

# The Tidings

The monthly newsletter of  
Zion Lutheran Church  
January/February 2018

## Zion Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Southern  
Ohio Synod of the ELCA  
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Synod Authorized Minister

Jon Meister

Service every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

## *Council Members*

**President** Jerry Gossett

**Vice President** Carol Mahon

**Treasurer** Tim Biler

**Secretary** Karen Brooks

## *Elder*

vacant

## *Deacon*

Vacant

## *Trustee*

Vacant

## *At-Large*

Jodi Taylor

## *From the Pastor's Desk:*

January 1. Time to hit the reset button. A time when we evaluate our lives and the year that has just gone by. Time to evaluate things we would like to change about ourselves and things we would like to do for ourselves. It is a time to make plans and set goals for ourselves for the year to come. Eat better. Exercise more. Lose weight. Read more. Spend less. Volunteer more. Spend more quality time with family and friends. Live life well.

Big plans! But then, life happens. The busyness of life. Accountabilities. Responsibilities. Expectations and demands of others. Soon our best of intentions are tossed by the wayside. Studies show that 80% of New Year's resolutions are done by February, and that only 8% truly come to pass. Why?

Small failures on our paths to good things are not overcome and derail our intent. Too many goals are set, often too high, without smaller progress being taken into effect. You can't quit sugar if you've never even taken smaller steps to moderate your diet! Poor focus. Maybe we just dream more than we actually plan.

Or perhaps it's because we still view ourselves as being in control of our own selves. In control of any change and progress we can make within our lives. It's all up to us, right? Too frequently, we fail to recognize that God is at work within us and that He is in charge of the process and the

# Zion Lutheran Church

## Mission Statement

*“Reaching in for the Holy Spirit, Reaching up for God’s Grace, Reaching out with Christ’s Love.”*

## Vision Statement

*Seeking to share the love of Jesus Christ.*

## Core Values

*Share the sacraments;  
Share God’s love;  
Worship together;  
There is a place  
for everyone*



progress. We are responsible for our response. That’s why it becomes highly misguided of us to set our own timelines for our growth. In chapter 18 of the book of Jeremiah, we read that He is the potter, we are the clay. It’s not the other way around. Perhaps our real goals should be more about how we can create space for God to work in our lives – how we can respond to His molding and recognize that we are, well, the clay.

As we look forward to what 2018 may bring, don’t just rush to setting goals. Talk with God first. Who does God want you to be, but you have yet to become? What one thing could you do to increase your enjoyment of God? Which spiritual discipline do you want to increase and what will you do about it? What one thing may you do this year to enrich the spiritual legacy you will leave to children and grandchildren?

Ask yourselves these questions. Then value your responses in making them a commitment throughout the year. With prayerful consideration, focus and patience, recognize that God is indeed busy within your lives. Respond to His calling. Adapt to His will for your life. May his presence be felt daily within your lives. May His love be known to you and may you share that love with all those you meet.

Blessings for a glorious new year.

Jon

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## *WELCA Meeting*

There will be a meeting immediately after church on **January 28**. If you are interested in restarting WELCA, please join us!



## Happy Birthday!

Donald Brooks	01/01
Richard Woods	01/01
Barbara Woods	01/03
Maxine Taylor	01/06
Zach Mahon	01/09
Matthew Johnston	01/10
Doralee Wendell	01/16
Lydia Feddern	01/18
Steve Lutz	01/19
Louise Johnston	01/24
Dick Fogt	01/25
Heidi Gregory	02/06
Terry Taylor	02/12
Peyton Murray	02/20
Jerry Gossett	02/25
Tom Mahon	02/27

## February Anniversaries

- George and Doralee Wendell, February 14
- Steve and Anne Marie Lutz, February 19

## Souper Bowl Sunday ~ February 4

No matter what team you support, please help support those who are in need. We'll be collecting soup cans that will go to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry, and we'll also be gathering donations of money in the big SOUPER BOWL cauldrons that will be sent to Lutheran Social Services.

Let's go TEAM – helping wipe out hunger! Thanks for your support!



## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is on **February 14** this year. There will be a service at Zion at 7:00 pm that day. Information about other Lenten services at area churches will be announced soon, for those who wish to attend. Midweek service schedules for St Paul's in New Rome, Resurrection Lutheran in Hilliard, and St John's in London will be included.



## Daily Prayers:

Please keep these people in your prayers: Esther Mae Baker, Al Bausch, Don Brooks, Sonia Chafin, and Carol Schiff.