



December 2021—January 2022

Zion Lutheran Church Messenger

Auburn, MI

Message from Pastor

“O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright? Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart’s delight!” These are but a few of the words I read as I sat down to write this newsletter article. They are from the Advent hymn, “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You.” These words ask a great question; how does one properly welcome Jesus Christ our Lord?

This is the question of Advent, the question to ponder over the next month. And yet, even for us as Christians, it's not the question that first arises in our hearts. Though our heart's delight is Jesus Christ our Lord, our hearts also delight in other things. Oftentimes those things are good, like hosting a party for family or friends, shopping secretly to surprise those we love with gifts under the tree, baking a bazillion cookies to give someone some Christmas Cheer. As good as all these things are, as much as these are part of the preparation for Christmas, they are not actually preparation for Jesus.

Preparation for Jesus. That's the focus of Advent, one that comes through plain as day in our Advent hymns. This season is one of preparation, not simply to celebrate Jesus' birth, but to actually meet him as Lord on the last day. Yes, the last day, not Christmas Day.

Preparing to meet the Lord on the last day will look a little different than preparing for Christmas. The good news is it will look a little less frantic. Preparing to meet the Lord involves time when we are still. Preparing to meet the Lord involves time in his word, time in prayer, time in worship. Preparing to meet the Lord, through study, prayer, and repentance, puts our preparations for Christmas in perspective. Preparing to meet the Lord reunites us with the hope of God's people from all times and places.

I pray your preparation to meet the Lord reunites you with your brothers and sisters at Zion this Advent. If you look at the calendar in this newsletter you'll notice our Wednesday Advent meals will resume, this year starting at 5:30 with worship at 6:30. Although Advent is a season of waiting, I can't wait to see you at Zion, that we might spend time together preparing not just for Christmas day but for the last day.

In His Service,
Pastor Menz

Pastor Andrew Menz 989-513-0197
Pastor Seth R. Hemme 989-600-5343

e-mail: andrewmenz@gmail.com
e-mail: pastorhemme@yahoo.com

♥ The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is to better know and show Christ's love. ♥

Preschool and Day School News

We have completed our first semester and things are going well. Teachers held Parent-Teacher conferences the first week in November for K-8th grade. We want to say thank you to the parents from TEAM for supplying delicious food for the teaching staff as they put in long days.

Mrs. Menz has held two Book Club meetings and we are thrilled that 18 students are participating. They are reading *Gregor the Overlander* by Suzanne Collins, for their first book. They meet once a month to discuss the book they read and what book will be next. The second book will be voted on at the November meeting.

Mrs. Hemme created a Student Council Board and the school held its Presidential election on November 2nd. The Student Council members will consist of the 7th and 8th-grade members that want to participate. Julia Clare won the Presidential position for this school year. The group will meet once a month, once a month with the principal, and they will even present to the School Board in the Spring.

They will determine a Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer in their next meeting. The Council is excited to serve the student body, create fundraisers, and do community service projects.

Mrs. Schnell and Mrs. Panzner kicked off the Zazzy Zion Zinnias (3Zs). This is for students enrolled at Zion to participate in our very own 4 H club. They will meet once a month to do an activity and learn about the 4 H's. The first meeting was well attended with 33 students.

TEAM helped sponsor the Fall Harvest Party at school on October 29th. We started with students dressed up and trick or treating from classroom to classroom, then the students went to different activity stations; Reformation with Pastor Hemme, glow stick dance party, cider and donuts, classroom activity, photo booth, and a short movie. It was a fun day for all of us; even the staff participated in dressing up as Chef Boyardee and The Original Spice Girls.

Our 8th-grade class helped with a community service project with food distribution at the North Midland Family Center in November. The eight students and myself helped package and hand out 16,000 pounds of food in three hours. It was a cold morning full of hard work. Our students were complimented on how well they behaved and spoke to others. The staff there were very impressed with their work ethic too. It was a proud principal moment.

We held our annual Veterans Day celebration on November 11, 2021. We served our guests a big breakfast in the cafeteria. I want to say thanks to my teaching staff for helping prepare food and for decorating. After eating, the Veterans were welcomed and celebrated through a tunnel of students clapping and cheering for them and their service. This is very moving and often accompanied by many teary eyes. State Representative Annette Glenn and the Great Lakes Bay Veterans Coalition were our main speakers for the program. We were delighted to have alumni Sylvia List play Taps on the bugle in honor of those that have served and gone before us. If you haven't been to one of our celebrations we really encourage you to come, Veteran or not. It is a humbling day and a great opportunity to honor those for their service.

Save the date: On the evening of Friday, December 17th our students will present our Christmas event with a **walk-thru** to Bethlehem. We are changing it a little this year to avoid the traffic backup we had last year. We will have everyone walk around the church this year. If walking is difficult or you require a ride, we will be providing golf cart services for those that need it. We will make sure we can have everyone enjoy this event.

We will have our live Nativity scene out front of the church at the Advent service on December 15th. This is the night the older students that want to participate create the setting of the Nativity and stand outside of the church just before the Advent service starts. This is the same night we will have our "Jesus' Birthday Party" dinner in the cafeteria in place of the regular Advent dinner. We will also have our younger grades, K-4th grade sing at the service. We are excited to be preparing for the greatest time of year and to celebrate the reason for the season.

In His Service,
Colett Dominowski

Advent Suppers

Advent suppers are scheduled for December 1st, 8th, & 15th., beginning at 5:30PM. Advent Service will begin at 6:30 PM. These are sponsored by the Fellowship team with a grant from Thrivent. Meals will be provided, this is not a potluck. Dessert donations are accepted. Please check the bulletin for the announce of actual meals.

Apple Pies



Another year of apple pies is in the books. We set a new record again this year making 3292 Dutch Apple Pies!! A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who sold, delivered, and helped with any step of the process!! Help from everyone is so crucial and we were blessed once again with many willing hands to help with this huge fundraiser for our school.

A special thank you to these people who spent time planning, picking up supplies, and put in many hours of work: Krista Wittbrodt, Megan Keyser, Crystal Hearn, Lynn and Lester Helm, Emily and Eric Rosenbrock, Sarah and John Schwannecke, Heather Schember, Larry Schember, Bob and June Block, and Kristina Sieg.

Parents of 5th - 8th graders, your kids were awesome helpers! They should all be commended for their hard work and willingness to help wherever needed! We hope they all enjoyed themselves and look forward to next year!

Our fundraiser is only possible with the gracious donations and discounts of several local businesses including Leaman's Green Apple Barn, Michigan Sugar, Star of the West Milling Company, Beson's Supermarket, Aldi, Hymcco, Frank Farms, Fruitland Market, and Thrivent Financial. Please thank them by supporting them whenever possible.

Grave Blankets

Grave blankets will be available for sale through December 12th. Since it worked so well last year we will only be selling from my home (we are 1.5 miles west of church at 2174 Seidler Rd.) Feel free to just stop by, or text/call ahead at 989-280-3185 to make sure we are home. Prices are: small \$25, large \$40, and full size (available upon request) \$55. Checks made out to Santa Store is the preferred payment, but we will also accept cash. If anyone is interested in joining our team, please call or text 989-280-3185. No experience necessary, we will provide training, supplies, and good cheer. Thank you, Diana Hebel

Santa Store

The Santa Store will open for business on Friday, December 10th in the school gym. Compile your lists and fill out the tags. Prices range from .25 to \$5.00. Gift wrapping will be provided at no charge. Volunteers are needed to make all this happen. From 1 PM until 4 PM on Thursday, December 9th we will need volunteers to help to carry in and set up the inventory. Friday, December 10th we will need volunteers to help wrap gifts and assist the children. A delicious lunch will be provided for the helpers. Children will finish shopping by 3:00 PM and will then be needed to return the gym to PreSanta Store condition. Come and see the smiles of children experiencing the joy of giving a gift to a loved one.

Organizations that would like to receive grants from the Santa Store should get a Santa Store Request Form from the school or church secretary, complete the form, and return it to the secretary before January 13, 2022.



2022 Offering Envelopes



We are presently in the process of preparing 2022 offering envelopes for distribution. Most people find using offering envelopes a helpful way to give. They allow givers to give in a confidential manner and assure that gifts are directed toward the proper fund with minimal confusion. Offering envelopes also provide a way for the church to provide contributors receipts for charitable gifts. We realize that some people prefer not to use envelopes for their giving and do not need receipts for their charitable giving from the church. As was the case in 2021, offering envelopes will only be automatically assigned for those confirmed members who made use of them during the previous year. If you never received envelopes and would like a set, we will happily assign them to you in the coming year. Regular visitors can also be assigned envelopes if they want them. Simply contact the church office or the finance chairman or secretary. Envelopes for 2022 should be ready to be picked up in the basement by the weekend of December 17th.



Shut-in Christmas Plates: The Ladies of Zion will be preparing and delivering cookies and fruit to our shut-ins on Wednesday, December 15th. Anyone who would like to provide items for the plates is asked to have them in the church basement kitchen by the morning of December 15th.

Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

Child of Promise

You can pick up a copy of the Advent Devotions in the church. You can also call the school and we will bring a copy out for you if you are not attending service.



Church Camp

A huge thank you to the past committee, June and Bob Block and Terry and Peggy Wirsing, with help from Nancy and Dave Fritz and Dave and Sandy Luth. An awesome job well done by all of them.



Church Camp 2022 will once again be held in Cadillac, MI at Mitchell State Park. The church camp dates will be July 29th-31st. Everyone is welcome to come and camp. Gary and Norma Jean Koch and Terry and Gail Wegener will be organizing it this year.

If you plan to camp or have any questions, please contact Gail Wegener (989)415-8170 or Gary Koch (989)205-1958 by January 9th. Returning campers, please be sure call and register

Snow Birds

We know some of our members are leaving for the warmer climates. Please let the office know when you're leaving and when you will return. We are more than happy to send you the weekly church bulletin and the monthly Messenger via snail mail or email. Safe travels and beautiful weather!



It's LUTHERAN WITNESS time!



This is the time of year when the members of our congregation have the opportunity to order or renew subscriptions of The Lutheran Witness (LW). Subscription renewals are \$11.60 for the year. All orders need to be turned in to the Office by **December 13th, 2021**. Please make your payment to Zion Lutheran Church drop it in the offering plate in an envelope with "Lutheran Witness" printed on the front, or bring to the office and we will handle all the paperwork.

Strategic Planning

At the beginning of March, 2020 Zion's voters assembly approved working with Ross Stueber of e3 leadership to undergo a strategic planning process as a congregation. The first part of this process involves Ross conducting listening posts to identify Zion's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. These listening posts will occur January 13th through 15th of 2022. Please mark these dates in your calendar and look for further information in upcoming bulletins and congregational emails.



Our Shut-Ins

QuotePic.net

If you would like to share some joy this Holiday Season with members of Zion who are "Shut-Ins," below is a list of their names and addresses. A simple Christmas card from someone in their church family could really brighten their day.

Wayne Sallach
2905 N. Meridian Rd.
Sanford MI 48657

Sandy Krieger
1275 S. Eleven Mile Rd.
Auburn, MI 48611

Ken Jenkins
2892 Chip Rd.
Midland, MI 48642

Esther Kraus
3636 Klender
Rhodes, MI 48652

Alice Lederer
1332 Cheryl Lynn Lane Lot 17
Midland, MI 48642

Ilene Stieve
5993 Red Feather Dr.
Bay City, MI 48706

Mel Garchow
4835 Cardinal Dr.
Bay City, MI 48706

Karen Wenglikowski
960 S. Eight Mile Rd.
Kawkawlin, MI 48631

Luella Strohpaul
744 W. Seidlers Rd.
Auburn, MI 48611

Emil Philipp
874 W. Kitchen Rd.
Linwood, MI 48634

Joyce Potter
3439 W. Pressler Dr.
Bay City, MI 48706

Clara Wirsing
5600 Waldo Rd #115
Midland, MI 48642

Gary Wirsing
5224 Perrine Rd.
Midland, MI 48640

Esther Troxell
4969 Parish Rd.
Midland, MI 48642

Marci Jammer
581 N. Scheurmann Rd.
Bay City, MI 48708

Gayle Krause
821 Cambridge St. Apt. 269
Midland, MI 48642

Donna Kuch
678 W. Seilder Rd.
Auburn, MI 48611

Celebrate Our Savior's Birth

Candlelight Communion Service

*Christmas Eve, December 24th
at 7 pm and 10 pm*

Christmas Festival Worship with Communion

*Christmas Day, December 25th
9 am*

O Come Let Us Adore Him

Christ the Lord.

New Year's Service

New Year's Eve

6:30 pm

A Blessed Christmas

From

***Pastor Menz and Pastor Hemme, Teachers and Staff of
Zion Lutheran Church and School.***

December 2021

Zion Lutheran Church and School

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