

Zion Lutheran Church

210 North Wayne Street
Saint Marys, Ohio 45885

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

A monthly publication of Zion Lutheran Church

March, Volume 2023, Issue 3

March 2023 – Remembering the Repentance of Lent

Matthew 5:21-24 (ESV)

*“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. **First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.**”*

As we enter the month of March, we find ourselves fully in the season of Lent. Lent is the time when we highlight our continual need for repentance and reconciliation – with the Lord and with others. In Lent we come to the Lord humbled and on our knees because we are, like Luther described, nothing more than “beggars” who deserve nothing but condemnation.

We began Lent with an extended litany of confession because we are sinners, and we know it. There is no sense denying it or trying to hide it. Those who do so are only fooling themselves, and will miss out on the amazing healing the Lord offers in his absolution of our sins and his abundant grace.

But, as I mentioned earlier in this article, it is often more than just God we have offended in our sinfulness. Try as we might to treat others well, we often fail, and instead treat others poorly, sometimes awfully. In our close relationships we discover to our horror we are no better than Judas, betraying those we profess to love. In some relationships we discover we are oppressors and unfeeling, insensitive bullies. In many ways we are selfish, demanding, and hypocritical, building excuse after excuse to justify our actions. When in truth, there is no excuse, we simply won’t acknowledge our own fault in the matter.

However, acknowledging our own fault(s) is a critical first step to living out a penitential life that not only considers our standing before the Lord, but also considers our standing within the body of Christ. In the scripture verse above in Matthew, Jesus underscores the importance of reconciling with our brother and our sister in faith. The “unity” of the body of Christ is paramount so the importance of maintaining that “unity” matters a great deal to Jesus.

Please notice that in our example from Matthew, it is incumbent upon the offending party to seek out the aggrieved party, in order to begin the reconciliation process. If you have wronged someone it is your responsibility to seek out that person and then seek forgiveness from them as Jesus calls his disciples to do. If you have offended someone and fail to do this, you have become an obstacle to unity within the body of Christ and are thereby hampering it in its mission on earth since it is not at full strength. My friends, seek to reconcile with those you have wronged, sinned against, and hurt for the sake of Christ, who not only gives us the command to do so, but died on the cross so we would have this opportunity to emulate him in this life.

To understand how important this was to Jesus, we must better understand the context of what he is saying in Matthew's passage.

Here's the story in the context in which Jesus told it. He is saying: *If you – John, Matthew, Peter, having traveled nearly 70 miles on foot from Galilee to Jerusalem once a year to offer an animal sacrifice in the temple – remember there that someone has something against you back in Galilee; you are to leave the animal there at the temple, travel several days back to Galilee to make amends with your brother and several more days to return to Jerusalem, then and only then should you present your offering in the temple.*

"Then, and only then...". This is a sign of a true repentant heart. One who owns his or her wrong doing and seeks forgiveness for what they have done from the one(s) who was hurt.

Reconciliation with brothers and sisters in Christ is that important to Jesus. Maintaining right relationships requires radical action on our part. These actions are sometime uncomfortable, but the disciple of Jesus will gladly do this in order for "unity" to be preserved among the people. Unity is that important to maintain in the body of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill



News for the Women of Zion

The women's annual Lenten Fundraiser has started. We really do need ALL THE WOMEN OF ZION participating. If you did not receive an envelope, there are extras in the Narthex. Please help us increase our funds so we can continue our many programs here at Zion and in the community.

Our Women's Celebration is Sunday, March 12, at 2 p.m., in the auditorium. We have a wonderful motivational speaker, Jessica Skinner, as our guest. Her calling is serving God by helping children and women. Our program "When life gives you lemons", Jessica will explain how to turn those lemons into something positive and how to seek help through the gospel. You don't want to miss this program! A light meal will be served. The cost is \$7. Tickets are on sale now thru March 5th, see either Sandy Wierwille, Nora Staunton or the church office.

The next workday is Thursday, March 16, at 9 a.m. We will be putting personal care kits together for the NALC disaster response warehouse and knotting quilts. Hope to see you then.

The Women's Board will be hosting the Soup & Salad Supper on Wednesday, March 22, from 5—6:30 p.m.

Kitchen duty for March is Josie Slater.

The NALC Disaster Response team has a new kit they would like to distribute. It is a Kitchen Kit which consists of dish cloth, dish towel, measuring cups and spoons, spatula, hot pads, left-over container, various sizes of garbage bags and a cookbook. If you have any nice cookbooks you no longer use and want to get rid of, please bring them and place them in the box by the elevator. We have a member who applied for Thrivent money to help fund this project.

Zion's Book Club has changed their meeting date from March 1st to March 8th, at 1 p.m. Please note this date change. Sue Hecht will lead the discussion on the "The Royal Secret" by Lucinda Riley. April's book "The Rose

Code”, by Kate Quinn will be led by Pam Fledderjohann.

Creative Crafters will meet Sunday, March 5th, at 1:30 p.m., to make a St. Patrick’s Day door wreath. The cost is \$15. You can design how your wreath will look. There is a sample on display in the Narthex. Please sign up in advance. April’s project is “Learning How to Crochet”. This is a two session project, see separate article in this newsletter.

“Make the best use of what is in your power, and take the rest as it happens.” --Epictetus

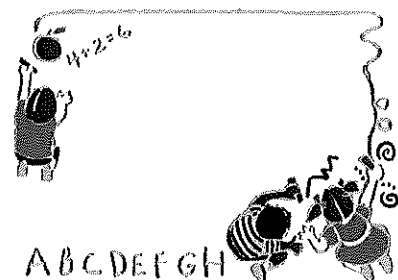
Nora Staunton, Chair of ZWNALC

Spelling Lesson

A granddad overheard his granddaughter reciting the alphabet as she worked among their flowerbeds. He asked, “Whatcha doing?” The little girl answered, “I’m praying, but I can’t think of exactly the right words. So I’m just saying all the letters. God will put them together for me, because He knows all the right words.”

I love this story for its reminder that when we don’t know what to think or say, we can continue praying and trusting in the one who knows. Let Him arrange the alphabet of your prayers.

If you’d like to have a little fun today, list the letters of the alphabet down the left side of a sheet of paper. Then next to those letters, write a word or phrase about God that starts with that letter. For example, A: Awesome, B: Beautiful, C: Caring, and so on.



March Birthdays

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| 01–Lori Karner | 12–Heather Anderson, Traci Miller |
| 02–Lisa Hollenbacher, Kraig Johns, Chad Meckstroth, Jennifer Puthoff, Pyper Storer, Edwin Flora | 13–Barbara Lutz |
| 03–Leah Rohrbach | 16–Jack Masonbrink |
| 04–Connie Torsell | 17–Jennifer Staugler |
| 05–Sandra Bergman, Todd Lutz, Braydon Wenning | 18–Rebecca Harvey, Dwayne Hoenie |
| 06–Seth Fitzgerald, Alex Grunden | 19–Karrie Hughes, David Erb, Maria Johns |
| 07–Caleb Huelskamp | 21–Daniel Elshoff, Spencer Schrader |
| 08–Peggy Folk | 23–Angel Wingett |
| 09–Terry Felver, Brandt Grunden, Marilyn Slemmons | 24–Jolene Spector |
| 10–Rylan Hughes, Daniel Knatz, Hayes Dougherty | 25–Lillian Ankerman |
| 11–Joshua McDermitt | 26–Beth Quellhorst, Anthony Bond-Awls |
| | 29–Amy Freewalt, Terry Oehrtman |
| | 31–Emily Borsh |

If your name was omitted or a correction needs to be made in this list of birthdays, please contact the church office, 419-394-3115.



Book Club

Mark your calendars the date has changed for March. The Book Club will meet on Wednesday, March 8, at 1 p.m., not on March 1.

Bible Release Time is Coming – St. Marys City Schools

The School Board of the St. Marys City Schools has agreed to implement Bible Release Time in the District for the 2023-2024 school year, with an introduction to the program beginning the end of March or April of 2023.

Bible Release Time from schools in Ohio was enacted into law by the state legislature of Ohio in the late 1950's. Recently, this program has gained momentum throughout the State of Ohio and many school districts already have this program in place.

Locally, Parkway School District near Rockford, and Celina School District are currently engaged in this program. Harvest Kingdom is the name of the organization overseeing the program in both of those school districts and has recently been approved by the St. Marys City School Board to oversee their program.

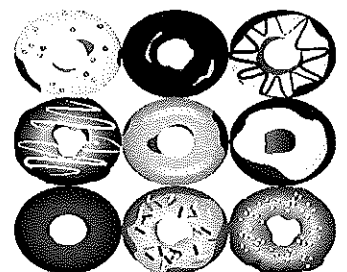
Because this is a religious program it cannot be operated on the school grounds. In St. Marys, this means that the students who have their parents' permission to participate in Bible Release Time will either walk or be bused from their school to an off-site facility to learn, and will then return to the school when the class time is over.

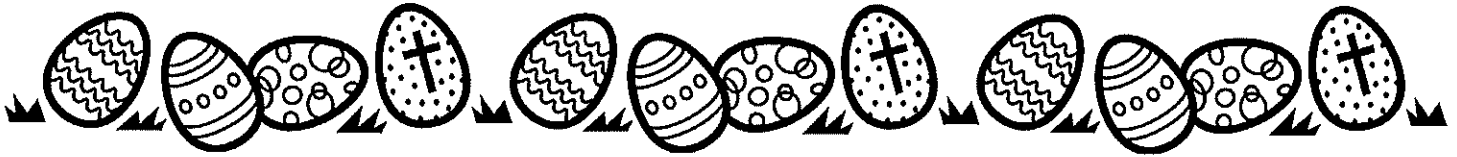
Middle School and High School students in St. Marys will be bused from their school to Zion Lutheran Church and will be taught in the Auditorium by a paid teacher with Kingdom Harvest. When their time period is nearing its end, they will return to the bus and be transported back to their school. This will start out one day a week for the Middle School and one day a week for the High School. They will be different days.

We are looking for a few volunteers to assist us with the program. Please contact me if you are interested. I'll have more information about this program and Zion's involvement in future Newsletters. Also, please feel free to ask me any questions you might have about it.

Pastor Bill

Donuts with Dad will be held **Sunday, March 5**, during Sunday School, at 9:15 a.m.!





Candy is needed ASAP

Please! Candy is needed ASAP for the Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 1, and the Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 2, so we can start filling the thousands of eggs. *We cannot use anything with peanuts/peanut butter or not individually wrapped.* Please leave your donation in the Sunday School box by the elevator, or the church office, or give it to Mindy. Thank you in advance!

Volunteers and cookies are needed for the Community Easter Egg Hunt on **April 1, 10:00 - noon**. We can always use monetary donations for prizes as well. Please notify Mindy if you can donate or volunteer with us that day. Kids and teens are welcome!

Prayer List

We invite you to include the following people, who are family and friends of our members, in your daily prayers: Janet Dicke, Judy Von Blon, Brent Paulus, Sandi Deerhake, Alma Kuffner, Caleb Yahl, Michael Moore, Tom Kaster, Ann Morris, John & Katie, Darlene Henkener, Margaret Moore, Amelia Green, Dwight & Carmen Axe, Kelsey, Karen Vornholt, Kate Flais, Jerry McCormick, Carolyn Sidey, Vicki Bishir, Lisa Suchland, Ron Suchland, Elaine Marbaugh, Dale Sprague, Pam Fledderjohann, Bill & Carolyn Slemmons, Mary & Tim Smith, Lesley Cook, Brandye Patterson, Andrew O'Bryan, Emily Henkle, Eric Kupay, Nolina Moran, Kristin Hemmelgarn, Mary Willmann, Kathy Hart, Eileen Zimmerman, Amanda Bishir, Family of Gladys Stroh, Family of Karen Kemmann, and the people affected by the earthquakes in Turkey & Syria.

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.

Lenten Services/Soup Suppers

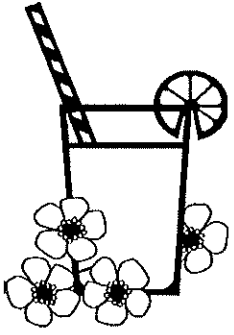
Our Midweek Lenten services will be held in the main sanctuary, at 7 p.m. The theme this year is "Eyes on Jesus". **Set aside the following dates to attend: March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.**



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 Wednesdays, **March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.**

Filing Your Taxes?

Your 2022 Financial Statements have been sent in the mail in February. Please keep your 2022 financial statements for filing your 2022 taxes.



Women's Celebration

Time's running out. Get your tickets for the Women's Celebration to be held on Sunday, March 12th, at 2 p.m. Ticket deadline is **Sunday, March 5**. The theme is: "When Life Gives You Lemons, Make Lemonade." Take a guess at how many lemon drops are in the candy jar in the Narthex and come to the program to see if you won. Hope to see you there!

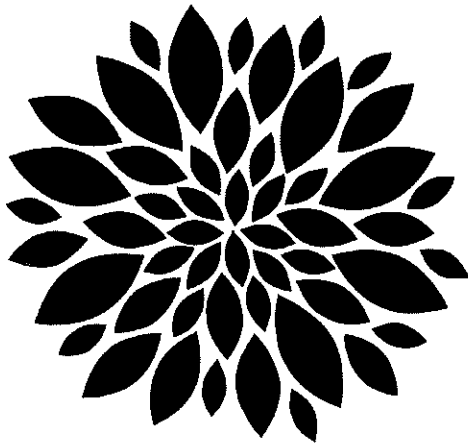
Scholarship Application Deadline

It's time for our seniors and college students to apply for our annual scholarship. Apply online at the www.theSMCF.org. Application deadline is **Sunday, March 12**, at midnight.

Creative Crafters

The March craft is now on display in the Narthex. Sign up in the binder to make your own St. Patrick's Day wreath on **Sunday, March 5**, at 1:30 p.m. We will meet in the all-purpose room. The \$15 is to be paid the day of the event.

The April craft will be to learn how to crochet. It will be a two day event—April 16 & 23, at 1:30 p.m. You will be making a hot pad and drink cozy. \$10 fee, all supplies included. A project for beginner or advanced crochet experience.



2023 Flower Chart

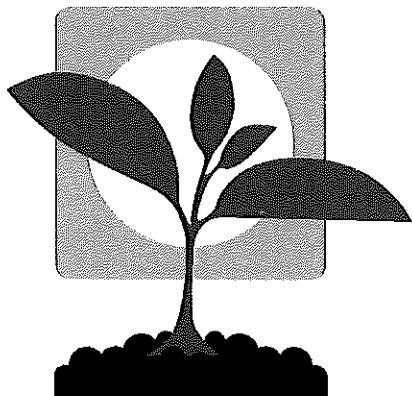
The first part of the 2023 Flower Chart is on the bulletin board by the alley entrance. We invite you to select the date you wish to provide flowers. On the Tuesday before the date you selected, order your arrangement from your favorite florist, and contact the church office, 419-394-3115, to let us know what information you would like included in the bulletin. Updating dates still available: **March 12 & 26, April 2, 9, 23 & 30, and May 21 & 28.**

Choice Dollars

We invite our members of Thrivent to direct your Choice Dollars to Zion or other organizations of your choice. When you make a direct your Choice Dollars at thrivent.com/thriventchoice, Thrivent pays the processing fees so 100% of your donation goes to your organization of choice.

A Bountiful Life

"Life is given to you like a flat piece of land," said actress Jeanne Moreau. "I hope that when I'm finished, my piece of land will be a beautiful garden."



God, who put the first human in a garden to care for creation, blesses us with talents and resources to wisely manage. In gardening terms, God gives us the plot of ground, the seed, the wisdom and strength to bring forth beauty and abundance. Yet we do the work, with God's help, to make it a reality. Like Adam, we till, but God gives the increase. God's provisions and our labor bring the garden — and our lives of stewardship — to fulfillment.

As stewards, we ponder: When God calls us home, what will our garden be like, and what will it have produced?

Memorials

Gifts were given in memory of *Robert Sudman* by Joanne Sudman and Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hood & Family.

Zion's Web Address

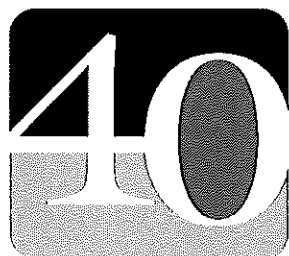
Our web address is: www.zionstmarys.org We continually change the appearance, post up-to-date announcements, update our schedules, and update our calendar. Bookmark us and visit our website weekly.



Year-to-Date Financial Information

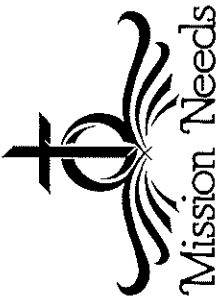
Financial Information: Our current financial information for Zion is as follows for year-to-date, as of February 24, for the month of February.

- 1/1/2023 Beginning Balance--\$86,923
- February 2023 YTD Income--\$38,995
- February 2023 YTD Expenses—(\$67,982)
- Payroll WH/Benevolence—(\$457)
- February 2023 Ending Bank Balance--\$67,525



Christian Symbol

40—In Scripture, this number often indicates a time of trial or testing, or simply marks significance. It rained 40 days and nights during the Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. The Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).



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

Kitchen Kits: New Mission Kits for the NALC Warehouse. Kitchen kits will be assembled at our April Workday, Thursday, April 20th, at 9 a.m.

- 2-Gallon Plastic Storage Bag
- Drawstring Backpack
- Cookbook
- Dish Towel
- Hot Pad
- Measuring Cups
- Measuring Spoons
- Storage Container
- Garbage Bags (Mixed Sizes)

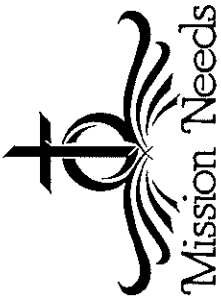
- Another helpful item of your choice: mini cutting board, peeler, tongs, etc.

Spring Items

- Marbles
 - Yo-Yos
 - Coloring Books
 - Sunglasses
 - Jump Ropes
-
- Bandanas
 - Jewelry
 - Hot Wheels
 - Chalk
 - Shoeboxes

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

2/23/2023



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