

**BLESS  
THE LORD,  
O MY  
SOUL**  
P S A L M 103

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
North Wayne Street  
Saint Marys, OH 45885

**February 20, 2022**  
Contemporary Service  
10:30 a.m.

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**We welcome you** this morning in the name of Jesus Christ! "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!" We hope you feel the power of God and the working of the Holy Spirit in this place this morning. Members are reminded, and visitors are asked, to please fill out the I Worship Today insert inside this bulletin. Zion offers a variety of opportunities to get involved in God's work: Bible Studies, Quilting, Worship Events, Zion Lutheran Women, Sunday School and Choir. Ask an usher about Zion and pick up a copy of our Newsletter on the table in the Narthex. Our web site is: [www.zionstmarys.org](http://www.zionstmarys.org)

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises* #722 WOV

*Lord, Let My Heart Be Soil* #713 WOV

*Restore in Us, O God (vs. 1-3)* #328 ELW

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**L:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

- L: Sisters and brothers, bearing with one another in love, let us confess our sins.
- C: **We confess, we have not lived our lives as you have called us to live them, O God. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves; we have rebelled against your will. Forgive us by your grace. Make us holy and blameless before you.**

### **ASSURANCE**

- L: *Hear these words:* In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. You who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- C: **Amen.**

### **CONTINUE SINGING...**

*Restore in Us, O God (vs. 4)*

#328 ELW

### **SIGN OF PEACE**

- L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: **And also with you.**

### **PRESENTATION OF GIFTS & SPECIAL MUSIC**

<b><u>FIRST READING</u></b>	<b>Genesis 45:3-15</b>	Insert
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<b><u>PSALM 103:1-13</u></b>		Insert
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<b><u>SECOND READING</u></b>	<b>1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42</b>	Insert
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<b><u>GOSPEL</u></b>	<b>John 6:27-38</b>	Insert
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- P: The Gospel of the Lord.
- C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **THE MESSAGE**

### **PRAYERS**

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

### **SONG OF PREPARATION**

*We Come to the Hungry Feast*

#766 WOV

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **SHARING THE MEAL**

#### **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

### **BENEDICTION**

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

#775 WOV

### **SENDING SONG**

*We Are All One in Mission*

#755 WOV

### **SENDING**

P: Go in peace. Jesus loves you!

C: Thanks be to God.

## Memory Verse:

John 6:35

*But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.*



## Zion Praise Band

Piano	-	Debbie Brown
Guitar	-	Alexa Kemmann
Tambourine	-	Cheryl Macklem

## Zion Praise Team

Deb Brown	Stan Brown	Mindy Thiebeau
Sandy Wierwille	Genevieve Brown	Alexa Kemmann
Pastor Bill	Savannah Slater	



*Happy Birthday Nora!*

*The Altar Flowers are given in to the Glory of God in celebration of Nora Staunton's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, given by her family.*

***Today, February 20\****

- Acolytes:** 8AM: Jake Ackroyd  
10:30am: Calianna Bond-Awls
- Communion** 8AM: John Hesse, Jody Slemmons  
**Assistants:** 10:30AM: Allison Ackroyd, Cheryl Macklem
- Crucifers:** 8AM: Zoey Henning  
10:30AM: Genevieve Brown
- Ushers:** 8AM: Mark & Connie Torsell, Steve & Dora McAfee  
10:30AM: Dwayne Hoenie, Darl Bishir,  
Dan Macklem, Keith Fledderjohann
- Fellowship** 8AM: Joyce Ross  
**Table:** 10:30am: Kathy & Craig Miller
- Greeters:** 8AM: Joni Immensshuh, Judy Schultz  
10:30AM: Dwayne & Ruth Hoenie
- Readers:** 8AM: Linda Yahl  
10:30AM: Kathy Lampert

***Next Sunday, February 27\****

- Acolytes:** 8AM: Allison Ankerman  
10:30am: Aiden Meinerding
- Communion** 8AM: Mark & Connie Torsell  
**Assistants:** 10:30AM: Ann Maki, Darl Bishir
- Crucifers:** 8AM: Katie Mertz  
10:30AM: Liz Ackroyd
- Ushers:** 8AM: Jeanne Wurster, Chris White, Deb Henning,  
Bob Hinschlager  
10:30AM: Sandy Wierwille, Dana Cook  
John & Donna Ankerman
- Fellowship** 8AM: Becky Harvey  
**Table:** 10:30am: Lorra & Andrew O'Bryan

**Greeters:** 8AM: Ryan & Brandy Yahl  
10:30AM: Steve & Dora McAfee

**Readers:** 8AM: Kathy Langsdon  
10:30: Savannah Slater

\*Correct as of time printed

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CHURCH OFFICE.....419-394-3115

# ***Listening for the Promise***

## **Weekly Devotional**

**Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany – February 20, 2022**

*“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:36)*

Some people think being a Christian is the same as a being a thinking, caring, sensitive person. We fail to see any difference between America and God’s kingdom. Church is where we come once in a while to bring out our better nature. But Jesus preaches difficult sermons and after listening to this one, we have a head-on collision with our world view.

Jesus said, “Love your enemies. Be good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer the other. If someone takes your coat, give them your shirt. Give to everyone who asks and don’t demand them back.”

We have prayed, “Thy kingdom come.” But when Jesus came and after hearing this sermon, we wonder if we really wanted God in the first place!

Think of the most loving thing you could do for the very worst person you know. Now think of someone who has been terrible to you. Now picture yourself offering that person your loving hand. See? It really seems absurd to do what Jesus says.

When Jesus tells us to love our enemies, we may say, “That doesn’t really apply to me. I am so nice to other people that I don’t have enemies.” Be honest. If you have lived in this world, you probably have enemies. The better the person you try to be, the

more people will react against you. Look at how the world responded to the preacher of this sermon!

This sermon may not be a list of impossible to accomplish dos and don'ts. This sermon is pointing to who God is and what God is up to in the world.

Jesus is saying to us that we should love our enemies and not retaliate when we have been attacked, because that is exactly the way God has reacted to us. Verse 36 is key to this whole passage: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

We feel the need to evade these commands. These are not suggestions, but actual commands to those who follow Jesus. When it comes to living our lives, deciding how we ought to treat other people and how we are to respond to things that are inflicted upon us, it makes a great deal of difference to know the sort of God we have.

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## Calendar for February 20—March 6, 2022

S/20	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Service*
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Movie Day
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship Service*
	2:00 p.m.	Celebration of Women
	7:00 p.m.	Men's Workshop
M/21		President's Day/Office Closes
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Fellowship Group
T/22	9:00 a.m.	Dorcas Quilting
W/23	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	12:30 p.m.	Bulletin Information Deadline
	6:30 p.m.	Worship*
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Committee Meeting
T/24	3:30 p.m.	Council Report Deadline
S/26	7:00 p.m.	St. Marys Tri-Squares
S/27	8:00 a.m.	Transfiguration Worship Service**
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Transfiguration Worship Service*
	1:30 p.m.	Grief & Loss Support Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	The Underground
M/28	5:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Court of Honor
	7:00 p.m.	Pastor Lead Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Fellowship Group
T/1	9:00 a.m.	Dorcas Quilting
	6:00 p.m.	Trustee Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
W/2	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting

	12:30 p.m.	Bulletin Information Deadline
	1:00 p.m.	Book Club
	6:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service*
F/4	4:30-6 p.m.	Fish Fry
S/6	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Service*
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Donuts with Dad
	10:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship Service*

*\*Holy Communion*

*\*Livestreamed on [zionstmarys.org](http://zionstmarys.org) & broadcasted on WCSM 96.7*



ATTENDANCE ..... Last Wednesday: 36  
 .....Sunday 8 a.m.: 46, 10:30 a.m.: 36, Total for the Day: 82  
 ..... Total for the Week: 118



**We invite you** to include the following people in your daily prayers: Janet Dicke, Judy Von Blon, Juli Clark, Brent Paulus, Lindsay Stephan, Sandi Deerhake, Marvin Elsass, Alma Kuffner, Caleb Yahl, Carol Bishir, Mark, Amelia Green, Michael Moore, Tom Kaster, Vicki Bishir, Kason Thobe, Ann Morris, Craig Raney, Ken Ankerman, John & Katie, Elly (Cisco) Puttoff & Family, Stephanie Tenyak, Dennis Olberding, Chuck, Deb Ranly, Linda Diers, Sally Van Belkum, Andrew, Ron & Sandy Suchland, Betty Paulus, Mike Mammane, Shelia Slemmons, Darlene Henkener, Bill Nuss, Eileen Zimmerman, Judy Howell, Kathy, David, Kristin Hemmelgarden, Colton Mustard, Teresa Roode, Peter Ackroyd, Family of Joseph Weber, Family of Jackie Axe, Beth Baharani, Ruth Schreffler, and the Family of Kenneth Hunter.

**Please pray** for Sean Lawler, Andrew Johnson, Michael Carroll, Nathan Adams, Jacob Yahl, Jason Gross, Daniel C. Lukac IV, Michael Franklin and Kyle Schmehl who are in the service. Please pray for them, their family, and their safe return home.

**Christian Sympathy** to the Family of Jackie Axe, daughter-in-law to Lois Axe and sister-in-law to Linda Opperman; and to the Family of Joseph Weber, brother of Jim & Julie Weber.

**Our loose offerings** are earmarked for Boy Scout Troop #360.

**Choir Practice** will start on **Wednesday, February 16**, at 7 p.m., in the choir loft. Anyone who can carry a tune is welcome.

**The church office** will be closed **Monday, February 21**, in observance of Presidents' Day.

**God's invitation** for us to return to him, and promise of his grace, mercy, patience, and steadfast love, finds its fullness in Jesus Christ. Following different events during our Lord's Passion we will focus on the people that followed Jesus to see how God calls his people to return to him. Here is our worship schedule for Midweek Lent, 2022.

- March 2, 2022 Ash Wednesday: "A Call to Return"
- March 9, 2022 Midweek 1: "Return to Prayer"
- March 16, 2022 Midweek 2: "Return from Betrayal"
- March 23, 2022 Midweek 3: "Return from False Witness"
- March 30, 2022 Midweek 4: "Return from Denial"
- April 6, 2022 Midweek 5: "Return from the Kingdom of God"
- April 14, 2022 Holy Thursday: "Return to the Table"
- April 15, 2022 Good Friday: "Return to the Truth"
- April 17, 2022 Easter Sunday: "Return and See"

**A Fish Fry** to benefit our seminary student and assist them with the expenses of seminary is being held in the auditorium on **Friday**,

**March 4**, from 4:30—6 p.m. Menu: all you can eat fish, cheesy potatoes, slaw, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, hot dogs, and drinks...including milk. Tickets are being sold in the church office and at the door. Tickets are: \$8 for adults, \$3 for children between 4-10 years old, free for children 3 and under.

**Hey Dads! Sunday, March 6** is Donuts with Dad for all grades. Plan to attend Sunday School with your children that day!

**No Sew Fleece Scarf** is so easy to make and is a treasured gift! This is great for the not crafty folks, for youth and adults! Makes for a quick and inexpensive gift or for personal use. See the two display colors. We will make the scarf on Tuesday, March 8, from 6-7 p.m. Fee is \$5, to cover cost of materials.

**Soup Suppers** will once again be held during Lent. Soup, salad, and desserts will be served between, 5—6:30 p.m., in the auditorium. The soup suppers will be held each Wednesday, from March 9—April 6.

**Daylight saving** time begins again on Sunday, March 13, 2022, when we will spring forward an hour at 2 a.m., local time.

**Scholarship for Zion's Youth** Members. Seniors and current college students who are members of Zion are eligible for scholarships administered by the St. Marys Community Foundation. Apply online at: [www.theSMCF.org](http://www.theSMCF.org). On the home page, refer to the scholarship or student loan link and follow the directions. This scholarship is offered to both seniors and college students who are confirmed members of Zion. Basis of this award will be with participation of weekly worship attendance to Zion or a college congregation of at least 25 Sundays in the year. Deadline to submit your application is midnight, **Sunday, March 13**.

**Spring Forward** with Heritage Trails Park District on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> with a 5k hike along the Miami Erie Canal! Meet at Noble Township Hall, located at 16586 CR 66A (also known as Brewer Rd.) just north of St. Marys anytime from 1-3pm. Bring the whole family! Pets on a leash are welcome as well. Lose your cabin fever by getting outdoors & seeing the first signs of spring along the canal towpath.. Hope to see you all there!

**The Women of Zion are invited** to the Lenten Breakfast, on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m., at Wayne Street United Methodist Church. Guest speaker is Julie Jacobs from Joint Township District Memorial Hospital. Please call WSUMC to make your reservation.

**We have installed equipment** for livestreaming of our worship services. They can be found on our Facebook page. Volunteers are needed to help with recording each of the services. Please contact the church office, 419-394-3115, or Pastor Bill about this new ministry.

**Our 8 a.m. worship service** is broadcast live on WCSM radio 96.7 FM. Thank you to our primary sponsor of our WCSM radio broadcast—St. Marys Chrysler. Volunteers are needed to help with the sound board. No experience needed! Anyone interested in running the sound board during worship will be trained. We would like to have more people for rotation purposes. Contact the church office, 419-394-3115, or Pastor Bill if you can help.



Weekly Needs 7 Weeks	Budget Y-T-D	Received 2/13	Offerings Y-T-D	On Hold
Current \$6,068.75	\$42,481.25	\$6,411	\$32,551	\$0
NALC Offering \$290	\$2,030	\$310	\$1,208	
Bank Balance as of 2/14:		\$75,355		



## Council Organization 2022

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*Secretary: ..... Jeanne Wurster*

*Assistant Secretary: ..... Genevieve Brown*

*Treasurer: ..... Pete Ackroyd*

*Assistant Secretary ..... Andrew O'Bryan*

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# Listening for the Promise

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Third Sunday of Lent – March 20, 2022

*“For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.”*

– 1 Corinthians 10:4b–5–

Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, writes sobering words to the church in Corinth (and to us). This church enjoyed the grace God lavished upon them. They “were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge” (1:5) and lacked no spiritual gift (see 1:7).

They, like the Israelites to whom Paul refers in chapter ten, partook of Christ, the living water (see v. 4). They, like the Israelites, experienced union with God through baptism (see v. 2). They, like the Israelites, enjoyed God’s provision and guidance. Yet God was displeased with most of the Israelites and, as a result, all but two (Joshua and Caleb) in the first generation died in the wilderness rather than entering the Promised Land.

So, Paul warns the Corinthians and us, using Israel as an example (see v. 6). It can be easy to assume God’s pleasure in us when he envelopes us in his grace and provision. We must not, however, take these blessings for granted and allow ourselves to slip into sin. We must not begin to cultivate a sense of entitlement that leads to grumbling against God (see v. 10). We must not become so confident in our ability to stand strong in the faith that we fall (see v. 12).

Even Paul knew he needed to “exercise self-control in all things” (9:25) and discipline himself, or risk falling (see 9:27). He knew that obtaining the prize necessitated running in such a way as to win it (see 9:24–25).

The same is true for us. No, we cannot do anything to earn salvation. But God calls us to walk in the newness of life that Christ bestows upon us (see Eph. 4:22–24). He tells us that, if we walk in darkness, we do not have fellowship with him. So, he calls us to walk in the light as he is in the light (see 1 Jn. 1:6–7).

But God knows that, on our own, we cannot do this. So, he walks with us and gives us everything we need to obey him as we depend on him. He assures us, “I am faithful and will not let you be tempted beyond your ability. I will provide a way out” (v. 13).