

Glad Tidings

Zion Lutheran Church – A Joyous Oasis Sharing Life through Christ!
December 2025



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 3	<i>Soup Supper</i> at 5:30 p.m. <i>Advent Service</i> at 7:00 p.m.
December 10	<i>Soup Supper</i> at 5:30 p.m. <i>Advent Service</i> at 7:00 p.m.
December 12	<i>Christmas Progressive Dinner</i> at 5:30 p.m.
December 17	<i>Soup Supper</i> at 5:30 p.m. <i>School Christmas Program</i> at 7:00 p.m.
December 21	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.



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 12, beginning about 5:00 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 26th.

Watch for more information, and please plan to join us for this special time of fellowship and celebration!



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 3. 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.

In any case, please join us for a delicious meal and fellowship.

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 101 begins December 1 with 1 John 1

Week 102 begins December 8 with 3 John

Week 103 begins December 15 with Revelation 6

Week 104 begins December 22 with Revelation 14

Week 105 begins December 29 with Revelation 20

(For more information contact Lani Sanders.)



The Community Service Board will be collecting food and hygiene items for the FAM Spot. They are in need of **canned or boxed food that is easy for the kids to prepare, such as: Spaghetti O's, Ravioli, Mac n' Cheese, Ramen etc.** Please place your donations in one of the collection baskets in the narthex.

Thank you!



ZLYF Christmas Bake Sale

Tristina Rodriguez

Zion's youth group will be hosting our church bake sale again this year. Our bake sale will be held on December 20th & 21st before and after each church service. Please support our youth group by donating baked goods to our sale and/or purchasing items from our sale.

All funds we receive from items sold, fund our youth activities throughout the year. Thank you for your continued support. Questions contact Tristina Rodriguez ZLYF Director 760-646-3224.



ZLYF Gingerbread House

Tristina Rodriguez

Join us on Sunday, December 7th, during Sunday school to decorate your own personal gingerbread house. This is a ZLYF activity for 6th through 12th grade students only. You do not need to bring anything. ZLYF will supply everything you need. Come have fun with us participating in this holiday activity.

Questions? Contact Tristina Rodriguez, ZLYF Director, at 760-646-3224.





The LORD himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (which means: 'God with us') – Isaiah 7:14

It's hard to believe but we are drawing near to the end of another year. With this comes our yearly observance of Advent and our celebration of Christmas. Here in the darkest days of the year our attention is drawn to the faithfulness of our God as we celebrate the fulfillment of his promise to redeem and save.

Through the prophet Isaiah God speaks to his Old Testament people. He calls out their unfaithfulness and challenges their desire to establish alliances with pagan nations. His warnings, though, go unheeded with devastating consequences. Still God remains faithful making multiple promises of their restoration and of the coming of the Messiah. Indeed, God promises that he will 'astound his people with wonder upon wonder.' (Cf. Isaiah 29:13-16) Our text above is one of those amazing promises that God provides and is the essence of both our Advent observance and our Christmas celebration.

Indeed, wonder upon wonder and beyond our comprehension, God promises to redeem, and restore his people! Isaiah writes: "The LORD himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel, which means: 'God with us'" (Isaiah 7:14) This restoration will be accomplished by God himself! God will come among us and redeem us from our rebellion. (Cf. Galatians 4:4-7)

In Advent, with humility, we acknowledge OUR 'need' and we prepare OUR hearts to celebrate God's fulfillment of his promise in Christ Jesus. We remind ourselves of our 'humble state' and, with the Psalmist, ask: 'what is man that you are mindful of him, humanity that you care for them?' (Psalm 8:4) Indeed, our hope and confidence flow from this: God is faithful! (Cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

In this way, our Advent observance frames our Christmas celebration and prepares us for it. At Christmas we rejoice in the faithfulness of God, and we join with the angel chorus proclaiming: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.' (Luke 2:14) God has stepped down into our darkness in Christ Jesus and, through his life, death, and resurrection, has redeemed us from our sin, death, and the power of the devil.' (Luther: Explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles Creed) Indeed, hope in the midst of darkness. As Paul writes: 'God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.' (Cf. 2 Corinthians 4:6)

With humility, we rejoice in the goodness of God!

Blessed Christmas
Pastor Busch





Don Hays

December finds us busy preparing to share the joy of Jesus' birth through our Sunday School Christmas program which we will present during our regular worship on Sunday, December 14. Practice is during our regular Sunday School hour with one additional dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 13 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM.

This year we rejoice at adding a new teacher to our staff. Mrs. Holmes joined us during the summer Vacation Bible School and has continued with us in Sunday School. She brings over 30 years teaching experience in grades ranging from Transitional Kindergarten through third grade.

We provide classes for children from 2 years (potty trained or accompanied by a parent) through adult. We do encourage parents of the very young (nursery through kindergarten) to accompany your children to class until they are comfortable with the new situation and surroundings. Our classes begin in the fellowship hall with a joint opening at 10:30 AM and break into classes for various ages from 10:45 to 11:45. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Wishing each of you a Blessed Christmas and New Year.



Church Family Prayer List

Lani Sanders

Please remember...

- ...**Dan Tripple**, recovering from heart surgery...
- ...**Lydia** (daughter-in-law of Glen and Joyce Dyer), has blood clots in legs and lungs, and is having breathing problems...
- ...former member **Diane Mahan**, recovering from leg amputation (result of bone cancer)...
- ...**Scott** (son of Gene Dale) diagnosed with a brain tumor...
- ...**Jonah Dimas** (great-grandson of Fred and Charlene Perry), suffering with more health issues...
- ...**Lerma Bockhorn**, recovering from hernia surgery...
- ...**Matt Wilson** (son of former members Allan and Catherine Wilson), hospitalized with sepsis...
- ...**Cozelle** (M'Less Tripple's mother) recovering from pneumonia...
- ...**Greg** (son of Glen and Joyce Dyer) recovering from quadruple heart surgery...
- ...**Bob Dunnerman**, on hospice and suffering with heart problems...

We ask for the Lord's comfort and peace for the family and friends of **Jerry Parker** (father-in-law of Della Parker) at his passing...



NEWS & Notes

Lani Sanders

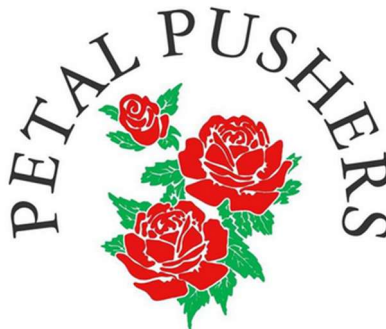
Advent Soup Suppers will be served beginning at 5:30 PM and ending at 6:15 PM (to allow time for cleanup prior to worship) starting December 3. Mark your calendar!.

Zion's annual **Progressive Christmas Dinner**, an adult fellowship occasion, is Friday, December 12. We are still in of need host homes.

ZLYF is hosting our annual craft and bake sale December 20 and 21 after worship. Donations are welcome!

ZLYF has reserved spots with the Petal Pushers on December 29 from 8 AM – 4 PM.

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.



Tristina Rodriguez

Our scheduled date for helping with the Rose Parade floats this year is Monday, December 29th. We have 30 spots available. Our session is 8:00am to 4:00pm.

If you would like to participate please contact ZLYF Director Tristina Rodriguez at 760-646-3224.



We had a very busy but productive November! We had our Parent/Teacher Conferences to discuss our students' progress. They also enhanced mutual understanding between parents and teachers. We visited Gilchrist Farm. It was fun and memorable. We also enjoyed Thanksgiving Break!

We are very excited to enter into December! In December, we are going to celebrate our Lord, Jesus Christ's birthday. We will have a Christmas Musical on Wednesday, December 17th. at 7:00 p.m. at the church. You are all welcome to join us!

Winter Break will begin on December 22nd and end on January 2nd. On December 19th, the school day before Winter Break, the students will have an early release at 11:40 a.m for the teachers to plan the next quarter's activities. We hope you have a great Christmas as you celebrate our Savior's birth.

We are still accepting new students. If you know anyone who would be interested in a Christ-centered education, please have them call the school office at 730-243-3074.





Preschool News

Rosemarie Carrizosa

The children are anxious to be decorating their classrooms as well as their daily activities. We will be busy practicing for our Christmas Program that will be presented during the Advent service on Wednesday, December 17th, at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing everyone that evening, rejoicing both in word and song 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 be visiting the children again this year, on Tuesday, December 9th, at 10:30 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. He loves to read "Santa's Favorite Story," telling the story of the first Christmas.

We will celebrate a Happy Birthday Jesus party on Dec. 23rd. Children will bring a wrapped book to exchange with a friend, and then we will sing Happy Birthday Jesus.

We will be having polar express in kindergarten on Thursday, December 12th.

We will CLOSE December 24th-26th for Christmas. Praise Jesus for His wonderful birth, for "He is the reason for the season." MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Family⁺

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



TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.

Matthew 1:22, ESV

God Came to Us!

Many years ago I read (what I found to be for me) a very special Christmas story in *Guideposts* magazine. I believe the author, a pastor, said it took place in the 1950's. He was the chaplain for a boys' boarding school, and the pastor of the congregation that worshipped in the chapel there.

Most of the boys from this school went home for the Christmas break. However, there were a few boys who could not, for whatever reasons. The staff tried hard to make the holiday special for those boys.

One Christmas Eve, one of the young boys (6-7 years old) who couldn't go home crawled under his cot in the barracks-style dormitory and refused to come out. The staff did everything they could think of to get him to come out, and when nothing worked, they did what good Christian staff do: they gave the problem to the pastor.

Now, the pastor was not having a great day. He was still, this late in the day, struggling to write his Christmas Eve sermon, and had not even found his focus for the sermon, which he had to deliver in a few short hours. The stubborn little boy was not a welcome intrusion! But he dutifully climbed the stairs to the dorm room, located the correct bed, and went to stand beside it. In his best pulpit voice, he basically commanded the boy to come out and join everyone for dinner. In the long silence that followed, he told the air above the bed how the staff had worked hard to make this nice Christmas Eve dinner, how much the boy was sure to enjoy it, and the festivities planned, and how he needed to come out and join everyone. There was no response, so he tried talking about the beautiful Christmas tree, and the gift under it with the little boy's name on it. Nothing. He continued with thoughts about playing with the other boys, etc., etc.

Finally, not knowing what else to do, he got down on his hands and knees, and peered under the bed. From the far side of the bed, two sad little eyes stared into his own. After gazing at each other for a bit, the pastor laid down, and continued just looking at the little boy, not saying anything. Then, he slowly stretched his hand toward the boy, and the boy took it.

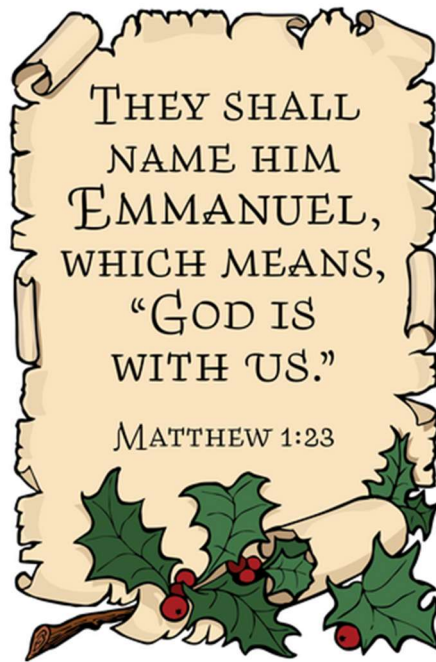
Finally, after laying this way for while, they both got up. The pastor was no longer frustrated. God had given him his sermon.

God came to us at our level, as one of us, to save us.

***In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
The Word became flesh and made
his dwelling among us.***

John 1:1; 14a)

A Joyous and Blessed Christmas to you!



Zion Family Adventures **with Flat Jesus**



Flat Jesus in Seoul, South Korea (Nathaniel Holmes)



Flat Jesus at the Golden Gate Bridge (Jerri Sue Gauldin)



Contributors:

Pastor Lewis Busch
Rosemarie Carrizosa
Xiaojie Gong
Don Hays
Charlene Perry
Tristina Rodriguez
Lani Sanders
Shellee Zillner

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.



Serving The Lord at Zion This Month December 2025

.....

Counters

12/7 Chris Peterson/Betsy Otte
12/14 Marlene Henry/Chuck Knapp
12/21 Lisa Reimers/Christy Bottom
12/28 Lisa Reimers/Chris Peterson

Flowers

12/7 Chuck & Lori Knapp
12/14 Sanders Children
12/21 Troy & Lisa Reimers
12/28

Song Leader

Wendy Waiwood

Lay Minister

Sunday: Don Hays

Sound & Media Technicians

Rob Waiwood
Meaghan Imes
Zack Bottom

Altar Care

Sat: Beth Erickson / Carolyn Peterson
Sun: Lani Sanders/Sherry Hays

Acolytes

12/7 Liam Merline
12/14 Grace Griffin
12/21 Alex Xia
12/28 Jose Rodriguez

Readers

Sunday

12/7 Linda Seidenglanz
12/14 Jeff Sievers
12/21 Lori Knapp
12/28 Debra Kleinsmith

Anniversaries

6– Bo & Debbie Bowers 27–Lewis & Edy Busch, Tyler & Lauren Miller; 31–Fidel & Karen Benavidez

Birthdays

3– Debbie Bowers; 5– Roxann Svider; 7– Cara Sanchez; 8– Michael Duffy, Don Hays, Yahana Parker-Thomas, Allen Seymour; 11- Theo Gierloff; 15– Jacob Kleinsmith, Lauren Miller, Savannah Turner; 21– Sherry Hays; 24– Deborah Becker; 25– Guy Cox; 29–Shea Burnett, Liesa Sievers; 30–Loretta Donner, Noel Duffy, Brit Imes, Aidyn Youskievicz

December 2025

Zion Lutheran Church and School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
	<i>1</i> 4:00 PM Confirmation	<i>2</i> 10:00 AM Church Decorating	<i>3</i> 9:15 AM Chapel 12:30 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Advent Worship	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 6:00pm Devotion Worship																																																																																											
<i>7</i> 9:00 AM Live Stream YouTube zionvlive 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School/ZLYF 10:30 AM Voter's Meeting	<i>8</i> 4:00 PM Confirmation	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 9:15 AM Chapel 12:30 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Advent Worship	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> 5:00 PM Progressive Dinner	<i>13</i> 6:00pm Devotion Worship SS Program Practice 1 -2:30 pm																																																																																											
<i>14</i> 9:00 AM Live Stream YouTube zionvlive 9:00 AM Sunday School Program 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School/ZLYF	<i>15</i> 4:00 PM Confirmation	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 9:15 AM Chapel 5:30 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Advent Worship	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 6:00pm Devotion Worship																																																																																											
<i>21</i> 9:00 AM Live Stream YouTube zionvlive 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School/ZLYF	<i>22</i> NO Confirmation	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 7:00 PM Christmas Candlelight Service School & Office Closed	<i>25</i> 10:00 AM Christmas Day Worship School & Office Closed	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> 6:00pm Devotion Worship																																																																																											
<i>28</i> 9:00 AM Live Stream YouTube zionvlive 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School/ZLYF	<i>29</i> NO Confirmation	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	Nov 2025 <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> Jan 2026 <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2 3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>			S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																											
						1																																																																																											
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																											
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																											
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																											
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																											
30																																																																																																	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																											
					1	2 3																																																																																											
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																											
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																											
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																											
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																											



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. SPHHDSREEO _____
10. EMCFAL _____
11. TLSRA _____
12. CSSNUEO _____
13. HEVSPE _____
14. ENIN _____

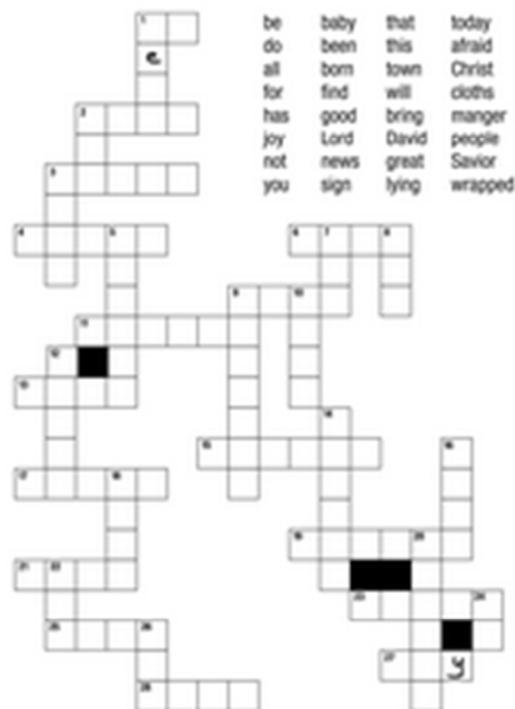
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13 14

Answers: Bethlehem (C), angel (O), manger (D), donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), wise men (T), shepherds (O), camel (F), star (L), census (O), sheep (V), inn (E), God's gift of love

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.



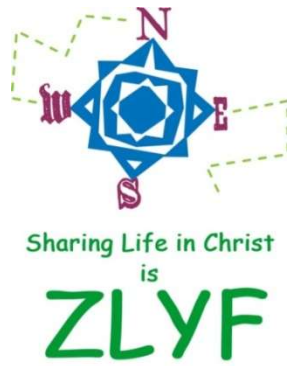
24 26 1A 5 1A 8 13 18

of 4 27 16 9A 1A 20 7 the 15

12 in the 28 of 23 a 20 22 10

30 to 8 he is 19 the 10 Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answer: "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



Tristina Rodriguez

MEETINGS:

Every Sunday during Sunday School at 10:30 AM

ACTIVITIES:

December 7 — Decorate Gingerbread Houses

December 20-21- Christmas Bake Sale

December 29 – Petal Pushing 8 – 4 shift

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 3-7, 2028 – LCMS National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, TX