



**ZION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH • SCHOOL**
COLOGNE, MN

14745 Co. Rd. 153
Cologne, MN 55322

www.zion-cologne.org

**May
2023**

Rev. Eric Zacharias
Pastor

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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 Surprises- greater than nail polish!

Guess what surprised some of the media on Easter morning?

Kate Middleton, the Princess of Wales, was spotted with bright red fingernail polish, paired with her chic blue outfit! (She normally wears neutral colors or no polish at all.) Hopefully, your Easter was filled with greater surprises.

Easter is all about surprises--and Jesus is the focus of them all.

- The boulder is not in front of the tomb.
- An angel announces that Jesus is not in the tomb.
- The living Jesus is out and about!
- Mary sees Jesus. Other women see Jesus, too.
- Peter and John race to the tomb--John is first!
- Peter sees Jesus.
- Two disciples walk & listen to a stranger--and learn it's Jesus!
- Jesus enters the Upper Room, revealing himself to all.
- Jesus showed his nail-pierced hands, feet and side.
- Jesus ate with them--and gave his blessing of peace.

And that's just the first day! Forty days would follow, with Jesus appearing, again and again. He showed himself to his brother, James. At one point, he showed himself to 500 followers. They saw him one last time, as he stood on the Mount of Olives and suddenly rises upward, until he is out of sight. And they wait for him to come back down. Surprise! He's done his work on earth--but the work will be done by those who believe.

Surprises continue, don't they? Surprise! Your nasty sins are forgiven. Surprise! Your fears melt with the word of peace. Surprise! Nothing can kill your hope, silence your voice, cancel your life. Why? Because God is good and his gift is faith and life and love. No one can take your crown. Unless you let them.

Christians view the Forty Days of Lent as a time of repentance and a "Season of sacrifice." So how shall Christians view the Forty Days of Easter?

Let Easter be a "Season of Surprises," a season of generosity, where we cast the Goodness of God to those near and far. Let praise ascend, along with prayers and rejoicing. Let good works be evident to all. There are surprises yet to come: God's love endures forever. Surprise others with God's love: forgive others. Encourage others in the word. Bring peace.

Blessings abound, in Jesus' Name.
Pastor Eric Zacharias

Ladies Aid/LWML

Meeting Notes from April 13, 2023

Twelve members were present at our April 13th meeting. We held our meeting in the church sanctuary due to the NSLA accreditation team meeting in the meeting room. Tables and chairs were brought up front to accommodate our meeting. Martha Molnau was hostess; and we enjoyed these treats at the beginning of our meeting. The devotion, "New Growth Again," was read by Roxanne Pieper.

Bev Eggers opened the meeting. Pastor began the meeting with the Bible Study from The Lutheran Woman's Quarterly (page 16) entitled, "God's Chosen People, Yesterday and Today."

We recited the LWML Pledge, and the meeting was called to order. The minutes of the previous meeting were noted, and a motion was M/S/C to accept them. The Financial Report was presented, and a motion was M/S/C to accept them. They will be filed for audit.

Correspondence received included **thank yous** from Vivian Buetow and Main Street Living; the William Gruenhagen family sent a thank-you, along with a check for \$100. An invitation to the **Dwelling Place** was received for an event on May 18. Charity requests were sent from the American Bible Society and River Valley Health. Since the **ABS** had an offer to triple our donation, a motion was M/S/C to send our monthly money to them. We then dedicated our Mites with a prayer from our booklet.

Committee Reports: **Christian Life** reminds us of the Spring Rally on April 22 at St. Peter's, Watertown. Thanks were given for those bringing in pillowcases for the project. The **Funeral Committee** reported serving 138 at Bill Gruenhagen's funeral.

Unfinished Business: Bev Rolf reported that 168 new forks were ordered and have arrived and are in the kitchen. There has been no update on our by-laws at this time.

New Business: **Our group is providing a Flower Basket for the Silent Auction on May 7th.** Julienne and Ruth purchased items at Flower Power in Lester Prairie for our donation: they got a planter which includes tools, gloves, gnome, plant food and plant. The cost was \$88 and a motion was M/S/C to provide this. We thank them for their work on this. **Quilting, anyone?** Ruth Vinkemeier has small fabric squares that she is donating for anyone that wants to make them into a quilt. We are looking into this.

We sang a song for Ruth Harm's birthday. No further business, the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. Our next meeting will be May 11, 9:30am, with Roxanne serving.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Zacharias, Secretary

Another School Year Almost Finished

By Tom Marcsisak

It seems like just a few days ago that we sat in church for our Opening Chapel Service. How quickly the year has gone by. Once again, we have had an interesting spring weather wise--almost 90 degrees followed by measurable snow. As always, the month of May brings with it many activities. Before we get to those, we must discuss a number of events from April.

NLSA Reaccreditation Completed

On April 12th the visitation team arrived to verify the information reported in our self-study. This self-study was completed over the course of the school year beginning all the way back in September. Each teacher and school board member were assigned standards of excellence to investigate and evaluate. In April, this study was reviewed to verify that we were/are in fact doing the things that the study reported. The visitation team found that we are doing a fine job, and our accreditation was renewed for another five years. They did find a number of items that will require our attention in the coming months and years. Most of those items were things that we are already aware of and are already addressing.

In April the 5th through 8th graders also presented their annual play. This year's production was a spoof on the short story **The Monkey's Paw**. The main idea was basically to be careful what you wish for.

Now on to May:

The 1st through 4th graders will also be presenting their annual play. On stage this year will be **The Phantom of the Music Room**. It will be brought to life on Thursday, May 4th, at 7:00 p.m. As always, there will be refreshments afterwards.

May also brings the Track Meet at Lutheran High. This year it will be held on Friday, May 5th. The 7th and 8th graders compete in the morning, and the 5th and 6th graders in the afternoon. Anyone may attend, and there are concessions available.

Also on the Athletic front...PLAY DAY!!!

This year we will be traveling to St. John's in Norwood/Young America. For those unfamiliar with Play Day, it is an all-day festival of food, fun, and fellowship--with a little competition mixed in. Students from Emanuel-Hamburg will also join in for races, relays, high jumping, long jumping, softball throwing, rope jumping, dodgeball, and tug-of-war.

AUCTION!!! AUCTION!!! AUCTION!!!

Mark your calendars!!! Sunday, May 7th will be the Silent Auction. Like last year, there will be food trucks. Rolling Hearth Bistro (pizza) and the Squeaky Cow (burgers, cheese curds, etc.) will be again offering their tasty treats for our enjoyment. New this year is Elephant Joe's Coffee. They will arrive at 9:00 for a pre-church caffeine kick. Returning this year is the LIVE AUCTION. It will begin at noon.

As the year comes to a close, we look ahead to next year. Zion continues to be blessed with a VERY supportive congregation, wonderful families, and a dedicated staff. One of those staff members, Mrs. Neils has announced that she will not be returning next fall due to personal reasons. The School Board has begun the process of filling that vacancy. If anyone in the congregation knows of someone that we should consider, contact a School Board member. Thank you, Mrs. Neils, for your year of service to the students of Zion Lutheran School.

God's blessings to you all as we transition from winter to spring to winter to spring. Have a blessed month of May.

SILENT AUCTION

Mark your calendars!!! Sunday, May 7th will be the Silent Auction with the return of the **LIVE auction**. We will again be having food trucks. **Rolling Hearth Bistro** (Huinkers) and **Squeaky Cow** (Pexas) will be offering their digestive delights for our enjoyment. Come before church for coffee from **Elephant Joe's**, browse at the items, worship in church then stay for lunch and bid on some great items. 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 volunteers to bring a **pie (or dessert)** for the **silent auction**, which is Sunday, May 7th from 9-12:30. Please bring them to the kitchen where they will be prepared to be sold. Thank you for your support!

2023 GRADUATION INFO

We will be featuring Zion's 2023 graduates in the June Newsletter; so if you have a family member that graduates from either high school or college this year, then please email us at office@zion-cologne.org with their name, from where they graduated, and future plans. For college graduates, include degree awarded. You can also add what career they are going into.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all our volunteers who helped us on clean-up day, Saturday April 29th, to keep our church grounds clean and looking nice. Our trustees do a fantastic job of bringing out the volunteers- and the big equipment. "Many hands make light work."

REMEMBERING OUR SOLDIERS

John Michael Bones
Eben Karnitz
Eddie Karnitz

FINANCES

Salary:

Beginning Balance (1/1/23)	\$33,877.65
YTD Income	\$119,713.55
YTD Expenses	\$139,701.90
Current Balance (4/18/23)	\$13,889.27

Missions:

YTD Total (2/14/23)	\$650.00
Budgeted	\$9,830.00
Non-budgeted	\$0.00
2022 Pledged	\$6,500.00
2022 Goal	\$15,000.00

LHS:

Year to date total (3/20)	\$14,422.66
2022 Commitment	\$19,250.00
Per communicant member	\$55.00

Building/Repair Fund:

Account Balance (3/31)	\$3,099.91
Suggested household contribution	\$750.00

USHER SCHEDULE

May 7 th	Amber & Anna Brueggemeier
May 14 th Mother's Day	Grace & Ava Dose
May 21 st	Lindsey & Abby Moen
May 28 th	Sam Dose Nathan Lenzen

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Join us this Memorial Day on Monday, May 29th for a special service dedicated to all of our veterans and those who have lost their lives to keep us safe. Service starts at 9:30am and ends with a presentation in the cemetery. A big thank you to Juliene Klaustermeier who researched and contacted members about those who served in the military. She also helped upgrade the cemetery map, marking all veterans.

2023 CONFIRMANDS

Kaydra Boelke, Elizabeth "Libby" Hoen, Sylvia Jorgenson, Berlinn Koepf, Brooke Moen, Stella Sibert, and Madayln Sons.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

BIRTHDAY LIST

- 1 Kurt Vinkemeier
- 2 Kasey Pitstick
- 4 Tara Bones
- 5 Jill Lenzen
- 6 Brett Pexa
Jacob Buetow
Brooke Buetow
Kellen Dose
Zander Hoen
- 11 Anne Traver
Lisa Sauter
- 13 Dixie Brueggemeier
- 14 James Ische Sr.
Brentley Waller
Erin Rolf
- 15 Jacob Thompson
- 16 Jason Geisel
- 19 David Traver
- 20 Lorraine Dose
Stephanie Gardner
Riley Behn
Olivia Merkling
- 21 Lindsey Moen
Brentley Thuening
- 22 Larry Hodgkin
Craig Pexa
- 24 Allen Friske
Mark Klaustermeier
- 25 Brayden Schulz
Joshua Thompson
Samson Traver
- 26 Kaydra Boelke
Denise Buetow
- 27 Harriet Tellers
- 28 Paula Rolf
- 29 Anica Herrera
- 30 Todd Moen
Deborah Walter
- 31 Philip Hokkanen

ANNIVERSARY LIST

- 1 David & Lisa Traver
- 2 Tim & Amy Sauter
- 5 Darrin & Penny Dietzel
- 6 Jeff & Beverly Ulrich
- 7 Leon & Sara Vinkemeier
- 11 John & Connie Geis
- 12 Rodney & Ann Boelke
- 15 Neil & Sheryl Gruenhagen
- 17 Jeff & Brenda Thompson
- 25 Alan & Nancy Buckentine
- 28 Eric & Mary Zacharias
Robert & Cassandra
Thuening

VISITATION LIST

- Belle Plaine**
Marjorie Wolter
- Cologne**
Marville Schmidt
Dixie Brueggemeier
- Green Isle**
Marlys Lenzen
- Norwood Young America**
Ellen Arndt
Lila Rolf
Joycelyn Rolf
Barb Scholz
- Waconia**
JoAnn Herrmann
Darrell Knorr
- Maple Plain**
Harriet Tellers

FUNERAL

William "Bill" Gruenhagen, 76
Born: August 20, 1946
Died: March 22, 2023
Funeral: March 27, 2023

BAPTISM

Stella Mae Sibert
Baptized May 2, 2023
Sponsors: Illa Roth,
Kim Bones, Arilea Pearson

2023
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	01	02	03	04	05	06
			Confirmation 5:30 PM	Chapel at The Harbor 10 1st-4th Grade Play 7 PM	Chapel 8:10 AM 5th - 8th Grade Track Meet MLHS	
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
Church Service 9:30 AM Silent Auction 9-12:30	MNS/MNN Pastor's Conference		5th & 6th Grade Camp Omega	LMWL Meeting 9:30 AM Last Day of School PK3	Chapel 8:10 Last Day of School PK4 Pre/KK Ceremony 6 PM	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Church Communion Service 9:30 AM			Confirmation 5:30 PM		Chapel 8:10 AM	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Church Service 9:30 AM			Play Day St. John's NYA	1/2 Day of School (No Lunch)	Chapel 10:45 AM Last Day of School School Picnic	
28	29	30	31	01	02	03
Church Communion Service 9:30 AM 8th Grade Graduation	Memorial Day Service 9:30					

Zion Lutheran Church & School—Pastor's Report * First Quarter 2023 * April

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...” 1 Peter 1:3-4

Events of the First Quarter (Jan, Feb, Mar)

- Jan** 1 Sunday – Officers received
16 Council Meeting (Voters Meeting held January 22)
22 Baptism: Hudson John Herzog
- Feb** 18 Funeral: Wally Buetow
22 Ash Wednesday (3:30; 7pm) Theme: Places of the Passion
24 Zion's Fish Fry
- Mar** 12 Daylight Savings Time
27 Funeral: Bill Gruenhagen 31 Questioning of Confirmands

Events of Second Quarter (April, May, June)

- April** 2 Confirmation HOLY WEEK: * 6 Maundy Thursday (7pm) * 7 Good Friday (7pm)
2 Baptism: Stella Mae Sibert
9 Easter
10 Council Meeting (Voter's Meeting on April 16, 2023)
12-14 NLSA Accreditation Team
30 Pr Zacharias on vacation (Pr Wismar at Zion)
- May** 7 Live & Silent Auction*Food Court 8-10th Spring Pastor's Conference
24 Play Day at St. John – Young America
26 End of Zion's Academic School Year
28 Graduation Recognition
29 Memorial Day (9:30)
- June** 10 Wedding: Amelia Kahle & Alex Lenzen
25 Wedding: Lisa Cooper & Byron Menke

Baptism

Herzog, Hudson John. b. 12/14/2022; bap 01/22/2023; Andrew & Krianna (Boelke) Herzog.
Sponsors, Andrew & Kindra Ghostley and Katie Herzog.

Sibert, Stella Mae, b 2/11/2009 Chad & Rachel Sibert; bap. 4/2/2023; sponsors, Kim Bones, Illa Roth, Arilea Pearson.

Confirmation – March 31, 2023

Kaydra **Boelke**, Elizabeth **Hoen**, Sylvia **Jorgenson**,
Berlinn **Koopp**, Brooke **Moen**, Stella **Sibert**, Madalyn **Sons**

Funerals

Buetow, Walter “Wally” H., 82, b. 9/12/1940; bap 10/20/1940; d. 2/13/2023, f. 2/18/2023.

Gruenhagen, William “Bill” H., b. 8/20/1946; bap 9/8/1946; d. 3/22/2023, f. 3/27/2023.

Transfer

Buehler, Brian to Trinity Lutheran Church, Carver, MN.

Activity for Quarter

Zion's Voting Delegate: John Bruesehoff * **Community-wide Easter Mailing**, Evangelism
Lenten Suppers, by ZEL, LWML, Chance Outreach * **Easter Breakfast**, hosted by Youth Group.

Upcoming—beyond this quarter * **Vacation Bible School**, TBD * **LCMS Vote:** June 17 to July 11
Weddings: Lori Zacharias-Matthew Bernard, 9/30; Megan Bingham-Brandon Hoen, 10/6;
Katie Rolf-Alex Klaustermeier, 10/14

Principal's Report for April 2023—Mr. Tom Marcsisak

- Auction scheduled for May 7, 2023 with food trucks, rather than breakfast.
- Lutheran Schools Week was held in January, 23-27
- Kindergarten / Preschool round-up letters were sent out...enrollment looks good.
- Mrs. Alicia Neils informed us that she will not be returning in the fall (personal reasons).
- 3rd nine-weeks was concluded (parent-teacher conferences were held).
- Achievement testing will take place this week (April 17-21)
- Washington D.C. Trip plans are being made for 2024.
- Fifth through eighth grade play will be presented on Monday, April 24th.
- Track Meet at Mayer Lutheran High School, Friday, May 5th.
- ZEL Plant Sale delivery is Friday, May 5th.
- First through fourth grade play will be presented on Thursday, May 4th.
- Play Day is May 24th, at St. John's-Young America.
- Last day of school is May 26th.
- Graduation (six students) is scheduled for May 28th.
- NSLA Reaccreditation is complete, with some recommendations.

Mayer Lutheran High School * School Year Theme: Prepared to Excel—2 Corinthians 8:7

2022-23 Enrollment: Grade 9: 46 * Grade 10: 52 * Grade 11: 48 * Grade 12: 35 * Total = 181

Genesis Virtual Academy continues to outpace last year's enrollment results.

Mayer Middle School will be opening the fall of 2024. They are seeking a Principal; if you know of a candidate for this position, contact Joel Landskroener (MLHS Executive Director) via email at joel.landskroener@mayerlutheran.org, or by 952-657-2251 ext. 1007.

Staffing—Looking for a teacher of English & Theology or English & Social Studies—see Mr. Willaby.
Also, substitute teachers and bus drivers are also needed—see Mr. Kris Gustin.

Knights/Crusader Coaching Camps or Knights Activity Camps provide a great way for young people to sharpen skills, try a new activity, meet new friends, and have fun! Visit the Knights page on Mayer's website and view the listing of sports, art, music, drama, and robotics. Contact: Barb Christopherson.

Knights Baseball - April 22/23 & 29/30 * Knights Softball - April 29/30 & May 6/7

Seussical™ — Friday and Saturday, April 21 and 22 at 7 PM and Sunday, April 23 at 2 PM



Zion Lutheran Church
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Return Service Requested

Zion Lutheran School's Silent Auction

Sunday, May 7th

9am – 12:30pm

Live Auction at noon



includes carnival games,
desserts, and food trucks

