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# THE ZION HERALD

## January 2023

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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



Welcome again to a discussion on social statements of the ELCA. The next social statement we will look at is: "Economic Life - Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All." This social statement was developed in 1999 and like all our social statements, it is designed to be a starting point for conversation and the

process of making decisions with God and our Christian faith in mind. You can read the entire social statement on the ELCA webpage at <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Economic-Life>.

The subtitle of the social statement gives us the framework the entire statement is built around: Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All.

- 1) "For all" must include a special concern for people who are poor or live in poverty.
- 2) "Livelihood" includes all things needed to sustain life such as food, clothing, and shelter along with less tangible things such as safety and education.
- 3) "Sufficient" is about what is needed rather than what is wanted.
- 4) "Sustainable" must include a long-term perspective – even beyond the life of individuals.

Our social statement teaches that the values of the economic world are in tension with our call to Christian living. In a world that prizes individual success, amassing wealth, and bigger-is-better, we are called as Christians to live a life of humble and grateful service to others with Jesus as our guide. It can be a challenging balance, but it is a part of what it means to "be in the world but not of the world." We are a part of a massive global economy – whether we would like to be or not. Here are a few ideas about how we can navigate this challenging balance:

- 1) Examine your balance of Needs vs. Wants: It's natural to use some of our wealth to purchase items that are 'extras' that are not something we need but instead are something we want. When you choose to use your wealth to purchase things you want (but don't necessarily need) maybe you could also purchase something someone less fortunate might want or need. What if every time you splurged on a



# January Readings

January 1

*Name of Jesus*

- Numbers 6:22-27
- Psalm 8
- Galatians 4:4-7
- Luke 2:15-21

January 8

*Baptism of Our Lord*

- Isaiah 42:1-9
- Psalm 29
- Acts 10:34-43
- Matthew 3:13-17

January 15

*2nd Sunday after Epiphany*

- Isaiah 49:1-7
- Psalm 40:1-11
- 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
- John 1:29-42

January 22

*3rd Sunday after Epiphany*

- Isaiah 9:1-4
- Psalm 27:1, 4-9
- 1 Corinthians 1:1-18
- Matthew 4:12-23

January 29

*4th Sunday after Epiphany*

- Micah 6:1-8
- Psalm 15
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
- Matthew 5:1-12

fancy coffee (or whatever your personal 'wants' are) you set aside an equal amount of wealth for our local food pantry?

2) Examine the ethics of the businesses you frequent and the items you purchase: We have so many choices with our purchases (sometimes too many!) Identifying businesses that treat their employees well, are good stewards of natural resources, and are involved in philanthropic efforts can help create an economic system that is more Christ-like.

3) Examine if you have made wealth into an idol: Wealth can easily be made into an idol – and we can easily fall into a trap of seeing wealth as a source of safety or security. While living in the world requires us to operate within that economic system, relying on wealth for our happiness or peace makes our wealth into an idol. God is the only source of lasting peace.

These are just a few ways to examine our participation in economic life. The call of a Christian to live in the world in order to serve the world is not an easy one. With Christ as our guide, we can do our best to use the imperfect economic system we have to do God's Work in the world.

In Christian Love,  
*Pastor Sharilyn*

## Gifts of Flowers and Eternal Candles

Thank you so much to those who have given altar flowers and eternal candles for our worship space in 2022. There is a signup available in the narthex for those who would like to give these gifts in 2023.

### Flowers

Roger Willmann  
Larry & Denise Hile  
Gene & Isola Banter  
Fred & Linda Walker  
Allen Stallsmith  
Edi Tarter  
Pat Gillis  
Buck & Kathy Sharp

### Eternal Candle

Larry & Denise Hile  
Edi Tarter



## Coffee & Jesus - The Book of Acts



Starting January 9, we will be starting a new Bible Study at Coffee & Jesus Bible Study Mondays at 8am. The book of Acts is unique in the New Testament and tells the story of the early church as the Apostles and the first followers of The Way organized themselves and worked to share the Good News of Jesus. Join us as we learn about this special time in the history of God's people!

## January Birthdays

Carolyn Chandler & ..& 1-12  
Pat Gillis & & & & & .1-12  
Val Hiatt & & & & ..& 1-12  
Mike Clamme & & & .& 1-14  
Elonda Pethtel & & & 1-19  
Virginia Langdon & ..& .1-23  
Larry Hile & & & & .& 1-28

## Congregational Council - November 15, 2022

**Present:** Mark Prout, Neil Stroble, Libby Stroble, Paige Walker, Pastor Sharilyn, Cindy Knot

**Absent:** Drew Walker

### A. Opening

1. Call Meeting to Order - Mark Prout at 7:01pm
2. Devotions by Paige Walker

### B. Secretary's Report

1. Amend/Approve minutes from last Council meeting
  - a. Motion to approve by Neil, 2nd by Mark, Approved by All
2. Correspondence
  - a. Bishop Bill and Pastor Nancy asking for letter of intent for giving to the Synod.
3. Add Items to Agenda
  - a. None

### C. Pastor's Report

1. Meet & Know Members
  - a. Pastoral Care Visits: 7
  - b. Pastoral Acts: Larry Langdon Funeral, Max Hile Funeral
2. Youth Education Program
  - a. Confirmation continues, planning for Spring Semester 2023 is in progress.
  - b. 4H Fair will be the location of our 2023 VBS. Exact dates and details are still being worked out. It is likely we will partner with First Presbyterian for this.
3. Outreach Program
  - a. Living Grace Mental Health Support Group
  - b. Client Consultation Board, Health Community Alliance of East Central Indiana
  - c. IDOH Grant with Reliant Healthcare
4. Community Partnerships
  - a. Ongoing local ministerium
  - b. Rotating jail ministry
  - c. Greater partnership with First Presbyterian
  - d. "Community Chaplain" initiative with other local pastors still in progress.
5. Other Initiatives
  - a. "Tell Your Story" - ongoing. I still need additional volunteers to be willing to share.
  - b. Mid-Week Advent Worship: Holy Darkness
  - c. Thanksgiving Eve Service
  - d. Blue Christmas Worship (date TBD) hosted by First Presbyterian

#### D. Committee Reports

1. Parish Education & Youth - Drew
  - a. none
2. Worship/Music/Memorial - Libby
  - a. Songs are planned through Christmas. Meeting again in December.
3. Mission & Ministry - Cindy
  - a. Working on setting up a meeting.

#### E. Council Reports

1. Deacon
  - a. Attendance and Holy Communion Report: mid 40s
  - b. Assistance Requests: 1 for rent (\$100), 1 for electric (\$100), 1 denied
2. Elders
  - a. none
3. Trustee
  - a. First AC estimate is approximately \$75K. Working on another estimate.

#### 4. Treasurer

a. Report (as of November 10)	
Deacon's Fund Checking	591.01
Deacon's Fund Saving	66.26
General Fund, Thrivent Invested	74,826.91
General Fund, VIA Checking	8,056.10
General Fund, VIA Membership	56.30
General Fund, VIA Money Market	55,446.95
Memorial Fund, VIA Checking	20,286.42
Memorial Fund, VIA Money Market	3,656.27
Mission Invest., Memorial Fund	7,045.68
ZLCW Kitchen Fund Savings	1,723.21
ZLCW Kitchen Fund Checking	150.00
TOTAL ASSETS	171,905.11

#### F. Business

1. Blackford County Healthcare Initiative: Pastor spoke with Synod and waiting to hear back. Hope to have something to give to congregation at Annual Meeting.
2. Budget: Numbers were reviewed. Neil motioned to approve, Cindy 2nd, Approved by All.
3. Advent and Christmas Offerings: Wernle and Grace Village

#### G. Closing

1. Lord's Prayer at 7:41pm
2. Next Meeting: December 20, 2022 at 7:00pm with devotions by Libby Stroble



**Mark your calendar!**

**Our annual congregational meeting will take place on January 29th after worship.**





# January 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 10:30am	2 NO Bible Study at Deja Brew	3	4	5	6	7
8 Education Hour 9:30am  Worship 10:30am  Undeck the Halls	9 Bible Study at Deja Brew 8am  Living Grace Support Group in Library 6:30pm	10 Piecemakers in Fellowship Hall 9am	11	12	13	14
15 Education Hour 9:30am  Worship & Communion 10:30am	16 Bible Study at Deja Brew 8am  Living Grace Support Group in Library 6:30pm	17 Council Meeting in Library 7pm	18	19	20	21
22 Education Hour 9:30am  Worship 10:30am	23 Bible Study at Deja Brew 8am  Living Grace Support Group in Library 6:30pm	24 Piecemakers in Fellowship Hall 9am	25	26	27	28
29 Education Hour 9:30am  Worship & Communion 10:30am  Annual Mtg	30 Bible Study at Deja Brew 8am  Living Grace Support Group in Library 6:30pm	31				



308 S Monroe St  
Hartford City, IN 47348

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

Education Hour 9:30am  
Worship 10:30am

## January 2023

### Council Members

President & Elder	<i>Cindy Knot</i>
Vice President & Elder	<i>Mark Prout</i>
Secretary	<i>Paige Walker</i>
Treasurer	<i>Libby Stroble</i>
Deacon	<i>Scott Clamme</i>
Trustee	<i>Neil Stroble</i>

### 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

January 1 - Sandy, Neil, Mark  
January 8 - Cindy Knot  
January 15 - Kathy Sharp  
January 22 - Neil Stroble  
January 29 - Mark Prout

#### Acolyte

January 1 -  
January 8 - Clamme Family  
January 15 - Walker Family  
January 22 - Clamme Family  
January 29 - Walker Family

#### Assisting Minister

January 15 -  
January 29 -