



Zion Lutheran Church

The Tidings December 2018

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Join us to Celebrate the Miracle of Jesus' Birth!



CDC Christmas Program
Dec 7th, 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Dec 24th, 4:00pm

Check the calendar in this newsletter for more events leading up to this joyous holiday season!

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Facebook

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facebook.com/zionlutheranferguson

and click  .



The Journey Continues

As I've looked at this last year (2018), I've marveled at the progress Zion has made on our journey. It is a journey you know. We're not sure about the destination and we've probably modified our process a bit along the way, but we're making progress. The focus areas are still Worship, Community Outreach, and Service.

We've got me on a track with Theological Education and Emerging Ministries (TEEM) where I actually will take my first course in January of 2019. By the way, although it has been a slow process to get started, I will not be taking as many courses as I first thought. I've been given credit for all of the courses I've taken in the past. Hallelujah!

It has been a year of challenges but all have been handled by our members. We've tried new things as we've reached out to our community and served along with folks from other congregations. We've made new friendships with other congregations. We're not any bigger, but I believe we are stronger, happier, and more focused on the future. I hope you felt the same way.

As I am writing this, I'm not only already thinking about next year and what it might bring, but I'm looking at Advent that starts this coming Sunday, December 2nd. The Worship Committee agreed that with all the chaos in the world right now that we would spend Advent

focusing on Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love in that order for the four Sunday's in Advent.

We'll start this Sunday (Dec. 2nd) with Hope. Hoping for a new tomorrow, a brighter tomorrow, a happier tomorrow, a growing tomorrow, and I could go on, looking for what I hope and pray tomorrow might look like. On Sunday morning, we're finishing up a series of Gospel readings where Jesus is telling His disciples what is going to happen to Him (the cross and resurrection), and as usually happens, they don't understand. It seems strange as we head into Advent that we are also talking about "end time," and with Christmas right around the corner.

Hope for continuing the *journey*; hope for better relationships; hope for elimination of thirst and hunger in the world; hope for peace in the world, joy at the birth of our Lord and Savior, and hope that loving one another will be the "norm" in the world.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. – 1 Corinthians 13:13

God is good and full of GRACE!

Blessings,
Larry



CDC News

The Child Development Center has had a wonderful month. November has been a time of counting our many blessings!

Blessings:

1. We passed our inspection and smoothly made it through our state visit.
2. We are progressing nicely with our new Smartcare child management software. It's been easy to learn and the transition is going smoothly.
3. Our teachers and staff continue to work together for the better of the center. We are learning to come together as a team to help each other out and to encourage one another.
4. The families we serve are building stronger relationships with our staff.
5. The many donations that are given to the center to help with arts and crafts – thank you!
6. Zion Lutheran Church for your support and love and desire to help make the CDC the best it can be.
7. The children we serve: their hearts, their laughter and smiles and even their tears.

We are truly blessed!

As we move into December we look forward to our Christmas program at 7:00pm on the 7th and the many Christmas parties and festivities that will take place.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Blessings,

Courtney Chandler,
CDC Director



*Pictures from Thanksgiving
Celebration and Meal*

December Anniversaries

- 10th Robert & Megan Hickman
14th Jack & Roberta Harrison
16th Dawn & Faith Tucker

December Birthdays

- 3rd Erma Miller
4th Dawn Tucker
8th Andi Martin
10th Doug Vogelsang
11th Carol Barnes
15th Deborah Balestier
Pat Martin
17th Robert Oliver
22nd Richard Schademann
31st Ron Devenport



Zion Office & CDC Holiday Hours

Please make a note on your calendars that the Zion Office and Child Development Center will be closed for the holidays on the following dates:

Monday, December 24th
Tuesday, December 25th

Monday, December 31st
Tuesday, January 1st

In addition, Andi will be out of the office December 27th & 28th. If anyone would like to fill in, please let Andi know.

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 68 tubes of toothpaste and 66 toothbrushes!

Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Negwer's

The Women's Guild is having their annual Christmas luncheon at the Negwer's on Thursday, December 6th. If you need a ride or would like to carpool, meet at Zion at 10:30am and we'll all head over together!



Voter's Meeting

Please join us Sunday, December 2nd for our last voter's meeting of 2018. It'll be a brief meeting and we'll be discussing and requesting approval for the 2019 budget. Every member is encouraged to be there.

Meetings in December

There will be no Member Care, Community Outreach Team, Finance, Council, or Worship Team meetings in the month of December. They will return as usual at the beginning of January. The Service Team will still meet on Tuesday, December 4th at 6pm in the Christ the King Lounge. Have a wonderful holiday season!

All About Advent



Advent Schedule

There are four Sundays in Advent beginning December 2nd. Each Sunday, different families will be participating in the lighting of the Advent wreath and the children will be making a paper chain to go with the themes for each Sunday: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Zion will be having one service on Christmas Eve at 4pm; there will be no Christmas Day service. We will have our regular worship service at 9:30 on December 23rd and 30th.

The next festive service is Epiphany (January 6th) when we celebrate the coming of the Wise Men. Following the service, everyone who is able is invited to help take down the Christmas decorations.

Advent Devotions

December is a crazy-busy time for individuals and families. So much to do to prepare for Christmas—school programs, concerts, etc.—but pause for just a short time to settle down and prepare your heart to receive God's gift to us, his son, Jesus. To help you do this, the Worship Team has provided a wide selection of devotional booklets in the coat room. Some have activities you can do with your loved ones. Help yourself to any you like and make a donation, if you can, to the Sunday School Craft & Bake Sale.

Advent Blue

In recent years, the use of the color blue has been associated with advent. Blue symbolizes hope and anticipation. If you have ever witnessed the dawn of a new day, you saw the darkness give way to a brighter blue even before the sun came over the horizon. I remember getting up early when we were vacationing near the Atlantic Ocean just to see the sun rise over the water. There are no trees or buildings to obstruct the view. The changing of the shades of blue says the sun will rise very soon. Using blue can be a symbol that the Son of God promised already in Genesis is coming very soon. We wait with excitement, anticipation and joy. We don't want to miss this! We watch for the Promised One to fill our lives with the light of God's outrageous love!

Take notice the color blue in the candles of the Advent Wreath and in other places in the church this season, and encourage others to wait together with us. We don't want any one to miss this!

Beauty All Around Us

A heartfelt thanks to Esther and Bob Negwer for beautifying our worship space with their seasonal displays for the fall and Thanksgiving season. They graciously share from the abundance of their garden produce for our bodies during the growing season, and then delight us with the variety of colors and shapes of gourds and squash.

Christmas Decorations

We will be decorating the Sanctuary on Saturday, December 15th at 10am. Please consider helping our Service Team that day, especially if you don't mind climbing tall ladders. Two of our regular decorating men will be out of town that day, so we may need extra help. We will be thrilled to have you join us.

Also, take extra notice of the blue ornaments for the Christmas tree this year. They are being made by the Sunday School children in celebration of Advent and the birth of baby Jesus. The tree lights will not be lit until Christmas Eve to emphasize the coming of Jesus, our light. I pray these changes during the Advent and Christmas season will help your worship to be more meaningful.

- Norma Wolz

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

Humanitri's Adopt-A-Family Christmas Ministry

Zion has committed to adopting two families from the Humanitri Adopt-A-Family program. The program is meant to provide Christmas meals with all the trimmings to their families in transitional housing. They request that all items donated be non-perishable or things that do not have to be refrigerated (such as fresh potatoes, apples, etc.). In addition, gift cards can also be donated so that the families can pick-up the perishable items needed for a Christmas feast. Fun things that would also be welcome could be store-bought Christmas cookies, candy, ingredients to bake cookies with their children, homemade Christmas cards or ornaments, or anything else you might think of. If you would like to take part, the items need to get to Humanitri by December 14th, so please drop them off a few days before. Contact Janet Schaper (314) 724-2426 if you would like to help with this seasonal ministry of giving. If you want to contribute cash, Janet will do the shopping. Thanks so much for considering helping this important ministry.



HOLIDAY HANGOUT

S[❄]AT, D[❄]EC 22ND AT 7PM
IN THE M[❄]ULTIPURPOSE ROOM AND P[❄]ATIO

Decorating Christmas Trees
Caroling
Making S'mores by the Fire
Cookies/Pop Corn
Hot Cocoa

Friends and Family are welcome too!

Zion Lutheran Church • 123 Carson Rd. • Ferguson, MO 63135

Community Page

Adopt A Block Upcoming Events

1. This season, the homeless warming center will be at Immanuel UCC on Church Street when the temperatures drop below 30 degrees. Volunteers needed between 9pm-6am, whatever time you can spare will be a major blessing.
2. Saturday, December 8th is the Winter BBQ at the Adopt A Block Facility at 1616D Northwinds Estates in Ferguson from 12pm-3pm.
3. Saturday, December 22nd is the craft and sewing a gift day, afternoon tree decoration, and children's Christmas party at Adopt A Block.

If you would like to volunteer for any of these events, please call (314) 574-8334

Santa's Mailboxes

Want to write a letter to Santa and receive one back? Here's your chance. Bring the kids to one of the two locations: the Ferguson Community Center or the Ferguson Municipal Library. Fill out the form provided or bring your list complete with name and address. Santa will be returning all letters by December 20th. All letters must be submitted by December 14th. You can also fill out the electronic form on our website www.sisterhoodclub.com under the events tab.

Holiday Movie Series

Join us at the Ferguson Public Library while we watch some classic holiday movies ever Friday before Christmas in December at 4pm. The movies are as scheduled:

December 7th: Last Holiday

December 14: The Nightmare Before Christmas

December 21st: Olaf's Frozen Adventure and White Christmas

Christmas Market

It's getting colder outside, but you can still eat farm fresh! The indoor Ferguson Farmer's Market will be at St. Stephen's at 33 N. Clay on December 15th from 9am-noon. Make sure you stop by to support our local businesses.

Breakfast with Santa

Come have breakfast with Santa Saturday morning December 8th from 9am-11am at First Presbyterian Church, 401 Darst Rd. This event includes breakfast, arts & crafts, Santa shop, picture with Santa, and a free vision screening for children 6mos to 16yrs old. A donation of peanut butter for the food voucher program is requested.



Zion Council Meeting

November 13, 2018

In Attendance: Kristen Kinney, Larry Lemke, Johnnie Tucker, Doris McCall (for Dorothy Kaiser), Janet Schaper, Sue Dunham, Ara Tess, and Pam Statler
Absent: Norma Wolz, Dorothy Kaiser

- Opening Welcome and Devotion
 - Micah 6:8 – What Would God Have You Do?
 - WWJD?
 - No; WWJHUD (What Would Jesus Have Us Do) – Do Justice, Have Mercy, and walk humbly with God – Active Verbs
- Confirm Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 16, 2018 Meeting
 - Motion Made, seconded and approved
- Committee Reports
 - Member Care Ministry – Doris
 - Last meeting they went around the room and discussed “new” problems and there weren’t any
 - Still discussing auxiliary members – Can do everything the congregation can do but cannot vote
 - CDC Report – Kristen
 - Penny Drive to help with Christmas Programs and a family in need
 - Christmas Program on December 7th at 7:00pm – snacks and Santa to follow
 - Not doing Santa’s Village, but putting together boxes to do a gift for each child
 - Change of Staff in the Butterfly room
 - Still working on getting new child care software up and running
 - Finance Report – Pam
 - YTD (10/31/2018) – Church and CDC in the red (Church \$1,716 and CDC \$24,558)
 - 2019 Church Budget was discussed and approved to present to the voters at December 2nd voters meeting – with an added change for Recycling budget
 - Stewardship – Pam

- Did pledges and had commitment Sunday – 28 pledges – reaching out to people who haven’t committed – thank you letter and follow up
 - Worship – Larry
 - Meeting 11/14/2018
 - Meeting from October – discussed Advent – Thanksgiving Eve service at New Jerusalem Church – Alonzo preaching, Larry Presiding
 - Community – Dorothy – Doris on her behalf
 - Right after Christmas they are doing a warming tree where they can hang coats and gloves and scarves for the community
 - Service – Pam
 - Holiday Hang Out – December 22nd at 7:00pm (S’mores, carols, tree decorating, etc)
 - Chili Dinner for CDC Parents on February 13th
 - Education -Norma Absent. No report
 - Property Committee – Sue
 - Larry Wolk fixed the toilet
 - \$500 part for the water fountain – Need to discuss with the plumber what part is needed
- Pastors Report
 - Eastern Conference – used to be area ministry 1-10; have not picked up anything new in means of churches
 - 11/12/2018 – Clergy and PMA’s met – two groups to talk about what they are uncomfortable talking about from the Pulpit
 - Ferguson Ministerial Alliance -Discussed meetings coming up about Opioids and the Workplace on January 10-11, 2019 at the Millennium Center on UMSL Campus and Ferguson Civil Rights Commission celebrating International Human Rights Day on Sunday December 16 from 2-4 at Saint Stephens; 3 groups having Thanksgiving dinners or lunches; Resigning Ferguson police chief attended meeting
 - Karen Schrerer preaching the second Sunday of December
- Update on All Among Us – Janet
 - Larry and Janet meeting with Cathryn Shaw and Dawn about finishing up (Bringing up lawn care, snow plowing, and using our waste dumpster)
 - Got a hold of Elliot at planning department to change the boundaries

- Now they have to go to City Council and get a new deed drawn up and ask them for the property (possibly have to buy it) – December 11th meeting
- Update on Fish Fry Opportunities and Challenges
 - Fire Marshall out on leave
 - Fire Chief came up and discussed the current issues; was told not to talk to Fire Marshall anymore - Monday after Thanksgiving will have an answer about bricking up the windows
- Nominating Committee – Sue
 - Fannie Cole for Member at Large – Yes
 - Johnnie Tucker for Member at Large – Yes
 - Jayce Tucker for Member at Large – Possibly
 - Sue Dunham staying on as member at large– Possibly
- Voter’s Meeting December 2
 - Agenda Items
 - Budgets / Finance
 - Election of Officers
 - Report from each committee (Worship, Community, Service, and Education)
 - Update on All Among Us
 - Pastors Report
 - Fish Fry Update
 - CDC Report
- New Business
 - None
- Next Meeting Cancelled for December unless urgent emergency comes up and a meeting is called
- Closing Prayer – Prayer for Zions Future
- Adjourned 8:08pm



Zion Lutheran Church

Serving on Sundays in December

	Dec 2	Dec 9	Dec 16	Dec 23	Dec 30
Pastor	L Lemke	K Scherer	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke
Music Accompanist	A Mayhew	A Mayhew	C Rock	A Mayhew	C Rock
Assistant Minister	P Herrmann	R Schademann	N Wolz	J Martin	P Herrmann
Reader	S Miller	P Herrmann	N Wolz	D Balestier	K Kinney
Children's Message	G Voss	N Wolz	G Voss	N Wolz	G Voss
Communion Servers	S Miller	N Wolz	W Devenport	A Martin	G Voss
Ushers	F Cole J Schaper J Tucker	R Taylor S Taylor D Kaiser	K Malin G Voss J Martin	S Dunham B Negwer L Wolk	F Cole J Schaper J Tucker
Altar Guild	J Stoverink	J Stoverink	J Stoverink	J Stoverink	J Stoverink

* 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

December Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:30am-Worship & Noisy Change 11am-Voter's Mtg 11am-Christmas Craft & Bake Sale	3 9am-Facility Use (UR)  E Miller	4 6pm-Service Team  D Tucker	5	6 12pm-Christmas Luncheon at the Negwer's	7 7pm-CDC Christmas Program	8 3pm-WOW (UR)  A Martin
9 9:30am-Worship w/Rev. Scherer	10  R & M Hickman  D Vogelsang	11  C Barnes	12	13	14  J & R Harrison	15 10am-Decorating Zion Sanctuary  D Balestier  P Martin
16 9:30am-Worship 11am-Bible Class  D & F Tucker	17 Tidings Deadline  R Oliver	18	19	20 7pm-Facility Use (MP)	21 5pm-CDC Staff Appreciation Dinner (UR)  R Schademann	22 7pm-Holiday Hangout (MP)
23 9:30am-Worship 11am-Bible Class	24 Christmas Eve 4pm-Worship Office & CDC Clsoed	25 Christmas Office & CDC Closed	26	27	28	29
30 9:30am-Worship & Noisy Change 11am-Fellowship Hour	31 New Year's Eve Office & CDC Closed  R Devenport	1 New Year's Day Office & CDC Closed	2	3	4	5

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**Celebrating
God's Grace**

December 2018

Zion Leaders

Congregation Council

Pastor	Larry Lemke
President	Janet Schaper
Vice President:	Ara Tess
Secretary:	Kristen Kinney
Treasurer:	Pam Statler
Member At-Large:	Sue Dunham
Member At-Large:	Johnnie Tucker
Member At-Large:	Norma Wolz

Member Care Ministry

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

Committee Chairs

Finance	Pam Statler
Property	Sue Dunham
CDC Support:	Kim Malin
Stewardship:	Pam Statler/Gail Voss
Worship	Gail Voss
Education	Norma Wolz
Personnel	-
Nominating	Sue Dunham/Pat Martin

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