

Zion Lutheran Evangelical Church
----- **Bringing Hope Through Christ**
7455 Foothills Drive Farmington, NM
505-325-3420 Website: zionlutheran505.com
Bible Study & Sunday School: 9:00 AM Divine Service -10:15AM
Pastor Nathanael Biberdorf Cell phone: 605-419-7830
Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 11:30 Monday – Thursday
May 2026

Coming Soon! Zion circle will host a Fellowship gathering following the service on May 3 – signup sheet with Mary Ripley for finger foods. Mother’s Day on May 10, celebrating families & mothers with flowers for each mom. **Did**

you know? If you live in Israel, you may hear people greet each other with “Shalom” (peace) rather than “hello.” John 14:27 says: “Peace, I leave you.” “God’s Peace to you in Christ” is the ending to Pastor’s newsletter article to us. The blessing at the end of each Divine Service reads “The Lord lift up his countenance on you & give you peace.” Shalom is the Hebrew word for peace. In its fullest meaning, peace (shalom) conveys a deep sense of wholeness & completeness, a state of well-being & harmony. The word, *peace*, appears over 250 times in the Hebrew Bible, indicating its significance to health, harmony in relationships, & oneness with God. Philippians 4:7 “The peace of God, which transcends all understanding” speaks to a spiritual Shalom that guards our hearts & minds. **Shalom!**



Many thanks! Several men from our church got together on April 23-25 to repair the parking lot. Guys, you are the BEST! Thank you!

POCKET PRAYERS: The Family of Virginia Schleuter, Tyler, Jeanne, Macie, DJ, Thompson Family, Lisa, Kerry, Elisha Van Deusan, David Lukow, Roy and Dale Esau, Carol Unger, Deborah Unger, Shanda Unger, Shea and Jessica, Debra Mobley, Jack McKeever, Annette Lewis, Jason Hobbs

PRAYER TEAM: Thank you to all our faithful members who pray daily for our Pastor, our Divine Services, Zion Church, Community/State/Nation/World, and Healing/Homebound Ministries. Our church is richly blessed by each one of you. Each area has 15 - 22 members! If you have not yet joined a Prayer Team and would like to pray daily for one or more of the above areas, please see Diane Ayers or Leslie Fitz. You will receive a folder with suggested prayers and be added to a powerful team. There are no meetings, just the commitment to pray. Prayers change things!

ZION CIRCLE BRIEFS: Deep kitchen & fellowship hall & window cleaning is coming. There will be sign-up sheets & talk to Mary Ripley for more information. The charity that Zion Circle is financially supporting is: Come as You Are (CAYA) which is no-cost, Christian based residential addiction treatment center.

LWML IN A GLIMPSE: The last meeting is May 3, before the summer break. Bring your mite boxes” all through summer.



Thank you, Birthright Supporters, you make it possible for Birthright volunteers to be physically present to the women who seek our help. Your support makes you every bit as much of the help she receives from Birthright as the volunteer who experiences her gratitude firsthand.

Consider yourself thanked and hugged!

Yours in Life, Birthright Volunteers

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Attending: R. Kynast, B. Steaves, Pastor, D. & M. Ripley, J. Lukow, S. Lanier

Pastor's report: He will attend the NM Spring Pastor's Conference on April 27-29

Old

Business: Parking lot repairs are in progress April 17-18.

No New Business

Pastor's Message

“And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child, he might devour it.” (Revelation 12:3-4)

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Have you ever noticed that there are some scary things in the Bible? And I'm not just talking about the Book of Revelation, which is filled with chapter upon chapter of some scary things, which of course turn out to be symbolic for the most part.

The Old Testament has some scary things too. From cannibalism threats to genocide and entire towns like Sodom and Gomorrah being wiped out, it doesn't sound good. Lot's wife is turned into a pillar of salt for looking back on the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. After being teased about his baldness, Elisha has some youth mauled and killed by bears. A Levite's concubine in Judges is cut into twelve pieces, the psalmist in Psalm 137 asks that God kill certain people including their infants. It's pretty disturbing at times, it even makes The Exorcist look tame!

Many people don't believe in God because of what is contained in the Old Testament. If God is a God of love, why would He do such things? Why would He allow so much evil to happen? Upon a closer examination, God is just doing what He said He would do. Entire nations are wiped out because they were unfaithful and didn't care one bit for God Almighty, creator of the universe. God is just keeping His Word.

Remember He wanted to wipe out Israel for their disobedience but didn't because of Moses. God is a faithful and just God. He demands perfection. He demands obedience. He is just keeping His Word. Do we? No, we do not. "There is none who does good, no, not one." Every man, woman and child is sinful and does not deserve God's goodness. We all deserve His wrath. God is just keeping His Word. We have not. We deserve to die. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Jesus took God's wrath upon Himself. He drank the cup of woe and suffered, every last drop. His death satisfied the Father for our sins that put Christ there in the first place.

By His death and resurrection, we are free. We have been set free! We can now enjoy the eternal life that He has won for us. Yes, the Bible is filled with some scary things, but again God is exactly who He says He is. He is faithful. We must be too. "Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life."

God's peace to you in Christ!

Pastor Nathanael Biberdorf