

## January Disciples in Action

### 7<sup>th</sup> – Baptism of our Lord (white)

**Reader:** Cynthia Mills  
**Flowers:** June Almond  
**Communion Assistant:** ?  
**Communion Prep:** Bonnie Smith

### 14<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany (green)

**Reader:** Kyle Manus  
**Flowers:** June Almond

### 21<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany (green)

**Reader:** Cindy Misenheimer  
**Flowers:** June Almond  
**Communion Assistant:** Cindy Misenheimer  
**Communion Prep:** Cindy Misenheimer

### 28<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany (green)

**Reader:** Libby Palmer  
**Flowers:** June Almond

**Lawn Care:** Mike Misenheimer  
**Sign Changes:** Terry Almond  
**Fold Bulletins:** Mary & Brad Cress  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Angie Lefler, Ruby Poplin  
Bonnie Smith, Carolyn Thompson

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Church - 463-7280

## ***Mt. Zion Lutheran Church***

### ***January 2018 – Glad Tidings***

\*\*To submit articles to the newsletter contact Pastor Ruth Ann or Chrissy Chandler or leave them in the mailbox outside the Pastor's office. All submissions must be in by the Friday before the last Sunday of the month.\*\*

➤ SCCM item for DECEMBER: CANNED VEGETABLES

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

7 – Ivan & Tara Barajas – 10

### **BIRTHDAYS:**

1 – Beth Huber  
5 – Colby Crawford  
Carl Huneycutt  
6 – Micheal Chandler  
8 – Bart Huber  
David Poplin  
Cynthia Mills  
10 – Emily Misenheimer  
11 – Tony Wagoner  
14 – Chrissy Chandler  
16 – Brenda Barringer  
20 – Kevin Parker  
24 – Pastor Ruth Ann Sipe  
25 – Ashley Manus  
29 – Andrew Misenheimer

**Do you know someone we should thank,  
congratulate, or offer our sympathy?  
Please tell Chrissy Chandler or Pastor Ruth Ann,  
because we don't want to overlook anyone!**

## Thanks to:

- + to **Angie Lefler** who led Midweek Prayer while Pastor Ruth Ann was on vacation.
- + to **Cynthia Mills** for organizing our **Helping Hands** project again this year, and to **everyone** who 'adopted' ten local children in need.
- + to **Angie Robertson and Alexandra Cabus** and Thrivent Financial for the Soles to Souls Action Team Grant to purchase shoes for all the children we adopted.
- + to **everyone** who donated for Christmas cards to **Heifer International** in memory of Patsy Johnson.
- + to **Peggy Roseman and her family** who hosted our carolers on December 17.
- + to **Connie Gordon, Emily Misenheimer, Libby Palmer, Peggy Roseman, and others** who helped the children prepare for their Christmas program.
- + to **all the children and their families** who lit our Advent candles during worship.
- + to **Marilyn Robertson and everyone** who helped with the fellowship following our Christmas Eve candlelight service.
- + to **everyone** who helped to decorate our sanctuary, fellowship hall, and grounds for Christmas – and then helped pack up those decorations for next year!
- + to **everyone** who helped us welcome the **Sharehouse Confirmation Cooperative!**

## Welcome...

- + to **Tonia, Dwayne, Cobrin, Mollie, and Milas Icenhour** who recently joined the congregation, and especially to Milas who was baptized!

## Congratulations...

- + to **Taylor Chandler** on making Yadkin Valley 1-A All Conference for Defensive Lineman, SNAP All-County Defensive Football team, and being awarded the MVP for the 2017 season at the NS Football banquet

## Council Highlights:

During the regular December meeting, the congregation council:

- + Reviewed minutes from the regular November council meeting.
- + Received the treasurer's report for November.
- + Received the pastor's report including prayer concerns, thanks, and upcoming events.
- + Reviewed the proposed calendars for January and February.
- + Elected 2018 council officers.
- + Discussed the results of the recent survey about worship time and how to proceed since the results were evenly split.
- + Discussed again the new procedure for ordering altar flowers.
- + Noted a continuing increase in donations to the building fund, rather than the general fund.
- + Requested that everyone unplug the coffee pots after using them, because one was left turned on recently.
- + Requested that everyone talk with Pastor Ruth Ann before storing items in the copier/computer room.

## Financial Update for November 2017:

Annual Budget	\$ 112,300.00
November Regular Giving	7,563.54
October Actual Expenses	<u>(10,407.66)</u>
	\$ (2,844.12)
YTD Surplus	\$ 1,987.07

During the **Annual Congregational Meeting** on December 3, the proposed budget for 2018 was approved, **Terry Almond, Brad Cress,** and **Bryan Smith** were elected to council, and **Terry Almond** and **Robert Wilson** were elected as trust fund trustees.

During the December Congregation Council meeting, 2018 council officers were elected: **Kyle Manus**, Chair; **Sherry Donaldson**, Vice-Chair; **Chrissy Chandler**, Secretary; and **Marilyn Robertson**, Treasurer.

## Other Updates:

**Kids Celebrate** children's bulletins, **ELCA Prayer Ventures** for January, and **Christ in Our Home** devotionals for October, November, and December are all available in the narthex.

*If you have not received your 2018 offering envelopes or your Christmas cards, please pick them up from the front pew.*

We will receive a special **Second Sunday Offering** on January 14th for the Building Fund.

*Please give information for the February Glad Tidings newsletter to Chrissy Chandler or Pastor Ruth Ann by Friday, January 26th.*



The congregational council recently approved a recommendation from the Worship & Music Committee concerning altar flowers. As a result, the altar vase liners have been taken to the Butterfly

Cottage and they are aware of our normal needs. They will provide and deliver arrangements and bill the church. *If you have signed up to provide altar flowers, you may contact the Butterfly Cottage directly to make special requests.* The cost of a pair of arrangements, normally used for a month, is \$64.05, including tax. Please make your payment directly to the church, using a special offering envelope marked 'Flowers.' *Please talk with Cindy Misenheimer or Pastor Ruth Ann if you have questions!*

**Ask the Pastor will return.**  
*Please share your questions  
with Pastor Ruth Ann  
so they can be answered here.*



## January Events:

**Midweek Prayer** begins each Wednesday at noon. We gather to pray for all those on our prayer list and everyone in the congregation by name. *Even if you can't be here, please join us in prayer at 12:12 p.m., remembering Romans 12:12: Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Bring a bag lunch and stay for a time of fellowship!*



We will be hosting the **Sharehouse Confirmation Cooperative** on Saturday morning, January 6.

Members of Mt. Zion will provide the evening meal for **Community Inn** on January 7.

**Volunteers are needed** to take down the outdoor nativity, Monday, January 8 at 4:00 p.m. *Talk with Jim Barringer if you can help.*



will meet Monday, January 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

**A new four-session bible study on Jonah will begin January 9 & 10.** It is so much more than a fish story! We meet here on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday afternoons at 12:45 p.m. after Midweek Prayer. There will be another session Tuesday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's. *Please make plans to join us for one of these opportunities to study the word together!*

**Handbells** will rehearse on Wednesday night, January 24 at 5:30 p.m. **Choir** will practice Wednesdays January 10 and 24 at 6:00 p.m.



**Worship & Music Committee** will meet Thursday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m.

**Congregation council** will meet Sunday morning January 14. Breakfast begins at 7:00 a.m. and the meeting begins at 7:30 a.m.

The **trust fund trustees** will meet following worship on Sunday, January 14.

**The Committee to Appoint Committees** will meet on Wednesday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m.

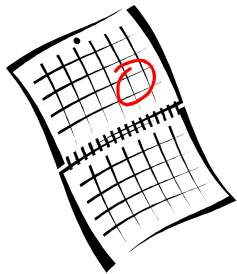


**Thanks to all our Thrivent members who have used Action Team Grants during the past year!**

We want to encourage others to use these \$250 grants to help with special projects and events here in the congregation and the local community! **Thrivent benefit members are eligible** to organize two Action Teams per year and the possibilities are amazing!! *Talk with Pastor Ruth Ann, another Thrivent member, or visit [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) for more information.*

*If you used Action Team Grants last year, please let Pastor Ruth Ann know, as we would like to compile a list of the projects we have accomplished with these grants.*

### Coming Events – Mark your calendar now!



There is a **Souper Bowl of Caring** lunch being planned for February 4 following worship to benefit our **Backpack Buddies** program at North Stanly Middle School. *Please look for information on backpack programs in the bulletin in coming weeks and plan to join us for lunch and support this important project!*

**Lent is coming soon!** Our annual **Shrove Tuesday** (Mardi Gras) Pancake Supper is planned for February 13 and **Ash Wednesday** is February 14. *Please plan to join us for fun, food, and fellowship on February 13 and the beginning of our Lenten worship on February 14.* More information on weekly Lenten services will be available soon.

The annual **Stanly County Habitat for Humanity BBQ** will be held Thursday, February 22.

### God's Work Our Hands Update

We continue to support many ministries through our donations of everything from quarters to rags! *Check out the jars, boxes, and baskets in the fellowship hall and narthex to see the ministries we support.* As always, there are many ways we can serve our own congregation and the community beyond our walls. Here are just a few of the current opportunities:

**Our next Backpack Buddies delivery** to North Stanly Middle School of the 2017-18 school year will be January 12. *Please talk with Emily Misenheimer if you can help!*



Thanks for your ongoing support of **Stanly Community Christian Ministry!** We recently received a new list of requested items for the Food Pantry. A suggestion for each month appears in our bulletin. The list came with a challenge: **If each member of all the churches in the county donated just one item every month, the pantry shelves would never be bare.** *Let's do our part to help make this a reality and keep the shelves filled! If you have questions about this important ministry in our community, talk with Cynthia Mills, who has been volunteering there!*

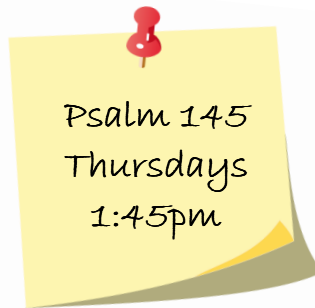


**Share the Love!** You can help support the work of **Crisis Assistance Fund** by sending a special Valentine! Cards are available for a minimum donation of \$5 each. *Talk with Pastor Ruth Ann for more information.*

Our next **Give and Take Event** is planned for Saturday, February 10. *You can bring items to donate now and place them in the classroom next to the computer room.*

We recently learned that **St. Jude's Ranch for Children is NO LONGER ACCEPTING used greeting cards.** *Please do NOT bring additional cards to church* – unless we can find other ways to repurpose or reuse these cards.

## Prayer for our Community



We have been invited to join our sisters and brothers in Christ, in the North Stanly UMC Missional Network, in a season of deep and intentional prayer for our community to ask how God is calling us to meet the needs of our neighbors, to love the least and the lost, and to make disciples for the transformation of Northern Stanly County.

*Please stop to meditate, reflect, or pray with Psalm 145 at 1:45 p.m. or any time on Thursdays.*

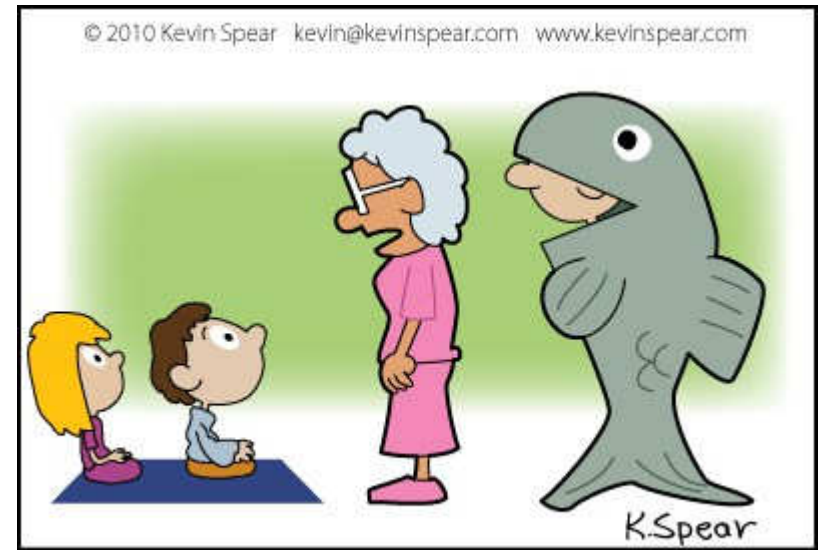
## New Office Hours

Pastor Ruth Ann is normally in the church office Wednesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and Friday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. *Please stop by during those hours with any concerns or just to chat.*

You can also reach Pastor Ruth Ann on her cell phone: 704/322-0660 or by e-mail: [pastor@mtzionrichfield.org](mailto:pastor@mtzionrichfield.org) or. *If you would like a visit, or know someone who should be visited, please let her know.*

## On the bulletin board:

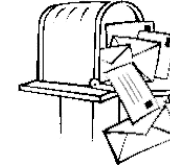
Stop by to read Christmas cards from Bridge to Recovery, the Richfield Civitans Club, Pastor Maurice Staley, and Sharon & Martin Stefani!



"Mr. Myers is going to help me tell the story of Jonah."

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## FROM THE MAILBOX



*Dear Mt. Zion,  
Thank you for hosting Christ the King Christian Academy. The annual Christmas program was meaningful and successful with your help. Your open doors were very much appreciated.*

*Angie Robertson*

## From the Pastor:

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone...*

Those haunting opening words from this traditional Christmas carol seem fitting right now as we have been enduring unusually cold weather. But the final verse of *In the Bleak Midwinter* suits us well too, as this Christmas season draws to a close:

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him—give my heart.*

(**Evangelical Lutheran Worship** # 294)  
Written by Christina Georgina Rossetti

I'm especially grateful at this time of the year for the generosity of this congregation. From bingo prizes to gifts for children in need, from financial support that comes in the form of spare quarters or sizeable checks, this is a generous congregation whose members have clearly given their hearts to Christ.

I have gratefully watched that generosity at work time and time again in the past, and I got to see it at work again today! I put out a simple request last week for help hosting the local confirmation group – the **Sharehouse Confirmation Cooperative** – which now includes about twenty confirmation students from four churches.

It was our turn to host and we needed to provide refreshments for a light breakfast. This morning we had biscuits and sausage balls, muffins and crullers and fruit, to go with milk and juice and coffee and hot chocolate – all graciously provided by members of Mt. Zion.

Wish you could all have seen those twenty-plus middle school students as they enjoyed a bountiful breakfast throughout our morning together. Thanks to all of you who shared generously today!

*If you would like to see just a bit of our study of the Ten Commandments, or their recent Campfirmation weekend at Lutheridge, visit the fellowship hall this week and check out the photos and other items on the two bulletin boards!*

## From the Pastor (continued)

Some of you may have noticed that our confirmation students, Cobrin and Mollie Icenhour, along with their mother Tonia, have been completing forms during worship services. Each of the students has been asked to complete at least one worship report form per month – and Tonia has been participating as well.

I encourage you all to participate during the season of Epiphany. *From now until Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, pick a Sunday and fill out one of these reports of your own.* I'd be delighted to learn more about your thoughts and questions about worship by reading your reports!

To make this easy, there is a worship report form included in this newsletter. There are also more report forms in a file folder in the narthex in case you need another.

Think of this as another way to joyfully give your heart to Christ – to think about worship in a new way and to share this experience with these two confirmation students!

*I trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.  
I will sing to the LORD,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.*  
Psalm 13:5-6

With a joyful heart,  
+ *Pastor Ruth Ann*

*Thank  
You*

Thank you to everyone who contributed to my very generous Christmas gift. I continue to be profoundly grateful to each of you for your support, love, and prayers, not just at Christmas, but all throughout the year!

I pray that you all will experience the love, light, and life of Christ this Epiphany season!

*Pastor Ruth Ann*

# Mt. Zion

# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Notes:</b> <b>Next Backpack Buddies delivery will be March 16</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 3:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours <i>~ Bold Like Jesus Event at</i>	<b>3</b> 8:30 am Confirmation Cooperative <i>St. John/Salisbury ~</i>
<b>4 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</b> 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship w/ Holy Communion Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch 6:30 pm Community Inn Meal	<b>5</b> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	<b>6</b> Outside Office Hours 7:00 pm Bible Study  <i>~ ~ Pastor Ruth Ann on</i>	<b>7</b> 10:00 am Pastor's Office Hours 12:00 noon Midweek Prayer 1:00 pm Bible Study <i>vacation (Tuesday through</i>	<b>8</b> <i>Thursday) ~ ~</i>	<b>9</b> 3:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours  <i>2018 Yearbook Information Due</i>	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Transfiguration of our Lord</b> 7:00 am Council Breakfast 7:30 am Council Meeting 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion  <b>Second Sunday Building Fund Offering</b>	<b>12</b> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>  7:30 pm WELCA	<b>13 Shrove Tuesday</b> Outside Office Hours NO Bible Study 6:00 pm Pancake Supper	<b>14 Ash Wednesday</b> 10:00 am Pastor's Office Hours 12:00 noon Midweek Prayer NO Bible Study 5:30 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Worship Service	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 3:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours	<b>17</b>
<b>18 First Sunday in Lent</b> 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion Lenten Supper Lenten Service	<b>19</b> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	<b>20</b> Outside Office Hours 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study	<b>21</b> 10:00 am Pastor's Office Hours 12:00 noon Midweek Prayer 1:00 pm Lenten Bible Study 7:00 pm Pastor's Support Committee	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 3:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours  <i>March Newsletter Information Due</i>	<b>24</b>
<b>25 Second Sunday in Lent</b> 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service Lenten Supper Lenten Service	<b>26</b> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	<b>27</b> Outside Office Hours 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study	<b>28</b> 10:00 am Pastor's Office Hours 12:00 noon Midweek Prayer 1:00 pm Lenten Bible Study 5:30 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Civitans Bd Mtg	<b>Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on March 25                      Easter Sunday is April 1</b>		



# Worship Report

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As I begin worship today, I feel

*terrific*      *terrible*      *happy*      *sad*      *blah*      *other:* \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one, please)

Sunday of the Church Year \_\_\_\_\_  
(i.e. The 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

Liturgical Color of the Day \_\_\_\_\_  
(Hint: Look at the paraments hanging from the altar, or the pastor's stole)

What was one of the lessons or hymns you heard today?

\_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe what it was about:

State in your own words the message of the sermon:

What question(s) do you have about today's service?

Name one thing **we** prayed for today: \_\_\_\_\_

Name one thing **you** prayed for today: \_\_\_\_\_

As I leave worship today, I feel:

*terrific*      *terrible*      *happy*      *sad*      *blah*      *other:* \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one, please)