

Through Zion's Window

March 2022



Dear friends in Christ,

The following was written by Pastor Matthew Best of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in 2020. I thought it was worth sharing as we prepare to enter into Lent.

What is Lent?

There are many answers to this question. It's a season of the church year of course. It's a time in which people give up something they like, or sometimes things they know they shouldn't be doing anyway. Some think of Lent as a time in which there are added things – added spiritual practices, almsgiving, service, worship, etc.

But at it's core, Lent is really about this – preparation for Easter. It's a time in which we prepare space in our lives for the risen Christ on Easter.

And to get to the risen Christ, we must go through death. Yes, Lent is an intentional time of facing death. It is fitting that we start Lent with Ash Wednesday. It is on Ash Wednesday that death gets right in our face – actually on our face – in the form of ashes on our forehead. We hear the words "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." There is no escaping death. We are reminded that we are mortal. We are reminded that we can not save ourselves. Rather, there is a Savior for us.

Lent and Easter give us ample opportunity to explore the fullness of the Christian promise – life, death, and resurrection. And to know that we cannot experience resurrection until we go through death. There is no other way.

Resurrection offers us a better life. A renewed life. A life of new possibilities in which the old ways are put aside in favor of something better – even beyond our imagination. The old ways die, but are resurrected as something a bit different. The core of what the old ways were is still there, but the goodness in them is brought out far beyond our wildest imagination.

So what needs to die in your life? What needs to die so that resurrection can take place?

Try letting some or all of the following things die this season: partisan identity and loyalty, addiction to being right, consumeristic tendencies, us versus them beliefs, redemptive violence, scapegoating, blaming, fear, anger, privilege, allowing money to make decisions in your life, brokenness, sin, abuse, participating in unjust systems, putting your salvation in anything or anyone other than God, selectively choosing what to follow of Jesus' commands, comfort, the wall around your life that protects you from the injustices that others face daily.

When these die, something will be resurrected. In their place will resurrect the ability to see the Image of God in others. In their place will resurrect the wholeness of Shalom. In their place will resurrect creation stewardship. In their place will resurrect forgiveness, love, grace, and peace. In their place will resurrect discipleship and service. In their place will resurrect an empowerment to more fully live into what it means to love God and our neighbor.

Resurrected life is better life. It is transformed life. Why in the world would we want to hold onto the things that prevent us from experiencing resurrected life? The only answer I can come up with is that we are afraid of how resurrected life will change us and that we will no longer be in control. Here's the reality – we've never been in control. Stop fooling yourself. Let that idea die too.

It's time for resurrected life. Lent is a season of intentionally facing death and letting things die. To make room for Jesus. To allow Jesus to take over. To be conquered by Jesus. So that new life can begin. So that the Kingdom of God can unfold in our lives. So that we can see how it is already unfolding. So we can participate in the unfolding of the Kingdom in our midst.

I pray you have a blessed Lent.

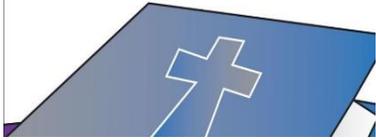
Pastor Doug

Church Council Meeting: No Meeting was held in February 2022. The next council meeting will be held immediately after worship and the congregational meeting on March 13, 2022.



We will be holding a short Congregational Meeting on March 13th after Worship to elect our Church Council President. All are encouraged to attend.

Adult Education



Wednesday, March 2 ~ 10 am ~ at Zion
 Thursday, March 10 ~ 6 pm ~ at Cross
 Wednesday, March 16 ~ 10 am ~ at Zion
 Thursday, March 24 ~ 6 pm ~ at Cross

You are welcome to attend any session, at either location, you do not have to be present from the beginning.

We just finished our book study and are now transitioning to a text study format. We will be looking at the next week's readings at each gathering.

Pasta with the Pastor has been Suspended until the weather is better and the days are longer. Please stay tuned for more info.

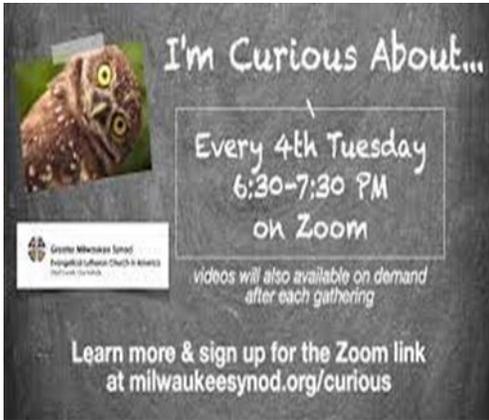
To reserve a date or express interest please,
 ~ crosszionparish@outlook.com or leave a voicemail at
 920-474-7234.



Please
 Pray
 for...



Ellen Braunschweig
 Shirley Chatfield
 Carly Ostrom
 Peyton Wolter
 Tom & Donna Meotke
 Wilber Pieper
 Ross & Jacob Kopfer
 Patrick Jones
 Art Hall



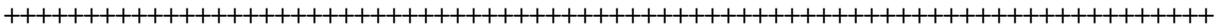
Our synod's Mission Table will host an hour-long, monthly gathering on Zoom for Christians who want to dream together about where God is leading the Church.

New topics each month, every 4th Tuesday from 6:30 - 7:30 pm, via Zoom. Come, hear inspiring reflections from others. No experience is needed. All voices are welcome.

Contact Rev. Matthew Short at matt@milwaukeeesynod.org with questions.



There will not be coffee time on Friday's during the Lenten Season. Pastor will resume coffee shop visits after Easter.



Special Meeting March 13 after Worship

It's the business meeting of the congregation, of which we are all a part of. We will be electing the council president for this year.

Congregational Meeting



- **Zion's mission statement**
- Reach out to our community
- Educate those who gather
- Affirm our beliefs in Jesus Christ
- Communicate with God
- Help those in need



**American
Red Cross**

Blood
Services

Zion will be serving at the Ashippun Blood Mobile on Monday, March 14, 2021
Your help is needed! Volunteers and Baked goods needed. Please watch for the
poster on the board in the narthex. Thank you!
– Christine, Zion Missions Committee



WORSHIP SCHEDULE — for — LENT

Ash Wednesday Service, March 2nd 5:30pm at Cross and 7:00pm at Zion

We will be alternating Worship locations for the Wednesday night services during lent.

March 9th 7:00pm at Cross

March 16th 7:00pm at Zion

March 23rd 7:00pm at Cross

March 30th 7:00pm at Zion

April 6th: 7:00pm at Cross

Palm Sunday April 12th 8:30am at Zion and 10:00am at Cross

Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm Location TBD

Good Friday Service 7:00pm Location TBD

Easter Sunday Worship April 17th 8:30am at Zion and 10:00am at Cross