

# Focus

Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI

December 2021/January 2022



## Christmas at Zion

Friday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve  
Communion Services 3:30 and 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day service 9:00 am  
No evening service

Sunday, December 26 ~ Worship Service 9:00 am only

Saturday, January 1 ~ No evening service

Sunday, January 2 - Service of the Word 9:00 am only



National Youth  
Gathering Attendees  
Fundraiser

Dec. 11 & 12  
at services

**\$7 per dozen**

**Don't miss out!** Order your decorated Christmas cookies today! Email [Here's My Cookie Order to zion@shawanozion.org](mailto:Here's My Cookie Order to zion@shawanozion.org). Deadline Dec. 9.

Make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church.  
Pickup cookies at services Dec. 11/12 or in the office.



**Annual Meeting**  
**January 30, 2022**  
**11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary**

## Poinsettias for Christmas!

If you would like to help decorate the chancel and church for the celebration of Christmas, you may contribute a poinsettia plant at the cost of \$20.00 each.

Please put the correct amount in an envelope - you can use a pew envelope, if you like - along with your name, in whose memory or honor the plant is given, and leave it on the offering plate. Forms available on the literature stand near the office or on the website.

**Monday, Dec. 13 ordering deadline.**



OFFICE

### Holiday Schedule



**CLOSED**

Thursday, Dec. 23

Friday, Dec. 24

Friday, Dec. 31

Thursday, Dec. 30

**Closing 12pm**

## Financial Stewardship Update

2021 General Fund through October.



2021 Annual Budget	\$379,631
General Fund Balance October 31	\$ 1,007
October Contributions	30,205
October Expenses	(28,022)
<b>General Fund Balance Oct. 31</b>	<b>\$ 3,190</b>

*Thank you Zion members for your support!*

**All 2021 Contributions Must Be Received by**

**Sunday, December 26**

for them to be considered for the 2021 year.

*Any amounts received after this date will be entered in 2022.*



## The Parish Records

### Released by Request and/or Inactivity:

- † Nancy J. Amundson
- † Douglas Bjelland
- † Thomas Bjelland
- † Dave & Bobbie Greenway
- † Sharon L. Stake



*The following positions are up for election/re-election in January 2022.*



- ◆ President
- ◆ Vice-President \*
- ◆ Church in Society
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Life & Growth \*
- ◆ Stewardship \*
- ◆ Youth

\* Council member has served 2 consecutive terms and cannot be re-elected.

Committees....

- ◆ Endowment Fund 2 positions
- ◆ Personnel 1 position
- ◆ Homme Home Representative

*Prayerfully consider serving Zion in one of these positions.*



**Annual Meeting  
January 30, 2022  
11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary**



## Youth Fundraiser!

**Car Wash Cards!  
\$36 for 5-Count**

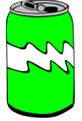
Ultimate Wash cards will be available from youth and in the church office!

**Thank you for supporting Zion's youth!**



## Aluminum Can Collection Bin behind the garage!

The Youth would appreciate your donations—which must be bagged—as a fundraiser.



**Christmas Cookie Sale!**



**National Youth Gathering Attendees Fundraiser**

**Dec. 11 & 12 at services**



**\$7 per dozen**

**Don't miss out! Order your decorated Christmas cookies today! Email *Here's My Cookie Order* to [zion@shawanozion.org](mailto:zion@shawanozion.org). Deadline Dec. 9.**

Make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church. Cookies available for pickup at services Dec. 11/12 and weekdays in the office.

## Happy Birthday



**Elaine Mraz... 88 on Dec. 17**  
308 Madison Way Apt 11, Shawano

**Roger Bartz... 78 on Dec. 19**  
N5850 N Beach Blvd, Shawano

**Janet Kleiss... 78 on Dec. 29**  
N2747 Rustic Dr, Clintonville 54929

**Betsy Henning... 48 on Dec. 31**  
1427 S Evergreen St., Shawano

*Happy birthday to 51 others in December!*

**2022 Contribution Envelopes available in the commons!**



"Envelope" Numbers will remain the same for automatic electronic giving accounts.



**December & January Focus Newsletter Combined!**

*There will not be a separate January issue.*



## Lessons from Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)

A question we'll undoubtedly hear many times between now and December 25th is this, "Are you ready for Christmas?" I suppose what is really being asked is, "Have you put up all your Christmas decorations? Have you finished your Christmas shopping? Have you mailed your Christmas cards? Have you put on your calendar all the places you're supposed to go? Are you ready for Christmas?"

We meet ourselves coming and going, so we call it "the Christmas rush." Sometimes the Christmas season becomes quite chaotic, and because of that we tend to forget much of the reason for the season. You see, when I ask the question, "Are you ready for Christmas?" I'm asking about more than your activities. I'm asking about your attitudes, because every once-in-a-while I hear someone say, "I just can't get into the Christmas spirit!" Maybe you've said it too.

With that in mind, let's think once again about what Christmas really means. Christmas says that "God became a human being. God expressed His love by living among us, by walking with us, and talking to us." That's what Christmas means. But what are the right attitudes we ought to have so that Christmas can really happen in our homes and in our lives?

Christmas comes as a time of peace, but there is conflict. Christmas comes as a time of joy, but there is so much sadness. Christmas comes as a time of love, but there is so much hatred in our world. We cry out, like Joseph must have cried out when he found out that Mary was with child, "God, how can this be?" But like Joseph we hear a still small voice from God saying, "Trust Me."

God's ways are not always our ways. His thoughts are higher than our thoughts, and we may never understand all that God is doing this side of heaven, but God says, "Trust Me, and it will all work out." Paul wrote, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28) Christmas happened because Joseph trusted God. And we need to learn to trust God, too.

"We need to learn to care about other people." You know, Joseph's assignment seems to be pretty simple one, and that is the way we often portray him in our Christmas plays. We picture Mary looking so angelic. Over here are excited shepherds, and over there are the wise men with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. In the midst of them all is the Christ child in the manger, looking so pure & clean. Over there on the

side stands Joseph. His isn't a starring role, but his part is so important. His task is this, "Take care of Mary and the baby Jesus." Joseph had the important role of caring for the needs of others.

Christmas comes once a year, and this season probably causes us to be more sensitive to the needs of others. But there is so much that needs to be done that we often find ourselves frustrated. But still we try. Maybe the finest descriptive title that can be given a church is this, "a church that really cares." Christmas came because Joseph cared about Mary and the baby Jesus. It will also come for us when we learn to care about others, too.

He didn't know that after Jesus was born that he would have to take Mary and the baby into Egypt. He didn't know that he would be separated from his home town and his loved ones there for a long period of time. He didn't know all the demands that would be made on his time and his pocketbook. But whatever God asked of him, Joseph freely gave.



When God gave Himself, Christmas happened. When Joseph gave himself, Christmas happened. There is nothing wrong with giving gifts, but the greatest gift is the gift of love. "You can have my life." That is what God said at Christmas time. "You can have Me. I give Myself." That is still the greatest gift of all.

Are you ready for Christmas? Perhaps you won't be able to get all your shopping done or not. Perhaps you won't be able to attend all the events you want to attend. But I hope that you are ready in attitude. I hope you are ready for the real spirit of Christmas to come, because if you're ready for that, it'll happen. It'll happen in the greatest way of all.

Jesus Christ stands before us today, inviting us to make important decisions about our lives & our eternity. He extends His nail pierced hands & says, "I have given My all for you. Will you give your all to Me?"

In God's ministry,  
*Pastor Ludford*



Our Goggle calendar is available via our website.  
You can always stay up-to-date!  
[www.shawanozion.org](http://www.shawanozion.org)



**Card Shower Time!** Helen Kaurala is recovering from surgery. Please help lift her spirits with Get Well cards! Address: Helen Kaurala Rm 501, Woodside Lutheran Home, 1040 Pilgrim Way, Green Bay WI 54304. Visits and phone calls are very welcome! 715-853-3302

## From Your Parish Nurse...

### 2021 Staying Healthy during the Holidays

COVID-19 safety protocol has been shared many times by the media. As always, the safest things to do are self-isolate if you are ill. Wear masks, maintain social distancing, and thoroughly wash or sanitize your hands. Get vaccinated if you are able. The CDC guidelines states a person who is vaccinated can resume activities prior to the pandemic which includes worshipping in church and hearing God's words.

National Influenza week is the first week in December. Flu activity usually increases in October but peaks between December and February. Flu activity sometimes occurs as late as May. If you haven't gotten your flu shot yet, the first week in December is a great time to do it if you are able. During a recent flu season, there were 49 million flu illnesses. Of those who got the flu, 960,000 people were hospitalized as a result. Another 79,000 people died from the flu or flu-related complications.

The CDC recommends that anyone over the age of 6 months get the flu vaccination. Getting vaccinated is especially important for those who are at high risk of experiencing flu-related complications. These groups include adults over the age of 65, pregnant women, young children, children with neurologic conditions, those with asthma, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, cancer and those with heart disease. If these people get the flu, they are at high risk of getting other illnesses. These include pneumonia, bronchitis, and sinus infections. Symptoms of the flu can include fever, aching muscles, chills, sweats, fatigue, and headache.

Wash hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. Use medication the way your doctor recommends. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your arm when cough or sneeze. Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth because germs spread, and stay home with flu-like symptoms for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone.

Other ways to stay healthy during the holiday season are bundle up to stay dry and warm. Wearing appropriate outdoor clothing such as light warm layers, gloves, hats, scarves, and waterproof boots can help.

Prepare food safely by remembering a few simple steps. Wash hand and surfaces often, avoid cross-contamination, cook food to proper temperatures and refrigerate foods promptly.

Practice fire safety by not leaving fireplaces, space heaters, food cooking on stoves, or candles unattended. Have an emergency plan in place.

Choose not to drink and drive and help others do the same. Avoid smoking, and secondhand smoke. Smokers have a greater health risks because of their tobacco use.

Monitor children by keeping potentially dangerous toys, food, drinks, household items and other objects out of children's reach. Pet safety includes keeping tinsel, ribbons and bows out of reach. Avoid holiday plants like mistletoe, holly and poinsettias which can make your pet ill.

Eat healthy and stay active which helps lower the risk of certain diseases. Limit portion sizes and foods high in fat, salt, and sugar. Also, be active at least 2.5 hours a week and help kids and teens to be active for at least 1 hour a day.

Manage stress by giving you a break when feeling overwhelmed, and out of control. Some of the best ways to manage stress are to find support, connect socially, practice yoga and get plenty of sleep.

Express Gratitude and being gracious for all that you have while appreciating others can have a big impact on your well-being and increase feelings of happiness. This can reduce stress and negative emotions and keep you healthy and safe. For more healthy holiday tips and ideas go to <https://www.edc.gov/healthequity/features/holidayseason/index.html> and [www.hhealthassociates.com](http://www.hhealthassociates.com)

Romans 15:13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

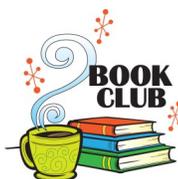
~ Jennifer Greiert, Parish Nurse

**Health Ministry Committee**  
will meet via ZOOM and in Room 101  
on Monday, Dec. 6 at 12:00 pm.  
New members are always welcome!



### Book Club's Current Read...

On December 8 we will discuss  
*Christmas Jars* by Jason F. Wright.



Club meets the second Wednesday of each month in the commons at 3:30 p.m. Anyone interested in reading and discussing the books, please join us!

Questions? Suggestions? Contact Joni Shebuski 715-526-6453 or Sharon Erickson 715-524-4280.



The Health Ministry Committee prays you have a healthy and safe holiday. We wish you all a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year in 2022.

## Memorial Gifts November 2021

Special gifts “in honor of” or “in memory of” to:

### In Memory of Dennis Draper:

- **Church in Society: Wee Care**  
by Mike & Dorothy Eidahl
- **Endowment Fund**  
by Steve & Renee Elertson  
Lorin & Winnie Preston
- **Worship Appointments Fund**  
by Diane Rugalski

### In Memory of Herthal Larsen:

- **General Fund:**  
by Eileen Elertson
- **Worship Appointments Fund**  
by Dejon Polzin

### In Memory of Eunice Berg:

- **Education Fund:**  
by Steve & Renee Elertson
- **Endowment Fund**  
by Maralyn Steffen
- **Youth Fund**  
by Mike & Dorothy Eidahl  
Dejon Polzin

### In Memory of Dan Krone’s brother Dr. Timothy Krone:

- **Endowment Fund:**  
By Michael & Shannon Sleeper
- **Music Fund**  
by Dawn Brock
- **Youth Fund**  
by Ginny & Dick Vraney  
Al & Marge Wichmann  
Carey & Brian Grieves



### Poinsettias for Christmas!

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**Monday, December 13  
ordering deadline.**



## Stewardship at Zion “Prepare for a New Thing”

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” – Isaiah 43:19

Advent and Christmas are all about celebrating the “new thing” that God was doing for the sake of God’s people, the incarnation of God’s divine essence and presence in the human form of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

December will close the books on a tough year. With its racial unrest, political divisiveness, riots, wildfires, hurricanes, rising cost of living and COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 will go down as one of the most challenging years in recent history. And we as God’s people are bracing for a “new normal” that is still in formation.

As the church year begins, we can prayerfully ask, “To what ‘new thing’ is God calling us in this time?” We are already adjusting as the pandemic precludes our traditional in church celebrations of Advent and Christmas. Faithfully stewarding the mystery of the incarnation and God’s story will require creative, inventive thinking.

More broadly, we may pray for guidance to steward our lives to be, as Jesus directed, the salt of the earth and light to a world that needs us more than ever. The four traditional Advent themes offer a template for how we can do a “new thing.” We cultivate these themes in our hearts and congregation and share them with the world:



- \* Hope as an antidote to the culture of despair.
- \* Peace in our hearts to bring to the world.
- \* Love for our friends and enemies alike.
- \* Joy in Christ, who makes all things new.

God, who promises to make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, will lead us to new ways of stewarding our lives to meet the challenges of the new normal.

~ Pastor Ludford



## Thank you!

Dear Zion Congregation,

I am writing to say thank you for the cross necklace given to me for confirmation. It is stunning and when I wear it, it will be a reminder of God’s grace and you! It was extremely considerate and kindhearted to be thought of on my confirmation day. Thanks and God’s love!

~ Bailey DeFere

Dear Zion Congregation,

Thank you for the confirmation necklace and corsage. I appreciated the support that the congregation gives. And everyone that contributed towards my Christian education.

~ Rosella Wegner

Dear Zion and Endowment Fund Committee,

Thank you for the education scholarship. It is greatly appreciated! I will be using this money to buy books for pre-nursing classes.

~ Kendra Kristof

# HOMME HOME YOUTH CHRISTMAS COLLECTION



**HOSTED BY THE HEALTH MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

**November 15 thru December 12**

Box located in the Commons Area along with a list of items in need.

*Thank You For Your Donation*

Population: Boys ages 10 thru 18\*

New Clothing sizes: M through XL

Athletic Shoes sizes: 8-11

Legos for ages 10+

Remote Control Cars

Badger/Brewer/Bucks items

Winter Jackets/Snow Pants

Snowmo Gloves

Snow boots sizes 8-11

PS4 games rated "E"

Basketballs/Footballs

McDonald's gift cards

Origami Paper in Books

Car Air Fresheners (for rooms)

Word Find/Crosswords

DVD - G or PG movies

Teenage/Adult Coloring Bks

Men's/Teen Boys Necklaces

Young Teen Cologne

Children's & young adult books

*(age appropriate, no violence or sexual content)*

- Wallets
- Games
- Rubik's Cubes
- Axe Gift Sets
- Slippers
- Sweatshirts
- Watches
- Nerf Guns
- Art Supplies
- Fishing Gear



**\* No Bathrobes, Food or Glass items, please.**

**Gift Bags are welcome; please leave gifts unwrapped.**

## ZION NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Zion would like help clearing sidewalks of snow this winter. Mornings 6:00 - 8:00 am. Saturdays & Sundays as needed. Zion will provide shovels and snowblower. This is a paid position.



Contact Pastor Ludford, Mike Eidahl, or the office if interested.



Zion Lutheran Church  
1254 S. Union St., Shawano WI 54166-3461

Rev. Scott Ludford, Senior Pastor  
Debbie Bernard, Administrative Assistant  
Jill Sousek, Organist and Music Director  
Jennifer Greiert, Parish Nurse

Phone: 715-526-2017

E-mail: [zion@shawanozion.org](mailto:zion@shawanozion.org)

Web site: [www.shawanozion.org](http://www.shawanozion.org)



### E-mail address:

Pastor Scott..... [sludford@msn.com](mailto:sludford@msn.com)

Debbie / Office ..... [zion@shawanozion.org](mailto:zion@shawanozion.org)

Jennifer Greiert..... [nurse@shawanozion.org](mailto:nurse@shawanozion.org)



To connect with our youth visit  
[www.facebook.com/ZionYouthShawano](http://www.facebook.com/ZionYouthShawano)

