

**Mt. Zion Ev. Lutheran Church**

**320 Mt. Zion Dr.**

**Ripon, WI 54971**

***The Sheppard’s Pen***

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**March, 2024**

**The Resurrection of Our Lord, the Easter Season.**



The last day of Holy Week is Easter Sunday -- a day marked by early sunrise services and a return of the word Alleluia to our worship. This is a day of the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. After three days in the tomb, he rose from the grave. He is victorious over sin, death, and the devil.

Easter lilies adorn the church altar, and we sing some of the most jubilant hymns. The focus of our worship on this festival includes such words as those of Job who confessed that he knew his redeemer lives and he would stand upon the earth. Job confessed his hope in his own resurrection from the dead. We hear again the eyewitness accounts of those who saw Jesus afterwards. He lives!

The season of Easter continues for seven Sundays following Easter. Each Sunday again turns to the risen Lord Jesus and his victory as he joined his disciples and strengthened them. The fourth Sunday of Easter is often called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” The gospel reading includes the words of Jesus who called himself the Good Shepherd. He laid down his life for his sheep. He defeated his enemies to purchase his sheep. He calls them by name and leads them to clear waters of his word which refreshes them. He protects them from danger and leads them by his word.

Forty days after Easter Sunday is the Ascension of our Lord. Ascension is celebrated on a Thursday which is the fortieth day after Easter. Some congregations commemorate that day on the following Sunday. This day sees the disciples staring up into the sky where Jesus went up from them. He ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven but as he told his disciples, he has not left us as orphans. He rules all things for the benefit of his people on earth. One day he will come again just as he went up. His next arrival will be with glory and power as he comes to judge the nations.

The Easter Season concludes fifty days after Easter. On this fiftieth day, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send the counselor, the Holy Spirit, to his disciples. The Holy Spirit would remind them of everything they had witnessed while they were with Jesus in his earthly ministry. That day came with a sound like a rushing wind and what appeared to be tongues of fire coming down and lighting on each of the twelve. They began to proclaim the great and wonderous deeds of our God and Savior in various languages which were represented among the people who came to Jerusalem for the Passover. We are told that on that day more than three thousand people were baptized. From this time on, the Apostles carried the good news of redemption for the peoples of this earth.

The color we place on the altar for Easter Sunday and the Easter Season is white. This color reminds us of holiness and purity. Jesus washed our sins away by his innocent suffering and death with his holy precious blood. The color on the altar for Pentecost is red which is a color that is used for the Holy Spirit and the means of grace, the gospel in word and sacraments through which the Holy Spirit works to create and strengthen faith so that it bears fruit.

**General Announcements**

**A Note from Pastor**

**My Office Door Is Always Open.**

Greetings, brothers and sisters in Christ. My office door is always open to anyone who wishes to speak with me. I thank those who have spoken with me about any cares and concerns they may have. I am always ready to listen and carefully consider what is shared with me. You may have a very useful idea that can benefit our congregation’s ministry. I appreciate anything shared with me and am happy to discuss it with you. Rarely does anything good come from anonymous letters, and I do not read them. We need to be able to speak plainly with each other as dear brothers and sisters in Jesus.

In Christ, Pastor Sheppard

**Pictorial Directory Update**

We will be taking the photos and addresses to Good Impressions here in Ripon to make our church directory. Each family will be given one book free of charge, and a 5x7 paper copy if you so desire. **If anyone would like a digital copy of your picture that Miya Grunert took of you with the background, please contact Miya at** ***miyagrunert@gmail.com******.***

**Bible Studies**

Monday evenings at 6:30pm we are looking at Luther’s Large Catechism; Tuesday mornings at 9:00am we are studying the book of Revelation; and Sunday mornings at around 10:15am we are continuing the series called “Influencing God’s Children.” Please join us for one or more of the classes!

**Greeters**

Many greeter slots have been filled already – thank you! If you are interested in being greeters for a few Sundays in 2024, please sign up on the sheet on the podium by the library.

**Sound System**

The components we ordered have now been installed. They include a mixer with monitor, a few new speakers to supplement the current ones, new microphones, and a new CD player. We have options for additional components if we need them in the future. Thank you for your contributions.

**Private Communion**

Pastor Sheppard is happy to offer private communion to those who prefer it; simply email him (revmikesheppard@gmail.com) or call him (920-745-0883) to schedule a time.

**Online Streaming**

We are livestreaming our services on Facebook Live Sundays at 9:00am. Services will also be uploaded to Rumble (Mt. Zion’s channel is ***mtzionripon***) and the link will be posted on the church website in the VIDEOS subheading under the MEDIA tab. Services will still be available on DVD. Please feel free to contact Pastor Sheppard with questions.

**Christian Family Solutions**

*Christian Family Solutions*is a WELS affiliated organization providing counselling services to the hurting. Both in person and video appointments are available for those in need by contacting CFS directly. Mt. Zion is a partner with them through the *Member Assistance Program (MAP).* Our church has a fund dedicated to assisting our members with the cost of these services. If financial assistance is needed, Pastor Sheppard notifies Christian Family Solutions and assistance will be given towards the cost of appointments. Video counseling by computer may be conducted at the church when necessary. For more information, visit [**https://christianfamilysolutions.org**](https://christianfamilysolutions.org)**.**

**Helping Hands**

If you are interested in helping someone with technology, helping give rides to appointments in Ripon, Berlin, Oshkosh, or Fond du Lac, please let Joanne Gregor know. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please contact Lisa Tremore at 920-229-1297, Tammy Niemuth at 920-299-0240 or Joanne Gregor at 920-896-1518. **If you need assistance of any kind, please do not feel like you are imposing; this is why Helping Hands exists!**



Since 2005, children have been supporting the Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society (LWMS) Kids C.A.R.E. (care about reaching everyone with the gospel) program. Through Kids C.A.R.E. our children learn about and support our synod’s home and world mission projects. Mt. Zion has participated in Kids C.A.R.E. since 2013. This year’s Kids C.A.R.E. project will be a home mission program, Missionary Kids Retreats. This year we will support our WELS missionary kids with our prayers and offerings to help them attend these much-needed annual retreats. You can donate to this mission using the blank line on your offering envelopes. Please consider giving an offering to Missionary Kids Retreat as well as keeping this year’s Kid C.A.R.E. project in your prayers.

**1st Semester Honor Roll**

**HIGH HONORS: Freshmen: Bennett Gonzalez**

**Sophomores: Paige Wichman**

**Juniors: Lily Mack, Josey Pick**

**Seniors: Miya Grunert, Willow Nitzke**

**HONORS Freshman: Emma Kranz,**

**Juniors: Elizabeth Weiske, Coral Niemuth**

**Latchhook Rug**

Dear Members of Mt. Zion,

Two years ago, women from Mt. Zion gathered to learn how to make and began making crosses for the Central Africa Medical Mission. We were dubbed Mt. Zion’s Stitchers. Hundreds of crosses were made and sent to the mission. Once again, there is a need for the members of Mt Zion Stitchers and other members of Mt. Zion to work together on a hooked rug project.

 Carol Kapp, a devoted member of Mt. Zion, started a tapestry of the Lord’s Last Supper. She passed away in August 2021 before she was able to complete the project. Carol’s sister, Kathy, has asked us to finish the tapestry. There will be a meeting in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, March 5th, at 9 A.M. to discuss, plan, learn how to hook a rug, begin hooking and to set up a schedule and there will be another planning meeting on Saturday, March 9th, at 9 A.M. for those not able to attend the March 5th meeting. **Refreshments will be served.**

If you have your own rug hook, please bring it with you. We will have a few hooks available. There will be a sign-up sheet to help us provide needed materials as well as refreshments. A sign-up sheet will be on the podium outside of the library.

 This project will be a wonderful opportunity to remember and honor Carol as well as adding a beautiful tapestry to Mt. Zion.

 Mark your calendars. Looking forward to working with you on the tapestry. If you have any questions please contact Joanne Gregor at 920-896-1518 or gregorj12@hotmail,com

God’s blessings,

Joanne Gregor

**LWMS**

*Beaver Dam Circuit Spring Rally*

*NEW DATE: Saturday, April 27, 2024*

*NEW RALLY SITE: Zion Lutheran Church, KINGSTON*

326 Vine Street Kingston WI

F**eatured speaker at the Beaver Dam Spring Rally will be Pastor Daniel Sims, Director of WELS Christian Aid and Relief.**His talk will be about God sending us to serve in a volatile world to people in need of compassionate care and spiritual nurturing.

We will be sending offerings to:

1. **Children’s Ministry Outreach** Your gifts will assist home mission congregations looking to begin programs to reach this special demographic by sharing Jesus through music, crafts, and fellowship as parents/caregivers and their young children interact in a safe, caring, and welcoming environment.
2. **New World Mission Fields** More than 7,000 people-groups in the world live without access to the good news of Jesus Christ. With these unreached people-groups and the Great Commission in mind, the Board for World Missons is looking to approve new locations to plant world mission fields. Mission fields have already been planted in London and Bangladesh. Locations being explored include Senegal, Dubai, New Zealand, Native American tribes, and Australia. Your gifts will allow for thorough follow-up research as well as exploratory trips to each new location.
3. **Native Christian Ministries, Peridot-Our Savior’s Lutheran School, Peridot, Arizona**. The donations collected will go to support Peridot’s two building projects: 1) a new school and 2) teacher housing. With a student/teacher ratio of 38:1, school expansion and on-reservation housing to accommodate a bigger teaching staff are badly needed.
4. **Christian Aid and Relief**The mission of Christian Aid and Relief is to reflect Christ’s love and compassion to souls suffering from disasters and hardships. Because of what Christ has freely done for us, we eagerly show we care by offering our time, talents, and treasures to those in need. We are able to carry out this ministry of compassion because of your heartfelt prayers and generous financial support.

We at Mount Zion are able to send generous offerings for these mission projects by hosting a pancake breakfast, a Lenten Supper and through free will offerings given by our members through their envelopes (mark on the envelope LWMS)  as well as baskets located at the back of the church various times of the year.. God bless your offerings!!!

***MARK THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR : APRIL 27***

We hope that women (and men) can attend the rally on April 27th to learn more about our missions. Look for more information to follow in the bulletin as it gets closer to the date.

**Second Impressions**

**Store Hours**

Tuesday thru Friday **9** AM – **6** PM

Monday and Saturday **9** AM – **3** PM

**Donation Accepted Times**

 Monday **10** AM – **3** PM

Tuesday thru Friday **10** AM – **4** PM

 Saturday **10** AM – **3** PM

**New Items Arrive Daily**...**Come** **Over And Check Them Out!**

Brand new for the winter season are handmade children’s mittens for $3. They are made of fleece in many delightful patterns.

**Donations:**  Thank you to everyone who has so generously donated to our store! We can always use any type of donation. Items ACCEPTED include, but are not limited to: Furniture (Please call ahead before donating large furniture!), In-Season Clothing, Purses, Shoes, Jewelry, Tools & Hardware, Pictures & Frames, Home Décor, Christmas & Seasonal/Holiday Items, Arts & Crafts, Toys, Kitchen & Glassware, Books, Linens/Towels/Sheets.

**Student Needs Closet**

Thank you for your contributions so far for the Student Needs Closet!

There are two boxes near the water fountain (by the office) where donations can be placed. Each month there will be a list of items that are needed for the closet. Information about the items for the closet will be in the weekly bulletins, as well as the monthly newsletter.

By supporting and collecting donations for The Student Needs Closet, we can help the students of the Ripon Area School District, help Emmy Jess (and Miya) maintain and stock the closet; along with using this as an opportunity to serve the Lord in our community.

**Items needed for the Ripon Area School District Student Needs Closet**

**High Priority:**

Mens’ shampoo

Mens’ body wash

Mens’ deodorant

Womens’ deodorant

Bar soap

**Also need:**

Girls’ shampoo

Feminine products

Body wipes and/or baby wipes

Toothbrushes

Chapstick

Fabric freshener (travel size)

Band-aids

**Could also use:**

Kleenex

Toothpaste

Combs/brushes

Body mist/spray

Travel size laundry detergent

**On The lighter Side**



Steve and Jan Ohlrich 3/6/1987

Robert and Shirley Erdmann-Schroeder 3/30/2019

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|  |
| --- |
| Laurene Henning 3/1 |
| Jean Lynch 3/2 |
| Connie Klettke 3/2 |
| Randy Weckwerth 3/2 |
| Timothy Kranz 3/5 |
| Richard Kutz 3/5 |
| Harley Dorsey, Jr. 3/7 |
| Robert Hartman 3/7 |
| Deanna Krahn 3/9 |
| Ted Machmueller 3/11 |
| Alexee Nitzke 3/12 |
| Spencer Nitzke 3/12 |
| Ellie Ewald 3/13 |
| Terry Dolderer 3/13 |
| Jenna Klettke 3/15 |
| Kelly Frank 3/18 |
| Melvin Schultz 3/22 |
| Benjamin Weiske 3/24 |
| Eugene Schliepp 3/25 |
| Shawn Schliepp 3/26 |
| Karl Goeldi 3/27 |
| Marilyn Ninneman 3/28 |

**Mt. Zion Messenger**

March, 2024

**Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**320 Mt. Zion Dr. Ripon, WI 54971**

**Pastor Michael Sheppard**

**Church Email: mountzionripon@gmail.com**

Church Website: www.mtzionripon.org

Pastor’s Office: 920-748-9734

Pastor’s Email: revmikesheppard@gmail.com

**Newsletter Articles**

Deadline for articles for the April edition is March 22, 2024. Please either give news/articles to Jo Meeker or email them to the church office at **mountzionripon@gmail.com****.**

***We are always looking for human interest news from our members! If there is any incorrect information, please let us know that as well.***