

## March Disciples in Action

### 4<sup>th</sup> –3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent (purple)

**Reader:** Cynthia Mills  
**Flowers:** Mary Ann Fisher  
**Communion Assistant:** Cynthia Mills  
**Communion Prep:** Cynthia Mills

### 11<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent (purple)

**Reader:** Kyle Manus  
**Flowers:** Mary Ann Fisher

### 18<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent (purple)

**Reader:** Sherry Donaldson  
**Flowers:** Mary Ann Fisher  
**Communion Assistant:** ?  
**Communion Prep:** Carolyn Thompson

### 25<sup>th</sup> – Palm/Passion Sunday (purple)

**Reader:** Libby Palmer  
**Flowers:** Mt. Zion  
**Communion Assistant:** Cindy Misenheimer  
**Communion Prep:** Cindy Misenheimer

### 29<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday (red)

**Communion Assistant:** ?  
**Communion Prep:** ?

**Lawn Care:** Kyle Manus  
**Sign Changes:** ?  
**Fold Bulletins:** Bonnie Smith  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Carrie Barbee, Mary Manus  
Cindy Misenheimer, Laura Smith

111 E. Church Street  
PO Box 86  
Richfield, NC 28137  
Church – 704-463-7280

## ***Mt. Zion Lutheran Church***

### ***March 2018 – Glad Tidings***

\*\*To submit articles to the newsletter contact Pastor Ruth Ann or Chrissy Chandler or leave them in the mailbox outside the Pastor's office. All submissions must be in by the Friday before the last Sunday of the month.\*\*

- SCCM item for MARCH: Toiletries and Household – shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, detergent, bar soap, feminine hygiene

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

28 – Raymond & Shirley Culp - 54

### **BIRTHDAYS:**

5 – Rich Cosgrove  
8 – Lily Manus  
11 – Cindy Misenheimer  
12 – Bobbie Wagoner  
13 – Maddie Gordon  
Graham Misenheimer  
15 – Marilyn Robertson  
16 – Kyle Manus  
Irene Wagoner  
20 – Joanna Palmer  
22 – Bryan Smith  
24 – Kevin Almond  
25 – Mason Smith  
26 – Dwayne Icenhour  
28 – Caitlin Smith  
31 – Michelle Misenheimer

## Thanks to:

- + to **Rich Cosgrove and Rick Gordon** who recently finished the lighting update project in the education building! All the fluorescent fixtures in the building have now been upgraded to LED, which is both brighter and more energy efficient!
- + to **Monk's Band** for leading our recent **Folk Mass** service.
- + to **Angie Robertson, Thrivent Financial, and everyone** who helped with our **Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch! Thanks, too, to everyone** who generously donated \$500.00 to support the **Backpack Buddies** program for North Stanly Middle School.
- + to **everyone** who helped with our recent **Give and Take Event**.
- + to **Marilyn & Steve Robertson and everyone** who prepared the **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!**
- + to **Brad & Mary Cress, Rick Gordon, Kyle Manus, and Wayne Mills** who helped with the recent **Church Workday!**
- + to **everyone** who helped provide the **Lenten Supper** and welcome our guests from St. Stephen's and Mt. Olive on February 25.

## We extend our Christian sympathy...

to **Emily & Robert Misenheimer and family**, following the recent death of Emily's father, the Rev. Robert L. Witty, Jr. *Even though they grieve, may they always trust in the sure and certain promise of the Resurrection to eternal life.*

## Congratulations...

- + to Taylor Chandler on being accepted at UNC Charlotte and for also accepting a preferred walk on spot to play football for the 49ers

**Do you know someone we should thank,**

congratulate, or offer our sympathy?

*Please tell Chrissy Chandler or Pastor Ruth Ann,  
because we don't want to overlook anyone!*

## Council Highlights:

During the regular February meeting, the congregation council:

- + Reviewed minutes from the January council meeting.
- + Received the treasurer's report for January.
- + Received the pastor's report including prayer concerns, thanks, and upcoming events, including a church workday on February 24. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will begin at 7:30 p.m.
- + Voted to divide Lenten offerings between Bridge to Recovery and Lutheran Disaster Response.
- + Voted to designate \$900 per month of the pastor's salary as Furnishings and Utility allowance for tax purposes.
- + Continued the conversation about rotating worship times. We will ask St. Stephen's for additional input.
- + Discussed some property issues, including a quote for repair of the wall behind the altar, possibly replacing the front doors, heating the breezeway, and replacing blinds in the . Additional research is needed before any decision are made.

## Financial Update for January 2018:

Annual Budget	\$ 105,075.00
January Regular Giving	9,236.94
January Actual Expenses	<u>(7,256.42)</u>
	\$ 1,980.52

## Other Updates:

**Kids Celebrate** children's bulletins, **ELCA Prayer Ventures** for March, and **Christ in Our Home** devotionals for January, February, and March are all available in the narthex.

We will receive a special **Second Sunday Offering** on March 11th for the Building Fund.

**First Communion training** will be available during Lent to prepare children to receive Holy Communion for the first time on Maundy Thursday or Easter Sunday. Exact dates and times are still to be determined. *Please talk with Pastor Ruth Ann for more information!*

*Please give information for the April Glad Tidings newsletter to Chrissy Chandler or Pastor Ruth Ann by Friday, March 23rd.*



## Altar Flowers

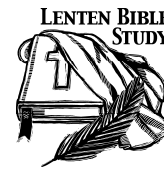
The congregational council recently approved a recommendation from the Worship & Music Committee concerning altar flowers. As a result, the altar vase liners have been taken to the Butterfly

Cottage and they are aware of our normal needs. They will provide and deliver arrangements and bill the church. *If you have signed up to provide altar flowers, you may contact the Butterfly Cottage directly to make special requests.* The cost of a pair of arrangements, normally used for a month, is \$60.00. Please make you payment directly to the church, using a special offering envelope marked 'Flowers.' *Please talk with Cindy Misenheimer or Pastor Ruth Ann if you have questions!*

## March Events:

Members of Mt. Zion will provide the evening meal for **Community Inn** on March 4.

**Sunday evening Lenten Suppers and Services** continue through March. The theme of the services is *A Lenten Journey to Easter*. Supper begins at 6:00 p.m. and the service follows at 7:00 p.m. We will gather at St. Stephen's on March 4 and 18, and at Mt. Zion on March 11 and 25. *NOTE: If you are unable to join us on Sunday nights, you are invited to a Lenten soup supper and service using the same material at St. Martin Lutheran Church (5469 Hwy 200, Concord) on Wednesday evenings. Supper is served at 6:30 p.m. and the service follows at 7:00 p.m.*



**Our Lenten Bible study on the book of Amos continues this month.** We meet here on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday afternoons at 12:45 p.m. after Midweek Prayer. There is also a session Tuesday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. at St.

Stephen's. *Please join us for one of these opportunities to study the word together!*

**Midweek Prayer** begins each Wednesday at noon. We gather to pray for all those on our prayer list and everyone in the congregation by name. *Even if you can't be here, please join us in prayer at 12:12 p.m., remembering Romans 12:12: Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Bring a bag lunch and stay for a time of fellowship!*



*Don't forget to set your clocks  
AHEAD one hour as  
Daylight Savings Time begins  
on Saturday night, March 10!*

**Congregation council** will meet Sunday morning, March 11. Breakfast begins at 7:00 a.m. and the meeting begins at 7:30 a.m.



will meet Monday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the church. Jana Strukova will provide an update from the Mary and Martha Center.

## March Events (continued):

**Handbells** will rehearse on Wednesday nights, March 14 and 28 at 5:30 p.m. **Choir** practice will follow at 6:00 p.m.



**Pastor's Support Committee meeting** has been tentatively re-scheduled for Thursday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m.



*Please join us  
for these  
special worship  
services!*

## Holy Week

**Palm/Passion Sunday** worship service with the Procession of Palms, a special congregational reading of the Passion of our Lord according to Mark, and Holy Communion begins at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 25.

The final **Lenten Supper** with our sisters and brothers from St. Stephen's and Mt. Olive will be here at Mt. Zion, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 25. The **Lenten Service** follows at 7:00 p.m.

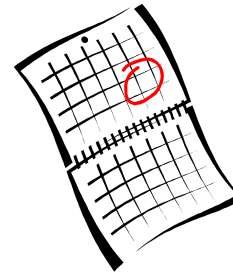
**Maundy Thursday Worship Service**, including individual absolution, Holy Communion, and stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday, begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday night, March 29.

**Good Friday** worship service, including the reading of the Passion of our Lord according to John, will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday night, March 30.

**Community Easter Sunrise Service** will begin at Richfield Cemetery at 6:45 a.m. Sunday morning, April 1. **Breakfast** will follow at Richfield Methodist Church.

**Our Festival Service of Worship with Holy Communion** will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 1.

## Coming Events – *Mark your calendar now!*



A **Second Harvest** and **Stanly Community Christian Ministry Mobile Food Pantry** will be here at Mt. Zion on Thursday, April 12 beginning at 8:00 a.m. Another congregation is sponsoring this event, but volunteers will be needed!

## On the Bulletin Board

Recent Lenten reflections from **The Stanly News and Press** written by local pastors, including Pastor Ray Sipe.

The 2018 Summer Camp brochure from Agape + Kure Beach Ministries.

The Winter 2018 **LINK** from Novus Way (Lutheridge, Lutherock, Lutheranch, and Luther Springs) with spring and summer information for campers of all ages.

The **All About Seniors** directory of Greater Charlotte, including information for Stanly County.

## New Office Hours

Pastor Ruth Ann is normally in the church office Wednesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and Friday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. ***Please stop by during those hours with any concerns or just to chat.***

You can also reach Pastor Ruth Ann on her cell phone: 704/322-0660 or by e-mail: [pastor@mtzionrichfield.org](mailto:pastor@mtzionrichfield.org) or. *If you would like a visit, or know someone who should be visited, please let her know.*

## God's Work Our Hands Update

We continue to support many ministries through our donations of everything from quarters to rags! *Check out the jars, boxes, and baskets in the fellowship hall and narthex to see the ministries we support.* Here are just a few recent updates:

**Our next Backpack Buddies delivery** to North Stanly Middle School of the 2017-18 school year will be March 16. Thanks to everyone who generously supported this program through the **Souper Bowl of Caring** lunch!

Thanks to everyone who has donated generously to the quarters jars for the **Mary and Martha Center for Women!** January donations were \$80.25. This brings our total, since last September, to \$326.75! These donations help women in need to do laundry in the laundromat and may also be used to purchase laundry soap and feminine hygiene products.

While **St. Jude's Ranch for Children** is no longer accepting used **greeting cards**, we have another way to use these colorful card fronts! St. Stephen's Playschool uses them to allow the students practice cutting with scissors. *Please bring any greeting card fronts and place them in the newly-labeled box to be donated to the playschool.*

We have now provided 75 consecutive monthly meals at **Community Inn**. **Thanks to everyone who has helped provided those meals in the past 6 years!**

**Thanks to everyone** who shared the love by donating to the **Crisis Assistance Fund Valentine fundraiser!**

Thanks also to everyone who has already returned baby bottles for the **Baby Bottle Boomerang for Pregnancy Resource Center of Stanly County (PRC)**. Together, we have already donated \$900! *If you still have a bottle, please return it as soon as possible - even if it is empty - so that it can be used again. For more information on the ministry of PRC, talk with Kay Cosgrove or visit [www.prcstanly.com](http://www.prcstanly.com).*

Training will begin soon for the inside and outside teams for **Kairos #10 at Southern Correctional Institution**. *Talk with Pastor Ruth Ann for more information.*



## What does 'sepulchral' mean? And how do you pronounce it??

This unusual word shows up in the hymn *Savior, When in Dust to You* (ELW # 601) which we sang in worship on Ash Wednesday. It's pronounced sə-'pul-krəl and the definition is 'related to a grave or a burial chamber.' When we sing it in the phrase 'sad sepulchral stone' we are singing about the stone that closed Jesus' tomb when he was buried, but was rolled away when Mary Magdalene and others found the empty tomb on Easter morning.

*Please share your questions  
with Pastor Ruth Ann  
so they can be answered here.*

## Community Events:



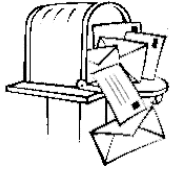
North Stanly Booster Club is hosting its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "N to Win" Reverse Raffle and Silent Auction on Saturday March 10 at 6pm at the Stanly County Senior Center. For more information or purchase a tickets see Chrissy Chandler.

\*Tickets are \$100 which includes: dinner for two – chance to win \$5000 – side raffles and prizes

\*Only 300 tickets will be sold and winner does not need to be present to win

\*A poster is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall

FROM THE MAILBOX



On behalf of Stanly Community Christian Ministry, I am writing to express our gratitude for your February contribution of \$ 134.00.

Thanks to you we are able to provide 200 meals each day through our Community Tables in Albemarle and Norwood. We also provide about 1200 pounds of grocery assistance each day through our Food Pantry. Clothing assistance is provided from our fantastic assortment of clothing at the Clothing Closet on Main Street. Your donation will help us maintain these programs and reach more neighbors in need every day.

Sincerely,  
*Heather Kilde*  
Heather Kilde  
Executive Director

*Thanks for  
your support!*



Have you ever considered attending a spiritual retreat like **Via de Cristo**? Via de Cristo means "the Way of Christ." It is a name used by Lutherans for a movement of personal Christian renewal. Since 1976, this organization has

provided structured retreat experiences for church leaders. The Western NC Via de Cristo group is planning several upcoming weekends, including Men's #75 April 19-22 and Mixed (co-ed) #46 April 26-29. *Talk with Pastor Ruth Ann or visit [wncvdc.org](http://wncvdc.org) for more information!*



"I think you are giving me bad grades merely because I am a prophet of doom."

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## UPDATED Recycling Reminder

***Please DO continue to collect your aluminum cans from home and bring them to the church to support projects here.*** Remove and save the pull tabs and recycle the cans in the dark green can marked with the recycling label on top. The tabs support Ronald McDonald House and funds from the cans will go to the Mt. Zion Transient Fund. **PLEASE make recycling the cans easier by taking time to rinse, crush, and bag them before bringing them!**

***Please DO recycle paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, glass jars, and cans used here at church.*** Rinse jars and cans, and place everything in the brown bin for recycling. These items should NOT be bagged. ***Please do not bring recyclable items from home.*** A list of items that can be recycled is posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen.

***Please bag all trash and placed it in one of the two bright green, unmarked trash cans. Please do not place any trash in the bins for recyclables!***

## Special Events:

**Valparaiso University Chorale**, one of the premiere Lutheran college choirs, will be performing at Ascension Lutheran Church (225 E. Morehead St., Charlotte) on Monday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. as part of their Spring Tour 2018. For more information, visit [www.valpo.edu/chorale](http://www.valpo.edu/chorale)

**Trinity Oaks and Lutheran Services Carolinas** invite you to a special behind-the-scenes preview tour of the first renovations for *Changing Spaces*, a construction project that is expanding and enhancing assisted living on the Trinity Oaks campus. The tour is a drop-in event from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 18 on the second floor of Trinity Oaks Independent Living, 728 Klumac Road, Salisbury. Attendees can view the construction progress and see how gifts to the *Changing Spaces* campaign are supporting the addition of new assisted living rooms as well as communal gathering spaces. Light refreshments will be served. This is a construction site, *so please plan to wear closed-toe shoes and comfortable clothing. For questions, call 704-754-8229.*

For the past 56 years, **Ebenezer Lutheran Church** has offered as a gift to the community the outdoor Easter drama, *Christ's Cross and Crown*, which highlights the life of Jesus Christ from his entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to his resurrection on Easter Day. Two presentations of *Christ's Cross and Crown* will be offered over Easter weekend: the first on Saturday, March 31, and again on Easter Sunday, April 1. Both will begin at 8:30 p.m. and last approximately one hour. There is no admission charge; and free hot dogs will be served each evening from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Since these performances are presented outdoors, *please dress accordingly and bring your own lawn chair or blanket to sit on.* Ebenezer Lutheran Church is located at 4914 Old Beatty Ford Road, China Grove (at the intersection of Old Beatty Ford Road and Old Salisbury-Concord Road).

## From the Pastor:

*O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.* (Prayer for the Vigil of Easter, **ELW** page 31)

This year we are using some of the scripture passages assigned for the Vigil of Easter during our Sunday evening Lenten Services. These passages are selected to recount salvation history – the story of God's gracious love at work in the world - from creation through Christ's resurrection.

Because we read and reflected on some of these passages during worship last summer (creation, the great flood, God's covenant with Abraham, and the Exodus from slavery) we have skipped over those now. In the past two weeks, we have already read and discussed words of prophecy from Isaiah and Ezekiel. During the coming weeks, we will be reading these passages, too:

Zephaniah 3:14–20    *The gathering of God's people*  
Jonah 1:1—2:1        *The deliverance of Jonah*  
Isaiah 61:1–11        *Clothed in the garments of salvation*  
Daniel 3:1–29         *Deliverance from the fiery furnace*

All of these passages work together to help us see God's plan of salvation unfold in human history. *Please join us for these special opportunities to worship God and study God's word during this Lenten season!*

*Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.*

Psalm 96:2

The Lenten season culminates with special Holy Week services here on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and of course, Easter Sunday. A schedule these services is included in this newsletter. *Don't miss any of these unique worship opportunities!*

Blessings,

*Pastor Ruth Ann*

# Mt Zion Lutheran

# March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Notes:</b>  <b>Next Backpack Buddies delivery will be March 16</b>  <b>Easter Sunrise Service will be April 1 at 6:45 am with breakfast following at Richfield Methodist Church</b>				1	2	3
<b>4 Third Sunday in Lent</b> 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship w/ Holy Communion 6:30 pm Community Inn Meal 6:00 pm Lenten Supper <i>(at St. Stephen's)</i> 7:00 pm Lenten Service <i>Stephen's</i>	5 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	6 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study	7 10:00 am Pastor's Office Hours 12:00 noon Midweek Prayer 12:45 pm Bible Study	8	9 3:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours	10  <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>
<b>11 Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> 7:00 am Council Breakfast 7:30 am Council Meeting 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Lenten Supper <i>(at Mt. Zion)</i> 7:00 pm Lenten Service <i>Zion</i>  <b>Second Sunday Building Fund Offering</b>	12 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>  7:30 pm WELCA	13  NO Bible Study	14 12:00 noon Midweek Prayer NO Bible Study 5:30 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir  <i>~ Pastor Ruth</i>	15  <i>Ann out of the office</i>	16  <i>Wednesday thru</i>	17  <i>Saturday ~~</i>
<b>18 Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion 6:00 pm Lenten Supper <i>(at St. Stephen's)</i> 7:00 pm Lenten Service <i>Stephen's</i>	19 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	20 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study	21 10:00 am Pastor's Office Hours 12:00 noon Midweek Prayer 12:45 pm Bible Study	22	23 3:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours  <i>April Newsletter Information Due</i>	24
<b>25 Palm/Passion Sunday</b> 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion 6:00 pm Lenten Supper <i>(at Mt. Zion)</i> 7:00 pm Lenten Service <i>Zion</i>	26 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	27  NO Bible Study	28 10:00 am Pastor's Office Hours 12:00 noon Midweek Prayer 5:30 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Civitans Bd Mtg	29 Maundy Thursday 7:30 pm Worship Service	30 Good Friday 3:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours 7:30 pm Worship Service	31