Greetings Zion/Clarion Family,

The snow has barely melted and we are nearing the end of our Lenten journey. In our Wednesday evening services we have pondered our need for daily repentance and celebrated that God does indeed grant us forgiveness to live in the light of his love. The Resurrection on Easter morning is a grand celebration that God is bigger than our sins. The God of light shines through our darkest times. The God of life has indeed conquered death. There is hope in a world that seems so hopeless at times.

We continue to daily confess our sins to God because we daily sin. But we do so with the end in sight. The darkness of our sin does not win; the power of God conquers the evil in us and makes us NEW. May you Daily celebrate what God is doing new in your life as you continue to journey in the light of the Resurrected Christ.

Shalom,
Pastor Kevin Weeks

Jacob Weeks – Alaska Mission/Service Trip

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support for my Alaska mission trip this summer. I will be inspecting and repairing airplanes so Kingdom Air can transport kids to Bible Camp this summer. In Alaska many locations rely on airplanes as their primary summer transportation. The money I need has been raised. Please email me at JacobWeeks@letu.edu if you want periodic updates on my studies and the Mission/Service trip this summer.

Jacob Weeks
We are looking ahead towards Vacation Bible School. The theme this year will be Treasure seekers with an archeological/indiana jones type decorating. If anyone has items that could be borrowed to help with decorating, it would be appreciated. Items we are looking to borrow to decorate church include pottery, old tools, hurricane lamps, wheelbarrow, tiki torches, or anything else that could go with this theme. Thank you!

Parish Education

April Birthdays

1  Rick Bauer
2  Colleen Bickett
    Grace Jackson
    Luke Jackson
    Jake Jackson
7  Fred Sprung
8  Adam Weeks
10 Zach Geuther
    Sidney Higgerson
16 Rebecca Stamberger
18 Colleen Stegmann Cooper
19 Myron Goetz
23 Kade Jackson
24 Nick Larabee
26 Brynne Wendelken
27 Monica Joerger
    Annabelle Larabee
28 William Stuepfert
29 Abbie Wendelken
30 Noah Lee

Baptismal Anniversaries

2  Jim Hamacher
3  Beth Barrera
7  Earl Stuepfert
14 Nigel Geuther
17 Garrett Geuther
22 Jenica Faber
23 Meredith Stamberger
26 Annette Stamberger
30 Lisa Gascoigne

Wedding Anniversaries

1  Derrol and Diane Lee
29 Martin and Marge Ultch
We want to thank Pastor Kevin for visits and the funeral service. Also want to thank Church family for prayers, concerns, cards and the memorials. Thank you to all who brought food and the women for the funeral dinner. Thank you for all the kindness to our family.

God Bless You,
Gary Koch Family

We are looking ahead towards Vacation Bible School. The theme this year will be Treasure seekers with an archeological/indiana jones type decorating. If anyone has items that could be borrowed to help with decorating, it would be appreciated. Items we are looking to borrow to decorate church include pottery, old tools, hurricane lamps, wheelbarrow, tiki torches, or anything else that could go with this theme. Thank you!

Parish Education

LDA Fund

Just over a year ago LCMC started the Lutheran Disaster Assistance Fund which is financed by contributions from LCMC congregations throughout the United States. Last year Zion contributed $225.00 to this fund. Any LCMC church may apply for a grant of up to $10,000.00 for any natural disaster occurrence that affects 100 or more families in the community. During the past year LDA Funds were provided for relief to Moore, OK (tornado), Colorado Springs, CO (wildfires), Longmont, CO (flood) and Osa, WA (mudslide) along with a designated gift to Madagascar for the Haruna Cyclone.

Our thanks to the following Clarion members who served our country:

- Craig Bauer—Army Reserves
- Calvin Faber—Army, Germany, 1953-1955
- Maurice Faber—Army, U.S., 1945-1947
- Myron Goetz—Army, Korean Conflict, 1952-1954
- Mark Geuther—Army, Germany, 1970-1972
- Lee Hewitt—Navy, Naval Air Station, Miramar, 1989-1993
- Newt Lundquist—Army Reserves
- Dean R. Madsen—US Navy Air Corps, World War II
- Allen Novak—Army Reserves, 1966-1972
- Angela Silfies—Navy ABE, San Diego, 2012
- Matthew Stamberger—Coast Guard, Woods Holes, Mass, 2002-2007

Apr 25 Sat, LCMC Council Training Event w/ Mark Vander Tuig @ Living Waters Lutheran Church in Peoria — Whole congregation is invited to attend

Apr 26, 2015 Sun 9:00 Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation

June 21-27 Tapawingo service trip
We will have worship on Saturday evening, 5:00pm, June 20 so the workers can get a very early start on Sunday morning.
Thank you to all who have remembered our family as we grieved the death of Sarah’s mother. Your cards and kind words are appreciated. Your memorials totaling $150 have been given to the Zion ZEB-RAS to assist those youth and families in growing to love Jesus more and more every day.

Pastor Kevin & Sarah Weeks

**Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation**

On Sunday, April 26, 2015 we plan on having Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation here at Clarion. We have four 8th graders who have been attending classes this year and appear to be planning to publically Affirm the work God has done in their Baptism, acknowledge Jesus as their Savior, and make a pledge to follow him as Lord of their life. Those four are:

- Brady Becker
- Brooke Lee
- Mady Hewitt
- Thomas Stamberger

Of course not everyone loves Jesus as their Savior, and so is not required to make this statement. Neither is Affirming Jesus as Savior and Lord a once in a lifetime event. Any time one desires to make this statement of faith, they can stand up and do so, as new members do when they desire to join our congregation. How exciting would it be to have folks publically share their journey with Jesus on a monthly (or more frequent) basis. And it is actually something we can do EVERY DAY, as we have discussed in our Wednesday evening worship services. To follow Jesus is to daily acknowledge that we are sinners, receive the forgiveness Jesus offers as Savior, and celebrate that he leads our life as Lord.

We do celebrate with these 8th graders at a rather special time in their lives as they share with us how they have journeyed with Jesus so far and make plans to continue to do so for the rest of their lives.

**Marriage Renewal**

Family Life provides dozens of “Weekend to Remember” events to help couples grow their marriages in the context of Christian love. Cost is $149.99 (slightly higher in some locations) plus hotel and food. This is a great investment in your marriage and is recommended by Pastor Kevin & Sarah. The weekends closer to us are:

- April 10-12 Oak Brook – Chicago
- Nov 6-8 Cedar Rapids, IA

There are several dozen more to choose from if you want to travel a bit farther. See details at [www.weekendtoremember.com](http://www.weekendtoremember.com) or [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com).

**LCMC – Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ $5,000 grant to grow Kingdom**

As we use the tools from “The Arts of Spiritual Conversations” to grow the Kingdom we look for ways we tell others about the great love of God. To celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 1517, LCMC and Thrivent Financial Foundation will be awarding grants to 15 LCMC congregations for use in planning a project to benefit their local community. We must apply before August 15, 2015. Share your ideas with our council as how we can use that money to best reach out to our local community with the Love of Jesus.
**Holy Week Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Church</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday</td>
<td>Community United Methodist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>Zion Lutheran of Clarion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>6:30am</td>
<td>Resurrection Sunday</td>
<td>First Congregational</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Holy Week & Resurrection Sunday/Easter**

**Maundy Thursday – April 2, 7:00pm**  
Community United Methodist Church

The theme will be “Love One Another” as we ponder the text from the Gospel of John 13:34-35. “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Each pastor will share some thoughts on how we show love to others in a variety of places” Family, Workplace, Community, Nation & World.

We will have a “Pay It Forward” offering. We ask that the offering you would normally give this evening you use to directly serve someone in a loving manner.

**Good Friday -- April 3, 7:00pm**  
Zion Lutheran Church of Clarion

Our theme on love continues from Thursday where we pondered how we love others in the name of Jesus. Tonight we ponder the depth of God’s love for us through the suffering and death of Jesus with the theme and question, “What Wondrous Love is This?” The pastors will share several short meditations on the final hours of Jesus, moving from the Upper Room with his disciples through his final words from the cross, concluding with the format of a traditional Tenebrae service.

**Easter sunrise -- April 5, 6:30am**  
First Congregational Church

More details to come – We look forward to seeing you as we together celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus to glorious new life.

They are tentatively planning on have the youth from all congregation participate, including Breakfast. The theme will be “Love One Another” as we ponder the text from the Gospel of John 13:34-35

---

**Lutherans for Life**  
[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

Recognized by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, their mission is to equip ALL Lutherans to the Gospel-motivated voices for Life. Their Vision is for every Lutheran congregation to uphold the God-given value of human life and to influence society to do the same.

Their state conference will be on May 2, in Lincoln, IL from 9am-noon.

See flyer in narthex for more details.
Lilies for Easter

In Memory of

Ruth Geuther
Lyle Geuther

Maurice & Clarice Faber
Loved Ones

Ray & Carolyn Motter
Loved Ones

Annette Stamberger
Jim, Parents & Loved Ones

Dean Madsen
Betty & Loved Ones

Don & Chrisy Liesse
Loved Ones

Larry & Kathy Forristall
Parents & Grandparents

Jim & Martha Pillar
Dora & Lester Pillar

Carl & Iva Stamberger

Roger & Colleen Stamberger
Parents

---

Lenten Coin Folders need to be returned Easter Sunday!

Please remember our military members in your prayers. They are:

Josh Morehead, Army

Angela Silfies, Navy Airman

Josh Wolf, Marines

We are so proud of you!

If you know of others in our military family, please be sure to let us know so we may send our prayers & thanks to them also.

---

Please get bulletin information to Angie Hewitt before Wednesday at 8:00pm. You may put info in her box at church or via email at: clarionbulletin@yahoo.com.

Material for the Bell Ringer should be at the church or emailed to Cara Motter by the 20th of each month Email address: clarionbell-ringer@yahoo.com (phone: 815 915-5035)

Evangelism

Anyone who needs a ride or is willing to offer rides to church should contact Carolyn Motter. She will be coordinating transportation for members who need a ride to church. She can be reached at 815-538-2606.
Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation

Thomas John Stamberger
Parents: Tim and Susan Stamberger
Born: September 2, 2000
       Princeton, IL
Baptized: January 21, 2001,
Location: Zion Lutheran Church, La Moille, IL
Pastor: Rev. Leo Patterson officiated.
Baptismal Sponsors - Rev. & Mrs. Mark Mumme
Memory Verse: Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death;
that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory
of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
Romans 6:4

My Faith Story

The memory verse I chose is Romans 6:4. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life—Romans 6:4. This verse is very powerful and means a lot to me. In total, it sums up how, if we die our deaths on earth, we will be resurrected as he was and we will live in heaven with him forever.

Many of the activities put on in our church and community have helped me grow in my faith and journey with God. All the different Sunday school classes, communion camp, caroling, and the list goes on, and of course the Quake events in the Dells and Chicago.

Confirmation classes have really made me think differently about the Bible and what it really does say. I learned what it truly means to be a Christian and a follower of God. Stopping and paying attention to what words are really saying was really important and changes how you see others and the world around us. Along with my journey in faith I have felt more comfortable to talk to others and share about God’s word.

When I look around in my daily life I have realized how much we get distracted and do not focus on God and what he wants for us. However, now I know I need to listen and do what is best for God even though I may not want to. He has plans for me and now I am more aware of those plans after confirmation classes and reading the Bible.

I plan to continue to grow in faith and follow God and even know Him better. I will go out today and continue to call God my Lord and Savior and share to others. I will always remember that He saved us and we will live with Him forever through the Lord’s Great Exchange. Which comes back to my memory verse from Romans 6:4 ....Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life—Romans 6:4.
My Faith Story

I picked this verse because I can relate to it and use in a lot of my hobbies and stuff that I do. This was good because it shows that he made a goal for everyone on earth and after earth. I learned that I, myself, need to use this to help me set my goals here on earth. The thing I use it for is the stuff I do like school work and sports. I set a goal on what I want and then set out to achieve it. Just like with heaven, you set out to make it well it’s more really like you set out to believe in God. People say that when you believe you go there already but it takes more than that to go to heaven, you have to make it your goal to go to heaven.

Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation

Brady Beryl Harvey Becker
Parents: Brent and Cari Becker
Born: June 22, 2001
Perry Memorial
Baptized: October 7, 2001,
Location: Zion Lutheran Church, La Moille, IL
Pastor: Rev. Leo Patterson officiated.
Baptismal Sponsors - Lori Hossler
Memory Verse: I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:14
Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation

Madeline Lee Hewitt
Parents: Lee & Angela Hewitt
Born: March 24, 2001
Saint Margaret's Hospital, Spring Valley, IL
Baptism: September 9, 2001
Location: Holy Trinity Church, Cherry, IL
Priest: Father Kevin Gorman
Sponsors: Terrill Wolf and Tammi Griffin
Memory Verse: from NIV
For I know the plans I have for you, "Declares the Lord. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

My Faith Story
I feel strong and confident when it's just God and I. I'm not the one to hide my faith. Instead I show it around by singing hymns or wearing religious shirts. My faith is important to me because it's a way I look at life and everything in it. My memory verse is Jeremiah 29:11. I chose that verse because it reminds me that no matter what God has a plan for me and he knows what's going on.

Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation

Brooke Dona Catherine Lee
Parents: Kevin and Julie Lee
Born: July 12, 2001
Illinois Valley Community Hospital
Baptism: August 19, 2001
Location: Zion Lutheran Church
Pastor: Leo Patterson
Sponsors: Tim Funfsinn and Tiffney (Figliolino) Brink
Memory Verse: We love because he first loved us. In this love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

My Faith Story
Faith to me is that God has a plan for all of us. In order for that plan to work though, we have to have faith in God so that he will truly send us on the right path.
### April Service 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Greeter</th>
<th>Reader</th>
<th>Piano/Organ</th>
<th>Special Music</th>
<th>Acolytes</th>
<th>Communion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., April 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Thomas S. Brady B.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Maundy Thursday @ Methodist</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., April 3</td>
<td>Leslie &amp; Cara</td>
<td>Myron Goetz</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Good Friday @ Clarion</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., April 5</td>
<td>Elwin &amp; Ray</td>
<td>Chris Stamberger</td>
<td>Myron Goetz</td>
<td>Brady B.</td>
<td>Sarah Weeks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunrise Worship—6:30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Katie K.</td>
<td>and Chris</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a.m. @ Congregational,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stamberger</td>
<td>Stamberger</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. @ Clarion Holy Communion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., April 12</td>
<td>Don &amp; Christy</td>
<td>Jayson &amp; Andrew</td>
<td>Annette</td>
<td>Brooke M.</td>
<td>Kim Lauer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stamberger</td>
<td>Stamberger</td>
<td>Brooke L.</td>
<td>and Larry Forristall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., April 19</td>
<td>Marilyn &amp; Annette</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Annette</td>
<td>Katie K.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stamberger</td>
<td>Stamberger</td>
<td>Mady H.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., April 26</td>
<td>Howard &amp; Marion</td>
<td>Mason Koch</td>
<td>Kristi Koch</td>
<td>Brooke M.</td>
<td>Brent and Cari</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Collette M.</td>
<td>Becker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Arts of Spiritual Conversations — follow up for the series:**

Pray that God open your eyes to see who he wants you to share Jesus with, and how to do it.

Pray for our congregation that we see our mission at this place in this time, and move forward into it. Pray for members to share ideas and begin formulating plans to Grow the Kingdom.

One way we can begin sharing Jesus with others is inviting them to worship. The La Moille Ministerial has provided enough business size cards for every member of our congregations to have 2-3 to hand out to folks inviting them to our Holy Week Ecumenical worship services. After you give away your 2 or 3 cards stop back to see if there are any more to pick up and hand out. Imagine what would happen if every active member brought along another.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship @ Congregational, Holy Communion</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. @ Clarion Worship Service Holy Communion</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. Worship Service Holy Communion</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. Worship Service Holy Communion</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 p.m. @ Methodist Parish Education 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Good Friday Worship 7:00 p.m. @ Clarion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. @ Clarion Holy Communion</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. Worship Service Holy Communion</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. Worship Service Holy Communion</td>
<td>Earth Day</td>
<td>4th Earth Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>