

Through Zion's Window

May 2019



Dear friends in Christ,

A number of years ago this story was shared in Seattle. I realize it sounds almost to outlandish to believe, but the truth is that my native town is one of the few areas where such a story would be taken seriously and immediately assumed by all to be true.

Jessica, 16, told KIRO Radio's [Dori Monson Show](#) that a week before spring break, the students commit to a week-long community service project. She decided to volunteer in a third-grade class at a public school, which she would like to remain nameless.

"At the end of the week I had an idea to fill little plastic eggs with treats and jelly beans and other candy, but I was kind of unsure how the teacher would feel about that," Jessica said.

She was concerned how the teacher might react to the eggs after of a meeting earlier in the week where she learned about "their abstract behavior rules."

"I went to the teacher to get her approval and she wanted to ask the administration to see if it was okay," Jessica explained. "She said that I could do it as long as I called this treat 'spring spheres.' I couldn't call them Easter eggs."

Rather than question the decision, Jessica opted to "roll with it." But the third graders had other ideas.

"When I took them out of the bag, the teacher said, 'Oh look, spring spheres' and all the kids were like 'Wow, Easter eggs.' So they knew," Jessica said. (Taken from www.mynorthwest.com, April 13, 2011)

Hoax or not it is true that most religious holidays have been taken over by the secular world and have lost much of their original meaning. We just need to look at Christmas to see the truth of that. James Martin, a writer for *Slate* (an online magazine) wrote an article a few years back on this topic. He said,

"To the secular mind, the story of Christmas goes like this: A young couple named Mary (pretty, pregnant, wearing a flattering blue gown) and Joseph (a little older, quite handsome, sporting a well-trimmed beard) journeyed on a trusty donkey all the way to O Little Town of Bethlehem. Since there was no room at the inn, the young couple bunked in a cozy stable filled with cuddly farm animals. There, Away in the Manger, Mary gave birth to Jesus, her adorable baby boy. Soon after, Angels We Have Heard on High came to the rustic shepherds to tell them What Child Is This. And then We Three Kings of Orient Are—or, rather, showed up.

Despite the awesome theological implications (Christians believe that the infant lying in the manger is the son of God), the Christmas story is easily reduced to pabulum (*information that is bland or trite*). How pleasant it is in mid-December to open a Christmas card with a pretty picture of Mary and Joseph gazing beatifically at their son, with the shepherds and the angels beaming in delight. The Christmas story, with its friendly resonances of marriage, family, babies, animals, angels, and—thanks to the wise men—gifts, is eminently marketable to popular culture. It's a Thomas Kinkadee painting come to life."

But Martin points out that Easter has successfully resisted this trend, asking

"(Are you) sending out hundreds of Easter cards this year? Attending way too many Easter parties? Doing some last-minute shopping for gifts to place under your Easter tree? Getting tired of those endless Easter-themed specials on television?" "I didn't think so."

He goes on to say,

"The Easter story is relentlessly disconcerting and, in a way, is the antithesis of the Christmas story. No matter how much you try to water down its particulars, Easter retains some of the shock it had for those who first participated in the events during the first century. The man who spent the final three years of his life preaching a message of love and forgiveness (and, along the way, healing the sick and raising the dead) is betrayed by one of his closest friends, turned over to the representatives of a brutal occupying power, and is tortured, mocked, and executed in the manner that Rome reserved for the worst of its criminals."

And,

"Even the resurrection, the joyful end of the Easter story, resists domestication as it resists banalization... Unlike Christmas, it also resists a noncommittal response."

"Easter is an event that demands a "yes" or a "no." There is no "whatever.""

Because this Easter message can't be watered down to a cute story that everyone can love Easter continues to be a Christian Holy Day. But, although we celebrate Easter on a certain day, the truth is it is a season. We are in the Easter season from now until Pentecost Sunday on June 9. We can, on Easter Sunday, enjoy our "*spring spheres*", but like those discerning 3rd graders let's not forget that we are celebrating Easter. We are celebrating our risen Lord. Despite the bunnies and the eggs and the chocolates the world hasn't been able to "...tame that person, tame his message, and, moreover, tame what happened to him in Jerusalem all those years ago."

Pastor Doug

(If you want to read James Martin's entire article you can find it here: <http://www.slate.com/id/2249525/>)



April 14, 2019 Council Minutes – The meeting was brought to order by President Jerry Liesener at 10:20 am. Devotions were led by Christine Siedschlag. Devotions for next month's meeting will be led by Franklin Wolter. A motion was made by Christine, seconded by Franklin, to approve the secretary's report for March as printed, motion carried.

Carrie Wendorf reviewed the treasurer's report. The carpeting bill was paid by using funds in the fundraising and building fund. Since funds were available, no monies were taken from the endowment fund. Benevolence of \$3000 was paid in March. Motion by Doreen Schultz, seconded by Gina Alteruter to accept the treasurer's report and file for audit. All in favor, motion carried.

Pastor's Report – Cross has extended an invitation for Zion to join in worship in the park and picnic on June 23rd at Harnischfeger Park. Motion by Jerry, seconded by Franklin for Zion to worship with Cross on that Sunday. All in favor, motion carried.

Parish Ed – last day of Sunday School will be May 19th.

Missions – Holy Name has started a prayer shawl ministry. If members of Zion would like the pattern or donate yarn, contact Christine.

Evangelism – The Lake Walk for Cancer is Saturday, May 4th, Ventures for People will be here on May 5th, May 19th we'll celebrate the last day of Sunday School and graduates and Blue Jean Sunday (church clean up)

Building and Grounds – has received bids for redoing the basement floor. Motion by Christine, seconded by Heidi, to accept the bid from ZBM Inc. for \$3,165.00 which also includes tile cleaning in the downstairs bathrooms. All in favor, motion carried.

Old Business – a new computer was purchased from Milwaukee PC for the treasurer.

New Business – Pastor Doug will hold a class after worship on May 12th to review the new ELW worship hymnal. Watch for sign-up sheets and additional information on how you can purchase a hymnal for yourself, in memory or in honor of someone. Blue Jean Sunday/Spring Cleanup (inside & out) will be May 19th.

The next Council meeting will be on May 5th. Motion was made by Christine, seconded by Franklin to adjourn the meeting at 11:41 am, motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Tunak



Missions Committee

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Zion has been invited by Holy Name to participate in a Prayer Shawl Ministry. The idea of the prayer/comfort shawl is right in the name. This is simply a handmade gift to let someone know that they are in your thoughts and prayers and that you would like to give them comfort. We are hoping that there are members with the talent to help create such pieces. Worldwide many have lovingly given their time and talent by knitting or crocheting shawls created with the power of prayer for those in need of comfort, care, healing, peace, hope and joy. If there is anyone that does not crochet or knit wishing to donate soft yarns for such a project that would be welcomed as well. There are general pattern directions available, please contact me if you are interested in being part of this wonderful ministry. Remember: There is no wrong way to create the shawl; it's the praying that counts. With God's Blessings we will help to get this Ministry started.

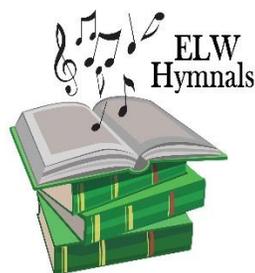
Thank-you for considering,

Christine S.



Oktoberfest Planning Committee

The committee met and are seeking any donations/prizes that can be used towards the Large Raffle. Please contact Christine if you have something that you are interested in donating. All donations/donor will be recognized and printed on the ticket. Thank-you.



On May 12th, Pastor Doug will hold a class on the ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) hymn book and how it is different from the LBW and how it is intended to be used. The class will be in the narthex after worship and fellowship. Everyone is invited and should bring any questions they have regarding the hymn book.

There is a signup sheet for anyone who wishes to purchase a copy for themselves or in memory of someone for the congregation.

Evangelism News...

May 2019 Newsletter

Plan to be involved in May events!

May 4 – Lake Walk for Cancer

There's still time to sign up and walk. Register until the day of the walk by email, snail mail or at Fowler Park on May 4 and pick up a shirt right there! If you have already registered, T-shirts will be available for pick up soon. Wear it proudly Saturday, May 4, as we meet by the big tree just south of the restroom building on the south side of Fowler Park. Be there by 9:30 for pictures.

May 5



AYITI VINI NAN ZION
Haiti comes to Zion...in the face of Louis Tenior Guerrier. Zion has supported the water filter project through

Ventures in People (VIP) in the Mirebalais area of Haiti for the past several years. Tenior is the education coordinator for VIP in the same area. He seeks the families who have the lowest incomes in Mirebalais, Haiti and cannot afford to send their children to school, but who are committed to helping their children succeed. During the 8:30 worship service on Sunday, May 5 Tenior will share how he uses the gifts he has been given to help the children and serve the people in Haiti.

May 19 is a busy day at Zion!

Wear your work duds to worship. First we will celebrate the conclusion of Sunday school by honoring our teachers and students after worship. Then we will roll up our sleeves to help with a little spring cleaning. Tackle what you feel comfortable cleaning or ask where help is needed. A list of Church spaces in need of cleaning will be displayed in the Narthex. As the work is completed, please check them off the list.



Special congratulations go out to:

Student	Graduating from	Will attend
Rhea Christopherson	UW Madison	Earned a Bachelor's degree in Material Science
Nick Balmer	Hartford Union High School	UW-Platteville, pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering
Tessa Christopherson	Oconomowoc High School	UW-Madison, pursuing a degree in Bio-Medical Engineering
Luke Petersen	Oconomowoc High School	UW-Madison, pursuing a degree in Agriculture
Kristofer Schultz	HNR Intermediate	Hartford High School

May 12



Celebrate Mothers and all the significant women in our lives!

Piggly Wiggly Receipts

March/April receipts totaled **\$2483.50**.

*Doreen Schultz
Evangelism Committee*