

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

November, Volume 2023, Issue 11

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD...

"Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!" Psalm 95:1-2

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

We, the people of Zion, have much to be thankful to the Lord for as we head into the month of November. And November, the month of Thanksgiving in this country, is the perfect month for us to remember our blessings and praise the Lord about.

We continue to be a ministry outpost in St. Marys, OH. We engage in mission locally, continentally, and internationally.

Locally, for example, we have been able to support the Warm Coat and Glove Drive in our community since it began and provide for some of the needs of the Crisis Center.

Continentally, for example, we have been able to support the NALC Disaster Response in the United States and Canada, as situations arise.

Internationally, for example, we have continued to raise support for both Water Mission and Operation Christmas Child.

And the Lord has blessed us in many ways as we seek to further his mission in the world in this day and age. For the past 19 years I have witnessed the love for neighbor the people of Zion have, and for their trust in the Lord as they continue serving him year after year. You are a generous and caring people and I have been blessed by you these many years as well.

Please take the time to join us the Wednesday night before Thanksgiving, at 7 p.m., to intentionally thank the Lord for the many blessings you have received from the Lord in your lifetime, and in this particular year, 2023, which is coming to an end soon.

And then give thanks to the Lord that Zion will celebrate 175 years of worshipping and serving the Lord in 2024. Many events are planned to celebrate our 175 years, and you will learn of them very soon. In the meantime, let us remember with all humility, that Zion would not exist, would not be able to accomplish anything, without the love and support of Jesus Christ our Lord. All praise and glory to you, O Lord!

Happy Thanksgiving, Pastor Bill

Memorial Gifts as of October 16, 2023

Gifts were given in memory of **Tom Grunden** by Harry & Nora Staunton and Keith & Pam Fledderjohann.

Gifts were given in memory of **Paul White** by Janet Lane, Joyce Finke, Nina Spencer, Harold & Betty Hussey, Robert & Alice Huelsman, John & Sue Vogel, Doris Cook, Dan & Rose Klenke, Jeanne Wurster, Ruth Ann Merriman, Sandy & John Wierwille, Harry & Nora Staunton, Bob & Linda Suchland, Steve & Dora McAfee, Keith & Pam Fledderjohann, Ed & Linda Yahl, and Rebecca Harvey to the Women of Zion Lutheran Church Mission Fund.



Special Note of Thanks

Thank you to Pastor Maki for the beautiful service and to the Women for the great job on the dinner.
The Grunden Family



November Member 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.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 01–Paula Ankerman, Samantha Davenport, Dorothy Kiel, Heidi Yahl | 14–Katelyn Freewalt, Rachel Austin, J. D. Clark |
| 02–Bobby Huttis, Maria McDermitt, Kelsey Rohrbach, Melinda Henline | 16–Mary Miller |
| 03–Ethan Rose | 17–Janice Sudman |
| 04–Melinda Hoenie | 18–David Vogel |
| 05–Austin Quellhorst, Sophia Sacher | 19–Virginia Surma |
| 07–Dakota Block, Matthew Fledderjohann, Kourtney Wingett | 20–Paige Keysor |
| 08–Nancy Reier, Veronica Mertz | 22–Grant Broyles, Mitchell Miracle, Kendra Elshoff |
| 09–Karen Paul, Tyler Rose, Tammy Danner | 24–Tiffany Cernan, Rhett Chisholm, Ruth Ann McGlothen |
| 10–Jordan Freewalt | 25–Megan Stevens, Dylan Smith |
| 11–Megan Miller, Martha Stetler | 26–Matthew Suchland |
| 12–Merrilee Kleinhenz, Derek Vogel, John Hiles | 27–Cameron Now |
| 13–Dianne Uhlenhake | 30–Andrew O’Bryan, William Ross |

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

“Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way.”

—Native American saying



News for the Women of Zion

November is beginning the busy time of year. All Saints Day is November 1, Daylight Savings time ends November 5 (turn your clocks back), Election Day is November 7, Veterans Day is November 11, Thanksgiving Day is November 23, and Advent starts December 6.

Our women's board meeting will be Wednesday, November 8, at 9:30 a.m. The newly elected officers are invited to attend and anyone else interested in what the women do is invited also.

Workday in November is Thursday, November 16, at 9 a.m. Mary Bates came in early October and picked up kits, blankets, and diapers. We will be knotting quilts this month.

Thankful Offering Services

Sunday, November 19 and
Wednesday, November 15.
Bring your offering to help
support Crime Victim
Services.

Our Thankful Offering Services will be Sunday, November 19, at both services and Wednesday, November 15. Please bring your offering in an envelope marked "Thankful Offering". There will be women collecting the envelopes. Keep your containers to use again next year. If you need a new container there are some on the table in the narthex. Please look at the flyer in this newsletter that explains the services Crime Victims Services provides here in our area. They are the beneficiary of this offering. Your support is always greatly appreciated!

Book Club will meet on Wednesday, November 1, at 1 p.m. Dora McAfee will lead the discussion on "Shine, Shine, Shine" by Lydia Netzer. December's book "A Redbird Christmas" by Fannie Flagg, will be led by Doris Cook.

Creative Crafters will not meet in November. We will be doing a service project on Saturday, December 9, from 9—11 a.m. We will wrap your Christmas gifts, for \$1 per package*. We will be in the church lounge to wrap your gift items. *Paper, bows, bags, boxes, gift tags and tissue will be included in the \$1 fee. Save yourself some time and have your Christmas gifts wrapped by us. Tell your family and friends that we will be wrapping your gifts.

Our annual Advent Breakfast will be Tuesday, December 5, at 9:30 a.m. This year's program is "The Perfect Gift". Please sign up on your "I Worshiped Today" or call the church office by November 27. Invite your friends and relatives to come celebrate Advent and enjoy Christian Fellowship with us.

We will be putting together Birthday Bags for Agape again this coming year. Items needed are box cake mixes and frosting. With the holidays coming up, there should be sales on these items, keep watch. There will be a tub by the elevator to place your donations in. Thirty bags will be put together for a month's supply. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Advent Breakfast

Tuesday, December 5,
9:30 a.m.

Zion's Auditorium

"The Perfect Gift"

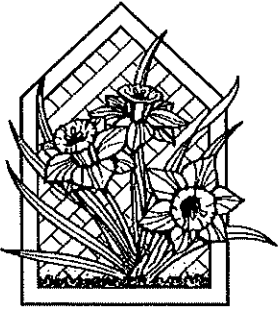
RSVP by November 27,
by calling the church
office, 419-394-3115

Quote of the month: "Prosperity is a great teacher; adversity a greater."

--William Hazlett

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

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

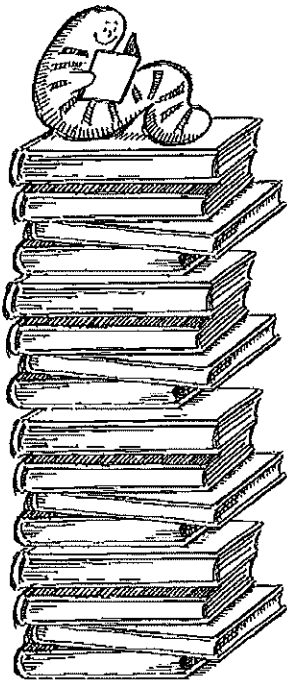


2023/2024 Flower Chart

The 2023 and 2024 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. Check out the bulletin board today!

Thankful Offering

Ladies, on Wednesday, November 15, and Sunday, November 19, we will be collecting our Thankful Offerings given in response for the blessings we have received during the year. We are again donating this year's offering to Crime Victim Services, in Lima, specifically for combating human trafficking. Sex and labor trafficking happens nationwide, including right here in rural Ohio. Please review the enclosed information sheet from Crime Victim Services about this despicable crime. Crime Victim Services has also provided information flyers that will be included in our worship service bulletins two weeks prior to Thankful Offering Sunday. Your offering will be going to a worthy cause.



Library Notes

Lori Wick is an American Christian author of historical and contemporary novels. According to [Good Reads](#), she is known as one of the most versatile writers on the market.

Available in the church library are these series:

- [The English Garden series](#)
- [The Californian series](#)
- [The Tucker Mills Trilogy](#)

Also by the author:

- [Sophies Heart](#)
- [White Chocolate Moments](#)
- [Pretense](#)
- [Beyond the Picket Fence](#) (a book of short stories)

Please visit the church library located on the second floor of the educational building and pick up a book or two for your November reading enjoyment.

The family of Paul White would like to thank everyone for your support, thoughts, prayers, and hugs during this difficult time. Thanks to Pastor Maki for doing the service and to the Women of Zion for preparing and providing the funeral luncheon.

--Chris, Billie, Paul, Mandy & Amy



Prayer List

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

We invite you to include the following people in your daily prayers: Janet Dicke, Judy Von Blon, Brent Paulus, Sandi Deerrhake, Alma Kuffner, Michael Moore, Tom Kaster, Ann Morris, Darlene Henkener, Margaret Moore, Ronald Suchland, Don Diers, Linda Diers, Ruth Schreffler, Vicki Bishir, Emily Henkle, Kristin Hemmelgarn, Mary Willmann, Pastor Wilck, Lisa Suchland, Kelsey, Eileen Zimmerman, Family of Mike Rubin, Bill & Carolyn Slemmons, Markham Hodge, Alan Bishir, Mike Kittle, Family of John Bowsher, Donna Maynard, caretakers of the sick, Martha Meyer, Adam, and the people of Israel.

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.

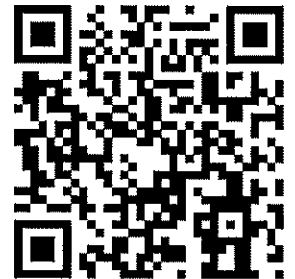
Staff E-Mail Addresses

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 Thiebeauzionbpe@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.

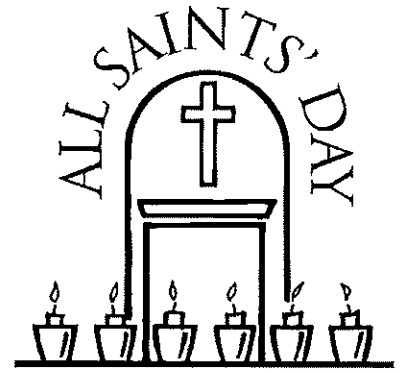


40th Anniversary Dinner

Zion will be celebrating Kathy Bishir's 40th work anniversary on Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 12 noon, with a dinner, held in the auditorium. All members and guests are invited. Reservations will be starting from November 5—26. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

All Saints' Day

November 1 is All Saints Day, a feast day observing the lives of the many saints for whom there is no specific feast day during the year. Sunday, November 5, marks a day of prayer for, and remembrance of, the "faithfully departed": relatives, friends and strangers who are no longer living. We will recognize the following people during our Sunday worship services (11/5) and Wednesday (11/8): Betty Vogel, Jo (Baker) Rowen, Robert Lee Sudman, Karen Kemmann, Janet Doute, Thomas Grunden, Cecelia Houseworth, and Paul White.



Daylight Saving
Time Ends
Sunday,
November 5

Veterans Day Observed

The federal holiday takes place on Saturday, November 11 this year, but for many businesses it will be observed on *Friday, November 10*. The church office will be closed to observe this Federal Holiday.

Congregation Meeting

The Congregational Meeting packets are available on the table in the narthex. Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 5**, at 11:45 a.m., with a light lunch being served in the auditorium.

Dessert Challenge

Date change: the Dessert & Appetizer challenge will be held on **Sunday, November 12**, at 6 p.m., in the auditorium. Do you think your dessert or appetizer can win the golden spatula? Bring it and find out. Youth and adults are encouraged to participate. Not a baker or cook? Come, enjoy, and score the goodies. All are welcome.

Samaritan's Purse

Operation Christmas Child News: National Collection week is November 13-20, 2023, so it's time to pack the boxes. Shoeboxes are available to be picked up at the table in the Narthex **now until Sunday, November 5**. Please return fun filled, prayed for boxes by **Sunday, November 12**. Please remember to include a WOW gift, hygiene items, and school supplies and the \$10 donation for shipping. Boxes may also be packed online at samaritanpurse.org/buildonline for a cost of \$25. The signup sheet to work at our Drop off location is also on the table, in the Narthex. See Dora or Steve McAfee for more information.

Thanksgiving Prayer

Dear Lord, we beg but one boon more: peace in the hearts of all men living, peace in the whole world this Thanksgiving.

—Joseph Auslander

Community Candlelight Memorial Service

Zion will host the special community Grand Lake Hospice Healing Memories Candlelight Memorial Service, on Thursday, December 7th, at 6 p.m., in the sanctuary. This is an evening that is set aside each year to remember those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. This service is meant to be a time to help us move toward Christmas seeking assurance and to be embraced by God's redeeming love. Anyone who wishes to honor a deceased loved one or friend is invited to attend and join in this special evening. If you have questions in regard to the Candlelight Service, please call Grand Lake Hospice at 419-394-7434. We hope to see you on December 7th.



Christmas Gift Wrapping

No matter how small or big, expensive or non-expensive the present is, fantastic gift paper wraps it with warmth and brings a bright smile to the face of the person. Let us wrap your Christmas Gifts (Creative Crafters), \$1 per package, on Saturday, December 9, in lounge, from 9—11 a.m. We will provide wrapping paper, bows, tape, etc. to make your gift special. Sign up on your "I Worshiped Today" or just show up with your gifts to be wrapped. Share this project with your family and friends, we will wrap them too!

Thanksgiving Office Closed

The church office will be closed on **Thursday, November 23, and Friday, November 24**, in observance of Thanksgiving.



November Loose Plate Offering

Our loose offerings each Wednesday and Sunday for the month of November are earmarked to support Shop-Til-You-Drop. The funds collected in cooperation with our local Toys for Tots program run by the United State Marine Corps Reserve, which distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas.*

**Loose plate will go to human traffic services from the Women Helping Women Thankful Offering fund on the third Wednesday/Sunday. Our Thanksgiving eve service loose offering and canned goods will go to help the Auglaize County Crisis Center.*

Thanksgiving Prayer

O Lord that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness.

—William Shakespeare

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.

Congratulations to our 2023 Confirmation Class!

The following students were confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 29. They were confirmed having completed all their confirmation requirements: Allison Ankerman, Calianna Bond-Awls, Grady Hughes, Makenna Meinerding and Megan Miller.



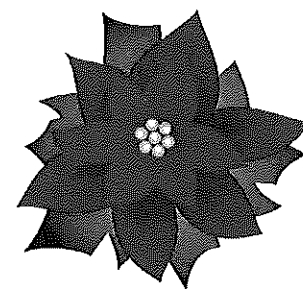
Decorating for Christmas

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas season, on Saturday, December 2, at 12:30 p.m., for approximately 2 hours. Sign up on your "I Worshiped Today" or call the church office, 419-394-3115,

to participate in decorating.

Poinsettia Sale

The poinsettia plants will be in a 6 1/2" pot, will consist of one red poinsettia, a branched plant with 5-7 blooms, and foil cover. The cost is \$15.



The order blank will be in the church bulletins prior to the deadline of Monday, November 27, by 12 noon. Orders can be placed in the offering plate or brought to the church office. Plants will be delivered the week of December 24th.

Year-to-Date Financial Information

Financial Information: Our current financial information for Zion is as follows for year-to-date, as of 10/26/2023.

- Beginning Balance--\$86,923
- YTD Income--\$319,450
- YTD Expenses--(-\$343, 826)
- Payroll/Interest Adjustments—\$5,911
- Ending Bank Balance--\$68,458

