

December 2022 NEWSLETTER



“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.” John 1:14, 16-18

Well, here we go. It’s time to begin the countless Christmas/Holiday specials. Everyone from the kids’ Christmas pageant to the National Televised Christmas at the Capital wants to tell you what Christmas is all about. “It’s about us 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 maybe perhaps it means a little bit more.

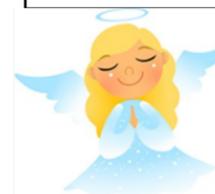
But each of these holiday insights leaves us a little bit empty. The grinch thinks Christmas “means a little bit more,” but he never gets to what that “more” is. He instead simply brings back the presents and cakes which he stole. He gives. And that’s what we think, too. Christmas is an opportunity for us to give: to give of our time, give of our money, give of our love. And while our giving is good, that’s not what Christmas is about.

Neither is the meaning of Christmas found up 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 the platitude, 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 walked away from Him. Yet He continues to come back to you and me as He did that first Christmas so long ago, to be our light, our forgiveness, our hope. He is the gift that was 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, the Word made flesh, Christ Jesus our Lord.

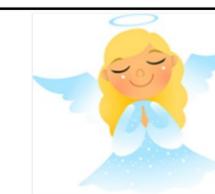
In Christ our Christmas Gift,
Pastor Bryan Meadows



From the Principal's Office December 2022 Christmas Break

Zion’s school and preschool will start Christmas break after classroom Christmas parties on Wednesday. We are looking forward to celebrating the Christmas season, and the birth of our savior, Jesus!

School will resume after the New Year on Wednesday, January 4th for students.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS This Christmas we will have the Christmas programs in person! Both the Zion Lutheran Preschool-Kindergarten and Zion Lutheran School Grades 1-5 will have their Christmas Services on Saturday, December 10th.

Preschool and Kindergarten will have their Christmas Service at 11:00 am. Doors will open at 10:45 am. Zion’s Preschool and Kindergarten classes invite you to join them in their Christmas Worship Service titled “*Angel! Angel!*” There will be a cow, a manger, angels, Mary and Joseph, shepherds, and a star to help to tell the beautiful Christmas story of our Savior’s birth. You will hear carols such as “*In a Little Stable*,” “*God So Loved*,” and “*Little Wooley Lamb*” The children will present many songs with actions, finger plays, and perform with bells.

After this program we are asking for all visitors and family to leave Zion in order for the teachers and volunteers to set up for the Grades 1—5 Christmas Service.

Grades 1—5 will have their Christmas Service is at 2:30 pm. Doors will open at 1:30 pm. They will be presenting “Signs of Christmas”

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

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 6th. 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, Jim Westerman, Gayle Prentice, Bruce Prentice, and Gail Aadland & Ryan Cook. If you are interested in joining this Board, please contact Mark Noteboom or Ann Solinsky.

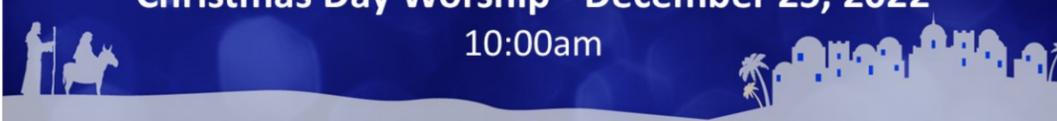
The entire faculty and staff of Zion Lutheran Church, School, and Preschool wishes you and your family a truly Christ-filled Christmas Season!

Join us as we prepare for the coming of our Savior this Advent Season!

Advent Worship Services
 Supper at 5:30pm - Worship at 6:15pm
 November 30, 2022
 December 7, 2022
 December 14, 2022
 December 21, 2022

Christmas Eve Worship - December 24, 2022
 3pm, 5pm, & 11pm

Christmas Day Worship - December 25, 2022
 10:00am



Zion School Spotlight

Mrs. Withee's Kindergarten Class



Who is Jesus? What is He known for?

Sibby – He is Someone who washes away our sins.

Kinley – He's our Savior so we love Him.

Sawyer – He died for us, He's God's Son.



Where was Jesus born?

Cody – In a manger.

Theo – In a stable.

Isabella – He was born in Bethlehem.

Why was Jesus in a manger?

Evi - There was no space left in the hotel so He had to go to a cattle shed.

Ellie – There was no other place for Him to sleep.

Cullen – There was nowhere else for Him to lay.



If you could bring a gift to the manger, what would you give Him?

Reese – I would sew Him a quilt.

Beckett – I would give Him a pillow.

Autumn – I would give Him my love!

LWML will meet on Saturday, December 10 at 10:00 a.m. to address cards for Zion's shut-ins. All ladies are welcome to join us

Care Circle Bible Study will be held on Monday, December 12 at 9:30 a.m. We will meet at Zion and use the first Bible Study in the winter issue of the Lutheran Women's Quarterly. All ladies are welcome. Questions? Call Gail at (605)430-9715.

Financial Report

	<u>Oct 2022</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
Budget Receipts:	\$119,182	\$446,939
Budget Expenses:	\$117,596	\$515,838
Gain or [Loss]:	\$ 1,586	(\$68,898)

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

Together We Grow (TWG) Summary-Oct 2022

Total Funds Received	\$1,285,210.05
Christ Way	\$ 60231.00
Total Funds Received	<u>\$1,288,210.05</u>
Less TWG Expenditures	\$ 418,285.49
Add funds dedicated to TWG	<u>\$ 226,600.16</u>
Total TWG Funds	\$ 1,100,247.17