

MAY 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.)
3/28 M Thurs	55	n/a
3/29 Good Fri	57	n/a
3/31 Sunrise	151	30 devices
3/31 10 am	182	56 devices
4/7	115	44 devices
4/14	146	59 devices
4/21	168	47 devices
4/28	172	60 devices

Sunday School Average Attendance

April: Adult = 17
Children (downstairs) = 7
Youth (grades 6-12) = 2

**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:

May 5 – Council
May 12 – Andrea & Bexley Singer
May 19 – Ron Strupp
May 26 – Diana Walker

June 2 – Joli Willett
June 9 – Sandy Willett
June 16 – Steve & Marcia Yurks
June 23 – Martha Ziegler
June 30 – Joe & Rhiannon Anderson

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!

If you haven't already talked with Rosie Bogard about greeting, but would like to be added to the schedule, please contact Rosie or the church office.



May

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.

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Owen Spears, Martha Ziegler, Warren Bredemeier, Miranda Pieszchalski
- 2 Sydney Englebright
- 3 Patti Parker, Ruth Wintczak
- 4 Shelley Schmitt
- 5 Andrea Singer
- 6 Lilly Donner
- 8 Donald Hoenert, Ryan Ploetz
- 9 Knox Perry
- 10 Dustin Bredemeier, Ashley Lingafelter
- 12 Sarah Reed
- 13 Kendall Reidford
- 14 Nick Voegel
- 15 Chris Wolsiefer
- 16 Terry Freeman, Janie Cummings
- 17 Anna Mae Droege
- 18 Monica Cullman, James Barrow
- 19 Judy Rueger
- 20 Huntter Arguello
- 22 Chris McCutchan, Abigail Reese
- 23 Tom Wintczak, J.J. Mohr
Amelia Wolsiefer
- 24 Carol Jo Droege, Travis Reese,
Matthew Coon, Henry Schroeder
- 26 Scott Lewis, Caleb Voegel
- 27 Joanna Dickhaut
- 28 Tyler Schroeder
- 29 Chloe Schroeder, Hudson Key
- 30 Brenda Bean, Brian Schroeder
- 31 Missy Ludwig

Happy Anniversary!

- 1 Dan & Linda Koch (2010)
- 7 Steve & Nancy (Brandt) deClaisse-Walford (1988)
- 11 James & Jennifer (Droege) Hargett (2013)
- 12 Robin & Judy (Hudson) Fluty (1979)
- 13 Matthew & Nitza Long (2023)
- 14 Steve and Sally (Nicholson) Noelle
- 15 John & Miranda Pieszchalski (1999)
- 17 Darwin and Gail Lashley (1980)
Ryan and Amy Steinhart (1998)

- 20 Kyle & Mariah Voegel (2023)
- 21 Jacob & Kirstin Gibson (2016)
Josh & Maggie Dye (2011)
- 23 Ralph & Colleen Heneisen (1965)
- 27 Elwood and Laverne (Schroeder) Deal (1961)
- 28 Gabe and Amy (Seibert) Schroeder (2011)
- 29 Chris and Beth McCutchan (2004)
- 31 Tom and Ruth (Droege) Wintczak (1980)
Greg & Sandy (Dougan) Schmitt (2003)

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!

Attention High School and College Graduates!

So we may honor our graduates, please let the church office know about members or friends of Zion who will be graduating from high school, technical school or college this year. Please include name of school and for post-high school grads also include degree. If you would like to share info of your plans following graduation, you are welcome to do that as well.

We will celebrate graduates during worship on May 19 and publish the info in the June Voice of Zion newsletter.



Funds are available to assist with expenses for church related youth camps, contact Pastor Jeff or a council member to see which camps are eligible.



Senior Citizen Dinner Thursday, May 9 at 11 am





I shall pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again. –

Stephen Grellet

Kindness matters. Every day, we are bombarded by crises. War in Gaza. War in Ukraine. Not enough time in the day to get everything done. Violence in our cities. It can be hard to remember that good people in the world far outnumber evil people.

I want to share some places where tiny, random acts of kindness have revealed themselves in my world recently: Someone anonymously left an incredibly nice card on my desk simply stating that they appreciated the work of the church and its leadership. I received a thank you from a community member thanking us again for the playground renovation and the recent update to our basketball court near the baseball/softball diamond. I had stopped at McDonald’s to grab a drink and the person in the car in front of me picked up my tab. When I was at my son Justin and my daughter in law’s house recently my granddaughter was on the patio playing in her car and she stopped when I walked up, wanting me to lower myself to her level because she wanted a “hug”. And as a bonus... after the hug she said, “And a kiss?”

These are the little things that change the world. These are the tiny seeds, sowing the Kingdom of God’s presence in the world. So, do me a favor please. This week, look around you. Notice where kindness is happening—and where it’s lacking, see if you can add that sprinkle of Love, that first baby step towards making the world a better place. It’s easier than you might think, and it doesn’t have to cost you a penny.

Blessings to each of you!! *Pastor Jeff*



MOTHER’S DAY! On Sunday, May 12th we will extend a warm welcome to all of the mothers and grandmothers worshiping with us that day! Our prayer is that your special day will be full of joy, and also that God would give you strength and wisdom EVERY day for the important role you have in the lives of so many. ALL LADIES (whether or not you are a mother) are invited to join us on May 12th for a wonderful worship experience.



We have been asked to partner with our friends at Immanuel United Church of Christ to join them in a toilet paper drive. Throughout the month of May we will be collecting, you got it, toilet paper which will be donated to God’s Storehouse. Please help us out by bringing your toilet paper with you either throughout the week or on Sunday mornings. If you have any further questions, please contact Linda Koch.

Council Minutes: Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 6pm

Present: Jeff, Bob, Rosie, Adam, Andrea, Pat, Lauren, Carl, Russell, Stacy

Call to Order & Devotion

Reports

A. Treasurer – Pat

- a. Review last month
 - b. signing checks privilege – accounts are not updated
 - c. possibility of putting some church funds in CDs to earn more interest
- 3/30 YTD Regular Offering: \$46,079.60
3/30 YTD General Fund Income: \$50,325.96
3/30 YTD General Fund Expense: \$53,074.96

B. VP/Membership – Stacy – none

C. Worship – Rosie Thanks for everyone's help at Easter – the flowers were a big hit

D. Education – Lauren

church camp enrollment
Vacation Bible School – sign-ups for planning committee, save the date announcement
Jeff addressed the need for older youth group – needing help with planning, wanting to do a few outings with them – Stacy & husband willing to help

E. Property – Russell

The 2024 annual required inspection was completed for the lift by Murphy Elevator Company Service report 3/13/2024. Cost was \$1100. The report recommended replacing the bottom portion of the C channel rails due to corrosion. More information on repair still coming from Murphy. Will contact them on repair/ cost.

Grass / landscaping bids were awarded for 2024 mowing season.
Parsonage / church grounds awarded to Joy & Chris Wolsiefer for \$2750.
Old cemetery was awarded to Lee Cullman for \$2835.
New cemetery was awarded to Lee Cullman for \$4070 - reimbursed by Cemetery Committee.
Light bulb changed in chandelier in Music room.

Mailbox concrete work is complete – need to speak with Bob K. & get bills from him, only thing left is drilling at bottom for water to drain & the mailbox itself to paint it then add

F. Stewardship – Adam – none

G. Recreation – Carl

Basketball Goal has been installed. Ryan Property Management repairing crack in asphalt \$300
Funds will come from the Sharon Schroeder and Tony Weller memorial funds
Adam motioned to approve the asphalt repair of \$300 out of those funds, Rosie seconded
Gary Voegel volunteered to paint lines on the court if wanted.

H. Pastor – Jeff

Easter evaluation. Lenten donations to go where? Suggestion for smaller organization
Center for Congregations Mental Health Initiative – April 26th required attendance at event in Indy – Jeff & Lauren attending, anyone else is welcome. At this time we need to create a vision for grant & budget.
Solar Update - discussion and sharing time. Getting the subcommittee started
Sunday School classes

(Council Minutes cont'd)

When can we finish the parking lot areas that weren't sealed? Is there a time set? Did not get sealed because of curing time.
Summer worship schedule

Old Business

A. Subcommittees – Youth, Solar, Vacation Bible School, Center for Congregations
B. Solar Project - Dan Hoffman, Greg Schmitt, Jim Droege, Tim Hoenert and Carl Barchet have expressed interest in joining the committee. Pat will set up a meeting after April 15th. Bob & Russell will be on committee as well.

Visions for the Church

- A. Conversation about the need to look over constitution & bylaws – last updated was 2015
 - a. Adding in any new council positions that are not spelled out
- B. Having a list of obligations, expectations, what to attend as a council member – people should get to know what all they are committing to up front, not along the way
- C. Ideas for the Future
 - a. Projects upcoming – future planning – discussions
 - b. Couples retreat – Connection & Conversation
 - c. Conversation about sustaining the Zion nursery program, funding – Sandy retiring May 2025 – director of nursery has to be member of congregation – in bylaws of nursery (Lauren on board) – would need to look at structure and flexibility
 - d. Shoe drive – Andrea

Next Meeting May 14th – in person



CENTER FOR CONGREGATIONS MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE (MHI)

On Friday, April 26th, Lauren Kern and Pastor Jeff attended the kick off event for the Center for Congregations Mental Health Initiative at Marriott North. It was during this event that Zion and 29 other congregations were officially welcomed as participants in this grant process. We learned that Zion was actually 1 of 171 congregations throughout the entire state of Indiana.

During this gathering we heard from Dr. Marcus Carolson focused on his vast experience and book, “Habits of Healthy Churches” focused on the importance of personal and institutional health. We also heard from several other guests who spoke on the importance of mental health and how churches have an opportunity to play a vital role in mental health awareness and education.

We also learned of our timeline:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| September 15, 2024 | Deadline to submit rough draft of Project Proposal |
| October 15, 2024 | Deadline to submit final Project Proposal |
| November or December 2024 | Receive MHI grant money |
| January - December 2025 | Implement your MHI project |
| January 2026 | Submit final MHI Final Report |

We plan to form and “Core MHI Leadership Team” and begin the process of envisioning the shape and scope of this wonderful opportunity and blessing. **We would love to have you help us create that vision.** Please let Pastor Jeff, Adam Kendall, or Lauren Kern know if you would be interested in being a part of this grant process.



Hans & Cindy Schmitz
925 Dutchman Rd
Wadesville IN 47638

Ron McClaren has
moved to Solarbron

Our Nursing Home & Retirement Center Residents

West River Health Campus
714 S Eickhoff, Evansville IN 47712
Don Hoenert
Charlotte Green

Charles Ford Retirement Community
920 Main St, New Harmony IN 47631
Aletha Meeks
Eleanor McRae

Solarbron
1501 McDowell Rd
Evansville IN 47712
Ron McClaren

Solarbron Apartments
Lee Ann Hoenert
1445 McDowell Rd
Evansville IN 47712



The Women of Zion will meet on Thursday, May 9 at 6 pm.
The Committee will provide Pizza for the evening.
We will also be planning for future activities beginning in
the fall. Please join us and bring your ideas along !

A SPECIAL EVENT FOR FAMILIES



Please mark your calendars for Sunday - June 2, 2024. Following worship that day Joann Bogard will join us and present information on Social media usage, online challenges, and how we all can be more aware of the wonderful and challenging aspects of social media. JoAnn will share her story and the ways in which social media usage and online challenges have changed her family's dynamics forever. Joann is the founder and administrator of **Mason's Message** (www.facebook.com/masonsmessag) - named after her son Mason. This event is open to all parents, children, youth, grandparents, youth leaders, educators and anyone interested in learning more about the multi-layered aspects of social media and how it has the power to influence our well being in so many profound ways. There will be a light lunch provided and Joann will then present and share her incredible story and advocacy journey. This presentation includes all kinds of interaction and feedback from all participants. Please join us and invite anyone you might think could benefit from such a presentation. Contact Pastor Jeff if you have any questions and please use the sign up sheet in the foyer to register or call the church office (812) 985-2437. This will give us an idea of how many participants will be present for lunch.

~[Leadership](#) - The Connection Between Kids' Happiness and Their Expectations

By Tim Elmore

Members of Generation Z, by and large, have been raised by parents or guardians who've prioritized the importance of happiness. What parent doesn't want their kids to be happy? We talk about this subject so much that there are bestselling books, webinars, and even university courses on it.

But today's population has bought into a lie about happiness that shows up on campus.

Whether you're a parent, teacher, or a school leader, I'm sure you've thought about how happy your young people are. Here's the interesting thing. When we study history, going back thousands of years, we see that our human circumstances have improved greatly. With increased survival rates and age spans, life has become more efficient, safer, and easier. By almost every measure, I would assume our happiness levels would have also increased. Interestingly, our happiness levels have not gone up.

The data shows that, at best, happiness levels have remained stagnant among cultures for centuries. And over the last two decades, our happiness levels have dropped, especially in industrialized nations. **The World Happiness Report** is issued by the Gallup organization and other partner groups. According to this report, some of the places that have it best, register lower happiness rates. In fact, many impoverished or third-world countries enjoy higher happiness levels than the U.S. So, our reality and circumstances have improved greatly, but our happiness has often declined.

So, what determines happiness? As I review the results, I can only draw one conclusion, and I've been writing about this for 20 years. Let me summarize my conclusion in a phrase: *Happiness is not an issue of circumstances. It's an issue of expectations.*

It only makes sense that if kids are not happier as life has gotten better, the issue must surround something on the inside, not the outside. *I believe that issue is what we expect from society.* What do kids feel entitled to experience at our school or home? Imagine a teen is scrolling Instagram where they discover the amazing stuff others are enjoying. They experience FOMO (fear of missing out) and don't want to miss out on the greener grass. They enter their college years and careers feeling behind.

What we've seen informs what we expect. A study was done on people who lived on or below the poverty line in Iowa and Los Angeles. What the researchers discovered was telling. Those who were poor in Iowa led happier lives than those who were poor living in L.A. Why? After digging deeper, researchers discovered that the Iowans lived among others who didn't possess much so they didn't feel poor. Their standard of living was normalized. Those in L.A., however, were measurably less happy. Could it be that in that city there is such a contrast in affluence levels? People see Hollywood stars or the rich and famous living twenty minutes away and experience FOMO. If they see all this so close to home, they have a greater tendency to expect it in their own life.

(Leadership cont'd.)

We Must Help Them Navigate Their Expectations! I believe teachers, coaches and leaders help themselves by clarifying realistic expectations from the beginning of a class, season, or year. Then, we must explain to students why those expectations are realistic. The best way to lower the amount of tension you feel with a student is to align everyone's expectations. Consider these statements:

1. Satisfying students is pretty much about managing expectations. When Abby joins a team and expects autonomy and agency from fellow students, but she's never played on a team, she may unwittingly feel confined or distrusted. Someone must explain to her that teamwork requires mutual accountability from everyone.
2. Teens cannot be disillusioned unless they are first illusioned. When I meet a disillusioned member of Gen Z, it's often because they were launched into a project with an illusion that it would be easy, that people would be nice, that their days would be fun, etc. That's a quick path to disillusionment. When communication and expectations are clear, we lower the probability of students being disillusioned.
3. Conflict is created by the distance between expectations and reality. If I tell my wife I'll be home at 7 p.m. for dinner and I come home at 7:10 p.m., it's no big deal. If I return home at 9:30 p.m., we're going to have a discussion. It isn't because she can't live without me for two and a half more hours; it's the expectation I created. So, it is with us. The sooner we clarify expectations, the more we can avoid conflict with students.

Here is what we are up against as we lead kids today. A cursory study of history reveals what happens to human beings as society makes progress: *luxuries tend to become necessities*. What our great grandparents viewed as an "extra" we now see as an essential. **Years ago in the early 1970s, people were surveyed and asked how many items they needed to survive. Respondents said they had 35 necessities. Forty years later that same survey was given, and people reported they had 300 necessities.** We must help children/youth/students manage their expectations and distinguish between an essential and a luxury to be grateful for. Expectations, not circumstances, dictate our happiness.

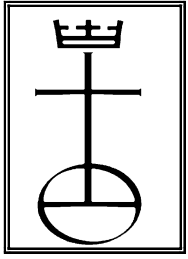
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**SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE NEEDS OUR HELP!**

This organization makes bed frames and delivers those frames to homes that have been identified needing a complete bed set. All ages are welcome 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 any further questions. The event will go from **8:00 am - noon on Saturday, May 11th at 1303 S Green River Road, Evansville, IN 4771**





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



**Memorial Day  
May 27, 2024**



**Zion Nursery Center  
Graduation  
Sunday, May 5**