

Prayer Before Worship* Gracious Lord, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift bring the message of Life to all the world, in Jesus' name. Amen.

This Week's Prayer List We pray for a portion of Zion's family, Jeffrey & Deb, Lisa, and Amber Brueggemeier; Samantha Brueggemeier; Justin Brueggemeier; Lydia Brueggemeier; Steven & Hollie, and Anna Brueggemeier. We pray for those under a physician's care, in treatment or therapy, enduring hardships, for a strong faith.

Zion's Pancake Breakfast is today from 10-1 p.m. Come join us!

Lenten * Places of the Passion * The Mount of Olives With great detail, the disciple named Matthew tells us the ministry of Jesus, including the specific places, Jesus went. Join us in Jesus' journey to the cross; services are at 3:30 and 7 p.m. This week we travel to **The Mount of Olives**, where Jesus often went to pray. Come and worship and learn about the great significance of this place, in light of the sufferings of Christ. Jesus gains strength in hour of prayer.

Our Lenten Supper will be served by LWML this week: Chicken soup, clam chowder, buttered bread and crackers, bars, coffee, & lemonade.

Butterbraid sales have begun! Zion's 5th, 6th, & 7th grade students will be selling in the lobby after church services until March 13th. Delivery will be on the 31st just before for Easter. Proceeds finance the 2024 Washington, D.C. trip.

Gertens Fundrasier* Zion has begun its flower and plant fundraiser to support its Education League. Gertens does online orders only until April 6th. Forms with the listed options available were sent home today. To place an order go to www.gertensfundraising.com and enter store ID code 391. If you will be picking it up yourself then please put "church" in the seller's box. For questions, please reach out to Teryn Widmer at teryn.hasse@gmail.com.

Opening Hymn # 804 vv. 1-2

"O worship the King"

P: In the Name of the Father * Son * Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

P: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

C: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

P: Oh, magnify the LORD with me,

C: Let us exalt his name together!

P: I sought the LORD, and he answered me;

C: He delivered me from all my fears.

P: Those who look to him are radiant,

C: Their faces shall never be ashamed.

P: This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.

C: The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

Hymn # 804 vv. 3-4

"O worship the King"

P: Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!

C: Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

P: Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints,

C: For those who fear him are satisfied!

P: The young lions suffer want and hunger;

C: But those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

P: Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

C: What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good?

P: Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

C: Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Collect of the Day * *O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!*

K-8th Grade Children's Choir
"Sing and Celebrate" & "The Gift He Offers to You"

Old Testament Reading

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

Genesis 12:1-9

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Gospel according to St Matthew, chapter three.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Gospel Reading

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

John 3:1-17

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn (Tune # 868 Come, Thou Fount)
"Nicodemus Sought Out Jesus"

Nicodemus sought out Jesus at a lonely, quiet hour.

He said, "Teacher, God is with you!

For in you we see God's power."

Jesus turned and gave an answer

filled with challenge and with love:

"You can never see God's kingdom

till you're born from heav'n above."

"Born again!" said Nicodemus. "Is that something one can do?"

Jesus said, "Don't be surprised now that you must be born anew.

And it's not by your own doing; wind and Spirit will blow free!

They are not for your controlling; trust in God for what will be."

God, your Spirit still surprises like an ever-changing wind,
Bringing life & love & justice where despair and death have been.

May we see your Spirit working as a gift from heaven above.

Blest, may we then be a blessing to this world that you so love.

[Carolyn Gillette]

Children's Message Sunday School to follow in Mr. M's room.

Finances

Salary:

Beginning Balance (1/1/23)	\$33,877.65
YTD Income	\$47,874.14
YTD Expenses	\$56,396.30
Current Balance (2/16)	\$25,355.49

Missions:

Year to date total (2/14)	\$650.00
Budgeted	\$9830.00
Non-budgeted	\$0.00
2023 Pledged	\$6,500.00
2023 Goal	\$15,000.00

LHS:

Year to date total (2/10)	\$14,422.66
2023 Commitment	\$19,250.00
Per communicant member	\$55.00

Building/Repair Fund:

Account Balance (2/22)	\$5,578.50
Suggested household contribution	\$750.00

February 26th Attendance: 119; Communed: 92

Agnus Day: based on John 3:1-17

Nicodemus wonders how one can be “born again.”

