

# ZION TIDINGS

March 2025



*“Serving Christ through Serving Others”*

## Why Lent?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent every year. It launches that 40-day journey towards Easter. We mark our foreheads with ashes, the paraments are changed to purple, and our Bible readings focus on the themes of repentance. But have you ever wondered why we celebrate Lent at all? Where does it come from? I thought I would write this brief article to help illuminate the historical and biblical background for Lent.

There was much debate among Christians about when exactly Easter should be celebrated, with many arguing for different days. The Council of Nicaea in 325 AD (from where we get the Nicene Creed) was a gathering of Christians from all over the known world to settle some of these debates. The council eventually decided that Easter would fall on a Sunday, specifically the first Sunday following the first full moon after the Spring Equinox.

The council then agreed that there should be a 40-day period of fasting leading up to Easter (Lent) due to the biblical roots of the number 40. In Genesis 7:4, God sends rain on the earth 40 days and 40 nights while Noah and his family ride in the ark. In Exodus 24:18, Moses receives the instructions from God on Mount Sinai for 40 days. The prophet Elijah was in the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights as he walked to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8). And Jesus spent 40 days in the desert where he was tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1-11). It is this last scene from the biblical witness that has influenced Lent the most.

In 601 AD, the start of Lent was set as Ash Wednesday by Pope Gregory. He launched the tradition of marking parishioners' foreheads with ashes in the shape of a cross. This practice also draws on biblical traditions. For example, the Old Testament often uses ashes for liturgical purposes. Ashes were meant to denote mourning, mortality, and penance.

The purpose of Lent is to help us fixate our gaze on the God who died to save us. We simply cannot save ourselves. As we spend the next 40 days in the wilderness with Jesus, let us remember what He went through, and let us remember that this same One walks with us now.

Pastor Jaren Summers



Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church 14 West Walnut St., Tipp City, Ohio 45371- Phone: 1(937) 667-3110

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**Jessica Dorn, Christian Education director** - [christianed@ziontippcity.org](mailto:christianed@ziontippcity.org)

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE APRIL “TIDINGS” is Friday, March 21, 2025**

## March Birthdays

4	Ava Coppock	19	Hannah Kessler	27	Kelly Smith
6	Matthew Hannah	20	Ash Johnson	28	Bob Keppel Lori Sebastian
7	Jen Kauffmann	21	Billie Fischer	31	Christine Copeland Debbie Fetters
14	Janice Mach Susan Smith	23	Dale Rudisill		
15	Bill DeVenzio Lynnette McKibbin Nicholas McKibbin	24	Michael Hannah (dad) Kervyn Mach		
17	Bob Lenehan	25	Heidi Coppock		



## Mission of the Month

### *Serving Lunch at Kennedy Hall*

On **Saturday March 8th**, we will serve a meal at Kennedy Hall, McKaig Avenue in Troy. This is a mission of St. Patrick Food Kitchen. We will provide the lunch (to be determined). Donations of hamburger buns and cookies will be needed. Donations to purchase the food will be also be needed. There will be a donation container in the narthex.

The food will be prepared at Zion on **Friday afternoon, March 7th at 3:00**. We will transport the food to the Kennedy Center on Saturday morning at 10:30 and serve the food from 12:00-1:00.

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.



The people who attend this meal are handicapped or developmentally disabled. The last time we served the attendees, they were extremely grateful and appreciative. Please consider helping either by donating money or time. If you have any questions, please see Linda Holt.



A proud United Way Agency

## Upcoming Events



### Drive-up Ashes

## Ash Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup>



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

### Clothesline Party Planning Meeting

## Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am

at Zion for ALL Zion Clothesline workers.

We need to make plans for our annual dinner on July 24<sup>th</sup>

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



### Bible and Brew

March 18<sup>th</sup>

5:30 – 6:30

**Chaffee's Brewhouse**

**15 E. Second Street, Tipp**



Our first gathering on February 18<sup>th</sup> was a big success. The next meeting is March 18<sup>th</sup> and will continue **every third Tuesday of the month** 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 craft beers, coffees, a variety of other alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and they are now serving food.

# Bunco Night

March 15, 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!

## 1<sup>st</sup> Communion

Congratulations to Reese Clum and Carly Schlater on receiving their first communion!



## Super Bowl Watch Party

Fourteen people gathered to enjoy soup, hot dogs and appetizers before watching the Philadelphia Eagles soundly defeat the Kansas City Chiefs.



A collection was taken for Needy Basket of southern Miami County at the party and \$40 was given. On behalf of all the volunteers at Needy Basket, we were sent a thank you for the donation.

Just another way that Zion serves Christ through serving others.

## Blessing Bags

In January our mission of the month was putting together Blessing Bags for the homeless or people who are down on their luck. Thank you to all who put together and distributed a bag! These bags supply small items that will support the recipient's daily needs. Water, small protein snacks, warm hats, gloves, socks for the cold weather, toothbrushes, toothpaste – items that we all take for granted but are essential for our daily lives. There are bags located on the table in the narthex. Please take one, keep it in your car and bless someone you encounter on a street corner or elsewhere. We are Christ's hands and feet.  
**Zion's mission: Serving Christ through serving others!**

## Walking

The last 6 weeks I have walked outside for a Frozen Feet Challenge. The intent was to walk, hike, or run outside at least 1 mile a day. This year that coincided with some very cold weather and some snowy (sometimes icy) paths. But every day I went out, many days bundled up in multiple layers, and walked – sometimes at a local park, sometimes at the bike path, sometimes downtown, and sometimes back and forth in our driveway. At the end of the 6 weeks, I had walked almost 200 miles.

Recently, we had reason to celebrate someone's Christian walk. She devoted over 80 years to playing music in the church. Another individual recently celebrated playing music in the church for over 60 years. In addition, many other people in the church have decades of service whether in music, ministry, or their regular vocation. It is wonderful when milestones are reached and celebrated, yet these milestones would not have occurred without the "more routine" daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly walks. While taking 7,500 steps daily (an estimate I found courtesy of Google) is not noteworthy, over the course of 80 years, this becomes over 200 million steps!

As I thought about our Christian walk, several hymns came to mind. One from Epiphany – *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (ELW 815) or the spiritual *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (ELW 325). Many hymns talk about our walk with Jesus - like *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus* (ELW 802), *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* (ELW 697), or *O Master Let Me Walk with You* (ELW 818). Then, I searched through the hymn supplement *All Creation Sings*, and I found 2 hymns that mention our Christian walk . . . ACS 987 *Guide My Feet* (while I run this race) – a reference to Hebrews 12:1-2 and ACS 939 *See My Hands and Feet* where it reminds us to be Jesus' hands and feet. How many of us have read the Footprints Prayer, where there are 2 sets of feet walking together along the sand, and then just one? The lesson is that Jesus carries us when we are not able to carry ourselves. We can have confidence and take comfort in the text by Herman Stuempfle Jr. "We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near, O Christ who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here." (*We Walk by Faith* (ELW 635)).

As I reflected on walking and our Christian paths, the words "Walk humbly with God" came into my mind. While I could not find a direct reference in our hymnals, likely the choir has sung an anthem with those words. The words are a direct quote from Micah 6:8: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." As we conclude the Epiphany season and move into Lent, how will you walk your daily journey with Jesus?

By Lori Sebastian



## Family Abuse Shelter



Family Abuse Shelter  
of Miami County

Hopefully you've noticed that there are collection bins inside the Walnut Street doors. These donations benefit the Family Abuse Shelter in Troy. This shelter helps *everyone*. They serve survivors of domestic violence, homeless individuals, and families - no matter the situation or hardship. On **Sunday March 16th**, Laura Huston, a representative from the Abuse Shelter will give a Temple Talk during our 10:00 service. She will give an overview of the work of the Shelter and the people who benefit. Please plan to attend to learn more about how Zion can be the hands and feet of Christ.

## College Students



Each year, the Women of Zion send greetings and a gift card to our college students. This year we sent out 8 notes and gift cards for Valentine's Day. If you have a college student in your family, please contact the office (937-667-3110 or [office@ziontippcity.org](mailto:office@ziontippcity.org)) with the information. We love to connect to our youth who are unable to attend our weekly services.

## Updates to Zion



Finally, all of the brochures from various organizations that help people are consolidated into one place and are on display for easy accessibility.

Most have brochures that you can take so, take a brochure if you need help or know someone who does. There is likely an agency that can help.

If you haven't noticed, it is located in the fellowship hallway where the youth bulletin board was, across from where the flower chart and sign-up sheets hang.

Little things can make a huge difference. The picture to the right is of the door in the kitchen that goes to the outside. It has a door sweep but there is still a gap that lets cold air in. On very cold days, when opening the fellowship hall door and entering the kitchen the kitchen temperature could be 10-15 degrees colder than the hall. The property committee purchased a draft stopper (the black roll at the bottom of the door) and it is doing a marvelous job of keeping the cold outside so that the kitchen temperature is comfortable even on very cold days.



## Pastor in Boundless



*Boundless* is a publication of the ELCA containing “stories of Christ’s abounding love and grace”. Pastor Summers is highlighted on page 10 of the Winter 2025 edition.

It is a thank you for the support he has received from the ELCA Fund for Leaders.



## Christian Education - Youth

### Children and Youth Sunday School: Sundays 9am

**Youth: 5th grade +** will continue to work on Talk Sheets. Talk Sheets provide topics that teens and preteens might be dealing with in their life, and then we read what the Bible has to say about those topics.

**Kids: Kindergartners-4<sup>th</sup> graders** will continue with the Whirl curriculum. 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.

**Both Youth and Kids** will be challenged to invite friends to our Lent festivities with an invitation to come to church.

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

Thank you to Ruth White who has been approved for \$250 in Thrivent funds which we will use to purchase food and prizes for this egg hunt.

Palm Sunday Breakfast will start right after worship. There will be a Bible story, games, craft, and egg hunt for kids to enjoy. Please sign up in the hallway to help or if you plan to attend.



### Vacation Bible School (VBS) Planning

If you are interested in helping at (or planning for) VBS please contact Jessica Dorn. There will be a meeting with St. Paul and St. John churches on **March 9th** (subject to change) at **11:45** in the adult Sunday school room. Lunch will be provided.

## Adult Sunday School

During March, Pastor Summers is leading a Bible Study for adults each Sunday at 9:00. The topic is the Gospel of Luke in relationship to the other Gospels. Please join us for Pastor’s teaching, knowledge and insights.

All are Welcome



## Choir Notes

### A Musical Journey Through Lent: Preparing for the Easter Season in March



Lent, the period of 40 days leading up to Easter, is a solemn season of reflection, repentance, and preparation for the celebration of Christ's resurrection. It holds deep spiritual significance and is marked by various rituals, including prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. One of the most profound aspects of this period is the music that accompanies it—church service music, choir and instrumental pieces that help convey the depth of emotion and spiritual introspection characteristic of the season.

The music chosen for church services during this time often mirrors these themes, with a focus on humility and introspection. Expect to hear hymns and worship songs that evoke a sense of reverence and solemnity. Some beloved Lenten hymns include "Lamb of God," "Savior When in Dust to You," and "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days". These pieces, with their poignant melodies and deep lyrics, help congregants reflect on the sacrifice and suffering of Jesus Christ.

Choir music during Lent often embodies a tone of solemnity and reverence, aligning with the themes of sacrifice and penance. The repertoire for this period includes a rich array of hymns, chants, and anthems that echo the sentiments of humility and devotion. One of the hymns you will hear, "All Things of Dust-to-Dust Return" by Thomas Tallis, is a poignant and reflective piece that captures the essence of human mortality and the transient nature of life. Composed during the Renaissance period, this motet exemplifies Tallis's mastery of polyphonic choral music. The text, derived from liturgical sources, meditates on the inevitability of death and the return of all earthly things to dust. Tallis's intricate vocal harmonies and somber melodies create an atmosphere of introspection and reverence, making this work a powerful and moving expression of the Lenten themes of penitence and contemplation.

Instrumental music during Lent is equally powerful, offering moments of self-reflection and emotional resonance. The organ, with its vast range of tones and dynamic capabilities, plays a central role in our Lenten journey. Organ preludes and postludes set the tone for worship, while interludes provide moments of quiet reflection. Compositions such as "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say", "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" and "The Old Rugged Cross" are a few of the pieces you will hear, as we travel through this time of Lent.

By embracing the rich musical traditions of Lent, individuals and communities can find solace, inspiration, and a renewed sense of purpose as they prepare for the celebration of Easter.



#### Midweek Lenten Service

Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 p.m.

#### Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m.

#### Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.

#### Good Friday Service

Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.

#### Easter Sunday – April 20<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m.

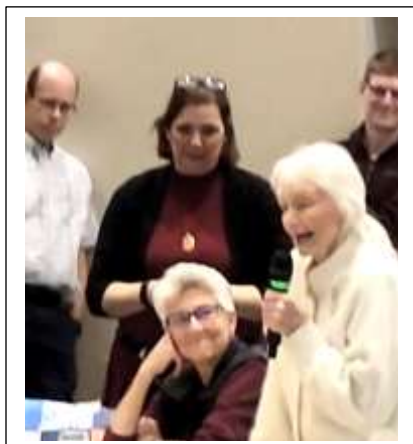
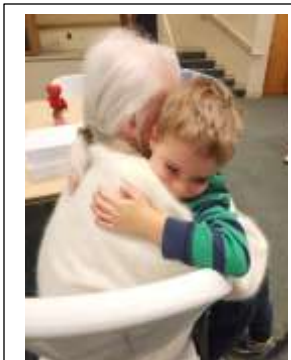


## Reception for Joyce

On February 22nd, fifty-five people gathered to honor Joyce Zimmann for her 25 years of musical service to Zion. A lovely meal of soups and desserts was served. The quilters gifted her with a beautiful quilt and members shared memories of her. She was very appreciative! Many thanks to Lori Sebastian for her planning a preparation for a wonderful celebration.



CELEBRATING  
25  
Years



Thank You!



HAPPY  
RETIREMENT

## Thanks to Zion

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

On behalf of our entire team, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your congregation's generous financial support and commitment to our ministry. Your partnership makes a profound difference in helping us fulfill our mission: "Faithfully inspiring people to embrace their callings in creation and community."

Through your contributions, you are helping to create vibrant spaces where faith flourishes, relationships deepen, and individuals are empowered to lead and serve. Your support enables us to nurture a profound connection between faith and the natural world, equipping people to be faithful stewards of God's creation. Together, we are building a community rooted in gratitude, care, and purpose, where lives are transformed, and faith is strengthened.

As a Congregational Partner, your generosity extends far beyond financial support. It embodies a shared commitment to living out the Gospel in ways that bless and inspire a changing world. Your partnership allows us to reach individuals of all ages and backgrounds, providing opportunities for spiritual growth, leadership development, and a renewed sense of calling in Christ.

Thank you again for joining us in this sacred work. We are honored to journey with you as stewards of God's creation and witnesses to the abundant grace we find in community and nature.

With deep gratitude and blessings,

Tony Maggio, Development Coordinator, HopeWood Outdoors

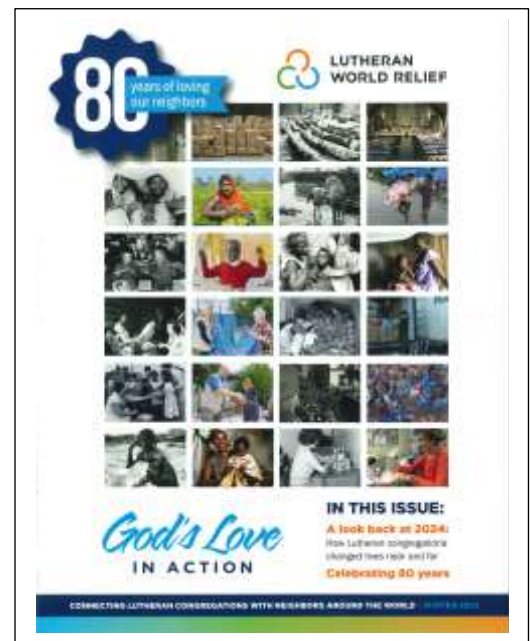


## Happy Birthday LWR

Lutheran World Relief is celebrating 80 years of helping people in crisis. LWR has been there to offer help and hope with emergency supplies: clean water, food, shelter, blankets (quilts), school supplies, framing kits, hygiene items, sewing kits, baby layette kits etc.

**Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>** is **National Quilt Day**. Our Mission Quilters will have a quilt display and LWR brochures in the conference room on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. LWR envelopes are available to make donations. Checks can be made payable to Zion and one total check will be sent to Lutheran World Relief.

Your gifts  
save lives!



## Council Meeting Report

February 11, 2025



1. January 14th Council Meeting minutes approved.
2. Approved Treasurer's reports for the month of December 2024
3. A new program for young adults is currently under development. This is being developed as a partnership program which involves the following organizations:
  - Abiding Christ Lutheran Church in Fairborn
  - St. John's Church in VandaliaMore details will be made available as this program develops.
4. Zion's Bicentennial Celebration Committee has held their first meeting. This committee will be planning and organizing events and activities to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Zion Lutheran Church. This celebration will be held during 2026.
5. Noted upcoming dates for the Calendar:
  - WOZ-Valentines Party- February 16<sup>th</sup>@ 7:00 PM
  - Bible and Brew-February 18<sup>th</sup> @ Chaffee's Brewhouse from 5:30PM – 6:30PM
  - Reception for Joyce Zimmann -February 22<sup>nd</sup> following the Saturday worship service
  - Ash Wednesday Drive Up Ashes- March 5<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM until 1 PM
  - Ash Wednesday Service-March 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM
  - Bunco Night – March 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM

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

## New Logo

Zion now has an official logo, which incorporates Martin Luther's seal and our mission statement. Thanks to Kendra Summers for designing it.



## Inaugural Bible & Brew a Success

20 folks gathered at Chaffee's on February 18<sup>th</sup> for interesting Biblical discussions.





## Daylight Savings Time

Begins March 9<sup>th</sup>

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour

### By the Numbers

Instead of printing attendance and giving weekly in the bulletins, we will be putting offerings and average monthly attendance for the previous month in Tidings. Here is February:

Average Attendance – Saturday: 45                      Sunday: 49\*  
Average Sunday School Attendance\* – Adult: 13      Youth: 4      Kids: 5  
Total Giving: \$15,756.00

Note: \*Sunday, 2-16 had a heavy snow and attendance was low. Sunday School didn't happen so those averages are based on three weeks, not four.

### Prayer Requests

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:** Kervyn Mach and been released from therapy and is now home. Thanks be to God for Zion's Worship and Music Committee!

**More prayer requests:** Prayers are needed for Garry who is hospitalized. Greg Watkins is having dialysis 3 times a week. Thirteen-year-old Luke Dunmire (nephew of Pam Sauls) had a stroke and is on a feeding tube. He is having surgery to repair the hole in his heart. His progress is slow. Peggy McCoy is residing at Randall Residence in West Milton. Continue to pray for Garry Yunker and Ruth White. 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. Pray for Amy Byrd and her parents Jack and Sharon. Pray for Susan Mills (cousin of Joyce Luther and Linda Holt) who is in therapy 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 and 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](mailto:prayers@ziontippcity.org). You can also access this through Zion's website [www.ziontippcity.org](http://www.ziontippcity.org) or call the church office at (937) 667-3110. Thank you.



# March 2025

## Calendar of Events at Zion

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Communion Saturday
2	3 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Property Mg. 6 Scouts 6:30	4 Men's Bkfst Bob Evans 9:30 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	5 Drive Up Ashes 11 - 1 6:30 Choir Rehearsal Service 7:00	6	7	8 Dos Lunas
9 VBS Meeting 11:45 	10 Quilts 10:30 Clothesline Mtg 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Scouts 6:30	11 Mens Bkfst 9:30 Quilts 10 Comm Mtg 5p Council 7p AA 8-9 pm	12 Blood Drive NO Choir Rehearsal	13	14	15 National Quilt Day Display Communion Saturday Bunco 6:00
16 National Quilt Day Display	17  Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Scouts 6:30	18 Mens Bkfst 9:30 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm Bible & Brew 5:30 - Chafee's	19 6:00 Music & Worship Mtg. Choir Rehearse 7	20 	21	22
23	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 Lent Service 6:00 Choir Rehearse 7	27	28	29
30 Randall Residence Outreach	31 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Scouts 6:30					