

MAY 2026

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

Worship Attendance

Date	In Person	Virtual (est.)
3/29 Palm Sunday	245	70 devices
4/2 Maundy Thurs	65	n/a
4/3 Good Friday	65	n/a
4/5 Sunrise	113	45 devices
4/5 Easter 10am	282	95 devices
4/12	139	30 devices
4/19	138	20 devices
4/26	166	64 devices

Sunday School Average Attendance

April: Adult = 16
 Children = 7
 Youth (grade 6-12) = 0

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:

- May 3 – Sandy Willett
- May 10 – Steve & Marcia Yurks
- May 17 – Joe & Rhiannon Anderson
- May 24 - Martha Ziegler
- May 31 – Darlene Breiner

- June 7 – Chuck & Susan Schroeder
- June 14 - Andrea & Bexley Singer
- June 21 – Amber Barrow
- June 28 – Brad & Alicia Becker

We will have magnetic name tags available for our greeters, and shaking hands is optional. 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 Rosie Bogard know – but if something comes up and you can't make it don't fret!

Thank you to those who have volunteered to serve as greeters, your turn to greet usually comes up about once over a 2 year period. If you would like to be added or removed from the greeter list please contact the church office.



May

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.

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Owen Spears, Martha Ziegler, Warren Bredemeier, Miranda Pieszchalski
- 2 Sydney Englebright
- 3 Patti Parker, Ruth Wintczak
- 4 Shelley Schmitt, Mary Schroeder
- 5 Andrea Singer
- 6 Lilly Donner
- 8 Ryan Ploetz
- 9 Knox Perry
- 10 Dustin Bredemeier, Ashley Lingafelter, Kim Paul
- 12 Sarah Reed
- 13 Kendall Reidford
- 14 Nick Voegel, Mike Wagner
- 15 Chris Wolsiefer
- 16 Terry Freeman, Janie Cummings
- 17 Anna Mae Droege
- 18 James Barrow
- 19 Judy Rueger, Ray Klenck
- 20 Huntter Arguello
- 22 Chris McCutchan, Abigail Reese
- 23 Tom Wintczak, J.J. Mohr
Amelia Wolsiefer
- 24 Carol Jo Droege, Travis Reese,
Matthew Coon, Henry Schroeder
- 26 Scott Lewis, Caleb Voegel, Gracie Moore
- 27 Joanna Dickhaut
- 28 Tyler Schroeder
- 29 Chloe Schroeder, Hudson Key
- 30 Brenda Bean, Brian Schroeder
- 31 Missy Ludwig

Happy Anniversary!

- 1 Dan & Linda Koch (2010)
- 7 Steve & Nancy (Brandt) deClaisse-Walford (1988)
- 8 Nate & Chastity (Spindler) Axton (2010)
- 11 James & Jennifer (Droege) Hargett (2013)
- 12 Robin & Judy (Hudson) Fluty (1979)
- 13 Matthew & Nitza Long (2023)
- 14 Steve and Sally (Nicholson) Noelle
- 15 John & Miranda Pieszchalski (1999)

- 17 Darwin and Gail Lashley (1980)
Ryan and Amy Steinhart (1998)
 - 20 Kyle & Mariah Voegel (2023)
 - 21 Jacob & Kirstin Gibson (2016)
Josh & Maggie Dye (2011)
 - 25 Guy & Twyala (Niehaus) Carner (1996)
 - 27 Elwood and Laverne (Schroeder) Deal (1961)
 - 28 Gabe and Amy (Seibert) Schroeder (2011)
 - 29 Chris and Beth McCutchan (2004)
 - 31 Tom and Ruth (Droege) Wintczak (1980)
Greg & Sandy (Dougan) Schmitt (2003)
- If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or not correct, please call the office at 985-2437 so we may update our records. Thanks for your help!

Attention High School and College Graduates!

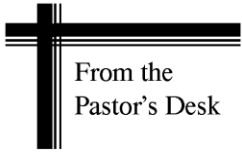
So we may honor our graduates, please let the church office know (**before May 14** if possible) about members or friends of Zion who will be graduating from high school, technical school or college this year. Please include name of school and for post-high school grads also include degree. If you would like to share info of your plans following graduation, you are welcome to do that as well.

We will celebrate graduates during worship on May 17 and publish the info in the June Voice of Zion newsletter.



I would like to thank the congregation for the beautiful plaque and bouquet of flowers for my retirement from choir directing. I would also like to thank the choir for my gorgeous sun catcher and money. I look forward to singing with the choir under the direction of someone who knows how to do it !!

Sandy Willett



Still Easter: Another Day of Resurrection

The celebration of Easter is too big, too life-changing, to be contained in a single Sunday morning. Resurrection is not just a moment—it is a way of living, a rhythm that carries on into each new day we are given.

There's a line of wisdom echoed in the song "Another Day Old" by Eddie Dalton that reminds us we are not just getting older—we are being given another day. Another day to live. Another day to love. Another day to begin again.

That is the quiet, persistent miracle of Easter.

The risen Christ meets us not only in the empty tomb, but in the ordinary unfolding of our days. In each sunrise, in each breath, in each opportunity to extend grace or choose hope—we are invited to live as resurrection people. Not perfect people, but people who trust that God is still bringing life out of what once felt lost.

Every day we wake up "another day old" is also another day made new in Christ.

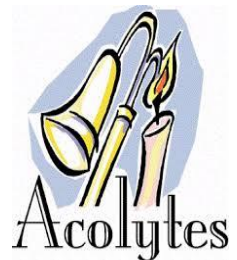
So as we move beyond Easter Sunday and into the weeks ahead, may we carry the celebration with us. May we notice the small resurrections happening all around us—in healing hearts, renewed relationships, and quiet moments of peace. And may we give thanks for the gift of another day, trusting that God is not finished with us yet.

Christ is risen... still... again and again. Blessings on your journey... *PJ*



Shining a Light in Worship: Become a May Acolyte

Have you ever noticed the quiet, meaningful moments at the beginning and end of worship—when the candles are lit and extinguished? Those moments aren't just routine; they are rich with symbolism. The lighting of the candles represents the presence of Christ among us, and the carrying of the light into and out of the sanctuary reminds us that we both gather in God's presence and are sent out to share that light with the world. **That's where our acolytes come in.**



Serving as an acolyte is a simple yet powerful way to participate in worship leadership. It's an opportunity to be part of something sacred, to help set the tone for our time together, and to embody the message that each of us carries Christ's light into our daily lives.

We are currently looking for volunteers to serve as acolytes during the month of May. This is a wonderful opportunity for youth and adults alike—no prior experience is necessary, and guidance will be provided.

If you feel called to serve, or if you simply want to learn more, please see Nancy deClaisse-Walford after worship in the foyer. She would be happy to answer questions and help you get signed up. **Come be a part of the light.**



HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!

On Sunday, May 10th, we will take time to honor, celebrate, and give thanks for all who have nurtured and cared for others in the many ways motherhood is lived out. Whether you are a mother, stepmother, grandparent, mentor, or someone who has offered love, guidance, and compassion, we recognize in you a reflection of God’s nurturing spirit at work in the world.

We give thanks for the countless ways you embody grace, patience, and self-giving love—gifts that shape lives and strengthen our community of faith. We hope you will join us on May 10th for a meaningful and uplifting worship experience as we celebrate together.



Baby Bottle Campaign: A Small Gift - Life-Giving Impact

As we celebrate the love and calling of motherhood on Mother’s Day, we are invited into a meaningful opportunity to support and care for families in our community through the Baby Bottle Campaign for Trotter House of Posey County.



Beginning on Mother’s Day and continuing through Father’s Day, members of participating Posey County churches are encouraged to take home a baby bottle and fill it with loose change, cash, or checks—whatever the Lord places on your heart to give. This simple act becomes a powerful expression of compassion, generosity, and faith in action. Scripture reminds us, *“Let each of you give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”* (2 Corinthians 9.7). Through this campaign, we have the chance to give joyfully, trusting that even the smallest offerings can be used by God in extraordinary ways.

How it works:

- Pick up a baby bottle at church on Mother’s Day
- Fill it throughout the weeks that follow
- Return it to the designated collection box at church by Father’s Day

After Father’s Day, Trotter House volunteers will collect the bottles and share the total raised. Over the past two years, this effort has brought in around \$10,000 annually—funds that help sustain the important ministry and outreach of Trotter House.

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you might participate. Together, we can be part of God’s work of hope, care, and support for families in our community. *“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”* (Hebrews 13.16)

Senior Lunch & a Movie – A Joyful Gathering Awaits!



You're warmly invited to a delightful afternoon filled with laughter, connection, and a whole lot of fun! Join us on **May 14th at 11:00 a.m.** for our *Senior Lunch and a Movie*—a time to gather, share a meal, and enjoy one another's company.

We'll kick things off with a delicious lunch and plenty of good conversation around the table. Then, we'll head upstairs for a special treat: the premiere showing of the *Elvis – EPIC* movie that had its official IMAX release earlier this year. We will gather to watch together on the big screen in the upstairs Sunday School Hall! Get ready for great music, unforgettable moments, and maybe even a little singing along.

This is more than just an event—it's a chance to be together, to laugh, to relax, and to celebrate the joy of community. You're welcome to invite a friend or neighbor to share in the event. So come hungry, come happy - We can't wait to welcome you!

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## **New Church Pictorial Directory**

It has been five years since Zion Lippe's last Church Pictorial Directory, so the church council has engaged 'The Portrait Café' to undertake a new Directory.

Photographs will be taken by appointment Thursday, Friday, June 18 and 19 (1:00 pm-8:00pm), and Saturday June 20 (10:00am-6:00pm). A link to 'The Portrait Café's' appointment page will be on the church website—[zionlippe.org](http://zionlippe.org). Or you can call 'The Portrait Café' directly to schedule an appointment at 1-877-896-9667 ext 360.

You may make your own appointment at any time. Or, if you wish, Nancy deClaissé-Walford will be available in the foyer before and after church on May 10, 17, 24, 31, and June 7 for appointment sign-ups. After you have made your appointment, 'The Portrait Café' will call or text you with a reminder of your appointment date and time.

Make your appointment and mark your calendar. Photographs will be taken in the upstairs Sunday School hall.

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ONLINE GRIEF SUPPORT OPPORTUNITY

Zion Church remains committed to offering meaningful grief support in a variety of ways. As such we are expanding our opportunities to include virtual support groups, making it easier for more people to connect, share, and find encouragement wherever they are.

If you—or someone you know—could benefit from the care and support of a grief group, we warmly invite you to reach out. Please contact the church office or email Pastor Jeff at zionlippepastor@gmail.com with any questions or to reserve a place in an upcoming group. **You don't have to walk this journey alone.**

Council Highlights April 14th, 2026 Meeting

Council President Tim Hoenert called the meeting to order. **Members Present:** Tim Hoenert, Jeff Droege, Rosie Bogard, Brian Crase, Lauren Kern, Roger Roedel, Adam Kendall, Pastor Jeff Long, Nancy deClaisse-Walford. **Absent:** Carl Barchet

March Minutes and Treasurer's Report approved.

3/31 YTD Regular Offering - \$ 44,688.25

3/31 YTD General Fund Income - \$ 49,193.11

3/31 YTD General Fund Expense - \$ 59,366.84

Membership: Nancy deClaisse-Walford is working on plans for a new Church Directory with Portrait Café dates reserved are June 21 and 22, with an unknown make-up date.

Christian Ed: Lauren Kern gave dates for Vacation Bible School on June 7th, 8th, and 9th.

Property: Church Council approved having a new window installed in the Church office. Roger is looking into replacing some of the basement kitchen Formica countertops with Quartz. Cost would be covered by a donor. Steeple project is still 1 to 2 weeks out.

Stewardship: Endowment will be moving some investments to German American bank.

Recreation: Adam Kendall is looking at possible dates in June for Otter's game outing.

Other Reports:

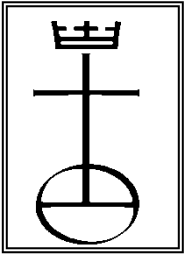
- Council agreed to let New Life Rescue use the facilities for a garage sale on June 12 and 13.
- Pastor Jeff went over the Synopsis of the SMART Goals discussed in the Church Council retreat and the -
- Church Council plans on giving it to the Long Range Planning Committee.
- \$6429.94 is left from the Mental Health Initiative Grant. Council approved closing the Mental Health Initiative Fund and rolling it all into the Family of Faith Fund.
- A new Job Description for Pianist was approved. Council will offer a \$12,000 annual salary for a full-time position for Pianist/Organist. \$150.00 per service was approved as pay for current part-time or a fill-in pianist or organist.
- Council approved investing in Vanguard mutual funds with Baird investments.
- Council approved buying batteries for the Solar project. Expected cost is \$32,200. Rebates on the cost are available.

Next meeting May 12th, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

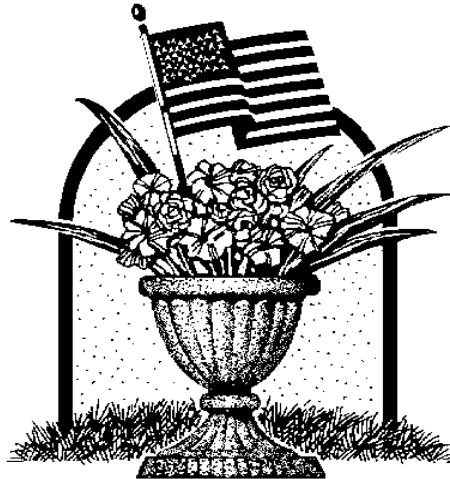
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**Church Camps** - Funds are available to assist with expenses for church related youth camps, contact Pastor Jeff or a council member to see which camps are eligible.



ZION LIPPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
9000 COPPERLINE ROAD E  
MT. VERNON IN 47620



**Memorial Day**  
**May 25, 2026**

***May Collection Item for the Women of Zion  
Summer Drive for Food Pantry is  
Peanut Butter.***

*Please drop off your donation at church.*

