

# From Pastor's desk...

March 2023

DEAR FELLOW-REDEEMED OF ZION,

NOW WE BEGIN AGAIN THE JOURNEY TO CALVARY. WEEK BY WEEK, WE WILL SEE THE GRACE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST UNFOLDED FOR US SINNERS.

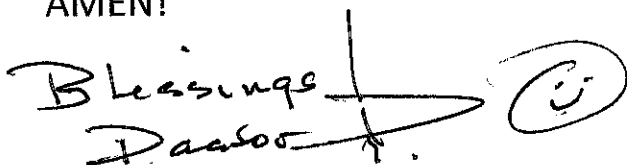
AND THEN, WE WILL GO TO THE CROSS TO SEE THE BITTER SUFFERING AND DEATH OF JESUS FOR THE SINS OF ALL OF US OF ALL TIMES AND PLACES.

HOW WILL THE STORY UNFOLD? NOT BY CLEVER STORIES AND ANECDOTES, BUT BY THE INSPIRED, ERROR-FREE WORD OF GOD, WHO LOVED US SO MUCH THAT HE WOULD DO THE UNTHINKABLE, SENDING HIS SON JESUS TO BE OUR SIN BEARER. SCRIPTURE TELLS US THAT "HE WHO KNEW NO SIN BECAME SIN FOR US."

SUCH A CONCEPT IS UNTHINKABLE, YET GOD'S WORD ASSURES US THAT "THOUGH (Y)OUR SINS BE AS SCARLET, THEY SHALL BE AS WHITE AS SNOW."

ON THE ONE HAND, OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LENT WILL BE FAMILIAR TERRITORY. BUT AS EACH DAY RISES UP, WE WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE IN A FALLEN WORLD, IN BODIES THAT NO LONGER SERVE US AS THEY DID IN YEARS GONE BY. THERE WILL BE CHALLENGES, NO DOUBT, BUT THE ONE WHO CARED SO DEEPLY FOR US SINNERS THAT HE GAVE JESUS FOR US WILL NOT LEAVE US WANDERING ON THIS ROUGH AND ROCKY ROAD ALONE. HE PROMISES "LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE!"  
AMEN!

Blessings  
Darius







**We welcome as our new Choir Director,  
Mr. Phil Maxwell! We look forward to hearing our  
choir's amazing voices on a more regular basis  
under Mr. Maxwell's leadership!**

**If you have considered joining the choir, but  
hesitated, now is your time! New voices are always  
welcome!**

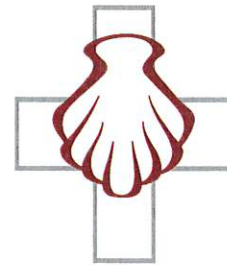
**We thank Tammy Tewes, our Choir's Pianist, for her  
continued dedication in accompanying our  
vocalists!**





**Birthdays**

Dick Shull	3/9
Merle Theilen	3/11
Janet Parkes	3/12
Addison VanZeLe	3/15
Eloise Edwards	3/23
Aiden Chipol	3/25



**Baptism Birthdays**

Marjorie White	3/1
Lea Manuel	3/3
Megendeal Hibtes	3/3
Christina Gleason	3/4
Jessica Shull	3/7
Elias Morgan	3/11
Kendra Theilen	3/11
Alberta Kindhart	3/15
Teresa Albsmeyer	3/16
Isaac Rennecker	3/16
Lincoln Edwards	3/20
Henry Edwards	3/20
Eloise Edwards	3/20
Colbie Stremsterfer	3/21
Rich Albsmeyer	3/22
Jo Boesdorfer	3/24
Jim Krone	3/26
Carol Kiel	3/29
Shirley Theilen	3/31



**Wedding Anniversaries**

Norman & Michele Stremsterfer	3/1
Janet Parkes & Robert Slosar	3/2
Lee & Stacy Stremsterfer	3/27

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
*Draft \*\*\*\*Voter's Assembly Minutes\*\*\*\*Draft*  
**1/29/23**

Gary Klekamp called the meeting to order at 11:40 A.M. Pastor opened with prayer.

**Attendance:** 20 members were recorded as present with 3 new members added – Joe & Mary Curry and Mary Wallace. A quorum was established.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the October 27, 2022 meeting were presented by Sue Matzat in the absence of Stacy Stremsterfer. Motion made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Final Treasurer's Report for 2022 was presented by Sue Matzat in the absence of Stacy Stremsterfer. Chairman Klekamp reported that the \$500 bonus showing under the Administrative Assistant category was not paid. Motion made, seconded and passed to pay the 2022 bonus in the amount of \$500 to the Administrative Assistant. Motion made, seconded and passed to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

**Financial Secretary Report:** Eric Oswald presented his 3 year comparison report that included the final offerings/donations tallies for 2022. He reported that the 2022 Memorial Funds included the \$50,000 donation for the new sign and a donation of \$7100 for the new carillon system. Report was accepted by unanimous consent.

**Elder's Report:** Dennis Boesdorfer reported that he had been selected as Head Elder and Nathan VanZelev had been selected as Secretary of the Elders for 2023. The Elders have been assigned members' households in the 2023 Membership Directory. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 19 following the Divine Service. Pastor announced that the Lenten Series, Amazing Grace, will include participation by the Elders. Report was accepted by unanimous consent.

**Trustee's Report:** Dale Dobbe reported that the new sign is about finished. Depending on the weather, it will be installed in the Spring.

They have taken no action on replacing the plexiglass on the stained glass windows. They are still adjusting which windows need the protection to try to reduce the cost.

He has consulted with a contractor about repairing the sagging ceilings in the All Saints Addition. No cost estimates on those repairs yet.

Dale reported that 3 of the 5 furnaces have been replaced. One of the additional units needs replaced soon with the other not far behind. He has received an estimate from Gibbs Glisson Heating and Air to replace the 1 furnace at a cost of \$4500 for a basic furnace or \$5850 for an upgraded furnace. If we were to replace both furnaces at the same time, his estimate is \$11,200. Motion made to replace both furnaces with the cost not to exceed \$12,000 using funds from the Building Fund. Motion seconded and passed.

Gary thank'd Dale for his years serving as a Trustee. Joe Curry has been selected as Head Trustee for 2023. Report was accepted by unanimous consent.

**Board of Education:** Lindsay VanZeLe reported that Sunday School continues. Lea Manuel has ordered the new Sunday School materials. The committee will be meeting on January 31. Lindsay will continue as Chairperson of the Board of Education in 2023. Report was accepted by unanimous consent.

**Church Council:** Gary reported that Council did not meet in November due to schedule conflicts. In December, following the receipt of reports from Boards and Pastor, the Council approved the delivery of a check representing 50% of the total cost of the new sign to Ace Sign Co. An update of a new website was given by Stacy Stremsterfer, the approval of Debbie Edie, Stephanie Goebel and Michele Stremsterfer to serve on the Stewardship & Evangelism Committee.

Nominations for LCMS President and Vice President positions were approved as:

President – Rev. Matthew C. Harrison and Rev. Peter K. Lange;

First Vice President – Rev. Matthew C. Harrison and Rev. Ben Ball;

Regional First Vice President – Rev. Jason M. Braaten and Rev. Mark Miller.

Nominations were submitted electronically and confirmation was received on December 2. Report was accepted by unanimous consent.

**Stewardship & Outreach:** The Stewardship & Evangelism Committee has been renamed Stewardship & Outreach. Stephanie Goebel reported that they are accepting suggestions for activities for their committee. Suggestions have been received for a Ladies Brunch in May and a Men's Breakfast in June. They have applied for and received monies from Thrivent and are planning to host a Senior Breakfast on May 12. The committee is reviewing their responsibilities in the Officer's Manual to possibly revise. Their next meeting will be held on February 15. Report was accepted by unanimous consent.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Pritchard reported our membership as of December 31, 2022 as:

Baptized 203, Communicant 166

Average attendance in 2022 was 51 with average Communion participation at 46. Usual Pastoral activities – Hospital calls, nursing home and shut in visits; Divine Service and Bible Study preparations; ISP and ILFOP duties as requested; attendance at various meetings – Mary Martha Guild, Church Council, Elders, Stewardship & Outreach, Revisions. He attended the Circuit Pastor Conference. He is planning the Lenten series "Amazing Grace". He asked if we should have Lenten Suppers prior to the Midweek Services since the Advent Suppers were not well attended. Gary asked for a show of hands – majority indicated they wanted the Lenten Suppers to continue. Report was accepted by unanimous consent.

**Unfinished Business:** Sharon Krohe gave an update on the Lutheran High School mine subsidence. The property on Washington Street has been damaged beyond repair. The LuHi Board of Directors has applied for assistance from the state of Illinois to pay for the demolition of the facility. The state has agreed to pay for the demolition and clean up of the site which will save LuHi \$500,000. The property was insured for \$11,000,000, but due to a state cap on mine subsidence liability, the insurance company was only required to pay \$700,000 which has been received and applied to the outstanding mortgage balance. \$3,000,000 is still owed on the existing building. CID has lowered the interest rate on the outstanding balance and currently interest only payments are being made. CID has agreed to pay for an

appraisal of the property following the demolition and clean up. Any contents remaining will probably be sold in an online auction in the spring. The Board of Directors are looking for a new permanent site outside of the mine subsidence area in Springfield. They are needing volunteers with expertise to assist the board with engineering, real estate and architectural decisions. A full time salaried fundraiser position will need to be filled to assist with funding the new facility. They currently have an opening for a religion teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Sharon asked that we include LuHi and their Board of Directors in our prayers. Gary thank'd Sharon for her time and devotion to LuHi.

Gary reported that he is still working on acquiring a Choir Director to lead our choir.

**New Business:** The dishes in the kitchen were acquired using funds from Cora Mileur's memorial fund. Since the dishes and glassware are rarely used, he asked if there was something that should be done with the dishes as the cabinets are beginning to sag under their weight. Discussion was held with suggestions made of offering them to members for a donation; keep a few of each; use them; donating them to an organization that could get them to families following a catastrophic loss or the homeless. Motion made to let Church Council consider what to do with dishes -- motion withdrawn. Motion made, seconded and passed to have the Mary Martha Guild decide what to do with them.

Memorial Funds have been designated to replace the Altar Paraments. Approximately \$3,000 has been designated so far. Gary asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to explore new parament options and costs. Sharon Krohe, Brad Mahler and Sue Matzat volunteered.

Gary announced that we haven't had a new pictorial directory since the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He asked for volunteers to decide whether and how to produce a new directory in 2025. Lindsay VanZelev, Mary Curry and Sue Matzat volunteered.

**Motion to adjourn**

**Meeting closed with the singing of the Doxology.**

Minutes submitted by Sue Matzat





PSPLD PRESENTS:

# SENIOR TIME OUT

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

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

## 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)



# March



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M.	Stewardship & Outreach Committee 6:00 P.M.		Midweek Lent Service Supper 5:30 P.M. Service 6:30 P.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. Midweek Lent Service Supper 5:30 P.M. Service 6:30 P.M.			Daylight Savings Time - Spring clocks forward before retiring
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		Circuit Pastors at Trinity, Springfield 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.	Midweek Lent Service Supper 5:30 P.M. Service 6:30 P.M.			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M.			Midweek Lent Service Supper 5:30 P.M. Service 6:30 P.M.	Pictorial Directory Committee 6:30 P.M.		
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M.		Altar Parament Committee 6:30 P.M.	Midweek Lent Service Supper 5:30 P.M. Service 6:30 P.M.	Church Council 6:30 P.M.		

Notes: Elder Nathan VanZeLe

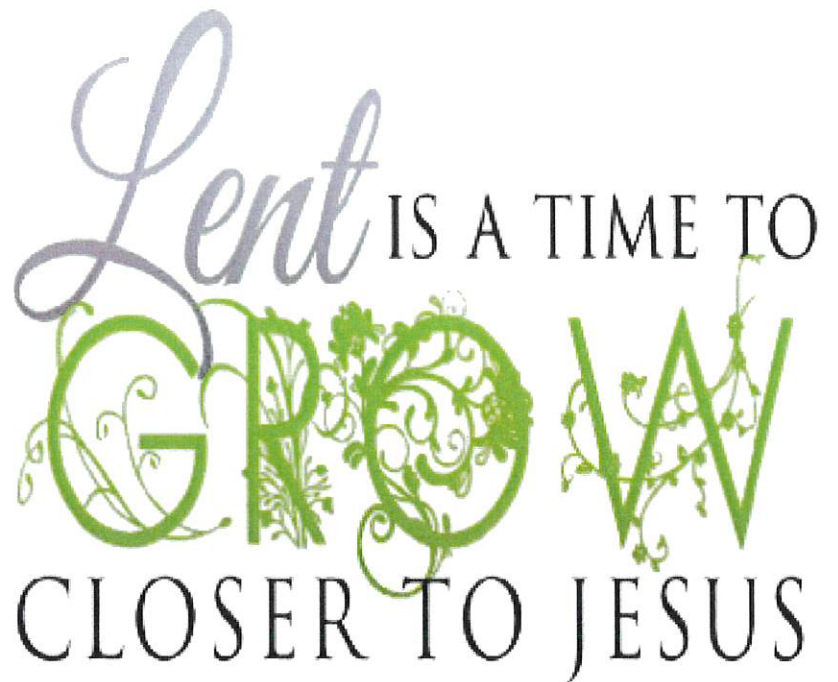


***Zion's Newsletter***  
***March, 2023***

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

***(217) 626-1282***

*Lent* IS A TIME TO  
**GROW**  
CLOSER TO JESUS



***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)***