



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH • SCHOOL

COLOGNE, MN

14745 Co. Rd. 153
Cologne, MN 55322

www.zion-cologne.org

April 2025

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Mission Statement
Zion Lutheran Church, Cologne, MN is a branch of Christ's family saved by grace alone, rooted in God's love, and growing in faith through worship, teaching, fellowship, and service as we reach out to others with the good news of Jesus.

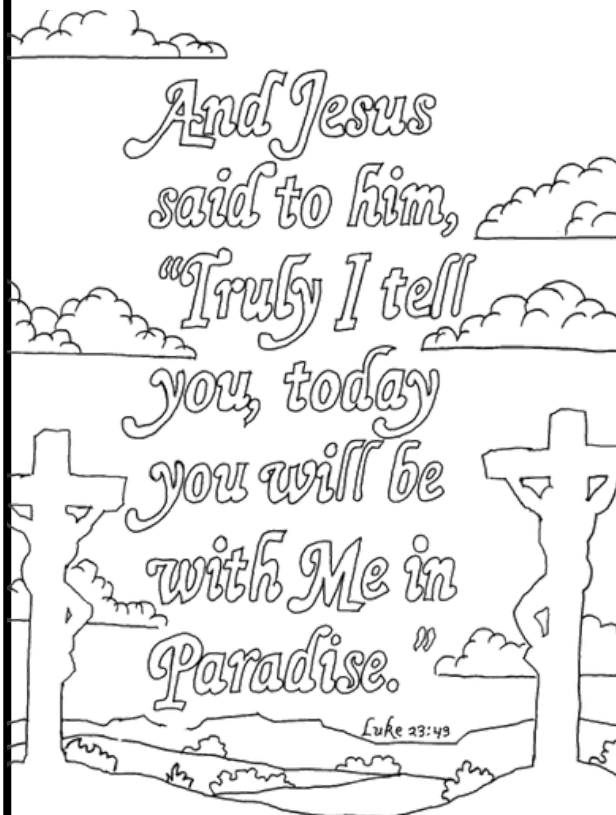
JESUS DIDN'T SAVE HIMSELF FROM THE CROSS-- HE SAVED OTHERS BY IT

The crucified Jesus was mocked for not saving himself from his death on the cross; but while Jesus was able to save himself from death, he knew that his life was to be given up to save others from their eternal death. The man dying next to Jesus had faith that Jesus could save him.

1) Mockery is infectious. The religious leaders taunted Jesus; and other onlookers who witnessed His death did the same. Jesus was not surprised at the mockery, since Scripture had predicted the hostile crowd. "All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; 'He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!'" No wonder Jesus cries out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me!" (Psalm 22)

2) God moves us to repentance. The man on the cross recognized his own sinfulness. While the one thief hurled insults at Jesus, saying "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!", the other thief scolds him: "Don't you fear God, since you are under the same sentence of death? And we rightly so, for we are getting what we deserve; but this man has done nothing wrong!" (Luke 23:39ff). What a stunning transformation. The thief no longer mocked Jesus but now he defended Him. What changed? God gave this man wisdom and a guilty conscience, along with faith, that moved him to confess his sin.

3) God offers salvation through the Gospel. Even though the thief knew his death was inevitable, he suddenly had hope that God would show mercy. Why? This man had seen Jesus taking all the abuse and not reacting to those who mocked him. Jesus had suffered all things without retaliation. This by itself is incredible. Greater yet, this same Jesus calls out to God: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!" These words offered hope to the dying man; if Jesus forgives his enemies, maybe there is hope for me! The Gospel kindled faith in the life of this thief. Even though Jesus is bound to die, this criminal has faith that God might show mercy on him.



4) Faith makes us bold to pray. Although it is unreasonable on many levels, the repentant man cries out, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Normal kings don't die on crosses--and what hope can be offered by a dying king? Faith lays hold of the impossible, grabbing hold of that which doesn't seem possible. This thief believed that this Jesus was more than an earthly king; this Messiah is the Savior and King of a greater kingdom.

5) Faith is rewarded. Jesus answered the repentant thief: "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." This thief was destined to die a tortuous death on the cross, followed by an eternal separation from God in hell. Then God intervened with a word of hope, by way of Jesus, who was dying next to this man. Faith laid hold of that hope and prompted him to reply, "Jesus, remember me." Faith lays hold of the promise of God; by it this man was saved.

What Does This Story Mean for Us? The Apostle Paul wrote, "We are saved by God's grace through faith; and this is not of ourselves. It is a gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Salvation is a gift from God. The repentant thief had no time to supply good deeds to make up for his mortal sins; he could not repay those he had stolen from, help the poor, or make restitution for his sins. He might not have had a sophisticated faith or an extensive knowledge of the Bible. All he could do is look to the Savior with faith and ask for mercy. God does not delight in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked would turn from their way and live (Ezekiel 18:23). This man repented of his sin and confessed Jesus as an innocent man; moreover, he fixed his faith on Jesus, as Savior and Lord.

God gave his Son for the life of the world; whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. The truth is there for the perishing: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. There is no one that does good and doesn't sin. The wages of sin is death. The good news is there for those who have faith: The gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. As Jesus himself said, "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that I shall lose none of those He has given Me, but raise them up at the last day. For it is My Father's will that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

With the death of Christ comes the promised eternal life.

Blessings to you, in His holy name.

Pastor Eric Zacharias

LADIES AID/LWML

Zion Lutheran Women's Missionary League/Ladies' Aid * March 13, 2025

Eleven members were present at our March 13th meeting. We began our meeting with St. Patrick's Day themed treats provided by Barb Henschen, featuring cake with green frosting and green sprinkles, ice cream, and home-crafted maple syrup. We are especially grateful that several members who have experienced health issues were able to join us!

Bev Rolf gave the devotion, "Gifts," based on Romans 12:6. It emphasized that we all have different, very special gifts. We have been given gifts of prophecy, service, teaching, encouragement, leadership, and mercy. We pray that God will give us the boldness to use our God-given gifts and talents to serve others He has placed in our lives.

President Martha Molnau welcomed the group and Pastor Zacharias led our Bible Study, taken from the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly, entitled "Confessing What We Believe." Following Bible Study and inspiring discussion, Martha opened the business meeting with the League Pledge.

LADIES AID/LWML CONTINUED

Minutes of the February meeting were reviewed and a motion was seconded and carried to approve them. In the absence of Treasurer, RoNaye Gnan, Betty Klaustermeier presented the Treasurer's report which was reviewed. A motion was seconded and carried to approve the Treasurer's report and file it for audit.

Correspondence was received from various ministries, like the American Bible Society (to which we've contributed this year), Support Life of Minneapolis, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, and Lutheran Bible Translators. A motion was made and seconded to send our March mission grant to Lutheran Bible Translators.

Roxanne Pieper gave a report on the **Zone Board Meeting** with a reminder that our **Carver Zone Spring Mission Gathering** will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025, beginning with refreshments at 9:00 AM, and the rally at 9:30 AM. Our guest presenters will be Dave and Darlene Fretham of Orphan Grain Train, with a special appearance by Curt Ziermann who will answer questions regarding the Orphan Grain Train storage unit in Mayer, MN.

Jeanne Friske's funeral was held on Saturday, March 8. The Mary Group hosted the funeral luncheon and served 168 people. Bev Eggers reported that everything went well. The Mary Group was assisted by Jen Buetow, Donna Stacken, and Nancy Buckentine.

Lenten Supper * Our LWML groups (Mary & Martha) will serve the Lenten supper on March 19th. Each member is asked to bring either bars or a salad.

Confirmation Photo Display * Juliene and Roxanne shared information regarding a display board for our historical confirmation photos. They will want to work with the Trustees to proceed with the project; but before doing so, they sought approval for funds to come from our LA/LWML treasury. A motion was seconded and carried that the LA/LWML would fund the project.

Zion's Fish Fry was held on Friday, March 7th, from 3:30-7:30, which served up 1,054 meals. Wonderful stories were shared surrounding the Zion Fish Fry. One could see the smiles, sense the kudos, and imagine the virtual high-fives for a job well done, with special thanks to those who worked behind the scenes in preparing the fish, as well as the side dishes. That very afternoon the walk-in cooler broke down, after about 20 years of service. Bev Rolf noted that the walk-in cooler's entire refrigeration unit has since been replaced. (The interior of the cooler, the walls, ceiling and floor, did not need replacement.) It was noted that the kitchen supply should include small serving tongs; Roxanne will order those. The kitchen could also use additional rubber spatulas; Bev Rolf will purchase those.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn. Our next meeting will begin with our LWML Prayer Service on April 10, with RoNaye Gnan serving as hostess.

Roxanne Pieper, assisting Mary Zacharias, Secretary



WHAT'S GOING ON AT ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

by Tom Marcsisak

Zion Lutheran Students Take on the Kids Heart Challenge

Zion Lutheran students put their hearts into the **Kids Heart Challenge** from March 24th–28th, kicking off with an all-school assembly on March 17th, where they learned about heart health and played Heart Health Family Feud. Throughout the week, students enjoyed themed dress-up days while also learning lifesaving skills, including the warning signs of a heart attack and stroke and hands-only CPR. Their efforts made a real impact—raising \$1,197.13 for the American Heart Association! Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this important cause!



Honor Roll

Congratulations to the following Zion students for their achievements in the 3rd quarter of the 2024-2025 school year. Their grade is in parenthesis.

Principal's List (97% and above):

Jaelynn Obermeyer (1), Alaina Spector (1), Tanner Olson (2), and Charlie Gustafson (6).

High Honor Roll (93%-96%):

Julia Bones (1), Brendan Rolf (1), Nolan Simones (1), Christian Meuwissen (2), Cooper Olson (2), Sawyer Olson (2), Silas Traver (2), Daniel McCloskey (3), Jonah Merkling (3), Elsie Gustafson (4), Whitney Olson (4), Levi Spector (4), Selah Currie (5), and June Grundmeier (5).

Honor Roll 89%-92%:

Monte Bassamore (3), Chase Buetow (3), Megan Rolf (3), Charlie Sudheimer (3), Eloise Wasness (3), Nellie Wasness (5), Brady Rolf (6), Oliver Wasness (6), Jacob Widmer (6), Isaac Bones (7), Ben McCloskey (7), and MJ Root (8).

FINANCES

Salary:

Beginning Balance (1/1/2024)	\$58,368.48
YTD Income	\$40,945.68
YTD Expenses	\$118,504.66
Current Balance (3/7/2024)	-\$5,661.48

Missions:

YTD Total (2/28/2025)	\$1,680.00
Budgeted	\$9,830.00
Non-budgeted	\$0.00
2025 Pledge	\$6,500.00
2025 Goal	\$15,000.00

LHS:

YTD Total (2/28/2025)	\$8,062.00
2024 Commitment	\$21,945.00
Per communicant member	\$55.00

Maintenance Fund:

Account Balance (4/1/25)	\$15,208.10
Suggested household contribution	\$750.00

FISH FRY

Zion's Fish Fry Report 3/20/25

Guests:	1054
Gross Total:	\$18,562.50
Expenses:	\$6,940.40
Net:	\$11,622.10

Disbursed:

Maintenance Fund*	\$665.10
Salary Fund:	\$1,000.00
Cooler Repair:	\$8,802.00
Hood Repair	\$555.00
Washington DC Trip:	\$600.00

**the money to the maintenance fund will be used toward repairing the parking lot.*

The Fish Fry is a huge Group Effort.
A big thank you to everyone who
volunteered and donated desserts!

-Zion Fish Fry Committee

USHER SCHEDULE

April 6th	Kael Herrera Jacob Hoen
April 13th	Berlinn Koepp Reagan Koepp
April 17th	Ava Dose Sam Dose
April 18th	Kaydra Boelke Anna Brueggemeier
April 20th: 1st	Brooke Moen Abby Moen
April 20th: 2nd	Libby Hoen Madalyn Sons
April 27th:	Ushers needed

Thank you to those who gave to
Zion Lutheran Church and School in memory of their
loved ones.

To Zion Salary Fund in Memory of:

Robert Herrmann \$545.00
Jeanne Friske \$50.00

ZEL Silent Auction * Sunday, April 27th*

Mark your calendars!!! Come before church for donuts, browse the items, worship in church, then stay for lunch and bid on some great items. Rolling Hearth Bistro and Sweet Winks will be offering their digestive delights for our enjoyment. We will also have carnival games again for the kiddos to enjoy. It is a great day of fellowship and we can't wait to see you all there!

We could also use your help!

We are in need of donations for the auction to make it a success. If you have an item, gift certificate, or monetary donation to contribute. Thank you for your support!

Membership Notes

BIRTHDAY LIST

- 1 Jenna Buetow
Luke Rolf
- 2 Ruth Harms
Jason Schneider
- 3 Glenn Traver
Mava Olson
- 4 Brittany Moen
Weston Stahlke
- 5 David Dietzel
Burton Gruenhagen
Donald Smith
- 7 Levi Spector
- 8 Tiffany Olson
Leah Radde
- 10 Brady Rolf
Hannah McCloskey
- 13 Nicholas Haller
- 16 Rick Haler
- 17 Ivan Molnau
Cole Sauter
- 19 Jolene Bergs
- 22 Dennis Buehler
Kael Herrera
- 23 Evan Dietzel
- 24 Tonya Spector
- 26 Jessie Hamble
- 27 Gerald Buetow
Timothy Richardson
Amanda Vinkemeier
Ryan Sudheimer
- 28 Jordyn Coder
Susan Stuewe
- 29 Ashley Firkus
Lynn Zellman

ANNIVERSARY LIST

- 8 Charles & Ilene Dietzel
- 16 Donald & Rose Smith
- 20 Dave & Raneë Bingham
- 23 John & Dorothy Miller

REMEMBERING OUR SOLDIERS

John Michael Bones
Eben Karnitz
Edward "Eddie" Karnitz

BAPTISM

Levi Daniel Hoen
Born February 27, 2025
Baptized April 6, 2025
Sponsors: Richelle Hoen,
Dylan Bingham,
and Colin Bingham.

VISITATION LIST

Cologne

Ralph Buetow
Carol Buetow

Norwood

Ellen Arndt
Allen Friske
Barb Scholz
Dixie Brueggemeier

Waconia

JoAnn Herrmann

Glencoe

Bob Boltmann

Maple Plain

Harriet Tellers

Minneapolis

Joycelyn Rolf

Camp Omega * Volunteer Clean-up Day* May 17th.

Join others in Christian fellowship while preparing Camp Omega for this summer's ministry programming. Entire families are welcome to enjoy a fulfilling day of service, fun, and recreation. The day kicks off Saturday morning with check-in starting at 7:30am and ends Saturday evening with a campfire devotional. Join us for any part of the day as your schedule allows. Arrive any time after 7:30am and depart any time before 9:00pm. Breakfast, lunch, supper and evening campfire devotions are provided. **Cost: This is a FREE event! Pre-registration is requested.**

The Zion Ladies Aid/LWML Spring Outing Thursday, May 1st.

Ladies & gentlemen are invited, as guests, and the surrounding community. We will go to the Sidekick Theater at the Minnesota Heritage Center for a white-linen lunch and a comedy performance of "Perfect Wedding." Complete details are in the brochure found in the Narthex. Cost is \$90/person and includes all fees and gratuity. Your paid registration will confirm your seat. If you have questions, contact Roxanne Pieper by phone/text at 952- 393-5973.

Baptism

Levi Daniel Hoen

Born February 27, 2025

Baptized April 6, 2025

Sponsors: Richelle Hoen, Dylan Bingham,
and Colin Bingham.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	01	02	03	04	05
		Dartball vs. Hamburg 7:30 PM	Lenten Services 3:30 & 7:30 PM Lenten Supper: Baked Potato Bar Confirmation 4:30	Chapel at The Harbor 10:00 AM	Chapel 8:15 AM	
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Church Service 9:30 AM Baptism of Levi Daniel Hoen Dartball Tournament 12 PM New Germany			Lenten Services 3:30 & 7:30 PM Lenten Supper: Pizza and Salad Confirmation 4:30 PM	LWML Prayer Service 9:30 AM	Chapel 8:15 AM	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
					No School - Office Closed	
Palm Sunday Service - Communion 9:30 AM		Evangelism Meeting 7:30 PM	Confirmation 4:30 PM	Maunder Thursday Service 7:00 PM	Good Friday Service	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 AM Easter Breakfast 7:45 AM Easter Festival Service 9:30 AM	No School - Office Closed Newsletter Items Due to the Office		5th-8th Grade Spring Play 7:00 PM		Chapel 8:15 AM	
27	28	29	30	01	02	03
Church Service Communion 9:30 AM ZEL Silent Auction					Chapel 8:15 AM	
04	05	06	07	08	09	10



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Return Service Requested



Honoring God

Holy Week

April 13th Palm Sunday 9:30 AM

April 17th Maundy Sunday 7:00 PM

Holy Communion

April 18th Good Friday 7:00 PM

Resurrection of Our Lord

April 20th Easter Sunday 7:00 & 9:30 AM

Easter Breakfast 7:45 AM



**Zion Lutheran School's
Silent Auction**

Sunday, April 27th

Donuts 8:30 AM (Free Will Donation)

Silent Auction 10:30 AM

Live Auction 12:00 PM

also includes carnival games &
food trucks

