

Hello April



For the Members and Friends of Zion Lutheran Church
April 2024

The Long Valley Lutheran

Sundays in April

Easter doesn't consist of one measly Sunday - the Easter season is a "week of weeks," *seven* Sundays when we celebrate the mystery of Christ's resurrection and presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Each Sunday of the year is to be seen as a little Easter, but during the Easter season, we pull out all the stops (an organ reference) and laugh death, sin and evil in the face – Ha! You don't have the last Word, God does.

April 7, Second Sunday of Easter

8:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Contemporary Service of Holy Communion

April 14, Third Sunday of Easter

8:30AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Traditional Service of Holy Communion

10:45AM Adult Forum: The Crucifixion, led by Fred Humcke

April 21, Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:30AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Contemporary Service of Holy Communion

10:45AM Adult Forum: Holy Week, led by Fred Humcke

April 28, Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:30AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Traditional Service of Holy Communion

10:45AM Adult Forum: The Resurrection, led by Fred Humcke

Zion Lutheran Church, 11 Schooley's Mountain Rd., Long Valley, NJ 07853
phone: (908) 876-3547; e-mail: zionlongvalley@gmail.com; website: zionlongvalley.org

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 Schooley's Mountain Rd.
Long Valley, NJ 07853
Tel: (908) 876-3547

E-mail: zionlongvalley@gmail.com
Website: zionlongvalley.org



Like us on Facebook at
"Zion Lutheran Church, Long Valley"

Pastor: Pastor Ingrid Wengert
Cell: (215) 692-2091
Email: Ingridfathwengert@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Sarah Scudese

Minister of Music: Marilyn Hibler

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30AM Worship with live-stream.

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL
MEMBERS/OFFICERS:**

President: Tom Scudese
Vice President: Eric Snyder
Secretary: Jeanne Howell
Treasurer: Ron Schulz

Members:
Burt Horner
Marcia Horner
Ben Johnston
Elaine Kesler
Karen Newquist
Larry Salvatore
Christine Stabile

**LONG VALLEY CHRISTIAN
NURSERY SCHOOL**

11 Schooley's Mountain Rd.
Long Valley, NJ 07853
Tel: (908) 876-4115
Fax: (908) 876-4959

E-Mail: longvalleychristian@gmail.com
Website: longvalleychristian.com

LVCNS Director..... Meghan Bridge
Bus. Administrator....Cyndy Thompson

Office Hours
Parish Secretary Sarah
M-Fr from 9:00AM to 1PM.

If you wish to stop by, please call ahead just to make
sure someone is here.

(908) 876-3547 or zionlongvalley@gmail.com

Pastor Ingrid

M-Th mornings

Pastor Ingrid's day off each week is Friday.

(215) 692-2091 or ingridfathwengert@gmail.com

In this issue:

Sunday Worship.....	pg.1
Prayer Concerns.....	pg.3
Pastors Corner.....	pg.4
Readings & Worship.....	pg.5-7
Finance Report.....	pg.8
Parish Life.....	pgs.9-12
Social Ministry.....	pgs.13
VBS.....	pg.14
April Birthdays.....	pg.15

The deadline for the
May Newsletter is
April 24th



Articles may be sent to the church
office via email at

zionlongvalley@gmail.com, or left in Sarah
Scudese's mail box in the Parish Center.

**Your prompt attention to the deadline is
greatly appreciated!**



Please remember in your prayers all of our parish family and friends who suffer physically, emotionally, and are battling life altering conditions. Lord Jesus, who went about doing good and healing all, we ask you to bless our friends who are sick. Give them strength in body, courage in spirit, and patience in pain. Let them recover their health, so that restored, they may joyfully praise your name, for you and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

We pray for:

Family of James and Lori Andershonis: *Beverly Vecchione*

Friends and family of Jeanette Baker: *Frank Baker, Alex Cunningham, Deborah Gruber*

Family of Annie Clay: *Dorthe Royster*

Friend of Ellen Blaine: *Keith Correll, Carl Gerhard*

Family of Sheila Blaine: *Logan Rodriguez*

Friends and family of Charlie & Marcia Davidson: *Gail Boyle*

Family & friends of Corey & Courtney Derr: *Gennaro Bryant, Lisa Moss Filson, Ralph Derr, Bessie Grant, Don Gunter*

Family of Cathy DiLello: *Russell Dilello*

Family of Craig & Marianne Dise: *Richard Barthelmeh*

Family of Bill & Patricia Hibler: *Patricia Glancy-Wurtemberg*

Family of Burt & Marcia Horner: *Bruce Adams, Rae Hoffman, David Swan, Joann Yanchek*

Family of Jeanne Howell: *Jack Steffen*

Friend of Beth Johnson: *Tammy Jackman*

Family of Barbara Rennie: *Krista Gundersen, Alan Rennie*

Friends and family of Betty Rush: *Charlie Burd, Amy Burd, Kirk Klein, Ed Mancuso, Emily Mancuso, Pastor Martin Travis, Betty Wojciki*

Family of Ron & Barb Schulz: *Richard Schulz*

Friend of Dottie Weis: *Rich Bosley, Betton Caws, Matt Dunbar, Bruce Engelbrecht, Kathy Hepner,*

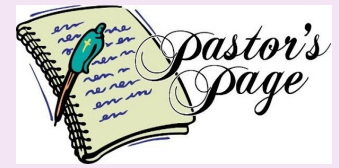
Friends of Zion: *Linda Daly*

Members of Zion:

*Ellen Blaine, Cathy DiLello, Donna East, Rob Johnson, Jay Kay
Sue Koeppen, Paul Litwiller, Jane Moore, John Resotka, Hannelore Seitz*

*Prayer requests will also appear in the insert each week.
Please contact the church office for
additions, to make updates, or with questions.*

Background



In January 2023, Zion's Council took a paper & electronic survey to the congregation about moving from two worship services to one. The result was that 68 out of 81 respondents were positive or neutral about moving to one worship service. After the regular one-service in summer, we simply stayed with one service but moved it to 9:30am. We began alternating between contemporary and traditional worship, and made a few other changes, including alternating Communion distribution between intinction and individual cups, and scheduling families to ring the steeple bell and carry the Communion gifts forward. There was an expectation that overall worship attendance would decline slightly because we had narrowed the choices for time.

We also included questions about Sunday school because it could no longer be held in-between the worship services. With the parental feedback from the surveys and a conversation with Sunday school teachers, Council also moved Sunday School to before worship and shortened the length – from 1 hour 15 minutes to 45 minutes – and instead of a group opening, we held a group closing. There was concern that the time would be too short or too early and there was interest in how attendance would unfold.

Council communicated that we planned to try this for one program year (September-May) and hold another survey for feedback and make a final decision.

What's happened so far

Worship attendance increased in the fall, which was a pleasant surprise! Winter is trickier to compare due to weather & baptisms for both years, 2 Sundays of COVID in January 2024 (first time Zion had a spreading event, and Lent & Easter were different dates each spring. One comparison point might be Easter Sunday's in-person attendance: 2023 = 151; 2024 = 181. Another pleasant surprise!

Sunday school attendance is trickier to compare because classes are formed by multiple age groups which change each year. For example, the largest class last year was K-2 and this year was PreK. Actually, there was such an influx into PreK, that we needed to invite a high school student to be the assistant – thanks Nick Staada! One thing some teachers noticed is difficulty in teaching the lesson due to staggered arrivals which the opening used to buffer.

What comes next

Council will develop the follow-up survey in April and ask the congregation to respond to it in early May. Included will be questions about worship and Sunday school, surprises and concerns. There will be an Adult Forum by early June to share the results of the survey.

Changing worship times is DIFFICULT for a congregation to do! Upon reflection, I expected to hear far more grumbling!!! Well done, brothers and sisters! I thank God for the sense of care for the congregation and the gospel that seems to have been in the hearts and minds of you all! When the author of book of Hebrews gave advice to his congregation, he embedded in the middle of his instruction the promise that I think we might always cherish – no matter what change might be happening in our world, congregation, or life: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

Worship in April



We will have one service alternating between contemporary and traditional services.

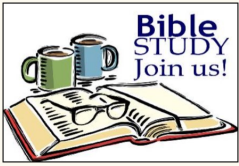
Virtual: We will live-stream the service to [Zion's YouTube channel](#), and it's automatically recorded so that you can worship when you are able. The worship bulletin, readings and music are [located on our website](#).

Our Sunday school children led the Palm procession before the service, and then played the chimes at the beginning of our Palm /Passion Sunday Service.



Appointed Worship Readings for April

<u>Worship Date</u>	<u>Old or New Testament Readings</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
April 7	Acts 4:32-35 / 1 John 1:1-2:2	Psalm 133	John 20:19-31
April 14,	Acts 3:12-19 / 1 John 3:1-7	Psalm 4	Luke 24:36b-48
April 21,	Acts 4:5-12 / 1 John 3:16-24	Psalm 23	John 10:11-18
April 28,	Acts 8:26-40 / 1 John 4:7-21	Psalm 22:25-31	John 15:1-8



TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

We will meet for an in person Bible study In Faith Hall at 1:30pm. The readings will continue to be the appointed readings for Sunday, which is based on a 3-year cycle that spans the Old and New Testament.

[:https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu//](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/)

On March 4th we celebrated the baptism of Willow Raine Cole.



*Willow Raine Cole
daughter of
Jade Ball*

On March 10th we celebrated the baptism of Brent Holden Whalen.



*Brent Holden Whalen
Son of
Sam & Caitlin Whalen*

Adult Forum in April - 10:45AM - 11:30AM *Led by Fred Humcke*

- 4/14: The Crucifixion,
- 4/21: Holy Week,
- 4/28: The Resurrection



Adult Forum

Learning, Living, Loving

It was so great to see a full church for Easter!!

Children's time was busy, they all had Alleluia flags to wave every time we sang Alleluia.



Thank you everyone that dedicated Easter flowers and to the Hibler / Stoma family for picking them all up and always making our church so beautiful.



Save the Date
Wednesday May 15th—6PM
Congregational Dinner /Mentor Night!
Marinated London broil
Mashed potatoes & Green beans
Surprise dessert

**TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT
ACTIVITY PROJECTED THRU END OF MARCH 2024**

OPERATING	Actual February 2024	Estimated Month of Mar 2024	Estimated YTD Mar '24 (This Year)	Actual YTD Mar '23 (Last Year)	(Un) Favor Variance	Notes
Income	\$37,640	\$27,372	\$65,013	\$59,215	\$5,798	A
Expenses						
Payroll-Related	\$24,239	\$11,922	\$36,161	\$34,680	(\$1,481)	B
Administrative	\$21,193	\$8,472	\$29,665	\$33,731	\$4,065	C
Committees	\$2,067	\$5,327	\$7,393	\$5,582	(\$1,811)	D
Total Expenses	\$47,499	\$25,721	\$73,220	\$73,993	\$773	
Net Income(Loss)	(\$9,859)	\$1,652	(\$8,207)	(\$14,778)	\$6,571	
Cash Balance End of Mo.	\$34,260		\$33,248	\$29,822	\$3,426	

Operating Notes: (Un)Favorable Year-to-Date variances

- A. Timing of Easter Week + one family generous donation, offset in part by lower receipts in Jan + Feb (\$2,359)
- B. Pastor and employees given 5% increases, offset in part by no cost for Business Manager function
- C. Larger favorable variances: timing of insurance payments \$2,001, heat \$1,684, one delayed electric bill (by JCP&L) \$424, lower repairs \$1,519. Partially offsetting these were snow removal costs (\$1,635) and telephone + internet (\$392).
- D. Worship & Music (\$432) Palm Sunday booklets + Baptism supplies; timing of invoiced Easter flowers (\$623); timing of benevolence (\$422); Synod convention (\$260)

("Q1" means 1st quarter)

Treasurer's Observations: Although operating financials are slightly better in Q1 versus last year, it would have been unfavorable except for the timing of a generous offering by one family and the fact that Easter week fell in Q1 of 2024 and in the Q2 last year. The financial well-being of Zion depends fully on the giving of its members. Zion receives no budgetary/financial support from any 3rd party groups/organizations nor can we do fundraisers to pay for operating expenses.

NON-OPERATING	12/31/23 Balance	For the 3 months Jan thru Mar 2024			03/31/24 Balance
		Receipts	Payments	Transfers	
Ministries	\$26,389	\$1,317	\$1,153	\$229	\$26,782
Seasonal events & other	\$1,819	\$182	\$388	(\$37)	\$1,576
Property and Capital-related	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500
Mortgage	Notes E, F \$46,522	\$6,430	\$11,700	\$0	\$41,252
Unrestricted Funds	\$46,719	\$5,246	\$158	(\$192)	\$51,614
Current Memorial Funds	\$29,384	\$2,125	\$0	\$0	\$31,509
Restricted Memorial Funds	\$103,163	\$580	\$19	\$0	\$103,724
Total	Note G \$254,496	\$15,880	\$13,418	\$0	\$256,958

Non-Operating Notes:

- E. Principal balance of Mortgage on 3/31/24 is \$163,222.06 of which \$41,252 is funded
- F. Mortgage payments for YTD March total \$11,700, consisting of \$9,373 principal plus \$2,327 interest.
- G. Of the ending balance, more than \$210,000 is conservatively invested and the remainder is in checking.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Schulz, Zion Treasurer



Parish Life



Red Hats March Luncheon



If you would like to join the Red Hats for luncheon, contact Vi Muriello.



Parish Life



2024 Grads

It's that time of year when we begin to ask for information about our High School and College Graduates so that we can honor them in the LVL Newsletter. We would like to let them know their church family honors and appreciates their achievements, and celebrates this milestone in their lives. Parents, please send your graduate's info into the office and include: *school, honors and awards, picture (even in their cap and gown if you have it) and future college or employment plans if they know them.*

Taylor Weth

Congratulations to Taylor graduating with 781.5 career points. Taylor also leaves holding three individual team records, and four relay records. She has committed to swim for Division 1 Saint Frances University next year!



Parents' Night Out

Saturday April 20th 5:30-8:00pm

Parish Life would like to offer an evening of free childcare to the families of our younger members on Saturday April 20th 5:30-8:00pm, Zion adults and high school youth will care for the children (and siblings, etc) in Faith Hall, while you enjoy an evening without the kids!

An allergy-friendly meal will be provided based upon relevant allergies of the children participating, and we will play age appropriate games and activities.

For health and safety reasons, we are strictly limited to the first 12 children who sign up. We will close the Sign Up Genius for this event on April 12th. [See sign up here](#)



Zion clean up Day
May 4th 9-11AM

Please come out and help clean up and get Zion ready for spring & summer. Bring rakes, shovels, tarps, if you have them!



Pancake Breakfast
Schooley's Mountain Fire Company
Sunday April 7th
8AM-12PM

231 Schooley's Mountain Rd Washington Township, NJ

Adults \$10 Seniors/Military \$8 Children \$6

For more information or any questions, please contact

Emily Elsasser at c-908-894-2560 or eelsasser24@gmail.com



Raritan
Headwaters

Raritan River Clean UP—April 20th

Join more than 1,000 volunteers across the Raritan River watershed to clean up our waterways for Raritan Headwaters' 34th Annual Stream Cleanup. In celebration of Earth Week, volunteers come together to clean up our rivers and streams, working to protect essential water supplies across Hunterdon, Morris, and Somerset counties.

This year's 34th Annual Stream Cleanup will be held Saturday, April 20th from 9am-noon. Registration for this event will go live March 1st. You can read more about our event and register here: <https://www.raritanheadwaters.org/get-involved-2/stream-cleanup-page/>. If your parishioners would like to clean Zion Lutheran Field, this location will be included under "Site 50: South Branch Raritan at Long Valley" once we launch signup. If this site fills up, there will be others in the area as well.



April Happenings at LVCNS

Thank you for your participation in our Chocolate Shoppe fundraiser. We raised a little over \$1000 to use toward enriching the children of LVCNS.

We are hatching and raising ducks this year. The eggs will arrive on April 3rd and hatch right around April 7th. We hope to have 6.

We would also be looking for volunteers to take the ducks home at the end of the 2 weeks and give them a safe and secure place to live:) Please reach out ASAP.

The Long Valley Fire Department will be here on April 8/9th to talk to the children about fire safety. They will bring a fire truck and a fire truck train ride for the children to ride around the parking lot.

April is the beginning of LOVE season at LVCNS. Each class will hold their own program and celebration for students and families. Children will perform songs and fingerplays they have learned in class throughout the year and then have a special celebration and snack on the playground.





Social Ministry Update



I wanted to take a minute to recognize and annotate the volunteers that helped us make the Easter Egg Hunt successful.

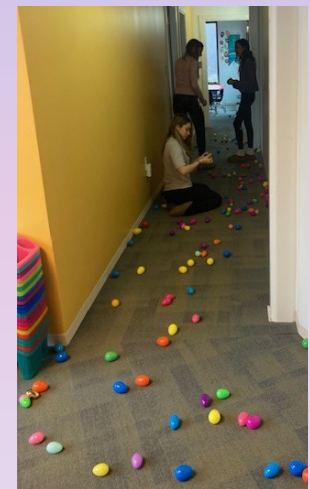
Lyla Weth, Gabby Karpinski, Brooke Edwards, Amelia Davis and Emalyn Stoma, Olivia Johnston, brought a lot of energy and creativity hiding the eggs and keeping the games fun and entertaining. I was so glad they volunteered to participate this year!



So many adult leaders helped, too! Malainie, Sarah, Chelsea, Megan, Lori P., were amazing—without them, we'd have been under prepared and seriously lacking steady leaders at the Hunt. I also have to point out the numerous behind the scene helpers who donated time and resources towards the event: Courtney Derr, Ellen Blaine, Barbara Rennie, the Bible Group, Pastor, Sarah, Lori P., and the other folks who sent in supplies off the wishlist! I am truly grateful we had everyone onboard for this endeavor.

Heartfelt thanks to all who made a rainy Saturday morning feel so much more cheerful together,

Elaine Kesler



We also made over 50 cards for our service project. Cardzforkidz. These will be sent to children in hospitals around the country.

Mothers Day Sunday



Let's celebrate our Mother's on **Sunday, May 12th** and remember their warmth and kindness by dedicating donations in their name to the *LWR*. Your gift of **\$5** will enable the *Lutheran World Relief Organization* to supply Quilts & Kits to those who are facing hardship. To dedicate, please fill out the form below by **Sunday, May 5th**. All checks should be made payable to "**Zion Lutheran Church.**" Please place with the form in the collection plate, mail or drop off at the Church office. [Order Form](#).



Save the Date - VBS

Vacation Bible School will be held on
June 24th - 28th, 9AM - 12PM

For children age 3-going into 5th grade.

Please consider volunteering for this amazing week!

Registration information to follow.



Bible Story
Jesus Calms the Storm (Mark 4:35-41)

Firelight Focus
Trust God to Give Us Peace!

Camp Callout
"Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you." (Psalm 56:3)

A small graphic of the cartoon bee character from the camp logo is positioned on the left side of the text block.



April Birthdays

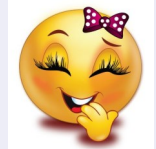
Wishing you a birthday that is full of fun happiness and everything you enjoy.

"Happy Birthday!!

1 John Trembley
 3 Zachary Frisk
 5 Michael Bullock
 6 Alexandria Seewald
 7 Gemma Taylor
 14 Cathleen Sullivan
 15 William Muttart
 16 Max Tortorello

19 Christine Stabile
 22 Elodie Johnson
 25 Ann Rahmann
 Brent Whalen
 Kerry Karpinski
 28 Tyson Buchanan
 Caitlen Whalen

The Funny Corner



- ✧ Why happens if you tell a duck an Easter joke? They'll quack up.
- ✧ What do you call a mischievous egg? A practical yolker!
- ✧ What do you call a line of rabbits walking backward? A receding hare-line!
- ✧ "Knock, knock." "Who's there?" "Hans." "Hans who?" "Hans outa my Easter Basket!"
- ✧ What time of day was Adam created? A little before Eve.
- ✧ What's an adult Easter egg hunt like? Instead of a bunny and plastic eggs, they hide glasses and wine.
- ✧ What did the bunny ask his friend in math class? When will we get to the part about multiplying?



In honor of the beautiful weather we are having!



Zion Lutheran Church
11 Schooleys Mountain Road
Long Valley, New Jersey 07853



Zion Lutheran Church
The Rev. Ingrid Wengert, Pastor
Church Office: 908-876-3547
Worship Service Sunday 9:30am
Sunday School: 8:30am