

# Zion Lutheran Church

Hidewood Township, SD

# Trinity Lutheran Church

Watertown, SD  
trinitywatertownsd.com

Members: Church of the Lutheran Confession      www.clclutheran.org  
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Krause's home: 886-6887                                      Church and School: 886-2976

**Third Sunday of the Easter season – April 10, 2016**  
**Organists: Melanie Dumann, Naomi Fuerstenau, Rebecca Larson**  
**Sunday worship services – Zion: 9 a.m.; Trinity: 11 a.m.**  
**Zion Sunday School: after church; Trinity Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.**

## Welcome!

*“I know that my Redeemer lives!” Job 19:25*

Note to Visitors about Holy Communion  
Holy Communion is rightly called a ‘Sacrament’ because it is a “sacred act;” not in what WE do for Christ, but in what Christ does for US! Because God’s Word presents the reception of this Sacrament as a most intimate expression of spiritual and confessional unity (1 Corinthians 1:10; 10:16-17 Romans 16:17-18), we ask that only those who have publicly professed such oneness of faith with us by membership at Trinity or Zion or another CLC church come forward to receive the Sacrament. This is not a judgment of anyone’s faith, but rather an expression of ours. Please speak with the pastor if you are seeking a church home or have any questions. We’d love to have you!

## ORDER for WORSHIP

*Worship Supplement – Setting Two – as printed in this bulletin*

**NOTE: Communion is celebrated only at Trinity this morning.**

*To prepare for worship – read the words of Hymn # 773*

*The bell calls us for worship*

### Opening Prayer

*P: O God, our Father, Your praise is from those whom You have called from darkness to faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. Uplift our souls to the holiness of Your presence, that with pure hearts we may adore Your name and worship You with joy on our lips, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.*

**Bells at Trinity – Canon in D**

**Hymn 726**

### Invocation

*P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C [spoken]: Amen.*

### Confession and Absolution

*P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.*

**ALL: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

*P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.*

**C [spoken]: Amen.**

***At Zion only: Hymn 344***

*P: Let us pray. Almighty God, You show those who are in error the light of Your truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness. Grant that all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's kingdom, may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.*

**C [spoken]: Amen.**

#### **First Reading – New Testament Epistle – Revelation 5: 11-14**

*The glorious company of heaven praises Jesus Christ and proclaims His honor.*

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" 13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power *Be* to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!" 14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

#### **Second Reading – New Testament Gospel – John 21: 1-14**

*Jesus' appears to His disciples by the sea as they return empty handed from a night of fishing. Through a miracle, He teaches them trust and obedience.*

1 After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea

of Tiberias, and in this way He showed *Himself*: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the *sons* of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. 3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. 4 But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No." 6 And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find *some*." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. 7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on *his* outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. 9 Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught." 11 Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come *and* eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"—knowing that it was the Lord. 13 Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. 14 This *is* now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

*P: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it! Alleluia!*

**ALL SING: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**ALL: I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. 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.**

Hymn 498: 1-4

#### Sermon Text – Acts 9: 1-19

1 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. 4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” 5 And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” 6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord *said* to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” 7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. 8 Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought *him* into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. 10 Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” 11 So the Lord *said* to him, “Arise and go to the street called

Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for *one* called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. 12 And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting *his* hand on him, so that he might receive his sight.” 13 Then Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.” 15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.” 17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” 18 Immediately there fell from his eyes *something* like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. 19 So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.

**Theme: The Christian’s life is one of –**

- 1) forgiveness and repentance**
- 2) evangelism and acceptance**

Hymn 498: 5-6

**The Offering is collected/brought forward  
At Trinity – Choir sings – Because He Lives  
Responsive Offering Prayer:**

*P: Dear God our Father, as we lay our offering upon Your altar, we are sorry for our sins which make us Your unprofitable and unworthy servants.*

**C: Be merciful! Do not look upon our sins, but pardon us for Jesus’ sake whom You raised from the dead.**

*P: Accept this offering, humble and inadequate though it be;*

**C: And by Your Spirit strengthen our faith, help us live Christian lives, and increase our will to give, all for our living Savior’s sake. Amen.**

*P: Prayer*

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven; Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But**

**deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

***Trinity continues below; Zion continues on the top of page 10.***

### **The Service of the Sacrament**

*P: The Lord be with you.*

**C: (spoken) And also with you.**

*P: Lift up your hearts.*

**C: (spoken) We lift them up to the Lord.**

*P: It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise You especially for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by His sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by His resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:*

**ALL SING: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth, adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; truly blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."* *The peace of the Lord be with you always!*

**ALL SING: O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose blood, once shed, true life restored, Impart Your joy, our faith increase. Sustain with Your mercy and grant us Your peace.**

### **DISTRIBUTION of the SACRAMENT – Hymns 511, 512, 201**

*Communicant members of Trinity Lutheran Church or of a sister CLC congregation are invited to come forward. Please see page 1 of this bulletin for more detail. Thank you!*

**ALL SING: 1. O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace, For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill, The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel. 2. All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son, All glory to the Spirit, Forever three in one; For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.**

*P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.*

**ALL SING: My heart has now become Your dwelling, O blessed, holy, Trinity. With angels I, Your praises telling, Shall live in joy eternally. Lord, may Your body and Your blood Be for my soul the highest good!**

*Zion continues here.*

### **The Benediction**

*P: The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His peace.*

**C [spoken]: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn 403**

## **CALENDAR and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TODAY >> ZION** – 9 a.m. worship service; then SS

TRINITY –9:45 a.m. SS (and 0-3 SS!); 11 a.m. communion service

**TUE >> 7 p.m.** – Trinity School Board at church

**WED >> 6 p.m.** choir rehearsal at Trinity

>> 7 p.m. Trinity Bible Study hour

**THU >> Golden Living Center** devotional service – 10:30 a.m.

**FRI >> Jenkins Living Center** devotional service – 9:45 a.m.

>> Trinity public school confirmation class at Tvedt's – 4 p.m.

**SAT >> NO BELLS** rehearsal today

**NEXT SUNDAY >> ZION** – 9 a.m. service; then Sunday School

TRINITY –9:45 a.m. SS; 11 a.m. service

>> Trinity – potluck meal after church, followed by the quarterly voters meeting at 1:30 p.m.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

>> 04/23 Baptism planned for Kasey Kaasa's infant son, Noah, 2 p.m.

>> 04/25 Pastoral Study Conference – 9 a.m. Hecla, SD

>> 04/26 Brookings Bible Study – 7 p.m. at the Tramp's home

>> 05/01 New service schedule begins: Trinity at 9 a.m., Zion at 11 a.m.

>> 05/05 Ascension Day worship service at Trinity, 7 p.m.

>> 05/15 Examination/Confirmation Sunday at Trinity

>> 05/15 Trinity Lutheran School Graduation ceremony at end of service

>> 05/20 ILC Class Day ceremony, closing concert

>> 05/21 ILC Graduation Day

>> 05/31-06/02 West Central Delegate Conference, Jamestown, ND

>> 06/23-26 CLC Delegate Convention, ILC, Eau Claire, WI

**NEWBORN TO AGE THREE SUNDAY SCHOOL!** On the first and third Sundays of the month Kindra Knox will be heading up a Sunday School session for mothers and their youngsters from newborn to three years old! This will be held during the Sunday School class for the older kids – starting at 9:45.

**WEDDING INVITE** Trinity is invited to Audra Wiste’s wedding; information is on the bulletin board; RSVP by April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**CONGRATS** to Trinity Lutheran School’s two students, Marcus and Manny Mertz – winners of tickets to see the Harlem Globe Trotters after winning an essay contest of what they like best about Watertown!

**NEW ADDRESS** Ed Klatt has moved to Edgewood Assisted Living – 901 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE (just west of the roundabout) – his room is #408.

#### **CLC NEWS**

>> Undecided calls:

Seminary Graduate Ben Libby to Tacoma, WA

Seminary Graduate Joe Naumann to Eden Prairie, MN

Teacher Neil Bernthal, Winter Haven, FL, to Spokane Valley, WA

Pastor Neal Radichel, Fond du Lac, WI to Grand Rapids, MI

Pastor Luke Bernthal, Valentine/White River/Mission SD to Mankato, MN

>> KAYLEE UDE, infant daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Matthew Ude, continues to be treated for her brain infection at Marshfield, WI. You are encouraged to go to the CaringBridge website that has been set up to keep people informed about how Kaylee is doing. You will find the latest updates here: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/kayleeude>

Note -- in order to view the updates you will need to register for a CaringBridge account, if you don't already have one. It's free.

>> LIVING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH – *For some years the 2 CLC congregations in the Twin Cities, MN, area (Fridley and Inver Grove Heights) have held outreach services in the SW metro area (Eden Prairie). Pastor Hein of Fridley writes the following...* “Our SW Metro worshipers in Eden Prairie have for some time sought to move toward independence and an increased level of “resident ministry.” After extensive planning and meetings (including a meeting last weekend with the CLC Board of Missions chairman), they applied last Sunday to the CLC Call Committee

on graduates for a 2016 ILC Seminary graduate. The call would include serving in a part-time ministry while also working part-time secularly. Last Wednesday night the call was assigned to former Berea vicar Joe Naumann. May the Lord guide him in his consideration of this call to service in the Lord’s Kingdom. The group has also determined to name themselves Living Savior Lutheran Church and is applying for membership in the CLC at this summer’s CLC Convention. Worship services are still being held Sunday mornings at 9 am at Huber Funeral Home (16394 Glory Lane, Eden Prairie, MN).”

>> VIDEO OF LIBERIA TRIP *Some time ago, Pastor John Hein was privileged to travel to Liberia, Africa, to look further into some mission prospects. This is what he currently wrote...* “Here's a video of my mission trip to Liberia in November 2015. I finally had a chance to get it done. It's certainly not a perfect production given resources and time, but it gives an overview of what a privilege it was to go there and share the Gospel. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Po3ktPJZNAo&feature=youtu.be>

That video is an hour long. If you want to see the full-length video (2 1/2 hours), here's another link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9hbAYIoF4I>

Thank you all for your support and prayers! We are currently setting up internet and equipment in order to conduct instruction classes to about 5 key pastors plus many lay people.”

**NEW ILC TOUR CHOIR CDs AVAILABLE!** A newly produced recording of choral music, sung by Tour Choirs of Immanuel Lutheran College, is available. It is a 2-CD set, featuring pieces sung by various choirs from 1991 to 2015. The first CD primarily reflects the themes of Advent and Christmas, the second the themes of Lent and Easter. The cost per 2-CD set is \$16 (or two sets for \$30). 25 percent of the songs (10 of 40) have not appeared on previously produced CDs. 75 percent (the remaining 30 of the 40) have been distributed previously.

**ILC AFTER-BANQUET PARTY** Please see the information posted on the church bulletin board! Financial and prize donations are welcome!

**JAMESTOWN, ND, LADIES’ LUNCHEON** The women of Our Savior’s Lutheran in Jamestown, ND, have invited our women to a

luncheon they are planning this fall on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Yes, that is quite a ways out yet - but now is a good time to get it on your calendar!

**PLEASE SEE THE BACK TABLE AND BULLETIN BOARDS!**

There are a goodly assortment of things you will find there!

**FROM MISSIONARY PETER EVENSEN IN INDIA** *Consider yourself mightily encouraged to get on this website!!! :-)* Learn more about our work in India, visit the blog of Missionary Peter Evensen at **evensen.LutheranMissions.org** and his photo stream at [bit.ly/peterindia](http://bit.ly/peterindia). In Him, Peter Evensen 715-255-0395 (cell) [www.LutheranMissions.org](http://www.LutheranMissions.org)

**THANK YOU!**

>> Do you have something you are thankful for at Zion/Trinity? Let Pastor Krause know, and he will be happy to include it here in the bulletin!

**ATTENDANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 27:**

Zion Sunday: 31 Trinity Sunday: 37 Trin SS: 4 SDSU BC: – Golden: – Jenkins:23 Trinity Wed pm BC: 22

**LAST WEEK'S CONTRIBUTIONS AT TRINITY (04/03/16):**

Envelopes: \$5,155.00 Loose: \$67.00 Total deposited: \$5,222.00  
Included in that total: \$25.00 for the Building Fund

**TRINITY SERVICE SERVANTS THIS COMING WEEK:**

Greeters:	April 10	Andrew/Rebecca Larson
	April 17	Brian/Amy Tvedt
Ushers:	April 10	Brian/Gannon Tvedt
	April 17	Bill Fuerstenau, Craig Wiste

**FROM THE FIELD – retired CLC Foreign Missionary David Koenig**  
*Who was the first to use the phrase 'Great Commission? Some historical evidence points at Justinian von Weltz(1621-1688). Nearly 200 years later, it was Hudson Taylor, missionary to China, who really popularized the use of the phrase to describe Matthew 28:19-20. While von Weltz has been called a Dutch missionary, he was Lutheran in teaching.*

**BARON JUSTINIAN ERNST VON WELTZ**

The foremost of Lutheran voices in the 17th century for reaching out was certainly Baron Justinian Ernst von Weltz who published five treatises on missions. He put forward searing questions, “Is it right that we, evangelical Christians, hold the gospel for ourselves alone, and do not seek to spread

it? Is it right that in all places we have so many students of theology, and do not induce them to labor elsewhere in the spiritual vineyard of Jesus Christ? Is it right that we spend so much on all sorts of dress, delicacies in eating and drinking, etc., but have hitherto thought of no means for the spread of the Gospel?”

He put forward the following reasons that the church should busy herself in the task of missions as summarized below.

1) The will of God to help all men and to bring them to the knowledge of the truth. I Tim. 2:4 This can be brought to pass only by means of regular missionary preaching of the Gospel. Rom. 10:18. This will of God binds us to obedience, — compare the missionary commandment, —and love to man must even of itself make us willing to obey.

2) The example of godly men, who in every century, from the times of the apostles onward, without letting themselves be terried by pain, peril, or persecution, have extended the kingdom of Christ among non-Christians.

3) The petitions in the liturgy that God may lead the erring to the knowledge of the truth and enlarge His kingdom. If these petitions are not to remain mere forms of words, we must send out able men to disseminate evangelical truth.

4) The example of the papists, who founded the society de propaganda fide, must rouse us to emulation that we may extend the true doctrine among the heathen.” “It is a commentary upon the religious condition of the time that one of the leading and best men among the clery met Von Welz’ appeal with a bitter rebuke, denouncing him as a dreamer, fanatic, hypocrite, and heretic, and arguing that it was absurd, even wicked, to cast pearls of the gospel before the heathen.”!!!!????

When his appeals fell on deaf ears, he showed himself the calibre of the disciple he was by renouncing his title, taking 36,000 marks and sailing for Dutch Guiana (Surinam) to preach the Word of Life. It was said he was torn apart by wild animals in a most inhospitable climate. He died as he had lived, a witness to the Lord Jesus Christ and His great love for lost mankind.

**HUDSON TAYLOR (1832-1905)**

James Hudson Taylor was a British Protestant Christian missionary to China and founder of the China Inland Mission. Taylor spent 51 years in China. The society that he began was responsible for bringing over 800 missionaries to the country who began 125 schools. At his death 205 mission stations were being served. Some of his quotes are below.

"God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply."  
"God isn't looking for people of great faith, but for individuals ready to follow Him."  
"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed"  
"If I had 1,000 lives, I'd give them all for China."  
"God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on him."

**Various items on the Agenda for next Sunday's  
Quarterly Voters Meeting – April 17, 2016 – 1:30 p.m.**

*At the last meeting, it was decided to move the church council to 10 days before the voters meeting (rather than 3 days) in order to give Trinity members the chance to see the various agenda items ahead of time. In this way you have the chance to pray/consider the various items for discussion and give your input (if any) to the pastor/voters before the meeting...*

- 1) Voters will be asked to approve a special collection for Prof. John Pfeiffer upon his retirement from ILC via a basket/box in the back of church (see elsewhere in this bulletin)
- 2) The church council recommends that the voters approve a pre-school at Trinity for this coming school year – any questions, please see Mike Fuerstenau and/or Pastor Krause
- 3) The church trustees will be asked to suggest a date for our spring clean up at Trinity – if you have suggestions, please talk to Ashley Dummann, Bill Fuerstenau, or Andrew Larson
- 4) The school board will be meeting this week and come with a recommendation for our church picnic date; any suggestions, please see Mike Fuerstenau
- 5) The trustees will also be giving a report on any work/updates/etc needed on the church property; any questions, contact one of them (see #3 above)
- 6) The extended Krause family (from Gordon down to Stephen) have offered to take care of the church lawn this summer; any thoughts, please talk to one of the trustees

**Daily Bible readings for home devotions, April 11-16, '16**

**Mon Ezekiel 34:23-31** takes us back to ancient times (about 600 B.C.), when the Israelites were exiles in Babylon, and God bolstered them with this gospel of a glorious future for His people. God put Himself at the head of the parade, as every verse echoes: "I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out.... So will I seek out My sheep and deliver them...etc., etc. It's wonderful picture language of God seeking redeemed sinners for heaven.

**Tues John 21:1-14** Jesus was fully functional and equipped to salvage souls, one at a time. [Although redemption is wholesale, conversion is retail—so to speak.] So, back in Galilee, He sought them out, struck up a conversation, and manipulated the laws of nature to bless their empty hands and lives. Is that not the way He works with us today? The dialogue may be different, and our workaday lives may differ, but Jesus is still the same and He is still active and functional and productive – to bless us, one by one in our daily lives.

**Wed Acts 9:1-19** Some individuals need tough love, and Jesus can handle even the toughest cases. At the right moment and using the right tool, Jesus took charge of Saul's life. That question (4) needed to be faced, for there was no good reason for Saul's misguided life! So Jesus set him straight, directed him to Straight Street (a divine pun?) so he could be helped by a Christian to have his compass reset (10-16). It was heavenly when the first word that Saul heard was brother, for that word meant that God loved him.

**Thurs Psalm 67** echoes Easter in our hearts, for God **has** been merciful to us, **has** blessed us, and **has** caused His face to shine upon us. Selah! Jesus is the turning point in history, and Easter is the turning point in our status with God. *He has made His way known to us*, so when Jesus returns and judges righteously, He will honor our claim on His righteousness. Thank You, Jesus!

**Fri Luke 24:36-43** After Easter Jesus avoided public places, and His enemies never saw Him again (on this side of their graves), but He wanted His friends to KNOW that He was alive. Since humans depend on sight, sound, and touch to distinguish dream from reality, Jesus went that route with His friends on Easter evening—even sharing their lunch with them, so that they could have no doubt about His reality . . . and then move forward with Easter living.

**Sat Revelation 5:11-14** No doubt about it. Jesus has earned the praise of all the heavenly host, for He is the Lamb of God's choice, by whose death and resurrection we are headed for heaven. Jesus left Jerusalem and the local cemetery behind Him to get back where He belonged—enthroned in heaven first, and enthroned in our hearts secondly. May God preserve us for the grand reunion He has in store for us at His right hand! Amen and Amen!