

APRIL 2025

VOICE OF ZION

A Monthly Publication of
Zion Lippe United Church of Christ
9000 Copperline Rd E
Mt Vernon IN 47620
812 985-2437
website: zionlippe.org

Secretary email: zionlippesecretary@gmail.com

Secretary Hours:
Tues, Wed and Thurs 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Rev. Jeff Long, Pastor
Pastor cell: 812 306-4675
Pastor email: zionlippepastor@gmail.com

Sunday Family Worship at 10 am
Sunday School at 9 am

Worship Attendance

Date	In Person	Virtual (est.)
3/2	161	43 devices
3/5 Ash Wed.	43	n/a
3/9	146	49 devices
3/12 Lent	53	n/a
3/16	98	55 devices
3/19 Lent	52	n/a
3/23	141	49 devices
3/26 Lent	41	n/a

Sunday School Average Attendance

March: Adult = 20
Confirmation (7th & 8th grade) = 6
Youth (6-12th grade) = 3
Children = 11

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVE STREAMED and RECORDED FOR LATER VIEWING ON YOUTUBE !

You can always join us for Sunday worship wherever you might be. To easily view the

live worship service simply go to our church webpage... www.zionlippe.org... and click on the "Watch Live" tab and you will be able to view the worship service when it goes live. For later viewing of recorded services, go to YouTube and search for Zion Lippe.



Greeter Schedule for upcoming Sundays:

April 6 – Steve & Gail Grabert
April 13 – Nick & Donna Hahn
April 20 (10 am) – Rob & Cheri Johnson
April 27 – Theresa & Jessie Juncker

May 4 – Adam Kendall
May 11 – Dan & Nicole Hoffman
May 18 – Matt & Lauren Kern
May 25 – Roger & Joyce Klenck

We will have magnetic name tags available for our greeters, and hand-shaking is optional. If possible, please try to be here about 9:30 am or so. If you know ahead of time that you can't greet the Sunday you are scheduled, you can let Worship Chair, Nancy deClaisse-Walford know – but if something comes up and you can't make it don't fret!



APRIL

In order to share in the joys and celebrations of our lives as a congregation we publish a monthly list of birthdays and anniversaries of members and friends of Zion. Numbers in () represent year.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 1 Phil Wuertz, Remi Brown
- 2 Sean Hollen, Dan Hoffman
- 3 Diana Walker
- 5 Jared Reidford, Ramsey Barrow
- 8 Robert Juncker, Max Simpson
- 9 Jennifer Ploetz, April McCutchan
- 10 Lori Breiner
- 11 Nick Neidig
- 12 Cherie Johnson, Samantha Reese,
Andrew Reese
- 13 Rob Bullington, Jr.
- 14 Kyle Voegel, Tom Lang, Steve Brown
- 15 Jim Donner, Jessie Brame
- 16 Scott Dougan, Larry Lewis, Ashley Shreffler
- 17 Kyle Hoenert, Mary Schauss
Melanie Mann
- 18 Philip McCutchan, LeeAnn Hoenert,
KayLee Roberts
- 20 Linda Koch, Lindsay Calvert
- 22 Tyson Barrow
- 23 Elise Lewis
- 24 Debbie Reineke
- 25 Diana Redman, Harper Schmitz
- 27 Megan Ploetz, Lisa Seitz
- 28 Linda Juncker
- 29 Dillon Davenport, Lily Swope
- 30 Austin Spears

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 1 Kraig & Mackenzie (Smith) Schmidt (2017)
- 4 Rob & Cherie Johnson (1987)
- 9 Travis & Robin (Schroeder) Crowe (2016)
- 12 Philip & April McCutchan (2003)
- 15 David & Lisa Simpson (1989)
- 18 Bill & Doris Smith (1992)
- 25 Robert & Rachel Hast (2015)
- 26 Terry & Mary Jane Schroeder (1980)
- 26 Phil & Sherry Wuertz (1986)
- 27 Cody & Jennifer (Taylor) Elless (2013)

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or not correct, please call the office at 985-2437 so we may update our records.

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### Saturday Men's Lenten Breakfasts

Various churches in the area host the meal served at 8 am, with services following at 9.

- March 29 at St Lucas UCC Evansville

- April 5 at St Paul UCC,

7700 Middle Mt Vernon Rd Evansville

- April 12 at St Paul German Twp,

8701 Big Cynthiana Rd Evansville

Contact Terry Schroeder or Dwight Esche for more information.



**Wednesday Lenten Meal  
& Service April 2 & 9** - A light meal served starting at 6 pm (free-will offering accepted) with service at 7.

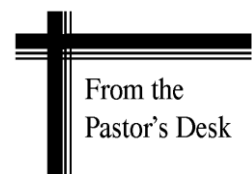
### Holy Thursday (April 17th)

Also known as Maundy Thursday, is the Thursday before Easter, which commemorates the Eucharist during the Last Supper and the final meal Jesus Christ shared with his apostles before his crucifixion. **Worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. (no meal)**

**Good Friday (April 18th)** is celebrated on the Friday before Easter and marks the day Jesus was crucified and died. **Worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. (no meal)**

We hope you will journey with us through the final days of Jesus' earthly life as a way to prepare for the Joy of Easter Sunday.

Easter is almost here... and each year it seems to bounce around from one date to another and then another. Why? Because Easter has always followed a lunar calendar (I won't get into what that means,) but I wish whoever was in charge would just choose the 3rd Sunday of April and be done with it. Don't get me wrong, I know there are many historical and theological reasons for the way things are. Regardless, I just love a late Easter. There are many reasons for this, most of which have to do with my childhood. I loved a late Easter when



I was younger because I loved the beauty of Springtime. I loved the warmer weather. As I have gotten older, I remain a fan of a later Easter, but my reasons have changed.

There is something to be said for a longer period between Christmas and Easter. There is more time to reflect on the life of Jesus, more time to spend in Scripture, looking at his miracles, his teachings, who Jesus really is. I have always believed myself to be hurried when Ash Wednesday comes in January. "It is not time yet," I think to myself. There are very real implications to Jesus being with us. A later Easter allows us time to come to grips with that. By walking with Jesus and seeing who he is and what he does, we create space in our lives to deepen our relationship with him and create space for healing.

I think a lot during Lent about Jesus' miracles and what they mean. I know there are miracles of a great catch of fish and miracles of more food than 5,000 people can eat. But it is the healing miracles that always amaze and perplex me. They amaze because, well, they are amazing. A paralytic man is dropped in front of Jesus, and he heals his sins and his paralysis; a blind man has mud and spit rubbed on his eyes, washed it off, and is healed; a foreign woman screams at Jesus to heal her daughter and he relents. But I always wish for more. I don't want Jesus to heal a blind person, I want Jesus to heal blindness! I don't want Jesus to let one person walk, I want Jesus to consign wheelchairs to the dustbin of history! The fact that this is not the case reminds me that even Jesus pointed to something beyond himself. Each healing miracle points to those who are expected to carry on his work.

Even those who were healed had to move in a broken world. The man healed of blindness could see but would have to come to grips with visible injustice that still existed. The one whose paralysis was healed would now be able to run to those in need themselves. Healing includes wonder, but also the beautiful and difficult aftermath. A later Easter creates more space for healing.

As we move towards Holy Week and complete our Wednesday evening Lenten dinners and worship, I hope we are able to experience this as a Healing Week as well. We travel a road together, and that road leads to a cross, but the road is not a journey taken alone. Healing is a community event. We name what we need healing from and we come into contact with those who have been healed and need healing themselves. We walk the road to a cross; it is difficult. However, we will also experience the joy of an empty grave.

Blessings on your journey... **PJ**

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If you wish to provide flowers in honor or in memory of someone for Easter Sunday see the order forms on foyer bulletin board for details. Orders are due by Saturday April 12.

PALM/CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, APRIL 13th

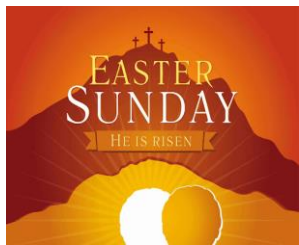
On Palm Sunday, we will remember the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, and we will look at the preparations underway for Jesus to celebrate the Passover meal with his disciples.

In addition we will also celebrate with our confirmands and families the rite of confirmation. We will hear their statements of faith and witness their confirmation during worship.

Thank you to Emily Schmitt, Noah Hoffman, Rowen Englebright, Katelynn Heneisen, Kinley Willett, and Jack Wolsiefer for your commitment to your growth in Christian discipleship.



Confirmation
Sunday



The joy of Jesus Christ's Resurrection is something that becomes more powerful when we share it with others. Please join us for some inspired words and music during our Easter Sunday worship experience on **Sunday, April 20th**. We will gather using the following schedule:

* 6:30 a.m. - Easter Sunrise Service

* 7:15 a.m. - Sr. Youth Breakfast

* 10:00 a.m. - Easter Worship w/special music

* Children's Easter Egg Hunt following Worship

We look forward to celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ with you!!!



Children's Easter Egg Hunt will take place after our 10 a.m. Easter worship service. We will have all children gather in the Sunday School Hall following worship. Once everyone has gathered and is ready, children will be allowed to begin the Easter Egg hunt by age, starting with the youngest children. There will be bags for children however they are also encouraged to bring baskets, etc. to collect their eggs. Parents are requested to help supervise the egg gathering.

**NEW MEMBER
WELCOME**

We are happy to have Mike Wagner as a new member of Zion. Here's a little info about Mike. . .

"I am a father of 2 and grandfather of 5. I served in the USMC and have worked at SABIC for the past 20 years. Stacy and I were married here; Zion Lippe has always been very welcoming and feels like the right place to dig deeper into my faith!"

MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE OPPORTUNITY

Over the past three months we have had the opportunity to be a part of some wonderful mental health focused gatherings. From our gathering at Jacob's Village with Dr. Tom Longwell focusing on the importance of sleep and our mental health. Our second gathering featured Donna Wolff and our focus on suicide prevention and awareness at Warehouse 410.



In addition to the educational/awareness event focused on suicide awareness and prevention, we have also written into the grant opportunities for those that are interested in being QPR certified. What is QPR? The mission of QPR is to save lives and reduce suicidal behaviors by providing innovative, practical and proven suicide prevention training. We believe that quality education empowers all people, regardless of their background, to make a positive difference in the life of someone they know.

Our mental health initiative grant will pay for your certification training if you would be interested in this wonderful opportunity. If you are interested, please visit the [QPR](#) website and use the “Become an Instructor” tab and explore the “Gatekeeper Trainer Certification Course.” You will be fully reimbursed if you choose to complete the certification.

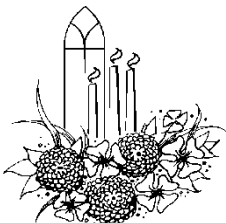
Please watch for more wonderful events coming up in the future. And let Lauren Kern or Pastor Jeff know if you are interested in the QPR certification process.

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Zion Church will continue to host **grief support groups** each week on Thursday evenings beginning at 6:00 p.m. We will meet through April 10th and then take a break and begin again on Thursday, May 8th. Please contact the church office or email Pastor Jeff with questions or to secure your spot in one of these groups... [zionlippepastor@gmail.com](mailto:zionlippepastor@gmail.com).

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With Sympathy

We extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of Ronald McClaren. Ron passed away March 7, 2025 at the age of 83. Funeral services were held March 13 at Alexander West Chapel with burial at Tupman Cemetery. We cherish good memories of Ron.

Council Meeting Highlights: Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 6pm

Present: Bob, Andrea, Pat, Nancy, Tim, Roger, Lauren, Pastor Jeff

Absent: Adam, Stacy

****Council walked the perimeter of where the solar panels will be installed**

****A youth presented an idea of busy bags for children to be hung in the back of church – grab at will – will try to have ready by Easter**

VP/Membership – Stacy

New Member - Mike Wagner

*Tim motioned to approve Mike Wagner as a new member, Roger seconded

Property – Roger

- a. Flagpole reinstallation
- b. Repair to torn pew cover in church
- c. Repair roof above foyer
- d. Review mowing/groundskeeping bids
 - Church/Parsonage/Playground – Chris Wolsiefer
 - Old Cemetery – Jeff Ludwig

*Patrick motioned to approve the above bids for lawn mowing season 2025, Nancy seconded

- e. LED floodlights for steeple

*Patrick motioned to approve using Memorial funds to pay for new LED floodlights, Tim seconded

Pastor – Jeff

Audrey Key - Author of the book "When I Listened to a Leaf" - join us for worship and book signing on March 23rd

Request of the IKC - visit worship and meet after - Sunday, March 30

Solar Project Progress – 2 rows as flagged & take down 1 tree – smaller cedar

*Patrick motioned to approve moving forward with the suggested changes to the Solar Project, Tim seconded

Mental Health

- 1. Report on Feb. & March events
- 2. Qt 1 report in progress

Next Meeting April 8, 2025

If any Zion Member is interested in viewing the proposed amendments to the United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws (to be presented at General Synod this summer), contact the church office and we will forward the email from the national UCC office to you with links for the info on the amendments and the upcoming webinars.



Just a note of thanks to our church family and friends for the cards and well wishes on our 70th wedding anniversary. We are thankful for the blessings we have received during our 70 years of marriage.

Jim & Hilda Donner

ZION LIPPE UCC
9000 COPPERLINE ROAD E
MT. VERNON IN 47620



Next Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed frame build
event is Sat. April 12

8 am – noon

at 1303 S. Green River Rd

Let Pastor Jeff know if you are interested or have
any questions.

