



December
2022



Zion's News & Notes

A Few Words from Pastor Bill

It does not seem possible to me that we are already into December. Thanksgiving is past, and so is the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of a new church year.

Advent is a special time for me. A time filled with ANTICIPATION, PREPARATION, and EXPECTATION. All of these themes are communicated in the Scripture texts for the Time of Advent. Remember that Advent Devotionals are available at Zion.

Zion's "Hanging of the Greens" Service will be on December 4th. You are invited to be present to prepare the Sanctuary for this Service on Friday, December 2nd, at 6pm.

December 4th will also include the dedication of your commitments for Zion's ministry in 2023.

Thank you to everyone for the magnificent response to the Thrivent 500 food items challenge. As you probably already know, 880 items were delivered to the Veterans' Outreach Center. In addition, Zion donated funds to make sure that the Center has sufficient food for the people it serves to enjoy a holiday dinner.

Don't forget about the Angel Tree and also the need for warm hats, scarves, and gloves/mittens. These items will be delivered to area organizations for distribution this month.

You will find the listing for Worship Services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in this issue of the newsletter.

Your Congregational Council is putting in place a procedure to notify people if Worship at Zion needs to be cancelled due to weather conditions.

Yes, a lot is going on! It is great to see more people coming together for Worship in-person and on Zoom and Facebook. Zion's community of faithful witness is waking up from its Covid slumber! How appropriate for Advent, for this December, for the start of a new Church Year. From "Sundays and Seasons," where there is a wealth of information to assist with Worship planning, comes this final thought: "This season is a time for us to awaken to a new reality: at any moment, and at every moment, Christ lives among and within us, helping us rub the sleep out of our eyes, and revealing a different way. Welcome to Advent."

Welcome to Advent...Anticipation, Preparation, Expectation.

God's Peace Always,
Pastor Bill

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, a calendar, archives, photos and many other items of interest. Our newsletters are also available on our website: www.zionLutheranNy.org

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December Announcements

Worship and Music: The next Worship and Music meeting will be February 12th.

Zoom Attendees/Red Hymnals: For those of you who join Zion services on Zoom, there are a limited number of hymnals, but you are welcome to borrow one! Please call or email the office if you'd like to stop by the office to pick one up.

Christmas Decorating Party: Friday, December 2nd, at 6pm!

2023 Offering Envelopes: Information will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

Annual Report: You may begin submitting your reports to Sara as soon as they are available. Please submit reports via email to office@zionluth.com.

The Angel Tree: will benefit the children at Thea Bowman Center. The greater need this year, to help the children and their families, will again be through gift cards instead of toys. The gift card contributions Zion has provided continue to be a lifeline for the families. If you would like to participate in this year's Angel Tree tradition, 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. This year, members will also be able to take an angel with an envelope attached to it off the tree to make it easier to contribute directly to Zion and identify your donations for Thea Bowman. All the monies received will be converted into Walmart gift cards that will then be given to Thea Bowman for distribution to the families. Contributions will be collected through December 11, 2022. Thea Bowman is deeply appreciative of all the assistance Zion has provided to their organization throughout the years.

The Mitten Tree: will benefit The Center (*formerly Resource Center for Refugees*). The Center is especially in need of warm adult gloves. Handmade or store-bought hats/mittens, gloves, scarves will be collected through December 11, 2022. Children's sizes will go to Thea Bowman, and adult sizes will go to The Center. Please place your items in clear baggies. One and two gallon Ziploc baggies will be provided for you to place your items in. Items can be dropped off Monday-Thursday during office hours, and also during Sunday services. *The Social Ministry Committee members gratefully appreciate all of your contributions this year for the Angel Tree and the Mitten Tree.*

Holiday Food Baskets: If you or someone you know is in need of a food basket for Christmas, please let Pastor Bill or Sara know. Contributions may be made by putting funds in a green envelope and designating those funds to the Zion Food Ministry.

ELCA Good Gifts: In the past, some people at Zion have given ELCA GOOD GIFTS to their loved ones at Christmas. To make it easier this year, everything you need to purchase them-the order forms, greeting cards, and decorations-are in the narthex for your use.

Inclement Weather: When a Worship Service at Zion is cancelled due to weather, it will be announced on WKTV, in an e-mail from the Church, and on the Church website.

Amazon Smile: If you use the Amazon app for **Christmas shopping**, use the search tab and search Amazon Smile, type in the charity, Zion Lutheran Church New Hartford, and turn **ON** the Amazon Smile Program. Follow the same directions if you use the website version. Amazon donates a portion to Zion! Your shopping experience will not change. (*See Sara with questions!*)

December Birthdays

Pr. Janet Griffiths	3	Helga Morrison	17
Hannah Barrett	4	Carole Grove	22
Carolyn Dzwonkas	4	Jim Schieble	23
Esy McCarthy	4	Wendy Stevens	23
Kim Manino	7	Lisa Lucas-Myers	25
Sean Scarafile	7	Mae Parker	27
Karen Mannella-Daniel	8	Ann McCarthy	28
Ruth LaManque	10	Norm Jeche, Jr.	29
Caleb Hunter	12	Laura Hilt	30
Holly Kulawy	17	Sara Grapski	30

Gifts Given to the Glory of God

In Memory of:	To:	Given by:
Ed Grove	Your Neighbors	Jim and Ellen Smith
Ed Grove	Your Neighbors	Diana Inserra
Ferhun Soykan	World Hunger	Kerstin Soykan
Ed Grove	Food Pantries	John and Carol Blackburn
Audrey & Doug Scholl	Missionary	Laurel McCurdy
Audrey Scholl	Memorial Fund	Loretta Berie
Rev. Norman Heid	Lutheran Care	Laura Hilt
Ed Grove	Your Neighbors	Laura Hilt
Alice & Bill Hettinger	Zion Food Ministry	Diana Inserra
Vivian Deckman	Memorial Fund	Loretta Berie
In Honor of:	To:	Given by:
Kim Marscher	Your Neighbors	Carolyn Dzwonkas

December Worship Team Schedule

Date:	Worship Assistant	Pastor	Greeters	Ushers
Dec. 4		Pastor Bill	Laurel McCurdy	Doreen Nicholls & Jeanne Gymburch
Dec. 11	Wendy Stevens	Deacon Patsy Glista	Karen Toepp & Janet Bagnall	Caryn Carlson & Laura Hilt
Dec. 18	Karen Toepp	Pastor Bill	Laurel McCurdy	Darlene Hill
Dec. 24		Pastor Bill		
Dec. 25		Pastor Bill		

Fair Trade at Zion

GIVE THE GIFT OF FAIR TRADE THIS CHRISTMAS!

Looking for some new ideas for holiday presents? Your friends and family will surely love receiving organic olive oil from Palestine, cashews, coffee, tea, and chocolate bars in their stockings this Christmas.

To make it more convenient for you, a cart with sample items will be in the foyer on the four Sundays in Advent. Holiday gift bags, tissue paper, tags, and plastic bags to carry your purchases are in the box on the bottom shelf.

Please pay with cash or by check made out to “Zion Lutheran Church” and write “Fair Trade” on the memo line and place your payment in the lock box that will be on the Fair Trade cart on Sundays. At other times, the box is kept on the second desk in the office. You may also shop Monday through Thursday from 9:30 to 1:30. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of small farmers in the U.S.A. and around the world by supporting Zion’s Fair Trade Ministry...

OUR MISSIONARY IN ZAMBIA

During this holiday season, please keep The Rev. Kristin Engstrom and the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (ELCZa) in your prayers. In the New Year, social ministry will roll out a campaign to raise money to help grow the Lutheran Church in Zambia.

GIFTS OF COMFORT AND JOY



The Upstate New York Synod’s Hunger Justice Team is inviting our congregation to raise \$400 for HUNGER during this Advent Season. Fifty percent of all gifts received will go directly to ELCA World Hunger/Disaster Relief and the other 50% will be divided among the Synod’s campus feeding ministries in Buffalo, Rochester, Ithaca, Syracuse, and Albany.

To donate, make your check out to Zion Lutheran Church with WH Advent Appeal on the memo line and put it in a green envelope. During this Advent season, we as a synod can bring “Gifts of Comfort and Joy” to the hungry and oppressed.

Council President's Report

Thanksgiving is behind us. However, it's always a good time to give thanks to our Lord. Psalm 136:1 reminds us to "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever."

There is much to be thankful for at Zion. We were recently able to provide 880 cans of food to the Veteran's Outreach Center thanks to the generosity of this congregation in the Thrivent 500 Food Challenge. Just last week, a \$1000 check from the Zion Food Ministry Fund was presented to the Veteran's Outreach Center. Turkeys from Social Ministry were also delivered to the Veteran's Outreach Center. These donations came at a time of great need at the Veteran's Outreach Center and will allow the center to provide for the needs of many veterans.

We are also thankful for the guidance and support provided by Pastor Lori Kochanski through the Abide process. Pastor Lori has encouraged us to form working groups that will meet once a month following worship. These groups will have a specific agenda with discussion and action items to help us move forward. The working groups are Building Analysis, Internal Structures, and a group that will meet regularly with Trinity to formulate plans for working together that may eventually lead to sharing a pastor. These groups will meet for no longer than one hour. Pr. Lori agreed to come to Zion on Sunday, January 15th to help us get started with these groups. *Please save this important date.*

Pastor Lori has recommended that the Trinity group be composed of three non-council members from each church. She has also suggested that the group meets at a neutral location. If you are interested in being part of this group, please let me or Sara know

In case of inclement weather, check WKTV for notification that Zion has closed. If we need to close due to weather, emails will also be sent out to friends and congregants. You can also check on our website.

In Christ's service,
Linda Bennett, Council President

COME SHARE in THE JOY at FAITH ALIVE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022 9:00 – 9:45AM—FIRESIDE ROOM

Faith Alive, an intergenerational new approach to growing our faith and learning about Jesus begins December 11th at 9:00am. It will be held in the Fireside Room on the second Sunday of each month prior to worship. Members of all ages are invited to gather for this time of prayer, Biblical lessons, coupled with some conversation and fun. Come and find out what its all about, bring your children, grandchildren, or a friend.

WHO - all ages from 1 – 100 who want to talk about Jesus and faith

WHAT - Bible lesson and time to talk about the lesson, a craft project, singing, prayer and refreshments

Come, share in the Joy!

A huge thank you to Laurel McCurdy, Fran Holzberger, and Patsy Glista for their planning and to members of Trinity, Herkimer for sharing this faith formation idea with us.

		October 2022 Treasurer's Report		
	Oct-22	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	\$ 17,661.02	\$ 149,796.65	\$ 125,006.44	\$ 24,790.21
Other Income	\$ 576.35	\$ 15,373.87	\$ 17,035.02	\$ (1,661.15)
Total Income	\$ 18,237.37	\$ 165,170.52	\$ 142,041.46	\$ 23,129.06
Total Expense	\$ 10,610.42	\$ 136,063.73	\$ 141,316.61	\$ (5,252.88)
Net Income	\$ 7,626.95	\$ 29,106.79	\$ 724.85	\$ 28,381.94

Thrivent Food Collection Challenge



Thank you to everyone who brought in canned goods, cereals, soups, and all of the wonderful food items for the Thrivent food item challenge!!

880 items were collected and brought to The Utica Center for Development.

Many thanks to Mark and Nancy Thompson, Debbie Tompkins, Fran LaGase, Ted McCarthy, Shirley Eadline, Linda Bennett, Laurel McCurdy, Karen Toepp, Janet Bagnall, and Wendy Barrett, for organizing and transporting all of the food to the center in Utica.

A special thank you to Pastor Bill for bringing this outreach challenge to Zion, and for believing in us that the goal of “500” items would be met.

Advent Schedule

Advent Worship Schedule

Sunday, November 27th—Advent 1 Traditional service at 10 AM

Sunday, December 4th—Advent 2 Hanging of the Greens service at 10 AM

Sunday, December 11th— Faith Alive from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Room

Sunday, December 11th—Advent 3 Traditional service at 10 AM

Sunday, December 18th—Advent 4 Traditional service at 10 AM

Christmas Services

Saturday, December 24th— 4 PM Candlelight Service With Communion (*Special Music to precede the Service beginning about 3:50PM*)

Saturday, December 24th— 7 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service at Our Saviour

Saturday, December 24th— Trinity Lutheran, Herkimer, is preparing a Service that will be available on-line. The link to this Service will be provided closer to Christmas Eve.

Sunday, December 25th— 10 AM Worship at Zion, Carols and Communion

Attention!

We are looking to fill some Worship Team positions for December. We also need readers for Advent and Hanging of the Greens. Please call or email Sara if you would like to fill in and she will let you know where the help is needed. Thank you!!

DEDICATION OF TIME/TALENT/TREASURE COMMITMENTS FOR 2023

Commitments will be dedicated during the December 4th Worship Service. Please bring your commitment to Worship on December 4th or send it to the Church Office prior to that date. 2023 will be a very important year in the life of Zion congregation moving forward. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of your commitment to this ministry.

A memory from December 2018 from Ed Grove

As I was delivering our donations to the food pantry, a lady with a small cart of just a little food was leaving, and upon seeing the toilet paper said, "OH MY, can I have a roll?" (One roll, mind you!) There was a package of Zest soap, prompting "Can I possibly also get some nice bath soap?" She got a bar and was actually joyous, until she saw a small bottle of laundry soap and said, "WOW, I could sure use that to wash my clothes." She left with a little food and a blessing of life-enhancing 'necessities' that we so often take for granted. *First hand feedback that our donations go beyond the ordinary and are so appreciated!* -Ed Grove



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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.*

