



# THE LIGHT

The Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Southington, CT  
March 2024 Vol. 8 Issue 2

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Community of Zion,

As you may guess, because of timing, I'm writing this Easter letter in the middle of Lent. You are probably reading this in the middle of Lent. I'm tempted to say "Don't skip ahead". Experience Lent before you jump to Easter. We do know that. We know that the mountain top is that much more meaningful when we've been in the valley. But I think that does a disservice to Lent. It makes Lent a low to Easter's high. It makes Lent sad or maudlin compared to Easter's joy.

So maybe this is more about "being" in Lent, experiencing Lent. We are thinking about and planning for Easter Sunday. We want to make Easter an experience of the joy of God's goodness. Yet we still are in Lent - a time of learning, a time of repentance, a time of reflection.

It's a reminder of life. We can get so wrapped up in the destination, we forget about the journey. We can spend so much time planning for what is next that we forget experiencing the now.

So I invite you to read this newsletter to see what is happening at Zion on Easter and beyond. Write them in your calendar. Then, get back to Lent. Read a devotion. Come to worship. Share in a Wednesday night Soup and Service. Read the Gospel of Mark. Learn. Repent. Reflect.

Peace,

Pastor Jeff

### **Wednesdays in Lent Continue...**

Join us on Wednesdays in Lent (March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>) for a light meal and then worship. We will meet in the Gathering Place at 6:00PM for soup and fellowship. Feel free to bring a sandwich or salad. We will move up to the sanctuary for worship at 6:30 pm (if you can't make it for the meal, you certainly can still join us for worship). Choir rehearsal follows worship.





**For Pastoral Care and Concerns,**  
Please contact Pastor Jeff Stalley  
by phone: cell # 860-490-5784 or  
email: [pastor@zionlutheranct.org](mailto:pastor@zionlutheranct.org)



## Join Us for Worship!

**Saturdays at 4:00PM**

**Sundays at 8:00AM & 10:15AM**

**Sunday School & Confirmation at 9:00AM**

## "Treasure Talk" by John Miller

### January 2024 Results

	2024 Budget*	2024 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual v Budget
Total Income	\$ 21,387.92	\$ 57,284.24	\$ 13,941.04	\$ 35,896.32
Total Expenses	\$ 30,883.74	\$ 24,675.24	\$ 28,743.20	\$ (6,208.50)
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (9,495.82)	\$ 32,609.00	\$ (14,802.16)	\$ 42,104.82

\* Figures derived by dividing annual budget by twelve

**Welcome to our New Council Members** Ann Alstrits, Lois Griszkauskas, and Carol Wright, who were voted in at our January Annual Congregational Meeting. We look forward to working with them in the coming years and are so thankful that they answered the call. They do have big shoes to fill, as we will truly miss Cindy Babon, Michelle Gibbs and Krista Steindl, who have served our council & congregation so well. Fortunately, they will still stay active, not only on the committees they chaired, but in so many other ways as they always have. Thank you!

**IT'S TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS!** Look for order forms at Zion and in the weekly emails. Flower orders are due by Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>



### The First Fritter Meeting of the year will be on Tuesday, March 5th

at 6:00PM in the Gathering Place. All are welcome to become part of this committee! Many hands make light work and we need all the hands we can get! Please come!



**46th Annual St. Luke's Passion Play** will be performed at St. Luke's Catholic School, 133 Bristol St. It is free of charge although a free will donation is deeply appreciated.

### Passion Play Performance Dates

Saturday, 3/23 - 6:30PM,  
Palm Sunday 3/24 - 3:00PM,  
Tuesday, 3/26 - 7:00PM,  
Wednesday, 3/27 - 7:00PM,  
Good Friday, 3/29 - 7:00PM

For tickets, scan the QR Code below to be connected to the website, or go to the Zion web page at [zionlutheranct.org](http://zionlutheranct.org) for the link. There are several members of our Zion family that are a part of this production. All are invited to attend a performance, you'll be glad you did!

Contact [passionplay@stlukect.org](mailto:passionplay@stlukect.org)  
or call (908) 902-8404  
for tickets or questions!



## Lenten Opportunities

### Each Wednesday in Lent:

**March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>**

6:00PM Soup & Fellowship

6:30PM Worship

7:00PM Choir

### Palm/Passion Sunday - March 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

Saturday - 4:00PM

Sunday - 8:00AM, 10:15AM,

9:00AM Sunday School Easter Story event

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

About 11:00AM (after worship at 10:15AM)

### **Maundy Thursday: March 28<sup>th</sup>**

7:00PM

### **Good Friday: March 29<sup>th</sup>**

7:00PM

### **Easter Sunday: March 31<sup>st</sup>**

6:00AM Sunrise Vigil

8:00AM Festival Worship

10:15AM Festival Worship

# Remember in Your Prayers



Our prayer list is updated monthly - Let us remember these people as we pray daily.

## **Members of Zion**

### **Lord in your Mercy:**

Linda Graham; Beverly Clark; George McKenney; LeAnn Kroll; Bill Umile; Sue Skrzypiec; Lee Bluis; Faith Schneider; Joan Cockcroft; Justin Cappellino; Jonathan Cappellino; Ruth Heering; Ray Tanguay; family of Gerda Gaetgens; family of Winnie Messner; Proffitt family.

## **Those in Hospitals / Care Centers / Assisted Living:**

William Brown - **The Summit;** Jean Wiltse - **Cedar Mountain Commons**

## **Wedding Anniversaries:**

3/2 Dominique & David Kall

## **Births:**

### **Deaths:**

1/19; Elaine Webster, longtime ZCNS bookkeeper  
mother of Michael Webster, mother-in-law of Laura(Miller ) Webster  
2/19; Gerda Gaetgens, mother of Ronald Gaetgens  
2/22; Winifred Messner, grandmother of Chris Messner, great-grandmother to Morgan,  
Christa and Declan  
2/28; George Proffitt, uncle of Mark Proffitt

## **Family & Friends of Zion**

### **Lord in your Mercy:**

Debbie & Fred, Roz & Joe, friends of Carra Rockwood; Dennis & family, cousins of Carra Rockwood; Anna, Steve, siblings of Carra Rockwood; Stephanie, friend of Carra Rockwood; Mary Mousch, aunt of Karen Erasmus; Susan Chappo, friend of Karen Erasmus; Jerry Cozzolino; Bob Johansson; Alex Meyer, grandson of Lois & Ron Griszkauskas, Reno Pelletier, Robert Green, Mia Falvey; Ralph Johansson, father of Deb Stalley; Stacey, friend of Joan Cockcroft; Lyndsey & Andrew; Ronald Romano, father of Anne Graham; Carolyn & Jimmy Griffin, cousin of Mark Proffitt; Chris Nadeau, friend of Nick Salerno; Jennifer, Joe, Ben, Nate, friends of Joyce Suess; Dave and the Main family, friends of Lois Garafola; MaryAnne, friend of John Miller; Ethan R. friend of Lisa Proffitt; Al, friend of John Miller; family of Marci Sharp (WELCA).

## **Service, For the men and women in the military serving our country:**

Russell Karshis, cousin of Dawne Cappellino; Staff Sgt. Michael McKenney; Lt. Colonel Zachary Fulton, USAF, nephew of Lisa Proffitt; Danny Woolley, son of Diane and Dave Woolley; Matthew DeLorenzo, U.S. Navy, friend of the Doran Family; 1st Lt. Colton McInnis, USAF pilot, son of Susan Prairie; 2nd Lt. Kurt Oden, USAF, nephew of Christine Kryzwick; Sgt. Phillip J. Reynolds, friend of Lynn McCormack.

*If you would like someone on the prayer list, please email  
the church office ([office@zionlutheranct.org](mailto:office@zionlutheranct.org)) or call 860-628-5759.*

# Sunday School News

March 2024

submitted by Ali Frega

## Sunday School

**On Palm Sunday (3/24), we will once again partner with the Confirmation classes for hands on learning about the Easter Story.**

This event is an exciting part of our Easter tradition, and we need your help to have another successful day of 'centers' to learn the Easter story. Last year our 'centers' included "carrying the cross", nailing the "sins/prayers" to the cross, a "Last Supper" snack, the washing of hands and feet, the tomb, and the Garden of Gethsemane.

**We encourage and invite both Parents AND Church Members to help!!!**

If you are interested, please look for the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place, reach out to Ali at [sundayschool@zionlutheranct.org](mailto:sundayschool@zionlutheranct.org), or talk to Ali or Lydia Holbrook on Sunday Mornings!



## Youth Group

All meetings at 6:30PM unless otherwise noted.

### March Meetings:

March 2nd - Service Project at St Paul's Episcopal Church

March 10th - Service and Justice at First Congregational Church

March 17th - Spring Youth Group Party at First Congregational Church



## Super Bowl Collection



Regardless if you're team won or lost this year, the People of Zion scored big by donating to our Annual 'Souper Bowl of Caring' Event!

Thank you to everyone who helped us raise money during our Super Bowl Sunday collection. We raised \$345 to support the clients and mission at Bread for Life.

**Thank you again for your generosity during this time of year!**





## A Peek into Zion Nursery School

Students have been hard at work at ZCNS! Our four year olds and Pre-K recently worked with family members to create scarves for those in need. We made over 160! They were donated to Southington Community Services. March will be especially busy with Easter and St. Patrick's Day celebrations. We will also host "special people" in our students' lives on our annual Special Person's Day. Lastly, we will be hosting our second annual Easter Egg Hunt fundraiser on Good Friday, 3/29 at 10AM. \$5 per child. See the flier at Zion! Contact Danielle or Christine in the office for tickets.



Nursery School children and parents make scarves to donate to Southington Community Services!

### Please Join Us for Ladies Lunch

Tuesday, March 19th at 12:00PM at  
**NOTO Americano, Sicilian Kitchen**

83 West Main St., Plantsville All Are Welcome!



### The Easter Bunny Needs Your Help!

**Individually wrapped candy & plastic eggs**  
are being collected for  
**Zion's Annual Easter Egg Hunt.**

If you would like to donate, please place  
Items in the basket in the Gathering Place  
by **Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.**  
Thank you!



### Zion's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

is Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM (after  
the 10:15 worship service.)

All children are invited!

Bring a friend to join in on the fun!



### February / March Book Club

Our Book Club selection is

**"Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus" by Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg.** A few books are available to purchase in the Gathering Place for \$15.  
Our next meeting is Monday, March 11th at 7:00PM in the Gathering Place. All are invited to attend!



### "Share The Love"



**Thank you for the overflowing generosity from our Zion family as we 'Shared the Love' with Bread for Life!** Your support of this annual outreach to the Southington community was enormous, and they were so grateful for the **70 donated gift cards** which were delivered on Valentine's Day to Bread for Life for their clients!



### "Snuggle Up" Success!

We collected **174** adorable stuffed animals that were donated to be both *Prudence Crandall & The Friendship Center in New Britain* this past week. Thank you so much for your participation; these donations will certainly bring smiles to all those who receive them!



### Ladies of Zion will host a 'HIGH TEA' on Saturday, May 4th from 11:30AM-2:00PM.

There will be a presentation from Bigelow Tea, live music, delicious "tea foods" & teas and wonderful fellowship!  
Please look for a sign up sheet as the time gets closer.



### Friday Fellowship Drop-In...Please Join Us!

A few people have been meeting in the Gathering Space on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday afternoons from 1:00PM to 3:00PM. It began where people were bringing their needlework, knitting, crocheting, embroidery, etc. while we visited and learned from each other. Now that the weather is getting warmer and it's staying light a bit longer, you might want to come and socialize. Bring along what you are working on if you'd like, or just come to get to know others.  
Hope to see you there!



### IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME OF YEAR!

If you, or someone you know, will be heading on to a Post-Secondary Accredited program, whether it's a 4-year college program, a 2-year college program, or any other accredited program, please consider applying for a scholarship from Zion. Applications for both the **Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Post Secondary Education Scholarship AND The Czarnota Family Apple Fritter Scholarship** are available at worship or by calling the church office. They will also be included as a link you can click on in the weekly "Ministry Opportunities" blue email.

**The deadline to submit completed applications is March 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Please call Lisa Proffitt at 860-621-4316 with questions.

# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Feb 25</b> 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM SS / Conf., Coffee Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion 6:30PM Youth @ Plantsville CC	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Lenten Midweek 6:00PM Soup 6:30PM Worship Service 7:00PM Chapel Choir	<b>29</b>	<b>March 1</b> 1:00PM Fellowship Drop-in	<b>2</b> Gerda Gaetgens 10:00AM Calling Hours 11:30AM Memorial Svc. 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion & Healing Service 6:30PM Youth @ St. Paul's Episcopal
<b>3</b> 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School & Conf. Coffee Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion	<b>4</b> 10:00AM Bottles & Cans	<b>5</b> 6:00PM Fritter Meeting 7:00PM P&Z / Evergreen Meeting @ the Municipal Center	<b>6</b> Lenten Midweek 6:00PM Soup 6:30PM Worship Service 7:00PM Chapel Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion
<b>10</b> 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School & Conf. Coffee Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion 6:30PM Youth @ 1st Congregational	<b>11</b> 10:00AM Bottles & Cans 7:00PM Book Club 7:00PM Financial Aff. (Zion Library)	<b>12</b> 7:00PM Worship & Music	<b>13</b> Lenten Midweek 6:00PM Soup 6:30PM Worship Service 7:00PM Chapel Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 1:00PM Fellowship Drop-in	<b>16</b> 9:00AM Easter Egg Stuffing / Womens' Group 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion
<b>17</b> 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School & Conf. Coffee Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion 6:30PM Youth @ 1st Congregational	<b>18</b> 10:00AM Bottles & Cans	<b>19</b> 12:00PM Ladies' Lunch @ NOTO Americano 6:30PM Council	<b>20</b> Lenten Midweek 6:00PM Soup 6:30PM Worship Service 7:00PM Chapel Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion
<b>26</b> <i>Passion Sunday/ Palm Sunday</i> 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM SSS/Conf Easter Evert Coffee Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion 11:15AM Easter Egg Hunt	<b>25</b> 10:00AM Bottles & Cans	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 7:00PM Worship	<b>29</b> <i>Good Friday</i> 10:00AM ZCNS Easter Egg Hunt 7:00PM Worship	<b>30</b> No Worship Service today
<b>31</b> <i>Easter</i> 6:00AM Worship @ Sunrise 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion	<b>April 1</b> 10:00AM Bottles & Cans	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 1:00PM Fellowship Drop-in	<b>6</b> 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion & Healing Service

March 2024

Return Service Requested

Website: [zionlutheranct.org](http://zionlutheranct.org)

email: [pastor@zionlutheranct.org](mailto:pastor@zionlutheranct.org)

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