

The Tidings

The monthly newsletter of
Zion Lutheran Church
November/December 2017

Zion Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Southern
Ohio Synod of the ELCA
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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:

“To progress is always to begin again.” This quote by Martin Luther sums up the season of celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and quite frankly, sums up our society and church as we know it today. We are constantly facing change from all fronts. Social pressures, political agendas, and economic stressors are seemingly at every turn.

The same holds true for Zion Lutheran Church. 2016 has proven to be quite the year of change within this congregation. The church building has been sold. No longer can we have ministries or events throughout the week. Sundays only (at least on the inside). We have had members move on, some to other churches and some who we will celebrate on All Saints day this Sunday. Pastoral turnover has led to my arrival here, a SAM (Synod Authorized Minister). And that puts us all at the beginning stages of yet more change.

How can we grow with these challenges at hand?

Throughout all change, the gospel must be the focus for this congregation – both as individuals and as a congregation. We must be fully present and centered on Jesus and His work. We must engage our collective efforts in praise for Him in reaching out to a community in much need. We have just begun to discuss outreach into West Jefferson, and over the next few months more discussions will take place and more opportunities will arise. Which will be “best” for us? Where will our talents

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*

and passion direct us? Honestly, I cannot say quite yet. But for certain, the gospel must be at the heart of our efforts. Through thoughtful prayer and faith, we will be guided in our efforts to do God’s work in West Jefferson. Will there be mistakes or setbacks? Certainly. But I will gladly accept failure in any endeavor we pursue as long as we keep Christ as the main direction for our efforts.

It is commonly referred to as Merton’s Prayer. Originally within the pages of his book “Thoughts in Solitude” written in 1958 by Thomas Merton, it is a contemplative prayer that reflects his uncertainty within what is “the best way”. But through the uncertainty the assurance that the chosen path of a person or congregation is indeed the “right way” with Jesus at the heart of the efforts being made. Pray this prayer. Pray it for yourself, for others and for Zion. Pray that the desire to please God does in fact please God. And in doing so, Zion will create an impact for this community in the name of Christ to be felt by all. Are you ready to make some changes? I am!

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And I hope I have that desire in all I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this You will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust in You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

Blessings,

Jon



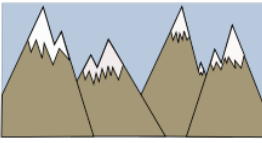


All Saints Day

We will celebrate All Saints Day on **Sunday, November 5**. There will be an opportunity during the service to come forward and light a candle for those in our lives who have died in Christ, and to lift up our loved ones in prayer. Please feel free to light a candle for those of our congregation we have lost this year.

Happy Birthday!

Evan Taylor	11/03
Richard Taylor	11/04
Bernie Brister	11/11
Kate Mahon	11/14
Jennifer Murray	11/16
Timothy Biler	11/23
Sally Hurt	12/03
Melinda Biler	12/04
Nicole Biler	12/06
Regan Johnston	12/07
Sally Sindedecker	12/10
Derek Taylor	12/11
Pete Hadidon	12/15
Ashley Biler	12/17
Jody Taylor	12/17
Jennifer Johnston	12/22
Anne Marie Lutz	12/23
Allen Bausch	12/26
Arlene Castor	12/26
Daniel Salyers	12/27
Daniel Hadidon	12/28
Kaleigh Johnston	12/31



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Looking Ahead:

- Nov 5 -- All Saints Sunday
- Nov 19 -- Thankoffering Service
- Dec 3 -- First Sunday of Advent
- Dec 25 -- Christmas
- Dec 31 -- Fifth Sunday candle service



Happy Anniversary!

- Pete and Malenie Hadidon -- November 10
- Richard and Jody Taylor -- November 22
- John and Sandy Balderson -- December 5

Breakfast Bunch

The Breakfast Bunch continues to meet on the first Saturday of every month at 8:30 at Der Dutchman. Everyone is welcome! Join us for a good breakfast and good fellowship as well. Upcoming dates for the Breakfast Bunch are **November 4** and **December 2**.



Daily Prayers:

Please keep these people in your prayers: Esther Mae Baker, Al Bausch, Marjorie Barry, Don Brooks, Richard Woods, and Carol Schiff.