

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# ZION NEWS

MAY — JUNE 2023

## PASTOR'S CORNER — FROM PASTOR RICK

Here are some random thoughts and some excerpts from pieces I've read recently.

So what makes for a courageous community? Is a community courageous because the people who make it up are all courageous and bold? Or does the fact that a community is courageous together make the individuals within it bolder and more courageous? As I look at the story of Christianity it appears that boldness and courage are hallmarks of our predecessors. To be part of a movement that proclaims an alternative way of being in the world takes courage, wisdom (or folly, or both), and the deep sense that we are not alone in the endeavor. There are many stories of boldness and courage in the history of the church. — *From a blog entitled, Pastoral Ponderings.*

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.” That’s a quote from John 14. I learned this week that in the Greek text, “your” is plural and “heart” is singular. That bit of knowledge puts on whole new spin on interpreting a

well-known, often-used verse.

Speaking of hearts, I've been reading Martin Luther's devotional works in Luther Works, Volume 42. In his exposition on The Lord's Prayer he wrote: “All teachers of Scriptures conclude that prayer is nothing else than lifting up of heart and mind to God. But if the lifting up of the heart constitutes the essence and nature of prayer, it follows that everything else which does not invite lifting of the heart is not prayer. Therefore, singing, talking and whistling, when devoid of the sincere uplifting of the heart, are unlike prayer as scarecrows in the garden are unlike human beings. The essence is wanting; only the appearance and name are present.

“This is borne out by a story told by St. Jerome about a holy father named Agathon. This man, living in the desert, carried a stone in his mouth for thirty years to teach him silence. But how did he pray? Without a doubt inwardly with his heart, which, after all, ap-

peals to God more than anything else. In fact, it is the one mode of praying that God regards and seeks. It is, admittedly, helpful to hear the words, for they stimulate thought and true prayer. As was said before, the spoken words have no other purpose than that of a trumpet, a drum, or an organ, or any other sound which will move the heart and lift it upward to God.”

“Indeed, no one should depend on his heart and presume to pray without uttering words unless he is well trained in the Spirit and has experience in warding off stray thoughts. Otherwise the devil will thoroughly trick him and soon smother the prayer in his heart. Therefore, cling to the words and with their help soar upward, until our feathers grow and we can fly without the help of words.”

Here's hoping your feathers grow! Luther continues, but I'm out of space!

Pastor Rick

## MISSION STATEMENT

*We, a community of the people of God, worship faithfully, provide opportunities of Christian learning for people of all ages, and serve others in the love and name of Christ our Lord.*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### MAY 2023

**7 – 5th Sunday of Easter**

10:00 am Holy Communion

9:00 Sunday School

**14 – 6th Sunday of Easter**

10:00 am Holy Communion

9:00 Sunday School

**21 – 7th Sunday of Easter**

10:00 am Holy Communion

9:00 Sunday School

**28 – Day of Pentecost**

10:00 am Holy Communion

9:00 Sunday School

### JUNE 2023

**4 – The Holy Trinity**

10:00 am Holy Communion

9:00 Sunday School

**11 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost**

10:00 am Holy Communion

9:00 Sunday School

**18 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost**

10:00 am Holy Communion

9:00 Sunday School

**25 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost**

10:00 am Holy Communion

9:00 Sunday School

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH 2023

Current Fund*		Memorial Fund	
February Income	\$10,750.22	February Income	\$305.00
February Expenses	\$15,929.31	February Expenses	\$0.00
Year to Date Income	\$28,989.22	Year to Date Income	\$307.97
Year to Date Expenses	\$31,860.56	Year to Date Expenses	\$0.00
Year to Date Balance	(\$2,871.34)	Year to Date Balance	\$307.97
Balance as of 2/28/23	\$45,589.66	Balance as of 2/28/23	\$9,476.56

Future Projects Fund		Checking Balance	
February Income	\$587.00	Current CD Balance	\$41,093.93
February Expenses	\$0.00	Organ Fund Balance	\$11,026.04
Year to Date Income	\$587.00	Helping Hand Fund	\$1,632.50
Year to Date Expenses	\$0.00	Sawdust Ministry	\$3,037.84
Year to Date Balance	\$1,501.67	OZY Fund Balance	\$7,568.75
Balance as of 2/28/23	\$43,414.54		

Current Fund*		Memorial Fund	
March Income	\$12,015.00	March Income	\$50.00
March Expenses	\$15,491.80	March Expenses	\$0.00
Year to Date Income	\$41,004.22	Year to Date Income	\$359.56
Year to Date Expenses	\$47,352.36	Year to Date Expenses	\$0.00
Year to Date Balance	(\$6,348.14)	Year to Date Balance	\$359.56
Balance as of 3/31/23	\$42,112.86	Balance as of 3/31/23	\$9,528.15

Future Projects Fund		Checking Balance	
March Income	\$1,568.00	Current CD Balance	\$41,104.96
March Expenses	\$0.00	Organ Fund Balance	\$11,077.91
Year to Date Income	\$3,077.01	Helping Hand Fund	\$1,677.50
Year to Date Expenses	\$0.00	Sawdust Ministry	\$3,126.84
Year to Date Balance	\$908.11	OZY Fund Balance	\$7,568.75
Balance as of 3/31/23	\$44,989.88		

\*The former Building Fund is now part of the Current Fund.

## SHUT-INS AND BIRTHDAYS

We have members who for a variety of reasons are unable to join us for worship each Sunday. We listed them below and invite you to mail a card to them.

The date of their birth is also included!

**Kenneth Kline**, c/o Connie Clark, P.O. Box 41, Selinsgrove, PA 17870, Birthday: August 19

**Marian Ritter**, The Manor at Penn Village, 51 Route 204, Selinsgrove, PA 17870, May 1

**Barry Knouse**, 1682 Mile Hill Road, Sunbury, PA 17801, April 16

**Jean Long**, The Manor at Penn Village, 51 Route 204, Selinsgrove, PA 17870, November 22

**Donald Saurers**, Watsonstown Nursing and Rehab, 245 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Watsonstown, PA 17777, July 10

## PASTORAL CARE

If you or a loved one or friend needs pastoral care of any type, if someone is in or is going into the hospital or a nursing home, if someone needs a visit at home, or would like to receive communion, please call the church office at 570-374-8755. In the event of an emergency, please call Pastor Rick on his cell phone at 570-847-3113. Please leave a message if he doesn't answer!

**Dear Ladies,** It was like Christmas morning when we saw all of that material you graciously donated to Messiah. Our quilt trying group will make good use of it for quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Please come and see what we're doing every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. We gather at 12:30 p.m. and start tying the quilts. There may be some talking while we work. We are a group of women. Always looking for more volunteers! Many thanks.

*The Quilters of Messiah.*



A HUGE than you to the congregations of Salem Lutheran Church in Selingsgrove and Zion Lutheran Church of Kratzerville for choosing DIG for their friendly Lenten Challenge to see who could collect more hygiene products for DIG families! This is what more than 1500 Housewarming Basket items look like!!!! Great Job Everyone!

**CABIN CLEANING** – The Middle Creek Conference will be cleaning Cabin 2 on Wednesday, May 24, at 1 p.m. Anyone interested in helping to clean and dress up the cabin for the camping season is welcome to join in on the fun!

**THANK YOU** from Roy & Gloria Ulrich for all the prayers and all acts of kindness while we were fighting a virus – something we had together for the first time in our 75 years of life and at the same time! For all you’re your prayers for Roy in getting through his operation that was scheduled when he was healthy enough and all your prayers helped us get through all of this – Bless Be The Tie That Binds Our Hearts In Christian Love!

# EASTER JOY!

Recently, on behalf of the WELCA ladies, Janet Long and Linda Bussey had the opportunity to provide groceries for Easter to a lovely family. Nadiia Ovsova and her family are from the Ukraine and are living in Selingsgrove. Nadiia was so grateful, she insisted on taking pictures holding up some of the groceries. She kept saying “too much”, “too much”.

Later that evening, I received this text from her:

Dear Janet! Thank you so much for the food and gifts you

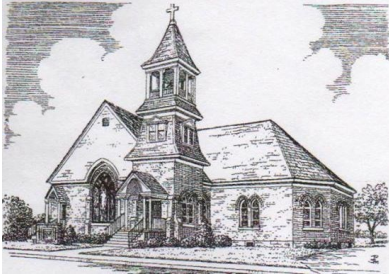
brought today for my family. We appreciate your help. You both were angels for our family who came at Easter time. May God bless you and your families!!! Thank you for your support and care. And thank you a lot for delicious food and sweets for the kids. We love (heart emoji) you both!! Many hugs!!!

Please keep Nadiia and her family in your prayers as they adapt to being so far from their home country and that the war will come to an end soon.



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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

4298 Route 204  
Selinsgrove, PA 17870

Phone: 570-374-8755

Email:  
kratzervilleltrchrch@gmail.com

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

ZIONKRATZERVILLE.WORDPRESS.COM

PRAYER LIST

- Donald Sauers, Dakota Gearhart, Earl Frantz, Don Neidig, Ken Kline, Jean Long, Marian Ritter, Michele, Paul Hollenbach, Lovetta Gross, Craig Ritter, Bob Ritter, Ray & Jenna Sassaman, Carl Berge Jr., Irene Catherman, Barry & Pat Knouse, Linda Frymoyer, Lindsey Smeltz, Craig Haines, Nancy Haines, Kenneth Berge, David & Helen Hannah, Charlie Knouse, Gary Auman, Ken Snyder, Linda Hufnagle, Deb Shellenberger, Becky Bollinger, Vern Sherwood, Clair Rhoads, Brantley Herman, Cameron Sholvin, Donna Simonetti, Norman & Susan Straub, Kay Kline, Brenda Reinard, Larry Sassaman, Kathy Spangler, Jake Hane, Terry Sassaman, Joyce Kratzer, Malysa Lenig, Walt Sprenkle, Linda Sassaman, Jimmy Schreffler, John Jones, Dale Strassner, Jerris Cutchall, Bill Buck, George Contrestan, Joan, Logan Roush, Jane Dunkelberger, Leevi, Horace, Sue, Mary Jane Adams, Eddi McKay Johnston, Allen Reichley, Mary Kalcich

When you are away on vacation, you can always worship on Zoom! Just use this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85451243249?pwd=czF1bUVMbGpDc3djYlF4YkVNdWRhUT09



VBS 2023 Sign-Up Sheet

Sunday to Thursday

July 9-13

6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

School Grade Just Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Allergies? \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Anything else we should know about your child? \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like a CD of the VBS songs, one can be purchased for \$7. Please indicate how many CDs you would like here \_\_\_\_\_ and enclose \$7 per CD with your registration.