with cancer

Dilshad Perani—family friend of Kamps family.
Battling rare chronic disease.



Remember Our Homebound Members

Bayside Manor

Rhoda Woehler

Lyle Woehler

French Meadow-LeSueur

Deb Otto

At home in Winsted

Luverne Bergs

May Creek, Walker, MN

Gary Revier

At home in Arlington

Hylma Matzke



Zion Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 12, 2026

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by President J Hazelwood.

Attendance:

President: Jon Hazelwood	Bd/Deacon: Nick Schiroo	Bd/Worship & Music: Brenda Danielson
Vice President: Absent	Bd/Trustee: Larry Schiroo	Pastor: Pr. Gretchen Pierskalla
Secretary: VACANT	Bd/Education: Cindy Vazquez	
Treasurer: Bruce Kallhoff	Bd/Stewardship: Mary Kallhoff	
Others present:		

Devotions were provided by Pr. Gretchen Pierskalla.

MOTION BY BRENDA D, SECONDED BY LARRY S. TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH ADDITION OF NEW BUSINESS ITEM 2 : BOARD GOAL PLANNING. MOTION APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.

Secretary's Report: Minutes for February council meeting were published in newsletter and emailed to Council prior to meeting. **MOTION BY MARY K., SECONDED BY LARRY S., TO APPROVE MINUTES . MOTION APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Treasurer's Report: Revised Treasurer's Report was handed out to Council members. Checking account balance is \$4356.99 as of the end of February 2026. Streamlined report more accurately showing a detailed monthly budget presented. Monthly payment plan of \$283 to Centerpoint Energy will commence in April. A total of \$1270 has been paid on our operating loan to date. Parking lot fund is now \$94,000+. **MOTION BY LARRY S AND SECONDED BY CINDY V TO APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT. MOTION APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Pastor's Report: Conducted church services for the month of February. Ash Wednesday service was cancelled due to inclement weather. Service was combined with February 25 Lenten Service. Held Confirmation Retreat on February 6 & 7 with students preparing the ashes for Ash Wednesday service. Explored Life in the Spirit-the fruits and gifts of the Spirit. Zion hosted Good Morning Arlington where business leaders and representatives gathered for coffee, donuts, and conversation. Participated in Assembly Line Apple Pie making at Emma's Bakery on February 28. Pies were sold at the Chicken Dinner and Lion's Fish Fry. Working with the area Ecumenical team producing the play "Is it I Lord" to be held at Zion on March 29.

Board of Deacons: Nick S: Will be working on updating the names included on our church membership roster and mailboxes.

Board of Stewardship: Mary K: March hunger jar offerings and Clattering Coins held on March 29, will go to Sibley County FoodShare. Asked Bruce Kallhoff to present an update on the Sibley County Foodshare March Campaign program at the March 22 service. Stewardship will be serving the next Lenten supper on March 18.

Board of Trustees: Larry Schiroo : Sump backup inverter will be installed and one quote for water alarm system has been received.

Board of Worship and Music: Brenda D: Music and hymns were chosen through April 12. Holy week services planned.

Board of Education: Cindy V: Will inquire with area churches if interested in Ecumenical VBS. Discussed that the youth would like to attend Confirmation Camp at GLLM Camp House this summer. **Motion made by Cindy, seconded by Nick to designate the Sunday coffee money collected from April to June to a Confirmation Camp 2027 fund to help with costs to attend. Motion passed.**

Old Business

Update on filling Secretary position - **Bruce will continue in capacity until May when Joe will start.**

Council will task nominating committee with finding a candidate and report back at April council meeting. Bruce will contact them with this request.

Report on best reporting practices as recommended by Synod and ELCA - **Bruce found we are currently presenting the three reports as required by the ELCA.**

Redesign of Church website - **Joe will discuss with the media/communications team. Church cancellation due to inclement weather will be posted on website and Facebook.**

Ramp handicap access door update – **Memorial board was updated with the cost estimates. Bruce will put a notice to the congregation article in the April newsletter looking for feedback on continuing the project.**

New Business

Council meeting recording – **Discussed we would not record meetings.**

Board Budget Goal Planning – **Boards have asked for an explanation of expenses charged to their budgets in the past. Bruce discussed and gave examples of each board's budget forecasting sheets with actual monthly spending amounts per the last 3 years. Pastor asked each board to consider treating the amount of money not spoken for as "Imagination funds to improve and enhance outreach opportunities".**

Meeting adjourned by President Hazelwood at 8:30 p.m.

Meeting ended with Lord's Prayer.

Upcoming Meetings:

Committee Night: Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 6:00 pm

Church Council: Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 7:00 pm

Bruce Kallhoff,
Acting Council Secretary

Approved: pending



SIBLEY COUNTY FOODSHARE

Mobile
FOODSHARE

sibleycountyfoodshare.org
507-237-5253

Winthrop 1-3 pm

August 11, 2025
September 8, 2025
October 13, 2025
November 10, 2025
December 8, 2025

Location:
Gas Station-
203 E 4th St
Farmers Co-op
Oil Company of
Renville

Gibbon 10-Noon

August 11, 2025
September 8, 2025
October 13, 2025
November 10, 2025
December 8, 2025

Location:
Gas Station-
1253 1st Ave
Farmers Co-op
Oil Company of
Renville

Green Isle 1-3 pm

August 12, 2025
September 9, 2025
October 14, 2025
November 11, 2025
December 9, 2025

Location:
Gas Station-
180 Railroad St
Farmers Co-op
Oil Company of
Renville

New Auburn 10-Noon

August 12, 2025
September 9, 2025
October 14, 2025
November 11, 2025
December 9, 2025

Location:
Gas Station-
7390 7th Ave
Farmers Co-op
Oil Company of
Renville

Arlington 1-3 pm

August 25, 2025
September 22, 2025
October 27, 2025
November 24, 2025
December 22, 2025

Location:
Highland
Commons
101 7th Ave SW

Henderson 10-Noon

August 25, 2025
September 22, 2025
October 27, 2025
November 24, 2025
December 22, 2025

Location:
Bender Park
200 N 3rd St.

Arlington 10-Noon

August 26, 2025
September 23, 2025
October 28, 2025
November 25, 2025
December 23, 2025

Location:
Autumn Glen
Apartments
822 W Main W

Neighbors Serving Neighbors - Vecinos Ayudando Vecinos

Office News

Handicap Access Door Project

On November 12, 2025, the Memorial Committee proposed a \$5,000 donation of undesignated funds towards the purchase and installation of an automatic handicap ramp door opener to the Church Council. The Trustees looked into the options available to us and at the February Church Council meeting, were presented two bids for an installed handicap access door at our ramp entrance. Bids were:

- 1). \$12,740 plus estimated electrical work of \$500, and
- 2). \$15,352

Door style will match main church entrance, dark color aluminum with full glass. All finish work is included in bids.

We are informing the congregation, through the April newsletter, of this project status and ask if there is any interest in pursuing this request further .

A special congregational meeting and vote will need to be made to proceed, as the project is over \$5,000.

We do not have a specific timetable for doing the work other than it being done during warmer weather.

Please contact a Church council member, Trustees, and/or Memorial Committee if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you,
Bruce Kallhoff
Treasurer

Paving the Way—Parking Lot Fundraising

We thank Larry Gieseke for leading a very successful chicken dinner in March, with proceeds of over \$6000 with expenses yet to come.



The ZCW had a successful bake sale on the day of the chicken dinner raising over \$735 towards the parking lot fundraiser.

The ZCW also had a very successful bake sale selling desserts at the Arlington Lions Fish Fry once again in March raising \$417 towards the parking lot fundraiser.

Stay tuned for an exciting midsummer event!

Please let the committee know of your fundraising planned idea, every little bit brings us closer, we are already at \$95,000 which is 55% of our fundraising goal!

Core Parking Lot Committee
Bruce Kallhoff, Laurie Stern & Mary Sylwester



AV Team Members needed

Join our AV Team!

It's much easier than you think! Can be 1 or 2 Sundays per month. If we can do it, you can do it!

Talk to any of us.

Joe, Tim, Elton, Jan & Matt

ZCW**April Bible Study Group**

Tuesday Circle
April 7 at 10:00am

Wednesday Circle
April 1 at 1:30pm

ZCW General Meeting**Sunday, April 12****10:15am**

The Minnesota Valley Conference Spring Women of the ELCA gathering is fast approaching. We will meet on Saturday, April 11, 2026 at American Lutheran Church in Gaylord. Registration is at 11:30 followed by lunch and the meeting. The number of folks for lunch needs to be called in on April 1, so please sign up now. The registration cost is \$12.00. There will be a speaker who has done much work in the Ukraine. It should be a great day!! Please come.

Board of Stewardship

Hunger Jar for the month of April has been designated to Feed My Starving Children.

April Bible Readings

April 2 – Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 - The passover of the LORD

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - Proclaim the Lord's death until he comes

John 13:1-17, 31b-35 - The service of Christ: footwashing and meal

April 3 – Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13—53:12 - The suffering servant

Psalms 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 - The way to God is opened by Jesus' death

John 18:1—19:42 - The passion and death of Christ

April 5 – Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter

Acts 10:34-43 - God raised Jesus on the third day

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4 - Raised with Christ to seek the higher things

Matthew 28:1-10 - Proclaim the resurrection

April 12 – Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 - Christ's resurrection: the fulfillment of God's promise to David

Psalms 16

1 Peter 1:3-9 - New birth to a living hope through the resurrection

John 20:19-31 - Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ

April 19 – Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 - Receiving God's promise through baptism

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23 - Born anew through the living word of God

Luke 24:13-35 - Eating with the risen Christ

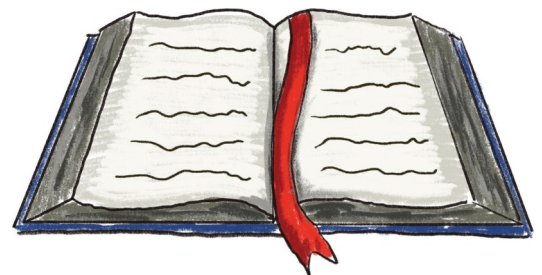
April 26 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47 - The believers' common life

Psalms 23

1 Peter 2:19-25 - Follow the shepherd, even in suffering

John 10:1-10 - Christ the shepherd



CONFIRMATION
CORNER



Class Dates		
April 8	4-5:30p	6-8th Grade Class
April 15	4-5:30p	6-8th Grade Class
April 22	6:30-8p	9th Grade Class
April 29	4-5:30p	6-8th Grade Class
	6:30-8p	9th Grade Class
May 6	4-5:30p	6-8th Grade Class
	6:30-8p	9th Grade Class

Grades 6-8: Wednesdays at 4-5:30 PM

April 11: Esther
 April 15: Psalms and Wisdom literature
 April 29: The Rise of Rome

Grade 9: Wednesdays at 6:30-8 PM

April 22: Big Questions
 April 29: Personal Growth and Renewal

LOOKING AHEAD: Affirmation of Baptism will be on **Sunday, May 17** during regular worship time at 9 AM.

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COMMITTEE
night



Zion Board and Committee Night
Wednesday, April 8 at 6p
Church Council to follow at 7p

With Thankful Hearts

Thank you for your recent generous gift for supporting the services of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota. Together, we are neighbors helping neighbors.

LSS Church Partnership Team

*thank
you*

We would like to thank you for your contribution to the Sibley County FoodShare. Your generosity continues to provide emergency assistance to the hungry of Sibley County. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

*Lisa Eyrich
Sibley County FoodShare*

Thank you to those who provided goodies for Fellowship Hour in February

Wendy Kube
Rich & Roseann Nagel
Neil & Lorraine Mielke
Darrel & Jackie Alsleben



Zion Lutheran Church services can be viewed on:

YouTube at

www.youtube.com

Search: Zion ELCA Arlington MN

www.zionarlington.org

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060

In the office: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Off on Fridays and most Saturdays

By email: pastor@zionarlington.org

By cell: 952-237-1060

including for emergencies anytime (death, hospitalization, etc)

Worship Assistants—April

April 2—Maundy Thursday

Usher: Brad & Brenda Danielson
Cindy Quast, Scott Bergs
Greeter: Nick Schiroo
Acolyte: Cooper Heeren
Reader: Elton Hazelwood
Altar Guild: Larry & Pam Schiroo
Bread Maker: Larry Schiroo
Altar Guild: Jackie Alsleben

April 3—Good Friday

Usher: Scott Bergs
Greeter: Larry & Pam Schiroo
Acolyte: Murdock Krueger
Reader: Bruce Kallhoff
Altar Guild: Jan Giesen

April 5—Easter

Usher: Mark & Lisa Strobel
Larry & Pam Schiroo
Greeter: Starla Schilling
Acolyte: Emilia Wark
Reader: Peg Kamps
Altar Guild: Peg Kamps, Jan Wark
Bread Maker: Larry Schiroo
Altar Guild: Ann Werner

April 12

Usher: Larry Gieseke, Larry Klunder
Kevin Kamps, Adilyn Kamps
Greeter: Bruce & Mary Kallhoff
Acolyte: Jacqueline Christeson
Reader: Murdock Krueger
Altar Guild: Nancy Mathwig, Roseann Nagel
Bread Maker: Larry Schiroo

April 19

Usher: Jon Hazelwood, Elton Hazelwood
Stephanie Krueger, Murdock Krueger
Greeter: Jon Hazelwood
Acolyte: Jack Ruehling
Reader: Jane Scharpe

April 26

Usher: Jim & Wendy Pederson
Peg Kamps, Scott Bergs
Greeter: Elton Hazelwood
Acolyte: Daphne Hazelwood
Reader: Scott Bergs



April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <u>Palm Sunday</u> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School	30	31	1 1:30pm Wednesday Bible Study	2 10:00am Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship w/Holy Communion	3 6:30pm Good Friday Worship	4
5 <u>Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter</u> 7:00am Sunrise Service @ Zion Cemetery 7:45am Fellowship @ Zion following Sunrise Service 9:00am Worship w/Holy Communion	6	7 10:00am Tuesday Bible Study	8 4:00pm 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 6:00pm Committee Night 7:00pm Church Council	9 10:00am Adult Bible Study	10	11 11:30am MV Conference- WELCA @ American/Gaylord
12 <u>Second Sunday of Easter</u> 9:00am Worship w/Holy Communion 10:00am Sunday School 10:15am ZCW General Meeting	13	14	15 4:00pm 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation	16 10:00am Adult Bible Study 11:00am Prayer Shawl	17	18 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
19 <u>Third Sunday of Easter</u> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School	20	21	22 6:30pm 9th Grade Confirmation	23 10:00am Adult Bible Study 7:30pm Vryheid Meeting / Trinity, St. Peter	24	25
26 <u>Fourth Sunday of Easter</u> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School	27	28	29 4:00pm 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm 9th Grade Confirmation	30 10:00am Adult Bible Study	1	2

