

Zion Lutheran Church
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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion's Good News

DECEMBER
2021



Worship Schedule

December 5th

Worship at 9:00 a.m. † Communion Service

December 12th

Worship at 9:00 a.m. † Non-Communion Service

December 19th

Worship at 9:00 a.m. † Communion Service

December 23rd

Worship at 5:00 p.m. † Communion Service

December 23rd

Worship at 7:00 p.m. † Communion Service

December 26th

Worship at 9:00 a.m. † Non-Communion Service



FROM THE BISHOP

Psalm 137:4 *How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?*

Christmas Message to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

In 1926, my maternal grandmother left Germany and immigrated to the United States. One of my earliest memories is singing *Silent Night (Stille Nacht)* in German by the Christmas tree in her small house in Jackson, MN. I wonder what it was like for her to move to a foreign land not speaking the language. I wonder how difficult it must have been for her to sing her song in a foreign land.

Last Christmas most of us couldn't gather inside our church buildings to sing *Silent Night* on Christmas Eve. Some of us sang to our computer screens, some sang in their cars in the parking lot, some sang with masks. We were all trying to sing the Lord's song in a foreign land, the land of COVID. It has been difficult. Our song has been muted.

Psalm 137 is a lament Psalm. The writer of Psalm 137 is describing the pain of the people who were forced to live in a foreign land after witnessing the destruction of their homeland and their temple. They are grieving the losses, lamenting, crying, and finding it impossible to "sing the Lord's song in a foreign land."

My heart goes out to the Afghan Refugees who are experiencing their first winter at Fort McCoy. I wonder how difficult it will be for them to sing their songs of faith in a foreign land. Many know that they will never go home again.

In Luke 1 Mary sings her song in unknown territory. She has received the message from Gabriel that she will bear God's son and his name is to be Jesus, and he will reign as king forever. This incomprehensible message is confirmed by her relative Elizabeth and changes Mary's life's circumstances. Mary is asked to do what no one has ever done before. This is uncharted and foreign territory for a young girl. She sings her song in a foreign land like her sisters before her Miriam, Ruth, and Hannah. She sings a song of courage, faith, hope, and love.

Luke 1:46-49 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

This Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season I invite you to reflect on Mary's song as an old song sung in new circumstances. Many of us and our churches find ourselves dealing with circumstances we might not have chosen for ourselves and wish were different, circumstances that might cause us to lament and grieve. We are here now. Sing. Join Mary and the faithful of every time and place, that great cloud of witnesses, and sing of courage, faith, hope, and love. Sing. Sing an old song of trust in unfamiliar territory, and sing a new song of hope in a new land. We are here now.

May the Hope of Advent, Joy of Christmas and Light of Epiphany bring you Peace.
Bishop Laurie

¹For more information about helping Afghan refugees
Volunteering at Fort McCoy contact Wisconsin Council of Churches volunteer@wichurches.org.
Resettling families contact LSSWI [Refugee Resettlement - Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan \(Isswis.org\)](http://RefugeeResettlement-LutheranSocialServicesofWisconsinandUpperMichigan(Isswis.org)). Sarah Halstad
Donations contact Catholic Charities in La Crosse <https://cclse.org/afghanistan-refugee-assistance/>

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Carmella Moon
V. Pres.: Brenda Castellano
Secretary: Maryel Schoenfuss
Treasurer: Marge Redetzke
Evangelism: Cory Wiesman
Faith Formation: Ray White
Jasmine Grell
Property: Robin Curtis
Stewardship: Amy Cournoyer
Worship: Lois Miller
Bridge: Pastor Nancy Amacher
Secretary: Kathy Busche
E-mail: office@zionlc.com

WAYS TO CONNECT

WITH ZION

Write us at Zion Lutheran Church,
213501 Legacy Street, Stratford,
WI 54484-9632
Phone us at 715-687-4110
7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or leave a
voice mail message.
Or email us at office@zionlc.com
or directly to emails above.
WEB SITE: www.zionlc.com

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9:00 a.m.

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8	From Pastor Nancy Amacher/ Christmas Program Update
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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
The 21st of each month.

**ANNOUNCEMENT
DEADLINE**
Wednesdays by 9:00 a.m.

WEEKLY E-MAIL
Goes out on Monday morning.
Email office@zionlc.com to be
added to the receiver list.

**PLEASE keep the office
updated:**

- Address & email changes
- Births, Deaths, Hospitalizations
- Phone / Cell changes

Zion is on Facebook.

You can go to our website at www.zionlc.com
and click on the link to the Facebook page.

From Pastor Nancy....

It is good to be with you, saints at Zion, during this holy time of Advent and Christmas. I will be your “bridge” pastor for December into January 2021. It’s been quite a year for you at Zion. Pastor Sue retired after a long and faith-filled ministry. Then there were all the uncertainties surrounding covid-19, how to do worship, what to do about fellowship events, and more. Through it all you have been faithful to the good news of Jesus: “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:5)

I plan to be in the office two or three days a week plus Sunday mornings. Please stop by and introduce yourself. I can also be reached by phone/text (715-223-5316) or e-mail (revnia10@gmail.com). I will do sermon preparation and worship planning at home, which is Withee, Wisconsin.

A few thoughts on Christmas.

When asked about my favorite Christmas story, I usually point to Luke 2, which is the biblical Christmas story with Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem, the shepherds in the fields with their flocks, and the angels appearing out of nowhere. It’s a great story. If you have a Spark children’s bible, the story is even better. When the angels direct the shepherds to go to Bethlehem to visit baby Jesus, one of the shepherds says, “But what about the sheep?” To which another shepherd replies, “Let the angels watch them!”

My second favorite Christmas story is “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” by Dr. Seuss. I would suggest that the Whos are indicative of the unconditional love we Christians experience in Jesus. They don’t need “things” to celebrate Christmas. They have the love of one another and the whole community. I’m not saying that receiving and giving gifts is unimportant. However, I believe it is secondary to the giving of oneself to others in love and service....like Jesus.

I like to put up my Christmas tree right after Thanksgiving. I usually don’t take it down until the needles start falling...which makes for a fun time of vacuuming the carpet! I really enjoy the lights on the tree, especially on these short winter nights. The lights on the tree remind me of the light of Christ shining in the lives of various people. Many of the ornaments are gifts from people in congregations I have served over the years. Indeed, the message of John’s gospel rings ever true: *The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.* (John 1:5).

Blessed Advent & Christmas to you. May the light of Christ shine brightly in your lives & hearts!

Pastor Nancy

Christmas Program Update

Our Christmas program “A Traditional Christmas Pageant” for K- 6th grades will be Sunday December 19th during our 9:00 service.

We will be holding two practices for the Christmas program:

Wednesday December 8th 3:00 -5:15 (regular Lil Lutheran/J team day)

Wednesday December 15th 3:00 – 5:15 (added day)

We will pick up the children from school and provide a snack. Let us know if your children will be participating in the program and able to attend the two practices in December. Text Jill Dasler at 715 305 7324 or email faithformation@zionlc.com

COUNCIL/TRANSITION TEAM AND CALL COMMITTEE

In the coming months, there will be several opportunities for the members of Zion to be directly involved in the future and direction of our congregation. There are a few council members whose terms will be expiring, if you are interested in serving on Council or know of someone who is interested, please contact me or any Council member. Also, we will be forming a Transition Team and a Call Committee. If you are interested in participating, please contact one of the Council Members. Should you be approached to participate, please prayerfully consider using your time and talents for our future. Thank you, Carmella Moon

Hello Friends in Christ,

Back in June, we began a new journey. The path that we were on, came to an end and for the past few months, we’ve been forging our way to a new path. During this time, many people have stepped up, taken on additional duties and responsibilities to keep the church and our programs operational. And although we still have a lot of work ahead of us, the ground work has been laid and I am pleased to announce the arrival of a Bridge Pastor and Interim Pastor. Starting in December, Pastor Nancy Amacher will be with us through the first Sunday in January. Pastor Nancy retired in 2007 and just completed a long-term interim with Faith Lutheran in Marshfield. She will be joining Zion as a Bridge Pastor. In this role, Pastor Nancy will help us prepare for our full-time Interim Pastor and guide us in starting to put together our Transition Team. Then on January 9, 2022, Pastor Andrea Fluegel will be joining us as our full-time Interim Pastor. Pastor Andrea comes to us from Eagle River where she has been serving the congregation of Prince of Peace and resides with her husband, Erik; three children, Alex (23), Natalie (18), and Nicholas (15); and their dog, Carlita. Since 2000, Pastor Andrea has worked in various positions in ELCA Churches of all sizes in a variety of contexts. As our Interim Pastor, she will perform all pastoral acts, work with the council and all committees, including the Transition Team, and will be staying at the parsonage. Please join with me in welcoming Pastor Nancy Amacher and Pastor Andrea Fluegel to Zion Lutheran Church. We appreciate Pastor Nancy and Pastor Andrea sharing their gifts with and offering their guidance to our congregation as we continue our trek to the future.

God’s Blessings to all of you, Carmella Moon

Council Minutes

Zion Lutheran Church Council met on Monday, November 15th, 2021
President Carmella Moon called the meeting to order
Lois led with devotions.

During the meeting the council:

- Approved the Secretary Report.
- Approved the Treasurer Report.
- Approved the Ministry Teams Reports.
- Discussion on the 2022 Budget.
- Motion made for Christmas gifts for staff.

Respectfully submitted by
Maryel Schoenfuss, Secretary

*** A full copy of the Secretary’s Minutes can be found in the office.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Duane Schraeder
- 2 - Kevin Miller
- 3 - Tierra Waddell
- 4 - Karlene Beyer
- 5 - Kerri Schultz
- 6 - Barb Wensch
- 7 - Anthony Gliniecki
Rose Huther
Zachariah McBath
- 9 - Emmercyn Schiller
- 10 - Rod Huther
Jacob Dahlke
Lori Lang
- 11 - Gary Wussow
- 12 - Jackson Dahlke
Sally Epping
Courtney Reno
- 13 - Douglas Bolen Jr.
Brynn Wiesman
Jean Hoppenworth
- 14 - Eileen Hoesly
Jamie Wenzel
- 15 - Eddy Peterson
Roland Kauffman
- 16 - Adam Brubaker
Ashley Gallagher
- 20 - Joel Jurgensen
- 21 - Dixie Weber
Karen Polege
- 23 - Janita Syring
Cindy Wiskerchen
- 24 - Gunner Mercer
- 25 - Travis Leick
Kecia Krueger
- 28 - James Wiesman
Reid Spindler
- 29 - JoAnn Werner
Okley Wensch

- 30 - Julie Bolen
Garrett Moen
Mason Kauffman
Brandon Aschenbrenner
- 31 - Eleanora Stotmeister
Clare (Thompson) Marquardt
Sandy Andersen
Dawson Gebelein
Marissa Gebelein

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 - Dennis & Jan Schmidt
- 8 - Ardell & Pat Emon
- 12 - Dan & Sharon Mikelson
- 16 - Dennis & Marge Redetzke
Les & Kristi Ormond
- 20 - Clayton & Karey Foster
- 26 - Don & Wandnetta Karl
- 29 - Todd & Dawn Schoenherr
- 30 - Sam & Tammy Draper
- 31 - Tim & Brenda Garrigan

Tuesday Mornings
at 10AM.

Everyone is welcome to come.
If you need a ride,
call Sandy at 715-687-2368.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study



Shop with Scrip for Every Day and Holiday Shopping! *We've got it!* Looking for a gift card for Buffalo Wild Wings, Bass Pro Shop, Bed Bath & Beyond? *We can get it!* Is it time to start your holiday shopping? Worried about items being out of stock? Consider SCRIP gift cards instead and support Zion youth programs at the same time!

Scrip gift cards are available for many retailers, restaurants, and gas stations. You pay the face value of the gift cards and the retailer pays a percent back to Zion, designated for youth activities and mission trips.

It's so simple! Visit ShopWithScrip.com to check the list of retailers available in many shopping categories. Then contact June Krueger by text or email (715-897-0617, rajmkrueger@gmail.com) to place your order and make arrangements for payment and pickup.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING THE SANCTUARY

On Sunday, December 5th we will be gathering after 9am worship service to decorate the sanctuary. Please feel free to join us if you are able.



FAIR TRADE

The Fair Trade 24/7 booths are full and awaiting your purchases!

The rest of your favorite coffees and other products have been restocked and are available at their regular prices. Call Darla 715.506.0044 or email her at dleick@msn.com or visit the 24/7 booth. Thank you for supporting independent farmers and Fair Trade!



ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual Report information will be due at the beginning of January. Team Leaders: a copy of your team report from the January 2021 meeting has been emailed to you.

Please contact Kathy at 715-687-4110 with any questions.

Poinsettia

Christmas Poinsettias will be available for purchase for \$8.00 each. If you would like to purchase a plant in honor of or in memory of someone, please mark an envelope Poinsettia with name and money amount.

Building Update 2021

Payment Bi-Weekly Dates	Start Balance	Payment Amount	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
08/13 & 08/27	\$182,593.63	\$3,100.00	\$ 548.38	\$2,551.62	\$180,042.01
09/10 & 09/24	\$180,042.01	\$3,100.00	\$ 540.69	\$2,559.31	\$177,482.70
10/08 & 10/22	\$177,482.70	\$3,100.00	\$ 532.97	\$2,567.03	\$174,915.67
Total monthly principal payments				\$ 7,677.96	
Total monthly interest payments				\$ 1,622.04	
Balance of loan as of 08-27-2021				\$174,915.67	

Partners Bank
Building checking acct balance as of **11-01-2021** \$ 17,696.25

Date	12/05/2021 1 Advent 9:00 AM Sanctuary	12/12/2021 3 Advent 9:00 AM Sanctuary	12/19/2021 4 Advent 9:00 AM Sanctuary	12/24/2021 Christmas Eve 5PM/7PM	12/26/2021 Christmas 9:00 AM Sanctuary
Assisting Minister	Marge Kollmansberger	.....	Casey Dasler	Carmella Moon/Darla Leick	.....
Reader	Jill Dasler	Brenda Castellano	Casey Dasler	Carmella Moon/Jill Dasler	Rhonda Thompson
Acolytes	.....	Colin & Lily Cournoyer	Riley Spindler	Ashton & Caleb Wrensch/ Casey Dasler	Huther Family
Ushers	Tom Nancy Schoenherr	Amy & Trenton Cournoyer	Keith & Wendy Grell	Rhonda Knoll Gary & Mary Wussow Sharla Dreikosen/ Huther Family	Amber Knetter/ Brenda Huther
Com-munion assistants	Dan & Rhonda T/ Sandy Anderson/Marge K	.....	Pastor Nancy/ Sandy A/ Nancy S/ Casey Dasler	Pastor Nancy/ Carmella M. Barb W/Jill Casey Dasler/ Darla Leick	.....
Com-munion steward	Jill Dasler	.....	Deb Wieland	Deb Wieland Rhonda Thompson	Rhonda Thompson/ Marge Redetzke
Fellowship	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Host	Jasmine Grell	Carmella Moon	Maryel Schoenfuss	.....	Brenda Castellano
Media	Leon Tietyen	Connor Kreft	Connor Kreft	Kevin Miller	Rod Huther
Welcome Announcements	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Operation Christmas supports NEW LIFE and END OF LIFE



Zion's annual *Operation Christmas*

This year's gift-giving will benefit the following two agencies:

- **NOAH** -
Neighbors Offering A Hand
- **HOUSE OF THE DOVE** -
A residential hospice center in Marshfield

Join us for worship on November 7th to hear about the work of **NOAH** and their mission to support foster families in Marathon County. Their wish list this Christmas is simple --- diapers and baby wipes -- for foster families receiving newborns and toddlers.

House of the Dove provides end-of-life care and many of us have had a loved one who spent their last days there. Wish list items include small-sized personal care items (nice soaps, lotions, shampoos), individually wrapped snacks, and baking supplies for their pantry (flour, sugar, brown sugar, shortening, frosting, peanut butter, chocolate chips, and baking mixes).

Watch for the Operation Christmas collection area in the narthex and drop your donations in the totes. Cash donations are also appreciated and can be placed in an envelope in the tote.

Your generosity to this annual Christmas gift benefit is so appreciated!

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>6pm Worship Team Meeting</i>	2	3	4
5 <i>9am Advent Worship</i>	6	7 <i>10am Bible Study</i>	8 <i>3pm J-Team/Little Lutherans</i>	9	10	11
12 <i>9am Advent Worship</i>	13 <i>6pm Executive Team Meeting</i>	14 <i>10am Bible Study</i> <i>6pm Faith Formation Team Meeting</i>	15 <i>3pm J-Team/Little Lutherans</i>	16	17	18
19 <i>9am "A Traditional Christmas Pageant"</i> <i>5:30pm Disciples for Christ "Keeping Christ in Christmas"</i>	20 <i>6pm Council Meeting</i>	21 <i>10am Bible Study</i> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22	23	24 <i>5pm Christmas Eve Worship</i> <i>7pm Christmas Eve Worship</i> CHRISTMAS EVE	25 
26 <i>9am Worship</i>	27	28 <i>10am Bible Study</i>	29	30	31 NEWS YEAR EVE	