

Focus

Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI

February 2022

The Always God

**A message of hope for an anxious day: God never changes.
He is still here and ready to transform our lives.
What we must ask is if we are ready to respond to him.**

This year's 2022, Midweek Lenten Theme is "*The Always God*." In this Lenten series, we will wrestle with a common feeling: It's easy to wonder if God has just... left. There is a rising sense of uncertainty and turmoil in the world. Our individual lives are often touched by disappointment, confusion, or regret. Sometimes, if we're honest, we can even feel abandoned by God. We have all been there! Thus, we will use this time of worship to engage in our personal doubts and frustrations, and learn how to walk with others through their own anxieties into a better future.

Throughout Scripture, God reveals himself using various names to describe his nature and character. Each tells us something fascinating about his character. The eternal name God chose to use when revealing himself to Moses at the burning bush was "I AM," indicating how, while others change, God does not. Centuries later, Jesus ascribed this title to himself, giving seven distinct "I AM" statements, which help us see how the "I AM" from the past is still the "I AM" today. This unfailing, good nature of the always God helps us find solid footing in a shifting world.

The Always God theme will address giving hope to those who think God has given up on us or is no longer responding. It will invite us to quiet ourselves and listen to the God who does not change or forget us. Not ever! And that changes everything.

Wednesday, March 2
Wednesday, March 9
Wednesday, March 16
Wednesday, March 23
Wednesday, March 30
Wednesday, April 6
Thursday, April 14
Friday, April 15

Ash Wednesday
Always Speaking
Always Hearing
Always Seeing
Always Pursuing
Always Restoring
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday

Focus Text: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Focus Text: Exodus 3:1-15
Focus Text: 2 Kings 19 & 20
Focus Text: 1 Peter 5:6-11
Focus Text: Luke 15
Focus Text: Jeremiah 18:1-6
Focus Text: John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Focus Text: John 8:1-19:42


**SOUPER
BOWL
Sunday**

**February 13
11:30 a.m. at Zion**

Come & enjoy a variety of soups and chili...and
fellowship with Zion youth and families!

Free will offering accepted in support of the
Youth Fund.



Financial Stewardship Update

2022 General Fund
through January.



2022 Annual Budget	\$399,145
General Fund Balance December 31	\$ 2,202
January Contributions	27,240
January Expenses	(32,034)
General Fund Balance Jan. 31	\$ (2,592)

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

Thank you Zion members for your continued support!



The complete 2021 Financial Report is available in the Annual Report. Copies on the literature stand near office.

The Parish Records



Deaths:

† Kenneth A. Wolf December 19, 2021
Memorial service held January 22, 2022.

Baptism:

† Zoe Marie Bartz January 2, 2022
Daughter of Heather & Kyle Bartz
Godparents: Tanya Jacob and Sean Erhardt



Welcome New Members...

Randy & Vicki Brull
N1311 Silver Canoe Road,
Keshena WI 54135
920-757-7000

Happy Birthday



Joy Dalke... 65 on Feb. 13
436 Frances St, Menasha 54952
Stacey Popp... 50 on Feb. 17
N4825 Hwy. 22, Shawano
Randy Brull... 60 on Feb. 19
N1311 Silver Canoe Rd, Keshena 54135
Melody (Krueger) Knight... 50, Feb. 24
317 S Andrews St, Shawano

Happy birthday to 57 others in February!

Our Goggle calendar is available via our website.
You can always stay up-to-date!
www.shawanozion.org



Youth Fundraiser!

Car Wash Cards!
\$36 for 5-Count



Ultimate Wash cards will be available from youth and in the church office!
Thank you for supporting Zion's youth!

Aluminum Can Collection Bin behind the garage!



The Youth would appreciate your donations—which must be bagged—as a fundraiser.

"Need a Lift program"



is in need of volunteers who would be able to provide rides to doctor, therapy, appointments and church for Zion members and friends. We currently have a parishioner that would like a ride to the 10:30am service here at Zion. If interested in volunteering please contact the Parish Nurse at 715-527-2017 or nurse@shawanozion.org.

Zion's Elected Officers, Council Members, and Committees



President	Bob Hass (2024)
Vice-President	Michael Sleeper (2024)
Secretary	Julie Effenberger (2023)
Treasurer	Mike Eidahl (2023)

Council Members:

Church in Society	Vacancy (2024)
Education	Judy Laude (2024)
Health Ministry	Ginny Vraney (2023)
Life & Growth	Vacancy (2024)
Property	Steve Laude (2023)
Stewardship	Keith Milner (2024)
Worship & Music	Nancy Schultz (2023)
Youth	Vacancy (2024)

Committees:

Endowment Fund	Leigh Welander (2023)
	Dennis Nelson (2023)
	Sharon Erickson (2024)
	Karen Preston (2025)
	Renee Elertson (2025)
Personnel Comm.	Nancy Syndergaard (2023)
	Russ Wise (2025)
	Vacancy (2025)
Homme Home Rep.	Mike Boyd (2023)

Please prayerfully consider filling the vacant positions! Contact Pastor Ludford or President Bob Hass. Thank you!



"We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies..."

— Romans 8:22-23

Dear Members and Friends of Zion Lutheran Church,

February is a bridge month, split between the brilliant light of Epiphany and the ensuing descent into Lent. The last burst of Epiphany comes in a mountain-top vision of a transfigured Jesus holding council with Moses and Elijah—stand ins for Israel's covenant and prophetic traditions. Dazzled by the light, the three awestruck disciples who've made the hike with Jesus struggle to understand what it all might mean. Peter finally settles on the idea that they ought to set up tents and stay awhile—*why not let the adoration sink in!* He mistakes the martyr's white Jesus is wearing for party attire.

I don't blame Peter. After all the day-by-day slogging through fear, loss, trauma and disruptions the pandemic has brought upon us for twenty-four months running, I'm eager for a celebration, too! The vaccines and precautions we take are hopefully doing their thing, to slowly turn the tide. But there is no magic by which we will be transported back to our pre-pandemic lives. Even when the road ahead is lined with hope, the losses are real and close at hand; no inoculation can sweep them away. The bridge we cross this month moves us off the stage of luminous light and points us down the hill to the winding road leading to Jerusalem. Over the threshold of that bridge are the words: *"Remember that you are dust*

and to dust you shall return." Never, in this generation, have these words bespoke such truth.

On the Mount of Transfiguration, illumined by such light, one could imagine—as the disciples did, lies hope! Hope is faith in the immutable promise that miracles prevail when the darkness tries to win-out with cries of despair. Hope is a gift from God that helps us yearn, and live a life that believes and moves with the pledge of a better tomorrow. And what's more, hope springs-forth resurrection life, and draws us near to the love of Christ, who is the light of God who walked out from the grave to make the way for everlasting life. For as he did then, God eternal still calls forth despair from the darkness, into his Spirit's resurrection might. For truly, what is this day, if not one that dawns hope eternal, in the glory of Jesus' resurrection light?

Our hope for this life and the next, finally, comes not from any power we have nor attribute we possess, but from trusting that we do not journey alone. You are invited to discover for yourselves these truths in the upcoming midweek Lenten theme (starting Wednesday, March 2): "The Always God." Christ journeys with us in these difficult times; we have each other; and are accompanied by the Spirit *"who intercedes with sighs too deep for words."*

In God's ministry,
Pastor Ludford



Ash Wednesday
March 2, 2022



The season of Lent is approaching soon and knowing how important this time is, we have been planning special ways for you to observe it whether you are worshipping in-person or at home through YouTube.

The first concern is that of Ash Wednesday. The ashes placed on our foreheads on this day are an extraordinarily rich symbol rooted in ancient customs and practices. Ashes, in a Jewish and Christian context suggest judgment and God's condemnation of sin, frailty, our total dependence upon God for life; humiliation; and repentance. Moreover, ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were once used as a cleansing agent in the absence of soap, and on Ash Wednesday the ashes have sometimes been understood as a penitential substitute for water as a sign of Baptism.

We are distributing "Ashes to Go," this year for those who will be worshipping away from church. Individual ash packs (made from palm branches), a prayer card, and instructions will be made available for you to do the imposition of ashes at home. Each pack of ashes serves 4 people and will be available mid-February by picking them up at church or by emailing/calling the office to have them mailed to you.



Compassionate Stewardship

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

Matthew 14:14

“Jesus had *compassion* on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.” (Matthew 20:34)

“...he had *compassion* on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.” (Mark 6:34)

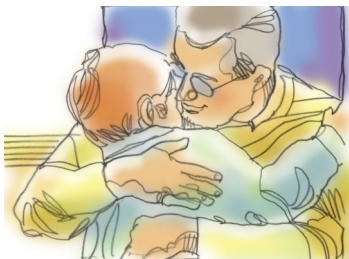
Compassion can often mean kindness and sympathy. In these verses, it means something deeper and much more powerful. “And he had *compassion*” is translated from the Greek, ἐσπλαγγνίσθη and comes from the root word in Greek for “guts.” In other words, it is compassion and concern that are felt in one’s 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 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.

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.

~ Pastor Ludford



God’s Work, Our Hands



Have a special event or anniversary, or would you like to honor someone’s memory?

Chancel flowers

are a wonderful way to share your celebration with our congregation!

A sign-up flower calendar has been posted near the office.

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!



Gifts & Memorials

At Zion you may donate a gift or memorial—or honor someone—by contributing to any of the following funds!

General Fund
Building Fund
Sound/Video Project Fund
Camp Scholarship Fund
Church in Society Fund
Computer Fund
Health Ministry Fund
Library Fund
Music Fund
Park Sound System Fund
Education Fund
Worship Appointments Fund
Undesignated Fund
Youth Fund
Endowment Fund

Make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church.

*Questions?
Contact the church office.*

Memorial Gifts Dec. 2021 - Jan. 2022

Special gifts "in honor of" or "in memory of" to:

Endowment Fund

by Lorin & Winnie Preston
In memory of Marilyn Skatrud and
In memory of Randy Malueg

General Fund

by Bonnie Neumann
In memory of Clyde & Dagner
Olesen

Worship & Music Fund

by Steve & Renee Elertson
In memory of Cliff Elertson
by Dejon Polzin
In memory of Marilyn Skatrud
and Howard Buenting
by Eileen Elertson
In memory of Howard Buenting
and Jill Sousek's grandmother
by Steve & Renee Elertson
In memory of Marge Sperberg
and Jill Sousek's grandmother

In Memory of Pam Bruecker:

- **Church in Society:** *Wee Care*
by Ted & Mary Ann Rudie
- **General Fund**
by Doug & Christie Wegner
- **Health Ministry Fund**
by Bob & Dolly Burdick
- **Music Fund**
by Al & Marge Wichmann
Lorin & Winnie Preston
Randy & Ann Steffen
Steve & Renee Elertson
Hugh Brucker
Harlan & Mary Martin

In Memory of Ken Wolf:

- **Building Fund:**
By Sandra Rhode
- **Church in Society:** *Wee Care*
by Dejon Polzin, Mitzi Moesch
Christie & Doug Wegner, Mike &
Dorothy Eidahl, Eileen Ebelt
Marlene Johnson, Russ & Nancy
Wise, Peggy & Jim Ray
Mila & Joe Waukechon
Tom & Judy Laude, Al & Marge
Wichmann, Rick & Pat Bahr
Darrin & Ronda Peters, Julie
Effenberger, Susan Draper
Nancy Syndergaard, Jerry &
Donna Milbauer, Diane Rugalski
Rosalind & Lynn Bulger
Eileen Elertson, Pete & Mary
Vandepoel, Karen Childs
Ted & Mary Ann Rudie, Terry &
Karen Fusek, Joni Shebuski
Family & Friends
- **General Fund:**
By Ginny & Dick Vraney
June Peters, Bonnie Wolf
Don & Sharon Anderson
- **Health Ministry Fund**
by Harold & Linda Burrack
Family & Friends
- **Park Sound System Fund**
by Diane & Dan Flessert



☙☙ Thank you! ☙☙

Dear Zion Congregation,

Scott & I would like to thank everyone not only for remembering us at Christmas time but also to all those that cared for us when we were sick. There are times when being away from family can be difficult, but when so many of you showered us with help, it seems like we have family right here in Shawano. We are grateful for each and every one of you.

~ Debra & Scott Ludford

Dear Zion,

Thank you for your generous donation of a homemade quilt for Larry's benefit. As well as all the prayers during his treatments. Again, thank you for your generosity..

~ Larry & Dawn Gueths and family



to the Quilters
Zion Lutheran Church Women
In memory of
Pam Bruecker

by
Linda Trevarthen, Karen Childs
Dorothy Eidahl, Ginny Vraney
Marge Wichmann, Donna Davis
Donna Milbauer, Diane Rugalski
Sandra Rhode, Anita Hartman
and Hugh Bruecker



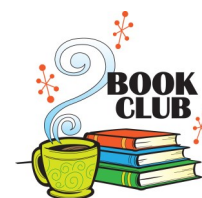
**Volunteers
needed!**
Please sign up
online or
contact the office.
Thank you!

USHERS



Food Pantry
needs nonperishable
food items! Place
them in the food **cup-**
board located near the
Library. *Thank you!*

Book Club's Current Read...



**On February 9
we will discuss**

*The Girl Who
Wrote in Silk*
by Jason F.
Wright.

Club meets the second Wednesday
of each month in the commons at
3:30 p.m. Anyone interested in
reading and discussing the books,
please join us!

Questions? Suggestions? Contact
Joni Shebuski 715-526-6453
or Sharon Erickson 715-524-4280.

From Your Parish Nurse...

2022 American Heart Month

Since 1963, February has been celebrated as American Heart Month to urge Americans to join the battle against heart disease. Since 2004 February also has been the signature month for the American Heart Association's Go Red For Women campaign and the message that heart disease is not only a man's problem.

Heart disease kills an estimated 630,000 American each year. It's the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States, the most common type of heart disease is coronary artery disease (CAD), which can lead to a heart attack. CAD is a buildup of fatty plaques in your arteries (atherosclerosis) from unhealthy lifestyle habits, such as a poor diet, lack of exercise, being overweight and smoking.

Bad cholesterol (also called LDL-C) is cholesterol that collects in the walls of the blood vessels. High bad LDL-C over time raises your risk for heart disease and stroke. Good cholesterol, or HDL-C, on the other hand, carries cholesterol away from the arteries and back to the liver. A healthy good cholesterol level may lower your risk for heart disease and stroke.

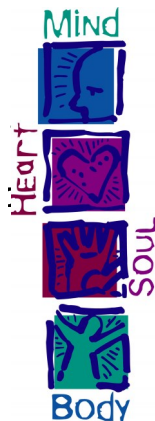
Causes of high bad cholesterol are family history, smoking, obesity, high-fat foods and inactivity. Making better food choices and staying active can

improve your heart health. Eating more fruits and vegetables, whole grains, fish, low-fat dairy, lean meats and good fats can help your heart.

Low-impact activities are a great way to get started on a daily routine. Even 10 minutes of brisk walking a few times a day is proven to be good for your heart. Some healthy activities include Yoga, Strength training, with or without weights, Tennis, Gardening, Bicycling, Swimming and water exercise.

People who have bad cholesterol and having difficulties keeping it low are on a daily pill called a statin, which is proscribed by a physician. To manage your ASCVD and lower your risk of a heart attack or stroke, it is important to go to all follow-up appointments with your doctor and find a support group to stay on track.

February 4, 2022 is the day to wear red to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease and save lives. For more information go to <http://www.speakersfornurses.com> and <https://www.breakthecvdtrend.com>



PROVERBS 4: 23 – Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

~ Jennifer Greiert, Parish Nurse

Health Ministry Committee
will meet via ZOOM and in Room 101
on Monday, Feb. 7 at 12:00 pm.
New members are always welcome!



Visit Zion's Library!

One Perfect Day by Lauraine Snelling is the story of Nora Peterson. Her husband is delayed on a business trip and Nora's nerves are already frayed. Then she gets news of a car accident that will change their lives forever but also those of a family whom they've never met. Jenna Montgomery's daughter, Heather, as suffered from a heart defect most of her life. Heather is 20 years old and still on an organ transplant list. Jenna fears this will be Heather's last Christmas. Then the miracle Jenna has prayed for is instantly fulfilled, restoring Heather to health. While Nora struggles with her grief, Jenna discovers that miracles are always easy to receive.

The Reckoning at Gossamer Pond by Jaime Jo Wright For over a century, the town of Gossamer Grove has thrived on its charm and Midwestern values, but Annalise Forsythe knows painful secrets, including her own, hover just beneath the pleasant façade. Yet her strange and sudden inheritance of a run-down trailer home – full of pictures, vintage obituaries, and old revival posters – leaves her wholly unprepared for how truly dark and deadly those secrets may be. A century earlier, Gossamer Grove is stirred into chaos by the arrival of controversial and charismatic twin revivalists. The chaos takes a murderous turn when Libby Sheffield, while working at her father's newspaper, receives an obituary for a reputable church deacon hours before his death. As she works with the deacon's son to solve the crime, it becomes clear that a reckoning has come to town – but it isn't until another obituary arrives at the paper that they realize the true depths of the danger they've waded into. Two women, separated by a hundred years, must unravel the mysteries of their own town before it's too late and they lose their future – or their very souls.

Open during business hours weekdays,
before & after Saturday evening service and Sunday mornings.



Staff Rejuvenation from Zion!

Thursday, January 13, Zion HMC dropped off some snacks for the ThedaCare Medical Center- Shawano staff rejuvenation room. Apples, Mandarin oranges and granola bars were supplied to show our appreciation and admiration for all they are doing to care for our community every day and especially during these trying times. A note was included to express our thanks.

They were very appreciative of the gift and our thoughtfulness.



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



To connect with our youth visit
[www.facebook.com/
ZionYouthShawano](https://www.facebook.com/ZionYouthShawano)



Thank you Zion for our Bibles! We will read them a lot. We are looking forward to reading about Jesus birth, life and when he rose from the dead. We also look forward to reading the stories of Daniel in the lion's den and the Israelites traveling in the wilderness, along with the psalm written by Moses.

Sincerely, The 3rd & 4th grade Sunday School students

