

MARCH 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.)
2/4	157	64 devices
2/11	140	54 devices
2/14 Ash Wed	66	n/a
2/18	143	66 devices
2/21 Lent	60	n/a
2/25	166	57 devices

Sunday School Average Attendance

February: Adult (18+) = 19
Children (downstairs) = 13
Youth (grades 6-12, includes Conf.) = 12



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:

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

April 7 – Dustin & Janelle Seitz
April 14 – Marilyn & Keith Frank, David Schmitz
April 21 – Tina Spears
April 28 – Doris Strupp & Karen Evrard

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!



MARCH

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 Judy Fluty
- 2 Barbara Klenc
- 3 Tim Reineke, John Moyer
Bexley Singer
- 6 Lisa Simpson, Emily Schroeder,
Laikyn Lingafelter
- 7 Aletha Meeks
- 8 Stacy Wagner, Bryan Reese,
Drake Seitz
- 9 Nora Hautman
- 10 Stephanie Elkins
- 11 Jack Kleiman, Josiah Patterson
Kraig Schmidt
- 12 Grady Gibson
- 13 Andrea Terhune
- 14 Duane Barnhart, Jordan Redman, Vince
Frazier, Mariah Voegel
- 15 Justin Schroeder, Leah Schroeder
- 16 Drake Davenport, Alana Bredemeier,
Shelby Lang
- 17 Melissa Coon
- 19 Shelbi Brown, Matthew Long
- 20 Nathanael Byerly
- 21 Albert Schmitz, Erika Lewis
- 22 Ruth Redman, Roger Eldridge,
Sam Englebright
- 23 Joe Anderson
- 24 Reece Terhune
- 25 Tina Spears, Kyle Swope, Zachary Will
- 27 Ethan & Hailey Moyer
- 28 Irma Donner
- 29 Kinley Willett, Brad Becker
- 30 Cooper Fuquay
- 31 Iris Barrow

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 1 Jim & Melanie (Wolf) Mann (2014)
- 3 Tom & Lindsey (Droege) Johnson (2018)
- 10 Dave & Pam (Tavener) Ford (1979)
Brad & Cindy (Embrey) Hollen (1990)
- 13 Lowell & Bonnie (Butcher) Walker (1960)
- 15 Steve & Pam (Craig) Martin (1969)

- 18 David & MaryBeth (Richardson) Reese
(1978)
- 26 James & Carol Jo (Tenbarger) Droege (1977)
James & Hilda (Schroeder) Donner (1955)
- 28 Andrew & Kim (Herrenbruck) White (1998)
Blake & Stephanie Elkins (2005)

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or not correct, please call the office at 812 985-2437 so we may update our records. Thanks for your help!

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Women of Zion – Ladies Evening Out March 14 at 6 pm

Wheel House in Poseyville

Please RSVP with Irma Donner by 3/3

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WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN WORSHIP

March 6, 13, 20 – 7 pm

We hope that you can join us for this year's Wednesday evening Lenten services. These service will be in-person only, they will not be streamed or recorded on YouTube.

A light meal will be served at 6 pm (free will offering for meal).



All (ladies too) are invited to attend the Saturday **Men's Lenten Breakfasts**. Breakfast will be at 7:30 am with a service following.

March 2 at Bethel UCC

March 9 at Bethlehem UCC

March 16 at Zoar UCC

March 23 at St Paul, German Twp.

from the Pastor . . .

Dear Friends,

A few days ago I was driving past the cemetery on Red Bank Road. The sun was dipping into the western horizon over the hills and the shadows of the trees and tombstones were lengthening towards Red Bank Road. As I drove by just enjoying the drive, I noticed a sign erected in a row near the edge of the cemetery which read, “Sales! Career Opportunity!”

Ironic, isn't it?

What does one do when you see something like that in a moment like that? Laugh? Cry? Pretend like you didn't see it? Or to think of the indifferent arrogance of someone or business that had no sense of respect for those who had died or to laugh at the ridiculous contrast of a job posting overshadowed by tombstones.

The more I consider it, is it not a great illustration of the craziness of the Gospel's Message? The fact that in a world where we know death in many manifestations, God still calls us to work and spread love?

Is that not the message of Easter and a reminder not to be distracted from our calling to love one another and to witness that death is not the end nor does death have the final word? As we conclude our Lenten journeys this month and prepare to celebrate God's victory over death Easter Sunday, may we be thankful for those who went before us and remember we still have work to do.

I hope you will join us as we conclude the Passion of our Lord and truly live as Easter people each day we have the chance to be a servant leader. Easter is not just something to dye for... it is something to live toward, into, and beyond.

Blessings to each of you!! *Pastor Jeff*

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## **SOCIAL MEDIA'S CONCERNING EFFECT ON TEEN MENTAL HEALTH**

In February, Zion church submitted an application with the Center for Congregations to hopefully be included in a grant process that will focus on mental health awareness and resources. We hope to be one of 40 churches included in this grant process. In the meantime, we will be featuring articles about social media and some of the things to be on the lookout for when using social media. We will also offer information for families with youth and children. We will also partner with JoAnn Bogard and her Facebook Group... “Mason's Message ([www.facebook.com/masonsmessag](http://www.facebook.com/masonsmessag)).”

For this month we would like to provide you with links to some great resources and information for you to begin implementing in your personal and family social media usage.

- <https://www.facebook.com/deputygomez> (current tips on social media)
- <https://www.facebook.com/talkmoretechless>
- <https://www.facebook.com/bucketsoverbullying>



If you would like to honor or remember someone special at Easter by helping provide flowers in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please pick up an order form from the foyer bulletin board. This year you have the choice of several flowers – lilies, daffodils, azaleas, tulips or hydrangeas. ***Orders and payment are due by March 17.*** See Rosie Bogard with any questions.

In lieu of ordering flowers to honor or remember loved ones, you may also make a donation in any amount to the church Building Fund or Partners in Food. Use same form and turn your donation in by March 17.



**Confirmation/Presentation Sunday - March 17th**

This year's confirmation class will present their faith statements and will be confirmed on March 17th. This year's confirmands include... Molly McCutchan, Evan Becker, and Ryan Englebright. On this special Sunday we will celebrate with them the choice they have made to grow in their faith and become full members of Zion Church. There will be gift bags in the foyer for members of the church to add cards and gifts for our confirmands if you would like.

**Passion/Palm Sunday: March 24**

On Palm Sunday, we will remember the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, and we will look at the preparations underway for Jesus to celebrate the Passover meal with his disciples. Our children will lead the parade and sing in worship and we will hear from the Zion Church Choir.

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

On this night, Christians gather around the world to remember Jesus' last supper with the disciples before his betrayal and death.

**Good Friday: March 29 at 7:00 pm**

On Friday evening there will be a worship service beginning at 7:00 p.m. We will remember the crucifixion of our Lord and prepare our hearts for the Resurrection in a somber service of worship, prayer, and sermon.

**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



We are happy to announce that our **Youth group** will be serving breakfast on Easter Sunday!!! Breakfast will begin following our Easter Sunrise Worship service which begins at 6:30 a.m. - breakfast will be served at approximately 7:30 a.m. and will end after everyone is finished eating. If you aren't able to attend the Sunrise service, feel

free to join us for breakfast. The youth will be collecting free will offerings that will support our Community Youth Group.



We invite you and your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends, or anyone else who might like to join us for an Easter Egg hunt following our **10:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service**. All children will gather on the north side of the church (new cemetery side) and will be led by a volunteer to their Easter Egg Hunt area.

Lauren Kern will be our organizer and is happy to answer any questions you might have. If you have any candy that you would like to donate toward the Easter Egg hunt, please bring it by the church office or with you on Sunday morning.

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EASTER AND GRIEF - It's an Inescapable Connection

Even if you aren't a religious person, or adhere to any particular faith, you can't really escape the whole *Easter* thing. Our culture is kind of steeped in religious imagery, so these big days on the religious calendar affect you whether or not they align with your personal worldview.

The language of death and resurrection is going to find its way to your ears.

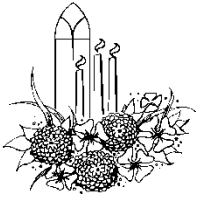
Have you heard the saying "we're Easter people living in a Good Friday world"? The world filled with challenges and unexpected moments, and the events in the story of that day. Easter, of course, being the redemption of that day, kicking over the finality of physical death in a big celebration of life. The truth that is often ignored in this story is what happens on *Saturday*.

On Saturday of this Easter story, the one they love is dead. It just happened on Friday. They are reeling from the loss.

No one is singing all those hymns about resurrection and rebirth, no one is celebrating the return of anything. No one has any idea there might eventually *be* anything to celebrate. Saturday is all about *pain*. Those of us in deep pain, we are Saturday people. What comes later, we don't know, and *no one does*.

Do you know about the Seder tradition of leaving a place set at the table for the prophet Elijah? We have faith in his eventual return at the same time we acknowledge his absence: that he may appear from the spiritual ether at any time does not mask the uneaten food and the undrunk wine. The empty chair at the table is both lamenting and expectation. His absence makes a very physical presence. The presence of love, the presence of grief. The acknowledgment of both – in fact, welcoming both. Leaving the door open, allowing emptiness a place at the table.

Living through Saturday, with no expectation of return. Flailing and fighting to find your roots in the context of a loving universe, without any true knowledge of what may or may not come in the morning. For me, this is what this season is about. Elijah's present absence. Being Saturday people. Witnessing the rebirth of so many things, just in the turning of this globe of earth, knowing that our stories are not yet complete. <https://refugeingrief.com/2018/03/28/easter-grief/>



In Sympathy . . .

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Lillian Randall. Lil passed away February 24, 2024 at the age of 91. Funeral services and burial will be held March 1 at Zion. We cherish many good memories of Lillian.

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### **Council Meeting Highlights – 2-13-24**

1/31 YTD Regular Offering: \$11,803.99  
1/31 YTD General Fund Income: \$12,002.39  
1/31 YTD General Fund Expense: \$14,208.31

In Attendance – Bob Juncker, Pastor Jeff, Rosie Bogard, Adam Kendall, Andrea Singer, Pat Schroeder, Lauren Kern, Carl Barchet, Stacy Wagner, Russ Roehr

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 10<sup>th</sup>. Church council will provide desserts.

Council is also looking to start a subcommittee. If interested contact, Pat Schroeder or Stacy Wagner.

We will again have light meals at 6 pm before the Wednesday evening Lenten Services.  
(2/28 updated info – we now have groups signed up to handle all the meals)

Lauren Kern is taking donations for Easter Egg hunt for stuffing the eggs. She is also going to make signs to mark which locations are for which age groups.

Bob Klenck is working with Pastor Jeff in rebuilding the mailbox. Bob Juncker is working on refurbishing the church part of it.

Basketball Goal Project - The basketball goal has been purchased from Custom Recreation in Evansville and will be installed by them as well. They have scheduled the concrete work for March 20 and the goal will be erected on March 27.

Centers for Congregations grant application for Mental Health Awareness and Resources – Jeff went over what he included in the application. Only 30 congregations will be selected within IN. What's the approval process? – waiting on being selected for next steps, possibly mid-March. Good opportunity for outreach for the church. More info: [centersforcongregations.org](http://centersforcongregations.org)

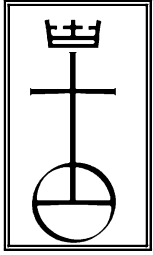
Confirmand's presentation of Faith Statements & their Confirmation will both be held on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – don't forget to wear your green for St. Patrick's Day!

Pastor Jeff will be taking vacation on April 1-7. Jason Emerson, former director United Caring Services, has agreed to fill in.

Church Council will be having a retreat on March 9, 2024 at Red Wagon from 8:30am -12pm.

Next Council meeting: Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 6pm





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



**Zion Nursery Center will be hopping for ALS Association Indiana Chapter** in honor of the Frank Rynkiewich Family. Hop-a-thon dates are April 2 & 3. There will be a donation bucket in the foyer March 17 - April 6. Thanks for your support!



Next Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed frame build event is Saturday, March 9  
8 am – noon  
at 1303 S. Green River Rd  
Let Pastor Jeff know if you are interested or have any questions.

For the Calendar of Events, see “Events” tab on the website  
[zionlippe.org](http://zionlippe.org)