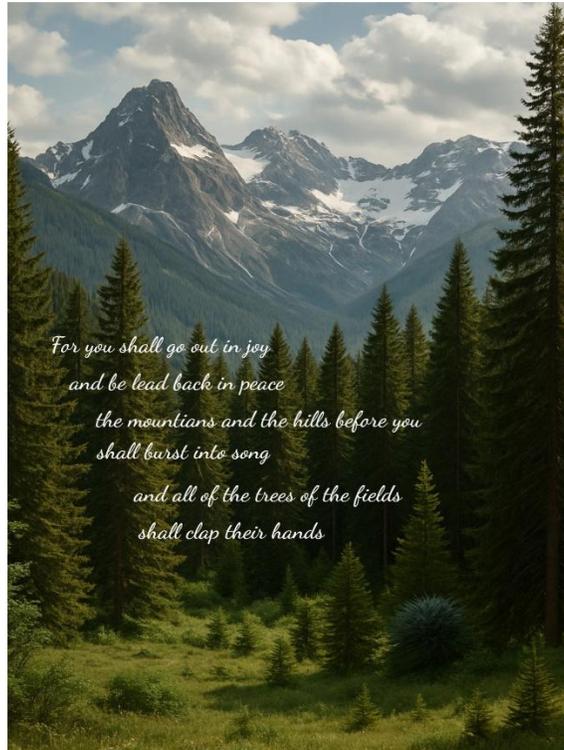


# *ZioNews*



*For you shall go out in joy  
and be lead back in peace  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song  
and all of the trees of the fields  
shall clap their hands*

*March, 2026*

Zionews  
March, 2026 Issue

*The newsletter this month is dedicated to the  
Glory of God and in loving memory of our mothers,  
Shirley Wilson and Ann Herrick. Given by George  
and Janis LeBlanc.*

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
35 W. Potomac Street, Williamsport, MD 21795  
Church Office: 301-223-7260 Fax: 301-223-7261  
[www.zionlutheranmd.org](http://www.zionlutheranmd.org)

Pastor Kimberly Nunberg-Wadel  
301-223-7260  
[knunberg@zionlutheranmd.org](mailto:knunberg@zionlutheranmd.org)

David Loy, Director of Music  
[dloy@zionlutheranmd.org](mailto:dloy@zionlutheranmd.org)

Dorothy Walker, Church Secretary  
[dwalker@zionlutheranmd.org](mailto:dwalker@zionlutheranmd.org)

Church Office Hours  
9 am – 2 pm, Monday - Friday

## *A Note from Pastor Kim*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ”.

As we enter this season of Lent, many of us are accustomed to the familiar question: "What are you giving up?"

For many, this becomes a sort of Christian diet or a test of willpower—a self-improvement project designed to make us feel more pious by Easter. But within our Lutheran tradition, rooted in the grace-filled theology of Martin Luther, we are invited to view the spiritual practice of fasting through a different lens.

Luther, in his Small Catechism, noted that “Fasting and bodily preparation are indeed fine outward training”. It is not a way to earn points with God, nor is it a way to purchase forgiveness. Instead, fasting is a tool that breaks our dependence on the luxuries of this world and redirects our focus toward our absolute dependence on God.

### **Why Fast?**

In our fast-paced, consumerist culture, we are rarely forced to feel "hungry" or "needy." We are used to instant gratification. A Lenten fast is an intentional, temporary, and voluntary disruption of our comfort. When we go without a favorite food, social media, or a daily luxury, we make space in our lives to:

- **Remember our dependence on God:** We are reminded that we live by grace, not just bread alone.
- **Pray with greater intensity:** Using the time we would have spent eating or scrolling to instead engage in Scripture or prayer.
- **Focus on our neighbor:** Fasting is a means of saving resources, which can then be given to the poor or to organizations like ELCA World Hunger.

### **True Fasting**

This Lent, I invite you to consider a fast that is not merely about self-denial, but about *self-giving*. As we read in Isaiah 58, the fast that pleases God is one that breaks the chains of injustice, feeds the hungry, and shelters the homeless.

Perhaps you don't give up chocolate. Perhaps you fast from harsh words. Perhaps you fast from overcommitting, to spend more time in prayer. Perhaps you fast from purchasing new things, to give more to a local pantry.

### **A Free People**

Ultimately, we are free in Christ. We are not forced to fast. But we are encouraged to use this discipline to prepare our hearts for the joy of the Resurrection. When we fast, we are not trying

to reach God; we are simply quieting our lives so we can better feel the grace that is already reaching toward us.

May your Lenten journey be one of deep reflection, purposeful discipline, and, above all, the experience of God's abiding love.

Blessings, Pastor Kimberly Nunberg- Wadel



Please welcome the following new members to the Zion Family: George and Janis LeBlanc; Daniel and Nancy Martz; and Charles and Terri Yetter. All of them joined our fellowship on February 15, 2026. We are happy to have them here.



March 3	Carol McAllister Jan Shane
March 5	Tonya Williams
March 6	Joe Moser
March 8	Stepheney Himes Ginny Slick
March 11	Emily Stiles
March 13	Emily Alexander Bonnie Thomas
March 14	Teresa Koons
March 16	Marilyn Schoenian
March 22	Tracey Doub
March 25	Jim Rudolph
March 27	Chris Nave Kim Nunberg-Wadel Luke Stiles
March 29	Matt Baker Lee Downey Lois Dreisbach
March 30	Hudson Grossnickle



Please keep in prayer: Patty Allen, Randy Anderson, Loretta Bassler, Bob Bowers, Terry and Ellie Doub, Sally Drury, Kristine Griffith, Kay and Mary Guessford, Sarah Kiley, Harry Knode, Rachel Knox, Sandra and Frank Largent, Charles Matlack, Liam Manuel, Vaughn Miller, Pat Myers, Linda Perry, Mackenzie Raidt, Driver Spade, Millie St. Peter, Dolly Trumpower, Diane Wollard.

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

## *Circle of Prayer*

March 1	James Thomas Kenneth & Sally Thomas
March 8	Wilbur "Jake" Thomas Joan & Steve Tucker
March 15	Jack & Carol Turner Dorothy & John Walker
March 22	Ted & Carol Weitzel Cheryl Wilkes
March 29	Selena Wilkes Dorothy Williams



Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Audrey Clopper, who passed away on January 23, 2026. Please keep Paul and the rest of the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Barbara Knode, who passed away on January 29, 2026. Please keep Harry, Chris, Donna, and Amanda Nave and the rest of the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Betty Snook who passed away on January 30, 2026. Please keep Todd, Jennifer, Ella, Leah and Andrew in your prayers during this difficult time.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Kathleen Knode. Kathleen passed away on February 12, 2026. Please keep Susan, George, Melissa, and the rest of the family in your thoughts and prayers during this time.



On February 22, 2026, Zion celebrated the Baptism of Andrew Michael Unger. Andy is the son of Amanda and Dustin Unger. His big brother is Will. Proud grandparents are Marvin and Judy Gower and Jessie Unger. Andy's Godparents are Jessica and Michael Gower.



## *Easter Schedule*

*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*

*Sunrise Service at*

*6:30 am*

*Springfield Barn*

*Service at 8:15 am*

*& 10:45 am*

## *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.



Movie Nights continue to grow!!!! We have a wide variety of people from our congregation and our community coming out to enjoy some fun and fellowship.

March's movie is **Sight & Sound: Jesus**. If you haven't had the chance to travel to Lancaster, PA to enjoy the wonderful productions at Sight & Sound, you can now do so from the comfort of our Fellowship Hall. Bring the entire family out for a great time.



We know Lent just started and Easter is coming, but it's time to start thinking about and planning for Vacation Bible School. VBS will be held July 13-17, 2026 in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in helping in any way, please see Val Dzbynski or Pastor Kim.

## *First Communion Class*

If you have a child that is at least 6 years old and is ready to begin the journey to taking Communion with our family, classes will be held on Sundays, at 9:30 am with Pastor Kim. Class will be in April. If your child is intered, please talk to Pastor Kim to pick a date. First Communion will be made on April 26.

### Food Bank Needs



The Williamsport Food Bank has the following needs for the month of March: cereal, canned beef stew, canned chicken and dumplings, vegetable soup, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, beef or chicken cup o'noodles, canned peaches, canned pears, jarred applesauce, baked beans, canned chili, canned spinach, 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.



Williamsport High School has 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.

## *MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS*

### **USHERS:**

March 1:

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

March 8:

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

March 15:

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

March 22:

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

March 29:

8:15 am Dave Knode  
10:45 am Kershner Wyatt

### **GREETERS:**

March 1:

8:15 am: Terry & Debbie Grossnickle  
10:45 am:: Marjorie Dilworth

March 8:

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

March 15:

8:15 am: Carol & Jack Turner  
10:45 am: Paula & Kershner Wyatt

March 22:

8:15 am: Dave & Shirley Knode  
10:45 am: Sharon Raun

March 29:

8:15 am: Lois Dreisbach & Darlene Teach  
10:45 am: Joy & Jamie Neikirk

**LAY READERS:**

March 1:

8:15 am: Debbie Grossnickle

10:45 am:: Charles Crown

March 8:

8:15 am: Ernie Stoner

10:45 am: Ed Shaw

March 15:

8:15 am: Carol Turner

10:45 am: Paula Wyatt

March 22:

8:15 am: H. Ray Thomas

10:45 am: Steve Himes

March 29:

8:15 am: Bob Budnicki

10:45 am: Joy Neikirk

**COMMUNION ASSISTANT**

March 1:

8:15 am: Joe Moser and Darlene Teach

10:45 am:: Charles Crown and Kathy Himes

March 8:

8:15 am: Kathy Himes and Lois Dreisbach

10:45 am: Nicole Banzhoff and Lesa Mason

March 15:

8:15 am: David Knode and Joe Moser

10:45 am: Paula Wyatt and Kathy Himes

March 22:

8:15 am: Kathy Himes and Margie Wolverton

10:45 am: Dawn Stiles and Brandon Stiles

March 29:

8:15 am: Margie Wolverton and Lois Dreisbach

10:45 am: Charles Crown and Kathy Himes

**Acolyte & Crucifer Schedule**

March 1:

8:15 am: Acolyte: Dawson Miller    Crucifer:

10:45 am: Acolyte: Andrew Snook    Crucifer: Leah Snook

March 8:

8:15 am: Acolyte: Ian Baran            Crucifer: Loren Baran

10:45 am: Acolyte: Brandon Stiles    Crucifer: Jordyn Miles

March 15:

8:15 am: Acolyte: Dawson Miller    Crucifer:

10:45 am: Acolyte: Eideann Banzhoff    Crucifer: Sloane Dzbynski

March 22:

8:15 am: Acolyte: Ian Baran            Crucifer: Loren Baran

10:45 am: Acolyte: Jordyn Miles        Crucifer: Rowan Harp

March 29:

8:15 am: Acolyte: Dawson Miller    Crucifer:

10:45 am: Acolyte: Jeremy Cassner    Crucifer: Brandon Stiles

### ***Alter Care***

March 1:

8:15 am: Matt & Gina Baker

10:45 am:: Ed & Susie Shaw

March 8:

8:15 am: Matt & Gina Baker

10:45 am: Dawn Stiles

March 15:

8:15 am: Matt & Gina Baker

10:45 am: Paula Wyatt

March 22:

8:15 am: Matt & Gina Baker

10:45 am: Ed & Susie Shaw

March 29:

8:15 am Matt & Gina Baker

10:45 am: Jamie & Joy Neikirk

### ***Film Schedule***

March 1:

10:45 am:: Brandon Stiles

March 8:

8:15 am: The Baran Family

March 15:  
10:45 am: Brandon Stiles

March 22:  
8:15 am Bob Budnicki

March 29:  
10:45 am Brandon Stiles

## *Average Monthly Attendance And Giving*

February, 2026:  
Average Monthly Attendance            99 people per Sunday

### Monthly Giving and Expenses (January 2026)

Income	\$23,583
Expenses	\$30,671
Net Income	(\$7,088)

#### A Note from Jamie:

While giving has remained consistent, costs continue to increase. We are fortunate that the Finance Committee and the Council have elected to take \$4,000 per month from investments, which closes our income gap to a negative \$3,088. However, as a Congregation, we must find ways to increase our giving as our expenses are running as lean as possible.

## *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.



Daylight Savings Time begins on March 8, 2026. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour.

### *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 will also be 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 March 4, 2026, at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall. They will meet on March 18, 2026, 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.



For complete details on both Hikes and to Register visit [harccoalition.org/hike](http://harccoalition.org/hike) or scan the code:



## Canal Hike

**SATURDAY, May 30**

*NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR:*

C&O Canal Towpath at  
Zion Lutheran Church

35 W. Potomac St., Williamsport, Md.

*Two distance options:*

➡ **5K (3 miles)**

Individual \$45; Families \$75

➡ **10K (6.5 miles)**

Individual \$55; Families \$95

Hospitality Stops ♦ Celebration Luncheon  
Music ♦ Prize Drawings ♦ Family-friendly



REGISTER BY **MAY 10**  
FOR A **\$10 DISCOUNT** &  
GUARANTEED T-SHIRT!

## Challenge Hike

**SATURDAY, May 16**

On the Appalachian Trail

Check-in at Pen Mar Park

*Two distance options:*

➡ **10 miles** Registration: \$55 if you raise \$100 in donations OR bypass fundraising and donate \$155 when you register.

➡ **20 miles** Registration: \$55 if you raise \$200 in donations OR bypass fundraising and donate \$255 when you register.

Light Breakfast ♦ Hearty Lunch  
Water & Gatorade ♦ Snacks



REGISTER BY  
**APRIL 26**  
FOR A **\$10**  
DISCOUNT!

Fundraising  
matched by the  
God's Grace Fund!



Hikes benefit HARC programs  
including **Micah's Backpack** and  
**Refugee Welcome Network**



## *God's Timing*

**Today's Scripture:** 2 Peter 3:8-13

### **Today's Devotional**

Until 1967, units of time were scientifically measured by astronomical patterns: the spin of the earth and its revolution around the sun. But over the centuries, a problem emerged. The earth is actually slowing down in its orbit. Scientists discovered that the unit of the second is longer than it used to be. Gradual though this is, since the days of Christ, the world has “lost” a full three hours of measured time.

Of course, God created the ways we measure time: the astronomy of orbits and revolutions. Scientists' calculations may be squishier than we'd thought, but we can stand firmly in Peter's words: “With the Lord a day is like a thousand years” (2 Peter 3:8). He is arguing against doubters who complained that Jesus hadn't returned yet: “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness” (v. 9). God works in His own time for His own purposes.

There's more! God's “timing” is born out of His love: “He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish” (v. 9). Jesus will return, and God wants everyone to have the opportunity to come to Him. This is an expression of His love. Meanwhile, we're to “make every effort to be found spotless” (v. 14).

Time, God, and love are linked together: In these last days God's love is never squishy. It's the one sure thing.

### **Reflect & Pray**

**How does thinking of God and time affect your own life? How might you live differently in light of this?**

*Dear God, it's mind-boggling when we try to figure out the concept of time, but please help me embrace that my times are in Your hands.*

From: *Our Daily Bread*; [www.odbm.org](http://www.odbm.org)