

SERVANTS - April 21

TIME 8:00am PAX
GREETERS Dan & Melinda Stelling
ELDER Mike Krueger
USHERS Draydin/Bergin Gossman
ACOLYTES Caybri Monroe Easton Price

TIME 10:00am
GREETERS Ryan & Brooke Collison
ELDER Eric Retzlaff
USHERS Lucea Miller Zane Koehler
ACOLYTES Deacon Watts Kaelyn Halsey
ORGANSIST Alice Mittelsdorf

April 22

ELDER Rick Sirek
ACOLYTES Teigan Warneke Brenna Benes
ORGANSIST Celine Fehringer

SERVANTS - April 28

TIME 8:00am PAX
GREETERS Blaine & Lisa Bockelman
ELDER Andy White
USHERS Emily Endorf
ACOLYTES Elliot Vanness Natalie Endorf

TIME 10:00am
GREETERS Maryls Bockelman Marj Weber
ELDER Doug Cromwell
USHERS Hadleigh Collison Boston Krueger
ACOLYTES Burkley Collison Jaelyn Jensen
ORGANSIST Alice Mittelsdorf

April 29

ELDER Brian Blecher
ACOLYTES Kendyl Olson Mckenna Deiterman
ORGANSIST Celine Fehringer

Rev. Gordon W. Bruce
Senior Pastor

Vicar Wesley Johnson

Mr. Derek Jareske
Director of Christian Ed

Mrs. Amy Weber-Podany
Church Secretary

Mrs. Jennifer Snodgrass
Principal

Mrs. Stacy Johnson
Academic Coordinator

Mrs. April Anson
School Secretary

Mrs. Sierra Fleer
7th/8th Grade

Mrs. Lavonne Fleer
5th/6th Grade

Mrs. Kelly Stonacek
3rd/4th Grade

Ms. Elizabeth Harris
2nd Grade

Mrs. Jennifer Rohrich
1st Grade

Mrs. Kathy Test
Kindergarten

Misty Steffen
Preschool

Mrs. Tara Oestreich
Para-educator

Mrs. Carol Lutz
Para-educator

MISSION SUNDAY

April 21, 2024

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod

**GARY W. THIES**

Mission Development Counselor

MISSION CENTRAL 40718 HIGHWAY E-16

MAPLETON, IOWA 51034

PHONE 712-882-1029

E-MAIL – Gary.Thies@lcms.org

Old Missionary Gary Thies was born on a farm in the hills of Western Iowa, where his mother and father were tenant farmers for many years. At age 18 Gary began his banking career at the Mapleton Trust & Saving Bank at Mapleton, Iowa, and stayed there for 33 years until they finally had to make him president of the bank. After many years in the banking, real estate and insurance business, the Lord called him in 1994 to full time service as the first ever deployed mission development counselor for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. His “calling” was to “raise the level of mission awareness” throughout the entire United States. Gary has traveled to 75 countries to see the Lord’s Missionaries!

On June 1st, 1994 after Gary having served for 11 years on the Synodical Mission Board of the LCMS, and being chairman of that board for 5 years, the concept of the Lord’s Mission Central was founded which began in the basement of his home. He and his wife Maxine began to see REAL MIRACLES happen. The growth was amazing and in 2003, the old set of farm buildings and 5 acres were purchased and the rest is “history”. Yes, the Lord sent 103 Volunteer Staff members, and none of them get paid. Thousands of people have come to see this MIRACLE, and what a JOY! This facility features an amazing Barn Museum with artifacts from all over the world, and also in 2017 a new CREATION THEATER was completed that features the story of the 6th day of Creation, when God made all the animals, and you can see them “come alive” in the amazing presentation.

Gary is NOT NORMAL, and only wants to connect with the same kind of people! After traveling to 75 countries to view the work of our dear LCMS missionaries, he has a great story to tell, and Mission Central now is the largest mission supporting agency in the entire United States of America for our LCMS, supporting the majority of all the missionaries in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Mission Central has 5 volunteer pilots that donate their planes and the fuel, and that’s the reason Gary is here today!

MONDAY– April 22

7:00pm VESPERS

WEDNESDAY-April 24

7:00am Women’s Bible Study
 8:10am Chapel
 5:15pm Faith Weavers

THURSDAY– April 25

6:30am Mens Bible Study
 1:00pm Quilters
 1:00pm K-2 Operetta rehearsal
 6:30pm K-2 Operetta

FRIDAY– April 26-28

CAMP LUTHER TRIP

SUNDAY– April 28

8:00a PAX Worship/COMM
 9:00am Bible Classes
 10:00am Trad Worship/comm

OUR CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP: APRIL 14: Pax—121 Traditional— 92 Vespers— 27

Direct Deposit- \$1,065.00 **General—** \$10,272.00 **Mission-** \$340.00

Debt Drive- \$270.00 **Operating Debt Balance-** \$46,655.10

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Those continuing to battle various afflictions: Gerald Hixson, Dee Rathjen, Sharon Brockemeier, Mike & Kim Baumann, Brenda Roberts, Nate Bolling, Shawn Dozy & Dawn Tucker, Dawn Flinn, Rayleen Wesemann, Jolene Buss

THE LUTHERAN HOUR: The Lutheran Hour—“Bringing Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church” on WJAG (780 AM & 105.9 FM) each Sunday at 7:30 A.M. and 12:30 P.M Today: April 21

"More Than He Bargained For" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler Whatever we ask of Jesus is probably too small, because Jesus provides more than what we expect. (Acts 3:6)

ZION SCHOOL NEWS

ZION TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND: If you would like to help provide students with a Christian education, please consider donating to the Zion tuition assistance fund. It is easy to donate! Make checks payable to Zion Lutheran School and just write in the memo tuition assistance. Have a special student in mind for assistance? Contact the school office at 329-4658 to set up a donation for them.

What are the Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska?

The Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska are offered to students entering a nonpublic school for grades Kindergarten, 9th grade, or transferring from a public school from any grade level. Please visit ne-braskaopportunity.org for more information about these scholarships.

Nebraska Tax Opportunity

This year brings a terrific opportunity for you to benefit students who attend private schools and receive a dollar-for-dollar income tax credit for up to 50% of your Nebraska income tax liability for 2024. For more information, please visit the school website www.zionlutheranpierce.com and click on the Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska link.

SCRIP: If you would like to purchase Scrip, order forms are available in the Narthex. Order forms and/or RaiseRight purchases need to be submitted before Tuesday of each week. Contact the school office at 329-4658 with any questions.

CHURCH NEWS

NEW PROJECT CONNECT BOOKLETS---Zion's LLL—MC is bringing you some new Project Connect booklets for your reading pleasure, faith strengthening, and/or your personal needs. The new April booklets will be found at the TOP LEVEL of the Project Connect display rack. The PC display rack is located in the narthex by the west entry door. The New Booklets are: A GREIF LIKE NO OTHER; A TREASURE REVEALED; THE TRUTH ABOUT ANGELS; and HOPE AND HEALING. Throughout the summer months you will be receiving four new booklets each month.

NEW DEBT DRIVE: As many of us are aware, for many years Zion has had one major Debt Drive at the end of the year using matching funds from our Endowment Fund to help retire our annual Debt.. Rather than let the debt grow month after month, we are working hard to keep our operating debt under \$50,000. While it is true that we have already had one successful Matching Funds drive this year, a large portion of the debt we retired, specifically \$39,000 was from 2023. As of last week, our operating debt for 2024 has reached \$47,000. The good news is that an **“Anonymous Donor”** has challenged our congregation to match their contribution of \$25,000 for debt retirement. Every dollar given to this debt reduction effort will be matched for a total of \$50,000. It is our hope and prayer that smaller and more frequent debt drives over the course of the year, will help our congregation avoid much larger Debt Drives at the end of the year.. Zion Board of Elders

CHURCH WORKER SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE: Are you interested in full-time church work? Now is the time to apply for an LLL Scholarship Grant available from the Nebraska District of the Lutheran Layman's League! Contact Virginia Von Seggern at email virginia.vonseggern251@gmail.com or phone 402-655-2254. They are also available on the website of the Nebraska District LC-MS (www.ndlcms.org). Applications are due in mid-May of 2024. We are grateful for those students interested in full-time church work. Have you had an LLL Scholarship Grant previously? You MUST RE-APPLY to extend your grant each year.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/YOUTH GROUP

FAITH WEAVERS: Parents/guardians can find information on our church website under “Educational Ministries” and “Faith Weavers.” If you would like to answer the call to serve by helping with Faith Weavers next year, please contact Kim Baumann, Suzie Wachter, or Mr. Jareske (402-329-4313) as soon as possible. To ensure the continued success of this ministry for the future, we are still looking for several volunteers to help in various areas.. Barring inclement weather, Faith Weavers will continue on Wednesday evenings from 5:15PM to 6:45PM. Please remember to check our website for program and weather related updates. Looking forward to the summer months, our last date of Faith Weavers instruction for this school year will take place on Wednesday, May 1st, beginning at our usual time and place. This will also be the date of our closing picnic and presentation. If your child(ren) typically attend Faith Weavers instruction, and you did not yet receive a letter with information pertaining to this date, please feel free to reach out to Mr. J, and he will be happy to provide you with a copy. **Please put donations in the kitchen with a note (from who, for who) and alert church staff about your donation. Frozen items should be placed in the freezer. Gift cards or monetary donations are also welcome. Your support is greatly appreciated!**

YOUTH CHAPERONE NEEDED: We are still looking for a female chaperone for our upcoming Camp Luther weekend retreat. Chaperones must be able to drive, stay for the entirety of the weekend, supervise and pass a background check. Please speak to Vicar Johnson as soon as possible if interested or need more information.

CAMP LUTHER RETREAT: If your child is set to attend this event, and you have been receiving emails from Vicar Johnson, please continue to check your email for further information as this trip draws closer. If you have not been receiving emails about this trip, and this is in error, please let Vicar know as soon as possible. Upcoming emails will include important information pertaining to this trip, such as a packing list and needed items, so please make sure that you are receiving these types of emails. We will also be looking for donations of food items for meals and items relating to the creation of hygiene kits. Again our Camp Luther retreat takes place on the weekend of April 26th-28th.

VBS AND PLANNING MEETING: It is a little bit hard to believe, but it is once again time to start looking forward to Vacation Bible School for this upcoming summer! The theme for this year will be an underwater VBS called “Scuba” by Group Publishing. If students and families would like to participate, or assist, with this amazing summer event, please continue to look for more information, and a way to register, by the end of April. If you, on the other hand, would like to assist with the planning process, please plan to attend our next VBS planning meeting taking place on Tuesday, April 30th, beginning at 5:30PM in the church fellowship hall. This event takes a lot of planning and preparation, and so we appreciate any help that anyone is able to offer. We will look forward to seeing you soon!

HANDS FOR CHRIST: Planning has already begun to once again provide this weekend long event for 8th through 12th grade students and adult volunteers aimed at service and community enrichment. If you are interested in helping, and have not yet signed up, please plan to speak to Mr. J in the near future to receive some registration materials and event related information.