

Focus

Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI

March/April 2023



ZLCW
Silent Auction
of Baskets
April 22 - 30

We look forward to the friendly bidding in support of this fundraiser!



Consider helping by making a basket for our upcoming Silent Auction!



Baskets of puppies not accepted!

Contact
Mila Waukechon
715-853-7787
or
Karen Childs
715-526-2445

Holy Week Schedule

April 6, Maundy Thursday:
Holy Communion 6:00* p.m.

April 7 Good Friday:
Service of Word and Prayer
1:00 p.m. and 6:00* p.m.

April 8, No Saturday evening service!

April 9, Easter Sunday
The Resurrection of our Lord:
Festival Holy Communion
8:00* and 10:30 a.m.

**Service will be live-streamed, then available online.*



*The Community
Blood Center
will be at Zion!*

Monday, April 24
1:30pm – 5:30pm

Call 800-280-4102
or visit
communityblood.org/donor

Easter Flowers Order deadline:
Monday, March 20.

To memorialize or to honor someone with a plant, please fill out an order form found on the literature stand and on our website!

Attach your check made out to Zion Lutheran Church, drop it in the offering plate or at the church office.

\$20 Each...

Easter Lily

Mum Plant

Kalanchoe Plant



Financial Stewardship Update



2023 General Fund through February.

2023 Annual Budget	\$364,550
General Fund Balance Jan. 31	\$ (7,216)
February Contributions	24,127
February Expenses	(30,463)
General Fund Balance Feb. 28	\$ (13,553)

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

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

Retiring Remembrance!

On January 31, 2023, Jennifer Greiert retired as Zion's Parish Nurse. We wish to thank Jennifer for meeting the health needs of Zion's congregation. To that end, Jennifer was given a \$400 gift card for a weekend at the Kohler health spa as a gift from the congregation.



We wish Jennifer good health as she enjoys retirement.



Cookie of the Month Sale
April 15 & 16 \$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:

- † Norman Davis February 28, 2023
Celebration of Life held at Zion March 9.
- † Dorothy Hagemann March 6, 2023
Funeral service held at Zion on March 14.

Baptisms:

- † Daphne Athena Sleeper February 26, 2023
Parents: Dylan C.N. & Bailey K.M. Sleeper
Sponsor: Emily A. Drane and Connor D. Neumann Sleeper



New Member by Reaffirmation of Faith:

- † Harriet Villarreal
303 Madison Way Apt 6, Shawano



Transferred Out by Request:

- † Lisa Lorbiecki
To Peace Lutheran Church ELCA, Green Bay

Michael Montour... 69 on Mar. 16
916 S Lincoln St, Shawano

Peggy Woehler... 69 on Mar. 28
W5440 W Sandy Drive, Shawano

Gary Dalke... 65 on Apr. 2
N7585 Lovers Lane, Gresham

Vicki Brull... 65 on Apr. 11
N1311 Silver Canoe Rd, Keshena

Pamela Anhalt... 65 on Apr. 27
217 S Franklin St, Shawano

Happy Birthday



Happy birthday to 57 others in March and 61 in April!

DIAPER DRIVE MARCH 19 - APRIL 23



The Health Ministry Committee is sponsoring this diaper drive!

Please help us fill the box in the narthex with baby diapers sizes newborn through size 7.

The diapers will be going to the Snuggled with a Hug Diaper Bank which supports families that are struggling financially to purchase diapers. The diaper bank currently has 77 families enrolled in the program here in the Shawano area.

Thank you for your support!



United Way of Shawano County
Diaper Bank

OPEN... 1st Tuesday of month - 4:00-6:00pm
3rd Saturday of month - 10:00am - 12:00pm

Located at the First Presbyterian Church
on Main & Presbyterian Streets.





“Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen.”

- Matthew 28:5-6

Someone once said, “I don’t like surprises. I am afraid of them because surprises are either too good to believe, or too bad to accept.” Like them or not, surprises are inevitable in this world. God gives us some surprises throughout our lives. Abraham was surprised by three visitors while he was resting under a tree (Gen 18) and was surprised to hear that he was going to have a child at the age of 100. Moses was in the desert when he found God in a burning bush. Mary and Joseph were surprised by the visit of angel to tell them that they are going to be the parents of the savior of the world.

The one consistent element in the gospel accounts of that first Easter morning that we are journeying towards, is that everyone was surprised. No one expected an empty tomb, much less the presence of the risen Christ.

The women who came to the tomb had good reason to be surprised. They had watched Jesus die. Those women stood by the cross and watched as his body was removed from the cross and taken away for burial. They had followed Joseph to the tomb. They had heard the heavy thud of the stone that was rolled in front of the opening. They knew Jesus was dead. Then they departed for home. On Sunday morning, they resolved to honor one last time the man they had followed. They prepared embalming spices and perfumes to anoint his body. Here they are at the tomb to find it open wide and empty. They were surprise, confused and puzzled. The death and burial already took a toll on them, now the body is not there. They probably felt defeated and devastated. Since we know what happened next, we may not understand the amount of disappointment the women felt. It is difficult to hold on to the promises of God in times of grief and devastation.

‘Surprise’ is defined by dictionaries as an unexpected or astonishing event, fact, or thing. God is not limited and does not have unexpected events, fact or thing. God doesn’t have surprises, but humans do. We are limited by time and space. God is the author of all things and sustainer of all that is seen and unseen. Jesus had told them several times that he would rise again on the third day. But they failed to remember. But the Jewish leaders remembered that, and they asked for soldiers to guard the tomb. Then out of the darkness, comes the sound of the angel. The angel said to the women, “Do

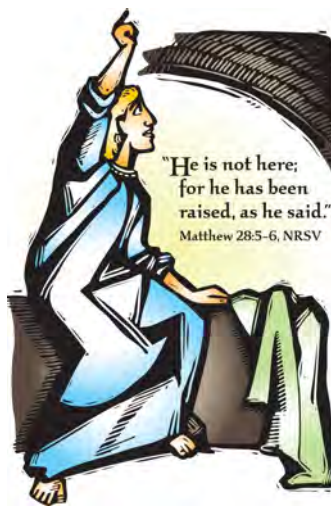
not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen.” God knows what we are going through. He knows what we are looking for. We want the old Jesus back, or at least his body back, so that we can anoint him. But God has a better plan. Jesus has a transformed body now, that does not need anointing with spices.

His risen body is proof that He has the power to transform our situations. He will transform the situation of our surprise moments to experiences of excitement. When we go through the dark valleys, turn to the promise of God, “though I walk through the dark valleys, you are with me.” God’s promises are true today as they were on the day of the first Easter. God’s promises comfort us even in the middle of a grave.

On Easter morning, the women were surprised to encounter a risen Christ in the midst of their sorrow and tears. At times we think that God has forgotten us, but God promises to find us even in the darkest valleys and the farthest corners. We should not be surprised to discover God wherever we need Him most. In hospital rooms and nursing homes, in moments of fear and worries, in times of disagreement and confusion, God astonishes us with grace and love. When medical tests reveal some type of rare disease that invaded your body and you find out that it is terminal, Easter story gives hope. Because Jesus rose again, we have reason to believe that he would rescue us.

We may be going through personal experiences of pain and sorrow. We may be pricked by the thorns of questions, doubts, and uncertainties; but let us hold on to God’s promises. Because of Easter, we can look for the buds of new life. With hope and faith, our pain and suffering will end in new life. That is God’s promise at Easter.

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen. He is going ahead of you to Galilee, there you will see him.” It is reason to be more excited than surprised because he is already there ahead of us waiting at the ‘Galilee’ of tomorrow. This might very well be one of the best Easters ever if we open our eyes, hearts, and spirits to recognize God in unusual places. May God increase in us faith for today and hope for tomorrow.



In God’s ministry,
Pastor Ludford

Memorial Gifts December & January

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

In Memory of Mitzi Moesch:

- **Church in Society:** *Wee Care*
by Dennis & Nancy Schultz
Larry & Linda Trevarthen

In Memory of Woody Davis:

- **Church in Society:** *Wee Care*
by Bonnie Wolf
Peggy Ray
- **Endowment Fund**
by Dawn Brock
- **General Fund**
by Lon & Ellen Swedberg
- **Health Ministry**
by Bob & Dolly Burdick



Youth Fundraisers!

Car Wash Cards! \$36 for 5-Count

Ultimate Wash cards 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.



Book Club's Current Read...

On April 12
we'll discuss

Last Kiss by Luanne Rice

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.

Shawano-Menominee RELAY FOR LIFE

Saturday, April 1 9am—3 pm at
Shawano Community High School



Please make a donation to support *Relay for Life's* mission and raise money to help the American Cancer Society make an impact on fighting cancer. Use the envelope provided for cash or **your checks made payable to the American Cancer Society.**



OR you may donate directly via website:

<http://www.relayforlife.org/shawano-menomineewi>

then select team: Zion Walkers.

Thank You So Much for Your Contribution!

*Want to join the team or have other questions?
Call Kathy 715-853-2464 or Dolly 715-799-4028.*

Relay for Life from the Health Ministry Committee:

Many of the Zion Walkers have been touched by cancer or are fighting cancer. Our Relay for Life brings together a community of like-minded survivors, caregivers, volunteers and participants who believe that the future can have less cancer and more birthdays.

As part of the opening ceremony the AmVets color guard will present the colors as the National Anthem is sung. Then a special survivors and caregivers lap will begin at 9:10 a.m. A luminaria ceremony honoring cancer survivors and remembering those lost to cancer, will take place at 12 noon. The theme for the event is **Every Step Brings Hope.**

Activities will include: food, basket raffles, children and adult games plus a D.J. Many more surprises!

Donation envelopes are enclosed in the April *Focus* and the March church bulletins. Checks can be made out to the American Cancer Society and left in the office. Any questions contact Kathy Beyer at 715-853-2464 or Dolly Burdick 715-799-4029, co-chairpersons of the Zion Walkers. You can make a difference!



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.

From Health Ministry Committee...

What Is *SPLASH*??? While visiting my granddaughter in Love's Park, IL in 2011 a couple of months after her baptism, I saw a mailing called *SPLASH* that she received in the mail each month from their ELCA Lutheran Church. The first months of *SPLASH* and a music CD were included in Lexi's gift basket when she was splashed at her baptism, and then each consecutive issue was mailed monthly thereafter. Each corresponded with her age and concluded with her 36th month. As I read through the monthly pamphlet I thought, "What a wonderful way to keep a newly baptized child and young family connected at church and help with faith formation as part of the baptismal promise - all with the help of this monthly *SPLASH* mailing!"

I brought the idea back to Zion to Bonnie Little, Education Leader, at that time, to our Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Committee. All were very interested in the concept, so Bonnie and I volunteered to help get these ordered through Augsburg Fortress. HMC put them into the baptismal baskets of Zion members since they had always put the baskets together, and I agreed to send the monthly mailings to each child. We are now starting our 11th year of this project.

SPLASH is divided into 3 sections: Birth-12 months plus a music CD; 13-24 months plus a CD; 25-36 months plus a CD. Each yearly curriculum booklet costs about \$17 per child plus the monthly mailing expenses. Birthday messages, Christmas cards, and special extra ideas are included throughout the year.

Each monthly mailing (Birth-12 months) contains a parent page with resources to support the central role of faith formation (baptismal promise) and physical

development suggestions for that child's age. Middle pages include appropriate activities for play, family time, meals, and snacks. Ideas for prayer, worship, and Bible storytelling are included. The back page has a cartoon along with a prompt that invites the parent to jot down a memory from that moment of development.

The 13th-24th monthlies delve a little more into Bible story time, word development, family devotions, prayer, and "Family Kin-nections"- ideas to connect the child with siblings, grandparents, and other family members.

The 25th-36th monthlies delve deeper into the child's development and how a parent can help in faith formation. With the 36th month, I include a letter emphasizing how the child has been SPLASHED since baptism and suggest that the child is ready for preschool Sunday School. The Sunday School Superintendent is notified to invite the child to join Zion's Sunday School.

I smile as I see the young children up front for children's sermons and joining in the prayers at the end of a service. They are children I SPLASHED each month with the help of our Health Ministry Committee. The HMC feels this has been a very important part of our ministry at Zion for the youngest children and their parents to help in faith formation. We will continue this part of our ministry, and hope you now better understand the purpose of *SPLASH*.

~ Ginny Vraney, Health Ministry Committee

**Health Ministry Committee meets
on Monday, April 3 at 12 pm.**
New members are always welcome!



Visit Zion's Library!

The Fossil Hunter by Tea Cooper. Australia, 1880. The last thing Mellie Vale remembers before the fever takes her is sprinting through the bush with a monster at her heels. Mellie's benefactors send her to visit a family friend, Anthea Winstanley, an amateur paleontologist convinced she will one day find proof that great sea dragons swam in the vast inland sea that covered her property millions of years ago. 1919. Penelope Jane Martindale arrives home from World War I intent on making peace with her father and commemorating the deaths of her two younger brothers in the trenches. She finds a connection between a fossil at London's Natural History Museum and her brothers' favorite camping spot. The gorge has a sinister reputation: seventy years ago, several girls disappeared from the area. She's determined to find answers about what happened all those years ago.

A Girl's Guide to Making Really Good Choices by Elizabeth George and **A Boy's Guide to Making Really Good Choices** by Jim George. What a difference good choices can make! Have you ever counted how many choices you make each day? A lot! *What should I say. . .or not say? How should I spend my time right now? When will I do my Schoolwork? My chores? Who should I choose as my friends? What should I wear. . .eat. . .watch. . .read?* God says that when you make good choices, your day will go so much better. You'll enjoy life a lot more and have more fun along the way! Every good decision you make is a chance to grow closer to God, your family, and your friends. So, start learning how to make the best kinds of choices. . .today!

Open during business hours weekdays and Sunday mornings.





Wee Care recently received a generous \$500 donation from saYPro (Shawano Area Young Professionals) and a cart loaded with food for the children's back pack food bags.

Leah Pierquet and Tracy Marohl from Saypro are shown here. Thank you to Saypro for working so hard to collect these gifts from the Shawano Community and for helping out our children in need by supplying food for the weekends.



When the baking is done, even the elves (Bonnie, Karen, Ginny, and Yvonne) take a cookie break. Yum!

March 18 & 19
we will be offering the **GINGER COOKIES**
that we sold out of before the 10:30 service last time.



Wee Care's April cookie sale will be April 15 & 16 featuring maple cookies. It's spring and the sap is running freely at the Gary and Cindy Dalke sugar shack. Thank you Gary and Cindy for donating the maple syrup for our cookies, and thank you Chris for the inspiration. If there are cookies in Heaven, these are the ones. They are delicious!! We also will be selling banana bread and pumpkin bread per the requests we have received.

April 15 & 16 — Maple Cookies

Looking ahead, Wee Care has been selected to do Charlie's Red Barn on July 13, 14 and 15. We will be needing volunteers to staff the Red Barn for 2, 3, or 4-hour shifts. This is a major fund raiser for Wee Care so please mark your calendars and let us know if you can help.

We guarantee you will have a fun time.



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

www.shawanozion.org

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

Debbie / Officezion@shawanozion.org



**Office Closed
Easter Monday
April 18**



*I want to know Christ
and the power of his
resurrection.*

Philippians 3:10, NRSV



Sunday School children will sing again at the 10:30 a.m. service on March 26!