

Focus

Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI

March 2022



**A
SOUPER
Thank You**



**to all the people
who attended the
Youth's Souper
Bowl Sunday!
You helped the
Youth raise over
\$300.**



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.**

In this year's Midweek Lenten Theme is "*The Always God*" we will wrestle with a common feeling: It's easy to wonder if God has just... left. 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.

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

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

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

**Wednesday
Lenten Services
11:00 a.m.
and
6:00 p.m.**

Financial Stewardship Update

2022 General Fund through February.



2022 Annual Budget	\$399,145
General Fund Balance Jan. 31	\$ (2,592)
February Contributions	21,105
February Expenses	(29,238)
General Fund Balance Feb. 28	\$ (10,724)

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

A Note from the Treasurer: Thank you to all who have given generously to Zion since the beginning of our new year. At the end of February, however, we are seeing a downward trend to our General Fund balance which has fallen to a negative \$10,000. Please prayerfully consider your gifts to Zion as we move through winter into spring.

Thank you Zion members for your continued support!

The Parish Records



Deaths:

- † Steven P. Gregor January 31, 2022
Funeral service held at funeral home Feb. 14.
- † Robert Wayne Little February 14, 2022
Funeral service held at funeral home Feb. 19.

Transfer:

- † Jeff & Jenny Ballwahn
and children Mason & Breah
Transfer to Hope Church, Shawano.



Happy

Jill Kamke... 65 on March 1
N6479 Old Lake Rd, Shawano

Birthday

Debra Ludford... 65 on March 11
1147 S. Union St., Shawano

John Woehler... 70 on March 19
W5440 W. Sandy Dr., Shawano

Dolly Burdick... 70 on March 27
N1423 Silver Canoe Rd., Shawano



Happy birthday to 55 others in March!



Jennifer Greiert,
Zion's Parish Nurse
is celebrating her
70th Birthday
on Saturday, March 26!



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.



Class 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 9

Email the office to register!

Volunteer Needed to be Coordinator of the Dreams of Green Garden.

Call/email the church office if you are interested.



God's Work, Our Hands

Save the Date for VBS: June 6-10



- ✓ Child must have completed 4K-5th grade
- ✓ Registration info coming after Easter
- ✓ Youth & Adult volunteer opportunities





**“But after a while the wadi dried up,
because there was no rain.”**

– 1 Kings 17:7



The prophet Elijah on behalf of God, had just informed King Ahab that

Israel would experience a severe drought. He then retreated to Cherith a wadi east of the Jordan river seeking shelter and safety. The drought would catch up to Elijah as well and in the course of time God would teach him to have a confident dependence on resources outside himself.

That’s a lesson that by no means is easy for any of us to learn, and an education without which none of us would be ready to weather life’s greatest challenges. We would never have the courage to shoulder the responsibilities we should, to set our minds to the questions we ought to think through, to brace ourselves to undergo the ordeals that must be faced, or to take the risks which must be ventured until we know how to say in the language of religion: “Our sufficiency is of God.” The Apostle Paul stated this principle when he wrote: “And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” (2Corinthians 9:8)

For Elijah, his lesson came when his supplies suddenly stopped, “It came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up.” One can imagine the prophet’s anxiety as he watched the trickle of water growing less and less, and his despair when one morning there was none at all; just the parched gravelly bed under a merciless sun. he had settled down beside that brook believing that God would surely care for him there, and the brook was failing him.

This is a familiar experience. In the midst of a spiritually and world we discover a stream of inspiration (our Cherith) and gratefully we live beside it and draw on it, day after day. Sometimes the brook is a friend who stimulates our mind, quickens our conscience, and satisfies our heart. God puts beside us those brooks by the way, of which we drink and lift up our heads.

That brook (our Cherith), is more than a friend, it is a vitalizing teacher. We think of those times at various stages in our life from childhood that have charged our

conscience, awaken our appreciation, and opened up for us insights into new realms. Sometimes the stream is our home, with its confident affection that sends us out with a good heart when we leave it, welcomes us back with a restful compassion, and wherever we are...forms a steady current in our being.

I see our Cherith in the life of the Church in whose fellowship we can find our idealism. In worship services one can find familiar faces of fellow-believers, and phrases of Scripture and hymns with their hallowed associations set flowing heavenly thoughts and feelings and resolves. A place that gives existence a new meaning and lights up the horizon with a vision of what should be. We live with this conception, and day after day it proves sufficient for our mental wants. It is to us a river of God full of water.

The Cherith’s we experience in our lifetime are hardly perfect and they are often a disappointment. If Elijah’s Cherith had kept on flowing, he would have counted on it, and in the course of time God who had brought him there, would have seemed insignificant. The means by which God maintains us are always in danger of becoming barriers shutting us from Him. That is why they are seldom permanent. Broken friendships, teachers outgrown, books exhausted, work that grows stale, loved ones removed, interpretations of existence that cease to satisfy – these are God’s ways of renewing our sense of need for Him and sending us off to fresh quests.

Rarely do we find without seeking. Unless we are asking God for something, it appears that He is not there for us. We can learn from Elijah that in the world you and I live in there are going to be times that are hard disappointing and almost impossible to live through. Times that our loved Cherith dries up, but it is also the occasions that God grants us more access to Himself with whom is the fountain of life. God never deprives us of an inspiration but that He may replace it with another. And in the development of our spirits, God’s other is always better.

In God’s ministry,
Pastor Ludford



Monday, April 4
2:00 - 5:30 pm
Community Blood Center
will be at Zion
*You can donate whole blood
every 56 days!*



Relay for Life
Saturday, April 9
9am—3pm
at Shawano High School
Interested? Contact Kathy Beyer
715-853-2464



Stewardship Message

Years from now, if I'm asked, "Pastor what lessons did you learn during 'The Great Pandemic?'" I will want to share that it was a time of dramatic disruption and ongoing uncertainty, that COVID-19 took thousands of lives, requiring social distancing that upended the global economy, and prevented us from coming together in response to the crisis, as we ordinarily would.

The challenges to our faith and religious practice were very real. Overnight, all of our ways of being a congregation had been paused, discontinued, or rearranged. Meetings, pastoral care, and worship were all conducted remotely, online or at a distance outside, and we isolate in our homes for great periods of time. Every day we read or heard about people who are sick, dying, or vulnerable, as well as about the sacrifices made by healthcare workers and those in other essential professions who enabled a large-scale response to this emergency.

Amongst the things we wrestled with was how to be faithful stewards in a season of uncertainty? We wanted to know how one is to have faith in times like this. How could our living in the world, which leaves us hungry or furious or gasping for breath, be an expression of faithfulness that honors God's care for us, without relying on our own understanding? Was this to be a privilege of only those who have enough safety net, in their personal lives or in their financial reserves, or could we all consider the challenge of faithful stewardship in uncertain circumstances?

We ultimately learned to be faithful because God was faithful to us first. When we saw that faithful stewardship, was paying attention to the ways that we could respond to God's generous love for us with thoughtful, responsible care for all that God had entrusted to us, we grew stronger as a faith community. We invested our time, our labor, our resources, and our spirit to God's ministry. In times of change and uncertainty it stretched our imagination and taught us patience, endurance, and sacrifice.

As a congregation we learned to be dynamic and responsive to external challenges, recognizing the opportunity in difficulty, and opening us to the gifts of the season. In this sense, we learned that stewardship is not primarily a strategy, or a marketing plan, even if it calls us to new practices. Online worship, emailed bulletins, Zoom-meetings, drop-box and electronic apps instead of offering plates might feel tactical, but they became a holy expression of our faithfulness in a time of change. Faithful stewardship in a time of uncertainty allowed us the time and freedom to discern the purpose God has for every aspect of our lives, and to encourage our communities and institutions to do the same.

The pandemic brought catastrophe, disorientation, and death into our lives. Yet, we could easily see that a lack of faithful stewardship would lead to suffering. That we fought against selfishness that could follow from our fears. The writer of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, stated that God has a purpose for every season, and in the times of grief and change that we have lived through, responding to God with faithful stewardship has meant that we contended with many questions. That the work of discernment and listening to God is itself faithful stewardship!

~ Pastor Ludford



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.

From Your Parish Nurse...

2022 March is National Nutrition Month

March is a great time for a healthy focus, after the long winter is almost over. At the beginning of spring-time this month is often the time when people feel that the winter is ending, the sun beginning to shine and hope is beginning to rise.

With this in mind, March has been declared National Nutrition Month. During National Nutrition Month the Academy encourages everyone to make informed food choices and develop sound eating and physical activity habits they can follow all year long. The Academy encourages seeking the advice of a registered dietitian nutritionists. They can help develop individualized eating and activity plans to meet people's health goals.

Nutrition is the study of nutrients in food, how the body uses them, and the relationship between diet, health disease. Nutritionists use ideas from molecular biology, biochemistry, and genetics to understand how nutrients affect the human body.

Nutrition also focuses on how people can use dietary choices to reduce the risk of disease, what happens if a person has too much or too little of a nutrient, and how allergies work.

Nutrients provide nourishment. Proteins, carbohydrates, fat, vitamins, minerals, fiber, and water are all nutrients. If people do not have the right balance of nutrients in their diet, their risk of developing certain health conditions increases.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics identified what a healthy weight loss plan really looks like. For individuals looking to lose weight, following a very low-calorie diet may result in rapid weight loss in the short term, but slow and steady wins the weight loss race. The most successful weight loss plans combine diet, exercise and behavioral therapy. Talking to a registered nutritionist is a good first step.

Every person has a different situation, so the approach to losing weight depends on the individual. The first step is to identify what's going on and make changes. Keeping track and self-monitoring meals show more weight loss and keeping it off.

Healthful eating has many health benefits, such as reducing the risks of heart disease, stroke, obesity, and type 2 diabetes. It can also boost a person's mood and provide a person with more energy. A doctor or dietitian can provide tips on eating a more healthful diet. For more information on Nutrition go to <https://nationaltoday.com> and <https://www.medicinewstoday.com>.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31 So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

~ Jennifer Greiert, Parish Nurse



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



God's Work, Our Hands



"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the..."

Help Fill Our Cupboard!



Food Pantry Needs

Church in Society is asking the congregation to support SAFFARC and "fill the cupboard."

The cupboard is located in the Commons.

Pork & beans, kidney beans, tuna, cereal, tomato sauce, mac 'n cheese, hearty soups, peanut butter and a special call for ketchup and mustard.

Please bring a non-perishable food item to help feed God's people!

SAFFARC is also in need of paper grocery bags.

Zion's Prayer Chain



If you have a telephone prayer chain request, please call Co-Chairs, Winnie Preston 715-851-9576 or Eileen Ellertson 715-526-3500.

☪☪ Thank you! ☪☪

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for supporting all our WIC families this past year with diapers and handmade blankets. We appreciated all your support!

~ Ann, Amanda, Marianne
Shawano WIC Program

Dear Friends of Crossways,

What a joy it was to receive your gift to Crossways! Your ongoing support of camping ministry reminds me how much our ministries are woven together. I will be lifting you in prayer today. Your gift will help campers discover and deepen their faith! It will give summer staff training, it will repair and maintain our facilities, and it will share the message of camp beyond the walls of our congregations, so that we might reach more young people with the message of God's love. Thank you!

~ Sharon L.S. Cook, Executive Director
Crossways Camping Ministries

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the residents and staff of LSS and Homme, we would like to thank you for the Operation Christmas gifts and money for the Homme Youth and Family Programs. We are so grateful for your support of our services! Thank you for your generous donation and our Blessings to all!

~ Doreen Korbisch, Admin. Assist.
LSS Homme Youth & Family Programs



Collecting Personal Care Kits during Lent!



This year during Lent Zion Lutheran Church Women (ZLCW) would like to provide this opportunity for all members of Zion to contribute to Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR).

Personal Care Kits guidelines:

- Give **new items** only.
- Do not donate items that have any religious symbols, messages or Zion's name on any item.
- Do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

The items needed for **each** Kit:

- One (1) light-weight bath-size towel (20"x40" to 52"x27").
Dark color recommended
- Two (2) or three (3) bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping, no mini or hotel size bars
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- One sturdy comb (no picks or fine-toothed combs)
- One metal nail clippers (attached file optional)

A plastic container is under the bulletin board near the elevator for your donated items.

Thank you for your contributions to this worth-while cause.

Memorial Gifts February 2022

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

Church in Society Fund Wee Care
by Mike & Dorothy Eidahl
In memory of Robert W. Little

In Memory of Jill Sousek's grandmother Marge Sperberg:

- **Music Fund**
by Lorin & Winnie Preston
Al & Marge Wichmann

In Memory of Ken Wolf:

- **Church in Society: Wee Care**
by Fred & Kathy Beyer
Mary Rades
Tom & Faith Webster

In Memory of Howard Buenting:

- **Music Fund**
by Al & Marge Wichmann
Bonnie Wolf, Eileen Ebert
Peggy Ray
- **Youth Fund**
by Mike & Dorothy Eidahl

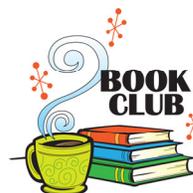


Howard Buenting

Nov. 3, 1932 - Jan. 15, 2022

Memorial Service
Saturday, April 2 at Zion
Visitation 12:30-2:00 pm
Service 2:00 pm

Book Club's Current Read...



**On March 9 we
will discuss**

***The Man Who
Died Twice***
by
Richard Osman

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.

Visit Zion's Library!

Isaiah's Daughter by Mesu Andrews. The Hebrews are a divided nation. Israel in the north – ten tribes strong – has bowed to pagan worship. In Judah's tow tribes, an evil king mocks King David's legacy while a remnant of Yahweh's faithful cling desperately to their one true God. Caught in the middle of the warring is an orphaned girl named Ishma – meaning "desolation." Ishma enters the prophet Isaiah's home as a household servant, but her quick mind and lively spirit gain the friendship of Prince Hezekiah. When Isaiah sees their relationship mature, he adopts Ishma, giving her a royal pedigree and a new name. Ishma becomes Hephzibah – "delight of the Lord" – and the desolate captive becomes Judah's queen. Will palace lead to freedom from her past? Or can she trust everything to the only One who gives life and delivers both a captive heart and a desperate nation?

Of Fire and Lions by Mesu Andrews. Belili wears her children's disdain like a heavy cloak. The weight of their contempt threatens to crush her spirit, but she has perfected the art of survival. She's kept secrets from Daniel, her childhood friend and the love of her life, but as the Medo-Persian army invades, the thread of Belili's deception unravels and her tightly wound secrets begin to unfurl. Belili will do anything to keep her family safe even though each step leads them closer to the truth. Will the God who rescued Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego save her husband and replace her spirit of heaviness with a garment of praise?

Smoke Screen by Terry Blackstock. Fourteen years ago, Nate Beckett was in love with the preacher's daughter, Brenna. Pastor Strickland and Nate's drunken dad had a loud and very public fight. Strickland was found murdered later that night, and everyone accused Nate's dad. When the church burned down not long after, people assumed Nate set the fire to get even. He let the rumors fly and left town without looking back. Brenna learns the man convicted of murdering her father has been pardoned. The events of that night set her life on a bad course, and now she's fighting a heated custody battle with her ex and his new wife. Brenna is barely hanging on, and she's turned to alcohol to cope. As Nate and Brenna deal with the present – including new information about that fateful night and a wildfire that's threatening their town – the past keeps igniting. Nate is the steady force Brenna has so desperately needed. But she'll have to learn to trust him again.

The Decision Book One Prairie State Friends by Wanda E. Brunstetter. Jonah Miller was left at the altar by the love of his life. To leave heartbreak behind he moves from Pennsylvania to Illinois, settling into a new Amish community. He courts Elaine Schrock, who works with her grandmother to host dinners for tourists. But when her grandfather suddenly dies and her grandmother – her only living relative – slips into dementia, Elaine ignores her growing love for Jonah and sets him free. Is God calling him to remain single, or does He have a different plan for the lonely Amish man?

The Gift Book Two Prairie State Friends by Wanda E. Brunstetter. Leah Mast and her family have always considered her to have a healing touch and a special gift for reflexology. But others say the very idea of curing people of illness through their feet is absurd. Adam Beachy is one of those scoffers, even though his own mother used to practice reflexology. She left the Amish faith, leaving his father to raise Adam and his sister alone. Now Adam mocks reflexology and balks at the idea of ever marrying and starting a family of his own. When tragedy strikes, Adam is suddenly a father figure to his nieces. He finds himself needing a wife – immediately. Despite their differences, Leah seems the best option to fill that role. Can they find peace and love in a modern-day marriage of convenience?

The Restoration Book Three Prairie State Friends by Wanda E. Brunstetter. Priscilla Herschberger and Elam Gingerich have been courting for a while, but a marriage proposal seems to be in the distant future. David Morgan, an outsider raised in the modern world, often visits his grandparents in the area. He and Priscilla become fast friends, and David starts to research more about the Amish faith. Elam would do almost anything to convince Priscilla that David would never fit into the Amish way. Then on the eve of Elam's planned proposal, a tragedy occurs. Who will ultimately win Priscilla's scarred heart?

The Timepiece by Beverly Lewis. Sylvia Miller has always held a special place in her Old Order family, one Adeline Pelham jeopardizes when she unexpectedly shows up in Hickory Hollow. Adeline's very existence is a reminder of the painful secret that has so recently upended the Miller household, making this a challenging time to welcome an Englisher – especially this Englisher – into their midst. Can God bring something good out of the mistakes of the past?

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





A BIG Thank You to all who have donated to the Wee Care program! The children greatly appreciate your continuing support!



Food is ready for bagging!



Brynlee Ray and Ainsley Schmidt pack food bags.



Thank you for the donated plastic bags!

Filled totes ready to be delivered to schools.

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

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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/](http://www.facebook.com/ZionYouthShawano)
ZionYouthShawano



THE COMMUNITY BLOOD CENTER
connecting lives | sharing life

Monday, April 4 ~ 2:00 - 5:30 pm
Donate Blood at Zion
in the Commons.

To schedule your life saving appointment
call 800-280-4102.

Or you may also visit communityblood.org,
select "Donate Now."

Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. Because there is no substitute for blood products, patients rely on businesses and organizations to sponsor blood drives. One pint of blood can save up to 3 lives! Blood donation is a quick, simple and amazing way to give back to your community.

You can donate whole blood every 56 days!

Please consider supporting Zion Lutheran Church Blood Drive. Thank You!

Sponsored by the Health Ministry Committee.