



April 2026

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH of Deer Park NEWSLETTER

April 2, 2026

Maundy Thursday-Risky Mercy Worship at 5:30pm

Maundy Thursday bridges love and lament, communion and conflict. On this night of betrayal and fear, Jesus gathers with his friends for a meal—not just as ritual, but as an act of self-giving love. He breaks bread, offers the cup, and washes feet, modeling leadership through vulnerability and service. Peter’s faltering loyalty highlights the tension between promise and failure, yet Jesus meets it with mercy. Isaiah’s vision of a feast overflowing with mercy and covenant echoes this moment, inviting all to return and trust. Together, these texts call us to linger in the tension—to build community where nourishment is shared freely, and human frailty is held within God’s abundant hospitality.



April 3, 2026

Good Friday-Empires Shadow Worship at 5:30pm

Good Friday holds grief without resolution. It is not a detour from love, but love laid bare to the world’s cruelty—marked by betrayal, denial, empire’s brutality, and communal silence. Jesus is handed over by friends and condemned by the state. Pilate, attempting to absolve himself, becomes a symbol of moral abdication and the danger of neutrality in the face of injustice. His role invites reflection on how power can be wielded without courage or accountability. Jesus’ cry from the cross echoes Psalm 22, giving voice to abandonment, terror, and lament—yet ending in a fragile trust. These texts together expose the cost of the empire’s violence and reveal God’s deep identification with the forsaken, offering us space to grieve and name what has been broken.

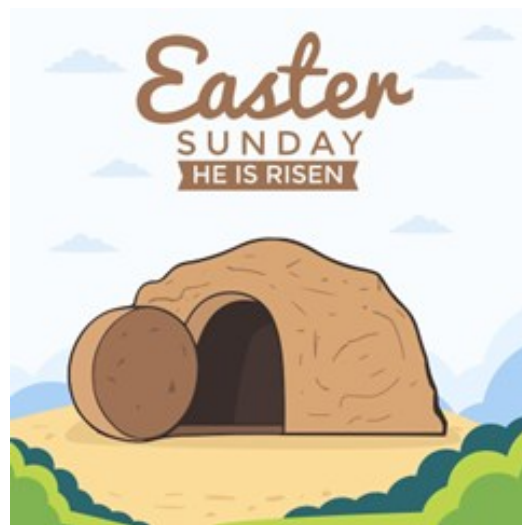


Easter Morning Pancake Breakfast 8:30-10:00am

Join us Easter Morning before worship for a delicious, traditional Easter Pancake Breakfast! If you would like to contribute, there is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Easter Egg Hunt 11:15am

After worship, everyone will gather in the Fellowship hall while our “Easter Bunny Helpers” hide the eggs! There will be activities, bunnies and snacks while we wait.



Worship 10:00am

*Don't forget the live
Easter Bunnies!*





LUTHERHAVEN

Zion has money available for kids
to go to camp!

If you have a kiddo in your world who might like
to go to camp this summer, reach out to a
council member for more information on what
money is available through the youth fund here at
Zion!

Kinder camp—4-6yr olds plus a grownup

Genesis camp—Grades 1,2

Exodus camp—Grades 3,4

Treehouse camp—Grades 4-6

Castaway camp—Grades 4-6

Pioneers camp—Grades 5,6

Pathfinders camp—Grades 7,8

Shoshone Mt. Retreat camps—Grades 5—10

Adventurers—Grades 9—12

And so much more!!!

FIBER ARTS AND CRAFTS

Meeting every
1st and 3rd
Monday mornings at
10:00am
to share stories,
projects and maybe a few
shenanigans.



Come and join us!

April 2

Maundy Thursday

Risky Mercy

Pastor Arianna Arends

Reader: Jenna Wittenberg

Pianist: Deedee Schroeder

A/V:



April 3

Good Friday

Empire's Shadow

Pastor Arianna Arends

Pianist: Deedee Schroeder

A/V: Mike Cowen

April 5

EASTER SUNDAY

Fulfilling Imagination

Now the Feast

Pastor Arianna Arends

Assisting: Solveig Pedersen

Musicians: Deedee

Schroeder & Debbie Spray

Acolyte: Clayton Pintler

A/V: Mike Cowen



April 12

2nd Sunday of Easter

Setting 3, ELW

Pastor Arianna Arends

Assisting: Jennifer Coles

Musician: Angela Rapp

Acolyte: Josie Schroeder

A/V: Craig Coles

April 19

3rd Sunday of Easter

Setting 3, ELW

Pastor Arianna Arends

Assisting: Miriam Bennett

Pianist: Angela Rapp

Acolyte: Elisa Watanabe

A/V:



April 26

4th Sunday of Easter

Setting 3, ELW

Synod Assembly

Assisting: Jessica Schroeder

Pianist: Deedee Schroeder

Acolyte: Charlie Schroeder

A/V: Deron Schroeder



*Heavenly Father, we lift up our loved ones to You,
asking for Your protection and guidance.
Surround them with Your peace and love,
providing comfort and strength in their time of need.
May they feel Your presence in every
moment, knowing they are never alone. Amen.*

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Shawn Pintler and Family	Karen	Rex and Sharron Schimke
Darcy	Debbie Austin	Delores Hutchinson
Cheryl Olson	Gloria Loeffler	Dianne Greene
Bill and Pat Coats	Marty Kennard	Bob Schroeder
Donna Zabel	Jenna-rae Welch	Elaina Henon
Darcy	Nancy Torbett	Beverly Schierman
Howard Cowen	Tony Francil	Acts

The friends and families of Dianna Shimizu, Beverly Schoen's nephew Tim,
and Kevin Cossey at their passing

PROTECTION FOR:

*All those serving in the military. Especially we remember : Adam Holbein, Don
Grant, A. Clark, Aaron Shroyer, Donovan Douglas, Noah Kaleikini, Conner Mark-
ham, and Emerson Schroeder. All those in detention and their families.*

HELPERS APPRECIATED!

Thank you to all who helped plan, organize,
Prepared eggs or were bunnies.
You made everything better!



Special thanks to Miriam
and her cuddly bunnies.

Thank you for helping make
this a fun annual event for
our youngest disciples!



1-Scot Littrel
2-Gunner Masters
8-Bob Schroeder
11-Bill Sebright
21-Jim Rausch
25-Marjorie Hogue
28-Lizzie Rapp



Dear People of Zion; Your pastor is deep in Holy Week preparations while fighting a cold. Please enjoy these thoughts from David Lose on the importance of the physical nature of Jesus' resurrection. See you in worship!
Yours in Christ, Pastor Arianna

The primary temptation for people of faith, I think, is not so much to disbelieve – goodness, but doubting what happens when God gets involved in our lives seems like the most natural and biblical response possible! – as it is to reduce, describe, and contain God's actions in ways we can easily understand. Perhaps that's because if we can't understand God, then God remains beyond us, which in turn means we can't tame or domesticate or ultimately control God. And, well, we tend to fear those things we can't control. And perhaps the chief way we attempt to describe, understand, and ultimately limit and control God is the all-too-natural belief that a) God is certainly way, way beyond us and therefore b) the chief task of the religious life is to improve ourselves and reach toward God. You know, "Each and every day, I become better and better in every way." The end result is to be, finally, less human and more like God, eventually escaping the confines of mortal life to live as spirit with the Eternal Spirit (and all that jazz).

Yet across the Scriptures and particularly in the New Testament, the story told is not one of humanity's journey of improvement and spiritual enlightenment but rather that it's actually the eternal and holy God that embarks on a trek... to be like us and encounter us where we are. From the pains of Mary's childbirth and Jesus' messy birth (is there any other kind?), to his grief over losing a friend, to both his joy in and disappointment with his disciples, to his isolation in Gethsemane and despair on the cross, the picture of Christ's life, ministry, and death is one of God embracing all that we are so we would know God understands us as we are, embraces and accepts us as we are, loves us as we are, and redeems us as we are. So also in the story of the resurrection. God comes for real people, redeems real people, and promises to resurrect real – and so also physical – people.

Perhaps it's understandable to want to question physical resurrection – and of course the disciples and anyone else who takes it seriously questions this! – by reducing it to a spiritual or psychological experience we can understand. But the flip side of this move is to recognize that a God we can understand and describe probably can't save us. Jesus is really resurrected because God really intends to redeem, save, and bless us... as we are: physical, mortal, limited, vulnerable. Really.



Solveig Pedersen and Pastor Arianna mic'd and ready to lead us in Holden Evening Prayer.
Special thanks to them and Deedee Schroeder for the music, and to Craig and Jennifer Coles for A/V tech support!



Sunday Altar Flower Sign-up

A sign up sheet is now available for Sundays in April, including Easter Sunday and special \$10 Easter Lilies from our lovely local florist, Desiree.

Get a Jump on Spring Cleaning and Support the Zion Lutheran Annual Rummage Sale!

As you wait for warmer weather to begin your spring yardwork, consider starting indoors by decluttering your home. Any unwanted or unneeded items can find a new purpose at the **Zion Lutheran Annual Rummage Sale**, happening **May 1st and May 2nd** this year.

New This Year:

We will be accepting **gently used, clean clothing**. These items will be displayed in the quilting room during the sale. If you have **extra clothing racks or display tables**, we would greatly appreciate borrowing them for the week of the sale to help keep items organized and off the floor.

A Few Donation Notes:

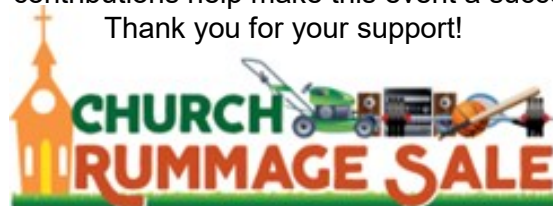
Some items historically do not sell well, including:

- Mismatched coffee mugs
- Small kitchen appliances that are not in good working condition

To arrange a drop-off time for your donations, please contact:

- Jim Rausch:** 509-760-1285
- Rita Rausch:** 509-385-7962

Your contributions help make this event a success—
Thank you for your support!



QUILTING

Monday's in April
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

All are welcome to join this fun and friendly group.
No experience necessary!
Won't you join us?

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES - MARCH 8, 2026

Present: Deron Schroeder, Jim Rausch, Craig Coles, Charlene Littrel, Pastor Arianna Arends, Miriam Bennett, Debbie Spray, Jessica Schroeder, Becky Kennard **Call to Order:** Council President Miriam at 11:27am **Devotions:** Deron **Last Meeting Minutes:** Approved on a motion by Jim with a 2nd by Craig, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Jessica: For the month of February 2026: General Fund balance of \$10,492.61. General Savings Balance of \$25,383.06 (+3,018.30 January Overage) Youth Fund Balance \$2391.22. Income Checking Account: 11,029.87 including \$200 designated for the basement and \$10,839.87 for the General Fund. Expenses (Checking Account) 11,877.48. Basement Fund \$2,537.00. Motion by Jim to move the basement designated \$200.00 from Checking to Savings, seconded by Deron, motion passed.

Financial Secretary Report: Charlene: Total receipts for February 2026 match Treasurer Report; \$11,029.87. Weekly Average is \$2,757.46. (Weekly average Required for 2026 Budget is \$2771.00.) Receipts included \$100 from the Quilters; \$41.00 Wednesday AA; \$300 Sister's Song; \$55 Bible Study Books; \$10 Shrove pancakes; \$74 Wed/Sat AA. Gifts-in-kind \$98.12 Printer Paper; \$340 Music. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report and Financial Secretary Report by Becky, seconded by Miriam, motion passed.

Pastor Arianna's Report: February 2026 Worship: Ash Wednesday 4:00pm 29 people, 7:00pm 1 person. Recruiting and organizing volunteers for "Character Narrative" dramas in worship. Choosing which pieces of liturgy from The Work of Imagination to use and where, and using themes from The Word of Imagination, current events, and scripture to craft sermons. Worship Committee Meeting February 16. Education/Youth: Belfry Bunch-tangible scripture application that isn't simply a moral lesson. Bible Study on Thursdays- "Making Sense of Scripture" great conversations and lots of sharing and listening! Pastoral Care: Home visit and communion with parishioner, conversations around healing, caring for relatives, political changes etc.; prayer requests online and in-person. Outreach: Coffee fellowship, soup supper time, Fiber Arts and Quilting Groups.

Office Administrator Report: Debbie worked 60.5 hours in February; prepared binders and bulletins for Sunday services. Coordinated the purchase of materials for Quilters. Updated bulletin boards, met visitors to the office with hospitality, managed the ordering and pick up of altar flowers. Updated outside signage to reflect the weekly happenings at church; produced a colorful and informative monthly newsletter. Debbie will be out of office March 25 through the weekend. Also a reminder Debbie is not available on Fridays, so please don't send messages Thursday evenings or Friday.

Community Groups: Backyard Beekeepers have modified their meeting times so as not to conflict with Zion's Rummage sale, and increased their premiums for extra accommodations.

Reports of Committees: Cemetery: Craig checked on the cemetery trees after a recent windstorm, one of the trees already considered a risk had lost part of its top, no damage to memorial stones. Craig will visit the site again after the current windstorm stops.

Fellowship: Discussion on how best to utilize our two city lots west of the church. Considering tree planting in honor of Earth Day April 22. Longer range options: Labyrinth? Hardscape? Use native plants? No water now but could be made available for plantings.

Outreach: See above under Pastor's report. No decision on food pantry/porch remodel.

Property: Basement; Deron got two different quotes (Sun Rental and Home Depot) for \$250 on cement stripping machine. Floor space is 20'x40'; requires removing everything of the basement except for kitchen which could be used for temporary storage. Craig suggested we set up a workday to paint the walls; council decided on April 20, 2026 which is also National Volunteer Day. Children will be involved, possibly by making handprint art etc. A shade of white will be chosen for walls and we will seek bids on carpet once a style is chosen. Other maintenance issues include parts of Fellowship Hall floors are pulling up; no rain gutters on quilting building causes water to spray onto sidewalk could create an ice hazard.

Worship: Palm Sunday: Looking for donations or loan of butterflies to decorate the sanctuary for Palm Sunday. Butterflies might be hung on wire. Holy Week: Maundy Thursday service at 5:30 pm. Good Friday service at 5:30 pm. Discussed leaving church open for Easter Vigil with the Council taking turns at church supervision. May repeat Stations of the Cross as it was well received last year. Miriam will be providing baby bunnies for the children to enjoy. Debbie meeting with parents and interested parishioners to organize Easter egg hunt. To allow all children equal access to the egg hunt we will try to keep the children inside (in the Belfry) then head out together as a group.

Youth and Education: Please see Property, Worship and Pastor Arianna's reports. Motion to approve all committee reports was made by Charlene and 2nd by Jim. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business: Directory; Amy has plastic comb binding. No decision on printing. Synod Assembly April 24-25; Pastor Arianna, Beverly Schoen, Autumn Hauer will participate. Zion has designated \$1500 for event. Participants responsible for lodging, travel costs and meals not covered in registration. Exploratory Committee for Mission Statement: Tabled until after Easter. Website: no news, pending. Congregational Report: Sent in.

New Business: Jessica budgeted \$2000 for Synod General Benevolence for 2026. 2025 budget was \$1500 but the Synod asked for a larger donation. Discussion about why we donate and how it is used. Synod supports our overall mission. Jessica will research further and Pastor Arianna offered to be a go-between. We have a new internet modem, but have to open a new account to access fiber. Can import our old phone number. Discussed sending letters to church members who have not participated recently to invite them back. We gained 13 new members in 2025. Our sponsored seminarian Sydney Farrell will graduate with her Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary on May 31. We will send a congratulatory card.

Next Meeting: April 12, 2026

Motion to close the meeting made by Jim, seconded by Miriam. Motion passed.

To all our wonderful Coffee Hour Hosts...Thank You!



Pictured here is Amy Helm who always prepares the most amazing coffee hour spreads! If you would like to take a turn hosting coffee hour after worship, there is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for the month of April.



Stewardship can seem practically hard in these difficult times. The world's problems loom over us and our anxiety can creep in when we feel helpless and unsure how to make a difference. With prices & bills rising it can seem hard to follow God's call to be generous and intentional with our time, talents and money (2 Corinthians 9: 6-7).

One big way we can help is in connecting within our community of faith such as checking in on members of our congregation that you've not seen in some time or those you know are living alone or more isolated. Our friendship can mean so much to others and a phone call or meeting for some coffee can enrich people's lives in a small but meaningful way. It helps to keep our community in Christ connected and feeling part of the whole. When able, it's good for us to see what small thing we could do that impacts the whole and brings God's love and compassion to those around us.

This Easter season, take the challenge to reach out to one another and see what small contribution you can make that would help one another and our surrounding community.
-The Stewardship Committee

April Bible Readings

Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday



Readings: Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31-35

Friday, April 3 Good Friday

Readings: Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25, John 18:1-19:42

Easter Vigil

Readings: Romans 6:3-11, John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 5 EASTER DAY

Readings: Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Colossians 3:1-4, Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday, April 12 2nd Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 2:14, 22-32, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 19 3rd Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 2:14, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19, 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, April 26 4th Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10

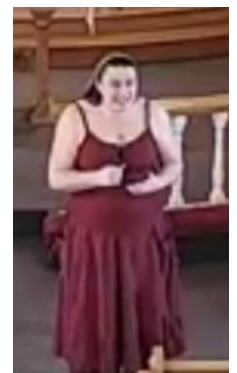
Character Narratives

Special thanks to our volunteers...



Jacob Rapp
The Disciple

Jenna Wittenberg
The Canaanite Woman



Jessical Schroeder
The Hired Hand
(and a sheep)

Zion Lutheran Church
218 E. Crawford
PO Box 1392
Deer Park, WA 99006
Return Service Requested



Our Staff

Pastor:

Pastor Arianna Arends: (509) 954-5886
pastorarianna@gmail.com

Musicians:

Deedee Schroeder, Angela Rapp, Jenna Wittenberg
& Debbie Spray

Office Administrator:

Debbie Spray (509) 276-2954, (509) 951-4230

Treasurer: Jessica Schroeder

Contact Information

Church Phone Number: (509) 276-2954

Church email: zlcnewsletter@gmail.com

Newsletter email: zlcnewsletter@gmail.com

Prayer Chain Requests:

Roberta Schroeder (509) 276-2343 or
zlcnewsletter@gmail.com

Synod Website: <https://nwimsynod.org>

Sunday Worship Schedule

10:00 am—Worship & Communion

In-person and Live on Facebook

FB— Zion Lutheran Deer Park

11:00 am—Fellowship

Our Church Council

Jim Rausch, Deron Schroeder, Charlene Littrel,
Miriam Bennett, Becky Kennard, and Craig Coles

Our Pastor

Pastor Arianna Arends
(509) 954-5886 pastorarianna@gmail.com