

# 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

July, Volume 2023, Issue 7

## Don't Forget God in the Summer

I write this on the Summer Solstice, June 21st, and it is a beautiful day outside. It's nearly 10:30am and the sky is mostly sunny, the temperature is 73 degrees Fahrenheit, and there is a breeze. The temperature is expected to climb to 83 degrees Fahrenheit. The humidity is down and it feels and looks like a perfect summer day. A perfect day to relax and enjoy. And it is.

Many people make the most out of the summer months. Swimming, fishing, camping, golfing, playing or attending Baseball games, running marathons and all the other summer sports and activities being offered in the summer months. We can fill our schedule with recreation – ours, our kids, family gatherings. For those who are still employed, our schedules can become full with things to do as soon as our work day ends. For those on summer break from school these days are a sabbath of sorts as we rest and recharge and dive into the fun of living. Those who are retired are given longer and brighter and warmer days to do what they want to do.

God has made a beautiful creation for us to live in and enjoy. The world around us is filled with beauty and a diversity of insects and birds and animals that are interesting to watch and interact with in the summer. How can any of us not wake up in the morning (or, the afternoon if you're really relaxing) and not give our Lord praise and thanksgiving for all that he has made? It's difficult to not sing the praises of God in the Summer.

And yet, Church attendance always drops during the Summer months. Why is that? Shouldn't we be coming to Church each week and rejoicing in worship during the Summer months? Rejoicing over the planting of the fields for our food, over the chance to swim and boat in the lakes and oceans, the chance to fish in the streams and the lakes, the chance to sit under the shade of a tree filled with its leaves? Shouldn't we attend worship so we can thank the Lord for the blessing of Summer which gives us opportunities to gather with family and friends in the afternoon sun or under the evening sky? To cook out and share with others the abundance that the Lord has blessed us with?

My friends in Christ Jesus, don't miss out on the opportunity to gather with other believers and give God the praise and glory for these Summer months and the promise of all the joy, peace and fun these months can bring – remember to worship the Lord each week, and give him thanks. He is God over all the months of the year, don't forget him in the summer.

Blessings, Pastor Bill



## July Birthdays

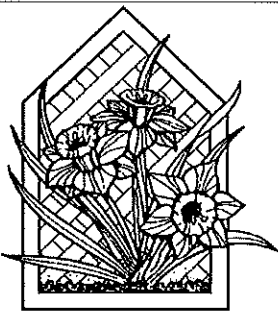
*Happy Birthday to...*

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.

- 1-Jessica Hughes, Andrew Langsdon
- 2-Lisa Masonbrink, Chase Voisard
- 3-Hunter Coldiron
- 4-Olivia Hayman
- 5-Timothy Flinn
- 6-Jo Ann Hodges
- 7-David Voisard
- 8-Timothy McDermitt, Todd Huelskamp, Kate Wobler
- 9-Donald Nuss
- 10-Amy Hesse, Cindy Huelskamp
- 11-Kelley Keysor
- 12-Melissa Dues, Nan Luedeke, Allen Merricle
- 13-Quentin Clark, Sandra Meckstroth, Sophia Coldiron, Jennifer DeNiz, Shawn Wobler
- 14-Morgan Hesse, Bruce Lawler
- 16-Victoria Hoenie, Hunter Sprague, Colton Ankerman

- 17-Bradley Eberle, Brianna Eberle, John Lampert
- 18-Jerry Greber
- 19-Jason Miley, Derrick Storer
- 21-Ashley Tangeman, Kay Lauth, Kevin Nagel, Nancy Vogel
- 22-Andrew Slemmons
- 23-Zachary Hesse, Micah Johns
- 24-Reid Berner
- 25-Nancy Koch, Barbara M. Lutz, Eric Rohrbach, W. Victor Von Blon, Isaac Fitzgerald, Sean Johnson
- 26-Michelle Sharp, Joey Hague
- 27-Zoey Henning
- 28-Lilly Masonbrink
- 29-Rhonda Runnion, Steve McAfee
- 30-Warren Hoenie, Emily Meinerding, Karen Mertz
- 31-Joshua Cisco

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.



## 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. Upcoming dates still available:

**\*July 30**

**\*October 8, 15 & 29**

**\*December 3, 10, 17 & 24**

**\*September 3 & 10**

**\*November 12, 19 & 26**

“You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand.”

—Woodrow Wilson



## 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, Darlene Henkener, Margaret Moore, Amelia Green, Dwight & Carmen Axe, Ronald Suchland, Don Diers, Linda Diers, Emily Henkle, Kristin Hemmelgarn, Mary Willmann, Markham Hodge, Steve Opperman, Lisa Suchland, Kelsey, Linda Suchland, Eileen Zimmerman, Bill & Carolyn Slemmons, Brandye Patterson, John Hiles, Norma, the Family of Doug Verlee and the Family of Geneva Brady.

*Let us kneel before  
the Lord, our Maker!  
Psalm 95:6*

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.

## 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 .....	wllmmaki@yahoo.com
Kathy Bishir .....	kbishir@hotmail.com
Ann Maki .....	annmmaki@yahoo.com
Mindy Thiebeau .....	zionbpe@hotmail.com
General Mail.....	<a href="mailto:zionlutheranstmarys@bright.net">zionlutheranstmarys@bright.net</a>

## Membership Address Changes

MISS DEBORAH YAHL  
2145 S CONANT RD  
SPENCERVILLE OH 45887  
501-457-3642

DOUG & MARTHA STETLER  
REBECCA, CARRIE & CINDY STETLER  
3824 RIVERTRAIL RD  
ROCKFORD OH 45882

COLIN M MECKSTROTH  
882 S 22<sup>ND</sup> ST  
COLUMBUS OH 43206-1506

M/M JD CLARK  
107 MEADOWBROOK LN  
ST MARYS OH 45885-9610



July 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### Special Dates

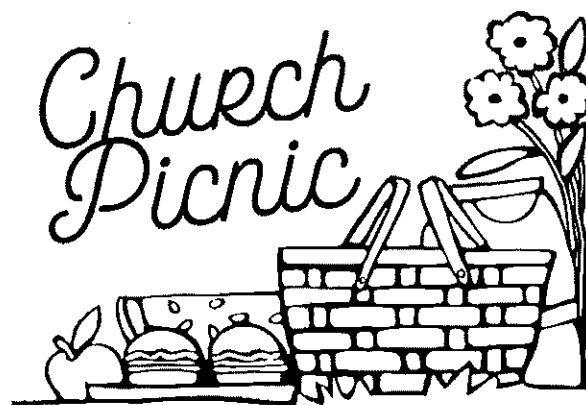
- Canada Day, *July 1, 2023*
- U.S. Independence Day, *July 4, 2023*

### VBS Was a Success!

With many volunteers and averaging 70 children per night, VBS was a success! Thank you to all who gave their time to help us. Zion, Wayne Street Methodist, and Grace Methodist churches collaborated for a blessed week of Keepers of the Kingdom, Standing Strong in Today's Battle for Truth. Our mission project was Kingdom Harvest Ministries and a little over \$300 was raised to help offset expenses, through a pie-in-the face contest between the three pastors.

### Congregational Picnic

Our Annual Congregational Picnic will be **Sunday, July 16**, at 12 Noon, on the front lawn. We are planning to provide a tent with table and chairs. The meat, beverages and table service will be provided by the church. Bring a potluck dish to share. Family and friends are welcomed. Sign up on your "I Worshiped Today" if you plan to come with number attending.



### Golf Outing

- When: **Saturday, July 22** at 8 a.m.
- Where: Celina Lynx Golf Course

For this years golf outing we will be playing a four person scramble. All members invited! Cost will be greens fees paid at the course when you arrive. (\$42 each) If you are a course member then you will not need to pay but just check in. Lunch and prizes will be provided afterwards with awards for longest drive, longest putt and closest to the pin. Please arrive at 30 minutes before and pay in the Pro Shop. If you are going to play, please contact Pete Ackroyd, let the Church Office know, or mark your "I Worshiped Today. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, July 15.

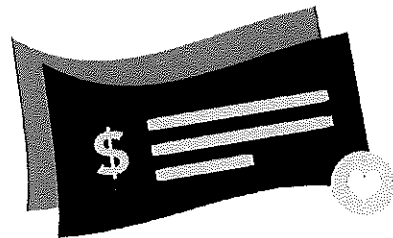
"Instructions for living a life. Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it."

—Mary Oliver

## Year-to-Date Financial Information

Financial Information: Our current financial information for Zion is as follows for year-to-date for the month March, 6/13/2023.

- 1/1/2023 Beginning Balance--\$86,923
- June 2023 YTD Income--\$124,644
- June 2023 YTD Expenses--(-\$154,520)
- Payroll/Interest Adjustments—\$36
- June 2023 Ending Bank Balance--\$57,011



Just as you rely upon receiving income on a regular basis, Zion relies on your regular contributions. Zion appreciates the efforts of congregation members to make consistent donations throughout the year—especially during popular summer travel periods. To assist you the church also has direct deposit available, a link on our website and an App to donate to Zion besides the envelopes that are sent out. We thank you in advance for your gifts to Zion.



## Congratulations and Thanks

Following the Ohio Mission Region Convocation in May, we wish to **congratulate** and announce that Ruth Hoenie has been elected as our North West Ohio Mission District treasurer. Ruth will begin her duties as treasurer in July.

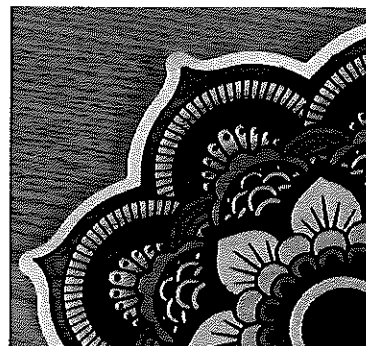
Thanks to Kathy Bishir, who has served as treasurer (3 two-year terms) for the North West Ohio Mission District for the past six years. Thanks to Ruth for her willingness to serve as our new district treasurer.

## Looking for Volunteers

- The NALC Convocation will be from **Wednesday, August 9-Friday, August 11**, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. **Two delegates** are still needed. Some cost will be covered. If you are interested, please call the church office, 419-394-3115.
- We are in need of an **Agape Representative**. If you are interested, please contact the church office, 419-394-3115.

## Creative Crafters

Creative Crafters will meet on Sunday, July 9, at 1:30 p.m., in the all-purpose room. We will meet in the church lounge to make and take your own colorful mandala. The fee will be \$6, for the mandala only and use **MY** alcohol based colors, or the second option is to make the mandala using your own set of alcohol based colors,



which you will keep for \$20. Sign up in the notebook in the Narthex, and choose which option you would like. Any questions concerning this craft, contact Kathy, 419-778-9640.

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## Sunday Worship Service

### Live Streaming & Radio Broadcast

- We have installed equipment for livestreaming of our worship services. The worship services 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 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.
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## Prayer for July 4<sup>th</sup>

The following lines are from a long prayer, "That America Fulfill the Promise of Its Founding," by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan. Though written in 1945, it rings true yet today. (Full text at <https://tinyurl.com/nhc8747x>.)

O God, who is Liberator and Redeemer, Lawgiver and Judge,

May America remain loyal  
to the principles of the Declaration of Independence,  
and extend their application  
to ever-widening areas of life.

Keep out of our life all manner of oppression,  
persecution,  
and unjust discrimination;  
save us from religious,  
racial and class conflicts;  
may our country be a haven of refuge  
to the victims of injustice and misrule.

Instruct us in the art of living together,  
of reconciling differences of opinion  
and averting clashes of interest,  
of helping one another  
to achieve a harmonious and abundant life ...

That the Star-Spangled Banner,  
the symbol of our American democracy,  
may ever wave o'er the land of the free  
and the home of the brave. Amen.



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY,  
AMERICA!**

## News for the Women of Zion

Here we are in summer already. The time is flying by. The Women's Board will not be meeting until September, but if there are any concerns contact me at 1-394-8894. We are still having our monthly workdays on the third Thursday of the month and Dorcas quilting is still meeting every Tuesday at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend either or both groups.

We are looking for two nominees to run for treasurer on the women's board. We have two for vice-president. Our elections will be in October and the new members will start in January 2024. The board usually meets Wednesday mornings but we can change our meeting time to the evening if you are working during the day. Please consider running and ask God's guidance in your decision. Everyone has the ability to serve on the board. Is God calling you to serve?



Thursday, July 20, at 9 a.m., is our next workday. We will be working on knotting quilts.

Book Club will meet Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, at 1 p.m. Allison Brady will present "The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency", by Alexander McCall Smith August 2, Pam Fledderjohann will lead "Dutch Girl", by Robert Matzen. Everyone is welcome.

Creative Crafters will meet July 9<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m. and August 13, at 1:30 p.m. See the notebook in the Narthex to sign up. Watch for flyers around the church for more details.

Kitchen duty for July is Cheryl Macklem and Kathy Bishir has it in August.

Quote of the month – Self-confidence is the first requisite to great undertakings. --Samuel Johnson

*Nora Staunton, Chair of Zion's Women of NALC*



**Say Yes!**

"Go, I will...teach you what to say" --Exodus 4:12

Let's pop in on the scene in Exodus 3-4. After calling Moses by name, God opened Moses' eyes to the needs of the hurting people around him. Then He invited Moses to be His chosen instrument to bring hope and healing to these suffering people.

What followed demonstrates that God has not robotically programmed us to be at His service. He issues the invitation and then waits as we make our choice. We can see from the questions Moses asks that God even addresses our insecurities and excuses, things like: "But who am I, that I should go?" But I have never been an eloquent speaker." "Can't someone else do it?" Does any of this sound like your inner dialogue when God invites you to serve?

I don't think God would have it any other way. I think He wants us to pause and work through our insecurities

so that, at the end of the day, we understand this very important truth: Whatever God calls us to do, He has our back. I've always found that my lack of confidence makes way for a whole lot of God—confidence.

I know you're no Moses. Nobody is. But how is God calling you today to serve?

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## Mark Your Calendars

In 2024 we will be celebrating our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church. We will also be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sanctuary. Those dates are:

- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will be Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will be Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Committee wants to know what meaningful event you would like to do for our anniversaries. Contact Stan Brown with your ideas.



## July Loose Offering

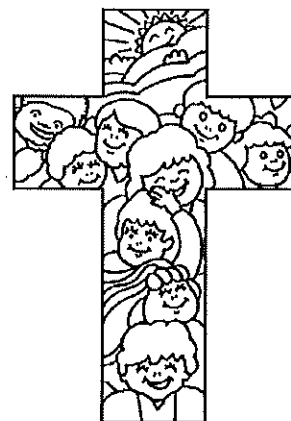
Our loose offering for the month of July is the Cancer Association of Auglaize County. CAAC has been giving assistance to those cancer warriors that reside in Auglaize County. Provide mileage reimbursement to cancer patients to and from doctor appointments. Assist with medical expenses of cancer patients. Provide services to cancer patients.

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## Hooray for VBS!

For many churches, vacation Bible school is a summer highlight. The event leads to lasting memories and changed hearts. It also sparks laughter. Maybe you've seen VBS humor online, such as the quote, "I'm tired, I mean like ... vacation Bible school kind of tired!" Another post reads, "You know you're obsessed with VBS when ... you're excited about cardboard on the side of the road." And anyone with an earworm at week's end can relate to this meme: "My parents hid my VBS CD. It's for the best."

For hungry young learners, snacks make an especially big impression. One excited preschooler shared that she enjoyed "juice and Billy Graham crackers" at VBS. Another boy raved about the first day, saying, "We heard stories and drew pictures. Then we went to play, and when we came inside, God had juice and cookies waiting for us!"





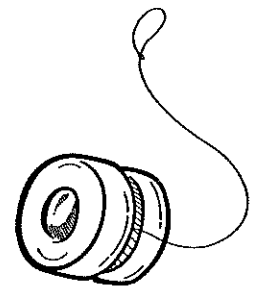
**Items Needed for  
NALC School Kits &  
Samaritan Purse Christmas Child Boxes**

**School Kits:**

- Notebooks
- Pocket Folders
- Blunt Scissors
- Ruler
- Pencil Sharpener
- Pencils
- Pens
- Eraser
- Box of Crayons

**Operation Christmas Child 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.*

**Bible Quiz**

Which of these was not one of the 10 plagues God brought against Egypt to persuade Pharaoh to let the Hebrew people go?

- A. an abundance of frogs
- B. the Nile River turned to blood
- C. the collapse of the pyramids
- D. thick darkness

A stylized illustration of a man with a long, flowing white beard and a dark, long-sleeved robe. He is holding a long, thin staff horizontally above his head with both hands. The background is white, and the man's face is simple with a mustache and a small tuft of hair on top.

Answer: C (See Exodus 7:14-12:32.)