

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 2024, Issue 3

From Suffering and Mourning into Joyful Resurrection and Eternal Life

As this month of March begins we are still in the season of Lent, following Jesus on his 40 day journey to the cross, and his resurrection three days later.

With each stop on the journey, we are being connected to important elements that fit into the story. In February we heard about ashes, salt and water in connection to the scripture verses and stories of the first three weeks of Lent.

On Ash Wednesday, the ashes reminded us of our need to clothe ourselves in humility and repent of our sins.

On Feb 21st, the salt reminds us Jesus Christ is with us now, sweetening and preserving all our lives. He also promises to vaccinate us from death, preserving us now and for eternity.

On Feb 28th, the water reminds us that it circulates throughout Scripture to wash, cleanse, flood, and reshape whatever it touches. Like a potter working with clay, our heavenly Father remodels us every day, conforming us more closely to the image of His Son, Jesus, with our baptismal water.

Now, in March, as we conclude Lent, we will hear about light, bread, palm branches, water and blood, and then finally, milk and honey.

On March 6th, the light reminds us Jesus Christ is the light of the world, who enlightens all who believe in Him. His light dispels sin and darkness and fills us with so much light and joy that we truly reflect His light to the world.

On March 13th, the bread reminds us Jesus is the true bread of life given by the Father to us. In Him, and only in Him, is life forgiven, meaningful, renewed, and satisfied.

On March 20th, the palm branches remind us as Christians to remain joyful and hope-filled even though life circumstances may change. All of God's people remain victorious, even amidst pain, adversity, trials, sin, and death. This is why palms hold a special place in the hearts of all the people of God.

On Maundy Thursday, the water and blood remind us that Jesus was baptized into death through water and blood, and on this night, we celebrate receiving the (new) testament which our Lord inaugurated in the Lord's Supper.

On Good Friday our Lord is crucified.

And on Easter Sunday, milk and honey reminds us of the Promised Land of God's eternal kingdom and of our eternal life in that kingdom.

If you have been joining us for midweek Lenten worship, I pray you follow spiritual discipline through to the end. If you haven't joined us yet, I encourage you to come and engage in this spiritual practice and then as you

celebrate Easter, reflect on these last few weeks of Lent to determine if it made Easter even more meaningful for you.

Blessings, *Pastor Bill*



News for the Women of Zion

We've had a pretty mild winter. Will March come in like a lamb or lion? I guess we will have to wait and see.

Hope everyone is using the Lenten reading schedule—Journey to the Cross. Please turn in the Lenten offering envelope on Easter Sunday, this will help our women's programs and missions. Thank you!

The Women's Fellowship has the Soup & Salad Supper on Wednesday, March 6. Come join us for good food and fellowship.

Our workday in March is Thursday, March 21, at 9 a.m. We will be knotting quilts. In February we put together 86 personal care kits.

Josie Slater has kitchen duty in March.

Book Club will meet Wednesday, March 6, to discuss "Remarkably Bright Creatures", by Shelby Van Pelt. Dora McAfee will lead the discussion. April's book is "My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry" by Fredrik Backman and discussion led by Allison Brady.

Wayne Streets annual Lenten Breakfast will be Saturday, March 23, at 9:30 a.m. They have not sent a flyer out yet, so more details will follow in the bulletin.

Our Women's Celebration will be held Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m. "Put on Your Apron in the Kitchen of Prayer" is the theme. This is an afternoon tea with a light lunch served. Wear your favorite apron to the program. I am looking for some models to participate in the style show for the program. If interested please contact me—Nora Staunton. So mark your calendars and watch for more details in April's newsletter and bulletin. Hope to see you there!

The Creative Crafters will be dyeing eggs in March and putting them in a "Bunny" basket. Watch for it on the display table. April we will be making aprons.

Quote of the month: "It is not fair to ask of others what you are not willing to do yourself"

--*Eleanor Roosevelt*

Blessings this Easter to All!

Nora Staunton, Chair of Zion Women of the NALC

"The story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise."

—*Carl Knudsen*

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.



Sunday School News

- March 3, Donuts with Dad returns. Please join your children in Sunday school that day.
- March 17, bring a Friend Sunday, for all grades. Invite your friends to attend Sunday school with you!
- Sunday Fun day, April 28, for grades PreK-5. Join us in the Auditorium for a day filled with fun activities!

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

02–Lisa Hollenbacher, Kraig Johns, Chad Meckstroth, Jennifer Puthoff, Pyper Storer

03–Leah Rohrbach

04–Connie Torsell

05–Sandra Bergman, Todd Lutz, Braydon Wenning

06–Seth Fitzgerald, Alex Grunden

07–Caleb Huelskamp

08–Peggy Folk

09–Terry Felver, Brandt Grunden, Marilyn Slemmons

10–Rylan Hughes, Daniel Knatz, Hayes Dougherty

11–Joshua McDermitt

12–Heather Anderson, Traci Miller

13–Barbara Lutz

16--Jack Masonbrink

17–Jennifer Staugler

18–Rebecca Harvey, Dwayne Hoenie

19–Karrie Hughes, David Erb, Maria Johns

21–Daniel Elshoff, Spencer Schrader
23–Angel Wingett
24–Jolene Spector
25–Lillian Ankerman

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.

Confirmation Reunions for 175th Anniversary

- March 3: Classes 2010 through 2023
- April 7: Classes 2000 through 2009
- June 2: Classes 1980 through 1999
- August 4: Classes 1970 through 1979
- October 6: Classes 1950 through 1969

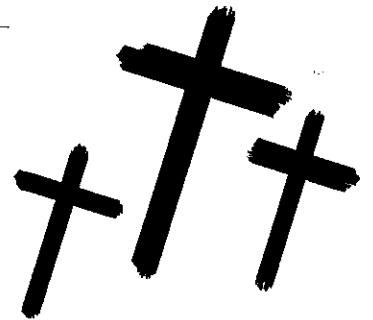


We are inviting the classes in 10-year groups to be either at the 8 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. worship services on their designated Sundays. Each will be recognized during the service.

At 9:15 a.m., between services, there will be refreshments in the Narthex to encourage fellowship among the confirmands and other members of Zion at that time.

Lenten Schedule

Promised Treasures is our Midweek Lenten theme. Services will continue to be held at 7 p.m., in the Sanctuary, on **March 6, 13 & 20**. Come and enjoy a Lenten Soup Supper starting at 5 p.m., in the Auditorium beforehand.



Thank You

A big thank you to all who helped with the Fish Fry – the dessert makers, the hot food cooks, the kitchen help, the servers and Eric and his family. The dinner was a big success – lots of good food and fellowship. An enjoyable evening for all who attended! Thanks again everyone!

Creative Crafters Schedule of Events

MARCH: The Creative Crafters will be dying eggs on Sunday, March 10, at 1:30 p.m., and putting them in a "Bunny" basket. Check it out on the display table. The cost is \$10. (Cost only covers the price of materials for each project.)

APRIL: On Sunday, April 14, at 1:30 p.m., we will make simple Aprons, this will go along with the Women's Celebration topic. The cost is \$10.

MAY: We will have a guest speaker, Jeannine Roediger, The Art of Fiber on May 5, at 1:30 p.m. **Free.** Let's fill the auditorium.

NOVEMBER: Looking ahead to November we will be making six fabric star ornaments, in preparation for decorating our Christmas trees. \$2 for set of six stars.

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. Cost only covers the price of materials for each project.



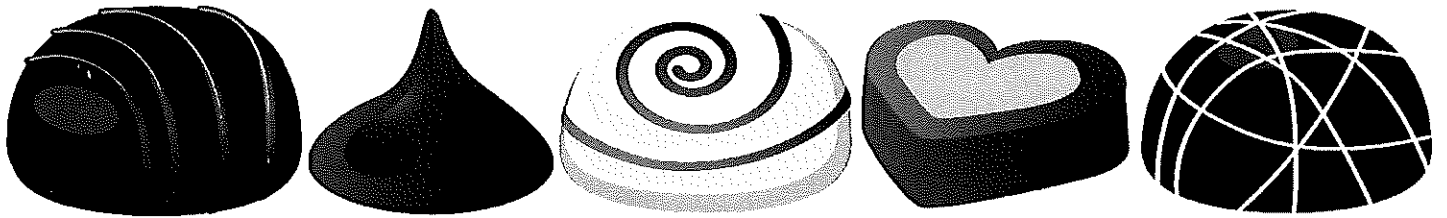
Scholarship Deadline

Seniors and current college students who are members of Zion are eligible for scholarships administered by the St. Marys Community Foundation. Apply online at: www.theSMCF.org Confirmed members eligibility requirements are the youth must attend worship at least 25 Sundays a year and participate in the life of the church. Deadline is midnight, March 10.

First Communion Class

First Communion is for all baptized students, grade 3 and older, and/or whose parents believe them to be ready to receive the Sacrament. As the opportunity to fulfill the baptismal vow to bring your child to Lord's Supper, parent, godparent or guardian attendance for this hour and a half course is expected as well. This course will be held on Saturday, March 16, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. First Communion will be on Maundy Thursday, March 28. Please RSVP to the church office by phone, 419-394-3115, or by a note on your "I Worship Today" form.





Candy Donations Needed

Candy donations are needed for the Community Easter Egg Hunt and the Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt by Friday, March 8. We have a group who will be filling the eggs on that day. We need individually wrapped candy that will fit in an egg with **NO PEANUT PRODUCTS**. Please leave your donations in the Sunday school box by the elevator and thank you in advance!

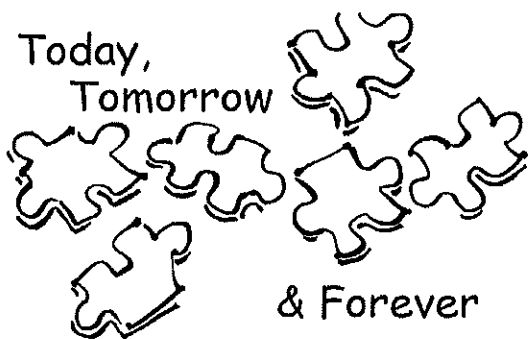
Lily Order Deadline

Lily Order Forms can be found on the table in the narthex. Deadline to place your order is Sunday, March 17. The fee is \$14 per potted plant.



Collect bars of Soap

The Women have completed the Health Kits this at the Workday in February. They will be collecting bars of soap to put in the shoe boxes. Please place your donations in the Women's box by the elevator. The next Workday is March 21, at 9 a.m.



March Loose Offering

Today, Tomorrow & Forever

The 20/20 Vision provides the pathway to ensuring a legacy of faith today, tomorrow & forever in all NALC congregations through four primary objectives: Grow, Serve, Renew and Fulfill. More details can be found at: <https://vision.thenalc.org>

Picture Directory

The 175th Anniversary Committee is looking for a group of people to coordinate overseeing the development of a new picture directory. Contact the church office to volunteer, 419/394-3115.

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 & 31
- April 7, 21 & 28
- May 26

Community/Sunday School Easter Egg Hunts

Our Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 23, from 10 to 12 noon.

Our Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, March 24, at 9:15 a.m.

As mentioned earlier, 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!



Prayer List

We invite you to include the following people in your daily prayers:

Janet Dicke, Judy Von Blon, Brent Paulus, Sandi Deerhake, Michael Moore, Tom Kaster, Ronald Suchland, Vicki Bishir, Emily Henkle, Faith Williams, Don, Warren Hoenie, Bill & Carolyn Slemmons, Virginia Loyer, Forrest Cooper, Lisa Suchland, Kelsey, Eileen Zimmerman, Maria, Debra & Scott, John Robert Hiles, Markham Hodge, Ed Morris, Allie Gross, Margaret Miller, Donna Maynard, Janet, Bill Fuller, Alan Bishir, Vicki Homan, Shirley Tangeman and Family of Ed Flora.

Please pray for Sean Lawler, Andrew Johnson, Michael Carroll, Nathan Adams, Jacob Yahl, Daniel C. Lukac IV, Michael Franklin, Kyle Schmehl and Wyatt Duncan who are in the service. Please pray for them, their family, and their safe return home.

“Everything that seems empty is full of the angels of God.” —*Hilary, 4th-century bishop of Poitiers*

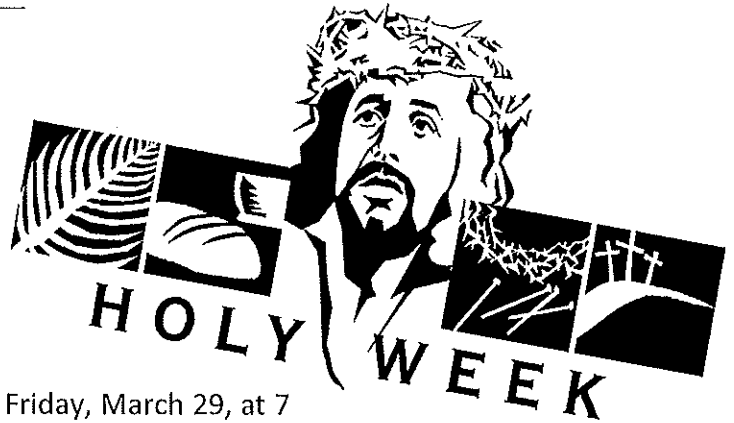


Seder Meal

Our Seder Meal will be held in the Auditorium beginning at 5 p.m., on Palm Sunday, March 24. We will once again have the traditional foods of the Seder and their meaning, along with roasted Lamb, Turkey breast, mashed potatoes, green beans, and wine. Please RSVP on your "I Worshipped Today" or call the office to reserve your place for the event. Please let us know how many people you will be bringing to the meal.

Holy Week & Easter Services

- Maundy Thursday Service with students receiving their First Communion, Stripping of the Altar and Foot Washing, will be held on Thursday, March 28, at 7 p.m., in the sanctuary.*
- Good Friday Service of Shadows will be held on Friday, March 29, at 7 p.m., in the sanctuary. This is a Non-Communion Service.
- Easter Sunday, March 31:
 - Easter Sunrise Traditional Service will be at 7 a.m.*
 - Easter Breakfast will be from 8-9 a.m., in the Auditorium.
 - Sunday School will be at its usual time of 9:15 a.m.
 - Easter Worship Service will be at 10:30 a.m.*



**Services will be with Holy Communion.*



Easter Breakfast

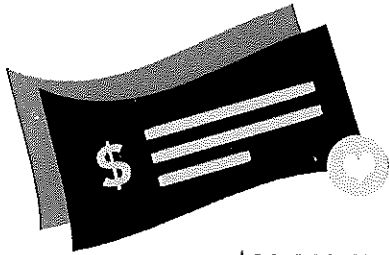
Our annual Easter Breakfast will be held between 8-9 a.m., on Easter Sunday, March 31, in the auditorium. If you plan to attend, please sign up on your "I Worshipped Today" or call the church office with the number attending.

"Being negative only makes a journey more difficult. You may be given a cactus, but you don't have to sit on it."

—Joyce Meyer

Church Office Closed

- The church office will be closed at 12 noon on Good Friday, March 29.
- We will also be closed all day on the Monday after Easter, April 1.
- Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, April 2, at 8:30 a.m.



Year-to-Date Financial Information

Financial Information: Our current financial information for Zion is as follows for year-to-date for the month of February, as of February 23, 2024.

- \$83,842.97--Beginning Balance 1/1/2024
- \$35,986.12--February YTD Income
- (\$51,512.97)--February YTD Expenses
- (\$85.83)--Payroll WH/Benevolence
- \$68,230.29—February 23, 2024 Ending Bank Balance

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.



Memorial

A gift was given in memory of Alma Kuffner by Miller Funeral Home.



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 or vacation periods. To help 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.

Zion Lutheran Church
 210 N. Wayne St.
 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* Cheryl Macklem
- Secretary* Sandy Wierwille
- Assistant Secretary* Melanie Rose
- Treasurer* Stanley Brown
- Assistant Treasurer* Doug Stetler

COUNCIL AT LARGE: Thelma Kellermeyer, Cheryl Macklem, Doug Stetler, Melanie Rose,
 Dwight Schramm & Stanley 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*

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION: Sandy Wierwille*, Kerri Masonbrink & Ann Maki

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*