

ZION TIDINGS

February 2025



“Serving Christ through Serving Others”

Our Church Home

Last month, I preached a sermon about why we go to church. In that sermon, I said that there are many good reasons to go to church but there is one primary reason above all other reasons– that reason being that it is here we encounter Christ. We go to church to meet Jesus in the very place he promises to be. Full Stop. Every week, we gather as a community to encounter the Living One who offers forgiveness, life, and salvation via means that can be grasped whole and swallowed– communion, baptism, the preached word. Of course, Jesus is with us everywhere we go. I am simply stating that church is a unique place where Jesus promises to meet us. Church is a place where we can hear the Good News and receive God’s promises. It is here that we share one another’s burdens and join together in a community unlike any other. As Jesus says, he is present wherever two or three are gathered. (Matthew 18:20).

It is apparent why we go to church (to meet Jesus!). But today I want to ask you, why do we attend *this* church? Specifically, why do we attend Zion? There are many churches in the Midwest. And yet we find ourselves here, in this very place. What is it that draws you in? What is it that keeps you coming back? It isn’t simply a matter of taste is it? There has to be something intrinsic to the community, something deep and meaningful, that keeps us connected. Each and every one of us needs to answer this question for ourselves. Only then will we be effective witnesses to our society, boldly proclaiming that Zion truly is a special place to be. So, this month, I ask you to think long and hard about what makes Zion so attractive, what makes Zion special, what makes Zion, well, Zion. Only then will we be able to go forth into the world, recognizing that God has called us for a specific purpose, to be a specific *community*, gathered around the promises of God.

Pastor Jaren Summers



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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 MARCH “TIDINGS” is Friday, February 21, 2025

February Birthdays

9	Cathy Miller	18	Christine Schlater	25	Kayly Fetters
11	Jayne Drake	20	Megan Grube	26	Katie Sonnanstine Kendra Summers
13	Jason Schlater	22	Sharon Byrd James Sebastian	28	Olin Shutt
15	Lucky Vonderheide	24	Jessica Rizzotte Matt Witwer		
17	Chuck Drake Chloe Donnan				



Upcoming Events



Sunday, February 9th

5:00 Soup & Hot Dogs

6:30 Super Bowl LIX on the big screen

We need 6 people to bring in soup
Bring your own beverages – Water and Ice will be available
BYO tableware

BYO snacks, if desired

There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hallway

Open to the public: Bring friends and family

Donations will be accepted for the Needy Basket of Southern Miami County.
Cash is preferred but food donations will also be accepted.

Brought to you by the Zion Technology Team

Women of Zion
Valentine Video Night

Sunday, February 16th
5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Bring a **Snack**

AND

a **Valentine** to share with a fabulous
Woman of Zion



Class
February 2nd

If your child has expressed an interest in taking communion for the first time, a class will be held during Sunday School on February 2nd.

If interested, please contact Jessica Dorn or Pastor Summers.

Parents need to be present when their child takes first communion.

Clothesline Meeting

February 4 at 10:30 am

at Zion for all Clothesline workers.

We are hosting the party in July and need to plan.

If you are unable to attend, please call Sharon Byrd at 937-667-1003 and leave your name and phone number.



Bible and Brew



**NEW
MINISTRY**

**February 18th
5:30 – 6:30
Chaffee's Brewhouse
15 E. Second Street, Tipp**



Beginning February 18th and continuing **every third Tuesday of the month**, Bible & Brew will meet at Chaffee's Brewhouse for diverse conversations and theological discussions in a relaxed setting.

These gatherings are **open to everyone!**

Chaffee's offers a selection of crafts beers, coffees, a variety of other alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and they are now serving food.

Men's Breakfasts



Did you know that a group of men meet for breakfast at 9:30 every Tuesday at Bob Evans in Tipp City?

Did you know that all men are welcome to join?

It's a great way to enjoy a yummy breakfast and good Christian fellowship!

Reception for Joyce Zimmann

**February 22nd
After Service**



Joyce is retiring from playing keyboard for the Saturday night services after
25 years of service.

Please join us for a reception of soup and dessert in the Fellowship Hall to thank Joyce for a quarter of a century of service to Zion.

On the 22nd, we are celebrating and showing our gratitude to Joyce Zimmann, who is retiring both from 25 years at Zion, and from her long (72 years!) and wonderful service as a church pianist, pipe organist and choir director. Here are some fun facts about Joyce's church music career:

Beginning at age 7, she was raised by her grandparents in Lucas, OH. She started piano lessons and her grandma would sit her down at the keyboard every day, plunk open a hymnal and say, "learn this hymn!". That's how long Joyce has been playing hymns (no wonder she has most of them memorized!). Grandma would often tell the pastor of their church at Mt. Zion Lutheran, that Joyce would play a solo of one of the hymns she learned. During high school, after they moved to Mansfield, she walked a mile to the bus, then rode to First Presbyterian Church where she began pipe organ lessons. She took that same route every day to practice too! She then got her first paid job as the children's choir director and accompanist at First Lutheran Church.



The next stop was Wittenberg College, where as a freshman, she was given the job of daily chapel organist. She was also hired by Grace Lutheran Church in Springfield to be their organist. During her senior year of college, she went on tour with the Hamma School of Theology choir as their accompanist, where she met her husband – our own Pastor Z.

After their marriage, she became his partner in ministry as church organist and director of various youth and adult choirs, beginning in Youngstown, from there to Lorain, from Lorain to Zanesville (at the 12th largest Lutheran church in Ohio), and from there full circle back to Springfield, where the beautiful music continued for another 25 years until Pastor Z's retirement.

Since then, she has been playing at Zion on Saturday nights, bringing us her expertise and beautifully spirit-led renditions of hymns. What a wonderful career of bringing the gospel to life in song, to the glory of God! Congratulations and well done good and faithful servant Joyce!

Drive-up Ashes



**Ash Wednesday
March 5th**

11:00 am – 1:00 pm – Pastor Summers will be at our portico to administer ashes on folks who wish to drive up.

7:00 pm we will have a traditional service



Bunco Night

We had a great turnout of 34 people for Bunco on January 25th. After a meal of pizza and assorted goodies brought by the attendees, we played two rounds of Bunco. There was bell ringing, shouts of “Bunco” and a flying bear. Fun prizes were awarded for the biggest winners AND losers. A great time was had by all!



Sharon Byrd was the grand prize winner of a beautiful stained-glass cross made by Dennis Copeland.



The biggest winners & losers

Women of Zion Meeting

January 12, 2025

The logo for Women of Zion (WoZ) features the letters 'WoZ' in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly 3D and are set against a white background within a thin black rectangular border.

- \$828 was donated for the ELCA Good Gifts program.
- The Secret Sister program has begun. Envelopes were placed in mailboxes of those participating.
- The Blessing Bag Mission of the Month has started. Information is on the table in the narthex.
- WoZ will send gift cards to college students for Valentine's Day.
- There was discussion regarding items needed for the kitchen.
- The Prayer Shawl Ministry has one woman's, two men's and four baby blankets available. More people are needed to knit or crochet.
- It was decided to send \$500 to Lutheran Disaster Relief for California wild fire help.
- The monthly mission is being restructured for 2025. There will be four **Missions** where items/money will be collected for outreach, four **Service** projects to go out and serve the community where needed and four **Women's Fellowship Events**.

Next Meeting: Sunday, **February 16, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**

Running for Jesus

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,..they will still bear fruit in old age. Psalm 92:12-14

When people think about the 100-meter dash, current world-record holder Usain Bolt might come to mind. But we can't forget about Julia "Hurricane" Hawkins. In 2021, Julia crossed the finish line before all other runners to win the 100-meter dash in the Louisiana Senior Games. Her time was a bit slower than Bolt's 9.58 seconds – just over 60 seconds. But she was also 105 years old!

There's a lot to like about a woman who's still running sprints at her age. And there's a lot to like about believers in Jesus who never stop running the race with Him as their goal (Hebrews 12:1-2). The psalmist says this about the faithful in the later stages of life: "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, ...they will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green".

Older believers who follow this kind of standard can find further instruction in the apostle Paul's letter to Titus. Seasoned men are to be "sound in faith, in love and in endurance" (Titus 2:2), and senior women are "to teach what is good" (v 3).

There's no call for older believers to stop running the race. Maybe not the way Julia does on the track, but in ways that honor God as He provides the strength they need. Let's all run the race to serve Him and others well. (written by Dave Branon for *Bible in a Year*)

*Dear Jesus, thank You for every day you give me.
No matter my age, help me to strive to
run the race for Your honor.*



Christian Education - Youth

Children and Youth Sunday School: Sundays 9am

In January, 5th grade + began a new series, *Talk Sheets*. They talk about a specific topic that they might be dealing with in their life, and then read what the Bible has to say about those topics. Kindergardners-4th graders started a new series called *Whirl*. *Whirl* has a short video showing a situation that kids might encounter, and what the Bible says in relation to that event. These new lessons try to help relate the Bible to the life of each child/youth.

Sunday **February 2nd**, Pastor Summers will be holding first communion class during Sunday School. Parents need to be present if they would like for their child to receive their first communion.

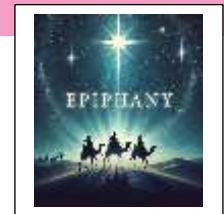
Annual Breakfast and Egg Hunt – Palm Sunday, April 13th

If anyone has **Thrivent funds** that could be used to purchase casseroles, that would be greatly appreciated. The casseroles were a huge success last year, but were very expensive.



Choir Notes

The Joyful Sounds of Epiphany: Choral Music Illuminating Our Worship



As we transition from the festive celebrations of Christmas to the reflective season of Epiphany, our church's choral music continues to play a pivotal role in enriching our worship. Epiphany, which celebrates the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles, is a time of light, revelation, and spiritual awakening. Our choir's music beautifully captures these themes, drawing us closer to the divine.

Epiphany has a rich musical heritage, deeply rooted in the Lutheran tradition. Martin Luther believed in the power of music to convey the gospel, and this legacy continues to inspire our choral selections. Hymns like "As with Gladness Men of Old" and "Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning" resonate deeply with the message of Epiphany, reflecting on the journey of the wise men and the revelation of Christ's glory.

Our choir has been diligently preparing music that highlight the themes of Epiphany by dedicating countless hours to rehearsals, focusing on pieces that reflect the revelation of Christ to the world. Through their passion and commitment, they bring to life the beauty and significance of this sacred season, enriching our worship services with their musical offerings.

One of the hallmarks of Lutheran worship is our robust tradition of congregational singing. During Epiphany, we encourage everyone to lift their voices in praise, joining in hymns that celebrate the light and revelation of Christ. This communal singing not only unites us as a congregation but also reinforces the powerful message of the season.

If you have a passion for music and wish to contribute to our worship, we welcome you to join our music ministry. Whether you sing, play an instrument, or simply love music, there are many ways to get involved. Please contact Bill Jones or Susie Gray for more information on how you can participate.

Choral music during Epiphany is a powerful expression of our faith, illuminating our worship with themes of light, revelation, and divine grace. As we journey through this season, let us embrace the beauty and inspiration that music brings to our lives, lifting our voices in praise and gratitude.

ELCA Good Gifts Results

The members of Zion Lutheran Church are a generous bunch of people! \$828 was collected during the month of December to benefit ELCA's Good Gifts ministry. This is what our \$828 purchased:

- 4 Bibles
- 1 Water Filter
- 5 piglets
- 8 honeybee colonies
- 2 school uniforms and school fees for a girl
- 3 goats
- 4 school supplies kits
- 2 roosters
- 9 flocks of chicks (that's 90 chicks!!)
- 1 week of food for a refugee family

Thank you!

Women of Zion



Zion History Part 9

We began the nineteen eighties by welcoming Thomas J. Heil (1980-1990) as our pastor. A program of internship was commenced with seminary students from Trinity College in Columbus, Ohio. During the decade, we had five interns join us for several months each. All but one went on to be ordained and pastor their own churches giving our congregation a great feeling of accomplishment. A formal plan for the maintenance of our church building was put into place, thus correcting several years of neglect. Our church became involved in the LSS Handivan program providing office space and volunteer help from our congregation. In April of 1988, our sanctuary was transformed into a theater of sorts for the presentation of "Godspell". Pastor Heil and then intern Roy Rogers played leading roles in the production. Several performances were presented with good attendance for all. Pastor Heil appeared in several shows put on by a local theater group.

Our church entered the nineteen nineties by calling pastor Steven Gellatly in August of 1990. The nineties saw major progress in several areas. The music of the church was enhanced by the 1991 purchase of a new state-of-the-art Baldwin organ. In 1998, a new electronic keyboard and magnificent set of hand bells were acquired. In 1996, ten acres of prime land was purchase on nearby Kerr Road at a cost of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The mortgage note was retired in early 2000. Saturday evening services were commenced in 1999. Perhaps most importantly, a firm decision was made to remain in our old historic church building at Third and Main Streets with a renewed appreciation for this gift of those who preceded us. The Kerr Road property remained as a financial foundation for the future. As a long-range plan to enhance the current location, it was decided to attempt to acquire the properties contained in the city block the church occupies. Toward that end, one such property was purchased.

This was basically the end of the history of Zion as written by Bill Posey in 2000. Of course, much has transpired in the past 25 years and hopefully, a written history to bring it up to date will be finished by our 200th anniversary next year.



Worship & Music Meeting

On Wednesday, January 15, the Worship and Music Committee met. Attending were: Susie Gray, Deb Keppel, Bill Jones, Lori Sebastian, and Pastor Summers. Pastor began the meeting in prayer. Lori thanked all those who helped with Christmas Eve Service and all those who helped with events this past year.

We reviewed upcoming dates: Ash Wednesday – March 5 (Pastor will also be offering Drive Up Communion over the lunch hour), Palm Sunday – April 12/13, Easter – April 19/20, Pentecost – June 7/8 and Trinity Sunday – June 14/15.

Bill and Susie have the choir schedule done through Epiphany. Susie will be directing for a few Sundays in February. The bells are currently not scheduled.

Deb gave the Altar Committee report. Communion will be done at the rail for Lent, much like we did during Advent. Pastor requested we add the chanting of the Communion Preface during Lent. We have received multiple comments on the flowers being especially beautiful. Looking ahead, ashes for Ash Wednesday and palms for Palm Sunday will be ordered through Dayton Church Supply.

Our proposed liturgical rotation is Setting 1 (Epiphany) and setting 3 (Lent/Easter). We hope to schedule Setting 4 sometime during Pentecost season.

Pastor asked for feedback on a couple future ideas and small changes he had made during the worship service. Everyone was receptive to those.

For technology and live streaming, the goal is to utilize the newly installed camera on the second floor, once additional speakers are installed in the sanctuary. We are consistently getting approximately 5 people tuning in on Sundays for the live stream.

We discussed the Saturday evening musician position. After 25 years of faithful service to Zion as Saturday evening musician, Joyce Zimmann will be retiring. We will hold a reception following the Saturday, February 22 worship service.

Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, March 12th at 6pm.**

Adult Sunday School

February 9th will be a special day for Adult Sunday School! Pastor Summers is going to start a Bible study of Luke in relationship to the other Gospels. We are looking forward to his teaching, knowledge and insights.

Please join us at 9:00 in the Adult Sunday School room.

All are Welcome



BELL RINGERS



Zion's bell rings again on Sunday mornings thanks to our youth Sunday School class

Council Meeting Report

January 14, 2025



1. December 10th Council Meeting minutes approved.
2. Approved Treasurer's reports for the month of November 2024.
3. The following are the elected council officers for 2025:

President	Denise Jacobs
Vice President	Matt Sauls
Secretary	Susie Gray

4. The new program Bible and Brew is scheduled to start February 18th and will take place each third Tuesday of the month going forward. "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. Work is underway to upgrade the technology regarding the Church's web presence. Chuck Powder and Pastor Jaren Summers made a presentation to Council as to suggested considerations of new software tools to upgrade the website and support projects and giving for our Church Community. The council voted to move them forward with the needed software that was presented.
6. Notes upcoming dates for the Calendar:
 - Bunco Night – January 25th @ 6:00 PM
 - Super Bowl Party – February 9th
 - WOZ-Valentines Party- February 16th @ 7:00 PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, **February 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

Members of Zion Make a Difference!



Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$2,000 to Lutheran Disaster Response
Daniel Rift, Director, Giving Service and Justice, ELCA

Thank you for your generous gift of \$500 to the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Rachel Wind, Executive for Development, ELCA

As a church, we are freed by the transformative life of Christ, and this freedom emboldens us to love and serve our neighbors just as Christ has shown us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power of God's love.

With your gifts you are putting God's love into action – living faithfully, witnessing boldly, serving joyfully and giving abundantly. Your generosity allows this church to continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ by equipping leaders, positioning communities to grow and sharing the love of a faithful and abiding God.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

Dear Friends at Zion,

On Life's busy thoroughfares
We meet with angels unawares—
So, Father, make us kind and wise
So we may always recognize
The blessings that are ours to take,
The friendships that are ours to make
If we but open our heart's door wide
To let the sunshine of love inside—
For God is not in far distant places
But in loving hearts and friendly faces

Thank you, Thank you Zion friends. You have helped us as we face these health challenges. Our church family is making our journey successful.

Love,
Ruth & Garry

Prayer Requests

Prayers of Thanksgiving: Give thanks to God for Zion's Altar Guild.

Pray for those grieving: Pray for the family of Sean Poynter whose mother died from Parkinson's. Pray for the victims and families suffering from the wildfires in California.

More prayer requests: Many prayers are needed for Greg Watkins who is at Miami Valley Hospital. Pray for Peggy McCoy who is residing at Randall Residence in West Milton. Continue to pray for Garry Yunker and Ruth White who are both at home. Dave Bischoff had surgery on his eye, Dave Cook is at SpringMeade. 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: Wanda's daughter, Tracey, had brain surgery and is waiting to see her response to radiation, 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 and her parents Jack and Sharon. Pray for Susan Mills (cousin of Joyce Luther and Linda Holt) who had surgery for the removal of toes. Prayers are needed for Gwen Miller (grandmother of Susie Gray) and Colonel Troy Cramer.

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.



February 2025

Calendar of Events at Zion

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Communion Saturday
2 1st Communion Class during S.S.	3 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Property Mg. 6 Scouts 6:30	4 Men's Bkfst Bob Evans 9:30 Clothesline Mtg 10:30 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	5 NO Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8 Dos Lunas
9 Super Bowl Watch Party 5:00	10 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Scouts 6:30 200 Anniversary Mtg 6:30	11 Men's Bkfst Bob Evans 9:30 Quilts 10 Comm Mtg 5p Council 7p AA 8-9 pm	12 Choir Rehearse 7	13	14 HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!!! Clay Class Workshops 11 - 4 Adult SS Room	15 Communion Saturday
16 WoZ Valentine Video Night 5:00	17 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Scouts 6:30	18 Men's Bkfst Bob Evans 9:30 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm Bible & Brew 5:30 - 6:30 Chafee's	19 Choir Rehearse 7	20	21	22 Zimmann Reception after service
23 Randall Residence Outreach	24 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Scouts 6:30	25 Men's Bkfst Bob Evans 9:30 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	26 Choir Rehearse 7	27	28	