



Zion Lutheran Church

# The Messenger

January 2025

## **A Message from the Zion Lutheran Council President :**

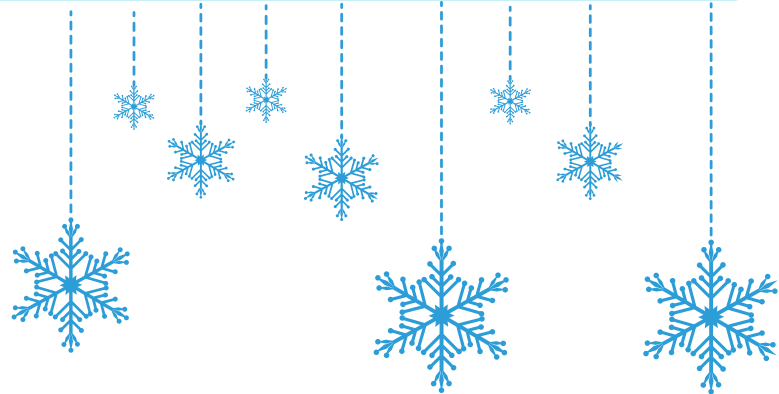
As we turn the calendar to January of a new year, I am reminded of a verse from 2 Corinthians, 5:17, “When anyone is joined to Christ, he is a new being, the old is gone (namely 2024), the new has come” (2025). This verse certainly highlights Zion as we look forward to the new year.

We need to put the “old” behind us, taking satisfaction in many things: welcoming Jake Czarnik-Niemeyer back as our SAM (Synodical Approved Ministry) minister. He became Vicar Jake and we deeply thank him for his continued pastoral leadership; welcoming a number of new members into Zion’s faith community and through the generous donation of Linda Wirtz, an upgraded sound system which enhances our worship experience in the sanctuary as well as for those who watch via U tube. More importantly we need to put aside our disappointments and frustrations such as having the developer with whom we had worked on our Affordable Housing Project declined to submit our project for essential funding.

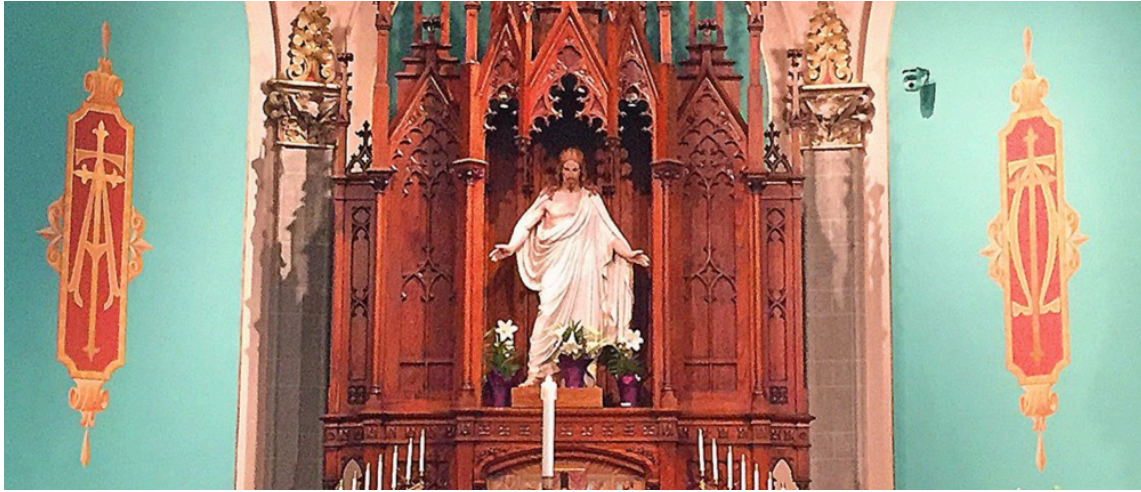
Instead, we need to embrace the “new” for 2025. We will continue to pursue a number of alternatives for bringing the Affordable Housing Project (possibly on a reduced scale) to fruition. At the same time our Call Committee continues to explore the options for calling a new pastor such as sharing clergy with another faith community. There will be much hard work ahead of us as we develop a plan for when Appleton Bilingual School leaves in August. While the loss of that revenue is substantial “when anyone is joined to Christ” all things are possible. Your help, your prayers and support will enable Zion to meet these challenges and continue as a vibrant congregation whose mission extends beyond the church walls into our surrounding neighborhood. We have seen some of that mission taking place; our parsonage houses a non-profit artists’ cooperative; our members and our neighbors shared Advent meals (thank you Lynn and Brianne for all your hard work to make these meals possible) and we hope to continue this during Lent; we look forward to offering a camping retreat to our youth in cooperation with Prince of Peace.

Jesus came to us as a baby born in a stable and yet He was the savior and bringing of eternal life to those who believe. The new year is often symbolized as a baby because like the new year, infants have endless possibilities. There are endless possibilities for Zion if we have the faith to pursue them.

**A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL!**



# The Vicar's Views



**As we begin the New Year, I wanted to share a scripture passage focusing on the first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet – “Alpha” and “Omega.”**

**As you know, Jesus refers to Himself as the Alpha and Omega in Revelation 22:13. “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”**

**In the chancel at Zion, you will see the A for Alpha and O for Omega on each side of the statue of Jesus. These letters serve as a reminder that Jesus is journeying with us, from beginning to end, throughout our life.**

**The New Year is a perfect time to reflect on everything that has come to an end over the past year. For some it has been the loss of a loved one, the end of a relationship, retirement, payment of a debt, the sale of a home, completing therapy or saying goodbye to a dream never fulfilled.**

**At the same time, we have a new year which holds promise and possibilities for all of us. You might be living in hope that you will: have a successful surgery, be able to make that trip, fully recover from surgery, or restore a lost relationship.**

**We live in Hope that new possibilities will be available at Zion in 2025 as we continue to place our trust in God about how we will utilize our facilities and seek a permanent pastor. We must remember that regardless of what we will face in the upcoming year, Jesus Christ will be there in the beginning and at the end!**

**May God bless you with good health and happiness in 2025!**

**Vicar Jake**



## Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2024

Meeting began at 6:30 pm

Devotion by Ray

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

Guest: Lynn Ann Clausing Rusch from Linwood Place



Lynn Ann provided us with samples of booklets that they utilize at Linwood place. We will discuss with Karen working with a volunteer to create similar documents for Zion Mutual Homes and the church moving forward.

The approval of the agenda -motion was made and approved.

Approval of the October minutes -motion was made and approved.

The administrators report was reviewed. Karen was not present for any questions. some of the things on the report: FSM has moved into the parsonage as of October first, there are two bids for snow removal

Gwen from Property committee will follow up on the snow removal as we are expecting possible snow on Wednesday.

Lynn and Brianne started their roles as hospitality coordinator and Outreach Coordinator. We continue to have great volunteers on Mondays in the church office.

Vicar Jake's report was reviewed. He has several meetings with volunteers, Sue, office staff, as was as with others. planning the Thanksgiving Eve service, presided over the funeral of Vivian Schutte's funeral.

A committee reports, Zion Mutual Homes report was reviewed, looked at the recommendation for the increase in rent. At the beginning of the year. \$15 per month and \$5 per month for life lease residents. These figures were created based off of the 2.5% Raise of Social Security. This will be looked at on a yearly basis, motion was made to approve the increases in rent at this rate and was passed.

Finance report was reviewed. It was also discussed at this time for the Finance Committee to look at having regular meetings, old business, the affordable housing project. As discussed on Sunday, we were not chosen by the developers to present to WHEDA. We will continue to look at finding new ways to make up the shortfall. When the school leaves in August of 2025. We will still be looking at affordable housing; possibly a smaller project or projects with a smaller development team.

No new business at this time.

Our next meeting will be Monday, December 16, 2024; Devotion will be led by Vicar Jake.

We will now go into a closed session with Carrie Sanders and Bonnie Nusbaum.

Motion made and approved to dismiss at 9pm

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Kandie Wilz







**Monday, January 13, 2024**

**Submissions due for Febuary's calendar**

**Wednesday, January 1**

Office Closed

No Tower RingerZ Rehearsal

**Sunday, January 5**

Isa 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-7, 10-14

Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12

No Choir Rehearsal

**Worship Service 9:00 am**

followed by

**Epiphany Brunch**

**Epiphany of Our Lord/Baptism of Our Lord**

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Assisting Minister: Grace Van Eyck

Acolyte: Freya Budde

Musician: Heather Watney

Opens: Greg Pettigrew

Closes: Tammy Mossholder

**Wednesday, January 8**

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm

**Sunday, January 12**

Isa 43:1-7; Ps 29

Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

No Choir Rehearsal

**Worship Service 9:00 am**

Followed by

Coffee Hour

Sunday School & Confirmation

**Second Sunday of Epiphany**

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Assisting Minister: Tricia Staedt

Acolyte: Lily Gruselle

Musician: Heather Watney

Opens and Closes: Gwen Schwandt

**Tuesday, January 14**

Zion Mutual Homes Meeting 10:00am

**Wednesday, January 15**

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm

**Sunday, January 19**

Isa 62:1-5; Ps 36:5-10

1 Cor 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am

**Worship Service 9:00 am**

followed by

Coffee Hour

Sunday School & Confirmation

**Third Sunday of Epiphany**

Pastor Karen Jewell

Assisting Minister: Gwen Schwandt

Acolyte: Alexa Rusch

Musician: Watney

Opens: Jim Schley

Closes: Gwen Schwandt

**Monday, January 20**

Parish Council Meeting 6:30pm

**Wednesday, January 22**

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm

**Sunday, January 26**

Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Ps 19

1 Cor 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am

**Worship Service 9:00 am**

followed by

Coffee Hour

Sunday School & Confirmation

**Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**

Pastor Jan LaVake

Assisting Minister: Wendy Sachs

Acolyte:

Musician: Heather Watney

Opens: Gene Wiese

Closes: Tammy Mossholder

**Wednesday, January 29**

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm



# Affordable Housing Update



## Meetings:

December 4, 2024 group brought together by Harriet Redman from Wisconsibs

December 6, 2024 Gateway Collective Gala in Green Bay

## Important information:

- Went LIVE on Community Foundation's Year-End Matching Program website. This website allows philanthropic donors to find many worthy causes in one place for their year-end donations.
- Met with WisconSibs group to learn about some models for building housing for people with disabilities and meet some people who are looking to do just that.
- Attended another round of Town Makers in Appleton focused on learning what certain city officials do and which steps to take as our project unfolds.
- Bonnie is hoping to explore the potential for the WisconSibs group to consider Zion property as a site for their development of housing for people with disabilities.
- Bonnie attended the monthly Fox Cities Housing Coalition meeting focused on the reports assessing the number of people living unhoused or at risk for that in our area.
- Bonnie met with Susan Gacia Franz, Community Health Strategist from Winnebago County
- Bonnie gave tour of Zion property to Kristine Giornalista and talked about the current state of the project.

## Upcoming Meetings:

January 21, 2025 Roundtable Meeting



## Memorials Gratefully Received

Diana Staedt, Robert & Mildred Herder, Marilyn Catlin, Gwen Schwandt, Charles & Karen Arnoldussen, David & Janice Weber, Marilyn Hetzler, John Gill, Linda Wirtz, Tom Meltz, Sue Joosten, and Edna Baross have all given in memory of Vivian Schutte for the general fund  
Harry Hameister given in memory of Harry Jr, Wife-Karen Hameister, Harry Sr, Mother Lena & son Terry Baehman for the general fund

Mrs. Karen Meyer given in memory of Wayne Meyer for the general fund

Cheryl Page given in memory of Bob Page for the general fund

## Thank You From Zion

Thank you to all who donated coats for Pillars or food for the blessing box.

Thank you to those who donated to St. Joe's pantry.

Thank you to all those who assisted with the Advent soup suppers and with fellowship.

Thank you to those who have assisted with worship services by serving as readers, assisting ministers, musicians or ushers and those who have assisted with outreach such as our homebound visitors.

Thank you to all those who assisted with keeping the building and grounds maintained.

Thank you to our office volunteers.

Thank you to Tom Meltz who volunteers to shop for and fill the blessing box.





Justin  
Thomas  
Weber was  
baptized on  
12-15-24