

Pastor Edward Kast
Organist Carolyn Laurenz
A/V Mark Richardson
Ushers Paul Bohn and Roger Kade
Altar Guild Mark & Judy Hingston

Fourth Sunday of Easter + 26 April 2026
Zion Lutheran Church, Hemlock MI 9:30 AM

THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE

Pastoral Welcome

Opening Hymn 651 “I Love Your Kingdom, Lord”

Invocation and Creed (*congregation responses in bold print*)

As God’s Family, we have come together in the name of the Father:

I believe in God the Father Almighty.

In the name of the Son:

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

In the name of the Holy Spirit:

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

We have gathered as God’s children to call upon His holy Name:

We love Him and are here to praise Him, confess our need for His mercy, learn from Him, and then go forth to serve Him.

Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth, the Life.”

HE is here to forgive us with His grace, teach us from His Word, and inspire us with His Spirit.

Hymn of Praise 912 “Christ is Our Cornerstone”

Epistle: Christ the Cornerstone I Peter 2:2-10

The Epistle for the 5th Sunday of Easter is written in I Peter 2.
(*Congregational responses are in bold print.*)

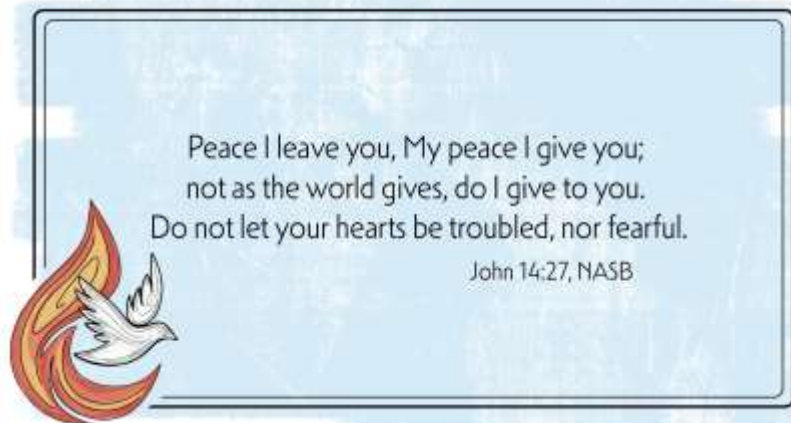
St. Peter writes: “Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk,

Our Measure of Love and Gifts

Attendance last week 53; Needed for The Lord’s Work at Zion \$4,729 ~ Received for the Lord’s Work \$2464; Capital Projects \$55; Quilters \$50.

Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday: April 26- Dick Gofton (his 98th), Thomas Hollingsworth, Katie McCoy, Mark Richardson; April 30- Jacob White; May 2- Karla Gath (her 85th).

The VLHS Drama Department’s Spring production of William Shakespeare’s “As You Like It” opens this Thursday, April 30 and runs through Saturday, May 2. Tickets available in the office this week or with limited availability at the door, \$7/adult, \$5/student, \$24/family. Showtime is 7 pm in the VLHS gym. You are also invited to Valley Lutheran’s annual spring **handbell concert!** Enjoy music performed by six local handbell choirs at 4:00 pm on Sunday, May 3rd in the VLHS gymnasium. All are welcome to attend this free, family-friendly event. The VLHS Music Department presents their **Spring Concert** featuring the bands and choirs of Valley Lutheran on Sunday, May 17 at 4 pm. The concert will be held at Messiah, Bullock Creek at 1550 S. Poseyville, Midland.



so that you may grow up and mature in your salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have tasted the Lord's kindness. You are coming to Christ, who is the living Cornerstone of God's Temple. He was rejected by men, but chosen by God for great honor. And you are living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple, so that you may be His holy priests, who offer spiritual sacrifices that please God through Jesus Christ. For the Scriptures say, **"I am laying a Cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in Him will never be disgraced."**

Now to you who believe and recognize Christ's honor, the Stone is precious. But for those who do not believe, the Scriptures say,

"The stone the builders rejected has become the Cornerstone."

They stumble because they do not obey God's Word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them. But you are not like that. You are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. The Bible says,

"Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel: John 14:1-6, 18-19, 25-27

We stand out of respect for the very words of Jesus, recorded in the Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

In many and various ways God spoke to His people of old through the prophets: **In these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.** Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You trust God; now trust Me. In My Father's House are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me, that you also may be where I am. And you know the way to the place where I am going."

But Thomas said to Him, **"Lord, we don't even know where You're going. So how can we know the way?"**

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Jesus answered, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through Me.

"I will not abandon you as orphans; I will come to you. In just a little while, the world will not see Me anymore, but you will.

Because I will live again, you also will live.

"I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. But when the Father sends in My name the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, He will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have told you.

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you – lasting peace of heart and mind. Not the kind of peace the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid."

This is comforting Good News from Jesus:

Alleluia! Praise to You, O Christ!

You speak the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

Hymn of the Day 461: stanzas 1-2, 5, 7

"I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

Message: "A Place for You" John 14

Our Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Numbers 6:22-27

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons to bless the people with this special blessing. Whenever My servants bless the people in My Name, I Myself am blessing them:

"The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor + and give you His peace."

Amen!

Sending Hymn 526

"You Are the Way"