



# GOD ON TRIAL

Fourth Sunday in Lent

**ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI**

*(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)*

**IN JESUS' NAME WE WELCOME YOU!**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 10, 2024**

**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:** God wants to be first in our lives. The lessons also show us Christ's obedience and assure us of the salvation we have through Christ's work.

*This is the Fourth 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.*

**LITURGY: Service of the Word**

*CW pg. 38*

**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!

JUSTIFICATION

# 391 God Loved the World So that He Gave



1 God loved the world so that he gave His on - ly  
 2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, Who was made  
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die— His Son with  
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives the  
 5 When you are sick, when death draws near, This truth your



Son the lost to save That all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in  
 sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the  
 sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by  
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus saves my



him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 Word does teach How we the bless - ed goal may reach.  
 Je - sus' blood; Bap - tized, you are a child of God.  
 soul from death— This is the an - chor of my faith!

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
 To you, O blessed Trinity,  
 Be praise now and eternally!

Text: *Heiliges Lippen . . . Gesangbuch*, Stettin, c. 1778; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
 Tune: ST. CRISPIN (LM) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

P: The grace of our Lord (✠) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

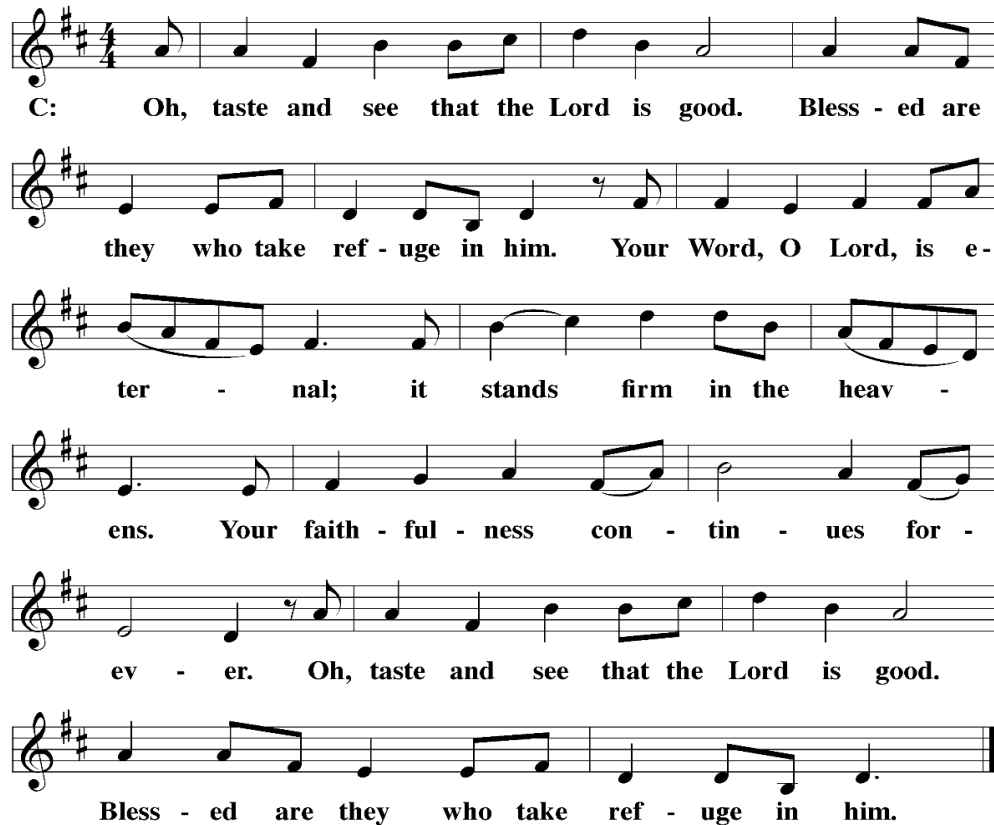
C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

*The minister says the Prayer of the Day.*

P: Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

# THE WORD

## First Lesson

Numbers 21:4-9

<sup>4</sup> They set out from Mount Hor along the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom, but the people became very impatient along the way. <sup>5</sup> The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? Look, there is no food! There is no water! And we are disgusted by this worthless food!” <sup>6</sup> The LORD sent venomous snakes among the people, and the snakes bit the people. As a result many people from Israel died. <sup>7</sup> The people went to Moses and said, “We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD to take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed on behalf of the people. <sup>8</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Make a venomous snake and put it on a pole. If anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live.” <sup>9</sup> Moses made a bronze snake and put it on the pole. If a snake had bitten anyone, if that person looked at the bronze snake, he lived. (EHV)

## Psalm 1

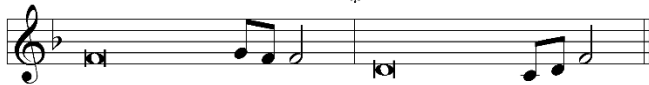
CW pg. 64

### Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

### Psalm tone



Blessed is the man

who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked\*  
or stand in the way of sinners.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD,\*  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season\*  
and whose leaf does not wither.  
Whatever he does prospers.

### Refrain

*Refrain*



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

*Psalm tone*



Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,\*  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,\*  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

**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: Robert J. Thompson. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**Second Lesson**

**Ephesians 2:4-10**

<sup>4</sup> But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! <sup>6</sup> He also raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> He did this so that, in the coming ages, he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them. (EHV)

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

<sup>33</sup> Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”

<sup>35</sup> Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?” <sup>36</sup> Jesus replied, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here.”

<sup>37</sup> “You are a king then?” Pilate asked. Jesus answered, “I am, as you say, a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” <sup>38</sup> “What is truth?” Pilate said to him. After he said this, he went out again to the Jews and told them, “I find no basis for a charge against him. <sup>39</sup> But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at the Passover. So do you want me to release the King of the Jews for you?” <sup>40</sup> Then they shouted back, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” (Now Barabbas was a rebel.) (EHV)



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW 356

“You Are the Way; through You Alone”

REDEEMER

## 356 You Are the Way; through You Alone



1 You are the way; through you a - lone Can  
 2 You are the truth; your Word a - lone True  
 3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb Pro -  
 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant



we the Fa - ther find; In you, O Christ, has  
 wis - dom can im - part. You on - ly can in -  
 claims your con - qu'ring arm, And those who put their  
 us that way to know, That truth to keep, that



God re - vealed His heart and will and mind.  
 form the mind And pu - ri - fy the heart.  
 trust in you Not death nor hell shall harm.  
 life to win Whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.

Tune: DUNDEE (CM) *The CL Psalms of David*, Edinburgh, 1615.

# Truth

## 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.

## THANKSGIVING

**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.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

**C: We confess that without your love we are lost.**

P: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

**C: Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**



P: Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

**C: By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**

P: Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

**C: Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.**

P: Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

**C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

P: Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **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.**

LENT

# 102 Enslaved by Sin and Bound in Chains



1 En - slaved by sin and bound in chains, Be - neath its  
 2 Nor gold nor gems could buy our peace, Nor all the  
 3 Je - sus, the Lord, the might - y God, An all - suf -  
 4 Je - sus the sac - ri - fice be - came To res - cue  
 5 A - maz - ing good - ness! Love di - vine! Oh, may our



dread - ful ty - rant sway, And doomed to ev - er -  
 world's col - lect - ed store Suf - fice to pur - chase  
 fi - cient ran - som paid. O match - less price! His  
 guilt - y souls from hell; The spot - less, bleed - ing,  
 grate - ful hearts a - dore The match - less grace nor



last - ing pains We wretch - ed, guilt - y cap - tives lay.  
 our re - lease; A thou - sand worlds were all too poor.  
 pre - cious blood For vile, re - bel - lious trai - tors shed.  
 dy - ing Lamb Be - neath a - veng - ing jus - tice fell.  
 yield to sin Nor wear its cru - el fet - ters more!

Text: Anne Steele, 1717–78.

Tune: WENN WIR IN HÖCHSTEN NÖTEN SEIN (LM) Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–1561.

## CLOSING PRAYER

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

## BENEDICTION

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (✠) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

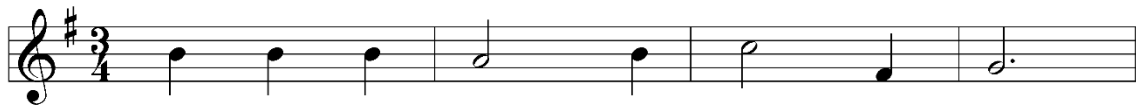
## CLOSING HYMN: CW 373

## “O Jesus, King Most Wonderful”

REDEEMER

### 373

## O Jesus, King Most Wonderful



1 O Je - sus, King most won - der - ful,  
2 When once you vis - it dark - ened hearts,  
3 O Je - sus, Light of all be - low,  
4 May ev - 'ry heart con - fess your name,  
5 Oh, may our tongues for - ev - er bless



O Maj - es - ty re - nowned, O Con - quer - or in -  
Then truth be - gins to shine, Then earth - ly van - i -  
O Fount of life and fire, Sur - pass - ing all the  
For - ev - er you a - dore, En - kin - dled with the  
And hon - or you a - lone, And may we in our



vin - ci - ble, In whom all joys are found,  
ty de - parts, Then kin - dles love di - vine.  
joys we know, All that we can de - sire,  
Spir - it's flame To love you more and more.  
lives ex - press The im - age of your own!

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153, abr.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Tune: ST. AGNES (CM) John B. Dykes, 1823–76.



Officiants

Accompanist: Kayla Liechty

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Nate Fager

\*ALL CHURCH SERVICE AND MUSIC ITEMS ARE PRINTED UNDER ONE LICENSE – A-717618.

## Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Greg Sitzman: 734-309-7877; [gsitzman@zionmonroe.org](mailto:gsitzman@zionmonroe.org)

Principal: Bryan Schneck: 907-331-7761; [bschneck@zionmonroe.org](mailto:bschneck@zionmonroe.org)

---

**CALL UPDATE**—Zion extended a call to Pastor Frank Italiano Jr. Please keep Zion and him in your prayers as he deliberates the call.

**KILLARNEY FISH FRY:** Mark and Sherry thank everyone from Zion's Congregation and their friends for all the support with the fish fry. Once again Zion came out to help support Killarney Camp – we raised \$1809.00. A special thank you to everyone who helped prepare food, serve, and clean-up. Mark and Sherry regrettably have to step away after this year from running the Fish Fry fundraiser, if anyone would like to take the lead for the fundraiser next year they will be more than happy to give advice. Please consider this as a great opportunity to use your time and talents to help support one of our great assets – Killarney Lutheran Camp!

**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](http://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.

**FRIENDS IN FAITH:** Friends in Faith is having a bake sale after church on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. You are welcome to contribute items to the table before service. The money raised is going towards the Card Ministry.

### **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

**Planning Ahead:**

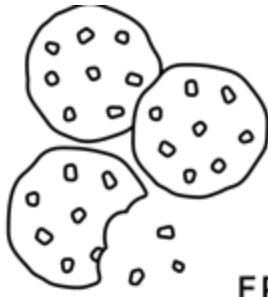
**Mother/Daughter Tea:** Zion will be hosting a Mother/Daughter Tea on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. There is an attached flyer with more information and additional information will be coming in the next few weeks.

**Coming up at Zion ....**

- Sunday 9:00 a.m. Lent #4 Worship Service – Pastor Fager  
10:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class
- Monday 10:30 a.m. MLS Children’s Theater
- Tuesday 7:45 a.m. Warrior Oasis Café  
10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class  
1:30 p.m. Worship Service  
5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting  
7:00 p.m. School Board Meeting
- Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper – Chicken Dinner – proceeds for the next phase of Zion’s school marketing & consulting project.  
7:00 p.m. Midweek Lent #4 Worship Service
- Thursday 6:30 p.m. Kindergarten and Young Fives Informational Meeting
- Sunday 9:00 a.m. Lent #5 Worship Service  
10:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class  
10:30 a.m. Friends in Faith Bake Sale  
1:00 p.m. Jesus Cares Worship Service  
2:00 p.m. Zion CEA Mother/Son Bowling

## March Volunteers

	<b>Feb. 28 &amp; March 3</b>	<b>March 6 &amp; 10</b>	<b>March 13 &amp; 17</b>	<b>March 20 &amp; 24</b>	<b>March 28, 29 &amp; 31</b>
Altar Guild			Liz Seibert		
Live Stream Helpers	Miller Sordahl	William Robinson	Erich Freiny	Rob Krueger	<u><b>March 28</b></u> Miller Sordahl <u><b>March 29</b></u> Steve Sordahl <u><b>March 31</b></u> Ryan Roth
Ushers	<u><b>Feb. 28</b></u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling Russ Vitale  <u><b>March 3</b></u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger Zach Turner	<u><b>March 6</b></u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger Zach Turner  <u><b>March 10</b></u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier	<u><b>March 13</b></u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier  <u><b>March 17</b></u> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Matthew Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson	<u><b>March 20</b></u> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Mathew Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson  <u><b>March 24</b></u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach McCormick	<u><b>March 28</b></u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling Russ Vitale  <u><b>March 29 1:00 p.m.</b></u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling Russ Vitale  <u><b>March 29 7:00 p.m.</b></u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger Zach Turner  <u><b>March 31</b></u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger Zach Turner
Communion Helpers	<u><b>Feb. 28</b></u> Ken Vagt  <u><b>March 3</b></u> Jeff Heusman Jake Burke		<u><b>March 13</b></u> Ken Vagt  <u><b>Feb. 18</b></u> Mark Kipf Erich Freiny		<u><b>March 28</b></u> <u><b>@ 7:00 p.m.</b></u> Jeremy Robinson Rob Krueger



FRIENDS IN FAITH SPONSORS

# ZION BAKE SALE

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT CARD MINISTRY

SUNDAY, MARCH 17 IN SCHOOL HALLWAY

ALL ARE INVITED TO DONATE BAKED GOODS

PLEASE LABEL CONTENTS AND PLACE ON  
TABLES BEFORE CHURCH





Zion Lutheran Gymnasium

**Sunday, April 14**

2:00 – 4:00pm

**Mothers, daughters and all other ladies  
welcome to join us for entertainment,  
fellowship, treats and tea.  
Suggested donation \$5 per person**



**RSVP for guaranteed seating through the church office by April 12  
or call Melissa Freiny 734-652-1638**