



GOD ON TRIAL

Second Sunday in Lent
February 25, 2024

ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

IN JESUS' NAME WE WELCOME YOU!

Second Sunday in Lent

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WELCOME TO ZION. It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will strengthen your faith and fill your heart with the peace only God can give and the joy we have in believing that JESUS CHRIST is our Savior from sin.

Worship Focus: Jesus went to the cross to reestablish our broken relationship with God.

This is the Second Sunday in Lent. The season of Lent leads the Church on a forty-day journey of repentance and prayer, of remembrance and renewal of our baptism. God calls to mankind: Return to the Lord! Even though the Church's Lenten worship is muted and quiet, the focus of the season is not Good Friday, but Easter! Sunday worship in the season of Lent is designed to be islands of refreshment in our Lenten walk. Here is refreshment for the Lenten journey: Your Savior has defeated the devil and his temptations for you. The promise comes by faith and is meant for all people. Though you were born in the blindness of sin, the light of the world shines upon you and lets you see. New life in the light of Christ leads you to selfless service until the day he makes good on his greatest promise—the resurrection. What can we say in response to love so great? Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

OUR FAMILY AT WORSHIP

BATHROOMS are located in the back of church, just down the hall toward the school.

Please ask an usher for help finding them.

HEARING ASSISTANCE EQUIPMENT is available as part of our sound system.

Individual hand-held units are available. Please check with an usher if you would like a unit for today's worship service.

VISITORS are asked to please sign our fellowship registry in the back of church so that we will have a record of your visit. Thank you for joining us today!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

306

Before You, God the Judge of All



1 Be - fore you, God, the Judge of all, With grief and shame I
 2 O Lord, my God, to you I pray: Oh, cast me not in
 3 O Je - sus, let your pre - cious blood Be to my soul a



hum - bly fall. I see my sins a - gainst you, Lord,
 wrath a - way! Let your good Spir - it ne'er de - part,
 cleans - ing flood. Turn not, O Lord, your guest a - way,



My sins of thought and deed and word. They press me
 But let him draw to you my heart That tru - ly
 But grant that jus - ti - fied I may Go to my



sore; to you I flee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
 pen - i - tent I be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
 house at peace to be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

Text: Magnus B. Landstad, 1802–80; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.
 Tune: VATER UNSER IM HIMMELREICH, DER DU (88 88 88) attr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546.

STAND



M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



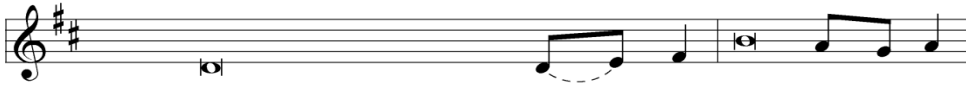
C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



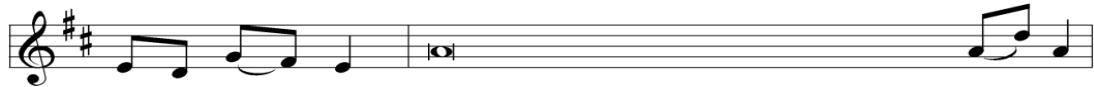
C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



M: (Advent) Behold the _____ King comes: let us wor - ship him.
 (Christmas) Unto us the _____ Christ is born: let us wor - ship him.
 (Epiphany) The glory of Christ _____ is re - vealed: let us wor - ship him.
 (Lent) Behold the _____ Lamb of God: let us wor - ship him.
 (Easter) The Lord is _____ ris - en: let us wor - ship him.
 (Pentecost) The Spirit of the Lord _____ fills the world: let us wor - ship him.
 (General) Praise be to God, the Father,
 the Son, and the Holy _____ Spir - it: let us wor - ship him.



C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of



our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,



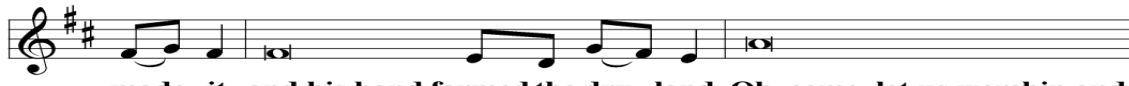
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a



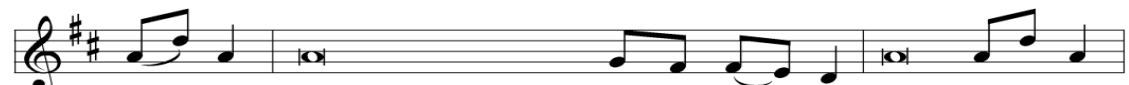
great God and a great king a - bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are



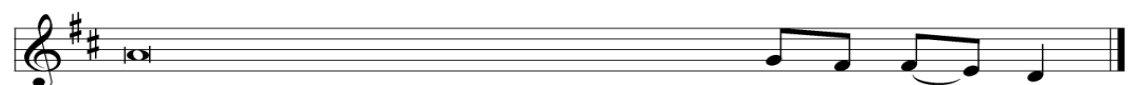
in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he



made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and



bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God,



and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 28:10-17

¹⁰ Jacob set out from Beersheba and traveled toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and decided to spend the night there, because the sun had set. He took one of the stones from that place, put it under his head, and lay down to sleep in that place. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway set up on the earth with its top reaching to heaven. There were angels of God ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There at the top stood the LORD, who said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. The land on which you are lying, I give to you and to your descendants. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south. In you and in your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed. ¹⁵ Now, I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back again into this land. Indeed, I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised to you." ¹⁶ Jacob woke up from his sleep, and he said, "Certainly the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." ¹⁷ He was afraid and he said, "How awe-inspiring is this place! This is nothing other than the house of God, and this is the gate to heaven. (EHV)

PSALM 119c

CW pg. 111



I meditate on it all day long.

I have more insight than all my teachers,*
for I meditate on your statutes.

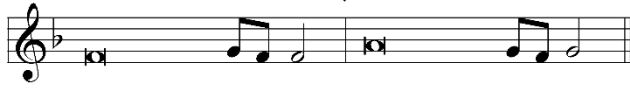
I have more understanding than the elders,*
for I obey your precepts.

Refrain

Refrain



Psalm tone



I have kept my feet from every evil path*
so that I might obey your Word.

I have not departed from your laws,*
for you yourself have taught me.

How sweet are your words to my taste,*
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Joyce Schubkegal. © 1993 Joyce Schubkegal (admin. Northwestern Publishing House). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Second Lesson

Romans 5:1-11

5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we also have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice confidently on the basis of our hope for the glory of God. ³Not only this, but we also rejoice confidently in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces patient endurance, ⁴and patient endurance produces tested character, and tested character produces hope. ⁵And hope will not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who was given to us. ⁶For at the appointed time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷It is rare indeed that someone will die for a righteous person. Perhaps someone might actually go so far as to die for a person who has been good to him. ⁸But God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, it is even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. ¹⁰For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, it is even more certain that, since we have been reconciled, we will be saved by his life. ¹¹And not only is this so, but we also go on rejoicing confidently in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received this reconciliation. (EHV)

VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8b cf. NIV)

GOSPEL:

Matthew 26:57-75

⁵⁷ Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the experts in the law and the elders were assembled. ⁵⁸ Peter was following him at a distance and went as far as the courtyard of the high priest. He went inside and sat down with the guards to see how it would turn out. ⁵⁹ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰ They found none, even though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward ⁶¹ and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" ⁶² The high priest stood up and said to him, "Have you no answer? What is this that these men are testifying against you?" ⁶³ But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I place you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!" ⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "It is as you have said. But I tell you, soon you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? See, you have just heard the blasphemy!" ⁶⁶ What do you think?" They answered, "He is deserving of death!" ⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and punched him. Some slapped him ⁶⁸ and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who hit you?" ⁶⁹ Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came to him and said, "You were also with Jesus the Galilean." ⁷⁰ But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I don't know what you're talking about." ⁷¹ When Peter went out to the entryway, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷² Again Peter denied it with an oath and said, "I do not know the man." ⁷³ After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, "Surely you are also one of them because even your accent gives you away." ⁷⁴ Then he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man!" Just then the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly. (EHV)

LENT

116

In the Hour of Trial



1 In the hour of tri - al, Je - sus, plead for me
 2 With for - bid - den plea - sures Should this vain world charm
 3 Should your mer - cy send me Sor - row, toil, and woe,
 4 When my life is end - ing, Though in grief or pain,



Lest by base de - ni - al I un - wor - thy be.
 Or its tempt - ing trea - sures Spread to work me harm,
 Or should pain at - tend me On my path be - low,
 When my bod - y chang - es Back to dust a - gain,



When you see me wa - ver, With a look re - call,
 Bring to my re - mem - brance Sad Geth - sem - a - ne
 Grant that I may nev - er Fail your cross to view;
 On your truth re - ly - ing, Through that mor - tal strife,



Nor for fear or fa - vor Ev - er let me fall.
 Or, in dark - er sem - blance, Cross-crowned Cal - va - ry.
 Grant that I may ev - er Cast my care on you.
 Je - sus, take me, dy - ing, To e - ter - nal life.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

Tune: ST. MARY MAGDALENE (65 65 D) John B. Dykes, 1823–76.

SERMON TITLE:

Testimony

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

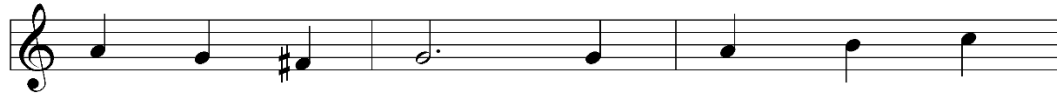
OFFERING: *The collection of the offering in the service is an opportunity for the members of Zion to give back to God a small portion of what he has given us in order to support the Gospel ministry of Zion Lutheran Church and School and of the WELS throughout the world. If you are a visitor today, while we appreciate an offering from you, please do not feel obligated to give.*

JUSTIFICATION

401 Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ



1 Your works, not mine, O Christ, Speak glad -
 2 Your blood, not mine, O Christ, Can heal
 3 Your cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne
 4 Your death, not mine, O Christ, Has paid
 5 Your right - eous - ness, O Christ, A - lone



ness to this heart. They tell me all
 my sin - ful soul; Your wounds, not mine,
 the dread - ful load Of sins that none
 the ran - som due; Ten thou - sand deaths
 can cov - er me; No oth - er right -



is done; They bid my fear de - part.
 con - tain The balm that makes me whole.
 could bear But the in - car - nate God.
 like mine Would have been all too few.
 eous - ness Can set a sin - ner free.

Refrain



To whom but you, who can a - lone For



sin a - tone, Lord, shall I flee?

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89, alt.
 Tune: ST. JOHN (66 66 88) *The Parish Choir*, London, 1850.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie



M: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.



C: Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and for all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

PRAYER FOR GRACE

P: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.



M: Let us praise the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.

BLESSING



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - men.

CONFIRMATION

596

Let Me Be Yours Forever



1 Let me be yours for - ev - er, My faith - ful
 2 Lord Je - sus, my sal - va - tion, My light, my
 3 O gra - cious Ho - ly Spir - it, My com - fort -



God and Lord; Let me for - sake you nev - er
 life di - vine, My on - ly con - so - la - tion,
 er and guide, Grant that in Je - sus' mer - it



Nor wan - der from your Word. Lord, do not
 To you I all re - sign, For you have
 I al - ways may con - fide, Him to the



let me wa - ver But give me stead -
 dear - ly bought me With blood and bit -
 end con - fess - ing Whom I have known



fast - ness, And for such grace and fa - vor
 ter pain. Let me, since you have sought me,
 by faith. Give me your con - stant bless - ing



Your ho - ly name I'll bless.
 E - ter - nal life ob - tain.
 And grant a Chris - tian death.

Text: Nikolaus Selnecker, 1532-92, st. 1; *Gesangbuch*, Rudolstadt, 1688, st. 2-3; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt.
 Tune: ICH DANKE DIR, LIEBER HERRE (76 76 D) *Musika Teutsch*, Nürnberg, 1532, alt.

Officiants

Accompanist: Kayla Liechty

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Nate Fager

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Greg Sitzman: 734-309-7877; gsitzman@zionmonroe.org

Principal: Bryan Schneck: 907-331-7761; bschneck@zionmonroe.org

CALL UPDATE—Benjamin Workentine has returned Zion's call to be the Associate Pastor. Zion will be having a call meeting on Sunday, March 3rd at 12:30 p.m.

ZION ART FAIR:

Come join us for the Zion Art Fair on Sunday, March 3rd at noon. We will kick the fair off with Forensic readings, music and light refreshments in the gym. All members are welcome to attend and display works! If you're interested in your work being displayed, providing music or a reading, please see Stacey Sordahl. Art works may be dropped to the office by Feb 28th. Hope to see you there!

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE NEWS:

The MLC Choir is putting on two concerts in the area:

Resurrection Church in Maumee, OH on Sunday, March 3 at 11:00 a.m.

Hope Christian Academy in Westland, MI on Monday, March 4 at 10:00 a.m.

EASTER LILIES: We would like to decorate our church again this year for Easter with lily plants in memory of or for blessings received from members of Zion. Suggested donation is \$13.00 per plant. The plants will be in church on Easter Sunday. **The deadline to order is Sunday, March 10.** Donation envelopes are in both foyers. Place your donation inside the envelope and put it in the office. Thank you in advance for decorating our church for Easter and remembering our loved ones and blessings received.

HELPING OUR CHURCH FAMILY: Friends in Faith has a "Zion's Meal Train" program. The "Zion Meal Train" is a program that assists members of the Congregation with meals for situations such as surgeries/recovery, unexpected hospital stays, loss, birth of a child, etc. The meal train is open to all male and female members of the Congregation interested in providing meals for fellow members in need. We will be utilizing the official Meal Train website (www.MealTrain.com) to stay organized. When many friends provide support through a meal it means you may only have to volunteer once in a while to make a meal. The Meal Train program keeps schedules, as well as provides locations and dietary restrictions. If you are interested in volunteering to prepare an occasional meal as needed, please sign up in the west foyer or contact Melissa Freiny at 734-652-1638. Thank you in advance for considering to use your time and talents to support our church family.

ZION CEA: At the past Zion CEA Meeting on Wednesday, January 17th it was decided that the Zion Rummage Sale will be headed by Deborah Hill this year, with Melissa Freiny assisting. The proceeds for the sale will be put towards replacing the yellow curtains in the gymnasium.

SHUT-IN VISIT INFORMATION: To help Pastor Sitzman with ministering to our shut-ins, Ken Vagt has been asked to serve our shut-ins with the Word and Sacrament. During those visits there is fellowship, then a devotion on God's Word followed by the offering of absolution and Holy Communion. If you are a shut-in or a family member of a shut-in, please contact Pastor Sitzman or Ken Vagt to schedule a visit with you or the family member on a monthly rotation.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP:

Dear Members of Zion,

Since the Capital Campaign kicked off in April of 2022 Zion has received just over \$200,000 in major gifts and weekly offerings, what a blessing!

The funds have been used for a number of improvements including:

- New furniture has been purchased for the west foyer
- A new security system has been installed. This project included the installation of multiple cameras on the property, both inside and outside of the building, a keyless entry system, and more
- Generator backup switches have been installed on each church own parsonage/teacherage
- Professional design services for handicap bathroom remodeling plans
- Miscellaneous repairs to church owned properties

The Voters approved the following items in order of priority:

- Electric panel replacements (two panels at ~\$6,160 per panel)
- Tunnel water issues with mold remediation if found necessary
- Parking lot repair (patch and seal)
- Basement handicap access (lift)
- Backup power generator for the church and school

There is currently \$2,874.39 available that is not committed to a certain project. If you are moved to give to the capital campaign, please **mark your donations as “Capital Campaign”**.

Thank you for your support as Zion undertakes some large and much needed projects.

Sincerely, Board of Stewardship

HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY NEWS:

International Student Host Families Needed for 24-25

We are now planning for the 2024-2025 school year and we need additional host families! Host families receive a stipend to offset the costs associated with hosting, or can receive a tax-free tuition credit for hosting. If you are interested in hosting a student, or if you would like more information, please contact Principal Matt Foley at 734-525-0160, extension 202, or the HCA international student coordinator, Debbie Purdue, at 734-377-5010, or at dpurdue@hopehawks.org.

HCA Class of 2024 - Graduation is scheduled for June 02 at 2pm. Ashley Beeskow (St. Paul's) will serve as our valedictorian, and Nick Tamer (Peace) will serve as our salutatorian. Pastor Haag (Redeemer, Ann Arbor) will serve as the preacher.

Coming up at Zion

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Lent #2 Worship Service
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. Warrior Oasis Café
 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class
 5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper – Sloppy Joes
 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lent #2 Worship Service (IC)

Friday 7:45 a.m. Warrior Oasis Café
 4:30 p.m. Killarney Fish Fry at Zion

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Lent #3 Worship Service (IC/CC)
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class
 Noon – Zion Fine Arts Fair

February Volunteers

	Jan. 31 & Feb. 4	Feb. 7 & 11	Feb. 14 & 18	Feb. 21 & 25	Feb. 28 & March 3
Altar Guild		Liz Seibert &	Deanna Schneck		
Live Stream Helpers	Erich Freiny	Rob Krueger	Ryan Roth	Steve Sordahl	Miller Sordahl
Ushers	<u>Jan. 31</u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger Zach Turner <u>Feb. 4</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier	<u>Feb. 7</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier <u>Feb. 11</u> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Mathew Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson	<u>Feb. 14</u> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Matthew Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson <u>Feb. 18</u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach McCormick	<u>Feb. 21</u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach McCormick <u>Feb. 25</u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling Russ Vitale	<u>Feb. 28</u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling Russ Vitale <u>March 3</u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger Zach Turner
Communion Helpers	<u>Jan. 31</u> Ken Vagt <u>Feb. 4</u> Mark Kipf Jake Burke		<u>Feb. 14</u> Alan Bober <u>Feb. 18</u> Ray Palmatier Mark Fuerstenberg		<u>Feb. 28</u> Ken Vagt <u>March 3</u> Jeff Heusman Jake Burke



**Fish Fry for Camp Killarney at Zion Lutheran Church's gymnasium
Friday March 1, 2024 from 4:30 - 7p.m!**

**We will be serving baked tilapia, fried cod, french fries, green beans,
cole slaw, applesauce, cornbread, dessert, and a drink.**

**Adult plates \$17
Children 10 and younger \$8**

We have greatly appreciated all your support over the years for Camp Killarney. It's a place we hold near and dear to our hearts. This will be our final Fuerstenberg fish fry- let's make it the best one yet!