

# THE Lamp

Zion Lutheran Church & School

**March 2024**

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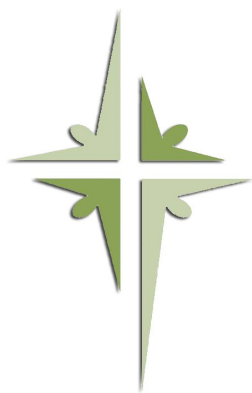
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**Loving, Inspiring  
and Equipping to  
Engage Our  
World.**

### *A Message from Pastor Oedewaldt*

We are in the middle of Lent, but Easter is on the horizon. We will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on the last day of this month. But we all must go through death to get there. The week of Good Friday is called Holy Week. You probably already know that. It's the most important week of the church year. In fact, our lectionary has appointed readings and prayers for every day during Holy Week. Could you imagine coming to church Monday-Sunday for one week out of the year? How wonderful that would be as we approach Easter!

Holy Week begins with Palm/Passion Sunday. We hear the gospel account of Jesus' triumphal entry in Jerusalem before our own procession into the church. The King rides to the cross. Like a warrior king, He rides to battle against the devil with the weight of the world's sin upon His back. The King rides to His death. But in His death, He brings us the forgiveness of sins and peace with God as He crushes the head of the serpent. The palm branches, that the kids love to wave around so much, confess the peace of our Lord given to us by His victory. On Palm/Passion Sunday we quickly move from the Palm Sunday procession to hearing the narrative of our Lord's betrayal, arrest, trial, and crucifixion. The crowds on Palm Sunday exclaimed, "Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." But then only a few days later Jesus would hear shouts of "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" Palm/Passion Sunday captures this contrast nicely and delivers it to us at the beginning of Holy Week.

Traditionally on Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday the passion accounts from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke were read in that order. The entire week is a focus on Christ's cross. It allows the faithful to meditate all week on what Jesus did for us and the world. We don't have services at Zion on these three days (yet!). But I encourage you to take twenty minutes each of these days to read the different accounts of our Lord's Passion out loud to yourself and your family and say a little prayer to confess your sins and thank our heavenly Father for sending His Son into our flesh to suffer and die for you.

Holy Thursday is when Holy Week ramps up. Here we begin the sacred Triduum, the three days of Christ's Passion. Divine Service is at noon and 7 PM at Zion. We hear the Gospel reading of our Lord's institution of His Supper before He is betrayed and arrested in the garden. The sermon is often a catechetical explanation of what the Lord's Supper is and what benefits we receive from this meal. To conclude this Divine Service, the Altar is stripped bare during the reading of Psalm 22. This practice demonstrates the servanthood of Jesus who gave the Lord's Supper to His disciples and His Church as His last will and testament before going to His death.

Good Friday contains two important liturgies of the Church. The first is the Chief Service celebrated sometime during the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Zion's is at noon. The Chief Service contains many ancient elements, particularly the full reading of the Passion according to St. John, the Bidding Prayer, the procession of the cross, the Reproaches, and the Responsory. Silence is observed at various times during the service to reflect on God's Word, our sin, and Christ's sacrifice. Celebrating the Lord's Supper during this service is optional. Throughout history, many churches chose to have the Supper to

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receive the fruits of Christ's death on this day, while many other churches allowed Holy Thursday's Communion to be the last until Easter. The second service is Tenebrae Vespers, the service of darkness. This shorter service is held in the evening, at 7 PM at Zion. Two important liturgical acts are unique to this service: the ritual extinguishing of candles and the *strepitus*. The extinguishing of candles gives a visual confession of Christ's death when the Light of the World died for us. The *strepitus* is a loud noise made by slamming shut a large book to signify the closing of Christ's tomb.

Finally, the Easter Vigil is on the evening of Holy Saturday as the conclusion to the Triduum. We gather in expectation for the news of Christ's resurrection. The service begins with the procession of the paschal candle into the church followed by the congregation and pastors. During the service, the readings confess God's salvation history through the Old Testament. Then follows a service of Holy Baptism, of Prayer, and of the Word. The Lord's Supper may also be offered. The service ends with the benediction and the Easter Acclamation: Christ is Risen! We celebrate this service with the Decatur Circuit at St. John, Bingen. All are invited!

I know that this is a lot of information, but I wanted to share it with you so that you know what to expect. Yes, it may be Spring Break for the schools and you might be planning vacations, but I encourage you to attend Church during this solemn week as much as possible to be served by our Lord and to have your hearts and minds focused on God's Word and on the death of Christ Jesus. There is no week in the Church year more important than this one. We must go through death to get to the resurrection! Your Easter Sunday celebration will be that much more powerful and focused if you gather with God's saints throughout Holy Week.

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## Hymn of the Month – LSB 438, A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

*A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth* is one of seventeen hymns in our hymnal authored by the renowned Lutheran hymn writer, Paul Gerhardt. The earliest source available is in a 1647 hymnbook, close to the end of the Thirty Years' War which devastated central Europe. This hymn, along with Gerhardt's *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*, is probably the most significant Good Friday text in Lutheran practice. Gerhardt strove to give voice to the painful, deeply emotional character of his times, pointing always to the fully Lutheran reliance on the grace of Christ's redemption. LSB 438 is a four-stanza version that acts as a summary of the original ten stanza hymn, and it serves as the hymn of the day for Passion/Palm Sunday while *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* is sung during the procession.

*A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth* is a profound example of Gospel comfort. One such picture is given to us by the story of Hildegard Schaefer (d. 1984). Imprisoned by the Nazis in 1944 for "aiding and abetting Jews," she was listed for the gas chamber. In the darkness of solitary confinement and realizing her desperate condition, as she wrote to her mother, her lips unconsciously repeated this hymn. Her "hymnal of the heart" gave her the same prayer the poet had uttered in his own dark times and helped her survive to the war's end. If only we all have such wonderful hymns on our hearts and minds to confess Jesus' work for us when our lives grow dim and dark.

The four stanzas in our hymnal lead us through a dialogue between the Father and the Son that determines the final obedient sacrifice of the Son because of divine love. Such love leads the believer into an exclamation to "O wondrous Love" (stanza 3) and an anticipation of union with the Lord as the Bride of Christ before the throne of heaven (stanza 4). Beyond all sin, pain, or sorrow in this life, the Christian can anticipate salvation in Christ, leading to eternal joy in heaven.

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## Lenten & Easter Services

Join us for the following Midweek Services at 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm:

Wednesday, March 13th, & 20th

Holy Week: *Palm Sunday*: Sunday, March 24th, 8:00 am & 10:30 am

*Holy Thursday*: Thursday, March 28th, 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm

*Good Friday*: Friday, March 29th, 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 31st, join us for one of our three services—or ALL THREE—at 6:30 am, 8:00 am, & 10:30 am.

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## CTS Food Co-Op Project

The Zion Missionary Society would like your help in collecting non-perishable food items and paper products for the seminary food co-op during the Lenten season. Collection baskets will be available in both the north and south hallways off of the narthex, starting Ash Wednesday (February 14, 2024) and running through Good Friday (March 29, 2024). Donated items will be delivered to the seminary the week after Easter. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

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## Wednesday Bible Study—New Topic!

Wednesday morning Bible Study is moving on! Beginning Wednesday, March 13th, the new topic is the book of Daniel. You are all invited to join Pastor O. and the rest of the group to dive in and see what Daniel is all about! Start time is at 10:00 am.

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## Youth News

Congratulations to **Starr Bell**, the winner of the 2024 Chili Cook-Off! Thank you to all those who participated, tasted, and especially voted. We had a great turnout and a successful event. Who's ready for next year?

There will be an Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt again this year during the Bible Study Hour for all our members. Breakfast will be served immediately following the 8:00 service. The egg hunt will be for ages 3-10 and will be held outside the Narthex on the 10th street lawn. An announcement will be made during breakfast for all to gather.

Youth Families: we will be in need of breakfast casseroles, ingredients for French Toast, drinks, etc. Please see our Facebook page for the Sign-up Genius link.

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## Lutheran SGO

The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization exists to partner with schools in raising funds from individuals and businesses and distributing scholarship fund to all eligible student attending Lutheran and other Christian schools in Indiana. **Zion** has participated in this program since 2012.

In 2023 there were overall donations of \$4,567,696 and 2,143 scholarships given out thanks to the generosity of donors. There are still \$5,200,000 credits available from the State of Indiana until June 30, 2024. On July 1 the credits will be replenished. This school year Zion's account did not receive enough funds to give scholarships to all Zion students that applied. We would like to be able to give all students a scholarship but it can only happen with your help.

This is a year round fundraiser. Donations to fund SGO scholarships feature a **50%** Indiana state tax credit for the donor. Donors can direct their gift to a specific school but not to a particular child. Scholarship applications are reviewed by the scholarship committee and again by the granting organization and are based on generous income guidelines.

To make a donation, check out the website at [www.LutheranSGO.org](http://www.LutheranSGO.org) click on the Donor tab, and follow the prompts. Your donation is sent directly to the SGO office in Fort Wayne. You will need to specify **Zion Lutheran School, Decatur** on the form you submit. Once they have received your gift you will be sent the tax credit information to use when you file your Indiana state taxes. Please do not hesitate to ask a member of the committee if you have more questions. Committee members: Carl Risch, Kathy Brown, Barb Frane, and Monica Huffine.

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# ZION SCHOOL NEWS

## Upcoming Dates:

Thursday, March 14th:  
PreK & Kindergarten Open House  
6:00 –7:00 pm

March 25-29:  
Spring Break—No School

Monday, April 1st:  
Easter Monday— No School

Tuesday, April 2nd:  
New Life Parties— 1:30 pm

## **PTL News**

PTL News Meeting will be held on a as needed basis instead of monthly this year. Look for updates on our facebook page/ remind this year! If you have any questions, PTL can be reached via email at [ptlziondecatur@gmail.com](mailto:ptlziondecatur@gmail.com) or on our facebook page Zion Lutheran PTL. We look forward to another great year!

## **Scrip Information**

SCRIP NEWS: The Zion Church and School Scrip program has completed their earnings for this year. Everyone can participate in the Scrip program --> Purchase Gift Cards and earn a rebate back! Orders can be turned into the church box (by doors), school office, or easily purchased through the website (RaiseRight.com) or App (RaiseRight). Zion's Enrollment Code is: 54AB42437836 or Contact Audra at [ScripZion@gmail.com](mailto:ScripZion@gmail.com) with any questions.

All school news, such as calendars, menus, and newsletters can be found online at [www.ziondecatur.com](http://www.ziondecatur.com). Be sure to stay up-to-date! And follow us on Facebook at Zion Lutheran Church & School.



We are thankful for another year of God's blessings to those who are celebrating **birthdays and anniversaries in March!**



## **Connections & Lamp Newsletter Deadlines**

**Just a reminder to those wanting to submit information to either publication:**

Connections: *information/articles will be due by the end of Wednesday each week*

Lamp Newsletter: *information/articles will be due by the 20th of each month*

# Community Happenings

**Church Dinner**— Zion Lutheran, Friedheim is holding a church dinner with accompanying Craft & Custom Dessert Boxes Sale on **Sunday, March 10th**. The dinner will be held in the Dahling Family Life Center, behind the church at 10653 N 550 W. Menu includes: homemade chicken noodle and ham & bean soups, pulled pork, sloppy joe and hot dog sandwiches, a variety of homemade salads and pies (dine-in only) and drinks. The meal will be served from 10:30 am–1:30 pm, carry-out is available. The Joyful Voices Choir and Instrumentalists will also be performing from 11:30-12:30 during meal service. Free Will donations will be accepted that day; proceeds will go toward debt reduction.

**Fish & Tenderloin Dinner**—St. John Bingen will host its annual Fish & Tenderloin Dinner, **Sunday, March 17th** from 10:30 am– 1:00 pm at Wyneken School. Adults are \$14.00; children (6-12) \$10.00; 5 and under free. All proceeds go to the Family Assistance Fund. Drive thru and carry-out are available. Fried by Dan's Fry Service, Huntington, IN.

**Adams County Senior Center**— **Monday-Friday: 8:00 am-4:00 pm** there are safe, secure and warm walking halls, doors are open for shooting pool, reading, games or puzzles, and **11:00 am-3:00** the gym is available for pickleball (organize your own group, first come, first served). See the flier in the Narthex for dates on Bingo, Euchre, Artists and MORE!



## Hope Clinic Thank You

The Hope Clinic wishes to thank any and all who participated in the January & February baby Shower. We truly appreciate the donation of all these items that will help our families and babies. We ask that you keep us in prayer through the coming year. Also, there are volunteer opportunities available; please see Janet Heimann for more information.

## Easter Candy Donations

Congregation Members are invited to donate candy to fill the eggs for the egg hunt on Easter Sunday. Please drop off candy donations to the church office by Wednesday, March 20th.

*Thank You!*

## Gardening Angels

Starting again late Spring or early Summer the Gardening Angels Committee will be removing the old bushes and replacing with all new landscaping in front of the church on Monroe St.

We have a 3rd donor that will match up to \$200.00, so for every \$1 you give, they will give \$1. If you would like to contribute to this cause please make checks payable, in designated envelopes, to "Zion Lutheran Church Gardening Angels." You may also go to the church website at [www.ziondecatur.com](http://www.ziondecatur.com) and select 'Gardening Angels' under giving options. Please contact Joan Fortman with questions at (260) 724-3955 or (260) 223-0998.

The Gardening Angels Committee





## Thoughts on Stewardship

### Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity

and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.

## Treasurer’s Report

To God be the Glory!

Historically, we begin the year with a cash shortfall which is the position again in January of 2023. January of 2023—which was an exception to the norm— revenue exceeded expenditures by \$20,000. In January of 2024 the expenditures exceeded the revenue by \$19,000.

Offerings in 2024 are \$34,000 less than last year. There were 5 Sundays last year which would account for a portion of the difference. Tuition income has increased \$1000.

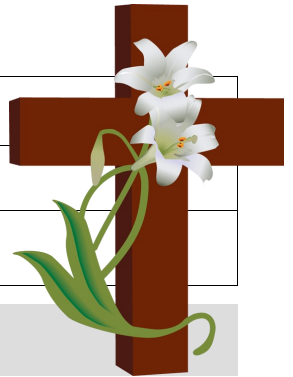
Expenditures have increase by \$12,000. Last year there was no expenditure to Concordia Plans in January which accounts for the increase in expenditures.

January 31 bank balance: \$244,900  
Accounts Payable: \$16,079

**With Him as Lord to lead our way  
In want and in prosperity,  
What need we fear in earth or space  
In this new year of grace!**

## ZION SERVANT SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

<b>ALTAR CARE</b>	Cindy Powell, Diane Irwin
<b>ELDERS</b>	Steve Fuelling, Jared Lengerich
<b>ORGANIST</b>	Carl Risch



### 8:00 AM WORSHIP

DATE	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	Tori McCullough & TBD	Kadyn Sanders & Audrey Grimm	Jace Stinson & Rylee Hammond	Jacob Bleeke & Sydney Angel	Tori McCullough & Addilyn Irwin
<b>POWERPOINT</b>	Elder on Duty	Elder on Duty	Elder on Duty	Elder on Duty	Elder on Duty
<b>SOUND</b>	Elder on Duty	Elder on Duty	Elder on Duty	Elder on Duty	Elder on Duty
<b>NURSERY</b>	<i>Open during service-not staffed</i>	<i>Open during service-not staffed</i>	<i>Open during service-not staffed</i>	<i>Open during service-not staffed</i>	<i>Open during service-not staffed</i>
<b>USHERS</b>	Mark Braun, Randall Hendricks, Larry Irwin, Nick Irwin, Art Verschure				

### 10:30 AM WORSHIP

DATE	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	Onalee Krueckeberg & Deyton Colclasure	Aubree Geerken & TBD	Cohen & Griffin Bluhm	Lexy Harvey & Emalyn Aldrich	Jaxon Blythe & Truman Tomkinson
<b>POWERPOINT</b>	Elder on Duty	Elder on Duty	Elder on Duty	Elder on Duty	Elder on Duty
<b>SOUND</b>	Elder on Duty	Elder on Duty	Elder on Duty	Elder on Duty	Elder on Duty
<b>NURSERY</b>	<i>Open during service-not staffed</i>	<i>Open during service-not staffed</i>	<i>Open during service-not staffed</i>	<i>Open during service-not staffed</i>	<i>Open during service-not staffed</i>
<b>USHERS</b>	Mike Busse, Terry Witte, Daniel Gunsett, Rob Voshell, Ken Ketzler, Treyten Tomkinson				



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### **Zion Lutheran Church & School**

Website: [www.ziondecatur.com](http://www.ziondecatur.com)

Email: [church@ziondecaturchurch.com](mailto:church@ziondecaturchurch.com)

Phone: (260) 724-7177

Fax: (260) 724-9440

Office Hours: 8:00am - 4:00pm

#### **Zach Oedewaldt** *Pastor*

Office: (260) 724-7177

Cell: (619) 905-2160

[zoedewaldt@gmail.com](mailto:zoedewaldt@gmail.com)

#### **Carl Risch** *Director of Music*

[crisch@ziondecatur.com](mailto:crisch@ziondecatur.com)

#### **Jennifer Huss** *Secretary*

[jhuss@ziondecaturchurch.com](mailto:jhuss@ziondecaturchurch.com)

