
THE ZION HERALD

February 2026

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

The Pastor's Ponderings

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

It is always difficult to process emotions that surround the many twists and turns of life. By now, most of those reading have heard the news that my time at Zion Lutheran's called pastor will be concluded at the end of the month. It's common, I think, to reflect during times like this to do a "back to basics" look at the places impacted by whatever changes life sends your way.

Zion happens to be at a stage in its life when it's faced with a lot of changes– and change can be unnerving and unsettling. When I was a parishioner in the pew rather than a pastor in the pulpit, I was in a church that was also facing a pastoral vacancy in a season of change. A wise pastor asked the question: "Who's the leader of this church?" Well, Jesus. "Who was the leader of this church last month?" Jesus. "Who will be the leader next year?" Jesus.

Even in times of change, there are a few things that will remain the same always: (1) Jesus is and always will be the head of the church. (2) Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of the Nations – wars may rage, countries form and fall apart, peoples enter exile and return home, elections change the political climate – but Jesus is King of Kings. (3) We are people of The Resurrection and through the grace given to us freely by Jesus, we are made free for all time. (4) We are called to serve God, one another, and the world by sharing the unfathomably abundant love we have received as the children of God.

I feel very honored to have served among you, dear beloved children of God at Zion Lutheran Church, as my "ordination church." (I hate the term "first call" church – it frames this very special congregation in a pastor's career only in relationship to other congregations we will serve, so I'm adopting a new term. Zion in my "ordination church" – the church who's call served at the final bit of affirmation that I'm supposed to be a pastor.) In months and years ahead, I will continue to pray for you and for the wonderful ministry ahead of you.

*In Christ,
Pastor Sharilyn*

February Readings

February 1

4th Sunday of Epiphany

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

February 8

5th Sunday of Epiphany

- Isaiah 58:1-12
- Psalm 112:1-9
- 1 Corinthians 2:1-16
- Matthew 5:13-20

February 15

Transfiguration of Our Lord

- Exodus 24:12-18
- Psalm 2
- 2 Peter 1:16-21
- Matthew 17:1-9

February 18

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 22

1st Sunday of Lent

- Genesis 2:15-17,3:1-7
- Psalm 32
- Romans 5:12-19
- Matthew 4:1-11



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY!

BLACKFORD IU HEALTH

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

Be a part of the **CHANGE!**

- Must be 16 or older
- Select "Blackford" location

APPLY NOW!

www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?ap=784730166

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
Denise Hile	2-24
Vicki Willmann	2-26

FAMILY BAPTISM



Sunday, February 8 we will celebrate a family baptism and the Brewer family will join Zion Lutheran Church as our newest members. Plan to attend!

ASH WEDNESDAY



Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00pm Zion Lutheran Church will have our Ash Wednesday worship service. Join us as we usher in the 40 Days of Lent with this day set aside for both reflection and penitence.

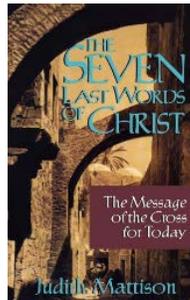
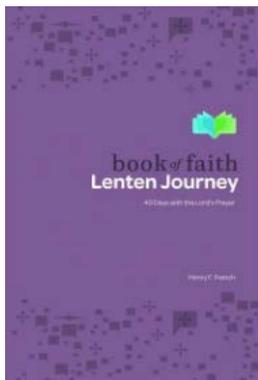
LENTEN DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

Lent offers an opportunity to spent time intentionally in prayer, reflection, and study. When a person choses to “give something up for Lent” I find it fitting if that action yields something positive in the rest of the world as well. For example, if you choose to give up smoking, chocolate, drinking, etc. for Lent, it can make the decision so much more impactful if you then use the time, money, or energy for something positive for your faith life such as additional time in prayer, being generous with time and resources, etc.

Here are some Lenten resources you may want to pick up to add to your daily prayer life during this season:

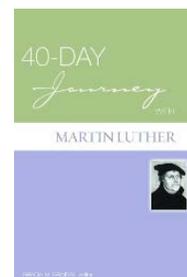
Book of Faith Lenten Journey: Beyond Question by Eric Burtness

Available through Augsburg Fortress, this devotional reflects the weekly readings at church through the rest of the week.



The Seven Last Words of Christ: The Message of the Cross for Today by Judith Mattison
Available through Augsburg Fortress as well as other retailers like Amazon, this is an ideal companion through Holy Week with seven meditations on the seven last words of Christ.

40-Day Journey with Martin Luther by Gracia Grindal
If you're wanting to return back to some basics, this devotional can accompany you through the 40 days of Lent with the writings and theology of Martin Luther. Available through Amazon and most other booksellers.



Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting December 16, 2025 Minutes

President Paige Walker opened the December meeting of Zion Lutheran Church Council to order. All were in attendance including Pastor Priscilla Geerdes.

Pastor Priscilla from the IK Synod office explained the process of shared ministry versus shared pastorate. She gave the council an ELCA church within driving distance that might be interested in a conversation with Zion concerning a shared pastorate. A meeting will be set up in January for conversation between the two councils.

Drew Walker gave the devotions based on Psalm 46 titled "The Farmer and His Lost Mule." Neil Stroble moved to accept the minutes from the November council meeting. Drew Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed. A request from 4-H Extension, FFA, and Junior Leaders for funds to complete the new building was presented. No action was taken.

Pastor gave the following report: there were 4 pastoral care visits in November, Coffee and Jesus continues on Monday mornings, Blue Christmas worship will be held on December 17, laundry kits were successful - they were given out at the food pantry. At this time IU Foundation plans on opening a food pantry for the community at the IU Blackford Health building beginning in January. A 501(c)(3) titled Feeding Blackford County has been applied for. It was decided not to pursue a grant from Blackford County Foundation to buy more livestock from the 4-H auction until we see results of the new food pantry.

There were no committee reports. Deacon Drew Walker reported a high attendance in November of 30 and two assistance requests for gas and heat. Treasurer Matt Clamme gave the following report as of December 15:

Deacon's Fund Checking	\$482.58
Deacon's Fund Savings	\$5.00
Thrivent Invested	\$87,874.77
General Fund Checking	\$6,144.51
VIA Membership	\$26,923.17
Memorial Fund Checking	\$10,639.44
Memorial Fund Money Market	\$20,122.73
Memorial Fund Mission Investment	\$7,135.35
ZLCW Kitchen Fund Savings	\$2,344.70
ZLCW Kitchen Funds Checking	\$150.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$161,822.25

The annual meeting will be January 25. The next council meeting will be January 20 with Mark Prout giving the devotions. The meeting closed with all praying the Lord's prayer.

Respectively submitted,
Sandy Langdon

February 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Worship & Communion 10:30am Carry-In and Annual Meeting 1	Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am 2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship 10:30am 8	Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am 9	Piecemakers in Fellowship Hall 9:00am 10	11	12	13	14 
Worship & Communion 10:30am 15	Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am 16	Council Meeting in Library 7:00pm 17	Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm 18	19	20	21
Worship 10:30am Farewell Luncheon for Pastor 22	Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am 23	Piecemakers in Fellowship Hall 9:00am 24	25	26	Pastor's Last Day 27	28

FAREWELL LUNCHEON FOR PASTOR SHARILYN

Please join us on Sunday, February 22, immediately following worship, for a special farewell luncheon honoring Pastor Sharilyn. The church will provide the main dish of fried chicken, and we invite the congregation to bring side dishes and desserts to share. This gathering is an opportunity for our church family to come together in gratitude, celebrate her faithful service, and send her off with love and appreciation.



308 S Monroe St
Hartford City, IN 47348

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

Worship at 10:30am

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!

2026 Council Members

President & Elder	Mark Prout
Vice President & Elder	Paige Walker
Secretary	Sandy Langdon
Treasurer	Matt Clamme
Deacon	Scott Clamme
Trustee	Neil Stroble

February Sunday Servants

Greeters

Feb 1 - Tom Armstrong; Max & Sandy Langdon

Feb 8 - Tom Armstrong; Cindy Knote

Feb 15 - Tom Armstrong; Buck & Kathy Sharp

Feb 18 - Mark Prout

Feb 22 - Tom Armstrong; Mark Prout

Lector

Feb 1 - Sandy Langdon

Feb 8 - Cindy Knote

Feb 15 - Kathy Sharp

Feb 18 - Mark Prout

Feb 22 - Mark Prout

Assisting Minister

Feb 1 - Mark Prout

Feb 15 - Michelle Walker