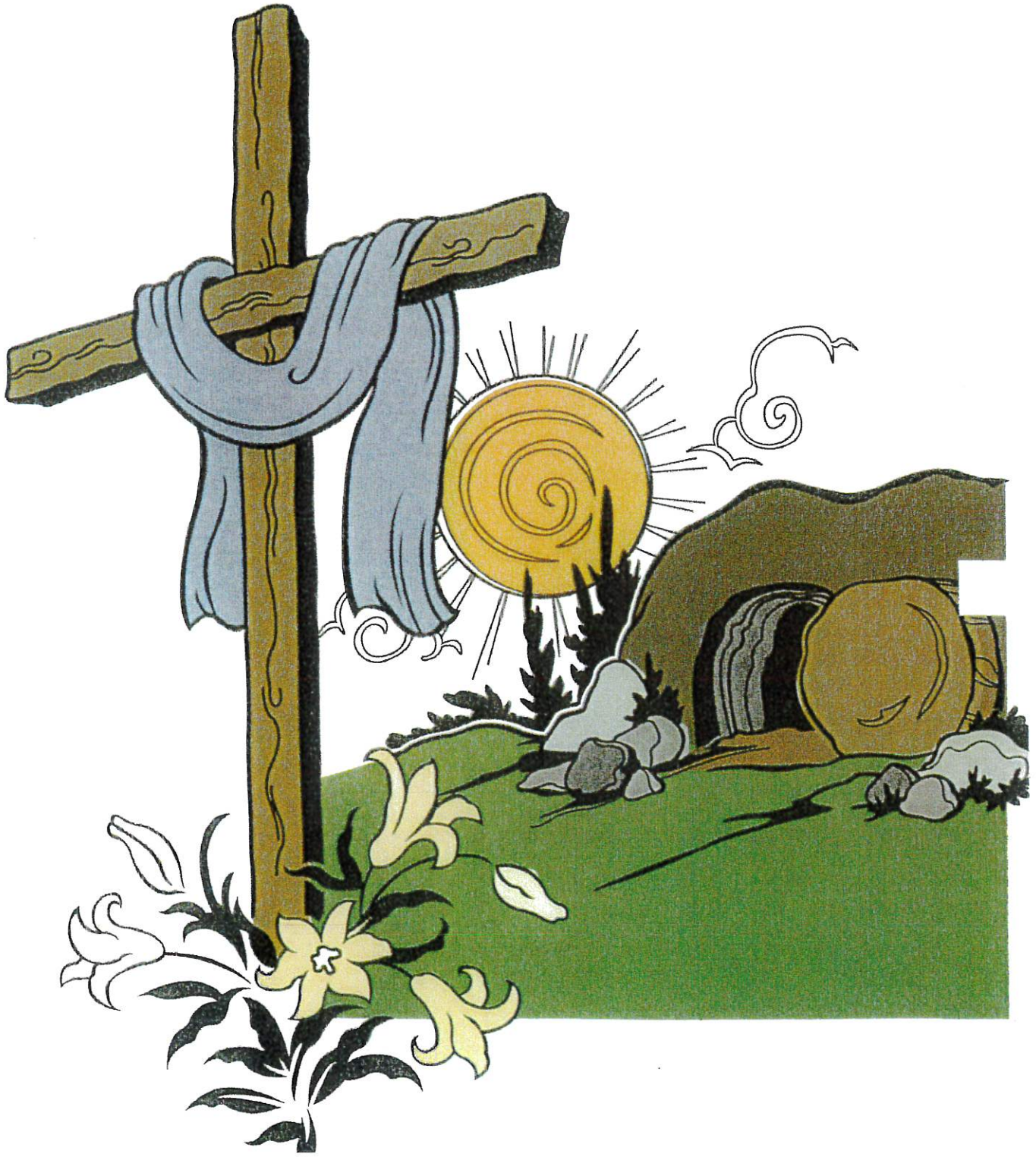


He is Risen!
He is Risen, Indeed!
Alleluia!



From Pastor's desk...

April 2021

Dear Fellow-Redeemed of Zion,

As most of you know, April is the month of my birth, April 20, 1946, William Beaumont General Hospital, El Paso, Texas, around 4:30 in the afternoon. An Army hospital chaplain was there to apply water and the Word. And so began, what is to this date, a three-quarter-of-a-century life.


But wait! We are already eternal beings at conception, endowed with all the elements which would bring us to full human personhood. Our lives, therefore, began at conception. That is the science. God's plan of our creation is not a political opinion. It is a Biblical fact. "In sin, my mother did conceive me," writes the Psalmist. If nothing happens, we will all die in that same sin.

But wait! Baptism happens, and in that blessed water and Word, life is restored, faith imparted, and heaven opened. Perhaps you have wandered far from your Baptismal graces. We ALL have in one way or another.

But Easter has changed everything! Our baptism was connected to the death and resurrection of Jesus! Now the life we live we live in the Son of God! "If we live, we live unto the Lord. If we die, we die unto the Lord. So whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Now, that is something to crow about, shout out loud, and trust that no matter what happens here, we belong to Jesus, and we trust His words, "And lo, I am with you always, even to the very end of the age."

Blessed Easter, and April!

Pastor T. 

April

Zion News...



Holy Week Services... Palm Sunday service with Communion (3/28) 10:15 A.M.
 Maundy Thursday (4/1) service with Communion 7:00 P.M.
 Good Friday (4/2) service 7:00 P.M.
 Easter Divine Service, Sunday, (4/4) 10:15 A.M.

+++++

Welcome new communicant members... Emery Greene and Isaac Rennecker have completed their course of study and expressed their desire to join the faith family of Zion as communicant members. Their Rite of Confirmation will be held during the Palm Sunday Service. We welcome these young men to our communicant membership!

Due to the ongoing pandemic, there will be no fellowship breakfast following the services on Easter morning. We pray to be able to resume our traditional breakfast next year!

^^^

New Sound and Video System... Thanks to the generosity of The BRANDT Foundation, funds have been donated in Glen Brandt's memory to be used to install a new sound and video system. The new system will provide better sound and enable the live streaming of our services. We will also be able to download the recorded services to our website. If all the technical difficulties the installation has encountered are resolved, the Easter Divine Service will be the first to utilize the new systems.

@ @

Quarterly Meeting of the Voter's Assembly... the April quarterly meeting of the Voter's Assembly will be held immediately following the Divine Service on April 25. All voter's are encourage to attend. New members of the Voter's Assembly are always welcomed! Simply attend the meeting!



Reason # 3

Tithers Experience the Joy of Giving

A woman once saw a poor barefoot child roaming the street of a large city. She took the child by the hand to the closest shoe store and bought the little girl socks and shoes. With "happy feet," the little girl ran gleefully from the store. Disappointed that she had not even received a word of gratitude from the child, the woman paid for the socks and shoes. As she walked out the shop door, however, the little girl returned, eyes bright with excitement. "Are you God's wife?" she asked the woman. Smiling, the woman said, "No, but I am God's child." The little girl said, "I knew that you were some kin of His."



By grace, God has adopted us as His children. What a wonderful privilege God has given us to be able to call Him our Father! Just meditate on this: The Son of God became one of us so that we might become the sons and daughters of God Almighty. As God's children, nurtured and transformed by Word and Sacrament, His giving character becomes our character. Because His goodness flows through us, we are able to offer shoes and socks to those who are in need, and we experience the joy of giving.

Peyton Conway March, a distinguished U.S. army general, said, "There is a wonderful law of nature that the three things we crave most in life — happiness, freedom, and peace of mind — are always attained by giving them to someone else." Giving to God and others allows us the opportunity to forget about ourselves and focus on others. A leading psychiatrist once observed, "Generous people are rarely emotionally or mentally ill." Giving is not just a minor influence on good health, but a key to physical and mental well-being.

If you are not experiencing the joy of tithing, ask God to change your heart so you can grow in your giving and become a person who tithes cheerfully.

Prayer: Dear good and gracious Heavenly Father, help me to overcome my selfishness. Change my heart so I may become a loving and giving person. Grant me the joy of giving. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



Dr. Thomas J. Egger has accepted the call to serve as the 11th president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and will begin serving in this new role March 15, 2021.

Egger is currently the Gustav and Sophie Butterbach Professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Seminary. He also is the chairman of the Department of Exegetical Theology and the academic adviser for first-year students. He has been a faculty member at the Seminary since 2005.

Egger served as pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Storm Lake, Iowa, from 2000–05. He previously served as a guest instructor at Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, in 1999.

Egger earned his Master of Divinity at Concordia Seminary (1997), and received his Bachelor of Arts in English and German from Central College in Pella, Iowa (1993). He completed his Doctor of Philosophy at Concordia Seminary in 2019. His dissertation focused on the phrase “visiting iniquity of fathers upon sons” from the book of Exodus.

His areas of interest and expertise include biblical Hebrew, the books of Genesis and Exodus, Old Testament theology, Old Testament Christ-typology, divine justice, narrative and rhetorical analysis, the nature and authority of Scripture, and “objectionable” texts in the Bible (those often raising criticisms of divine violence and accusations of divine immorality).

He has made contributions in the area of American Lutheran history, especially the history of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and its first president, Dr. C.F.W. Walther. Another area of special interest is the theology of Luther’s catechisms and the intersection of the catechism and the Bible in Lutheran teaching and piety.

He has written pieces for a number of publications, including *Concordia Journal*, *Modern Reformation*, *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, *Concordia Pulpit Resources* and *The Lutheran Witness*, and for the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR).

In addition to his Seminary duties, Egger currently serves on the Board of Regents for Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill., and on the Concordia Historical Institute (CHI) Awards Committee. He served three terms on the CTCR and was part of the seven-member LCMS Catechism Revision Committee, which prepared the 2017 revision of the Synod’s explanation of Luther’s Small Catechism. For 10 years, he served on the Board of Directors of Providence Classical Christian Academy, a K–12 school in St. Louis, Mo.

His favorite pastimes are running, Cardinals baseball, birdwatching, hiking, golf, reading stories and poetry to his children, and singing hymns with his family. He and his wife, Victoria, have been blessed with six children: Andrew, Stacey, Abram, Bonnie, Ellen and Mary.



SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)Having Trouble Viewing this Email? - [View as a Webpage](#)**Romans 5:1-11**

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured

Life in Christ

Wednesday of Epiphany 3
27 January 2021

The law and the gospel each have their own tasks. Those tasks are not exclusive of each other. Just as Christians also have callings of various kinds: father, church member, child, employee, citizen, etc. and sometimes those callings have contrary expectations, so too the law and the gospel do not exclude each other in the Christian life, but each has its own purpose and function in our lives. Sometimes those functions of the law and gospel are very much contrary to each other. Martin Luther says that the law and the gospel are "*non plus contraria*," that is, the greatest opposites. According to the law we owe the sacrifice of our life, including a life of obedience to the divine will. That will never change. The trouble is that, even after we are firmly fixed in our Christian faith, we will still

into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die - but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. (ESV)

stumble over the law's implacable and unchangeable requirements. Our sacrifices are ever and always tainted by our perverse self-regard. The good that we know we should do, we don't do (Rm 7:15-21). This is the continual and agonized experience of the Christian. He knows and regards himself to be a sinner. This is why he needs Christ. If we could get clear of our wickedness on our own, Christ would have died for no reason (Gal 2:21).

Both the law and the gospel are great blessings to the church and her children. Both come from God and are for our good. Both are the word of God. But each has its own purposes and functions. We are to be obedient to the law for the sake of our neighbor. The law gives us a clear view of what is owed to our neighbor for God's sake. However, the law will always fulfill a critical role over against human self-righteousness. Every person remains under the law in its critical role as the pedagogue (Gal 3:25) that beats us into the admission that we need and will always need Christ. So this text: "But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian" (Gal 3:25), must not be taken to mean that the law's pedagogical function ceases insofar as we need the law, but that it has no place where and when the gospel and its faith in Christ as mediator are established. As sinners, we still have need of the law's pedagogical and instructive functions. We seek to obey the law, but also recognize that because of the indwelling of the old Adam, we will always fall short. The gospel as the testimony to God's grace will always follow upon the law's work.

It is so easy, though, to get focused on the law and its work in our lives and to fall into a legalistic way of life or, worse yet, to despair of our salvation. This is why Luther suggested that the cry for mercy not only frees us from the accusations of the law and its accruing guilt, but that it must also drive our view of the divine blessings as well. The gospel must shape our whole life in Christ. This is a Christological necessity. If Christ is to be our God, He must also be our whole and entire salvation. That is Christ's work for us. To deprive Him of His saving activity is to deny His essential deity. Trust in Christ alone for salvation is a first commandment thing. If Christ is our God we will offer our obedience to

the law, but for salvation always stand in the gospel alone.

Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray
Memorial Lutheran
Church



Martin Luther

“Thus obedience under the law was to sacrifice, and yet below the prophet says: ‘For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering’ (Ps 51:16). Yes, there were sacrifices, but they did not do away with mercy. In the same way we follow the law through the Holy Spirit, and yet the word “Have mercy” remains; that is, we remain sinners and have need of the gratuitous forgiveness of sins through the merit of Christ. Therefore, mercy is our whole life even unto death. Still Christians yield obedience to the law, but imperfect obedience because of the sin that dwells in us. Therefore, let us learn to extend the word “Have mercy” not only to our actual sins but to all the blessings of God as well: that we are righteous by the merit of another; that we have God as our Father; that God the Father loves sinners who feel their sins. In summary, all our life is by mercy because all our life is sin and cannot be set against the judgment and wrath of God.”

Martin Luther, *Lectures on Psalm 51, 1*

Prayer

Lord Christ, You have justified us by faith, and given us peace with God through You. We have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Help us to rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Amen.

For Angie Thacker, that she would be strengthened in her confession of the resurrection of the flesh and the life of the world to come

For all medical researchers, that, through the gifts that the Lord gives, they might find cures and therapies to serve the humans whom God has created

For the family and friends of Bill Korinek, whom our Lord Jesus Christ took into His nearer presence, that they would confess the faith unto eternal life with those whom they love

For the members of Congress, that they might serve the people in way that promotes the common welfare

Art: **GRÜNEWALD, Matthias** *Isenheim Altarpiece* (c. 1515)



Contact Us



Visit Our Website



The Camp CILCA Lowdown

April, 2021

217-487-7497 / camp@cilca.org / 4124 Camp Cilca Rd, Cantrall, IL 62625

- **Spring Clean Up Day:** Saturday, March 27
 - 8:30-11:30, then lunch.
 - Lots of cleaning to be done.
 - A controlled burn on 7 acres will also be done.
 - Contact the camp office to let us know you are coming!
- **Women's Scrapbooking Retreat:** April 16-18 at the Christian Growth Center
 - \$80 covers your stay and 5 meals
 - Saturday evening worship service
 - Space is limited. Contact the camp office and reserve your spot today!
- **HELP NEEDED!** Camp CILCA is seeking to fill 2 positions year-round:
 - **Assistant Cook:** \$14/hr, part-time
 - **Maintenance:** \$12/hr, part-time
 - For more information contact the camp office today!

Summer Camp Registration is OPEN!

ALL FOR ONE,

& ONE FOR ALL

CAMP CILCA OUTDOOR MINISTRIES |
SUMMER PROGRAM 2021 |



"For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised."

11 Corinthians 5:14-15

Find out more on-line at www.cilca.org

Email camp@cilca.org

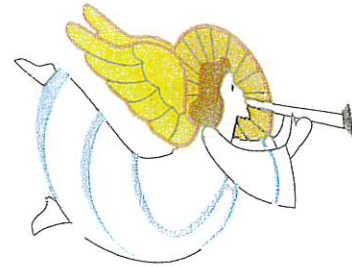
Call 217-487-7497



APRIL

Birthday's

Rileigh Rennecker	4/5
Shirley Hagen	4/14
Crystal Schneider	4/15
Lloyd Fraase	4/20
Rev. Don Pritchard	4/20
Jeanette Ealey	4/22
Blake Hermes	4/23
Abby Bruce	4/27
Aimee Pritchard	4/27



Baptism Birthday's

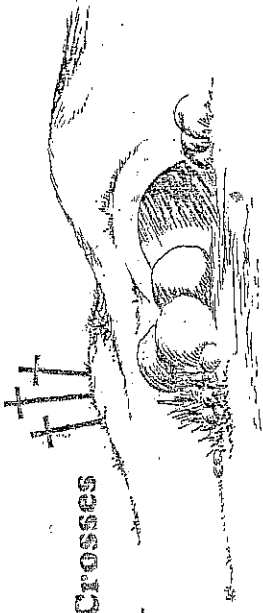
Dale Dobbe	4/1
Dennis Boesdorfer	4/10
Elias Morgan	4/10
Madyson Carter	4/11
Karen Lockeby	4/12
Andrea Marvel	4/12
Russel Miner	4/13
Addison VanZeLe	4/13
Blayke Strubbe	4/14
Rev. Don Pritchard	4/20
Aimee Pritchard	4/26
Nancie Klein	4/27

Wedding Anniversaries

Allan & Christina Gleason	4/3
Bob & Karen Lockeby	4/5
David & Donna Clark	4/12
Kevin & Laura Hecht	4/13
Paul & Dawn Zerkel	4/26



Three Crosses

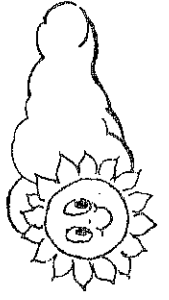


April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Palm Sunday Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Sunday	29	30	31	1 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 P.M.	2 Good Friday Service 7:00 P.M.	3
4 Easter Sunday Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M.	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.	19	20	21	22 Pastor at Luhi Chapel 10:26 A.M.	23	24
25 Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. Quarterly Voter's Meeting	26	27	28	29	30	1

Notes: Elder Paul Zerkel

The April meeting of the Voter's Assembly will be held immediately following services on April 25.



Zion's Newsletter
April, 2021

Zion Lutheran Church
Rev. Don Pritchard
525 North Cartwright
P.O. Box 167
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677
(217) 626-1282

Adult Bible Class 9:00 A.M.
Divine Service 10:15 A.M.

LCMS

Email: zionpp@casscomm.com
Website: www.zionpp.net