

Thank
You!



On December 15th, 18 went Christmas caroling. We went to the Heritage House apartments, Woodland, the Medical Care Facility. It was decided at the last minuet to stop by Amy Johnson's home. We all piled in her living room and sang 4 or 5 songs. She sang along and thoroughly enjoyed herself.

Thank you to the parents, students and, teachers who gave of their time and talents to make the Sunday School Christmas program a success! "Chosen Too" was up to date, but the message was the same.

Christmas Eve Service was wonderful! Thank you Pastor Eleanor Russey for leading worship. The church was just about full, with 188 worshipping with us. There was over 20 children for the Children's Message and the Chancel area looked beautiful in the candlelight.

Thank you to all who volunteered to read during our *Lessons and Carols* service.



Sending Our
SYMPATHY

to the families of:

Lydia Hulla

Amy Johnson

James Barker

The Work of the Church - 2020

Very soon, Zion's Nominating Committee will begin the important work of putting together lists of people willing to serve in elected roles. These roles include the Audit Committee, Congregation Council, Nominating Committee, and Synod Assembly Representatives, as well as Delta Conference Representatives. At Zion's Annual Meeting on February 9, 2020 members will review and elect members to fill these positions. Following is a brief re-cap of the roles and responsibilities of our elected positions:

Audit Committee: Audit Committee members are elected by the Congregation Council to a three-year-term. Individuals who serve on this committee provide an independent evaluation of the financial records of Zion and provide an opinion as to its financial statements. The Audit Committee also recommends improvements as to internal controls of the congregation.

Congregation Council: Congregation Council members are elected to a three-year-term and may serve a second consecutive full term. Council members have general oversight of the life and activities of Zion, and in particular, its worship life. Congregation Council members are also responsible for the financial and property matters of the

congregation. The Council normally meets monthly on the third Tuesday at 6:00 p.m., and members are asked to serve on at least one standing committee (Christian Education and Youth; Evangelism and Membership; Finance and Stewardship; Personnel; Property; Worship and Music). On a rotating basis, members are also asked to find Sunday worship readers and serve as communion ushers.

Nominating Committee: Six Zion members are elected to a one year term (two of whom, preferably, are outgoing members of the Congregation Council). The committee meets in the weeks prior to the Annual Meeting to identify nominees for open elected roles. They do this with the pastor and president of the congregation council who may be aware of potential candidates. Once the slots are filled as fully as possible, the report is included in the Annual Report and used as the basis for elections.

Synod Assembly Reps: Each year, two persons are elected to attend the Northern Great Lakes Synod Annual Assembly. In 2020, the assembly will be held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and Finlandia University in Hancock, MI, May 14-16, 2020. Zion Reps will gather with representatives from 80 other churches, as well as their pastors, to vote on issues affecting the synod and to learn and come away inspired through worship and workshops.

Delta Conference # 6 Reps: We are able to elect four persons as conference representatives. Zion is the newest church in the Delta Conference and joins nine others, from: Escanaba (3), Gladstone, Perkins, Rapid River, Rock, Stonington, and Trenary. The next conference meeting to be announced, and we also anticipate another Walking Together Event in October 2020.



The Decorating Committee will be "undecorating" the church the week of **January 6th**. If you are able to help take down the Christmas tree, please contact Shirley in the office.

Quilters

The quilters will be meeting at their regular time on Monday, January 6th.



Sunday School classes will begin again following the Christmas holiday break on January 5th, at 10:30am.

The Synod **MARKED EVENTS!** is a chance to meet new friends, participate in a service project, sing, play games, worship and eat. Mark your calendars to join other confirmation age youth. Our confirmand's will attend at Our Redeemer, Newberry on April 19th from 4-7:00pm. This years service project is collecting items for LWR Baby Care Kits. A list of the needed items will be posted on the bulletin board in Augustana Hall if anyone would like to help collect these items.



All committee chairpersons are reminded to turn in their annual reports to the church office by the week of January 20th and earlier if possible. Please submit the reports in Microsoft Word format if possible. These reports are reviewed by our auditors before they are ready to be copied and

assembled. The annual reports will be ready for your preview the weekend of February 1 & 2. Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 9th right after worship and following a potluck meal.

Reports are needed from the following committees:

Ahlstrom Trust Fund

Audit Committee

Endowment Fund

Funeral Luncheon Committee

Quilters

Tanzania Church Committee

Thrivent

Sunday School/Christian Education Committee

Property Committee

Finance & Stewardship Committee

Personnel Committee

Evangelism & Membership Committee

Worship & Music Committee

Offering
Counters



Several members of our congregation serve the church as weekly offering counters. We are currently in need of additional people to take on this responsibility as well as people to substitute on an as-needed basis. Two people are assigned each month to count the offering after church on Sunday morning. A short report is prepared and the money is brought to the bank for deposit. Training will be provided! If you are interested, please talk to Cyndee Miske or Linda Levin.

*Gifts to our congregation have been given
in memory of*

Lydia Hulla

Doris Ribblet—Roof Project

Mike & Karen LaFoilie—Memorial

John & Donna Gauthier—Memorial

Doris Demars

Jean Selling—Pew Cushions

Mother

Sherry Koschmider—BackPack Buddies

James Barker

Anna, Elsa, Karin & Tom—Nordic Fund

The Monday night Bible study group will be meeting at 6:30, every 2nd and 4th Mondays. Pr. Eleanor Russey will be leading our study. The book "*The Mission Table*" by Stephen Bouman, will be the focus of our study this fall. If you have any questions about this opportunity for study, please contact the office.



NOISY OFFERING

December 2019 \$107.32 - Salvation Army

Circle News

The Sarah Circle will meet Monday, January 6th, in the conference room at 1:00pm.

The Joy Circle will be having their annual Christmas Auction and potluck at Donna Mott's home January 5th at 5:00pm.

The Priscilla Circle will not be meeting in January.

The Ruth Circle will be meeting on Wednesday, January 15th at 11:30am at Big Boy weather permitting .

The Hope Circle will meet on Thursday, January 16th at 6:00pm and will be continuing their Bible study .

2020 Sign-Up Sheets

There are many opportunities in 2020 to help with Flowers for the Altar, Bulletin, Bread, & Wine, Coffee-Fellowship Hours and Greeters. *Please consider donating and/or volunteering at least once per year so that all weeks are covered.* With everyone participating, we will beautify our sanctuary, cover ongoing costs, enjoy weekly fellowship, and ensure all are welcome for Sunday worship. Please check the sign-up sheets posted in Augustana Hall.

Upcoming Scripture Readings

January 5 —2nd Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14,
John 1:[1-9], 10-18

January 12—Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

January 19—Second Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

January 26—Third Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18,
Matthew 4:12-23

Congregation Council Highlights – December Meeting

+October was Stewardship Month at Zion. Thank you to all of you who returned pledge cards. Our Financial Secretary reported that for the year 2020, 54 pledges were returned for a total amount of \$90,012.00. (In 2019, 66 pledges were received for a total of \$108,442.)

+Zion has been offered an additional \$15,000 Sacred Places grant if we are able to match that amount of money. The proposed projects for this phase of the grant would be an initial restoration of the Isabella painting and additional decorative painting in the sanctuary.

+The Backpack Buddies program is serving over 100 students at Emerald Elementary School, St. Francis DeSales School and Headstart. Gifts of food as well as monetary gifts are always welcomed.

+The Council approved the 2020 proposed budget in the amount of \$156,082 that was prepared by the Finance and Stewardship Committee. Its adoption will be recommended at Zion's Annual Meeting in February.

+The Ahlstrom Trust Fund Committee and Endowment Fund Committee presented their proposed budgets for 2020. The Council approved the budgets and recommends their adoption at the Annual Meeting.

News From the Northern Great Lakes Synod

Tanzania 2020: Companion Synod Visit to the Eastern & Coastal Diocese Thursday, July 23-Thursday, August 6

Assistant to the Bishop, Jim Duehring invites you to travel with him to Tanzania to build relationships with your Companion Congregation. This is open to pastors and lay people who already have a companion relationship in Tanzania or those interested in forming a companion relationship with a congregation in Tanzania.

Total Cost: \$3,000 to \$4,000*

*some designated grant money for companion congregation relationships could be available from the synod to help defray some costs.

Plan on spending about ½ of your time with your companion congregation in Tanzania developing relationships and ½ of your time with the Northern Great Lakes Synod group visiting various ministries of the Eastern & Coastal Diocese in Tanzania. A safari trip is also an option!

Contact Pastor Jim Duehring by January 4 if you are interested or have questions!

Synod Youth Gathering in Delaware-Maryland Synod

Our domestic companion synod is the Delaware-Maryland Synod. They have graciously invited our high school youth to attend their High School Youth Gathering, "RoadTrip," January 24-26, 2020 in Ocean City, Maryland. This gracious invite includes their covering the cost of registration (\$250). They will also provide transportation from the nearby airport.

If a high school youth from the Northern Great Lakes Synod is interested in this event, please contact Pastor Stacy Pethke at (906) 202-4415 or pastor.stacyp@gmail.com. There is the possibility of some financial support from the Northern Great Lakes Synod for the flight to Maryland. For more information and event details, visit the Delaware-Maryland Synod [website](#).

To read Bishop Finegan's message, go to the Northern Great Lakes Synod website: nglsynod.org.

Upcoming Events at Fortune Lake

Visit www.fortunelake.org for more details and to register!

Winter Wonderland Retreat

January 17-19, 2020

This snowy getaway will include sledding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and possibly even ice skating. Downhill packages for Ski Brule can be purchased for an additional fee. Prefer indoor activities? The sauna will be lit, the hot drinks will abound with board games aplenty!

Jr. High & High School Youth Retreat

February 7-8, 2020

Come to camp in the winter to reconnect with God, reunite with other campers and former staff, and rejuvenate your faith. There will be camp-style worship, sauna, authentic conversation and (maybe?) sleep.