

December Newsletter
Leadership Letter for November 28, 2021

Dear Friends at Zion,

Christ the King Sunday was the last Sunday in the 2021 liturgical church year. The Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth reminded us (28 people worshipping in person and 20 attending virtually) that when we pray, “Thy kingdom come” in the Lord’s Prayer, we are saying that we allow our sphere of influence to be God’s sphere of influence, that we are talking about giving ourselves over to Christ’s reign. The world says, “Get” and Jesus says, “Give” and the world says, “Law and Order” and Jesus says, “Love.” Pastor Jennifer’s sermon ended this liturgical year with the message: “You have a king, people of Zion, but his kingdom is not from here...He reigns only in our hearts through love...” This message will carry us into the new year of 2022.

WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

On the first Sunday in Advent, our service will be the annual **Hanging of the Greens** in which we recognize the Christmas traditions at Zion. On Tuesday, many volunteers enjoyed decorating our church for this event. Due to COVID precautions, the Worship Leader and Worship Assistant will alternate reading the Bible passages and background information about the traditions. Since we do not have a supply pastor for this Sunday, there will be no communion.

The 10:00 AM service, will be offered in-person in the sanctuary, on Zoom, on Zion’s YouTube, along with the Service of the Word found later in this letter. **Log-in instructions for the Zoom service** this Sunday: use the following: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84354840714?pwd=TDJGTkwvSTBER2lNb1o1Qzd6WGxDdz09>, Meeting ID: 843 5484 0714, Password: 022654. Or by PHONE, +16465588656, 84354840714#, 1#, 022654#. To join the service **by Livestream on our YouTube channel**, you can do so by visiting our page at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWzOtfCe2z7bIPvxp62lA>

If you haven’t already done so, please return your **PLEDGE CARDS**.

SUPPLY PASTORS FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT ZION DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

December 5, 2021: Deacon David Grindle

December 12, 2021: The Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth

December 19, 2021: Deacon Patsy Glista

December 24, 2021: **Christmas Eve at 7 PM:** Deacon Patsy Glista

December 26, 2021: *There will be no worship at Zion. We are
welcome to attend Our Saviour at 10 AM*

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for lighting the Advent wreath on the remaining Sundays in Advent.

GIVE THE GIFT OF FAIR TRADE THIS CHRISTMAS!

Due to the pandemic, the Fireside Room has been locked and access to Fair Trade products has been limited. To make it more convenient for you to shop for the holidays, a cart with sample items will be in the foyer on the four Sundays before Christmas. The bright red Equal Exchange coffee packages displayed there are festive and will surely brighten your gift giving. **This year we are offering special holiday deals on two flavors of coffee—Toffee Caramel and Hazelnut Crème Decaf. Prices of those two coffees have been slashed from \$7.50 and \$8.50 to \$5.00 each.** 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. Thank you for supporting this ministry of Zion.

To shop during the week, call Sara and she will open the Fireside Room for you. To inquire about the range of products that can be ordered from Equal Exchange, or to place an order, please contact Laurel McCurdy:

Call or text: (315) 939-9875

Email: lemccurdy@gmail.com

Fair Trade items will be delivered to you in the very safest way possible and in whatever way is most convenient for you.

On Sunday, we also heard the sad news that the Morrow Warming Center had to temporarily close because their funding fell through. The pastor of the Cornerstone Community Church said on Facebook that they are working tirelessly to advocate for and help those who need safe, warm places to stay. As of Sunday, they offered breakfast and the use of their bathrooms to those who spent the night on porches or in abandoned buildings nearby. Donations of sleeping bags, hats, gloves, hand warmers, socks, and food are still needed.

Please keep the community around Plant Street, Utica in your prayers.

In Faith and Friendship,
Laurel McCurdy, church council co-president

DECEMBER WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

DATE:	WORSHIP ASST.	GREETERS	USHERS
12/5		Laurel McCurdy	
12/12		Laurel McCurdy	
12/19		Laurel McCurdy	
12/24 7:30 PM			

Zion Lutheran Church
New Hartford, NY
Advent 1



November 28, 2021

GATHERING

WELCOME TO ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH!!

Prelude: *There's a Song in the Air*, Dorothy Wells -Kelli Watson
Please stand, if able

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Arise, shine, for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. Lift up your eyes round about and see.

C: Sing and rejoice. For lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of you, says the Lord.

P: It is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed.

C: The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us put on the armor of light.

All: As with gladness people of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so most gracious Lord may we evermore be led to thee.

WA: First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16, Bible Pg. 1232

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

ADVENT INVOCATION -Beth Dubeck

God inspired the prophets of old that they should foretell of his great promise of a Messiah. Many generations of people lived in expectation, hoping that this promise would be fulfilled in their day. We also live in a day of anticipation, knowing that Christ will return to us, perhaps in our lifetime.

Background: *The Advent Wreath* -Matthew Schiller

THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Light one purple candle -Matthew Schiller

Today, as we begin the Advent season, the Candle of Expectation is lighted. May it serve to remind us of God's great promise to humankind, and that he always keeps his promises.

THE HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW #257 (Verse 1)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. **Refrain:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

THE PRAYER -Beth Dubeck

Ever Faithful God, may we have a new appreciation of your promises to us and your fulfillment of them. Help us to prepare our lives for this Advent within us during this holy season. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

LITANY FOR ADVENT -Mark Thompson

P: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

C: And the redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgressions, says the Lord.

P: Let us pray. Glory be to You, Eternal God. Your glory shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together for your mouth, O Lord, has spoken it.

C: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

P: Blessed are you, O God of the prophets. Behold you will come with a strong hand, and your arm shall rule for you.

C: Blessed be the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

D: You shall feed your flock like a shepherd; you shall gather the lambs with your arm, and carry them in your bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

E: Blessed is he that comes; peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Bible Pg. 1844 -Wendy Stevens

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Meaning of the Service -Wendy Stevens

THE SANCTUARY DECORATIONS

Scripture: Luke 2:29-32

-Mark Thompson

Background: Poinsettias

-Wendy Stevens

Hymn: *Away in a Manger*

ELW #277 (Verses 1 & 2)

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Scripture: Luke 2:11-12

-Mark Thompson

Background: *The Christmas Tree*

-Wendy Stevens

Hymn: *Silent Night* ELW #281 (Verses 1 & 2)

PRAYER (unison)

Prepare our hearts, O God, for the coming of Jesus Christ, your Son. Deepen our joy as we now make ready for the anniversary of his lowly birth at Bethlehem. By true faith in Him, who is the desire of the nations, the promise of the prophets, the Prince of Peace, the Redeemer of all people, may we rightly welcome Him as the savior of our souls and the Lord of our lives. Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE TREE LIGHTS

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2, John 1:1-5, 9

-Mark Thompson

Background: *The Lighting of the Tree Lights*

-Wendy Stevens

Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ELW #279 (Verses 1 & 2)

ANTHEM: *Carol of the Bells*, by Marcia Wells -Kelli Watson & Katie Corasanti

APOSTLES' CREED, (Please stand, if able.) -Wendy Stevens

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION -Wendy Stevens

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Listen to the cries of your people waiting patiently for your healing hand and comforting Spirit, especially those who suffer with chronic pain and all cancer patients, Pr. Mary Etta, Claudia, Pr. Roger, Patsy, Wesley, Ed and family, and Theresa, that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect.
Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER -Mark Thompson

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

RINGING OF THE CHRISTMAS BELLS

Scripture: *Psalm 150* -Mark Thompson
Background: *Ringing of the Christmas Bells* -Wendy Stevens

SENDING

Blessing -Mark Thompson

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. Amen.

JOY TO THE WORLD

Scripture: *Psalm 98* -Mark Thompson
Background: *Joy to the World* -Wendy Stevens
Hymn: *Joy To The World, ELW#267, (Please stand, if able.)*

RINGING OF THE BELLS

(Individual bells)

Dismissal -Mark Thompson

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *Joy to the World, David Lanz* -Kelli Watson

December Birthdays - Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!!

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
Ron Kowalczyk	8	Ann McCarthy	28
Karen Mannella-Daniel	8	Norm Jeche, Jr.	29
Mark Rettig	8	Laura Hilt	30
Ruth LaManque	10	David McCarthy	30
Caleb Hunter	12	Sara Grapski	30
Holly Kulawy	17		

Given to the Glory of God

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Fran King	Current expenses	Jack Henke
Fran King	Roof Fund	Laurel McCurdy
Fran King	Memorial Fund	John & Diana Inserra
Fran King	Zion Food Ministry	Kerstin & Ferhun Soykan
Fran King	Building Fund	Lois McAllister
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Ben & Cheryl Edmiston
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Sally & John Holmes
Fran King	The Endowment Fund	Ron & Jan Kowalczyk
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Claudia King & family
John Heitz, Zion's friend	Current Expenses	Jack Henke
Barbara Reinshagen	Zion Food Ministry	Laura Hilt
Lois & Chick Hall	Zion Food Ministry	Don & Wanda Gregory
George P. Berie	The Angel Tree	Loretta Berie
<u>In Honor of:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Fran LaGase	Endowment Fund	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Kelli Watson's Birthday	Roof Fund	Jeanne Gymburch

		October, 2021 Treasurer's Report		
	Oct 2021	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	\$ 14,685.95	\$ 124,794.70	\$ 136,583.33	\$ (11,788.63)
Other Income	\$ 1,919.46	\$ 27,007.43	\$ 24,331.66	\$ 2,675.77
Total Income	\$ 16,605.41	\$ 151,802.13	\$ 160,914.99	\$ (9,112.86)
Total Expense	\$ 11,060.27	\$ 121,130.55	\$ 187,654.90	\$ (66,524.35)
Net Income	\$ 5,545.14	\$ 30,671.58	\$ (26,739.91)	\$ 57,411.49