

Zion Lutheran Church  
439 3rd Avenue South  
Clinton, Iowa 52732  
Phone 563-242-7391  
www.zionlutheranclinton.org

Vol. 92 No. 5

**THE**

# COURIER

May 2022

## PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE



**O LORD GOD, WE PRAY FOR PEACE & LOVE  
IN ALL THE NATIONS, AMONG ALL THE PEOPLE  
THAT ALL WARS AND HATRED WILL END.  
WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM  
WAR, INJUSTICE, & INTOLERANCE, FOR THE  
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, THE POOR &  
NEGLECTED ONES. WE PRAY FOR PEACE IN  
OUR LIFE, LANDS, NATIONS, FAMILIES &  
IN OUR HEARTS. LORD GIVE US WORLD PEACE.  
WE ASK YOUR MERCY IN THE NAME OF OUR  
LORD JESUS CHRIST. AMEN.**



From  
the desk  
of...

**Pastor Mark Luepke**

### **“Easter: Celebrating the Unexpected”**

Having just wrapped up jotting down an outline for what I’m going to share with the children during tonight’s (Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>) Faith FUNdations opening time together, I shouldn’t have been surprised by the phone call I received just seconds later.

On this Wednesday of the week of Easter, I am going to talk with the children about “expectations.” 1) What do you expect to happen when I flip these light switches? (*The lights will turn off.*) 2) What do you expect to happen when I push the top of this bottle of hand sanitizer? (*Hand sanitizer will squirt out the spout thing.*) 3) There’s a ring of jingle bells sitting here. What do you expect will happen if I pick it up and start to shake it? (*It will make a jingling sound.*) 4) How about if I jump up? (*I expect to come back to the ground. Gravity is pretty predictable.*) Of course, it is also possible that I could hurt myself. Maybe I should expect THAT to happen!

And then I’m going to hold up a plastic Easter egg. The children have seen many of these, so they will certainly have expectations. So what is it that they will expect? Probably candy; but something good anyway. However, they will then probably be surprised to find that what they expected to find wasn’t there. The egg will be empty. This will be my jumping off point to share about how EVERYONE expected Jesus being killed meant that he was done for – that he would always be dead. Nobody expected an empty tomb!

So, having just set my “expected/unexpected” “life/death/life” notes away to be used later tonight with the kids, my phone rang. Someone had died. Could I preside at a funeral this weekend for a member of an area congregation that doesn’t currently have a pastor? An unexpected phone call on behalf of a grieving family. An unexpected call to share the Good News of the blessing and life of God in the midst of death.

Whether a death is expected or unexpected, we *can* expect a host of different feelings and thoughts. And these “different feelings and thoughts” will almost always have some difficult ones as a part of the mix. This is to be expected.

But what an awful heaviness would always be hanging on us if our expectation was that death is the final word – that death is IT. And this is what death – in and of itself – shouts out at us: THE END! But this is the very reason that Easter Sunday – the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord – is such an incredibly big deal. The resurrection of Christ and his empty tomb has bought about the totally unexpected “sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life.” (This is a quotation from the worship service committal prayer lifted up at the cemetery.) In Jesus Christ, our expectations have changed! Thanks be to God!

I look forward to worshipping with you throughout this Easter season – and then the Easter season that we could call “life on earth.” As we worship together, I expect that we will be blessed with a Word of life in the midst of that which shouts out death. May we, in the grace of God, expect the unexpected!

Celebrating the unexpected with you,

*Pastor Mark Luepke*

# Worship

**In-person worship services are:** Saturdays 5:30 pm  
Sundays 9:00 am

**Radio Broadcasts on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am on KROS 105.9 FM or 1340 AM.**

If you are unable to listen when aired, podcasts are available at [krosradio.com/podcasts](http://krosradio.com/podcasts).  
(Zion’s podcasts are at the bottom of the podcasts page.)

**Video services are offered via Facebook** ([www.facebook.com/zionlutheranchurchclinton](http://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranchurchclinton))  
**and on Zion’s website** ([www.zionlutheranclinton.org](http://www.zionlutheranclinton.org))

## Wednesday Morning Prayer in May

After having taken a “COVID break” of two years, Zion’s time of “Wednesday Morning Prayer” will resume in the month of May – beginning Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome!

“Wednesday Morning Prayer” is a time of fellowship, study, prayer, and the sharing of the sacrament of Holy Communion. It begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes no later than 10:00 a.m. We meet in the chapel wing of Zion’s Dining Room.

The focus of study for this month will be the life of the disciple and apostle Peter. Why might Jesus have chosen to call Peter to follow him? Why was Peter called “the Rock”? What might the stories about Peter and his faith (or lack of faith) have to do with us and our call to discipleship? Again, all are welcome.

## Synod Assembly May 2022

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is comprised of 65 synods. The ELCA congregations of Clinton, Iowa are members of the Southeastern Iowa Synod. The Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly will take place in Coralville, Iowa on May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The Assembly will include business items and reports, elections of synod leadership, and worship. The theme of the Assembly will be “Go Tell the World” with a focus on Matthew 28:18-20.

Zion’s voting members for this year’s Assembly will be Marsha Smith, Travis Morehead, and Pastor Mark Luepke. Your prayers for them, their fellow voting members, and for the deliberations and actions of the Assembly would be greatly appreciated.

# Zion Child Care & Preschool

In April, our 3 year old preschool classes took a trip to the library. Our 4's preschool classes took a city bus ride around town. These are both trips the kids enjoy! It's so hard to believe we only have another month of preschool left!

The child care and preschool kiddos are really enjoying being able to get outdoors and run off some energy! We are patiently awaiting our delivery of caterpillars!

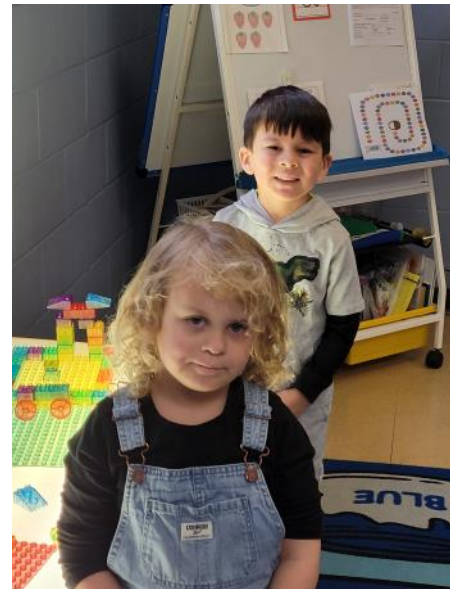
Our center was closed on Good Friday. It's always nice for staff to have a long weekend with their families. It doesn't happen very often!!



We are currently registering for 3 year old and 4 year old preschool for the fall. We have a couple of afternoon spots left. They meet 11:45 am – 2:45 pm. Our 3's program meets on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday each week. Tuition is \$165 per month. Our 4's program meets Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday each week. We participate in the 4 year old voluntary preschool grant with Clinton Community School District and the State of Iowa, meaning any child that is 4 years old and lives in Iowa, tuition is FREE!! Tuition for a 5 year old or resident from another state is \$240.00 per month.

Please help us spread the word that we are currently doing preschool registration! Interested families can call Zion Child Care Preschool at 243-9393 for more information.

Kelly Bork,  
Director

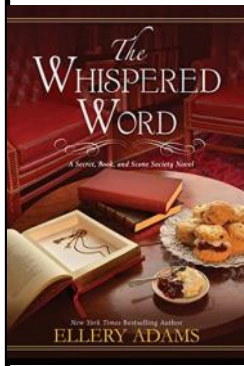
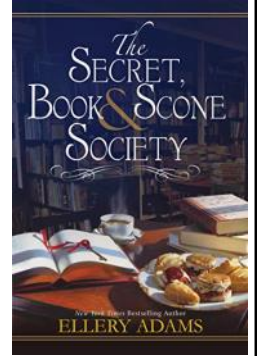


## New Zion Library Books for May 2022



***The First Mrs. Rothschild*** by Sara Aharoni is a novel set in Europe in the 1700's and tells the story of the beginnings of the Rothschild dynasty, the repression of the Jewish population in Frankfurt, and the heroic success of the first Mr. Rothschild. Written as a diary, his wife documents how he overcame being orphaned and invited her into his dreams of family and success. By the end of their lives, their five sons were bankers in five European cities that funded much of the import trade, even supplying armies with money and supplies, and gaining equal citizenship for the Jews in Frankfurt.

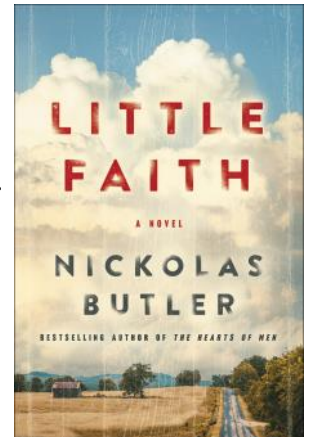
***The Secret, Book & Scone Society*** by Ellery Adams is the first book in a series of mystery stories about a group of women who find friendship and purpose in their lives through helping others and solving mysteries!



***The Whispered Word*** is the second book and continues the story of the four women who live in a small town just off the Appalachian Trail and love books. Unfortunately, there are murders that would go unsolved without them! *The Book of Candlelight*, which was featured last month, is the third book in this series.

## Zion's Book Club

WE ARE PLANNING TO RESTART ZION'S BOOK CLUB! The third Wednesday in May will be our debut with the novel ***Little Faith*** by Nickolas Butler, which was inspired by true events that happened in Wisconsin. Questions of faith arise for Lyle and Peg when their estranged daughter and grandson return home and get involved in an extremist church. The pastor of this church believes that Isaac, the grandson, has the ability to heal the sick. Lyle, whose own faith was shaken after a tragedy years ago, finds himself torn. Uneasy about the practices of this church, he is afraid that if he rebuffs this church, his daughter and grandson will disappear for good. But when Isaac's safety is threatened, Lyle is forced to make a decision that may fracture the family beyond repair. This is a novel about friendship and community, the ways in which belief is both forged and dismantled, and the lengths we go to protect our own.



We will meet in the library at 10 AM on Wednesday, May 18th. Copies of the book are available on the cart shelf in the library. See you there!

# Faith FUNdations

Faith FUNdations is like Sunday School for our children, except it takes place on Wednesday evening. Each week we serve a meal to our families while also having great fellowship with each other.

Jessica Hilgendorf and Judy Carstensen plan the meals & help prepare the food. We have a wonderful group of ladies that help prepare, serve and clean up each week.

## **Kitchen Volunteers**

Ardyce Adams                      Nancy Luepke  
Beth Griswold                      Laurie Kuehl  
Linda Dutchess

It's a group of lovely ladies who serve with a smile and have lots of fun doing it.

Linda Schoening organizes the lessons and makes sure things are ready for the evening. Our teachers are dedicated to the children and make learning fun. If you follow us on Face Book you can tell by the smiling faces in the pictures the children are enjoying the evening. This year we did team teaching with alternating weeks between the team.

## **Preschool Teachers**

Aubree Tanzillo  
Kristi Schroeder  
Alyssa Schroeder (helper)  
Rachel Bails  
Helen Steen

## **Kindergarten and 1st Grade**

Tara & Matt Rhoades  
Sally Kremer  
Jeri Morehead  
Diane Honeywell  
Payton Luett (helper)

## **2nd & 3rd Grade**

Amber Turner  
Barb Rhoades

## **4th & 5th Grade**

Skip Carstensen

Our team teaching has worked so well this year that we have not had to call on our subs, but we would like to recognize them as they were willing to help if we needed them.  
Shirleen Jackson & Trent Weaver.

Donica Vonderhoe does our music, teaching the kids many fun songs and activities. Pastor Mark does the opening and teaches confirmation.

We have 3 ladies that monitor the door and greet the children and parents each week.  
Marcia Krogmann, Jane Noecker & Linda Shaff

As Faith FUNdations has concluded for this school year, we would like to thank everyone for all they have done this year for Faith FUNdations. Each of you is important in helping these children and youth on their faith journey; your help is invaluable! Thank you!!

Once again, you Care, Share, and Serve. Thank you!

Judy Carstensen  
Linda Schoening  
Pastor Mark

# Confirmation Class News – May 2022

The final confirmation class session for this school year will be Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Since Faith FUNdations is not meeting in May, please note that there will no meal served on May 4<sup>th</sup> and the confirmation class will meet from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

## “KIDS AGAINST HUNGER”

KIDS of ALL ages (2 TO 102!) are invited to Zion's next “KIDS AGAINST HUNGER” packaging event on **Sunday morning, May 15 at 10:00.**

We have been waiting 2 years for this event! Please **MARK** your **CALENDARS!!!!** We have funds to sponsor 2 lines, which means we need many hands, both small and large! Won't you come help us??

There are lots of folks that are in need of food, so, if you would like to help feed the hungry around the world and around the corner, let's package some meals together!



## **“Blessing” of the Prayer Shawls**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was established at Zion in 2008 with three members and three prayer shawls. Since that time, with the help of many Zion members and others, over 1150 prayer shawls have been made and distributed to individuals, hospitals, and nursing homes. The shawls have brought comfort to those in need as well as joy for special occasions. Each shawl has its own story to tell. These prayer shawls have traveled from coast to coast and even Alaska. Many times the shawls were shared with those who had no connection to Zion except through the one person who donated it to them.

At worship services on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, we will be “blessing” shawls that have been prayerfully created by several Zion women. Did you know that ALL of YOU are welcome to take a prayer shawl to give to someone who may have a special need? “Blessed” prayer shawls, ready for giving, are kept in the cabinet in the library. Feel free to share God’s love by giving a Zion prayer shawl. For more information about this ministry, contact Deb Vath, Chair of the Social Ministry Committee.

## Interested in Zion Membership?

With some having recently expressed interest in joining the membership of Zion Lutheran Church, Pastor Mark will soon be pulling together a session on “What does it mean to be a member of Zion Lutheran Church?” And “How does one become a member?”

There may very well be a number of *members* of Zion who have wondered about this! But those who are *not* members of this congregation, but who may be interested, are invited to contact Pastor Mark with their questions and/or possible interest.

Simply call the church office (563-242-7391), email Pastor Mark at [pastormark@zionlutheranclinton.org](mailto:pastormark@zionlutheranclinton.org), or indicate so on the pew pad sheets – sharing your contact information.

# BLOOD DRIVE

[BLOODCENTER.ORG](http://BLOODCENTER.ORG)

## Zion Lutheran Church

Sponsored by Social Ministry

**Monday, June 20th** 3:00pm – 6:30pm

**Dining Hall** (439 Third Ave S, Clinton)

**MASKS AND APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED.**

To schedule contact Deb Vath at  
[djvath@mchsi.com](mailto:djvath@mchsi.com) or go online at  
[www.bloodcenter.org](http://www.bloodcenter.org).

Please eat before donating and bring Photo ID.  
Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 4/25/22





# COUNCIL NEWS

## Summary of Congregation Council Minutes – March 8, 2022

*(The full minutes are posted on the bulletin board near the church office.)*

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Luepke noted that the heaviness of Covid seems to be lifting. On the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we need to lift our prayers and do what we can from here. He also shared that we can recognize God's gifts and blessings and to also recognize what gives us joy. The return of the children to the front of the sanctuary for the children's sermon is one of these joys. Pastor informed the Council that he is doing emergency and pastoral care for Immanuel Lutheran Church in Clinton and for Zion Lutheran Church in Elvira. He has also been asked to be on call for funerals at Faith Lutheran Church in Andover.

**Treasurer's Report:** General Funds were reviewed and Skip Carstensen reported that we are ahead of budget year to date.

**Old Business:** Jurgen Duhr reported to the Council that the work on the organ will begin on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> with work expected to be complete and the organ available for use on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor brought the work of the Governance Taskforce before the Council. This taskforce was put together by the Council and its work was interrupted by the Covid pandemic. The taskforce was reviewing the way Zion's governance was put together and was to review and update the constitution. The Council agreed to ask that the work continue, and that Jim Pillers, who had served as the leader of this task force, be asked to continue to lead this effort.

Committee assignments were discussed. The assignments are a way of having a Council liaison on each committee. Each Council member will commit to an assignment.

**New Business:** It was reported to the Council that we will be resuming weekly Communion. In April, the opportunity to come to the Communion rail for Communion will be offered.

President Travis Morehead reported to the Council that Fellowship will resume on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Opportunities for different committees or individuals to participate in hosting Fellowship will be forthcoming.

Council member Melissa Werner brought before the Council the desire to move forward with the Sauerkraut Supper this year with a tentative date of September 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be a need for numerous volunteers.

Deb Vath brought before the Council the desire to resume the Kids Against Hunger project this Spring. The Social Ministry committee will follow up on the project.

Deb Vath reported to the Council on the Blood Drives held at Zion. There will be three drives per year. The second drive will be June 20<sup>th</sup> with the third one to be held in October.



## Kentucky Hot Brown Breakfast

The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a "Kentucky Hot Brown" breakfast on Sunday May 22, 2022 after the 9:00 am service.

Come join us in the dining hall for some fun, fellowship and good eats!!!

Sign up sheets will be in the narthex the weekends of May 8-9 & May 14-15. If you plan to attend, please write your name and the number of persons attending so we know how many to plan for.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone there!!!



## March In-Person Worship Attendance

Weekend	Saturday	Sunday	Total
Mar. 5 & 6	41	79	120
Mar. 12 & 13	46	77	123
Mar. 19 & 20	62	79	141
Mar. 26 & 27	67	73	140
<b>Average</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>131</b>

## March In-Person Mid-Week Attendance

Date	AM	PM	Total
Mar. 2	52	83	135
Mar. 9	50	47	97
Mar. 16	44	29	73
Mar. 23	47	28	75
Mar. 30	41	37	78
<b>Average</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>92</b>

## Food Pantries “Shopping Cart” Requests

Thank you Zion for continuing to support the local Food Pantries with your monetary gifts. Please also consider much needed non-food donations that the Benevolent Society makes available to local families. Requested items include feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner, razors, shaving cream, body soap, dish soap, laundry soap, diapers (newborn & up) & adult diapers. You will notice the “Shopping Cart” in the narthex on the first weekend of the month. Feel free to leave your donations in the cart. We will make sure that all food and non-food items get delivered to the Pantry. Thank you!! ~ Social Ministry Committee

# May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM: Worship	2 6:30 PM: Elizabeth Circle	3 5:00 PM: Executive Committee 5:50 PM: All Committee Night	4 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer 6:00 PM: Confirmation Class	5	6 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	7 5:30 pm: Worship
8 9:00 AM: Worship	9 5:30 PM: Habitat for Humanity Meeting 6:00 PM: Girl Scouts	10 1:30 PM: Rebecca Circle 6:00 PM: Congregation Council 6:00 PM: Boy Scouts	11 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer	12	13 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	14 10:00 am: Parkinson's Support Group 5:30 pm: Worship
15 9:00 AM: Worship 10:00 AM: Kids Against Hunger Event	16 <i>Submissions for June Courier due by 12 pm.</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	17 6:00 PM: Child Care Board 6:00 PM: Boy Scouts	18 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer 10:00 AM: Book Club	19 6:00 PM: MS Support Group	20 <i>Synod Assembly</i>	21 5:30 pm: Worship <i>Synod Assembly</i>
22 Graduate Recognition 9:00 AM: Worship 10:15 AM: Fellowship Meal	23 9:00 AM: Quilters 6:00 PM: Girl Scouts	24 6:00 PM: Boy Scouts <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	25 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer	26	27 <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	28 5:30 pm: Worship <i>Pastor on vacation</i>
29 9:00 AM: Worship <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	30 Memorial Day <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	31 6:00 PM: Boy Scouts <i>Pastor on vacation</i>				

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Vol. 92 No. 4

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## ZION'S STAFF

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◆  
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◆  
**Donica Vonderohe, Staff Musician**  
[music@zionlutheranclinton.org](mailto:music@zionlutheranclinton.org)

◆  
**Patrick Hoffman, Custodian**

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday  
9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.