

FEBRUARY 2024

VOICE OF ZION

A Monthly Publication of
 Zion Lippe United Church of Christ
 9000 Copperline Rd E
 Mt Vernon IN 47620
 812 985-2437
 website: zionlippe.org

Secretary email: zionlippesecretary@gmail.com
 Secretary Hours:
 Tues, Wed and Thurs 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Rev. Jeff Long, Pastor
 Pastor cell: 812 306-4675
 Pastor email: zionlippepastor@gmail.com

Sunday Family Worship at 10 am
Sunday School at 9 am

Worship Attendance

Date	In Person	Virtual (est.)
12/31	122	55 devices
1/7	126	102 devices
1/14	67	84 devices
1/21	119	99 devices
1/28	138	66 devices

Sunday School Average Attendance

January: Adult (18+) = 18
 Children (downstairs) = 11
 Youth (grades 6-12, includes Conf.) = 8



With snow, ice, &/or other inclement weather... Should questions arise concerning if Worship/Sunday School will be held on a given Sunday, cancellations will be announced on WFIE, Facebook, and the church's website.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVE STREAMED and RECORDED FOR LATER VIEWING ON YOUTUBE !

You can always join us for Sunday worship wherever you might be. To easily view the live worship service simply go to our church webpage... www.zionlippe.org... and click on the "Watch Live" tab and you will be able to view the worship service when it goes live. For later viewing of recorded services, go to YouTube and search for Zion Lippe.



Greeter Schedule for upcoming Sundays:



- Feb 4 – Mary Schauss**
- Feb 11 – Sue Scherry**
- Feb 18 – Sandy & Emily Schmitt**
- Feb 25 – Delene Schmitz**

- March 3 - Hans & Cindy Schmitz**
- March 10 – Patrick & Emily Schroeder**
- March 17 – Gabe & Amy Schroeder**
- March 24 – Steve & Cathy Schroeder**
- March 31 – Terry & Mary Jane Schroeder**

We will have magnetic name tags available for our greeters, and hand-shaking is optional. If possible, please try to be here about 9:30 am or so. If you know ahead of time that you can't greet the Sunday you are scheduled, you can let Worship Chair, Rosie Bogard know – but if something comes up and you can't make it don't fret!



FEBRUARY

In order to share in the joys and celebrations of our lives as a congregation we publish a monthly list of birthdays and anniversaries of members and friends of Zion. Numbers in () represent year.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 1 Eleanor McRae
- 2 Kelley Esche
- 6 Patrick Schroeder, Dalton Berry
- 7 Aubrey Becker
- 8 Curt Muntzer, Gary Voegel
Jackson Madden
- 9 Ronald Schroeder
- 11 Rowen Englebright
- 12 Landon Will
- 13 Brandon Reese
- 14 Leon Austin
- 15 Sherry Wuertz, Calvin Crase,
Raelynn Swope
- 17 Pam Martin
- 18 Will Hargett
- 19 Adam Schroeder, Carl Barchet
- 21 Sarah Will, Pam Ford
- 22 Stephanie Duncan, David Reese,
Sarah Taylor, Knox Gibson
- 23 Regina Arguello
- 25 Darlene Roedel, Grace Cullman,
Levi Patterson
- 26 Cory Lingafelter
- 27 Mackenzie Schmidt, Kathy Duncan
- 28 Chellsie Parker, Nitza Long

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 24 Donald & LeeAnn Hoenert (1963)

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or not correct, please call the office at 985-2437 so we may update our records. Thanks for your help!

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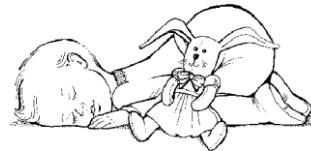
Sunbeams Senior Citizen Dinners

The Sunbeams are looking forward to continuing our Senior Citizen meal program for the 2024 year. Our dinners begin at 11 am.

Dates planned for 2024 are:

- February 22 May 9
- August 8 October 10
- December 19

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Congratulations to Matthew & Nitza Long at the birth of their daughter, Alva Lynn Long on January 26, 2024. Proud grandparents are Pastor Jeff & Kris Long, and great grandpa Jerry Long.

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Men's Lenten

Breakfasts will begin on Saturday, Feb 17. This first gathering will be held at Christ Church, 3601 Washington Ave, Evansville. Breakfasts are at 7:30 am with worship service following.

On Saturdays during the Lenten Season, various churches in the area host a breakfast and morning service. Anyone is welcome to attend. See the foyer bulletin board for the complete schedule. Contact Dwight Esche if questions.

Zion is host for the Feb 24 gathering. If you can help in the kitchen or with set-up please contact Russ Roehr or Terry Schroeder.

This is what God's kingdom is like: a bunch of outcasts and oddballs gathered at a table, not because they are rich or worthy or good, but because they are hungry, because they said yes. And there's always room for more.

–Rachel Held Evans

Extravagant welcome! A group of us were recently discussing what it means to be welcoming. The conversation started after we read an article written by Nayiri Karjian (Living Waters Association - Ohio Conference of the UCC). As is so often the case, as we talked, it became clear that words matter.

For instance, when someone joins us for worship for the first time, are they visitors—or guests? Visitors are often just checking things out. They may tend to be observers, or window-shoppers. Do we have visitors? Sure.

But we also have guests. A guest is someone who is invited to visit and participate in an activity, whether they realize it or not. I believe that we do an incredible job at making a visitor feel like a guest, that we really don't have very many folks who leave still feeling like "just a visitor."

I am regularly amazed (and delighted) at how easily you make folks feel right at home. It's largely the presence of God's Holy Spirit—but if you weren't so willing to allow the Spirit to move in your hearts, there would be a lot fewer folks saying things like, "When I walked in, I just felt like I was home." And there's always room for more.

This, friends, is how Christ welcomes all of us. Writer Anne Lamott puts it this way: *I do not at all understand the mystery of grace—only that it meets us where we are, but does not leave us where it found us.*

At Zion Church, we not only have the opportunity to continue to welcome guests with open arms, but to also reflect on where their Spirit is leading us this upcoming lenten season.

For that—and for you—I am grateful. Thank you for being the welcoming hands, feet, and heart of Jesus.

Peace, Love, Hope and Welcome, **Pastor Jeff**



Schedule of Lenten/Holy Week/Easter Services 2024



Ash Wednesday: February 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Quiet service of prayer, communion, reflections

Lenten Midweek Dinner/Worship: February 21 & 28 - March 6, 13, 20

Passion/Palm Sunday: March 24

Service commemorating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, music, and prayer.

Maundy Thursday: March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper, Jesus' last night with his disciples

Good Friday: March 29 at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday: March 31 - worship at 6:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

From the Empty Tomb to the Coming Christ - scripture, music and celebration of the Lord's Supper

Ways to Support Someone Who is Grieving

It can be hard to know how to console a friend or relative who is grieving. If it seems that nothing you can do or say helps, don't give up. You can't take the pain away, but your presence is more important than it seems. Accept that you can't fix the situation or make your friend or relative feel better. Instead just be present and offer hope and a positive outlook toward the future. Recognize that grief is a gradual process.

Even small gestures—sending a card or flowers, delivering a meal, helping out with laundry or shopping, or making a regular date to listen and offer support—can be a huge source of comfort to a person who is grieving. One woman, a dog lover who had recently lost her husband, recalled her joy when a close friend went to the pound and brought her a basket of puppies that needed to be fostered for a few weeks.

It's important to be flexible and open to a person's way of grieving. For example, if a bereaved friend or family member is coming to your house for the holidays, ask if you can do anything to help mark the loss during this occasion. Be willing to leave plans loose. Build in a loophole when you extend the invitation: "We would love to have you join us. You needn't decide until the last minute, if you want some time to think about it." Gently press a person to accept your invitation, but take "no" for an answer without ire. Call the next day to check in.

It is sometimes difficult to know what to say to a bereaved person. If you find yourself tongue-tied or uncertain of what to do in the face of someone's loss, here are some ideas to help you.

- Name names. Don't be afraid to mention the deceased. It won't make your friend any sadder, although it may prompt tears. It's terrible to feel that someone you love must forever be expunged from memory and conversation. Saying how much you'll miss the person is much better than the perfunctory, "I'm sorry for your loss."
- Don't ask, "How are you?" The answer is obvious—"not good"—and because it's the same greeting you would offer anyone, it doesn't acknowledge that your friend has suffered a devastating loss. Instead try, "How are you feeling today?"
- Reach out. Call to express your sympathy. Try to steer clear of such phrases as "It's God's will" or "It's for the best" unless the bereaved person says this first. Your friend or relative may need you even more after the first few weeks and months, when other people may stop calling. Check in every now and then just to say hello (you may find it helpful to put reminders on your calendar). Most bereaved people find it difficult to reach out and need others to take the initiative.

- Help out. Don't just ask if you can "do anything." That transfers the burden to the bereaved, and he or she may be reluctant to make a request. Instead, be specific when offering help. Bring dinner over, pass on information about funeral arrangements, or answer the phone. Pitch in to clean up the kitchen.
- Assist with meals. Provide hands-on assistance with cooking, and volunteer to help with shopping. For many bereaved persons, particularly widows and widowers, it can be a big adjustment to get accustomed to planning meals, shopping for groceries, and cooking for just one person.
- Listen well instead of advising. A sympathetic ear is a wonderful thing. A friend who listens even when the same story is told with little variation is even better. Often, people work through grief and trauma by telling their story over and over. Unless you are asked for your advice, don't be quick to offer it. Frequently, those who are grieving really wish others would just listen. It's your understanding—not your advice—that is most sorely needed.
- Avoid judgments. Your friend's life and emotional landscape have changed enormously, possibly forever. You may wish he or she would move on, but you can't speed the process or even ensure that it happens. Let your friend heal at the pace that feels right and in his or her own manner. "You should cry" or "It's time to move on" aren't really helpful directions.

To learn more about ways to live with your own loss and grief or assist others in the same situation, read [Grief and Loss](#), a Special Health Report from Harvard Medical School.



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We would like to thank Tom Paul, a friend of Zion, for replacing the rope on one of the flag poles behind the church. Also thanks for fixing the rope that broke in the garage that we use to raise and lower the large ladder used for the Christmas Tree. Thanks also to Warren Hildebrand for replacing the light switch in the garage. We appreciate all the “elves” who help fix so many things around our church!

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A New 6 week Adult Sunday School Class Topic begins February 4 on the Minor Prophets. Join us at 9 am in the upstairs Sunday School Hall any of the upcoming Sundays!

Council Meeting Highlights – 1-16-24

In Attendance– Michelle Heneisen, Nancy Lewis, Patrick Schroeder, Pastor Jeff, Bob Juncker, Brian Crase, Rosie Bogard, Carl Barchet, Stacy Wagner, Russ Roehr

12/31 YTD Regular Offering: \$215,991.53
12/31 YTD General Fund Income: \$229,882.32
12/31 YTD General Fund Expense: \$205,602.53

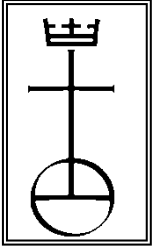
- **Solar Update** – Terry Schroeder had reached out to council and is compiling details on using a ground mounted solar installation. Council decided to set up lunch sessions to present the relevant details relating to ground mounted solar and roof mounted solar. First meeting tentatively scheduled for March 10th.
- **Lenten Breakfasts** – Zion will be hosting the Lenten Breakfast (formerly Men’s Lenten Breakfast) on Feb 24 and partnering with Immanuel to provide the service. Looking for assistance to prepare/serve the breakfast. See Russ Roehr.
- **AED/CPR Training** – Carla Barnhart has scheduled classes for Feb 24th and February 27th. ***There are still openings for the Tuesday Feb 27 evening class 5:30 – 8:30 pm. Sign up on pink poster board on foyer cabinets.***
- **AED Machine** – The AED machine needs to be replaced, cost of \$2,500. Council approved using funds available from the Memorial Fund to cover this.
- **Nursery School Update** – \$1,654.63 raised from Hacienda fundraiser, along with an additional \$240 donated. Enrollment for existing students starts on 2/1 and public enrollment starts on 3/1. Tuition for current year will be \$115/month for Nursery students and \$165/month for Pre-K students.

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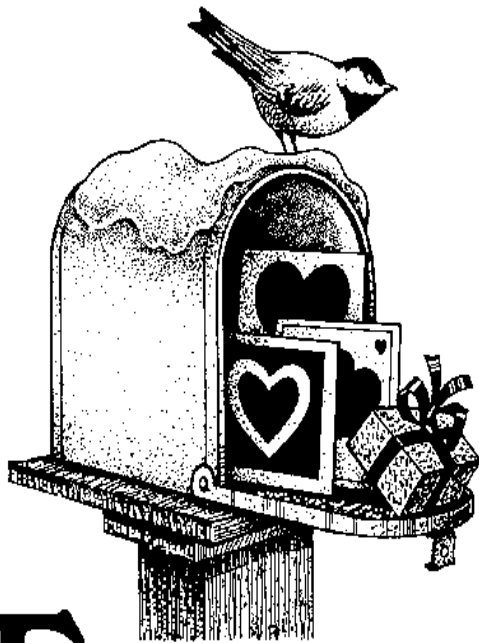
Zion Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following worship on Feb. 4. All Zion members are encouraged to attend. Printed meeting reports will be available at the meeting on Sunday, but if you wish to view the reports before then, or will be attending online, you may view the reports on our website [zionlippe.org](http://zionlippe.org) from Friday Feb 2 to Monday Feb 5.

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We hope to offer a light meal before the Wednesday evening Lenten Services again this year. Volunteer groups are needed to plan, prepare and clean up after the meals. There is a sign-up sheet on the foyer bulletin board, so as groups get together please pick a date and let us know!
No meal on Ash Wednesday – meals needed for Feb 21 & 28, March 6, 13 & 20.



ZION LIPPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
9000 COPPERLINE RD E
MT. VERNON IN 47620



FEBRUARY



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

**SLEEP IN
HEAVENLY
PEACE**

This organization makes bed frames for kids and delivers them to homes that have been identified as needing a complete bed set. All ages are welcome to help, however children under 12 cannot use power tools but can assist in many other ways. Let Pastor Jeff know if you are interested or have questions. The next build event is

**8 am - noon on Saturday, Feb 10th
at this location... 1303 S Green River
Road, Evansville, IN 47715**

For Calendar of Events – see website zionlippe.org