



## Messenger

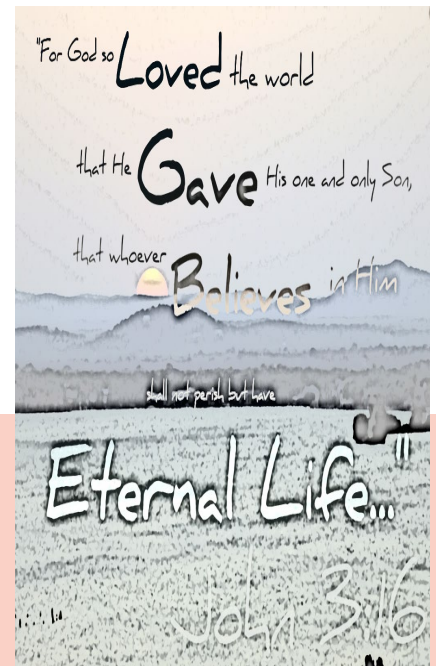
# February 2025

## Pastoral Ponderings

### From Pastor Phil...

Family. What does it mean to be a family? We have relatives that annoy us, and we interact with them one way. We have family members that are close to us, and we interact with them another way. Then we've got the other "family" members. They're the ones that God has brought across our path at one point or another. They have an incredible distinction of becoming a part of the family we choose. I've got a couple friends like this. Bub, Jason, and Mike have walked long, trying, roads with me. They're family. The kids even refer to them as "uncle". They're my brothers even though we all come from different families. All of us have these friends that are so much more. I love them as much as I love my brother and parents.

We have another family too. It's the family here at Zion. Zion Lutheran Church and School both talk about how we are a family. Our values, founded around Jesus Christ highlight that we are a single family unit. This family is unique too. It's brought together by blood, but not ours. It's brought together by friendship, but once again not by ours. We become chosen by God; for we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). We are brought together by Jesus Christ's shed blood. We are united with Him in death, and being united with Him in His death, by baptism, our connection is by His blood (Romans 6:5). Which means that we are something special at Zion. We are a family not by flesh and blood, but we are a united family by the Holy Spirit bringing us to faith.



### Alternate Worship

Service:

February 5

At 6:00 p.m.

*Weekend worship remains*

*Saturdays @ 5:00 p.m.,*

*Sundays 8:00*

*and 10:30 a.m.*

*Sausage Supper is Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup>!*

*Yum!*



In the recent challenges my family has faced, this has been a very real reality. Zion has lifted us up in prayers, and cared for us. You as a family have rallied around us. Zion Lutheran teachers have helped. Zion Lutheran Bible Classes have prayed. The Elders and Chairman of the Congregation have constantly been in touch with me, not to talk about the church, which has happened sometimes, but to see how I am. How my family is. How my parents and brother are. This is a beautiful thing.

This is the challenge though. Like all families, there is history. There's stuff that has occurred to ostracize, to upset. Our families know exactly what button to push to frustrate us, and just what to say to hurt. It's no different at Zion. We are a family with a history. That history is beautiful and rough. So how do we rally around each other? How does Zion come together and do for everyone and the society what was done to me and my family? I think Jesus gives us the answer to this. John 13:34-35 has Jesus telling us that we are to love one another as He loves us. This is His new commandment, and becomes the means by which His people will be known. Loving one another. At the base of every family, in all of its peculiar forms is to love each other. Sometimes it's tough love. Sometimes it's loving each other with time at the families happy place. Sometimes it's just enjoying being around each other. As Zion has been unified as a single family through Jesus Christ, we rejoice at what He has done for us. Look for ways that we can care for each other, walk beside each other, and care for one another. Zion unified has been amazing to my family. It's a joy to be a part of the family at Zion. Now we carry this out to everyone as we love each other as Jesus loves us. As I bring this to a close, I would like to thank each of you for your constant prayers. For reaching out with cards and text messages. For loving myself, my family, parents, and brother with a Christ like love. I pray that we continue to walk together projecting what has been shown to me to Staunton, to Macoupin County, the State of Illinois, the United States, and to the world. Brothers and sisters, thank you.

Pastor Phil

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As a response to Pastor Girardin's inspiring message in the January Messenger concerning the **unity of believers at Zion**, I would like to add this Bible passage that the ladies studied at their January meeting.

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are **fellow citizens** with the saints, and are of **God's household**, having been built up on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Christ Jesus** himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you are also being **built together** into a dwelling of God in the Spirit." Ephesians 2:19-22

Remember these words as you meet at your board and committee meetings. What a beautiful vision of church!  
--Submitted by Sue M.

**Zion's New Member Class: The life of faith at Zion Lutheran Church and School is the most significant aspect of who we are.** It informs everything about us. Our identity, firmly set in Jesus Christ, becomes the driving force of everything we do and teach. Yet there is more. How do we understand who Jesus is? Is Jesus still present today? How do we know what is right, and what is wrong? These are real life questions that all of us struggle with. Zion is holding a new members class on Sundays at 9:30 a.m., and you're invited. (Bring a Bible. The location is the school cafeteria.) Don't get scared- you don't have to join, but this class will give you the unique opportunity to hear what it is that we are teaching your students that are given into our care. It will also give you the opportunity to join us as we confess our faith in Jesus Christ and walk together. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Phil at [pastorphil@zion-school.org](mailto:pastorphil@zion-school.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

**We are excited to invite you to a special Bible Study led by Leah Cook and Livia Crouch,** happening on select Wednesdays, January 29 and February 12 & 26, at 6pm, in the Parish Center's conference room. This will be a time of fellowship and deepening our understanding of God's Word, as we dive into our identity and purpose through Christ. Whether you're young or old, or male or female, this Bible study is for everyone! It's an opportunity to experience fresh perspectives, share insights, and grow in our faith together as the body of Christ.

**Philippians Workshop at ZION.** Does our parish struggle to meet the budget? Does the thought of hearing (or preaching) a sermon on financially supporting the church make you cringe? How do we encourage generous living without becoming legalists? On January 30th, 2025 in Zion's Parish Center Lower Level, we will host the Philippians Workshop with LCMS Manager for Stewardship, Rev Heath Curtis. Bring your Bible, your questions, and your love for your church. Refreshments provided. Presentation begins at 6:30pm. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Out the door no later than 8:30pm. –David Cisler, Zion Church President

**From the Desk of the Principal: Zion School's Character Focus: Comfort**

**1/23/25**

Dear Zion Congregation,

As the winter chill settles in and the snow blankets our community, our school children are focusing on the warmth of *comfort*—our character word for January. Through daily announcements and Faith Family lessons, students are learning how God comforts us in all circumstances and how they can share His love and peace with those around them.

In their Faith Families, students are exploring what it means to bring comfort to others by offering kind words, listening with care, and lifting others up in prayer. Each day, they are encouraged to reflect on scripture and practice simple ways to extend God's comfort to their classmates, teachers, and families.

We ask for your continued prayers as our students grow in their understanding of God's comfort. May they be reminded that just as a warm home brings relief from the cold, God's presence offers true and lasting peace. Thank you for your support in nurturing our children's faith and character.

In Christ, Jamie Crouch



# 66th Annual Country **SAUSAGE SUPPER**

Sponsored by ZION MEN'S CLUB and LADIES' AID

**Sunday, FEB 2, 2025  
11:00 A.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M.**

**ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL  
220 W. Henry St., Staunton IL**

**FULL MEAL CARRYOUTS -DRIVE THRU ONLY  
ALL CARRY OUTS - \$14.00**

## **MEAT SALES**

**ZION SCHOOL (Downstairs At Concession Stand)  
JAN 30 & JAN 31: 9 AM - 5 PM AND FEB 1: 9 AM - 1 PM**

**FRESH AND FRIED PORK SAUSAGE, BLOOD AND  
LIVER SAUSAGE, AND SUMMER SAUSAGE**

**COME WORSHIP WITH US.**

**SAT. - 5:00 p.m. or SUN. - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**

### **2025 Sausage Price List**

Fried Links each  
\$1.25

Dinner Tickets  
each \$14.00

Sales will be  
Thursday and  
Friday (1/30-  
31/2025) 9am –  
5pm

Saturday 9 am –  
1pm, Sausage  
Supper Sunday  
(Drive Thru only)  
11 a. to 5 pm.

Sausage Bulk 2 lbs. for \$11.00

Sausage Links 2 lbs. for \$11.00

(5 links per lb.)

Sausage link 5 lbs. For \$26.00

Liver Sausage 1 lb. For \$5.50

Blood Sausage 1 lb. for \$5.50

Summer Sausage \$16.00

If possible, please contact us for orders of FRIED  
LINKS OVER 40 PIECES.

Questions?

Contact Tim Seelbach

(618)604-3436 Or

Contact Ron Williams

(217)652-5011



**Zion Youth Group Presents**

 **Trivia Night** 

Tables of 8-10 ..... \$15 per person  
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**When:** Friday, Feb 21

Doors open @ 6pm,  
starts @ 7pm

**Where:**

Staunton  
Country Club

**50/50 RAFFLE- SILENT AUCTION**

BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS! WATER AND SODA WILL  
BE PROVIDED (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST) ALL OTHER  
BEVERAGES MUST BE PURCHASED FROM THE  
COUNTRY CLUB.



**RESERVE A TABLE BY CONTACTING KRISTI AT**

*Kristi.Cook@zion-school.org or 618-972-5239*



PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS SENDING 15 YOUTH  
TO THE NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING IN NEW  
ORLEANS THIS SUMMER





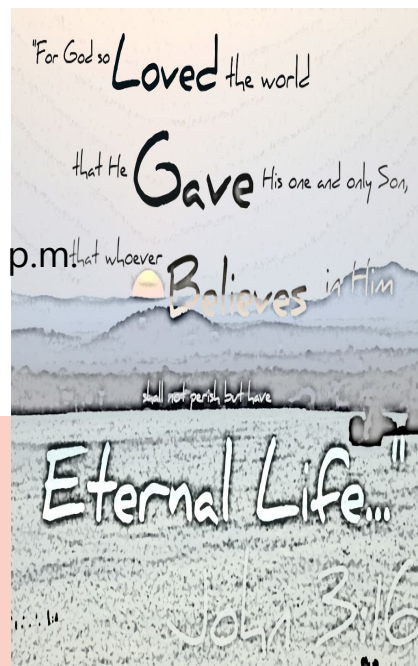
## February Zion Youth dates:

- February 2:** Sausage Supper
- February 8:** Pick up bundt cakes from the cafeteria 1-2 p.m.
- February 9 :** MS youth 3-5 p.m./HS youth 4-6 p.m.
- February 21:** Trivia night fundraiser
- February 23:** MS youth 3-5 p.m./HS youth 4-6 p.m.

Gathering deposit 2 due (\$200)

Meeting for parents/youth attending Youth Lead - Copies of insurance cards will be needed 5:30 - 6 p.m.

Tommy Campbell, Leah Cook, Livia Crouch, and Hailee Henke will be attending Youth Lead again this year! This program is designed to equip teens to develop and use their leadership skills as they serve Christ within their congregation and communities. Let us keep these youth heading to keep Youth Lead in our prayers.



**Have you "liked" Zion Alumni & Friends Facebook Page?** If not, you might be missing out in information, or old "Zion Family Pictures". It's always nice to see what some of our Zion Family looked like a few years ago (or more). Once you have "liked" our page, please hit share so others can enjoy it too.

# Zion Church February 2025

*When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
Titus 3:4-6*



| Sunday                                                                      | Monday                                                    | Tuesday                                                                   | Wednesday                                                                                                            | Thursday                                                                 | Friday                                             | Saturday                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                             |                                                           |                                                                           |                                                                                                                      |                                                                          | 31<br>Church Office Closed                         | 1<br>9-1pm Meat Sales<br>3-4 PubSchConfirma<br>5pm Worship/Com       |
| Sausage Day!<br>8&10:30Worship/Com<br>9:30Sun School<br>11-5 Sausage Supper | 2<br>3<br>Noon-2 Pr. Phil @ H.S.S.<br><br>D.Q. FR         | 4<br>6:30 Elders' Mtg                                                     | 5<br>8:30 Chapel<br>9-12 LydiaCircle<br>10:30 Glenwood<br>6pmAlternateWorship                                        | 6<br>8:30 Adult Bible Study<br>10-12 Pr@HSS<br>6:30Trustee<br>7:30MensCI | 7                                                  | 8<br>1-2PickupCakes<br><br>3-4 PubSchConfirma<br><br>5pm Worship/Com |
| 9<br>8Worship/Com<br>10:30Worship/Joyful Noise Choir<br>9:30SunSchool       | 10<br>Noon-2 Pr. Phil @ H.S.S.<br>6:30School Board        | 11<br><u>9Pr.Phil@Mid-State Circuit</u><br>Conference@ Zion in Litchfield | 12<br>8:30 Chapel<br>9-12 LydiaCircle<br>10:30 Glenwood<br>6pm BibleStudy<br>El Indio FR                             | 13<br>8:30 Adult Bible Study<br>10-12 Pr@HSS                             | 14                                                 | 15<br>3-4 PubSchConfirma<br><br>5pm Worship/Comm                     |
| 16<br>8&10:30Worship/Com<br>9:30SunSchool                                   | 17<br>Noon-2 Pr. Phil @ H.S.S.<br>6pm Board of Evangelism | 18<br>4:30 Board of Stewardship<br>6pParishEd                             | 19<br>8:30 Chapel<br>9-12 LydiaCircle<br>10:30 Glenwood<br>2:30 StauHealth&Reh<br>6p BibleStudy<br>Little Italy's FR | 20<br>8:30 Adult Bible Study<br>10-12 Pr@HSS                             | 21<br><b>7 pm</b><br>Trivia Night<br>6p Open Doors | 22<br>3-4 PubSchConfirmation<br><br>5pm Worship/Comm                 |
| 23<br>8&10:30Worship/Com<br>9:30SunSchool                                   | 24<br>Noon-2 Pr. Phil @ H.S.S.                            | 25<br>6:30 Council Mtg                                                    | 26<br>8:30 Chapel<br>9-12 LydiaCircle<br>10:30 Glenwood<br>6p BibleStudy                                             | 27<br>8:30 Adult Bible Study<br>10-12 Pr@HSS                             | 28                                                 |                                                                      |