

Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 am Sunday, April 26, 2026

RECEIVING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AT ZION

As intended by Christ and as practiced by the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church throughout her history, "Closed Communion" is observed in this congregation, in which the Lord's Supper is distributed only to those:

- (a) who have been **baptized** in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- (b) who have been **instructed** in the truth of Holy Scripture as taught in the Lutheran Confessions, who have been **confirmed** in this Lutheran faith, and who now confess the same doctrines that are taught in this congregation, holding membership in a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod;
- (c) who **believe that in this sacrament the real body and blood of Christ are truly distributed to them and orally received by them**, bestowing on them the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation;
- (d) who **sincerely repent** of all their sins, and desire to receive God's forgiveness in this holy meal.

Guests at our services, before receiving the sacrament, are requested to affirm these facts with one of our pastors. Thank you for honoring our practice. If you are looking for a church home, would like to be a member of Zion, or would like to learn more about the Christian Faith, please speak to one of our pastors about our membership classes.

✠ = *appropriate to make the baptismal sign of the cross*
When "rise" or "kneel" is indicated, it is appropriate to sit if needed

Greeting And Announcements: *The Lord be with you! And also with you!*

[Rise] Easter Acclamation



Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

The Office of Confession of Sins and Absolution

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[Kneel]

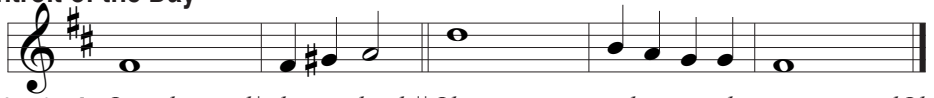
Our help is in the name of the Lord Who made heaven and earth.
I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord. And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

O almighty God, merciful Father; I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

The Congregation rises, turns towards the entrance of the nave, and faces the Cross of Christ, the reminder of Christ's promise to come and dwell among His people as they are gathered in His name.

Introit of the Day



[Antiphon] *I am the good | shep-__ herd. || I know my own and my own know me, ... and I lay down | my life for the | sheep.*

Verse 1: **Oh come, let us sing | to the LORD; || let us make a joyful noise to the | rock of our sal- | vation!**

Verse 2: *Let us come into his presence | with thanks- •giving•; || let us make a joyful noise to | him with songs of | praise!*

Verse 3: **For the LORD is a | great__ God, || and a great | King a- bove all | gods.**

Verse 4: *Oh come, let us worship | and bow down; || let us kneel before the | LORD, our Ma-__ | ker!*

Verse 5: **For he | is our God, || and we are the people of his pasture, and the | sheep__ of his | hand.**

Gloria: **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son: || and | to the Ho- ly | •Spirit•; As it was in the be- | •ginning•, is now, || and will | be for- ever. • A- | men!**

[Antiphon] *I am the good | shep-__ herd. || I know my own and my own know me, ... and I lay down | my life for the | sheep.*

Kyrie



Lord, have mer-cy up - on__ us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.



Lord__ have mer - cy up - on__ us.

Gloria



Glo-ry be to God on high: And on earth peace, good will •toward• men.



We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor-ship Thee, we



glo-ri - fy Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glo - ry



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God_ the Fa-ther Al - might - y.



O Lord, the on-ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ, O Lord God,



Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther, that tak - est a - way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on__ us: Thou that tak-est a-way the sin of the



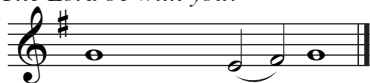
world; re - ceive our prayer Thou that sit - test at the right hand of God the



Fa-ther, have mer-cy up-on us. For Thou on-ly art ho-ly, Thou on-ly art the Lord. Thou on-ly, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost, art most high in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Salutation

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir— it.

Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Easter: *Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that, when we hear the voice of our Shepherd, we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



A ——— men!

[Be Seated]

+ **The Office of the Word of God** +

First Reading..... **Acts 2:42-47**

[After the reading] *This is the word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle of the Day **1 Peter 2:19-25**

[After the reading] *This is the word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

[Rise] **Sequence Hymn** **Our Paschal Lamb** **Burgundy Hymn 473**

Holy Gospel **St. John 10:1-10**

[The Gospel is announced.]

[The Gospel is proclaimed.]



Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord!



Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

Confession of Faith (The Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

[Bow] And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sits at the right hand of the Father; And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen!

[After the Gospel has been returned to the Altar following the Creed, the congregation is seated.]

Hymn of the Day The King of Love Burgundy Hymn 709

Sermon

[Rise] **Prayer of the Church**

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs: [After each petition]:..., Lord, in Your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**
[After the final prayer]:..., one God, now and forever **Amen.**

[Be Seated] **Offerings**

Choral Voluntary My Shepherd Will Supply arr. V. Thompson

[Rise] **Offertory Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God**

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Thy pres- ence, and
take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of
Thy sal-va - tion; and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

Preface

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

And with thy spir-it. We lift _ them up un-to _ the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

It is meet ___ and right so ___ to do. ___

Proper Preface for Easter, Sanctus

It is truly meet, right and salutary ever more praising You and saying:


Ho - ly, ___ ho - ly, ___ ho - ly, ___
Lord God of Sab - a-oth; heav - en and _ earth are
full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless-ed is ___ He that com - eth in the name _ of the




Lord! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

[Remain standing] **Lord's Prayer**

[Pastor chants:] *Our Father who art in heaven; but deliver us from evil.*



For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo - ry



for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.


Words of Institution, Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always!




A - men


Agnus Dei




[Vs. 1 & 2] O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the



sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



[Vs. 3] O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the



sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - - - men.

[Be Seated]

Distribution Hymns I Am Jesus' Little Lamb Burgundy Hymn 740

Christ, the Word of God Burgundy Hymn 540

[All sing stanzas 1 & 2; Women alone sing stanza 3; Men alone sing stanza 4;
All sing stanzas 5 & 6; Rise for Stanza 6.]

Eucharistic Benediction

The Body and Blood of your Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting! ✠ Depart in Peace! Amen!

Post-Communion Canticle The Nunc Dimittis



1. Lord now— lettest Thou Thy
servant, de- part— in — peace, ac- cord- ing to Thy Word.
2. For mine__ eyes have seen
Thy Salvation,
which Thou hast pre- pared__ be— fore the face of all__ people.



3. a Light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the Glo- ry of Thy peo-ple Is - - - ra-el.



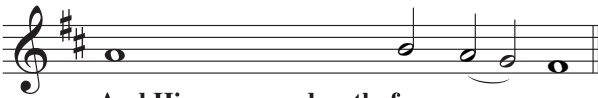
4. Glo- ry be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Ghost.



5. As it was in the beginning, is now, and e- ver shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Post Communion Rite

Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.



And His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

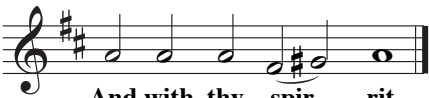
Prayer of Thanksgiving ...now and forever.



A - men.

The Lord be with you.

Bless we the Lord.



And with thy spir - rit.



Thanks be to God.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



A-men, A-men, A - men.



Christ is risen. Al- le- lu- ia! He is risen in- deed! Alleluia! Al- le- lu- ia!

During the Recessional, the Congregation turns and faces the Processional Cross, the symbol of Christ's promise to remain with and lead His people as they now go and live in the world in His name.

Recessional Hymn Have No Fear, Little Flock Burgundy Hymn 735

Postlude

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Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

The First Reading is Acts 2:42–47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The Epistle is 1 Peter 2:19–25

This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The Gospel is St. John 10:1–10

[Jesus said:] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Hymns for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

LSB473 Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free **Martin H. Franzmann**

1. Our Paschal Lamb, that sets us free, Is sacrificed. O keep
The feast of freedom gallantly; Let alleluias leap:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Again
Sing alleluia, cry aloud: Alleluia! Amen!
2. Let all our lives now celebrate The feast; let malice die.
Let love grow strong anew, and great, Let truth stamp out the lie.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Again
Sing alleluia, cry aloud: Alleluia! Amen!
3. Let all our deeds, unanimous, Confess Him as our Lord
Who by the Spirit lives in us, The Father's living Word.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Again
Sing alleluia, cry aloud: Alleluia! Amen!

LSB709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is **Henry W. Baker**

1. The King of Love my Shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His And He is mine forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.
3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.
5. Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!
6. And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever!

LSB740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb **Henrietta L. von Hayn**

1. I am Jesus' little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my need and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.

2. Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.
3. Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended, By His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.

LSB540 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate

Stephen P. Mueller

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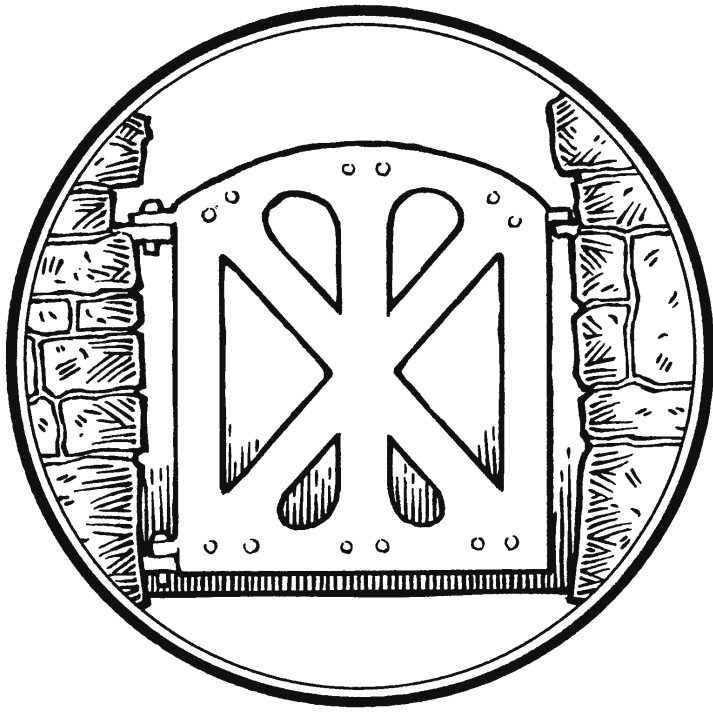
1. Christ, the Word of God incarnate, Lord and Son of Abraham;
Christ, the radiance of the Father, Perfect God, the great I AM;
Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished, Light and life You bring to all;
Light our path with Your own presence, Grant us grace to heed Your call.
2. Christ, the living bread from heaven, Food for body, food for soul;
Christ, the manna daily given, Nourish, strengthen, make us whole.
Feed us with the food of heaven, Foretaste of the feast to be;
Quench our thirst with living water Springing up eternally.
3. Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant From the stump of Jesse's tree;
Christ, true vine, You nurture branches To bear fruit abundantly.
Graft us into You, O Savior; Prune our hearts so we remain
Fruitful branches in Your vineyard Till eternal life we gain.
4. Christ, our good and faithful shepherd, Watching all Your lambs and sheep;
Christ, the gate that guards the sheepfold, Never-failing vigil keep.
When we stray, Good Shepherd, seek us, Find us, lift us, bear us home;
Lamb of God, our shepherd, keep us; Let us hear Your voice alone.
5. Christ, the way that leads unailing To the Father's home on high,
Christ, the truth that frees the captive, Christ, the life that cannot die.
Mediator to the Father, Sacrifice and great High Priest:
Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions, There to share Your wedding feast.
- △ 6. Christ, the Alpha and Omega, Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
Christ, the life and resurrection, Christ, the Church's glorious head:
Praise and thanks and adoration And unending worship be
To the Father and the Spirit And to You eternally.

LSB735 Have No Fear, Little Flock **Heinz Werner Zimmermann (st. 1);
Marjorie A. Jillson (st. 2-4)**

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1. Have no fear, little flock; Have no fear, little flock,
For the Father has chosen To give you the Kingdom;
Have no fear, little flock!
2. Have good cheer, little flock; Have good cheer, little flock,
For the Father will keep you In His love forever;
Have good cheer, little flock!
3. Praise the Lord high above; Praise the Lord high above,
For He stoops down to heal you, Uplift and restore you;
Praise the Lord high above!
4. Thankful hearts raise to God; Thankful hearts raise to God,
For He stays close beside you, In all things works with you;
Thankful hearts raise to God!

The Fourth Sunday of Easter



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

2313 Hanna Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46803 | 260-744-1389

pastor@zionfw.org, church@zionfw.org | website: www.zionfw.org

Zion Lutheran Church is the body of Christ at Hanna and Creighton in Fort Wayne, Indiana that:

- Receives Christ's gifts in Word and Sacraments; and
- Responds to God's love in Christ by
 - Reaching out to those who do not know His love; and
 - Revealing His love in acts of kindness and mercy.

The Pastoral Ministry at Zion

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Douglas D. Punke, MDiv (341-5397)

Field Workers:

Nathaniel Demlow, Joshua Fuchs

The Teaching Staff at Lutheran South Unity

Principal:

Amber Bahr (744-0459; www.lsusfw.org)

Teachers:

Yvonne Schwantz (8th, MS ELA), Michael Cullen (7th, MS Science),
Chase Mertz (6th, MS Social Studies), Danielle Ramsey (5th), Abbey Kohler (4th),
Rachel Wiegman (3rd), John Fink (2nd), Hannah Fink (1st), Michelle Madden (K),
Natalie Reynolds (Art), Elisa Sawall (Music), Lee Buxton (PE), Cathie Wakeland (Literacy Coach),
Arianna Blake (LSEM), Melissa White (FWCS) & Sarah Wheaton (EACS) (Title I Tutors)

The Support Staff

Organist and Director of Parish Music:

Michael Hollman, MM

Church Office Manager:

Melvia Culpher

PRAYERS FOR TODAY

- + For the church, especially those bearing the cross of persecution, including Bishop Juhana Pohjola and Dr. Päivi Räsänen (as they decide how further to proceed)
- + For those who serve our Lord at home and abroad, especially our teachers as they start of another academic year, our fieldworkers Nate Demlow and Josh Fuchs
- + For our nation; for our leaders; for our military, including James Hall & Thaddeus Cody
- + For our schools, especially Lutheran South Unity School, Concordia Lutheran High School, and Concordia Theological Seminary.
- + For those who travel
- + For the aged and the homebound
- + For those who are on hospice care or nearing death, especially Bob Ockree
- + For the ill, distressed, and those suffering affliction, including Melvia Culpher, Art Litke, Yvonne Kirtz, Henry Williams, Karen Coleman, Darryl Kirtz, Carl Albersmeyer, Estella Ramirez, Dick Hollman, Bill Weinrich, Dwight Bieberich, Damita Jordan, Jimmy Coffey, Al McFeter, Mike Ming, Elaine Seifert, Joe Harrison, Louisa Porter, Gary Phillips, David Groth, Gary Castle, Ron Rastl, and Robert & Jenny Hobby.
- + For God's blessing on all godly marriages, especially Greg & Ruth Albersmeyer
- + For the gift of life and for length of days and for pregnant mother Gabrielle Voss
- + For the gift of rebirth by water and the Spirit
- + For those who mourn the death of loved ones
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed, including Vanessa Smith
- + For our communicants and for a fruitful use of the most Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood

IN THE SERVICE TODAY

Today is the Divine Service for the Fourth Sunday of Easter. The Cross Bowl is given by David & DaVanna Seifert in loving memory of Vanessa Smith on the occasion of her birthday. The Altar Vases are given by Carl & Rosie Albersmeyer and family in celebration of the 25th wedding anniversary of Greg & Ruth Albersmeyer. Please complete an attendance communion card, including the names of all children, and indicate if you are communing. Non-members, please read the back of the card.

CALENDAR

April 26, 2026 thru May 2, 2026

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:45 AM	Education Hour	Various; see announcements
	10:45 AM	Education Council	Church
	4:00 PM	Bach Collegium Concert	Church
MON.	1:00 PM	Adult Catechesis	Conference Room
	5:30 PM	CEA Board meeting	CLHS
TUES.	9:00 AM	Weekly Bible Study	Bauer Hall
	12:00 NOON	Administrative Council	Conference Room
	7:00 PM	CTSFW Vicarage Placement Service	Kramer Chapel
WED.	9:30 AM	Men of Zion	Conference Room
	5:30 PM	Wednesday Divine Service	Chapel
	7:00 PM	CTSFW Call Service	Kramer Chapel
THURS.			
FRI.	6:30 PM	LSUS Celebration of the Arts	Bethlehem Gym
SAT.	9:00 AM	Great American Clean up	Neighborhood
	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church

May 3, 2026

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:45 AM	Education Hour	Various

ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDUCATION HOUR: the Adult Bible Class continues its study of Ephesians, chapter 2, in Bauer Hall, led this week by Sem. Nate Demlow. The Alternate class on Lutheran Identity led by Rich Schwantz, meets in the Conference Room.

TODAY we are blessed to hear Pastor Bienfait Romeo from the Congo preach the Good News to us. Hear him proclaim Christ, the door to the sheep pen, who welcomes His sheep into His flock here in the U.S. and in Africa. Next Sunday, the blessings continue as our own Rev. Dr. Samuli Siikavirta will preach to us of Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with our annual spring cleaning.

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN: our baby bottle campaign for A Hope Center—a life affirming, Christ-centered ministry offering free support to women and families facing unplanned pregnancies. This is a simple but powerful way to make a difference. On the way out today, pick up a baby bottle and fill it with coins, cash, or check (payable to A Hope Center). Every gift helps provide hope, support, and life-saving care. Bottles are due back by May 17th.

BOOK SIGNING: President Matthew Harrison and Prof. John Pless will be signing copies of their new book, *Bible and Confessions?* in the CTSFW Commons immediately after chapel (about 10:30 am) on Thursday, April 30th. See the posters around church for more info.

THE GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN UP: if you are interested in helping clean up the neighborhood on May 2, 9AM-11AM, please let Melvia know so that she can plan on having t-shirts, gloves, and snacks ready.

LWML ladies of Zion, DaVanna would like a crew of ladies to help deep clean Bauer Hall and the kitchen on May 9th, at 9:00 AM (April 25 didn't work because of Bach Collegium rehearsals). If you would like to help please let her know.

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE: John 17:17 “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.” Last week’s verse was Mark 12:29-31.

A GOOD GIFT PLAN WITHIN AN ESTATE includes inheritance for family and gifts to ministry. Sometimes the family side of things can be a bit tricky to plan. Letting your family know about your estate gift plans is especially crucial regarding the charitable desires you have. Even if you choose not to share all the details of the inheritance you plan to give them, you should communicate the list of ministries you desire to support and why. This way, those family members will have clear insight into the details included in your estate plan, instead of heads filled with questions. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can assist in sorting through which conversations you want to have. Contact Mark Muehl at 260-241-4845 or mark.muehl@fnd.org.

CTSFW: Vicarage Placement and Call Services are this Tuesday and Wednesday, 7 PM. There, students (including our *fieldworker Nate Demlow*) will find out where they will serve as vicars, deaconess interns, or pastors in the coming year. You are invited to join them on campus at Kramer Chapel or via livestream at ctsfw.edu/callday.

SPRING RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE at Trinity Lutheran Church, 7819 Decatur Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46816 on Thursday, May 7th from 4:00 PM-7:00 PM, Friday, May 8th from 10AM-6:00 PM. The \$3 bag sale will be Saturday, May 9th from 9:00AM-12Noon. For more information, call 260-447-2411.

SPRING ELEMENTARY STRINGS CONCERT Come to an evening of beautiful music at Concordia Lutheran High School’s Spring Strings Concert on Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the CLHS Auditorium. This special performance will primarily feature our elementary and middle school orchestras, with additional performances by student musicians from Concordia Lutheran High School’s orchestra. This event is free and open to the public, making it a perfect opportunity for family, friends and community members to come together and celebrate our students’ hard work. We look forward to seeing you there for a wonderful night of music!

CTSFW invites applications for the positions of Advancement Officer, Annual Giving Officer, and Campaign Coordinator. For full position descriptions and to apply, visit ctsfw.edu/employment.

For the family of God’s Priestly People at Zion

God calls His own people a “Royal Priesthood.” God makes us kings and queens, princes and princesses who are bound together by the Holy Spirit in Baptism for the Christian benefit of each other. Priests **PRAY** — They talk to God about their neighbor! Priests **TEACH** — They talk to their neighbor about God! Priests **OFFER SACRIFICES** — They offer to God the sacrifice of broken and contrite hearts; they offer their bodies and work as holy services to God for their neighbors. Join in this priestly work of prayer with your fellow members.

Morning Prayer

John 10:1-10
Luke 9:18-36
Luke 9:37-62
Luke 10:1-22
Luke 10:23-42
Luke 11:1-13
Luke 11:14-36

DAILY LECTIONARY

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

Evening Prayer

Acts 2:42-47
Leviticus 9:1-24
Leviticus 10:1-20
Leviticus 16:1-24
Leviticus 17:1-16
Leviticus 18:1-7, 20–19:8
Leviticus 19:9-18, 26-37

THE DAILY PETITIONS OF THE CHURCH

[Daily] **O Lord, have mercy upon us. O Christ, have mercy upon us. O Lord, have mercy upon us.** Let us pray:

[S] For the joy of the Resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; for diligent preaching and hearing of God’s Word of Law and Gospel; for our pastors; for the teachers and students of our Sunday School; for our Bible Class leaders and their students; for our catechumens; Lord, in Your mercy,**hear our prayer. Amen!**

[M] For workers; for the unemployed; for farmers; for seasonable weather; for businesses small and large; for our leaders, federal, state and local; for the economic welfare of the nations on earth; for peace in our world; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[T] For the tempted; for the addicted and despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; for the lonely; for the sick, the hospitalized, and the needy; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[W] For fathers, mothers, and families; for those adults who must rear their children alone; the teachers and students of Lutheran South Unity School and Concordia Lutheran High School; Lord, in Your mercy,**hear our prayer. Amen!**

[T] For the Church and her pastors; for the training of ministers of the Word; for missionaries of the Church; for the leaders of the Church, including Matthew, our synod president, and Richard, our district president; for those who have not heard the Gospel; for the fruitful use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord’s Body and Blood; Lord, in Your mercy, .. **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[F] For the preaching of the Cross; for those persecuted for the sake of Gospel; the confession of the orthodox Lutheran faith in our community; Lord, in Your mercy,**hear our prayer. Amen!**

[Sat] For faithfulness unto life’s earthly end; for the revival of those who have withered in the faith or fallen away; for the dying; Lord, in Your mercy,**hear our prayer. Amen!**

[Daily] **The Our Father**

TO PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

The Fifth Sunday in Easter

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14



What Doctor Luther Says:

About Christ – Our Lord, Our King, Our Shepherd

Christ is the true and eternal God with the Father and Holy Spirit in an undivided divine being, and true, natural man. He came to earth and served us; for our good He established a kingdom in which we could enjoy Him, so that He might not remain all by Himself in the Godhead, but also might become like us and be our Ruler. As Psalm 95:6, 7 says: “Oh, come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.”

But David keeps the unity of the person firm and sure. He gives Christ the King two names – a great divine name, Lord; and a small human name, Ruler. Thus he indicates the two natures in Christ, the divine and human nature; yet he speaks not of two, but of one single Lord and Ruler, to show the unity of the person, that Christ the Lord, our Ruler, is one single person. He distinguishes the natures and gives each nature a special name. Yet he does not divide the person, but keeps the person undivided. Let us follow this prophet, as by the Holy Spirit he prophesies that Christ is the Lord and the Ruler of us all and yet is not two Lords nor two Rulers nor two Messiahs nor two Kings, but one single Lord, our Ruler, one single Messiah and King.

Luther's Works, 12:100.

Summary of meeting of the Council of Elders, April 9, 2026
The following summary is being provided in accordance with
the congregation's bylaws, §VIII

Attendance:

Elders present: R. Lammert (chairman), A. Litke (secretary),
W. Krause, J. Teasdale, K. Vlot.

Elder absent: F. Jackson, T. Muehl.

Pastor present: Pr. Punke.

Pastor Punke led the elders in a devotion by continuing
the reading of Article V of the Apology of the Augsburg Con-
fession.

In his report Pastor Punke included updates on a recent
death, on health issues among Zion members, on Holy
Week worship services, on a new member to be received on
the Sunday following the meeting, on the possible recovery
of inactive members, on Bible classes, on a recent ordina-
tion/installation, on our possible involvement in a district-
sponsored Hispanic outreach, on an upcoming visit from a
representative of the Holy Land Christian Solidarity Coopera-
tive to inform us about the struggles of Christians in the Holy
Land because of wars, on matters in regard to the upcoming
LCMS convention and regional pastors' conference, on our
continuing recovery from the lightning strike of April 2025, on
LSUS, and on CLHS.

The elders reviewed their Goal #1: "In the current quarter
of the calendar year, Zion will experience a 10% increase in aver-
age worship attendance over the same quarter of the previous
year." Using the elders' count of attendance, the elders noted
that the attendance for the first quarter of the year showed
an increase of 16.7% over the same quarter in 2025. How-
ever, the statistics are slightly skewed, since the first quarter
of this year included Palm Sunday; while the first quarter of
last year did not. Pastor Punke and the elders continue to
call on members who have missed attending for more than
four weeks of in a row.

The elders reviewed their Goal #2: “The elders will sponsor at least annually an opportunity for providing resources and training for members to gain confidence in inviting neighbors to Zion.” This goal is on hold until late summer.

The elders reviewed their Goal #3: “The Council of Elders will oversee the implementation of the recommendations regarding the ‘Family’ factor of vitality in the final report from the ad hoc committee on responding to the CADDs survey. The council will assign responsibilities to individuals and groups to carry out the recommendations, and will assess monthly the progress in each area of assigned activity.” As their first task, the elders selected the task of conducting a survey to find out how best to serve Zion’s families. The task is in process and will continue.

The elders reviewed their Goal #4: “The Council of Elders will oversee the implementation of the recommendations regarding the ‘Community’ factor of vitality in the final report from the ad hoc committee on responding to the CADDs survey. The council will assign responsibilities to individuals and groups to carry out the recommendations, and will assess monthly the progress in each area of assigned activity.” As their first task, the elders selected the task of investigating the possibility of sharing a Communications Coordinator with two or three other Lutheran congregations. The task is in process and will continue.

The elders continued their review and revision of the congregational document *The Christian Funeral*.

The meeting was closed by praying Responsive Prayer 1.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard A. Lammert, Chairman

LSUS NOTES

Praying for You!

Please pray for these students/staff:

Kaiden	Pla
Josiah	Vicente
Adonis	Anthony
Yanuell	Jeremiah
Jacielle	Mrs. Washington
NaTika	



Mrs. Bahr Awarded the Founders Fund Award

Amber Bahr was recently honored as the recipient of the 3rd Annual Founders Fund Award at Cross Connections Counseling Ministry's Spring Partnership Celebration. This award recognizes a member of the community who consistently advocates for personal, emotional, spiritual and relational wellness in the lives of those around them—while living it out in their own life.

Cross Connections Counseling, a professional Christ-centered counseling organization, provides master's-degreed counselors who are uniquely equipped to walk alongside individuals and families through life's challenges. Our school is blessed to partner with Cross Connections for counseling services, making this recognition especially meaningful to our community.

The Founders Fund Award reflects the heart of Cross Connections' mission: ensuring that no individual or family is turned away from receiving care due to financial hardship. Through the Founders Fund, Cross Connections provides subsidized and fully funded counseling services to individuals and families in need, helping bridge the gap between professional care and affordability.

The Founders' Award is presented to leaders who actively champion mental health and make a lasting impact in their communities. Mrs. Amber Bahr is recognized for her daily commitment to fostering a culture of care, encouragement, and relational health within her school community. Through her leadership, she has intentionally supported students, staff, and families by prioritizing emotional well-being, modeling Christ-centered values, and advocating for healthy relationships. Her influence extends beyond the classroom, impacting the broader community through her dedication to nurturing both academic and personal growth. We are grateful for her service and proud to celebrate this well-deserved honor.



LSUS Admissions

OPEN FOR 2026

School registration is now open! Get registered today and save BIG!

Enroll Now

Early Bird Specials
~~February 22nd - March 15th \$99 with maximum of \$199~~
 March 16th - April 30th \$120 with maximum \$240
 May 1st - May 31st \$140 with maximum \$280

Regular Registration
 June 1st - June 30th \$180 with maximum \$360

Late Registration Fees
 July 1st - August 15th \$200 with maximum \$400

Registration must be paid within the registration discount dates for discount to apply

Contact Us  lsus.org  260-744-0459

Registration is now open at Lutheran South Unity School! We are excited to continue providing a strong academic foundation rooted in Christ-centered values. If you know any families with elementary-aged children who are looking for a nurturing, faith-filled school community, please help us spread the word. Your invitation and support make a meaningful difference as we grow this ministry together!

Encouragement Found in Scriptures:

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

— John 11:25-26

Primary Election Season

RLNI Voters' Guides are on the table in the Narthex.

Early Voting

2026 Primary Election

Monday – Friday, 4/7 – 4/24 8:00AM – 4:30PM (First day of voting is a Tuesday)

- Rousseau Centre ONLY – 1 E Main St

Saturday, 4/25 8:00AM – 3:00PM

- Rousseau Centre – 1 E Main St
- Ivy Tech Coliseum Campus – 3800 N Anthony Blvd

Monday – Friday, 4/27 – 5/1 8:00AM – 8:00PM

Saturday, 5/2 8:00AM – 5:00PM

- Christ's Community Church - 10616 Liberty Mills Rd
- Firehouse Reception Hall – 3322 Honway Ct
- Grace Point Church – 8611 Mayhew Rd
- Ivy Tech Coliseum Campus – 3800 N Anthony Blvd
- Public Safety Academy – 7602 Patriot Crossing
- Resurrection Lutheran Church - 14318 Lima Rd
- Rousseau Centre – 1 E Main St

Monday, 5/4 8:00AM – Noon

- Rousseau Centre ONLY – 1 E Main St



MAY EVENT SCHEDULE

FACEBOOK: BRIDGE 20/30 GROUP FT. WAYNE | INSTAGRAM: THEBRIDGE2030

5
MAY 2026

THE PORCH NIGHT: SERIES ON ¼ LIFE CRISIS

7 PM HOLY CROSS YOUTH CENTER
3420 N. ANTHONY BLVD

12
MAY 2026

MEETUP - MI PUEBLO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT
\$1.99 TACO TUESDAY | \$2.99 MARGARITAS

7 PM 2419 W. JEFFERSON BLVD
NEW HAVEN, IN

19
MAY 2026

BRIDGE SUMMER KICKOFF SOCIAL
SPEED MEET, VOLLEYBALL & BACKYARD GAMES

7 PM THE GARDEN
3308 N. ANTHONY BLVD

26
MAY 2026

GAME NIGHT W/ MICHAEL!

7 PM THE GARDEN
3308 N. ANTHONY BLVD



The Shepherd's Hand
COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER

260-424-2224

shepherdshandfwed@gmail
shepherdshandfw.org

5K RUN & WALK



MAY 2ND, 2026

Time

9 AM - 10 AM

Location

1231 S Anthony Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN



Ready to join the 5K fun? Find race info and registration at

[runsignup.com/Race/IN/FortWayne/
TheShepherdsHandCommunity5k](https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/FortWayne/TheShepherdsHandCommunity5k)

CAMP LUTHERHAVEN ALBION, IN



CAMPERSHIPS
AVAILABLE



Children - Youth - Teens - Families



...INTO ADVENTURE