

I am the gate for the sheep.

~ John 10:7



**Sunday, April 26, 2026**  
*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan**  
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# HOLY COMMUNION

## *Setting Four*

*Regular font: Worship Leader; Bold font: Congregation*

### *Prelude*

## WELCOME

### GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

### EASTER LITANY

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed, Alleluia!**

The grave is dark and never gives back.

**But God is stronger than all of death!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed, Alleluia!**

In Christ, sorrow gives way to joy.

**The dead now rise to new life!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed, Alleluia!**

**GATHERING HYMN** “O Day of Rest and Gladness” **ELW 521**

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### KIRIE

**pg. 147**

### THIS IS THE FEAST

**pg. 149**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

*Please be seated*

### FIRST READING

**Acts 2:42-47**

<sup>42</sup> The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 23 (*spoken responsively*)

<sup>1</sup> The LORD | is my shepherd;  
I shall not | be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my | soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I  
shall | fear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort  
me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my  
life,**

**and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.**

*Please stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**pg. 151**

## **GOSPEL READING**

**John 10:1-10**

The holy gospel according to John the 10th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: <sup>1</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*Please be seated*

### **SERMON**

*Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan*

*One Minute of Silence is kept for reflection.*

*Please stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Have No Fear, Little Flock” **ELW 764**

### **NICENE CREED**

**pg. 104**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the

world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured (especially). Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

**pg. 152**

**MEAL**

*Please be seated*

**OFFERING**

*Please Stand*

**OFFERTORY HYMN** “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”  
(vs. 4) **ELW 367**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God,  
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.  
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
when we will hunger and thirst no more.  
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,  
that goodness and mercy may follow us  
and bless the world you love.  
In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING** **pg. 152**

*Please kneel or sit*

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER** **pg. 154**

It is indeed right...

**LORD’S PRAYER** **pg. 154**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table of new life.  
Receive the risen Lord.

**DISTRIBUTION**

*Please be seated*

**LAMB OF GOD** **pg. 154**

*Please kneel or sit*

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

“Let Us Break Bread Together” **ELW 471**

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” **ELW 623**

*Please stand*

## **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
+ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy One,  
through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.  
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies,  
and to bring your healing to the nations.  
In the name of Jesus,

**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **BENEDICTION**

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection  
dawn, now and always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** “God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

**ELW 536**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

*Postlude:*

## **Prayer List**

<b>For Health:</b>	Bud J	Malynda A	<b>For Safety:</b>
Joyce G	Jessica A	Annamaria T	Andrew C
Cathy L	Charlotte D	Lee T	Todd S
Marion B	Jonathan A	David O	Michael C
Lily V	Curt R	Michael G	Tyler G
Holly N	Matthew S	Patricia C	Erik B
Lisa A	Joan A	Family of	Justin Earl B
Dylan G	Dick C	Marjorie F	Evan G
Aiden J	Karen R	Barbara S	David P
Helen A	Pat J	Don R	
Matthew A	Alexis R		

### **SERVING TODAY**

Kate Schneider - Lector  
Pauline Neumann - Worship Assistant  
Donna Berndtson, Rick Borg, - Ushers/Greeters  
Carol Murphy - Altar Guild  
Sarah Dzialo - Organist  
Chris Darby - Guitar



Thank you to **The Kelseys**  
for organizing and hosting coffee hour  
today.

## Save the Date:

# Italian Night



## Zion Lutheran Church Italian Night 2026

Sunday, May 31st  
Social Hour: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Dinner: 5:00 p.m.



Zion Lutheran Church is participating in the **Birdies For Charity** program once again this year. **Donations are being accepted now and will go through June 28.** I encourage everyone to visit their website which is **Travelers Championship** and then you can scroll down to Birdies For Charity. This year, the money that is donated to Zion will be going towards capital improvements, which are badly needed at the church. There are also hundreds of different charities listed on their website that you can always donate if it's something that's near and dear to your heart. A portion of the proceeds from the church will be going to charity. If you have any questions, please see Donna B after church. Thank you and God bless.

## Volunteer Opportunity

We need volunteer to come to the **SYNOD Assembly June 4-6.**  
If you are interested, please see Pastor Sara for details.



**RaiseRight**

**RaiseRight Gift Cards**

Place your order today to get RaiseRight (formerly Scrip)

cards! You pay face value for the cards, but Zion receives a percentage of the amount of the card. It's a win-win! See Rick Borg for details.



**Make sure to use a Goodwill Good Neighbor Donation**

**Card** whenever you donate to Goodwill. See Donna Berndtson for the donation cards and details.

**Zion Lutheran Church presents:**

Lancaster Show Trip and the Dutch Country

5 days and 4 nights

The trip departs 183 William Street at 8:00 am on Monday, Oct 26. and returns on Friday, Oct 30.

The cost is \$765 per person, double occupancy.

Please call Barbara Shaw at 860-262-3531 for more information and reservations.



**Gifts to ELCA World Hunger** from congregations and individuals in the New England Synod during Lent through Pentecost will be matched up to \$50,000.

For more information, resources or how to give , visit the Synod Website:

<https://nelutherans.org/faithinaction/worldhunger>

## **Interfaith Coalition of Portland**

Saturday, May 2nd, 2026, 10:00 AM

This unique presentation will focus on the life and legacy of Ann Hibino, a resident of Portland from 1951 until her death in 1998. This presentation is adapted from a 1991 interview by the American Friends Service Committee about Ann's life before, during and after World War II when she and 120,000 other innocent Japanese American citizens and legal residents who lived on the West Coast, were forcibly removed from their homes and communities and incarcerated by the American government. Ann's daughter Diane will also share her own experiences growing up as a member of the only Asian American family in Portland in the 1950s and 60s. Registration is recommended and open now. Questions: [PortlandCTSolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandCTSolidarity@gmail.com)



The **Word in Season Daily Devotions for April, May and June** are available in the Narthex and the Red Box outside the door with the doorbell.



**Please Recycle Ink and Toner Cartridges Here.**

There is a container to leave your used ink and toner cartridges for us to recycle.

Council Members: President - Kathy Richards, Vice President - Paula Brown, Secretary - Barbara Helming, Financial Secretary - Rick Borg, Other Members - Beth Keser, Bob Redman Peter Willse, Christine Kelsey, Kate Schneider

**Today: April 26, 2026**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**9:00 a.m.** Worship/Communion

**10:30 a.m.** The Chosen

**11:30 a.m.** True Vine Church

**11:15 a.m.** Private Memorial service - Fitzgibbons

**This Week:**

Monday: **6:00 p.m.** N/A

Tuesday: **8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.** LifeLine Screening

**7:00 p.m.** Fife & Drum

Friday: Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby Setup

**7:00 p.m.** N/A

Saturday: Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby

**Next Sunday:**

**April 26, 2026**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**9:00 a.m.** Worship/Communion

**10:30 a.m.** Adult Education

**11:30 a.m.** True Vine Church



Next weeks readings: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16;  
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Attendance: Last week - 51; Last year - 104

**MISSION STATEMENT**

As members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, we exist to honor and proclaim the life of Jesus Christ through our words, actions and deeds.

**VISION STATEMENT**

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church shall be a prominent magnet in the community to draw people to a new life in Jesus Christ.

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