

ZioNews

But God
demonstrates

his own love

for us in this:

While we were
still sinners,

Christ died
FOR US.

Romans 5:8, NIV

February, 2026

Zionews
February, 2026 Issue

*The newsletter this month is dedicated to the
Glory of God and in memory of departed loved
ones. Given by Lou Stevens and Bernie Gettel.*

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Church Office Hours
9 am – 2 pm, Monday - Friday

A Message from Pastor Kim

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and Peace to you!

Lent is quickly approaching. As we near to this time of Lenten disciplines, let us embrace fasting not as a burdensome obligation, but as a powerful spiritual discipline, echoing Jesus' 40 days in the desert, to subdue the flesh, draw closer to God, and prepare our hearts for Easter, just as Martin Luther noted how a full stomach hinders spiritual life, making fasting a valuable "outward training" for greater dependence on God's Word and grace.

Jesus' Example: A Model for Our Season

Before His public ministry, Jesus, led by the Spirit, went into the wilderness and fasted for forty days, facing temptation and relying solely on God's Word (Matthew 4:1-11). This wasn't a stunt, but an act of spiritual preparation and reliance, showing us that our own Lenten fasts, whether giving up food, social media, or other comforts, are meant to redirect our focus from worldly satisfaction to our deep, abiding need for God.

Martin Luther's Wisdom: Subduing the Flesh

Martin Luther understood fasting as a vital tool for Christian growth, stating, "When the stomach is full, the body does not serve for preaching, for praying, for studying, or for doing anything else that is good". He saw fasting as a way to control our physical desires, freeing us to better engage with God's Word and seek His kingdom first. For Luther, it was "fine outward training" for the soul, a voluntary act that strengthens our will and reminds us we live by God's provision, not our own appetites.

Our Lenten Invitation

This Lent, I invite you to prayerfully consider your own fast. What can you set aside to create space for God?

- **Give Up:** A favorite treat, excessive screen time, complaining, or a selfish habit.
- **Take Up:** More focused prayer, reading Scripture, acts of service (almsgiving), or quiet reflection.

Let your Lenten discipline be a journey of repentance, a practice of "self-denial" that leads to deeper dependence on Christ, allowing us to fully appreciate His sacrifice and the joy of His resurrection.

Blessings on your Lenten Journey,
Pastor Kim



February 1	Erin Downey
	Sandra Largent
February 3	Audrey Clopper
February 5	Martha Allen
February 7	Joseph Donovan
February 11	Jake Thomas
	Dorothy Walker
February 13	Noah Nunberg
February 15	Katie Yorke
February 16	Jacob Young
February 22	Vaughn Miller
February 23	Ryan Downey
February 25	Kyle Jacobus
	Adam Shurnitski
February 27	Tracy Jacobus
February 28	John Doub
	Amanda Himes
	Zachary Starr



Please keep in prayer: Randy Anderson, Loretta Bassler, Bob Bowers, Rocky Burger, Robbie Donnelly, Terry and Ellie Doub, Sally Drury, Jack Fazenbaker, Kay and Mary Guessford, Sarah Kiley, Kathleen Knode, Rachel Knox, Sandra and Frank Largent, Charles Matlack, Vaughn Miller, Sue Moser, Pat Myers, Linda Perry, Mackenzie Raidt, Betty Snook, Driver Spade, Dolly Trumpower, Diane Wollard.

Homebound & Shut Ins – Randy Anderson, Barbara Burger, Jean Brechbill, Terry Conrad, Bob Gordon, Dorothea Heavner, Kathleen Knode, Demeta Matlack, Roger Nicodemus, Linda Perry, Marilyn Schoenian, Ien & Heng Ya Srun, Kitty Smalts, Bonnie Thomas, James Thomas.

Circle of Prayer

February 1	Mike & Gail Taylor Brent & Jackie Taylor
February 8	Bob & Sherri Taylor Teresa Taylor
February 15	William Taylor Darlene Teach
February 22	Bonnie Thomas Ray Thomas



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on February 15, 2026, at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to present the Annual Report of the Church and its Committees. All members are encouraged to attend.

Wednesday Night Lenten Services

After prayerful consideration, the Music and Worship committee in consultation with the Congregational Council, Pastor, and Music Director, have decided to suspend the midweek Lenten worship that would be held from February 25 to March 25. In the past few years, attendance has been dwindling. We feel that by suspending the worship services this year, and planning something that would address the needs of our congregation better in the future would be our best option.

If you would like to worship with Pastor Kim and other members of the Washington County clergy in a series entitled "Walking Wet". Please look to attend one of these other worship opportunities:

Haven Lutheran Church: Dinner at 6:15 in the Parlor, Worship at 7:00 also live-streamed on Facebook

Trinity Lutheran Church, Hagerstown: Dinner at 5:30 in Memorial Hall, Worship with Holy Communion at 6:15

St. Marks, Hagerstown: Dinner at 6:00, Service at 6:30



Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on February 17, 2026, from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The menu will consist of pancakes, sausage, eggs and a drink. The cost is a free will donation.



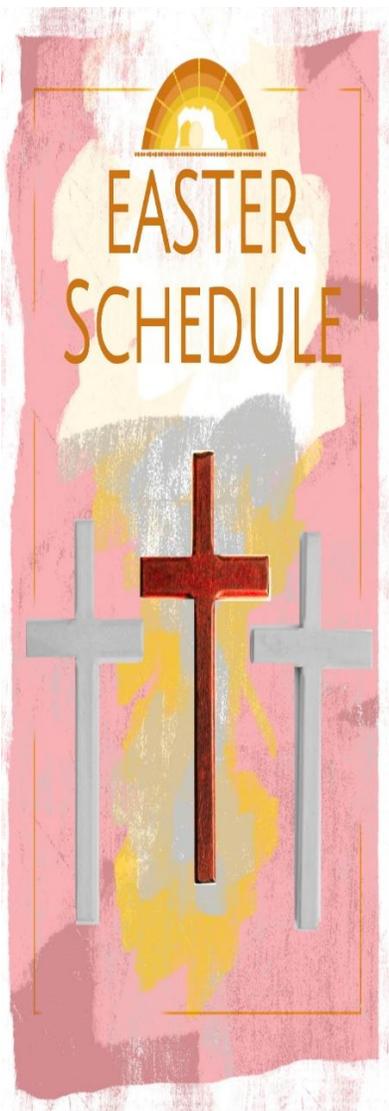
As we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of our Savior, Lent is that season of preparation. Here is our schedule of events and services:

February 17, 2026	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 4:30 pm
February 18, 2026	Ash Wednesday
7:00 am – 9:00 am	Ashes to Go
Noon	Ash Wednesday Service
7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service

Sundays During Lent

Sunday Lenten Sermon Series: Conversations with Jesus

The Sunday Lectionary for Lent in year A reveals Jesus in conversation with both friends and adversaries. Lent's first Sunday finds Jesus confronting God's ancient adversary in Matthew's account of the temptation. The second Sunday presents Jesus' interaction with the seeker, Nicodemus, who is perhaps not ready to make a commitment to following this new teacher. The third, fourth, and fifth Sundays are full of intriguing conversation partners for Jesus: the Samaritan woman at the well, the man who received his sight, Martha and Mary after the death of their brother Lazarus. We will join in the conversation and hope to understand our faith and relationships in a deeper way.



Palm Sunday
March 29, 2026
Service at 8:15 am &
10:45 am

Maundy Thursday
April 2, 2026
Service at 7:00 pm

Good Friday
April 3, 2026
Service at 7:00 pm

Resurrection Sunday
April 5, 2026
Service at 8:15 am &
10:45 am



School is back in session after the Christmas Break. Williamsport High School has also returned to in person classes. The following items are needed: Microwavable macaroni and cheese cups, ramen noodles (chicken or beef flavored) and Pop-Tarts. Donations can be dropped off at the church in the bin by the Fellowship Hall. Or, if you prefer, you can make a donation to the church, marked for Micah's Backpack and we will do the shopping for you. Thank you for your generosity.

Food Bank Needs



The Williamsport Food Bank has the following needs for the month of February: spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, beef or chicken cup o' noodles, canned peaches, canned pears, jarred applesauce, baked beans, cream of chicken or mushroom soups, canned chili, Knorr side dish pouches, canned chicken, tuna, and peanut butter and grape jelly. Donations can be placed in the bin outside of the Fellowship Hall. If it is easier for you, you can make a monetary donation made payable to the Williamsport Food Bank. Thank you for your help and generosity.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

USHERS:

February 1:

8:15 am: Dave Knode
10:45 am: Vaughn Miller

February 8:

8:15 am: John Doub
10:45 am: Randy Miles

February 15:

8:15 am: Ray Thomas
10:45 am: Marvin Gower

February 22:

8:15 am: Chris Baran
10:45 am: Vaughn Miller

GREETERS:

February 1:

8:15 am: Lois Dreisbach
10:45 am: Sharon Raun and Marjorie Dilworth

February 8:

8:15 am: Ernie & Margie Stoner
10:45 am: Lesa & Joey Mason

February 15:

8:15 am: Terry & Debbie Grossnickle

10:45 am: Dawn, Brandon and Luke Stiles

February 22:

8:15 am: Dave & Shirley Knode

10:45 am: Joy & Jamie Neikirk

LAY READERS:

February 1:

8:15 am: Sherri Taylor

10:45 am:: Kershner Wyatt

February 8:

8:15 am: Ernie Stoner

10:45 am: Ed Shaw

February 15:

8:15 am: Debbie Grossnickle

10:45 am: Steve Himes

February 22:

8:15 am: H. Ray Thomas

10:45 am: Joy Neikirk

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

February 1:

8:15 am: Lois Dreisbach and Joe Moser

10:45 am: Paula Wyatt

February 8:

8:15 am: Michael Harp and Darlene Teach

10:45 am: Dawn Stiles and Nicole Banzhoff

February 15:

8:15 am: Dave Knode and Joe Moser

10:45 am: Sandra Merrell

February 22:

8:15 am: Ray Thomas

10:45 am:

Acolyte & Crucifer Schedule

February 1:

8:15 am: Acolyte: Dawson Miller Crucifer:
10:45 am: Acolyte: Andrew Snook Crucifer: Leah Snook

February 8:

8:15 am: Acolyte: Ian Baran Crucifer: Loren Baran
10:45 am: Acolyte: Brandon Stiles Crucifer: Jordyn Miles

February 15:

8:15 am: Acolyte: Dawson Miller Crucifer:
10:45 am: Acolyte: Sloane Dzubynski Crucifer: Eideann Banzhoff

February 22:

8:15 am: Acolyte: Loren Baran Crucifer: Ian Baran
10:45 am: Acolyte: Jeremy Cassner Crucifer: Brandon Stiles

Alter Care

February 1:

8:15 am: Jack & Carol Turner
10:45 am: Ed & Susie Shaw

February 8:

8:15 am: Jack & Carol Turner
10:45 am: Dawn Stiles

February 15:

8:15 am: Sherri Taylor
10:45 am: Ed & Susie Shaw

February 22:

8:15 am: Sherri Taylor
10:45 am: Jamie & Joy Neikirk

Film Schedule

February 1:

10:45 am: Brandon Stiles

February 8:

8:15 am: The Baran Family

February 15:

10:45 am: Brandon Stiles

February 22:

8:15 am: Bob Budnicki

Average Monthly Attendance And Giving

January, 2026:

Average Monthly Attendance 100 people per Sunday

Monthly Giving and Expenses (December, 2025)

Income	\$32,540
Expenses	\$35,518
Net Income	(\$2,978)

A Note from Jamie:

While giving has remained consistent, our expenses have continued to increase as the cost of everything has gone up. We are fortunate that the income from our investments and endowments has continued to make up the difference in our expenses. However, Congregational giving needs to increase by approximately 5% in order to meet the Budget that was approved by the Congregation in November.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Thank you for sponsoring all of the Newsletters and lunches for 2026. This greatly helps Zion to continue doing ministry in our community.

If you would like to honor our loved ones, you can still do so by sponsoring various elements of our service in their memory or honor. You will be listed in the bulletin and/or newsletter as the sponsor.

Here are those opportunities and their costs:

Weekly:

Altar Flowers	\$80.00
Bulletin	\$20.00
Sanctuary Light	\$5.00
Festival Lights	\$10.00

(the Festival Lights are only for certain celebrations,
such as Reformation Sunday, Christmas or Easter)

Please contact the office to let the church know what dates you would like to sponsor. Payment can be made to the church office or by putting it in the offering plate and putting what it is for in the memo.

*A Note from Michael Harp,
Council President*

As I step into the role of Council President, I want to begin by saying how grateful and humbled I am to serve Zion alongside such a dedicated and faithful group of council members. I am continually inspired by the people I have the privilege to work with—individuals who love this church deeply and give their time, talents, and hearts so generously.

Council exists to serve *you*, our congregation. Everything we do is rooted in supporting the life, mission, and ministry of Zion. I encourage you to stay engaged—join us for an event or fundraiser, volunteer where you feel called, share your ideas, and be active in the life of the church. Our vitality and growth depend so much on your involvement, energy, and vision.

There is so much to celebrate at Zion. From meaningful ministries and outreach efforts to fellowship, worship, and music, incredible things are happening every day. I am genuinely excited about what the future holds and all that God has in store for us as we move forward together.

Please know that I am always available to listen, as are all members of council. We value open communication and are committed to transparency throughout the year. As topics arise and decisions come before council, we will do our best to keep the congregation informed and “in the loop.”

I love this church family, and I am honored to serve you. I look forward to an exciting and faithful 2026, walking together in hope, service, and community.



If you have not attended Movie Night at Zion you are missing out on a real treat. From the selection of the movie to the ginormous amount of food (which is themed to the movie) - those who put it together deserve a huge THANK YOU! Much thought and WORK goes into each of the nights and it is a testament to the dedication and creative approach of several members of Zion to bring people from the community and members of Zion together. Consider joining us for the next movie in February - you won't regret it! (from a Member of Zion)

And our next movie night is February 22, 2026 at 6:00 pm. We will be watching ***The Chronicles of Narnia***, based on the classic series of books by C.S. Lewis. Bring your favorite blanket, chair or pillow. Light refreshments will be served.

Sight and Sound Trip

The Annual Trip to Sight and Sound will be on September 10, 2026. We will be seeing the production of Joshua, we well as enjoying some shopping and a meal. The cost is \$249.00 for adults and includes bus fare, tickets to the production and dinner at the Shady Maple Smorgasbord. If you have questions, please contact Rev. Doris Doub.



The Men's Fellowship will meet on November 5, 2025, at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall. They will meet on November 19, 2025, at 8 am at Hub City Diner. All men are encouraged to come and enjoy some fellowship and time in prayer and The Word.



Ladies – Mark your calendars!!! The next meeting of Church Women United will be held on March 6, 2026 at 11:00 am. It will be at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. The World Day of Prayer will be celebrated. Meal reservations are due by February 25, 2026 and may be made by calling Tammy Coyle (240-409-2410).

A little light, please

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path. (v. 105)

This focus verse echoes the psalm's theme: the importance of God's word for life and faith. Many of us—at Bible camp or Sunday school—have sung these words as part of a song that emphasizes the positive. But if you look at the whole psalm, you see both struggles—"I am severely afflicted" (v. 107)—and faith—"I do not stray from your precepts" (v. 110). Here, the psalmist depicts our universal experience of life and faith: We face challenges in the midst of which we do our best to live faithfully.

But life and faith are never just about us. God's word leads and encourages us. It isn't magic. I can't simply open the Bible randomly, pick a verse, and expect divine guidance. But God's direction doesn't come from simply reading and memorizing the Bible either. Over time, as we read and reflect on scripture, our perspectives and values change. Then the Spirit uses our word-shaped hearts and minds to reveal God's way and illuminate the road ahead.

**Great God of all, by your Spirit guide my reading
of your word. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**

Prayer concern: Bible translators

2 Kings 22:3-20; Romans 11:2-10