

# NEWS FROM ZION



## The Third Day....

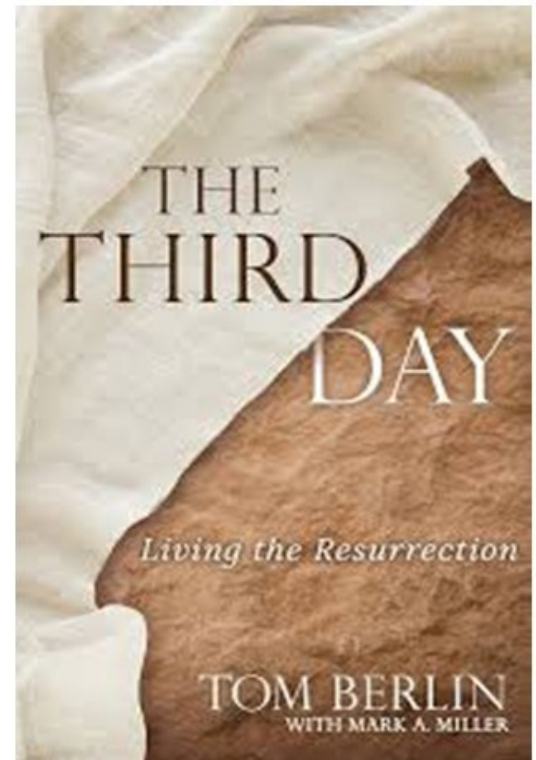
Lent is usually a time for repentance, reflection and preparation for Easter. For some, a time for fasting, of prayer, and self-examination to draw us closer to God. Lent is 40 days, excluding Sundays, from Ash Wednesday until Easter. It can be a time of deep spiritual growth.

That first Easter Sunday, the disciples were lost. Spiritually and emotionally. They thought that this journey that they were on with Jesus was done, finished! Some went back to their former jobs, what they did before Jesus ask them to follow him. Some went and hid in fear because Jesus wasn't going to be around anymore. Or so they thought on that third day. But something changed them. It wasn't something they could go out and get. Grief counseling or some prescribed medications for them to help cope with their loss. But it changed them.

They had been told, a few times in those waning days of

Jesus life, all that would happen on the week of passion. The betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion. Jesus gave them all the details, yet it seemed to skip right over their understanding and acceptance. There is a line in the Apostle Creed, "suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried." The period at the end of that sentence could signal the finality of death. The end? What if it was. The disciples thought so, so did the women that visited the tomb. All the witness of Jesus on the cross thought so. They watched as his body was lowered and placed in a borrowed tomb. The Creed though doesn't place the period after buried. It continues after a semicolon and it changes everything. From "dead and buried; the third day he rose from the dead." It tells us that Jesus' death is not an abrupt and wretched ending, but the splendid light of a new beginning.

I'll let you in on a little secret. The writers of all the Gospel's knew what the next scene



would be. Most likely, the Gospels were written between 30 – 70 years after the fact. Most believe that Mark was the first that put pen to paper and chronicled Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Yet, Mark ends rather strangely. It offers us a couple of different endings that leaves us rather challenged. The Short original ending ends in fear.

*"They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid".*

Mark 16:8

(continued on next page)



*CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE...*

Right after they saw the young man in a white robe in the tomb telling the three women, he's gone, risen, not here! I think of it as being stuck on Good Friday.

Two other endings are offered and most likely were written much later. And both talk of the Resurrection! That death wasn't the end but was the new beginning of New Life. The Good News that these disciples were just like us. Imperfect, needing forgiveness, sometimes fearful. They suffered setbacks and failures. Some had difficult pasts. But the Resurrection not only restored their hope in what God was doing in the world, it validated everything that Jesus had done and taught them.

For the six weeks leading up to Easter Sunday, we will look at some of those individuals that the Resurrection had a profound effect on. So, instead of leading up to that story of the resurrection, we will look at how the Resurrected Christ changed people and gives us an opportunity to change us as well. We will use Resurrection as our reference point instead of just the Sunday we call Easter. It can be an experience of the power of God and the truth about Jesus that can offer us confidence. We will be guided by the book, *The Third Day: Living the Resurrection* by Bishop Tom Berlin who serves as the resident bishop of the Florida Annual Conference.

The events around Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter and Thomas, along with Paul and the disciples at Emmaus, and how the Resurrection transforms their lives. Each experienced as John writes of the Resurrection at the beginning of his Gospel.

*"The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth".* John 1:14

Have we seen his glory?

When we discover how the Resurrection made to those first who experienced the risen Christ, our lives will experience the joy of new life as well.

Pastor Jeff



# March

## Resisting Temptations

Day 1: Matthew 6:13

Day 2: 1 Corinthians 10:13

Day 3: Ephesians 6:13

Day 4: Hebrews 4:15

Day 5: Luke 22:40

Day 6: James 1:13-16

Day 7: 1 Peter 1:6

Day 8: Romans 8:13

Day 9: Galatians 6:1

Day 10: Psalms 119:11

Day 11: Genesis 39:8-9

Day 12: 1 Peter 4:12

Day 13: Hebrews 11:24-25

Day 14: Matthew 26:41

Day 15: 1 John 4:4

Day 16: Luke 11:4

Day 17: Hebrews 4:16

Day 18: Romans 6:16

Day 19: Proverbs 7:25-26

Day 20: 2 Corinthians 10:4

Day 21: James 1:12

Day 22: Mark 14:38

Day 23: 2 Peter 2:9

Day 24: Galatians 5:16-17

Day 25: Revelation 13:14

Day 26: Psalms 119:9

Day 27: 1 Peter 5:8

Day 28: Romans 7:23

Day 29: Luke 4:13

Day 30: Hebrews 5:7

Day 31: James 4:7



The Scribe's Portion

PRESERVING THE WORD OF GOD





# Zion United Methodist Church Calendar

# March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship & Sunday School 9am	3 Prayer Group 7pm	4 Prayer Group 7pm	5 Ash Wednesday 6:30 pm St. John Lutheran	6 Zion Council on Ministry 6:30pm	7	8 
9 Worship & Sunday School 9am	10 Prayer Group 7pm	11 Prayer Group 7pm	12	13	14	15
16 Worship & Sunday School 9am	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Prayer Group 7pm	19	20	21 Articles for April Newsletter Due	22 Prairie South Leadership Training 9am Noon Oregon UMC
23 Worship & Sunday School 9am	24	25 Prayer Group 7pm	26	27 Worship Service at Allure 10 am Hymn Sing at Stonecroft 2pm	28	29 Prairie South Lay Academy 8:30am - 3pm 1 <sup>st</sup> UMC Mendota
30	31					

### March Birthday's

- 3/3 Chad Hochstatter
- 3/3 Jon Armstrong
- 3/6 Jeff Hochstatter
- 3/8 Herschel Tolley
- 3/8 Justin Hazelwood
- 3/11 Travis Chaon
- 3/11 Trevor Chaon
- 3/13 Paul Hochstatter
- 3/15 Eric MacDonald
- 3/15 Laura Doyle
- 3/16 Jay Booth
- 3/21 John Ellis



### March Anniversary's

- 3/26 Al & Dixie Archer

# ZION'S LENT MISSION...

## Lent Loot Collection to Benefit the Omoribe Project in Kenya

This Lenten season, we will collect change, paper money and checks to go to the Omoribe Project, which benefits needy school age children in Kenya.

Bev Richardson's cousin Cheryl Davidson and her husband Dale organize and raise funds for this very simple and worthy mission. Please pick up a Lent Loot jar at the back of the church and return your offerings to the bucket or in the offering box by Easter Sunday.

### The Omoribe Story

The Omoribe Project began in 2013 as a ministry of Hill-spring Church in Sand Springs, OK. Their goal was to feed vulnerable children at a small Kenyan children's home. In February 2016, Omoribe Project, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, was formed to further help the young children in this rural, predominantly farming community.

## Omoribe Project



*Planting hope, fulfilling dreams*



Today there are about four dozen Omoribe children and youth who range in age from five to 21 years old. Most live in a dormitory on the grounds. Younger students go to school at the nearby Help for Orphans primary school. Older children attend a local high school or secondary boarding schools. Several students are currently pursuing college or tech school educations.

The Omoribe Project's mission has long been to provide food and school tuition to these kids who are orphaned or whose extended families are unable to offer even the most basic of necessities.

At Omoribe we believe that planting hope in the form of safe shelter, food and education can fulfill dreams of a better life. We believe in the God-given potential of these kids to be successful. Please consider joining us as we plant hope and fulfill dreams



# Pictures of OMORIBE Mission in Kenya



**Men's Lent Dinner**  
 Thursday, March 27, 6:00 PM  
 St. John's Lutheran Church  
 607 10th Ave, Mendota



## Pie Auction

A pie auction and free will offering will benefit Mendota Area Senior Services and the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry

Receive a free pie if your congregation has attendees representing four or more generations!

## Guest Presenter

Rev. Josh Ebener serves as Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) and Assistant to the Bishop in the Northern Illinois Synod-ELCA. As DEM, he is a key resource for congregations and leaders seeking tools and counsel for starting a new ministry or revitalizing existing ministries. His role focuses largely on mission development, evangelism, congregational vitality/renewal, missional vision/planning and shared/collaborative ministry. Pastor Josh grew up in Davenport, Iowa and has served congregations in Long Beach, CA and West Chicago, IL. He currently lives in Moline, IL with his wife Paula and their three children, Sofia, Stella, and Maria-Luisa.

Donate a pie for the auction!



The cost of this meal is underwritten by the Mendota Area Ministerial Association and a grant from Thrivent Financial. Donations are also accepted.

## Discipling the Generations

Faith is caught more than taught.

How are men called to share faith in Jesus with younger generations?

Join other Christian men and young people from area congregations for fellowship, conversation, and of course, eating! Men are encouraged to invite youth and young adults to join them.



Register at this QR link, call 539-5626, or email melissa@stjohnsmendota.org by March 20th.





Join ZION Choir!

Everyone who enjoys singing is invited to join the Zion Choir! We sing a simple hymn or anthem in worship once or twice a month, in addition to special holiday services.

We meet to practice at 8:30 in the church parlor on the Sundays that we are going to sing. See Bev Richardson if you have questions.

All are welcome!



Join us along with Paw Paw United Methodist Church for a Hymn Sing at Stonecroft Village Thursday, February 27th at 2 pm. This will be ongoing through out the year on the last Thursday of the month. Pastor Dave and Pastor Jeff bring along their guitars and the pianist from Paw Paw play the residents favorite hymns. It is such a joy for all the residence there. Join in!

Miss one of Zion UMC Sunday Messages  
Or Newsletters?  
Check out our Website....

<https://zionchurchumc.com>



**Like Us On Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/zionchurchumc>



### Zion Wants to Pray for You!

Zion family and anyone else with a prayer need are encouraged to request prayer from the newly activated prayer chain ministry. All that you have to do is reach out to those contacts listed below and share your concern. A private email will then be sent to the members of the prayer chain so that they can start to cover your concern with prayer as soon and as often as they are able. Prayer requests will be kept confidential within the prayer chain circle, but we ask that the people for whom you request prayer be ok with your sharing. If you are interested in being a prayer partner or to activate the team in prayer, please let us know:

Pastor Jeff Brace

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Beverly Richardson

[bricha75@gmail.com](mailto:bricha75@gmail.com) or 815-830-7567

Shirlene Lowe

[lowe301@comcast.net](mailto:lowe301@comcast.net) or 815-440-4982

### Contact info:

Pastor Jeff Brace

Email : [jbrace8459@gmail.com](mailto:jbrace8459@gmail.com)

Office Phone: 815-538-2186

Cell Phone:: 815-985-3626

Office Hours—Tuesday & Thursday 10a-4p

Other times by appointment