

Glad Tidings

Zion Lutheran Church – A Joyous Oasis Sharing Life Through Christ!
December 2024



The Advent Season, which helps us prepare to celebrate Christmas, will begin on Sunday, December 1. During December we will have a number of special opportunities at Zion for worship, fellowship and service. We invite all members and friends of the congregation to join together in these special times of celebration.

December 4	<i>Soup Supper</i> at 5:30 p.m.	<i>Advent Service</i> at 7:00 p.m.
December 11	<i>Soup Supper</i> at 5:30 p.m.	<i>Advent Service</i> at 7:00 p.m.
December 13	<i>Christmas Progressive Dinner</i> at 5:30 p.m.	
December 18	<i>Soup Supper</i> at 5:30 p.m.	<i>School Christmas Program</i> at 7:00 p.m.
December 22	9 a.m. Worship with <i>Sunday School Christmas Program</i>	
December 24	<i>Christmas Eve Worship</i> at 7:00 p.m.	
December 25	<i>Christmas Day Worship</i> at 10:00 a.m.	



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C H R I S T M A S

Progressive Dinner

Shellee Zillner

Thank you to everyone who celebrated God's blessings together at the Thanksgiving Pie Social on Thanksgiving Eve.

Our annual Christmas Progressive Dinner is on Friday, December 13, beginning about 5:30 with appetizers. Remember, host families are NOT responsible for providing all of the food, just the paper goods, drinks, and location. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Shellee Zillner at 760-686-4025. A sign-up sheet for those wishing to attend will be in the church narthex beginning November 27th.



Soup Suppers

Don Hays

Soup suppers are again being served on Wednesday evenings prior to our mid-week Advent worship services. They are intended as a time of fellowship as well as to provide an opportunity for an evening meal prior to worship for those who work late or commute.

Our first mid-week Advent Soup Supper and Advent service will be on December 4. Serving will begin at 5:30 PM and end at 6:15 PM to allow time for cleanup prior to worship. If you can help by providing a soup, salad, or dessert for one or more of these meals, it would be appreciated. Please join us for a delicious meal and fellowship.

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But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31



Read the Bible in 2 years

Today's Light

Lani Sanders

Week 49 begins December 2 with Proverbs 1
Week 50 begins December 9 with Proverbs 10
Week 51 begins December 16 with Proverbs 22
Week 52 begins December 23 with Ecclesiastes 3
(For more information contact Lani Sanders.)



ZLYF Bake Sale

Tristina Rodriguez

ZLYF is hosting this year's annual Bake Sale on the weekend of December 21st and 22nd. Baked goods will be available for purchase before and after Saturday night worship, and also before and after Sunday morning worship. Come check out what we have for sale.

There will also be craft and/or holiday items for purchase.

All proceeds go to Zion's youth group. If you would like to donate any baked goods or craft items please contact Tristina 760-646-3224.

Thank you in advance for your support.

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Linda Bowers

For the month of **December** the Community Services Board will be collecting **items for holiday dinners**. The following items will be greatly needed and gratefully accepted: broth, canned cranberries, canned fruit cocktail and apple sauce, Jiffy bread mixes, instant potatoes, boxed stuffing, canned corn, beans and olives, instant and canned gravy, and canned yams. Please place these items in the blue tub in the church narthex **by Sunday, December 8**. The Homeless Shelter has expressed a need for diapers and baby wipes. Donations of these items will be delivered there.

Thank you!



Petal Pushers

Tristina Rodriguez

ZLYF has reserved 20 spots for Petal Pushers on Monday, December 30th, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00.p.m. Come decorate the Rose Parade floats with us. Anyone 13 and older is welcome. You need to sign up prior to our registration date. You must wear a Petal Pushers shirt and/or sweatshirt. Buy your own on site or borrow one of ours. Contact Tristina Rodriguez 760-646-3224 if you have any questions or would like to sign up.

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Good News of Great Joy

The angel said to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that is for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Christ, the Lord.” – Luke 2:10-11

Blessed December! Once again, here in the darkest time of the year, we have the privilege to celebrate the good news that the light of God’s amazing love has broken into our darkness. As John writes, ‘The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.’ (John 1:9). This is our Christmas celebration! God, faithful to his promises, sends his Son (Cf. John 3:16-17) to redeem and save us. In humble awe, we come together and bow down in worship of our loving God!

This good news is heard in the first words that the angels spoke to the shepherds that first Christmas Eve: ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that is for all people.’ (v10) Because of our sin, just like Adam and Eve after the fall (Cf. Genesis 3:8-10), we inherently know that we cannot approach our holy God. (Cf. Psalm 24:3-4; Colossians 1:21-22). But, in Christ Jesus, God draws near to us, not to condemn but to save us. (Cf. John 3:17; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21) This IS the good news of God and, by the power of Holy Spirit, it inspires ‘great joy’ in our hearts.

But these words of good news are more than wishful thinking or speculative thoughts. This ‘thing’ of which the angels speak was something done in time and in history. As the angels said: ‘Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Christ, the Lord.’ (v11) As Paul writes, ‘When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption.’ (Galatians 4:4-5) God, active in history, for us!

Truly, Christmas is a special time. A time for family and community but it is also so much more. Christmas is more than the emotional satisfaction that the season brings; it is truly about the foundation of our faith. Christmas is about the goodness of God and his faithfulness to his promises. (Cf. 1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:24; Hebrews 10:23)

Blessed Christmas
Pastor Busch



Don Hays

Our Sunday School students will present the story of Christmas on December 22 during the 9:00 AM Worship service. Please join us as we hear and see the great story of our loving Savior’s birth as told by our Sunday School students.

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LORD, hear our prayers

Lani Sanders

Please remember...

- ...**Duane Reynolds**, recovering from a heart attack....
- ...**Sherry Hays**, recovering wrist surgery...
- ...**Glenn Dyer**, recovering from surgery...
- ...**Don Hayes**, recovering from cataract surgery...
- ...**Michael O'Hara**, recovering from eye surgery...
- ...**Charlene Perry**, recovering at home from heart surgery and related issues...
- ...**Frieda Gudmundson**, recovering from a stroke...
- ...**Margarite** (mother of Norma Gomez), now home in hospice...
- ...**Joann Asta**, recovering from pneumonia ...
- ...**Richard Waiwood** (brother of Rob), recovering from surgery for brain cancer....
- ...**Gary Sinclair** (son of Ruth Reynolds) , who is fighting a blood infection...
- ...**Doris Hinojos**, (former member of Zion) who has been diagnosed with breast cancer...
- ...**April O'Hara**, suffering with health issues...
- ...**Bob Dunnerman**, on hospice and suffering with heart problems...
- ... **Lerma Bockhorn** as she continues on dialysis...
- ...**Jonah Dimas**, recovering from surgery....
- ...**Dee Dee Thrasher** (former member of Zion) who is hospitalized in Arizona...



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The first day of Advent is Sunday, December 1, and our midweek services will begin Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. A Soup Supper will precede the service at 5:30.

Our annual **Christmas Progressive Dinner** will be December 13. Look for the sign-up sheet in the church narthex beginning November 27th. We need 3 homes to host.

The annual **Christmas Bake and Craft Sale** is December 21 and 22 before and after the services in the nursery/conference room adjacent to the sanctuary. This year it is being sponsored by ZLYF, and the proceeds will support our youth.

Our **Petal Pushers** spot has been reserved for Monday, December 30, from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Please join us on Wednesdays after chapel as we **pray for Zion Lutheran School** together.

Circles of Friends are close small group faith families forming friendships to support and encourage faith in each other's lives. Sign-up now!

Support Zion Lutheran Church's mission—Zion Lutheran School. **Adopt a class** to faithfully pray for, every student and the teacher, by name for the school year. Pick up your class list in the narthex now.

We're looking for families to host our **Coffee Time** on the first Sunday of each month, by helping setup (coffee would be prepared), providing a simple treat, and cleaning up afterwards. Please consider signing up for a Sunday.

Whenever you purchase **Scrip** you are contributing to our school. Use it when you go shopping or dining. Scrip is on sale in the office during the week.

... and you shall call his name

Jesus for he will save his
people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21, ESV



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December brings excitement and joy to our school! The students are busy learning their parts and songs for our annual Christmas program. All are invited to join us on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, as the students present “Prepare the Way!” during our 7:00 p.m. Advent service. Families and friends are invited to join us for our congregational Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall prior to the program. We begin serving at 5:30 p.m.

The students had fun packing their Shoeboxes for Samaritans’ Purse. We received a Thrivent Action Team grant to purchase items to pack many additional shoeboxes which we did during a packing party on November 20. These shoeboxes are such a blessing to the children who receive them.

Our students have been praying for specific congregation members each month. They send little notes or pictures to those families. We appreciate all the support our congregation gives to the school, and this is a small way to thank you. Make sure you check your church mailboxes for a special delivery; if you have not received something yet, we still have a few months to go, and you have something wonderful to look forward to! A special thanks to Lani Sanders for coordinating this awesome service project.

Our last day of school for 2024 will be an early release day on Friday, December 20. We will return from Christmas Break on Monday, January 6, 2025.

If you know anyone who would like to start the new year off with their child or grandchild pursuing a quality Christian education, send them our way! We always have room for new students.

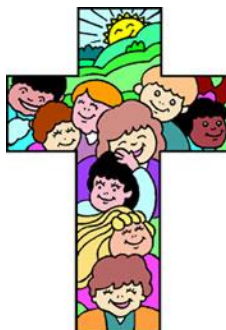
Merry Christmas from the teachers and students at Zion Lutheran School and may you have a blessed 2025.



A Lutheran school provides so much more than a standard education. Academics thrive as life is lived intentionally in faith and trust in God.

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Preschool News

Rosemarie Carrizozo

Advent is almost here! That means getting ready for the birth of our Dear Lord Jesus! The children are anxious to be decorating their class rooms as well as their daily activities. We will also be busy practicing for our Christmas program that we will be presenting during the Advent service on Wednesday, December 18th @ 7:00 pm. We look forward to seeing everyone that evening rejoicing both in word and song of the coming birth of our Lord! It's always a blessing to see and hear God's beautiful children here at Zion School!

Santa will also be visiting the children in the Fellowship Hall. He loves to read "Santa's Favorite Story" where he tells the story of the first Christmas. We will also be having polar express in the kindergarten. We will be CLOSED December 24th & 25th for Christmas. Praise Jesus for His wonderful birth, for "He is the reason for the season." MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Zion Family Adventures with Flat Jesus



With Lauren Miller in Hawaii November 2024

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Glad Tidings Sponsors

Lani Sanders

The Glad Tidings is published every month by Liturgical Publications Inc. The ads on the last page of the Tidings are designed to cover LPI's costs (paper, ink, printing, shipping, etc.).

We are in great need of sponsors, as you see on the last page of the Tidings. Your assistance in finding sponsors (advertisers) is urgently needed for the continued publication of this newsletter.



Prayer and Faith Stories

Lani Sanders

We all have faith stories—stories about God's action in your life at a specific time or for a specific need. We all have stories about answered prayers.

We all need the joy and encouragement of talking about and sharing our faith with others in our lives. God asks us to do this for a reason. Please share some of your stories with us. Everyday stories are just as encouraging as "big" stories.

Please contact Lani Sanders for more information.

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Parents are the primary shapers of faith and life in their children... ~ Ben Freudenburg

We've been exploring the spiritually vibrant home research done by Lutheran Hour Ministries and Barna. They found three commonalities in homes where vibrant faith lives: spiritual disciplines ("Messy Prayers") are practiced together (Bible reading and prayer); spiritual conversations ("Loud Tables") happen, and hospitality ("Open Doors") is regularly extended to family and friends.

In recent years, the cultural trends have taken us away from home and family time together: children participating in more and more extra-curricular activities, adults working longer hours, no common dinner hour, meals not eaten together, fast-food drive-throughs that encourage eating during travel time, etc.

Looking at the three commonalities above, perhaps these cultural trends have contributed to the lack of spiritual vibrancy in many homes?

Out of curiosity, I searched "bonding over food." Some of the responses from the first page include:

- **Why Eating the Same Food Increases People's Trust and Cooperation** (NPR)—All over the world, people say they make friends by "breaking bread together." Social science research explores why sitting down to eat together makes people feel closer.
- **Craving comfort: bonding with food across cultures** (Yale University)—
- **Social eating connects communities** (University of Oxford)—Despite the clear correlation between social eating and social bonding, with 76% of those questioned saying that they thought sharing a meal was a good way to bring people closer together, the survey shows that many meals in the UK are eaten alone. ...
- **Here's how bonding over food can make your relationships stronger** (India Times)—How bonding over food can make your bonds stronger! Happy relationships can make the journey of life so much easier and better.
- **The Upside of Eating Together** (Psychology Today)
- **The Psychology of Sharing Meals: More Than Just Eating Together** (Cuculi)—Sharing food inherently involves a level of trust and reciprocity. It's an unspoken agreement of mutual care. Psychologically, this act can lower barriers and create a sense of cooperation. In a shared meal, everyone is equal, and the act of offering food is a gesture of goodwill, which can lead to stronger, more trusting relationships.
- **How food brings us together:** The ties between attachment and food ... (sciencedirect.com)
- **The Joy of Food** (National Geographic)—The sharing of food has always been part of the human story. From Qesem Cave near Tel Aviv comes evidence of ancient meals prepared at a 300,000-year-old hearth, the oldest ever found, where ...

I was not surprised about the number of responses that popped up, but I was surprised by the diversity—United States, United Kingdom, India, the Middle East, psychology magazines and science magazines—all pointing to the importance of eating together. Eating together, even with strangers, builds relationships—historically and currently.

All of which brings me to something I am celebrating during the fall season of holidays, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas—the many, many opportunities of talking and interacting with people over food, of fellowship, of building relationships of all kinds with people...of building unity with others by sharing meals together.

Enjoy every opportunity you have with family, friends, co-workers and acquaintances to experience the joy of sharing life experiences and getting to know others. Happy thanksgiving! Merry and Blessed Christmas!

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Sharing Life in Christ
is

ZLYF

Tristina Rodriguez

MEETINGS:

Every Sunday during Sunday School

ACTIVITIES:

December 21-22 – Annual Bake and Craft Sale (former LWML sale)

December 30 – Petal Pushers 8AM – 4PM

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 2025 – LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA

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Puzzle!

The word list contains the angel's Christmas message to the shepherds. Fit those words into the crossword squares. Then write them on the correct lines below to complete Luke 2:10-11, NIV.

be baby that today
do been this afraid
all born town Christ
for find will cloths
has good bring manger
joy Lord David people
not news great Savior
you sign lying wrapped

24 25 1A 5 2A 8 13 18
of _____ the _____
12 in the _____ of _____ a _____ 20 22 10
20 to _____; he is _____ the _____." Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answers: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV.

Puzzle!

Unscramble the Christmas-themed words below, writing each extra letter on the blank to the right. Then place those extra letters in the correct spots below to discover what we receive at Christmas.



1. TGLBEHHEME _____
2. NEAGLO _____
3. NRMEDAG _____
4. ODEKSNY _____
5. AMGYR _____
6. OHESJIP _____
7. EFJUSS _____
8. ITEENMSW _____
9. SPHDSREED _____
10. EMCFAL _____
11. TLSRA _____
12. CSSNUEO _____
13. HEVSPE _____
14. ENIN _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14

Answers: Bethlehem (C), angel (O), manger (D), donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), wise men (O), shepherds (O), camel (F), star (L), census (O), sheep (V), inn (E); God's gift of love

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Glad Tidings is a monthly publication. Suitable articles are welcome, and will be printed as space permits. Type in plain Times New Roman 12 pt. font, save as a Word document (not Google Doc, PDF, etc.), attach to an email addressed to fmlsndrs@aol.com, subject Glad Tidings. Articles are subject to editing for clarity and length. The deadline is the 20th of each month.

