



**January
2023**



Zion's News & Notes

A Few Words from Pastor Bill

Well, the waiting is over! It has arrived (at least when I am writing this, it is very close). A new year!

For some folk the arrival of a new year is a relief from experiences of the "old" year. For others, there may be some hesitation related to what could happen in this "new" year.

From the gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent – Joseph is facing a multitude of problems...at least this is how I look at it. Mary is pregnant and Joseph knows he is not the father of this child. What should he do? It took the intervention of a messenger from God, an angel, to answer Joseph's questions. Part of the message was telling Joseph that he should not be afraid. You see, God is doing something extraordinary.

Peering into 2023, I need to hear the word from God that I should not live in fear. Perhaps you need to hear this as well. Fear can freeze us in place. Fear preventing us from seizing opportunities that are before us. Fear that closes our ears (perhaps even minds and hearts) to the Living Word of God.

Waiting is over....Advent has prepared creation to once again marvel at God's new way of doing things. God in the flesh. God in the manger. Mary and Joseph, young parents in a hostile world. The Holy Family becoming refugees in a foreign country.

We so often focus all of our attention on Christmas during this time of the year. We seek "light" in the midst of "darkness".

The first two Sundays of 2023 provide possibilities to understand the magnitude of all that God has done and is doing. January 1st is a time to reflect on the name the angel told Joseph to give to the child, "Jesus". On January 8th, we will reflect on the Baptism of Our Lord. Years between the two events, but an important connection.

Not a time for fear. Not a time for resolutions. A time to act!

The wait is over....a new year....a birth... Immanuel...."Do not be afraid!"

Looking forward to worshipping and journeying with you as we enter 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, 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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Table of Contents

A Few Words from Pr. Bill	1
Announcements	2
January Birthdays	3
Gifts Given	3
Fair Trade	4
Worship Team Schedule	4
Council President's Note	5
Treasurer's Report	5
Events	6-7
Notes of Gratitude	9

**2023
loading...**



January Announcements

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

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29th, following the worship service. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be February 12th.

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.

January 15th: Please make every effort to attend the in-person service on this day. Pastor Lori will be leading the service and following up with feedback from the recent Abide meetings.

Social Ministry: On behalf of all of us in Social Ministry, words can not fully express all the appreciation to Zion members for their generosity in giving to the angel and mitten trees. The Center and Thea Bowman were the 2022 recipients. Thea Bowman has been the recipient of the angel tree for many years, and the gift cards have been a blessing to their children and their families. Dropping off the \$1,040 in Walmart gift cards left Thea Bowman in awe and amazement expressing their profound gratitude to Zion in how many needy families they can assist. The 128 mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves, both handmade and purchased, found their way to warm the little hands and heads at Thea Bowman, and also much warmth to the adult recipients at The Center. *A very joyful thank you to everyone at Zion!*

Women of Faith: The Women of Faith from Our Saviour, Utica; Trinity, Herkimer; and Zion will hold our next Bible study on Monday, January 23, 2023 at 7pm on Zoom. We are focusing on women of the Bible and women theologians and saints. We will be looking at the book of Ruth in the Bible. Please mark your calendars now to join us. Zoom link for Jan 23 is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85971896480?pwd=dHJWOFg1bE01UTRZakhqOUNabHRtZz09>. Meeting ID: 859 7189 6480, Passcode: 429890, By PHONE-16465588656,,85971896480#, *429890# US (NY)

Join us for FAITH ALIVE: On SUNDAY, JANUARY 8th, from 9:00-9:45AM in the Fireside Room. It was really wonderful to have 16 of us gather on December 11th to experience JOY! Faith Alive, an intergenerational new approach to growing our faith and learning about Jesus, continues on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 9am in the Fireside Room. Come join us January 8th. Members of all ages are invited to gather for this time of prayer and Biblical lessons, coupled with some conversation and fun. Come and see what it's all about; bring your children, grandchildren, or a friend. **WHO** - all ages from 1-105 who want to talk about Jesus and faith; **WHAT** - Bible lesson and time to talk about the lesson, maybe a craft project, singing, prayer, and refreshments

The 2023 Offering Envelopes—Important Notice

The envelopes are behind schedule due to machinery that is down and the inability to acquire parts. The company is doing everything to get their shipments out, but, unfortunately, they will not be arriving until after the new year. In the meantime, please use a regular letter envelope for your offerings.

Thank you for your patience.

January Birthdays

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

Gifts Given to the Glory of God

In Memory of:	To:	Given by:
Vivian Deckman	Your Neighbors	Carl & Judy Schmitt
Jim Daly	Your Neighbors	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Vivian Deckman	Your Neighbors	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Ben Edmiston	Your Neighbors	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Ed Grove	Your Neighbors	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Pastor Norman Heid	Your Neighbors	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Dave McCarthy	Your Neighbors	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
James Daly	World Hunger	Laurel McCurdy
Earl & Vivian Deckman	World Hunger	Laurel McCurdy
Gene White	Memorial Fund	Lloyd & Karen McLennan
Vivian Deckman	Food Pantries	Kerstin Soykan
Gene White	Hymnal	His family
In Honor of:	To:	Given by:
Linda Bennett	World Hunger	Laurel McCurdy
Lisa Lucas-Myers	General Fund	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Ethan, Hallie, and Evelyn Myers	General Fund	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Sarah & Rick Hartman	General Fund	Bob & Bonnie Loomis

IS THERE ANY INTEREST IN FAIR TRADE ITEMS THAT HAVE PASSED THEIR EXPIRATION DATE?

Partly because of COVID, partly because we have not been having coffee hours in the Fireside Room, and partly because some items just were not popular, we have several packages of food that should have been sold and consumed before now. In case there are people who are interested, the following items' prices have been reduced to \$1.00 or \$.50. All of those packages are marked with the new pricing and can be found on the very bottom shelf of the FAIR TRADE HUTCH in the Fireside Room. They will be available from now through January 15th.

Payment can be deposited in the lockbox that sits on the second desk in the office.

FOR \$1.00—

- 1 Baking Cocoa with a 5/22/21 expiration date
- 4 Baking Cocoas with a 10/22/18 expiration date
- 3 Earl Grey Teas 9/20/20
- 3 Organic Chai Teas 1/7/23
- 4 Organic Natural Almonds 5/17/20
- 2 Sisters Blend Coffees 8/10/22
- 2 Toffee Caramel Coffees 9/25/22

FOR \$.50—

- Several Organic Total Eclipse (92%) Chocolate Bars 10/13/22
- 4 Almond Dark Chocolate (55%) Bars 7/9/22

All the items on the top three shelves have not reached the end of their shelf lives. Please take a look at what we have to offer so you can help support this ministry of Zion Lutheran Church and stand with small farmers in the United States and the world.

January Worship Team Schedule

Date:	Worship Assistant	Pastor	Greeters	Ushers
Jan. 1	Wendy Stevens	Pastor Bill		
Jan. 8		Pastor Bill	Linda Bennett	
Jan. 15	Karen Toepp	Pr. Lori Kochanski		
Jan. 22		Deacon Patsy Glista		
Jan. 29		Pastor Bill		

Important Notice for Ushers: Beginning January 1st, we are asking that ushers bring the offerings to the altar, along with any prayer cards. Thank you.

Council President's Report

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed a blessed, peaceful Christmas season. We have many important events to look forward to in 2023.

Faith Alive held its first gathering on Sunday, December 11, 2022. It was truly a joyful celebration with joy scripture, joy songs, joy crafts, and even joy treats. Sixteen were in attendance. Our second Faith Alive will take place Sunday, January 8, 2023, at 9:00 AM. It promises to be a worthwhile celebration for all. Please make plans to attend. A HUGE thank you to Laurel McCurdy, Patsy Glista, and Fran Holzberger for bringing Faith Alive to Zion.

January 15, 2023 is another important date for Zion. On Sunday, January 15th, Pastor Lori Kochanski will lead worship and help us continue our Abide process with Working Groups. Pastor Lori plans on helping us begin these groups (a group to meet with Trinity, Building Analysis, and Internal Structures and Systems) after worship.

I'd like to thank Patsy Glista, Fran Holzberger, and Linda Bennett for volunteering to be part of the group that will meet regularly with Trinity to explore what each congregation may need in a rostered leader and formalize our work together. More volunteers are welcome to join this Working Group. We will try to meet monthly via Zoom through March. When the weather improves, we will find a neutral place to meet.

Volunteers are still needed for the Building Analysis and Internal Structures and Systems working groups. One of the tasks for the Building Analysis group is to make recommendations for the use of the parsonage (possibly renting it to refugees or veterans). The Internal Structures and Systems group will clarify the role of Council members and work on combining existing committees and possibly deleting committees that no longer serve a purpose. If you are interested in serving with any of these Work Groups, please let Sara or me know. You can also decide which group you'd like to work with on Sunday, January 15th and join that group following worship.

Save Sunday, January 29, 2023, for our in-person Annual Congregational Meeting following worship. Members and friends can also observe this meeting on Zoom. In case of inclement weather, this meeting will take place Sunday, February 12, 2023.

Bishop Miller will visit Zion on Sunday, February 5, 2023. He will lead worship and join us for a potluck luncheon following worship. Look for sign-up sheets in the narthex for this event. Please keep this important date open. I know you won't be disappointed.

In Christ's service,
Linda Bennett, Council President

Treasurer's Report

		November 2022 Treasurer's Report		
	Nov-22	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	\$ 10,609.02	\$ 160,405.67	\$ 137,503.22	\$ 22,902.45
Other Income	\$ 386.68	\$ 15,947.21	\$ 18,738.51	\$ (2,791.30)
Total Income	\$ 10,995.70	\$ 176,352.88	\$ 156,241.73	\$ 20,111.15
Total Expense	\$ 14,390.47	\$ 151,263.80	\$ 155,825.46	\$ (4,561.66)
Net Income	\$ (3,394.77)	\$ 25,089.08	\$ 416.27	\$ 24,672.81

Christmas Season



*Thank you for everyone who came to our Faith Alive event on December 11th.
Thank you to Patsy, Laurel, and Fran for making this joyful day possible!*

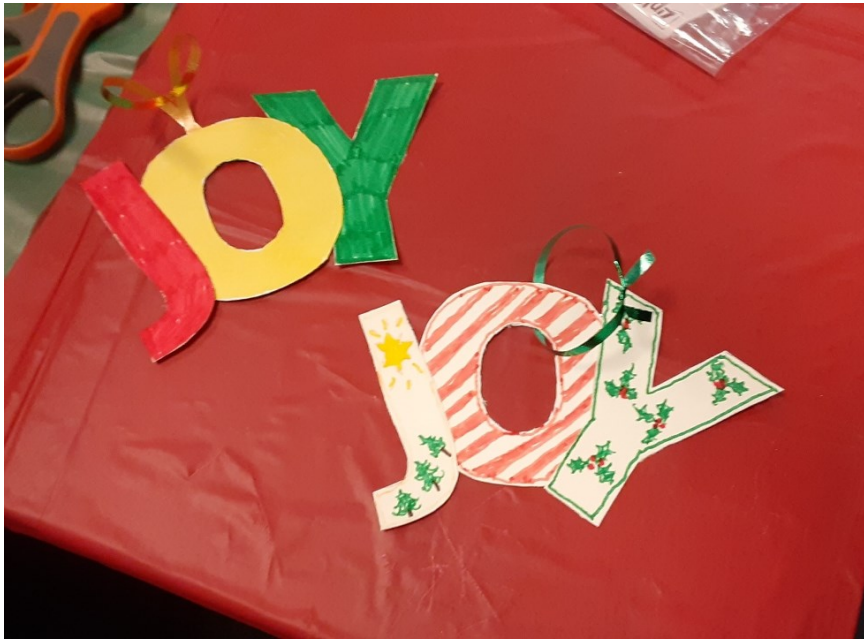


Thank you to all of our Advent Readers and candle lighters this season!

Pictured left are Carole Grove and Evon Pinkos, our volunteers for the third Sunday of Advent.



Faith Alive ~ Joy Craft



Christmas Greetings from the Congregation of St. Oswald's Church in Weilimdorf, Germany!



Pictured left: Last September, Weilimdorf's citizens restored their old town hall, which sits next to St. Oswald's Lutheran Church (Oswaldkirche).

Pastor Andrew Wetzel, Zion's founder, was baptized and confirmed at St. Oswald's.

Zion's founding pastor, Johan Andreas (Andrew) Wetzel was born in Weilimdorf, Germany, in 1808 and immigrated to our country in 1831. His "home church" was St. Oswald's, which remains an active congregation in Stuttgart, a growing metropolis that absorbed Weilimdorf in 1933.

Every year since 2016, our fellow Lutherans at St. Oswald's have sent Christmas greetings. Several ornaments that hang on our chancel tree were created by Weilimdorf craftspersons. This year, we mailed a copy of Pastor William C. Nolte's "History of Zion," an English/German booklet that was published in 1922, to our German brethren. They were delighted to receive it.

Edeltraud John, St. Oswald's historian, responded with this note of thanks:

Hello good people of the Zion's Church!

Thank you for remembering us at Christmas! We cherish the bond between St. Oswald's and Zion's that goes across the seas, and appears every year at Christmas-time.

In September, after a twelve-year wait, the redoing of our historic town hall, in front of the church, was finally finished. We are so happy that a part of this building was dedicated to a museum that shows what Weilimdorf was like when we were a farming community. Andrew Wetzel was raised by his parents on a farm just outside of our town. He would recognize some of the displays in our museum.

As I write this, no tree has been placed in St. Oswald's - but there will be one! The Covid is not so bad now. I will send you a picture after we set the tree in our church.

Merry Christmas (Frohe Weihnachten!) to all of you at the Zion's Church! We wish you a wonderful 2023 and, especially, good health.

And may all of us join in a prayer for peace.



Pictured left: The Weilimdorf Historical Society uses the town hall's upper floor as a museum. Until the mid-20th century, the village was an agricultural community. Pastor Wetzel's parents were farmers and this bedroom may resemble the one he used in the early 19th century.

Notes of Gratitude & Other Communications

Thank you to Ben Silva, Zion's sexton, who arranged for setting up Zion's sanctuary tree and moving many items, and the people who decorated on December 2nd, including Linda Bennett, Laurel McCurdy, Patsy Glista, Darlene Hill, Debbie Murdock, and Jeanne Gymburch. Zion looks beautiful!

Worship & Music

Thank you to Tina Ponce for having her students play their violins for the decorating group on December 2nd. Everyone said they did a great job and they enjoyed listening to the children and Tina play.

Worship & Music

Thank you to all of the readers who have done the Advent Wreath readings for December, and the readers who spoke at the Hanging of the Greens Service on Dec. 4th.

Worship & Music

To Mark Thompson & Zion Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Utica Center for Development (Veteran's Outreach Center), I would like to thank you for your very thoughtful and generous donation. Your commitment to helping the Veterans we service in need is sincerely appreciated and will go towards homeless prevention programs. The goal of the CNYVOC is to make a difference within the Veteran community with the help of donations from supporters like you.

Thank you again for your generous support of our efforts,

Vincent Scalise, Executive Director

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

I wanted to thank you for letting our team use your Fellowship Hall for our meeting. It was of great help! I could not have done this without you!

Best wishes,

Anna Maison/Red Cross

Dear Beloved Partners in Ministry,

Thank you for your Mission Support!

In Thanksgiving,

Julie and Bishop Lee Miller

Merry Christmas!

Thanks for all the memories we experienced at Zion.

Peace,

Cheryl Edmiston

The Moretz family said to say hello and Merry Christmas to everyone and that they miss us all!

Special note from Millie Angevine: Millie wanted to make a correction to her "*quips and quotes*" blurb for the November Newsletter. This was supposed to have been Psalm 33, not Psalm 98. Thank you and carry on!

Fraudulent Text Messages: Many of us recently received scam text messages and emails from people claiming to be Pastor Bill. They are asking for "favors" and "gift cards". Please report this to spam, and you can also report it to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

**Congratulations & Prayers
for Aubrey & Mike Stevens
on the birth of their baby
boy, Elijah Michael, who
was born on December 3rd!!**





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*The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is to prayerfully
discern God's call to help people
to become more fully devoted followers of Christ.*

