



# B.A.S.I.C. Newsletter

Brothers and Sisters in Christ at  
Zion Lutheran Church of Mondovi



## February 2025

*A God For All Seasons*

Brrrrr! The last weeks in January brought some very cold temperatures to us in Wisconsin. It was actually warmer in Alaska and Antarctica than here! Unless you love ice fishing, snowmobiling and other winter sports, you may be longing for warmer days. Well, I have good news for you: Spring is coming! According to my calendar, the season of Spring will begin on March 20. That may seem like a long way off now, but daylight is already increasing noticeably every week.

What is your favorite season? Do you have some favorite days during the year? Your birthday, perhaps? Christmas? Valentine's Day? ... Easter? ... July 4<sup>th</sup> ... Thanksgiving? Every season has its own beauty and special days, as well as its challenges and disappointments.

That's not unlike life in general. Even in the best of times there are downsides and difficulties. Of course, the reverse is also true. Even in the worst of times there can be positives, hope for the future, renewal. Balance is often a difficult thing for us to maintain. It is not easy to always keep the joys and the disappointments in perspective. Thankfully, there is help.

The One who set the universe in motion, our loving Creator God, can help us see the reasons for good in all situations, while still being mindful of the troubles that exist in our world. We can say with confidence that He is, indeed, a God for all seasons! He reminds us in the Scriptures: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. ... He [God] has made everything beautiful in its time" (*Ecclesiastes 3:1, 10*).

February is when 'Valentine's Day' is observed, a time when many people think of 'love.' A few weeks ago we celebrated Christmas – the day that marked God's great love gift to the world. "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (*John 3:16 NIV*). The love of God shown to us in Christ is more wonderful than we can ever imagine. The best we can do is receive that wondrous love by faith, and then by His grace respond to it by sharing that love with others.

As we gather together at Zion each week for worship (which strengthens our faith in God) and fellowship activities (which builds bonds of love between us in our church family), let's look around and notice those who are not with us, and pray for them. Let's also prayerfully consider inviting (even better: bringing) a non-worshiping friend or relative to a Service, Sunday School, or Bible class. We will make sure they feel welcome. Let's share the good news of our Savior, and the eternal love of God we have received in Christ, with others! Any time is a good time to do that. Come, and bring a friend!

Pastor Mark Benning

## *Parish News*

### **What's going on in the Call Process?**

Our second Call recipient, Pastor Kyle Castens, declined in December. Pastor Castens replied in a letter to the members of Zion that his work wasn't complete at the two congregations he currently serves.

The Call Committee regrouped and met on January 6th. Pastor Wessel arrived in his Minnesota Vikings attire to the dismay of the Packer fans on the committee. In his defense, he was raised not far from the Minnesota town where Pastor Finney, our first Call candidate, resides. It was pointed out to Pastor Wessel that Iowa doesn't have a professional football team because then Minnesota would want one too!

When the harassment ended and the dust settled Pastor Wessel opened the meeting with a prayer. He assured us that our process and Call documents and offer aren't an issue, and that God works on his own time. He said some churches have been without a Pastor for three years. All members agreed to stay on the committee.

The final date for nominations was Sunday January 19th. The nomination forms were mailed to Pastor Wessel in Augusta on Monday the 20th. From there they went to Pastor Lueck at the North Wisconsin District (NWD) office in Wausau. The NWD staff will use our Congregational Profile (survey results, info on Mondovi and Buffalo County, employment, etc) and match LCMS pastors to our **needs. It's typical that the members on a Call list are from outside the NWD.**

The new Call list isn't expected to arrive until early March, just in time for the Easter Season. Pastor Wessel encouraged the members of the committee to keep working no matter the season. The process will continue as quickly and accurately as possible. When the Call list arrives it'll be published in the bulletin; each interested candidate's information will be

reviewed; interviews will be scheduled; and a Congregational Call Committee meeting will be held.

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

Please continue to watch the bulletin for any updates.

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

Wednesday March 5th is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our Lenten season. Each Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> through Thursday April 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### **Sunday Morning Education Hour**

Every Sunday from 10:30-11:30 there are opportunities to learn and grow in your faith. We have groups for 3K-adults. This is a time to learn and grow in God's Word. It is a time to get to know fellow believers more and to share our joys with each other. Consider taking one hour a week to learn about what Jesus has done for you and how that changes lives!

**The next Church Council Meeting will be February 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

### **Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class**

Sunday morning Adult Bible Class began a "Walk through the New Testament." We are continuing a look into the life of our Lord Jesus as presented by the four Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. As we explore the life of Christ we'll learn more about living our lives as His disciples today, and how God uses us to share the Good News of His love with others. Join us on this journey, each Sunday at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall!

### **Sunday School**

We have classes for Pre-K through High School ages. We begin at 10:30 each Sunday morning with a group opening in the basement gathering space. We'd love to have you join us!

## **Confirmation**

During the month of February, the confirmation students will finish up their overview of the Apostles' Creed and begin looking at the Lord's Prayer. They will learn about the importance of prayer in their lives and how the Lord's Prayer relates to all aspects of daily life.

## **Senior High Youth**

**Butter Braid Fundraiser** - The youth will be selling Butter Braids again this year. The money raised will help fund their trip to the National Youth Gathering. Orders for these delicious treats will be taken until Feb. 16. Watch for more details of where you can sign-up to help support our students - or ask a high school student!

In the coming months our youth will be busy. They plan to work with a few different fundraisers, including the Butter Braids, to help support their trip to the National Youth Gathering. There are also some "fun" activities being planned. Details will be shared in the coming newsletters.

## **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!

## **Zion Lutheran Ladies Society meeting on February 13, 2025 with Installation of officers.**

### **Council Meeting January 9, 2025**

9 people attended. Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by President Dan Heike. Pastor Benning read from the Bible Isaiah chapter 60 and had prayer.

Dan reviewed the agenda from December, no minutes were available. Agenda was approved.

Treasurer report. Deb was absent, Dan noted there were few (if any) changes. He also spoke of a good-sized balance in the general fund. Approx. \$52,000 and would like to (upon approval) investigate investing a portion of the funds, perhaps \$30,000 in a 6-month CD. Joe O. reminded us that when our next Pastor arrives, money should be ready for the costs involved. All agreed that would likely happen after 6 months. Motion for

Dan to check rates and confer with Deb made by Joel L. second by Joe O.  
Approved.

Pastors report. Vacancy Pastor Mark Benning reviewed there was a baptism in December and two guest pastors on Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Day. Also noted there are 20 young adults in confirmation class. 7 of them are 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Pastor Benning is planning vacation time from Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup> and possibly stretching that to two weeks. Pastor Moe is covering Wed. The 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Benning will work with the elders regarding the 29<sup>th</sup>. Jane Reineke will cover confirmation classes. Sharing Table. Sue Loomis has stepped down. John Schultz has spoken with Gary Preston the manager of Sharing Table. The event happens 3 times per year. 2025 February and May are taken care of. Next will be Sep / Oct time frame. Ladies' society is not interested in taking this on. \$300 is provided by sponsors to feed 150 people. No free will offering to be taken. It takes about 12 people to prepare, serve and clean up after the meal. Asking one of the church groups to handle was discussed. Or a person or couple people could be a team /group to do the planning. Please put this in the monthly newsletter.

Technology. Joe O. said our tech needs include Windows 11 update, there are security concerns, issues with Microsoft 365 and there is a new laptop in the box yet. Possibly hire a consultant?

Elders. Now the service on Sunday is following over to the following Wednesday. January schedule is set.

Trustees. Mike A. and Dan N. noted the fence is done, the carpeting on the front steps is waiting until fairer weather, will revisit the subject then. Dan Nowaskey spoke of the control panel in the basement questioning the thermostat and dampers. Will investigate. Dan also spoke about the dehumidifier by the classrooms, should be larger capacity or have a drain hose so it won't have to be emptied as often. Will look into pricing. Mike Ashwell will speak with electrician Nate Winberg about the balcony light and adding a plug in the communion closet, also checking price of an LED light behind the cross in the sanctuary.

Evangelism and Youth groups, nothing to report.

Christian Education, Dan H. noted there is a need for Sunday School help primarily with the younger children. Lisa Heike could help once in a while, but a set schedule would not work.

Other old business.

Online photo directory, no changes, update next month.

John Schultz going with Pastor Benning 1-12-25 to the Circuit meeting in Augusta. Nominations were for Pastor Wessel and Pastor Knepfelkamp.

Pastor Benning noted the June 1 meeting in Rothschild is a 2-day meeting. Events include guest speakers and voting for a new district president. Pastor Lueck is retiring. Paperwork and name should be turned in by Jan 31, 2025. Put this in the monthly newsletter please.

Jane Reineke is still the person for organ needs.

Sign the constitution and bylaws. Discussion included handing out copies at the quarterly meeting and or having members sign when they are new.

The next meeting will be the quarterly voters meeting Feb 9, 2025, Dan H. noted this takes the place of the council meeting in February.

Meeting closed with the Lord's prayer started by vacancy Pastor Benning.

Motion to adjourn at 7:05 pm made by Mike Ashwell, second by Gene Schultz.

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

Respectfully submitted by, Wendi Ashwell (recording secretary)

**The Mondovi Area Food Pantry** is searching for a Director. This is a volunteer position. A great team of volunteers run the Pantry, yet a Director is needed to oversee operations. The current Director will work with and assist the new Director. This position is available immediately.

*If interested* in a very fulfilling opportunity to give back to the Mondovi/Eleva/Gilmanton communities, please call 715-926-3115 and leave your name and phone number. Someone will call you back with more details and answer any questions you may have.

### ***Zion Card Cart***

*Oh the weather outside is frightful ☹️ But puzzles are so delightful 😊  
As long as we find the piece-Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.*

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

*Don't forget... beautiful cards for all occasions also available.  
Including Sweet, lovable Valentine cards are displayed on the  
Card Cart in the Resource Center. ♡♡♡*



## Sharing Table Do we or Don't we

The Ladies Society has been the primary group providing planning and serving the Sharing Table meals at Zion. The event is scheduled 3 times per year at our church. The next two meals, February and May 2025 are taken care of.

The next "season" will be September 2025 through May 2026. The Ladies' Society is not interested in taking this on. Sponsors provide \$300 to feed 150 people. No free will offering is allowed. Each Sharing Table supper takes about 12 people to prepare, serve and clean up after the meal. In order to continue the Sharing Table we're asking our church groups to handle a meal if they are comfortable doing this. Another option is one or more people teaming up to form a group to do the planning, then recruit volunteer help. Zion members have been very willing to help, yet a planning committee is needed.

The Sharing Table manager needs to know by February 1st if Zion is willing to provide three meals in the 25-26 season.

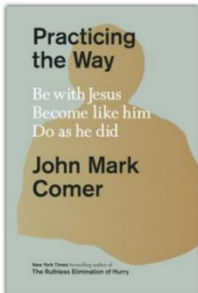
**Please** contact with John Schultz (or leave a note in his "pigeon hole mailbox") if you have any questions or are interested in being on a planning committee.



**Adult Choir** – – We are starting to prepare for the Lent, Holy Week and Easter season. Now is a great time to spend some time singing, learning, and laughing with other people who enjoy music. You don't need to read music, we'll teach you! We meet every Thursday night from 6:30-7:30. You are invited anytime! If you have any questions please contact Jane Reineke or any choir member.

## Men of Zion- Saturday Men's Group

Our Saturday morning monthly study with breakfast will meet on Saturday, February 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

## Evangelism Meeting January 14, 2025

Pastor Benning opened discussion for **Friendship Sunday**. Inviting friends or family members to attend the church service. Here's a breakdown of the key points discussed: **Friendship Sunday**: The idea is to invite friends, family members, or even acquaintances to church services. This helps foster a sense of community and may also encourage newcomers to learn more about the church. **Fellowship Time**: After the service, attendees will have the opportunity to join in a fellowship talk, where they can enjoy a cup of coffee and cookies. This creates a relaxed environment where new guests can interact with current members and feel welcomed. **Gifts or Tokens**: The Evangelism Committee plans to brainstorm ideas for small gifts or tokens that can be given to guests or visitors. These tokens can be an expression of appreciation for attending and can help make them feel valued. Plan to start this activity before or after Easter.

### Easter Egg hunt 2025

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held again this year as a fun activity for children and families. The team will discuss the details related to the event, particularly focusing on the candies and eggs that need to be purchased for the activity.

**Sharing Table** also discussed during the meeting.

- The event is 3 times per year in our Church and the team agreed to host 1 event.
- More detailed information and planning will be discussed at our next meeting.

**Next meeting: February 18, 2025, 6:00pm.**

### Project Luke 3:11

The new 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”**



## February Birthdays

1-AJ Loscheider  
1-Amanda Wittig  
1-Andy Urness  
1-Kyle Heck  
1-Maximus Chopper  
1-Rayanne Walker  
3-Ervin Nissley  
3-Emilia Radle  
5-Hilary Heck  
5-Kevin Ronnei  
6-Dennis Gavin Jr.  
7-Destiny Harper  
7-Joshua Loscheider  
7-Kami Taylor  
8-Michael Lueloff  
8-Shane Gavin  
9-Jessica Loewenhagen  
12-Cindy Ring  
13-Donna Engen  
13-Laurie Mann  
15-Lynn Parker  
18-Gwen Browskowski  
19-Landen Miller  
19-Susan Birtzer  
20-Chuck Bauer  
20-Harrison Buchholz

20-Scott Erickson  
20-Linda Goodman  
20-Annah Gruber-Kronberg  
20-Juniper York  
22-Rich Brion  
22-Timothy Marsolek  
24-Matt Mohn  
28-Brian Ring

## February Anniversaries

14-Jeff & Katie Harris  
14-Matt & Karn Mohn  
20-Ronald & Barbara Moyer

### Thrivent Choice Dollars:

Thank you to Mary Brion and Donna Engen for their donations for the months of December 2024 and January 2025.



### Official Acts

## 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.



**Thanks to those who humbly assist others in need, big or small.**



**Thank you to Pastor Timonthy Moe**(retired from Cleghorn) for leading our worship here at Zion Mondovi on January 33 & 26 along with January 29 & February 2. We are very blessed to have had this opportunity to get to know Pastor Moe during this time. Doing this allowed our vacancy Pastor Mark Benning a little time to escape the cold temperatures here in Wisconsin to visit the chilly state of Texas.

**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.

## Recipe Corner

### *Quick Cheese Bread*

*submitted by Brenda McKissick*

2 cups flour  
1 tbls baking powder (yes, tbls)  
1/2 tsp salt (optional)  
1/4 cup melted butter  
1 cup sugar  
1 egg  
grated rind of 1 orange  
1 cup milk  
1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar  
cheese

1/2 cup chopped walnuts  
(optional)

sift dry ingredients  
blend butter, sugar, egg & rind  
add to dry ingredients along with  
milk  
stir in cheese  
bake in greased loaf pan 1  
hour @ 350 degrees

## A Prayer for Spiritual Growth

When my spiritual vision is foggy, help me to find my way.

When my understanding is incomplete,  
open my mind and increase my patience.

When my indifference blocks my senses, touch my heart.

When worry or fear raise their voices, speak to my faith.

Let your Spirit permeate my longings as well as my living and my  
loving. Amen.

—Peggy Ferrell, *Prayers and Poems*

## **Please Join Us..... Put on your calendar 😊**

When: Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 – 12:00 – 4:00

Where: Rustic Chic Retreat

N7080 Albany A, Durand, WI 54736

Time: 12 pm to 1pm: Social hour –bring a snack to share

1pm to 3pm: Main Event with Board & Brush

3 pm to 4pm: Creating Connections Together

Event Information: We gather together as “**Sisters in Christ**” to come together as a group of women whom have something in common, faith in Christ. This allows for an informal event to build and gain connections within the LCMS Faith! Please be sure to sign up below using the QR code to gain access to the project website.

The cost per project will be \$52 per person.

Please call Lynn Bechel with any questions you may have at 715-225-8601

Access Code: Sisters31



# 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 February 15th. 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.**  
**Wednesdays – 7:00 p.m.**



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