



January
2025

Zion Lutheran Church
Zion News & Notes

Published monthly by the church office, newsletters include news of upcoming events, regular and special announcements, photos of current events, and other items of interest. Newsletter archives are available on our website:
www.zionlutheranNy.org

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Preparer: Sara Silva
Editors: Laurel McCurdy and Wendy Stevens
Contributors: Members of the Congregation and outside colleagues

Table of Contents

Announcements	2
January Birthdays	3
Gifts Given	3
Treasurer's Report	3
Note of Gratitude	5
Worship Team Schedule	4
December Memories	5-6
Women of Faith	7
Events	7

hello
january

Zion's News & Notes

You are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven. Matthew 5:14a, 16

Dear friends,

I have been a bit obsessed with candles and light recently as you might have noticed since this is the second month in a row that this is the subject of my newsletter thoughts. But candles and light continue to be a theme in my worship life and that continues as we approach Epiphany.

Epiphany, beginning January 6, is the Season of Light. We focus on how we are sent out to be the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love with all people.

Home blessings are an Epiphany tradition, when those gathered process room to room with lit candles, bringing the light of Christ into every part of the home. It also serves as a reminder of the Magi's journey as they followed the star and the revelation of Jesus to the world. Candlemas on February 2 commemorates the presentation of 40-day old Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem and a time when candles are blessed for the year ahead. The Baptism of Jesus, celebrated on the first Sunday after the Epiphany, is a time to renew baptismal vows, perhaps the candle often given at baptism and remembering Jesus' exhortation, "Let your light so shine before others."

We know Jesus is the light of the world. Yet, amazingly, he also says we are the light of the world. Jesus is the light, but the way his light shines everywhere is by shining through us.

The prophet Isaiah speaks of Israel as a light for the nations; Israel's privilege and responsibility is to show the world how beautiful it is to live for God. NT Wright explains it this way: "Israel was the people through whom God intended to shine his bright light into the world's dark corners, not simply show up evil but to enable people who were blundering around in the dark to find their way."

Unfortunately, they failed. And so Jesus came as a light for the nations to shine the light of God's grace.

Just as the moon lights up the night sky by reflecting the sun's light, we are called to reflect God's glory, pointing others to divine light. The moon has no light of its own; it relies entirely on the sun. So too our ability to shine comes from Christ, not from our own strength.

At a Longest Night Service worshippers were invited to light tea lights in remembrance of loved ones, losses, struggles, or hopes they were carrying. It amazed me how such a tiny candle only an inch high could put forth a flame double its size. Then I was awed again at how resistant those flames were to being extinguished. Like a tiny mustard seed faith able to move mountains, a tiny light reflecting the light of Christ can resiliently push back the darkness.

May you find occasions this Epiphany season to reflect on the light of Christ and how you shine with his light for the sake of this world God loves.

Your Co-Worker in the Gospel, Pastor Janet

January Announcements

Coffee Hour

Please join us for coffee hour every Sunday after the service. Please see the sign up sheet if you are interested in making coffee or cleaning up afterwards. You are welcome to bring food/snacks to Coffee Hour.

Special Coffee Hour

Please plan to stay for a special “Star” coffee hour on Sunday, January 26th. We will be honoring Katie Luther, the wife of Martin Luther. Star shaped treats are encouraged!

Zoom/YouTube Online Services

If you need help with our online services, please reach out to Isabel at any time during the service at: ZionLuthTechnologist@gmail.com. You can also use Zoom’s chat option.

Church Envelopes

Just a reminder ... if you haven't picked up your 2025 offering envelopes, please do so today. Envelopes are available on the large table located in the Narthex. If you're unable to pick up your envelopes in person, please let the church office know, and we'll make arrangements to get your envelopes to you. Please toss any leftover 2024 envelopes you may have to make sure that your 2025 offerings are recorded correctly. For questions, contact Joni Pulliam, financial secretary, at 315.793.2020.

Walking With Friends

Zion's Walking Group will meet again Wednesdays at 3 PM in the Target wing at Sangertown. All are welcome - please join us! Text Kim with questions at 315-794-6233.

Church Office

The church office will be closed for the holidays and will reopen on Monday, January 6th. **If you have a pastoral emergency, please call 315-525-6769.** For all non-emergencies, please email: office@zionluth.com.

End-of-Year Statements

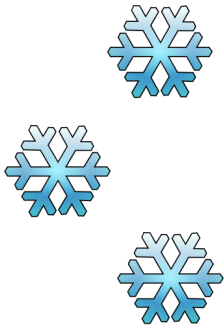
Please let Joni Pulliam know if you need a 2024 end-of-year statement. You can also call the office at 315-732-4110 or send us an email to office@zionluth.com.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

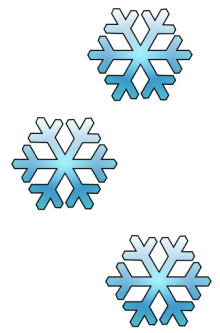
- *January 5th. Worship Service will be held at 11:00 AM—with our prospective pastor presiding with a congregational meeting immediately following.*
- *January 4th. We will host a reception with the prospective pastoral candidate at Zion (probably in the afternoon/evening.) This will give members an opportunity to meet our candidate. Specific details are yet to be determined.*

The 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting date will be announced as soon as possible.

January Birthdays



Miriam Grove	3	Laura Campbell	7
Claudia King	3	Emily Lambe	11
Daniel Gymburch	4	Pat Jeche	13
Robert Loomis	5	John Kelly	13
Lori Owens	5	Linda Bennett	24
David Weir	6	Theresa Weir	24



Gifts Given to the Glory of God

In Memory of:	To:	Given by:
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Claudia King
Wanda Gregory	General Fund	Don Gregory
In Honor of:	To:	Given by:
Linda Bennett	World Hunger	Laurel McCurdy
Linda Bennett	World Hunger	A good friend
Laurel McCurdy	World Hunger	Linda Bennett
Carole Grove	World Hunger	Chuck & Shirley Carlson
Carole Grove	Your Neighbors	Chuck & Shirley Carlson
Carole Grove	Lutheran Care	Chuck & Shirley Carlson
Carole Grove	Food Pantries	Chuck & Shirley Carlson
Carole Grove	Zion Food Ministry	Chuck & Shirley Carlson
Jeanne Gymburch, Doreen Nicholls, Laurel McCurdy, Deb Murdock, & Jan Corn	Food Pantries	Wendy Stevens

		November Treasurer's Report		
	Nov-24	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	\$ 1,751.00	\$ 140,322.61	\$ 140,708.33	\$ (385.72)
Other Income	\$ 4,140.23	\$ 23,204.38	\$ 15,315.68	\$ 7,888.70
Total Income	\$ 15,891.23	\$ 163,526.99	\$ 156,024.01	\$ 7,502.98
Total Expense	\$ 21,046.12	\$ 156,527.97	\$ 155,621.50	\$ 906.47
Net Income	\$ (5,154.89)	\$ 6,999.02	\$ 402.51	\$ 6,596.51

Notes of Gratitude & Other Communications

Starting the New Year off with gratitude.

Social Ministry thanks everyone for your generous outpouring of hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, and monetary donations for our Mitten Tree and Angel Tree. An astonishing amount of 203 items collected from the Mitten Tree was distributed to The Center and Thea Bowman. \$1,100 was collected from the Angel Tree which Social Ministry converted into Walmart Gift cards for needy families served by Thea Bowman. Both organizations have expressed their deep appreciation for our support in providing much needed assistance to the families and individuals they serve.

Dear Members of Zion Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Center, we would like to thank you for your generous support. This gift will help provide clothing to those who have lost so much. With your help it is possible for refugees to begin again.

From all of us here at The Center, thank you.

Shelly Callahan, Executive Director

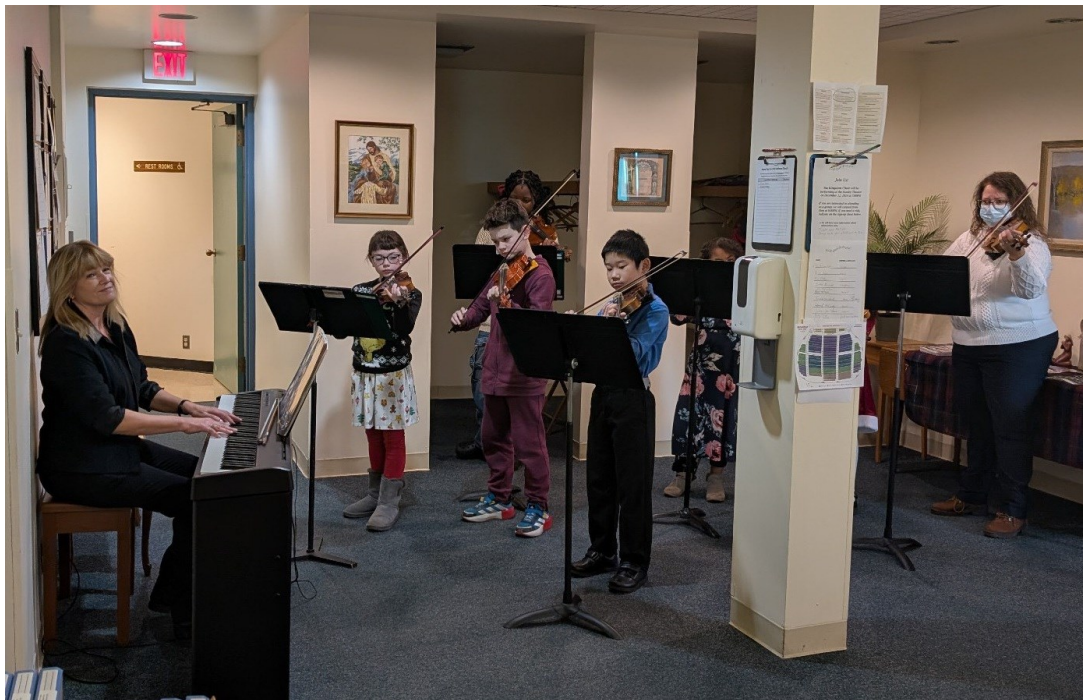
Thank you to everyone who helped get the church ready for Christmas on December 6th! We had volunteers come help in the morning as well as the evening.



JANUARY WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

Date:	Worship Asst.	Pastor	Greeters	Ushers
Jan. 5 at 11 AM	John Blackburn	Prospective Pastor with Pastor Janet in attendance	Laura Hilt	Caryn Carlson
Jan. 12		David Grindle, SAM	Darlene Hill	
Jan. 19	Mark Thompson	Pr. Rick Klafehn	Linda Bennett	
Jan. 26	Wendy Stevens	Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth		

December, 2024 Memories



Thank you to Tina Ponce & her violin students for kicking off the Advent Season with beautiful music before the start of the service on December 1st.



December, 2024 Memories



Thank you to everyone who stayed for Coffee Hour after the service on Stewardship Sunday, December 1st.

Events

Women of Faith Upcoming Events

All women are invited: Tuesday, January 28th at 7pm on Zoom - planning meeting for Bible Studies. Please research and let us know if you're willing to lead a Bible study, February–May. (Look for the Zoom link in WOF January emails.)

All women are invited to meet at Zion on Saturday, March 8th (snow date March 15th) at 10 AM. Zion will provide drinks and snacks, followed by a program by Our Saviour about women and the church.

Please let Sara Silva know if you would like to be on our Women of Faith Emailing list.

Frosty days, cozy nights! We have the wonderfully warm items you need to stay toasty all winter long. We will be holding a **25% OFF SALE DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.**

Our Wool Snuggle Penguin socks have the perfect name for them, they feel like a comfortable hug. Maggie's Organics (a US company) is committed to total transparency, total sustainability, and true ethical practices from form to finish. Their Merino wool is grown in the Chubut region of southern Argentina and the sheep are raised to the same standard as sheep raised for organic dairy and meat. These soft organic wool socks have a thick cushion throughout, with a stretchy comfort top. Our Collingwood Texting Mittens are 100% New Zealand Wool on the exterior and the inside is lined with polyester fleece.

FAIR TRADE SHOP, STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 8 SO. PARK ROW, CLINTON.
Our hours are 10-4pm every Thursday and SECOND SATURDAYS.



Martin Luther's Travels: Berlin to Rome
Group Organizer: Ms. Laura Godkin

Tour Includes		Investment
Departure Date July 9, 2026 July 2026	Meals All breakfasts. All dinners.	\$5449 \$495 / month
Overnights Berlin 1 • Wittenberg 2 • Munich 2 • Paris 2 • Rome 3	Tour Director Services of a specially-trained passports Tour Director throughout. Whisper headsets included.	Program Cost \$5449 - \$100 Early Enrollment Discount Total \$5449
Accommodations Accommodations in centrally-located three-star or four-star hotels. Rooming on a double basis.	Travel Protection passports provides and pays for a Post-Departure Travel Protection Plan that provides coverage for Trip Interruption, Trip Delay, Medical Expense and Evacuation and more.	<small>Monthly payments are based on the E-Z Pay payment schedule with \$0 deposit. Early Enrollment Discount expires September 15, 2024. Final payment is due 3/21/2025 or, with E-Z Pay, 6/9/2025. Tour cost is based on a minimum group size of 40 participants. Departure from Syracuse, NY.</small>
Transportation Round-trip transportation on scheduled airline. Unlimited public transportation.	For More Information 1 Visit our website passports.com 2 Enter Tour ID LGODKIN2025-3	

passports.com 51 Union St., Suite 106, Worcester, MA 01608 800.332.7277

RESCHEDULED

MARTIN LUTHER'S TRAVELS:

HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO 2026.

Please see Laurel McCurdy or Linda Bennett with questions.



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.*

