

Zion Lutheran Church
516 W. 4th Street
Medford, OR 97501
541-772-4674

The FOCUS

March / April 2014

Reaching out and sharing God's Love with all
...through worship, service, teaching, and caring.



Zion Lutheran Church Medford, Oregon



MARCH

5 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
Choir Practice, 5:30 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Service, 6:00 p.m.

6 Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.

9 *Daylight Savings Time begins*

10 Mary Circle, 10:00 a.m.

12 Choir Practice, 5:30 p.m.
Lenten Soup Supper & Devotions, 6:00 p.m.

13 Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.

18 Sarah Circle, 6:30 p.m. at Marigold's Restaurant

19 Choir Practice, 5:30 p.m.
Lenten Soup Supper & Devotions, 6:00 p.m.

20 Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.

26 Choir Practice, 5:30 p.m.
Lenten Soup Supper, & Devotions 6:00 p.m.

27 Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.

APRIL

2 Choir Practice, 5:30 p.m.
Lenten Soup Supper & Devotions, 6:00 p.m.

3 Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.

9 Choir Practice, 5:30 p.m.
Lenten Soup Supper & Devotions, 6:00 p.m.

10 Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.

13 Palm Sunday

16 Choir Practice, 5:30 p.m.

17 Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday Service, 6:00 p.m.

18 Good Friday Service, 6:00 p.m.

20 **EASTER SUNDAY**

23 Choir Practice, 5:30 p.m.

24 Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.

27 Holy Humor Sunday

Adult Bible Study: 8:15 a.m.
Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

STAFF

Pastor Cyril Hunkler, 659-2032
Office hours and times of visitations:
See weekly bulletins or call the Church Office.

Secretary: Penny Birger
Office hours: 9:00-1:00, Monday—Friday
541-772-4674

Email: office@lutheranswired.org
www.lutheranswired.org

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Pastor Cyril Hunkler
President: Lynn Davidson
Vice President: James Ashby
Secretary: Kathy Hansen
Treasurer: Karen Thomas

Bud Cullmer
Shannon Magda
Georgie Price
Rod Voss



Prayer volunteers are now available to pray for you daily. Please call one of the following to start the chain of prayer reaching out for you or for someone you know or love:

Georgie Price—541-864-0223

Penny Birger, during office hours—541-772-4674

Pastor Cyril, anytime—541-659-2032

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HAPPY LENT!



As I write this, it's early in January, and there's chatter in the media about New Year's resolutions and whether you've failed yet. One of the most prominent resolutions is to lose weight. A friend of mine who is severely obese commented recently, "I suffer from the 'American disease,' too much of too much for much too long!"

Lent, the 40 days of yearly spiritual renewal opportunities before Easter, offers us a sort of spiritual "spring training"; and spiritual resolutions can be helpful. Two helpful traditional areas I urge all of us to consider this Lent: prayer and fasting.

Psalm 20 expresses what I always pray for you: "May all of your prayers be answered, and may God protect you in time of trial" (verse 4)

Prayer is like a spiritual muscle that needs to be used to prevent atrophy. A believer who neglects prayer is like a fish that avoids water. Our connection with God through prayer is literally our lifeline.

While it is common to suggest that prayer is a *last resort* in times of tragedy and stress, it is in truth the greatest and most productive thing we can do for those who face the battering ram of life's troubles.

God's Word reminds us that "We have not because we ask not" (James 4:2). The prayers you don't pray will not be answered! When we're in right standing with God, our prayers will be answered (James 5:16). 2 Chronicles 7:14 informs us that "(I)f my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Peter Kreeft, author and professor at Boston College, makes this observation: "If we could realize the difference even the tiniest of prayers to God makes, and all the people those little prayers were destined to affect, and all the consequences of those prayers down through the centuries, we would be so paralyzed with awe at the power of prayer that we would be unable to get off our prayer knees for the rest of our lives!"

Some reasons why we need to pray:

1. Prayer is required to be forgiven.
2. Prayer is required to develop an intimate relationship with God.
3. Prayer is required to maintain purity.
4. Prayer is required to walk in faith.
5. Prayer is required to walk in freedom.
6. Prayer is required to persevere.
7. Prayer is required to have power from and with God.

The bottom line: no prayer, no power!

Our Wednesday Soup Suppers and Worship during Lent will include a time of praying and studying the prayers of the Bible. On those Wednesdays we'll share a lighter meal together, usually soup and bread, fasting and giving up a big meal and donating the money saved to perhaps the food bank for the hungry.

Fasting from food and snacks, or from excessive anything such as TV or shopping, can give new strength to our prayers. Jesus said on one occasion, referring to driving out demons, "This kind does not come out except by fasting and prayer" (Matthew 17:21).

Psalm 34 lays out some of the greatest blessings of prayer: "Prayer delivers us from fear; saves us from trouble; guards and delivers us; blesses those who trust in Him. God hears us when we pray, and supplies all our needs, and redeems us."

This Lent, let us embrace all that God has for us by renewing our love for God and others through prayer and fasting.

God love you and so do I!
Pastor Cyril

MEMBERSHIP is a special way of saying, "I'll be here; I'm committed to participating in the mission of Zion to share Jesus and His saving grace with my/our world; **Count me in!**" If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Pastor Cyril. The opportunity will be given to celebrate **membership** monthly.

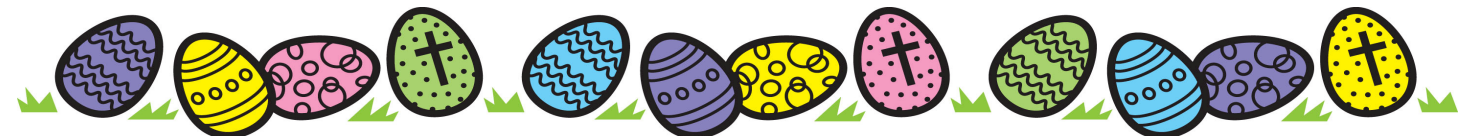
LEGACY-- a way to ensure that your faith will live on when you go to your heavenly reward is to remember Zion Lutheran in your will. Thank you for helping your church to continue its ministry when you're gone to your heavenly reward! Please remember Zion in your will.

Pastor Cyril Hunkler, 659-2032
Office hours and times of visitations:
See weekly bulletins or call the Church



Church Office Hours:
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Monday—Friday.
541-772-4674 office@lutheranswired.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 p.m.	3 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. 	4	5
6 8:15 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 5th Sunday in Lent	7	8 COUNCIL MEETING 6:30 p.m.	9 Choir Practice 5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 p.m.	10 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. 	11	12
13 8:15 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Sunday School Palm Sunday Youth Sunday	14 Mary Circle 10:00n a.m.	15 Sarah Circle 6:30 p.m.	16 Choir Practice 5:30 pm	17 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY Service, 6:00 p.m.	18 T Good Friday GOOD FRIDAY Service, 6:00 p.m.	19
20 8:15 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Sunday School EASTER SUNDAY	21	22	23 Choir Practice 5:30 pm	24 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. 	25	26
27 8:15 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Sunday School Holy Humor Sunday	28	29 Altar Guild 10:00 a.m.	30 Choir Practice 5:30 pm	31 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. 		



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Pledge of Allegiance
"I pledge allegiance to the **flag**
of the **United States of America**,
and to the republic for which it stands,
one nation under God,
indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all."



March
2nd
9th
16th
23rd Bennett
30th
April
6th
13th
20th Easter Brunch
27th Holy Humor Sunday

March
2nd
9th
16th
23rd
30th
April
6th
13th
20th
27th

As of this newsletter publication these are the only dates taken for March and April Coffee Hours and Altar Flowers. Please let Penny know if you can fill in any of these dates. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Thank you.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						1
2 8:15 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Sunday School	3	4	5 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 p.m.	6 Bible Study 9:00 a.m.	7	8
9 8:15 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 1st Sunday in Lent	10 Mary Circle 10:00 a.m.	11 COUNCIL MEETING 6:30 p.m.	12 Choir Practice 5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 p.m.	13 Bible Study 9:00 a.m.	14	15
16 8:15 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 2nd Sunday in Lent	17 Youth Sunday	18 Sarah Circle 6:30 p.m.	19 Choir Practice 5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 p.m.	20 Bible Study 9:00 a.m.	21	22
23 8:15 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 3rd Sunday in Lent	24	25	26 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 p.m.	27 Bible Study 9:00 a.m.	28	29
30 8:15 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 4th Sunday in Lent	31					



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The paranoid society

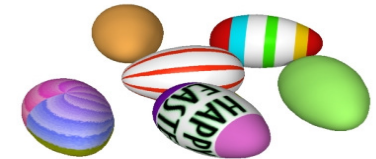
There are benefits to paranoia. These include high blood pressure, irritability, itchiness, heartburn, late nights, and gas. Has any culture experienced more paranoia than ours? The e-mails keep arriving:

Never combine shrimp and vitamin C. This causes death.

The bottom of a woman's purse has more bacteria than a toilet seat.

Avoid sitting on hotel bedspreads.

Don't open a public bathroom door without using a paper towel.



Hold your cell phone only to the left ear. Right ear usage directly affects the brain.

This reminds me of the answering machine message: "If you are paranoid, stay on the line. We're tracing the call."

Reprinted from The Joyful Noiseletter

Mary Circle
March and April 2014
Meets the 2nd Monday of each month, September through May, at 10:00 a.m., in the Church Library for Bible Study and fellowship.

Mary Circle will meet:

Monday, March 10, 2014

And

Monday, April 14, 2014

If you have any questions, contact Nancy Swan at 541-770-1689 or Diane Lewis at 541-772-1710.

"If I were given the opportunity to present a gift to the next generation, it would be the ability for each individual to learn to laugh at himself."
—Charles Schulz
Cartoonist, Peanuts

Reprinted from The Joyful Noiseletter



Sarah Circle
March and April 2014
Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., for dinner and Christian fellowship.

March 18, 2014
Marigold's Restaurant
1253 N. Riverside Avenue, Medford
In the Cobblestone Village
(Formerly Casa Ramos Restaurant)

April 15, 2014
Cicity's Restaurant
1251 E. McAndrews, Medford

All ladies are invited to join us!
If you have any questions, contact Karen Thomas at 541-664-4433.

March and April Activities



“Don’t Worry—Be Thankful!”
 Twenty-third annual Crater Lake Cluster Retreat
 St. Rita’s Retreat Center, Gold Hill, Oregon
 March 7-9, 2014

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Phillipians 4:6-7 NRSV

The registration deadline was February 21st, but if you haven’t registered yet and wish to attend this retreat, please contact Bertha Miller at 541-592-2482. Bertha is the Retreat Chairwoman and will know if there are any openings available.



Please join us...

for Lenten Soup Suppers and Devotions each Wednesday during Lent; March 12th through April 9th.

Soup suppers will begin at 6:00 p.m.
 Devotions will follow at 6:30 p.m.

Soup and bread will be provided.

Please bring your own soup bowl and spoon.

A sign-up sheet for providing soup or bread is available on the bulletin board in the hallway.

If you have any questions, please contact Debi or Sandy.



EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH

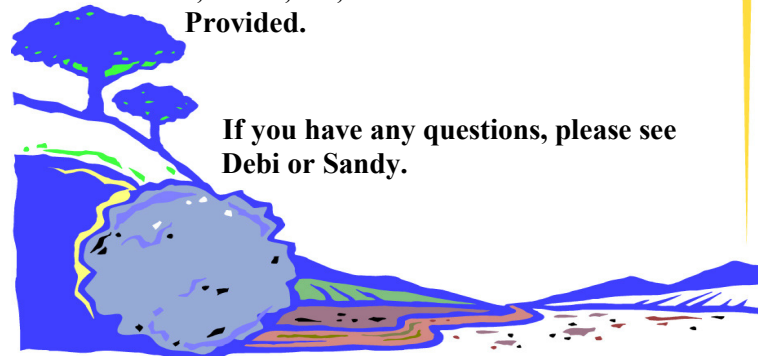
Sunday, April 20th, 2014
 ...following the Worship Service

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Bring your favorite dish to share—an entrée, fruits, pastries, salads, desserts, or any favorite Easter potluck dish.

Table service, coffee, tea, and other drinks will be Provided.

If you have any questions, please see Debi or Sandy.



SOURCES OF LENTEN PRACTICES

Fasting and prayer have been important observances since Biblical times. They have often preceded great religious revelations or events. For example, the Bible tells about:

MOSES: fasted and prayed for 40 days. During this time God gave him the code of law known as the Ten Commandments. Read Exodus 34:27-28

ELIJAH: fled for his life through the wilderness, fasting 40 days and nights until he came to Mt. Horeb. There God appeared and instructed him on how to overcome his enemies. Read 1 Kings 19:1-18

JESUS: after baptism, Jesus withdrew to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days before beginning His public ministry. Read Matthew 4:1-2; Luke 4:1-2



Holy Humor Sunday April 27th

Please join us after the Worship Service for a special coffee hour featuring tasty and humorous desserts and goodies.

Come and enjoy!!



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



March 2014

	<u>Assistant</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
March 2	Jim Ashby	Paul Hansen	Kathy Hansen	Zak Williams
March 5	Karen Thomas (ASH WEDNESDAY)	Jerry Thomas		
March 9	Nancy Swan	Jerry Thomas	Sandy Knutson	Hailey Schwenn
March 16	Youth	J.J. Bowman	Myrtle Petruck	Rebecca Bowman
March 23	Ellen Cullmer	Bud Cullmer	Sandy Knutson	Steven Rader
March 30	Wayne Bennett	Paul Hansen	Kathy Hansen	Zack Williams

April 2014

	<u>Assistant</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
April 6	Diane Lewis	Jerry Lewis	Myrtle Petruck	Brandyn Bowman
April 13	Youth	J.J. Bowman	Sandy Knutson	Rebecca Bowman
April 17	Wayne Bennett (MAUNDY THURSDAY)	Jerry Thomas		
April 18	Karen, Nancy, Debi (GOOD FRIDAY)	Paul Hansen		
April 20	Nancy Swan (EASTER SUNDAY)	Paul Hansen	Kathy Hansen	Zack Williams
April 27	Rod Voss	J.J. Bowman	Debi Bowman	Hailey Schwenn

Please call Karen at 541-664-4433 if you are unable to assist at the scheduled time. Thank You!



Bulletin Assistants:

January and February

Georgie Price



Offering Counters & Newsletter Assistance:

January and February

Debi and Sandy

What is God calling *you* to share by way of ministry?

Please pray about our continuing ministries here at Zion. Are there any changes or new things that we want to do as individuals or as a congregation?



Church Secretary

Newsletter
DEADLINE

April 14th

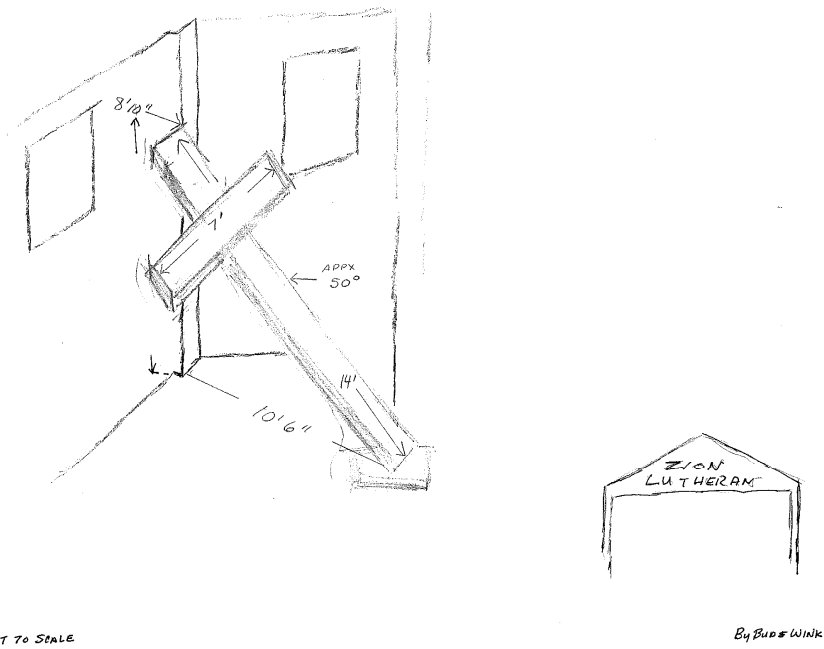
Zion Church Council 2014

Pastor: Cyril Hunkler
 President: Lynn Davidson
 Vice President: James Ashby
 Treasurer: Karen Thomas
 Secretary: Kathy Hansen
 Bud Cullmer, Shannon Magda, Georgie Price, Rod Voss

Pastor continues to do home visitations — and home blessings. If you desire one or the other or both, please notify Pastor or Penny.

Below is a sketch depicting the planned final placement of Zion's original wooden cross which stood outside the Sanctuary until it was burned in an act of arson last July. The new replacement stands now where the original cross was, and the charred remains of the old one will be placed, leaning against the Sanctuary, on the opposite side of the 4th Street entrance to the Church.

BURNT CROSS 4TH STREET SIDE OF CHURCH



NOT TO SCALE

By Bud & Wink

A Prayer for Our Nation

God bless America
 And keep us safe and free.
 Safe from all our enemies,
 Wherever they may be.

Teach us to walk humbly
 And closer in Thy ways.
 Give us faith and courage
 And put purpose in our days.

Make each one of us aware
 That each must do his part,
 For in the individual
 Is where peace must have its start.

For a better world to live in,
 Where all are safe and free,
 Must start with faith and hope and love
 Deep in the heart of me.

Pray for peace in your heart that will touch the hearts
 of others and inspire all with faith and courage.

To all Members and Friends of Zion:

The decision was made in June 2010 by the church council to keep all of you informed regarding Zion's financial situation. Total revenues for January, 2014 were \$4588.00 and our expenses were \$7579.92. This left a *shortfall* for January 2014 in the amount of \$2991.92. All bills are paid current. Money to cover our shortfall is now coming from the endowment fund. We all need to pray about our financial situation and pray that our monthly revenues increase. We all must have faith that our church will survive and remain open far into the future. We are a vital part of our community here in West Medford. God has placed us here for a reason!!!

Thank you all very much,
 Your Church Council

- A reminder that Pastor's sermons are recorded on CD weekly and will be sent to any who request a copy, just for the asking. **We regret that the sermons on CD are not yet available since the fire last July disrupted our recordings, and we truly apologize to those who are missing them.**

Prayer requests: If you would like to be included in our speedy email alerts regarding prayer needs, please let Penny know at:

Email: office@lutheranswired.org

Mention that you'd like to be included on the list. That's all you need to do.

Sunday School and Youth



Please watch the Sunday bulletins for upcoming information regarding Easter and other activities being planned for Zion's children and youth.

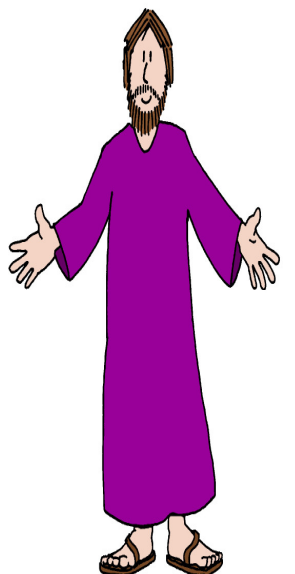
There will be a craft party for the children Easter morning immediately following the Worship service.

Jesus Prayed

World Day of Prayer and other such occasions remind us of the great importance of prayer to Christian living. Jesus prayed often in the Gospels. Can you identify details from the times that He did so as noted below?

1. When He was _____ by John.
2. All night, before choosing the _____ apostles.
3. At the _____ of the 5,000.
4. When He taught the disciples the "_____ Prayer."
5. Before the raising of _____.
6. At the "Last _____" with His disciples in an upper room.
7. In the garden of _____.
8. On the _____ at Calvary.
9. At _____, while eating with Cleopas and another disciple.

*The answers may be found on page 7.





March:

- 03 Jonathan Bowman, Jr.
- 04 Zack Williams
- 09 Ron Bender
- 12 Jeff Thomas
- 17 Jerry Thomas
- 23 Wayne Bennett
- 26 Shantil Reid
- 31 Florence Yasuda

April:

- 03 Hailey Schwenn
- 14 Chelsey Boyd
- 19 Ellen Cullmer
- 22 Brady Williams



March:

April:

- 1 Bud and Ellen Cullmer
- 24 Dale and Virginia Garner
- 27 Jerry and Karen Thomas
- 28 Jerry and Diane Lewis

Sick/Surgery/Other:

Edwin Andren	Lisa Mustain
Ron Bender	Doug Pierce
Brandyn Bowman	Pastor Joy Proper
Kathy Carboni	Jeannine Reddell
David Cullmer	Shantil Reid
Lynn Davidson	Trinity Reid
Steve Dutton	Clayton Schneider
Karen Fredenberg	Max Shott
Pastor Cyril Hunkler	Virginia Stanfield
Marie Hutchison	Neal Stanfield
Dale Janzen	Bud Van Vrimm
Jenna Jenkins	Lisa Williams
Jenny Lewis	John Winkler
Patrick Lewis	Florence Yasuda
Dan McCormack	



Shut Ins:

- Ed Andren
- Vonnie Fichtner
- Myrtle Hoover
- Dale Hoover



- Alex Bustard
- Andrea Castagnato
- Eryn Dunn
- Chaplain Mark Gilderhus
- Chad Hoover
- Travis Hoover
- Christopher Ross
- Justin Schneider



Note About the Prayer Lists:

We will be reviewing names monthly on the prayer lists. Names will be removed unless we are informed that they still need to be on the list.

Thanks for your help in keeping our prayer lists up to date.

About the EASTER CELEBRATION

Through the centuries, the *Easter Celebration* has been enlarged and enriched.

Source:

The Easter celebration incorporated practices from the Jewish Passover, which commemorates the Israelites' delivery from slavery and entry into the Promised Land. Jesus died and rose during this feast time. The first Christians celebrated Easter as the Christian Passover. Easter became a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus and His everlasting presence.

Early centuries A.D.

Easter was celebrated during the Easter Vigil (Saturday night to dawn on Easter Sunday).

- After a period of preparation, new members (catechumens) were initiated into the Christian community at Easter by baptism and first communion.
- This period of preparation evolved into Lent with its themes of baptismal renewal, penance and fasting.

Today

Church ceremonies differ but all celebrate the joy of Christ's Resurrection. Christians are reminded of:

- The two-fold significance of Easter: the past and the future coming of the Lord.
- The need to live a life of love and justice, like Jesus.

Zion's Broader Community

A member of the church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone and then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday."

We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

Spiritual Reflections

The following writing is an excerpt from a booklet entitled *40 Days with Jesus* by Sarah Young. Presented in the 'voice' of Jesus, she offers this as a tool to help deepen your relationship with God.

I AM YOUR RISEN, LIVING SAVIOR! Through My resurrection *you have been born again to an ever-living hope*. It is vital for you to remain hopeful, no matter what is going on in your life. People put their hope in a variety of things—wealth, power, health, medical treatments—but these are all insufficient. When storms break upon your life, you can find only one adequate source of help—Me! The hope I provide is *an anchor for your soul, firm and secure* even in the most tempestuous waters. A good way to remain anchored in Me is to whisper as often as needed: "Jesus, You are my Hope." This affirmation strengthens you and keeps you connected to Me.

I am constantly working to transform your life. You need My help continually to keep your hope alive. I stand ready to help you at *all times*—during stormy episodes as well as times of smooth sailing. I am not only *ever-living* but also more abundantly alive than you can possibly imagine. There are no limits to what *My great power and glory* can accomplish! I can change the most "hopeless" situation into outright victory. Moreover, as you affirm your trust in Me—no matter how difficult your circumstances—I am able to transform you: gradually, lovingly. *Those who hope in Me will not be disappointed.*

Then, they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

Mark 13:26 (NKJV)

FOR REFLECTION: 1 PETER 1:3 (AMP); HEBREWS 6:19; ISAIAH 49:23B

Answers to Bible quiz on page 5.

(All references are found in Genesis.)

1. Baptized, Luke 3:21
2. Twelve, Luke 6:12-13
3. Feeding, John 6:10-11
4. Lord's, Luke 11:1-4
5. Lazarus, John 11:41-42
6. Supper, Matthew 26:26-27
7. Gethsemane, Matthew 26:36, 39, 42, 44
8. Cross, Luke 23:33-34
9. Emmaus, Luke 24:13-30



TOPS
(Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

TOPS continues to welcome new members and is great support for losing weight. Anyone interested is invited to visit and check out the group.

We meet Saturdays at Zion, 7:00 — 8:30 a.m.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact:

Sarah Felder, Leader: 541-326-5360