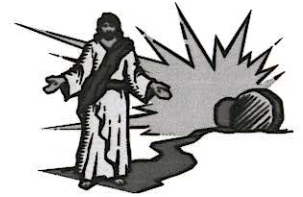


April 2011 Newsletter



“Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness; make thy way plain before my face.”
from hymn “Lead Me, Lord” based on Psalms 5:8, 4:8

We are in the midst of the beginning of a new season, the season of spring. And just as we experience new beginnings at various times during the year, spring is also a time when we see new life coming out of the earth, and the time when we celebrate the new life that we have through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, we are invited to experience “new” things every day. The Scripture says that God’s mercies to us are “new” every morning. We are reminded that if anyone is in Christ (knows him, follows him, and has him in their hearts) they are a “new” creature, the old is passed away, the new has come. And in John’s vision in the book of Revelation, John sees a new heaven and a new earth coming into being.

We enjoy new things--new clothes, new furniture, new tools. They give a lift to our look, our home, and our way of fixing and cleaning things around the house. A new day gives us more opportunities to learn and grow; a new friend gives us more people with whom to share our life; and a new hobby gives us more ways to express our talents. Yet, there is another way that “new” is a part of our lives, and this “newness” has to do with our life in the spirit---our life in relationship to God and the world that he has made. At the Ash Wednesday service we read Psalm 51, in which we spoke and prayed these words: **“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.”** In these words we are asking God to bring us into greater harmony with God’s self. It is a prayer thought that we keep in our hearts especially during Lent, but ideally every day.

This spring we are having an April event and a May event during our Sunday morning worship hour that will give us an opportunity to be “made new” in our heart and spirit. On Sunday, April 10th Pastor George Olinske and Royce Sorensen will share the Gospel in words and music. Pastor Olinske resides in the Cadott area, has served as pastor of a United Methodist Church, and has also been a radio announcer for a Christian radio station in the past. He is a singer and guitarist and has a great passion for seeing revival take place in our churches. Royce Sorensen is a very talented musician and a man of faith. Both of them have participated in Zion’s Gospel Fest in the past and we look forward to their ministry among us.

Then on Sunday, May 15th, we will experience a revival service in our sanctuary. Pastor Tim Vanden Langenberg, who serves at Wausau: Wesley, will be with us in the role of a Methodist circuit-riding preacher. Tom Watson, a gifted vocalist in our congregation, will be the song leader in our service. We are also planning to include special music and a time of prayer.

I invite us all to be in prayer regarding these events, and to participate in them as they draw near. For it is the Lord’s way to give us opportunities to be renewed and revived along the path of right living that he has set before us.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Ruth