

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

January, Volume 2024, Issue 2

Why Lent?

For Lutherans, the forty-day Lenten season is an important one. But behind the question of what to do during Lent lies more foundational questions: What is Lent? Do the Scriptures mention it? Why do we observe it?

Though the Scriptures do not specifically mention Lent, it has a longstanding tradition in the Church closely derived from the contents of Scripture. As Christ prepared for Good Friday and the Resurrection, so too the Church tethered to the life of Christ through the liturgical calendar follows her Lord into sin's death and resurrection life. Lent simply engages the Church and each Christian in the rhythm and patterns of sanctification: Death to sin and the pursuit of holiness. Lent fosters an intensive time for the baptized to live as the baptized according to the pattern of Romans 6:1-7.

Lent began very simply as a time of preparation for Easter or, synonymously, resurrection life. This is the driving force behind Lent: The Christian practicing the future of resurrection life in the here and now. This was a legitimate pursuit because Holy Baptism brought resurrection to the human spirit in this life with the resurrection of the body in the life to come.

For our early Christian forbearers, Lent had two major emphases. First, it was a time of repentance and denial of self that inhibited baptismal, that is to say, resurrection life. All Christians were to examine their lives according to the Ten Commandments and Jesus' summation of the Law in Mark 12:30-31 and repent accordingly, considering what it cost their Savior to redeem them, but also to strive to "walk in the Spirit" (Galatians 5:16). Second, it was a time of instruction for catechumens, that is, those who desired the resurrection of their spirits in Holy Baptism. During Lent they learned the Christian faith by studying the Apostles' Creed. Upon examination they were baptized and received the Lord's Supper in the joyous resurrection service of Easter. This is fitting given the meaning and significance of baptism: The old self being buried with Christ in baptism and raised to newness of life (Romans 6:3-5).

At the time of the Reformation, some Christian radicals wanted to eliminate Lent since Scripture did not explicitly command it. Luther, however, urged it be kept, not out of any necessity (one does not need to observe Lent to be either saved or sanctified) but because he saw Lent as an opportunity for the strengthening of faith and distinctive proclamation of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. "Lent, Palm Sunday, and Holy Week shall be retained," wrote Luther, "not to force anyone to fast, but to preserve the Passion history and the Gospels appointed for that season" (Luther's Works, 53:90). Here Luther, ever conservative, reminds us Lent should be preserved in part because it reminds Christians of the Passion of Jesus and encourages them to meditate and act upon it. However, no one should be forced to participate. It should be voluntary. To be sure, this is in keeping with the teachings of Scripture (2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 2:4; 5:1, 13). In other words, you do not have to come to mid-week Lenten Services or observe Lenten devotions at home. But, at

the same time our fathers in the Church in the Reformation tradition, our pastors and elders, recognized that the keeping of Lent is for our greater spiritual good because it promotes striving for resurrection life in the here and now by living as the baptized, repenting of sin and embracing the way of sanctification.

There are two guiding principles for the observance of Lent. During this season, the baptized should grow in their faith and love toward Jesus crucified, and we should exercise a penitent heart while always keeping an eye on the victory of God on Easter.

This is how we are to approach the season of Lent and why we have midweek services in Lent. May you experience a fulfillment of Lent this year.

Pastor Bill

**Visit Us
ONLINE** 

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.

Radio Broadcast and Livestreaming of Worship Service

- 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** each Sunday morning. 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.

Member Address Change

- Mrs. Katelyn Ackerman, 5609 Liebold Drive, Huber Heights, OH 45424
 - Donald & Sue Nuss, 3743 South Camino Del Golfista, Green Valley, AZ 85614
-

The Realm of the Impossible

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God's realm, where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for his almighty power. Nothing is too small for his love.

—Corrie ten Boom



Cookies Needed!

Cookie donations, with no peanut products, are needed for the Community Easter Egg Hunt on March 23 and the Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt on March 24. Please let Mindy know if you are able to donate them, and thank you in advance!

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



March Newsletter Article Deadline

The deadline to submit articles for our March Newsletter is Thursday, February 15. Please submit all articles to the church office by 3:30 p.m. Here are the various ways to submit your articles to us

- Fax: 419-394-1239
- Bring it to the church office by the deadline.
- Write us a note on the "I Worshiped Today"
- Leave a message on our answering machine: 419-394-3115, after 4:30 p.m. *(Let it ring 5 times, then you will get the answering machine)*
- Send your article by e-mail: kbishir@hotmail.com



February 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.

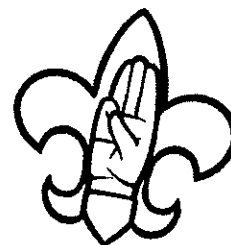
- 2 Marilyn Nedderman, Randy Lauth, Judy Flora
- 3 Collin Reier
- 4 Elizabeth Johnson, Boston Reier, Scott Ross, Dana Runnion
- 5 John Hesse, Everett Halbert
- 6 Connor Berner, Ruth E. Langsdon, Xander Meinerding
- 7 Larry Daugherty
- 8 Jacob Falasco
- 9 Jason Homan
- 10 Dominic Block

- 11 Kelsey Burke, Cody Paul
- 12 Jane Hiles, Carl Keysor, Kerri Masonbrink, Janice Suchland
- 13 Penny Kogge, Denise Huttis
- 14 Jessica Eberle, Abigail Bond-Awls, Leah Bowman
- 15 Alexa Coldiron, Kathryn Lampert, Robert Hinschlager
- 16 Dan Macklem
- 17 Melissa Elshoff
- 18 David Kiel
- 19 Bailey Lampert, Dawn Houser
- 20 Mindy Thiebeau
- 22 Gretchen Langsdon, Nora Staunton, Barbara Weadock
- 23 Betty Hussey, Stacey Putman, Suzette Putman
- 24 Caleb Cisco, Brian Cook, Dana Cook, Nancy Hoenie
- 25 Donna Ankerman, Donna Yates
- 26 Sandra Burd, Linda Diers
- 28 Deborah Brown, Simon Schrader

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.

February's Loose Offering

Our loose offering each Sunday/Wednesday for the month of February is earmarked to support Boy Scout Troop #360, which Zion sponsors.



Ash Wednesday

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, February 14, at 7 p.m., in the sanctuary. This service will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

Prayer List

We invite you to include the following people in your daily prayers (family and friends of members of Zion):

- Janet Dicke, Judy Von Blon, Brent Paulus, Sandi Deerhake, Michael Moore, Tom Kaster, Ronald Suchland, Vicki Bishir, Emily Henkle, Faith Williams, Don, Warren Hoenie, Jamie, Sharon Lhaman, Family of Sandy Minturn, Bill & Carolyn Slemmons, Bob Hinschlager, Bob Suchland, Janet, Analisa Bouscaren, Alan Bishir, Virginia Loyer, Lisa Suchland, Kelsey, Eileen Zimmerman, Maria, Debra & Scott, John Robert Hiles, Markham Hodge, Bob Lehner, and Eden Tangeman.
- 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.



News for the Women of Zion

Here we are starting February already. February comes from the Latin word februs, which means "to cleanse". The month was named after the Roman Februalia, which was a month long festival of purification and atonement.

The total amount collected from our Thankful Offering was \$1,103.99. A check was sent to Crime Victims Services in Lima, and their thank you response said they really appreciate our generosity. Thank you to all who gave!

We put together 31 Birthday Bags in January for Agape Pantry. Thank you to all who donated! Our next workday is February 15, when we will be putting Personal Care kits together and knotting quilts.

Our Lenten Fundraiser will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14. This year we are doing something different. We will pass out "Journey to the Cross"—forty days of Lenten daily readings, except Sundays. Please read each days Bible reading. In past years we asked you to place 50 cents each day in the envelope for a total of \$20. This we have included an offering envelope for you to place \$20 or more, if desired, and return the envelope on Easter Sunday in the offering plate. This is the women's only fundraiser that stays with us to support our programs, mission activities and expenses. Your donations is always greatly appreciated and helps us spread God's word and provide for others. Thank you for participating!

The women's board will be providing the Soup & Salad Supper on Wednesday, February 28. Come join us at 5 p.m., for good food and fellowship before the Wednesday Lenten Service.

Book Club will meet Wednesday, February 7, to discuss "The Light Between Oceans" by M.L. Stedman. The leader is Sue Hecht. Everyone is welcome!

Pam Fledderjohann has kitchen duty in February.

The Creative Crafters will meet on Sunday, February 4, at 1:30 p.m., to make a Valentine arrangement. Sign up in the binder provided. The fee will be \$15 (to include a chocolate bar). In March we will make a rice dyed egg arrangement. In April we will make simple Aprons, this will go along with the Women's Celebration topic. Looking ahead to November we will be making six fabric star ornaments, in preparation for decorating our Christmas trees. Watch for more details, also check the display table for upcoming projects.

To fall in love with God is the greatest of romances, to seek him the greatest adventure, to find him the greatest human achievement. --St. Augustine



Happy Valentine's Day!

Nora Staunton, Chair of Zion Women of the NALC

"Pray, and let God worry."

—Martin Luther

Library News

Do you love to read? Then pick up a book at the church library, turn of the electronics, grab your Valentine and have a stay in evening. We have oodles of titles by these prolific authors.

Janet Oke

She is the daughter of Canadian prairie farmer who naturally her books are set in the pioneer era. She writes inspirational fiction centered on a female antagonist. Her most popular title is When Calls the Heart.

Lauraine Snelling

This is a American author of Christian fiction. Her main setting is in the Dakotas. She has several series, among them, Dakota Treasures, Daughter of Blessing and Dakota Plains.

Lori Copeland

Mrs. Copeland began writing when she was 40 years old and has published over 95 novels. She began with mainstream novella and gradually changed over to Christian romance. She has won several writing awards and supports West Africa Mission work.

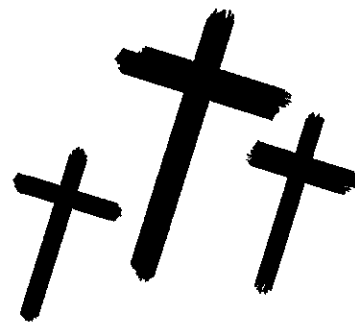


Choir Practice to Begin

Choir Practice will start back up on Wednesday, February 7, at 7 p.m. in the choir loft. During lent the practices will be held at 6 p.m. All are welcomed to join.

Lenten Schedule

Our Lenten Services will be held at 7 p.m., in the Sanctuary, on Wednesdays: February 21 & 28, March 6, 13 & 20. Our Lenten Soup Suppers will be held at 5 p.m., in the Auditorium, before those services.



Creative Crafters

FEBRUARY: The Creative Crafters will meet on Sunday, February 4, at 1:30 p.m., to make a Valentine arrangement. Sign up in the binder provided. The fee will be \$15 (to include a chocolate bar).

MARCH: In March we will make a rice dyed (wooden) egg arrangement.

APRIL: In April we will make simple Aprons, this will go along with the Women's Celebration topic.

NOVEMBER: Looking ahead to November we will be making six fabric star ornaments, in preparation for decorating our Christmas trees.

DECEMBER: We will wrap your Christmas gifts for you for \$1 each package.

Watch for more details in bulletin, newsletter or binder on the display table. Also, check the display table and sign up for upcoming projects.

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 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.



2024 Flower Chart

The first 6 months of 2024 Flower Chart is available 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:



*March 3, 10, 24 & 31

*April 7, 14, 21 & 28

*May 19 & 26

*June 9, 16 & 23

Mark Your Calendars

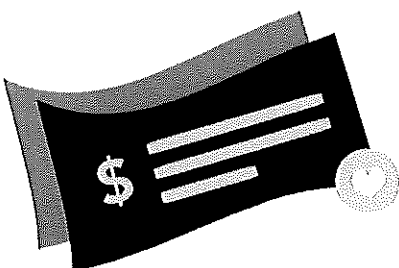
In 2024 we will be celebrating our 175th anniversary as a church. We will also be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Sanctuary. Those dates are:

- 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.

Year-to-Date Financial Information

Financial Information: Our current financial information for Zion is as follows for year-to-date for the month of January, as of 1/25/2024.



- 1/1/2024 Beginning Balance--\$83,842.97
- January YTD Income--\$15,371.78
- January YTD Expenses—(\$25,899.82)
- Payroll WH/Benevolence—(\$566.47)
- January 2023 Ending Bank Balance--\$72,748.46

Memorials, as of 1/24/24

- The Zion Women of the NALC gave gifts in memory of Betty Irene Vogel, Helen Jo Rowen, Robert Lee Sudman, Karen Kemmann, Janet M McCullough Doute, Thomas Lew Grunden, Cecelia Ann Houseworth and Paul White.
- Gifts were given in memory of Carl & Emogene Hecht by Merrilee & Mike Kleinhenz and Scott & Linda Gephart.
- A gift was given in memory of Carl & Emogene Hecht and George Hut by Kermit Hecht.
- Gifts were given in memory of Alma Kuffner Harry & Nora Staunton, Richard & Deborah Green, Becky Ballenger, John & Janet Yahl, Jane Schmiesing, Eric & Suzanne Langsdon, Kermit & Alana Hecht, Dennis Dicke, Gen Conradi, Pam & Bob Prater, Joyce Finke, John & Sandy Wierwille, Daniel Klenke, Don Maxwell Family, Bob & Linda Suchland, Kenton & Donna Kuffner, Don & Beverly Applegate, Rosalind Rickert Mena, Steve & Paula Stellhorn, and Rodney Rickert.

Fish Fry:

- Friday, February 24, from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., in the auditorium.
- Eat in or Carry Out.
- There will be all-you-can-eat-fish, cheesy potatoes, coleslaw, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, hot dogs, beverage and dessert. Cost is \$12 each for adult, \$5 each for ages 4-10 and children 3 and under eat free.
- Tickets are being sold in the church office or at the door the day of the event.



Office Closed

The church office will be closed Monday, February 19, in observance of Presidents' Day.

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Candy donations are needed now for the Community Easter Egg Hunt on March 23 and the Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt on March 24. We need candy that is individually wrapped and will fit in an egg with NO PEANUTS or peanut products. Please leave your donations in the Sunday School box, located by the elevator. Thank you in advance!



Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

- 14 - 7 = ___ Father
- 10 + 9 = ___ heavenly
- 9 + 9 = ___ the
- 12 + 12 = ___ blessing
- 2 - 1 = ___ Praise
- 7 + 7 = ___ has
- 11 + 11 = ___ every
- 13 + 13 = ___ Christ
- 8 + 8 = ___ us
- 10 + 10 = ___ realms
- 8 + 9 = ___ in
- 5 + 5 = ___ Lord
- 10 + 11 = ___ with

- 10 + 15 = ___ in
- 10 - 5 = ___ God
- 6 - 3 = ___ to
- 12 - 6 = ___ and
- 6 + 6 = ___ Christ
- 18 - 9 = ___ our
- 22 - 11 = ___ Jesus
- 1 + 1 = ___ be
- 7 + 6 = ___ who
- 2 + 2 = ___ the
- 10 + 5 = ___ blessed
- 4 + 4 = ___ of
- 10 + 13 = ___ spiritual

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		

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Ground Rules for Love

In *Let Me Be a Woman*, missionary Elisabeth Elliot writes about the “ground rules” for “how this thing called love really works — in a marriage, in the world.” Her list reflects many of the principles found in 1 Corinthians 13, the Bible’s love chapter.

- This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience. It looks for a way of being constructive.
- Love is not possessive.
- Love is not anxious to impress, nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own ideas.
- Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage.
- Love is not touchy.
- Love does not keep account of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad ... when truth prevails.
- Love knows no limits to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that stands when all else has fallen.

Christian Symbol



CROSS OF ASHES — On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers’ foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus’ death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

This is a special year for Zion Lutheran Church as we celebrate 175 years as a congregation and 50 years since the construction of the sanctuary and administrative offices. The following notes and excerpts are from Church Vestry meeting minutes and entries in Sunday bulletins leading up to the dedication of the new sanctuary on April 7, 1973.

- **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 18, 1973**

The meeting was called to vote on the construction of the new church building as presented by the Church Vestry. There were 150 individuals present. The vote was 104 - YES votes, 40 - NO votes and 4 abstained. The following was submitted for the Congregational vote. This affirmative vote moved forward the construction of the new Church.

Bids were accepted by the church Vestry for the Construction of the new church building as designed by Lester Trier, an Engineer.

General Contract	Thomas Marker	\$345,905
Electrical Contract	Sidney Electric	\$52,875
Mechanical Contract	J.F. Dible Company	\$37,080
Elevator	Davis-Newcomber Company	\$21,495

Additional items authorized by the Church Vestry as recommended by the Building Planning Committee in order that the building may be completed as planned, that the additions necessary and probable cost are as follows:

Glass work	\$6,728
Carpeting	\$10,345
Pews, altar, kneelers, etc.	\$14,083
Wood Sculpture	\$6,950
Pipe organ	\$40,950
Church Spire	\$1,625
Cross	\$1,200
Bulletin Board	\$957
Insurance, performance bonds, and engineering fees	\$23,312
Unforeseen Contingencies	\$15,000

And that in order to pay for these contractual costs and other items necessary, the Church Vestry be authorized to borrow funds and to encumber the real estate and other assets of the church with a mortgage not to exceed the amount of \$400,000 at an interest rate not to exceed 7.5 % per annum.

Lester A. Trier, Structural Engineer from Elkhart, IN designed and developed the specifications for the General Conditions for all Contracts for the new church construction.

This project was contracted at \$554,236 in 1973. The value of this contract in 2023, 50 years later, would be estimated at \$3,832,854.

- **THE ORDER OF SERVICE for THE GROUND-BREAKING and THE BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION, MARCH 11, 1973.**

The Chairman of the Zion Congregation, the Chairman of the Building Planning Committee, the Structural Engineer were each asked by the Pastor to affirm the work each had done for the planning for the construction of the church. All affirmed their work. The Chairman of the Congregation was then requested to officially begin the construction by turning the first three spades of earth. The Building Planning Committee and Pastor Theodore Stellhorn, III then turned a spade of earth. All who desired to have a share in the ground-breaking were invited to step forward and turn a spade of earth.

- **THE ORDER OF SERVICE for THE LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE, SEPTEMBER 16, 1973**

The service was performed by Theodore Stellhorn, III. Items had been collected and vetted for inclusion into the Cornerstone. The contents of the old box from the old Zion Church were reviewed and included. Numerous publications, such as directories, newspaper articles, booklets, committee meeting minutes and church service bulletins were included. The entire list of items placed in the box for the cornerstone is available to review.

- **THE LAST SERVICE IN THE OLD ZION CHURCH, SEPTEMBER 30, 1973**

Theodore Stellhorn, III, Pastor led the service. The service began with the last hymn sung in the wood church on August 9, 1908. The opening hymn was "Open now thy Gates" which was the first English hymn sung at the old Zion Church (brick church). The closing hymn was "Praise to the Lord" which was the first hymn sung in the Old Zion in German.

An entry in the Church bulletin a week later stated:

The building bulged with worshippers at both services on the last Sunday we had the opportunity to use it for worship. Someone mentioned that it should be that way every Sunday! AMEN! IT CAN BE THAT WAY AND WILL BE THAT WAY WHEN ALL OF US ARE DETERMINED TO WORSHIP GOD REGULARLY.

A note in the bulletin September 30, 1973 noted:

ALL ITEMS WHICH WE WILL NOT BE USING in the new church will be available at the Auction Sale on Thursday afternoon. Contact the trustees if you have any questions. The Public is invited...

The items in the auction included stained glass, church furniture, light fixtures, brass railings, and miscellaneous items. Many items were acquired by members of Zion Lutheran. A specific pew from the balcony was acquired by the family that worshipped there for several generations. All the pews in the current Chapel are from the balcony of the 1908 Zion (Brick) Church.

You are encouraged to attend and participate in the numerous events and activities planned for 2024 at Zion Lutheran Church.

Zion Lutheran Church
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St. Marys, Ohio 45885-2194
zionlutheranstmarys@bright.net
www.zionstmarys.org

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Return "Service" Requested



2024 Church Council

- ORGANIZATION:**
President Neal Brady
Vice-President TBD
Secretary TBD
Assistant Secretary TBD
Treasurer TBD
Assistant Treasurer TBD
- COUNCIL AT LARGE:** Thelma Kellermeyer, Cheryl Macklem, Doug Stetler, Melanie Rose,
Dwight Schramm, & Stan Brown
- BOARD OF DEACONS:** Dianne Uhlenhake, John Hesse, Dan Macklem, Judy Schultz, Dwayne Hoenie,
Ryan Yahl, Deb Henning, Jody Slemmons, & Rhonda Weaver
- BOARD ELDERS:** Kathy Miller, Darl Bishir & Brandy Yahl
- BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** Eric Langsdon, Jeremie Houser, Dana Cook & Ed Flora
- BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION:** Sandy Wierwille, Kerri Masonbrink, Ann Maki & Alexa Coldiron
- BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION DIRECTOR:** Mindy Thiebeau
- YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE:** Genevieve Brown
- MEMBERS TO THE TRUST FUND:** Doris Cook, Darl Bishir, Marion Slater, Rick Green, Bill Kellermeyer
*Chairperson of the Board