

Focus

Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI

February 2023



Mid-week Lenten Theme

Servant-Leadership in Today's World

will focus on how Jesus in His instructions to His first disciples on how they were to lead, set an example for us to live by.

We will explore and apply Biblical principles that will be beneficial not only in our congregation life together, but every aspect of our lives.

Join us Wednesdays at
11:00am & 6:00pm
starting
Ash Wednesday, February 22
for communion
and imposition of ashes.



SOUPER BOWL Sunday

February 12
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.



Financial Stewardship Update



2023 General Fund through January.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2023 Annual Budget | \$364,550 |
| General Fund Balance Dec. 31 | \$ (1,000) |
| January Contributions | 28,128 |
| January Expenses | <u>(34,344)</u> |
| General Fund Balance Jan. 31 | \$ (7,216) |

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

A Note from the Treasurer: Thank you Zion members for a great 2022. As we begin 2023, January left us with a negative \$7,000 for the General Fund. We need to be looking to bring in about \$7,500 per week in this fund to keep up with expenses.

Thank you Zion members for your continued support of Zion's ministries.

Electronic Giving



Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account! Offering you convenience and much-needed consistency for our congregation.

An authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available at the Church Office or www.shawanozion.org.

 **Sugar Cookie Cookies**

Cookie of the Month Sale
Feb. 18 & 19 \$6 doz.



Baked by the Wee Care Cookie Elves!



Zion's "STELLAR" Vacation Bible School will be held
Mon.-Fri., July 17 - 21
9:00am - 12:00pm

for children currently in 4K - 5th grade.

Adult and youth volunteers are needed.

Watch for more details!



The Parish Records



Deaths:

- † Kathy Bruhn December 3, 2022
Celebration of Life date to be determined.
- † Marguerite R. "Mitzi" Moesch Dec. 10, 2022
Funeral service held at Zion on Jan. 14, 2023.
- † Robert S. Schroeder January 16
Memorial service held at funeral home Jan. 20.

Baptisms:

- † Jaire Darrell Stewart December 25, 2022
Parents: Jeffrey D. Stewart and Chakendria N. Robertson
Sponsor: Amber McKinney
- † Dax Henry Anschutz January 1
Parents: Adam M. & Hilary C. Anschutz
Sponsors: Matthew Schinderle and Emily Anschutz



New Member Transferred In:

- † Susan K. Scheinert Jan. 10, 2023
Transfer from Sacred Heart, Shawano.



Transferred Out by Request:

- † Herman & Barbara Jung
To St. John's Lutheran Church, LCMS, Shawano



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!

Become a "Friendly Visitor"

Come join, experience the rewards of providing this ministry!

Some of our Friendly Visitors are snow birds!
New visitors are always welcome.

Friendly Visitor Meeting
Tuesday, February 14
10:00 a.m. ~ Library



Happy Birthday



Steve Laude... 35 on Feb. 17
N5598 Lakeview Rd, Bonduel 54107

Rod Christensen... 65 on Feb. 21
14293 Helen Ln, Mountain 54149

Randall Luepke... 75 on Feb. 23
W7157 Campfire Rd, Shawano

Happy birthday to 58 others in February!



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

-Romans 15:13

The Apostle Paul, by 58 AD, thought that his mission work was completed. Now only one thing remained, going to Jerusalem

to deliver funds collected from his churches, as agreed at the Jerusalem council a decade before. Before leaving Greece, he dictated a letter to the Church in Rome what we know as the book of “Romans.” Because of his foreboding about his reception in Jerusalem, he asked the recipients of this letter to support him with prayer; he also hinted that he would welcome their financial support for his work in Spain.

What impresses me is that these had to be trying times for the early church and for what Paul was attempting to accomplish, and yet he conveys so much hope and joy to those he was ministering to. The Holy Spirit had helped Paul to find an inner peace that sustained him through these dark and uncertain days of his life. Tensions were building in Jerusalem, in the Spring of 66 AD, the Jews of Judea began a full-scale rebellion against Rome. Six years later an estimated 600,000 Jews would die in this uprising and Jerusalem along with the Temple would be raised to the ground by the Romans.

Out of great hardships and persecution, the early Christian church treasured Paul’s words and drew strength from them. The Holy Spirit would raise up leaders who would serve God’s people, and from this, God’s Word would find root to grow the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the generations. We at Zion Lutheran Church are a part of that rich history! The Holy Spirit that inspired the early church, is the same Spirit that guides us as we look to add our part to this rich legacy.

This upcoming mid-week Lenten theme will focus on how Jesus in His instructions to His first disciples on how they were to lead, set an example for us to live by. Entitled, *Servant-Leadership in Today’s World*, we

will explore and apply Biblical principles that will be beneficial not only in our congregation life together, but every aspect of our lives.

What is servant-leadership? The simplest answer, “it is caring for others, the more able and the less able caring for each other.” An example might be those who serve on the church council, endowment fund and personnel committees, and our representatives to Crossways and Homme Home ministries. In their own rites they are leaders. They are individuals we have selected as fellow members of Zion to lead and make decisions. What they do will affect the life of our congregation. They have agreed and accepted that challenge. For that they should be respected and honored by all of us in this congregation. Their leadership is important.

But as followers of Jesus, they are called to be a different kind of leader. Jesus knew he was teaching us something that seems out of place. He showed by example, that a servant-leader is a leader that first serves. They lead by serving. This role is not limited to those mentioned above, but to all of us, in every aspect of our lives. To be a leader in a New Testament church means recognizing that we are not our own masters. That a servant-leader is first a servant to Jesus.

The premise of this series is, if we serve one another in Christ and build each other up through encouragement and guidance in the Word, then others will be equipped and enabled to minister. And, if we serve those who are non-believers, then we can show them the love of Christ through action and deed, and allow them to see that Christians are indeed a peculiar people; resulting in them wanting to know more about our Savior.

I look forward to walking through the weeks of Lent with you and experiencing where the Word of God takes us.

In God’s ministry,
Pastor Ludford



Dear Congregation,

Many things have happened since our last newsletter and I’ve been spending a lot of time lately thinking. I remember how welcoming you were when Debra and I came to Shawano. It’s always a bit sad when you leave one congregation to serve another, but you made that transition so much easier by your thoughtfulness and kindness through these seven and a half years. I remember all the baptisms, weddings, confirmation/graduation celebrations, and funerals we have been invited to be a part of. Through these past years Debra and I have been honored to be with you in the various church functions, worship and representing Zion in the community.

Today, both of us are simply writing to say thank you! Thank you for remembering my 35 years of ordination; thank you for including us in your family gatherings as though we are a part of you; thank you for remembering us with gifts and cards this past Christmas and thank you for your prayers these past years. We are continually humbled by your compassion, generosity, and willingness to serve. We can only hope that we have inspired all of you as much as you have inspired us.

With much love and gratitude, Scott & Debra Ludford



From Health Ministry Committee...

A big THANK YOU to all who donated to the gift collection this holiday for the boys in the Homme Youth and Family program. Your generosity was overwhelming and certainly made the holidays brighter for these young boys.

There are two Homme Homes in Wittenberg, and both are under the umbrella of Lutheran Social Services but are otherwise unconnected. The Homme Youth & Family Programs originally opened in 1882 when Pastor E.J. Homme opened a home for orphaned children in Wittenberg. These roots of care have served as the blueprint for all LSS services for the past 140 years.

Today, Homme's residential treatment center continues to welcome and serve male youth and adolescents who are traumatized, struggling or are in danger of entering the adult criminal justice system. The boys are welcome with care, compassion, and a promise to help them change their lives. The program treats all troubled youth who walk through their doors as infinitely valuable individuals.

They can accommodate 20-25 boys from ages 10-17. Currently the youngest boy there is 12 years old. They have a combo Jr./Sr. school onsite. The boys are re-

ferred to the program by county social services. Average stay is 9 mos. - 1 year. About half the boys were previously in foster care or group homes. Many of the children are victims of sexual abuse and some have become sex offenders themselves. The goal of the youth program is to bring stability, engagement, and connections, so they can live their best lives possible and be assets to the community.

About half of the boys go home for the weekend over the holidays, the other half stay onsite. They have a nice chapel there and there are Christmas services by a pastor who comes in.

We hope the gifts donated by our Zion congregation and through the generosity of our Thrivent grant, helped bring some joy into these boys' lives. Please lift them up in prayer, that they may know the love of Christ and the hope He offers.

For more information <https://www.lsswis.org/service/children-and-families/youth-residential/>

~ Zion's Health Ministry Committee

**Health Ministry Committee meets
on Monday, February 6 at 12 pm.**
New members are always welcome!



Visit Zion's Library!

The Painted Castle *A Lost Castle Novel* by Kristy Cambron. Art historian Keira Foley is hired to authenticate a painting at a centuries-old East Suffolk manor and begins working alongside rumored art thief Emory Scott, she's left with far more questions than answers. Could this lost painting of Queen Victoria? As Keira begins to unravel the mystery behind the portrait, two women emerge from the estate's forgotten past. Set in three time periods – the rapid change of Victorian England, the peak of England's home-front tensions at the end of WWII, and modern day – *The Painted Castle* unfolds a story of heartache and hope and unlocks secrets lost for generations just waiting to be found.

Apples of God in Vessels of Silver by Lady Victoria was written to encourage teachers, fulfill the student, strengthen the parents, and honor the Lord. The title for the book comes from Proverbs 25:11 "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." The book focuses on The Value of Wisdom: Proverbs 8; The Value of Counsel: Proverbs 7; and The Value of Money: Psalm 49. A help to all parents, teachers, and grandparents who have the best interest of a child they are committed to.

A Thorny Plot by Catherine Dilts. *A Secrets of the Castleton Manor Library*. The upscale literary retreat provides the perfect backdrop for the Hidden Treasures Literary and Gardening Retreat as authors, gardening enthusiasts, and horticulturists descend. Faith welcomes her parents and prepares for her wedding to Wolfe Jaxon, co-owner of the manor. When one of the guests dies, Faith and her friends investigate to solve the murder. How far will someone go to bury the truth?

The Decision by Wanda E. Brunstetter. *Prairie State Friends Book One*. By a strange turn of events, Jonah Miller was left at the altar by the love of his life. He hopes to leave heartbreak behind when he moves to Illinois, settling into a new Amish community as a buggy maker. He starts to court Elaine Schrock. But her grandfather dies and her grandmother slips into dementia, Elaine ignores her growing love for Jonah and sets him. Jonah is sure he won't find love a third time. Is God calling him to remain single, or does He have a different plan for the lonely Amish man?

The Florence Legacy by Lauraine Snelling. A novel of friendship, grief, and travel gone awry. As the last will of a close friend is read, three women discover that they have inherited a legacy from her: the funds to take a dream trip to Florence, Italy, in her memory. With plenty of hilarious travel mishaps along the way, this book is a story of deep friendship, of making room in our lives for celebration and remembering, and of the sweetness of unexpected romance.

Open during business hours weekdays and Sunday mornings.



Memorial Gifts December & January

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

General Fund

by Ted & Mary Ann Rudie

In memory of Sally Jones mother.

In Memory of Kathy Bruhn:

- **Church in Society: Wee Care**
by Ted & Mary Ann Rudie
- **Music Fund:**
by Steve & Renee Elertson

In Memory of Mitzi Moesch:

- **Church in Society: Wee Care**
by Sharrie Schweitzer
Ted & Mary Ann Rudie
Mike & Dorothy Eidahl
Doug & Christie Wegner
Steve & Renee Elertson
Bonnie Wolf, Sandra Rhode
Deborah & Jonathon Halverson
Amy Slagler & Bruce Denny
Peggy Ray, Ronald Thornton
Guido & Ruth Ann Furloni
Lon & Ellen Swedberg
Richard & Judy Pahlow
Lorin & Winnie Preston
Jerry & Donna Milbauer
Dejon Polzin, Karen Childs
Eileen Ebel, Ginny Vraney
Bob & Kathy Johnson
Bob & Lynn Didier
Cline-Hanson Funeral Home

Aluminum Can Collection Bin behind the garage!

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



Book Club's Current Read...

On February 8
we'll discuss

The Maid by Nita Prose
and

The Girl in His Shadow
by Audrey Blake

Club meets in the commons at 3:30 p.m. Interested in reading and discussing the books, please join us!

Questions? Contact Joni Shebuski
715-526-6453.

~~~~ Thank you! ~~~~

Howdy All,

Thank you for the extremely generous scholarship towards my education at UW-Stout this year. The funds helped me to be able to afford my tuition for both semesters, and for that I am extremely grateful. Once again, thank you to the church for the very generous scholarship!

~ Calvin Schultz

Dear Zion Family,

I wish to thank all of you for your concern & prayers for my grandson James Nelson during his year-long bout with ulcerative colitis & 3 surgeries. The final surgery took place a few weeks ago, & he is recovering well. He will now be able to get back to full time classes at college. It is through our struggles that we find our faith gives us the courage & strength to heal & go forward.

~ Sandy Rhode & Family

Dear Members of Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the gifts that were given to Homme Youth and Family Programs to bless our boys this past Christmas. There were many smiling faces as they opened their presents - some who without your generosity would have received very little.

Our chapel and residential units looked so nice this year with the boys decorating their bedroom doors along with the lights and Christmas tree made the season a blessing. Our Christmas Eve service was a hit with many of the guys putting on a Christmas presentation with a play and songs. Again, thank you for being such a blessing to our youth.

~ Stephana Andres, Unit Supervisor  
Homme Youth and Family Programs  
Wittenberg WI



### Zion's Quilters are Collecting Personal Care Kits Supplies during Lent!



Each year as the quilters are busy every Tuesday making quilts to send to Lutheran World Relief (LWR), we also gather supplies to make Personal Care Kits to send there also. In October 2022 we were able to assemble 40 Personal Care Kits with your help. Thank you!

The supplies needed for **each** Kit:

- One (1) light-weight bath-size towel (20"x40" to 52"x27").
- 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. There are many different types of hair texture, so no picks or fine-toothed combs. Remove packaging.
- One metal nail clippers (attached file optional). Remove packaging.



**LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF**

A tote is under the bulletin board next to the elevator for your donated items.

**Thank you for your help in providing these items for those who have lost their homes, or resettled in a refugee camp.**

Questions? Contact Karen Childs at 715-526-2445 or  
Dorothy Eidahl at 715-526-2650.

**Zion's Elected Officers,  
Council Members,  
and Committees**



President Bob Hass (2024)  
 Vice-President Michael Sleeper (2024)  
 Secretary Julie Effenberger (2025)  
 Treasurer Mike Eidahl (2025)

*Council Members:*

Church in Society Vacant (2024)  
 Education Judy Laude (2024)  
 Health Ministry Karen Fusek (2025)  
 Life & Growth Bobbi Krozell (2025)  
 Property Tom Laude (2025)  
 Stewardship Keith Milner (2024)  
 Worship & Music Nancy Schultz (2025)  
 Youth & Family Curt Preston (2025)

*Committees:*

Endowment Fund Sharon Erickson (2024)  
 Karen Preston (2025)  
 Renee Elertson (2025)  
 Leigh Welander (2026)  
 Dennis Nelson (2026)

Personnel Comm. Matt Heling (2024)  
 Russ Wise (2025)  
 Renee Elertson (2026)  
 Council Rep. Mike Eidahl

Homme Home Rep. Al Wichmann (2023)  
 Crossways Camping Rep. Mary Ann Rudie (2023)

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

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

715-526-2017

zion@shawanozion.org

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Pastor Scott.....sludford@msn.com

Debbie / Office ....zion@shawanozion.org



*Wee Care Cookie Elves at work!*

A giant thank you to our Zion Church family and friends for your support of the Wee Care Back Pack Food Program. The Ranger cookie sales in January netted \$600 which is enough to purchase 10 weeks of cereal bowls which is one of the items in the food bags. Your past and continued support is so important as our total weekly bag count has just increased to a whopping 87. The need to feed the children of our community is increasing and you have definitely stepped up to the plate to alleviate their hunger. Well done!!

***Now the elves need your input.*** Should we continue with the cookie sales? If so, should it be monthly or less often? Is there something you want to see featured? Talk to a Wee Care Elf and let her know your thoughts and suggestions. Thank you again on behalf of the children.

**“Melt in Your Mouth”  
Sugar Cookies  
February 18 & 19.**



**Relay for Life  
Launch Party  
Monday, February 6  
6:00—7:00 pm**

The 2023 American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Shawano-Menominee Launch Party will be held **at Shawano County Library** (lower level).

Come learn more about the Shawano-Menominee Relay for Life, how you can get involved, and what's new for 2023! Please stop in for a bit or stay the whole time. You can register for the event, sign up to help, grab luminaria forms, and more! Team Captains, team members, and participants are welcome!

[www.relayforlife.org/shawano-menomineewi](http://www.relayforlife.org/shawano-menomineewi)

***Register as a team, survivor, or individual  
and join us for a fun-filled family event!***