



Making a whip out of cords, Jesus drove them all out of the Temple—even the cattle and sheep—and overturned the tables of the money changers, scattering their coins. Then he faces the pigeon sellers: “Take all this out of here! Stop turning God’s house into a market!” The disciples remembered the words of scripture: “Zeal for your house consumes me.” The temple authorities intervened and said “What sign can you show us to justify what you have done? Jesus answered “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” They retorted, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you’re going to raise it up in three days? But the temple he was speaking of was his body. -John 2:15-21

Friends in Christ, we are not alone in the anxiety and suffering surrounding our worship life. We are all feeling it with greater intensity now in the (we all hope and pray are waning) times of COVID. It has been a year of displacement and anxiety and grieving! Let us remember with the disciples now the scripture: “zeal for your house consumes me.” Faithful people of many past generations have also had to wrestle with this very angst about worship spaces and whether we can return to our buildings. Faithful people have long had zeal for worship in their buildings, and historically they more than once have not been able to do so. One such community was the one that the Gospel of John was written for. John’s audience was a faithful Jewish community that could no longer worship in their synagogue because of their faith in the incarnate Christ. They too were cast about an unable to gather as they wished and were used to. Add to this drama, that the primary worship space of the Jewish faith, the temple in Jerusalem, was also recently enough destroyed for a second time by the Romans that it was a culture-wide struggle: what do you do now that you can no longer count on your buildings as a place to gather? The Gospel of John makes a striking claim in response. John says that when the Word becomes flesh, and God moves into our neighborhood in the body of Christ, this forever moves the place of worship! In chapter four, the woman at the well asks Jesus the question on all of our minds: “where is the proper place to worship? Is it outdoors on the mountaintop and in the parking lot like the Samaritans would worship? Or is it only between the four comfortable walls of our sanctuary in Zion that worship must take place? And Jesus answers her, “It is neither place! Amen, Amen, I tell you, the hour is coming—and is already here—when real worshipers will worship Abba God in Spirit and Truth.” This is what it means for John to say that Jesus is the Word Made Flesh: it means, the creative Word of God has moved from where it was in the holy of holies. God no longer lives in the brick and mortar building of the temple, but has taken up a more intimate residence. Not just in our neighborhood, but in our very flesh. That’s why in the text I started with today, it is not a non-sequitur when Jesus all of a sudden talks about his body as a temple when he is confronted by the Jewish authorities for disrupting normal temple-building worship during the festival of Passover. Jesus throws this temper tantrum in John chapter two to show us that

Church is not a noun, or a place. It is a verb. It is a Word spoken, heard, and taking on flesh. Church is an event that happens to our bodies whenever, gathered together by the Holy Spirit, we hear God's Word, and it takes flesh in us. As Luther says in his Small Catechism: "How does this come about? Whenever our heavenly Father gives us the Holy Spirit, so that through the Holy Spirit's grace we believe god's holy word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity." That's what church is. It's the resurrection of your body by God's word. Church is what God does to your body when you hear the wonderful words of life: your sins are forgiven. And we can do that in the sanctuary, in the parking lot, over Zoom, and anywhere human bodies are present. As we look forward, with Easter Joy and Hope toward opening our Sanctuary in a limited capacity starting April 11, during the 10:30 Sunday morning service, it is important to remember that although things have been disrupted and that even coming back they will not be the same as they used to be, Christ has never stopped showing up. The movement of the place of worship from buildings into people's bodies was true before the pandemic, it was true for the people that the Gospel of John was written for, and it is true now as well. If, for any reason you do not feel comfortable or are unable to attend our in-person service, our church continues to be open for you in more ways than one. The Sunday service will be simulcast over Zoom so you can continue to call in and join even if you don't have a computer. Our Saturday evening parking lot worships will continue socially distanced in our cars And if there is another surge in cases in the Pandemic, and we are forced to stop in-person worship again, the same truth of Jesus Christ remains and supports us. Each day God creates us anew as holy places of worship in our very bodies. So even if we are driven out of worship in our building by Christ himself with a whip of chords, the hour is coming—and is already here—when real worshipers will worship Abba God in Spirit and Truth.
Amen, -Pastor Tommy.



The church office will be open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00am-12:00pm until further notice. All other days, if you have questions, concerns or are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Richter at 286-4383.

To join the Zoom Worship go to our Website and click on Covid Info. There is a big blue button that says "Join our Zoom worship" click on it. Click **Open** on the dialog shown by your browser. If you don't see a dialog, click **Launch Meeting**. You can also join by phone by calling 929-205-6099 and entering the following ID # 9063415427,

Passcode 49854.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 1—Maundy Thursday 6:00pm via Zoom

April 2—Good Friday, Community Worship @ First Baptist, 1:00pm, also broadcast on YouTube for those not wishing to worship in person. Zion worship at 6:00pm via Zoom

April 3—Easter Vigil in the Parking Lot 5:00pm

April 4—Easter Sunday, Sunrise Service @ Lakeview Cemetery (weather permitting), 7:00am. Zion's worship in the Parking Lot 10:30am



Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift (s) given to your synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in January 2021.

This is a season of reflection and sacrifice, but also a season of hope. As we walk the 40 day journey of lent, we know that we are walking toward Easter and the promise of renewal. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA are bringing that promise and hope to your neighbors around the world.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries including the United States. It is providing access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Through your gifts, you are joining with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed.

You are creating new beginnings. Thank you for sharing the hope of new life and the fullness of Christ's joy.

In Christ,
The Rev. Robin Brown
Mission Funding Director, Congregations

Gifts are designated for:

12/31/21	ELCA World Hunger	\$1,470.03
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Circle News

The Circles are able to start their monthly meetings. If you are not a member of a circle and would be interested in joining one, please contact any one of the following ladies for more information:

Sarah Circle—Liz Macklem
Joy Circle—
Ruth Circle—
Hope Circle—Sheila Clark

The **Sarah Circle** will meet Monday, April 5, 2021 at 12:30pm.

The **Joy Circle** will meet Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 10:00am. Pastor Ellie will lead the devotion.

The **Ruth Circle** meets on the third Wednesday at 11:30am.

The **Hope Circle** meets on the third Thursday at 6:00pm.

Be sure to check with your Circle Leader to find out if and where your circle will be meeting.

Join us for Bible Study

The Monday night Bible study group will be and 4th Mondays. Pr. Richter will be leading John. We will meet in person in Augustana Hall. Be sure to wear your mask and social distance. Our last meeting will be May 24th. We will resume in September. If you have any questions about this opportunity for study, please contact the office.



meeting at 6:30, every 2nd our study on the Gospel of

Gifts to our congregation have been given in memory of

Jeff Larson

Irma Jean Maves—Quilters

Joanne Nelson—Memorial

Betty DeSautel & Family—Quilters

Robert & Eleanor Broullire

Kathy Redd—Memorial Fund

Merlin Decker

Joanne Nelson—Memorial Fund

Carl Sundling

Mike & Kaye Jarski—Memorial Fund
Anna, Karin, Elsa & Tom—Roofing

Betty Tennyson

Anna, Karin, Elsa & Tom—Memorial

Carl Sundling

Kathy Peterson—Back Pack Buddies

Donald DeSautel

Betty DeSautel & Family—Roofing



Our quilters are in need of material. Cotton or flannel are preferred. They can also use clean (not stained) colored or patterned sheets.

The Evangelism and Membership Committee has planned their first highway clean up for 2021. Cleanup will take place on Saturday, May 1st. We will meet in the church parking lot at 10:00am the same section of US 2 as before. If it rains clean up will be on May 8th same time and place. If you would like to help but you aren't available on May 1st., please contact Donna Mott at 341-6414 or Ruth Jones at 283-3209.

Upcoming Scripture Readings

April 4 — The Resurrection of Our Lord

Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Mark 16:1-8

April 11— Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1—2:2, John 20:19-31

April 18— Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48

April 25—Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

May 2—Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

May 9—Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

May 16—Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1, 1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19

May 23—Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Romans 8:22-27,
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 30—Holy Trinity

Isaiah 6:18, Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17

If you would like to sponsor flowers

with the opening of the Church for in 11th, please order your flowers from the have them delivered before worship on We are also looking for volunteers to tracing (helping people sign in with



telephone numbers) and making sure they have a mask before going to the sanctuary. We also need volunteers to help with cleaning. In particular the bathrooms will need to be cleaned in between uses. If you would be able to help please call the office Monday or Wednesday 9-12:00pm or contact Pastor Richter at 286-4383.

for the Altar starting person worship on April florist of your choice to Sunday.

help with contact their names and

CONGRATULATIONS!! To our two Scouts that have a obtained their Eagle Scout. Nathan Schnoenow and Maddy Maline. Nate's project was called Hiawatha Archery Range Renovation and he replaced all of the yardage markers for each archery site. In

the future they plan on hosting a state competition at the range. Maddy began painting the historical building at Pioneer Village next to the Siphon Bridge on September 19 along with the assistance of other scouts and their families and many, many man-hours (~150 hours). The painting was completed on October 4. The house had been painted white for many years, and the opportunity arose for it to be restored to its original brick red color. "It ended up being a more challenging task than I anticipated. The building is actually sided with tin pieces with the brick pattern imprinted on them. It was difficult to get the paint in all the nooks and crannies. I have a new-found respect for persons who paint houses for a living." She would also like to thank Sherry Krause for the donation of materials and to Larry Peterson for granting access to the premises.



The families of Carl Sundling ,Jane Leonard and Helen Creighton. We send our thoughts and prayers as they mourn their loss.

Roofing Project Contributors March 2021

Jim & Pastor Ellie Russey
Karin Sjogren
Lila Panek
Bill & Donna Mott
Teddy Nelson
Frank & Shirley Leitgeb
Sheila Clark
Ruth Jones
Liz Macklem
Linda Levin
Anna, Elsa, Karin & Tom in Mem. of C. Sundling
Naomi Fletcher
Betty DeSautel in Mem. of Don
Roofing Balance \$33,789.13



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

My father was a historian. Often at the dinner table, he would alert us to some historical milestone of the day. He would announce with enthusiasm, “Five hundred years ago today...” such and such happened. Or “It’s been exactly ten years and four days since...” Sometimes we would have to guess what obscure anniversary was being named, which was always impossible, unless it was our birthday. So prepare yourself as now I am going to inflict the same reverie on you. It has been a year, one whole year, since the pandemic became real to our corner of the world. On March 15, 2020, Pastor Jim Duehring was at St. Paul’s in Ironwood celebrating the installation of their new pastor, the Rev. Doug Norquist. And on that same day, practically that same hour, I was at Salem and Zion, Ironwood, celebrating the installation of their new pastor, the Rev. Nicole Hanson-Lynn. After that Sunday, practically overnight, pastors were transformed into video producers, we learned about FM transmitters, Zoom, making masks, and the status quo became anything but quo. In this past year, what have we learned? What have we lost? What have we gained? God has been at work in this pandemic. I think of the scripture readings that have to do with pruning, with being refined like silver, with being molded like clay in the hands of the potter. I think of God’s promise for new life, for renewal, to be active in us as the Spirit pushes and pulls us as the body of Christ, the Church, into a God-pleasing shape. No doubt, we have felt the points of pressure, even pain. We can look back over this past year, which has felt much longer than 12 months, and compare then to now. We can look back and take note that this will be our second pandemic Easter, that we will still observe safety protocols and be silent of trumpets. We still have a way to go before we can declare the pandemic is over. But at this one year mark, we can look back and see what we have gained. We have learned how to be more connected in new ways.

Our Lifelong Faith Formation classes connected participants and teachers from the Copper Country to the Soo, from Ironwood to Menominee. The current Racial Equity Challenge is doing the same thing. Pastors and leaders slogged through decision fatigue to creatively meet the new challenges. Congregation Councils did the hard work of figuring out safety protocols and what metrics to apply to future decisions of in person worship. I saw congregations equipping parents to teach the faith with take home packets and at home worship. I saw online meetings, zoom coffee hour, email devotions, and hard copy sermons sent through the mail. You all have been and continue to be AMAZING!!! What a year! What a difficult, trying, tiring, creative, faith deepening, discipleship challenging, grief provoking year of loss and gain. I know I am not the only one who has felt weary, impatient, and sad. But neither am I the only one who has found new appreciation for what makes us Church, the power of community, and how Christ becomes more palpable when we are together. Looking at both the positives and negatives of this pandemic allows us to look forward with better questions about what our next steps will be. There is newness emerging and a hunger to dive deeply into the things we took for granted before. As we gather for worship again, as we reapply ourselves to ministries that have been neglected, as we are newly aware of what matters to us about the community of faith, I urge that we continue in prayerful discernment about future directions. I do not believe it is wise to rush back to fill every corner with the way we did things “before.” I hope, in this year of HOPE, that the same care and consideration that we invested in designing safety protocols will be applied as we consider what to carry forward and what to leave behind, and what to begin from scratch. I know that God is creating something new, and we are only just beginning to perceive it.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ, Bishop Katherine Finegan

Where I've Seen God Today

A good question to ask yourself is, "Where have I seen God today?" And if you haven't been intentionally asking yourself that question, perhaps the corollary would be, "Where have I seen God in the past week, or months?" I think that most of us understand this question not as a literal seeing of God but as a spiritual question. The assumption in this question is that God is "seeable" and "knowable" on some level. Sometimes God seems quite hidden and not seeable. But, perhaps, by even asking ourselves that question, we might grow in our faith and better "see" God.

So, "Where have I seen God lately?"

- I've seen God in people making phone calls to check in on neighbors and family members during this pandemic.
- I've seen God challenging us to think about hard issues of social justice around race and economic inequalities.
- I've seen God working through the many unnamed researchers who developed vaccines for COVID-19.
- I've seen God in pastors and lay leaders digging deep into their bag of resiliency and trying out new things in their congregations.
 - I've seen God in people who had never heard of Zoom joining Bible and book studies through their church and Lifelong Faith Formation classes offered through our synod.
- I've seen God in the generosity of people supporting their local businesses, donating blood, and delivering meals.
- I've seen God surrounding those who grieve many losses including the death of loved ones in recent months.
 - I've seen God challenging us to reevaluate what church truly is as more than a building.
- I've seen God in people gathering outside in a church parking lot in lawn chairs and social distancing to find joy in the presence of others.
- I've seen God in pastors and parishioners who gather for worship in parking lots even in bitter cold weather.
- I've seen people spending more time outdoors and appreciating the beauty of God's creation.

If I truly stop to think about it, I've seen God many times!

Sometimes as a pastor, I would ask people before the start of a committee meeting, "Where have you seen God today or this week?" Some people without hesitation would speak up and name something. Others would be silent. I didn't push people to say something. Perhaps they had never considered that question. Perhaps they didn't

want to say the wrong thing. Perhaps they didn't have words for how they "saw" God at work. I'm convinced that as individuals we benefit from asking ourselves that question about "God sightings." God is. And God can be known through Christ, our neighbor, and this created world. Thank you, Lord, for being present, even when we do not "see" you!

Pastor Jim Duehring Assistant to the Bishop

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Congregation Council:

Rick Pink, President

Cathy Knudson, Vice President

Kay MacGregor, Secretary

Marie Bellville, Treasurer

Cyndee Miske, Financial Secretary

Jo-Nell Berger

Naomi Fletcher

Ruth Jones

Janet Krueger

Peter Mattson

Kathy McDonough

Teddy Nelson

Cindy Olli

Rebecca Peterson



A congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.