

ZION TIDINGS

January 2025



“Serving Christ through Serving Others”

A New Year, A New Life, A New World

Well folks, we made it. It is now officially 2025. We have made it through Christmas, we have made it through New Year’s Eve, and now... well, now what exactly? Life goes on as they say. The big holidays are behind us for now. And yet, as I reflect on this time of year, I realize that we fail to realize that we have entered upon not just a New Year, but a New Life and a New World.

Having just celebrated the birth of Jesus, we welcome the Savior of the world into our midst. And yet, as soon as Christmas passes, we move onto other things. But Christmas is not just a one-day event (technically, it is twelve days). Christmas means that our world has been completely and utterly changed, for all time. The birth of Jesus means that God dwells among us. God walks alongside us. God enables us to rest in the palms of His hands. With Jesus, our lives are changed forever. Just think for a moment about what God has done in your life. Whether you are a cradle Christian or someone who has just come to faith, think about what God has done in your life, think about what God is doing in your life, and pray about what God may be doing in your life in the future.

What I am trying to say is that Jesus changes EVERYTHING. And as we are entering into a season typically associated with change, the good news we need to hear most is that Jesus doesn’t change. Rather, Jesus changes us and leads us into a brighter future where we dwell in the presence of God. Jesus *changes* us. More than that, Jesus saves us. And so, as we enter into a new year, know that God has given you New Life and a world that will never be the same.

Pastor Jaren Summers



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

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY “TIDINGS” is Friday, January 24, 2025

Mission of the Month

Blessing Bags

This month you are given the opportunity to make a blessing bag. This bag will include items that a homeless or person down on their luck could use. Items included could be:

- Scarf, hat, mittens, socks
- Small wrapped snacks (peanut butter or cheese crackers, protein bars, beef jerky)
- Bottle of water
- Chapstick
- Travel sized lotion
- Travel sized toothbrush/toothpaste
- Comb/brush
- Hand sanitizer/hand wipes
- For women – personal hygiene products
- Anything else you see fit
- A card or note telling of Jesus' love



On the table in the narthex there is a box of gallon bags and samples of items you could include. Take a bag, fill it, and keep it in your car to hand out when you see someone in need. Or you could fill a bag and return it to the table for someone else to take. If you have any questions, see Linda Holt.

January Birthdays

2	Melissa Garvic	11	Linda Shutt	19	Cole Coppock
3	Covert Holley	12	Babs Wesbecher	24	Tim Rambeau
4	Elyse Masin	17	Erin Brooks Mason Lopez	29	Greg Fetters Susie Gray
9	Joe Delaplane		Jojo Gonzalez		Matt Breen
10	Dave Cook Laurie Reedstrom Tom Wesbecher				



Upcoming Events

Bunco Night
January 25, 2025
6:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Pizza will be provided

A freewill offering will be taken to cover the cost

**Please BYO Beverages and
a Snack to Share**



If you don't know how to play – no worries – we will teach you. It's easy & fun!

Cheer Plates

On December 10th, a team of volunteers led by Debbie Turner put together containers of goodies and delivered them to our home bound members, staff, and members in need of a gift of love. Many thanks to all who donated the treats, assembled the packages and delivered them. One delivery literally saved a life when something was amiss and the police arrived to find our member on the floor with a broken hip. It's proof that acts of kindness can truly be life changing. Below are thank you notes from cheer plate recipients.



To Zion family,

Thank you for the surprise cheer plate and fresh fruit that Bob & I have been enjoying. It was an early Christmas gift and we loved it. Thanks also to our Zion family for the many prayers for our family this year. We know prayers are powerful. ~ Bob & Wanda Lenehan

Thank you so much for the cookies, candies, and other goodies. Thank you for remembering us. God bless you. ~ Ted & Frieda Schmidt

Brothers & Sisters at Zion Lutheran Church,

Thanks so much for the thoughtful and delicious "Cheer Plate"! What a wonderful surprise! We certainly are enjoying the wide variety of sweets. Thanks also to Randy & Debbie Turner for the prompt and safe delivery! God Bless You! – Dale & Ginger Schaefer

What a wonderful surprise! Thank you so much for all the goodies you gave to me. I shall enjoy everything and think of you as I eat – and eat – and eat cookies etc. I'm glad you gave me fruit also – as I don't get much of that here. God bless you all. ~ Mary Ann Lemon

Imagine our surprise as we pulled into the driveway after Bab's PT and saw a plate of goodies waiting for us on the front porch. Thanks for the cheer plate. The treats were delicious!

Thanks also for the prayers, cards and visits as Babs recovered from knee surgery. They were appreciated! ~ Tom & Babs Wesbecher

“No Room”: Children/Youth Sunday

On December 8th, the kids were in charge! From greeting to reading, the youth served in all positions for the church service and taught us a special message about what it means to make room for Jesus in your heart during the busiest time of the year. The innkeeper made room for Mary, and we need to make sure to keep Jesus in our heart during this busy season. They shared this message through an activity and demonstrated that you are never too young, or too old, to serve in the community. It was a blessing to have the youth lead worship and share their gifts with everyone.



Don't Be Like the Bear

A young man of my congregation talked this morning about his trip to the zoo and it reminded me of the bear:

A few years ago, a zoo decided to modernize by eliminating cages and creating replicas of the animals' natural habitats. Rather than explore his new home when released into the bear habitat, one old bear walked a rectangular path that was the exact size of the inside of his cage. He could not comprehend that he was free to roam all over his new habitat.

When Jesus came on the scene, the religious elite, steeped in centuries of tradition, could not comprehend the freedom he represented. They continued to walk their familiar paths, unable to see out of the mental cages that contained them.

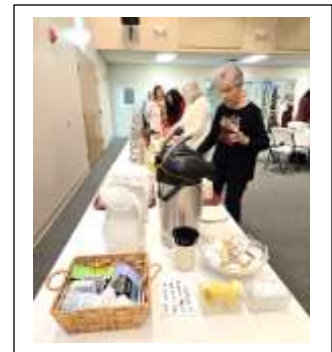
We can sometimes be like the bear. When we say, "We've never done it that way," we've made sure our cage is securely locked. Jesus brought freedom and change, a whole new habitat to roam around in. Let's get out of our cages and explore the wonders of our new habitat. Let's not be like the bear.

From Kervyn Mach



Women of Zion Christmas Dinner

On December 5th, thirty-seven Women of Zion gathered for fellowship and a delicious dinner catered by Eloquence and served by Tim Rambeau, Bob Keppel and Dale Schaefer. The festive evening culminated in a concert by the "Troy Tones", the acapella choir from Troy High School. A good time was had by all!



Christian Education

Sunday School – 9:00 am

The children will be getting a new curriculum entitled *Whirl*. This teaches Bible stories and also teaches how they apply to the lives of children, making the Bible more relatable.

The children and youth will have separate classes starting in the middle/end of January

Help Needed: Children and Youth Sunday School

We currently have 11 children and youth who come to Sunday School regularly. We would like to have multiple age classes, and are in need of volunteers to make this happen. We would like to have a high/middle school age group, an elementary school age group, and a 3-5 years age group. If you are interested in helping or teaching, please contact Jessica Dorn.

Save the date – Annual Breakfast and Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday April 13th, after worship we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt. More details to come soon.





Christian Ed Advisory Committee Meeting – January 5th, after service



Choir Notes

Whether you're a seasoned choir member or just enjoy humming along from the pews, church anthems offer something for everyone. From the rousing crescendos that send shivers down your spine to the soothing melodies that bring peace to your soul, anthems are more than just songs—they're a celebration of faith, community, and the joy of singing together.

January's Church Choir Music Program includes:

-  "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" - A classic hymn narrating the appearance of angels to the shepherds on the night of Christ's birth. Performed with guitars and organ to add a contemporary feel while maintaining the hymn's traditional essence.
-  "In a Far-Off Place, Jesus Comes" - This song reflects on the humble beginnings of Jesus' birth.
-  "Jude Benediction" - Now to him who is able to keep you, who's able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of his glory, blameless with great joy to the only God, our savior, to Jesus Christ, our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen
-  "Living Water" - I will give to you living water, from the world of endless life. As the deer longs for cooling streams, so do I bring you peace.

Hey there, choir hopefuls! Just a heads up that we do skip a few rehearsals and Sunday performances each year. But don't worry, you can always check the bulletin for the latest rehearsal schedules.

Oh my gosh, thank you so much for the amazing cheer plate of cookies, chocolate, and nuts!

Bill Jones

Zion's Christmas Tree in the Tipp City Park

After Children/Youth Church on December 8th, five families and Pastor Summers went to Tipp City Park and decorated the Zion Christmas Tree. We had great time!



You can drive around the park and see all the trees. Our tree is fairly close to the entrance on the left side of the path.

The ornaments will be taken down after worship on [January 5](#) for those who want to help.



Zion History Part 8

The nineteen seventies were years of accomplishment and great occasions. Our largest confirmation class of recent times, consisting of twenty-six members, was confirmed under the tutelage of Pastor Ernie Parrish (1971-1980). We celebrated our one hundred and fiftieth anniversary in 1976 with a series of monthly programs culminating with a sumptuous dinner serving the fare of our 1826 founders. Nearly one hundred and fifty members attended, filling the basement and upstairs elbow to elbow. Southern Ohio Synod Bishop Sauer presented the sermon for the day and was in attendance for the dinner. We were pleased to enjoy two performances in our sanctuary of the Wittenberg University School of Music String Ensemble during the anniversary year.

The research work done in preparation for our one hundred and fiftieth year brought to light the fact that the very place of our beginnings, the old cemetery on South Hyatt Street, was no longer a part of the life of our church. Sadly, this was true even though it was the final resting place of many of our founders and early members. Investigation proved the gravestones had been vandalized and the location of our first church building was being utilized for growing budded fruit trees. The remaining property was grown up in a tangle of trees and brush. Through the urging of Pastor Parrish, a Cemetery Restoration Committee was formed and work began to reclaim the property and bring it into the province of our congregation. In 1978, a large stainless-steel cross was installed thus permanently marking the location of the little log church where our history began. In 1990, a stone wall, eighty-five feet long, was constructed behind the cross. The many broken and vandalized head stones were incorporated in the wall as a means of preserving them. The precious place of our beginnings is now and forever rightfully back in the mainstream of our church.

One of the most significant happenings of the seventies was Zion's participation in aiding the victims of the Great Blizzard of January 1978. The storm was so swift and devastating that many travelers were stranded on nearby Interstate 75. Over a four-day period, at least three hundred people were housed and fed in our church building.



Offering Envelopes

The 2025 offering envelopes are available in the narthex. Please **DO NOT use them BEFORE January 4th, 2025.**

Below are some tips, which will greatly assist us in placing your offering exactly where you want it to go.

JAN 5 2025
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
 14 W. WALNUT ST.
 TIPP CITY, OHIO 45371

WEEKLY OFFERING

OPERATING EXPENSES & BENEVOLENCE	ALTAR FLOWERS	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	OTHER
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

PLEASE INDICATE EACH TIME HOW MONEY IS TO BE DIVIDED

Name _____
 Address _____

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, God hath prospered him." -1 Cor. 16:2

If you sign up for altar flowers, you can include the \$45 here.

We no longer have a Building Fund.
 Capital Improvement pays for needed repairs/maintenance for our building.

- Indicate where you wish your "other" offering to go in this box.
- ELCA World Hunger
 - Good Samaritan
 - Lutheran World Relief
 - Memorial (include name)
 - Southern Ohio Synod
 - Stained Glass Window
 - Sunday School
 - Trinity Seminary
 - Wittenberg
 - Youth Trip Fund



Council Meeting Report

November 12, 2024



1. Approved minutes for the following meeting:
November 12th Council Meeting approved and the Congregational Meeting of November 17th.
2. Approved Treasurer's reports for the month of October 2024
3. It was noted by the Council President that during the January meeting, Council will be nominating and electing council officers for 2025.
4. The new program, "Bible and Brew", is scheduled to start sometime in February. "Bible and Brew" is a fellowship group that combines the study of sacred scripture with the enjoyment of brewed beverages. The goal of this outreach program is to create a space for fellowship, spiritual growth, and community.
5. A logo for Zion Lutheran Church has been created which will be utilized on church correspondence, website, church email signatures, community outreach materials and in a variety of additional ways as identified as we move forward. Using this new logo consistently across these platforms and materials and other ways identified in the future we hope will become our visual cornerstone of our church's identity, helping to communicate our values, create connections, and enhance our presence in the community.
6. Note upcoming dates for the Calendar:
 - Advent Service – December 11th - 6:00 PM
 - Christmas Eve Service-December 24th – 7:00 PM
 - WOZ-Secret Sister Program - Begins January 2025

Next Meeting: Tuesday, **January 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

Property Committee Meeting Report

December 2, 2024

- Snow removal and ice treatment estimates were reviewed and a decision was made to award the contract to Monroe Grounds Maintenance.
- A flush valve in a toilet in the women's restroom was replaced.
- The monthly work list was completed.



Next meeting: **Monday, January 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

Adult Sunday School 2025

The adults meet every Sunday morning at 9:00 in the Adult Sunday School Room. Not quite an adult yet? You can still join us! We have good conversations and discussions.

While the series has not yet been chosen for the upcoming weeks in January, some possibilities are **90 Minutes in Heaven**, **God's Not Dead**, **The Prayers of Jesus**, **The Chosen**, or a Bible Study.

We would love to have you join us!



Members of Zion Make A Difference!

Where to begin?

The ornaments are amazing. So cheerful and cute! And the quantity; mercy!! Our patient trees will be extra special this year! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Vicky McKinley,
Hospice of Miami County

Dear Women of Zion,

Atonement Lutheran Church can't begin to thank you enough for your generous donation to our roof repair/building repair fund. As you know, hurricane Milton devastated many properties in Florida including our precious church building. The outpouring of love and support from the community has been heartwarming. A dedicated group of church members is working diligently to bring Atonement back to full working order.

Your generous donation will allow Atonement Lutheran Church to complete the necessary repairs/construction to continue its mission of Sharing love of Jesus, by Glorifying God and Extending His Kingdom.

Again, it is with deepest gratitude that we thank you for your donation and support.

Iris Aeppel, Treasurer

Prayer Requests

Prayers of Thanksgiving: Give thanks to God for sending new faces to our church. Give thanks to God for the blessings He gives us. Give thanks for the joy in anticipating of the birth of His son.

Pray for those fighting cancer: Sue Cook is now in SpringMeade, as well as Dave Cook.

More prayer requests: Pray for Peggy McCoy who is hospitalized. Pray for Garry Yunker and Ruth White. Garry is in rehab at Kettering in Troy. Dave Bischoff had surgery on his eye. Pray for Christine Copeland who has congestive heart failure and Mike Phillips who has a shoulder injury. Many prayers are needed for the family of Wanda Lenehan: Her daughter, Tracey, will have surgery on Dec 30 for a brain tumor, her son-in-law, Bob, is terminally ill, and 2-year-old great-granddaughter Margo is being treated with medication and is home. Pray for Amy Byrd who is recovering from surgery. Also keep Jack in Sharon in prayer.

Continue to pray for: James Oaks, Brian Watkins, Chalmer Mader, Fred Staie, the Weprin family, Cindy Moore, Carol Phillips, Lilo Myers, Shirley Rawlins.

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.



January 2025

Calendar of Events at Zion

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Service 5:00 Communion Saturday
5 Service 10:00 Christian Ed Advisory Mtg. after church	6 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Property Mg. 6 Scouts 6:30	7 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	8 Choir Rehearse 7	9	10	11 Service 5:00 Dos Lunas
12 Service 10:00 WoZ 5:00	13 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Scouts 6:30	14 Quilts 10 Comm Mtg 5p Council 7p AA 8-9 pm	15 Choir Rehearse 7	16	17	18 Service 5:00 Communion Saturday
19 Service 10:00	20 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Scouts 6:30	21 Quilts 10 Pastor Rel. Mtg. 7:00 AA 8-9 pm	22	23	24	25 Service 5:00 BUNCO 6:00 pm
26 Service 10:00 Randall Residence Outreach	27 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Scouts 6:30	28 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	29	30	31	