



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

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING MUSIC

Easter Song

Anne Herring

CCLI #12279

Sing Hallelujah (To The Lord)

Linda Stassen

CCLI #26272

I Live

Rich Cook

CCLI #3329

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

CCLI #22829

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

Verse:

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come

Chorus:

One day every tongue
Will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose You now

Come Now is the Time to Worship

Ending:

Come come just as you are come come

CCLI Song # 2430948

Brian Doerksen

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INVOCATION SONG

We Are Gathered Here

We are gathered here in the name of the Father.

We are gathered here to sing God's praise.

**We are gathered here in the name of the Father,
chosen by God's grace.**

We are gathered here in the name of the Son.

We are gathered here to sing God's praise.

**We are gathered here in the name of the Son,
chosen by God's grace.**

We are gathered here in the name of the Spirit.

We are gathered here to sing God's praise.

**We are gathered here in the name of the Spirit,
chosen by God's grace.**

Words and Music by Larry Olson

Karol Baer and David Lee Brown

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

O Lord, we pray that you would prepare us to receive what you have in store for us today.

Cleanse our minds of all distracting thoughts. Cleanse also the desires of our hearts.

O Lord, you know us through and through. You know our sinfulness.

Father, we confess we have sinned against you, and against other people. We have failed in loving You as we ought. We have also failed to love our neighbors.

Forgive us for our sins of commission-

For those things we did and thought—that we ought not.

Forgive us also for our sins of omission

For our failures in thought, word and deed.

Silence is kept for reflection.

You have promised that you receive repentant sinners and forgive them.

So we ask your mercy once again, for the sake of Jesus.

We pray your healing power—that we might delight in your will,

And by our lives bring glory to your name.

Amen.

In His mercy, God gave His Son to die for us and for our sins.

For His sake, God forgives us all our sins.

Therefore, in the name of Christ, and by His authority,

I now declare to you the complete forgiveness of all your sins.

THEY ARE NO MORE!

Christ has taken them on Himself and removed them.

You are free!

Live in that gracious freedom and be healed in Him.

SONG

Kyrie Eleison

Chorus:

Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way

Kyrie Eleison ev'ryday

**For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all,
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (Chorus)**

**That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor,
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (Chorus)**

**For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family,
for life and for love for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (Chorus)**

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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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:7-15

God will shepherd Israel

⁷ Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ⁸ As I live, says the Lord GOD, because my sheep have become a prey and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves and have not fed my sheep, ⁹ therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ¹⁰ Thus says the Lord GOD: I am against the shepherds, and I will hold them accountable for my sheep and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them.

¹¹ For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. ¹² As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall

be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 100

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all you lands!

² **Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.**

³ Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong;
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

⁴ **Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;
give thanks and bless God's holy name.**

⁵ Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Help Us, O Lord
(Sung twice)*

**Help us, O Lord, to hear your word.
Open our hearts to feel your word.
Give us the strength to live your word each day.**

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GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

The holy gospel according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

[Jesus said:] ¹ “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. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ 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.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

He Lives (Vs. 1 & 3)

He Lives

Words and Music by
Alfred Henry Ackley

VERSE

$\text{♩} = 66$


1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, He's in the world to - day; I
 2. In all the world a - round me I see His lov - ing care; And
 3. Re - joice, re - joice, O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing E -

5


know that He is liv - ing, what - ev - er men may say. I see His hand of
 though my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair. I know that He is
 - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ, the King! The Hope of all who

10


mer - cy, I hear His voice of cheer, and just the time I need Him, He's al - ways
 lead - ing through all the storm - y blast; The day of His ap - pear - ing will come at
 seek Him, the Help of all who find, none oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and

CHORUS

16


near. He lives, He lives! Christ Je - sus lives to - day! He walks with me and
 last.
 kind.

22


talks with me a - long life's nar - row way. He lives, He lives, sal - va - tion to im - part! You

29


ask me how I know He lives? He lives with - in my heart!

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.



OFFERING

Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

Everybody's Got Something to Offer

Chorus:

**Everybody's got something to offer
Young and old, the prince and the pauper
Everybody's got something to offer
in the name of the Lord**

**To the lost and the lowly ones
the message it is clear
we have all got a gift to give
our hands, our hearts, our tears (Chorus)**

**To the believers gathered here
the message it is true
we have all got a gift to give
in all we say and do (Chorus)**

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God,

Maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our risen Savior and Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.



SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Benediction Song – echo song

(leader in italics; congregation in bold)

L) May the Lord bless and keep us;

C) May the Lord bless and keep us.

L) Make his face to shine upon us;

C) Make his face to shine upon us.

L) May his blessing go with us;

C) May his blessing go with us.

L) and give us peace

C) And – give – us - peace

L) In the name of the Father;

C) In the name of the Father

L) In the name of the Son;

C) In the name of the Son.

L) In the name of the Spirit;

C) In the name of the Spirit

L) All three –in-one;

C) ALL – THREE – IN – ONE!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

I Love To Tell the Story

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Letter on file.

Church ArtPro

Account #73982207—6/30/2026

Weekly Announcements



Please keep these family, friends and members in your prayers:
Dilshad and Sonya Perani, Gary Revier and Deb Otto

Welcome Guests!

Please sign the visitor book in the entrance to the sanctuary.

We are glad you are here!

Hunger Jar for the month of April is designated to Feed My Starving Children.

Coffee Hour—The confirmation youth have indicated they would like to go to Confirmation Camp at Camp House in 2027. They are looking to raise money to attend Camp. The proceeds from Coffee Hour from March through June have been designated for Camp.

All women are invited to the SWMN Synodical Women's Convention on Saturday, May 2, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Willmar. Although the registration deadline was April 21, walk-ins are welcome. Our theme is "Rising in Faith, Leading with Courage."

Lutheran Men in Mission will hold their convention at the same time and location, and we will share some of the same activities. Consider joining many other Lutheran men and women for a day of renewal, reflection and celebration.

Please contact Peg Kamps for all the details.

Happy Spring!

Sunday, May 3rd is Clean Up Sunday and Potluck

Bring your rakes, leaf blowers, gloves, etc. and help clean up the outside Zi-on property. There will be work done on trees, weeds to be pulled. All that fun spring stuff!

Bring your handheld vacuums as we will clean the sanctuary also. Buckets & rags will be provided to wipe down the pews, wash windows, etc.

If you are unable to clean up, please stay for potluck & fellowship after the work is done. We will plan to eat around 11:30.

In case of inclement weather, we will clean inside and do outside clean up at a later date.

Summer Carnival is coming!

Please consider signing up with your family or group to make our “Paving the Way” summer fundraiser a success! Suggested activities are on the poster, but be creative and think of what you would like to do! The sign up deadline is May 17.

Church Quilting Nook—planning meeting on Sunday, April 26 following worship.

Date	Weekly Operating Offerings	Weekly Operating Goal	Debt Retirement	Hunger Jar	Parking Lot
4/19/2026	\$ 3,171.25	\$ 4,038.31	\$ 100.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 125.00

Worship Assistants

April 26

Usher: Jim & Wendy Pederson
Peg Kamps, Scott Bergs
Greeter: Elton Hazelwood
Acolyte: Daphne Hazelwood
Reader: Scott Bergs
AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen

May 3

Usher: Jerry & Diane Ebersviller
Tim & Stacy Haggenmiller
Greeter: Nancy Mathwig
Acolyte: Taylor Johnson
Reader: Carrie Bartlette
Altar Guild: Jackie Alsleben,
Stacy Haggenmiller
Bread Maker: Dale Stern

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060

pastor@zionarlington.org

Office Hours for the week of April 26

Tuesday, April 28—11a-4p

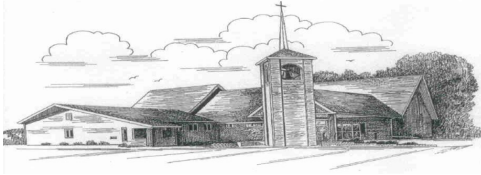
Wednesday, April 29—2:30p-5p

Thursday, April 30—11a-4p

or by appointment

Stacy's Office Hours

Monday—Thursday, 2:30p-5:00p



Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, April 26	9:00a 10:00a	Contemporary Worship Sunday School
Wednesday, April 29	4-5:30p 6:30-8p	6, 7 & 8 Grade Confirmation 9 Grade Confirmation
Thursday, April 30	10:00a	Adult Bible Study
Saturday, May 2	7:00a 8:00a	SWMN Women's Convention/Calvary, Willmar Men's Prayer Breakfast
Sunday, May 3	9:00a 10:00a 10:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion Sunday School Spring Clean-Up with Potluck

LSS Meals on Wheels Monday—Friday 9:00a—12:00p

