



Zion's News & Notes



A Few Words From Pastor Janet

March
2024

The Gift that is Lent

What are you giving up for Lent?

That is what I remember of Lent from childhood. It might have been the influence of Catholic friends because this was not a thing in our family, but everyone always seemed to be talking about fasting from something during Lent, with sweets, caffeine, and meat topping the list. Now people might choose to fast from social media, screen time, or shopping. This abstention seems to fit in well with the Lenten themes of repentance and self-sacrifice, but the sharing of it does not. Jesus spoke directly to this—that fasting is not to be done to impress others—indeed others don't even need to know!—but is for God.

The disciplines of Lent are taken from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in The Gospel of Matthew that we hear proclaimed on Ash Wednesday: prayer, Fasting, and almsgiving. The disciplines have not changed over the years, but the way we perceive them has. Rather than see them as a way to deny ourselves and join in Christ's suffering, we see them as a way to deepen our faith and grow closer to God. People look now, not so much for things to give up, as for things to take on: reading scripture and meditating on God's Word, practicing works of love, and giving to those in need. The emphasis of Lent has shifted from somber repentance and self-sacrifice to reflecting on how we can love and serve God and neighbor more deeply.

Or to look at it another way: the spiritual disciplines are not something we *have* to do; they are something we *get* to do. As Pope Francis said, "Eat whatever you want for Lent. The sacrifice is not in the stomach but in the heart. A good barbecue or beef stew won't make you a bad person, just like a fish fillet won't make you a saint. Better seek to have a deeper relationship with God through better treatment of others."

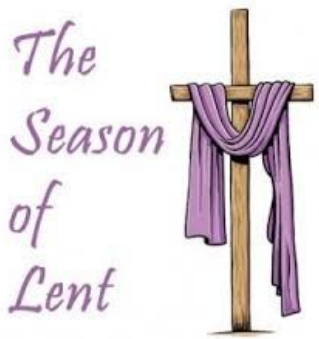
Whatever you choose to practice this Lent, may it bring you closer to God.

Your Co-worker in the Gospel,
Pastor Janet

Zion Lutheran Church
Zion News & Notes
Zion News & Notes is published each month by the church office. It includes news of upcoming events, thank you notes, archives, photos, and other items of interest. **Our newsletters are also available on our website:** www.zionlutheranNy.org

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Table of Contents	
A Few Words From Pr. Janet	1
Announcements	2
March Birthdays	3
Missionary Letter	3
Worship Team Schedule	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Gifts Given	4
Notes of Gratitude	5
Jan/Feb Memories	6-8
Women of Faith	9
Zion Book Group	9
World Hunger	9
Holy Week	10



March Announcements



Coffee Hour

Please see the Coffee Hour Schedule posted in the narthex and sign up where you can so that we can keep the coffee brewing for you on Sundays! Feel free to bring in snacks, cakes, cookies, or whatever you'd like to coffee hour!

Attention Zion Attendees!!!

If you are new to Zion, or if you have been attending for a while and would like to learn more about becoming a member, please call the church office at: 315-732-4110 or email office@zionluth.com.

Walking With Friends

The Walking Group has been meeting on Wednesdays at 2:30pm at the Target entrance of Sangertown. Call Kim Marscher (315) 794-6233 if you have questions.

Inclement Weather

When a Worship Service at Zion is cancelled due to weather, it will be announced on WKTV as well as in an email. In the event that there is a cancelation, please help us spread the word to those you know who may not be using email. Thank you!

Red Cross Blood Drive

Zion will be hosting a Blood Drive on Wednesday, March 27th from 10am-2pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please reserve your appointment at www.redcross.org!

Zoom/YouTube

We are so grateful to all of our online participants for joining the services regularly! If you run into an issue or if you need help (*sometimes our WIFI isn't the best in the balcony*) please reach out Isabel at any time during the service at: ZionLuthTechnologist@gmail.com. You can also use the chat option via Zoom. Please lookout for any incoming chat messages from Isabel during the service.

Please see the sign-up sheets posted in the Narthex (or call/email the church office) if you would like to help with any of our Holy Week Services. Several readers are needed for Palm Sunday - Role Playing - The Passion According to Mark. Please sign-up if you'd like to take part in this portion of the service.

We will be having a cook-in for your neighbors on Sunday, March 3rd after the service! Please considerer bringing in a main dish, side dish, or freezable dessert, like a cobbler, etc.

We will also need help packaging the meals into trays

Please see the sign-up sheet if you'd like to help. Thank you!!

Your Neighbors Wish List: if you are able to help Your Neighbors at Zion, there are a few items needed: Food Preparation gloves, small sticky notes, permanent markers, removable tape. As always, meals are greatly appreciated. There are bags of ten trays in our kitchen containing all the items you'll need to prepare meals at home. Please safely put your protein, vegetable, side dish, or freezable dessert (such as fruit crisps) in the tray, follow the directions enclosed, and bring to Zion after freezing the meal at home. Your Neighbors thanks you!

March Birthdays

Mildred Pelrine	1	David Hunter	22
Amelia Roberts	1	Laurel McCurdy	23
Debra Murdock	5	Katharine Thompson	24
Matthew Grove	6	Ralph Youngren	26
Ben Silva	8	Nicole Manino	27
Nicholas Manino	14	Gloria Cifonelli	30
Carol Youngren	14	Bonnie Loomis	30
Jim Marscher	20	Aubrey Stevens	31
Patsy Glista	21		

A LETTER FROM PASTOR KRISTIN

Greetings my siblings in Christ from green, green Zambia,

It is rainy season here in Zambia. Even though the rains came a month late and seem to have paused for a couple weeks, it is still green or emerald season, as it is called here in Zambia. We hope that the rains will start again and continue for another month, so that the farmers' crops will keep growing and we all have food to eat.

Please keep the people of Zambia and especially here in the capital of Lusaka in your prayers. We are in the midst of a cholera outbreak. This can happen easily during rainy season, when the sewers overflow and drains are clogged, but it is especially bad this year. The practices put in place during COVID are helping us as well, as we wash our hands whenever we move into a new space or greet people. Churches are also doing deep cleaning before worship and limiting worship time.

May you all know and trust that God is with you, and with all our siblings around the world.

Mulungu, a ku daliseni.

Rev. Kristin Engstrom

MARCH WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

Date:	Worship Assistant	Pastor	Greeters	Ushers
March 3		Pr. Janet Griffiths	Barb Wilson	
March 10	Wendy Stevens	Pr. Rick Klafehn	Jan Corn	Darlene Hill
March 17 <i>St Patrick's Day</i>	Joe Schmidt	Pr. John Ferrie	Fran Holzberger	Darlene Hill
March 24 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Wendy Stevens		Linda Bennett	
March 28 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>		Pr. Janet Griffiths		
March 29 <i>Good Friday</i>	Wendy Stevens	Pr. Janet Griffiths	Jan Corn	
March 31 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	Karen Toepp	Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth	Kim Marscher	Mark Thompson

Treasurer's Report

		January 2024 Treasurer's Report		
	Jan-24	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	\$ 18,996.00	\$ 18,996.00	\$ 12,791.66	\$ 6,204.34
Other Income	\$ 2,437.21	\$ 2,437.21	\$ 1,392.35	\$ 1,044.86
Total Income	\$ 21,433.21	\$ 21,433.21	\$ 14,184.01	\$ 7,249.20
Total Expense	\$ 11,301.31	\$ 11,301.31	\$ 14,586.46	\$ (3,285.15)
Net Income	\$ 10,131.90	\$ 10,131.90	\$ (402.45)	\$ 10,534.35

Gifts Given to the Glory of God

In Memory of:	To:	Given by:
Doris Hennings	Missionary	Laurel McCurdy
Carl Schmitt	Memorial Fund	Laura Hilt
Carl Schmitt	Memorial Fund	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Doris Hennings	Memorial Fund	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Mary Lou Millar	Memorial Fund	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Carl Schmitt	Zion Food Ministry	Fran & Connie LaGase
Carl Schmitt	Memorial Fund	Suzee Rowland
Carl Schmitt	Endowment Fund	Ron & Jan Kowalczyk
Carl Schmitt	Memorial Fund	Barb Wilson
Carl Schmitt	Memorial Fund	Susan Lincoln
Carl Schmitt	Bldg. Fund/Zoom	Linda White
Wanda Gregory	Memorial Fund	Don Gregory
In Honor of:	To:	Given by:
Linda Bennett	World Hunger	Laurel McCurdy

Notes of Gratitude & Other Communications

Dear Zion Lutheran Congregation & Debra Murdock,

On behalf of the Refugee Center, I would like to thank you for once again including us as one of the recipients of your Mitten Tree. Our families arrive from countries with hot climates, so providing them with warm winter wear is crucial. Your donation of men's gloves and hats is such a blessing and will help to keep our many arrivals warm through this winter.

Sincerely,
Deb Martin

Dear Members of Zion Lutheran Church,

On behalf of Feed Our Vets, I thank you for your support and donation of \$24.15 to the Feed Our Vets Organization. You folks are a blessing to the Military Veterans and their families who gave so much for this country. In 2023, we gave out 364,631 pounds of food and fed 7306 Vets and Dependents. So as you can see, we need your help.

Yours in Patriotism,
Joseph P Ancona, Director, Utica Pantry FOV

Dear Friends,

We are so thankful for your generous grant award of \$1,375 to the KEYS program! Thanks to the Foundation's continued belief in our mission, together we will be able to deliver music, hope, and smiles, to the bedside of children battling serious illness again this year. Thank you for the extra (\$\$) support his year! It made our hearts smile.

With my heartfelt thanks,
Colleen Bennett/KEYS Executive Director/Founder

Dear Zion family,

Thank you for reaching out to us as we mourn the loss of Mary Lou Millar. The families stories and memories include many at Zion. On behalf of the whole family, thank you, it was very thoughtful to send us a photo of the hymnal in our mom's memory.

Love,
Bruce & Monica Millar

Thank you for your cards, concern and prayers at the time of my recent illness.

Karen Toepp

Thank you all so much for your emails, messages, and phone calls of care and concern for Isabel while she was sick with the flu. Your prayers meant so much to us.

Sara Silva & family



*There will be a Memorial Service for Mary Lou Millar on Saturday,
June 29th at 11:00 AM at the Hamilton College Chapel.*

Healing Service 2023



We had a highly meaningful & deeply impactful Healing Service on January 28th. Thank you to Pastor Janet for leading this beautiful service.



February Memories



Historic pitcher - 1897 - in the Fireside Room

LET
Your
LIGHT
SHINE
MATTHEW 5:16

February Memories



Thank you to Joni Pulliam & Kim Marscher for polishing Zion's silver! Zion Members have been taking turns doing this over the years, and we appreciate all of you for taking the time to do this.

shine
on

Special Events



The time is here for our Spring World Hunger campaign! This year's theme is "Loaves & Fishes." The challenge is to gather funds from now until Synod Assembly (June 3rd & June 4th.) Our challenge is to raise \$500 - \$250 for a fish pond, & \$250 for irrigation to grow grains for bread. Zion traditionally exceeds the goal greatly and we hope we will do so again this year.

Please use donation envelopes or write a check clearly marked for World Hunger to make your donation. Thank you!

Zion Book Group will meet Sunday, March 17th briefly after worship. Please bring ideas or the book you'd like to share. We'll meet in the Fireside Room and then move to the room next to the nursery.

Women Of Faith

Join us for Bible Study, titled "Do Justice Now - from Generation to Generation" by Robert Foster. The next study will be presented on Monday, March 11h at 7 PM on Zoom (Trinity will send the link.)

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!

*****Save the Date*****

The next in-person event will be held at Our Saviour on Saturday, April 27th at 10 AM. Members of Our Saviour will be providing food and beverages and Trinity will lead the program.



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Like us on Facebook at:

Zion Lutheran Church, New Hartford, NY

*The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is to prayerfully
discern God's call to help people
to become more fully devoted followers of Christ.*



HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT ZION

Palm Sunday– March 24th at 10 AM

Followed by a Special Coffee Hour

Maundy Thursday– March 28th at 6 PM

Simple Supper in the Fellowship Hall

Good Friday– March 29th at 7 PM

Held in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday– March 31st at 10 AM