



The history of April Fools Day started in 1713 when Anansi Gregorman III played the first of what became many annual pranks on his unsuspecting brother Wolfgang. These pranks, which started with causing Wolfgang a mild case of food poisoning from swapping out his birthday breakfast with week old eggs, got more and more elaborate and devious every year until it eventually snowballed into gaffs involving the whole town. And so, every April 1st, Wolfgang's birthday, we still today celebrate Anansi's spirit of mischief, misinformation, and mayhem.

Except all of that is a lie. I completely made it up. I only chose the year 1713 because the numbers spell "I LIE" and Anansi is the name of the trickster spider God from West African Folklore who usually goes about tricking other animal spirits like the wolf and the tiger. The actual history of April Fools day is obscure and unknown, but there are references to it in literature possibly as early as Chaucer's Canterbury Tales (1392) or, more likely, a French Poet Eloy d'Amerval who wrote about "April's Fish" in 1508. My favorite early reference to it is from John Aubry who writes about a Fooles Holy Day, the First of April 1698, when several people were tricked into going to the Tower of London to "see the Lions washed."

At any rate, the usual sense of April Fool's day is that we all want to be the Anansi trickster, and not the fool wolf or tiger. To be the April Fool is negative, and derogatory. No one wants to be the one gotten and everyone wants to be the one who gotcha. But I want to speak up a moment for the fools. It is only our rotten sportsmanship and toxic shame that has given fools a bad name. The better we can learn to be the fool, and be okay with it, when we are gotten, the healthier we will be. My mother taught me at a young age that often the best way to defeat Anansi, is to laugh along with him and enjoy your folly just as much or even more so than the trickster. The trickster's power is only in making you feel small, so if you feel large and laughing instead this power dissolves completely. It is good to practice happy foolishness. What indeed can the trickster do, if you enjoy yourself all the more for being tricked?

Luther also saw something positive in being the fool. One of my favorite sermons that I often quote of his was preached during the season of Lent (probably around April Fool's day) in 1518. Luther writes: "You well know, dear friends of Christ, that I do not understand much about preaching and therefore I shall preach a foolish sermon; for I am a fool and I thank God for it. Therefore I must also have foolish pupils; anybody who doesn't want to be a fool can close [their] ears. This Gospel compels me to take this attitude." Luther not only proudly claims being a fool for himself, but he encourages and demands all of his listeners to be fools as well!

This is because as my teacher Timothy Wengert says:

*God is revealed hidden... under the opposite object, sense or experience, God in the brokenness of the cross, the emptiness of unbelief, the guilt of sin. There is here no glory of miracles or of almighty power. Here there is only the foolishness of what we preach...*

*We worship a foolish, weak God revealed in a foolish, weak book... God is forever choosing the weak, the despised, the neglected—including especially a*



*weak, despised, and neglected book written by losers for losers—from Abel to Paul and beyond.*

To be a person of faith, is to be a fool, because we have been gotcha'd by God. Worked over by the Spirit, and sent out to do foolish things like loving our enemies, serving the poor, and the best trick of all: forgiving the sins of those who sin against us, just as we have been forgiven. Amen. -Pastor Tommy

### **HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

April 14—Maundy Thursday 7:00pm in the sanctuary

April 15—Good Friday, Community Worship @ Zion, 3:00pm, and at Zion at 7:00pm in the sanctuary

April 16—Easter Vigil in the Parking Lot 5:00pm

April 17—Easter Sunday, Sunrise Service @Lakeview Cemetery (weather permitting), 7:00am. Easter worship at Zion 10:30am in the sanctuary



Easter Vigil

At the end of Holy Week this year, we are trying something new at Zion! The Saturday of Easter weekend (April 16th), will be a special service of Easter Vigil. In place of our normal Saturday Evening Parking Lot Worship, we will process as we worship from the parking lot to the fellowship hall and then into the Sanctuary as we liturgically get closer and closer to the Easter promises on this most holy night. This worship will start at the normal time of 5pm, but it will be a bit longer than usual, so make sure to order your pizzas and plan your meals accordingly for the extra length this service will take. We will start gathered in the parking lot (outside of our cars!) around the new fire where we will bless and light the paschal candle. Then we will follow the paschal candle into the fellowship hall. There, in relative darkness (such as you can make it at 5pm) we will read a series of Old Testament readings telling the history of God's faithfulness to God's people in times of darkness and need. Then, following our first reading from the New Testament, we will process into the Sanctuary, ringing bells and turning up the lights for the Gospel, sermon and Holy Communion as the new Easter dawns. I hope our regular Saturday night crowd and any who are interested will join us for this Vigil.

It's time to think about ordering your Easter plant. We are offering Lilies, Tulips, and Daffodils. The cost is \$10.00 and your order needs to be in no later and **April 11th**. You can use the order form printed in The Beacon or the one in your weekly bulletin.



Dear Zion Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for you gift(s) given to your synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in December 2021.

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, you are sharing transformational power of God's love.

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. Jesus was born to reign in us forever. Now you are inviting countless others into his gracious kingdom. Thank you.

In Christ,

Robin Brown, Director, Congregational Generosity

Gifts are designated for:

11/30/21 ELCA World Hunger \$1,005.10

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you all for the thoughtful gift plant you sent. I am excited to be in this community laboring together for the Gospel.

Pastor Nat

First Baptist Church

Dear Recipient,

Each month Jack's Fresh Market goes "Casual for A Cause". For the month of January, Backpack Buddies was chosen as the local organization to raise donations for.

Supporting our community is a core value at JFM that we try our best to fulfill. On behalf of our generous employees and the wonderful customers of Jack's Fresh Market we present a store credit of \$970.90 to Backpack Buddies.

Employee Donation; \$128.00

Round Up: \$842.90

Sincerely,

Kara Ziminski

Assistant Director of Operations

Hi,

I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed seeing the whole service on Zoom today. It's so good to be able to listen in on the service. I feel like it keeps me connected to the church seeing as I can't get there in person.

Doris Ribblet

All Zion families received Lenten quarter folders in the mail in March. All money from the folders will go to World Hunger. Thank you for your generosity.

March Noisy Offering of \$83.12 will be going to **Student Camp Scholarships**. April Noisy Offering will go to Air Lifeline and May Noisy Offering will go to Answer the Call, financial help for seminarians.

The Northern Great Lakes Synod Youth Ministry Team has issued a challenge to all the congregations to collect 40 pairs of socks and underwear. These are the items most requested in homeless shelters. The socks and underwear will be distributed to shelters and schools in our community. If you would like to help, there is a collection box in the Narthex. We have already collected 86 pairs of socks and 52 pairs of underwear.

### **Circle News**

The Circles are continuing 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—Bonnie Groh & Donna Mott

Hope Circle—Sheila Clark

The **Sarah Circle** meets on Mondays at 1:00pm

The **Joy Circle** meets on the second Thursday at 10:00am.

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. 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

### Upcoming Scripture Readings

**April 3** — Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philipians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8

**April 10**— Palm Sunday

**April 17**— Resurrection of Our Lord

Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, 1 Corinthians 15:19-26, Luke 24:1-12

**April 24**—Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 118:14-29, Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31



**If you would like to sponsor flowers** for the Altar please use the sign up sheet in Augustana Hall. There are also opportunities to sponsor Bulletin, Bread and Wine or the coffee hour. You can sign up on the sheets in Augustana Hall.

*Gifts to our congregation have been given in memory of*

**John Gauthier**

Lois Bentley—Send a Kid to Camp

Linda Levin—Endowment Fund

Lila Panek—Memorial Fund

Karin, Anna, Elsa—Floral Fund

## Those Who Serve In April

Readers: 4/3 Sheila Clark  
 4/10 Palm Sunday  
 4/17 Shirley Leitgeb  
 4/24 Ruth Jones

Ushers: Donna Mott

Altar Flowers: 4/17 Kathy Broullire-Redd

Bulletin, Bread and Wine:

4/3  
 4/10  
 4/17  
 4/24

**We need some help on our church** work of the congregation is done most committees. We have the following and Music, Evangelism and Membership, Stewardship, Christian Education and Youth, Personnel. Most committees meet once per year). We need your ideas and your participation! Please contact Pastor Richter, Linda Levin or leave a message in the church office if you are interested.



**committees!** The effectively through committees: Worship Finance and Property and quarter (four times

## **Church Attendance Report**

	Saturday	Sunday	Zoom	Midweek Worship	Midweek Zoom
February 5/6	12	32	14		
February 12/13	12	43	11		
February	13	30	10		

19/20					
February 26/27	14	29	13		
March 2 Ash Wednesday				20	7
March 5/6	9	28	12		
March 9					8
March 12/13	15	34	10		
March 16				20	5
March 19/20	17	28	9		
March 23					8
March 26/27	11	20	13		

### **Congregation Council Highlights – March, 2022**

+The treasurer's report showed offerings for February of \$10,974.18 with expenses of \$16, 392.62.

+The congregation received thank you notes from the Northern Great Lakes Synod for our gifts to World Hunger.

+Lenten worship services continue in the sanctuary each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. There will be many opportunities for worship during Holy Week.

+Lenten Soup Suppers will be held on March 23, March 30 and April 6 beginning at 6:00 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Augustana Hall for those who would like to volunteer to bring soup.

+There will not be an Easter breakfast this year. Hopefully, this tradition will resume in 2023.

+Noisy Offerings will resume on the third Sunday of each month. March's offering will go toward camp scholarships. April monies will be given to Air Lifeline and May's will go to Answer the Call.

+Plumbing repairs were completed by Paul's Plumbing.

+The pew cushion project is finished. Manistique Upholstery completed the work.



+A confirmation organizational meeting will be held on March 16<sup>th</sup> following the Lenten worship service. All children in grades 6-12 are welcome to participate in the confirmation program.

+Camp scholarship opportunity letters were sent to all Zion families. Information on Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp programs was also included.

+A Mutual Ministry Committee will be established.

+Cyndee Miske and Ruth Jones were appointed as Funeral Luncheon co-chairs.

+Shirley Leitgeb was appointed at chair of the Altar Guild.

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I remember my first time going to Bible camp, where the youth of the church and their friends gather for a week of fun, fellowship, learning, and more. As often happens at Bible camp, the campers were led through a series of team building exercises, one of which was "The Trust Fall." I would guess many of you have participated in this exercise and even as you read this, you're remembering your own experience. Did they catch you? Did you fall to the ground? Did you drop anybody? For those of you unfamiliar with "The Trust Fall," I give you the following description. Imagine you are standing on the very edge of a picnic table, with just enough of your toes on one end to keep you standing on the table and your heels hanging off the edge. You have been instructed that at the moment when you fall back that you are to cross your arms over your chest to keep from flailing wildly and accidentally whacking someone in the face or taking out a fellow camper's eye. Your heart begins to race as you watch your fellow campers below the table arrange themselves in two lines. They stand facing each other starting from the edge of that picnic table. Their arms are outstretched in a pattern that alternates elbows and wrists, left and right, from each side of the line. You look down at them at what seems like a very flimsy zippered net of skinny middle school arms. Sure, there's the camp counselor, but that person is not particularly positioned to catch you. Your fellow campers are supposed to catch you...with their scrawny pre-pubescent arms they're supposed to catch you. These fellow middle school campers look up at you, and you can see that they're not so sure about this either. The full magnitude of this action settles into your gut as you realize what this all means, that you're supposed to fall backwards from the discomfiting four-foot height of the picnic table into this bony net of weak, angular wrists and elbows, mere ulnas and radiuses, that you're quite sure will snap and break like dry twigs when your body slams into them. You have never witnessed a trust fall, and you're pretty sure that you're going to get hurt somehow. But the camp counselor assures you that all will be well. You consider stepping off that picnic table, but everyone is looking at you, and you don't want to be considered a coward. So you steel yourself, cross your arms over your chest, and with grim resolve, face forward. You hear your counselor say, "Ready?" and you reply with a conviction you don't feel, "Ready!" Fall away! And through an act of will you let your body fall backward. But really, more accurately, you let go of what's keeping you upright, you let go of fear and apprehension, you let go of all the reasons not to let go. You let your body fall...and you trust that scrawny net of bony pre-pubescent arms to catch you even as you brace yourself for a spine jarring impact on your tail bone. For a brief, shining, moment, you are airborne. You are in flight. You are weightless, until you feel those scrawny arms catch you, surprising in their strength, their



resolve, to care for you, to keep you safe, and not let you hit the ground. And you are amazed! Euphoric! The adrenaline of that brief act of courage hits you like a wave of joy. You are so relieved...and surprised! Who knew scrawny pre-pubescent arms could work so well together? To catch even a body in free fall? Who knew? In Hebrews 11:1 we read, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." For the past two years, in many ways, we have been in freefall...this untethered descent into the space of the unknown, uncertain of our landing, unsure of the damages and unclear how much we can depend on those we need to depend on. No, the pandemic is not over. No, we have not yet "landed." Yet, God gives us instructions through Jesus the Christ as to how we should line up in order to provide safety for ourselves and others. One of us, alone, cannot provide the needed support, but all of us together, with combined strength and resolve, can work well together, no matter how ill-equipped we might seem. We have Christ's own assurance, that even though we cannot see the presence of God, God is with us. Ultimately, in faith, we trust that God will catch us. In faith, we trust that together, we have what it takes to care for each other and keep each other safe. In faith, we are stronger than we know and braver than we feel. In faith, we have received the promise of God's abiding presence. We may not ever feel ready, and yet, in faith, by the grace of God, we are blessed to "fall away" and feel the love of God in the many arms of the community of faith that seek to catch us.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan

Giver \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

<p>DONATION OF \$ _____ (any amount) To the Floral Fund</p> <p>Donations to the Floral Fund will support the beautification of the sanctuary and narthex throughout the church year.</p>	<p>PLANT PURCHASE TO TAKE HOME: Lily, Tulip, or Daffodil (Circle one)</p> <p>_____ \$10.00 each</p> <p>\$ _____</p>
--	---

If you are ordering a plant please have your orders in by April 11th.

**CONTACT US:**

Zion Lutheran Church  
435 Oak Street  
Manistique, MI 49854  
906-341-5427

[www.zionlutheran-manistique.org](http://www.zionlutheran-manistique.org) or find us on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

**Rev. Tommy Richter, Pastor**

Office: 906- 341-5427 Home 286-4383

**Secretary:** Shirley Leitgeb

[shirley.leitgeb@zionmanistique.org](mailto:shirley.leitgeb@zionmanistique.org)

**Musician:** Linda Levin

**Custodian:** Pat Toennesen

**Treasurer:** Naomi Fletcher

**Financial Secretary:** Cyndee Miske

**Choir Director:** Rebecca Peterson

**Congregation Council:**

Linda Levin, President

Donna Mott, Vice President

Kay MacGregor, Secretary

Jo-Nell Berger

Ruth Jones

Cathy Knudson

Janet Krueger

Peter Mathson

Teddy Nelson



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