

MAY 2025 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.)
3/30	119	92 devices
4/2 Lent	Cancelled for bad weather	
4/6	162	82 devices
4/9 Lent	42	n/a
4/13 Palm Sun	240	53 devices
4/16 MaundyThurs	52	n/a
4/17 Good Fri	60	n/a
4/20 Sunrise	124	56 devices
4/20 10am Easter	248	73 devices

Sunday School Average Attendance

April: Adult = 18
Confirmation (7th & 8th grade) = 5
Youth (6-12th grade) = 0
Children = 12

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 4 – Dan & Nicole Hoffman
May 11 – Adam Kendall
May 18 – Matt & Lauren Kern
May 25 – Roger & Joyce Klenck

June 1 – Rob & Cherie Johnson
June 8 – Tim & Johlene Hoenert
June 15 – Dan & Linda Koch
June 22 – Tom & Katy Lang
June 29 – Gail Lashley & Carolyn Turner

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, Nancy deClaissé-Walford know – but if something comes up and you can't make it don't fret!



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 Pieschalski
- 2 Sydney Englebright
- 3 Patti Parker, Ruth Wintczak
- 4 Shelley Schmitt
- 5 Andrea Singer
- 6 Lilly Donner
- 8 Ryan Ploetz
- 9 Knox Perry
- 10 Dustin Bredemeier, Ashley Lingafelter
- 12 Sarah Reed
- 13 Kendall Reidford
- 14 Nick Voegel, Mike Wagner
- 15 Chris Wolsiefer
- 16 Terry Freeman, Janie Cummings
- 17 Anna Mae Droege
- 18 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) deClaise-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 Pieschalski (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 18 and publish the info in the June Voice of Zion newsletter.

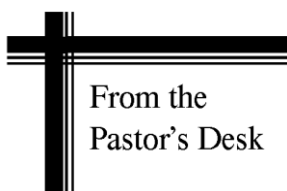


Funds are available to assist with expenses for church related youth camps, contact Pastor Jeff or a council member to see which camps are eligible.

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### *Senior Citizen Dinner Thursday, May 15 at 11 am*





From the  
Pastor's Desk

It seems that Spring might finally have arrived. The signs are all around. Grass is growing and needs to be mowed weekly. More and more bugs are out buzzing, and dandelions continue to burst out of the ground. To most people dandelions are weeds. They are botanical pests that are very hard to get rid of, but to most young children they are beautiful flowers that make wonderful bouquets. This reminds me of a profound piece of wisdom I learned long ago: Weeds are just plants that we have not found a use for yet.

A weed is the term we use for unwanted plants. This says a lot about our perspective. Why do we value green grass over yellow fields of dandelions in our yards? Our collective dislike of dandelions says more about us than it does the plant, and I think there is a spiritual lesson hidden somewhere in there.

I am not the first one to notice this. There was a Christian band in the late 90's/early 00's called Five Iron Frenzy that sang about this in one of their songs appropriately titled, *Dandelions*... if you would like to listen here is a link... [Dandelions](#)

The song begins with telling a simple story that nearly every mother has experienced. A young child picks dandelions to lovingly give as a bouquet to his mother. The mother treasures these flowers, putting them proudly on display in a vase. In the chorus the lead singer crones, "She sees love where anybody else would see weeds."

In the next verse the song pivots to God. After singing about God's greatness and mercy the song lyrics question: "Where do I fit in this puzzle, what good are these gifts? Not a martyr or a saint/Scarcely can I struggle through/All that I have ever wanted, was to give my best to you." The song concludes: "Lord search my heart/Dandelions- You see flowers in these weeds."

When it comes to putting our faith into action, one of the reasons why we do not is because we are left wondering what kind of difference we will actually make. We see only limited results, we see inconsequential drops in a bucket, and we see what we think amounts to nothing more than weeds. However, dandelions are a reminder that not all weeds are useless. I know it is an obscure and unknown song, but Five Iron Frenzy was onto something. When we seek to make disciples, nurture disciples, transform the world, and serve God in love then God sees beautiful flowers. God sees love and obedience where others might see weeds.

In the kingdom of God there are no weeds, there are just people that have not found their purpose yet. There are so many ways that you can use unique passions, talents, and gifts to make the world a more loving, peaceful, and kind place. May you do that. May you not be afraid of failure, of being called out, or of not getting earth shattering results. I feel assured that whenever we humbly and earnestly seek to serve God, then God does see flowers in the weeds. Enjoy the landscape and blessings on your journey... **PJ**

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Congratulations to Rowen Englebright, Katelynn Heneisen, Noah Hoffman, Emily Schmitt, Kinley Willett and Jack Wolsiefer, who were confirmed at Zion on April 13, 2025.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! On Sunday, May 11th we will take time to honor, celebrate, lift up, and welcome everyone who has been a mother in all sorts of ways. Whether you are mother, step mom, etc. we will honor and give thanks for your presence and commitment to the betterment of others. We hope that you will consider joining us on May 11th for a wonderful worship experience.

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The North Posey Relay for Life will be held on August 16 at Murphy Park in New Harmony. To raise funds for the Zion Lippe relay team, we will hold a free-will donation meal after church on May 18. All proceeds will go to cancer research funding through the American Cancer Society. Contact Hans Schmitz or Nancy Dougan for details.

***Join us on May 18 for a great meal for a cause!***

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*The Women of Zion will meet on **Thursday, May 15** 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!

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## **A WORD OF THANKS . . .**

Thank you to the congregation, Pastor Jeff, Carol and Donna for making my Confirmation so special. Thank you for all the prayers, well wishes and gifts throughout my Confirmation. I am excited to become a member of Zion Lippe UCC and continue to grow in faith. Congratulations to my fellow Confirmands! I look forward to our faith journey ahead.

Emily Schmitt

A Big Thank You to everyone that ordered flowers for the beautiful Easter Sunday services – the flower garden was beautiful and the fragrance was awesome!

A Big Thank You to Pastor Jeff for an inspiring Lenten journey with the 10 W's and through Holy Week, the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday messages and communion and complete with both Easter services.

A Big Thank You to all the youth and their parents and other helpers for a delicious Easter breakfast. Job well done!

## Council Meeting Highlights: Tuesday, April 8, 2025,

Present: Bob, Andrea, Nancy, Adam, Roger, Lauren, Pat, Pastor Jeff, Stacy

Absent: Tim

### Education – Lauren

Children's downstairs Sunday School ends May 18. Upstairs Adult Class continues.

VBS June 29 – July 1<sup>st</sup> sign ups now open for children & volunteers

### Property – Roger

- Vehicle came close to hitting church on southeast corner only damage was to tree and will be working on replacing.

- The boot on roof for kitchen vent has been changed to stop leak in kitchen on Parsonage.

Thanks to Gene Esche for helping.

- The storm did damage to steeple and vinyl siding on west end of Sunday School hall. Will have adjuster look at parsonage roof also. Have an appointment with insurance adjuster on 4-11-2025.

-Flag poles – Larry Droege – poles are done, but with weather they haven't installed yet

-Elevator inspection has been requested from the company

-LED lights for steeple have been selected

-First couple of parking spots in main lot have been removed/adjusted

-Roger donated rock that got dumped around the dumpster

-AT&T will remove lines that have been hanging down

### Recreation – Adam

Wants to ask congregation for recreation suggestions – Otters game for summer

**Solar Project** Update – boring to begin 2 weeks out – plans continuing to move forward

Looking at putting white rock underneath, want to put down after boring

**Mental Health** Q1 report complete. Need to set a meeting date to plan next events

**Next Meeting May 13, 6 pm**



Memorial Funds of Carl Schmitz, Mike Duncan Sr., Sharon Schroeder and Dennis Garness were used in March 2025 to purchase a much needed new copier/scanner for the church office.

We thank the families and donors for these gifts.

**Grief Support groups** will begin to meet again on Thursday May 8 at 6 pm. Contact Pastor Jeff for more info.

**Next Sleep in Heavenly Peace** bed frame build event is Sat May 10, 8 am – noon at 1303 S. Green River Rd. Let Pastor Jeff know if you are interested or have questions.

## **List of Benevolences You Can Donate To through Zion Lippe**

By request of Zion Council, here is a list of various ongoing benevolences you may donate to through Zion Lippe: *(compiled April 2025 and published in May 2025 VOZ)*

**Regular Offering** - (white envelope in offering boxes) goes in Zion General Fund for operating expenses. Loose Offerings not specified go to Regular Offering.

**Building Fund** - (blue envelope) goes in Zion Building Fund and generally used for larger/long term capital building or equipment projects at Zion Lippe. If you don't use numbered offering envelopes please put your donation in an envelope marked "Building Fund"

**Second Mile** – supports Medical Ministries in Honduras, donations collected at Zion Lippe are sent to IN/KY Conference of the UCC. Use yellow envelopes found at foyer bulletin board for 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile donations.

**Partners in Food** – mission of Zion Lippe to assist in food needs (primarily meat and canned goods) of numerous area food pantries and area organizations who provide meals. See Zion Annual Meeting Reports for more info. Place donations in an envelope marked "Partners in Food", make checks payable to Zion.

**God's Storehouse Food Pantry** – to make a monetary donation that goes directly to God's Storehouse Food Pantry located at St Peter's UCC on Hwy 66, make checks payable to Zion and place your donation in an envelope marked "Food Pantry" or "God's Storehouse". We distribute these donations quarterly to God's Storehouse.

**Church World Service Blanket Fund, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), Neighbors in Need (NIN), Strengthen the Church and UCC Pension Board Christmas Fund** are all special offerings of the United Church of Christ. See UCC.org for details of these mission projects and to make online donations directly through the UCC. Special Envelopes are provided at Zion at various times through the year for these offerings and donations are sent to IN/KY Conference of the UCC. Make checks payable to Zion.

*If you make donations online through your bank or PayPal and wish your offering to go toward any of the above other than Regular Offering, please have the payer include a memo on the notification sent to Zion. Otherwise, all online donations are applied to Regular Offering.*

**Zion Endowment Fund, Zion New Cemetery Committee, Zion Sunday School and VBS, Women of Zion, Zion Youth Group, Zion Nursery Center and Operation Christmas Child** all have their own separate bank accounts. Any donations to these groups should be given directly to them and checks made payable to those groups.

*Contact Council Treasurer Patrick Schroeder or Church Secretary Ruth Wintczak if any questions. Thank you for your offerings!*

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



**Memorial Day – May 26, 2025**



**Zion Nursery Center Graduation**  
*Sunday, May 4*