

Zion Lutheran Church  
April 28, 2024 10:00 am  
Fifth Sunday of Easter



Zion's Mission Statement

*As a body of believers, created by God, redeemed by  
Christ, empowered by the Spirit, we are called to bear  
witness to God's love.*

**Congregation of the Montana Synod, E.L.C.A.**

Glendive, MT 59330  
Website [www.zionlutheran.us](http://www.zionlutheran.us)  
406-377-3369

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Sermon & Liturgy: Norman Unterseher, LPA**

**Reader: Deric & Dylan Holden**

**Ushers: Deric & Dylan Holden**

**Deacons: Paul Shearer, Tracy Gabbert, Steve Kaul**

**Sound System: Gary Lundman**

**Acolytes: Bode & Teag Rieger**

**Chancel Guild: Sharon T**

**Musicians: Mary Senvold / Marla McCormick**

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Next Sunday, May 5, 2024

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

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Norman Unterseher, a Lay Pastoral Associate, has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

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Church office hours are Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-noon. Church office e-mail is [churchlady@zionlutheran.us](mailto:churchlady@zionlutheran.us)

*\*Indicates Congregation Stands*

**Introduction:**

*This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.*

**Announcements:**

**\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

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

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!

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

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. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

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

**\*Gathering Hymn:** ELW Hymn #511 Thy Strong Word

**\*Apostolic Greeting:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**\*Kyrie:** Page 203 in the front of the hymnal

**\*Hymn of Praise:** Page 204 in the front of the hymnal

**\*Prayer of the Day:**

**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: Acts 8:26-40** Pew Bible on page 120 in the New Testament

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

<sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm 22:25-31**

*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)*

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,**

**who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,

shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,**

**whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

**Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21** Pew Bible page 230 in the New Testament

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.

<sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**\*Gospel Acclamation:** page 151 in the front of hymnal Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

The Holy Gospel is from John, the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**\*Gospel: John 15:1-8** Pew Bible page 104 in the New Testament

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Message:** Norman Unterseher, LPA

**\*Hymn of the Day:** ELW Hymn #449 We Know That Christ Is Raised

**\*Apostles' Creed:** Page 105 in the front of the ELW

**\*Prayers of Intercession:** Our response to God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

**\*Sharing the Peace:** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**  
Share the peace as you feel comfortable.

**Offering Hymn:** ELW Hymn #512 Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

**Offering Prayer:**

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. Amen.**

**\*Great Thanksgiving:**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*Preface:**

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy:** Page 207 in the front of the ELW

**\*Words of Institution:**

**\*The Lord's Prayer:** Page 208 in the front of the ELW

**\*Invitation to Communion:** The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

**Communion Hymn:** ELW Hymn #482 I Come with Joy  
ELW Hymn #379 Now the Green Blade Rises

**\*Communion Blessing:**

**\*Prayer after Communion:**

Shepherding God, **you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.**  
**Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

**\*Blessing:**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!** The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always. **Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn:** ELW Hymn #881 Let All Things Now Living

**\*Dismissal:**

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

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**We encourage you to sign the pew sheets when they are passed to you. The black folder is on the inside aisle. We use them for our record of communion, and numbers are reported the Synod office. They also alert us to visitors and new people attending, and you may use them to leave a message to the pastor.**



Prayers of the People Colossians 4:2  
“Continue earnestly in prayer being vigilant in it with Thanksgiving”  
Prayers for all impacted by the Coronavirus, and for their caretakers.

Prayers of Peace for Our Nation  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**Food Bank:** There is always a need of nonperishable food such as peanut butter, cereals, mac and cheese, boxed mixes, canned fruit, veggies and soup. Also, sugar and flour. You can drop your donations directly at the Food Bank or into the shopping cart in the Narthex.

**Spring Potluck:** A spring potluck is scheduled for Sunday, May 12, in the fellowship hall downstairs. Please make plans to celebrate Mother’s Day, the last day of Sunday School, and Confirmation immediately following the 10 am worship service.

**Zion Council Scholarship:** The Zion Council Scholarship is available for graduating high school seniors. It is due May 1, 2024. Applications may be picked up at the church or are available on Zion’s website and mailed to the church.

**Baptisms:** Gracie Hope Garpestad and Ryer Trangmoe Kragt were baptized at Zion last week. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

**Picture Directory:** Today is the last day to submit pictures for the directory. You may text photos to Pastor Avis at 406-939-1421.

**Youth Director:** Youth and Education Committee has posted the position of part time Youth Director, 15-20 hours per month. Contact Megan Kubesh at 406-939-1006 for more information.

**Live Streaming:** Remember we have the live streaming of the Sunday 10 am service when you are out of town with vacation, sports, or other events. Please check it out.

**Prayer Chain:** Contact the church office at 406 377-3369 and leave a message or email [churchlady@zionlutheran.us](mailto:churchlady@zionlutheran.us) for prayer requests.

**Up Coming Events:**

- Confirmation continues on May 1 & 8
- Sunday School May 5 & 12 at 9:00 a.m.
- Spring potluck on May 12 following the worship service
- Graduation recognition on May 19
- Bike Blessing on May 5 at the old Kmart parking lot at 12:30

**Sunday April 28, 2024**

**10:00 a.m.                      Worship**

**7:00 p.m.                        Scouts**

**Monday April 29, 2024**

**9:00 a.m.                        Quilting**

**5:00 p.m.                        Loaves & Fishes-Jo R & George S**

**7:00 p.m.                        Scouts**

**Tuesday April 30, 2024**

**Wednesday May 1, 2024**

**10:00 a.m.                      Prayer Circle**

**4:00 p.m.                        Confirmation**

**Thursday May 2, 2024**

**6:30 a.m.                        Men's Bible Study-YRI**

**1:30 p.m.                        Deborah Circle**

**7:00 p.m.                        Worship**

**Friday May 3, 2024**

**Saturday May 4, 2024**

**10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.        Furniture Room-Avis**

**Sunday May 5, 2024**

**9:00 a.m.                        Sunday School**

**10:00 a.m.                      Worship**

**12:30 p.m.                      Bike Blessing-old Kmart Parking Lot**

**7:00 p.m.                        Scouts**