

Deadline to drop off baskets: Oct. 9

on Sun., Oct. 19

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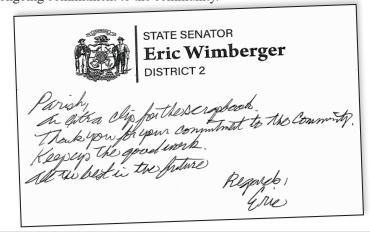
ZION LUTHERAN CHURRCH WOMEN

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH





Market Messenger recently. We also received a gracious note from Wisconsin State Senator Eric Wimberger commending Wee Care's faithful service to local children and families. Thank you, Senator Wimberger, for honoring our volunteers and their ongoing commitment to the community.



SUPPORT ZION'S QUILTERS AND THE LWR INGATHERING

ZION's Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Ingathering will be held Fri., Oct. 3, at St. James Lutheran Church, Shawano. The Ingathering is when all quilts, Personal care kits and school kits, made and assembled by ZION's Mission Quilters, are boxed and taken to St. James. The boxes are then loaded onto a semi and delivered to the LWR Warehouse in Minneapolis.

From there, these gifts of love are shipped worldwide, including here in the United States, to communities in need. Shipping costs have increased in recent vears, and you can help! Please consider donating to the Quilt & Shipping Fund by using the

Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund elping LWR deliver Quilts & Kits of Care worldwi LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

envelopes on the guest book desk. Place your gift inside the envelope and return it to the office or offering plate. Every dollar helps support ZION's Mission Quilters and Kit Ministry. For more information, please contact Karen Childs at 715.526.2445 or **Dorothy Eidahl** at 715.584.5283. R



NEW ZION LIBRARY BOOK

Night Falls on Predicament Avenue is written by Jaime Jo Wright. This book is set in 1910, Effie James is committed to doing anything to save her younger sister, who witnessed a shocking murder, leaving her mute and in danger of the killer's retribution. Effie must prove what

her sister saw, but when a British gentleman arrives, he disrupts Effie's quest with his attempts to locate his wife, Isabelle, who was last seen at the supposed crime scene in the abandoned house at 322 Predicament Avenue. Just as Effie discovers what she seeks, she finds that the blood staining the walls will forever link her to a scandal she couldn't imagine, and to a woman whose secrets promise to curse any who would expose them.

A century later, Norah grapples with social anxiety and grief as she runs her late great-aunt's bed-and-breakfast on Predicament Avenue. But Norah has little affection for the house and is committed only to carrying out her murdered sister's dreams until crime historian and pod caster Sebastian arrives to investigate the ghostly legacy of the house's claim to fame – the murder of Isabelle. When a guest is found dead, the incident is linked to Isabelle's murder, and Norah and Sebastian must work together to uncover the century-old curse that has wrapped 322 Predicament Avenue in its clutches and threatens far more than death. R

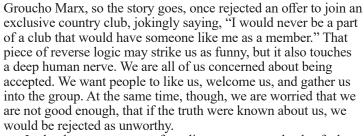
~ ZION Library Committee



PASTOR'S COLUMN

When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come heal his slave.

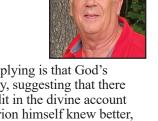
~ Luke 7:3



In the deepest recesses of our lives, many people also feel as though they lack the credentials necessary to approach God with confidence and joy. Many who come to church do so with the false pretenses that everyone around them feels more confident in their Christianity than they do. That we lack the credentials of strength and composure necessary to come before God.

What are the credentials necessary to come before God? Can we draw near to God with hope and trust, or are we always in danger of being found out to be the spiritual weaklings and the impostors that we know we are? These are the questions that lie at the heart of the story in Luke's gospel about Jesus and the centurion (*Luke 7:1-10*).

The way the story unfolds, there was a centurion (we would call a "company commander" in the army) whose servant was ill. He had heard of Jesus' powerful and healing ministry, so he sent some religious leaders to ask if Jesus might come and cure his servant. Now, these leaders, like most people, were concerned about credentials, so they made the best case they could for Jesus. What they told Jesus was that the centurion was "worthy" to have this blessing because he was a racially open-minded man and a philanthropist. "He loves our people," they said, "and built us our synagogue."



What the religious leaders were implying is that God's blessings come to those who are worthy, suggesting that there is some way to establish sufficient credit in the divine account to persuade God to be kind. The centurion himself knew better, though. When Jesus came near to his house, what impressed the centurion most was not his own solid credentials as a good man, but rather his deep unworthiness in the face of this good man Jesus.

Thus, he sent friends to Jesus with his honest cry, "I am not worthy to have you come under my roof." It is the cry made by every honest person before God. Jesus turned around and left. That is the way many people fear the story will end. No credentials, no blessing. Or, perhaps in some blazing moment of hope, we can imagine that the story will end, "Despite the centurion's unworthiness, Jesus healed the servant anyway."

Nothing in our experience, however, prepares us for the actual ending of this story. Jesus marveled at the centurion, marveled at him, and said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." Back at the centurion's house, the slave was a new and whole person. No doubt, the centurion was, too.

It was precisely the centurion's sense of unworthiness before Christ, his vulnerability in the face of Jesus' power, his openness to what he needed but knew he did not deserve, his reaching out to what can only be called grace, that Jesus calls "Faith." It was and is the one and only credential necessary to draw near to God with joy and hope.

Join your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to worship and experience the grace that allows you to draw near to God. We have been found worthy by the body and blood of Jesus Christ to be blessed to become a blessing to others! R ~ In God's service,

Pastor Scott Ludford

STEWARDSHIP

LET US DISCOVER THE JOY IN GIVING!

Quite some time ago I had a confirmation class who taught me an important lesson about stewardship. They had been working on a special project several weeks before the Super Bowl, it was called, "Souper Bowl Sunday." Their goal was to raise both awareness and food for those in the community who needed help feeding their families. They truly understood why as Christians we invest ourselves in such efforts. Laughter and joy filled the room as they worked in teams to make their advertising posters. Ah, Pastor ... Take note and learn!

You see, there are those who look at the church from the outside and conclude that we are a cheerless people, not very happy. They view our "solemn assemblies" and see little joy (*Amos 5:21*). In some ways, they may have a very good point. Worldly worries hang over us and an inventory of our individual performances would probably not thrill us either.

But joy is possible! Paul tells us, "rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice" (*Philippians 4:4*). How can we but rejoice when we remember that we are created to be God's children, that in Christ, we are reclaimed and forgiven, that God protects us from all danger and guards and keeps us from all evil. To rejoice in God and God's gifts is to know real joy.

Joy is not complete when only receiving. We give because God first gave. The Lord's loving giving is contagious. We become caught up in response. We then know the double joy of receiving and giving.

If we don't have fun as Christians and appear to be stodgy and dull, it is probably because we let fear and anxieties keep us on the borders of the kingdom. We don't plunge into the deep. We are like swimmers who have ventured into the lake, wading out with caution, testing the waters, standing there up to our knees, looking back longingly at the people basking in the sun on the beach, or looking wistfully to the real swimmers who are rollicking in the deep.

The widow with her two small copper coins (*Mark 12:42*) had fun. Jesus implied that in giving her little gift out of her poverty she had more joy than those who gave only what they could spare. Zacchaeus made the plunge (*Luke 19:1-10*). "Lord, look half of my possessions, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." And Jesus commented, "Today salvation has come to this house." Zacchaeus was frolicking in the deep! The cluster of early followers found a new joy. They held all things common and "distributed to the poor" (*Acts 2:44-45*).

Letting go is the clue. By letting go, a person is freed. Money and things may be more important to us than God. Yet when we put things in God's hands, it is God who frees us. To be free to give is a joyous discovery. "Lord, teach us to give; free us to give." R

~ In God's ministry.

Pastor Scott Ludford

Zion Endownment committee,

Thank you so much for the Scholarship again this year. (Words can hardly describe now much the money is appreciated. I am starting my third year a U.W. Whitewater studying entrepreneurship and sociologicand i can't wait. Thank you for your opnerosity and support into My future. With love.

Maddy Heling

Dear Zion Endowment Committee,
Thank you so much for awarding me a scholarship.
I am grateful for your generous gift. The support
from our congregation will help greatly in my
pursuit of a degree in neuroscience. Thank you again
for your generosity. - Sincerely, Rosella Wegner

Thank you so much for the academic scholarship that you gifted me. That was very generous of you to give and it is greatly appreciated. Your support is helping me out a time in finding my education and it really means a lot to me. Thank you again!

Sincevely, Aidan Proston

zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous scholarship. I am having a great time at worthern michigan university and the money will be a big help in paying for various college expenses. I can't wait to see what the rest of the semester has in store! Ever Popp

Dear Zion,

Thank for the Endowment fund. It will help me a lot as I continue to pursue my Masters of Divinity in Word and Sacrament degree at Wartburg Theological Seminary. Thank you for your support.

God Bless you, Joel Yeakey

Dear Zion Endowment Fund,

Dear Zion Endowment Fund,

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Bailey Letere

Dear Zion Lutheran Church.

I'd like to thank you for
Your generousity in sending
a scholarship to my school
for the upcoming year. This
will greatly help me navigate
my finances to be able to
continue my education. This
was very unexpected and I
am so grateful for your
support through this
journey. Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Taylor Johnson

WEDDING DRESS TO BAPTISM GOWN

The Garwood Bahr family donated a wedding dress to our church quilters while clearing a late relative's home. Because satin cannot be used in Lutheran World Relief quilts, the quilters passed the gown to Eileen Ebelt in hopes she could make a baptismal gown. Ebelt said, "Satin is a challenge to sew, but with patience and perseverance I did it. The finished gown will be returned to

the quilters or sold to help purchase quilt fabric and batting. I entered the baptismal gown in the Shawano County Fair and received **Grand Champion** for my work."

Congratulations Eileen! You made a

Karen Childs (LWR Mission Quilters) and seamstress Eileen Ebelt with the baptismal gown crafted from a wedding dress donated by the

MEMORIALS

In Honor of Pastor Scott Ludford

• JoAnne Horn (General fund)

In Memory of Bonnie Wolf's Brother-In-Law

• Peggy Ray (Wee Care fund)

In Memory of Patti Teetzen

• Wes & Toni Bucholz (Wee Care fund)

In Memory of Rita Trinko

• Jane Krueger (General fund)

• Thomas McGuire (General fund)

• Sherry Balke (General fund)

• Gary & Cindy Dalke (General fund)

• Randy & Mary Bohm (General fund)

• Terry & Karen Fusek (General fund)

In Memory of Gordon Holten • Rev. John & Anita Holten (General fund)

• Jerry & Donna Milbauer (Wee Care fund)

• Richard & Virginia Vraney (General fund)

• Alan & Margery Wichmann (Wee Care fund)

• Helen Kaurala (Endowment fund)

Karen Childs (General fund)

beautiful treasure. R

Bahr family.

9/1-9/14 ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS Attendance | In-Person-613 | YouTube-492 Offerings | \$37,637

JOIN THE HEALTH CHALLENGE!

As the days grow shorter, it's a great time to build healthy habits for body, mind, and spirit. The Health Challenge is designed to help you set your own goals, move at your own pace, and make simple changes that lead to lasting benefits. You can do this privately or invite a friend or family member to join you.

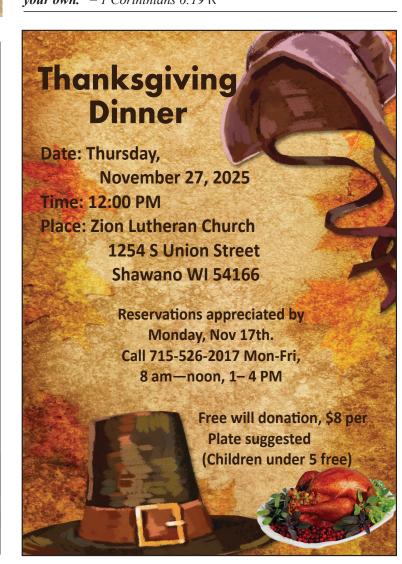
Why Participate?

Taking small, intentional steps can:

- Lower blood pressure and reduce heart disease risk
- Improve weight control and energy levels
- Strengthen muscles, bones, and balance
- Ease stress and anxiety
- Encourage daily spiritual growth

How to Get Started

- 1. Choose one or two focus areas: movement, nutrition, rest, or spiritual practices.
- 2. Set realistic goals, like drinking more water, taking a short walk, turning off screens earlier, or spending time in Scripture.
- 3. Track your progress with a phone app, calendar, or notebook.
- 4. To join the challenge contact Kathy Beyer at 715.853.2464 or Joyce Phalen at 715.584.1778. Whether you walk more, eat better, rest well, or deepen your prayer life, this Health Challenge is a simple way to honor the body and spirit God has entrusted to you. "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not *your own.*" – 1 Corinthians 6:19 R



STAYING HEALTHY IN MIND, BODY, & SPIRIT AS THE DAYS GROW SHORTER

As fall settles in and the daylight hours grow shorter, many of us notice changes in our routines, our energy, and even our moods. The shift in seasons can sometimes leave us feeling a little more tired, less motivated, or even discouraged. Yet, this time of year also provides us with an opportunity to be intentional about caring for our whole selves through mind, body, and spirit.

Caring for Our Bodies | God blessed us with bodies that need movement, nourishment, and rest. Even though it may be tempting to slow down and stay inside, try to keep a routine of healthy activity. Bundle up and go for a brisk walk, join a fitness class, or do light stretching at home. Eating balanced meals with plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole foods helps to fuel our bodies with energy. And don't forget to rest. Getting consistent sleep is one of the best ways to stay strong and healthy.

Caring for Our Minds | Shorter days and longer nights can sometimes affect our mental well-being. It's important to take time to do things that bring joy and peace like reading, listening to music, connecting with loved ones, or enjoying a hobby. If you start to feel down or struggle with motivation, don't ignore those feelings. Reach out to a friend, pastor, or health professional for encouragement and support. Talking and praying together can make a big difference.

Caring for Our Spirits | In every season, God calls us to draw near to Him. Spending time in prayer, reading Scripture, and worshiping together strengthens our faith and reminds us that we are never alone. Psalm 46:1 reminds us: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Even as days grow darker, Christ is our light and hope.

A Community of Care | At ZION, we are blessed with opportunities to walk alongside one another. Whether through worship, Bible studies, or programs like Strong Bodies and Health Ministry, we encourage each other to stay healthy and strong in every way. As the seasons change, let's continue to look out for one another and remind each other of the joy and light we have in Christ. This fall, may we each be intentional about caring for our bodies, nurturing our minds, and grounding our spirits in the promises of God. R

BECOME A FRIENDLY VISITOR

Share God's Love Through Care and Connection

Do you enjoy listening, visiting, or simply brightening someone's day with a friendly call? The Friendly Visitors Ministry is a wonderful way to share God's love with those in our church family and community who may feel lonely or homebound.

Friendly Visitors offer support through:

- Visits with members who would love company
- Phone calls that bring encouragement and connection
- Serving communion to those unable to attend worship

You choose the activities you're most comfortable with and how much time you can give. Even a small commitment can make a big difference in someone's life. Our group meets once a month to share experiences, learn helpful tips, and encourage one another in this important ministry. If you're interested in becoming a Friendly Visitor, or just want to learn more, please contact: Nancy Schultz at 715.390.4540. Do you know someone who would appreciate a visit, a phone call, or communion at home? Please let us know! There are likely members and friends we haven't yet reached, and we want to make sure no one feels forgotten. Together, we can remind others that they are loved, valued, and connected to the body of Christ. R



Thankyou so much for the loan of DME from Zon's lan closet. We so very much appreciate the kindness. Ship's knee replacement rehab has gone remarkably well, and we are grateful. Blease accept our donation to the lean closet, a small token of our appreciation. Gratefulls, skip a Padsey Robertson





COUNCIL APPOINTS NEW TREASURER



We are pleased to announce that the ZION Church Council has appointed Dawn Seiltz as Treasurer, in accordance with the Council By-Laws. Dawn has been a member of ZION since the fall of 2019 and brings outstanding qualifications to this role. She holds an accounting degree from NWTC and has experience as a tax accountant and

in health insurance finance. She most recently retired as a medical coder from Bellin Health System in April 2022. Dawn and her family are deeply rooted in faith and community. She has three grown children, eight grandchildren, and one greatgrandchild. Her family is spread across Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, and Michigan, but she cherishes every chance to be with them. In her free time, Dawn enjoys quilting, gardening, reading, and traveling. She has already stepped into her new role with energy and commitment, working closely with Mike Eidahl, Steve Grover, and Kay Kristof to ensure a smooth transition. Dawn will be included on the ballot for Treasurer at our Congregational Annual Meeting in January 2026. We are grateful for her willingness to serve and share her talents with ZION. R ~ **Bob Hass**, *President*

THANK YOU, MIKE EIDAHL!

On behalf of ZION and the Church Council, we extend our thanks to Mike Eidahl for his four years of faithful service as our former Treasurer. Mike has done an outstanding job managing and guiding ZION's finances with wisdom, dedication, and care. His commitment to ensuring the financial health of our ministries has been a true blessing. We are deeply grateful for his time, talent, and steady leadership in this vital role. We are aware of no other Congregation member who has put in more time and effort. Thank you, Mike, for your faithful service to ZION! R ~ Bob Hass, President



KIDCO HELPERS NEEDED 10-11:30 AM!

Our **KidCo** program will be running during MomCo meetings on the first and third Thursday mornings of each month, and we'd love your help! Volunteers are needed to spend time with little ones (three months to five years), assist with crafts, and help prepare snacks. This program is a fun and meaningful way to bless our moms and kiddos alike. If you'd like to be part of this ministry, please connect with Kristin WhiteHorse. R

CHURCH CALENDAR Subscribe to the ZION



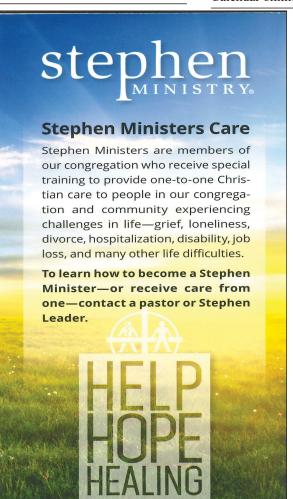
We lift these individuals in prayer, seeking God's healing, strength, peace and renewal.

R Gerald Bartline R Dale Bergsbaken R Leslie Buckbee R Marilyn Dahl R Terry Fusek R Larry Gueths R Lynn Hintz R Pete Hintz R Adeline Holtz R JoAnne Horn R Bob Janicki

R Helen Kaurala

R Wendy Nead R Ken Spreeman

R Jim Yeakey







CHRIST IN OUR HOME

The latest edition of *Christ in Our Home* is available. This quarterly devotional resource encourages readers to live out their faith each day with scripture, thoughtful reflection, and prayer that follow the Revised Common Lectionary. Pick up your copy today and be renewed in your daily devotion. R



BOOKS & PUZZLES REMINDER

The **Handmade Holiday Marketplace & Kidpreneur** is coming fast, and we're collecting gently used **books and puzzles** for the sale, including children's books and puzzles! Please bring your donations to ZION by **Mon., Nov. 3**. R

SERVE, STAY UP LATE, & GROW IN FAITH YOUTH LOCK-IN OCT 11–12

Get ready for an unforgettable night! On **Oct. 11-12**, middle and high school students are invited to join us for a **Youth Lock-In** filled with service, worship, fellowship, food, and fun.

We'll kick off the evening with a few hours of serving in our community, putting our faith into action. Afterward, we'll head back to the church for a night packed with worship, games, food, and plenty of laughter. It's the perfect chance to grow in faith, connect with friends, and make new memories. Students are encouraged to bring a friend along for the adventure!

To make this event possible, we're looking for volunteers and donations. If you'd like to help or contribute, please check the church bulletin board or contact **Kristin WhiteHorse**. R

ZION YOUTH SPORTSYOU APP

For those new to ZION Youth or who didn't join previously and are interested in joining now, we use the **SportsYou app** to share information, updates, and a calendar of events for the youth. We invite parents and students to join. Our group's access code is **YMVE8SLB**. Contact **Kristin WhiteHorse** with questions.R

YOUTH SERVICE & FUNDRAISING

Our youth have some exciting opportunities ahead to earn service hours and help raise funds for youth programming. On **Sat., Oct. 4** at **7 AM**., we will meet behind Cornerstone Chiropractic to help set up for Oktoberfest. Then, on **Sat., Nov. 15**, youth will assist with the **Handmade Holiday Marketplace** here at ZION, including setup, book and puzzle sales, and cleanup. These events are an excellent way for our youth to serve the community, support our church, and grow in fellowship together. Families are encouraged to check SportsYou for more details on these opportunities. R

YOUTH HALLOWEEN PARTY - OCT. 29

Youth families, mark your calendars! Our annual **Halloween Party** for middle and high school students is happening on **Wed.**, **Oct. 29**. Come dressed in your best costumes and bring a friend for a night full of spooky fun, games, treats, and fellowship. R



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KIDS OF THE KINGDOM OFF TO A GREAT START!

Our **Kids of the Kingdom** Sunday School program is off to a great start this year! Each week, our children gather to learn Bible stories, sing songs, participate in hands-on activities, and grow in their faith together. Their energy and joy are a blessing to our church family, and we're excited to see how God will continue to work through them in the months ahead.







Be sure to watch for them during the 10:30 AM service on Oct. 19, when they will be singing and

leading a special (and **loud!**) **offering** collection. Come ready with your change! Thank you to all the parents, volunteers, and leaders who make this ministry possible! R

ELCA CORN MAZE PALOOZA



The ELCA Synod is sponsoring a Corn Maze Palooza at Porter's Patch near Bonduel on Sat., Oct. 25 from 11 AM to 1:30 PM. Youth are encouraged to attend and participate in a variety of activities, such as a corn maze and scarecrow building. Admission is \$13 and includes the corn maze, access to all activities, plus the chance to build your own scarecrow and create a fall bouquet. Contact Patty Koplitz if you're interested in attending. Her email is: pkoplitz@our-saviors.org. This event is an excellent opportunity to meet new friends from other churches. R

STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATE

Our **Stephen Ministers** continue to grow in their ministry through ongoing continuing education classes. This ministry training helps strengthen our Stephen Ministers skills and stay encouraged as they walk alongside others in times of need.

We're thankful that several referrals have recently come in, and we are in the process of matching care receivers with trained Stephen Ministers. If you or someone you know could benefit from confidential, **one-to-one Christian care** during a difficult season, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce that our next Stephen Minister training session will begin in January. This training equips ordinary people with extraordinary skills to provide Christ-centered care to those in need. If you've ever wondered if God may be calling you to serve in this way, now is the time to start praying and discerning. To learn more about Stephen Ministry, visit *stephenministry.com* or talk with one of our Stephen Leaders. R

OFFICE HELP VOLUNTEERS

ZION is seeking volunteers to assist at the front desk, available during mornings, afternoons, or the entire day. Duties include customer service, answering phones, greeting visitors and helping with office projects. Even a morning or afternoon makes a big difference! Please contact Kay Kristof at 715.526.2017, Ext. 0 or email zion@shawanozion.org. R

