



Zion Lutheran Church

The Messenger

December 2024

A Message from the Zion Lutheran Council President :

Now that we have eaten the last of the turkey leftovers and the binge-watching of football, it is time to contemplate the arrival of Advent and the coming of Christmas. Advent is the season to prepare for the gift of the Christ child and there is much for Zion to consider. Certainly the news we received from the developer that they would not be submitting our proposal for the Affordable Housing project this year was disappointing and disheartening. However, there are other alternatives to the original housing project and our project manager, Bonnie Nussbaum, along with Carrie Sanders, an outside consultant in this field, continue to work with us to discern in what direction we will move forward with both the housing project and with the church itself.

We need to remember that Zion has a great deal for which we should be thankful. We have a beautiful church building and wonderful people who enjoy worship and fellowship each week as a community of faith. It is that faith which has enabled the congregation to weather adversity in the past and which will enable us to do so again. As we celebrate the gift of the Christ child, born in a lowly manger in Bethlehem so long ago, let us gift one another with joy and love. Reaching out in love will also be a gift to the community as we invite the neighborhood to share advent meals with us on Dec. 4, Dec. 11 and Dec. 18. We again will feature our giving trees that enable us to provide necessary care items for those in need in the greater Appleton community and also to make donations for needs of the church. It is by giving that we receive the greatest blessings.

Just as the Christ child brought light into a dark world, let Zion continue to be a shining light to our neighbors bringing love and Christmas joy to all. "They will know we are Christians by our love".

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



The Vicar's Views



Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” –1 John 3:18

For 50 years we have joined together as Lutherans to address the root causes of hunger and poverty around the world through ELCA World Hunger. Part of our church’s long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God’s promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. In 2024 we are commemorating the 50th anniversary of this ministry.

Zion Lutheran Church has participated in this effort through relief support on a global, national and local level. Your generous donations over the years have made a difference as we continue to confront not only world hunger but also local hunger.

You have responded generously with food donations for our Blessing Box and you now have an opportunity to select a few ornaments from “The Giving Tree” in the back of the sanctuary and bring those food items to the tree during Advent. Special thanks to Stephanie Draheim and her Confirmation class for preparing the ornaments and food requests.

There are also free Advent Study Guides and Calendars in the back of the sanctuary that are provided by the ELCA World Hunger program. Please take one home and make them a part of your Advent Devotions. You can also bring one to a Zion member or neighbor who might benefit from the message in the materials.

At this Advent Season, let us be mindful of those who are less fortunate and reach out in love.

A Blessed Advent and Christmas to you and your family!

Vicar Jake





Zion Lutheran Church

December 2024



Monday, December 9, 2024

Sunday, December 1

Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:1-10

1 Thess 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36

No Choir Rehearsal

Worship Service 9:00 am

followed by

Coffee Hour

Sunday School & Confirmation

Submissions due for January's calendar

First Sunday of Advent

Pastor Karen Jewell

Assisting Minister: Tricia Staedt

Reader: Amanda Kuba

Acolyte: Alexa Rusch

Musician: Jim Schley

Opens: Gwen Schwandt

Closes: Tammy Mossholder

Lights Advent Candles: The Reis Family

Wednesday, December 4

Advent Meal 5:00 pm

Worship Service 6:30 pm

First Week of Advent

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15 pm

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Cantor: Cheryl Meyer

Musician: Heather Watney

Sunday, December 8

Sunday School Pageant

Mal 3:1-4,, Luke 1:68-79

Phil 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

No Choir Rehearsal

Worship Service 9:00 am

Followed by

Coffee Hour

Second Sunday of Advent

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Assisting Minister: Gwen Schwandt

Reader: JoAnn Salm

Acolyte: Lily Gruselle

Musician: Jim Schley

Opens and Closes: Greg Pettigrew

Lights Advent Candles: The Moseng Family

Wednesday, December 11

Advent Meal 5:00 pm

Worship Service 6:30 pm

Second Week of Advent

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15 pm

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Cantor: Cheryl Meyer

Musician: Heather Watney

Sunday, December 15

Zeph 3:14-20, Isa 12:2-6

Phil 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am

Worship Service 9:00 am

followed by

Coffee Hour

Third Sunday of Advent

Baptism of Justin Thomas Webster

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Assisting Minister: Deb Reis

Reader: Wesley Staedt

Acolyte: Charlee Weiland

Musician: Jim Schley

Opens and Closes: Jim Schley

Lights Advent Candles: The Van Bommel Family

Monday, December 16

Wednesday, December 18

Advent Meal 5:00 pm

Worship Service 6:30 pm

Parish Council Meeting 6:30 pm

Third Week of Advent

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Cantor: Cheryl Meyer

Musician: Heather Watney

No Tower RingerZ Rehearsal



Thursday, December 19

Lunch Social 11:30

Sunday, December 22

Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55
Heb 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45[46-55]

No Choir Rehearsal
Worship Service 9:00 am
followed by
Coffee Hour

Third Sunday of Advent

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer
Assisting Minister: Wendy Sachs
Reader: Kyle Moseng
Acolyte: Freya Budde
Musician: Heather Watney
Opens: Gene Wiese
Closes: Tammy Mossholder
Musician: Jim Schley 7:00pm
Lights Advent Candles: The Draheim-Budde Family

Tuesday, December 24

Isa 9:2-7, Ps 96
Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14[15-20]

Worship Service 4:00 pm String Quartet
Worship Service 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve

Office Closed
Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer
Assisting Minister 4:00pm service: Grace Van Eyck
Assisting Minister 6:00pm service: Tommy Meltz
Musician 4:00pm service: Heather Watney
Musician 6:00pm service: Jim Schley
Opens: Gene Wiese
Closes: Jim Schley

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day

Office Closed
No Worship Services

Sunday, December 29

1 Sam 2:18-20, 26; Ps 148
Col 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52

Coffee Hour
No Choir Rehearsal
Worship Service 9:00 am
followed by
Coffee Hour

1st Sunday of Christmas

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer
Assisting Minister: Tommy Meltz
Reader: Jo Schiedermeier
Acolyte:
Musician: Jim Schley
Opens: Greg Pettigrew
Closes: Tammy Mossholder

Office Hours

The office will be closed on Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1

The office hours through December 13th will be:

Monday-Tuesday: 9:30am-2:00pm

Wednesday: Closed

Thursday-Friday: 9:30am-2:00pm

After December 13th the office hours will be:

Monday-Thursday: 9:30am-2:00pm

Friday: Closed

Office Administrator Karen Farlow will be in the office from 9:30am-2:30pm on the following days: Dec. 4, 5, 9, 10, 18, 19, 23, 24



Affordable Housing December Update

Meetings:

November 18, 2024 Development and Planning Team Joint Meeting
November 19, 2024 Plan Appleton Meeting at ThedaCare

Important information:

- Roundtable meeting included updates on the current status with the developers and WHEDA, potential plan B options, progress made by Carrie Sanders on the Zion financial assessment.
- Parsonage was rented and fsm. (Fabricating Something More) moved in on November 1, 2024.
- Zion Place will be undergoing some changes as their current managers are retiring August 2025.
- Bonnie completed the final report for the 2023 Community Vision Fund grant we received. These funds paid for the community assessment and feasibility work done by Generative Local Community Institute (GLCI) and shared in their final report to Zion. It also covered funding Bonnie's position as Project Manager for the bulk of the year.
- Bonnie submitted Zion's application for the upcoming Year-End Matching Gift Campaign sponsored by the Community Foundation.
- Bonnie attended the fourth session of Appleton Town Makers.
- Zion's potential developer has decided not to advance the Zion Affordable Housing project to WHEDA.

Upcoming Meetings: January 21, 2025 Roundtable Meeting

Memorials Gratefully Received

Harvey & Marlene Miller donated in memory of Vivian Schutte for the general fund
JoAnn Salm donated in memory of Vivian Schutte for the general fund
Kandie Wilz donated in honor of Vivian Schutte for the general fund
Roy & Linda Fleischman donated in honor of Vivian Schutte for the general fund



Advent Services and Soup Suppers



Soup suppers will be held starting at 5:00pm prior to our 6:30pm Advent worship services which are held on Wednesdays in December (December 4th, December 11th and December 18th). Please contact Lynn Walter to volunteer for set up, clean up, or dessert for the soup suppers . All are welcome!

Faith Formation Schedule

On December 8th during the 9:00 a.m. worship service, this year's Youth Formation participants will begin the holiday season with their annual Christmas Program. Join Mary as she reflects on the birth of Jesus and what that means for all of us. We hope you will join us!

Sunday, December 15th - No Sunday School. Confirmation Class will be held.
Sunday, December 22nd - Christmas Break - No Sunday School or Confirmation Class.
Sunday, December 29th - Christmas Break - No Sunday School or Confirmation Class
Sunday, January 5th - Epiphany Walk (Special event for Sunday School and Confirmation).
Sunday, January 12th - Sunday School and Confirmation classes resumes as normal
Sunday, March 23rd - No Sunday School or Confirmation classes. Spring Break
Sunday, April 13th - Palm Sunday (Special event for Sunday School and Confirmation classes)
Sunday, April 20th - Easter - No Sunday School or Confirmation classes.
Sunday, May 18th - Confirmation Sunday. Last Day of Sunday School.



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2024

Present: Tammy, Ray, Tom, Kandie, Sue
Absent: Vicar Jake, Karen F, Kyle, Gail



Opening devotion by Ray Pittman at 6:30 PM

Approval of Agenda – Motion made and approved

Approval of September Minutes – Motion made and approved

Administrator’s Report – Reviewed and discussed

Discussion centered on possibly partnering with Linwood Place for lawn care and snow removal services. Unfortunately, theirs is done by volunteers. However, discussed the possibility of working with their director to draft guidelines that can be used at Zion Place. Agreement that we should invite her to attend our November Council meeting.

Vicar Jake’s Report – Reviewed and discussed

Finance: Discussed the value of having a simple balance sheet type of report each month while an in-depth report to be made available to the Finance Committee. Also, need to see a finance report on the Affordable Housing Project.

Music and Worship: Heather Watney has received an estimate from an individual who can provide the equipment and expertise to install the needed upgrade to our sound system which will improve sound quality of our choir, bell choir and certainly our YouTube recording. Motion made and approved to accept the bid for this upgrade to the amount of \$3,500.00. Thank you Heather.

Motion to dismiss at 8:11 PM

Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer

These minutes have not yet been approved.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Bunkert

