



Zion's News & Notes

A Few Words From Pastor Janet

**December
2023**

**Zion Lutheran Church
Zion News & Notes**

Zion News & Notes is published each month by the church office. It includes news of upcoming events, thank you notes, archives, photos, and other items of interest. **Our newsletters are also available on our website:** www.zionLutheranNy.org

Circulation - 143
Preparer: Sara Silva
Editors: Laurel McCurdy and Wendy Stevens
Contributors: Members of the Congregation and outside colleagues
E-mail: office@zionluth.com

Table of Contents

A Few Words From Pr. Janet	1
Announcements	2
December Birthdays	3
Worship Team Schedule	3
Advent & Christmas	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Gifts Given	4
November Memories	5-9
Women of Faith	5-7
Faith Alive	8-9

Baking cookies only made and eaten during the holidays, going to see the Nutcracker, hitting the stores the day after Thanksgiving—everyone has their own traditions that they follow this time of year. For me, the highlight of the year is the candlelit church on Christmas Eve and the words from the Gospel of John: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it and the tender strains of “Silent Night.” My favorite hymn of the season is “O Come, All Ye Faithful” You know, “Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: O Come, let us adore him. O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.” And I wait all year to proclaim the words from our Christmas communion liturgy: “That beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.”

That’s what I love about Christmas.

All these things—the prologue to John’s Gospel, *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, the thoughts I ponder in my heart—all speak of the Incarnation, the theological word we use to mean God became human. That Almighty God, Creator of the universe; omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, chose to enter our lives as a newborn baby, helpless and dependent and vulnerable. Nobody seems to like to think of Jesus needing his diaper changed and, no matter what we sing in “Away in a Manger”, Jesus did cry. He probably had his moments of screaming when he would not be comforted and, Mary and Joseph, frustrated beyond words, wondered what they were doing wrong. But the Incarnation, God becoming flesh, means that Jesus was fully human and a regular baby, just like you and I were. I can only think of one reason why God would choose to empty himself of power and, in humbleness, become one of us—and that reason is love.

Whatever traditions are important to you, whatever it just wouldn’t feel like Christmas without, remember that Christmas is about love—God’s love for you, for me, for this world God created and longed to redeem. And so God became flesh. We call him Jesus. He taught us to love one another as he has loved us. He took our sins to the cross where he suffered and died to defeat the power of sin and death. He is alive and calls us to new life in him.

All because he loves us. And that’s what I love about Christmas.
Blessed Christmas to you!
Pastor Janet



December Announcements

Coffee Hour

Please see the Coffee Hour Schedule posted in the Narthex and sign up where you can so that we can keep the coffee brewing for you on Sundays. Feel free to bring in snacks, cakes, cookies, or whatever you'd like to bring for regular coffee hours.

Attention Zion Attendees!!!

If you are new to Zion, or if you have been attending for a while and would like to become a member, please let Sara know. You can call or email us at: 315-732-4110 or office@zionluth.com.

Walking With Friends

Zion's walking group meets weekly and we would love to have you walk with us! We can adjust our speed according to how much we'd like to talk! Meeting times and locations vary. For more information, please email Kim at: kmarscher@yahoo.com.

Annual Report

If you are responsible for a report, please submit it to the office as soon as you are able.

Social Ministry

December 3rd is the last day for contributions to The Angel and Mitten trees. The **Angel Tree** will benefit the children at Thea Bowman Center. If you would like to participate this year, please send your monetary contributions directly to Zion Lutheran Church with the notation of "Angel Tree" so it is clear where the monies are to be directed. Or when attending Church you can take an angel envelope off the tree and use it for your contribution. All the monies received will be converted into Walmart gift cards that will be then handed to Thea Bowman for distribution to the families in need. The gift cards have been a lifeline for Thea Bowman Center especially during the holiday season, so please consider contributing to the Angel Tree this year. The **Mitten Tree** will benefit the Center. The greatest need this year is gloves for men and teenage boys. Handmade or store bought hats/mittens, gloves, scarves are welcomed. Children's sizes will go to Thea Bowman, and all other sizes will be directed to The Center. One and two gallon clear bags are provided for you to place your items in. Social Ministry Committee members gratefully appreciate all of your contributions this year for the Angel Tree and Mitten Tree.

Christmas Day

Our Saviour will be having a 10am worship service on Christmas Day preceded by breakfast.

Advent Devotionals

Help yourself to our wonderful devotionals for Advent on the table in the narthex!

Faith Alive

Join us for Faith Alive at 11 AM on Sunday, December 10th! Joe Schmidt will be leading the event in the Fireside Room titled, "1914: A World War Stops for Christmas." Joe will help us discover the most inspiring story of World War I, or of any war in history, when soldiers on both sides of the conflict laid down their arms and chose to celebrate Christmas together rather than fight. You are welcome to bring Christmas cookies, finger foods, etc. (Please see the sign-up sheet.)

Consider giving the gift of Fair Trade this Christmas. Organic chocolate bars, olive oil, nuts, coffee, tea, chocolate chips. Gift bags are available in the Fireside Room. The lockbox for payment is in the office.

December Birthdays

Pr. Janet Griffiths	3	Helga Morrison	17
Elijah Stevens	3	Carole Grove	22
Hannah Barrett	4	Jim Schieble	23
Carolyn Dzwonkas	4	Wendy Stevens	23
Esy McCarthy	4	Lisa Lucas-Myers	25
Kim Manino	7	Mae Parker	27
Sean Scarafile	7	Ann McCarthy	28
Ron Kowalczyk	8	Norm Jeche	29
Karen Mannella-Daniel	8	Laura Hilt	30
Caleb Hunter	12	Sara Grapski	30
Holly Kulawy	17		

December Worship Schedule

Date:	Worship Assistant	Pastor	Greeters	Ushers
December 3 <i>Advent 1</i>	Wendy Stevens	Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth	Kim Marscher	Laurel McCurdy & Jeanne Gymburch
December 10 <i>Advent 2/Hanging of the Greens</i>	Karen Toepp	Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth	Linda Bennett	Laurel McCurdy
December 17 <i>Advent 3</i>	John Blackburn	Pr. Rick Klafehn	Karen Toepp & Janet Bagnall	Laurel McCurdy
December 24 <i>Advent 4</i>	Mark Thompson		Jan Corn	Jeanne Gymburch
December 24 <i>Christmas Eve 7 PM</i>		Pr. Janet Griffiths	Barb Wilson	
December 31 <i>Lessons & Carols</i>	Mark Thompson	_____	Karen Toepp & Janet Bagnall	Jeanne Gymburch

With Gratitude— To all our special readers for the month of December, we fulfilled 28 special reading positions in addition to our 6 regular readings. Thank you.

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.” –Unknown Author

Treasurer's Report

		October 2023 Treasurer's Report		
	Oct-23	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	\$ 17,470.00	\$ 126,385.08	\$ 143,333.00	\$ (16,947.92)
Other Income	\$ 2,605.50	\$ 14,718.92	\$ 14,624.36	\$ 94.56
Total Income	\$ 20,075.50	\$ 141,104.00	\$ 157,957.36	\$ (16,853.36)
Total Expense	\$ 9,815.45	\$ 128,806.96	\$ 154,411.10	\$ (25,604.14)
Net Income	\$ 10,260.05	\$ 12,297.04	\$ 3,546.26	\$ 8,750.78

YOUR 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE BEING PREPARED AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO PICK UP IN THE NARTHEX AFTER DECEMBER 10TH.

Gifts Given to the Glory of God

In Memory of:	To:	Given by:
Doris Miga	Operating Expenses	Jeanne Gymburch
In Honor of:	To:	Given by:
Carole Grove	Your Neighbors	Carolyn Dzwonkas
John Kelly	Feed Our Vets	Millie Angevine



“Plant **Smiles** and Harvest **Love**”—Millie Angevine

November Memories



Recognizing our Vets on Sunday, November 12th in honor of Veterans Day.



Women of Faith from Trinity, Our Saviour, and Zion churches met in Zion's Fireside Room for a program about American Indian culture and our ELCA Faith, led by Pam Donovan with help from Liz Douglas, members of OSL.

We learned and shared a lot and enjoyed talking, worshipping, and snacking together. More than 20 women attended this event! We're looking forward to Zoom Bible study on December 11th, and the next in person event in March at Our Saviour. Women from Trinity will present a program TBA. Look for updates about WOF in future newsletters.

***Pictured Left:** Linda Bennett tries a special dish called **Nake**, a Wampanoag recipe. More photos of this event are on the next two pages.*

November Memories



♥ Fellowship ♥



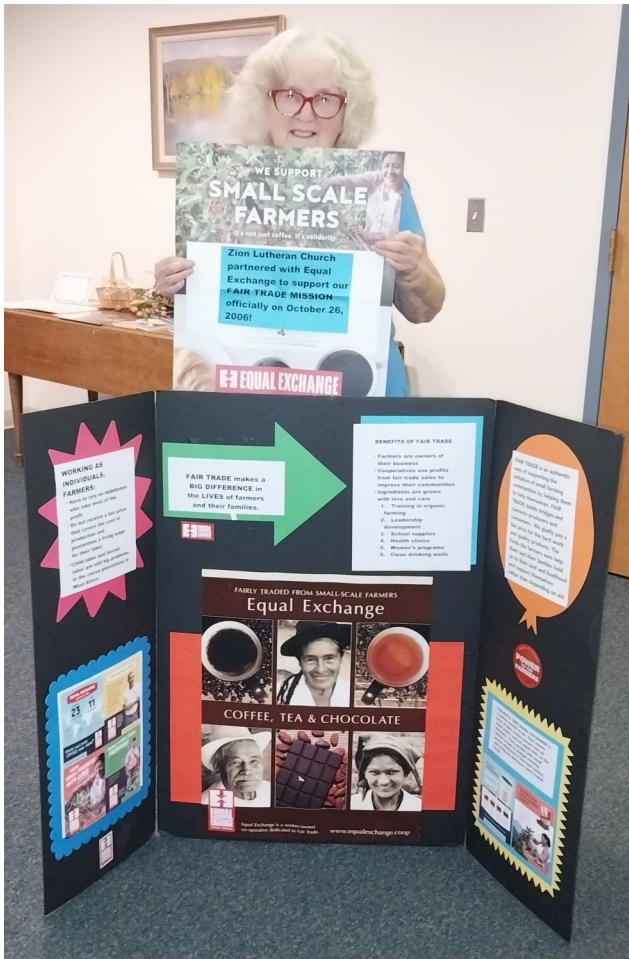
November Memories



♥ Friendship ♥



November Memories



Faith Alive November!



November Memories



Thank you to Laurel McCurdy for the special preparations and wonderful details that went into this event! The theme was: Fair Trade. Thank you to everyone helped make this day so nice!



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

630 French Road

New Hartford, NY 13413

CONTACT INFO:

Phone: 315.732.4110

Fax: 315.732.0067

Email: office@zionluth.com

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.*



CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight Service

Zion Lutheran Church

7:00 PM

