



Zion Lutheran Church

The Tidings January 2019

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The Warming Tree



Look for the warming tree in front of Zion Lutheran Church on Carson Road. The tree will be filled with scarves, gloves, and hats that are offered for anyone in the neighborhood who is in need of a bit of warmth this winter. We will be collecting through the month of January, so if you have any items you would like to donate, please contact Dorothy Kaiser and the Community Outreach Team.

 **Find us on
Facebook**

Follow Zion on Facebook! Go to:
[facebook.com/zionlutheranferguson](https://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranferguson)

and click  .

Hope ● Peace ● Joy ● Love

That was Advent (those four words). I hope that you internalized them. It didn't last long for me and I was off chasing other things, but it is really important that we use those four words just like we do with “Worship, Community Outreach, and Service” because those four words along with “Love God and Love Neighbor” will be how we finally reach our goal of the “Big Three” as we look to our future. And what follows is what I was off chasing.

“Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.” Matthew 1:18. **An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and said to him, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife for she will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.**

If you were to look at the actual text of Matthew 1:18-25, you would see that verse 18 is exactly as I printed it above, but I took some literary license on that next sentence above.

Now if I were to look at Luke's story of the angel coming to Mary, it might be described this way: **An angel of the Lord came to Mary and said to Mary, you have found favor with God and you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.**

Those two sentences in bold print seem so simple and sometime that is all we hear when we read the accounts in both Matthew and Luke, but as we all know, “there is the rest of the story,” as Paul Harvey says. But if we take those two sentences in bold print and run with them (and for us, sometimes that's all we need to know), we have not done justice to what Mary and Joseph had to go through in this little village of Nazareth.

We do know the rest of the story and the only way we can explain it is that it is God's plan, but there is more to the story. Do you really think that their neighbors bought this story of God coming to both of them and telling them what He had done. I'm guessing not! If Nazareth was anything like my farming community home town of Casey, Iowa, there were lots of tongues wagging, and lots of fingers pointing at them and I'm guessing this scandal was the talk of the town.

Why do I bring this up? It bothers me that we don't really understand what Mary and Joseph went through as major players in God's plan of bringing his son Jesus into the world to die for your sins and mine, then three days later raising him from the dead that we might have eternal life.

The descriptions in both Matthew and Luke of "How the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way" seem so simple and straight forward, and once you and I know the rest of the story, it allows us to just breeze past what Mary and Joseph probably went through.

Some years ago, I saw a movie of what Mary and Joseph went through as the town folk found out that Mary was pregnant. I'm guessing that your home town may have treated them just like mine would have. Mary went off and spent three months with Elizabeth just to get out of town, and I'm guessing Joseph's carpenter business did not do well either.

Even after Jesus grew up and began his ministry, there were times when things didn't go well. At one point, Jesus in his home town was run out of town. "Can any good come from Nazareth?"

I'm guessing there is a special place in heaven for Mary and Joseph, don't you think?

By the way, I firmly believe there is a special place for all of you in heaven as well. Thanks so much for the many Merry Christmas Wishes you have given to Linda and me. You are a very caring and wonderful congregation. We are blessed to be part of Zion. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

God is good and full of GRACE!

Blessings,
Larry



CDC News

The Child Development Center has had a wonderful month. We had our Christmas program on December 7th in the Sanctuary. Our children processed into the birth story of Christ dressed as shepherds, sheep, angels, and Mary & Joseph. They sang songs and lifted their voices to God! We followed this with a time of fellowship in the Multipurpose Room with refreshments and a visit from Santa Claus.

December 13th and 14th we had New York Life come out to finger print the children and make videos with the children speaking and pictures. Every family took home their CD to keep. These CDs are to be used if a child were to go missing. This was a great, free service that helps to protect our children. The response was so positive that we are going to have them back in the summer for anyone who did not receive this service.

Holiday parties for our preschool were Wednesday, December 19th, and the school-agers had their party on December 20th. Everyone had a great time!

We want to thank those from the church who donated items for the Christmas boxes and in particular Janet for all her work volunteering in the CDC. And we want to say a special thank you to those who came out to support our children at their Christmas program! We are blessed.

The Child Development Center will be closed December 24th and 25th for the Christmas holiday and December 31st and January 1st for New Year's.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Blessings,

Courtney Chandler,
CDC Director



January Birthdays

- 1st Arthur Kluegel
- 3rd Izaiah Spotswood
- 4th Phyllis Graser
Paul Oswald
- 7th Jacqueline Calhoun
- 8th Eric Pfitzinger
Mary Roth
- 29th Betty Greiwe
Andrew Tucker
- 30th Ashlyn Calhoun
- 31st Carole Herrmann

AAU Update

The All Among Us Women's Care Center is now open and in action. It is home to a few women already! The ladies have been keeping busy with activities such as baking cookies, making gift boxes for single moms and stockings for children, making scarves with volunteers, and decorating the center.

They have also been working hard. The focus for November was learning about their money, drafting budgets, and making plans on how to use their funds for the month of December. What the ladies learned in November has been reinforced through December. Thank you all for your continued love and support!

Food Pantry

Our current goal is collecting 100 tubes of toothpaste, any brand, any size (although family size is preferred). Toothbrush donations are also welcome. We are now up to 86 tubes of toothpaste and 83 toothbrushes!

Thank You, Volunteers

Many thanks to all who helped decorate our sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Retrieving boxes, bringing greenery, making banners, then putting up everything, all went together wonderfully. I hope it helped make your holiday more worshipful and special. And I pray you all have a peaceful and truly blessed New Year. In Christ's Love, Norma

Thank You, Negwers

Thanks to the Negwers for sharing their home and hospitality on Dec 6th from all those who attended the Christmas Lunch. Also, thanks to all who contributed the good food and activities. We were truly blessed to have had a great time.

Meetings in January

Member Care and the Outreach Team meetings have been moved to Tuesday, January 8th due to the timing of the first Monday of the month landing on the holiday (New Year's Day). Member Care will meet at 4:30pm, followed by the Outreach Team at 5:30.

Epiphany

The Season of Epiphany begins on Sunday, January 6th. It is the 12th day of Christmas (the 26th is the first day) and we can think about the Wise Men coming to Bethlehem to worship Jesus. The Messiah was promised to the Jews long ago and now Christ is revealed to the Gentiles and all nations!

Epiphany goes through the Transfiguration on Sunday, March 3. During this season there are scriptures such as the Baptism of Jesus, his miracles, the confession of Peter and the conversion of Paul that reveal that Jesus is the Son of God.

During Epiphany reflect on the many ways Jesus is revealed to you and consider how you may be the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus to others.

Recycling

'Tis the season of giving, and this means lots of cardboard, paper, and gifting materials. Here are a few tips on how to be a better recycler:

- Always recycle: paper & flattened cardboard, metal cans, plastic jugs/bottles, plain wrapping paper
- Never recycle: padded envelopes, ribbons & bows, bubble wrap, packing peanuts, foil or glittery wrapping paper
- Keep all recyclables free of food or liquid
- Keep it loose: never put recyclables in containers or bags.

Zion Welcomes Our New Organist

Hello to all at Zion Lutheran Church, Ferguson. I am Carolyn Rock, the new organist at Zion. I will be playing the first and third Sundays of each month. I live in Florissant and have recently retired from Director of Music at Immanuel United Church of Christ, Ferguson, just down the hill from Zion. I have played piano and organ and directed choirs and handbell choirs for the past many years.

I grew up in Bellefontaine Neighbors but just moved back to the area 16 years ago to take the position at Immanuel, the church where I was confirmed as were my 5 siblings and 3 cousins. My background is church music for pretty much my whole life. Please come up to the balcony or see me before or after church so we can meet. I'm looking forward to knowing the congregation and learning the Lutheran liturgy.

– Carolyn Rock, Organist

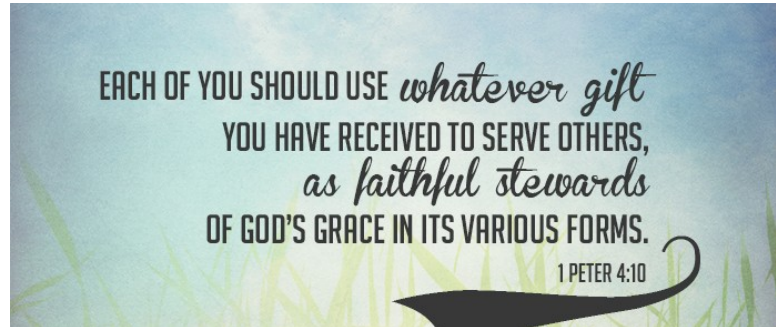
Ecumenical Worship

The Archdiocese of St. Louis is hosting an ecumenical prayer service at St. Monica Catholic Church on January 13th at 7pm with a reception to follow. Everyone interested is invited. St. Monica is located at 12140 Olive Blvd. in Creve Coeur. For more information, visit archstl.org/ecumenical.

Stewardship Year Round

Stewardship is more than a focus on our committing time and talents once a year. In Luther's explanation of the first article of the Apostle's Creed we acknowledge that God is the creator of everything. Nothing exists without God's goodness and mercy. Stewardship then can be seen as taking care of all that God has given in thankfulness.

The stewardship team will offer opportunities throughout 2019 that will help us think about and take action to care for the gifts we have received. We want to be "faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."



2018 & 2019 Contributions

2018 contributions must be dated in 2018 and received in the church office by Friday, January 4th, 2019.

2019 contribution envelopes are in your church mailbox. If you have not received a set and would like some, contact Paul Herrmann (314) 921-6585. Many members of Zion use electronic fund transfer (EFT) and their contributions are recorded under a 3## series, which do not use contribution envelopes.

Trivia Night

Lutheran Church of the Atonement at 1285 N. New Florissant Rd. is hosting a trivia night on January 26th from 7pm-10pm. Doors open at 6:30pm and there will be beer, soda, light snacks, desserts, 50/50s, raffle baskets, prizes, games, childcare, and loads of fun. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$200 a table (tables of 10 available). Contact the church for reservations by calling (314) 837-1224 or emailing churchoffice@alcs-web.com. All proceeds benefit the friends of Lutheran High Atonement students attending Lutheran HS North.



Voters Meeting

December 2nd, 2018

- Opening Prayer and Welcome
 - Mary's Magnificat
 - Think about what Joseph and Mary went through – how do they deal with it?
- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
 - Motion made, seconded, and approved
- CDC Report
 - Endured a change in management over the year
 - A plan in place to try to get it to run more smoothly
 - Committee meets every month to discuss and make decisions about CDC
- Finance Reports and 2018 Budget Proposal and approval
 - Church Budget
 - Contributions are holding – Amount in the budget is annualized (10 months) and it results in a higher number than last year's budget by over 9%. This is good news!
 - Regarding salaries and benefits, things are in line for how they've been since Pastor Larry has been with us. Reminded everyone that the budget would look a lot different if we had a full-time pastor who had the health insurance and retirement. As you can see on the Health and Pension line, we expected to pay almost \$20,000 for insurance and retirement benefits in 2016, the year Pastor Rick left
 - Larry will hopefully be taking course work for TEEM and any expense for that will come out of the separate scholarship fund we have. In addition, the CSC has awarded Larry a grant for \$5,000 to Wartburg for tuition expenses. More great news!
 - Other expenses remain comparable. Highlighted Mission Support on page two. When we combine the support we provide missions like Humanitri, Campus Ministry, St. Stephens Food Pantry, Heifer International, etc. with the designated amounts that are given to CSS, our mission support is 10.4% of our contributions. Also good news!
 - Questions?
 - Clarification requested on how the Good Samaritan Fund is working and who is getting the funds – Larry's discretion with discussion from the Council
 - Christian Education: Sunday School amount is \$0 and the budget states to use the reserve account (\$1400) – so instead of budgeting money to Sunday School, they will use the reserves for the 2019 year
 - Motion made to approve budget, seconded, and approved

- CDC Budget
 - Since July, the CDC Support Committee consisting of Kim Malin, Kristen Kinney, Janet Schaper, Pam Statler, and Pastor Larry have been meeting monthly to work closely with Courtney, the CDC Director. The summer program was very active and busy with lots of full-time school age children. They have settled into the school year and are doing lots of great things. They have revamped their curriculum and things are looking very positive for the kids
 - As you've seen in the monthly results the costs have exceeded the tuition revenue especially for the summer. The CDC Support committee, especially Janet, Pastor Larry, and Pam have worked closely with Courtney to come up with a plan for next year. That plan includes revised staff schedules for the school year and the summer that are in line with tuition amounts
 - At the same time, Janet Schaper has been working a couple days a week at least with Courtney to streamline administrative procedures and implement a new software program since the old program is being retired by the vendor
 - During the set up of the new system, new policies and procedures for billing practices have been developed and will be implemented beginning on January 1st, 2019
 - You may have heard in the news that the Ferguson Florissant School District is revamping, with some schools closing and grades moving between schools in the fall of 2019. They have also announced that they will have all day free preschool from age 3 up possibly at the same time. This may impact numbers of children in the CDC. We will monitor this closely and respond with the appropriate staffing levels and will keep you informed
 - We project that with the new billing policies and the new staffing schedules, we will break even during 2019. We will continue to monitor results closely each month and of course report those to the members. Courtney has done some really positive things in the CDC and has more things planned which include a more streamlined summer school age program
 - We understand how important it is to continue this ministry to families in our community, but we also take seriously the financial concerns and want the members to know that we watch things closely and support the CDC in every way we can. In that light, as Pastor Larry mentioned, we welcome volunteers of all kinds to help! Whether it's working with the children or helping in the office or with fundraisers. We are helping with the annual trivia night on March 30th and would welcome committee members and we are hosting a chili dinner for the

- CDC families on Wednesday, February 13th and could always use help with that.
 - Questions?
 - None
 - Motion made to approve CDC budget, seconded, approved
- Member Care Ministry Report – Dorothy Kaiser
 - Great member care ministers that keep up with their members
 - Please let the Member Care Ministry know what is going on if there is anything going on
- Property Report, including update on church safety issue – Sue Dunham
 - Cameras have been installed upstairs and in the sanctuary – working on getting them in on the playground in the spring
 - Redid the ceilings in the multi-purpose room – no curtains on the windows – enjoying the sunlight
 - New WIFI and stable ethernet so the phones should be working in tip top shape
 - Looking for a new property manager for 2019
- Update on Little Church Women’s Center
 - Renovations complete and at least 2 women living there
 - Storage bins will be going away soon and sod will likely be put down possibly in the spring
 - Church still has to maintain the outside of the property so people can contribute to the AAU through designated contributions to help us maintain that property – if you want to give them donations directly, you can set that up with them
 - \$75,000 we designated to them has been distributed
 - Survey of the property was completed and it was discovered that City of Ferguson owns the property down the hill to the Whistle Stop- it actually stops before the fence line
 - Requested a boundary adjustment to the fence line – discovered that it actually needed to be deeded over to us from the city of Ferguson – Waiting to hear from the city council about whether or not they are going to give us the land or expect us to pay for it
 - Discussion came up about not buying it from the city if they make us pay for it but understanding that the city would be responsible for maintaining it – but we will make a case for them to just give us the property
- Worship Committee Report – Gail Voss
 - Working with Larry through the seasons of the church year
 - Theme for the seasons
 - Looking to participate with Good Shepherd for their mid-week advent services

- Working with the alter guild to make duties a little easier
- Worship Survey was done in August – changes have been made
 - Peace in the beginning of the service, blessing at the end of service, ushers lighting candles at the beginning of service and have present children extinguish them with the help of the communion servers, experimenting with the unleavened bread instead of wafers, change up the children’s message
- Community Committee Report – Dorothy Kaiser
 - Possibly doing a warming tree after Christmas in January – looking for Coats and gloves and scarfs to hang on the at the corner of Carson and Clark
- Service Committee Report – Pam Statler
 - Successfully completed God’s Work our Hands and served Coffee in the morning,
 - Big thing is the Holiday Hang Out – Hot cocoa, Smore’s, Fire Pits, tree decorating – December 22nd
- Education Committee Report – Norma Wolz
 - Andrea, Richard, and Norma
 - Andi checking youth events to get the Youth involved in things
 - Sunday School hosting a craft fair
- Election of New Council and Member Care Ministry
 - Candidates for Council Positions:
 - Janet Schaper, Candidate for President
 - Kristen Kinney, Candidate for Secretary
 - Johnnie Tucker, Candidate for Member at Large
 - Fannie Cole, Candidate for Member at Large
 - Jason Martin, Candidate for Member at Large
 - Jayce Tucker, Candidate for Member at Large
 - Motion made to accept the slate of candidates as presented, seconded, approved
 - Note: Officers continuing, Ara Tess: Vice – President; Pam Statler, Treasurer
- Candidates for Member Care Ministry
 - Doris McCall, Richard Schademann, Dorothy Kaiser, Pat Martin, Deb Balestier
 - Motion made to accept the slate of officers for member care ministry, seconded, approved
- Pastor’s Report, including update on TEEM process
 - What did we do in 2018?
 - Created teams, worked with AAU,
 - Discussed TEEM and how it is working out – as of last Monday, only 2 courses are needed, doing part of an internship here, CPE will be done at Lutheran Senior Services

Closing Prayer for Zion’s Future – Meeting adjourned 12:27 – 26 Voters in attendance

Zion Lutheran Church











Serving on Sundays in December

	Jan 6	Jan 13	Jan 20	Jan 27	Feb 3
Pastor	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke
Music Accompanist	C Rock	A Mayhew	C Rock	A Mayhew	C Rock
Assistant Minister	R Schademann	N Wolz	J Martin	P Herrmann	R Schademann
Reader	R Schademann	P Martin	J Martin	D Tucker	S Miller
Children's Message	L Lemke	N Wolz	G Voss	L Lemke	N Wolz
Communion Servers	K Malin	P Herrmann	K Kinney	S Miller	N Wolz
Ushers	R Taylor S Taylor D Kaiser	K Malin J Martin	G Voss B Negwer	F Cole J Tucker J Schaper	R Taylor S Taylor D Kaiser
Altar Guild	D Balestier	D Balestier	D Balestier	D Balestier	A Martin

* Scheduled servers are subject to change at the discretion of organization leaders.
If you have a schedule conflict, please inform the Church office of any changes or schedule swaps.

Zion Lutheran Church

January Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9:30am-Worship & Noisy Change 11am-Fellowship	31 New Year's Eve Office & CDC Closed	1 New Year's Day Office & CDC Closed  A Kluegel	2	3  I Spotswood	4  P Graser  P Oswald	5
6 9:30am-Worship 11am-Bible Class	7 9:00am-Facility Use (UR)  J Calhoun	8 4:30pm-Member Care 5:30pm-Comm. Outreach Team 6pm-Finance 6:30pm-Council  E Pfitzinger  M Roth	9 1:30pm-Worship	10	11	12
13 9:30am-Worship 11am-Bible Class	14	15	16	17 7pm-Facility Use (MP)	18	19
20 9:30am-Worship 11am-Bible Class	21 MLK Day Tidings Deadline	22 5:30pm-CDC Support Team	23	24	25	26 9:00am-Facility Use (UR)
27 9:30am-Worship & Noisy Change 11am-Fellowship Hour	28	29  B Greiwe  A Tucker	30  A Calhoun	31  C Herrmann	1	2

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**Celebrating
God's Grace**

January 2019

Zion Leaders

Congregation Council

Pastor	Larry Lemke
President	Janet Schaper
Vice President:	Ara Tess
Secretary:	Kristen Kinney
Treasurer:	Pam Statler
Member At-Large:	Fannie Cole
Member At-Large:	Johnnie Tucker
Member At-Large:	Jason Martin
Member At-Large:	Jayce Tucker

Member Care Ministry

Dorothy Kaiser
Linn Moore
Richard Schademann
Doris McCall
Deborah Balestier
Pat Martin

Committee Chairs

Finance	Pam Statler
Property	Justin Kinney
CDC Support:	Kim Malin
Stewardship:	Pam Statler/Gail Voss
Worship	Gail Voss
Education	Norma Wolz
Personnel	Ara Tess
Nominating	-

Organizations

Fellowship:	Robert Negwer
Altar Guild:	-
Hospitality	Faith Tucker

Team Leaders

Worship	Gail Voss
Community Outreach	Dott Kaiser/ Doris McCall
Service	Pam Statler/Stacey Miller

Team Members:

Worship Team

Gail Voss*
Kristina Oswald
Nyokia Robinson
Norma Wolz
Doris McCall

Community Outreach Team

Dorothy Kaiser*
Doris McCall*
Bill Budenholzer
Linda Lemke
Bob Oliver
Richard Schademann
Janet Schaper
Ara Tess
Faith Tucker
Johnnie Tucker
Deborah Balestier
Deb Murrish

Service Team

Pam Statler*
Stacey Miller*
Sue Dunham
Justin Kinney
Kristen Kinney
Linn Moore
Annis Tucker
Dawn Tucker