



Zion Lutheran Church

The Tidings December 2021

Inside this Issue

Pastor's Message
December Birthdays & Anniversaries
Zion & Community Articles
November Council Minutes
Calendar
Worship Servers



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Christmas Eve Service



**Friday, December 24th
at 4:00 PM**

There will be no Christmas Day service. We will have our regular Sunday Worship at 9:30AM on Dec 26th.

Advent Journey

Linda and I have just spent a few days on a mini vacation in Branson, MO, and yes, the first show we saw was “Jesus” at the Sight and Sound Theater. It was kind of a review of Jesus’ worldly life, a little bit of ‘here and there’ in terms of timing, and clearly not His entire worldly ministry...but it was great!

We saw a few other shows, and I won’t bore you with any corny jokes that we heard, but we had a great time! It was the first time Linda had been to Branson. As you may remember, I came to St. Louis in 1964, and I had never been to Ted Drewes until I met Linda. So now we’re even!

During this time away from St. Louis (Thursday afternoon through Sunday afternoon) my brain had a lot of things to think about, including a couple of funerals, a Thanksgiving Eve Service, and the First Sunday of Advent Service. During some of that thinking time and exposure to what was going on in the world, I wound up focusing on Galatians 5:22-23a: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” I honestly cannot remember how it came up, but let me just say, it was what I needed in terms of looking at the timing between now and Christmas.

Here we are with two funerals the week of Thanksgiving; then we have Advent, and then we celebrate Jesus’ birth on Christmas Eve. It’s like a mini journey, looking at all of those key words in the Galatians 5 text and the Advent words that we will be looking at this year. By the time you read this, you will know that we have been “Waiting upon the Lord” with: faith, hope, rejoicing, and gratitude. You will probably be wondering, “Whatever happened to the traditional Advent words of hope, peace, joy, and love?” We are just trying something a bit different (you all should be used to that by now).

Well, all of those words are needed in November and December on this mini journey! We are a society in need of all of those words. Here they are, not in any particular order, but just extending the Galatians text: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, hope, rejoicing, and gratitude.

It would seem they could all be summed up in our “Love God and Love Neighbor” mantra, but that would mean that each of us would have to try understanding our neighbor. Loving our neighbor and *understanding* our neighbor means we need to start a dialogue with our neighbor in an attempt to understand why they might have a different opinion than ours. And maybe, just maybe, they might be right and we may be wrong or vice versa, but if we don’t have that dialogue, we miss the opportunity to find out that our neighbor is a great person and has a perspective that we’ve never thought of. Wow!

I’d like to wish you all a Blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a very Happy New Year.

May God’s peace & blessings extend to you all this coming year,
Pastor Larry



December Birthdays

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

December Anniversaries

10 th	Robert & Megan Hickman
14 th	Jack & Roberta Harrison

“Walking with Jesus” Devotion Booklet for Lent

As you read this, we have already begun to read the daily devotions for Advent published by Creative Communications. A year ago, the Advent booklet, written by our members, was well received. Worship Team is planning to produce our own devotion booklet for Lent once again written by members and friends. It will be distributed for use beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022. The title is “Walking with Jesus.” Start thinking about how you can help others walk with Jesus through Lent. Details will be in the January newsletter.

Advent Discussion

Throughout the season of Advent, instead of Wednesday morning Bible Discussion, Pr. Larry will host a Wednesday evening Advent Discussion at 6:30 PM beginning December 1st via Zoom. Each week's discussion is based on the weekly theme from the devotion booklet “Wait Upon the Lord” that all of you received. We wait with: faith, hope, rejoicing and gratitude. Each Wednesday discussion will follow one of those topics. Invitations to the Advent Discussions will be sent via email every Tuesday during Advent at 1:00 PM, so please keep an eye on your inbox. Everyone can participate by phone or by computer.

If you would like to join but have not been receiving the email with the link or have not received an Advent devotional book and would like to, please contact Andi at office@zionferguson.com and she will be happy to add you to the email list and get you the materials needed.

Lend Us Your Poinsettia

Please consider lending Zion your poinsettia plants to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Sue and Gail gifted many of you with poinsettia plants. Please put your name on it so it goes back to the right home and bring it to church on Sunday, December 19th or to the church office that week. You may take it home after the service on the 26th. Thank you!



A Message from the President

Dear Zion Family,

The year is coming to a close and looking back we have accomplished a lot! We started working on the four goals of our Strategic Plan even before we officially "launched" them on August 29th. Everyone is hard at work on their plans.

The Alternative Worship, Community in Unity, and Education teams are all coming together for an alternative worship event on Friday night December 10th at 6:30PM on the patio. It will be our third "Holiday Hangout" event. We hope to see lots of people there. Please bring a friend, family member or friend along with you!

I hope you enjoy the season of Advent coming up to Christmas and that you find "faith, hope, rejoicing, and gratitude" good things to reflect on during this season.

Thank you for your response to the "Live Generously" small group gatherings we had. I hope you enjoyed the chance to share with a small group of Zion family members during those sessions.

Blessings to you!

Pam 

Make a Tin / Take a Tin

This year, when you sign up to make cookies for the Holiday Hangout on December 10th, agree to take a tin to fill with cookies for First Responders in Ferguson and for Oak Knoll. Sign up sheets and empty tins will be in the back of the church!

Make a tin for the Holiday Hangout and take a tin to support our community and be sure to join Alternative Worship, the Education Team, and Community in Unity as we come together to ring in the holiday season on December 10th at 6:30pm on the Carson Street Patio!

Join Community in Unity as they make the holiday season a little brighter for our community!



Are You Prepared for Christmas Gifting?

Christmas time is usually a hectic time of year for most of us. It can sometimes be easy to forget the little things, such as needing "To:" and "From:" labels to stick on gifts to your loved ones.

This year, Andi is offering to create personalized gift tags to make things a little easier. For \$1.00, you can order a sheet of 30 self-adhesive labels. Call the office at (314) 522-0100 or email office@zionferguson.com to specify what color and image you would like on your tags. Some ideas are: nativities, snowmen, Santa, snowflakes, Christmas trees or wreaths, angels, reindeer, etc! Once printed, you may pick up your labels in your Zion church mailbox.



Please place your orders by December 10th.

Holiday Hangout

**Friday, December 10th
at 6:30pm on the Patio!**

The Community in Unity, Education & Faith Formation, and Alternative Worship Teams are coming together to help get us all get in the Christmas spirit! There will be firepits, s'mores making, games, a service project, decorations, lots of Christmas music, snacks, and of course, the story of Jesus' birth!

This is an open invitation to anyone who wants to join us.
Make sure to dress for the weather!



Other Zion Announcements

Bishop's Associate Rev. Dave Whetter from the CSS Office will be leading us in worship on Sunday, December 12th. After the service, he will host a Q&A in the Upper Room.

The December Voter's meeting will take place after church on Sunday the 19th. We'll go over the 2022 budget plan, council and member care elections, and we'll get an update all the team goals. Please plan to attend.

All contributions to Zion for 2021 must be dated 2021 and be received at the church office by Wednesday January 5, 2022.

Stephen Phelps, the ELCA Foundation CSS Representative, will be coming to Zion to present information to the congregation on the importance of having your own personal will and potential investment options. All are invited, including friends and family, on Sunday, January 9th, 2022.

Zion Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 – 6:30PM Zoom

In attendance: Pamela Statler, Kristen Kinney, Pastor Larry Lemke, Doris McCall, Bill Budenholzer, Jan Roevekamp, Jason Martin, Stacey Miller, Johnnie Tucker

Absent: Carol Linhorst, Fannie Cole

- **Welcome and Devotion**
 - Looking back at our Vision, Mission, and Values
 - Looking at the Goals created from the Strategic Plan
 - Work on encouraging the teams, helping them and reminding them that they are appreciated
- **Confirm approval of meeting minutes from October 2021 meeting**
 - Motion made to confirm meeting minutes from October, seconded, and approved
- **Pastor's Report**
 - FMA
 - Met on 11/9/2021
 - Presentation made by Elaine and Carleton Stock on Eco Team – discussed the Glasgow Summit
 - Jeff Finnigan stated that some people had questions regarding All Among Us and Zion relative to the lower level – Pastor plans to update them next month
 - Discussed current needs of different members that have prayer needs and who he visited
- **Space Sharing Update, if any**
 - Pam and Pastor continue to meet with Boone and Nathan Weekly
 - Things are going well and communication is ongoing
 - Woke Bridge is still figuring things out as they go – working on planning holiday services
 - Invited them to Zion's Thanksgiving Eve service
- **2022 Budget – Bill**
 - Some numbers in 2022 budget are based on current year-to-date results projected to a full year
 - Reviewed the budget in detail, highlighting any material changes
 - Motion made to change the budget by removing the \$300 expense for Substitute Music Director since that would be covered in Music Director expense line; replace Heifer International with ELCA Good Gifts program in Mission Support; Seconded, Approved
 - Revised budget will be presented to the congregation as a recommendation at the Voters' Meeting in December.
- **Voters' Meeting Date and Nominations**
 - December 19th – Voters' Packet out on the 5th of December
 - Nomination committee is working on nominees
- **Team Reports**
 - Worship Team – Pastor Larry/Doris
 - Discussed the coming holiday calendar
 - Commitment Sunday November 21st
 - Wednesday the 24th at 6:30pm – Thanksgiving Service
 - November 28th – Advent 1 – Beginning of Advent

- Wednesday Evening Advent Meetings – Every Wednesday through the end of Advent at 6:30pm
 - Faith, Hope, Rejoicing, and Gratitude
 - Christmas Eve Service at 4:00pm – No service on Christmas Day
 - Recommendations made to update COVID protocols for The Upper Room, Sunday School, and worship practices
 - Motion made to table the recommendations made by the Worship Team until January; seconded, approved with one opposed
- Member Care Ministry – Doris
 - Had a meeting and discussed the needs of the members
- Property – Pam/Johnnie
 - Larry Wolk will be contacted for help with the cameras
 - Some members will be working on the hole under Pastor Larry’s Desk
- Treasurer Report – Bill
 - Fund balance YTD is negative \$4,752 with an October positive of \$2,645
 - No other major reports
- **Strategic Goal Reports**
 - Financial Sustainability - Pam
 - Met and have rescheduled Steven Phelps with ELCA gift planner to come on January 9th, 2022
 - Will begin working on 5-year plan that is an objective for the strategic goal
 - Community in Unity (Partnership/Outreach) – Stacey
 - Meeting on 11/11/2021
 - A guest speaker will be present to discuss Laundry Love
 - Working on 643 warming center as well
 - Stacey attended the open house for the Ferguson Youth Initiative to learn ways to support them
 - Education and Faith Formation – Jason
 - Working on getting ready for Holiday Hangout on December 10th
 - Alternative Worship – Kristen
 - Worship Service on 11/12/2021 – Thankfulness
 - Holiday Hangout on 12/10/2021
 - Stewardship - Pam
 - Cottage meetings have been being held – 5 in total with over 30 people involved
 - Stewardship Letters going out this week
 - Commitment Sunday is November 21st
- **Shout outs for people sharing talents and time**
 - Larry shouted out the members that were in his Cottage Meeting on Sunday 11/7/2021 for a great discussion
 - Shout out to Pam for all the work she does as President and everything else she is doing for the church
 - Shout out to Jonnie Tucker for always being there and her humor and good will towards everyone
- **Meeting Adjourned 8:14**
- **Next Meeting Date – December 14th**

Zion Lutheran Church

December Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov 28 9:30am-Worship & Reformation Day	29	30	1 6:30pm-Bible Discussion	2	3  E Miller	4 10am-Christmas Decorating  D Tucker
5 9:30am-Worship	6 2pm-Worship Team	7	8 6:30pm-Bible Discussion  A Martin	9	10 6:30pm-Holiday Hangout   D Vogelsang R&M Hickman	11  C Barnes
12 9:30am-Worship: Rev. Whetter	13 Tidings Deadline 2pm-Worship Team	14  J&R Harrison	15 6:30pm-Bible Discussion  D Balestier  P Martin	16	17  R Oliver	18
19 9:30am-Worship 10:30am-Voters Meeting	20	21	22 6:30pm-Bible Discussion  R Schademann	23	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 4pm-Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas 
26 9:30am-Worship	27 Office Closed	28	29 10am-Bible Discussion	30	31 Office Closed  R Devenport	1 New Year's Day

Zion Lutheran Church

Serving on Sundays in December

	Dec 5	Dec 12	Dec 19	Dec 26	Jan 2
Pastor	L Lemke	D Whetter	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke
Music Accompanist	J Martin	A Mayhew	C Rock	A Mayhew	C Rock
Assisting Minister	P Herrmann	J Martin	N Wolz	P Statler	P Herrmann
Lector	L Moore	D Balestier	D Tucker	Li Lemke	S Miller
Children's Message	L Lemke	G Voss	N Wolz	L Lemke	G Voss
Ushers	D Kaiser L Wolk	Li Lemke J Tucker	G Voss J Roevekamp	D Kaiser L Wolk	Li Lemke J Tucker
Altar Guild	D Balestier	D Balestier	D Balestier	D Balestier	G Voss 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
123 Carson Road
Ferguson, MO 63135
314.522.0100 Office
office@zionferguson.com
www.zionferguson.com



**Celebrating
God's Grace**

December 2021

Zion Leaders

Congregation Council

Pastor	Larry Lemke
President	Pam Statler
Vice President:	Stacey Miller
Secretary:	Kristen Kinney
Treasurer:	Bill Budenholzer
Member At-Large:	Jan Roevekamp
Member At-Large:	Johnnie Tucker
Member At-Large:	Jason Martin
Member At-Large:	Fannie Cole
Member At-Large:	-

Member Care Ministry

Doris McCall*
Carole Herrmann
Dorothy Kaiser
Richard Schademann
Deborah Balestier
Carol Tillmann

Committee Chairs

Finance	Pam Statler
Property	Johnnie Tucker
Stewardship:	Pam Statler
Personnel	Ara Tess
Nominating	-

Organizations

Fellowship:	Robert Negwer
Altar Guild:	-
Hospitality	Doris McCall

Team Leaders

Worship	Gail Voss
Service & Community	Stacey Miller
Education	Jason Martin
Alt. Worship	Deb Murrish

Team Members:

Worship Team

Gail Voss*
Kristina Oswald
Nyokia Robinson
Norma Wolz
Doris McCall
Bill Budenholzer

Community in Unity Team

Stacey Miller*
Pam Statler
Bill Budenholzer
Linn Moore
Doris McCall
Sue Dunham
Deb Murrish
Kristen Kinney
Nikki Tucker
Annis Tucker
Dorothy Kaiser
Justin Kinney
Richard Schademann
Linda Lemke
Ara Tess

Education Team

Jason Martin*
Norma Wolz
Stacey Miller
Linda Lemke
Andi Martin

Financial Sustainability Team

Pam Statler*
Bill Budenholzer
Paul Herrmann

Alternative Worship Team

Deb Murrish*
Andi Martin*
Jason Martin
Kristen Kinney
Christine Walters
Bill Budenholzer
Pam Statler
Gail Voss