

# From Pastor's desk...

FEBRUARY 2023

DEAR FELLOW-REDEEMED OF ZION,

FEBRUARY HAS BEEN CALLED THE "LOVE MONTH," PROBABLY BECAUSE OF VALENTINES DAY ON THE FOURTEENTH. ALL KINDS OF MUSHY AND SURELY SINCERE SENTIMENTS FIND THEIR WAY TO FOLKS IN THE FORM OF SWEET GIFTS, CLEVER CARDS, BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS, AND OTHER KIND EXPRESSIONS OF AFFECTION.


IT IS FITTING FOR US TO CONSIDER THE PREDOMINANT COLOR OF VALENTINES DAY: RED. IT IS THE COLOR OF BLOOD. AND FOR US CHRISTIANS, IT IS THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, SHED FOR OUR MUCH SINNING, WHICH ODDLY ENOUGH, WASHES AWAY OUR SIN! THE OLD HYMN SAYS IT WELL: "OH, PRECIOUS IS THE FLOW, THAT MAKES ME WHITE AS SNOW. NO OTHER FOUNT I KNOW, NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS...."

SO, WHILE WE ENJOY THE BLESSINGS OF DEMONSTRATIONS OF LOVE AND AFFECTION WITH THE VALENTINES DAY TRADITIONS, WE REMEMBER THAT JESUS PROVIDED THE ULTIMATE VALENTINE, THE ULTIMATE SHOW OF LOVE AND AFFECTION ON CALVARY'S CROSS.

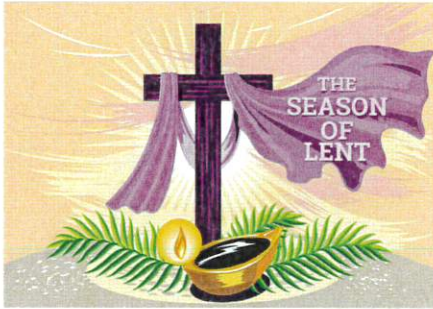
THERE, THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS WAS PROMISED, SO THAT "NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD!"

SO, AS WE BEGIN THE SEASON OF LENT, WE WILL CONSIDER HOW THIS "AMAZING GRACE" COMES TO US SINNERS, AND HOW OUR RESPONSE WILL SHOW OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE.

BLESSED VALENTINES DAY, EVERYONE!

*Pastor T.* 

# Zion News....



## Lent Service Schedule

- 2/22 Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 P.M.
- 3/1 Midweek Lent Supper 5:30 P.M.  
Midweek Lent Service 6:30 P.M.
- 3/8 Midweek Lent Supper 5:30 P.M.  
Midweek Lent Service 6:30 P.M.
- 3/15 Midweek Lent Supper 5:30 P.M.  
Midweek Lent Service 6:30 P.M.
- 3/22 Midweek Lent Supper 5:30 P.M.  
Midweek Lent Service 6:30 P.M.
- 3/29 Midweek Lent Supper 5:30 P.M.  
Midweek Lent Service 6:30 P.M.
- 4/2 Palm Sunday Service 10:15 A.M.
- 4/6 Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 P.M.
- 4/7 Good Friday Service 6:30 P.M.
- 4/9 Easter Service 10:15 A.M.

These services are in addition to the regular Sunday Divine Services. Plan to invite someone to attend with you.

The theme for this years' Lenten series is Amazing Grace – more information about the series later in the newsletter.

## Midweek Suppers

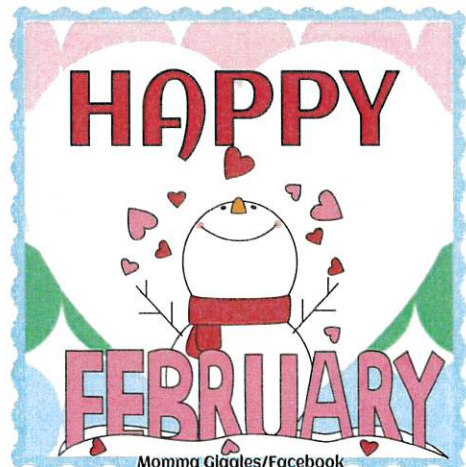
A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the All Saints Addition for anyone willing to provide a light supper prior to our Midweek Lent Services. Sign up early to get your preferred date.

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## Stewardship & Outreach Committee

The Stewardship and Evangelism Committee, now known as the Stewardship and Outreach Committee, has started up again. We would like some input for activities from the congregation. We are considering activities such as reinstating the Senior Breakfast, a church picnic, bringing back the Welcome Back Teachers Breakfast, a supper ahead of a sporting event at PPHS. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or comments, please let any committee member know. The committee is comprised of Stephanie Goebel, Michele Stremsterfer and Debbie Edie.

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## Remembering our Home Bound Members.....

Several members of our faith family are home bound or just can't get around as well as they used to. Names and addresses of our members who receive Pastoral visits or mailings are below. Please keep them in your prayers. Also, sending a note or card periodically (like a Valentines' Day card or birthday card) would let them know they are not forgotten by their faith family. When you sign your card, include "Zion Lutheran Church" below your name to help give them a reference. Thanks for sharing Christ's love with our fellow members.

Pastor & Mrs. Edward Balfour  
150 Mitchell Road  
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107

Jo Boesdorfer  
2451 W. White Oaks Dr., Apt. 109  
Springfield, IL 62704

Joann DeCroix  
4817 N. Oak Hill Rd., Apt. 402  
Rochester, IL 62563

Fred & Shirley Hagen  
620 Grandview Dr.  
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677

Shirley Hagen  
201 E. Church  
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677

Barb Hand  
2601 Montvale Dr., Apt. 315  
Springfield, IL 62704

Nancie Klein  
3901 Hedley, Apt. 29  
Springfield, IL 62711

Robin Krone  
3645 Richland Elevator Road  
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677

Ted Mahler  
Eastland Retirement Community  
901 Eastland Dr., D-9  
Auburn, IL 62615

Darrell & Shirley Patrick  
104 W. Main St., P.O. Box 42  
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677

Merle Theilen  
The Regency  
2120 W. Washington, #116, Bed 1  
Springfield, IL 62704

Evelyn Thomas  
4101 West Iles Ave., Apt. 3325  
Springfield, IL 62711

Jane Webster  
10894 Bunn Road  
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677

Marjorie White  
508 S. Walnut  
Tallula, IL 62688







For those with memory issues and their care givers. Come enjoy puzzles, music, movement and more with others!

PSPLD PRESENTS:  
**SENIOR  
TIME OUT**

Join us to enjoy music, movement and reminisce about the old times!

**When and Where**

Meets the first and third Friday of each month from **11-11:45am at our Pleasant Plains branch.**

Prairie Skies Public Library District  
555 Biuckeye Rd  
Pleasant Plains  
[www.pspld.com](http://www.pspld.com)





# AMAZING grace

## A WORSHIP SERIES FOR LENT

In honor of the 250th anniversary of the writing of “Amazing Grace,” this worship series for Lent by theologian Michael Hoy ties the words of the beloved song to our lives today as Christ’s disciples. Those in the Bible who experienced the amazing grace of God help us each week to realize that though we once were lost in sin, we now have been found by Jesus, and though we once were blind to God’s mercy, we now can see his love at work in us through our Savior’s death and resurrection.

**Ash Wednesday • David** (Psalm 51:1): We find comfort that King David confessed his sins to God and received amazing grace in God’s forgiveness and a connection to Jesus, the Savior.

**Week 1 • Isaiah of Babylon** (Isaiah 6:7): We see God’s amazing grace at work in the life of the prophet Isaiah, who proclaimed to God’s people the salvation that was to come through the Suffering Servant.

**Week 2 • The Prodigal Son** (Luke 15:32): We hear of the great love of a father who lavished amazing grace upon the Prodigal Son, a picture of our Heavenly Father’s lavish compassion toward us.

**Week 3 • The Blind Man** (John 9:24): We witness Jesus bringing sight to a man born blind, giving the man the added spiritual vision to see the amazing grace of God found in Jesus, who heals us all.

**Week 4 • The Woman at the Well** (John 4:13-14): We listen to Jesus teach a woman at the well of his amazing grace poured out for us abundantly, which satisfies our thirsting souls for all eternity.

**Week 5 • Paul** (1 Timothy 1:15): We marvel at the story of amazing grace in the life of Paul, who turned from persecutor of Christ to proclaimer of our Lord through the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.



# AMAZING *grace*



ASH WEDNESDAY  
David



WEEK ONE  
Isaiah of Babylon



WEEK TWO  
The Prodigal Son



WEEK THREE  
The Blind Man



WEEK FOUR  
The Woman at the Well



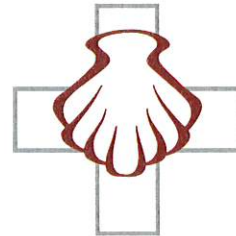
WEEK FIVE  
Paul

LENT





# February



## Birthday's

2/1 Jan Howard  
 2/1 Jillian Sims  
 2/4 Allan Gleason  
 2/4 Lindsay VanZeLe  
 2/6 Donna Clark  
 2/7 Christina Gleason  
 2/13 Lea Manuel  
 2/13 Carl Saylor  
 2/13 Amaya Shull-Pernell  
 2/14 Nancie Klein  
 2/15 Teresa Albsmeyer  
 2/19 Madyson Carter  
 2/19 Blayke Strubbe  
 2/22 Jessica Shull  
 2/23 Barb Hand  
 2/23 Marjorie White  
 2/24 Dale Dobbe  
 2/26 Alexandria Riemer  
 2/28 Landon Durheim

## Baptism Birthday's

Eric Oschwald 2/1  
 Romen Nolting 2/2  
 Jon Debowey 2/6  
 Ted Mahler 2/13  
 Anna Thompson 2/13  
 Brooklyn Hermes 2/14  
 Robin Krone 2/14  
 Delaina Manuel 2/15  
 Cindy Pritchard 2/17  
 Michael Greene 2/18  
 Donna Clark 2/21  
 Jan Howard 2/22  
 Jenny Darnell 2/25  
 Sondra Hermes 2/26  
 Allan Gleason 2/27

## Wedding Anniversary's

Dave & Kristi White 2/14  
 Wayne & Jan Howard 2/25



We often think of "Jesus Loves Me" as a children's hymn. Below is a version for our older members.....

### Jesus Loves Me - Senior Version

Here is a new version just for us who have white hair or no hair at all. For us over middle age (or even those almost there) and all you others, check out this newest version of Jesus Loves Me.

#### JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him.

(CHORUS)

YES, JESUS LOVES ME... YES, JESUS LOVES ME...  
YES, JESUS LOVES ME FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll go  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.

(CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and long,  
In my heart He puts a song.  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."

(CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love.

(CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
That I love Him every day.

If you think this is neat, please share it with your friends. If you do not share it on, nothing bad will happen, but you will have missed an opportunity to "Reach out and Touch" a friend or a loved one.

God Bless Us All !!!



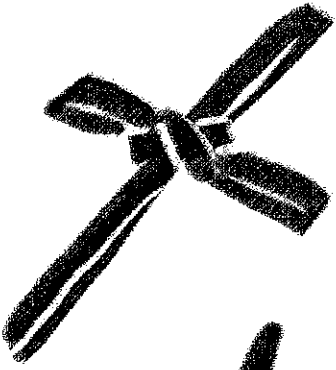
# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M.						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M.			Mary Martha Guild 2:00 P.M.			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M. Elders Meeting following Divine Service				Stewardship & Outreach 6:00 P.M.		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M.		March Newsletter articles due	Ash Wednesday Service with Communion 6:30 P.M.	Church Council 6:45 P.M.		
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M.			Lent Midweek Services Supper 5:30 P.M. Service 6:30 P.M.			
5	6	Notes: Elder Brad Mahler				

**Zion's Newsletter**  
**February, 2023**

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Rev. Don Pritchard**  
**525 North Cartwright**  
**P.O. Box 167**  
**Pleasant Plains, IL 62677**

**(217) 626-1282**

**Ash**   
**Wednesday**

**Sunday School 9:00 A.M.**  
**Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M.**  
**Divine Service 10:15 A.M.**

**LCMS**

**Email: [zionpp@casscomm.com](mailto:zionpp@casscomm.com)**  
**Website: [www.zionpp.net](http://www.zionpp.net)**