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Zion Lutheran Church  
PO Box 585  
6th & Sycamore St  
Muscatine, IA 52761  
563-263-5074

Return service requested

NONPROFIT ORG.  
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MUSCATINE, IOWA  
PERMIT NO. 299

**Sunday Worship Service 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.**

## **Worship Schedule**

563-263-3049	Fellowship Hall	Oscar Alvarez—Custodian
563-263-9999	Dial Inspiration	Wilma Roach—Secretary
563-263-8858	Fax	Katherine Graff—Missionary to Mexico
563-263-5074	Church Office	Cheryl Hollich—Lay Associate
	Phone Numbers	Pastor Paul D. Ostrem

*April 2004*

# *The Contact*

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It's not easy writing a column for the month of April. Most of the time, like this year, it is too early to talk very much about Easter, and by the end of March, the disciplines of Lent are beginning to become wearisome. It feels something like middle-age, a hallmark which I guess I have to admit that I have achieved. I knew I had achieved middle-age when my father told me that I had reached the time in my life where I needed an annual flu shot. In my denial of this reality, his advice has fallen on deaf ears. Maybe next year.

Mid-way through the season of Lent, the journey gets more difficult. Early in the season, "repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love - the discipline of Lent" as the Ash Wednesday service put it, are met with youthful enthusiasm, a great challenge to see if we can do it, to see what kind of spiritual benefit there might be for us in it all. Four weeks into a seven week season, at middle-age, we begin to count the days until Lent is over. But it is at that point where we may begin to see what this journey is all about, maybe what life is all about. And as we think about it, we realize that Lent is about more than sacrifice, it is about faithfulness - Jesus being faithful to his mission to die for the sins of the world, and we ourselves being faithful to the ways we are called to live not for ourselves but for others.

"Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life." These words from Revelation are appropriate for the middle of our Lenten journey, appropriate for any time when we are challenged by the tasks, the callings, the vocations, the opportunities which are given to us. "Be faithful" because it is in being faithful that we understand what life is about, what being Christian is about, what love is about.

We faithfully continue our Lenten journey because we know that Easter is at the end. That is what keeps us going on this journey we call life, as well. The promise of the resurrection is our goal, the hope which calls us forward.

Pastor Ostrem

I just returned from jury duty. This is the third time that I have been called but the first time that I have been part of a jury. I went thinking that they would never pick me. I was surprised and worried when I was called. Judging another person, especially someone you don't know, is a daunting task. But then, why is it easier to judge someone you know?

I began to draw parallels to our upcoming observance of Holy Week. How easy it seems to be to sit on the sidelines and judge those involved in the Passion. How could Judas betray Jesus? How could the disciples run away when Jesus is arrested? How could Peter deny Christ? How could Pilate go against his first reaction and crucify Jesus?

Just as Pilate did, ("What is truth?" John 18:38) we can spend our lives asking questions. Those questions can immobilize us. We can continue to ask and forget to trust that God will answer. We can continue to ask and not hear the answer. We can continue to ask and lose sight of the answer that God gave to us. The one answer that remains...that Jesus died for us. It is what our Holy Week journey is all about.

During this Holy Week, I would invite you to join me in an exercise to remember that your trust is in God:

Take a few minutes each day in silence.  
Try a Breathprayer: Breathing in: I trust you . . .  
Breathing out: ...with my life.

Read: Psalm 56: 2 "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."

Pray: (based on the prayer of St. Teresa of Avila)  
Let nothing disturb me, nothing frighten me.

Let nothing take away my peace.  
May I wait with trust, with patience, knowing you will provide for me. I lack nothing in you, God.  
You are my strong foundation. You are enough for me. Amen.

Easter Blessings, Cheryl

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# PRAYER CORNER

*"Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs."*

## THOSE HOSPITALIZED & THOSE WHO HAVE REQUESTED OUR CONTINUED PRAYERS:

Tim Stange                      Karen Padgett  
Lisa (Frieden) Dowell        Warren Tutt  
Charles Christophersen

### Other Special Needs:

- 1) Pray for the hungry and the homeless throughout the world.
- 2) Pray that Holy Week and Easter will be a time of renewal and deepening of faith.
- 3) Give thanks for the resurrection!
- 4) Pray for the Beloit Treatment Center in Ames as ground is broken on April 16 for new facilities.
- 5) Pray for the efforts of Muscatine Habitat for Humanity as ground is broken for the next house on April 18.
- 6) Pray for our missionary to Mexico, Katherine Grafft; our Bishops, Mark and Philip, and all who serve the Church.
- 7) Pray for seasonable weather for the planting of crops.
- 8) Pray that our congregation and the whole ELCA would be renewed to share the faith and the gospel with those around us.
- 9) Pray for our nation and its leaders, for peace in our world, an end to all conflicts, and for all those who serve our nation on foreign soil.



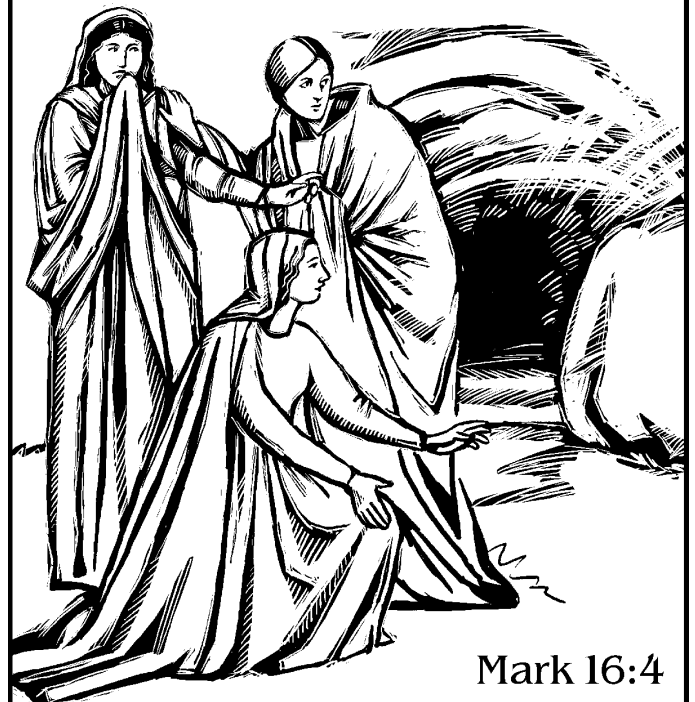
The Fellowship Committee invites you to express your warmest wishes to the following members of Zion who celebrate their 80th or older birthday this month.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Caroline Richey	April 4
Bob Brocket	April 5
Wilma Axel	April 12
*Helen Frietag	April 15
Marie Curry	April 17
Earline Rueckert	April 17
Ray Wichers	April 17
Chet Axel	April 18

\*DENOTES 90 + YEARS

They saw that the  
stone ... had already  
been rolled back.



Mark 16:4

Have you heard? 

## ***Pastor Paul's 25th Ordination Anniversary Is June 27, 2004***

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Pastor Paul Ostrem's ordination into the ministry. Sixteen of those years have been spent ministering to our flock here at Zion. It will be our great pleasure to celebrate the occasion with Pastor Paul, Carol, David and Philip on Sunday, June 27th. Bishop Hougen will be our guest preacher at the 9:00 a.m. service and we will host an open house in the afternoon.

As you have the opportunity to visit with people in our community who have been touched by Pastor Paul's ministry, or if you talk to former members who have moved away from Muscatine, please remember to invite them to this upcoming joyful event.

Watch for further information in the coming months. If you have any comments or questions, please call Sarah Perisho at 263-3445.



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### **SPECIAL DATES**

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- \* Palm Sunday, April 4
- \* Daylight-Saving Time, April 4
- \* Maundy Thursday, April 8
- \* Good Friday, April 9
- \* Easter Sunday, April 11

## **Supper Club**

- April 17th - Circa-21 for the stage show  
"Hello Dolly"
- May 15th - Moon River in  
Andaluisa, IL
- June 19th - Thirsty Camel in  
Conesville, IA

Mark your calendar's for these dates.

### **I Am What I Am**

I am not what I ought to be. I am not what I want to be. I am not what I hope to be. But still, I am not what I used to be. And by the grace of God, I am what I am.

—John Newton

### **Confirmation**

*Confirmation Classes will resume on Wednesday night, April 14, 6:00 P.M. Students are requested to bring their completed Guided Reading with them that evening.*

## **Happy Anniversary**

*Ray and Helen Stange  
April 15, 1951  
53 Years*



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## Holy Week Schedule

# “What Wondrous Love Is This?” Holy Week Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday	April 4 Procession with Palms	8:00 & 10:30 A.M.
Maundy Thursday	April 8 “...That Lives as a Servant” Worship with Holy Communion Fellowship time following the 2:00 service	2:00 & 5:30 P.M.
Good Friday	April 9 Service of Darkness (led by Senior Choir)	7:30 P.M.
Easter Sunday	April 11 Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion Breakfast following the 8:00 service (Note: The early service is at 8:00 this year.) Sunday School video and crafts for those interested.	8:00 & 10:30 A.M.



**CHRIST** THE **LORD**  
**IS RISEN TODAY!**

## HOMELESS SHELTER

We are in need of people or families who would be willing to sponsor a week or a month in our support of the family homeless shelter at MCSA. The cost is \$25 per week or \$100 per month. Please sign up on the bulletin board near the nursery.



The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt within the heart.

-Helen Keller

## ADULT FORUM

Beginning April 18, we will be studying together the ELCA Study on Sexuality entitled “Journey Together Faithfully: The Church and Homosexuality.” This is a six-week study, and we will also offer this class on Tuesday evenings, 6:00 P.M. following each Sunday. It will be important for participants to have the study materials so we ask that you sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend. Each booklet will cost \$1.50. This is an important study for our church-body and a timely topic for our society. We hope that many will participate and then use the response form to share your insights with the larger church.

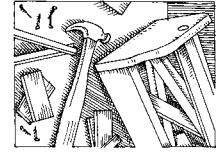


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# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IS BUILDING ITS 5TH HOME THIS SPRING IN MUSCATINE

## **A Little Background -**

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing organization working in partnership with people in need to build affordable, single family homes.



Habitat does not give homes away. To qualify, families must work a minimum of 250 volunteer (“sweat equity”) hours per adult. Families must prove income history and be able to make mortgage payments. A down payment of 1% is required at the closing. Families purchase their homes at cost, with no interest, while Habitat holds the 20-30 year mortgage. Homes have a purchase price of \$55,000 and are about 1,040 square feet. They have no garage, although a two-car slab is provided.

It takes about 1,320 hours to build the house—that’s about 220 volunteers working an average of six hours each. This does not include sub-contractors who must be hired to do excavation and pour the foundation. Also heating, electrical, plumbing and dry wall sub-contractors provide onsite direction for the volunteer workers.

## **The Muscatine 2004 Housing Project -**

The Church Relations Committee of the Habitat for Humanity Board is heading up the building project this year. All churches in Muscatine County will be asked to help and participate in this project. The house to be built is located at 409 Sub Van Buren Street. The Habitat for Humanity Board has selected the family of Brenda Bechmann to be the new owners. The ecumenical groundbreaking service is scheduled for Sunday, April 18th at 2:00 p.m.

## **How is Zion asked to help? Two Ways -**

Financial contributions: Monies for this building project can be made directly to Muscatine Area Habitat for Humanity at P.O. Box 49, Muscatine, IA 52761. Contributions are tax deductible. We still need about \$40,000.



Volunteers: People are needed for a wide variety of jobs, from hammering nails, painting, serving lunch, to cleaning up. We can teach anyone to do anything. Contact Bob Nicolai at 263-4605 to sign up to help. We will contact you when the skill-specific Saturday schedules are available.

Bob Nicolai, Zion’s Habitat for Humanity Contact Coordinator



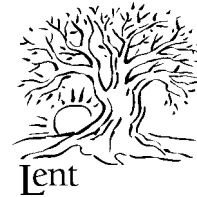
## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Davey and Goliath’s Camp Creation: A Super Gospel Celebration VBS will be the theme for this year’s Bible School. Once again, Zion, along with Grace Lutheran and First Presbyterian, will sponsor VBS. This year it will be held at Grace on five consecutive Wednesdays, beginning June 23 (June 30, July 7, 14 & 21). 9:00 A.M. to noon for 3 year olds thru 1st Grade and 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. for 2nd thru 6th grade. Lunch will be served for all ages. The older children will go on fieldtrips in the afternoons. Mark your calendar!



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# ZLCW NEWS



## ***Purpose Statement Women of the ELCA***

*As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.*

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## ***Mark Your Calendar***

<i>April 5</i>	<i>ZLCW Board Meeting</i>
<i>April 15</i>	<i>Group 5—Phyllis Hoffman</i>
<i>April 20</i>	<i>Group 4—Rosemarie Doyle</i>
<i>April 22</i>	<i>Group 6—Julie Evans</i>

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## **ZLCW DELEGATE**

Zion Lutheran Church Women would like two delegates to attend the ELCA Southeastern Iowa Synodical Women's 17th Annual Gathering June 11-12, 2004 at Central College, Pella, Iowa. Registration, meals and lodging will be paid. You do not have to belong to a circle. This is for all Zion women.



Life is like a coin. You can spend it any way you wish, but you can only spend it once.

—Miquel De Cervantes

## **JUST A QUARTER???** **- FROM CANDY FAST TO FEAST**

*Giving up Candy for Lent* is about more than “doing without” candy. It’s about helping others. It’s about deepening our discipleship by choosing to give as an offering to God the equivalent of what would be spent on candy- - so that others might have enough to eat. Throughout the 40 days of Lent, the quarter tubes have been placed in the narthex for your donation. The Sunday School children have been given small film canister offering containers to place their quarters in during Lent. Continue your ***Fast to Feast until Easter!***



- ◇ **MAUNDY THURSDAY TEA:** The Fellowship Committee will serve coffee and hot-cross buns after the 2:00 P.M. Worship Service.
- ◇ **GOOD FRIDAY:** At the 7:30 P.M. Worship Service the Senior Choir will present *The Passion According to Saint Mark* by Ronald Nelson.
- ◇ **EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST:** The youth are sponsoring an Easter Morning Breakfast in between services on Easter. All proceeds will go to support their summer trip to South Dakota and to support participation in Summer Camp. A free-will offering will be taken and funds will be matched by Thrivent. If you can help with a donation of food items, sign up on the bulletin board outside the Nursery. Youth are urged to sign-up to help decorate/set-up and serve at the Breakfast. That sign-up is on the Youth Bulletin Board.
- ◇ **SUNDAY SCHOOL:** A group Sunday School will be held on Easter Sunday for those interested. There will be a video to view and a craft project to work on. The recipe for Easter Story Cookies will again be sent home on Palm Sunday so that this family activity can be done for Easter. The Fast to Feast Quarter Canisters can be returned beginning on Palm Sunday thru April 18.

# ZLCW Spring Banquet

April 26  
6:00 PM

It's a Potluck. . . Dessert, Meat, Beverages,  
and Table Service will be provided. Bring a salad,  
etc. to share.

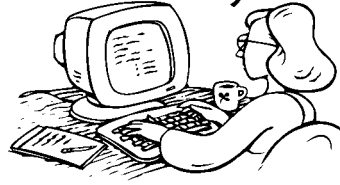
Featuring: Lora Schneider as  
Sarah, wife of Abraham.

**\*A free-will offering will be taken.**

Sarah: This feisty, unforgettable wife of a desert chieftain is a woman of faulty character, quick temper and sharp wit. In advanced age Sarah "tells the story" of her life. Sarah's life stretched from the bustling metropolis of Ur with its conveniences of running water and beautiful tiled homes to a nomadic tribal life of tents and livestock in the desert. Relive the memories of life changing events, follow her whole life story and better understand what drove her decisions and actions.

**\*All Women are invited. . .bring a friend!**

## Church Secretary



### On-Line Newsletter

*Would you like to receive Zion's Contact on-line?* Zion now has the capabilities to send you the Contact via e-mail. That way it you can receive it immediately and not have to worry about picking it up on Sunday morning.

#### *How can you receive the on-line Contact?*

In order to receive your copy of the Contact on-line all you have to do is call the church office, 263-5074, and inform Wilma that you are interested. You can even e-mail her at [wroach@machlink.com](mailto:wroach@machlink.com) Give her your e-mail address and you are all ready to enjoy!

## Upcoming Events



**Block Party  
Wednesday, June 16  
4:00-7:30 PM**

The date has been set for Zion's Annual Block Party. We are just beginning to work on all the various activities to make this event possible. Don't forget to:

- Mark your calendars;
- Begin Spring Cleaning and collect clothes and kitchen items for the recycle sale; and
- Solicit Door Prizes to give away.

You can begin bringing items to the church after May 24.

**April 2004**

**LAY READERS**

*APR* 4 8:00 A.M. Lorna Welk  
10:30 A.M. Dick Boldt  
11 8:00 A.M. Dave Watson  
10:30 A.M. Nancy Keel  
18 8:00 A.M. Paul Ruden  
10:30 A.M. Justine Schmelzer  
25 8:00 A.M. Carolyn Kemper  
10:30 A.M. Sarah Perisho

*Maundy Thursday Services*

8 2:00 P.M. Betty Miller  
5:30 P.M. Barb Sabbath

**GREETERS**

*APR* 4 8:00 A.M. John & Melody Evans  
10:30 A.M. Dana & Sally Echelbarger  
11 8:00 A.M. Keith & Mary Butcher  
10:30 A.M. Don & Shirley Stange  
18 8:00 A.M. Bill & Lorinda Morgan  
10:30 A.M. Jim & Rosemary Hollatz  
25 8:00 A.M. Ivan & Gertrude Day  
10:30 A.M. Bob & Carolyn Peters

*Maundy Thursday Services*

*APR* 8 2:00 P.M. Art & Betty Miller  
5:30 P.M. Barbara Sabbath  
*APR* 9 7:30 P.M. Mark & Sarah Perisho

**ALTAR GUILD**

Mary Butcher and Betsy Martin

**HOSPITALITY SERVERS**

*APR* 25 Fellowship Committee

**USHERS**

8:00 A.M. \*Art Miller Dave Phelps Bob Pugh  
Jason Dornbush Charles Hoffman  
10:30 A.M. \*Riley Padgett Charles Meyer Ernest Marolf  
Mike Watson Mark Perisho

**AMBASSADORS**

*APR* 4 Kent & Mary Heckman  
11 Margaret Wiesner & Helen Colony  
18 Dick & Evie Marr  
25 No Ambassadors  
*MAY* 2 Kent & Mary Heckman

**ACOLYTES**

*APR* 4 8:00 A.M. Walker Van Wey, Kirsten Schneider,  
Nash Butcher  
10:30 A.M. Halston Phelps, Sarah Heitman,  
Matt Knause  
8 5:30 P.M. Jacob Dornbush & Emily Batenhorst  
11 8:00 A.M. Ashlee Platt, Nash Butcher,  
Ryan Minder  
10:30 A.M. Ariel Lange, Karly McDonald,  
Justin Honeyman  
18 8:00 A.M. Ryan Minder & Walker Van Wey  
10:30 A.M. Ariel Lange & Matt Knause  
25 8:00 A.M. Ashlee Platt & Kirsten Schneider  
10:30 A.M. Halston Phelps & Justin Honeyman

# April 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 4:45 Planning Comm. 6:30 Social Ministry Comm. 7:00 Worship Comm.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Services W/HC 9:00 Bell Choir 9:15 SS/Adult Forum 11:30 Bell Choir 11:30 Executive Comm. 4:00 Youth Committee	<b>5</b> 9:00 Quilt Ladies 6:30 ZLCW Board Meeting	<b>6</b> 5:30 Memorial Comm 6:00 Fellowship Comm. 6:30 Evangelism Comm. 7:00 Stewardship Comm. 8:00 Finance Comm.	<b>7</b> 7:00 Senior Choir	<b>8</b> 2:00 & 5:30 Maundy Thursday Service W/HC 6:45 Church Council	<b>9</b> 12:00 Ecumenical Service At St. Mathias 7:30 Good Friday Service at Zion	<b>10</b> 9:00 Youth Set-up for Easter Breakfast
<b>11 Easter Sunday</b> 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Services W/HC 9:00 Easter Breakfast 9:15 Sunday School	<b>12</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>13</b> 5:30 Memorial Comm.	<b>14</b> 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Confirmation 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Senior Choir	<b>15</b> 6:30 Property Committee 7:30 Group 5 at Phyllis Hoffman's	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:00 p.m. Supper Club "Hello Dolly" at Circa-21
<b>18</b> 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Services W/HC 9:00 Bell Choir 9:15 Sunday School/Adult Forum 11:30 Bell Choir	<b>19</b> <b>Contact Articles Due</b> 1:00 AARP 6:30 Sowers at Carol Timm's	<b>20</b> 1:30 Group 4 5:30 Parish Ed Comm. 6:00 Adult Forum 6:30 Thrivent	<b>21</b> 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Confirmation 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Senior Choir	<b>22</b> <b>9:00 Assemble Contact</b> 5:30 VBS Mtg @ Grace 7:30 Group 6 at Julie Evans	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:00 Bell Choir 9:15 Sunday School/Adult Forum 11:30 Bell Choir	<b>26</b> 5:30 ZLCW Spring Banquet/Potluck	<b>27</b> 6:00 Adult Forum	<b>28</b> 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Confirmation 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Senior Choir	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	