Zion News & Notes

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You're Invited!!

In 2020, when we were looking for one another on Zoom and FaceTime, at drive-by birthday parties, and virtual weddings and funerals, and receiving communion at home with crackers and juice, I was inspired to begin an online prayer group called, The Morning Prayer Café.

We met on Zoom at 9:00 am, Monday through Friday. We used The Book of Common Prayer for Ordinary Radicals by Shane Claiborne as a guide. We listened to music and read aloud. We talked about our fears and hopes. We prayed and shared a blessing. Seven people became regulars. Those seven still meet at this virtual cafe, five times a week, five years later.

I cannot show up at the Morning Prayer Café daily like I once did, because my energy and attention is now here, with you. But the experience has been so meaningful that I do still attend 2-3 times a week.

Now I would like you, too, to have this experience.

I am writing new content to begin an evening version: The Advent Prayer Café opens December 2nd just for you! We will gather virtually, twice a week, to talk, listen, reflect, and pray.

We will meet during the first three weeks of Advent, on Tuesday & Thursdays from 7:00 – 7:30 pm. The specific dates are December 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23.

You will need to register using the QR code shown on page two of this newsletter, or by calling the church office. We will email you the Zoom link on the day of our first meeting, December 2nd. You need not attend every meeting, though I think it works best when people attend regularly.

On Tuesday, December 23rd, we will meet one last time for a special Blue Christmas Evening Prayer. Also on Zoom. Also at 7:00. Also thirty minutes.

I encourage you to prepare the place from which you'll join us with a warm beverage, a pen and paper or journal, a bible, and a candle. If you'd like a snack while we meet, that's okay too. It is a café after all.

Let's build a Prayer café together that we can open again, and again, and again. A place for weary souls to easily meet, to find comfort in company, holy mystery, and prayer.

See you there. I'll get us a table.

Love, Pastor Marie

Announcements

Christmas Decorating Party

Please join us on Friday, December 5th at 10:00 AM as we decorate the church and make everything festive for the Christmas season! If 10:00 AM doesn't fit your schedule, no worries—come by at 7:00 PM to help us finish up whatever's left from the morning. All helping hands are appreciated. Let's make the sanctuary and church beautiful together!

Walking With Friends

Please contact Kim Marscher if you are interested in walking with us! She will share the days/times.

Church Office

Please use **315-765-8035** when calling the church office.

YouTube

Subscribe to our channel at Zion Lutheran Church, New Hartford, NY. And don't forget to subtribe to Pastor Marie's channel at: www.YouTube.com/@MarieNDuquette

Advent Devotionals

Our Advent devotionals are now available on the table in the Narthex. Please take one home and enjoy a quiet moment each day, with a cup of coffee or cocoa, reflecting on the hope, peace, and joy of this holy season.

Annual Report

Ministry and committee chairs, it's time to begin preparing your reports for the 2025 Annual Report. Please submit all reports as soon as you can. If you are waiting on year-end numbers, that's understandable. Thank you for your cooperation and for the faithful work you do throughout the year. Please email all reports to office@zionluth.com

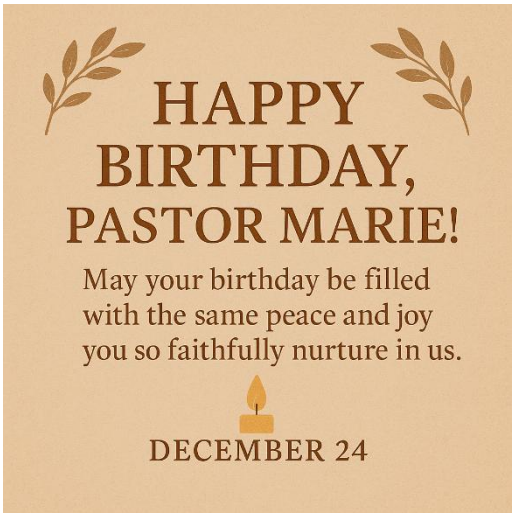
Treasurer's Update & Giving

October Treasurer's Report				
	Oct-25	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	$ 10,451.00	$ 116,315.85	$ 130,166.68	$ (13,850.83)
Other Income	$ 7,614.75	$ 74,400.95	$ 77,024.20	$ (2,623.25)
Total Income	$ 18,065.75	$ 190,716.80	$ 207,190.88	$ (16,474.08)
Total Expense	$ 28,788.88	$ 228,792.59	$ 216,729.44	$ 12,063.15
Net Income	$ (10,723.13)	$ (38,075.79)	$ (9,538.56)	$ (28,537.23)

Thank you to those of you who have returned your pledge card! If you haven't returned your pledge card, it's not too late! Simply place your pledge card in the collection plate or give it directly to Joni Pulliam.
Reminder: 2026 envelope boxes are available for pick-up in the narthex. (Please see Joni Pulliam, financial secretary, with any questions concerning envelope boxes.)

Gifts Given to the Glory of God		
In Memory Of:	**To:**	**Given By:**
Gene White	Memorial Fund	Connor Russell
Gene White	Memorial Fund	Sandra & Rich Russell
In Honor Of:	**To**	**Given By:**
Jeanne Gymburch & Laurel McCurdy	Food Pantries	Laura HIlt

Celebrations & Sign-Ups



December Birthdays			
Janet Griffith	3	Helga Morrison	17
Elijah Stevens	3	Carole Grove	22
Hannah Barrett	4	Jim Schieble	23
Esy McCarthy	4	Wendy Stevens	23
Kim Manino	7	Rev. Marie Duquette	24
Sean Scarafile	7	Lisa Lucas-Myers	25
Ron Kowalczyk	8	Ann McCarthy	28
Karen Mannella-Daniel	8	Norm Jeche, Jr.	29
Caleb Hunter	12	Laura Hilt	30
Holly Kulawy	17	Sara Grapski	30

Volunteers Needed for Advent & Hanging of the Greens!!

We are looking for **eight readers** for our Hanging of the Greens Service and Advent wreath readers and candle lighter for **December 14, 21, and 24**. If you would like to help, please call the church office to sign up, or sign-up on the first Sunday of December. Your participation helps make our Advent services meaningful and beautiful—thank you!

Worship Team Schedule

Date	Pastor	Worship Asst.	Greeter	Ushers
Dec. 7	Pr. Marie	Mark Thompson	Laura Hilt	
Dec. 14	Pr. Rick Klafehn		Jan Corn	Kim Marscher
Dec. 21	Pr. Marie Duquette	Karen Toepp	Linda Bennett	
Dec. 24 **7 PM**	Pr. Marie Duquette			
Dec. 28			Karen Toepp & Janet Bagnall	

Social Ministry

JOIN OUR PRAYER FELLOWSHIP CARD MINISTRY!

We are looking for someone to help us write and send cards to members of our church family. These include notes of encouragement, birthday wishes and get-well cards.

We're looking for a member to begin in March (covering cards for March and April). If interested, please contact the church office.

Our PJ donation box for the House of Good Shepherd is overflowing! Thank you to everyone who helped bring warmth and comfort to the

FOOD PANTRIES SUPPORT

This quarter, Oct.-Dec.) we are supporting Foothills Food Pantry in Holland Patent! **Here is a list of food products most needed:** peanut butter, canned veggies, fruits, soups, chili, baked beans, tuna, sauces, and pastas. **Here is a list of needed Perishables:** butter, margarine, and cheeses of any type.

They also welcome $15 Gift Cards from any grocery store to be used for Turkeys for families in need!

Most of all they could use volunteers! Please please leave a message with Sara for Pat if interested!

Christmas Gifts to the Lutheran Home

A collection box for the Lutheran Home is located by the elevator in the Narthex. ***Suggested items include:*** candies (regular & sugar-free), socks, aftershave, perfume/cologne, body wash and lotions (including small sets), small knick-knacks, suncatchers, slippers with sides/non-slip bottoms, lap robes, sweaters, cardigans, and wraps. Thank you for helping make Christmas special for the residents!

Social Ministry

FAIR TRADE NEWS

1. The olive oil we are offering now is Organic EXTRA PEACEFUL Olive Oil. It is produced collaboratively by Arab and Jewish women in Israel.

2. On the bottom shelf of the Fair Trade Booth you will find items (tea, coffee, chocolate chips and bars) that are past the use by date. The prices have been slashed, so come and pick up a bargain.

3. Have you ever noticed that some boxes of tea are marked $3.50 and others $4.00? Equal Exchange offers discounts sometimes, and that savings is passed on to you.

4. Did you know that we charge a little extra and that money goes to World Hunger? So, when you purchase fair trade items, you are supporting two of Zion's ministries.

5. Consider shopping for Christmas at our booth. We have tea, coffee, hot cocoa, chocolate bars, olive oil, and roasted & salted cashews. For many years we have used the slogan, "Give the Gift of FAIR TRADE"!

ADVENT IS FOR AMBULANCES

In the fall of 2024, the Upstate New York Synod of the ELCA launched a project to raise money for new ambulances for our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (ELCZ). In October of this year, $38,000 was sent for the first ambulance and $14,000 has already been raised toward the second one. Zion's Social Ministry Committee would like to thank the Endowment Committee for granting us $1,000 in both 2024 and 2025 for the ambulance fund. If you would like to help save lives in Zimbabwe, please write a check to Zion with "Ambulances for Zimbabwe" on the memo line and put it in a green offering envelope. Thank you!

A huge thank you to our dedicated Social Ministry team! It's been a very busy season, and we are so grateful for the fundraisers and other ministries you've brought to the table, allowing us to give back. Thank you for all you do!

Notes From the Church Office

Dear Zion Lutheran Congregation,
Foothills Rural Community Ministry would like to thank you for the generosity you provided for our neighbors. There are so many good people in this world, and you are among them!
Sincerely,
Patricia Cannon

Dear Zion Lutheran Congregation,
Thank you so much for your donations to Foothills this year. They are sincerely appreciated! And especially that Super Bowl Collection—136 cans made a significant difference in our stock!
Carol for Foothills

Women of Faith will offer Bible Studies in 2026 starting with a study to be led by Patsy Glista on Tuesday, January 20th and Tuesday February 17th on Zoom at 7 PM on women and the church. We're planning an in person gathering in late April or May. The Zoom links will be posted in future newsletters, bulletins and emails. ***Please join us!***

Our Poinsettias sign-up sheet is now filled!

Thank you to everyone who ordered!

Special thanks to Laura Hilt for ordering them and for taking such good care of them.

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Website: www.zionlutheranNy.org
Like us on Facebook at:
Zion Lutheran Church, New Hartford, NY

The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is to prayerfully discern God's call to help people to become more fully devoted followers of Christ.

God's Work Our Hands