

*ZION LUTHERAN  
CHURCH & SCHOOL  
LITCHFIELD, IL*

***2022 ANNUAL REPORT/FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER***

*Rev. Fred Kraemer, Pastor*  
Church 217-324-2033

*Ms. Jami Pryor, Principal*  
School 217-324-3166

## **Still recovering**

We are glad that the main fears of COVID-19 are finally behind us after two years of dealing with it, but it's still not over. Many people had severe cases, and we know of many deaths as well, but there's also a number who had the illness and suffer lingering effects. Some talk of not having full stamina back yet; others just a nagging cough that will not go away; and others still have different effects that show their body has not fully recovered.

Zion herself is still suffering some of the lingering effects caused by our reaction to the virus. I can't begin to describe how disheartening it was two years ago when the celebration of the resurrection at Easter was limited to 12 people. I'm thankful that we've had many people coming back to worship, but we are still not back to the numbers we used to have.

I am also thankful that we've been able to reach people by having our services videoed and placed on our church's Facebook page so people could join in that way. As good of a second alternative viewing online is, it still does not have the full effect as uniting in worship.

Online you can't take the Lord supper. There's no way to give you the body and blood of Christ electronically. It just can't happen, so we need to be together for that. When we come to the Lord's table it is a very visible proclamation of the Lord's death for us. By coming to communion we tell each other we need the forgiveness of Jesus, and we are receiving that very forgiveness at His table.

Online you can't give someone a hug, no matter how many emojis you put on what you write! The church is known for gathering together, being with each other, supporting each other. Electronic means just can't accomplish this necessary act of togetherness.

The evil one would like nothing better than to keep us in fear, to keep us from gathering together, to keep us from caring for one another as God's people. We still need to have more recovery by gathering together.

One major area where we are still recovering deals with the bringing up of our children. We are back to being in session full-time now, no electronic classrooms. Yes, School numbers are down, but with our wonderfully dedicated staff we will continue to grow. So keep our School in your prayers.

One thing that I will be starting again in February as having children's messages in our worship services when there is no communion. This is just one small way for myself to continue to feed our precious children. Pray for me as I prepare these messages especially for these younger hearts and minds. (It's OK for the older ones to listen as well!)

We still need more help in bringing up our younger members. Sunday school classes are not in session because we don't have people willing to be teachers. Could that be something you may do, probably not by yourself, but are you willing to work with others for that end? Maybe you would be willing to work with our high school youth. Could you join with one or two others to help them grow in faith?

Having our Sunday school and our youth ministry active once more is part of the recovery of what we lost in the battle with Covid. I certainly don't expect any one of you to take this all on by yourself. I know I can do some things as I mentioned before, but need help from others as well. I'd love to share some thoughts and ideas with others about our Sunday school and youth ministry. I'm willing to help train, or do whatever I can so that this vital part of our ministry comes back, and grows strong once more.

I am asking for help, so if you have an interest, if you would like to be part of the recovery, healing, and growth process, let me know. I also would rather not just return to "normal", but that we grow way beyond that. The Lord will empower us through His Word. The Lord will continue to give to us His Spirit. The Lord will continue to guide us because He loves us and desires us to grow in faith and to proclaim that faith.

I am looking forward to Zion being 'healthy' once more, to us gathering together as the church, to our ministry continuing to grow. Blessings as we heal.

Pastor Fred

News from Zion Lutheran School  
Miss Pryor, Principal

When the new calendar year begins, 365 days (366 if it's a leap year) stretch before us, and we marvel at them with anticipation and wonder. Teachers and students get to enjoy this feeling twice, as there are many of the same feelings when the new school year begins in August. As we move from month to month, we reflect back on the many activities and experiences that have filled our days and the excitement that lies ahead.

January was a busy month. We began our third quarter of school. Report cards from second quarter were sent home and we extend congratulations to all the fifth through eighth graders who made the school honor roll. There was a great attendance at the PTL Bingo Night on the 12th and many prizes were won! Our basketball teams played two home games and gave great effort against both teams. We appreciate the time and commitment of our coaches and the improvements the teams have made over the season. Students and staff even got to enjoy our first snow day of the school year! Our focus turned to safety at the end of the month as we were led through a lockdown drill by the Litchfield Police Department. Our community is certainly blessed to have such faithful workers concerned about our safety each and every day.

As we look ahead to February, we invite everyone to our Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, February 5th, from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The funds from the dinner are used to help pay for registration fees for the Lutheran Education Conference triennial conference. This is a great opportunity for you to invite friends and family members to join in fellowship with others from our church and school. February is also a month when we think about love as we have our classroom Valentine's Day parties. What a tremendous blessing it is to be able to rejoice in the love that God has for each of us!

**Second Grade News – Lydia Cook**

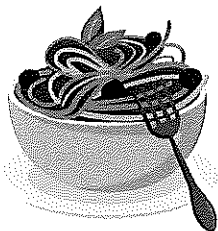
Second graders have been learning about animals this year and have finished this topic by researching an animal of their choice, writing about it, and then creating that animal's habitat. We are also celebrating Valentine's Day by creating unique Valentine mail boxes where we will pass out treats to our classmates. We are also starting a big project where students write about what they want to be when they grow up. It will be sent off and published as a class book for each of them to keep forever! The class was given a Pajama day as a reward for positive behavior and working hard.

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Zion Lutheran School  
Spaghetti Dinner

Hosted by Zion's Teachers and Staff

Sunday February 5th, 2023  
11:30am - 1:00pm



In the School Gym  
\$ 10 For Adults  
\$ 5 for Children ages 3 - Grade 8  
Dine In or Carry Out Available

## LADIES AID/LWML ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022

Ladies Aid, in conjunction with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, meets the first Thursday of each month. The two-fold objectives of the LWML are: First: To develop and maintain a greater mission consciousness among the Lutheran women of the District (Mission Education-Mission Inspiration-Mission Service-Mission Projects). Second: To gather funds for the support of District and Synodical Mission projects, especially those for which no adequate provision has been made in the budget.

Some of the regular activities of the Ladies Aid included the mother-daughter banquet in May, the semi-annual rummage sales, and the silent auction in December. Some of the programs for 2022 were a speaker from Hearts United discussing the needs of the homeless in Litchfield, Connie Niemann did a presentation about "Agricultural Literacy", and a representative from Marion Medical Mission spoke on water wells in Africa.

Several mission projects were held throughout the year. A thank you to our church family for helping fill the "grocery cart" with requested items for Seminary Food Bank, Hearts United, Litchfield Food Pantry, Blessing Bags for nursing home residents and shut-ins, or supplies for the school and church kitchen. We collected monetary donations for the Zion Alumni Scholarship Fund, and the Living Alternative Crisis Pregnancy Center. In December, cookie trays were delivered to service providers. We also made annual Christmas donations to various programs such as Lutheran Bible Translators, Prison Ministry, Zion Lutheran School Tuition Assistance, Lutheran Child and Family Services, Christmas Basket Association, Coats For Kids, KFUE Radio, Litchfield Food Pantry, St. Clare Food Bank, Hearts United, Zion Lutheran Church Debt Reduction, and Bethesda Lutheran Home.

In 2022, we also participated in the "80 Years" Project. Each month local groups within the LWML carried out a project in celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the LWML. Some of these projects included eighty items for the food pantry, eighty bottles of water for the school, ice cream treats for the nursing homes, packaged treats for the homeless, handmade scarves for shut-ins and nursing home residents, and baby sleepers for St. Francis Maternity Department.

We have several committees in which members share their time and talents. Our visiting committee sends cards, makes phone calls, and visits shut-ins and nursing home residents each month. The food service committee helps with funeral dinners. The altar committee prepares the communion table each weekend and the office aid committee helps as needed.

All ladies of Zion are welcome and encouraged to come to our meetings and become part of our organization. The church bulletin and the hall bulletin board contain information about our meetings and events. If you would like more information about Ladies Aid, please talk to any of our members.

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## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Stewardship annual report: This year has been a rebuilding year post covid. Monthly meetings have resumed and several open spots have been filled on the committee. The committee is made up of Chairman: Ian Polus and members Conda Martin, Marcia Sailsbury, Pam Hull and one vacancy. The committee is still in need of one member, please email Ian Polus at [ian\\_polus@hotmail.com](mailto:ian_polus@hotmail.com) if interested. The annual fundraiser list has been approved.

# - RAISE RIGHT NEWS -



Turn everyday shopping  
into fundraising dollars

**RaiseRight.**  
an early shopping

We earned \$1,968.45 in rebates for 2022! We extend a huge “THANK YOU” to all who used Raise Right formerly Shop with Scrip this past year. By using gift cards to purchase regular items and to use as gifts, Raise Right users have made this program at Zion Successful. You may ask; where was all the revenue generated from Raise Right used? The following is a breakdown showing the great things we can do with your support and the support of local and nationally participating businesses:

\*Rebates received by families towards their child/children’s tuition: \$365.25

\*Rebates directed toward the Tuition Assistance Account: \$ 137.75

\*Item for the School \$1,000.00

\* Supplies, postage: \$357.50

Please note that rebates are 30% goes for tuition and 70% goes for other uses. So, you see, we can do some amazing things with the rebate monies! If you have not tried using Raise Right, please do so in 2023! It makes a difference and is a great way to plan ahead with your spending. Anyone can purchase Raise Right cards from Zion. Please invite friends, neighbors and relatives to participate even if they are not a member of Zion. For a complete listing of the nationally known participating businesses from which you can purchase, please go to [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com).

RaiseRight mobile app, get gift cards at your fingertips. Together we can make a difference!

**I am needing people to sign up to sell between services on Sundays.**

Jim Wreath,  
Zion’s Raise Right Coordinator

## \*\*\*\*\*SHUT-INS\*\*\*\*\*

Joann Fuchs – 705 S. Walnut, Litchfield IL 62056  
Delores (Dotie) Eglehoff – 1225 N. Madison, Litchfield, IL 62056  
Lloyd & Karen Lueker – 700 W. Ferdon #8, Litchfield, IL 62056  
Don & Ruth Lang – 305 Titcomb St., Butler IL 62055  
Gail Hunter – 710 Anna Street, Taylor Springs IL 62089  
Florance Collman – 812 S. Jackson St., Litchfield, IL 62056  
Lois Niemann – 6261 Niemannville Trail, Litchfield, IL 62056

### **Heritage Manor – 628 S. Illinois, Litchfield IL 62056**

102 – Raymond Mansholt

113 – Ruth Cranford

### **Evergreen – 1015 E. Tyler Ave., Litchfield, IL 62056**

110 – Micki Lovejoy

111 – Karen Butcher

122 – Clarice Ruppert

### **Timber Creek Village – 101 W. Sallee, Litchfield IL 62056**

Betty Monke

Ferrell and Joyce Meinschein

Ed Helgen

Earl and Barb Schmidt

Deloris Schweizer

### **Copper Creek Cottages – 1007 E. Columbia, Litchfield IL 62056**

Norma Walker

Marilyn Niehaus

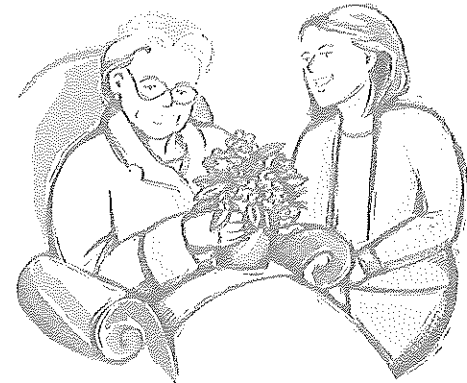
### **Hillsboro Healthcare Center – 1300 E. Tremont St. Hillsboro, IL 62049**

Jack Butcher

### **Glenwood Assisted Living Facility – 18192 Renken Road, Staunton IL 62088**

Joy Streitmatter

Maybe you would like to send a card or note to one of our Shut – In’s. Here is our list.



## Annual Fund-Raising Approved List

The following list of activities has been approved by the Board of Stewardship to collect/charge money for charitable work. Any Fundraising activity not on this list must be submitted to the Board of Stewardship in writing/email for approval before the activity can take place, stating whether the fundraiser is for one time approval or for inclusion on the Annual Fundraiser approved list. Fund raisers marked with a \* have not been done in several years. Unless Stewardship committee is contacted, they will more than likely be removed from the list.

Ladies Aid Mother-Daughter Banquet

Ladies Aid Spring and Fall Rummage Sale and Luncheon

Ladies Aid Christmas Silent Auction

Ladies Aid Mite Boxes

Ladies Aid Cookie Walk in December \*

PTL Sauerbraten Dinner \*

PTL Trivia Night

PTL School Musical

Annual School Fall Fundraiser

7th and 8th Grade Fundraiser for Chicago Trip

Dinner for Teachers to go to the Lutheran Association Convention

Gingerbread House

SCRIP Program / Raise Right

School Sweatshirt/T shirt sale with Zion logo

Zion flyer fest

Annual fund drive for the school (arm of alumni group)

Sunday School Christmas program

Youth Soup Suppers during Lent and Advent

Youth Easter Breakfast \*

Triumph Café Dinner \*

Any Fundraiser related to "Onward in Faith" Campaign

Gala (Bi annual)

### **Door offering for:**

Vacation Bible School , Church Picnic, Good Samaritan Fund, Church Landscaping Food Pantry  
(Thanksgiving loose Plate Offering) Christmas Treats for Children

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

<p>1 Kyle Johnson Rhiannon Orf</p> <p>2 Sandra Lankutis</p> <p>3 JoAnne Fuchs Nancy Hyam Bradlee Saxby</p> <p>5 Shayla Kaeb</p> <p>6 Marian Browning Hudson DeBarr- Walker Dalton Ellinger</p> <p>7 Blair Beccue Dana Todt</p> <p>9 Brandon Brackenhoff William Werries IV</p>	<p>10 Catherine Savage</p> <p>11 Tom Frerichs</p> <p>13 Jessica Neuhaus Martin Steffens</p> <p>14 Tami Fenton</p> <p>15 Brett Cunningham</p> <p>17 Devon Hughes</p> <p>18 Ceressa Waldrup</p> <p>19 Josephine Burenga Cooper Favre</p> <p>20 Brittany Ashby Dolores Egelhoff Renee Wynn</p>	<p>21 Clark Burger Ashley Meyers- Dambacher</p> <p>22 Diane Fuchs</p> <p>23 Ernie Thomack</p> <p>24 Harvey Fuchs Corey Johnson Annabel Justison</p> <p>27 Keith Marburger Katie Gulley</p> <p>28 Maia Neuhaus Brianna Herschelman Lindsey Maneval</p>
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Happy  
Birthday!

*"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you  
Before you were born, I set you apart."  
Jeremiah 1:5*

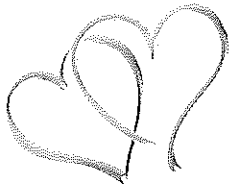
**Please sign up to:**

Sponsor Bulletins  
Sponsor Altar Flowers  
Usher, Greet, and Assist with the Altar Guild  
Thank You, to everyone who has sponsored and continues  
to sponsor bulletins and flowers. As well as volunteering to usher.

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

<p>1 Carol &amp; Robert (NM) Foster</p> <p>15 Joseph &amp; Janet Andrews</p>	<p>11 Roy &amp; Darlene Niemeyer</p> <p>20 Marvin &amp; Amanda Gerdes</p> <p>25 Matthew &amp; Savannah Boston</p>
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HAPPY  
Anniversary!



The Lord God said:  
*"Be devoted to one another, Honor one another above yourselves."  
Romans 12:10*

**!!!SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**Zion Lutheran Church & School  
Annual Sausage Dinner**

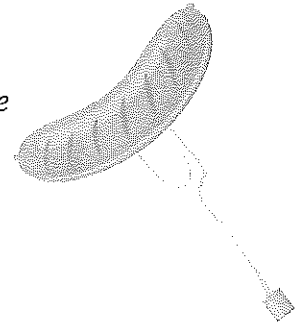
*Featuring Ron Hemann's Famous & Delicious Pork Sausage*

1301 N. State, Litchfield IL

**Sunday, March 26, 2023**

Noon - 6:00 p.m.

**SERVING DRIVE-THRU ONLY**

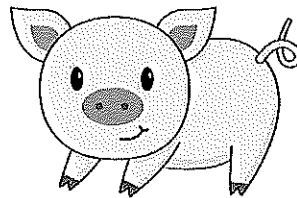


Fresh Homemade Pork Sausage, Mashed Potatoes & Sausage Milk Gravy, Sauerkraut, Green Beans, Applesauce, Cranberry Sauce, Bread, and Dessert

**5lb. Bulk and Link Sausage Available for pre-sale \$25.00**

Pre-order February 1 - March 10 (217) 324-2393

**"NEW ITEM"** Cooked Linked Sausage available for pre-sale or day of dinner 1 doz. \$15.00



**To Market, to market to buy a fat pig...  
It's "Sausage Dinner" again, jiggety jig!**

We need your help this year to increase profits.  
We are offering special deals for those who would like to participate in  
making the 6<sup>th</sup> year a huge success by getting...

**These little piggies to market!**

**DONATION INCLUDES:**

- 1- WHOLE HOG to MARKET
- 4 - DINNER TICKETS 3/26/23
- 2 - 5 lb. bags of fresh link or bulk sausage

\$500.00

**DONATION INCLUDES:**

- 1/2- HOG to MARKET
- 2 - DINNER TICKETS 3/26/23
- 1 - 5 lb. bag of fresh link or bulk sausage

\$250.00

**For more information or to purchase a "HOG WILD" deal,  
call Becky Helgen (217) 246-2456 or Nancy Hyam (217) 254-4442**

## February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p><b>1</b> 8:30am Chapel 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Festival Bells 7:00pm Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>2</b> 9:15am Berean Bible Study <b>6:30pm Ladies Aid</b> 7:00pm Elders</p>		<p><b>4</b> 5:30pm Worship- Trad/Comm</p>
<p><b>5</b> 8:00am Worship- Trad/Comm 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship- Trad. 10:30am Festival Bells</p>		<p><b>7</b> 9:00am Sewing Circle <b>5:30pm School Board</b> <b>6:00pm Mission &amp; Evangelism</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> 8:30am Chapel 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Festival Bells 7:00pm Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>9</b> 9:15am Berean Bible Study <b>6:30pm Church Council</b></p>		<p><b>11</b> 5:30pm Worship- Trad</p>
<p><b>12</b> 8:00am Worship- Trad 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship- Contemp/Comm</p>		<p><b>14</b> 9:00am Sewing Circle</p>	<p><b>15</b> 8:30am Chapel 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Festival Bells 7:00pm Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>16</b> 9:15am Berean Bible Study</p>	<p><b>17</b> School Early Dismissal 1:15pm</p>	<p><b>18</b> 5:30pm Worship- Trad/Comm</p>
<p><b>19</b> 8:00am Worship- Trad/Comm 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship- Contemp.</p>		<p><b>21</b> 9:00am Sewing Circle</p>	<p><b>22</b> Ash Wednesday 8:30am Chapel 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Festival Bells 7:00pm Midweek Lent</p>	<p><b>23</b> 9:15am Berean Bible Study</p>		<p><b>25</b> 1<sup>st</sup> Sun. in Lent 5:30pm Worship- Trad</p>
<p><b>26</b> 8:00am Worship- Trad. 8:00am Festival Bells 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship- Trad/Comm</p>	<p><b>27</b> No School</p>	<p><b>28</b> 9:00am Sewing Circle</p>				





## SERVING US IN WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

### Elders

Saturday February 4	5:30 p.m.	DOUG MARTIN
Sunday February 5	8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	GARY MEYERS & PAUL FRERICHS TOM FRERICHS
Saturday February 11	5:30 p.m.	BUD HELGEN
Sunday February 12	8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	STAN DIESTELHORST ALLAN SPELBRING & KYLE FRERICHS
Saturday February 18	5:30 p.m.	DOUG MARTIN
Sunday February 19	8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	BRAD BOWLES & DAVID BRAKENBUSH STAN DIESTELHORST
Wednesday, February 22	7:00 p.m.	GARY MEYERS & ALLAN SPELBRING
Saturday February 25	5:30 p.m.	BRAD BOWLES
Sunday February 26	8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	BUD HELGEN KYLE FRERICHS & PAUL FRERICHS

## Zion Lutheran Church & School 1301 N. State Street Litchfield IL, 62056

Rev. Fred Kraemer, Pastor  
Ms. Jami Pryor, Principal

## February 2023 ~ Newsletter/Annual Report

### Join Us for Worship

Saturday 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Bible Studies 9:15 a.m.

Via Facebook Live

Zion Lutheran School Page 8:00 a.m.  
Zion Lutheran Church Page 10:30 a.m.