

Focus

Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI

February 2020

Love Our Youth



Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, February 1 ~ 6:00 pm

Meal includes: meat sauce, pasta, bread sticks, salad, deserts, beverage (punch, coffee, milk) & a gift from the Youth to all purchased tickets.

Tickets on Sale now!

\$8.00 per meal; Kids 5 and under free

All youth involved in the meal will eat for free after all have been served.

Open to the entire congregation to support the Youth. Come & enjoy!

Signs of Lent

Ash Wednesday February 26
and all Lenten services
11:00 am & 6:00 pm.



Lenten Meal



† Please join us for a light lunch in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 am services.

† Come for a light supper beginning at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall each Wednesday.



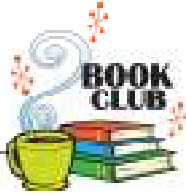
We are expecting an infectious outbreak of laughter and fun...

Bring your games, bring your neighbors and friends, and join us on the long, cold, Sunday afternoons this winter! (Adults only)

- Cards • Board Games • Sheepshead
- 500 Rummy or ??

2nd and 4th Sunday afternoons
1:00—4:00 p.m.
February 23

Sponsored by
 Church in
 Society



Book Club's Current Read...

Annie Freeman's Fabulous Traveling Funeral by Kris Radish. Club meets **February 12** (second Wednesday) 3:30 pm in the church

library. Interested in reading and discussing this book, join us! Questions? Suggestions? contact Joni Shebuski 715-526-6453 or Sharon Erickson 715-524-4280.

★ March: *The Things We Cannot Say* by Kelly Rimmer



Tuesday,
February 25
5:30 pm

Church in Society is sponsoring the dinner held at the First Presbyterian Church

- We need volunteers! Please sign up to**
- ▶ set-up at 3:00 ▶ donate food items
 - ▶ serve and ▶ clean-up at 5:30.

Sign up sheets on the Church in Society bulletin board.
 Thank you!

Loud Offering February 22-23

Sunday School Loud Offering last weekend of the month!

Please keep all your loose change and bring it in for our collection.



Walkers Wanted!

Please join the Zion Walkers team at this year's American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Saturday, April 4 ~ 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
 at Shawano High School.

Contact Kathy Beyer at mrs.kathybeyer@gmail.com.



KOZ (Kids of Zion)
After-School Program

Grades 3-4-5

Meet After school 3:15 - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 5 & 19



Youth Fundraisers!



Kwik Trip Car Wash Cards

We have cards available for sale!

\$36 for 5-Count Card. Save \$2.60 per car wash with the Kwik Trip Ultimate Car Wash Card! Contact or Stop in the office weekdays.

Love Our Youth Spaghetti Dinner



Saturday, Feb. 1 ~ 6:00 pm

Advance ticket sales only! Adults \$8.00. Kids under 5 free. On sale now! All youth involved in the meal will eat for free after all have been served.



God's Work, Our Hands

Happy Birthday



Owen Poole... 75 on February 1
 314 E. Division St., Apt 1, Shawano

Bob Bartelt... 70 on February 12
 918 Lieg St., Shawano

Lorna Marquardt... 75 on February 15
 PO Box 343, Shawano

Happy birthday to the 61 other members celebrating in February!



Please join the family of Bob Voss and help them celebrate

Bob's
100th Birthday!
February 9, 2020
11:30 a.m.
 in the fellowship hall

Potluck Dinner
 please bring a dish to pass.

Birthday Cake will be served!
 Short program following the meal.





“Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white.” – Mark 9:2-3

“And immediately [after his baptism] the Spirit drove him out into the wilderness.” – Mark 1:12-13

From the mountaintop to the wilderness. That’s our path this month.

The season of Epiphany culminates with brilliant light on the Mount of Transfiguration as Jesus holds council with Moses and Elijah while Peter, James and John try to make sense of what they’re experiencing.

Some things are more challenging than others to put into words—and this seems especially true when numinous moments break into ordinary time and we find ourselves awestruck, disoriented, or overwhelmed. These experiences are often fleeting, leaving us wondering whether what we experienced really did happen, or if it was that extra glass of wine or something else that lay behind the otherworldly encounter.

In his book, *Convictions*, in the chapter entitled *God is Real and is a Mystery*, New Testament scholar Marcus Borg—perhaps best known for theological approaches to the Christian faith that challenge traditional ways of understanding God and Jesus—shares a mystical experience he had later in life while flying on a plane from Tel Aviv to New York.

The experience, he recounts, lasted about 40 minutes, the longest and most intense experience of this kind in his life. Suddenly, he recounts, the light in the plane changed and became golden, and everything was filled with exquisite beauty. Under the influence of this spiritual moment Borg saw that everyone looked wondrous—even the man pacing the aisle who was perhaps the ugliest man Borg had ever seen—even he was transformed in that golden light.

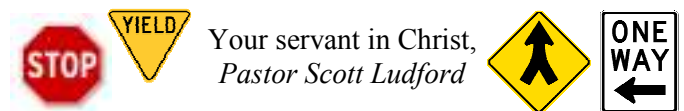
Christian people proclaim that God cannot be found, but has found us in Jesus Christ. With this great knowledge, the knowledge of salvation, it is our task to go into the world and say that Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. God who is a compassionate companion to the suffering we endure in our lives; a love-infused Lord who blesses us and all creation with unfathomable grace; a beautiful Savior. This God not only rightly evokes our songs of glory and praise; this God in-

vites us to take up the song in our own lives. This God beckons us beyond petty arguments and turf mongering to a place where forgiveness reigns; a place of mysterious, wondrous light which illumines the Christ to whom we encounter across the table, across the street, and within our own selves, revealing all to be Beloved.

Experiences such as these remind us that beneath all the surface issues which dominate our days, our agendas, and our conflicts is an abiding light, and pulsing heart that names us BELOVED and calls us into community with all living things.

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 26 this year. It calls us to carry this heartfelt conviction with us as we move with Jesus from that Mount of Transfiguration into the Wilderness of Lent. Lent is a season for returning to our basic covenant with God of baptism, and entering into disciplined patterns that lead us, by the Holy Spirit’s guidance, back to the one who is the ground of our being.

Our Worship Committee chose our theme for mid-week Lenten services this year entitled: *Signs of Lent: A Worship Series for Lent, Holy Week and Easter*. It was created by Carol Geisler and published in 2017 through Creative Communications for the Parish. From Ash Wednesday through Holy Week we will hear messages based on the concept of road signs and how their messages apply to our life in Christ: U-turn, Stop, Merge, Yield, One Way, Dead End, Road Narrows, Food, Cross Road, and Road Work Ahead are all a part of this fun and unique way to spiritually grow in this season.



Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Scott Ludford

The Parish Records

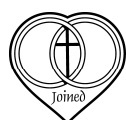


Deaths:

† Frederick J. True January 15, 2020 (non-member)
Memorial service held Jan. 25 at funeral home.

Marriage:

† Caden John Holtz & Chelsea Ann Rusk
Married Dec. 7, 2019 at Zion.



God’s Work, Our Hands



Zion’s Prayer Chain

If you have a telephone prayer chain request, please call
Co-Chair Winnie Preston 715-851-9576.



Financial Stewardship Update
General Fund as of December 30, 2019

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Variance</i>
YTD Total Revenue	\$ 353,264	\$ 370,150	-\$ 16,886
YTD Total Expenses	\$ 365,829	\$ 380,703	-\$ 14,874
YTD Total Net Revenue	-\$ 12,565	-\$ 10,553	

This report does not include special offerings such as Building Funds, Restricted/Special Funds, memorial gifts, etc.

Treasurer's Report by Gordon Holten, Council Treasurer

These figures show our General Fund picture through December, revenues and expenses were under budget by roughly the same amount, within \$2,000. Also notice that Total Net amounts were also within \$2,000, but both negative. Throughout 2019 monthly balances were mostly negative, many lower than -\$10,000.

Obviously this negative trend cannot continue without causing serious financial problems.



The complete 2019 Financial Report is available in the Annual Report.
Copies on the literature stand near office.

Fill the Cart Weekend
February 15-16



Church in Society is asking the congregation to support

SAFPARC and "fill the cart."

The shopping cart is located in the Commons.

Pork & beans, kidney beans, tuna, cereal, tomato sauce, mac 'n cheese, hearty soups, and peanut butter.

Please bring a non-perishable food item to help *fill the cart!*



Visit Zion's Library!

Glory Road by Lauren K. Denton. Nearly a decade after her husband's affair drove her back home to South Alabama; Jessie McBride has the stable life she wants – operating her garden shop and keeping up with her teenage daughter and spunky mother. The unexpected arrival of two men makes her question whether she's really happy with the status quo.... handsome, wealthy businessman Summer Tate and Ben Bradley, her lingering what-could-have-been from high school. Her heart is pulled in directions she never expected. In one summer, everything will change. But for these three strong Southern women, the roots they've planted on Glory Road will give life to the adventures waiting just around the corner.

The Hope Jar *The Prayer Jars Book One* by Wanda E. Brunstetter. What happens when making an elderly Amish couple very happy means going along with a lie that becomes more complex by the day? Michelle Taylor is not who her new family in Lancaster County believes her to be. The Lapps were looking for their long-lost granddaughter when they met Michelle and she assumed the identity of Sara Murray. Finding an old blue jar in the barn that is filled with slips of paper with handwritten thoughts, quotes, and prayers by an unknown author encourages Michelle's budding faith – but she also finds herself feeling convicted. How can she tell the truth without hurting the ones she has truly come to love?

Page Fright #16 *Secrets of the Castleton Manor Library* by Elizabeth Penney. Librarian Faith Newberry and her friends at Castleton Manor in Lighthouse Bay, Massachusetts, ring in the New Year with pomp and circumstance. All the manor's a stage as the actors extend their onstage drama to behind-the-scenes theatrics. Then the pranks and mysterious occurrences haunting the halls of the manor escalate. Something wicked this way comes when one of the guests is murdered. But the show must go on. Faith and her friends discover something is rotten in the state of Denmark. The cast and crew harbor deep resentments, shocking secrets, and bitter rivalries. It's hard to discern the truth when everyone is playing a part.

Open during business hours weekdays, Saturday evenings, and Sunday mornings.



From Your Parish Nurse...

2020 February "Gardens and Herbs of the Bible"

There were many gardeners of the Bible. Adam was the first. Genesis 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it. Genesis 3 : 17- 18 And to the man he said, Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains.

Solomon was a great plant lover, but as King he had gardeners to do the work. He collected as many different specimens as he could from the known world. His gardens were vast, containing sweet smelling shrubs of aloes, cinnamon, frankincense, myrrh, saffron and spikenard. Reference to the book of Song of Songs. Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east, and all the wisdom of Egypt. He would speak of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon the hyssop that grows in the wall" 1Kings 4:30-33.

Isaiah knew about taking cuttings. "Therefore, though you set out the finest plants and plant imported vines, though on the day you set them out, you make them grow, and on the morning when you plant them, you bring them to bud." Isaiah 17:10-11.

The gardens in Palestine had additional requirements to our gardens of sun, water, and food. They were shade from the heat of the day and a wonderful scent which was prized at that time. Gardens of the Bible were traditionally a luxury of the wealthy.

The herb gardens referred to in Deuteronomy 11:10 are believed to be a checkerboard pattern where many different kinds of vegetables were grown. These gardens used this design so they could be irrigated, watered it with your feet, like a garden of vegetables. There were royal courtyard gardens in the story of Esther. The hanging gardens of Babylon were also built.

Jesus found rest and quiet in the Garden of Gethsemane and "often met there with his disciples". John 18:2 He was buried in the garden of Joseph of Arimathea and was mistaken for the gardener by Mary looking through tear-filled eyes Easter morning.

Herbs in Biblical times were used in their everyday lives. They were used in medicine Ex. anise, caraway, cardamom, cassia, coriander, fennel, fenugreek, garlic, mustard, onions, poppy seed, saffron, sesame and thyme. Cosmetic ointments - myrrh, aromatic oils, calamus, and frankincense. Perfumes- spikenard, and hyssop. Embalming spices used were anise, cassia, cinnamon, cumin, marjoram and myrrh. Herbs used for cooking were basil, chervil, cumin, coriander, dill, marjoram, mint, oregano, poppy seed, savory and tarragon. Herbs touched every aspect of their lives.

Their importance made them valuable; to the extent they even paid their taxes with them. For more information on herbs of the Bible go to www.biblicalarchaelogy.org or <https://godasagardener.com> and your Bible.

Genesis 1:29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed: to you it shall be for meat.

~ Jennifer Greiert, Parish Nurse



Health Ministry Dates At A Glance...

Monday, Feb. 3: Health Ministry Committee
1:00 p.m. Room 101. New members welcome!

Tuesdays & Thursdays: Exercise Class 4:00-5:00 pm.
Fellowship Hall. *No registration required!*

Thursday, Feb. 6: Healing Touch Ministry
4:00-7:00 pm. By appointment... 715-584-7080.
Provided by JoAnne Bartz in the Nursery.

Blood Pressure Checks: Saturday, Feb. 8 after
service and Sunday, Feb. 9 between services.
Free screening! Everyone welcome!

Wednesday, Feb. 12: Book Club 3:30 pm. Library

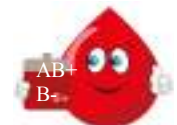


Parish Nurse Office Hours starting February 3

Mondays 8:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Tuesdays and Wednesdays
9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Community Blood Center Blood Drive March 9

2:00—6:00 pm at Zion



Tina Ferron from The Community Blood Center will have an informational table display at Zion on Sunday, February 23

8:30 until 10:30am in the Commons.

*Stop by and learn about
blood products and saving lives!*

Memorial Gifts
Dec. 2019—Jan. 2020

*Special gifts “in honor of” or
“in memory of” to:*

Church in Society Fund

By: Jodi & Mike Lawrence
In memory of John Polzin

Endowment Fund

By: Sharon Erickson
In memory of Phil Erickson
By: Laurel Marquardt
In memory of Richard & Lois
Marquardt

By: John & Laurie Peterson
In memory of Jerry Muck

Health Ministry Fund

By: Nancy Schultz
In memory of Bernice Christiansen
By: Mike & Dorothy Eidahl
In memory of Harold Burrack’s
father Harold Burrack Sr.

Worship & Music Fund

By: Ted & Yvonne Wolf
In memory of Harold Burrack’s
father Harold Burrack Sr.

Youth Fund

By: Joanne & Kelvin Olson
In memory of Melvin Weisnicht
By: Mike & Dorothy Eidahl
In memory of Dorothy Sumnicht



**ZLCW
2020
Yearbook
available
on the
information
desk
and on the
literature
stand by
the office.**



**Aluminum Can Collection Bin
behind the garage!**

The Youth would appreciate your
donations—which must be
bagged

☘☘☘ Thank you! ☘☘☘

Dear KOZ Children and Health Ministry Committee,

Thank you Kids of Zion for the unique pencil holder and note at Thanksgiving. It is much appreciated. And thank you Health Ministry for the bright red ornament with Jack’s name. It looked beautiful on my Christmas tree. ~ *Dejon Polzin*

Dear Zion,

Thank you to those who donated items for the Safe Haven Thrivent project! They were taken to the residents with your blessings.

~ *Linda Burrack*

Dear Friends of Crossways,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,500 to Crossways Camping Ministries. Your support in our efforts to equip people of all ages with an experience that will change lives and communities will make a difference for years to come.

~ *Sharon Cook, Executive Director*

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for inviting Food for the Poor to come and be with you. I certainly enjoyed my visit there. Thanks for being an advocate for the poor, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

~ *Rev. Rick Hartmann, Food for the Poor*

Sponsor a worship bulletin

in honor or in memory of someone!



The \$20 sponsorship fee goes into the General Fund to offset the bulletin cost.

Contact the office to reserve your sponsor date!



Car Wash Cards! \$36 for 5-Count

Youth Fundraiser! Ultimate Wash cards will be available from youth and in the church office!

Thank you for supporting Zion's youth!



East Central Synod of Wisconsin’s

EPIC 2020

Equipping People in Congregations

Saturday, March 14 at Zion!

The Annual (EPIC) Event will be held March 14th at Zion Lutheran Church in Shawano. This event features a multitude of different workshops and presenters to help develop and empower lay leadership. This years presenter will be Wisconsin Council of Churches Executive Director Kerri Parker! More information will be coming soon.

Save the date and be sure to attend! Open to all!

Zion's Elected Officers, Council Members, and Committees

President	Mike Eidahl (2021)
Vice-President	Al Wichmann (2022)
Secretary	Carey Grieves (2021)
Treasurer	Gordon Holten (2021)

Council Members:

Church in Society	Tammy Huebner (2021)
Education	Vacancy (2022)
Health Ministry	Ginny Vraney (2021)
Life & Growth	Bobbi Krozell (2022)
Property	Russell Wise (2021)
Stewardship	Scott Glysch (2022)
Worship & Music	Dawn Brock (2021)
Youth	Dan Krone (2022)

Committees:

Endowment Fund	Leigh Welander (2023)
	Dennis Nelson (2023)
	Karen Preston (2022)
	Brian Grieves (2022)
	Mary Ann Rudie (2021)
	Sharon Erickson (2021)
Personnel Comm.	Renee Elertson (2022)
	Matt Heling (2021)
	Nancy Syndergaard (2023)
Homme Home Rep.	Faith Webster (2021)

Zion Lutheran Church
1254 S. Union St., Shawano WI 54166-3461

Rev. Scott Ludford, Senior Pastor
Debbie Bernard, Administrative Assistant
Jill Sousek, Organist and Music Director
Jennifer Greiert, Parish Nurse

Phone: 715-526-2017
E-mail: zion@shawanozion.org
Web site: www.shawanozion.org



E-mail address:

Pastor Scott..... sludford@msn.com
Debbie / Office zion@shawanozion.org
Jennifer Greiert..... nurse@shawanozion.org

*Packers Win!
Packers Win!
Packers Win!*

Pastor Scott
swallows
his pride.



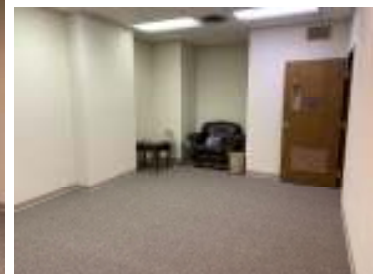
Thanks to you! Parish Nurse Jennifer Greiert and the Health Ministry Committee delivered 60 Advent Food Bags in December!

Eighty ornaments in memory of loved ones decorated the Joy & Remembrance tree this past Christmas.

Room 102 has been refurbished and is now the "Welcoming Room."



Room 102 before...
(with new carpet)



Room 102 after...

