

Zion Lutheran Church

210 North Wayne Street
Saint Marys, Ohio 45885

Zion Lutheran Church is a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)
and a congregation of the Northwest Ohio Mission District.

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Bucking the Trend

On August 31, 2020, Mr. Thom S. Rainer, the founder and CEO of "Church Answers" posted an article in his blog entitled "[Six Reasons Your Pastor Is About to Quit.](#)" He based his blog on research his company did with the clergy in 2020 during the pandemic. The article's title can certainly raise fear in congregation, especially since there is a clergy shortage across all denominations.

However, this is now June of 2022, and as I look forward to June 12th and my 23rd Anniversary of Ordination I wonder, do any of these reasons apply to me? So, let's take a look.

Reason 1 given by Mr. Rainer was: **Pastors are weary from the pandemic, just like everyone else.** Well, I can say that I did grow weary of the pandemic; but the pandemic is mostly over and life seems to be moving forward again and more normal (meaning pre-pandemic) routines are being reestablished. The pandemic did alter some of my attitudes and behavior. Most noticeably my desire to sit outside even as late as 10 or 10:30pm. I don't want to feel 'trapped' in my house, so I have been spending time outside which is a big change for me.

Reason 2 given by Mr. Rainer was: **Pastors are greatly discouraged about the fighting taking place among church members about the post-quarantine church.** Here I would have to commend the people of Zion as I don't believe we experienced very much of this conflict. The majority of the members seemed to agree with the steps our leadership took to bring us out of quarantine and the timing of those steps. Additionally, I believe we showed great compassion and tolerance for those who weren't quite ready to move forward as the majority. This is not a negative for me.

Reason 3 given by Mr. Rainer was: **Pastors are discouraged about losing members and attendance.** Well, this is nothing new. Pastors have been discouraged about this long before I became ordained, and yes it has always bothered me when a member leaves, or attendance is low. It's not healthy for Pastors to dwell on these things very long, but instead to look at the positive things that are happening within the congregation. Things like the mission work, is it continuing? Does it seem like it is getting stronger? Are we able to pay our bills? Have we improved our ability to reach people beyond our walls with the message of the gospel? Yes, I was shocked to lead an Easter Service with 4 other people in the sanctuary in 2020 because the pandemic had closed us down. But the service was still broadcast on WCSM and we had just begun livestreaming, so the gospel was getting out to our members and to the public. While I pray that our attendance at Zion improves to pre-pandemic numbers, I am grateful for those who have returned to in-person worship and our fellowship events. This is not a negative I'm worried about.

Reason 4 given by Mr. Rainer was: **Pastors don't know if their churches will be able to support ministries financially in the future.** For many congregations this may be the case. I don't believe it is the case for Zion. The members of Zion have been very faithful in providing for the financial needs of congregation and its mission, praise be to God. This is something that comes from the heart of the people and the Lord will bless this faithfulness. This is not a concern of mine.

Reason 5 given by Mr. Rainer was: **Criticisms against pastors have increased significantly.** This may be the case in different areas of this country, and it may be the message being given by the culture in general, but I can't say that I've experienced any increase in criticism. I would say instead that what I felt through the pandemic was grace and support, and so I thank you all for your part in showing me such Christian love. I love serving the people of Zion, and I thank God that he has allowed me to do so these 17+ years.

Reason 6 given by Mr. Rainer was: **The workload for pastors has increased greatly.** Well, this is true. The workload I have at Zion has increased, but I don't know anyone whose workload hasn't increased as a result of the pandemic. There is a labor shortage across the country, so fewer are being asked to do more in all work environments. I have also found that the Lord has given me the strength and wisdom to do what is expected of me while still providing time for family and rest.

So, to wrap this up, I don't believe Mr. Rainer's article applies to me or to Zion and I hope you agree with me that this is good news. I'm not ready to quit serving the Lord or the people of Zion, and I give thanks for the opportunity I have to do both.

Have a blessed June. May the Lord watch over you in your travels and keep you healthy and safe.

Pastor Bill



News for the Women of Zion

Looks like spring and summer have both arrived. The weather is finally nice! Our year is slowing down for the summer. We had our last board meeting in May until August, when we will resume. The board is looking for nominees to run for President and Secretary for our elections this fall. These are two-year terms. If asked, please consider placing your name on the ballot.

If you have a chance, go look at the new sink, cabinet and countertop in the kitchen. The men have been working hard to get it done. The plumbing is complete, and the sink works and looks very nice. We are still deciding what to do on the other countertops. We have a couple of options.

The trustees are getting estimates for the drapes and carpeting, hope to be able to present to the congregation as soon as possible.

We will still have workdays during the summer. We plan on packing boxes for Samaritan's Purse—Christmas Child, knotting quilts, and putting school kits together. The workday in June is Thursday, June 16th, at 9 a.m.

Bible studies and Women's Fellowship have ended for the summer. Book Club is still meeting during the summer. The book in June is "Recessional" by James Michener lead by Sue Nuss. The July 6th meeting is "This Tender Land" by William Kent Kreuger lead by Joyce Finke. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Creative Crafters will meet in June to pot succulents. The cost is \$9, covering potting soil, two pots and two plants. Nice project for home, office, or patio. Let's see how many green thumbs we have! Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. The project for July is a 4th of July wreath. We will meet on Thursday, July 7, at 6 p.m. Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

Thank you to all who gave to the Lenten Offering. The final amount collected was \$1,257. This will help support our programs for the year. Again, Thank You!

Kitchen duty for June is Kathy Bishir.

The Cradle Roll is starting back up at Zion. Look for the separate article in this newsletter. We need the congregation's help and support to get this program started.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer, stay safe, use sunscreen, don't overdo, and remember to come participate in church. We still have God's work to do even in the summer.

Nora Staunton, Chair of the Women of Zion of the NALC

Memorial as of May 12, 2022

A gift was given in memory of *Noreen Steinecker* by Kraig & Miriam Johns and Bob & Linda Suchland.

June Birthdays



Birthdays

Wishing a Happy Birthday to the following members of Zion Lutheran Church. We invite you to pray for the following people on their special day.

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| 1–Taylor Rohrbach | 14–Annette Leonhard |
| 2–Stephanie Ross,
Ashley Rothe | 15–Matthew Tangeman, Dow Wagner |
| 3–Helen Jo Rowen,
Lilly Ruvoldt | 16–Peter Ackroyd, Wilhelmina Klosterman, Emily
Miller, Jo Rouhier |
| 4–Jaeleen De Hays | 17–Heather Glass, Sandra Henkle, Sophia Henning,
Sally Sands |
| 5–Lauren Johns | 18–Jaret Ankerman |
| 6–Jared Clark, Makenna Meinerding | 19–Ryan Rohrbach, Juli Sprague, Ben Torsell |
| 7–Tim Schrader, Trent Hughes | 20–Samantha Franklin, Kalli Hughes |
| 8–Georgia Grunden, Kristina Schnell Nicolo, Leslie
Wobler | 22–Darcy Storer |
| 9–Linda Erb, Maggie Halbert, Debra Henning, Sylvia
Katterheinrich, William Kellermeier, Mason
Moorman | 23–Bentley Huttis |
| 11–Constance Kiel, Alma Kuffner, Theodore Hart | 24–Noah Torsell |
| 12–Terry Henning, Elizabeth Ruvoldt | 25–Barbara Kovar, Kent Miller, Haydon Wenning |
| 13–Gregory Broyles, Kimberly McDermitt, David
Yahl | 26–Katelyn Ackerman |
| | 27–Tess Hague, Melanie Rose |
| | 28–Vanessea Hayman, Pamela Hobler |
| | 30–Kathy Bishir, David Now |

Cradle Roll

The Women of Zion, in conjunction with the Sunday School, are starting up the CRADLE ROLL again here at Zion. CRADLE ROLL is a ministry for the families of infants and toddlers. During the first three years of a child's life, resources and encouragement are sent to parents on a regular schedule. A certificate is sent at birth, baptismal information, birthday cards, Bible story books and a Sunday School invitation at three years of age. Statistics show that by the time a child reaches school age most of what he/she will become, his/her character and values, are already formed. In the years the child is enrolled in the CRADLE ROLL, he/she is brought in contact with love and Christian influence which will help mold his/her entire life, thus making his/her world a better place to live.

We need the congregation's help and support in letting the church office know of new births in our membership families. Prayers are needed for the new child of God and his parents that they will bring the child to church and teach him/her Christian values. The saying "It takes a village to raise a child" has merit. We are that village.

Please pray for and support this new program. If you would like to be a part of this program, help send cards, make calls, please contact Sandy Wierwille or Linda Yahl.



June Loose Offering

Our loose offerings each Sunday/Wednesday for the month of June is earmarked to support Water Mission International of N. Charleston, SC. Water Mission, a nonprofit Christian engineering organization, was awarded Charity Navigator's four-star rating for the 15th consecutive year. Charity Navigator is America's largest independent charity evaluator, and the four-star rating is earned by only 1% of all charities rated by the organization. This top distinction reflects Water Mission's commitment to accountability and transparency.



Flower Chart

The flower chart is now available for all 12 months of 2022 on the bulletin board by the alley entrance. We invite you to select the date you wish to provide flowers. On the Tuesday before the date you selected, order your arrangement from your favorite florist, and contact the church office, 419-394-3115, to let us know what information you would like included in the bulletin. Dates available:

July 17, 24, 31

September 4

November 6, 13, 20, 23, 27

August 7 & 28

October 9, 16, 30

December 4, 11, 18

"Kindness and consideration of somebody besides yourself ... keeps you feeling young."

—Betty White



Vacation Bible School

Hay Day! Growing in Friendship with Jesus is our VBS this year! Hay Day! will be held at Zion on **Saturday, June 11**, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., and teen and adult volunteers are needed. Student registration is now open for ages 3 - 12 on the church website. Please contact Mindy for more information.

Creative Crafters

Creative Crafters will be planting succulents for our summer kitchen, patio, or deck. Each person will pot two (2) plants. The cost will be \$9 per person. Eight (8) openings are available. Sign up in the binder at the display table provided in the Narthex.



Prayer List

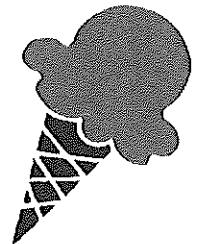
We invite you to include the following people in your daily prayers: Janet Dicke, Judy Von Blon, Brent Paulus, Lindsay Stephan, Sandi Deerhake, Alma Kuffner, Caleb Yahl, Mark, Amelia Green, Michael Moore, Tom Kaster, Vicki Bishir, Kason Thobe, Ann Morris, Craig Raney, Ken Ankerman, John & Katie, Darlene Henekener, James Moyar, Bill Nuss, Kathy, Kristin Hemmelgarden, Teresa Roode, Deb Ranly, Russell, Linda Diers, Rick Broyles, Ron & Sandy Suchland, Diane (Applegate)

Swartz, Dora McAfee, Pastor Phil Gagnon, John Meinerding, Lillian, Mike Paulus, and Eileen Zimmerman.

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.

Annual Ice Cream Social

The congregation will be celebrating Zion's 173rd anniversary on **Sunday, June 12**. At 5 p.m., we will host an Ice Cream social to celebrate our anniversary, in the auditorium. A light meal and ice cream will be served, in the auditorium.



Please watch to sign up on your "I Worshiped Today", so we may plan for enough food and beverages. We hope to see you there!

Weekly Needs 20 Weeks	Budget Y-T-D	Received 5/15/22	Offerings Y-T-D	On Hold
Current \$6,069	\$121,380	\$6,477	\$111,463	\$0
NALC Offering \$ 290	\$5,800	\$102	\$2,671	
Bank Balance as of 5/15		\$79,226		

Staff E-Mail Addresses

Zion is linked to the Internet. We are currently receiving e-mail service provided by bright.net. Staff e-mail addresses are:

- Pastor Bill Maki wem1@aol.com
 - Kathy Bishir kbishir@hotmail.com
 - Ann Maki annmmaki@yahoo.com
 - Adam Poe ympoe@yahoo.com
 - Mindy Thiebeau zionbpe@hotmail.com
 - General Mail zionlutheranstmarys@bright.net
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LifeLine Screening

Zion is the site for the next LifeLine Screening event to be held on Friday, June 3. See the posters and flyers in Sunday's bulletin for more details on scheduling your appointment or call 800-679-5192.

Three Improvement Projects

There are three substantial projects that the trustee's plan to pursue in 2022.

- 1.) The carpet in the sanctuary needs to be replaced.
- 2.) New drapes are needed in the educational building due to age and extreme deterioration.
- 3.) The church kitchen needs some updates: electrical breakers, an updated sink, and more storage.

Funds have been set up to help defray the cost of each of these projects: **carpet, drapes, and kitchen.** Earmark your offering envelope with the project of your choice.

St. Marys Canal Walk for Water 2022

St. Marys Canal Walk for Water 2022 will be held Saturday, June 4, at 10 AM, at *Memorial Park Gazebo (by the canal boat), located at Chestnut and South Streets (by the library).* We will walk 1 mile south, to KC Geiger Park. There is no fee for walking. Pets on a leash are welcome.

We will walk one mile along the canal, fill or partially fill your bucket, and return to the Gazebo. Bring your friends! Bring your donation! Our goal this year is \$1,000, for Water Mission.

Water Mission is a nonprofit, Christian engineering organization based in North Charleston, South Carolina, USA that designs, builds, and implements safe water, sanitation, and hygiene solutions for people in developing countries and disaster areas.

Join us and watch God bless our vision and our church as well as the lives of those we will change forever. This is your opportunity to provide comfort in the face of suffering and bring people to Christ. I hope to see you there! Sign up link is on our front page of our website: www.zionstmarys.org

Items Needed for NALC Mission Kits & Samaritan Purse Christmas Child Boxes



- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Wash Rag | Pocket Folders (4) |
| 4 oz. Bar of Soap | 24 count Crayons |
| Toothbrush | Spools of Thread |
| Dental Floss | Crochet Thread |
| Toothpaste | Sheets/Flannel (any color) |
| Deodorant—Solid/Not Gel | Material |
| Travel Size Shampoo | Marbles |
| Notebooks | Yo-Yos |
| Blunt Scissors | Coloring Books |
| Ruler | Sunglasses |
| Pencil Sharpener | Jump Ropes |
| 2 ½"-"Pink" Eraser | Bandanas |
| | Jewelry |

Hot Wheels

Place the donations listed above in the Women's box by the elevator.

Also needed, are blankets—any size, new or slightly used.

4 Ounce bars of soap are a basic need for both groups. Last year (2021) we used **708** bars in the assemble of health and baby kits.

Donations of **\$10** will be accepted to send each Samaritan Purse Christmas Child Box. Earmark your offering envelope.

Updated 5/16/2022

Preparing a New Directory

We will be publishing a new "Member Directory" this summer. Please submit changes in your name, address, e-mail, phone, or cell phone, etc. to the church office by Wednesday, June 15, at 3:30 p.m.



Pentecost Sunday is June 5. We encourage everyone to wear red to each of our worship services..

We have a collection of dishes left from funeral dinners. They are located on the coat rack by the alley entrance. Please stop and pick yours up. Bowls and dishes left over six months to a year will be given to Agape.