



April 2025

G RACELINES

Zion Lutheran Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SCHEDULE

**Worship 8:30am In-Person
&
Live-streamed on YouTube
Posted to Facebook after
Worship.**

**Church Office Hours:
Mon - Fri 9:00am - 1:00pm**

**Contact Zion:
Church Office: 235-7045
Pastor Erika: 319-504-2630**

**Please leave a message
and we'll get back to you.**

Email Addresses:

**Church Office:
office.zionluthwaterloo
@gmail.com**

**Pastor Erika:
pastor.zionluthwaterloo
@gmail.com**

**Web Page:
www.zionluthwaterloo.com**

**Facebook Page:
[https://www.facebook.com/
zionluthwaterloo](https://www.facebook.com/zionluthwaterloo)**

**YouTube:
[https://www.youtube.com/
@zionlutheranchurchwater-
loo5011](https://www.youtube.com/@zionlutheranchurchwaterloo5011)**

**Zion Lutheran Church
810 Kimball Ave
Waterloo, IA 50702**

Spring is just around the corner, and the signs are all around us - new bird songs, tiny buds on tree limbs, longer and later sunsets - the earth reminds us that life always has seasons. There is change and hope embedded in God's creation.

In this season of Lent, our Wednesday services have focused on power and reflecting on our own call to disrupt the patterns of power we see in the world around us. We've been trying to recognize where we have used power in harmful ways - often without even being aware we were doing so. It's an important part of our journey of faith. As is taking the time to consider what is of utmost importance in our lives, what is worth working towards and what is better to leave behind; life's heavy baggage - anger, fear, despair, and resentment. It will be tempting to return to old habits, but try, just a little each day, to embrace instead the newness of life in Christ - gratitude, forgiveness, kindness, and love. Slowly, you will begin to transform your fear and anger into empathy and love.

When you are on that journey, you will not only feel lighter on the inside, but you will begin to shine on the outside. Try looking in the mirror - see the image of God reflected in you. Let the tears flow if they need to...and smile, knowing you are loved exactly the way you are. When you see the light of God in yourself, you may also begin to see the light of God in others, knowing that deep down there are no strangers or enemies, just neighbors and friends - family.

This journey is a big part of what we strive for at church. I've seen that light shine in each of you....in your sincere prayers to God for guidance and healing, in your kind gifts to those in need in our community and beyond, in your cards and visits to those who are in care facilities, in your tears for family and friends who've passed on, in your persistence to get our services online for those who can't join us in person, in your courage, faith, and wisdom through cancer and other health issues, in your personal struggle around job loss, addiction, and family conflict and your resolve to come out the other side a kinder, better person...I see the light of God in you.

Lent is a reflection of the 40 days of temptation Jesus endured in the wilderness just prior to beginning his ministry that transformed the world. We all have our seasons of being in the wilderness, uncertain of what we may face and what the future will bring. Remember that it won't last forever...the cross reminds us that on the other side of temptation, fear, and despair is love, peace, and joy. Until the Day of Resurrection comes, know that you have a church family right by your side to help see you through.

With the Greatest of Hope!

Pastor Erika

Study

March 2

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2

Luke 9:28-36

March 9

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

March 16

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17--4:1

Luke 13:31-35

March 23

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

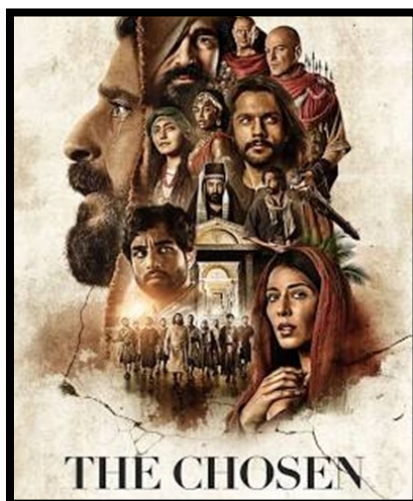
March 30

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



Are you interested
in watching
The Chosen?

The Chosen is an American [Christian historical drama](#) television series. Created, directed, and co-written by filmmaker [Dallas Jenkins](#), it is the first multi-season series about the [life](#) and [ministry](#) of [Jesus of Nazareth](#). Primarily set in [Judaea](#) and [Galilee](#) in the 1st century, the series depicts the life of Jesus through the eyes of the people who interacted with him, including the [apostles](#) and [disciples](#) of Jesus, Jewish religious leaders, [Roman](#) government and military officials, and ordinary people.

There are 2 ways in which you can watch.

1. Amazon Prime carries the first four seasons of The Chosen with the fifth season being released later this summer or early fall.
2. If you have a “smart” TV, you can download the app, The Chosen. All four seasons are on the app as well as many other opportunities to learn about the filming, the actual writing of the episodes and commentary from a variety of religious leaders on how the stories are portrayed.

If there is additional interest, we could meet as a group to discuss each season and what was gleaned from the show.

Please contact Diana Hawker if you would be interested in partaking in a discussion group, or Mary Nicholas if you

Pray

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The
CHOSEN

Celebrating our Church Community

April Birthdays

3	Teri Hook Bradley Voves
7	Diane Hunemuller
8	Raelynn Beem
10	Mary DeMaris Olive Bulman
11	Sheila Gardiner Lindsay Bulman Claire Caslavka
13	Darlene Robbins
14	Evelyn Gordon Tyler Hayes
18	Marcia Cutsforth Dave Goss Kyle Kirchhoff Ed Ottesen
22	David Odekirk
23	Wes Akin
24	David Michelsen
25	Zoe Vanderveeer
26	Kris Engelmann
27	Bette Powell
28	Robert Harken
30	Dan Rasmussen

Wedding Anniversaries this Month

5	Bob & Patti Harken
8	Eddie & Kathy Entz
11	Jerry & Deb Ketels
20	Mike & Michele Kindschi
24	Tim & Vicki Stuber
25	Rick & Vicki Nissen
28	Richard & Patty Judas

Congrats!



It's a girl

Congratulations to Isaac & Olivia Davis
on the birth of their baby girl,
Marlena (Marla) Jean Davis,
born March 10, 2025.

Proud grandparents are:
Tim & Shirley Davis, and Proud Aunt Izzy!

Grandpa says: "She is the most
beautiful baby ever!" And he has
the pictures to prove it!

*Palm
Sunday*

Join us for Palm Sunday on
Sunday, April 13th at 8:30am.

Happy 80th
Anniversary, Zion!



January 5, 1945 - January 5, 2025

We will celebrate
throughout the year!

†
**EASTER
SERVICE**
HE IS RISEN!

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025

8:30 AM

In-Person & Live on YouTube

Being the Church

Our Mission Ministry this month is:

ELCA World Hunger

ELCA World Hunger envelopes are on the Offering table as you enter the Sanctuary. Place in with the regular offering tray.



Donations Needed:

Monetary Donations

Thank you for your support & donations.

You are important to our church family!

If you need prayer, or have suffered a family loss, please contact the church office at (319) 235-7045. All requests will be treated with confidentiality, and information will be forwarded appropriately.



The PRAYER TREE contacts are:

Sheila Gardiner - gardinergarry28@gmail.com (319) 291-8404,
Deb Grimson - hrgbear@mchsi.com (319) 233-2179,
Kathy Jones - kltjones@mchsi.com (319) 231-4278,
and Jen Wedeking (church office) - (319) 235-7045
office.zionluthwaterloo@gmail.com.

Volunteer to bring Snacks/Treats for Fellowship following Worship on Sundays. You can find the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Area on the bulletin board. Many dates are available.



Please call the office, if you have any questions.



Please place items in the SHOPPING CART by the Mission Cross in the sanctuary.

We will be collecting for the NEIA Food Bank for the month of:

April

Any Canned Goods



Zion Book Club

Next meeting April 16th @ 9:30am.

All are welcome!



Upcoming Dates & Books:

Apr. 16th - "The God of the Woods"
by Liz Moore

Brown Baggers - Wednesdays at Noon

Bring your own lunch or snack (if you want) and join us for an hour or so of conversation and study of the scripture readings for the coming Sunday. Discussions are held in the Fireside Room.



Caffeinated Conversations

Every Thursday morning from 9-11am
Fat Cup Coffee (37 Fletcher Ave.).

This is a time of open discussion about the church, faith, life, whatever you want.



Being the Church



Ewalu Summer Camp Registration is now available.

The Deadline for Registration is Friday, April 15th.

The information is located on the round table in the Coffee Area by the couches.

It's also available online at www.ewalu.org/summer-camp or you can scan the QR code above.



The Maundy Thursday Worship will be at St. Ansgar on Thursday, April 17 at 6:30pm.

All are welcome!

There will be NO Maundy Thursday Worship at Zion.

The Good Friday Worship will be held at St. Ansgar on Friday, April 18 at 6:30pm.

All are welcome!

There will be NO Good Friday Worship at Zion.



If you need a ride for either the Maundy Thursday or Good Friday Service at St. Ansgar, the van will be available.

Please call the office at (319) 235-7045 to let us know.



GIVING OPPORTUNITY

Zion is fortunate to have a van which is utilized to transport church members to and from church on a weekly basis. It is also used to take youth and adults to church-sponsored activities. In recent months, there have been two major safety related repairs made to the van to ensure the continued safety of our members - new tires and brakes. As a result, our Designated Van Fund has been depleted.

Any donation to the van fund, in addition to your regular giving, would be welcome to assist with future van repairs/expenses. As always, donations to any of our designated funds are appreciated and help conserve our General Fund for operational expenses.



CHURCH ROW NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION NEWS

The Church Row Neighborhood Coalition's Annual Spring Clothing Give-Away will be on Saturday, April 5th from 9 am to 11 am at the Sacred Heart gym.

Thank you again for your support.

More information on the Bulletin Board in the Coffee Area.



Supporting the Church

FINANCIAL UPDATE (as of March 28, 2025)

TOTAL OFFERING TO GENERAL FUND	MISSION PLAN YEAR-TO-DATE \$33,660.00	ACTUAL YEAR-TO-DATE \$33,390.00
Total General Fund Expenses	Mission Plan Year-to-Date \$38,821.00	Actual Year-to-Date \$34,449.00

Support the Church

You may provide financial support to Zion:

- In-person Giving
- By Mail
- Online: - Tithe.ly OR - VANCO

Offering Contributions for March

March 2

Total General Fund: \$6,386.00

March 9

Total General Fund: \$1,601.45

March 16

Total General Fund: \$942.00

March 23

Total General Fund: \$2,559.12

TOTAL OF ALL GIVING: \$11,488.57

Council Minutes and complete Treasurer reports are available on the bulletin board in the Coffee Area and in the Church Office upon request.

**Serving in
April**

Sundays	6	13	20	27
<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>	Mary Nicholas			
<u>VAN DRIVERS</u>	Mike Grimson	Dave Hamilton	Mike Simbric	Tim Davis
<u>LECTORS</u>	Tim Sprengeler	Sherry Crowley	Bruce Barnett	Brad Shatzer