

Focus

Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI

December 2020/January 2021

COME
let us adore him

Christmas Worship Services

Due to the severity and danger of the COVID Pandemic and the challenges of gathering during the Christmas Season, I have made a pastoral call on how we will worship Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the following weekend worship services.

❧ Christmas Eve Services ❧

Thursday, December 24 at 3:30 PM we will worship outside in the parking lot of the church! No matter the weather we are asking you to come and be part of (hopefully) a once-in-a-lifetime worship experience that you will not want to miss! Short-range radio coverage will be provided if you choose to remain in your vehicle or you might want to bring something to sit on and your warmest clothes to worship outside. Logistically we are able to accommodate a huge crowd of people, sing the music of our faith, be a witness to our neighborhood, and identify perhaps with the Holy Family's first Christmas as they too were displaced.

Thursday, December 24 at 5:30 PM we will worship in the sanctuary. This service will be a live-recording for YouTube. Be forewarned that seating capacity at this time is approximately 80 people, we will not be singing in the sanctuary, and all will be required to wear a mask.

❧ Christmas Day and Weekend ❧

Friday, December 25 at 9:00 AM We will have one worship service in the morning.

Saturday, December 26 No Worship Service

Sunday, December 27 at 9:00 AM This service will also be live-recorded for YouTube.



CHANGES TO ADVENT FOOD BAGS!



Advent bags collections is usually held Thanksgiving through Christmas. Health Ministry would like to continue the event, but due to COVID-19 we need to take a little different twist on the process. Instead of non-perishable food goods,

we are requesting monetary donations to purchase grocery gift cards for families in need and for SAFFARC, the local food pantry.

To make a donation, before December 14, please write a check to Zion Lutheran Church and note HMC Advent bags on the memo line or place cash in an envelope with a note that it is for HMC Advent bags. Drop the checks or cash off at the church or mail to Zion Lutheran Church, 1254 S Union St, Shawano, WI 54166. Any questions may be directed to Parish Nurse Jennifer Greiert at nurse@shawanozion.org or 715-526-2017.



These are difficult times for many families, and some are experiencing more hardships than ever before. Sharing God's blessings helps those in need and renews the giver's soul. Trust the Lord as he guides you in bringing comfort to others.

~ Health Ministry Committee

Happy
Birthday



Gloria Bartline...80 on December 1
W9079 Cty. Rd. A, Shawano

Lori Gagner... 60 on December 7
1013 Robin Lane, Shawano

Marcella Luepke... 70 on December 13
W7157 Campfire Road, Shawano

Mary Rusch... 60 on December 18
1013 Robin Lane, Shawano

Geri Steichen... 75 on January 13
N6402 Bahr Estates Lane, Cecil 54111-9249

Dawn Brock... 60 on January 15
N6048 Opperman Way, Shawano

Lee Lemke... 95 on January 19
W4364 Lake Drive, Cecil 54111

*Happy birthday to 51 others in December
and 49 others in January!*



Book Club's Current Read...

◆ **December 9 book:**

The Color of Rain

by Michael & Gina Spehn.

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.



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!**



**No Mid-Week Worship
Services for the
remainder of the year.**



**December & January
Focus Newsletter Combined!**
There will not be a *Focus* mailed for January.

**The following positions are up for
election/re-election in January 2021.**



- ◆ President *
- ◆ Secretary
- ◆ Treasurer *
- ◆ Church in Society *
- ◆ Health Ministry
- ◆ Property
- ◆ Worship & Music

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

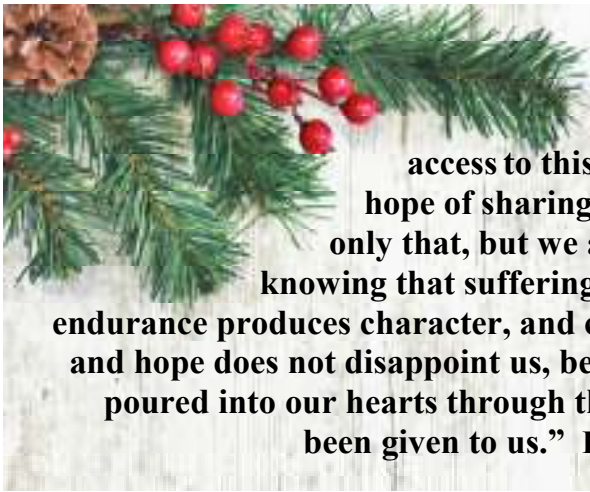
Committees....

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

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



**Annual Meeting
January 31, 2021
Watch for more information!**



“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” Romans 5:1-5



Dear members and friends of Zion Lutheran Church:

May God’s grace and peace be with you my family and friends. It would be an understatement as we head towards Christmas to say this year has been very strange. That is, there has been so much going on that it is sometimes difficult to keep track of it. We have endured Covid-19, distance learning for our youth in schools, hospitals that are filling beyond capacity and a sometimes-trying election cycle. We have church pews that have been empty, roped-off and our sanctuary turned into a TV studio. We have experienced members being locked-down in their residences without visitors, and deaths where family members have not been allowed to be with loved ones. This has been a strange year, indeed.

However, there have been so many positives this year as well. There have been many celebrations here in the Zion faith community, and I want to highlight them as well. There have been milestone anniversaries and birthdays, confirmations for our youth, plenty of baptisms, and the availability of worshipping outside both at the Shawano County Park and here on our church property. And now we are able to worship back inside the sanctuary as we enter into our new normal.

Yes, we still distance ourselves from one another, wear face masks and wash our hands until they ache, but with adaptation comes the way of doing worship and ministry just a little bit different. And in my opinion, this has gone very well, and folks are ok with that. For those who choose to still stay away we support you as you care for yourself and those around you. As such, we have been providing mailed written copies of sermons, DVDs of recorded worship services, and weekly live YouTube worship feeds since the middle of March.

This past year as we struggled through a world around us in turmoil, anger, and

pain...some have questioned whether or not God has abandoned God’s beloved people. I emphatically believe that God has not abandoned us; rather God has raised us up to be better than ever. Through our faith, given to us by the Holy Spirit coming from our one Holy Baptism, we are called to remember our Almighty and hold onto the fact that our God stands with us in our ups and downs.

Whether it is a bad day, a test result that we choose not to believe, or a great loss taken from our lives, we still hold onto the embrace of the Holy Trinity not abandoning us...we are loved and nothing can separate us from the love, forgiveness, mercy, and life that God has bestowed upon us. It is up to us to relax, take a deep breath, and remember that God is with us. ‘Be still and know that I am God,’ says our Lord, and we are called to exalt the heavens and the earth – all that is seen and unseen.

By the time you read this, we will have entered into a new church year and the season of Advent. During this season, we are reminded of the Kingdom of God and how close it is for us, as Christ tells us from the Gospel according to Matthew. This Kingdom also reminds us that God is near, and we are to praise and worship the Creator.

I encourage you this month to reflect on the positives and push away the negatives that surround us. The ever-present news cycles and ‘bad news’ that come with it can easily get us down. But alas, I challenge you to push those to the side and concentrate on the good. And remember that God is with us, always. Our God loves us unconditionally and that is what I am thankful for this holiday season.

Bless you all and may God’s peace continue to shine on you and be gracious unto you! In God’s ministry,

~ Pastor Ludford



From Your Parish Nurse...

2020 December Holidays and COVID-19

Holidays may be looking a bit different this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Christmas events and programs cancelled due to social distancing. Families may not be able to travel by plane, bus or train due to the pandemic. But, that doesn't mean you should celebrate alone. Through social media families and friends can stay connected. Call those you want to share the holiday with and coordinate menus, supper time, time for online chat, game time, and other activities.

Dress up and decorate. It's a special occasion, so celebrate it! Make the holiday as normal as you can by decorating and dressing up, on special days something as simple as getting dressed up in your holiday outfit can set the tone for the day.

Keeping the Holidays simple, with many people unemployed, money will not be available to purchase gifts as you once did in the past. Be open and honest with family and friends on what your expectations are and what you can and cannot do. People are also, afraid to go into crowds or want to save their money and do not want to over spend. Try alternatives such as donate to a charity in someone's name. Give homemade gifts or start a family gift exchange.

Be kind and gentle to yourself and others. Holidays are stressful as it is. So, being creative and flexible



and willing to lower your expectations during the Covid-19 can set a tone of contentment. Be realistic, the holidays don't have to be perfect or just like last year. As families change and grow, traditions and ritual often change as well. Choose a few to hold on to, and be open to creating new ones.

Churches will also have limited services. So, plan ahead if you want to attend a service at church, you may need to make a reservation, and seating will be limited due to Covid-19 rules. The alternative is watching a Christmas service on line.

Do be mindful of those less fortunate than you. Reach out to someone who may be alone this year. Send a card, make a phone call or visit with that person, even if you have to wear a mask and sit six feet apart.

The Health Ministry Committee wishes everyone a safe and blessed Christmas and New Year.

Joshua 1:9 This is my command- be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

~ Jennifer Greiert, Parish Nurse

Health Ministry Committee
will meet via ZOOM and in Room 101
on Monday, December 7 at 12:00 pm.
New members are always welcome!



☪☪ Thank you! ☪☪

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you very much for your donation to Homme Homes. We received an in-kind donation of \$400 to match your October gift. We appreciate this generous gift for our residents and your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated. Thank you again.

~ Kathy Unverzagt, Foundation Coordinator

Dear Pastor Scott and Zion Members,

Our family owns a cottage on Sunset Circle near the Shawano Lake Campground, although we are active members at our church in Brookfield, we often attend worship in the Shawano County Park when we are at the cottage. We enjoy the outdoor setting, the music, and the friendly greetings we receive. Your sermons are both entertaining and challenging, with just the right combination of humor and theology. The only flaw I see is your occasional loyalty to the Minnesota Vikings (ahem)! Oh well, nobody's perfect!

Please accept the enclosed check as a small donation to your church's ministry. We look forward to next summer worship services!

~ Dale & Martha Lenderts, Brookfield



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 \$17.00 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.

Thursday, December 10
ordering deadline.



Financial Stewardship Update

General Fund as of October 31, 2020

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Variance</i>
YTD Total Revenue	\$ 289,970	\$ 310,104	-\$ 20,134
YTD Total Expenses	\$ 282,003	\$ 312,822	-\$ 30,819
YTD Total Net Revenue	\$ 7,967	-\$ 2,718	

This report does not include special offerings such as Building Funds, Restricted/Special Funds, memorial gifts, etc.

Treasurer's Report by Gordon Holten, Council Treasurer

October was a disappointing month financially where expenses exceeded revenues by about \$8,000. However, year-to-date through October General Fund revenues have exceeded expenses by about \$8,000. Now our General Fund balance, which began the year -\$4,471, **still remains in the black for the third month in a row, now at a positive +\$3,500.** Good job members! Thank you!

Please remember as you make your year-end financial plans that any offering must be in the church office by Sunday, December 27 to be counted and recorded as given in 2020. Thank You!



A Very Joyous and Blessed Christmas and New Year to You All!

Have a special event or anniversary, or would you like to honor someone's memory?



Chancel flowers

are a wonderful way to share your celebration with our congregation!

A sign-up flower calendar is posted near the office.



Sponsor a worship bulletin

in honor or in memory of someone!

The \$20 sponsorship fee goes into the General Fund to offset the bulletin cost.

Contact the office to reserve your date!

The Parish Records

Deaths:

- † Melissa Krajewski* October 16, 2020
Funeral service held Oct. 24 at funeral home.
- † Richard A. Anderson November 3, 2020
Memorial service held Nov. 9 at Zion.
- † Shirley A. Teetzen November 16, 2020
Memorial service held at funeral home.
- † Dolores G. Paulson November 23, 2020
Memorial service held at Jerusalem, Lunds, Dec. 5.



* Non-member

New Members:

- † Katie Otto and children Callie & Blake.
270 Kleeman Ct., Shawano
Transferred from St. Paul LCMS, Shawano.
- † Elaine M. Mraa
308 Madison Way, Apt 11, Shawano
Transferred from Bethlehen Lutheran LCMC, Pella.



Confirmed on October 25, 2020:

- † Drake Karl Herm
- † Ellie Grace Huebner
- † Rayn Elizabeth Johnson
- † Isaac Robert Welander

All 2020 Contributions Must Be Received by Sunday, December 27th

for them to be considered for the 2020 year.

Any amounts received after this date will be entered in 2021.



Offering Envelopes

2021 Contribution Envelopes available in the commons!



Memorial Gifts Sept. 28—Nov. 30, 2020

Special gifts "in honor of" or "in memory of" to:

Health Ministry Fund

By: Mike & Dorothy Eidahl
In memory of Marlene Nybo

In Memory of Chuck Bruhn:

- **General Fund**
by Ruth Adamczyk
- **Building Fund**
by John & Barbara Keller

In Memory of Bernadine Wendt:

- **General Fund**
by Marian Teckam
Steve & Renee Elertson
- **Music Fund**
by Karen Childs

In Memory of Dolly Pari:

- **Endowment Fund**
by Mike & Dorothy Eidahl
- **General Fund**
by Ted & Mary Ann Rudie
- **Health Ministry Fund**
by Ginny Vraney
- **Youth Fund**
by Bonnie & Ken Wolf

In Memory of Bonnie Wolf's sister, Ellen McQuillan:

- **Church in Society Fund** (Wee Care)
by Mitzi Moesch, Peggy & Jim Ray
Doug & Christie Wegner
Bonnie & Ken Wolf, Pat & Rich Bahr
Ken & Betty Lohrengel

In Memory of Shirley Teetzen:

- **Church in Society Fund** (Wee Care)
by Bonnie & Ken Wolf
- **Endowment Fund**
by Bruce & Carol Schmidt
- **General Fund**
by Steve & Renee Elertson

In Memory of Jim Zimmerman:

- **Building Fund**
by Ginny Vraney
- **Church in Society Fund** (Wee Care)
by Jerry & Donna Milbauer
- **Endowment Fund**
by Ted & Mary Ann Rudie
Mike & Dorothy Eidahl
Sandy Rhode, Jack & Donna Allord
Mila & Joe Waukechon
Marlene Johnson, Terry & Pat Challe
Diane & Dan Flessert
Pam & Ron Raddant
Jan & Gary Grahl
Allan & Annette Grahl
Liz & Dave Wallace
Tina & Mike Schuelke
Melissa & Greg Trinko
- **Music Fund** (Includes Bell Choir)
by Nancy Schultz, Diane Rugalski
Gene & Barb Hoppe, Dawn Brock
Al & Marge Wichmann, Sue Kiran
Renee & Steve Elertson, Dejon Polzin
Eileen Elertson, Sandy Schubba
Audrey Hoppe, Dan & Bonnie Utke
Marilyn Dahl, Karen Childs
Jill Sousek, Matty Mathison
- **Youth Fund**
by Ken & Bonnie Wolf
Lon & Ellen Swedberg

In Memory of Richard Anderson:

- **General Fund**
by Gary Jorgenson
- **Health Ministry Fund**
by Ginny Vraney, Dejon Polzin
Melody & Mike Boyd



Our Cupboard is bare! Fill the Cupboard



Church in Society is asking the congregation to support

**SAFPARC and
"fill the cupboard."**

The cupboard is located in the Commons.

Pork & beans, kidney beans, tuna, cereal, tomato sauce, mac 'n cheese, hearty soups, and peanut butter.

Please bring a non-perishable food item to help feed God's people!



January 31, 2021

Watch for more details.

**All 2020
Contributions Must Be
Received by Sunday,
December 27th**

for them to be considered for the 2020 year.

Any amounts received after this date will be entered in 2021.



NEW
Offering Envelopes

**2021 Contribution
Envelopes available
in the commons!**

Operation Christmas List

for Boys ages 10 - 18
at Homme Home Youth and Family Programs
Hemlock Rd., Wittenberg

Please do not wrap gifts.

**The list available at office & on our website.
December 13 Deadline!**

Drop off box located in the commons!

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 \$17.00 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.

Thursday, Dec. 10 ordering deadline.



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

Web site: www.shawanozion.org



E-mail address:

Pastor Scott..... sludford@msn.com

Mike Eidahl..... eidahlm@gmail.com

Debbie / Office zion@shawanozion.org

Jennifer Greiert..... nurse@shawanozion.org



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



New President Needed in 2021

This year is Mike Eidahl's last year of eligibility to hold the office of Zion's President. Our current Vice-President is choosing to use his last year in his position to further work with the Finance Committee as a new treasurer steps in. The president sets the agenda for council meetings and runs the meeting each month; stays in contact with the Pastor and with Zion's employees; at times has to sign documents and work with committees. There are a lot of people to help as needed! Please consider this important position at Zion. For more information about the President position contact Mike or Pastor Ludford.

We Also Need YOU for Zion Treasurer

The treasurer shall have supervision of all financial funds of the Congregation, including the receipt and disbursement and reporting of these funds in accordance with the Congregation or Congregation Council. This position requires basic knowledge of accounting, investments and computer software programs. Required time is estimated at 3-5 hours per week at home or church and double that at year-end. The treasurer serves as a member of the Congregation Council, the Endowment Committee, and the Finance Committee.



Interested in serving in either of these positions?

Call us! E-mail us! Talk with Mike or Gordon Holten or Pastor Ludford!

Election happens at the January Annual Meeting!

OFFICE Holiday Schedule



CLOSED

Thursday, Dec. 24

Friday, Dec. 25

Friday, Jan. 1

Thursday, Dec. 31

Closing 12pm



Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
from Zion's Staff!

Pastor Scott Ludford
Debbie Bernard, Admin. Assistant
Jill Sousek, Organist &
Music Director
Jennifer Greiert, Parish Nurse
Christie Wegner, Secretary
Custodians John Phalen,
and Calvin Schultz

