



1175 Birney Lane • Cincinnati, OH 45230 • (513) 231-2253 • [www.zionlc.org](http://www.zionlc.org)  
**Facebook:** @ZionLutheranChurchCincinnati • **Instagram:** zionlc\_cincinnati  
Jason Hoerth, *Pastor*: [jhoerth@zionlc.org](mailto:jhoerth@zionlc.org) • Office: [office@zionlc.org](mailto:office@zionlc.org)  
Chris Graves, *Children, Youth*: [cgraves@zionlc.org](mailto:cgraves@zionlc.org) • **Prayer Chain**: [prayer@zionlc.org](mailto:prayer@zionlc.org)  
Julia Witt, *Deaconess Intern*: [jwitt@zionlc.org](mailto:jwitt@zionlc.org) • **PR**: [announcements@zionlc.org](mailto:announcements@zionlc.org)  
Nancy Shaffer, *Business Manager*: [business.manager@zionlc.org](mailto:business.manager@zionlc.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS – January 11, 2026

### This Week at Zion

#### **Sunday, January 11 – The Baptism of Our Lord**

8:30 a.m. Classic Worship – Sanctuary

9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Youth and Adult Bible Study

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship – MMC / with communion

#### **Monday (1/12)**

*[For college students, who are struggling with many different issues and challenges.]*

#### **Tuesday (1/13)**

*[For the aged, that they would be godly examples to the young.]*

10:00 a.m. Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

6:45 p.m. Men's Tuesday Night Bible Study

#### **Wednesday (1/14)**

*[That God would strengthen our hope and impact by encouraging partnerships in the Gospel.]*

9:00 a.m. Forest-Aires

#### **Thursday (1/15)**

*[For the Synod's 35 districts, that they might have the resources and wisdom to effectively reach out to their communities.]*

7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

#### **Friday (1/16)**

*[For strong districts, congregations, and RSO's.]*

#### **Saturday (1/17)**

*[For all missionaries around the world.]*

#### **Sunday, January 18 – Second Sunday after Epiphany**

8:30 a.m. Classic Worship – Sanctuary / with communion

9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Youth and Adult Bible Study

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship – MMC

### Happy Birthday!

### From The 66...

#### **Matthew 3:15**

**“But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’”**

The reason God sent His Son into the world is to fulfill all righteousness for us, to do what we could not do. Here, Jesus plunges Himself into our sins and soaks them up in His Baptism, so that in our Baptism we might be cleansed and renewed. The whole of Jesus' life, everything He did and said, was one great offering to the Father in our stead to fulfill all righteousness for us.

### & the book of numbers.

#### LAST WEEK:

##### **God's People Assembled: (as of 1/4/2026)**

Worship: Classic - 8:30 am: 91

Worship: Contemporary - 11:00 am: 114

Facebook & Instagram: [www.zionlc.org](http://www.zionlc.org) (Worship Tab)

Children's Church Total: 19

Christian Education Youth: 25

Adults: 40

##### **God's People Give with Treasure (as of 1/4/2026)**

Offering: \$5,407.00

##### **God's People's Response through November 2025:**

Giving: \$530,879 Expenses: \$463,947

Budget: \$508,685

To hit stewardship forecast for 2025: \$11,561/ week

For ways to contribute please go to our website [www.zionlc.org](http://www.zionlc.org) and look under the “Give” tab.

Thank you for your continued support!

### Happy Anniversary!

For the safety of our members and friends we have blocked out this section. If you'd like a copy in full, please contact Zion, [office@zionlc.org](mailto:office@zionlc.org). Thanks!

# Looking Ahead. Giving Back. Noting an Opportunity.

Our staffed **Nursery** is for children ages 3 and under. The nursery is downstairs in the children's ministry area. Parents are welcome to keep their kids in the service, but if they have the wiggles, the nursery is for you. Would you like to help out in the nursery? If you would like to be on the sub list, contact Carolyn Remmele ([carolyn.remmele@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.remmele@gmail.com)).

**Red Letter Challenge (RLC)** – SERVING challenge 2026 – **Started January 4, 2026**. In the near past we highlighted the Red Letter Challenge, the red letters of Jesus, through a 40-day devotion and sermon series. *Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, Going*. In 2023, we talked about BEING. 2024 - FORGIVING. In 2026, we are going to drill down into the SERVING challenge. In it we will be discovering 5 aspects of serving like Jesus. Such aspects come from a response to Jesus' grace to us and the joy we have in following Him. Books are in the atrium. If we need more, let PJ know. Questions about the series, ask PJ. Ask Julia about missional community connections/ possibilities and Chris about involving the children and youth.

**New Member Class** -- A new class will meet started on Jan. 4, 2026, 9:45 a.m., in rooms 1,2,3. Any ?'s contact PJ ([ihoerth@zionlc.org](mailto:ihoerth@zionlc.org)) Not too late to join or have a refresher!

**Provoking Proverbs** – Get ready to be poked and provoked! In our upcoming Sunday morning Bible study, we will be looking at the book of Proverbs through the lens of the Ten Commandments using Rev. David Coe's book "Provoking Proverbs", and will learn to fear, love, and trust in God because he first forgives, loves, and treasures us.

**Portals of Prayer** – January – March 2026 - Available on the *Information Table*.

**Community Service Day** -- Serve Christ and our community with fellow congregation members as we work with local organizations to complete three different service projects on **Saturday, January 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Register using the following link: <https://forms.gle/XSvCpEF4MRhQDn5UA> OR there is a QR code on the *Missional Communities Board* in the atrium OR there is a sign-up sheet on the same board (put in Julia's church mailbox). Thanks!

**Youth Notes** — Save the dates: **Youth Lock-in** – January 30, **Spaghetti Dinner** – February 14, **OH District Jr. High Youth Gathering** – March 13-15 (watch for registration info soon!) **\*\*Camp Restore Detroit** servant event – June 21-27 – Additional details TBA. **Please RSVP for all events**. Contact Chris Graves with questions and RSVPs.

**Appalachian Mission Trip** – **July 27-31<sup>st</sup>** we will be returning to Appalachia with Thirst Missions for mission trip. Please fill out the following form if you are interested in serving: <https://forms.gle/zbK53Fnui3jwSXgT9>. Reach out to Julia with any questions.

The online flower chart for 2026 is now ready to access. Here is the link to use:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040548A5AA2FA6FC1-61293095-2026> Just be sure to click on the chart for 2026. You can also sign up using the paper flower chart. Thank you to all who donate flowers to glorify God's Altar.

**Giving Tree/ Maddux School Support** – Thank you for all your generosity in giving to support A Caring Place. Please consider bringing in juice boxes. Thank you again for your wonderful support.

**Sign In instruction for accessing "Member" information** on our Zion Church Website are located on the Information Table in the Atrium. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Shaffer, Zion Business Manager at [Businessmanager@zionlc.org](mailto:Businessmanager@zionlc.org) or 513-231-2253.

**Zion Photo Updates** -- Everyone loves to put a face with a name. Please, if you'd like, update your profile picture in the "Member's" directory on the Website. All you need to do is click on the gray profile icon...click "Choose File" to upload the image. After selecting a photo, click "Accept". If you have any questions or need any help, contact Nancy Shaffer at 513-231-2253 or [Businessmanager@zionlc.org](mailto:Businessmanager@zionlc.org).

**Worship Bags** — We have "quiet" bags for kids ages 0-10. They are planned for different age groups: 0-3, 4-6, and 7-10. The materials are intended to help kids grow spiritually: coloring and activity books about Bible stories, white board for taking sermon notes or illustrating one of the Bible readings, Bible story books to read, etc. Feel free to use them if they will help to keep your child engaged during the worship service. When the service is over, just put the contents back in the bag and put it back on the rack. The rack is located in the atrium between the sanctuary and the MMC, near the kids' table.

**Flowers given for the Glory of God** are provided by Dan and Mary Duncan, In Celebration of Their Wedding Anniversary.  
If you happen to have a building-related issue, please contact: Ed Plourde

# Praying. Asking. Seeking. Knocking.

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING; JOYS IN GOD'S +WORK AND WILL

We pray for...

- **The Red Letter Challenge – *Serving Challenge*** – Its work in our midst.
- **Gratitude shown through stewardship** – financial, relational, physical, and spiritual.
- **Teachers, students, aides, helpers, leadership in local schools; colleges and universities.** May they learn Your world, Lord. May they also find ways – be given ways – to learn of You and Your love for them in Christ.
- **Medical and first responders** – all in our communities who make it work and thrive. **Those who protect and serve** in our lives (governmental, law enforcement, military, many more). For officers mourning the recent loss of one of their own and for peace for our community.
- **Madalyn Graves and David Colson's engagement! Josh Cooper and Tina Vance's engagement!**
- **The mission of St. John Lutheran, Aurora, IN**

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS / PETITIONS

We pray for...

- **Those that are lost & separated from God's loving embrace. The forgotten, pushed aside, and marginalized.**
- **Those affected by natural and man-made disasters.** God, grant peace & resources they need for body/ soul.
- Relief of pain, strength, and healing for **Dick Gaughan, Linda Berlier, Laura Mikow, Bill Spies, and Linda Jenkins and other family/ friends** in need of healing.
- **Those in Care Centers/ Those at Home:** Debbie Rose Howard, Janet Brunner, Vera Zimmerman, Anna Moynahan, Ty and Michele Arendall, Bob and Sharon Ruppel, Vida Musselman, Doris Motley, and Jody Wiebe.
- **The Siegel Family (Bill died 1-6-26) and all families walking through the valley of death's shadow.** Comfort and strength in the Resurrection.
- **Opportunities to grow in God's Word.**

## Telling the Stories

**The Red Letter Challenge – *Serving Challenge* started on January 4<sup>th</sup>! It's not too late to jump in. How?**

- 1) Just start reading the sections now, starting at the Intro on pg. 6. Yes, you'll be a little behind, but finishing it should be the goal. This way you can read and digest. It's not too late to start!
- 2) Jump into the schedule and swing back around for the early parts after the series. You've only missed the intro week. Go for it. If you open to the "Table of Contents" page in the book, you'll see the readings ahead. If you'd like to stay in step with the sermons as they are given, then here's how you start:

1-11-26 - sermon on Attitude - Attitude section 1, Day 6, pg. 46  
1-12-26 - Attitude section 2, day 7, pg. 52  
1-13-26 - Attitude section 3, day 8, pg. 58  
1-14-26 - Attitude section 4, day 9, pg. 62  
1-15-26 - Attitude section 5, day 10, pg. 66  
1-16-26 - Attitude section 6, day 11, pg. 70  
1-17-26 - Attitude section 7, day 12, pg. 76  
1-18-26 - sermon on Availability - Availability section 1, day 13, pg. 84  
etc.  
2-15-26 - Message on Conclusion, Day 41, the Final Challenge, pg. 230

Grab a book. Join the journey. Any questions, please let me know. If we run out of books, let me know.  
-PJ

## Devoting Ourselves to the Word

*"He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."* -Psalm 121:3-4

I love to sleep. The rest of the church staff could tell you that I am not a morning person, though I would not call myself much of a night owl either. There are few things in my daily life that feel better than putting on my pajamas, making a cup of herbal tea, and curling up in bed with my snuggly dog at the end of the day. The more sleep I get, the better I feel the next day.

Unfortunately, I rarely get as much sleep as I want, and I am not alone in this. According to Healthy People 2030, about 1 in 3 adults do not get enough sleep, and these numbers are even worse for adolescents. Lack of sleep is linked with a wide variety of health issues, trouble at work, and increased motor vehicle accidents. When people do not get enough sleep, bad things happen.

Thank goodness God does not need to sleep. He watches over us and protects us whether we are awake or asleep. In our tired moments and in the rare times we are fully awake, he loves and cares for us.

- Julia Witt

## Letting the Little Ones Come to God (Draw us something)!

Drawing Prompt: What does God's house look like at Christmas?