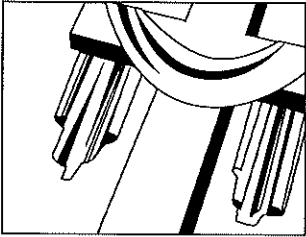


F O U R T H
Sunday in Lent



Zion Lutheran Church
210 North Wayne Street
St. Marys, OH 45885

March 10, 2024
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Setting 3

Page 138 Red Hymnal

PRELUDE *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* Livingston

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *"Lift High the Cross"* #660

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: In this season of Lent, let us draw near to the Lord and examine our hearts and minds for the ways in which we have fallen short of the glory of God.

(Stand/Kneel)

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God,

Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

GREETING

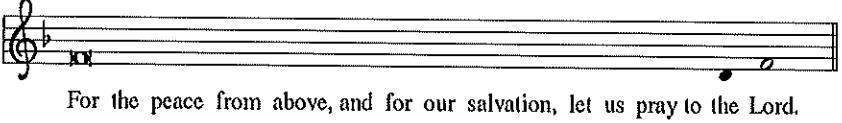
L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE



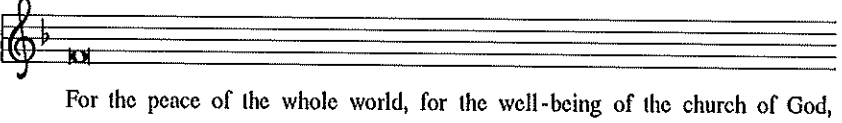
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



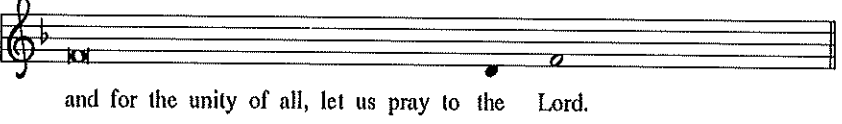
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



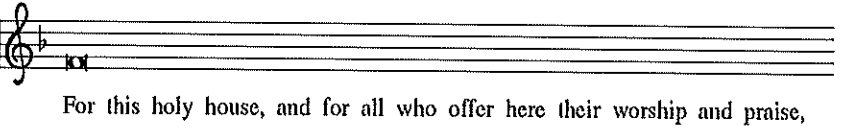
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



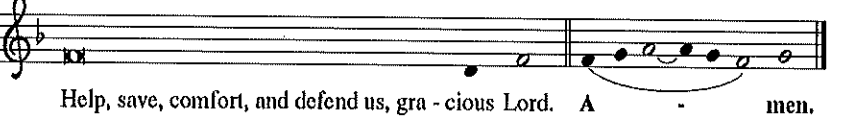
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Insert

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4-9

Insert

PSALM 107:1-9

Insert

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

Insert

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P: The holy gospel according to Saint John the third chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

Insert

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Bill

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Healer of Our Every Ill"*

#612

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Parry

OFFERTORY RESPONSE HYMN

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray. God of love, you have provided for our every need from your abundant bounty. Grant us grateful hearts that we may give generously to those in need and thereby show your love to the world around us.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

P: Pray in the Spirit at all times so that you may discern the will of God. Keep alert as you walk in faith. Speak with the boldness of the apostles who came before you so that all might know the good news. And may the Lord bless you and keep you, now and forever, in the name of the Father, the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 6)

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

#338

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

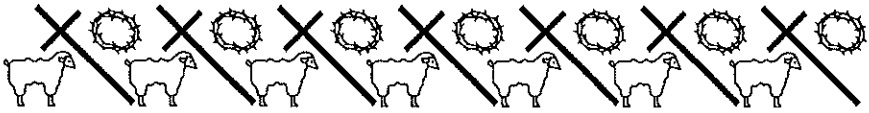
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Will You Come and Follow Me?

Waltz

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Memory Verse:

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God
by Andrew & Lorra O'Bryan.*



*Happy
Anniversary!*

Flowers have been placed on the chancel in honor of Bob & Linda Suchland's 55th Wedding Anniversary on March 15th.

Today, March 10*

- Acolytes:** 8 AM: Noah Torsell
10:30 AM: Colton Ankerman
- Ushers:** 8 AM: Ryan, Brandy, Eliza & Zaila Yahl
10:30 AM: Dwayne Hoenie, Sandy Wierwille,
Darl Bishir, Keith Fledderjohann
- Fellowship
Table:** 8 AM: Nora & Harry Staunton
10:30 AM: Cheryl & Dan Macklem
- Greeters:** 8 AM: John & Amy Hesse
10:30 AM: Cheryl Macklem, Sandy Wierwille
- Readers:** 8 AM: Andrew O'Bryan
10:30 AM: Stephanie Ross

Next Sunday, March 17*

- Acolytes:** 8AM: Jessi Eberle
10:30am: Maylee Fischbach
- Communion** 8AM: John Hesse
- Assistants:** 10:30AM: Cheryl Macklem

- Crucifers:** 8AM: Bennett Glass
10:30AM: Braylon Lampert
- Ushers:** 8AM: Dianne Uhlenhake, Jeanne Wurster,
Jody Slemmons, Chris White
10:30AM: Dan Macklem, Sandy Wierwille,
Mark & Connie Torsell
- Fellowship Table:** 8AM: Lorra & Andrew O'Bryan
10:30AM: Sandy Wierwille
- Greeters:** 8AM: Nora Staunton, Sandy Wierwille
10:30AM: Dwayne & Ruth Hoenie
- Readers:** 8AM: Eliza Yahl
10:30: Dwayne Hoenie

* Subject to change, correct as of time printed

ATTENDANCE	Last Wednesday: 69
.....Sunday 8 a.m.: 46, 10:30 a.m.: 58, Total for the Day: 104	
.....	Total for Week: 173
DIRECTOR OF BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION	
.....	Mindy Thiebeau, zionbpe@gmail.com
OFFICE MANAGER	Kathy Bishir, kbishir@hotmail.com
OFFICE ASSISTANT.....	Ann Maki, annmmaki@yahoo.com
LAY LEADER	Heidi Yahl, heidiyahl@yahoo.com
PASTOR.....	William Maki, wllmmaki@yahoo.com
MINISTERS.....	All Members of Zion
CHURCH WEBSITE	www.zionstmarys.org
CHURCH OFFICE.....	419-394-3115

Calendar for March 10-24, 2024

S/10	8:00 a.m.	Worship+
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	1:30 p.m.	Creative Crafters
	12 Noon	Scholarship Deadline
T/12	8:00 a.m.	Men's Workshop
	9:00 a.m.	Dorcas Quilting
	7:00 p.m.	Holy Spirit Bible Study
W/13	9:30 a.m.	Women's Board Meeting
	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	12:30 p.m.	Bulletin Information Deadline
	5:00 p.m.	Lenten Soup Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Service
T/14	11:30 a.m.	Middle School Bible Release
	2:00 p.m.	Holy Spirit Bible Study
F/15	3:30 p.m.	Newsletter Article Deadline
S/16	10:00 a.m.	First Communion Class
S/17	8:00 a.m.	Worship+*
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Bring a Friend
	10:30 a.m.	Worship*
	6:30 p.m.	Underground
M/18	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop #360
T/19	8:00 a.m.	Men's Workshop
	9:00 a.m.	Dorcas Quilting
W/20	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	12:30 p.m.	Bulletin Information Deadline
	5:00 p.m.	Lenten Soup Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Service
T/21	9:00 a.m.	Workday
	11:30 a.m.	Middle School Bible Release
S/23	10:00 a.m.	Community Easter Egg Hunt
	7:00 p.m.	St. Marys Tri-Squares
S/24	8:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday Worship+*
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Easter Egg Hunt
	10:30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Worship*
	5:00 p.m.	Seder Meal

**Holy Communion*

**Livestreamed on www.zionstmarys.org & on WCSM 96.7 Radio*

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, Lisa Suchland, Kelsey, Eileen Zimmerman, Maria, Debra & Scott, Markham Hodge, Ed Morris, Allie Gross, Margaret Miller, Donna Maynard, Janet, Bill Fuller, Alan Bishir, Analisa Bouscaren, Carol Eshelman, Forrest Cooper, Dyne Hoenie, and Family of Kendra Lutz.

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.

Congratulations to Micah and Alicia Johns on the birth of their daughter, Avery Ruth on Thursday, February 22.

Thank you to the Women's Fellowship for taking care of this week's soup supper. Come and enjoy a Lenten Soup Supper starting at 5 p.m., in the Auditorium before our Lenten service.

I would like to thank my church family for all the love and support you have given me.

Joni Immenschuh

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the NALC Disaster Response. We were told the items picked up this last week would go to help the wildfire victims. For disaster response updates go to: <https://thenalc.org/projects/disaster-response-updates/>

The Family of Edwin Flora would like to thank all the people of Zion for their thoughts and prayers for Ed. They were deeply appreciated.

Our loose offering each Sunday/Wednesday in March is for the 20/20 Vision which 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>

The trustees are looking for individuals to help with mowing the church cemetery or the lawn around the church. If you are interested in one or both, contact the church office or Dana Cook.

Candy donations are still needed for the Community Easter Egg Hunt and the Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt. 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!

Scholarships: 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, **tonight**.

Our Midweek Lenten services will continue to be held at 7 p.m., in the Sanctuary, on **March 13 & 20**.

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.

Check out the lily form included in this bulletin. Deadline to order is **Sunday, March 17**.

Bring a Friend Sunday is on **Sunday, March 17**, for all grades. Invite your friends to attend Sunday School with you!

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

Wayne Street Church is holding their Annual Lenten Breakfast on **Saturday, March 23**, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The theme is "The Hands and Feet of Jesus". Everyone is invited.

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 you place for the event. Please let us know how many people you will be bringing to the meal.

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.

The Lenten Fundraiser envelopes and daily reading schedule have been passed out. Hope everyone is using the Bible readings. Please return your offering envelope in the plate on **Easter Sunday, March 31**. Thank you for supporting the Women's missions and programs.

Our next Zion Lutheran Confirmand Reunions for 175th Anniversary will be **Sunday, April 7**: Classes 2000 through 2009.

We are inviting the classes in this 10-year groups to be either at the 8 a.m. and/or the 10:30 a.m. services on this Sunday. Each will be recognized at the service.

At 9:15 a.m., after the 8:00 a.m. service, there will be a refreshments in the narthex to encourage fellowship among the confirmands and other members of Zion at that time.

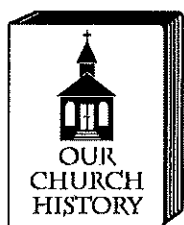
The 2024 Flower Chart for the first 6 months is on the bulletin board by the alley entrance. We invite you to select the date you wish to provide flowers. On the Tuesday before the date you selected, order your arrangement from your favorite florist, and *contact the church office, 419-394-3115*, to let us know what information you would like included in the bulletin. Upcoming dates: **April 7, 21 & 28.**

Would your child like to be more involved in church services? Does your child enjoy "performing"? If so, the new group "Act Up" may be exactly what they are looking for.

"Act Up" will perform short skits periodically during church services. There is no memorization required, the skits are short (5 to 8 minutes long) and involve 2 to 8 characters. The skits have uplifting themes based on scripture. Practices will be held during Sunday School time. Depending on the number of children interested, there may be a choice of service preference.

Skits are already picked out waiting for your child to "Act Up" in church. Please checkmark on "I Worship Today" if you are interested.

For questions or more information please text or call Dianne Uhlenhake 419-305-5387.



The church building we occupy today was built in two phases; the educational wing, opened in 1956, and the sanctuary and offices, added in 1974. The 1908 brick church stood where the bell tower stands today. Worship continued in the 1908 church while the education building was constructed. However, the old church had to be torn down to make way for the new sanctuary building. In 1973 the congregation

moved to the auditorium for worship during construction of the sanctuary complex.

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.

The Women have completed the Health Kits. They are still collecting bars of soap. Please place them in the Women's box by the elevator.

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.

Weekly Budget	10 Week Budget	10 Week Income	Received 3/3
\$6,271--Current	\$62,710	\$46,539	\$5,272
\$290--NALC Offering	\$2,900	\$1,394	\$88

Council Organization 2024

ORGANIZATION:

President *Neal Brady*
Vice-President *Cheryl Macklem*
Secretary *Sandy Wierwille*
Assistant *Melanie Rose*
Treasurer *Stanley Brown*
Assistant *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***

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Fourth Sunday in Lent — March 10, 2024

"...that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

- John 3:15 -

"You put your right hand in, you put your right hand out, you put your right hand in, and you shake it all about, you do the hokey pokey and you turn yourself around, that's what it's all about." We all know the song; it is a favorite childhood game and is often danced at special events. Everyone stands in a circle and follows the instructions; the verse ends with everyone clapping while singing, "That's what it's all about!" The song continues with the other hand, and then other parts of the body.

It is a silly game, but the question at the end has become the focus of many philosophical discussions. What if the Hokey Pokey really is what it's all about? This leads to the question, "What does Hokey Pokey mean?" After all, if that is what it is all about, we should understand what it means. There are many references for background information, but few agree on the origin of the song.

The question is not new. The great philosopher Jimmy Buffett asked in a song, "Maybe it's all too simple for our brains to figure it out. What if the Hokey Pokey is all it really is about?" Research into the Hokey Pokey is humorous and interesting. Some think that it is a good thing, that an eternity in heaven doing the Hokey Pokey would be a joyous existence. Others think that it would be more like hell.

We want a reasoned answer for everything, beginning from a very early age. Every child is apt to drive adults crazy with the “phase of a million questions.” These questions are not always easy, but we can usually find an answer and teach a lesson. As we grow older, our questions become harder. We spend a lot of time discussing and debating the deep things of life and we often come up with very different answers. We disagree with our neighbors about so many things far more important than the Hokey Pokey. Sadly we make the questions of faith so difficult that we miss the truth of the Gospel.

Jimmy Buffett’s answer might be funny but the truth of life really is very simple and it has nothing to do with a silly dance. The answer to our deepest questions is Jesus Christ. He is really what it is ALL about.

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