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# Life & Growth at Zion

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 11-12, 2025

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## **Week at a Glance**

### **Saturday, April 11**

- 5:00pm: Worship w/ Holy Communion

### **Sunday, April 12**

- 8:30am: Worship
- 9:30am: Sunday School
- 9:40am: Congregational Meeting
- 10:45am: Creative Worship w/ Holy Communion

### **Monday, April 13**

- 7:00pm: AA Meeting

### **Tuesday, April 14**

- 1:00pm: Tuesday Bible Study

### **Wednesday, April 15**

- 5:45 pm: Hosanna Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00pm: Confirmation
- 6:00pm: King's Kids
- 6:45pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30pm: Youth Group

### **Thursday, April 16**

- 9:am-3pm: Quilters

### **Friday, April 17**

- 9am-noon: Quilters
- 10pm-6am: Youth Lock-in

### **Saturday, April 18**

- 5:00pm: Worship

### **Sunday, April 19**

- 8:30am: Traditional Worship w/ Holy Communion
- 9:30 am: Sunday School
- 9:40am: Bible Class
- 10:45am: Creative Worship
- 12:00pm: Meal & Voters' Meeting

## **Welcome to Worship!**

"Information for guests & visitors, including our beliefs and procedures for Holy Communion as a congregation of the LCMS, can be found on the cards in the back of each pew. If you have any questions please reach out to our pastors or the church office using the contact information found on the last page of this newsletter. Blessings on your time in worship!

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## *As We Gather...*

"Seeking dedicated worker. Suffering not optional." If we were to read that simple line in a job posting, it certainly would give us pause. People generally want to avoid suffering at any cost. Scripture reminds us that there may be a dynamic of discomfort to faith-filled living that follows the call of the risen Savior. In his hymn text "'Come, Follow Me,' the Savior Spake" from the 1600s, Johann Scheffler concludes, "Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, and take the cross appointed and, firmly clinging to His Word, in suffering be undaunted. For those who bear the battle's strain the crown of heav'nly life obtain" (LSB 688:5). The challenges of the twenty-first century may differ from those of the seventeenth, but they are just as real. Our Lord promises that He is always with us on our life's journey. With Easter joy, we travel onward together toward His glorious heavenly kingdom!



## UPCOMING Events

CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

**Today, Sunday, April 12**  
Congregational Meeting  
9:40 Lower Level

**Tuesday Bible Class**  
1:00-2:30pm  
Book of Job

**Wednesday, April 15**  
Confirmation 6:00pm **Kids**  
Confirmation & King's Kids

**April 17-18**  
10pm-6am  
**"Serve, not to be Served"**  
Grades 4-8 Youth Lock-in



**Sunday, April 19**  
Meal & Voters' Meeting  
Noon



**Wednesday, April 15**  
5:45pm Hosanna Choir  
Resumes  
6:45 Bells of Zion Resume



**Wednesday, April 29**  
6:00pm  
Learning Fair

Zion is updating its online giving platform. Zion will now be using Subsplash. If you are presently using Vanco for your online giving there are handouts on the table in the back of the sanctuary on how to make the change, if you have any issues please contact the church office. Zion's new app is now available in your app store. Download it on your phone today to stay up to date with everything happening at Zion!



**Sunday, April 12**  
Jesus Calms the Storm.



**Sunday, April 12**  
8:30am: Chase Johnson  
10:45am: Liam Granlie  
**Sunday, April 19**  
8:30am: Wyatt Kummer  
10:45am: Marcus Ell  
David Orgaard

## Today's Sermon

"Doubt Death Instead"

"In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." This infamous quote from Benjamin Franklin speaks to the constantly changing nature of our world...but just as much to the unchanging nature of greed and death. Death is a constant presence in our life. From our youthful dreams to our family pets, from our uncles to our parents, everything eventually meets an end in death. Consequently, we never doubt that when death takes somebody, they will stay dead. This is exactly what Thomas assumed when he heard that Jesus had also been claimed by death. He raised other people from the dead, but no one else could do it for him. Yet Thomas is confronted by a miraculous reality when Jesus appears to him very much alive. Thomas stops doubting Jesus's resurrection and starts doubting the power of death. As Christians, we can do the same. Death's power no longer has a hold on us because Jesus rose from the dead. Death is no longer the surest thing in your life: Jesus is!

### Questions:

1. What are some ways (i.e. language, phrases) that we talk about death in our culture?
2. Why did Thomas ask to put his hands in Jesus's side?
3. Who did Thomas say Jesus was after seeing his hands and side?

This week on Living the Faith podcast join Pastor Marcis and Pastor Otto as they journey through Lent.

To hear the podcast Go to: [ZionBismarck.org](http://ZionBismarck.org)

Click Events

You will be taken to a page that gives you the option for:

Video Podcast

Click "Living the Faith" for the full list of Podcast dates and topics.



## Adult Bible Class & Sunday School For All Ages

Opening for Sunday School & High School Bible study will be held in the Youth Room at 9:30am. Adult Bible Class will not meet this week due to the Congregational meeting which will be held in the lower level beginning at 9:40am.



+ + +  
**KIDS IN THE  
 DIVINE SERVICE**  
 + + +

**What does the word "Amen" mean?**

The word "amen" (pronounced AH-men) is Hebrew for "certainly" or "truly."

Martin Luther said that it really means: "Yes, yes, it shall be so." You probably

recognize this word from hearing it or seeing it used in prayer. Maybe you use it in your prayers every morning when you wake up and every night when you go to sleep.



**Why do we use it?**

God commands for us to pray. When we use the word "amen" at the end of our prayers, we are letting God know that **we truly believe that He will hear and answer all of our prayers** just as He has promised! What a great way to end a prayer!



**Parents:** Point out that Jesus used the word "amen" a lot in Scripture when He said things like: "Truly, truly I say to you." Encourage your children to listen for and say "amen" at appropriate points in the service. In what places besides prayer do we hear it amen?

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**EASTER**  
**PHOTOS**

**THE 4X6 PRINTS ARE  
 AVAILABLE FOR  
 PICKUP TODAY!**

**ENVELOPES CONTAINING  
 PHOTOS ARE LOCATED  
 IN THE LOWER FOYER  
 BY THE OFFICE WINDOWS**

**High School Youth Group**  
 will meet in the  
 Youth Room  
 Wednesday evening.



CONGREGATIONAL  
**- MEETING -**

**Today, April 12  
 9:40pm  
 Lower Level**

The congregation is invited to attend this discussion on the repairs needed to the roof, along with Policy Based Governance and how it would be implemented at Zion. This is your opportunity to have your questions answered.

**Lunch & Voters'  
 Meeting**



**Sunday, April 19  
 12:00PM Lower level**  
 The repairs needed on the roof & policy based governance will be the topics. New voters will be accepted.

Thank you to everyone who purchased lilies for the Easter services. Please pick up your Easter lily after today's service.



**We Need Your Help**



**Mayfest 2026  
 is Martin Luther  
 School's spring  
 fundraising event!**

We need to provide the staff at Bismarck State College with a count for food a couple weeks in advance of the event.

Here is how you can help.

Join in the fun and excitement of the event!  
 Plan to attend Mayfest at the Bavendic,

Friday, May first from 4-9pm.

Go to: [www.mayfest2026.ourschool.support](http://www.mayfest2026.ourschool.support), or scan the QR code at the top of the page. Purchase your event ticket here. (FYI: it's less expensive to purchase a table than buy 8 tickets separately) So, invite your friends to buy a table with you! It's an evening of good food: Bourbon grilled chicken, red skin mashed potatoes, tossed salad, and bundt cakes from NothingBundtCakes. Great entertainment, Silent, Featured, and Live auctions, & time with friends.

FYI

Zion's Board of Youth  
pays half of the  
camp cost for  
Zion students.

## GREAT NEWS!

KRISTIN,  
PASTOR OTTO,  
OR  
RUSS,  
WILL BE DRIVING  
THE  
CHURCH VAN  
TO SOME OF THE  
CAMPS.

WATCH  
"LIFE  
AND  
GROWTH"  
FOR  
FURTHER  
INFORMATION!



**SHEPHERD'S HILL  
AT THE  
CROSSROADS**  
ST. JOHN, NORTH DAKOTA

## FORGIVEN IN CHRIST!

SUMMER 2026

Ephesians 4:32  
Be kind to one another,  
tenderhearted, forgiving one  
another, as God in Christ  
forgave you.

Camps, Retreats,  
Camping, Cabin Rentals  
and Outdoor Adventures.

Campers at each of our  
summer camps will enjoy  
God's wonderful creation  
through outdoor activities,  
including swimming,  
canoeing, kayaking, hiking,  
volleyball, archery, and  
adventure course  
challenges. Horse-back lead  
rides and trail rides are  
available for an additional  
charge.

### CAMPS FOR THOSE UNDER 10 (AND A LITTLE OVER)

**Kinder Camp** June 14-15 or July 8-9 \$145  
**Discovery Camp** June 14-16 or July 8-10 \$185  
**Kids Camp** June 28-July 2 \$320

### CAMPS FOR THOSE 10 AND UP

**Adventure Camp** June 21-26 or July 12-17 \$355  
**Chess Camp** June 21-26 \$355  
**Archery Camp** June 28-July 1 \$290  
**Jr. High Encounter Camp** July 12-17 \$355  
**Art Camp** July 19-24 \$355  
**Expedition Camp** July 19-24 \$355  
**High School Encounter Camp** July 26-31 \$355

### HORSE CAMPS \*Ages 10 and up

**Beginner Horse Camps** June 21-26 or June 28-July 3 or  
July 19-24 \$470  
**Saddle Club** July 12-17 \$470  
**Advanced Horse Camp** July 26-31 \$470

502 Shepherd's Hill Drive, St. John, ND 58369  
701.244.5225 | SHRetreat.org  
facebook.com/shretreat | director@shretreat.org

*A heartfelt thank you to those of you who used your God-given talents to bless our Easter services. Your contributions-seen and unseen- created moments of worship that lifted spirits and reminded everyone in attendance of the true meaning of Easter, the resurrection of Jesus our Lord.*

*To those who created and served the scrumptious continental breakfast, thank you! It was truly enjoyed by all who attended.*

### Screen Operators Needed

We are once again in need of people to run the screens for both the 8:30 and 10:45 Sunday services. If you would like to help with this important part of the services, please talk with Pastor Marcis. You will be trained, and we work with your availability when scheduling.

**Zion Quilters** will be working Thursday and Friday, April 16-17.

If you've been curious about this mission group, please drop in to see what we are doing! You will find us in the Youth Room in Zion's lower level. Hours: 9 am - 3 pm on Thursday, the 16<sup>th</sup>, and 9 am - noon on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup>.



## Church Learning Fair

The goal of the Church Learning Fair is to allow all confirmation students a creative way to glorify and serve God with their talents.

Some projects center around service to the church and community while others projects witness through visual arts or displays.

This year the Learning Fair will be held  
Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

with viewing beginning at 6:00pm.

Schedule for Learning Fair:

5:15 supper in basement - Set up projects

6:00pm Class projects presented by students in Kristin and Pastor Marcis' class

6:30 Pre-confirmation classes present their projects

7:00pm Recognition of Confirmands

& Cupcake Reception



### From the District President's Desk

Lutheran Public Radio is playing Easter hymns and other sacred music throughout the Easter season. If you would like to listen to music that proclaims the joy of our Lord's resurrection, you can stream it free of charge at [lutheranpublicradio.org](http://lutheranpublicradio.org). What better way to continue the celebration of Christ's victorious resurrection?

-Rev. Mark Chepulis, North Dakota District President

He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!

A blessed Easter celebration from the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty.



Thrivent  
Action  
Teams



Are you a Thrivent member?

Do you have a Thrivent policy?

Many Thrivent policies have the added benefit of allowing policy holders to apply for Action Team grants. These grants can be used to help with different needs in the church and community. In the past Zion has used some of these grants to purchase the storage cabinets for the pantry goods, food for the pantry, items needed for LERT events, and many more options.

If you would like to use your Action grant to help with various projects at Zion, please contact the church office at [zionoffice501@gmail.com](mailto:zionoffice501@gmail.com) and we will help you with the application process. Thank you for your help.





**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

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BISMARCK, ND 58501  
701-223-8286  
FAX: 701-258-2146

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tmarcisjr@gmail.com

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Rev. Vincent J. Otto (701) 319-5667  
rev.vincentotto@gmail.com

Director of Family Ministry:

Kristin Nistler (701) 400-2069  
kristin.nistler@gmail.com

Director of Junior Youth Ministry:

Russ Weixel (701) 400-6492  
weixelzion@gmail.com

Administrative Secretary:

Gayle Little (701) 220-0582  
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Assistant Secretary:

Roxanne Rosin  
zionoffice501@gmail.com

Website:

www.zionbismarck.org

Worship:

Saturday 5pm - Contemporary  
Sunday 8:30am - Traditional  
Sunday 10:45am - Creative

Sunday School (September-May) 9:30 am

Adult Bible Class (year round) 9:40 am



Carol Baker is in charge of altar flowers for the month of April.

You can reach Carol at 701-530-9981

**Worship Attendance**

**Spy Wednesday April 1:** 130

**Maudy Thursday April 2:** 120

**Good Friday April 3:** 152

**Saturday, April 4**

5:00 pm - 40

**Sunday, April 5**

6:30am: 40

8:30am -275

10:45am -243

**Stewardship**

April MTD

General Offering:  
\$21,838

Average Budget

Monthly Expenses:  
\$58,750



**"Building Healthy Families"**

Listen to the news on any given evening and you will be inundated with accounts of terrible things that are happening, , around the world and close to home. It's easy to become distressed and overwhelmed. And it's possible for a traumatic news story to trigger memories of your own trauma – experienced recently or in your personal history long ago. This week, take a few minutes to commit Jesus' words to memory and recall them whenever you hear distressing news: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. Know that we're here for you and others you know to help overcome the hardships of life – bringing professional supportive counseling grounded in our shared worldview and Christian faith. Call us – it's why we're here! Learn more at [www.LutheranFamilyService.org](http://www.LutheranFamilyService.org) Lutheran Family Service.

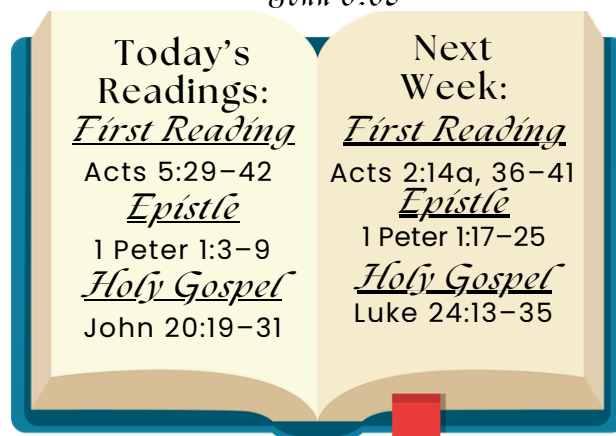
**Main Street Living**

**April 12:** Rev. Michael Suelzle, Grace Lutheran Church UAC, Fargo, ND, presents the message: "God as Man" based on Acts 5:29. This is the Life program: "Finders Keepers" – A man finds a large sum of money and struggles with the consequences of keeping it.



"MAIN STREET LIVING" is a locally-produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service. Programs are broadcast starting at 10:00 am Central Time 9:00 am Mountain time on WDAZ Xtra Channel 8.3, Bismarck/Dickinson

"Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life."  
- John 6:68 -



Today's Readings:

First Reading

Acts 5:29-42

Epistle

1 Peter 1:3-9

Holy Gospel

John 20:19-31

Next Week:

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Epistle

1 Peter 1:17-25

Holy Gospel

Luke 24:13-35