

Zion Lutheran Church, School & Preschool
4550 Mt. Rushmore Road
Rapid City, SD 57701-8913

December 2023 NEWSLETTER

Worship with your Zion Family!

We will have four midweek Advent worship services this year! We hope you will join us on Wednesday evenings for supper and worship!

Advent Worship Services

*Morning Worship at 10:00am
Supper at 5:30pm - Worship at 6:15pm
November 29, 2023
December 6, 2023
December 13, 2023
December 20, 2023*

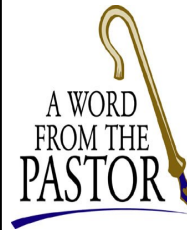


Christmas Worship Services

*Christmas Eve Worship - December 24, 2023
3:00pm, 5:00pm, & 11:00pm
Christmas Day Worship - December 25, 2023
10:00am*

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL

www.zionrc.org



“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!” Luke 2:11

To be fair, this is mostly a repeat of last year’s Christmas message. But it’s worth reading again. Because it seems like the older I get, the more life feels like a merry-go-round. I keep coming back to the same spots and having to relearn the same lessons. Too often I feel as though I am ready to move on, only for God to show me that I haven’t truly learned the lesson yet. So, with the Advent and Christmas seasons upon us again, let us relearn the true meaning of God’s gift to the world.

It’s time, once again, for the countless Christmas/holiday specials. Everyone from the kids’ Christmas pageant to the national televised Christmas at the Capitol wants to tell you what Christmas is all about. “It’s about loving and giving and family and celebrating and tinsel,” they say. The Grinch will once again realize, as he does every year, that Christmas doesn’t come from a store, that “Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.”

But just as with last year’s specials, each of these holiday insights still leaves us a little bit empty. The Grinch will again think that Christmas “means a little bit more,” but once again he will not get to what that “more” is. Instead, he merely brings back the presents and cakes that he stole. He gives. Like the Grinch, we can too easily think of Christmas as an opportunity for us to give: to give of our time, give of our money, give of our love. Yet while our giving is good, that’s not what Christmas is about.

Neither is the meaning of Christmas found in the Christian platitude, “Let’s put Christ back in Christmas.” We take up this phrase in defense against the onslaught of commercialized Christmas. I understand the sentiment and the motivation behind it, but you see, we didn’t put Him there in the first place and so we have no power to put Him back.

We can’t put Him back because He never left. We did. We did with our busy-ness and our overly scheduled lives. We did by our own sinful pride and anger. We did when we repeatedly walked away from Him. Yet He continues to come back to you and me as He did that first Christmas so long ago, to give us life, forgiveness, and hope. He is the gift that is given for you.

Christmas isn’t about what you or I do. Instead, it’s about what God has done. Christmas isn’t about doing, or giving, or even loving. Because everything that needed to be done for Christmas has been done by the only One who could do it ... the infant in the manger, our Savior, Christ Jesus our Lord. Thank you, our heavenly Father, for teaching this lesson to us once again.

In Christ our Christmas Gift,
Pastor Bryan Meadows



From the Principal's Office December 2023

“Knowing Jesus, Growing in Faith, Serving with Love”



Christmas Break

Zion’s school and preschool will start Christmas break after classroom Christmas parties on Wednesday, December 20th. There will not be any day care after school that day. School will resume after the New Year on Wednesday, January 3rd.

Zion Lutheran School & Preschool Christmas Programs

This year Zion will be having three Christmas programs on Saturday, December 9th.

The Zion Preschool program will be at 9:30AM. Doors for the Preschool Christmas Program will open at 9AM. After this service we will ask for all visitors and family to leave Zion in order for the teachers and volunteers to set up for the Kindergarten and 1st Grade program at 11AM. Doors for the Kindergarten and 1st Grade program will open at 10:40AM. After this service we will ask for all visitors and family to leave Zion in order for the teachers and volunteers to set up for the 2nd-Grade-5th Grade program at 2:30PM. Doors for the 2nd Grade-5th Grade program will open at 2PM. We are looking forward to celebrating the Christmas season, and the birth of our savior, Jesus!

“PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS SHOW AND TELL”



Zion’s Preschool classes invite you to join them in their Christmas Worship Service titled “Preschool Christmas Show and Tell” on Saturday, December 9 at 9:30AM.

There will be bells, a candy cane, a Christmas tree, and a manger to help to tell the beautiful Christmas story of our Savior’s birth. You will hear carols such as “In a Little Stable”, “Our Christmas Show and Tell”, “Little Wooley Lamb” and “God So Loved the World”. The children will present many songs with action and perform with bells.

Come and worship with us as our little ones lead us to the truth of Christmas!

“CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS”

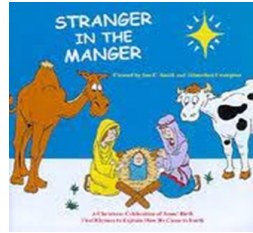
Zion’s students in Kindergarten and 1st Grade will be presenting “Christmas Symbols” at 11AM on December 9th.

The sights and symbols of Christmas are everywhere! This Christmas musical points us to the true meaning of Christmas by looking at the symbols all around us such as wreaths, candles, and Christmas presents. Please join us to help celebrate the greatest gift of Christmas, given by the Father, His Son, Jesus!



“STRANGER IN THE MANGER”

Zion’s students in 2nd thru 5th grade will be presenting “Stranger in the Manger” at 2:30PM on December 9th.



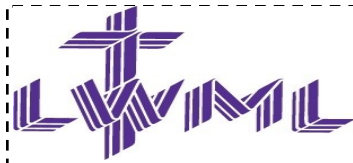
“Stranger in the Manger” tells about the birth of Jesus with the fun use of rhyme. There will be new songs and familiar carols with a new swing feel. Most of all, it shares how this Stranger in the manger wasn't really that strange at all.

It was all part of God's wonderful plan of salvation for our lives.

Board of Christian Education

The Board of Christian Education normally meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6PM. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, December 5th. Time is allowed for parents or visitors to address joys or concerns within the realm of education at Zion Church, School and Preschool. Parents and congregation members are welcome at these meetings. Members on the Board include Mark Noteboom (president), Pat Jessen, Ryan Swenson, Karen Malone, Aime Rose, Jim Westerman, Gayle Prentice, Bruce Prentice, Carol Turner & Jacob Stewart.

The entire faculty and staff of Zion Lutheran Church, School, and Preschool wishes you and your family a truly Christ-filled Christmas Season!



What is the LWML? The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (a.k.a. Lutheran Women in

Mission) is the official women's organization of the Missouri Synod. Every woman after confirmation is automatically a member. However, our local society consists of women who actively participate in this group. We encourage more of our young and not-so-young women to join us. The next opportunity will be December 9 at 10:00 a.m. at Zion. We will address cards and make something for Zion's shut-in members to enjoy for Christmas .

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

*The office will be closed for Christmas,
December 25.*

*We will have limited office hours
December 26-December 29, so please call
before stopping by to make sure we are open
and the person you're looking for is actually
in the office.*

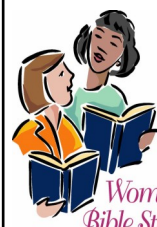
Financial Report

	<u>Oct. 2023</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
Budget Receipts:	\$129,957	\$572,597
Budget Expenses:	\$171,696	\$541,959
Gain or [Loss]:	\$52,154	\$30,638

*Funds collected via Envelopes, Loose Plate, Tuition,
Daycare & Preschool*

Capital Campaign Summary-Oct. 2023

Together We Grow	\$1,285,210.05
Christ's Way	\$ 492,090.36
Total Funds Received	\$1,777,300.41
Less Campaign Expenditures	\$ 453,943.00
Add funds dedicated to Campaign	\$ 229,086.49
Total Campaign Funds	\$ 1,552,443.90



Care Circle Women's Bible

Study will meet at 9:30 a.m. at Zion on Monday, December 11. We will use the first Bible Study in the Winter Quarterly if they are available. Otherwise, we will use the third study in the Fall issue. All women are invited to join us. Questions? Call Gail at 605-430-9715.

*Women's
Bible Study*



What is something you do at Christmastime with your family?

Rively: We get together as a family and we eat special food.

Teagan: We get to give Santa cookies and milk.

Kindred: We go sledding.

Lola: My grandma comes and watches me open presents.

Cecilia: We decorate and go to bed early.

Hudson: We get cookies out for them.

Marigold: We open presents.

Gage: We celebrate Jesus' birthday.

Ellen: We open Christmas presents.

Henrik: We go sledding.

Kainoa: We get to make snow forts and igloos.

Jayden: We wake up and open presents.

Kollace: We open presents.

Leo: We decorate our Christmas tree.

Emmell: We drink cocoa.

Wishing you all the best this Christmas season as
you celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ,
with your family and friends.

Love,

Mrs. Kettering's Kindergarten Class



BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH

These Zion Members will celebrate a birthday of 80 or more years in December.
Remember them by sending a card!

Dec 2 Pat Jessen
912 9th St. #3
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dec 5 Raymond Schwartz
2803 Cactus Dr. Lot 17
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dec 28 Luella Schumacher
2124 Jane Dr
Rapid City, SD 57702