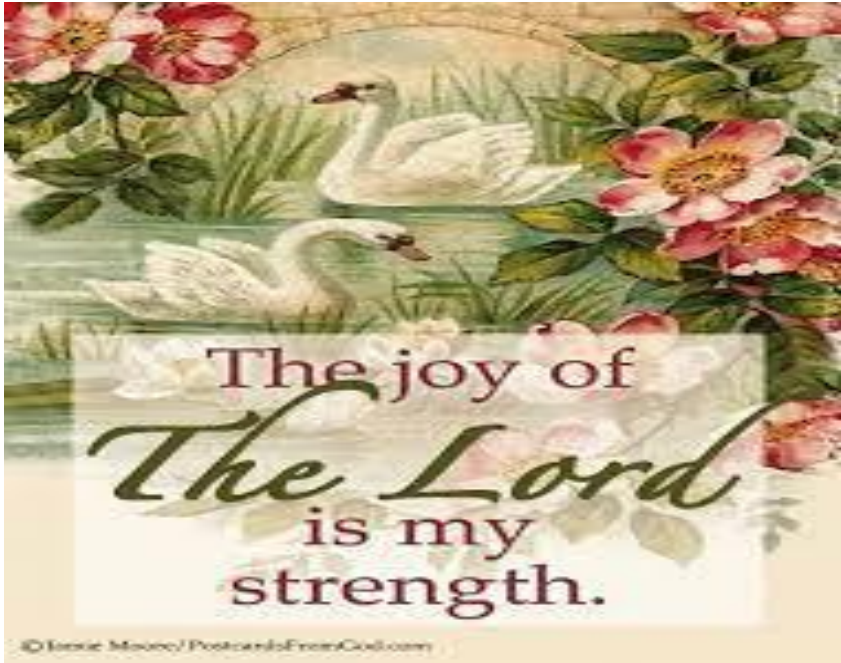


Zion Lutheran Church

May 2023



**Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands**

**Sunday, May 7**

*Fifth Sunday after Easter / Communion*

**Sunday, May 14**

*Sixth Sunday after Easter / Communion*

**Sunday, May 21**

*Seventh Sunday after Easter / Communion*

**Sunday, May 28**

*Pentecost / Communion*

## Pastor's Corner



I'm a cute penguin.

At a previous congregation, we decided to participate in the local community celebration parade. We dressed up as penguins, decorated an enormous trailer with a winter theme, handed out fliers and freeze pops and walrus toys and pens, had lots of signage, and traveled the Colby Cheese Days parade route with invitation and fellowship.

Did we get more visitors to our congregation? More members? More 'butts in the seats? More money in the plate? I can't say that we saw any results we could measure by counting anything. We left all that to the Holy Spirit as it moved in the people we waved at and smiled at and spoke to. We'll never know how the Spirit might have made connections because we got silly and smiled at people we didn't know.

Jesus told his disciples to go and make more disciples. That wasn't an easy task in a time when travel, information, and influence moved at a snail's pace. But it's not an easy task now, either, when everything moves at the speed of light. So just like those first disciples, we have to take risks. It might mean talking to someone you don't know, learning to make sauerkraut for Germanfest, volunteering to be a friend to someone who speaks a different language, giving more to church or other non-profit than you think you're able to give, or standing up against a bully (whether a person or a government). It might even mean (gasp!) talking about Jesus or inviting someone to worship or bible study or fellowship.

Our job is to proclaim what God has done for us in Christ Jesus, and then stand back and let the Spirit work. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in

Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. [Acts 1:8, NIV] So, go and make disciples. Be a witness to how God is changing your life and growing your faith. And if that means wearing a penguin suit on a warm summer day and waving your flippers off, then, by all means, go for it!

In Christ's service,

Pastor Amy

## **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.

## **Monthly Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for the June newsletter is May 22. To submit an article about an upcoming ministry opportunity, please email the church office at [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org). Thank you

## **Directory**

The church directory is finished for March 2023 through March 2024. If anyone would like a copy of the directory contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or at [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org).

**Blessings to all the Mothers on this special Day**



## **Graduating Seniors 2023**

Lydia Burrows	Ian Mikelson
Lexie Christopherson	Jackson Ormond
Patrick Greenberg	Ashton Wrench
Jasmine Grell	Brooke Faber
Sydney Kafka	Annalee Casperson

## **Seniors not Pictured**

Annalee Casperson	Baptized 09/19/2004
	Confirmed 05/05/2019
	Confirmation Verse: 1Peter 3:3-4
Future Plans: attending UW-Eau Claire for Nursing.	

Ian Mikelson	Baptized 01/30/2005
	Confirmed 05/02/2021
	Confirmation Verse: John 3:16

## **Graduating Seniors 2023**

### **Senior Sunday May 21**

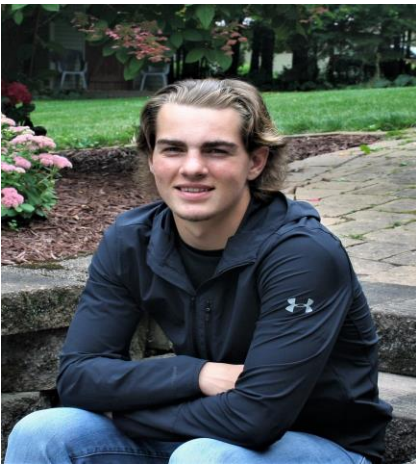


Lexie Christopherson

Baptized 03/06/2005

Confirmed 05/02/2021

Confirmation Verse:  
Proverbs 3:5-6



Ashton Wrench

Baptized 12/02/2002

Confirmed 05/02/2021

Confirmation Verse:  
Philippians 4:13

Future plans: attending  
Northcentral Technical College  
for Finance and Real Estate



Jasmine Grell

Baptized 10/17/2004

Confirmed 05/02/2021

Confirmation Verse:  
Joshua 1:9

Future plans: attending  
Mid State Technical  
College for Nursing.



Jackson Ormond

Baptized 04/02/2006

Confirmed 05/02/2021

Confirmation Verse:  
Joshua 1:9

Future Plans: Secondary  
Education Math Teacher





Lydia Burrows

Baptized 05/22/2005

Confirmed 05/02/2021

Confirmation Verse:  
Deuteronomy 31:6

Future Plans: Legal Studies -  
Real Estate



Patrick Greenberg

Baptized 03/06/2005

Confirmed 05/02/2021

Confirmation Verse:  
Proverbs 3:5-6



Brooke Faber

Baptized 05/16/2010

Confirmed 05/02/2021

Confirmation Verse:  
Ecclesiastes 3:1



Sydney Kafka

Baptized 09/18/2005

Confirmed 05/02/2021

Confirmation Verse:  
Colossians 3:14-15,  
Lamentations 3:22-23.

Future Plans: Clinical  
Laboratory Science -  
Cytotechnology.





## **First Communion April 2**

The members that made their First Communion Jackson Spindler, Ian Maguire, Ryleigh Schiller, Jevin Spindler.

## **Vacation Bible School**

Zion will be joining up with The Mill Church to host VBS. Mark your calendars from July 16 through the 19<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there.

## 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/>.



The Lord's Prayer  
(as interpreted by the 2022-2023 Zion JTeam)

God, who lives in heaven,  
your name is special.  
We want you to lead us.  
We want you to be in charge here  
the same way you are in heaven.  
Please feed us;  
forgive our sins, as we forgive others who sin against us.  
Keep us from making bad decisions.  
Keep us safe and keep us in your grace.  
Everything you created belongs to you.  
Amen.

## Confirmation Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>



This year's confirmands will be Trenton Cournoyer, Trevor Zawislan, Mason Oertel and Caleb Wensch. Mentors are Ray White, Tim Schoenherr, Brenda Huther, and Sarah Schuette.

## 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](mailto:office@zionstratford.org) or contact Pastor Amy at [pastor@zionstratford.org](mailto:pastor@zionstratford.org).

## Senior Scholarship

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.

## Let's Watch The Chosen Together!

*The Chosen* Returns!

at 6:00 pm will be the next time when we will gather to watch more of "The Chosen."

## Library News

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.

## Choir

Choir Rehearsals are held at 8:00 AM in the balcony. Next rehearsal dates: **May 7 & 21**. New members and all voices are always welcome. For more information, contact Mary Wussow at [music@zionstratford.org](mailto:music@zionstratford.org).

## SCRIP: Shopping Supports Ministry

SCRIP continues to be available here at Zion. June Krueger will be stepping down from heading up the SCRIP program. Thank you, June, for your dedication to the program. Janet Schoenherr and Wendy Spaeth will be heading up the program. To order, simply contact by phone or text Janet Schoenherr at 715-650-0097 or Wendy Spaeth at 715-615-2500.

## 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 March 31, 2023 **income** received to the Current (general offering) was **\$40,857.10**. 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 **\$44,864.92** as of March 31, 2023. Our expense budget is \$238,486.82. We currently are at 18.9% of expenses. Thank you to the ministry teams for being good stewards.

As of March 31, 2023, the church’s **undesignated cash balance** is \$15,959.35. This is money that is not specifically designated to a specific purpose, such as utilities, mortgage debt reduction, lawn mowing, GermanFest, etc. The undesignated 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 March 31, 2023, our **benevolences (ministry to the world)** were:

Crossways Camping Ministry	\$ 2.00	0.1% of goal
ELCA 10% Benevolence	\$ 4,323.90	27 % of goal
Lutheran Social Services	\$ 250.00	13.9% of goal
Missionary Support	\$ 503.00	14.4% of goal
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 814.00	25.0% of goal

As of March 31, 2023, the balance available in the **GermanFest/Crisis Bank** account is \$11,556.28.

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



Spring is a time we look forward to the return of the plants and flowers that we all enjoy. Come and enjoy Zion's Meditation Garden. It is a beautiful space to find a few moments of quiet in this busy world. If you wish to help care for the garden contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or at [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org).

## **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 home made goods. See you at 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](http://SignUpGenius.com) on the web or use the free app. Search for sign ups using the email address:

[hutherbk@yahoo.com](mailto: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. Contact Marge Kollmansberger at [mpkollman@yahoo.com](mailto:mpkollman@yahoo.com) Please prayerfully consider participating in this ministry.

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

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](mailto:pastor@zionstratford.org).



## **Opportunities in our Community**

### **Crossway camps job opportunities**

The investment of our Summer Staff is what makes our transformational programs possible. You can make a life-changing impact on a young adult by connecting them to join our team. Your encouragement may be just what they are waiting for. If interested go to [www.crosswaycamps/employment](http://www.crosswaycamps/employment).

### **Marathon County Transportation Program**

Recruiting volunteer drivers to take people to their medical appointments and grocery shopping. If you have free time and would like to help people, we have a flexible program that works for your schedule. People in need of transportation will be matched with volunteer drivers in their area. Drivers will be reimbursed at 65.5 cents a mile to help with expenses. If you have questions about the program or if you are interested in an application, please call Jenny McKenzie at 715-841-5101 or email @ [jmckenzie@nocen.org](mailto:jmckenzie@nocen.org). Your interest is greatly appreciated!

## **Technology Ministry**

### **Council Minutes**

Council minutes are now available on the church website at [zionstratford.org/publications](http://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>



## 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

Total monthly principal payments	\$ 8,389.41
Total monthly interest payments	<u>\$ 910.59</u>
Balance of loan as of <b>03-24-2023</b>	\$ 95,813.19

Partners Bank

Building checking acct balance as of **04-03-2023** \$ 8,259.06

Payment Bi-Weekly	Start Balance	Payment Amount	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
01/13 & 01/27	\$104,202.60	\$3,100.00	\$311.94	\$2,788.06	\$101,414.54
02/10 & 02/24	\$101,414.54	\$3,100.00	\$303.5	\$2,796.46	\$98,618.08
03/10 & 03/24	\$98,618.08	\$3,100.00	\$295.11	\$2,804.89	\$95,813.19

**Thank you to all who continue to give generously toward the Building Fund.**

# May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6pm Worship Team Meeting  Pastor @Moses Conference	2 10am Bible Study  Pastor @Moses Conference	3	4	5	6
7 9am Worship/ Communion Affirmation of Baptism	8 6pm Executive Team Meeting	9 10am Bible Study 7pm Faith Formation Team Meeting	10 3pm JTeam / Little Lutherans	11 8am—12pm Students Testing	12	13
14 9am Worship/ Communion Children Leading Worship	15 6pm Council Meeting  Pastor @Festival of Homiletics	16 No Bible Study 6:15 pm VBS Meeting Pastor @Festival of Homiletics	17  Pastor @Festival of Homiletics	18  Pastor @Festival of Homiletics	19	20
21 9am Worship/ Communion Senior Sunday 6pm Watch “The Chosen”	22	23 10am Bible Study 6pm Evangelism Team Meeting	24 3pm JTeam / Little Lutherans	25	26	27
28 9am Worship/ Communion Pentecost Sunday: <b>Wear Red</b>	29	30 No Bible Study	31			

Date	5/07/2023 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM	5/14/2023 4th Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM	5/21/2023 5th Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM	5/28/2023 6th Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM	6/04/2023 7th Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Darla/Jill	JTeam/LL	Dan Thompson	Casey Dasler	Terry Schoenherr
Reader	confirmands	JTeam/LL	Rhonda Thompson	Casey Dasler	Terry Schoenherr
Acolytes	Anika Weber Avery White	JTeam/LL	Abby & Olivia Ballerstein	Ella Schultz Ruby Casperson	Connor & Sierra Kreft
Ushers	Tom & Nancy Schoenherr	JTeam/LL	Mark & Sandy Andersen	Philip & Kerri Schultz	Tom & Nancy Schoenherr
communion assistants	confirmands	Nancy Schoenherr Brenda Huther June Krueger	Dan & Rhonda Thompson Brenda Castellano	Nancy Schoenherr Casey Dasler Jill Dasler	Terry Schoenherr Brian & Darla Leick
communion steward	Jill Dasler	Patti Casperson	Amy Grell	Rhonda Thompson	Patti Casperson
Fellowship	Confirmation	Waddell Family	Senior Sunday		
Host	Evangelism: Brandon Aschenbrenner	Treasurer: Marge Redetzke	Property: Robin Curtis	Stewardship: Amy Cournoyer	Worship: Brian Stroetz
Bell Ringer	Tom & Nancy Schoenherr	JTeam/LL	Mark Andersen	Phil Schultz	Nancy Schoenherr
Media	Ted Dasler	Rod Huther	Kevin Miller	Ted Dasler	Marge Kollmansberger