

ZION TIDINGS

April 2024



“Serving Christ through Serving Others”

Life, Death and Faith

Pastor and author Tim Keller wrote a very honest piece for *The Atlantic* magazine in 2021 after receiving his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. He begins by saying, *“I have spent a good part of my life talking with people about the role of faith in the face of imminent death. Since I became an ordained Presbyterian minister in 1975, I have sat at countless bedsides, and occasionally even watched someone take their final breath. I recently wrote a book, relating what I say to people in such times. But when, a little more than a month after that book was published, I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, I was still caught unprepared.”* He goes on to talk about how despite being 70 years old and knowing that one day he would die, when he and his wife were confronted with his impending death their first question was “what is God doing to us?” Pastor Keller said his first instinct was to question God and the questioning was accompanied by a strong sense of denial of his mortality. He said the more he thought about his death the more he realized that if death was to become real, then his beliefs in God would have to be just as real. He said, and I quote, *“Theoretical ideas about God’s love and the future resurrection had to become life-gripping truths, or to be discarded as useless”.*

The Easter season invites us into the miracle, the struggle and the mystery of Christ’s life and death and therefore our life and death. The first and only message of Easter is Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again, but because Christ lives - when we die - we too shall live. Easter despite all the bunnies and colorful eggs is extremely theological – meaning we learn a great deal about God as well as how God works in the world from Easter. But not only is Easter extremely theological it is also extremely confrontational. When we are confronted with the reality of life and death what we believe about our own life and death shows us the basis of our entire faith. Everything we know, believe, trust, and do regarding God revolves around whether or not we believe and trust in the story of Easter. If the resurrection is nothing more than a “tale” we tell ourselves, then the entire message of Christianity is a lie and this world as we know it is as good as it gets. If there is nothing beyond this life, if death is truly the last word - then we have no hope of a world restored and a life to come. But if we believe - then we are able to join Paul and say when death comes – “Thank the Lord I am going home to be with God”. However, if death is what we believe has the last word – and if we have no hope of life after death - then as Paul also says we really are people to be most pitied.

Blessings on your Easter season,
Pastor Sally



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Zion office - office@ziontippcity.org **Prayer requests** - prayers@ziontippcity.org or office@ziontippcity.org

Jessica Dorn, Christian Education director - christianed@ziontippcity.org

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE MAY “TIDINGS” is Friday, April 19, 2024

Mission of the Month

Oesterlen



We will be collecting items for the Oesterlen Home in Springfield during the month of April. Oesterlen was originally founded as an orphan's home by Amellia Oesterlen. It is now a children's mental health counseling clinic. It has a residential treatment center for emotionally troubled youth between 12 and 18 years of age.

Please take one or two "eggs" from the display in the narthex, purchase the items and return them to the mission box, or make a monetary donation. Write checks to Women of Zion.

Any questions contact Judy Bailey.

April Birthdays

	14	Gary Groth	24	Logan Phillips	
1	Debbie Rudisill	Alex Kauffmann		Linda Sumner	
	Daniel Weprin	Zach Kauffmann			
	Kari Kennard	Lisa Sebastian	26	Scot Coppock	
2	John Sebastian	15	Carly Breen	Tyler Fetters	
		Mike Patzek		Deb Keppel	
3	Katie Kessler	17	Paul Knutson	28	Judy Bailey
	Dan Holt	18	John LeGros	29	Debby Geiman
	Kristy McKibbin		Trapper Phillips		
	Adam Cartwright		Edwin Witwer		
5	Sharon Knick				
13	Madison Dorn	23	Randy Turner		
		Henry Rizzotte			



Upcoming Events

Solar Eclipse Block Party

To celebrate the solar eclipse, the Tipp City Chamber of Commerce is putting together a Solar Eclipse Block party on Saturday, April 6th to take place in downtown Tipp from 10 am to 10 pm.

Zion is participating by selling popcorn and bottled water during the Kids' activities from 10 am –2 pm, weather permitting.

We need volunteers for a shift of one or two hours. Sign-up sheets to help are in the fellowship hallway.



Chalk Talk Coming to Zion

Women of Zion are excited to welcome Elva Hurst to our church for a presentation.

April 14th, 2024

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

You are welcome to invite friends and family to this special event. It will be open to the public as well.

Prior to the chalk talk, Women of the ELCA - Northwest Conference of the Southern Ohio Synod, will be having their **12th Annual Spring Gathering here at 5:00 pm.** Contact Deb Keppel with questions.



Elva Hurst of Lititz, Lancaster County, is a farm girl at heart, with a wealth of experiences gained while growing up as one of eight children on an Old Order Mennonite dairy farm. She's tapped into that background artistically for over 30 years, progressing from simple childhood sketches and paintings to her popular "chalk talks." The talks illustrate scenes from her beloved Lancaster County countryside, which includes the Hursts' 40-acre preserved farm where she and her husband, Ray, have lived since 1995.

Over three decades, Hurst has also authored and illustrated more than 14 books. They include two series of children's books and her autobiography, most of which she has voiced on audiobooks. The recorded audiobooks have led to DVDs, based on her children's books. And, this year, she's made her first movie, with more films possible in the future.

Relay For Life

When you donate to our Relay For Life team, where does the money go? American Cancer Society is the primary private nonprofit funder of cancer research. They also provide patient support through their 24/7 helpline and patient programs that provide access to care via lodging and transportation.



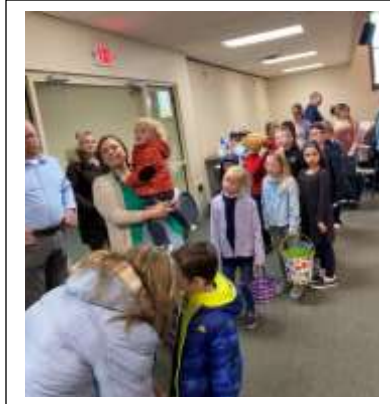
Holy Walkamolies For the Cure will be selling **luminaries** April 1 - June 9. These are placed around the track during the event. It's a beautiful sight when several hundred luminaries are lit when it gets dark. All the names are read during the Luminaria Ceremony at 9 pm. You may dedicate a luminaria in memory of a loved one who had cancer, in honor of a cancer survivor, or in support of someone who is battling cancer. Cost is \$10 each. See Debbie Rudisill, or another team member, for an order form.

You may also **make a donation** to our team. To donate online, go to <http://www.RelayForLife.org/MiamiCounty> and click on "Donate." When asked who you wish to support, select the team "Holy Walkamolies For the Cure." You may also give a check payable to American Cancer Society to any team member. We thank you for your support.

If you would like to be part of our team, come to our next meeting April 21, 3:00 pm in the adult Sunday school room. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board soon. If you have questions, see Debbie Rudisill, team captain.

Palm Sunday Brunch and Egg Hunt

There was a great turnout for the Palm Sunday brunch, including families from the community. Everyone enjoyed good food and fellowship. Following the brunch, 19 kids had a lot of fun with Easter crafts and a big egg hunt. Thanks to Jessica for coordinating the event and to all the volunteers that helped!



Women of Zion Meeting Highlights

March 10, 2024

- Barbara Cooper of Connections of Tipp City gave an informative talk about Connections – a safe place for teens to gather after school.
- A check for \$681.77 was sent to the Vandalia Food Pantry from Souper Bowl of Caring donations, the February mission of the month.
- The Spring Gathering of the Northwest Conference of WELCA will be held at Zion on April 14th at 5:00 pm, followed by a presentation by Elva Hurst, Chalk Talk artist, at 6:00 pm. The public is invited.
- We received a request from ELCA for donations to the World Hunger appeal. The suggestion was made to give offerings from Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services to this. Sue Rambeau will take it to Council.
- Jeremiah's Letter in Dayton is in need of towels, pots & pans and monetary donations. See Maggie Powder if you can help.
- Prayer shawls are needed. Several have been distributed lately.
- Relay For Life will be held June 15th. See Debbie Rudisill for more information.

Next meeting is **Sunday, April 7th at 5:00 pm**

Quilt Construction Site

Hopefully, you took the opportunity to stop into the Quilt Construction Site on March 16 & 17th. A lot of time and effort goes into the creation of the beautiful quilts our ladies make to send to Lutheran World Relief. Nice work ladies!

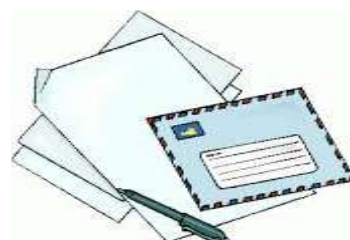


Jason Address Correction

The address listed in last month's Tidings was slightly incorrect. Bis (Road) has to be all caps (BIS) or they apparently won't deliver the letter.



The correct address is:
Jason Weprin #A825332
Southeastern Correctional Institution
5900 BIS Road
Lancaster, OH 43130



Zion Lutheran Church is turning 200 in 2026

March 3, 1826 was the date that our church was planted in Tipp City. The Bicentennial of Zion is a major milestone and we want to celebrate accordingly. The Council wants to put together a planning committee of approximately six people to plan multiple celebrations. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please leave your name with Annette (Office Admin) or Denise Jacobs (Council President).



Zion History Part 2

The first pastor came as a result of petitioning the New York Synod of the Reformed Church. His name was John Pantz. Pastor Pantz reportedly was a man of many talents. He pastored the little flock, taught the three R's to the children and did some "doctoring". During his stay he also rode horseback to minister to folks in the surrounding area. No doubt an educated and cultured man. A rarity in western Ohio at that time. Pastor Pantz stayed with and nourished our church until 1839. His devoted leadership no doubt is majorly responsible for the survival of our church in its infancy.

Sometime about 1840 The German Reformed members and the Lutherans decided to part. The Lutherans supposedly being too "liberal" for the Reformed folks to continue their association. A Lutheran congregation was organized from the members of the original church and they continued to worship at the little log church on south Hyatt Street under the name of the Worman Church, named in honor of the gentleman who originally deeded the land to the church. It is not known where our Reformed friends finally settled.

In the formation of the new all Lutheran group a lay pastor was called. His name was A.S. Link (1839-1848). During his tenure at the Worman Church, Pastor Link also served three other congregations; the Bethel Church in Clark County, the Stillwater Church near Vandalia and the Casstown Church. He preached in both German and English. Like many churches of that time, ours was one congregation in a parish of four under the care of one pastor. In 1878, our church finally became a singular parish. Pastor Link was given the recognition of ordination by the Joint Ohio Synod in 1842. Pastor Link played an important role in the early history of our church in that he strengthened the doctrine of Lutheranism in this area and consolidated our congregation as Lutherans.

At the urging of Pastor Link and the lay leaders of the old Worman Church, a new building site was acquired on February 6, 1847. Namely lot number 30 of the new town plat of Tippecanoe, the same lot where our present church is located. The lot was then at the very western edge of town and still in the woods. It was deeded by John Clark, the town's founder, to the trustees of the newly named Evangelical Lutheran Church; John Ritter, Jacob Rohrer and John Sanders. John Ritter, a successful farmer, donated two thousand dollars toward the building of the new church. It is reported the total cost of the structure was slightly over thirty-two hundred dollars. The old log Worman Church was abandoned and left to ruin, but the deeded property and cemetery remained, as it does to this day, in the ownership and care of our church.

Communications / Welcoming Committee Report

- Pastor Sally reported that Kristen Zimmann made several visits to our shut-ins during the past month. The Pastoral Care Team takes communion to Zion members who cannot attend services.
- Several members of our committee will be assembling photo directories in April for those who don't have one. In the future, pictures of members will be included on the church roster pages.
- Weather permitting, Zion will have a popcorn and water booth on the front lawn during the Solar Eclipse Block Party on Saturday, April 6 from 10:00 - 2:00.
- Jessica Dorn is organizing the Palm Sunday brunch and Easter Egg hunt.
- The committee is planning a couple of events such as a pizza lunch and bowling at Tipp City Pizza after church sometime in April, possibly a BUNCO night after a Saturday evening service and a Zion night at Dayton Dragons game in August.

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, April 9th at 5:00.**

Council Meeting Report

March 12, 2024

1. Approved minutes for February 13th meeting with a correction.
2. Approval of the January 2024 financial reports.
3. Notes upcoming dates for the Calendar:
 - March 24th - Palm Sunday Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt -Following Worship
 - March 28th - Maundy Thursday - 7pm
 - March 29th - Good Friday - 7pm
 - April 6th - Solar Eclipse Blook Party for Tipp City 10 AM until 4 PM
4. The Constitution Committee Chair presented the revised Constitution and accompanying By-Laws.
5. The Church will be participating in Solar Eclipse Blook Party for Tipp City providing popcorn and water for the event. The Church will have a tent on the front lawn for this event.
6. The Property Committee is pleased to announce the railing project is completed – council members viewed the installed railings located on the front steps and the west side of the church building.



CHURCH
COUNCIL

Next Meeting: **April 9th, 2024**

Christian Education

Children/Youth Sunday School

We will continue to watch Holy Moly and learn stories from the bible.

- 4/7 9am The 10 Outcasts
- 4/14 9am The Man Through the Roof
- 4/21 9am Jesus Feeds 5,000
- 4/28 9am Lazarus



Vacation Bible School (VBS) Update

There has been a change for VBS!

This year we will be teaming up with St John's Lutheran Church (Vandalia) and St Paul's (Dayton) for VBS! VBS will be held **June 3-7**, 6:00 - 8:15 pm at St John's. We have been asked to be in charge of the dinner and to help monitor the children.

More information to come!

Please contact Jessica with questions, concerns, or ideas for VBS.

Parents of the Graduating Class of 2024

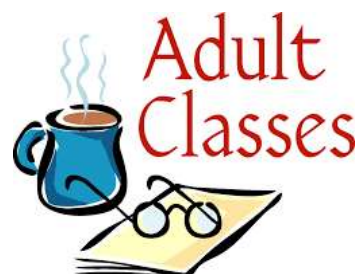
We'd like to conGRADulate the graduates of Zion!
Please email a picture and a brief paragraph telling us from where your student is graduating along with their future plans to christianed@ziontippcity.org by **April 1st** so that we can all celebrate with them in our May Tidings!



We don't want to forget our prior high school graduates. Please make sure we have their current address so that we can stay in touch.

April Adult Sunday School

The Adults will view "Encountering the Holy Land," an in-depth overview of the lands of the Bible. The lessons are arranged historically that begin with Eden and trace the historical progression of the Old and New Testaments. Please join us each Sunday at 9:00. All are welcome!



Property Committee Meeting Report

March 4, 2024

- The new ramp railing and front stairway railing have been installed.
- The stained-glass window on the north side of the sanctuary was sealed.
- The committee is looking into repairing two basement doors rather than replacing them.
- A folding shelf was installed in the sacristy to provide more work space for the Altar Guild.
- The monthly work list was completed.



The next meeting will be Monday, **April 1, 2024** at 6:00 p.m.

Prayer Requests

Pray for our homebound member: Patsy Furrow

Prayer requests for this week: Pray for the family and friends of Pat Cowan and Barb Kruse, both of whom passed away on March 16th. Also pray for the family of Gloria Bilbay who passed on March 23rd. Ginger Schaefer is home from the hospital. Unfortunately, she fell the night before being dismissed. She has several bruises and hairline fractures and is in a fair amount of pain. Please keep her and Dale in your prayers. Prayers are requested for Pastor Jeff Glawe who is having vocal cord surgery on April 8. Pray for Sue Von Aschen who had eye surgery. Continue your prayers for Sue Cook, who is on oxygen full time. Keep Shirley Delaplane and John LeGros in your prayers. Prayers of thanksgiving for Greg Watkins who is doing well. Continue prayers Brian Watkins and Debbie Turner. Pray for Dave Cook, Chalmer Mader, Christine Copeland, Miriam Comer, Fred Staie, Debbie Weprin, Andrew Weprin, Jason Weprin, Cindy Moore, Larry and Lil Nichols, Carol Phillips, Lilo Myers, Shirley Rawlins and AnnaMarie Stover.

Zion's Prayer Chain is sent out weekly through email. It lists prayers needed for those in our community and world. If you have signed up to receive the prayer chain and have not received it recently, please let the office or Linda Holt know. If you have never been a part of the prayer chain and would like to receive it, let us know that, as well. To request prayers, or take an individual off the prayer chain, email them to prayers@ziontippcity.org. You can also access this through Zion's website www.ziontippcity.org. or call the church office at (937) 667-3110. Thank you.





Worship & Music Committee

February 28, 2024

Attending were Pastor Sally Padgett, Carla Frame, Susie Gray, Bill Jones, Deb Keppel, Lil Nichols, and Lori Sebastian. Pastor Sally began the meeting with prayer.

We reviewed upcoming Lent, Holy Week, and Easter dates.

- A. Devotional Service – March 6th - 6pm
- B. Palm Sunday – Saturday/Sunday – March 23 – 5pm / March 24 – 10am
- C. Maundy Thursday – March 28 – 7pm
- D. Good Friday – March 29 – 7pm
- E. Easter – March 30 (Saturday Vigil) – 5pm; March 31 - Sunday – 10am

Zion will host special musicians. Adena Brass (Linda Holt) will be providing music for worship on Sunday, April 28. We will also begin looking for summer special musicians.

Bill Jones and Susie Gray gave vocal choir updates. We continue learning additional songs from All Creation Sings. Bill has the schedule set through Easter. Bill also mentioned pieces will be sung for Palm Sunday and Easter that were purchased in memory of Mike Werts. We also discussed a Raney arrangement of Christ the Lord is Risen Today, which is intended for a prelude and choir/congregation procession.

Lori stated bells will ring on Sunday, April 7th (This is the Sunday after Easter). Bells could also ring again in early May or mid-June depending on availability.

Carla Frame provided updates for altar. She has ordered more communion supplies, and they are working on finding another intinction set which is easier to utilize.

The committee reviewed liturgy and service. We will continue to utilize the Kyrie, Hymn of Praise, and Communion liturgy including the Sanctus and the Agnus Dei. At Easter, we will return Alleluias and switch to This is the Feast, add in the post communion canticle Thank the Lord, and utilize a new offertory canticle – tune Barbara Allen – ELW 691 – Accept O Lord, the Gifts We Bring. We will likely switch liturgies (Setting 2) this summer and use these canticles (offertory response): Take My Life and Let it Be – ELW 583 and Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ – ELW 674. Lori is working on keying hymns and service music from January to March into One License.

Pastor Sally gave her updates. She appreciates the warm welcome everyone has given her.

The technology committee continues working in the sanctuary. At this time, the sound in the choir loft is on hold due to feedback issues. However, the team has installed a new camera to aid remote worship. In addition, thanks to Jessica Dorn who created a slide with Zion information, which is now displayed on every video, in case people watching wish to attend in person.

Our next meeting date is Wednesday, **April 17th at 6pm**

Thank You

To our Zion family,

Thank You for your prayers and good thoughts. Sue and I are doing well. And, Thank You to those who provided meals during our recovery.

God Bless,

Tim and Sue Rambeau



Thank you so much for allowing us to have Ed's funeral at Zion Church. We appreciate your kindness during this difficult time.

Blessings,

The Flora Family

Another Eyeglass Donation

In March, Zion made another large donation of 31 pairs of used eyeglasses to The Lions Club project. Their program recycles the glasses and provides them to people who need them but can't afford the cost. Just another example of how Zion serves Christ through serving others. The Lions Club box is next to the collection box for pop can tops that benefit the Ronald McDonald House.



Choir News

The choir only has a few more weeks to sing this year. They have enjoyed a very busy season of music! We have enjoyed singing simple unison songs from "All Creation Sings" with guitars as well 4-part harmony anthems. We plan on performing one of my favorites, *For the Beauty of the Earth* by John Rutter, on May 5, 2024. As is tradition, we will end our 2023/2024 season on "Choir Sunday" (May 19, 2024) where the choir picks two of their favorite songs.



For those considering joining the choir, please keep in mind that we do skip some rehearsals and Sunday performances throughout the year. Just check the bulletin for choir rehearsal schedules.

Bill Jones

April 2024

Calendar of Events at Zion

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Property Mtg. 6 Boy Scouts 6:30	2 Quilts 10 Bell Rehearse 1p AA 8-9 pm	3 NO Choir	4	5	6 Solar Eclipse Block Party 10 am to 10pm
7 WoZ Mtg 5 pm	8 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Boy Scouts 6:30	9 Quilts 10 Comm Mtg 5:00 Council 7p AA Dinner 6-9 pm	10 Choir Rehearse 7pm	11	12	13
14 WELCA Mtg. 5p Chalk Talk 6:00 pm	15 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Boy Scouts 6:30	16 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	17 Worship/Music Mtg. 6:00 pm Choir Rehearse 7 pm	18	19	20 Communion Saturday
21 Relay For Life Team Meeting 3:00 pm	22 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Boy Scouts 6:30	23 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	24 Choir Rehearse 7 pm	25 Compassionate Friends 7pm	26	27
28 Randall Residence	29 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Boy Scouts 6:30	30 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm				