



The ECHO

Mt. Zion Lutheran
Church

Volume 2018, Issue 2
February 2018

MT. ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

4065 Mt. Zion Rd. Lucas, Ohio 44843 419-892-2023

Pastor Eric Steward 757-876-6572 (cell) 567-483-8001 (home) pastormtzion@embarqmail.com

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. ~ Fellowship Time at 10:15~ Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Valentine's Day = Prepare your Hearts



Lent is almost here...YEAH! Probably not words you would expect to read or hear someone say especially because of the prevailing attitude that comes with Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday. However, I believe Lent is one of those seasons that helps us really get it, it is a time of reflection of who we are and what sin has done to God's creation to include ourselves. This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentines Day, a Hallmark holiday that is all about romance and the feelings of love and it is appropriate that we impose ashes on that day to remind us that our hearts are broken and it is not as it should be.

The 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship provides this kind of understanding of Lent. It reads as follows:

Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer and works of love—the discipline of Lent—help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in you Lenten discipline.

The idea is that Lent is not a season of gloom but a time of remembering the joyful paradise that was and that it remains God's intention for his creation. It brings to the forefront of our minds how destructive sin is.

The first Christians observed with devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting.

This season of Lent provided a time (40 days) in which the whole congregation put into their mind the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel, and the need which all Christians continually have, to renew their repentance and faith. It became a time of self-examination and repentance through prayer, fasting, and self-denial but also in reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. Hence, the idea of "giving something up" for Lent, for fasting was not merely in abstinence from food, but in withdrawing from sinful practices and doing works of love. However, these responsibilities or actions are not peculiar to Lent. These are the duties of the Christian life, they are just intensified during the Forty days.



The church refers to Lent as 40 days because it corresponds to the 40 days Jesus' was fasting in the desert. Now I know there is often confusion on the idea that there are 40 days in Lent when it lasts almost 7 Weeks (14 February to 31 March). If you do the Math, that would mean there is actually 46 days in Lent (15 days in Feb, 31 days in March = 46). But you see that is normal math and not Church math. We observe 40 days of Lent because we exclude Sundays. Wait, what...why do we exclude Sundays? That is because Sunday is the Lord's Day of resurrection and that is never a fast. So subtracting out the 6 Sundays, gives us 40 days.

The imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday to mark the start of Lent is also a tradition from the early church. Often, this service is seen as a stark reminder of our mortality and if you are not prepared for it, it suddenly cuts into the richness and pleasure of living with the grim words, "You are dust and dust you shall return." It was God's word to our first parents in the garden of paradise after their disobedience, and it is God's word still to us all. It is one of those facts that we would rather not face but it is a certainty, just like taxes. The truth that Ash Wednesday will not let us forget is that life—our life—will someday end. Ashes traditionally are a sign of our mortality and by receiving the ashes, we acknowledge that God's judgment against our sin is right and just. But the awesome thing this also represents is that the ashes are also made in the sign of the cross—the very instrument by which our Lord took upon himself the punishment for our sin, in our place. Thus, the cross of ashes serves to remind us that we are sinners, and that Christ died for us sinners. So while it is a sobering moment, it is also a joyous one in which we remember that our sins have been paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ.



So Mt. Zion, as we begin our Lenten Journey together, let it be a time of self-reflection but not in a navel gazing way. Instead, as we reflect on our sin, on our brokenness, let us repent in ways that makes the outside world scratch their head. Instead of self-loathing and walking around like someone just stole our lunch money, let us show the world what repentance looks like. If you see a poor man, take pity on him. If you see an enemy, be reconciled to him. If you see a friend gaining honor, do not envy. Our fasting is not only of the mouth but also the eye, the ear, the feet and the hands. Let the hands fast by doing works of love. Let the feet fast by ceasing from running to forbidden pleasures. Let the eyes fast by not fixing them on things that are not from above. Finally, let the ear and mouth fast by not listening to evil, speaking or taking part of disgraceful words but instead listen to the Lord and speak words of exhortation and encouragement. Brothers and Sisters, let's take this Lenten opportunity to show the world who Jesus is in our actions and words. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

Jan. 11, 2018

Attendance: Nate Arnold, Vanessa Barrett, Audrey Cook, Sheri Culler, Mary Fowler, Bill Grubaugh, Ralph Hall, Jim Tomlinson, Pastor Eric Steward, Vanessa Barrett.

Martha Dourson was excused.

Pastor Eric opened the meeting with devotions on the Seventh Commandment and a prayer.

Minutes were handed out and read. Ralph Hall made a motion to accept the minutes. Mary Fowler seconded. Motion carried.

Previous Congregational Councils had approved to send the NALC \$3,000 for benevolence even if that was not given through members. We have received \$2,685 from the members. We will make up the difference of \$315.

Discussions of salaries for the upcoming budget were discussed. Raises for the staff were accepted in a motion made by Ralph Hall and seconded by Nate Arnold. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: For the month of Dec. we were in the balc +196.88 For the restoration we have paid a total for the year of \$64,581.94. Our investments: We have withdrawn \$80,000 for the year. We have earned \$60,000.

The new copier will be installed next week.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Eric gave his report.

Home Communion – 0

Catechism: 1

Worship - 7(Special services: 3 (2 Advent (1 at Mt Zion, 1 at St. Michael, 1- Christmas Eve)

Home Visits: 2

Administrative – Bulletin, echo, paperwork

Adult Sunday School – 5

Church Council – 1

Committee Meetings – 1(Restoration)

Food Pantry – 1

The Constitution has been changed to reflect the vote by the congregation to decrease the number of Council members to 7 and to decrease the number of committees to 3 main committees.

Pastor asked what we would like to do for Lent, a service or a Bible study. We voted on a Bible Study and it will be on the book of Job. We will have soup and sandwich dinners before the study.

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Pastor Eric will talk with the office people at Trinity and see if someone will do some training with Elaine on Church Windows.

Ralph Hall will draft a letter to be sent to members asking for help with the Bicentennial festivities and informing them what each event will involve.

Due to the change in the Constitution Sheri Culler and Vanessa Barrett are going off of Congregational Council. They agreed to serve until/when this change was approved.

No new business

Ralph H. moved to adjourn. Sheri seconded. Motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Cook, Council Secretary

Included In Our Prayers Today Are:

Mark Alt (Uncle of Kathy Grover), Patricia Dourson (Mother of Member), Al Fowler (Husband of Mary Fowler), Janet Grover (Member), Grace Kintz (Member), Tom Lyons, Lucille Maglott (Member), Rev. Sanford Mitchell (Retired Pastor, Trinity – Ashland), Jameson Taylor (Son-in-Law of Bill and Jan Grubaugh), Ethel Oaklief (Member), Richard Orewiler, Sara Schwendeman, Kay Zgela, Darell Harless, Becky Kahl, Gerald Cline (father of Freda Steward).



Memory Tree

As part of our 2018 Bicentennial celebration, a “memory tree” will be placed in the “Historical Display Room” (Sunday School room in the back of the sanctuary). Almost anything can be submitted for the memory tree: a note of some special Mt. Zion moment, a photograph, an artifact, a craft item, cloth, etc. – anything that can hang on the tree. Relate the significance of your item, how it has touched your heart in some significant way. Your memory item can be about yourself, another person, a Pastor, the church, an event, anything that has impacted your life at Mt. Zion.

Anyone can submit an item for the “memory tree”, so invite your family, former members, former Pastors, your neighbors to send in their memories. Deadline for submission is March 31st, 2018. Make sure your name is on the item, so it can be returned. Items will be displayed throughout 2018, so items will not be returned until early 2019. Coordinate your submission with Dee Dee Culler, who is assisting the Bicentennial committee with the memory tree. You can contact Dee Dee with any questions at (419) 892-3577. Let's fill our tree with Spirit-filled, uplifting memories of Life at Mt. Zion over the years - how Christ's love has changed our lives.

Happy Birthday to Us!

Yes, we are now moving into our 200th. Year of being Mt. Zion Lutheran Church. While 200 years has brought a myriad of changes in name and building size and location, the people of the congregation remain the same committed persons to worship and serving our Lord and Savior. Many of us can trace our roots back to the beginning either through birth or marriage. The Bicentennial Committee has been very busy planning multiple events throughout the year, and they cannot do it alone. It would be fantastic to see the whole congregation participate in helping to make this truly an event to remember.

As you can see, there have been many improvements on the building itself getting it ready for the celebration. The Sanctuary is getting a complete makeover with new varnish and paint as well as Air Conditioning and fans for summer comfort. The flooring in the Educational wing has been replaced and rooms painted. New steps and sidewalks will house the new time capsule and pavers expounding a walking history of our church

On May 20th. We will be having a service with the Bishop preaching. Former Pastors and their families will be invited to attend, and following the service, there will be a reception with appetizers and cookies for all. As the time grows closer we will be asking for assistance in providing the refreshments for that reception.

The big event open to the entire community will on Saturday, July 14th. There will be an Ice Cream Social from 2-8 PM with a historical type outside worship service from 7-8 PM. Including during the day will be cookout type food, ice cream and desserts, inflatables and games for the kids, volleyball, guided tour of the cemetery by historical caricatures, and the Fun Center Chordsmen performance. Obviously, this will be the biggest need for volunteers to make the day a great time and success.

Finally, on September 8th. We will be having a more intimate catered dinner at the Lucas Community Center for the members and their families. There will be more information on all the dates mentioned as we go along. Most importantly, WE NEED HELP from the Congregation to make this year a success.

Members will be called upon to step up to the plate to help. If you have stories about the history of Mt. Zion which could prove to be helpful in our Historic Walk, please let the Committee know. Pictures and artifacts would be helpful in creating a timeline of Mt. Zion. If you would like to participate in costume and take on the persona of your relative that could also be great. If you would just like to serve food or clean up, fantastic, let us know. There will be multiple opportunities to get involved. The Committee could use all the help it can get. Our Youth Group has already committed their resources in time and talents.

As we enter the second month of a historic new year, the 200th celebration committee is dedicated to providing us all with more information and requests as time draws closer. Right now there is far too much to put in this letter but it should be an exciting year of celebration.

Please mark down those dates and invite family members to join in the fun. This is a year of reunion for all those family and friends who have moved away, but are truly part of what makes Mt. Zion Lutheran Church what it is today. No one person can make this year a success, but if we all work together, this will be a year to remember.

Thank you,

Jim Tomlinson, Council President

History Corner: The Year Was 1912

Times change. For a variety of reasons, organizations come and go. Back in January, 1913, an article appeared in the News Journal about just such an organization at Mt Zion Lutheran Church. The Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society was celebrating its beginning in 1912. The article, which was printed in the Saturday, Jan. 18, 1913 edition, says"

"The Women's Home and Foreign Missionary society of the Mt Zion Lutheran church celebrated its first anniversary Thursday, Jan. 15, at the parsonage. The members came in the morning with well-filled baskets and a sumptuous dinner was served. The pastor's wife, upon being invited out to dinner, was surprised to find the table laid with a fine, new cloth and a new set of dishes. Mrs. J.W. Culler, the president of the society, in a neat speech, presented these to the pastor's wife as a token of the esteem in which she is held by the members. Mrs. Bright responded with warm thanks. An interesting program was carried out in the afternoon, being the first in a series of programs from the new text book of the society, "China's New Day," Mrs. Bright being the leader.

These ladies were present: Mesdames J. W. Culler, E.L. Culler, Courtney Beasore, Charles Beasore, Mary Beasore, Herman Fox, Effie Rummell, Norman Irvin, August Snook, Elza Sheets, Ephraim Kling, P.J. Wigton, Emery Fox, Ira Ernsberger, David Culler and Misses Mary Culler, Ruth Culler, Esther Culler, Bertha Culler, Florence Fox, Florence Beasore, Anna Dome, Hazel Earhart. Mrs. Earl Culler and son, Rexford, of Ashland, were present as visitors. This society has grown in its first year from a charter membership of nine to its present membership of thirty-six."

In case you wondered, the "Mesdames" were:

J. W. Culler [John Wesley].....Eleanor Robinson Culler
E.L. Culler [Enoch L.].....Sarah Jane Rugh Culler
Courtney Beasore.....Cora Ellen Zediker Beasore
Charles Beasore.....Alice Zediker Beasore
Mary Beasore.....was Mary Elizabeth Sackman who became Mrs. George W. Beasore
Herman Fox.....Sarah Mowers Fox
Effie Rummell.....was Effie May Kaylor who became Mrs. William Rummell
Norman Irvin.....probably May Arehart who became wife of Norman C. Irvin
August Snook.....Mary Reyher Snook
Elza Sheets.....Alice Kling Sheets
Ephraim Kling.....Lucinda Shanabarger Kling
P.J. Wigton [Pierce Jeffries].....Cora Peterson Wigton
Emery Fox.....Mary "Ollie" Peterson Fox
Ira Ernsberger.....Mary Alice Keffer Ernsberger
David Culler.....Stella Carl Culler
Mrs. Earl Culler was Emma Jane Kettering Culler
Mrs. Bright was Mary Belle Bergstresser, wife of Rev. George Shearer Bright

TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS

Order now through March 4th

With Easter rapidly approaching, we must have your orders by Sunday, March 4th. Please give your order form and payment to Amity Arnold. *Please, if paying by check rather than cash, make your checks payable to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church with memo stating: "Altar Guild Easter Flowers". As always, potted plants may be purchased in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Thank You,
The Altar Guild

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

<u>Choices</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Cost Per</u>	<u>Number Wanted</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Daffodil	Yellow	\$8.00	_____	_____
Hyacinths	Pink	\$8.00	_____	_____
Hyacinths	White	\$8.00	_____	_____
Hyacinths	Blue	\$8.00	_____	_____
Tulips	Yellow	\$8.00	_____	_____
Tulips	Red	\$8.00	_____	_____
Tulips	Pink	\$8.00	_____	_____
Lilies	White	\$8.00	_____	_____
			Order Total	= _____

Name _____

Please enter my order as a Memorial in the name of:

Please enter my order as a Gift in Honor of:

I would like my/our name to read as follows:

Congratulations to Cole Barrett on his Bachelor of Science in Microbiology degree from The Ohio State University. Cole has accepted a position in the Immunotoxicology department at Charles River Laboratories in Ashland.

During the month of February, you are encouraged to greet and pray for these members and friends of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries.

***If there is anyone you would like to add to our Birthday/Anniversary list either in honor of, or in memory of, please contact the Church Office with your request! Thank you!*



2	Tina Steward	12	Thomas Boggs
4	Julia Ferrell	17	Xavier Hall
6	Shelby Grover	17	Ralph Hall
8	Beth Johnson	20	Michael Dourson
8	Allyson Cook	23	Benjamin Graham
9	Kathleen Steward	23	Marilyn Zody
11	Melvin McKenna Jr.	28	Kim Smollen

No February Anniversaries



During the month of February, we THANK these members who are offering their service to the church in various ways:

Lector

4	Martha Dourson
11	Ralph Hall
14	Lee Cook
18	Kim Smollen
25	Amity Arnold

Acolyte

Jessica Grover
Grant Barrett
Ryan Culler
Emily Smollen

Fellowship Time

Martha Dourson
Marie McKenna
Mary Fowler
Amity Arnold

Ushers

The McKenna Family

Communion

Ralph Hall

Offering Counters

Martha Dourson & Ralph Hall

Altar Guild

Amity Arnold and Kathy Grover



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

February 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				<p>1</p> <p><i>Pastor in office 12-5</i></p> <p><i>Elaine in office 10-3</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>Pastor in office 12-4</i></p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p><i>Communion</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p><i>Karen in office 9-12</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Pastor in office 12-5</i></p> <p><i>Karen in office 9-11</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p><i>Pastor in office 12-4</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p><i>Pastor in office 12-5</i></p> <p><i>Elaine in office 10-3</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p><i>Pastor in office 12-4</i></p> <p><i>LAFP Delivery</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p><i>LAFP Distribution</i></p>
<p>11</p> <p><i>Confirmation</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p><i>Karen in office 9-12</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p><i>Pastor in office 12-5</i></p> <p><i>Karen in office 9-11</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>Pastor in office 12-4</i></p> <p><i>Ash Wednesday meal at 6, Bible study at 7. Mt. Zion</i></p>	<p>15</p> <p><i>Pastor in office 12-5</i></p> <p><i>Elaine in office 10-3</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>Pastor in office 12-4</i></p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p><i>Communion</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p><i>Karen in office 9-12</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>Pastor in office 12-5</i></p> <p><i>Karen in office 9-11</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p><i>Pastor in office 12-4</i></p> <p><i>Lenten meal at 6, Bible study at 7. St. Michael</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p><i>Pastor in office 12-5</i></p> <p><i>Elaine in office 10-3</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Pastor in office 12-4</i></p> <p><i>LAFP Delivery</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>LAFP Distribution</i></p>
<p>25</p> <p><i>Confirmation</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>Karen in office 9-12</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p><i>Pastor in office 12-5</i></p> <p><i>Karen in office 9-11</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p><i>Pastor in office 12-4</i></p> <p><i>Lenten meal at 6, Bible study at 7. Mt. Zion</i></p>			

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