



"Anniversary"
Edition

July 2025

Messenger

From Pastor Phil....

In *Ephesians 1*, Paul makes this wonderful statement of thanks regarding the church at Ephesus. He gives thanks for them personally, but also for all the work that God has done through them. Verses 15-19 read:

"¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might."

Zion itself is a congregation with a story. It's 175 years old. That's impressive by itself. Not a lot of congregations get there. By comparison, I was recently invited to celebrate the 40th anniversary of a congregation. Zion has been around the block once or twice. It's seen society change. It's felt the sting of war, and the joys of peace. Zion has celebrated the work of the Holy Spirit through numerous confirmation classes, baptisms galore, weddings celebrated, and mourned the death of more saints than we want to remember. Zion has been faithful. Like any body, there is more to the body than meets the eye.

Here at Zion we have a couple groups that we are recognizing this year for their work. The Ladies Aid/LWML and the Men's Club. The Ladies Aid here at Zion is celebrating their 125th anniversary while the Men's Club are celebrating their 90th. The LWML is marking their 80th year. These are wonderful anniversaries to celebrate as we can see these organizations still doing the work of the Gospel. All too often



*First Wednesday
of the Month*

Alternate Worship Services

Next service is on

July 2nd

At 6:00 p.m.

Zion's Annual Outdoor Service

(weather permitting)

July 13 @ 10 am

Potluck in school gym.

Ladies Aid/LWML & Men's Club "Anniversary Recognition"

*Sunday July 20 @ 10:30
service.*

Join Us!

we only see mission work in terms of far flung places, but these men and women have been engaged in the mission of Gospel proclamation into each other's lives. They also carry that work out into the community around us through the various events that they host or sponsor.

As these organizations celebrate these milestones, we join with the Apostle Paul as we thank God for the men and women who are members. We thank God for their faith and the love that they show to the saints. It is my prayer that our loving Father would continue to empower Zion by His Holy Spirit, but also that our brothers and sisters in these organizations would continue to be used for the celebration of the love of God, for the uplifting of the saints, and a bold proclamation of the Gospel. To quote Scott Wadsworth, paraphrasing the Apostle Paul, "Keep up the good work".

God's blessings in these anniversary celebrations.

Pastor Phil



The outdoor service will be on July 13th at 10AM out in the front lawn of the school (weather permitting). Following the service we will have a potluck lunch in the school gym. – Board of Evangelism



Zion's Ladies Aid, Men's Club, & LWML

Celebrate Special Anniversaries in July 2025!

Zion's "Ladies Aid Society, which had organized in 1900 'with a 100 active members', made its first contribution to the congregation at this time: church pews, the altar and pulpit, the statue of Christ, altar covers, and carpeting and matting surrounding the altar.

The total cost of the items contributed was \$1,381.50.

In 1921, when the church building was 17 years old, the congregation decided to redecorate the interior. The Ladies Aid paid \$1,500 for the project, which included new altar covers and carpet runners.

...the Ladies Aid minutes were kept in German until 1930.

In 1942, the Ladies Aid purchased a loud speaker and microphone system for the church. The church interior was again redecorated in 1943, at a cost of \$1,100. The loudspeaker and microphone system were removed because it was felt they were "too modern." An additional \$560 was spent for rewiring and \$200 for sanding floors. Apparently new plumbing wasn't too modern, though. In 1945, the Ladies Aid donated \$432.72 to put new bathrooms in the back of the church.

In 1947, the Ladies Aid donated \$330 for an outdoor church bulletin board.

"Shortly after World War II began, the Ladies Aid purchased a service flag to hang on the church in honor of members who served."

In 1963 the church roof was insulated, thanks to a gift of more than \$700 from the Ladies Aid."

"The goal of the Ladies Aid is to further the work of the congregation and the kingdom of God by aiding in the work of the church. Activities include these annual events: Rummage Sale, Bazaar, Mother/Daughter Banquet, and the Sausage Super. The Ladies Aid has been instrumental in the history of the congregation and the school. All women of the congregation are, who are communicant members, are eligible for membership."

- Excerpts are from the 1997 booklet "1847-1997 Zion Lutheran Church Staunton, Illinois

150 Years of Continued Commitment to Christ".

Zion's Men's Club

"The Men's Club was organized in 1935 to promote Christian fellowship among male members of Zion. Records show that one of their first purchases was two set of horseshoes (at a cost of \$2.25 from Fritz Drug Store).

During the past 62 years, they have paid for sports equipment, built the garage at the parsonage (with a gift of \$500 from Ladies Aid), rewired and air conditioned the parsonage and purchased office machines, paid for doors, and intercom system for the school, repaired and tuck pointed the roof and other maintenance for the maintenance for the school, took care of the church cupola repairs, covered all the exposed wood on the church exterior with aluminum, and fully repaired and maintained the teacherage. For more than 30 years, Zion's Men's Club shared the expenses of the church weekly service bulletin. And in the last 25 years, they have contributed more than \$65,000 in repairs and maintenance to the church properties.

The Men's Club has sponsored a dart ball team since 1944 in the M-M Dart League.

In 1976, the Men's Club elected to support Zion's seminary fieldworkers by paying their gas mileage from St. Louis to Staunton and back. This practice continues to this day.

In February 1960, the Men's Club and the Ladies Aid joined in a far reaching endeavor: the annual Sausage Supper. Although this event requires many hours of volunteer labor, it remains our congregation's primary fellowship event. Former members, former workers and even a politician or two are seen among the thousands of guests who join us each year."

- Excerpts are from the 1997 booklet "1847-1997 Zion Lutheran Church Staunton, Illinois 150 Years of Continued Commitment to Christ".



Photos from Sausage Supper in 2017.....perhaps taken by Joann B... from church office.

Sunday July 20, 2025, at the 10:30 a.m. service, the members of the Ladies Aid, LWML, and the Men's Club will be recognized for their work at Zion. Please join us in celebrating the anniversary of these organizations!



The history of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is long and compelling. It spans over 80 years of service to our Lord Jesus and His church. It started with a sincere interest in rescuing the thousands of orphans stranded in the throes of post-World War II Europe and is still steeped in the tradition of aiding the lost sheep of the world.

Our own personal LWML in Staunton was very active in the 1980's and 90's. When more and more women were employed outside the home, our numbers dwindled and we struggled to keep going at the vigorous pace of years before. Gone were the days of get togethers to make "tie quilts" for the impoverished of Africa or the hurricane victims of the coasts. Gone were the days of fellowship with other Lutheran women, mostly homemakers, who loved the outlet of getting together for a higher purpose than just "women's work." Lives for many women just became busier and they didn't have the time.

In the early 2000's, we still had stalwart servants of the LWML like JoAnn Dietiker, Shirley Mueller, Sondra Ashley, JoAnn Brakhane and Barb Quade. What wonderful examples of Christian service and leadership! And there were many more!

In 1992, a book was written by member, Jane Lucht, of Red Bud IL to recall the history of the Southern Illinois District of LWML. It was to celebrate 50 years of Serving Christ. The following are some excerpts of interest to our group.

Page 28 of 50th anniversary book, written by Jane Lucht:

"I joined after I married in 1948. We were associated with Ladies Aid. I went when possible between having seven children. After the kids were a little older I became more active. Then I found out why I joined! The joy in all the ladies' hearts just shows all the time. God's love is so obvious. I feel SO GOOD after going to convention, retreat and even meetings. In a small way I feel I truly am "serving

the Lord with gladness!" written by Melba DeVries, Staunton



(Mrs. DeVries served as co-chairman for the 1992 district convention) *Note: Melba is Barb Brackman's mother.**

A photo of Zion's LWML ladies at Camp Wartburg, in 1986: (L to R) JoAnn Dietiker, Melba DeVries, Floriene Fortuna, & Dorothy Mansholt.



"In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen."

© 1955 LWML authored by Rev. Harry Fricke

<https://www.lwml.org/posts/handbook-resources/the-league-pledge>

The LWML worked to raise money to build a hospital in India in the 1930's

Page 32 *ibid.* :

The International LWML convention was scheduled to take place in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1955. They had to cancel the meeting because of segregation in Louisiana. "Local customs of segregation make it impossible for the New Orleans zone to to fully entertain the LWML in a manner characteristic of this organization."

Someone said that the letters LWML must mean "**Ladies Who Mean Love.**"

Pastor Edward Meyer, of Zion, Staunton served as counselor for many years in the 1950's. JoAnn Dietiker served on the District Board starting in the 1980's and continued throughout her life. When planning one of the events for the district, she recalled the support and care that she received from fellow "LWMLers" when her husband was taken to the hospital and also when her mother passed away. "The love and caring at these times from my sisters in Christ gave me much support and strength. I will never forget this."

The LWML and Ladies Aid at Zion joined forces in late 2011. At that time, Lorraine Blotevogel was president of Ladies Aid, Shirley Mueller, president of LWML. The Mission Statement of the SID LWML was adopted - The Mission of the Southern Illinois District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to encourage each woman in the district to grow spiritually and to use her God-given gifts to praise God and serve people. The Ladies Aid/LWML meetings continued bimonthly with Bible study and reports on local and outside mission projects.

Now in 2025, Lutheran Women in Mission (our official name) is beginning to grow in size and purpose. We have continued our bimonthly meetings, complete with Bible study and fellowship, and education about the many mission opportunities throughout the organization. We have determined to support these projects through our mite ingatherings held 2-3 times per year. We encourage all in our congregation to get involved and give from their hearts when it comes to serving the Lord with gladness, putting others before self and experiencing the joy in giving from the heart. We serve our local community by volunteering where we can, including holding a tea party for residents of Glenwood Assisted Living two times per year.

Like our ancestors before us, we desire to be involved with the spread of the Gospel by supporting mission projects throughout the earth, going to the Lord in prayer and the study of His Word.

Won't you join us?

-Sue Miller, Zion LWML

*Another interesting side note is that you can see a depiction of Melba DeVries' family farm on the new mural on Main Street at Blackbird Bakery.

The Annual Sausage Supper

Sponsored by the Men's Club and the Ladies' Aid, the Sausage Supper represents weeks of work by members of the entire congregation. And it's always a popular event. Former members, community leaders, members of other congregations, and even federal-level politicians attend.



Above photo is from page 24 of the 1997 booklet "1847-1997 Zion Lutheran Church
Staunton, Illinois 150 Years of Continued Commitment to Christ".



Zion Ladies Aid "Members photographed in 1995 on the church steps."



"Above: In 1959 the Ladies' Aid Mother/Daughter Banquet was truly a festive event. Members and their guests dress in period attire in observation of the congregation's Centennial"

The two photos on this page are from the 1997 booklet "1847-1997 Zion Lutheran Church Staunton, Illinois 150 Years of Continued Commitment to Christ".

Ladies Aid 1972-2025

Written by Gladys Bruhn

I joined Ladies Aid 50 plus years ago when my youngest daughter's class had to sing for a Ladies Aid Birthday Potluck. My friend twisted my arm, so I joined at that time. There was a Birthday Potluck in March and October. In March the members with birthdays from July through December would have to bring the food. Then in October the members with birthdays January through June would bring the food. We also had a Mother-Daughter Banquet in May. Food would be brought by a member and they would bring enough for the guest. When there wasn't enough food, then it was catered. It quit in the 1990's.

Norman Henke and Zelda Zuber were co-chairmans of the Sausage Supper. When Zelda quit, Melba DeVries and I did it. When Melba quit, Shirley Mueller and I did it. When Shirley quit, Arlene Isenberg and I were in charge. Somewhere in that time schedule, Norman Henke quit and turned it over to Gene Reed and Roger Leetham. I quit after 35 years, and Arlene Isenberg did it by herself. At the present, it is Tim Seelbach and Georgia Henke.

The Ladies Aid did many repairs around the church and school. We replaced the curbing on Henry Street, and put in a lift going downstairs in the Parish Center. Ladies Aid paid 1/3 of the cost of security, flooring in the school basement, and railing along the ramp to the Parish Center.

The Ladies Aid also had a Fall-Christmas Bazaar. Everyone donated items to sell. We also had the woven rugs to sell. Members would come weekly to make items to sell.

About 10 years ago, 2 members of LWML came to Ladies Aid and asked if LWML could join Ladies Aid and have meetings together. Since then, we have been together, and it has worked good. We have the Ladies Aid business meeting and then LWML highlights, and then we all join in for the Bible Study. We could use more members. Any female can join at any time. Just come to our meetings at any time, which are posted in the bulletin several weeks before the meeting. I have met many friends and it was a joy to help out with the projects. The present officers are: Gladys Bruhn-President, Shirley Mueller-Vice President, Jan Johnson-Secretary, and Cheryl Moore-Treasurer. Sue Miller is head of LWML.



"The church's largest and most active organization, the Ladies Aid boasted well over 100 members during the 1930's. Photo & commentary is from the "Zion Lutheran Church Staunton, Illinois 125 years 1847-1972 booklet", printed in 1972.

Zion Lutheran Ladies Aid

Without a doubt, many of the fine facilities enjoyed by members of Zion Lutheran Church would not exist, if it were not for the dedicated, hard working Ladies society. Older than the present church building itself, the Ladies Aid was organized back in 1900 with 100 active members. Early records indicate that Justina Lich was one of its early officers, serving as secretary-treasurer in 1902.

The original purpose of the organization may have been to provide Christian Fellowship for the church ladies, but the list of contributions made by this organization indicates that the group soon learned how to combine work with fun. At the time the church was built in 1904, the Ladies Aid paid for the church pews, the altar, the pulpit, the altar covers, plus the carpet and the matting. Four years later, they contributed \$2,300.00 toward the purchase of the church organ.

But this was just the beginning. Through the years, this active organization, with a membership peak of 215 in 1925, has contributed over \$55,000.00 toward church projects. This includes equipment and cash donations when the church was deeply in debt. It does not, however, include the number of hours which the Ladies have always given without charge toward church projects.

Through their efforts, the school basement now boasts a completely remodeled efficient kitchen. From this kitchen have come thousands of delicious church dinners, which have helped pay for the organization's many projects. In earlier years, the ladies provided an annual dinner as part of the school picnic. From 1950-1957, they sponsored an annual Christmas Fair. Then in 1960, they joined forces with the Men's Club in sponsoring the annual Sausage Supper.

In 1951, they began serving the weekly meetings of the Staunton Rotary Club and have continued to do so ever since. In addition, their records show numerous chili suppers, spaghetti dinners, and the serving of many other special dinners for community organizations. Under their direction, the school's hot lunch program was initiated in 1947.

Always working for the church and this school, the ladies have purchased equipment for the school, purchased numerous items for the church, contributed to the upkeep and redecoration of church buildings, and annually been responsible for giving the church a thorough spring house cleaning.

This organization has indeed earned a place of honor in the Zion family.

Present officers are President Judy Sherfy, Vice president Edith Passetti, Financial secretary Ruby Hering, Secretary Lois Stratmann, and Treasurer Zelda Zuber.



The most recent project of the Ladies Aid has been the renovation of the kitchen in the school basement.

Above: Photo & commentary is from the "Zion Lutheran Church Staunton, Illinois 125 years 1847-1972 booklet", printed in 1972.

Photos from the 1986 Church Directory



Men's Club



Lutheran Women's Missionary League



Zion Dartball Team



Ladies Aid



Ladies Aid

Photos from the 1994 Church Directory



LWML



Dartball Champs



Men's Club



Photos from the 2004 Directory



July 2025

Zion Lutheran Church Calendar

And he answering said, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself

Luke 10:27



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	National Youth Gathering July 17-24		9-12 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood/Pr. Phil 6 Midweek Alternate Worship	8:30 Adult Bible Study 10 His Service 6:30 Trustees 7:30 Men's Club	Church Office is Closed Today Happy 4 th of July! 🇺🇸	9-12 Reserved for a funeral 5pm Divine Service
6	7	8	9	Church Office Closed 10	Church Office Closed 11	12
8 & 10:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School Hour No Children's Lessons Today	11-12 His Service Station DQ Night F.R.	6:30 Elders' Meeting	9-12 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood 6p Midweek Bible Study El Indio F.R.	8:30 Adult Bible Study 10 His Service		5pm Divine Service
One Service Only Today 13	14	15	16	LCMS National 17	Youth Gathering 18	Through the 24 th 19
10am Annual Outdoor Service on the front lawn of the school (weather permitting). Following the service we will have a potluck lunch in the school gym.	11-12 His Service Station 6:30 School Board	4:30 Stewardship Meeting	9-12 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood/Pr. Phil 2:30 Staunton Health Rehab 6p Midweek Bible Study Little Italy's F.R.	8:30 Adult Bible Study 10 His Service 6pm Parish Ed Gathering Begins!		5pm Divine Service
Gathering 20	Gathering 21	Gathering 22	Gathering 23	Last Day of Gathering 24	25	26
8 & 10:30 Divine Service @10:30 Recognition of Ladies Aid/LWML/Men's Club Anniversaries 9:30 Sunday School Hour	11-12 His Service Station 6p Evangelism Meeting		9-12 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood 6p Midweek Bible Study	8:30 Adult Bible Study 10 His Service 1pm Ladies Aid/LWML Last Day of Gathering!		5pm Divine Service
27	28	29	30	31	August 1	2
8 & 10:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School Hour	11-12 His Service Station	6:30 Council Mtg	9-12 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood/Pr. Kraemer 6p Midweek Bible Study	8:30 Adult Bible Study 10 His Service	Fall Family Campout at Rustic Acres Begins	5pm Divine Service Family Campout continues to Sunday

