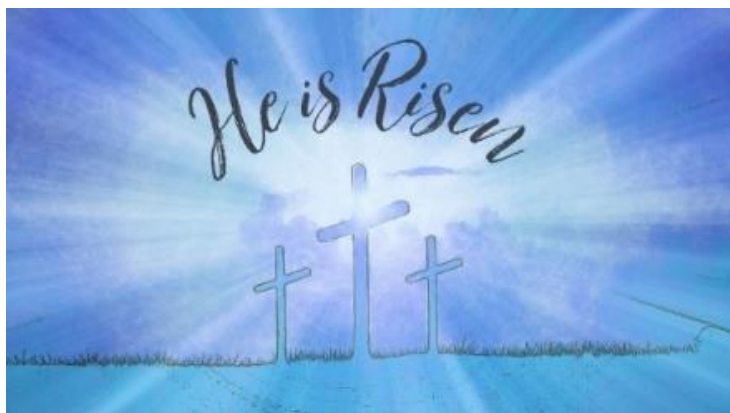




Zion  
Lutheran  
Church

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# April Sower 2026



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

DATE	Service Time
Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday	7:00pm
Friday, April 3 Good Friday Tenebrae Service	7:00pm
Saturday, April 4 Easter Vigil Service	7:00pm
Sunday, April 5 Easter Sunrise Service	7:00am
Fellowship Time (Coffee and Donuts)	8:15am
Easter Festival Service	9:00am
*No 5pm Service	

## VOTERS' MEETING

The next regular voters' meeting for approving the 2026-2027 annual budget is scheduled for Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> after the 9am service in the Fellowship Hall. There will be no Adult Bible Study.

## LWML KEARNEY ZONE SPRING WORKSHOP

The Spring Workshop will be Saturday, April 18 at Grace Lutheran in Sumner. Registration starts at 8:30am.

## MARY MARTHA

Mary Martha will meet on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the fellowship hall. All ladies of the congregation are invited. We will be doing a bible study from the Spring Quarterly. Bring your bibles and mites. Carol Kreutzer will be choosing the topic and Donna Bosard and Margaret Smith will be serving.

## MISSIONS

The mission for April-June is Issues, etc., a nationally syndicated talk show that discusses theological topics in relation to society. It is hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Below is a link to their archives:

<https://issuesetc.org/archive/>

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study will meet on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

## APRIL RADIO BROADCAST

Date	Radio
4/5	Carolyn Wilkens
4/12	Janet Blasingame, thanks for faithful pastors.
4/19	Dennis & Sue Bartels
4/26	

**Please help Zion spread the Gospel! Consider sponsoring (or going in with another family) one of our radio broadcasts. The cost is \$162.**

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

James & Patricia Catterson	4/1
Ryan & Brooke Fisher	4/6
Dennis & Sue Bartels	4/14
Marc & Lyn Hoffman	4/20

### APRIL ALTAR FLOWERS

Please consider signing up for altar flowers to beautify the sanctuary during the worship services. There are several spots available and we are able to enjoy them during the service times.

Date	Flowers
4/5	Easter Lilies
4/12	Dennis & Sue Bartels
4/19	
4/26	

### LAWNMOWER FUND UPDATE

All the funds have been raised to finish purchasing the lawnmower. Thank you to all members for their generous contributions over the last several months to purchase equipment needed for the Trustees.

*Zion Lutheran Church*

*Where our Triune God strengthens us through  
His mercy in faith toward Him  
and in fervent love toward one another.*

### OUR MEMBERS RESIDING IN CARE FACILITIES

Central NE Veterans' Home - 4510 E. 56 <sup>th</sup> St.	Ivan Bombeck
Homestead - 4205 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave	Pat Flodine
Mother Hull-125 East 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Evelyn Heiden
Brookestone Gardens - 2615 W 11 <sup>th</sup> St.	Pauline Jacobson
Mt. Carmel - 412 West 18th	Vaughn Albrecht
	DyAnn Altwine
St. Luke Good Samaritan - 2201 E 32 <sup>nd</sup> St	Gary Albers

### SCRIP CARDS

Scrip cards are still available at the office during the week and in the Book Nook on Sundays.

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Peter Glandt	4/2
Addison Helmbrecht	4/5
Steven Koehn	4/5
Holly Reid	4/5

Donald Richmond	4/5
Ellen Hockemeier	4/7
Frances Junge	4/7
Patrick Brost	4/8
Brynne Fisher	4/9
Chelsea Junge	4/10
David Hartman	4/12
Sarah Burger	4/13
Lorelie Hanneman	4/13
Jami Helmbrecht	4/13
Linda Johnson	4/14
Lisa Splittgerber	4/14
Gwendolyn Fittje	4/17
Jessica Shiers	4/19
Becky Thornton	4/20
Patricia Flodine	4/21
Philip Wellman	4/23
Theodore Florang	4/24
Margaret Smith	4/26
Waunita DeLaet	4/28
Evelyn Fittje	4/28
Udeane Fischer	4/30
Alexis Wollberg	4/30

## School News

- ✝ There will be no school April 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> for the observance of Easter. He is Risen!
- ✝ The K-8 Musical, "Things I Learned in School" will be Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. It will take place at the Merryman Performing Arts Center.



THE GOSPEL MESSAGE FROM CREATION TO THE CROSS

- ✝ DARE Graduation (5<sup>th</sup> Grade) will be April 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:15pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- ✝ Thank you for your support of the Plant sale!  
Note: plant pickup will be Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 10a-6p (No School) and Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 8a-12p.

# The Generous Life

*What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?*

*The following article was written by Pr. Heath R. Curtis, first appearing in the Lutheran Witness (April 2014: 9-12), and has been edited by Pr. DeLoach.*

When Lutherans think about stewardship, we should examine God's Word through the lens of Law and Gospel, vocation and sanctification.

## **Law and Gospel**

The Law of God is the way He wants us to live: His commandments, principles or injunctions. The Law of God always shows our sins, because we can never keep God's Law perfectly. The Gospel is the Good News that though we can never earn God's favor with our works, merit or worthiness, God has provided salvation for us free of charge in the incarnation, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Christian stewardship begins with the understanding that all we have is God's and that "we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world" (1 Tim. 6:7). Since all we have is God's, we should use it for His purposes. God's purpose for us in our lives is expressed in the various vocations, or callings, that we have.

## **Vocation**

A great treasure from the Lutheran Reformation is the rediscovery of the holy callings given to each Christian. We live these out in the home, the church and society

at large. Each one of these vocations makes a claim upon us. Luther laid out the biblical commands for our various vocations in the Table of Duties in the Small Catechism and specifically the command for all Christians when it comes to stewardship:

## **What Hearers Owe Their Pastor**

"In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the Gospel should get their living by the Gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:14).

One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap" (Galatians 6:6-7).

Our vocation as Christians, and as members of a particular Christian congregation where we receive the Word of God and His Sacraments, makes a claim on us: we should be present on Sunday morning and support the work of the Gospel. Likewise, our callings in the home and society make a claim on us to be present and support our family and friends.

## **Sanctification**

As the post-Communion collect has it, we hope to grow in "faith toward God and fervent love toward one another." This growth in the Christian life is called sanctification. Our sanctification is never perfect in this life, yet we must always strive to believe in God and love our neighbor. My sanctification is not

"trying to get more holy" in some abstract way; rather it means living a holy life in my vocation. It's trying to get to church more often and be more supportive of the ministry, making time to actually raise my children and plan for their future by making sacrifices now, allowing room in my life to give financial help to my needy neighbor and being present for my neighbor in time of need.

What does a generous life of stewardship look like? Well, let's start by looking at what God commanded of the Israelites in the Old Testament: the tithe (or tithes, really). To tithe means to give one-tenth or 10 percent of one's income. God commanded that the Israelites tithe for the support of the temple, its priests and Levites, and the sacrifices: "I will give the Levites all the tithes of Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the tent of meeting" (Num. 18:21).

Everyone in Israel was to tithe, even the Levites whose income came from the tithes of the other Israelites (Num. 18:25-26). So tithing was a part of the Old Testament law for Israel (along with the entire law for the nation, including the dietary laws that stated that one should not eat pork, shellfish, etc.).

God promised to bless Israel's faithfulness to this and all other Old Testament laws: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in

this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough to store it'" (Mal. 3:10).

### **False Teachings on Tithing**

Too often Many Christians make a jump from the Old Testament Law to our current situation under the New Testament. These folks say that (1) tithing is still a command of God upon us who share in the New Testament and (2) if you do tithe, God will bless you financially, and if you don't tithe, God will punish you financially. Both statements are false in subtle yet significant ways.

First, the tithing commanded by God in the Old Testament law applied to the state of affairs before the founding of the New Testament with the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Just as Christians today are not under any obligation to circumcise their sons or to abstain from pork and shellfish, so the Old Testament laws regarding tithing do not apply *directly* to today's Christians.

Second, Christ tells us that our life in this world will be difficult. We are to take up our cross and follow Jesus. To say that God will necessarily bless us financially if we tithe or do any other good work is to make God beholden to us and to deny the cross of Christ. A life lived in accordance with God's commands is more blessed than a life lived in disobedience. If we are faithful, God will of course bless us, but we must

realize that God will bless us in the shade of the cross.

So what (and how much) shall we render to the Lord for all his benefits to us? What should we contribute to support God's work in the Church? To answer those questions, we need to look at what the New Testament tells us about how to fulfill the law of love regarding financing the Church.

St. Paul writes: "On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper" (1 Cor. 16:2). The point is this: "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work" (2 Cor. 9:6-8).

In the New Testament, proportional giving is also commanded. We are to give each week in accordance with how God has prospered us during that time. What size should this proportion be? In the Old Testament, God commanded a tithe for the upkeep of the Word and Sacrament ministry of the temple and Levites. In the New Testament, we are to be generous toward God's work in the Church. That's the key word: generosity. Can you imagine that we Christians should be less generous toward the work of the Church in

font and altar than the Jews of old were generous toward the temple and Levites?

If in the New Testament we are called to give proportionally ("as each one may prosper") weekly ("on the first day") and "generously," then surely the Old Testament tithe looks more like a floor than a ceiling. As our worship in the New Testament is a greater fulfillment of the Old Testament Sabbath, so also our New Testament stewardship is called to be an even greater sacrificial fulfillment of the Old Testament tithing regulations.

### **More Law & Gospel**

That is God's Law on supporting the Church: Support it faithfully from your first fruits, do it voluntarily and cheerfully, and do it proportionally. Does that convict you? Does this law accuse you and show your sin? Then you are called to repentance and a renewed faith in the Gospel that leads to greater faithfulness in your lives.

I know it convicts me. I have certainly not been as cheerful or faithful a giver as I should be. That is the bad news of our sinfulness against God's Law. But the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that we are forgiven by Christ's work on the cross. God loves us and has made us His children in Baptism. He feeds us with His very body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. We are His and no one can snatch us out of His hands, and that's the motivation for cheerful, generous giving to the Lord's Work.

# 2026

# APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	01 8:30a Chapel	02 6:30p Adult Choir 7:00p Maundy Thursday <b>No School - Easter Break</b>	03 Office Open 7:00p Good Friday	04 7:00p Easter Vigil
05 7:00a Easter Festival Service 8:00a Fellowship Time 9:00a Easter Festival Service 10:30AM Radio Broadcast 1460AM & 92.1FM	06 Office Closed <b>No School - Easter Break</b>	07 1:30p Sleeping Mats	08 8:30a Chapel	09	10 7:00p K-8 Spring Musical @ Merryman	11
12 9:00a Divine Service 10:30a Adult Bible Study 10:30a Sunday School 10:30AM Radio Broadcast 1460AM & 92.1FM 5:00p Divine Service	13 7:00p Mary Martha	14 1:30p Sleeping Mats 7:00p Board of Elders 7:00p Board of Trustees 7:00p Board of Education	15 8:30a Chapel	16 7:00p Men's Bible Study	17	18
19 9:00a Divine Service 10:30a Adult Bible Study 10:30a Sunday School 10:30AM Radio Broadcast 1460AM & 92.1FM 5:00p Divine Service	20	21 1:15p DARE Graduation 1:30p Sleeping Mats 7:00p Church Council	22 8:30a Chapel	23	24 <b>No School</b> <b>Plant sale in the gym</b>	25
26 9:00a Divine Service 10:30a Adult Bible Study 10:30a Sunday School 10:30AM Radio Broadcast 1460AM & 92.1FM 5:00p Divine Service	27	28 1:30p Sleeping Mats	29 8:30a Chapel	30	01	02

# Zion Service Calendar

<b>Time of Service</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Usher Captain</b>	<b>Engineer</b>	<b>Announcer</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>
<b>Thursday, April 2</b> 7:00pm Maundy Thursday	Madison Vetter	Ken Hockemeier	Ed DeLaet	Jamie Marquardt		Shirley Helmbrecht
<b>Friday, April 3</b> 7:00p Good Friday	William Hodgson	Nathan Gaunt	Chuck Zehendner	Jared Nuttelman		Ellen Hockemeier Chelsea Junge
<b>Saturday, April 4</b> 7:00p Easter Vigil		Nathan Gaunt	Chuck Zehendner	Jared Nuttelman		Shirley Helmbrecht
<b>Sunday, April 5</b> 7:00 a.m. Divine Service Crucifer  9:00 a.m. Festival Service Crucifer	Miriam Gaunt  Titus Gaunt  Emma Rosenthal Grady Fisher	Keith Nuttelman	Ed DeLaet	Eric Rosenthal	Brooke Fisher	Ellen Hockemeier Chelsea Junge
<b>Sunday, April 12</b> 9:00 a.m. Divine Service	Eleanor Davis	Bruce Brooks	Chuck Zehendner	Matt Hodgson	Lonna Gronewoller	Ellen Hockemeier Chelsea Junge
<b>Sunday, April 19</b> 9:00 a.m. Divine Service	Elijah Burger	Dan Oertwig	Andy Wollberg	Eric Rosenthal	Carol Kreutzer	Ellen Hockemeier Chelsea Junge
<b>Sunday, April 27</b> 9:00 a.m. Divine Service	Jamie Wilkens	Eric Rosenthal	Mike Wilkens	Jamie Marquardt	Brooke Fisher	Ellen Hockemeier Chelsea Junge