



Zion Lutheran Church

March 2019

SAVE THE DATE:

3/6- Ash
Wednesday

3/13- Lenten
Service

3/20- Lenten
Services

3/27- Lenten
Services

2019. March

Dear Friends,

St. Paul writes in Philippians 1: 12 – 16: ¹²I want you to know, beloved that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; ¹⁴and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear. ¹⁵Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. ¹⁶These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel...

Saint Paul's speaks of his imprisonment and how it will serve to spread the Gospel. He refused to back down from his defense of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As a result, he was taken prisoner as a rebel and a danger to the empire. But he says that in the end all will be well in the defense of the mission of Christ. His argument can be extended to us in our day. We never know the exact consequences of our actions but all we can do is live with integrity, defending our beliefs. Whatever the situation may be in which you find yourself, good, bad or neutral, you want to know that this life, and your actions in this life, serve a purpose and will be of benefit in the end. Today is the beginning of all that comes next, so we live with courage and hope, trusting that we are making the right choices. When we don't make those good choices, we hope that positive results will be produced, somehow.

As we begin our Lenten season on Ash Wednesday, March 6, we remember that Jesus began his long journey toward Jerusalem, expecting that there would be suffering and loss but, in the end, victory. We can use this six week period to consider again our faith and the practice of that faith. We can learn to appreciate, again, that though any new venture can look bleak and scary in the beginning, we trust that it will be transformed into something positive at its conclusion. We trust in the resurrection from the dead, the lifting up of that which seems hopeless.

Lent

As usual we will have midweek Lenten worship each Wednesday at noon and 6:30. I have planned a LENTEN MIDWEEK SERMON SERIES names: "Reading the Holy Bible with New Eyes" I will be speaking in the voice of my friend Charlie. He reads his Bible with new eyes.

Each Sunday in Lent I will bring a series of messages with a unified theme of: "Joy comes in the Morning", Psalm 30:5. This will reflect on the Ups and Downs of Life.

Plan for Tomorrow

The congregation, in its annual meeting, called for a year-long strategic planning process that will lead to a Vision and Plan for the next decade of Zion's mission. We will begin by gathering a Team to follow up the 1st results of the Missional Assessment Profile (MAP) with an in-depth look at those results.

A second stage will be the forming of a 'Plan for Tomorrow' that may have as its cornerstone a new or renewed Mission Statement to guide our ministry. Please respond when the Team comes calling for your opinions and support.

Your companion in Ministry,

Pastor Paul

Pastor's Notes

Social Ministry

Lunch and Laughter for Seniors had their third get together on Feb. 6th. Everyone seems to enjoy the time together! The next lunch is scheduled for April 3rd. Signup sheets will be available closer to the date.

Thank you to everyone who donated socks for Ian's Boots! A final count will be published in April.

Members of the Social Ministry Committee toured the Good Samaritan Shelter in Phoenixville. The committee is planning a "Good Sam Sunday" for a date later in spring. Details will be forthcoming.

Thank you all for your donations during "Souper Bowl" Sunday. The food pantry is very grateful for the donations.

~Susan Davis



YOUTH GROUP COOKOFF **Sunday, March 24th at 6 p.m.**

Our Youth Group will host a cook-off event
Sunday,

March 24th and all are invited to attend.

Meals will include appetizers, main course & dessert and attendees are invited to judge the team's tasting menu. A signup sheet for attendance is available in the Narthex.

Please provide the number of people in your group that will be attending to ensure that food is available for everyone.

Happy Birthday

March Birthdays

- 3/01 Rachel Nolen
- 3/03 Greg Alexis
Darleen Slanker
- 3/04 Ginny Metzger
Keira Ramondo
- 3/07 Ethan Ewing
- 3/09 Jessica Bean
Duane Grob
Ryan Jeffers
- 3/11 Christian Cloud
Valerie Mattis
Barbara Miller-Seeley
- 3/12 Ralph Finkbiner, Jr.,
Riley & Michaela Shillinger
- 3/13 Peg Hoinowski
Willow Hoinowski
Paul Staley
- 3/14 Joy Moyer
- 3/16 Sharon Cloud
Heather Staley
- 3/17 Kim Adams
- 3/19 Cathy Peters
- 3/22 Brianna Swartley
- 3/23 Barbara Barba
- 3/24 Penny Fatula
- 3/27 Evan Dietrich
Wayne Seeley
- 3/28 Matthew Munz
Gregory Peters
Johnathon Rogers
- 3/30 Jake Ambrosio
Rebecca Randolph

March Anniversaries

- 3/12 Virgil & Joan Emswiler
- 3/30 Louis & Carol Mandik

Christian Education

As the Epiphany season comes to an end and we get ready for the Lenten season, we are reminded of all the wonderful things that Jesus has done through his life.

The Sunday school children will be collecting monetary donations during the Lenten season to support the The Good Samaritan Shelter in Phoenixville. The Good Samaritan Shelter is a Christian ministry that provides emergency and transitional housing and other critical services to homeless men in the greater Phoenixville area. The Phoenixville location can hold 8 men in their emergency shelter and an additional 17 in their transitional housing program. Case managers work closely with residents to help them regain stability in their lives and address the issues surrounding their homelessness.

On February 10th, the youth group went to the Escape Room at Coventry Mall. This event was a great way for the youth to work together as a team to figure out the clues to escape the room. I loved watching each of them to work together in a way that they may not have in the past and this was a great way for them to bond.

On March 1st and 2nd, the youth group will be sleeping over here at church. During part of their sleepover, they will be working on the youth group cook off. During another part of the night, they will be reminded of Jesus' 40 days and 40 nights. They will have no cell phone, no Internet, no food or anything to drink, for a couple of hours. We will go outside and walk through the cemetery and be reminded of the 40 nights and 40 days of what Jesus went through as the youth get ready for the Lenten season.

This year's Youth Group Cook Off will be held on March 24th at 6:00 PM. Please come and support your youth and try the wonderful food that they will be cooking and serving. This is an event for the whole congregation.

Come celebrate Zion's Birthday (and everyone else's too!) on March 3rd at 2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. There will be 12 tables, one per month. Each table will have its own birthday cake decorated in a theme for the month. Come join the fun.

The Sunday school children will also be collecting wrapped (non peanut!) candy to fill the Easter eggs for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 20th at 11:00 AM.

*God Bless,
Shawn M. Rogers
Christian Education Director*

March 2019

Transfiguration and the Lenten Season

March begins with the Transfiguration of our Lord (Sunday, March 3rd), the last Sunday in Epiphany, after which the Lenten Season begins. On Ash Wednesday (March 6th) we begin our "Return to the Lord" with services at Noon and 7:30 pm.

Under the direction of Lori Hoshaw, our children will be presenting music at both services on the first Sunday of Lent, March 10th. Be sure to be there to hear these beautiful young voices.

I'm going to allow for some flexibility in our choir practice schedule this year to encourage participation in our evening mid-week services beginning on March 13th. For those who find it convenient, there will be practice time immediately following the service. Start time will be around 7:30-7:45 pm. We'll also have practice at our regular Thursday evening times.

We are always looking for ways to expand our level of participation in all choirs as well as finding ways for individual contribution to our musical program. Especially in this season, we want to prepare very special music which generally cannot be accomplished without some extra help.

If you've ever considered singing, ringing or accompanying, whatever your musical inclination, now would be a wonderful time to step forward and be a part of music at Zion. Whatever your talent or experience, we have opportunities for any and all who would like to join in.

Blessings to all as we begin our path toward the celebration of Easter.

George Herbert
Director of Music

Worship Assistants

	March 3 8:15am 10:45am	March 10 8:15am 10:45am	March 17 8:15am 10:45am	March 24 8:15am 10:45am	March 31 8:15am 10:45am
Assisting Minister	NEEDED / Tony Mandik	Brian Mickiewicz/ Paul Peters	Barbara Miller- Seeley/ Ron Hoinowski	Paul Condrack/ Debbie Batten	Cristal Cloud/ Tony Mandik
Lay Reader	Dan Bauman/ Josh Ballard	Mindy Swartley/ Jody Cannon	Jena Dietrich/ Peg Hoinowski	Dan Bauman/ Amy Kirk	Brain Mickiewicz/ Beverly Tyson
Acolyte(s)	Kyle Isleib/ Andrew Ballard	Josette Aujard/ Ellie Yeager	Tia Weinsteiniger/ Paul Florio	Anna Moore/ Christopher Kirk	Lucas Snyder/ NEEDED
Usher	Isleib Family/ S. Silvestri/M. Shaw	Rogers Family/ Ron & Peg Hoinowski	Steve & Cindy Batten/ Kirk Family	Leigh & Ruth Sifford/ Donald & Kathy Shaner	B. Grubb/C. Davis/ S. Silvestri/M. Shaw
Communion Assistants	Barbara Grubb/ Peg Hoinowski	N/A/ Doris Bauman	Elaine Weinsteiniger/ N/A	N/A/ Lisa Ashburn	Amber Statzell/ Jody Cannon

LENT

Ash Wednesday 3/6 Ashes only at 9:00 a.m.,
Worship Noon and 7:30 p.m.

Mid-Week 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10:
Noon Worship
6:30 p.m. Dinner & 7:15 p.m. Worship

Maundy Thursday, 4/18: Noon & 6:30 p.m. Worship

Good Friday, 4/19: Noon & 8 p.m. Worship

EASTER SUNDAY, 4/21: 6:00 a.m., 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Worship

2019 Lenten Mid-week Series:
“Reading the Holy Bible with New Eyes”

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REMINDER

Please note the envelopes in each of our pews.

	Zion Lutheran Church Capital Campaign 2017-2020
	NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ AMOUNT \$ _____

These are meant to be used by anyone who has a desire to contribute to the ongoing Zion Capital Campaign. The contributions by our members and guests have thus far enabled our church to repair and replace the aging steeple, repair interior damages caused by water leakage related to the old steeple, replace a great deal of old, asbestos containing flooring and replace many badly deteriorated windows.

Future repairs and enhancements to Zion depend on continued success in this campaign and that success depends on all of us. Please deposit any amount you care to contribute in the envelope and place the envelope in the collection plate during offering. Indicate the amount on the envelope **if you wish**. It is not necessary to do so.

Thank you to all who have so generously contributed to this campaign so far. The results are all around us.

Action Items from Council's February Meeting

- Congregational Report Meeting Feedback – discussed questions about finances and follow-up to MAP
- MAP Strategic Planning Process – Proposed the name **Plan for Tomorrow**
- Discussed names suggested for the group
- Habitat for Humanity, Coatesville – discussed having a donation drive and matching funds from Capital Campaign during Lent
- Church Committees – discussed needing more members for all committees
- Discussed names suggested for the Mutual Ministry Committee

Church Council Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the monthly meeting of Church Council are available to all church members. Email is the preferred method of communication so please provide your email address to Cathy Peters if you haven't already done so.

If you don't have email, a copy can be mailed to you, or you can pick up a copy from the table in the Narthex.

Any questions regarding the minutes should be submitted to Cathy and they will be answered by a member of the appropriate committee.

Office contact information:

Email: church@zionofspringcity.org

Phone: 610-948-3323

Synod News

Congratulations to **Pastor Ron Wesemann** who was re-elected Dean of the Chester Conference of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Also, it has been reported that **Bishop Patricia Davenport** has been making unannounced visits to congregations. Be prepared to meet Bishop Davenport when that happens here at Zion!



Half off for 50 Years of Marriage Encounter

In honor of 50 years of Worldwide Marriage Encounter, Lutheran Marriage Encounter is offering 50% off on all registration fees for 2019! Whether your marriage is practically perfect or whether you have some struggles, couples overwhelmingly report that the Weekend is the best thing they have ever done for their relationship!

The 2019 Northeast US spring Weekends are: April 5-7, 2019 at Country Inn & Suites just off of Hwy 99 in State College and April 26-28, 2019 at Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster, PA.

For information visit www.godlovesmarriage.org

Notes From the Preschool



Greetings from the Preschool! February was a fun-filled month including many activities about being a good friend, loving one another, helping each other, and of course, Valentine's Day. The hallways look great with all of the creative artwork the children have made!

We are pleased to be included in the Preschool Sunday event. The children had fun singing songs, making Valentine art projects, and decorating cupcakes. Thank you to Shawn Rogers for organizing the event.

It's hard to believe, but we are planning our Summer Camp for children ages 3-6 years old. Our Summer Camp will run from June 4th through August 2nd with special activities each week. If you are interested in learning more about our Summer Camp, feel free to visit our website at www.zionlutheranpreschool.com/summercamp or give us a call at (610)948-3440 to schedule a visit. We welcome all children to our Summer Camp including those who attend another Preschool or Kindergarten during the school year.

In March, we are looking forward to many exciting events including a visit from a local children's dentist and also our celebration of Daddy Day! On Daddy Day, we invite the children's fathers to come join us for a fun morning at Zion!

Have a wonderful month!

Sincerely,
Dawn Platchek
Preschool Director

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Services are Sunday 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30am

Email: church@zionofspringcity.org

Office Phone: 610-948-3323

Website: www.zionofspringcity.org

Facebook Page: [Zionofspringcity](#)

Group Page: [Zion Of Spring City Friends](#)

