



Zion noiz

The Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church
Piedmont, California

April 2026



The Lord is Risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Easter is the heart and core of our faith. Without the Empty Tomb, Jesus becomes another self-proclaimed Messiah who failed. His death on the cross would be for nothing. St. Paul put it like this:

For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. (1 Corinthians 15:16-17 ESV)

The Resurrection of Jesus is, for us, the most important day of history. Paul recounts the various individuals and groups who saw the resurrected Jesus. We recall the number of people who were willing to be martyred as witnesses of the resurrected Jesus. Because of their confidence in Jesus' resurrection, it gave them the freedom to sacrifice themselves on behalf of others.

Here is a story from the year 250 AD. When the Cyprian Plague hit Rome most of the population fled in an effort to distance themselves from the disease in self-preservation, Christians stepped out in faith to care for those in distress. Instead of fear and despondency, the earliest Christians would stay and tend to the sick and dying, knowing full well that it would likely result in their own deaths. They showed works of unreasonable, sacrificial mercy that simply dumbfounded the pagans. In Rome, the Christians buried not just their own, but pagans who had died without funds for a proper burial. They also supplied food for thousands of people on a daily basis.

Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter. This is the reason Christians celebrate on Sunday, the Lord's Day, instead of Saturday, the Sabbath. The Sabbath was the reminder and celebration of God completing the work of Creation. The Resurrection of Jesus on Sunday is a reminder and celebration of the New Creation that began when Jesus overcame death and the grave. During the 40 days of Lent, the Sundays are not included in the 40 days because Sundays are always feast days for us.

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:56-58)

Weekly Worship

Sundays: 9 am Traditional Worship In-person & Online.

All Worship Services are Available 24/7 via the Zion App, Website, YouTube and Facebook.

Bible Class: Sundays at 8 am Wednesdays at 10 am

SEEK

DISCIPLE

MULTIPLY

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STUDYING GOD'S WORD

Sunday Bible Class I

All are invited to join our Sunday Morning Bible Class I at 8:00 AM in the Garden Room, as we study the Book of Acts together. This class provides an opportunity to grow in faith, deepen understanding of Scripture, and strengthen fellowship through thoughtful discussion and reflection. As we explore the early church, the work of the apostles, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, participants will gain insight into how God's Word continues to shape and encourage believers today. All are welcome to attend and be part of this meaningful time of learning and spiritual growth. We look forward to gathering each Sunday morning to learn, share, and grow together.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Join us each Wednesday morning at 10:00am for Bible Tapestry, a time of study, reflection, and fellowship in God's Word. Led by Pastor Dorn, we will explore the Scriptures, seeing how the many threads of the Bible are woven into God's great story of salvation. All are welcome—come and be blessed by His Word and by the community of believers who gather to study it either in-person or via Zoom.

April 1--No class (Holy Week)

April 8--No class (Easter week)

April 15--Vindication

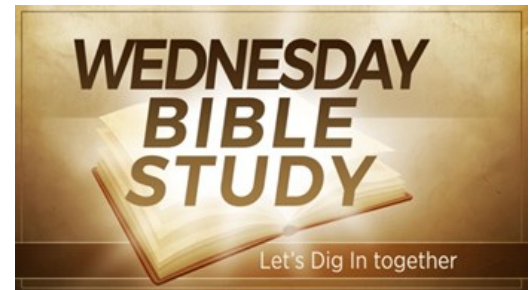
April 22--Grace

April 29--Passionate God

Zoom Link for Wednesday Morning Bible Study

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85173401109?pwd=AOu5B8EfdT6LFBCvAGfOk4x42bdQsB.1>

Meeting ID: 851 7340 1109. Passcode: YeahZion



Sunday Bible Study II

Are we living in the end times? Bible Class II continues the Video Study Series "What Happens Next" by Max Lucado at 8:00am in the Zion Conference Room. The world seems fragile. Every day we hear of wars, famines, natural disasters, and strife. In this study, Max Lucado provides a wise and reassuring overview of what God's word has to say on the topic that often creates confusion and anxiety. We will explore four big ideas.

1. We were made to reign and rule with Christ
2. God has made promises to us and will keep them
3. God has a plan and reveals what's in store for us
4. We can spend eternity with God in an eternal home

If you are curious about the end times, join us to hear and study what the Bible has to say.



Bible Class: Leviticus for Christians

A Bible Class on the book of Leviticus will begin on Sunday, April 19 and 26 at 10:30 AM in the Conference Room. The first two topics will be "Holiness" and "Quarantine as an Act of Love."

Message from Lutheran Social Services

The Lutheran Social Services is seeking applicants for their board. The LSS focus is housing, with 3 new sites opening soon. Please contact Lisa Berg, 916-718-0855 for more information.

Do Not Fear: You are Redeemed

“Those who trust in their wealth and boast in the multitude of their riches, none of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him, for the redemption of their souls is costly and it shall cease forever that he should continue to live forever and not see the pit.” (Psalm 49:6-9 NKJV)

“In Whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:14 NKJV)

From eternity God has loved us. He sent His only Son to take the punishment for our sins (breaking the laws and His covenant with us) – He took on our sin (2 Corinthians 5:21). His people, Israel, performed sacrifices for the atonement of their sins. They wanted to reestablish their covenant with Him.

In Hebrews, chapter 9, it speaks of Jesus being the Holy and Perfect Lamb that would wash our sins away forever. Jesus would become the ultimate, perfect sacrificial lamb. “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood, He entered once into the Holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us (Hebrews 9: 11,12).

Only a perfect substitute – a perfect lamb – could take on the punishment for the sins of the universe.

We recently celebrated the coming to earth of the Son of God – the perfect Lamb. He came to live with us and to teach us. But He also came to die in our place.

Jesus was with the Father and Holy Spirit in eternity. He left that glory. We will only know and understand when we are in heaven in eternity. He is a coequal part of the Trinity.

Yet He became man, so great was His love for us so that He became our substitute.

*“How low was our Redeemer brought,
the King who held the stars
Lay helpless in a maiden’s arms
and pressed against her heart
While sheep and cattle raised their voice
the babe could speak no words
The ever flowing Spring of Joy
had come to share our thirst
How low was our Redeemer brought,
the Lord the worlds obeyed
Would stumble as He learned to walk
upon the ground He’d made
The One the angels bowed before
would kneel to wash our feet
And be at home among the poor
though He owned everything
How low was our Redeemer brought
to raise us from our shame*



*And now the highest praise
of all belongs to Jesus’ name
The Healer wounded on a tree
to bear our grief and sin
The King gave up His crown
so we could ever reign with Him
Gloria, gloria in the highest
Gloria, gloria in the highest”*

(How Low was our Redeemer Brought, 2020 Sovereign Grace Music)

That’s how much God loves you! He left eternity to come and take your punishment on a wooden cross. To suffer and die a torturous death. He has loved us from eternity with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3).

God redeemed us from an eternity of death and sin, by giving us a substitute on the cross to suffer the penalty of that sin. To redeem is to “buy back” or save from penalty. Jesus became that something of highest worth. He is our Savior. Our Redeemer, our Rock.

Augustus Toplady wrote “Rock of Ages” in 1740. He was a student at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. And after listening to a sermon on Ephesians 2:13 “But now in Christ Jesus, ye, who were sometimes far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ,” the words we know and love (my father’s favorite hymn) were written:

*“Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee
Let the water and the blood
from Thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
saved from wrath and make me pure.
Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to the cross I cling;
Naked come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me Savior, or I die.
While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknowm,
see Thee on Thy judgement throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.”*

(United Methodist Hymnal, 1989)

A story of God’s redemption power is found in the story of Abraham, Sarah and her slave, Hagar (Genesis 16). Sarah had Hagar cast out into the desert to die. Suffering and near death, Hagar called out, “Is there anyone who sees or cares?” An oratorio has been written in “The God Who Sees” by Aileen Nicole Muller and Kathy Gifford.

Continued on page 4

Catechism Corner

Zion's Stained Glass Windows

We continue with the lower windows on the pulpit side.



The fifth window in the Woman at the Well. John 4:1-45
The sixth window (you have to look for this one) is Jesus the Good Shepherd. John 10:1-21

Church Humor

One Easter morning, a Sunday school teacher decided to see how much her class knew about the true meaning of Easter.

One of the little girls quickly raised her hand. "Yes, Sarah?" the teacher called.

"Easter is when all of my aunts and uncles come to my house to eat turkey, watch football, and take naps," she said.

"No, Sarah, that's Thanksgiving."

Another student raised his hand. "Yes, Billy?" she asked.

"Last Easter, we decorated a tree, sang songs, and got lots of presents," he answered.

"No, Billy, that was Christmas," she replied. Now the teacher was getting a bit nervous. "Does anyone know what Easter is?"

"I know," little Emily said, confidently standing to her feet. "Easter is a special day to remember that Jesus was hung on a cross, died, and put in a tomb for three days."

"Very good, Emily!" the teacher said with a sigh of relief. "Now, class, we're going to..."

"And on the third day, everyone gathers around the tomb," Emily continued. "And they wait to see if Jesus comes out, and if he sees his shadow, that means six more weeks of winter. If not..."

The teacher interrupted Emily before she could finish her speech, "Class dismissed!"

Continued from page 3

*"But God says I will be a ring of fire around her
And I will be the glory in her midst
And the power of my presence
Will bring her to her knees
And I will lift her up again
For I'm the God who sees.
And My promises are true
And when this world deserts you
This is what I'll do
I will be the Rock of your salvation
I'll hold you up by the strength of My right hand
And the power of My Spirit
Will free you from all fear
In the hour of your deepest need
You'll find that I am near I am here."*

(The God Who Sees, oratorio written by Kathy Lee Gifford and Nicole Muller; Rock, the Road and the Rabbi foundation 2022)

Another story in the Bible of redemption is in the Book of Hosea: a story of the idolatry of Israel and

God's forgiveness. Through all the disobedience God continued to love Israel and forgive His children (Hosea 11). And God does not give up on us. He continues to love us. He sent His only Son, Jesus, to restore our relationship with Him, so that on that final day when we stand before the judgment seat we do not need to fear. We are forgiven and wearing the robes of Jesus' righteousness.

*"When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Clothed in His righteousness alone
Redeemed to stand before the throne!
On Christ the Solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand."*

(Lutheran Service Book #575 Corcordia Publishing House 2006)

– Marlene S. Grunow, prayer ministry

Board of Directors Notes Summary from Board Meeting February 8th

The Board met this month to review progress across several key areas including the pastoral transition, finances, outreach, and property planning.

The Transition Team has been working to prepare for a new pastor. Our congregational self-study has been completed, with 51 members participating — a strong and representative response. The next step will be small group gatherings where findings will be shared and discussed with the congregation.

The Outreach Committee is developing several initiatives to increase our visibility and engagement in the community. Both committees play an important role in the future growth of our congregation and will continue to provide regular updates.

The Board reviewed current finances and budget. To-date, actual expenditures align with what was budgeted. However, expenses may exceed the original budget due to needed capital improvements, including exterior painting and anticipated property upgrades. We also anticipate upcoming costs related to the hillside property and required engineering assessments. To continue to steward church gifts and investments well, the Board recently met with our investment advisors (1919) to review our financial strategy and determine appropriate cash flow needs.

The budget for the 2026–2027 fiscal year is being prepared, keeping in mind that we must align our committee activities and ministry vision with our financial planning. Property repairs and updates are needed. The church exterior face will be painted and will coordinate with the Alpha School. The congregation is voting on the final paint color. Kitchen appliances are aging and upgrades will be needed in the near future, including a freezer, refrigerator, and electrical panel improvements.

Finally, discussions with consultants and legal counsel continue regarding repair of the neighboring hillside. As we prepare for a new pastor and continued ministry growth, the congregation is encouraged to prayerfully consider increasing offerings to support the church's mission and ongoing property needs.

Iron Men

Join us on **Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30 pm**, as we watch

Season 5 Episode 2: House of Cards. Why kill Jesus when Rome can do it for you? As the Jewish High Priest schemes to bring Him down, Jesus strikes first: turning the tables.

If you haven't been able to join us before that is OK we want you to join us now! After all, you know the story and have read much of "The Book"!



Movie Night

Saturday, April 25 @ 7:00 pm

Soul on Fire

In 1987, nine-year-old John O'Leary survives a terrible accident and grows into a man who shows what it means to truly live. Based on O'Leary's bestselling memoir, "On Fire", this film is an emotional and faith-filled portrait of resilience as O'Leary not only battles to survive but ultimately discovers what it means to truly live. From frontline workers to family members and the support of the wider community, this film is a celebration of heroes.



Day Adventurers

Thursday, April 23 @ 9:00 am

Oakland Zoo was established on June 6, 1922, when the Oakland institution, then known as The Snow Museum, officially opened to the public. As one of the city's most long-standing institutions, we are nationally recognized as an animal welfare, rescue, and conservation leader. We have served as a place of wonder and discovery for millions. Oakland Zoo is managed by the Conservation Society of California (CSC), a non-profit organization leading an informed and inspired community to take action for wildlife locally and globally.

Entry cost varies. General admission for seniors \$21, but Oakland residents get a discount. Many of you may have a membership.

Sign up in the narthex!



PARISH NURSING

Why singing is surprisingly good for your health



There is more information to share about the benefits of singing.

- It is not surprising that singing is good for our lungs and respiratory system. Some researchers have been using singing to help people with lung diseases
- Perhaps the most remarkable benefits from singing is that it helps the brain repair itself from damage. Singing has been found to increase connectivity in the brain.
- The prolonged and controlled exhalation involved in singing releases endorphins associated with pleasure, wellbeing and the suppression of pain.
- Singing has been shown to help memory and mood, and contribute to overall well-being among people with dementia.
- Singing involves physical, cognitive and emotional elements. Research suggests that this stimulates neuroplasticity and helps prevent age-related cognitive decline.

One of the most interesting studies was done to evaluate the effectiveness of a music intervention focused on coaching caregivers of persons with dementia to incorporate singing or music listening into their everyday care routines. A total of 89 people with dementia and their caregivers were randomly assigned to one of three groups: a singing coaching group, a music listening coaching group and a control group that got usual care. The intervention lasted for 10 weeks. The singing coaching group sang or listened to familiar songs, practiced vocal exercises and performed rhythmic movements. The music listening group engaged in reminiscence discussions. The study found that both singing and music listening significantly improved mood, orientation, and memory of persons with dementia. Interestingly, the music interventions also helped the caregivers. Singing enhanced caregiver well-being, while music listening improved quality of life of caregivers.

As a nurse, I recall caregivers that sang or hummed when caring for patients. I remember that it seemed so soothing. Research is showing that singing has benefits for us and helps us care for others.

Take care, be well and God bless,
Stephanie

Join Us for Game Night!

Tuesday, April 21 @ 6:30 pm



Join us for a fun and relaxed evening at Game Night! Bring your favorite board games, card games, or simply come ready to learn something new. Enjoy laughter, friendly competition, and great conversation with friends and neighbors. Game Night open to all ages, so invite your family and friends to come along for an evening of fellowship and fun. Everyone is welcome!

LINENS FOR LADIES

The Christian Concerns Committee is pleased to announce "Linens for Ladies" as the 2026 Lenten project. This project will benefit the City Team Women's program, Turning Point---a shelter program for homeless and domestic abuse victims and their children. There are currently 9 women and 4 children in the program.

Frequently practiced during Lent, is the idea of "giving alms"---making a daily sacrifice for those in need. Let's focus on "not giving something up, but giving something away".

The project estimate is \$2000, to provide a gift of bed linens, pillows, towels, bath mats and personal hygiene products for the ladies in this shelter. These items were suggested to us by directors of the program.

Please prayerfully consider your support of this project. You may place a check in the offering plate, donate via Subsplash, or use the QR code to donate. Please make your check payable to Zion, and mark it CCC in the memo line.

Let's serve God by serving others!!!!



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

Lay Reader Schedule

Sunday, April 5 th	Andrea Uhle
Sunday, April 12 th	Shannon Shockley
Sunday, April 19 th	Hugh Bartlett
Sunday, April 26 th	Oscar Castillo

Usher Schedule

Sunday, April 5 th	Oscar Castillo Michael Grunow
Sunday, April 12 th	Peter Grunow Llela Walsh
Sunday, April 19 th	Oscar Castillo Michael Grunow
Sunday, April 26 th	Peter Grunow Llela Walsh

Communion Assistant Schedule

Sunday, April 5 th	Dave Nemy
Sunday, April 12 th	Brian Walsh
Sunday, April 19 th	Paul Grunow
Sunday, April 26 th	Jonathan Schaff

Coffee Hour Hosts

Sunday, April 5 th	Easter
Sunday, April 12 th	Hovermann's
Sunday, April 19 th	LWML
Sunday, April 26 th	Allen's

Altar Flowers

Sunday, April 5 th	Easter
Sunday, April 12 th	Andrea Uhle
Sunday, April 19 th	Walsh Family
Sunday, April 26 th	Open

Object Lesson

Sunday, April 5 th	Steve Harger
Sunday, April 12 th	Rachel Gessert
Sunday, April 19 th	Brian Walsh
Sunday, April 26 th	Confirmand's Statement of Faith



CHRISTIAN CONCERNS

APRIL FOOD OF THE MONTH

Spring is in the air, but the stress of worrying about the next meal is still part of our Oakland community. Juggling finances to pay for rent, heat and groceries, often means folks may miss meals. Zion has always been very generous with food donations, and the CCC is very thankful for your generosity and support. The grocery collection is on-going, so please continue to add a few non-perishable "extras" to your grocery cart. God Bless your love and concern for our neighbors in need!!!

Items needed---

Cereal (sugar free please)	Shelf stable milk	Peanut Butter and Jelly
Complete pancake mix	Syrup	Beans and Rice (dry or canned)
Soup and crackers	100% Juice	Pasta and Pasta sauce
Coffee and Tea	Flour and Sugar	Macaroni and Cheese (no milk needed)
Salt and Pepper	Cooking Oil	

April

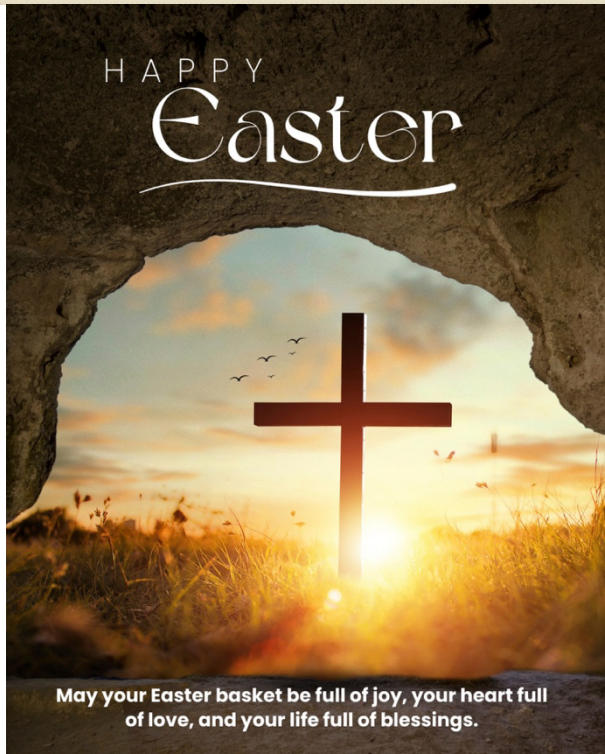
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Revelation Bible Class 1:00PM Small Group Meeting 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30PM AA - GR 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:45PM Revelli Violin 	<p>1</p> <p>April Fools' Day</p> <p>Passover</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM No Wednesday Bible Class 3:45PM Revelli Violin 5:00PM No Confirmation Class ~ Zoom 	<p>2</p> <p>Maundy Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Revelli Violin 7:00PM Maunday Thursday Service 	<p>3</p> <p>Good Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Revelli Violin 7:00PM Good Friday Worship 	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Easter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Sunrise Service 9:00AM Easter Festival Service with Communion 10:30AM Easter Egg Hunt 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30PM AA - GR 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:45PM Revelli Violin 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM No Wednesday Bible Class 3:45PM Revelli Violin 5:00PM No Confirmation Class ~ Zoom 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00AM Property Committee 4:00PM Revelli Violin 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Revelli Violin 	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Orthodox Easter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Board of Directors Meeting 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30PM AA - GR 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30AM Trust Committee 3:45PM Revelli Violin 6:30PM Iron Men 	<p>15</p> <p>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 3:45PM Revelli Violin 5:00PM Confirmation Class ~ Zoom 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Revelli Violin 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Revelli Violin 	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Leviticus for Christians 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30PM AA - GR 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:45PM Revelli Violin 6:30PM Game Night - CR 	<p>22</p> <p>Earth Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 3:45PM Revelli Violin 5:00PM Confirmation Class ~ At Church 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Day Adventurers to Oakland Zoo 4:00PM Revelli Violin 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Revelli Violin 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00PM Movie Night
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Leviticus for Christians 10:30AM Outreach Committee 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30PM AA - GR 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:45PM Revelli Violin 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 3:45PM Revelli Violin 5:00PM Confirmation Class ~ Zoom 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Revelli Violin 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Revelli Violin 7:00PM EBRS 	<p>2</p>



HOLY WEEK
MAUNDY THURSDAY
 THURSDAY, APRIL 2 • 7 PM



HOLY WEEK
GOOD FRIDAY
 FRIDAY, APRIL 3 • 7 PM



Join us on April 5th for an Easter Sunday celebration!

6:30 am Sunrise Service in our garden.
 9:00 am Festival Worship Service with a choir, brass quartet, and timpani.
 After worship, enjoy an Easter Breakfast.

10:30 am Kids' Easter Egg Hunt.
 (1 - 12 years old)

Celebrate with Zion!



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Bunco Time!