



B.A.S.I.C. Newsletter

Brothers and Sisters in Christ at
Zion Lutheran Church of Mondovi



March 2025

Lenten Time

The season called “Lent” is named from an old English word for Spring, “Lencthen,” which refers to the lengthening of daylight at this time of the year. Lent is a very important season of the Christian church.

It’s a special time set aside for reflection, repentance, and renewal.

What comes to mind when you think of Lent? Of all the seasons of the church year, Lent is the most somber. Lent may bring feelings of sadness. It’s a time set aside for Christians to remember the “passion” and suffering of Jesus, 40 days leading up to the annual remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday. It’s a time to remember that our sinfulness caused that suffering, and it is a time to repent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, with ashes being a symbol of penitence.

One of the great messages of Lent is forgiveness. This is a message that is central to Christians throughout the year, but one that is highlighted against what Christ endured to win forgiveness for us. God has promised that those who come humbly to Him confessing our sins and seeking forgiveness will be forgiven – not because of anything we have done, but because of what Christ has done for us. What a sense of relief that brings! What a burden is lifted!

People often choose to give something up for Lent as a spiritual discipline. While this may be good and helpful, we’d like to encourage you to take something up for Lent – take some extra time invested in prayer, in meditation on Holy Scriptures, and in worship each week with our church family.

In our Midweek Lent Services this year on Wednesdays (at 11 am and at 7 pm) we will consider *“The Hand of the Lord”* – and how God extends His strong, kind, healing, giving and forgiving hand to us in Jesus Christ. Fellowship meals with our church family will also be served at noon and at 5:15 pm each Wednesday during Lent. Come, and join us!
Lent takes time. Take time for Lent! Pastor Mark Benning



Parish News

What's going on in the Call Process?

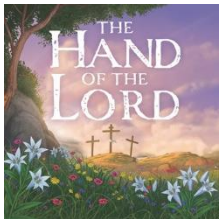
The Call Committee received a new Call List from the District President on Monday February 17th. The Committee met and is process of contacting candidates. Keep Praying for God's will in the Call Process. As always, your questions and input is appreciated by Call Committee members. "We're all in this together."

Committee members: John Schultz, Dan Heike, Laura Nowaskey, Jane Reineke, Jeremy Anderson, Joel Lewiston, Matt Mohn

The Call Committee will be meeting again on March 3rd. Please continue to watch the bulletin for any updates for a congregational meeting regarding the call list.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday March 5th is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our Lenten season. Each Wednesday, March 5th through April 16th, we will have Lenten services at 11:00 a.m. and at 7:00 p.m. Along with our Lenten Services we also have soup and sandwich meals at both 11:45 a.m. til 1:00 p.m. and again from 5:15 to 7:00 p.m.



The Hand of the Lord - Lenten Series – This Lent we will be working through a series entitled “The Hand of the Lord.” Each Wednesday (at 11:00 and 7:00) we will look at how the “hand of the Lord” takes on a literal meaning through Christ. We will also use this series as a basis for our Sunday Morning Education Hour. We pray that you will take time to join us as we see how God's hand works in our lives today. We will also have daily devotionals available that will coincide with these messages.

Ash Wednesday - The Hand of the Lord Who Freely Gives

Midweek Lent 1 – The Hand of the Lord Who Creates and Saves

Midweek Lent 2 – The Hand of the Lord Who Casts Out Demons

Midweek Lent 3 – The Hand of the Lord Who Heals the Sick

Midweek Lent 4 – The Hand of the Lord Who Raises the Dead

Midweek Lent 5 – The Hand of the Lord Who Holds All Things

Maundy Thursday–The Hand of the Lord Serves and Feeds Us

Good Friday – The Hand of the Lord Who Was Pierced for Us

Easter – The Hand of the Lord Who is Risen

Sunday Morning Education Hour

Join us for our Sunday morning time together. People of all ages are welcome to join us. We have groups for 3K-adults. Classes run from 10:30-11:30. It is a great time for fellowship, growing in our faith, and making connections with fellow believers. Sunday School classes for 3K-5th grade students begin downstairs in the gathering space. Middle School and High School students meet upstairs in the classroom and the library. Adults gather in the fellowship hall. Come join us!

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class

During the season of Lent, our Sunday morning classes will preview our Wednesday evening Lenten services. We will be studying “The Hand of the Lord.” What does the Bible say about the Hand of the Lord? What do we think of when we hear that phrase? How do we use our hands? How did Jesus use His hands? All of these things will come together as we study God’s Word. Join us every Sunday morning from 10:30-11:30 as we learn more about “The Hand of the Lord.”

Sunday School

During the month of March our 3K-Middle school students will be learning about Zerubbabel, Esther and Ezra. As they are studying the Old Testament they are seeing how God kept His promises to His people. They have seen how God delivered His people, and how He continually brings them back to His Word.

Confirmation

During the month of March, we continue to look at the Lord’s Prayer. Our students will see how this prayer, that Jesus’ taught His disciples, serves as an example of how we can pray. They will see how it helps us pray with praise, for God’s priorities, for physical needs, for forgiveness and for spiritual protection. Continue to keep our confirmands, especially the eighth graders, in your prayers as they continue to grow in their knowledge and love of the Lord.

A Note of Thanks from our Youth

Thank you for supporting our Butter Braid fundraiser. Orders have been received and in early March they will be delivered. Your support of our youth means so much! They are very excited about learning more about their faith as they travel to the National Youth Gathering this summer.

Senior High Youth

We have a busy spring schedule set! March 30th will be our next group event. Lueloff's will be planning and hosting. Watch for more details on that. April 19 will be the prep day for our Easter Breakfast with service on Easter Sunday, April 20. Our current plan is to have a rummage sale with car detailing on May 31-June 1. More information will be coming out for each individual activity, so watch your bulletins, newsletters, and email.

Senior High Youth Gathering

We have 10 (6 youth and 4 adults) who are planning to attend this year's LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. As they look at Hebrews 12:1-3, they will grow in what it means to endure. Pray for our youth as they prepare for this experience. Your support as a congregation is so important!

Quarterly Voters Meeting February 9, 2025

39 Members were in attendance including President Dan Heike and Vacancy Pastor Benning.

Meeting called to order at 10:45 am by President Dan Heike. Vacancy Pastor Benning spoke based on Lutheran Hymn 901, the sermon from today, Fishers of Men, and recognized this is the year of the 75th anniversary of our Church building. Motion to accept and start meeting by Ginny Gunderson, second by Jeanne Anderson, approved.

Treasurers report. Deb Deutscher spoke, \$30,000 was moved to a 6 month CD at Alliance Bank Mondovi. All debts are paid. Approximately \$21,000 balance in checking. Motion to accept by Larry Anderson, second by John Schultz.

Pastors report. Vacancy Pastor Benning spoke of the importance of bringing children to Church and hearing the Word.

He plans to meet with the parents of the 7 eighth grade confirmands. Has plans to meet with potential new members and spoke of plans for a New Member Sunday soon to welcome 4 new members. All approved by the group. They are:

Deborah Gilbertson from Peace Eau Claire, Maarja Halvorson, Faye Betts, Lethia Siewert.

Trustees report. Nothing new.

Elders report. Joe Osenga. Technical issues still being worked on, Microsoft 365 is now under his control.

Education. Nothing new.

Youth group report. Butter Braid sales going until 02/23. Also planning monthly activities. Ginny Gunderson thanked all the quilters for their efforts, especially recently for the hurricane victims.

Old business. Dan Heike brought up the Zion website faces and names. This will be password protected and only have names, no personal information. Posed questions, should an individual log in with their own password and upload a picture or should there be one password and one administrator? Diane Pfund and Diane Ashwell will continue to work with this.

New business. The organ. Jane Reineke said the organ was dedicated in 1987 and it is half working now. Parts are hard to find. She has a person coming on 02/10 to look at the organ. Info to follow.

The Library. Deborah Deutscher stated the non-fiction section has been reorganized and has good resources. Asked what we, as a group, would like to see for the fiction area and how to set it up. Please speak with Emily Benning, Deborah Deutscher or Diane Ashwell.

John Gehrke spoke of wanting a greeter at the side door. Elders will handle.

At 11:10 am there was a motion to adjourn by June Deutscher and second by Diane Ashwell. All in favor.

These minutes unapproved, to be approved at the next Voters meeting.

Respectfully submitted by, Wendi Ashwell (recording secretary)

The next Church Council Meeting will be March 20, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

**Zion Lutheran Ladies Society
Thursday, February 13, 2025**

The February 13th meeting of the Zion Lutheran Ladies Society was held in the Bible study room. The meeting began at 1:00 p.m. in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen. There were 11 members present. LaRae Grotzinger gave the devotion on Luke 2:20 "A Sweet Season" and hymn #388:1. Pastor Mark Benning led the Bible study from the Winter 2024 Lutheran Women's Quarterly, The Third Article-Steadfast in Christ: Gift of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament. Pastor Mark Benning then blessed the work of Ladies Society with the installation of officers- President LaRae Grotzinger and Vice President Robin Taylor. Both the President and Vice President elected to serve two year terms. Both Elizabeth Leasum, Recording Secretary and Brenda McKissick, Treasurer are in their second year. The League Pledge, League Hymn, and collection of mites.

The business meeting began with the reading of the December 12, 2024 minutes. A motion was made by Ginny Gunderson to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Jeanne Anderson. Motion carried. Brenda McKissick gave the treasurer's report and it will be submitted for review.

Old Business

LaRae asked if there were any needs or concerns with the Christmas shut-in visits. Thank you cards received were read at the end of this meeting with cake served (left over from the Sharing Table which was served the day before at Zion). The months in the year that have 5 Sundays are open for groups or committees to serve the Sunday morning coffee.

New Business

LaRae Grotzinger led the prayers for the prayers requested. Ladies Society gift bags are ready for new members. There is a Spring Retreat on March 29th at Camp Luther. Also this year is the LWML Convention June 26-29, 2025. Ginny Gunderson is planning to attend and she has offered to drive. Ash Wednesday is March 4th and this begins the Lenten Meals with serving group #4. Jeanne Anderson will serve the March Sr Fellowship. The next serving group to serve for a funeral is #1.

Motion to adjourn at 3:00 p.m. The Lord's Prayer was prayed.

Respectfully submitted by, Elizabeth Leasum, Recording Secretary

Zion Lutheran Ladies Society meeting on March 13, 2025

The Mondovi Area Food Pantry now has a new Director(s). Loren and Christi Schultz will be overseeing operations. Thank you John Schultz for your time of volunteering as the interim Director. You are appreciated!

Mondovi Food Pantry Hours:

Monday 5 – 7 p.m.
Tuesday 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.



Zion Card Cart

Hippity Hop 🐣 *Easter cards found their way to the shelves in the Resource Room* 📬 *Imagine that!! Don't forget... beautiful cards for all occasions also available.*

Plenty of Puzzles also available. Brought to you by the Resource Room at no cost to you (or anyone). Please take one home, enjoy, and then exchange for another!

Sharing Table

Zion Hosted the Sharing Table for the month of February on the 12th. The meal was sponsored by the Schmittknecht family. We served about 80 people even with the snowy evening. The hotdish and vegetables were delicious. Thanks to everyone who assisted with making this meal a great, delicious success.





Sharing Table Committee

Katie Harris and Mary Gehrke have volunteered to coordinate the Zion Sharing Table meals starting this fall. Putting on a Sharing Table requires support from the congregation in order to be fun and successful. Please thank Katie and Mary for taking on this task and volunteer cheerfully when needed.

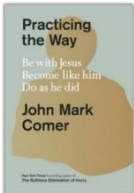


questions, ask any choir members, or contact Jane Reineke.

Adult Choir – As we prepare for the Lent, Holy Week and Easter season, now is a great time to join us. We meet every Thursday from 6:30-7:30 here at church. We would love to welcome you to our group. Everyone is invited! Come join us as we sing, learn about God’s Word, and enjoy each other’s company. If you have any

Men of Zion- Saturday Men’s Group

Our Saturday morning monthly study with breakfast will meet on Saturday, March 8, 2025.



We are continuing with the book - *Practicing the Way*. This is a very practical study on what it means to be an 'apprentice' of Jesus. This book is provided for all who are interested and want to join us. Please let me know if you need a copy. I will make sure to have one ordered for you. David Reineke

Project Luke 3:11



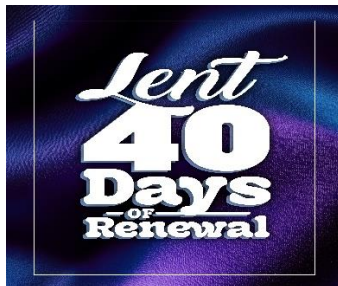
The donation box is located in our lobby area under the office window for anyone will be there at least until the end of March for items that are gently used to be donated to help the less fortunate in our community. This year they are once again asking for winter coats, boots, hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and blankets. The Huberts take their trailer loaded with these items to different places like the food pantries & places in

our area that people frequent for assistance, for others to get items that will help them through the cold months.

“Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same”

During Lent, consider this practical — and biblical — advice from Arthur Lichtenberger, a former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church:

- *Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.*
- *Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.*
- *Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.*
- *Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.*
- *Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.*
- *Fast from pride, and feast on humility.*
- *Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.*
- *Fast from fear, and feast on faith.*



Evangelism Meeting February 18, 2025

Easter Egg Hunt (April 20, 2025)

- If weather permits, it will be outdoors; if not, it will move indoors.
- Pastor Benning will read the Nesting Egg story at 9 am, followed by the egg hunt.
- 50 copies of *The Hands of the Lord Jesus* Arch Book will be given to children.
- Needed items: 4" plastic Easter eggs and candies.

Sunday Coffee (March 30, 2025)

- Schedule: Assembly at 9 am, coffee will be served after the church service.
- Items needed: Bars, cookies, milk, juices, and fruits. Will discuss more at our next meeting.

Friendship Sunday (May or June 2025)

- Encourage people to invite friends and family to church.

Sharing Table (Possibly October 2025)

Garms Family Concert (December 6, 2025)

- Event scheduled for 4 pm.

Next Meeting: March 11, 2025, 6:00 pm.

Submitted by Reggie Corpuz

Thrivent Choice Dollar-Eligible Thrivent clients can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. These funds are called Choice Dollars and are accessed by signing into your account or contacting your agent. Choice Dollars can be designated after February 1 and during the calendar year and up until March 31 of the following year.



March Birthdays

1-Rina Ashwell
1-Alison Dieckman
2-Steve Segerstrom
6-Steven Aguilar
6-Emily Ebner
7-Bev Brion
8-Kailey Rausenberger
9-Joe Radle
10-Emily Fluekiger
10-Bob Johnson
11-Rob Johnson
11-Justin Kummer
11-Paul Ring
12-Loretta Roetter
13-Robin Taylor
15-Selene Altamirano
15-Roger Gavin
16-Dan Heike
18-Diane Ashwell
18-Jayden Miller
19-Mary Standaert
20-Darin York
21-Thomas Werlein
23-Lorn Heck
23-Vivian Holstein
26-Alexis Loewenhagen
27-Heidi Hollister
27-John Unser
28-Peter Linse
28-Dennis Ring
29-Ann Slater
30-Jamie Winsand
30-Nicklaus Nowaskey

31-Allysa Corpuz

March Anniversaries

3-Galen & Audrey Aase
7-Matt & Karn Mohn
8-Cody & Tonya Dziekan
22-Chuck & Sharon Bauer
31-John & Susan Schultz

Thrivent Choice Dollars:

Thank you to the following for their donations for the month of January 2025.

Audrey Aase
Galen Aase
Tom Casey
Vicki Denk
Donna Engen
Ed Gunderson
Ginny Gunderson
Duttie Kent
Ruth Kent



Official Acts

Gifts & Memorials:

❖ *In Memory of Ruth Engen*
Zion Quilters:
Sally McGee
Mary Brion



Weekly Counters

It has been suggested that a Head Counter would be good to have when a counter is unable to count, to answer questions about counting situations, and to facilitate the training of any new counters. Let Beth or Deborah know if you have any thoughts on this or wish to volunteer.

Growing in Faith

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us as we dig deeper into God's Word. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Our Monday Night Bible Study meets every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. Please feel free to join us.

Men's Group will meet again on March 8. We enjoy breakfast, watch & discuss a video, and encourage one another as men of faith.

Rachel Circle is a women's Bible study that meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:30 pm. Feel free to join these ladies anytime.

You are most welcome to Worship

Sundays - 9:00 a.m.

March 5 – April 9

Wednesdays –11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Lenten Services

Soup and Sandwich served after 11:00 a.m. service and before the 7:00 p.m. service



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PLEASE JOIN US