

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

September, Volume 2023, Issue 9

So Many Ways to Grow in Christ Jesus

This month is a very active month at Zion. Already Confirmation Classes have started back up on Wednesday nights. We have seven youth involved in those classes and they are studying the Old Testament until Christmas and then the New Testament after Christmas.

Sunday school resumes with Rally Day on September 10th. The theme is Walk with Jesus. All the youth will meet in the Zion Auditorium, for the Kick-Off of Sunday School, at 9:15 a.m., that day.

The Crossroads Sunday school class will begin on September 10th in the Lounge, at 9:15 a.m. This class is a multi-generational class open to High School students and Adults of all ages. This class will be using the DVD "The Prodigal God" and will help us look at the Parable of the Prodigal Son. The sessions will follow this format: 1) The Parable 2) The People Around Jesus 3) The Two Lost Sons 4) The Elder Brother 5) The True Elder Brother 6) The Feast of the Father.

Bible studies resume.

First, the Woman's Fellowship Bible Study will meet once again on Monday nights beginning September 11th at 7 p.m. They are always ready to welcome someone new to the group. They will continue their study of Exodus that ended last May, so bring your Bible and enjoy the fellowship time together. Women of all ages are welcome.

Second, a Bible Study being led by Becky Harvey will be offered two different times each week. One group will meet once a month on Wednesday evenings, at 7 p.m., beginning September 13th in the lounge. A second group will meet once a month on Thursday afternoons, at 2 p.m. Both of these groups will meet in the Lounge on the first floor. The book 'Come Holy Spirit' is required for their study and must be ordered through the Church office at a cost of \$10 each.

Third, a Pastor led Bible Study will begin Monday September 11th at 7 p.m., and will be held in the All-Purpose Room on the second floor of the Educational building. The study will utilize a DVD entitled "The Awe of God," a video led series that explores "the promises in Scripture that are given to those who embrace the fear of God." The sessions will discuss: 1) Holy Awe 2) Revealed as We Are 3) Irresistible Holiness 4) God's Word 5) Intimacy with God.

In addition to Sunday School and the Bible Studies being offered, our mission work continues as we develop Flood Buckets, Health Kits and School Kits and many other items for NALC Disaster Response. We also continue to prepare for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Drive in November.

We believe it is important for each member of Zion to read/study the Word of God on a daily basis in order to grow in relationship with God, in addition to attending worship each week. We believe that it is important for the members of Zion to be actively involved in the mission related activities of the Church, along with other missional work God may be calling each person to explore. I look forward to growing with you in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Blessings, Pastor Bill

Report on 2023 NALC Convocation in Oklahoma City

The NALC Convocation was held from Wednesday, August 9, starting at 1:30 p.m., until Friday, August 11. Some interesting things I learned are there are now 490 congregations, and that number continues to grow. We also have 61 students in seminary. NALC is definitely growing.

We had many speakers from all around the world that we are in mission with.

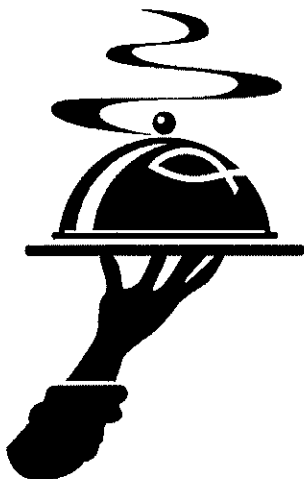
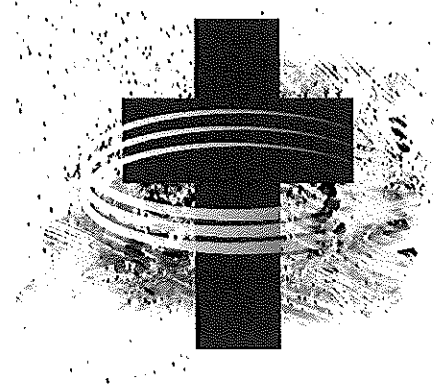
The theme of the convocation devotional time was: On Fire for Mission Focus. Each day we started out with scripture reading, Bible Study with Dr. David Luv and then had time for discussion with groups around the table. It was very interesting. We also had workshops we could go to. I went to "Every Congregation Renewing: Real Life Processes and Strategies for Strengthening & Growing Congregations". It was very informational. Some of the information I found very interesting, was having a senior ministry, besides just a family ministry because we are an ageing population. Also, hearing about Fresh Eyes for congregations. I think Fresh Eyes could benefit us as a congregation.

We also did the business of the church. We reelected Rev. Dan Selbo as bishop and voted others into positions such as executive council. Most things were approved without much discussion. One of the items discussed was the money that we give to Lutheran World Relief as a mission partner. Lutheran World Relief was discussed, and there was a vote to take them out of the budget. That vote passed. It was then voted on and accepted that the executive council would explore another mission partner like LWR but who share the gospel as part as their mission.

In all it is a great group of people doing the work of the church. As it was said many times, we are in our teenage years, so it is quite interesting to be a part of something like this. We are still growing and so continually need to readjust. I would encourage others to attend our next convocation that will be held in 2025 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Ann Maki



70 & Over Dinner

The Over 70 Dinner will be held Sunday, October 1st, in the auditorium, at 12 noon. If you are over 70 come and bring your spouse for an afternoon of good food and fellowship. Auglaize County Sheriff, Mike Vorhees will speak on Elderly Scams. Please sign up in the September "I Worship Today" by Sunday, September 24th.



September 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.

- 1–William Greber Jr., Leslie Laman, Ruth Warner, Dillon Slaven
- 2–Jillian Anderson, Jared Rose
- 3–Katie Freewalt, Jeffery Knatz
- 4–Brenda Brooks, Philip Langsdon, Kurt Rodeheffer
Adam Johns, Carol Knatz, Logan Holtzapple, Ann Morris, Cameron Prater, Preston Prater, Leeann Merricle
- 8–John Meinerding, Jason Schmehl, Susan Vogel
- 9–Allison Brady
- 10–Robert Austin, Kara Sharp
- 11–Kimberlee Kiel
- 12–Cheryl Howard, Kathleen Langsdon, Brent Miller, Michael Opperman, Deborah Smith, Lillian Slaven
- 13–Nora Nolan, Cody Sharp, Isaac Torsell
- 14–Valerie Kemmann
- 15–Alicia Wilson, Dale Sprague, Genevieve Brown
- 16–Roberta Daugherty
- 17–Thelma Kellermeyer, Jon Rohrbach, Edward Yahl, Daniel Block

- 18–Clay Quellhorst, Donald Diers
- 19–John Schultz, Jr., Shirley Sudman
- 21–Linda Yahl
- 22–Scott Cisco, Morgan Hirschfeld, Lori Lutz
- 23–Carrie Stetler
- 24–Pastor Bill Maki, Daniel Lemmerman
- 25–Joyce Cook, Audrey Chisholm
- 26–Karen Kemmann, Aaron Masonbrink, Andrew Masonbrink, Ryan Yahl
- 27–Kelly Roth
- 28–Allison Perry, Zane Lampert
- 29–Colin Meckstroth
- 30–Sandra Wierwille, Kathleen Miller, Judith Schultz, Erica Keysor

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.

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Special dates in September 2023

- Labor Day, *September 4, 2023*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 10, 2023*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2023*
- First day of autumn, *September 23, 2023*

September 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	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

Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God's help is not partial but total."

—Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*



News for the Women of Zion

September is a month of beginnings here at Zion. Bible studies are starting back up on Monday nights, 2nd Wednesday nights and the 2nd Thursday afternoon. Everyone is welcome to come and learn. The Women's Board will start meeting again on September 13th, at 9:30 a.m.

The Showcase of Women displays are in the Narthex. Please check it out and see if there is a group you would like to be a part of. We can always use more volunteer help.

We will be holding elections for Vice-President and Treasurer during services on Wednesday, September 27th and Sunday, October 1st. Nominees for Vice President are Jane Hiles and Cheryl Macklem, for position of Treasurer are Debbie Brown and Dianne Uhlenhake. Ballots will be handed out before services and may be dropped in the ballot box in the Narthex that day.

The 70 & Over Dinner will be held on Sunday, October 1, at 12 noon, in the auditorium. Sheriff, Mike Vorhees will speak about Elderly Scams. Please sign up on your "I Worshipped Today" or call the church office to make reservations by September 24th.

Workday in September is Thursday, September 21st, at 9 a.m. We will be working on kits and knotting quilts.

Kitchen duty for September is Kathy Bishir and Becky Harvey has it in October.

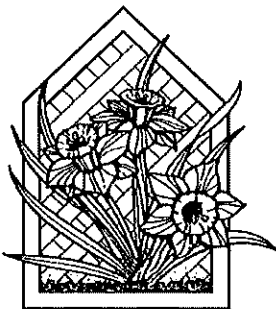
Book Club will meet Wednesday, September 6th, at 1 p.m. Sue Hecht will lead the discussion on "Our Souls at Night" by Kent Haruf. October's book "The Life We Bury" by Allen Eskens will be led by Betty Hussey.

Creative Crafters will meet in the auditorium on Sunday, September 10th, at 1:30 p.m., for a demonstration on spinning fiber for beginners. The demonstration will include use of a drop spindle, spinning yarn on a wheel, and spinning yarn using an electronic. Guest speakers will be Kathy Hart and Cathy Kosboth. Demonstration is free. Snack and beverage will be served.

Quote of the month – "The beginning is always today"

--Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

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



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:

- September 3
- October 29
- November 12
- November 19
- December 3
- December 17
- December 24

I'm No Bad Person!

"A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold." *Proverbs 22:1*

A couple had two little boys, ages eight and ten, who were excessively mischievous. If any shenanigans occurred in their town, their two young sons were usually involved.

The parents had heard that a new pastor in town had been successful in disciplining children, so they decided to ask him to speak to their boys. The pastor agreed, but asked to see the boys individually. The eight-year-old went first.

The pastor sat the boy down and asked sternly, "Where is God?" The boy made no response, so the pastor repeated even more sternly, "Where is God?" Again, the boy was silent. The pastor raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face. "Where...is...God?"

The boy bolted from the room, ran home, and hid in the closet. His older brother followed him and asked what had happened. The younger brother replied, "We are in really big trouble this time. God is missing, and they think we did it."

How can you be the kind of person people think of first when something good happens, not when something bad happens?



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

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, Ronald Suchland, Don Diers, Linda Diers, Paul White, Don Renninger, Emily Henkle, Kristin Hemmelgarn, Mary Willmann, Pastor Wilck, Kathy Manbeck, Lisa Suchland, Kelsey, Eileen Zimmerman, Dianne McDermitt, Tracy Anderson, Markham Hodge, Katie, Miriam Johns, Val Heidtke, Brittany Scheer, Avery, Bill & Carolyn Slemmons, Tom Grunden, Eileen Schamp, Alan Bishir, Maria, Baby Athena, Susan Kiel Lengerich, Family of Bill Maze, Family of Paul Axe, and Family of Carolyn Stevens.

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.

Keeping the Sabbath

Oh, what a blessing is Sunday, interposed between the waves of worldly business like the divine path of the Israelites through Jordan! There is nothing in which I would advise you to be more strictly conscientious than in keeping the Sabbath day holy. I can truly declare that to me the Sabbath has been invaluable.

—*William Wilberforce*



Going to school with Jesus

In *Faith Takes a Name*, Dwight E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain “learners under the instruction of Christ.” He notes, “Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus’] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him.”

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..... zionlutheranstmarys@bright.net

Direct Deposit App/QR Code

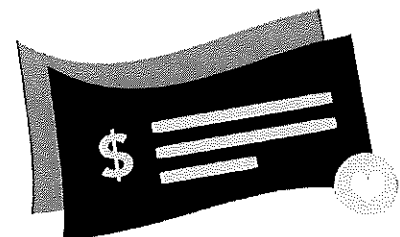
Just as you rely upon receiving income on a regular basis, Zion relies on your regular contributions. Zion appreciates the efforts of congregation members to make consistent donations throughout the year—especially during popular summer travel periods. To assist you the church also has direct deposit 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.

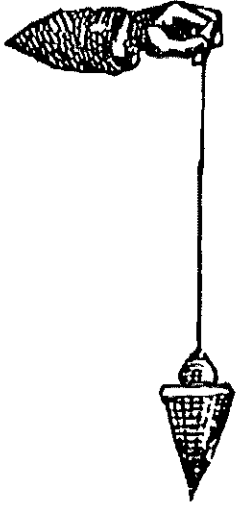


Year-to-Date Financial Information

Financial Information: Our current financial information for Zion is as follows for year-to-date for the month March, 8/22/2023.

- 1/1/2023 Beginning Balance--\$86,923
- August 2023 YTD Income--\$250,243
- August 2023 YTD Expenses--(-\$261,522)
- Payroll/Interest Adjustments—(-\$4,605)
- August 2023 Ending Bank Balance--\$71,039





Creative Crafters

Creative Crafters will meet in the auditorium on Sunday, September 10th, at 1:30 p.m., for a demonstration on spinning fiber for beginners. The demonstration will include use of a drop spindle, spinning yarn on a wheel, and spinning yarn using an electronic. Guest speakers will be Kathy Hart and Cathy Kosboth. Demonstration is **free**. Snack and beverage will be served.

Sign up in the notebook in the Narthex. This may be used as an introductory merit badge for the Girl & Boy scouts. Any questions concerning this craft, contact Kathy, 419-778-9640.

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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Mark Your Calendars

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

- 50th anniversary celebration will be Sunday, April 7th, 2024
- 175th anniversary celebration will be Sunday, June 9th, 2024

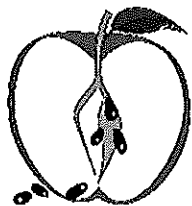
The Committee wants to know what meaningful event you would like to do for our anniversaries. Contact Stan Brown with your ideas.



September Loose Offering

The loose offering for the month of September each Wednesday & Sunday is earmarked for the North West Ohio Mission District of the NALC

The North West Ohio Mission District - NALC is part of the North American Lutheran Church, the fastest growing Lutheran church body in North America.



The Ohio Mission Region (OMR) was formed on May 9, 2015, to maintain state-wide unity when the former Ohio Mission District split into its current 5 districts. The OMR Council consists of the 5 deans of the new Ohio Mission Districts, 5 lay people (one from each district), a treasurer and a secretary. Deans acts as a convener for the meetings and annual convocation, but all share in the duties of the region.

The purpose for the regional council is to maintain contact between and among the districts located in Ohio and to serve as a coordinator for joint efforts. There are some outreach efforts and discipleship projects which require more than a few churches. When this is the case, the region serves as a point of organization and

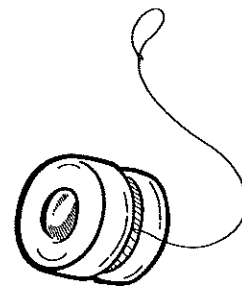
Items Needed for NALC Health Care Kits & Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Health Care Kits:

- Bath Towel
- Wash Cloth
- Shampoo
- Bar of Soap
- Toothbrush
- Floss
- Toothpaste
- Comb
- Deodorant
- Nail Clippers

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.



One Warm Coat Drive to Begin

Warm Winter Coat & Gloves Drive: Agape is accepting donations of New & Gently Used adult and children's winter coats and new winter waterproof gloves from September 15th—October 31st. Drop off coats in the barrel provided in our portico or take them to the Agape Client Services Building, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday. If dropping the coats off at Agape Thrift Store, you must specify it is for the Warm Winter Coat Drive.



Office Closing

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 4, in observance of Labor Day. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, September 5th. Hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday School Kick-Off

Join us in the Auditorium on **Sunday, September 10**, at 9:15 a.m. for the Sunday School Kick-Off, Walking with Jesus! We will discover that Jesus really is our very best friend and is with us always!



Adult Bible Studies

- The Women Fellowship Bible Study will be starting up on **Monday, September 11**, at 7 p.m., in the lounge. They will continue to study the book of Exodus.
 - The Wednesday evening on **September 13**, at 7 p.m. The Thursday afternoon on **September 14**, at 2 p.m. We will be meeting in the lounge. We will be studying "Come Holy Spirit". The study is about the third person of the Trinity. We will see how the Spirit is revealed throughout the Bible.
 - The Pastor Led Bible Study will resume on **Monday, September 11**, at 7 p.m., in the All Purpose Room.
 - Men in Mission Bible Study will be held on the second Saturday of each month, at 9 a.m., in the auditorium. Coffee and donuts will be served.
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Christian Symbol

STONE TABLETS — The tablets of stone symbolize God's giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They're often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.