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# THE ZION HERALD

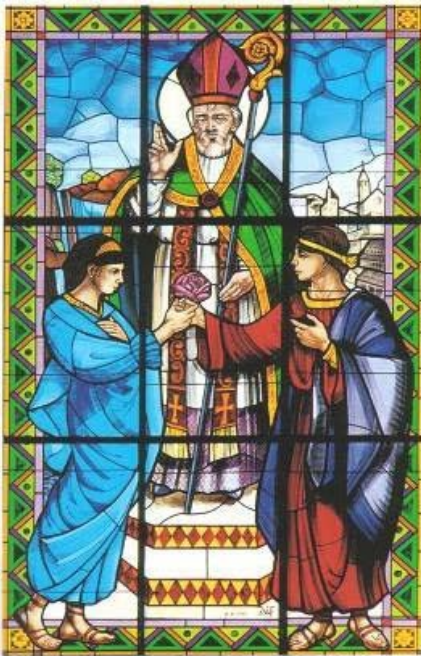
## February 2024

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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



Dear, beloved, children of God – may the peace of God in Christ Jesus be yours in abundance! Amen!

Valentine's Day is a – now largely secular – holiday that is often considered a "Hallmark Holiday" (that is, one of the holidays that seems to be around primarily to support the greeting card and gift-giving industries). However, the history of this festival has an interesting history – both Christian and otherwise.

Many historians are of the opinion that St. Valentine's Day was placed where it was in order to supplant the Roman festival of Lupercalia. This holiday was practiced with ... well, a lot of disturbing rites and practices (look it up if you're really interested). In all, it was intended to purify the cities and encourage fertility. There were priests called "Luperci" (meaning 'wolf') which were tied to the Roman mythology of Romulus and Remus "Founders of Rome."

Later – somewhere around the 3rd Century there was a priest with the name "Valentine." There are many stories about this priest, and it is likely that all of them have kernels of truth right alongside fables and myths. The core of the reason Valentine was martyred is his performing marriages of young couples. The Roman government often didn't want young men to marry since married men tend to make less biddable soldiers. Valentine helped young men avoid military service by performing unauthorized marriages which landed him imprisoned and eventually martyred for his faith. There is another story that says the priest fell in love with the jailer's daughter during his imprisonment. Before his execution he wrote her a last letter and signed it "From your Valentine."

As Christianity became the dominant faith in the Roman Empire, the government wanted to quash the celebration of the pagan holiday Lupercalia. As a result, the Feast of St. Valentine was to be celebrated on February 14. With time and additional influence by artists such as Chaucer and Shakespeare, St. Valentine became the patron saint not only of young married couples but of courtly love, romance, and lovers. Today, St. Valentine is recognized by

## February Readings

February 4

*5th Sunday after Epiphany*

- Isaiah 40:21-31
- Psalm 147:1-11,20c
- 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
- Mark 1:29-39

February 11

*Transfiguration of Our Lord*

- 2 Kings 2:1-12
- Psalm 50:1-6
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- Mark 9:2-9

February 15

*Ash Wednesday*

- Joel 2:1-2,12-17
- Psalm 51:1-17
- 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
- Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

February 18

*1st Sunday of Lent*

- Genesis 9:8-17
- Psalm 25:1-10
- 1 Peter 3:18-22
- Mark 1:9-15

February 25

*2nd Sunday of Lent*

- Genesis 17:1-7,15-16
- Psalm 22:23-31
- Romans 4:13-25
- Mark 8:31-38



many to be the Patron Saint of Lovers, Epileptics (there's a story where St. Valentine cured an epileptic) and ... Bee Keepers (?)

In the end, we Lutherans don't venerate saints the same way that some of our other Christian siblings do, but instead look to them as examples of how to live a Christian life. What we can learn from St. Valentine is to support and encourage loving marriages, to support conscientious objectors and pacifists, and to be steadfast in our Christian living – even when in risk to ourselves. Happy Valentine's Day, dear Church. Jesus loves each of us and I'm so blessed to say that we at Zion love one another.



In Christian Love,  
*Pastor Sharilyn*

## Souper Bowl of Caring

Just like last year, we will have a food drive for our local food pantry in February. You will "vote" for the AFC Champion (Kansas City Chiefs) or NFC Champion (San Francisco 49ers) to win the Super Bowl by placing non-perishable food items

or financial contributions in corresponding boxes.

The real winner will be our local food pantry, but will Zion Lutheran predict the outcome of the Super Bowl for the second year in a row?





Ash Wednesday is the same day as Valentine's Day this year! While it isn't exactly a good match between this most secular and religious holiday, Ash Wednesday is a beautiful start to the beginning of Lent and our 40 days of reflection before the celebration of Easter.

In light of the calendar, we are trying something new this year! Let's gather the Tuesday before for a combination Valentine's and Mardi Gras themed celebration! Going by many different names (Carnival, Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday) the day before Ash Wednesday was often celebrated as a type of "last big hurrah" before the fasting and somber mood of Lent. Many people gave up things such as meat, fats, sweets, and other food items during Lent, so the Tuesday before provided a feast of all those rich foods that would not be eaten for the next 40 days. Parties, dancing, parades - anything that wouldn't be permitted during Lent - was common.

Our celebration will be a little less dramatic, but join us for a fun night with a pancake supper, kids' games and crafts, and a time to spend with each other before our Sunday mornings become a little more reflective and somber. We will be inviting the community, so be certain to let friends, family, and co-workers know they are invited to join us!

The next day, our 40-day Journey begins with Ash Wednesday. We will have a traditional Ash Wednesday worship at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall, joined by First Presbyterian of Hartford City. Join us, won't you?

## MID-WEEK LENTEN SERIES FORMAT CHANGE

Our mid-week worship will also be slightly revised this year in the hopes of being more accessible to more of our members. While in the past we have had mid-week worship of Vespers, we will be scaling this back a little bit and adding some new elements.

We will be starting each gathering at 7:00pm with a brief prayer meeting (although a shorter liturgy) followed by a scripture study rather than a traditional homily. Starting around 7:30pm, we will come together in a service opportunity tied to that week's theme. You can read about the themes and projects in the newsletter. Please join us for whatever fits your schedule!

## MID-WEEK LENTEN THEMES AND SERVICE PROJECTS

This year's Lenten Theme is "Promises of God." Our Old Testament readings for the Sundays in Lent all include promises God made to people at different times in the history of God's people. Together, we will look at how God fulfilled these different promises and the reflection of those promises we see in our world today.

February 21: Noahic Covenant - God enters a covenant with Noah and all living beings that never again will God flood the earth.

Project: Cards for children at "Camp Noah"

February 28: Abrahamic Covenant - God makes a covenant with Abraham and Sarah to make their descendants as many as the stars.

Project: TBD associated with Helping Hands Pregnancy and Family Center

March 6: Mosaic Covenant - God creates a covenant by giving the gift of Law to Moses.

Project: Letter-writing for Amnesty International

March 13: Davidic Covenant and Salvation from Danger - God promises that from David's Line a faithful descendant will emerge.

Project: TBD

March 20: A New Covenant - God promises through the prophet Jeremiah that God will write the Law on our hearts.

Project: TBD



### 2024 Council Members:

President & Elder	Mark Prout
Vice President & Elder	Paige Walker
Secretary	Sandy Langdon
Treasurer	Libby Stroble
Deacon	Drew Walker
Trustee	Larry Hile

### Pastor Sharilyn's Information:

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

#### Office Hours:

Monday: 2:30pm-5:30pm  
 Tuesday & Thursday: 9am-Noon  
 Other Times by Appointment  
 Please call first to be sure she is in!

### 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



# Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

## December 19, 2023

**Present:** Cindy Knotte, Neil Stroble, Libby Stroble, Pastor Sharilyn Wendt

**Absent:** Scott Clamme, Paige Walker, Mark Prout

**Guests:** Pastor Nancy Nyland, Drew Walker, Larry Hile, Sandy Langdon

### A. Opening

- a. Call Meeting to Order by Cindy at 7:01pm
- b. Devotions from Pastor Nancy

### B. Secretary's Report

- a. Amend/Approve minutes from last Council meeting: Motion Neil, 2nd Libby, Pass.
- b. Correspondence: None
- c. Add Items to Agenda: None

### C. Pastor's Report

- a. Meet and Know Members
  1. Pastoral Care Visits: 8
- b. Youth Education Program
  1. Youth will be reading at Christmas Eve service
  2. Next semester in Confirmation will focus primarily on Lutheran Theology and Discipleship
- c. Outreach
  1. Ask-A-Pastor: Will restart in January
  2. Worship Service at Envive Nursing Home (1/month)
- d. Community Partnerships
  1. Mental Health Support Group: Will be suspending for a while due to low attendance
  2. Monthly ministerium meeting
  3. "Lifewise Academy": Requesting feedback from the council regarding involvement
- e. Upcoming Special Services
  1. December 20 - Blue Christmas: Please plan to attend. Please spread the word to family, friends, and neighbors.
  2. December 24 - Christmas Eve (7:00pm)
  3. December 31 - Hymn Sing for Sunday Worship. There will need to be additional leaders for readings and prayers. Current worship plan does not include any preaching.

### D. Committee Reports

- a. Parish Education & Youth
  1. Youth will be reading on Christmas Eve.
  2. Working with some youth on possibly giving musical offerings at worship.
- b. Worship/Music/Memorial
  1. Meeting in February.

- c. Mission & Ministry
  - 1. Adopt-A-Family was successful and raised more money than expected. Surplus will go to Wernle.
  - 2. Planning another Souper Bowl of Caring for February.

**E. Council Reports**

- a. Deacon
  - 1. Attendance and Holy Communion Report
    - a. Nov 26 - 32
    - b. Dec 3 - 36 (Comm: 35)
    - c. Dec 10 - 31
  - 2. Assistance Requests: One for \$100 rent help
- b. Elders: None
- c. Trustee
  - 1. Washer and dryer purchased for parsonage.
  - 2. AC Project - Will be completed before warm weather.
  - 3. Estimate for new flooring in basement bathrooms \$981. Neil and Larry will collaborate to make sure project continues.
- d. Treasurer

1. Balance Sheet as of December 10	
Deacon's Fund Checking	1,004.00
Deacon's Fund Savings	66.46
General Fund, Thrivent Invested	78,893.24
General Fund, VIA Checking	12,390.93
General Fund, VIA Membership	56.46
General Fund, VIA Money Market	41,780.51
Memorial Fund, VIA Checking	25,790.62
Memorial Fund, VIA Money Market	2,952.12
Mission Invest., Memorial Fund	7,076.24
ZLCW Kitchen Savings	2,243.84
ZLCW Kitchen Checking	150.00
TOTAL ASSETS	172,404.42


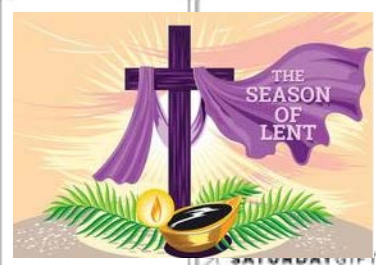
**F. Business**

- a. Annual Meeting: Jan 28
- b. Pastor Nyland: Presented ideas on Transformational Ministry and ongoing work for the Future of Zion.
- c. Future Church Next Steps: Pastor Sharilyn reviewed "focus areas" that were identified during Future Church conversation.
- d. Mid-Week Worship: Discussion on suspending mid-week Advent due to low attendance. Will try Lent again with possible changes to be more inclusive.

**G. Closing**

- a. Lord's Prayer at 8:30pm
- b. Next Meeting: January 16, 2024 at 7:00pm

# February 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
Education Hour 9:30am Worship & Communion 10:30am 4	Coffee & Jesus at Deja Brew 8am 5	6	Ask-A-Pastor at Deja Brew 5-7pm 7	8	9	10
Education Hour 9:30am Worship 10:30am 11	Coffee & Jesus at Deja Brew 8am 12	Piecemakers 9am Fat Tuesday/ Valentine's Celebration 6-8pm 13	Ashes-To-Go 6:30-9am Ash Wednesday Service 7pm 14	15	16	17
Education Hour 9:30am Worship & Communion 10:30am 18	Coffee & Jesus at Deja Brew 8am 19	Council Mtg in Library 7pm 20	Mid-Week Lent Prayer and Serve in Fellowship Hall 7pm 21	22	23	24
Education Hour 9:30am Worship 10:30am 25	Coffee & Jesus at Deja Brew 8am 26	Piecemakers in Fellowship Hall 9am 27	Mid-Week Lent Prayer and Serve in Fellowship Hall 7pm 28	29		



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Sharilyn Wendt, Pastor  
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[www.zionhc.org](http://www.zionhc.org)

Education Hour/Confirmation at 9:30am  
Worship at 10:30am

## February 2024 Sunday Servants

### Greeters:

Feb 4 - Gene & Aneta Gardner; Buck & Kathy Sharp  
Feb 11 - Dorothy Hale; Matt & Allie Clamme  
Feb 15 - Dennis & Debbie Walker  
Feb 18 - Claretta Dutro; Dennis & Debbie Walker  
Feb 25 - Max & Sandy Langdon; Lewis & Joyce Willmann

### Assisting Minister:

Feb 4 - Mark Prout  
Feb 18 - Mark Prout

### Lector:

Feb 4 - Kathy Sharp  
Feb 11 - Matt Clamme  
Feb 15 - Linda Baker  
Feb 18 - Allie Clamme  
Feb 25 - Sandy Langdon

### Acolyte:

Feb 4 - Walker  
Feb 11 - Clamme  
Feb 18 - Walker  
Feb 25 - Clamme