



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

COLOGNE, MN

14745 Co. Rd. 153
Cologne, MN 55322

www.zion-cologne.org

April 2026

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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.

EASTER: A TIME TO MEND AND FIX ALL THINGS!

During Lent, our theme **TORN!** led us through the many moments in Scripture when clothing was ripped apart in response to deep human emotions—grief, betrayal, judgment, repentance, lament. These were not small gestures. In the biblical world, tearing one's garments was the outward sign of an inward rupture: the heart itself torn open.

Job's robe, torn in grief, as his world collapsed.
Joseph coat was torn in betrayal, by jealous brothers.
Samuel's robe, torn in judgment, by Saul, who lost his kingship.
King Josiah, in repentance for the neglect of God's Word.
David, lamenting injustice, the murder of his friend Abner.

Lent reveals the brokenness that Jesus endured—our losses, our sins, our failures, our sufferings. Jesus endured the cross and shame: His body given, His side pierced, His life laid open. Lent showed us the tearing.

**Easter shows us the mending:
God brings together what we have torn asunder!**

On that first Easter morning, God began His greatest act of restoration. On Easter morning, the grave clothes lay neatly folded—left behind like the last remnants of a world built on sorrow and death. What the world tore apart, **God brought back together** in the resurrection of His Son. The bloodied and beaten body of Jesus is restored beyond recognition of the disciples. They could not believe their eyes!

Jesus opens up our path to God! The Temple Curtain was torn from top to bottom at the very moment Jesus died. This was a sign of judgment, yes, but also a sign of God Himself intervening, ripping open the barrier of sin that kept humanity from His presence. In the resurrection God does not leave things torn. He mends what had been shattered. He restores what had been ruined. He binds up what had been broken.

The risen Christ returns to His disciples not as a ghost but as a healed Savior. He bears the battle scars—the marks of the nails in his hands and feet; the mark of the spear that pierced his side. Easter says that the tearing is finished and the mending has begun. That is Easter's promise for us.

Easter heals your own torn places—strained relationships, fractured peace, wounded consciences, shattered hopes. The God who raised Jesus from the dead is the God who "heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3). The God who mended the torn life of Jesus will also mend us. Forgiveness of sins! Hope! Peace! Life!

Easter proclaims that nothing remains forever torn. God relieves grief, negates betrayal, overrides judgment, forgives all sin. The power of death is blunted by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. He is the first of all human beings to have eternal life.

In Christ, every torn place finds its healing. Every broken thread is rewoven by grace. Every rift is given the possibility of restoration. God brings together all that we have torn asunder—our lives, our relationships, even the world itself. He calls us to love as he loved and to forgive others as he forgave us.

Easter begins the new season of resurrection joy, may We watch with hope for the places where God is at work mending what we thought was beyond repair. For the One who was torn for us now lives to bind up our wounds with His unbreakable life. This is the gift of God for us. It is the message of salvation for us to share. In Jesus' name.

He is risen! He mends all things—which changes everything: Alleluia!

FINANCES

Salary:	
Beginning Balance (1/1/2026)	\$42,429.99
YTD Income	\$79,330.84
YTD Expenses	\$121,471.53
Current Balance (3/24/2026)	\$289.30

Missions:	
YTD Total (3/18/2026)	\$1,455.00
Budgeted	\$1,455.00
Non-budgeted	\$0.00
2026 Pledge	\$5,500.00
2026 Goal	\$15,000.00

LHS:	
YTD Total (3/18/2026)	\$1,622.66
2026 Commitment	\$22,000
Per communicant member	\$55.00

Maintenance Fund:	
Beginning Balance (1/1/2026)	\$19,771.14
YTD Income	\$52,373.14
YTD Expenses	\$70,454.95
Current Balance (3/19/2026)	\$1,689.33
Suggested household contribution	\$750.00

USHER SCHEDULE

April 2nd	Jacob Hoen
April 3rd	Ava Dose Sam Dose
April 5th (1st)	Brooke Moen Kaydra Boelke
April 5th (2nd)	Libby Hoen Madalyn Sons
April 12th	Berlinn Koepp Reagann Koepp
April 19th	Jacob Hoen
April 26th	Ava Dose Sam Dose

Camp Omega * Volunteer Clean-up Day* May 16th.

Join others in Christian fellowship while preparing Camp Omega for the arrival of over 1,600 children and adults for Camp Omega's summer ministry programming. Entire families are welcome to join in a fulfilling day of service, fun, and recreation.

Camp Omega summer counselors will lead the youth and children in age-appropriate service projects and recreational activities. The weekend 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 weekend as your schedule allows. Pre-registration is requested.

Arrive anytime after 7:30am and depart anytime before 9:00pm. Breakfast, lunch, supper and evening campfire devotions are provided.

Cost: This is a FREE event! Pre-registration is requested.

LADIES AID/LWML

Zion Lutheran Women's Missionary League/Ladies' Aid * March 12, 2026

Eight members and one guest were present at our March meeting. Our annual **Prayer Service** was held in the meeting room and was led by Roxanne Pieper and Bev Rolf. This service, authored by the late Rev. Barrie Henke, focused on the elements of worship:

Prayer: Praise Remember, Ask, Yield, Excitement and Rejoice.

Following the service, we enjoyed treats brought by Bev Eggers. We began our meeting with the LWML Pledge and Martha Molnau called the meeting to order. We were given a copy of the December minutes to review, as they were not available at the Feb. meeting. We also reviewed the minutes from the February meeting. A motion to accept both sets was seconded and carried. Although she was absent, we reviewed the financial report submitted by RoNaye Gnan. Her report was discussed and a motion was seconded and carried to accept it and file it for audit.

Correspondence: Martha Molnau noted that we had not received as many mailings this past month; this might be due to her request for them to limit their mailings. Roxanne clarified that the Dakota Boys Ranch would be receiving District monies this year. A motion was made to give our monthly gift, along with our mites, to the Minnesota South District Mites collection, as our LWML District is currently behind in meeting its goal.

Committee Reports * Christian Life—Roxanne reported on the Carver Zone Spring Delegate Board meeting, held on February 28 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Watertown. It was noted that Pastor Zacharias will remain our Zone's LWML Pastoral Advisor; the Zone is searching for another pastor who would share in the duties and whose term would overlap, allowing for a continuous succession of oversight. It was also noted that our group (Zion, Cologne) is responsible for providing a banner for the LWML MNS District Biennial Convention (held June 18–20, in Mainkato); we discussed how the banner might be designed and constructed, reflecting the convention theme, "The Peace of Christ" (Colossians 3:15–16a). **Funeral**—The Martha Group hosted the funeral of Charlie Dietzel, on February 14; 148 were served (had planned for 200).

Unfinished Business * Our group will host the final **Lenten Supper**, to be held on March 25th; our original meal was cancelled, due to the snowstorm that fell on Ash Wednesday. We will be serving chicken and dumpling soup and chili. Members are to bring bars or desserts. We received a sheet indicating items that will be collected for the "Gifts From the Heart." We are to bring them to our April meeting and Roxanne will be taking them to the Convention. Mary will ask Anne to put this in the bulletin and newsletter also. Pastor and Mary will attend the District Convention as Pastoral and Member Delegates in June and will register for this.

The Confirmation Pictorial Display is on track, especially as \$1000 has been given from the church and \$500 from Zion Education League (ZEL) for this project. Our idea is that the section of closets to the right of the display case might be modified, removing the doors and installing lights; this plan is pending the approval and development by the Trustees.

There were no March Birthdays this month. There was no further business. Our next meeting will be held April 9th at 9:30am with Barb Henschen serving as our hostess. We closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Zacharias

WHAT'S GOING ON AT ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

by Kateryna McCloskey

March at Zion

March was a quieter month at Zion Hill, but there are still several highlights worth celebrating.

Our 7th and 8th-grade boys wrapped up their basketball season at the end of February. While the season came with its share of challenges, the team showed great growth—developing their skills, strengthening teamwork, and most importantly, enjoying the game they love.

We also celebrate a meaningful milestone for this year's Confirmation class—Isaac Bones, Benjamin McCloskey, and Henry Johnson. After completing their study of Luther's Catechism, they participated in Questioning Night on March 27. The following Sunday, each student shared a personal faith statement and affirmed their commitment to a lifelong walk as faithful Christians.

Another exciting development for Zion School is the unveiling of our new logo. With the help of alumni Jesse Molnau and Grace Dose, this updated design reflects both our heritage and our vision for the future. Finally, we are proud to recognize the academic achievements of our 5th–8th-grade students for the third quarter. Their dedication and hard work have earned them placement on the Honor Roll, High Honor Roll, and Principal's List.

Honor Roll: Elsie Gustafson (5), Saribel Smalley (5), Arthur Simones (6), and Oliver Wasness (7).

High Honor Roll: Aurelia Koepp (5), Whitney Olson (5), Levi Spector (5), Isaac Bones (8), and Benjamin McCloskey (8).

Principal's List: Selah Currie (6) and Charles Gustafson (7).

Congratulations to all for their continued pursuit of excellence!

Thank God for many blessings!



Membership Notes

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARY LIST

VISITATION LIST

- 1 Jenna Buetow
- 1 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
- 16 Rick Haler
- 17 Ivan Molnau

- 19 Jolene Bergs
- 22 Dennis Buehler
- Kael Herrera
- 23 Evan Dietzel
- 24 Tonya Spector
- 26 Jessie Hamble
- 27 Gerald Buetow
- Amanda Vinkemeier
- Ryan Sudheimer
- 28 Jordyn Coder
- Susan Stuewe
- 29 Ashley Firkus
- Lynn Zellman

- 16 Donald & Rose Smith
- 20 Dave & Raneë Bingham
- 23 John & Dorothy Miller

REMEMBERING OUR SOLDIERS

Eben Karnitz
Edward "Eddie" Karnitz

Cologne
Ralph Buetow

Norwood
Ellen Arndt
Dixie Brueggemeier
Ruth Harms
Lorraine Dose

Waconia
JoAnn Herrmann
Carol Buetow

Belle Plaine
LuAnn Traver
Jackie Dose

Glencoe
Bob Boltmann

Minneapolis
Joycelyn Rolf

Baptism
Ernest James Gustaf
Born January 22, 2026; Baptized March 21, 2026
Sponsors: Hans and Jenny Gustaf and Emily Hallgren

Confirmation

Isaac John Bones
Zander Paul Hoen
Henry James Johnson
Benjamin Alexander McCloskey
Owen Jeffrey Sons

Tara Bones and Dustin Bones
Steve & Michelle Hoen
James Johnson & Tina Sparks
Robert & Kateryna McCloskey
Jeffrey & Theresa Sons

3/29/2026

Psalm 43:5
Joshua 1:9
Psalm 118:5
Psalm 23:4
Matthew 5:16

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	01	02	03	04
				Chapel at The Harbor 10:00 AM Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM	Good Friday Service 7:00 PM	
				No School - Office Closed		
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
SONRise Service 7:00 AM Easter Breakfast 7:45 AM Easter Service 9:30 AM Baptism of Aubrey Zacharias	No School Office Closed		Confirmation 5:30 PM	LWML Meeting 9:30 AM		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Church Service - Communion 9:30 AM Dartball Tournament at Young America 12:30 PM	Council Meeting 7:00 PM		Confirmation 5:30 PM			Dartball Lunch 11:30 AM at The Harth Norwood Chorus 2:00 PM at St. Pius Glencoe
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Church Service 9:30 AM Voters' Meeting Baptism of Delaney Bilski Norwood Chorus 2:00 PM at Church of Peace NYA		Evangelism Meeting 7:30 PM	Confirmation 5:30 PM			
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
Church Service - Communion 9:30 AM			Confirmation 5:30 PM			



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Return Service Requested



Honoring God

Holy Week

April 2nd Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM

Holy Communion

April 3rd Good Friday 7:00 PM

Resurrection of Our Lord

April 5th Easter Sunday 7:00 & 9:30 AM

Easter Breakfast 7:45 AM



Congratulations! 2026 Confirmands (left to right)
 Ben McCloskey, Henry Johnson, Isaac Bones, Owen Sons, Zander Hoen

ZEL Silent Auction * Sunday May 3rd*

Mark your calendars! Come to Zion for donuts, browse the items, and worship. Stay for lunch and bid on auction items. *Rolling Hearth Bistro* and *Squeaky Cow* will be offering their delights for our enjoyment. We'll also have carnival games for the kids to enjoy. It's a great day of fellowship. We can't wait to see you all there! **Food trucks subject to change.*

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. Thanks for your support!