



ZION COMMUNITY CHURCH

THE VOICE OF ZION

April 2025

SERMON TITLES & SCRIPTURE READINGS

April 6	Pastor Jan "A Journey Through Brokenness" John 12:20-33
April 13	Palm Sunday Pastor Nate "A Journey With the King" John 12:12-16
April 20	Easter Sunday Pastor Nate "A Journey Through Tears To Hope In the Resurrection" John 20:1-18
April 27	Pastor Nate "When Obedience Meets Opportunity" Acts 8:26-40

BIBLE READINGS

April 6	Joshua 16-24, Luke 17-21, Psalm 15-16, Psalm 116, Judges 1-6
April 13	Judges 7-21, Luke 22-24, Psalm 17, Psalm 21, Psalm 146, Acts 1-2
April 20	Ruth 1-4, Acts 3-7, Psalm 37, Psalm 120, Psalm 23, 1 Samuel 3-8
April 27	1 Samuel 9-17, Acts 8-12, Psalm 38-39, 1 Chronicles 1-2



Please have your articles for the Voice into the office by **April 19** for the **May Voice!**

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING Wednesday, April 2 @6:00 P.M.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Spring, Easter, and New Life in Christ

Spring has arrived, bringing signs of renewal and life all around us. The once-barren trees bud with new growth, flowers push through the soil, and the warmth of the sun lasts a little longer each day. This shift in nature beautifully mirrors the message of Easter—that life follows death, that hope rises from despair, and that Jesus has made all things new.

The resurrection of Jesus is not just an event in history—it is the foundation of our faith. Because Christ is risen, we are no longer bound by sin and death. We are invited into a new life just as creation awakens after the long winter. Easter is a reminder that no matter what season we have walked through, God's power to restore and renew is greater than anything we have faced.

Jesus spoke of this renewal in **John 15:5 (NLT)**: **“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”**

Just as trees cannot flourish without being rooted, we cannot grow spiritually unless we remain connected to Christ. Easter calls us to abide in Him, to receive the life He offers, and to bear fruit that reflects His resurrection power.

The beauty of Easter is not just that Jesus rose from the grave but that His resurrection invites us into a living relationship with Him. Like the first buds of spring, our faith is meant to grow, flourish, and bring glory to God. But growth requires nourishment. As we reflect on Easter, let's ask: What areas of my faith need renewal? Have I been distant in prayer? Have I let doubt take root? Have I forgotten the joy of my salvation?

This season is an invitation to step into the fullness of life Jesus offers. Maybe that means deepening your relationship with Him, sharing the gospel with someone, or simply taking time to rest in His presence. Whatever it is, Easter reminds us that we serve a risen Savior, one who brings life out of death, hope out of despair, and renewal out of the old.

As the world awakens with the beauty of spring, let it remind us of the even greater new life we have in Christ. May this Easter be a time of renewal, hope, and abiding in Jesus, who makes all things new.

He is Risen!

Nate

April 2025 – Voice Article

“Until Then...”

“Death never seemed more final, or more finally triumphant,” wrote Morris Chalfant, “than when the boy of Jesus was taken from the cross. The truest, noblest, bravest life ever lived had been viciously wiped out.

“But on the third day, He rose again! God thundered an eternal NO to the apparent finality of death.”

Because Jesus rose triumphant over death, it gives us hope. My good friend and former District Superintendent in The Wesleyan Church, Ron McClung, shared with me how this was made real to him in October of 2023. His dear wife’s body had been devastated by COVID, dehydration, kidney stones and multiple infections. She had previously suffered a stroke. She told Ron she was not only ready to go to heaven, but she wanted to go, and felt it was time to go.

Did you notice that she did not say, *“It was time to die.”* She was already looking BEYOND what we call “death” looking forward to heaven.

Death is real. I still remember standing beside the bedside of my Dad in 1999 and then sitting at Mom’s bedside in 2007 when they each took their last breath. However, what keeps that fact from being devastating to me is that I believe it was not the end. I believe in life beyond this life. And I knew they each had placed their faith in Jesus.

Even as Carol McClung looked forward to going to heaven as did my parents, I do not share their willingness to relinquish this life – yet! I often say, *“I am prepared, but I am not ready.”*

Because I have put my faith in Jesus Christ and in his death and resurrection, I am prepared. But I love life and I want to live it as long as the Lord grants me breath.

Many of you know how much I love music and, of course, a song comes to mind when I think about this: a gospel song written by Stuart Hamblen in 1958 that speaks of our assurance of eternal life. But then, catch this - in the refrain he adds,

“But until then, my heart will go on singing,

Until then with joy I’ll carry on,

Until the day my eyes behold the city,

Until the day God calls me home.”

Jesus said in John 14:19, *“Because I live, you also will live”* (NIV). Let us rejoice in that truth as we celebrate together on Easter Sunday, or as I prefer to call it, Resurrection Sunday!

In His Grip,

Pastor Jan

You thought of me

You made the sun to touch upon the waters,
You brought the waves to crash upon the sand.
The dark gave way to light,
The earth trembled at your might, All the while

You thought of me.

Even at the first, You knew the last.
You knew that evil shadows would be cast.
In your triune spirit, three in one, You had a perfect plan
That You'd begun. Through such suffering, your precious
Son, bought my soul forever, victory won.

You thought of me.

Humbled on my knees I give you praise,
I thank you for your mercy and your grace.
Sunrise marks the moment, I lift my voice
And say, "Hallelujah", thank you Jesus,

You thought of me...

Pastor Nate recently preached on fighting enemies, focusing on what God has given us, and kingdom expansion. It sometimes may be hard to share our faith experiences with others. One way to share our faith and God's love with others is packing a shoebox for a child for OCC. Below are a couple of stories about how a single box changed the recipients and the lives around them forever.

One pastor in a country village faithfully labored for 21 years. In these years he did not see a single soul accept Jesus as their Savior. One year he had the opportunity to hand out OCC boxes. The boxes opened and changed hearts. Young people started gathering at his home. The gathering grew into the local church. In this country alone 29 churches have been planted through OCC boxes and teachings of the Greatest Journey.

At the age of 12, one boy reported he went to school with one pencil and a sheet of paper. When he received the OCC box it was filled with pencils, erasers, papers, crayons and so much more. He was elated. With his school supplies he was able to raise his test scores and now could attend high school for free. He later went on to become a Bible teacher and brought many to Jesus. Other stories cite how children went onto becoming doctors, engineers, nurses and leaders in their communities.

Thank you for supporting this awesome mission. Last year Zion packed 136 boxes and changed 136 lives because you shared God's love. Boxes from Central Wi went to Malawi, the smallest country in southeastern Africa. It has an estimated 181 million plus people living there. Christianity, and Muslims make up the majority of the religious groups. There is also about 4% of the people who are atheists, and some type of traditional African religions. May our shoeboxes express God's love and bring them to accept Christ. We will never know how it will change their lives...but God will know.

The total boxes collected worldwide for 2024, 11,927,439 have been or will be distributed to children around the world.

God Bless

Deb Kirslenlohr



PRAYER TIME FOR ALL WOMEN—TUESDAY, APRIL 8 & 22, 1: 00 PM Sandy Neumann will open her home on the first and third Tuesday of each month. We will be gathering to pray for whatever God has put on our hearts and minds. Pray for strength in these troubling times and anything that God may lead us pray for!

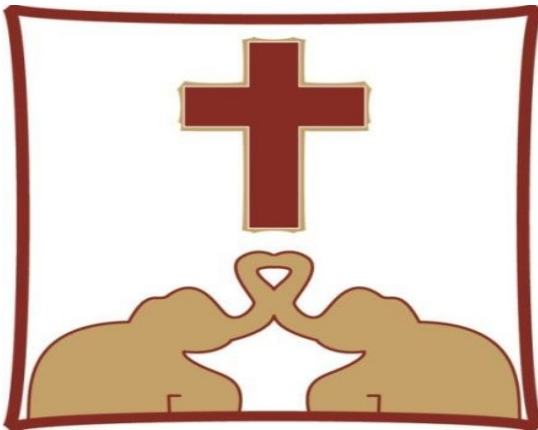


LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR PRAYER ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 8:30 A.M.
IN THE PRAYER ROOM! (north end of hallway on the left)**

CELEBRATING APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANIVERSARIES

1. Dave & Karen Lane
20. Treva Brodhagen
28. Andy Balciar



THAILAND NOW

Nhia & Mao have been in Thailand for 4 months.

They are able to preach once a month at the church that they attend.

They are teaching the children English.

Also, pray that more people come to know Jesus!

They need our financial help. Their budget is \$75,000 per year for the outreach and projects. So far this year they have received \$15,000. Their goal is \$6,000 per month to be able to stay in Thailand.

WE WILL BE DOING THE “NOISY BUCKETS” for Her’s starting April 27 to help with their financial need.

Nhia & Mao thank you for your financial support, prayers.

May our Lord Jesus Christ give you what you need on a daily basis!

Sincerely,

Mao & Nhia Wahn Her

“THE LAST SUPPER”

MONDAY, APRIL 14 & WEDNESDAY APRIL 16 @7:00 PM. Wesley UMC will present the 21st presentation of “THE LAST SUPPER”. The presentation will be held at Wesley UMC, 211 S. Maple Ave., Marshfield



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We're On The Hunt!!!

We are in need of laundry soap containers from the soap pods used for laundry.

The empty soap pod containers will be used to make a Santa table decoration.

For this project, registration will be a must in order to have sufficient supplies for each registered participant.

There will be an alternate craft project for those ladies that prefer to not make the Santa decoration.

Of course, we will also have some Christmas games and Christmas Bingo!

Date of December ladies event will be posted at a much later date.

Leslie

WOZ (Women of Zion) - SATURDAY, MAY 3 @9:00 am. Come join us for fellowship, games and making of greeting cards. Bring a snack and get ready for some fun.

MOZ (Men of Zion) will meet at the same time to play corn hole games.



If you would like a copy of the minutes from the Leadership Team meeting, they are available on the Information Center in the Narthex.

Please help yourself!



All are welcome! Please join us at the fire ring in Zion's backyard, on April 5 at 11AM. We'll have a brief devotion, then roast hot dogs and marshmallows for a light lunch. We'll have some nice conversation, maybe a round or two of cornhole and singing.

Sign up sheet in the Narthex so that we can plan proper quantities. If temperature is below 50, we'll meet the following Saturday, April 12.



EASTER EGG HUNT—SUNDAY, APRIL 13,
ALL KID'S ARE WELCOME!
(during Kid's Church).



PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH—SUNDAY, APRIL 13, (right after church)
Pancakes, eggs sausage provided!
Bring your own favorite breakfast item if you want!

FAITH SISTERS (OR A secret Prayer Pal)

You are invited to join/take part in the fellowship of Faith Sisters, Inc. of Zion Community Church.

As another way to keep in touch/reach out to another woman from Zion in a different way other than visiting in person or by phone.....join Faith Sisters, Inc of Zion Community Church.

WHAT IS SECRET SISTERS FELLOWSHIP???

Each lady enters her name, address, birth date (not year) and anniversary date (if applicable). Forms will be provided. These information slips will be placed in a gathering basket on the Information Center desk.

As another time, there will be a drawing of the collected information forms given by each lady. These information forms will be put into a basket and each lady who entered her name will, in turn, draw a name from the basket. **If anyone would like to participate but cannot place their name or draw a name in person, contact Leslie and she will be your substitute).

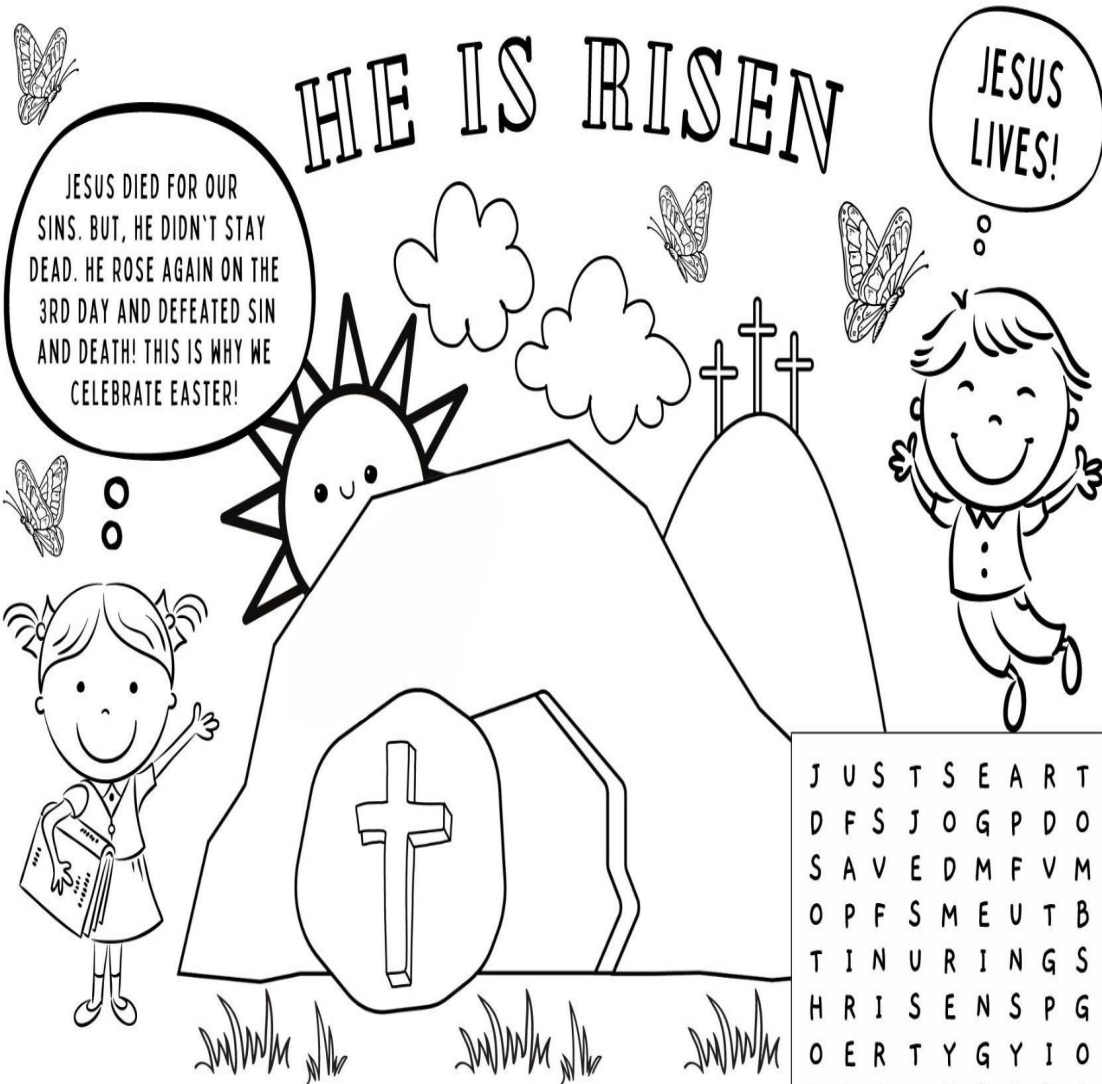
The idea of the Faith Sisters I that throughout the year or for a special occasion, a Faith Sister could send, drop off a card or small gift item at the church for her Faith Sister/ Secret Pal. (If needed, Leslie will act as secret postman).

A revealing of who has whose name will be held at a December luncheon; specifically, for those ladies who are part of the Faith Sisters. Questions??? Contact Leslie at 715 470 2395.

If you would like a form mailed to you, please call the church office.

ALL ENTRIES ARE DUE BY APRIL 1.





JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS. BUT, HE DIDN'T STAY DEAD. HE ROSE AGAIN ON THE 3RD DAY AND DEFEATED SIN AND DEATH! THIS IS WHY WE CELEBRATE EASTER!

JESUS LIVES!

J	U	S	T	S	E	A	R	T
D	F	S	J	O	G	P	D	O
S	A	V	E	D	M	F	V	M
O	P	F	S	M	E	U	T	B
T	I	N	U	R	I	N	G	S
H	R	I	S	E	N	S	P	G
O	E	R	T	Y	G	Y	I	O
P	K	U	T	H	R	A	H	L
E	A	S	T	E	R	S	E	D

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS SHOWS US THAT DEATH IS NOT THE END AND THAT WE ARE FORGIVEN. WE DON'T HAVE TO LET SIN BE THE BOSS OF US ANYMORE, AND WE DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF DEATH! WE WILL RISE AGAIN LIKE JESUS DID AND LIVE IN HEAVEN FOREVER!

EASTER JESUS RISEN
 SAVED TOMB HOPE

RESURRECTION ACTIVITY SHEET