

Zion Lutheran Church



MARCH 2023

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

Sunday, March 5

Second Sunday of Lent / Communion

Sunday, March 12

Third Sunday of Lent / Communion

Sunday, March 19

Fourth Sunday of Lent / Communion

Sunday, March 26

Fifth Sunday of Lent / Communion

Wednesday, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Lenten Services

Pastor's Corner



Dear friends in Christ,
You'll be reading this as I vacation on Dauphin Island, Alabama. What a joy it is to listen to the unceasing sound of the ocean as the waves crest and fall and spread over the beach. I can't seem to get Psalm 8 out of my mind: *When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,*

the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

The waves make me think of God's grace and love. They never cease coming, one upon another. Sometimes crashing upon us, sometimes sneaking up on us. They don't play favorites; if you're near them, you're going to get wet. Even when you think you're far enough away from the water to stay dry, every once in a while one of those waves surprises you with a dousing. The waves pound away at anything in their path, creating new shapes out of sand, shells, rocks, tree limbs... anything in their path is changed by their action.

God's love is much the same. Never ceasing, coming in fast and hard or sneaking up on us in moments when we least expect it, including everyone in its scope, changing and remolding us to become more like our Creator. How will God change us as we enter the season of Lent? How will God's unceasing, extravagant, insistent love make us new? Will we heed Jesus' call to be made new? May God's unceasing love be yours through this penitential season ahead, and may you find yourself made brand new by the love of the One who gave himself for you.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Amy

Pastor Amy on Vacation in March

Pastor Amy is visiting her “happy place” as she does every year at this time. While she is away (February 24 through March 11), emergencies will be handled by either Pastor Heather Brown from Faith Lutheran in Marshfield 402-806-8841, or Pastor Katie Anderson from Good Shepherd Lutheran in Marshfield 715-245-1943. These are emergency contact numbers only; for other inquiries, please contact Kathy in the office 715-687-4110.

Lenten Services

Services will be at 5:30 pm on March 1,8,15,22, & 29. Soup and Sandwich to follow worship. Looking for a host of soup and sandwich for March 8th.

Northwest Synod Assembly

Looking for two volunteers, a man, and a woman, to attend Northwest Synod Assembly on April 29, 2023, in Rice Lake at Bethany Lutheran Church. If interested contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or office@zionstratford.org.

Zion to Host the Conference Assembly

Did you know that our synod is comprised of approximately 195 congregations? Or that those congregations are matched up in smaller groups called conferences? We are part of the Chequamegon Conference, and *we are hosting the annual Chequamegon Conference Assembly (business meeting) on Thursday, March 16 beginning at 6:30.*

Here's what you need to do:

Participate as a voting delegate to the meeting (we need one male and one female.

Volunteer to help with set up, tech support, clean up. Offer to

make coffee and have water/lemonade/drink mix ready. Please contact Kathy in the office if you can help in one of these ways.

Zion Church Cancellations

Zion will now be posting cancellations on WAOW channel 9.

Tuesday morning Bible Study

Bible study will now be held on **Tuesday** mornings at 10:00 am. We invite anyone interested in exploring the scriptures and a time of fellowship to join in on Tuesday mornings. There will be no Bible study on March 1st and 7th. Pastor Amy will be on vacation.



Let's Watch The Chosen Together!

The Chosen Returns!

We had a wonderful evening watching *The Chosen* on February 12! Thank you to those who attended and to Dan and Rhonda Thompson for getting an enormous bag of popcorn for us! Episodes 1-3 were so enjoyable that the group decided to have another binge-watching session on March 12. However, the group asked to begin an hour earlier so we can watch more episodes in an evening.

Please join us on March 12 from 5pm-9pm to watch Season 1: Episodes 4-7. If you were unable to join us in February, you can watch episodes 1-3 for free by downloading the app to your phone or by visiting watch.thechosen.tv.

Library News

Lenten and Easter Materials are featured this month. We have a wide variety from adult novels and children's stories to Bible studies and meditations. Some are displayed on the central bookcase, and many others are kept in their usual spot on the bookcases to the left of the door near the media resources. Come in to explore. Just sign the card from anything you want to check out and put it in the slot on the desk. If you need help, call Sandy Borman at 715-687-2368. Have a meaningful and meditative Lenten season.

Lenten Challenge Earthquake Relief

Two powerful earthquakes have hit Turkey and significantly impacted neighboring Syria. The first was a magnitude 7.8 earthquake in south central Turkey, followed hours later by a magnitude 7.5 quake in the southeastern part of the country. The two quakes have devastated Turkey and Syria, collapsing thousands of buildings and damaging infrastructure. Syria is also dealing with an ongoing civil war. During the Lenten season Zion will have a Noisy Offering Sunday services. The funds collected will be sent to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response.

Information Technology

Do you enjoy working with IT (information technology)? The Media and Worship Teams are interested in picking your brain to help plan for future technology needs. Please contact Kathy in



the office or talk to Pastor Amy if you are interested. No commitment required.

Monthly Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the April newsletter is March 21. To submit an article about an upcoming ministry opportunity, please email the church office at office@zionstratford.org. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report

To keep everyone informed of the financial status of Zion Lutheran, we include a monthly Treasurer's Report in the newsletter. The overall purpose is to be transparent about how Zion is building a culture of generosity and being a steward (manager) of God's gracious provision in order to fuel Jesus' ministry.



Through January 31, 2023 **income** received to the Current (general offering) was **\$16,849.30**. This money is used to provide financial support for the ministry budget expenses such as faith formation, evangelism, worship, staff salaries, property, etc. This amount does not include the 10% benevolence. Thank you to everyone who is going above and beyond to financially support the mission and ministry of Zion.

The ministry **expenditures** were **\$12,733.40** as of January 31, 2023. Our expense budget is \$ 238,486.82. We currently are at 5.4% of expenses. Thank you to the ministry teams for being good stewards.

As of January 31, 2023, the church’s **undesigned cash balance** is \$24,434.39. This is money that is not specifically designated to a specific purpose, such as utilities, mortgage debt reduction, lawn mowing, GermanFest, etc. The undesigned cash balance is like our savings account or reserve fund when our expenses are more than our income. This can be quickly depleted if actual income doesn’t match expenses.

As of January 31, 2023, our **benevolences (ministry to the world)** were:

Crossways Camping Ministry	\$ -0-	0.0% of goal
ELCA 10% Benevolence	\$ 1,801.70	11.3% of goal
Lutheran Social Services	\$ 75.00	4.2% of goal
Missionary Support	\$ 140.00	4.0% of goal
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 244.00	7.5% of goal

As of January 31, 2023, the balance available in the **GermanFest/Crisis Bank** account is \$11,553.40.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Zion’s ministry in Jesus’ name with financial gifts. It takes all of us together to fuel our ministry plan.

With a grateful heart, Marge Redetzke, Council Treasurer

SCRIP: Shopping Supports Ministry

Your Scrip gift card purchases (gift cards to tons of stores across the country) provide funds for Zion youth experiences like mission trips and regional/national youth gatherings! Let’s prepare for Zion youth to participate in upcoming opportunities by using Scrip cards for your shopping and gift-giving needs. It’s easy! Simply contact June Krueger by phone or text, 715-897-0617, to check stock or place an order. Each card purchase returns a percent back of Zion, netting hundreds of dollars to the youth fund each

year. Thank you for continuing to support Zion youth experiences!

Faith Formation for All Ages

Little Lutherans/J-Team

Little Lutherans and J-Team (K-6th grade) will be focusing on various aspects of Worship this year with games, crafts, and Bible stories. **These faith formation classes will be held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 3:15-5:15 pm.**

Children may arrive anytime between 3:15 and 3:50 pm, for

those coming from a non-Stratford school district. Information and calendar can be found at: <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/k-6th-grade/>.



Puppet Day

New Date: **Thursday, March 16 2023**

New Time: 12:30 -5:00 pm

New Information: Please register by March 8, 2023 to office@zionstratford.org or schoenherr11@gmail.com this gives me time to plan and prepare. Thank you! Janet Schoenherr

Disciples for Christ

Disciples for Christ (10th grade) will meet on **Sunday, March 19 at 5:30 p.m.** Schedule and more information can be found at: <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation10th-12th-grade/>.

First Communion Class

If your son/ daughter is interested in a First Communion class, please contact the office 715-687-4110 or at office@zionstratford.org or contact Pastor Amy at pastoramy@zionstratford.org. Two dates to receive first communion will be available to accommodate families' schedules: April 16 and April 23. When you contact the office, please indicate which date works better for your family.

We will schedule the training once we know who is interested.

Senior Scholarship

Scholarship applications have been sent to members of Zion that will be graduating from High School this spring. The deadline for the scholarship applications is **April 21, 2023**. Awarded scholarships will be given during the Senior Sunday celebration on **May 21, 2023**.

Senior Sunday

Graduating seniors have been invited to attend Senior Sunday on **May 21, 2023**. Students will be honored and receive a blanket during the service. Reminder for graduating seniors, send in to the church: 1. Senior picture 2. Baby picture 3. Information about future plans and favorite church memory.

Crossways Camp 2023

Any confirmation students that are interested in attending Crossways Camp at Waypost, July 9 - 14, 2023. If interested contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or office@zionstratford.org or contact Pastor Amy at pastor@zionstratford.org.

Lent Soup and Sandwich



There is one—and only one—date available for a team who would like to provide and serve a Lent soup and sandwich meal. If you are interested in this fun and meaningful, activity, please contact the church office.

Feb 22 - Council

March 1 - Worship Team / Choir and Bell Choir

March 8 - **AVAILABLE!!**

March 15 - Faith Formation Team

March 22 - JTeam/ Little Lutherans

March 29 - Evangelism Team/ Property Team



Choir Rehearsals are held at 8:00 AM in the balcony.

Next rehearsal dates:

March 5,12,19,26

New members and all voices

are always welcome. For

more information,

contact Mary Wussow at

music@zionstratford.org.

LILIES FOR EASTER WORSHIP



Lilies will be used to brighten our sanctuary for Easter. They may be given in honor, or memory, of family and friends. Lilies may be taken home following worship on Easter morning. The Lilies this year are \$12.00. Lily's deadline is Palm Sunday. Donations can be made for Palms that will be used on Palm Sunday.

Forms will be available on March 1, 2023. You will be able to find the forms on the website, zionstratford.org, in the sanctuary or the church office. Contact the office at office@zionstratford.org.

Serving Our Savior Opportunities

Fellowship



Come join us in fellowship following worship each Sunday. If you wish to host a fellowship, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the fellowship area. There are no longer restrictions on only bringing pre-packaged food. Feel free to bring in homemade

goods. See you at the fellowship.

Calling all Ushers, Assisting Ministers Media, Acolytes, etc.

For those people interested in signing up to serve at worship services please go to SignUpGenius.com on the web or use the free app. Search for sign-ups using the email address: hutherbk@yahoo.com. Sign-ups are usually available each month until the 17th of the following month. At that point, the service schedule needs to be completed and sent to the church office.

Serving in Worship Substitutions

On vacation? At a sporting event? Family wedding? If you are scheduled to serve in worship as an assisting minister, acolyte, communion server, reader, usher, etc., and are unable to serve on that date, please look at the calendar and contact another person to switch with you. Thank you

Altar Guild Needs Families & Individuals

The Altar Guild is seeking a few people to help keep the Chancel area looking great! A two-month-a-year commitment is all that's asked of anyone. There's a book in the room to the south of the Chancel area you can look through to see if this is something that might interest you.

Birthdays & Anniversary

The listing of the dates for birthdays and anniversaries will now be posted in the weekly Monday email, in the weekly Sunday announcements, and on the Sunday PowerPoint announcements. This is to protect people's privacy and not make it easier for scammers to have access to this information. If you would like a complete monthly list to send out cards, please contact the office.

Homebound Visits

Zion's Homebound Members are ready for home visits from congregation members. It helps them to feel connected, Less lonely, and cared for. The commitment is one or more members per month. If you can serve this way, please contact Pastor Amy Heinz at pastor@zionstratford.org.



Technology Ministry

Council Minutes

Council minutes are now available on the church website at zionstratford.org/publications. You can also get a copy of the minutes by contacting Kathy in the church office or on the Information table by the church office.

Prayer Requests

Did you know that you can submit your prayer requests on the new ZionStratford.org website? You can also let people know that people are praying for them too. Check it out at <https://zionstratford.org/prayer>



Listen on
Podbean

Sermons by Phone or Podcast App

Audio recordings of Sunday sermons are now available by calling **848.204.2721**. You can also find it on the podcast apps *PodBean* and *Bullhorn* under the podcast name “Open Doors Open Hearts Open Hands.” You can also find a recording and a copy of the bulletin at <https://zionstratford.org/publications/>.

Building Update 2023

Total monthly principal payments	\$ 31,159.56
Total monthly interest payments	<u>\$ 1,290.44</u>
Balance of loan as of 01-27-2023	\$101,414.54

Partners Bank

Building checking acct balance as of **2-10-2023** \$ 8,867.85

Payment Bi-Weekly	Start Balance	Payment Amount	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
11/04 & 11/18	\$132,574.10	\$3,100.00	\$397.52	\$2,702.48	\$129,871.62
12/02 & 12/16	\$129,871.62	\$3,100.00	\$389.36	\$2,710.64	\$127,160.98
12/30	\$127,160.98	\$1,550.00	\$191.62	\$1,358.38	\$125,802.60
----- 12/30	----- \$125,802.60	----- 21,600.00	----- \$.00	----- 21,600.00	----- \$104,202.60
01/13 & 01/27	\$104,202.60	\$3,100.00	\$311.94	\$2,788.06	\$101,414.54

Thank you all that continuing to give generously toward the Building Fund.

Date	03/01/2023 1st Wed of Lent 5:30 PM	03/05/2023 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM	03/08/2023 2nd Wed of Lent 5:30 PM	03/12/2023 3rd Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM	03/15/2023 3rd Wed of Lent 5:30 PM	03/19/2023 4th Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM	03/22/2023 4th Wed of Lent 5:30 PM	03/26/2023 5th Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM	03/29/2023 5th Wed of Lent 5:30 PM	04/02/2023 Palm Sunday 9:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Darla Leick	Dan Wieland	Dan Wieland	Casey Dasler	.....	Carmella Moon	.....	Dan Wieland	.....	Dan Thompson
Reader	Ryan Christoperson	Dan Wieland		Casey Dasler		Carmella Moon		Dan Wieland		Dan Thompson
Acolytes	Cody Radow	Abby & Hudson Ballerstein	Charlie Kolbeck	Ella Schultz Anika Weber	Colin Cournoyer	Emmercyn Schiller Connor Kreft	Olivia Ballerstien	Cooper & Brynn Wiesman	Jaeger Ormond	Emmercyn Schiller Lily Cournoyer
Ushers	Reese Spindler	Gary & Mary Wussow	Emmercyn Shiller	Phil & Kerri Schultz	Cody Radow	Angie & Frank Guralski	Riley Spindler	Tom & Nancy Schoenherr	Connor Kreft	Ryan & Amy Cournoyer
communion assistants	.....	Dan & Deb Wieland Nancy Schoenherr	.....	Jill & Casey Dasler Marge Kollmansberger	.....	Lois & Kevin Miller Carmella Moon	.....	Dan & Deb Wieland Tadd Schoenherr	.....	Dan & Rhonda Thompson Barb Wensch
communion steward	.....	Deb Wieland	.....	Jill Dasler	.....	Wendy Spaeth	.....	Sandy Andersen	.....	Rhonda Thompson
Fellowship	Soup & Sandwich Worship/ Choir/ Bell Choir	Cournoyer Family		Foley Family	Soup & Sandwich Faith Formation Team	Tom Schoenherr Family	Soup & Sandwich JTeam/ Little Lutherans	Stroetz Family	Soup & Sandwich Evangelism/ Property Teams	Stacey Spindler
Host	.....	Evangelism: Cory Wiesman	.....	Property: Robin Curtis	.....	Stewardship: Amy Cournoyer	.....	Worship:	.....	Faith Form: Ray White
Bell Ringer		Gary Wussow	.....	Phil Schultz	.....	Angie & Frank Guralski	.....	Tom & Nancy Schoenherr	.....	Ryan & Amy Cournoyer
Media	Connor Kreft	Kevin Miller	Rod Huther	Ted Dasler	Rod Huther	Marge Kollmansberger	Garrett Smazal	Connor Kreft	Garrett Smazal	Rod Huther

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 5:30 Lenten Service Soup & Sandwich to follow Pastor Amy vacation	<i>2</i> Pastor Amy vacation	<i>3</i> Pastor Amy vacation	<i>4</i> Pastor Amy vacation
<i>5</i> 9am Worship/ Communion Pastor Amy vacation	<i>6</i> Pastor Amy vacation	<i>7</i> No Bible Study 6 pm Worship Team Meeting Pastor Amy vacation	<i>8</i> 3:00 pm JTeam/LL 5:30 Lenten Service Pastor Amy vacation	<i>9</i> Pastor Amy vacation	<i>10</i> Pastor Amy vacation	<i>11</i> Pastor Amy vacation
<i>12</i> 9am Worship/ Communion 5:00 pm watch The Chosen	<i>13</i> 6pm Executive Team Meeting	<i>14</i> 10:00 am Bible Study 7pm Faith Formation Team Meeting	<i>15</i> 5:30 Lenten Service Soup & Sandwich to follow	<i>16</i> 12:30—5:00 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Hosting Conference Assembly	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> 9am Worship/ Communion 5:30 pm Disciple for Christ	<i>20</i> 6pm Council Meeting	<i>21</i> 10:00 am Bible Study	<i>22</i> 3pm JTeam/LL 5:30pm Lenten Service. Soup & Sandwich to follow	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 9am Worship/ Communion Baptism Raegen Rae Murphy	<i>27</i> 6:30 pm Evangelism Team Meeting	<i>28</i> 10:00 am Bible Study	<i>29</i> 5:30pm Lenten Service. Soup & Sandwich to follow	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	