



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1254 S UNION STREET  
SHAWANO WI 54166



**SPREAD THE LOVE**

HOSTED BY ZION YOUTH

**Spaghetti Dinner**

*Wednesday, February 11th, 2026*  
5:30pm-7:00pm

**\$10 PER MEAL, KIDS 5 & UNDER FREE**

MENU INCLUDES PASTA WITH YOUR CHOICE OF MEAT OR MEATLESS SAUCE, GARLIC BREAD, BEVERAGES, AND AN ARRAY OF DELECTABLE DESSERTS.

Open to the entire congregation to support the Youth

Tickets on sale in the Church Office & after Sunday services

**THIS IS MOTHERHOOD**

Mom friends help.

**JOIN US**

Spring 2026  
February 5th  
February 19th  
March 5th  
March 19th  
April 16th  
April 30th  
May 7th  
May 21st

Supportive Community, Great Conversations, Devotionals and Crafts

Mom's Nights Out

10-11:30am  
Zion Lutheran Church

KidCo Available

For more information: visit our website [www.shawanozion.org/momco](http://www.shawanozion.org/momco)

# FOCUS

2026  
JANUARY  
FEBRUARY

WELCOMING ALL, GROWING & SHARING GOD'S LOVE

## YOUTH & FAMILY

### SPREADING THE LOVE: ZION YOUTH'S SPAGHETTI DINNER

Enjoy an evening of great food and fellowship as **ZION youth** host a **Spaghetti Dinner** on **Wed., Feb. 11**, beginning at **5:30 PM**. This fundraiser supports our youth ministry and upcoming activities. The dinner will feature a delicious menu including spaghetti with your choice of meat or meatless sauce, garlic bread, beverages, and a variety of homemade desserts. Tickets are **\$10 per person** (Children five and under eat free). The congregation and community are invited, so bring your family and friends for a fun and meaningful night. Our youth will be serving the meal and will eat together for free after all guests have been served. Parents' help is greatly appreciated! Donation and volunteer sign-ups are available on the bulletin board by the elevator. This is more than just a meal, it's a chance to support our youth, connect with one another, and strengthen our church community. We hope to see you there! R



### COOKIE FUNDRAISER A DELICIOUS TRIUMPH!

This year's **Youth Christmas Cookie Fundraiser** was another incredible success! Our middle and high school students gathered to decorate hundreds of festive cookies, filling the room with Christmas cheer, creativity, and plenty of sugary fun. From frosting bags to sprinkles scattered everywhere, the students worked hard — and had a blast doing it! By the time Sunday morning rolled around, every cookie had been sold, thanks to the amazing support of our congregation. We're already dreaming even bigger for next year! A heartfelt thank-you to the parents and volunteers who jumped in to help — your support makes all the difference! R



### GAME NIGHT & BINGO RETURN TO ZION!

**Game Night** and **Bingo** are back at ZION! Join us on **Sun., Feb. 15** at **4 PM** for an evening of fun, fellowship, and friendly competition. Whether you love classic board games, fast-paced card games, or the excitement of bingo, there's something for everyone. Bring your friends, family, and favorite games, or just come ready to play. Snacks will be provided, and all ages are welcome. It's a great way to connect, laugh, and enjoy time together as a church family. We can't wait to see you there! R



For your privacy, 2025 **CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** have been mailed to you. Thank you for your continued generosity and continued support of ZION's ministries.



### DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME?

Do you have a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who has been struggling with the loss of a loved one, loneliness, cancer, a layoff, relocation, divorce, a spiritual crisis, recuperation, single parenthood, or any of countless other life challenges? Our **Stephen Ministers** can provide them with the focused care, encouragement, and support they need to make it through the crisis. If you know of someone who is hurting, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders: **Judy Laude, Nancy Schultz, or Kristin WhiteHorse**. They can talk with you about how we can connect the person you know with one of our Stephen Ministers. It's a great way for you to show how much you care! R

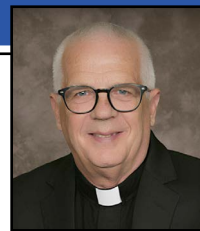
Zion Church fam,  
Thank you so very much for the care package. When I received it last week, I was very touched that you all had thought of me. I have started to snack on the munchies, and will continue to do so throughout the last week & my finals! I ♥ + miss you all very much. I'm a part of a religious group on campus, but it just isn't the same. Cannot wait to be home to worship with you all again ♥

Proverbs 11:25 + Psalm 23:10

Thanks + Many Blessings.  
*Bailey Johnson*

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless, indeed, you fail to meet the test! ”

~ 2 Corinthians 13:5



As we stand on the threshold of the Lenten season, let us take this moment to turn our gaze inward, to examine the depths of our spiritual existence, to question the authenticity of our faith, and to reaffirm our commitment to our Savior. This is not a task to be taken lightly, for it requires us to confront our deepest fears, our most hidden sins, and our most stubborn doubts. Yet it is a task that is essential for our spiritual growth and maturity. This is not a call to self-condemnation, but to self-awareness and to realign our lives with the teachings of Christ.

The first aspect of this self-scrutiny involves an honest assessment of our spiritual condition. Are we living in accordance with God's Word? Are we walking in obedience to His commands? Are we exhibiting the fruits of the Spirit in our daily lives? These are questions that require deep introspection and honest answers. They require us to strip away the veneer of religiosity and confront the reality of our spiritual state.

The second aspect of this self-scrutiny involves a recognition of our sins. Sin is not a popular topic in today's culture. It is often dismissed as an outdated concept, a relic of a bygone era. Yet, the Bible makes it clear that sin is a reality that we must confront. It is a barrier that separates us from God and hinders our spiritual growth. Recognizing our sins is the first step towards repentance and reconciliation with God.

The third aspect of this self-scrutiny involves a commitment to change. Recognizing our sins is not enough. We must also be willing to turn away from them, to make a conscious decision to live in obedience to God's Word. This is not a one-time decision, but a daily commitment. It is a commitment that requires discipline, perseverance, and reliance on God's grace.

The fourth aspect of this self-scrutiny involves a reliance on God's grace. We cannot change our spiritual condition on our own. We cannot overcome our sins by sheer willpower. We need God's grace, His unmerited favor, to transform us from the inside out. It is His grace that empowers us to live in obedience to His Word, to exhibit the fruits of the Spirit, and to grow in our relationship with Him.

The season of Lent is a time of reflection, a time of self-examination, a time of spiritual rejuvenation. It is a period of forty days (not including Sundays) leading up to Easter, mirroring the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and praying, resisting temptation, and preparing for His ministry. It is a season that invites us to emulate His example, to engage in prayer and fasting, to resist temptation, and to prepare ourselves for the work of the Kingdom.

Let us remember that our God is a God of grace, mercy, and unending love. He doesn't ask us to examine ourselves to condemn us, but to free us. He doesn't point out our shortcomings to shame us, but to shape us. He doesn't reveal our weaknesses to break us, but to build us. He is our loving Father, our faithful Friend, our constant Companion.

In this Lenten season, as we journey inward, let's also journey upward. Let's lift our eyes to the One who made us, who knows us, and who loves us with an everlasting love. Let's remember that we are not alone, that we are not abandoned, that we are not forgotten. We are His beloved, His cherished, His treasured possession.

And so, as we step into the days and weeks ahead, let's do so with courage, with conviction, and with confidence in the One who holds us in His hands. Let's remember that we are not defined by our past, but by His promise. We are not shaped by our failures, but by His faithfulness. We are not limited by our weaknesses, but by His limitless love. R

In God's ministry,  
~ Pastor Ludford

**God's BIBLICAL SUPER HEROES**

Don't miss this powerful Lenten series!

**LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**

Worship Services  
11 AM & 6 PM

Lenten Lunch  
Noon

Lenten Supper  
4:30-6 PM

LIVE ON YOUTUBE AT  
SHAWANOZION.ORG

**Zion will host our next BLOOD DRIVE**

**on Monday, April 13, 2026.**

Please mark that day on your calendar.

You may give blood every 56 days so count carefully.

For the next few months try to eat iron rich foods to keep your hemoglobin count up!

We will call you for an appointment time as April approaches.

Thank you for being a Hero and helping save lives!!!

The Health Ministry Committee

**SINGING VALENTINES**

A Barbershop Quartet would like to come to your home, workplace or restaurant & present your loved one with a Singing Valentine.

**SATURDAY, FEB. 14**

Say "I Love You" with a serenade & a flower!

Your Valentine includes Quartet Singing 2 Love Songs & a Rose for \$40

Order Yours Today! We deliver to residents in the greater Shawano area from 8am-8pm. Time slots are limited, so reservation for preferred times are made on a first come, first served basis.

To reserve your Valentine call **715.853.9324**

## YOUTH SPAGHETTI DINNER DONATIONS NEEDED!

The Youth Group is **collecting donations** for the upcoming **Spaghetti Dinner** fundraiser. If you are willing to donate food items or help in any way, please sign up on the bulletin board by the elevator. Thank you for supporting our youth and their ministry!

## MOMCO & KIDCO HELPERS

We are in need of helpers in the KidCo room on **Thurs., Feb. 5**, from **10-11:30 AM**. Please contact **Kristin WhiteHorse** if you are available to volunteer. Come help with crafts, snacks, and spending time with the kiddos, your support makes a big difference!

**CONSIDER E-GIVING WITH VANCO** Looking for a simple way to give? ZION offers electronic giving through Vanco. It's easy to set up and helps support the ministries of ZION year-round. Stop by the church office for assistance or complete the electronic giving form available on our website at [shawanozion.org/resources/Forms/Zion%20Electronic%20Giving%20form%202013-10.pdf](http://shawanozion.org/resources/Forms/Zion%20Electronic%20Giving%20form%202013-10.pdf)

## LIVE STREAM OPERATORS NEEDED

Help us keep our YouTube Live stream running smoothly and share worship with those at home. Contact **Chris Dalke** or **Nancy Schultz** for more info.

## HELP US STAY IN TOUCH

Have you changed your **phone number** or **email** address? Please contact the office so we can keep connected.

*Let's stay connected*

## THANK YOU GIRLS

A sincere thank you to **Payten**, **Callie**, and **Arica** for decorating my Christmas tree. Your kindness and lovely work brought joy and cheer into my home and truly brightened my Christmas season. R ~Thanks, **Bob Bergum**

## PRAYER LIST

**Richard Bahr**  
**Alan Barnick**  
**Gerald Bartline**  
**Patricia Beck**  
**Dale Bergsbaken**  
**Leslie Buckbee**  
**Lily Cornelius**  
**Marilyn Dahl**  
**Terry Fusek**  
**Nancy Goode**  
**Larry Gueths**  
**Beverly Heling**  
**Pete Hintz**  
**Adeline Holtz**  
**Joanne Horn**  
**Bob Janicki**  
**Helen Kaurala**  
**Wendy Nead**  
**Stacey Popp**  
**Ken Spreeman**  
**Judy Wendt**  
**Jim Yeakey**



## FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL CANCER PREVENTION MONTH

February is recognized as **National Cancer Prevention Month**, a time to focus not only on awareness, but on everyday choices that support long-term health and well-being. While not all cancers can be prevented, research shows that healthy habits can reduce risk and strengthen our bodies. As people of faith, caring for our health is one way we honor the gift of life God has given us.

Here are a few gentle, practical reminders to take to heart this month.

### 1. Healthy Eating: Nourishing the Body God Gave Us

Healthy eating doesn't have to be complicated or perfect. Small, steady choices matter.

- Fill half your plate with fruits and vegetables when possible.
- Choose whole foods such as whole grains, lean proteins, beans, nuts, and healthy fats.
- Limit processed and sugary foods.
- Drink water throughout the day, even during winter. Sharing meals, trying new recipes, and being mindful of portions are simple ways to care for ourselves and one another.

### 2. Staying Active: Moving with Purpose

Regular movement supports heart health, boosts immunity, reduces stress, and builds strength.

- Aim to move most days, even for 10-15 minutes at a time.
- Walking, stretching, light strength, or chair exercises all count.
- Choose activities you enjoy so movement feels like a gift, not a chore.

### 3. Managing Stress: Caring for Mind and Spirit

Chronic stress affects both mental and physical health, and winter can feel especially heavy.

- Make space for daily rest and quiet.
- Practice prayer, deep breathing, or meditation.
- Stay connected with others through calls, visits, or shared activities.
- Reaching out for support is a sign of strength. God does not ask us to carry life's burdens alone. Community and care are part of God's design.

#### 4. Preventive Care Matters

- Keep up with recommended health screenings and check-ups.
- Talk with your healthcare provider about screenings right for you.
- Pay attention to changes in your body and don't delay asking questions.

Scripture reminds us our bodies are gifts entrusted to us.

Caring for them is not about guilt or fear, but about gratitude and stewardship. As we move through February, may we be gentle with ourselves, encourage one another, and remember even small steps toward healthier living matter.

Let us care for our bodies, calm our minds, and trust God's presence with us, in health, in healing, and in hope.

**FOURTH ANNUAL  
GIVE KIDS A SMILE**  
Saturday, February 28th 9am-1pm

FREE dental evaluation and same day treatment!  
NO appointment or insurance required  
First come first serve  
For all children ages 6 to 14!

**Give Kids A Smile!**

**ADA American Dental Association®**

Thank you to members of Shawano County Dental Society, Josh Hull of Thrivent and members of the community!

Event location: Walsh Dental Group  
657 N Main St. Shawano, WI 54166  
For event questions please contact us at 715-524-2581

## ZION'S MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET: A MINISTRY OF CARE AND COMPASSION

### ZION's Medical Loan Closet

continues to be a quiet but powerful ministry of care within our congregation and community. It is a example of neighbors helping neighbors, and it would not be possible without the ongoing support, generosity, and faithfulness of so many.

**Ann Johnson** shared over the past four months she has been very busy receiving calls, meeting with individuals and families in need of medical equipment and welcoming those who are returning items are no longer needed. From September through December, the Medical Loan Closet received 61 requests for equipment, and during that same period, 20 items were returned to the closet. That is truly amazing — and a testament to how this ministry is working exactly as intended.

When medical equipment is returned, it allows us to pay it forward, ensuring someone else can receive help when they need it most. If you borrow an item from the Loan Closet and find you no longer need it, please consider returning it so others may benefit.

The impact of this ministry reaches beyond our congregation. ThedaCare, Shawano Rehab Center, the ADRC, and Shawano Place regularly refer clients to ZION's Loan Closet, trusting we will help meet real and immediate needs with care and dignity.

If you would like to support this important ministry, there are several ways to do so:

- Donate gently used medical equipment still in good working condition to ZION
  - Make a financial donation to help maintain, store, and manage the closet
- Every donation, large or small, helps keep this ministry going and strengthens our ability to serve others.

Thank you to Ann Johnson for her faithful coordination, and thank you to everyone who borrows, returns, donates, and supports ZION's Medical Loan Closet. This ministry truly reflects Christ's love in action.

**“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.”**

~ Matthew 14:14

Compassion can often mean kindness and sympathy. In these verses, it means something deeper and much more powerful. “And he had compassion” is translated from the Greek, ἐσπλαγγνίσθη and comes from the root word in Greek for “guts.” In other words, it is compassion and concern that are felt in one's guts; a compassion that is felt in a deeply physical way. Compassion felt in this way compels us to respond with love and deep concern.

This understanding of the full meaning of compassion in the New Testament means that another person's suffering becomes our own suffering. Compassion in this sense can change the way we live and care for others and for our community. When we feel this physical type of compassion, we are fully and physically engaged. We

**“Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.”**

~ Matthew 20:34

serve others and care for our community with love.

To love in the way the Apostle Paul writes to the Christians in Corinth, when he says, “...the greatest of these is love,” means that we can't live without compassion for others. Love and compassion are not expressed only in our offerings of money and other

support. Love and compassion are not something we give in order to receive something in return. Pride has no place in acts of love and compassion.

The love that Paul describes is an expression of stewardship. Stewardship is everything we do after we say, “I believe.” It is about how we live our lives and make our choices. Stewardship is about love and love is about stewardship. Love and stewardship are inseparable when we consider God's blessings in our life. We use God's blessings with love and compassion for others and to honor, worship and give thanks to him.

**“... he had compassion on them, because, they were like sheep without a shepherd.”**

~ Matthew 6:34

Zion Lutheran Church endeavors to be a beacon of Christian love as we care for one another, face challenges together, and serve our neighbors. We hope to be known as Christians by the love and compassion we embody as a faith community. We are “hard-wired” to live as members of the Body of Christ and serve our larger community with compassion and love.

The priority of compassionate stewardship is not to pay bills (albeit, paying bills is important). Rather, it is about how we, as a faith community, can do God's work with love and compassion. It is less about our congregation's need to receive, and more about our need to give. It is our generosity with the gifts and blessings God has entrusted to us. Compassionate stewardship is an attitude and a way of life. R

In God's ministry ~ Pastor Ludford

## RELAY FOR LIFE OF SHAWANO COUNTY A DAY OF HOPE, REMEMBRANCE, AND ACTION

ZION will once again be participating in **Relay for Life of Shawano County**, and I invite you to mark your calendars now and plan to be part of this meaningful community event.

Relay for Life will take place on **Sat., April 18**, from **9 AM to 3 PM** at **Shawano Community High School**, located at 220 County Road B, Shawano. Relay for Life is more than a fundraiser, it is a day filled with hope, connection, and purpose as we come together to honor those affected by cancer and to support the ongoing work of the American Cancer Society. Throughout the day, we will experience four signature elements that make Relay so meaningful:

- Celebration of Survivors, honoring those who have faced cancer with courage
- Celebration of Caregivers, recognizing those who have walked alongside loved ones with compassion
- Meaningful Luminaria, a powerful time of remembrance and reflection
- An Opportunity to Fight Back, encouraging us to take action together

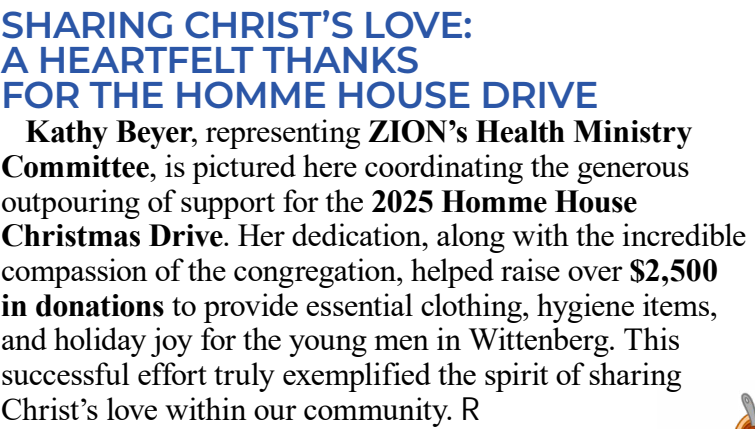
ZION will be forming a Relay for Life team again this year, and I hope you'll consider joining us, whether by walking, supporting, remembering, or cheering others on. Everyone is welcome. More details about our team, registration, and how you can be involved will be shared next month, so please stay tuned. Relay for Life is a beautiful reminder that we do not face cancer, or life's challenges, alone. Together, we walk in hope, remember with love, and take steps toward a future filled with healing. R

## WARM HEARTS & HANDS

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Wee Care mitten tree. Your generosity made this effort a wonderful success. Five Shawano schools and Safe Haven benefited, receiving a total of 57 pairs of gloves and mittens, 26 hats, 16 scarves, and 39 pairs of socks. Because of your kindness, many young hands, heads, and feet will stay warm this winter. Blessings and thanks to you all. Additionally,

the recent cookie sale raised \$677, with the next sale featuring sugar cookies scheduled for February 14-15. R





## A collage of Thanksgiving food including corn, pumpkin soup, turkey, and pies.

Three people are holding a large ceremonial check from Wisconsin Deer Hunter Inc. to the Wildlife Foundation. The check is dated 12-30-15, for \$500.00, payable to the Wildlife Foundation. The check features the Wisconsin Deer Hunter Inc. logo and the Wildlife Foundation logo. The people are standing in front of a decorated Christmas tree.

ZION'S community Thanksgiving dinner went off without a hitch plenty of food, serving over 210 people our income last counted from donations were \$1,500. Many great volunteers helped to bring the dinner to fruition. Donors for the food and table scapes was Thrivent Financial, Charlie's County Market, Radco, Creative Converting, Shawano Mason's and Ollies flowers. Thanks to everyone who brought food or gave monetary donations. The success was because of them all. The purchase of the steam table is now given to the Ladies of our kitchen, it was a great investment I hope it will be very useful for future meals. R Onward to next year.

~ Joyce Phalen and Ann Johnson





## HOMME HOME DONATION

Thank you to our Congregation members who donated clothing, toys, supplies, hygiene items, games, puzzles, batteries, and more for the **Homme Home in Wittenberg**. This ministry serves at-risk youth ages ten to eighteen through counseling and education, and during Christmas the staff provides gifts to brighten the boys' holiday. Your generosity filled six large bags with more than 250 items valued at over \$2,500 — a truly heartwarming gift. **Kathy Beyer** (Health Ministry) is pictured here. Thanks, ZION! R

## BINGO EVENT FOR 55+ SINGLES

**55+ Singles Bingo** event held in January... **Donna Davis** chooses from the prize table, **Nancy Schultz** called numbers, all enjoyed bingo, pizza, fun, laughs and fellowship. R



## ZION ANNUAL MEETING

ZION Lutheran Church held its **Annual Meeting** on **Jan. 25**, to hear reports from leadership, review ministry updates, and consider the approved the 2026 spending plan. Welcome new Church Council and Committee members who were installed: **Michael Sleeper** (President), **Dawn Seiltz** (Treasurer), **Cheryl Boettcher** (Education), **Kathy Beyer** (Health Ministry), **Alan Wichmann** (Life and Growth), **Reneé Elertson** (Personnel), **Bob Weier** (Endowment), **Dorothy Eidahl** (Endowment). Printed copies of the **2025 ZION Annual Report** are available in the Narthex or on our website. R

## CHEERING YOU ON, EMMA!

ZION sent lots of encouragement and applause to **Emma Effenberger** as she shined in her school play, *The Addams Family*. We were proud of her hard work, creativity, and dedication. We hope Emma and the cast and crew had a wonderful performance filled with joy and confidence. R

## FEB. LAY MINISTRY

*\*Youth Group will cover Lay Ministry on 3rd Sun. 10:30 AM service.*

<b>Saturday at 5 PM</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Debra Larson</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>John Phalen Bob Hass</b>
<b>Lay Reader</b>	<b>Scott Glysch</b>
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Scott Glysch Joyce Phalen Diane Rugalski</b>
<b>Projector Operator</b>	<b>Randy Steffen</b>

<b>Sunday at 8 AM</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Lisa Onesti Dawn Brock</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Brian Grieves Charlie Grieves Kraig Rosenow Randy Steffen</b>
<b>Lay Reader</b>	<b>Susan Lemke</b>
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Susan Lemke Kris Johnson Brian Johnson</b>
<b>Projector Operator</b>	<b>Julie Effenberger</b>

<b>Sunday at 10:30 AM</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b> Youth will cover the 15 <sup>th</sup> **
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Noreen Christianson Nancy Schultz</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Katie Otto Jason Otto Gail Hoffman Bob Bartelt</b>
<b>Lay Reader</b>	<b>Michael Sleeper</b>
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Michael Sleeper Judy Stoltenow Molly Hanson</b>
<b>Projector Operator</b>	<b>Jenny Tonn (1 &amp; 8) Noreen Christianson (15 &amp; 22)</b>

Feb 8	8am	Bella Krone
	10:30	Kyle Huebner
Feb 15	8am	Lee Wolff
	10:30	Morgan Boucher Bailey WhiteHorse

	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> <b>February 18</b> <b>11:00 am Service</b>
Greeters	1. Lisa Onesti 2.
Reader	(Imposition of ashes) Bob Hass
Ushers	1. John Phalen 2. Joyce Phalen 3. 4.
Communion Assist	1. Bob Hass 2. Diane Rugalski 3.
Projector	Randy Steffen
	<b>6:00pm Service</b>
Greeters	1. Mike Eidahl 2.
Reader	(Imposition of ashes) Scott Glysch
Ushers	1. Katie Otto 2. Jason Otto 3. Mike Eidahl 4. Paul Huebner
Communion Assist	1. Scott Glysch 2. Dawn Brock 3. Winnie Preston
Projector	Randy Steffen

Youth & Family Ministry

# Game Night

Sunday, February 15th  
3:30-5pm

Eat snacks, play old favorites, learn a new game, or bring one to share!

ALL AGES WELCOME

Every Month on the Third Sunday

## CONDOLENCES TO THESE FAMILIES

**Constance L. “Connie” Birkholz**, age 85, passed away on Tues., Dec. 16, 2025, in Shawano. A funeral service was held at ZION on Mon., Dec. 22, 2025, at 11AM. Further details regarding her life and legacy can be found in her full obituary at the link below. R  
[swedbergfuneralhome.com/obituary/constance-birkholz](http://swedbergfuneralhome.com/obituary/constance-birkholz)

A Funeral service for **Jean (Gipp) Hacker** will be held at ZION for Sat., Jan. 3, 2025 at 11 AM. Friends and family are invited to attend services and share condolences. R  
[www.mickelsonfs.com/memorials/jean-hacker/5671995/](http://www.mickelsonfs.com/memorials/jean-hacker/5671995/)

We sadly share that **David O. “Dave” Hintz**, age 75, passed away Jan. 16, in Pulaski. He was devoted husband to Lynn for over forty-five years, and a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Known for his gentle heart, love of the outdoors, and joy in family gatherings, he will be remembered by all who knew him. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. R  
[www.swedbergfuneralhome.com/obituary/david-hintz](http://www.swedbergfuneralhome.com/obituary/david-hintz)

A funeral was here at ZION on Sat., at 11 AM, as we gave thanks for the life of **Stuart Oestreich**, age 73, and commend him to God's eternal care. We hold Judy and her family in our prayers, asking that God's comfort, peace, and strength surround them in the days ahead. R  
[www.swedbergfuneralhome.com/obituary/stuart-oestreich](http://www.swedbergfuneralhome.com/obituary/stuart-oestreich).

## JANUARY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

**In-Person | 662    YouTube | 588 views    \$22,577.35 R**

## LOUD OFFERINGS COMING BACK

The Sunday School kids are excited to bring back loud offerings! On **Feb. 16**, **Mar. 16**, and **May 11**, students will collect loose change during services to support local charities. Please bring your change and joy. R

## 90 MINUTES IN HEAVEN DVD

*featuring Hayden Christensen & Kate Bosworth*  
New in the ZION Library, this DVD based on a true account and The New York Times best-selling book comes the feature film adaption of 90 Minutes in Heaven. During the 90 minutes he is declared dead after a traffic accident, Don Piper experiences love, joy and life like he's never known. But when he finally wakes in the hospital, Heaven's bliss is replaced by excruciating pain and emotional turmoil with the support of his family and community, Don clings to his faith and fights to recover the life he's lost. This film is an emotional and inspiring story of perseverance that will bring hope and encouragement to all who see it. in us in supporting our kids and this wonderful cause! R



## LENTEN MEALS

Sign up sheets for **Lenten lunches** and **dinners** are now available on the bulletin board. Please take a moment to add your group and help support this meaningful season of fellowship, reflection, prayer, and spiritual growth as we journey together through Lent.

## NEW CHURCH VAN PEW ENVELOPES

Donation envelopes for the **Church Van Fund** are available in each pew. Thank you to **Curt Preston** for sharing details and answering questions about the church van at the Annual Meeting. For more info, please see the display board at the Info Desk. **Pastor Scott** also challenges each member to consider a **\$75 gift** in honor of ZION's 75th Anniversary.



**Bonnie Wolf** celebrates her retirement as one of ZION's faithful **“Counter Ladies.”** Week after week, she helped count and record offerings with care and dedication. Thank you, Bonnie, for your many years of quiet, faithful service to ZION. R



Join us and begin planning **AHEAD** for the end of this life

**What is Planning AHEAD?**

Planning AHEAD is a 7-session course (one hour each) that guides participants through the topics on the right.

This course features a free workbook to help people with the tasks and decisions associated with end-of-life.

**Who is the program for?**

This program is for people who:

- Are interested in planning for the end of life to make things easier for family members
- Have lost a loved one
- Are in the process of losing a loved one and are dealing with the transition

**When is the program?**

March 17 - April 28, 2026

Tuesdays

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Virtually via Zoom

**Contact us for more information**

Katie Daul, Lifespan Educator  
UW-Madison Division of Extension Oconto County

920-834-6848 or email [Katie.Daul@wisc.edu](mailto:Katie.Daul@wisc.edu)

REGISTRATION: <https://go.wisc.edu/n7y852>

planning **AHEAD** PROGRAM TOPICS

- Getting Started
- Handling Financial Changes
- Advance Medical and Legal Directives
- Estate Planning
- Choices in End-of-Life Care
- Final Wishes
- Understanding Grief

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