



Zion's News & Notes

A Few Words From Pastor Janet

January
2024

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

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One of the joys of the Advent and Christmas seasons is the music. Not to listen nonstop from November 1st to December 25th as one can hear on the radio—that's a bit of an overload for me. But I do love the wide variety for every mood or situation—bouncy with some jingle bells for household chores, familiar, well-known for singing together in the car, contemplative to relax with and reflect on the lyrics. There's a song for everyone and every mood. Often one song in particular will speak to me, and I'll seek it out to listen to many times throughout the season. It doesn't have to be a new (to me) song, just one that resonates and has a message I need to hear. This year, that song is *In the Bleak Midwinter*.

Its message of simplicity and minimalism speaks in a world in which all the December holidays seem only to exist as a reason for gift buying and giving. After all, a humble stable was good enough to welcome God Almighty. And no matter how much money you spend or how much you time you expend in creating the perfect experience, Christmas is really about giving your heart to those you love and the One who loves you.

In the Bleak Midwinter

By Christina Rossetti

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

Blessed Christmas!
Pastor Janet



January 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 coffee hour!

Church Office

The church office will be closed until January 3rd. Sara will be on vacation and Jen Pierce will be covering the phones and doors for a limited amount of time. Please call the office if you need any assistance, or if you need to stop by so you know someone will be there.

Annual Congregation Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held in the sanctuary after the service on Sunday, January 28th.

Attention Zion Attendees!!!

If you are new to Zion, or if you have been attending for a while and would like to learn more about becoming a member, please call the church office at: 315-732-4110 or email office@zionluth.com.

Walking With Friends

The Walking Group has been meeting on Wednesdays at 2:30pm at the Target entrance of Sangertown. Call Kim Marscher (315) 794-6233 if you have questions.

Annual Report

Please submit all reports for the 2023 Annual Report to the office if you haven't already done so.

Offering Envelopes

Your 2024 offering envelopes are available for you to pick up in the narthex next Sunday. Please see Gloria with any questions.

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.

Statements

Please let Gloria know if you need a 2023 Statement. You can also call the office at 315-732-4110 or send us an email at office@zionluth.com.

Women of Faith

Women of Faith will have a planning meeting on Zoom in January. Check the weekly bulletin for the time, date and Zoom login and please join us to make plans for the future of this group of women from Trinity, Our Saviour and Zion.

Sincere thanks to Laurel McCurdy & Wendy Stevens for reviewing and editing our weekly bulletins, newsletters, and other publications on a regular basis. This is a lot of work and I appreciate it tremendously. -Sara Silva



With Sympathy- Zion's congregation extends its heartfelt sympathy to Helga and Harry Morrison on the passing of Helga's brother, Rainer Kohlbrenner.

January Birthdays



| | | | |
|-----------------|----|----------------|----|
| Ryan Higgins | 2 | Pat Jeché | 13 |
| Miriam Grove | 3 | John Kelly | 13 |
| Claudia King | 3 | Kelly McGlynn | 13 |
| Daniel Gymburch | 4 | Jim Marscher | 15 |
| Adrienne Midura | 4 | Arianna North | 19 |
| Robert Loomis | 5 | Scott Gwilt | 20 |
| Lori Owens | 5 | Linda Bennett | 24 |
| David Weir | 6 | Theresa Weir | 24 |
| Laura Campbell | 7 | Eli Rettig | 25 |
| Emily Lambe | 11 | Beth Scarafile | 31 |



Gifts Given to the Glory of God

| In Memory of: | To: | Given by: |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Fran King | Angel Tree | Chuck & Shirley Carlson |
| Doris & Donald Zellner | Operating/Current Expenses | Jeanne Gymburch |
| Fran King | Holiday Food Baskets | Claudia King |
| In Honor of: | To: | Given by: |
| The Lisa Lucas-Myers Family | General Fund | Bob & Bonnie Loomis |
| Laurel McCurdy | World Hunger | Linda Bennett |
| Linda Bennett | World Hunger | Laurel McCurdy |

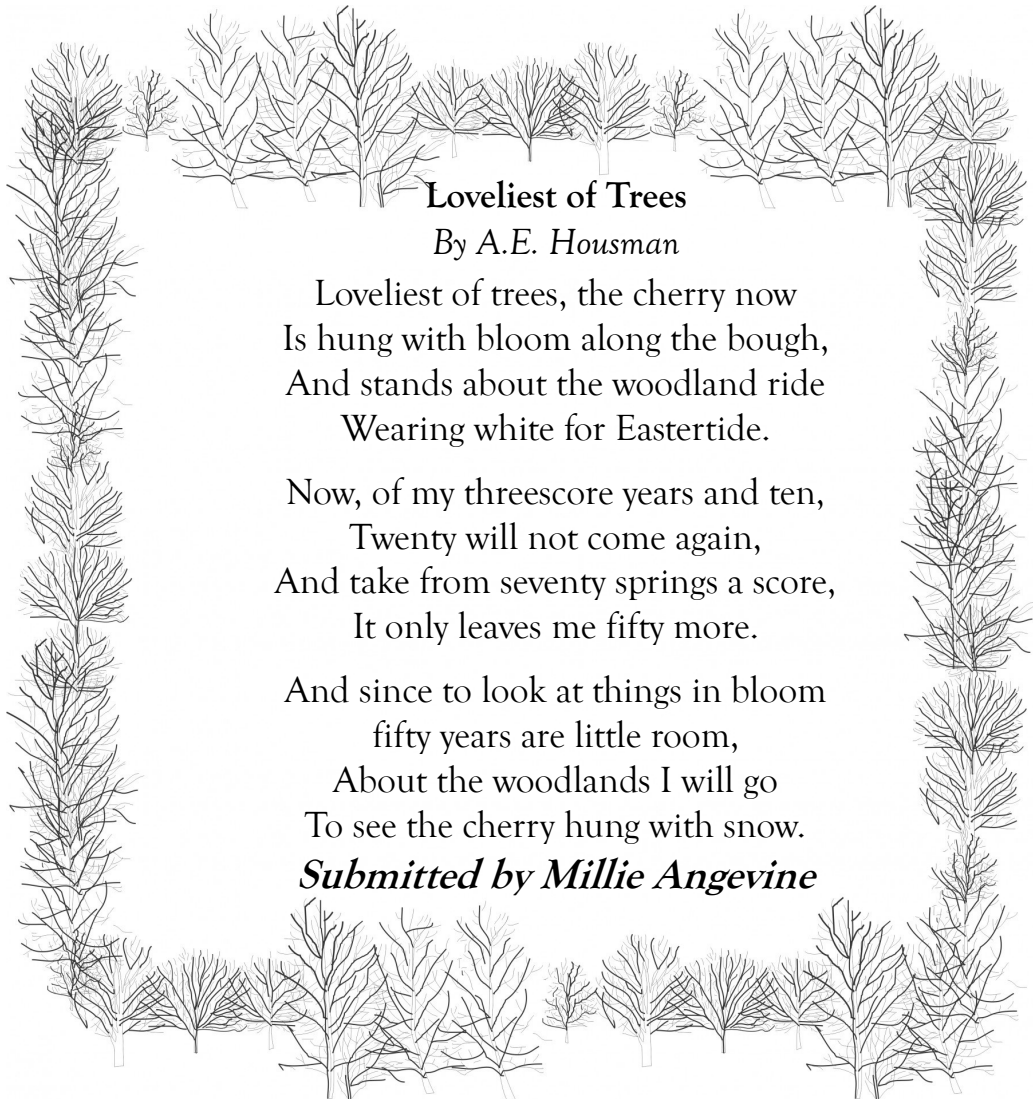


| Date: | Worship Assistant | Pastor | Greeters | Ushers |
|---------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|--------|
| Jan. 7 | Wendy Stevens | Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth | Jan Corn | |
| Jan. 14 | | David Grindle, SAM | Linda Bennett | |
| Jan. 21 | Wendy Stevens | Pr. Rick Klafehn | Jan Corn | |
| Jan. 28 | | Pr. Janet Griffiths | | |

*“Unhanging of the Greens” will be after worship on Sunday, January 7th.
Many hands are needed. Please stay after worship to help!*

Treasurer's Report

| | | November 2023 Treasurer's Report | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Nov-23 | Year to Date | Budget | Over/Under Budget |
| Income | | | | |
| Giving | \$ 14,093.00 | \$ 140,692.77 | \$ 157,666.00 | \$ (16,973.23) |
| Other Income | \$ 1,785.25 | \$ 16,538.37 | \$ 16,086.68 | \$ 451.69 |
| Total Income | \$ 15,878.25 | \$ 157,231.14 | \$ 173,752.68 | \$ (16,521.54) |
| | | | | |
| Total Expense | \$ 12,573.56 | \$ 141,457.38 | \$ 170,335.00 | \$ (28,877.62) |
| | | | | |
| Net Income | \$ 3,304.69 | \$ 15,773.76 | \$ 3,417.68 | \$ 12,356.08 |



Holiday Greetings from Across the Pond

Recently, Edeltraud John, historian of St. Oswald's Lutheran Church in Weilimdorf, Germany, sent us that congregation's "Frohe Weihnachten" (Merry Christmas) wishes and, as a bonus, some Wetzel family records from the parish archives. Pastor Andrew Wetzel, a Weilimdorf native and our church's founder, grew up in St. Oswald's.

| Geburts- Tag, Monat u. Jahr. | Hausvater. | Eopulations- Tag, Monat und Jahr. | Hausmutter. |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| d. 26 Sept. 1776. | Johann Andreas Wetzel Bürger und Bauer. † d. 12 Mai 1860. | d. 28 Febr. 1802. | Agatha Catharina † 27 Dec. 1820. |

This image gives details about Pastor Andrew's parents. The four headings (L to R) read: Birthday, Month and Year - Head of Household (Housefather) - Wedding Day, Month and Year - House-mother. The information below the headings states (L to R): 26 September 1776 - Johann Andreas Wetzel, Citizen and Farmer, Died 12 May 1860 - 28 February 1802 - Agatha Cathariene, Died 27 December 1820. The cross indicates that a person has passed.

| Zahl der Kinder. | N a m e n. | G e b u r t. | Confirmation oder Erste Communion. |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| 1.) | Jacob Gottlieb. † | d. 14 Jan. 1807. | |
| 2.) | Johann Andreas. | d. 27 Jan. 1808. | 1822. |
| 3.) | Jacob. | d. 13. Jan. 1811. | 1825. |
| 4. | Agatha Catharina. † | d. 8. Dec. 1812. | |
| 5. | Gottlieb Friedrich. | J. 2. Jan. 1816. | 1830. |

A list of the Wetzel children, in order of birth, appears here. The four headings (L to R) read: Number of Child (i.e. first born) - Name - Birthday - Year of Confirmation or Communion. The children were: 1) Jacob Gottlieb (deceased), 14 January 1807. 2) Johann Andreas (our Pastor Andrew), 27 January 1808, confirmed 1822. 3) Jacob, 13 January 1811, confirmed 1825. 4) Agatha Catharina (deceased), 8 December 1812. 5) Gottlieb Friedrich, 2 January 1816, confirmed 1830.

"Danke" to Edeltraud for once again remembering Zion at holiday time, and "thanks" to my friend Gerda Beckerman, who translated the material.

Notes of Gratitude & Other Communications

Thank you to our members and friends of Zion for all the effort, dedication, work, and time that went into getting the church ready for Christmas! To our greeters, ushers, worship assistants, readers, and participants for our traditional special services, food delivery drivers, and our staff, thank you for all you do! Also, a big thank you to everyone who helped at the church decorating party on December 8th. (*Photos of the decorating party are on the next few pages!*)

Dear Joe Schmidt and MaryMargaret Krukonis,

Thank you for leading Faith Alive on Sunday, December 10th! The lesson was both well received and enjoyed by everyone who attended! - Your Zion Family

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$150.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. Your spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters.

The glory of God shines through you,

Amanda White/Director, Congregational Generosity

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

We are overwhelmed by your generosity! Thanks to you, we not only met our Giving Tuesday goal, but we surpassed it! On behalf of everyone at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), we extend our deepest gratitude to you.

With Gratitude,

Krish O'Mara Vignarajah/President and CEO

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1450.00 to ELCA Global Mission. Your support enables ELCA Global Mission to send missionaries, including Young Adults in Global Mission, to serve in over 40 countries. And it funds investments in evangelism, education and church expansion.

Thank you for your gracious gifts,

The Rev. Benjamin A. Hogue/Interim Director, ELCA Global Mission Funding

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

On behalf of Central New York Veterans Outreach Center, I would like to say thank you for your generous donation of \$2000.00. Your commitment to helping Veterans in need within our community is sincerely appreciated. Thank you again for your generous support of our efforts.

Sincerely,

Vincent Scalise, Founder/Executive Director

Social Ministry would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Angel Tree and Mitten Tree. The Angel Tree contributions of \$1,400. overwhelmingly surpassed last year's record totals. Thea Bowman House expressed their deep gratitude and appreciation to Zion Church when the gift cards were dropped off. "There really aren't words strong enough to say thank you. The entire Zion congregation deserves so much credit for using your resources to help Thea Bowman families. You all certainly have giving hearts." The smaller children's sizes from the Mitten Tree also were given to Thea Bowman. The Center is putting all the gloves, hats and scarves from the Mitten Tree to immediate use. They were amazed at the outpouring of support to their organization. 53 individuals had just arrived, and they had coats for most, but no gloves. Again Social Ministry thanks everyone for your generosity.

December 2023 Memories



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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.*

