

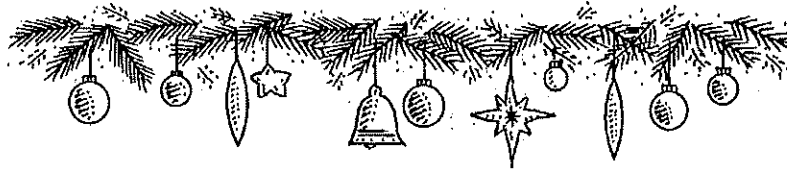
Zion Lutheran Church

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.

A monthly publication of Zion Lutheran Church

December, Volume 2022, Issue 12



An Opportunity to Give God Thanks!

I love the fact that this year Thanksgiving in the United States comes sandwiched between Christ the King Sunday and the first Sunday in Advent; between the end of one Church year and the beginning of another. It's positioning seems perfect to me.

Perfect because we can express our thanks to God for all the blessings we received this past church year, and all the mission work we were able to facilitate with the help of the Holy Spirit. Additionally, we can express our thanks to God in preparation for the upcoming Church year and the promise it points to of all we can do for those in need of both the message of God's saving love in Jesus and of the help we can provide in tangible and intangible ways to those in need in the new year.

We are able to hold such gratitude because our greatest thanks is for our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus, who came into the world on a dark and cold night in what is now the beginning of the Church year – the month of December. Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the blessing of your Son, who is the hope and longevity of all of mankind.

May your Thanksgiving Day, and its prayer before your meal, be a pray of thanksgiving for Jesus seeing you through the past year, for the many blessings he has giving you, for the moments he comforted you, perhaps even carried you in times of anguish or grief, and for equipping you with the means to be a blessing to others.

Our Midweek Advent series on Wednesday's at 7pm in the main sanctuary, is about Jesus being born in us today. I hope you will join us.

Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday this year. We will have two services on December 24, one at 7pm and the other at 11pm. Then on Sunday, Christmas Day, we will have only one worship service and it will be at 8am. It is at 8am that Zion's worship service is carried on WCSM, and it is also the service that we livestream. So, join us in person, or on the radio, or on the livestream on Facebook Christmas morning! Thank you, Jesus, that we have all these options to reach folks with the good news.

Merry Christmas to all of you and your families! May the Lord keep you safe and well.

Pastor Bill

News for the Women of Zion



Thank you to all the women who gave to our Thankful Offering benefiting Crime Victim Services in Lima. We don't have a final total of the money collected but will let you know the amount given to help victims of crime and to fight human trafficking in our area.

Thank you also to everyone who donated cake mixes and icing for the Agape Birthday bags. We have enough to put together 30 bags in January for Agape to pass out in February.

Our Advent Breakfast is Tuesday, December 6th, at 9:30 a.m., in the auditorium. The program is "O Christmas Tree". Hope to see you there to help us celebrate Advent.

Since we are all caught up on kits and quilts for the year, our workday in December will be a coffee and donut hour. So come and relax and enjoy some Christian fellowship Thursday, December 15th, at 9 a.m.

Our Women's 2023 handbook has been printed, so be sure to pick one up in the Narthex. Please read through it as there is lots of information about our programs and events here at Zion.

Installation of our board members along with the congregation council members will be Sunday, January 8, 2023, at both services.

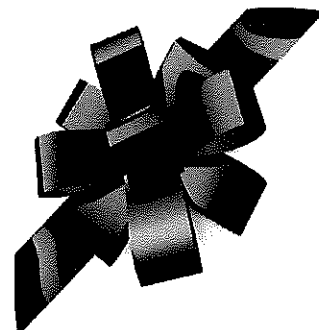
I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year! Hope to see more of our members taking part in our women's activities in 2023.

Nora Staunton, Chair of Zion Women of the NALC.

What You Say Matters

"I tell you that people will have to answer on Judgement Day for every useless word they speak. By your words you will be either judged innocent or condemned as guilty."

--Matthew 12:36-37



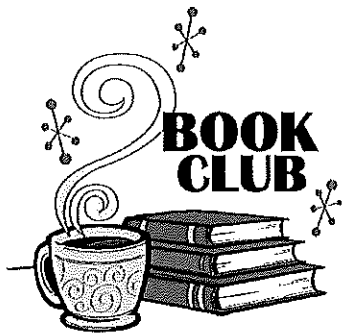
This must be one of the scariest Scriptures in the Bible. After all, most of us do a lot of talking. This verse is a good reminder of the benefits of being brief and holding our tongues when the need arises.

What causes us to go on and on when we would be better served to remain silent? Jesus gave us an example of effective silence and limited commentary when he was in front of Pilate being accused of things that simply weren't true.

Many of us tend to either over explain or demand explanations from someone else, and before we know it, anger erupts, and caution is thrown to the wind. We spew things out of our mouths, and if we were to rewind the tape later and listen, we would wince.

Our lesson then is to be very aware of what we say. As we lean in on the Lord, we will have the grace and the kindness to treat others with respect and love. Words like that bless everyone, and apparently even bring blessings back to us.

Let's be kind today. Be a blessing to others with your smile and kind words.



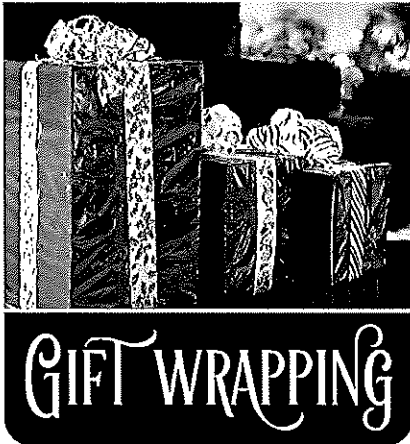
Book Club

A new list of books for the next six months has been decided. The January 4th, 2023, book is "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins and led by Janet Yahl. The February 1st, 2023, book is "An Invisible Thread" by Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski and led by Dora McAfee. All meetings start at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Memorials

Gifts were given in memory of Ken Ankerman by Ralph Hecht, John & Sue Vogel, Sandra Wierwille, Ruth Ann Merriman, John & Janet Yahl, Janice Suchland, Richard & Sue Hecht, Matt Suchland, Doris Cook, John & Amy Hesse, Ed & Linda Yahl, Kraig & Miriam Johns, Harold & Betty Hussey, and Sunrise Cooperative, Inc.

Gifts were given in memory of Bill Grunden & Mary Brown by Ed & Linda Yahl.



Gift Wrapping

December Creative Crafters Meeting – Santa's elves will be here at Zion to help relieve some of your holiday stress. We will wrap your Christmas gifts for you! This is open to the entire congregation. Just bring your gifts to church on Saturday, December 10th, from 9-11 a.m., you'll find us in the Lounge. We have all the supplies...boxes, bags, tissue paper, wrapping paper, bows, tags, tape, etc. *The cost is \$1 per package.* All you have left to do is put them under the tree! Enjoy the holidays stress free!

Prayer List

We invite you to include the following people in your daily prayers. The people on the list are friends and family or our membership:

Janet Dicke, Judy Von Blon, Brent Paulus, Sandi Deerhake, Alma Kuffner, Caleb Yahl, Michael Moore, Tom Kaster, Kason Thobe, Ann Morris, John & Katie, Darlene Henkener, Margaret Moore, Deb Ranly, Pastor Phil Gagnon, Amelia Green, Emily Henkle, Brenda Purdy, Ed Danner III, Scott Schroluke, Becky Pape, Mark Torsell, Jeff & Jenny Fessenden, Donald & Beverly Applegate, Ruth Ann Merriman, Kristin Hemmelgarn, Mary Willmann, Kelsey, Karen Vornholt, Mark & Dana, Vicki Bishir, Amy Grewe, Family of Jordan Brelsman, Lisa Suchland, Dolores Irish, Lillian, Beth Olberding, Nancy & Jack McEntee, Kim Roode, Karen Mertz, Ernst Baumgartner, Eileen Zimmerman, Robert Poe, Virginia Loyer, Pam Fledderjohann, Mike Vann & Family, and the Family of Betty Vogel.

Please pray for our family and friend who are in the service:

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

Poinsettia Orders

We will once again decorate the altar with poinsettias for Christmas. Check out the order form included in the bulletin. Each plant is \$12.50, with a bow. The deadline to order is **Monday, December 5**, by 12 noon.



Advent Services

Midweek Advent Services will be held at 7 p.m., in the sanctuary on **Wednesday nights**:

- **November 30**
 - **December 7th**
 - **December 14th**
 - **December 21**
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“God goes to those who have time to hear him — and so on this cloudless night he went to simple shepherds.”

—Max Lucado



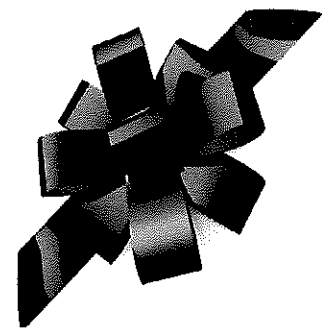
Shop-Til-You-Drop

All are welcome to participate in Zion’s Annual Shop Till-You-Drop shopping spree at Walmart, on **Friday, December 2**. We invite everyone, adults, youth, and families, to meet inside Walmart, at 7 p.m., by the pharmacy entrance. If you are unable to attend this event, a box has been provided by the portico entrance, to bring in new, unwrapped, toys for needy children in our community. The deadline to drop off a toy(s) in the box is **Sunday, December 18**. We do this in coordination with the “Toys for Tots” campaign by the Marines.

December Birthdays

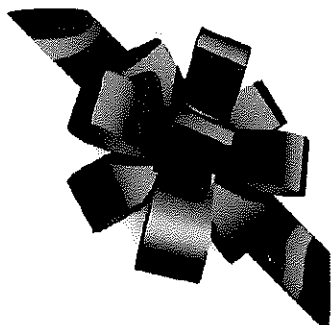
01—Riley Borsch, Erin Wenning
02—Bennett Glass
04—Tyler Ruvoldt, Josh Wingett, Amanda Huttis
05—Anne Hines
07—Kendra Rothe
08—Amy Hart
09—Joyce Finke, Michael Rutschilling
10—Jodie Perkins, James Suchland
11—Carol Peyton, Jacob Sharp
12—Megan Roby, Dora Mc Afee

13—Courtney Voisard
14—Amy Nighswander,
Deborah Orr
15—Edwin Reier,
Frederick Vogel Jr.,
Hudson Roby
17—Jennifer Miller, Theodore Heinfeld
19—Harry Staunton
20—Bridget Alley, Doris Anderson, Margaret Moore,
Kirsty Opperman



22–Erica Kogge, Lorra O’Bryan, Melissa Sudman
23–Jennifer Eberle, Eric Langsdon, Mary Schelby,
Caleb Yahl, Deborah Yahl
24–Natasha James, Chad Wuebker
26–Natalie Lutz

27–Corey Lutterbeck
28–Maxwell Karner
30–Justin Schultz, Teresa Hembler
31–Becky Hinschlager, Nina Spencer, Jordan Weber,
Susan Wilkins, Savannah Slater



Loose Offering

Our loose offerings each Wednesday and Sunday for the month of December are earmarked to support the Institute of Lutheran Theology. The Institute of Lutheran Theology is a private Lutheran seminary in Brookings, South Dakota. It provides distance education online and at its campus in Brookings. The institution is accredited by the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). ILT operates as a school which grants certificates and degrees to students who complete their studies with the school. It does not ordain graduates; that is left to the synods and associations which accept their graduates.

The loose plate offerings for Christmas Eve will go toward Zion’s current expenses.

Closings

- The church office will be closed on Monday, December 26th, and Monday, January 2nd.
 - The church office will have limited hours, beginning on December 27th until year end. They are as follows: **Tuesday—12/27, Wednesday—12/28, Thursday—12/29, and Friday, 12/30, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**
 - There will be NO Wednesday night worship services on December 28.
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Christmas Eve Services

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight worship services will be held on Saturday, December 24, in the Sanctuary, at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Holy Communion will be served at each service. We invite you to bring your family and friends with you to worship. Our Advent Theme is entitled, Be Born in Us Today. With the following emphasis respectively: *Bringing Blessing, Bringing Renewal, Bringing Guidance and Bringing Power*.



Sunday School Christmas Program

Christmas Letters of Love is this year’s Sunday School Christmas Program. Come learn about and sing some Christmas songs, decorate a tree with us and hear about the Lord’s love for us in the letters of Christmas. It will be held on **Sunday, December 11, at 6:30 p.m.**

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 Mak...annmmaki@yahoo.com

•Mindy Thiebeau...zionbpe@hotmail.com
•General Mail...zionlutheranstmarys@bright.net

Year-to-Date Financial Information

Financial Information: Our current financial information for Zion is as follows for year-to-date for the month, November 15, 2022.

- 1/1/2022 Beginning Balance--\$81,668
- NOVEMBER 2022 YTD Income--\$234,541
- NOVEMBER 2022 YTD Expenses--(\$243,270)
- Payroll WH/Benevolence--(\$1,339)
- NOVEMBER 2022 Ending Bank Balance--\$71,600



Christmas Day Worship

Christmas morning worship here at Zion will be held at 8 a.m., in the Sanctuary. The service will also be broadcast on WCSM, 96.7 FM. We will not have our 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Bible Studies, nor will we have our 10:30 a.m. worship service. Enjoy the time with your families. Merry Christmas!



Sermon In Carols

Our Sermon in Carols and Lessons will be held on Sunday, January 1, 2023, at both our 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., worship services. We invite you to bring your family and friends.

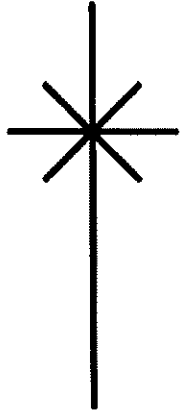
Council & Installation Services

The recognitions of our 2022 Congregation Council and Women's Council and installation of the 2023 councils will take place at both services on Sunday, January 8, 2023. If you were a member of council and are a newly elected council member, please plan to attend one of the worship services on that day. See you there!

Flower Chart

The flower chart for the first 6 months of 2023 is now available on the bulletin board by the elevator. We invite you to select a date you wish to provide flowers. Contact the church office, 419.394.3115, with the details you wish to include in the bulletin.





For
to us
a child
is born,
to us
a son
is given.



Isaiah 9:6

November 2022

Dear Fellow Zion Members,

With Christmas fast approaching, it is that time of the year to look back at all the things that we are thankful for, and the many ways God has blessed us with abundant lives. My hope is that you have been blessed in some way by being a member here at Zion Lutheran Church.

If you have been touched in a special way this past year by Pastor Bill Maki, Office Manager Kathy Bishir, Office Assistant Ann Maki, Director of the Board of Parish Education Mindy Thiebeau, Organist and Choir Director Merilee Miller, Pianist Deb Brown, Pianist Miriam Johns, Custodian Emily Meinerding, I encourage you to show your appreciation in some way. This can be done by praying for them, sending a thank you card, or giving a gift. I feel we owe all these people a deep-felt "Thank you" due to their dedication to our congregation.

If you desire to give a monetary gift and for your convenience, you will find two envelopes for this purpose enclosed in your church offering envelope packet- one for Pastor and one for the staff. Please include a note of the amount and for whom it is intended in the staff envelope. Please place these envelopes with your gifts in the offering plate or send them to the church office on or before Sunday, December 18. Gifts from the congregation will be given to them on or before Christmas Eve.

May this Christmas season bring peace and joy to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Neal Brady

Congregational Council President

2 Corinthians 9:6-10--⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." ¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.