

# WELCOME TO ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

*\*(Congregation please stand as able)*

Welcome and Announcements and Prelude

## **\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

D: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**C: Amen.**

D: Look, here is water! **C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

D: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

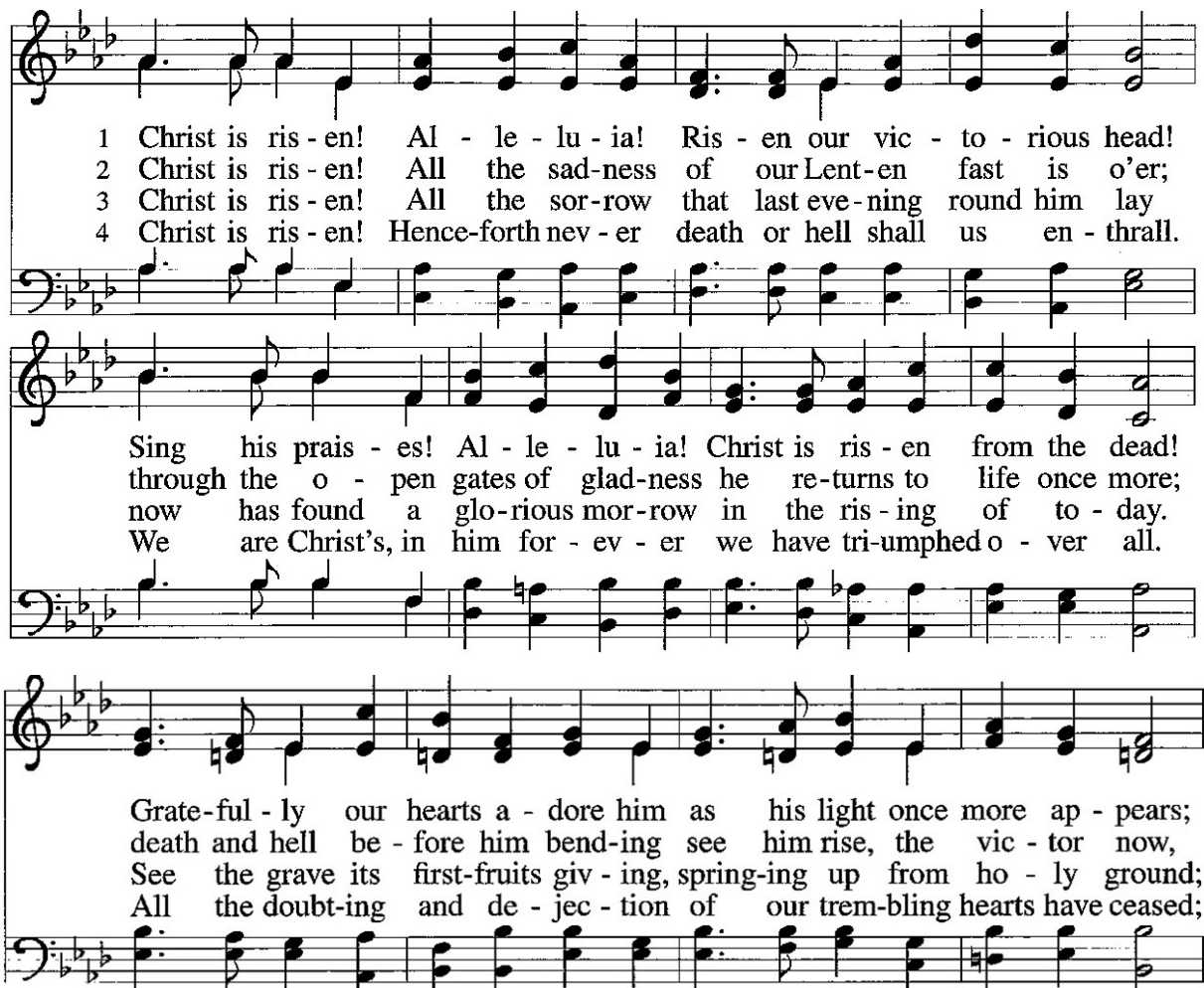
**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

D: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C: Amen**

D: Look, here is water! **C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**\*GATHERING HYMN: ELW 382 Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!**

*You are invited to face the rear of the sanctuary and turn towards the cross as it passes.*



1 Christ is ris-en! Al-le-lu-ia! Ris-en our vic-to-rious head!  
2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;  
3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay  
4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev-er death or hell shall us en-thrall.

Sing his prais-es! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ is ris-en from the dead!  
through the o-pen gates of glad-ness he re-turns to life once more;  
now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris-ing of to-day.  
We are Christ's, in him for-ev-er we have tri-umphed o-ver all.

Grate-ful-ly our hearts a-dore him as his light once more ap-pears;  
death and hell be-fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic-tor now,  
See the grave its first-fruits giv-ing, spring-ing up from ho-ly ground;  
All the doubt-ing and de-jec-tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;

bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.  
 an - gels on his steps at - tend - ing, glo - ry round his wound - ed brow.  
 Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.  
 hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

*Refrain*

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt. Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927 MORCENLIED 87 87 D and refrain

# \*APOSTOLIC GREETING

D: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

# \*KYRIE

In peace. let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men

**\*HYMN OF**



ALL This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

MEN Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

ALL This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

WOMEN Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glory are his.

ALL This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

MEN Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion:

Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

ALL This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

WOMEN For the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

ALL This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

D: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** 1 John 4:7-21 (*pg. 991 in pew Bible*)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*After the Reading:* Leader: The Word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 22:25-31 (pg. 435 in pew Bible, next) (read responsively)

Leader: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**Congregation: The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live for ever!**

L: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

**C: and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.**

L: For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

**C: To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.**

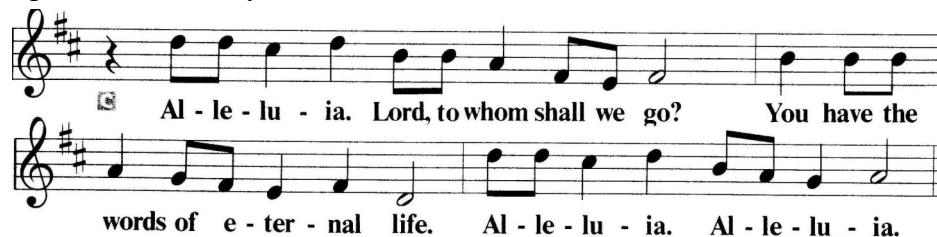
L: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

**C: and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON** as the children come forward, please join in singing:

Jesus rose for all the children, all the children of the world, every color, shape, and size, they are precious in His eyes, Jesus rose for all the children of the world.

**\*GOSPEL  
ACCLAMATION**



**\*GOSPEL:** John 15:1-8 (pg. 878 in pew Bible)

*Before reading:* D: The Holy Gospel According to St. John, the 15th Chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

*After the reading:* D: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY:** ELW 342 *There in God's Garden* v. 1-4 (next page)

1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;

whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!"

Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
 see there the ten - drills of our hu - man  
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your

pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982 Music: K. Lee Scott, b. 1950  
 Text © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc. Music © 1987 Birmamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

SHADES MOUNTAIN  
 11 11 11 5

## **OUR OFFERINGS: OUR TRUST, PRAYERS & GIFTS**

### **\*THE NICENE CREED**

D: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us profess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** (after, “Lord in your mercy,” respond: **Hear our prayer.**)

(after final petition, “Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord”, respond: **Amen.**)

**\*SHARING OF CHRIST’S PEACE**

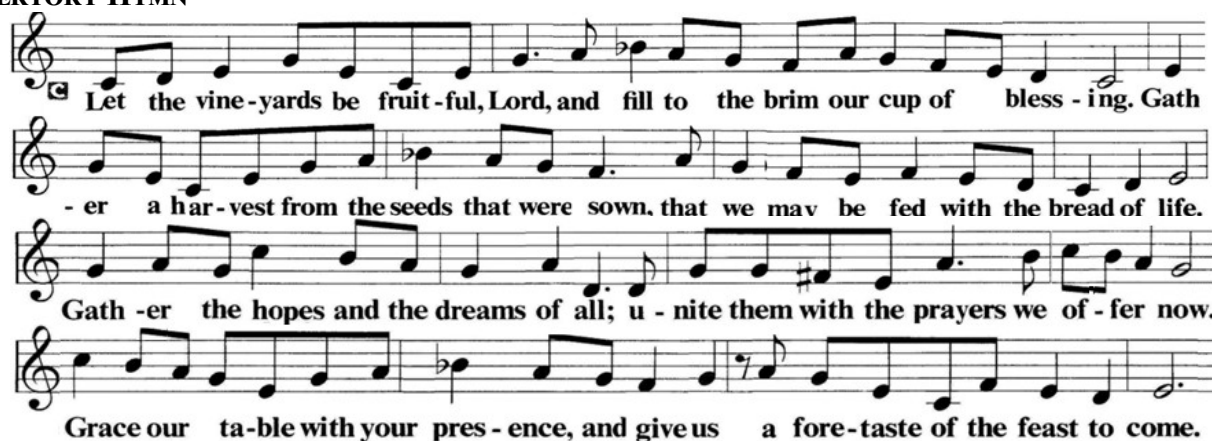
**D:** The peace of Christ be with you. **C:** **And also with you.**

### **OFFERING AND OFFERTORY**

During this portion of the worship service, we offer to God a portion of what God has first given us, trusting that God will use these gifts to do God's work in the world. We offer thanks to God with financial gifts, song, and prayer. Or you can scan this QR code to go to our electronic giving website: <http://www.zionsjonestown.com/giving/>, where you can choose to give either through PayPal, or Simply Giving, which is our regular electronic offering service, offering both one-time, and regular, automatic options.



**\*OFFERTORY HYMN**



**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**D:** Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **C:** **Amen.**

**\*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

**D:** Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things; you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**C:** **we give you thanks and praise.**

**D:** By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts; freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**C:** **we give you thanks and praise.**

**D:** Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**C:** **we give you thanks and praise.**

**D:** Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **C:** **Amen.**

**\*LORD’S PRAYER**

**D:** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**



**\*BENEDICTION**

D: Alleluia! Christ is risen!. C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

D: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope bless you now and always. C: **Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN:** LBW 143 *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* v. 1-3

*As the cross is recessed, you are invited to turn your body towards the rear, symbolic of our desire to follow Christ out into the world.*

1 Now all the vault of heav'n re-sounds In praise of love that  
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, There - fore our heart with  
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt-less love; Set heart and will on

still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
things a - bove That we con - quer through your tri - umph

Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song  
Now still he comes to give us life And by his pres -  
Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's day That by our lives

of glo - ry here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"  
ence stills all strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!  
we tru - ly say: Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

© Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.  
Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623

LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
8 8 8 8 8 8 and alleluia

**\*DISMISSAL**

L: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**We're glad you're here!** Whether today is your first day at Zion's, or your thousandth, we're glad you're here, and we look forward to worshipping with you. If you're new, or it's been a while, we invite you to fill out one of the "We're glad you're here" white envelopes located in the pew back to ensure our records are correct, and so we can connect with you further. Completed cards can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you, and welcome!

**Welcome, Sister Marianne Brock!** Thank you for leading us in worship today! Sister Marianne serves with Pastor Caitlin on our synod's candidacy committee and as a Regional Gift Planner for the ELCA. She is a rostered deacon and a member of the Deaconness Community, which is why her title is "Sister". You may also know her from her many years as the director of Camp Nawakwa. Pastor Caitlin is away and returns to the office on Wednesday. If you are in need of pastoral care before then, please call Pastor Cheri Korte at 717-606-8851

**This week we especially remember in our prayers:** Suzette Tomcavage, Ben Glass, Anna Houser, Lois Schaeffer, Katie Smith, Pastor Ted Hummel, and the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine.

MUSICIAN: Maryann Guldin	LECTOR: Mary Deitz
VIDEOGRAPHER: James Cascarino	PRAYER: Stephanie Speicher
ACOLYTES: Levi & Gracie Bucks	CRUCIFER: Daryl Hess
CHILDREN'S SERMON: Noel Strattan	COMM. ASSTS.: Ed & Elaine Ludwig
GREETER: Anita Frey	ZION'S PASTOR: Rev. Caitlin M. Kurtz
APRIL USHERS: Luke Hiester, Darryl Bush, Al Reiner, Rick Herr	

**NEXT  
WEEK**

**The youth of Zion's will be leading us in worship next Sunday, May 5.** They have spent much time reflecting on the scripture texts for that day, and conducting interviews of Zion's members, friends, and family to learn how it is we *practically ABIDE* in Jesus, the true vine. We hope you'll be able to join us for worship so they can share these truths with you!

#### **This Week at Zions:**

Monday, April 29 @ 6:30 Mission Ministry Meeting  
Wednesday, May 1 @ 9:00 am Quilting  
Sunday, May 5 @ 9:15 Dudes & Donuts will meet  
Sunday, May 5 @ 9:15 Women of the Word will meet

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**NEW Wednesday night Bible study beginning Wednesday May 1 at 6:50 PM:** These glorious spring days turn our attention toward the beauty of creation, and the majesty of our Creator. On the Wednesdays in May, our Bible study will be creation-themed, beginning with a look at scripture and the weather. (While we often talk about the weather for the purpose of small-talk, scripture speaks of weather in a very different way!)

**Zion's is hosting a dance for Developmental and Disability Services** on Saturday May 18 from 4 to 7 p.m. in the social hall. The theme is HAWAII. Wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt. DJ will be Derek. Food will be served. Cost is \$3. All are invited! Anyone who would like to volunteer to help in the kitchen or with the set up, clean up or dancing would be greatly appreciated. Just email [linda.wenrich@yahoo.com](mailto:linda.wenrich@yahoo.com). Sign up sheet will be posted in the gathering area.

**We celebrate with Jaxin Bush and his family** as he affirms his faith in the rite of Confirmation on Sunday, May 19. You are invited to a celebratory time of fellowship & goodies prior to the service, begins at 9:45 AM.

**The Northern Lebanon Ministerium** is gathering for our first ever joint time of worship and prayer on Sunday, May 19 from 2-4 PM at Memorial Lake's "Upper Pavilion". You've heard Pastor Caitlin talk about this Spirit-led group over the past 18 months...please, come out and experience it for yourself! You'll have the opportunity to meet others who have been part of God's work in the Clothing Closet, Release Time, and Back to School Blessings, and join together in giving thanks to God for this new and robust ministry group.

**REGISTER NOW: RIVER OF LIFE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** - June 17-20 (Monday-Thursday), 6-8 PM at Jonestown UMC. VBS is open to children ages four through completed fifth grade. Register on our website: [www.zionsjonestown.com](http://www.zionsjonestown.com).



### Other News from Zions:

**Preschool Sub Sale:** Our preschool is hosting an R and K sub sale to raise funds for graduation and end of year activities. Orders and money (cash or checks payable to Zion's Preschool) are due to Linda Toth by Sunday, May 5. Sandwiches will be delivered to church by noon on Wednesday, May 15 and available then, or that evening. Options are: 12" sub roll (\$7.50)--spicy italian, italian, ham, turkey, roast beef, american (with or without onions), or 12" whole grain roll (turkey or all cheese), or pretzel sandwiches (\$6)--chicken breast with pepper jack cheese, italian, ham and cheese, ham and swiss, turkey and cheese, roast beef and cheese, sweet lebanon bologna and cheese, all cheese, chicken salad, egg salad, or tuna salad.

**Did you know?** Every Friday, at 11:30 AM, an email entitled "**Zion's Weekly E-Blast:**[And the date]" goes out to our email list, from Pastor Caitlin's email, which appears as [pastorckurtz@send.mailchimpapp.com](mailto:pastorckurtz@send.mailchimpapp.com) The email contains a weekly pastoral message, announcements, photos, and links. Your email may be sending it to "spam", but you should be able to teach it to send it to your inbox instead. If you need help, or want to be added to the list, please see Pastor Caitlin.

**Know someone going through a difficult time? Want to share a physical sign of God's love and care with them?** Zion's is blessed to have an abundance of prayer shawls and lap blankets right now, each hand crafted with love and prayers. If you would like to take one of these to a friend or family member who is struggling, please contact Jean Fowler ([jmfowler51@gmail.com](mailto:jmfowler51@gmail.com)) or 717 926 1240. This is one way we can remind people of God's constant, loving presence.

**Learn to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief.** Zion's has a quilt-making group called "**Peace Through Pieces**" that meets MOST Wednesdays at 9 AM in the Social Hall to work on blankets for LWR and our preschool graduates. They always accept fabric donations and love to welcome newcomers! If you'd like to learn more, or want to confirm a meeting date, please contact Judy Merkel: 717 269 3532 or [johnjudymerkel@comcast.net](mailto:johnjudymerkel@comcast.net).

**Council Highlights:** April council highlights are available on the large bulletin board in the gathering area.

An **USHER sign-up** sheet has been posted on the large bulletin board in the gathering area. If you can share your gifts as an usher, please sign-up!

MAY USHERS ARE NEEDED!

<p><b>Every Week at Zions:</b> Sundays @ 9:15 Sunday school for all ages; @ 10:30 Worship Wednesdays @ 5:30 Community meal, @ 6:15 Rejoicing Spirits Worship</p>
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