



December 1: Youth Coffee Hour

December 4: Advent Schedule Begins
Supper at 5:30pm,

Worship at 6:15pm, Catechism/HS Bible Study 7-8pm.

December 4: Youth Board Meeting

December 25: No Youth Wednesday. Merry Christmas!

TBD: Youth Late Nighter: We are looking at either Friday Dec. 27 or Fri, Jan. 3. Please VOTE on the Youth Bulletin Board.

Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

Midweek Advent

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18

Worship at 10:00am

Supper at 5:30pm

Worship at 6:15pm

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Services

3:00pm w/ Praise Team

5:00pm Traditional

11:00pm Contemporary

Christmas Day

Communion

10:00am



Holiday Office Hours

During Christmas break (December 23-January 3), office hours will be limited.

Please reach call before coming in to make sure there is someone in the office.

Lindsay will be out of the office December 24-27.

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



Knowing + Growing + Serving

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December 2024 Newsletter

Merry Christmas!

Christmas: God's Gift of Grace

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." — John 1:14

Christmas is a time of joy and celebration, but for Lutherans, it is more than just a festive season; it is the profound proclamation of God's grace made manifest in the person of Jesus Christ. At the heart of Christmas is the miracle of the Incarnation—God becoming flesh to dwell among us. This truth encapsulates the very essence of the Gospel: salvation is not something we achieve but a gift given freely through Jesus.

Martin Luther reflected deeply on the mystery of Christmas, emphasizing the humility of Christ's birth. The King of kings was not born in a palace but in a manger, surrounded by animals and shepherds. This humility is a vivid illustration of God's love for the lowly, the broken, and the sinner. As Luther wrote, "He whom the world could not enclose, did in Mary's lap repose; He who created heaven and earth, chose to be born in humble birth."

Christmas reminds us of the depth of our need and the greater depth of God's love. In our sinfulness, we could not ascend to God, so He descended to us. The angels' announcement to the shepherds—"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11)—declares that salvation is not earned but given, not a reward but a gift.

Lutheran theology also highlights the "for you" nature of this gift. Christ's coming is not an abstract event but a personal one. He was born for you, lived for you, died for you, and rose for you. This Christmas, we are invited to receive this gift of grace with faith, knowing that through Christ's life, death, and resurrection, we have been reconciled to God.

What does Christmas mean for our daily lives? It means we live not in fear of condemnation but in the joy of salvation. It means we see in the Christ child the assurance that God is with us, even in our struggles. It means we share the love we have received with others, proclaiming the Good News of great joy.

Let us approach Christmas with hearts of gratitude, knowing that the same Jesus born in Bethlehem continues to come to us today—through His Word, through the Sacraments, and through the promise of His abiding presence.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Schulte

Zion Offering Counters

The New Year is approaching, and the Board of Finance is preparing the new Counter's Schedule for 2025. Please prayerfully consider volunteering as a counter. We would like to maintain eleven to twelve teams, so counters only count approximately once every three months. Teams consist of two to three individuals and require one to two hours after the late service on Sunday four to five times a year. Training is provided so if you are not currently counting and are interested in volunteering, please contact Camron Ottenbacher, or the church office.

If you and your team plan to continue counting, we thank you for your service. If you feel you or any of your team members can't continue to count, please let Camron or the office know within the next couple of weeks so replacements can be found.



Hymn Sing Weekend



There will be no worship service on Saturday, December 28. We will have a hymn sing service on Sunday, December 29 at 10am.

There will be no Sunday School/Bible Study that day.



Help Spread the Christmas Spirit

In the spirit of Advent, here is an opportunity for Zion families to help stock the local food banks. Participants will daily set aside the suggested food items listed.

Dec 1: Corn	Dec 13: Carrots
Dec 2: Green Beans	Dec 14: Pinto Beans
Dec 3: Peas	Dec 15: Instant Potatoes
Dec 4: Oatmeal	Dec 16: Pasta
Dec 5: Box of Cereal	Dec 17: Pasta Sauce
Dec 6: Mac 'n Cheese	Dec 18: Sweet Potatoes
Dec 7: Peanut Butter	Dec 19: Soup
Dec 8: Tuna	Dec 20: Beef Stew
Dec 9: Instant Rice	Dec 21: Pork 'n Beans
Dec 10: Peaches	Dec 22: Chili
Dec 11: Pears	Dec 23: Black Beans
Dec 12: Diced Tomatoes	Dec 24: Tomato Sauce
	Dec 25: Applesauce



Please bring all gathered food items to the church no earlier than the last week of December to be distributed to our area Food Bank. Thank you for sharing the spirit of Christmas with others in our community.

Altar Guild Help Needed

Altar guild wants to invite you to join us as we serve Zion's congregation and our Lord through the preparation and clean-up of the Lord's Supper elements and also the altar and banner adornments. We volunteer for the month (usually 2-3 weekends) and always work with a partner or two.

If you would like to use your time and talents in this very important service, please contact Hope Genzlinger at 342-5749 or hope.genzlinger@zionrc.org.

WICKS

Widows In Christ Know Salvation

Sunday, December 15 12:30
@ Marilyn Haskell's 4243 Wisconsin Ave.

Bring - main dish, salad or dessert to share AND a white elephant gift to exchange.

Questions??? Contact Sylvia
605-431-3595 or
Priscilla 605-341-0505



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE



Girls' Basketball

The girls' basketball season will wrap up in December. Thank you for coming to watch and cheer on our players! They have really learned a lot this year! Thank you to our coaches Dave Muck, Kelly Bouma, Brook & Michael Newell, and Karla Harris. Thank you to Rolando Wallace for being our home game referee!

Dec. 2- 5th grade @ 5:30PM @ Zion vs. St. Pauls'
Dec. 5- 4th Grade @ 5PM @ Calvary
Dec. 5- 5th Grade @ 6PM @ Calvary
Dec. 9- 4th Grade @ 6PM @ Zion vs. Hill City
Dec. 9- 5th Grade @ 6PM @ Hermosa
Dec.- 16- 5th Grade @ 6PM @ Hill City

Zion Lutheran School & Preschool Christmas Programs

This year Zion will be having two Christmas programs on Saturday, December 14th.

The Zion Preschool, Kindergarten and 1st Grade program will be at 11AM. Doors for the Preschool, 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!

"Our Jesus Tree"

Zion's Preschool through 1st Grade classes invite you to join them in their Christmas Worship Service titled "Our Jesus Tree" on Saturday, December 14th at 11:00AM.

We will share the story of Jesus' birth as we decorate our Christmas tree with ornaments. These ornaments symbolize the different parts of the Christmas story and remind us of who Jesus is and why His life was so important to us.

You will hear carols such as "In a Little Stable", "Away in a Manger", "Little Wooley Lamb" and "Joy to the World". Our songs will be presented through singing, bells, and fingerplays.

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

"Once Upon A Time In Bethlehem"

Our children in 2nd through 5th grades invite you to join them on Saturday, December 14, at 2:30PM as they present the Christmas message in word and song.

This Christmas musical narrates the precious details of the timeless story of our Savior's miraculous birth. A grandmother and granddaughter read the Christmas story together each year and we see them grow as they relive the Christmas story together.

Please join us to help celebrate the greatest gift of Christmas, given by the Father, His Son, Jesus!

LWML Meeting

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (Lutheran Women in Mission), will meet on Saturday, December 7, at 10 a.m. to address Christmas cards for Zion's shut in members. Please note that this is a week earlier due to Zion's school Christmas Programs. We welcome all women at this and all events of the LWML.

TALK OF THE CLASSROOM



Mrs. Kettering's Kindergarten Class

What is something you do at Christmastime with your family?

Ainhoa: We open presents and eat dinner.

Charlotte: I go to my grandma's house.

Camilla: We decorate the tree together.

Krew: We open presents.

Rozalia: We put on the Christmas tree stuff and watch a movie at the movie theatre.

William: We get out the presents and play with the new toys that we like.

Donovin: We go see our cousins.

Janelynn: I open presents when Santa comes.

Ava: My cousins come to my house.



Graham: We build gingerbread houses and then eat them.

Harlow: We decorate the Christmas tree, and we bake cookies.

Kyler: I play bowling with my dad.

Quinn: We get special cookies and popcorn and we watch The Grinch.

Cashel: We go to my Mimi and Papa's house and spend time with them.

Hunter: We open presents.



Christmas Break

Zion's school and preschool will start Christmas break after classroom Christmas parties on Friday, December 20th. There will not be any day care after school that day. School will resume after the New Year on Monday, January 6th.

Board of Christian Education

The Board of Christian Education meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6PM. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, December 3rd. 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, Karen Malone, Aime Rose, Jim Westerman, Gayle Prentice, Bruce Prentice, Carol Turner & Jacob Stewart.

Poppin' Popcorn Fundraiser

Zion students will be selling popcorn and other goodies online again this year. The fundraiser will begin on December 2 and end on December 13. Please reach out to Zion student, if you're interested in ordering.

