

ZioNews



April, 2026

Zionews
April, 2026 Issue

*The newsletter this month is dedicated to the
Glory of God and in loving memory of our grandfather, Paul Snudderly. Given by David
and Shirley Knode.*

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
35 W. Potomac Street, Williamsport, MD 21795
Church Office: 301-223-7260 Fax: 301-223-7261
www.zionlutheranmd.org

Pastor Kimberly Nunberg-Wadel
301-223-7260
knunberg@zionlutheranmd.org

David Loy, Director of Music

Dorothy Walker, Church Secretary
dwalker@zionlutheranmd.org

Church Office Hours
9 am – 2 pm, Monday - Friday

Message from Pastor Kim

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

As we step into the month of April, we find ourselves in the heart of the Easter season. The heavy silence of the tomb has been replaced by the triumphant songs of the resurrection, and all around us, the earth is beginning to echo this "new life". In our corner of the world, the first green shoots are bravely pushing through the thawing soil, and the buds on the trees remind us that God is always at work, bringing life out of what seemed dormant or dead.

This month, I want to invite you to join me in a spiritual practice that mirrors this springtime awakening: **Journaling**. In the same way that a gardener keeps a log of what is planted and where the first blooms appear, a spiritual journal helps us "take stock" of the ways God's grace is budding in our own lives. For some, the word "journaling" feels like a chore, but in our Lutheran tradition, we can view it simply as a "means of grace"—a tool to help us slow down and notice the Holy Spirit's movement.

Why Journal in the Season of Easter?

The resurrection isn't just a historical event we celebrated on Easter Sunday; it is a "living promise" that continues to transform us every day. Journaling allows us to:

- **Capture "Marks of the Resurrection":** Just as the risen Jesus still bore his scars, we often see God's hope in the midst of our own struggles. Writing helps us recognize these "Easter-sized graces" in our daily routine.
- **Deepen Our Meditation:** By putting pen to paper, we slow our busy minds, allowing Scripture to move from our heads to our hearts.
- **Record God's Faithfulness:** Over time, a journal becomes a "testimony" of how God has answered prayers and guided us through past winters.

Getting Started: The "TRIP" Method

If you aren't sure what to write, try the **"TRIP" outline** suggested by our friends at Women of the ELCA:

- **T – Thanksgiving:** What signs of spring or grace are you thankful for today?
- **R – Regret:** Where did you miss the mark? Hand these over to the God of second chances.

- **I – Intercession:** Who is on your heart? Write their names as a prayer.
- **P – Planning:** How is God calling you to live out your baptismal identity this week?

Don't worry about perfect grammar or profound insights. Your journal is a "sacred space" for your eyes and God's alone. Whether you write a single sentence or several pages, you are creating a "standing stone" of remembrance for God's goodness.

As the world turns green this April, may your heart also find fresh growth. May you find "grace in the wilderness" and the courage to write your own chapter of the Easter story.

Resurrection Blessings,

Pastor Kim



April 1	Margie Stoner
April 2	Margie Wolverton
April 3	Kathy Himes Rebecca Stine
April 4	Judy Gower Terry Grossnickle
April 12	Samantha Baker Steve Himes
April 16	Harrison Dorrier
April 17	Jordyn Miles
April 18	Ben Johnson
April 20	Betty Dellinger
April 22	Jack Turner
April 23	Rachel Doub Melanie Starr
April 25	Hanna Davis
April 26	Pam Miles
April 27	Jen Snook Sherri Taylor
April 28	Lois Thomas

Prayer List



Patty Allen, Randy Anderson, Loretta Bassler, Bob Bowers, Terry and Ellie Doub, Sally Drury, Marvin Gower, Kristine Griffith, Terry Grossnickle, Kay and Mary Guessford, AJ Haque, Ronnie Jackson, Robert Kerns, Sarah Kiley, Harry Knode, Rachel Knox, Sandra and Frank Largent, Charles Matlack, Liam Manuel, Vaughn Miller, Pat Myers, Linda Perry, Mackenzie Raidt, Driver Spade, Millie St. Peter, Dolly Trumpower, Diane Wollard.

Homebound & Shut Ins – Randy Anderson, Barbara Burger, Jean Brechbill, Terry Conrad, Bob Gordon, Dorothea Heavner, Demeta Matlack, Roger Nicodemus, Linda Perry, Marilyn Schoenian, Ien & Heng Ya Srun, Kitty Smalts, Bonnie Thomas, James Thomas.

Circle of Prayer

April 5	Marilyn Wilson Fran Wishard
April 12	Margie & Paul Wolverton Jim & Diane Wollard
April 19	Margaret A. Woods Kershner & Paula Wyatt
April 26	Robert & Ginger Young and Jacob Brian & Betty Jo Zonis, Austin and Audrey

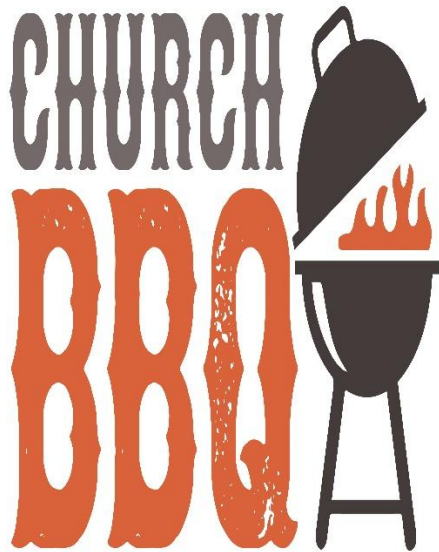


Soup Sale

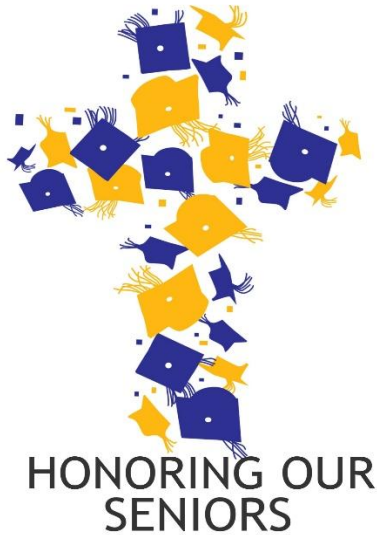
April 11, 2026 10 - 2
\$ 8.00 per quart Carry Out only
Varieties: Vegetable Beef, Chicken Noodle and Ham & Bean

For Pre-orders call 304-596-7055
Walk-ins welcome until sold out

Zion Lutheran Church, 35 W Potomac St, Williamsport, MD



Zion will be having a BBQ chicken fundraiser on May 9, 2026, from 11 am to 2 pm or until it is sold out. This will be a carry out meal. The menu includes half a chicken, baked beans, and applesauce. The cost will be \$12.00. If you can help, please Joe Moser or Darlene Teach.



On May 31, 2026, we will honor our graduating Seniors from High School and College. If you have a Senior in your family, please contact the office with their name, high school or college, any honors, and future plans. The information is needed by April 30, 2026. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Kim for more information.



Movie Nights continue to grow!!!! We have a wide variety of people from our congregation and our community coming out to enjoy some fun and fellowship.

April's movie is **The Prince of Egypt**. This is the animated version of the Ten Commandments, perfect for introducing new family members and believers to some of our best loved Bible stories. Bring the entire family out for a great time.

Bring a comfy chair, a blanket or pillows. Light refreshments will be provided.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for all of the birthday cards and well wishes. It truly made my day. Also, our entire family would like to thank the Zion family for all of the prayers for my great-grandson, Liam Manuel. Liam is home now and getting stronger every day. Prayer really works.

Ginny Slick



ONE SERVICE
AND POTLUCK
APRIL 12

On April 12, we will have one service at 9:30 am. It will be immediately followed by a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish and come worship with folks you don't always get to see. See you then!!!

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Vacation Bible School will be held
July 27 – 31, 2026 from 5:15 – 8 pm.
A light supper will be served followed
by fun, crafts and Bible Study for
everyone, adults included. Come
join in the fun!!!





The Property Committee works hard to keep Zion in tip top shape. There are some opportunities to assist them with this endeavor:

Spring Clean-Up

Because of weather conditions, our Spring Clean-Up will now take place on April 11, 2026, from 8 am to 11 am. The raindate is April 18, 2026. If it needs to be moved, please look at our Facebook Page for those instructions. If you have questions, please see John Doub.

The Flower Beds

Now that Spring is here, our flower beds need some attention. If you have a bit of time to help, please contact Lois Dreisbach for more information and times.

Mowing

The list for mowing the grass at Zion is on the Bulletin Board in the hallway. Please consider taking a day or 2 to help mow. See Joe Moser for more information and details.

Snow Blower Available

The Property Committee has a gently used 24" snow blower available for sale. Please see Joe Moser for details.

Please help with any of the above needs. Remember, many hands make light work

Food Bank Needs



The Williamsport Food Bank has the following needs for the month of April: cereal, canned beef stew, canned chicken and dumplings, vegetable soup, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, beef or chicken cup o'noodles, canned peaches, canned pears, jarred applesauce, baked beans, canned chili, canned spinach, canned chicken, tuna, and peanut butter and grape jelly. Donations can be placed in the bin outside of the Fellowship Hall. If it is easier for you, you can make a monetary donation made payable to the Williamsport Food Bank. Thank you for your help and generosity.



Micah's Backpack has the following needs: Microwavable macaroni and cheese cups, ramen noodles (chicken or beef flavored) and Pop-Tarts. Donations can be dropped off at the church in the bin by the Fellowship Hall. Or, if you prefer, you can make a donation to the church, marked for Micah's Backpack and we will do the shopping for you. Thank you for your generosity.

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

USHERS:

April 5:

8:15 am: John Doub

10:45 am:: Randy Miles

April 12:

9:30 am: Ray Thomas and Randy Miles

April 19:

8:15 am: Chris Baran

10:45 am: Joey Mason

April 26:

8:15 am: Dave Knode

10:45 am: Kershner Wyatt

GREETERS:

April 5:

8:15 am: Terry & Debbie Grossnickle

10:45 am:: Marjorie Dilworth

April 12:

9:30 am: Sharon Raun

April 19:

8:15 am: Joe & Sue Moser

10:45 am: Ed & Susie Shaw

April 26:

8:15 am: Sherri & Bob Taylor

10:45 am: Lesa & Joey Mason

LAY READERS:

April 5:

8:15 am: Debbie Grossnickle

10:45 am:: Michael Harp

April 12:

9:30 am: Charles Crown

April 19:
8:15 am: Bob Budnicki
10:45 am: Nicole Banzhoff

April 26:
8:15 am: Sherri Taylor
10:45 am: Michael Harp

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

April 5:
8:15 am: Kathy Himes, Charles Crown, Joe Moser, Bob Budnicki
and Darlene Teach
10:45 am: Kathy Himes, Dawn Stiles, Brandon Stiles, Jamie
Neikirk, and Charles Crown

April 12:
9:30 am: Kathy Himes and Charles Crown

April 19:
8:15 am: Sandra Merrell and Joe Moser
10:45 am: Kathy Himes and Paula Wyatt

April 26:
8:15 am: Dave Knode and Joe Moser
10:45 am: Lesa Mason and Ed Shaw

Acolyte & Crucifer Schedule

April 5:
8:15 am: Acolyte: Ian Baran Crucifer: Loren Baran
10:45 am: Acolyte: Andrew Snook Crucifer: Leah Snook

April 12:
9:30 am: Acolyte: Jeremy Cassner Crucifer: Jordyn Miles

April 19:
8:15 am: Acolyte: Dawson Miller Crucifer:
10:45 am: Acolyte: Brandon Stiles Crucifer: Luke Stiles

April 26:
8:15 am: Acolyte: Loren Baran Crucifer: Ian Baran
10:45 am: Acolyte: Eideann Banzhoff Crucifer: Sloane Dzbynski

Alter Care

April 5:

8:15 am: Brent & Jackie Taylor

10:45 am:: Jamie & Joy Neikirk

April 12:

9:30 am: Brent & Jackie Taylor

April 19:

8:15 am: Brent & Jackie Taylor

10:45 am: Dawn Stiles

April 26:

8:15 am: Brent & Jackie Taylor

10:45 am:

Film Schedule

April 5:

10:45 am:: Brandon Stiles

April 12:

9:30 am: The Baran Family

April 19:

10:45 am: Brandon Stiles

April 26:

8:15 am Bob Budnicki

Average Monthly Attendance And Giving

March, 2026:

Average Monthly Attendance 117 people per Sunday

Monthly Giving and Expenses (February 2026)

Income	\$25,481
Expenses	\$32,546
Net Income	(\$7,065)

A Note from Jamie:

While giving has remained consistent, costs continue to increase. We are fortunate that the Finance Committee and the Council have elected to take \$4,000 per month from investments, which closes our income gap to a negative \$3,065. In comparison to last month, our income and expenses have remained flat. However, as a Congregation, we must find ways to increase our giving as our expenses are running as lean as possible.



The Men's Fellowship will meet on April 1, 2026, at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall. They will meet on April 15, 2026, at 8 am at Hub City Diner. All men are encouraged to come and enjoy some fellowship and time in prayer and The Word.

First Communion Class

If you have a child that is at least 6 years old and is ready to begin the journey to taking Communion with our family, classes will be held on Sundays, at 9:30 am with Pastor Kim. Class will be in April. If your child is interested, please talk to Pastor Kim to pick a date. First Communion will be made on April 26.

The Church Office



Will Be Closed:

The Church office will be closed on Friday, April 3, 2026 and Monday, April 6, 2026. Dorothy will return to the office April 7, 2026. If you have an emergency during this time, please contact Pastor Kim's cell phone.



For complete details on both Hikes and to Register visit harccoalition.org/hike or scan the code:



Canal Hike

SATURDAY, May 30

NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR:

C&O Canal Towpath at
Zion Lutheran Church

35 W. Potomac St., Williamsport, Md.

Two distance options:

➔ **5K (3 miles)**

Individual \$45; Families \$75

➔ **10K (6.5 miles)**

Individual \$55; Families \$95

Hospitality Stops ♦ Celebration Luncheon
Music ♦ Prize Drawings ♦ Family-friendly



REGISTER BY **MAY 10**
FOR A **\$10 DISCOUNT** &
GUARANTEED T-SHIRT!

Challenge Hike

SATURDAY, May 16

On the Appalachian Trail

Check-in at Pen Mar Park

Two distance options:

➔ **10 miles** Registration: \$55 if you raise \$100 in donations OR bypass fundraising and donate \$155 when you register.

➔ **20 miles** Registration: \$55 if you raise \$200 in donations OR bypass fundraising and donate \$255 when you register.

Light Breakfast ♦ Hearty Lunch
Water & Gatorade ♦ Snacks



REGISTER BY **APRIL 26**
FOR A **\$10 DISCOUNT!**

Fundraising
matched by the
God's Grace Fund!



Hikes benefit HARC programs including **Micah's Backpack** and **Refugee Welcome Network**



Sponsorship Opportunities

We have sponsorship opportunities available in April, May and June. If you would like to honor our loved ones, you can still do so by sponsoring various elements of our service in their memory or honor. You will be listed in the bulletin and/or newsletter as the sponsor.

Here are those opportunities and their costs:

Weekly:

Altar Flowers	\$80.00
Bulletin	\$20.00
Sanctuary Light	\$5.00
Festival Lights	\$10.00

(the Festival Lights are only for certain celebrations, such as Reformation Sunday, Christmas or Easter)

Please contact the office to let the church know what dates you would like to sponsor. Payment can be made to the church office or by putting it in the offering plate and putting what it is for in the memo.

Sight and Sound Trip

The Annual Trip to Sight and Sound will be on September 10, 2026. We will be seeing the production of Joshua, we well as enjoying some shopping and a meal. The cost is \$249.00 for adults and includes bus fare, tickets to the production and dinner at the Shady Maple Smorgasbord. If you have questions, please contact Rev. Doris Doub.

In an Old Joke

by Lisa Saruga

Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? Declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? Jeremiah 23:24 (ESV)

Harold was still substitute teaching at the age of 85. He spent most of his adult life as a missionary, teaching Sunday school to children in Tokyo, where only 2 percent of the population are Christian. Harold loved children, and he loved Jesus.

When Harold retired to the United States, he and his wife were members of the same church I attended, and I was blessed to get to know them well. I loved and respected this couple very much.

My children would return home with funny stories when Harold would sub in their classrooms. When explaining to students where Japan is, he was known to use one of the children's heads as a globe. He would place his finger on the child's forehead and tell them,

"This is where we are now." He would then move his finger and poke the child in the back of the head saying, "Opps. Rough landing." He told us he used the same joke when explaining to Japanese children how far away the USA is.

When I learned that I would spend two weeks in Japan, I was excited to tell Harold. I asked him to help me select a gift for the host family I would stay with. Together we chose an English/Japanese Bible.

During my first week in Japan, I toured Kyoto with my travel group. We saw several Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples, but no churches at all. Later in the day, I noticed a huge billboard on the top of a building that displayed a picture of Jesus. I asked if this was a Christian church. Our guide quickly set me straight. "No," he said. "Pachinko". Although gambling is illegal in Japan, legal loopholes have allowed for pachinko to be the exception.

I asked the obvious question. "Why is Jesus on the pachinko building?" "Ah," he said. "Jesus is good luck!"

I began to wonder how my gift of a Bible would be received. I didn't sense any animosity toward Christianity from the Japanese people I met, but rather skepticism. Jesus was a good luck charm portrayed in a cartoonish way.

I whispered a brief prayer. "Lord, I don't see evidence of Jesus in Japan, but I know you are near."

My hosts for the second week were a couple in their mid-sixties. The language barrier was profound. When I was introduced to my host father, he held up two fingers and said, "English: Okie dokie, and oh my God." There were the only English phrases he understood. It was two phrases more than my host mother knew, and my Japanese was very limited. We communicated primarily through drawing, charades, and a lot of laughter. I was amazed at how we were able to bond with one another without words. I loved them.

On my final night in Japan, my host parents invited a young woman to join us for dinner who could interpret our conversation. During this dinner, they tested my new chopstick skills by having me pick up one fish egg and one grain of rice at a time. I shared pictures of my home in Michigan, and we talked about our families. It was during this meal that I chose to give the gift-wrapped Bible to my new friends, explaining that this represented an important part of my life and that I wanted to wish them love and peace.

My host father, who was typically animated and gregarious, became very quiet. Was he offended by the gift? I then gave them oven mitts shaped like the state of Michigan and showed them where my hometown was on the mitten. The interpreter thought this was funny and asked, "Where is Michigan?"

In honor of Harold, I put my finger on the young woman's forehead and said, "This is where we are now..."

As I poked her in the back of the head, my host father said in clear English, "Oops. Rough landing."

As our eyes met, I could see tears in his eyes. He spoke to our young interpreter, and she relayed his message.

"Your host father attended Sunday school in Tokyo as a child. You have brought back special memories."

Harold had taught my host father in Tokyo 50 years earlier! I felt Jesus next to me then, whispering that He was not only in Japan, but in the hearts of believers everywhere.

from: *Where I Found God Today*. Published by Guideposts.

2026 Church Council Members

Name	Phone Number	Position
Pastor Kimberly Nunberg-Wadel Knunberg@zionlutheranmd.org	301-223-7260	Pastor
Nicole Banzhoff nbanzhoff@zionlutheranmd.org	301-991-4654 Term expires 2026	
Christopher Baran cbaran@zionlutheranmd.org	814-341-1253 Term expires: 2026	Evangelism
Charles Crown ccrown@zionlutheranmd.org	240-676-6178 Term Expires: 2027	Secretary
Val Dzbynski vdzbynski@zionlutheranmd.org	240-405-2247 Term Expires: 2026	Christian Education
Mike Harp mharp@zionlutheranmd.org	717-779-7702 Term Expires: 2027	President
Kathy Himes khimes@zionlutheranmd.org	304-596-7055 Term Expires: 2028	Fellowship
Steve Himes shhimes@Zionlutheranmd.org	304-620-9259 Term Expires: 2027	Property
Jaime Neikirk jneikirk@zionlutheranmd.org	301-491-2347	Congregational Treasurer
Dawn Stiles dstiles@zionlutheranmd.org	301-223-7304 Term expires: 2028	Vice-President
Brandon Stiles bstiles@zionlutheranmd.org	301-223-7304 Term Expires: 2028	Youth Representative
Margie Wolverton mwolverton@zionlutheranmd.org	304-274-6339 Term expires: 2028	Worship & Music
Kershner Wyatt kwyatt@zionlutheranmd.org	301-991-3337 Term Expires: 2028	
Paula Wyatt pwyatt@zionlutheranmd.org	301-991-3329 Term Expires: 2027	Outreach