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# THE ZION HERALD

## February 2022

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*"Happy are those whose strength is in God, in whose heart are the highways to Zion." Psalm 84:5*

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### **The Pastor's Ponderings** *Your Christian Vocation*

Dear, Beloved Children of God, Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus!

In recent sermons, I have spoken several times about our calling through our baptism – and that each of us are called to serve God in our daily life. These are ideas that emerged from the Protestant Reformation as Martin Luther spoke about the idea that all are called into a Christian vocation. This was in contrast to the ideas of the time – that there were those who had a “higher calling” (priests, monks, friars, and nuns) and ... others.

In contrast, the Protestant Reformation meant that the work of Jesus on the cross was enough for our salvation – we could not improve our lot with God by our own works – which means this “higher calling” isn’t higher or more holy than other types of work.

This means that all of us – each and every single person – is called into a Christian vocation. Sometimes our vocation is tied to our employment, but sometimes it is something else. Frederick Buechner described Christian Vocation in his book *Wishful Thinking* this way: “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.” Each of

us have a Christian vocation.

At one point, I was living out my Christian vocation through my employment as a social worker. I also feel like I could express my Christian vocation when I was volunteering for an animal rescue group. I have spoken with people who see their Christian vocation in parenthood (or grandparenthood). I know someone who felt she was living out her Christian vocation as an EMS worker. Another lived out their Christian vocation being an informal mentor and friend. Or as a spouse. Or as a part of secular employment where they are able to show God’s love in some way.

Our Christian vocation is where our great joy meets the world’s great need.

What is your Christian vocation? Notice that I didn’t ask “Do you have a Christian vocation” – because whether you are aware of it or not, you have one! How can your church support you in your Christian vocation? These aren’t rhetorical questions – let me know or talk to me about a time to have a conversation to identify what God is calling you to.

In Christian love,  
*Pastor Sharilyn*

## February Readings

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February 6

*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

- Isaiah 6:1-8
- Psalm 138
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- Luke 5:1-11

February 13

*Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*

- Jeremiah 17:5-10
- Psalm 1
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
- Luke 6:17-26

February 20

*Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*

- Genesis 45:3-11, 15
- Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
- 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
- Luke 6:27-38

February 27

*Transfiguration of Our Lord*

- Exodus 34:29-35
- Psalm 99
- 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
- Luke 9:28-36



As you may remember, our annual meeting was scheduled for January 30. Your council has discussed the best way to handle holding our annual meeting and decided that WE WILL HOLD OUR ANNUAL MEETING ON THE FIRST SUNDAY WE ARE ABLE TO GATHER AGAIN. There are many important issues for discussion including parsonage updates, worship schedule, and the annual budget. The input and involvement of our entire membership is needed.

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## Mid-Week Lenten Services

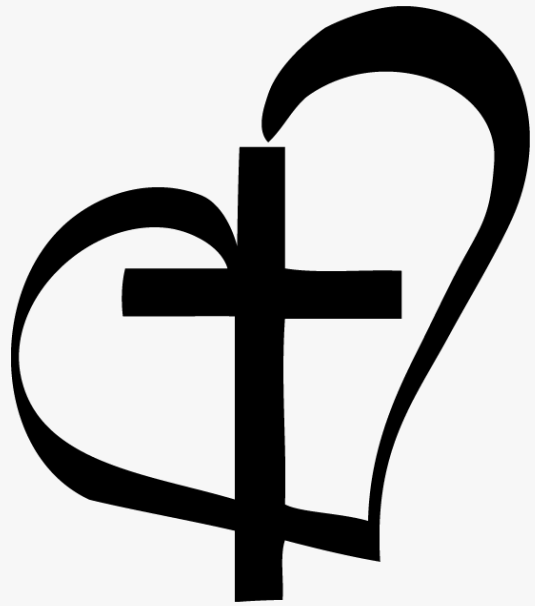
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Plans are being finalized for our mid-week Lenten worship! Plan to join us Wednesdays in March as a time to stop, reflect, and pause from our busy lives and spend time in prayer and worship. Our topic for this year's mid-week worship is Luther's Small Catechism. Some of you may have not spent much time since you or your children (or grandchildren) were in confirmation class – so join us as we reexamine these fundamental parts of our Christian faith.

## February Birthdays

Tim Stanley.....	2-3
Allen Stallsmith.....	2-5
Drew Walker.....	2-5
Makenna Walker.....	2-7
Griffin Banter.....	2-12
Grant Banter.....	2-17
Raymond Boozer.....	2-20
Denise Hile.....	2-24
Vicki Willmann.....	2-26



## Church Secretary



Zion Lutheran is happy to welcome our new Church Secretary, Paige Walker! You likely already know Paige as she has been a lifelong member of Zion Lutheran and regularly serves as a Lector at worship services. She has also been volunteering to put together our Newsletter in recent months. Paige will be responsible for our bulletins, newsletters, and all variety of office tasks and coordination. This will free up Pastor Sharilyn to work on extending and expanding our ministry within Hartford City and

Blackford County. Paige will be working some of her hours from home - contact the office by phone or email ([zionluth.hc@gmail.com](mailto:zionluth.hc@gmail.com)) to reach her.



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## Music Moment: “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ!”

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Part of ministry I have discovered a joy for is identifying music for our worship service. With the help of our Worship/Music/Memorial committee, we identify songs that (1) align with the scripture readings of the day (2) are (hopefully!) familiar or simple enough to pick up quickly and (3 – and this is a Pastor Sharilyn insistence) have reasonably good theological ideas.

In that light, I’m excited to offer a brief reflection monthly on a hymn that fits a lot of these requirements – and share what I see as the important message within that song. In February, that song is “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” (WOV 754)



- 1 Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

*This verse speaks so clearly of the reality that Christ is present in our sacrament of Holy Communion. Jesus is present! Right there! For us to see, taste, experience. What a joyful thing!*

- 2 Christ is able to make us one,  
at the table he sets the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless,  
love in word and in deed express.

*In addition to Christ being present at the sacrament, the presence of Jesus binds us. There is a reason that our sacrament is also called “communion” – we are in communion with God and through that communion with God we are in communion with one another.*

- 3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere!

*What a glorious thing; we get the opportunity – the GIFT – to be God’s active presence in the world. We get to bring God to others through our words and our actions. We are fed with that love and grace so fully that God spills out from us – for us to be able to better love and serve our neighbor.*

# December Council Minutes

**Present:** Jody Stanley, Drew Walker, Mark Prout, Cindy Knote, Libby Stroble, Pastor Sharilyn, Scott Clamme, Paige Walker

**Absent:** Shay Clamme

## **A. Opening**

1. Call Meeting to Order - Jody Stanley at 6:59pm
2. Devotions by Drew Walker

## **B. Secretary's Report**

1. Amend/Approve minutes from last Council meeting
  - a. Motion to approve by Mark, 2nd by Drew, Approved by All
2. Correspondence
  - a. None
3. Add Items to Agenda
  - a. Amount of payment for supply organist/pianist

## **C. Pastor's Report**

1. Meet & Know Members
  - a. Continuing to meet members individually.
  - b. Communion and Pastoral Care Visits: 7
2. Youth Education Program
  - a. Do we want to work toward planning a VBS? Council provided insight into previous years. Pastor will reach out to other churches to see interest.
3. Outreach Programs
  - a. Read-the-Bible in a Year
  - b. Mental Health Support Group - Grace Alliance
  - c. Ministry & Outreach has ideas to put into place after first of year.
  - d. Great response to Adopt-A-Family.
4. Community Partnerships
  - a. Will be doing one shift/week volunteering as chaplain at IU Blackford.
  - b. Met with group providing addition program from Indiana University.

## **D. Committee Reports**

1. Parish Education & Youth - Drew
  - a. Sunday school going well.
2. Worship/Music/Memorial - Jody
  - a. Pastor Sharilyn chose Hymn of the Day. Nyla chose Opening and Closing Hymns through December. Will meet January 5 to choose hymns.
3. Mission & Ministry - Scott
  - a. Met after church. Have ideas but plans on hold due to COVID.

## **E. Council Reports**

1. Deacon
  - a. Mid to high 40s attendance.
  - b. No requests for financial assistance.
2. Elders
  - a. None
3. Trustee
  - a. Request to check on paint for door to boiler room.
4. Treasurer
  - a. Not having church is effecting accounts. Might need to transfer some funds.
  - b. Report
    - Deacon's Fund Checking 688.68
    - Deacon's Fund Savings 66.18
    - General Fund, Thrivent Invested 86,247.28
    - General Fund, VIA Checking 5,314.34
    - General Fund, VIA Membership 56.22
    - General Fund, VIA Money Market 70,280.20
    - Memorial Fund, VIA Checking 16,776.42
    - Memorial Fund, VIA Money Market 5,422.06
    - Mission Invest., Memorial Fund 7,017.70
    - ZLCW Kitchen Fund Savings 1,722.69
    - ZLCW Kitchen Fund Checking 150.00
    - TOTAL ASSETS 193,741.77

## **F. Business**

1. Amount of payment for supply organist/pianist. Currently \$50, should this be higher? Council recommends increasing to \$75. Will be brought to annual meeting. Would likely have to change budget.
2. Discussion about re-visiting COVID protocols regarding having church service. Something new council will discuss again. Should this be brought to the annual meeting?
3. Christmas Eve Service. Parking lot service through radio. Drew and Scott will help hand out bulletins and communion.
4. Christmas 1 (December 26) will be video on-line service.
5. Christmas 2 (January 2) Pastor will be on vacation. What would we like to do?

## **G. Closing**

1. Lord's Prayer at 7:52pm
2. Next Meeting: January 17, 2022 at 7:00pm with devotions by Paige Walker



# February 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Worship & Communion 10:30am	7 Coffee & Jesus 8am Common Grounds	8 Piecemakers 9am	9	10	11	12
13 Worship 10:30am	14 Coffee & Jesus 8am Common Grounds	15 Worship, Music, & Memorial Committee 7pm	16	17	18	19
20 Worship & Communion 10:30am	21 Coffee & Jesus 8am Common Grounds  Council Meeting 7pm	22 Piecemakers 9am	23	24	25	26
27 Worship 10:30am	28 Coffee & Jesus 8am Common Grounds					



Breaking News!  
There is no  
In-Person Worship on  
January 30 or February 6

308 S Monroe St  
Hartford City, IN 47348

Sharilyn Wendt, Pastor  
Church Office: 765-348-3157  
zionluth.hc@gmail.com  
www.zionhc.org

Youth Sunday School at 9:30am  
Worship at 10:30am

## February 2022

### Council Members:

President & Elder	Mark Prout
Vice President & Elder	Cindy Knot
Secretary	Paige Walker
Treasurer	Libby Stroble
Deacon	Drew Walker
Trustee	Neil Stroble

### Pastor Sharilyn's Information:

Cell Phone: 812-272-2936  
Email: sharilyn.wendt@gmail.com

### Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9am-Noon  
Other Times by Appointment  
Please call first to be sure she is in!

### Sunday Servants:

Lector:  
Feb 6 - Sandy Langdon  
Feb 13 - Paige Walker  
Feb 20 - Linda Baker  
Feb 27 - Linda Baker

### Acolyte:

Feb 6 - Walker Family  
Feb 13 - Clamme Family  
Feb 20 - Clamme Family  
Feb 27 - Walker Family

### Assisting Minister:

Feb 6 - Jody Stanley  
Feb 20 - Mark Prout