

Focus

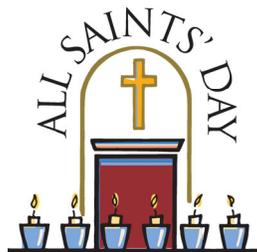
Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI

November 2021

The Festival of All Saints

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served Christ in the Church on earth and who now rest from their labors...

- / Alfred R. Teetzen
- / Barbara F. Schmidt
- / Patricia M. Raasch
- / Leah-Rae Seehafer
- / Robert Voss
- / Dale L. Konkel
- / Betty J. Heling
- / Joy R. Christianson
- / John W. Syndergaard
- / Eugene R. Marsh
- / Dennis E. Draper
- / James R. Zeman
- / Herthal B. Larsen



November 1

Confirmed on October 31:

Front row: Jadyne Gini Armbruster, Brianna Mae Oreskovic-Childs, Kendra Rose Ugoretz, Rosella Joyce Wegner, Jack Maconner Grieves.

Back row: Lily Gabrielle Glysch, Madisyn Alice Weinig, Bailey Lexus DeFere, Bryce William Marohl, Elias Hunter Popp, Pastor Scott Ludford

Thanksgiving Worship Service



**The Thanksgiving
Worship Service will be
coming to your home!**

On Thanksgiving Day as you are preparing your festive meal, you will be able to watch the pre-recorded worship service via **YouTube**.

We encourage you to “like us” as we advertise the service on **Facebook and YouTube**; let’s see how many homes will join us in worship!

The traditional service on Wednesday day will be suspended this year.



Financial Stewardship Update



2021 General Fund through September.

2021 Annual Budget	\$379,631
General Fund Balance August 30	\$ (6,514)
September Contributions	36,295
September Expenses	<u>(28,774)</u>
General Fund Balance Sept. 30	\$ 1,007

After the usual summer-slump, we have started Fall with a positive fund balance.

Thank you Zion members for your support!

December & January Focus Newsletter Combined!

The December and January issues of the *Focus* will now be combined and sent out the beginning of December.

There will not be a separate January issue.



Deadline for your articles, news, and information for both December and January events will be November 19.

The Parish Records



Deaths:

- † Dennis E. Draper October 1, 2021
Memorial service to be held at Zion on Nov. 6.
- † James R. Zeman October 8, 2021
Memorial service held at funeral home Oct. 16.
- † Herthal B. Larsen October 17, 2021
Funeral service held at Zion on October 25.

Released by Request:

- † Monica J. Wittrock



Welcome New Members...

Jason & Kelly Nelson
& children James and Brooke

8632 S. Loop Rd., Larsen WI 54947
920-968-4677



God's Work, Our Hands

Aluminum Can Collection Bin behind the garage!

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



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!



Happy Birthday



John Holtz... 60 on Nov. 16
N5735 Riverside Dr., Shawano

Renee Elertson... 65 on Nov. 18
W6365 Cty. Rd. T, Shawano

Joanne Olson... 65 on Nov. 27
W7639 Cty. Rd. M, Shawano

Barbara Konkel... 60 on Nov. 28
1470 S. Park St., Shawano

Happy birthday to 41 others in November!

Plastic Bags Needed!

The Wee Care program needs your bags!

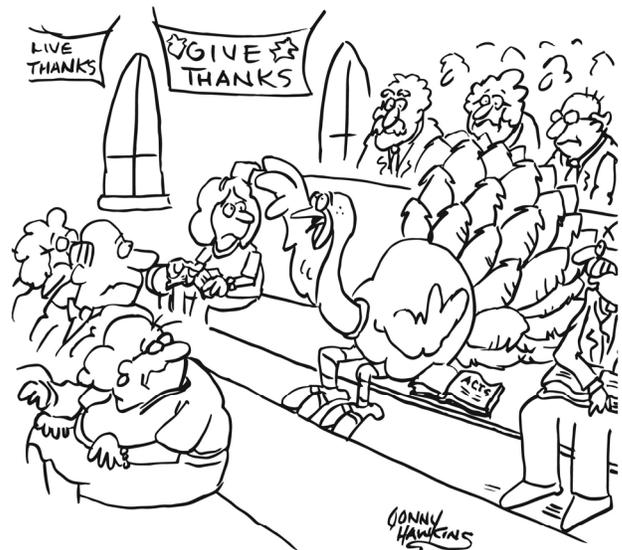
Please place plastic shopping bags in the fabric sleeve hanging near the SAFPARC food collection pantry.

Thank you!



ZLCW Needs Ice Cream Pails & Covers

If you have a spare, drop it off at the Info desk.



"Could we study Exodus instead of the book of Acts?"



“An enemy will overrun the land” Amos 3:11a



Everywhere you look things are falling apart. Maybe your marriage is falling apart, your career, your finances, your kids, your emotions or your health. Sometimes life has a way of tearing us apart. If it seems that everything in your life is falling apart today you need to know that God is still in control.

He has not fallen off of His throne. He still loves you and has a plan for your life. We tend to think that when things are falling apart God must have it in for us. It’s the same theology Job had to deal with. Job’s friends repeatedly told him that he must have done something really bad for his life to be falling apart the way it is. Yet what neither Job nor his friends recognized was that something was going on behind the scenes in heaven and that God was still in control, and that God was going to restore Job. God is a restorer! When things are falling apart God can put our lives back together.

We are given an incredible metaphor of how God restores us when life is falling apart in Amos 3:11-12: *“Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘An enemy will overrun the land; he will pull down your strongholds and plunder your fortresses.’ 12 This is what the LORD says: ‘As a shepherd saves (recovers) from the lion’s mouth only two leg bones or a piece of an ear, so will the Israelites be saved, those who sit in Samaria on the edge of their beds and in Damascus on their couches.’”*



In ancient times predators like lions and wolves would often attack the sheep and all that was usually left were pieces. These pieces would be gathered by the shepherd and taken to the sheep owner to account for the loss. Here God depicts Himself as the shepherd who recovers the two leg bones and piece of an ear. Israel would be devastated, but not

beyond recovery. God would start with two leg bones and a piece of an ear and restore Israel to blessing and favor again. God’s promise of restoration to Israel is found in Amos 9:11,

Maybe there are some lions in your life that have attacked you and torn everything apart. Maybe your heart has been shattered into a thousand pieces by the assaults upon your family, your marriage, your finances or your emotions. Maybe all you are left with today

is just two leg bones and a piece of an ear. If that describes your situation today take heart because God is a restorer! He can take what is left of the pieces of your life and restore you to a place of blessing.

In my own life I can testify that when you’re down to nothing, God is up to something. I know what it’s like to lose a job. I know what it’s like to have creditors hounding you at all hours of the day. I know what it’s like not to know where your next meal is coming from. I know what it’s like to have a relationship shattered. Yet I also know what it’s like to watch God restore all those things and add His blessing. I’m sure there are many of you who can testify that God is a God of restoration!

In my hands a golf club is a sure shank, but in Tiger Woods’ hands a golf club is fifteen major championships. In my hands a paintbrush is a doodle brush but in the hands of Michelangelo it is the Sistine Chapel. In my hands a basketball is a brick but in the hands of Michael Jordan it is six NBA championships. In my hands a scalpel is just a way to cut my fingers off, but in the hands of transplant surgeon Dr. John Najarian a patient is given a new kidney. In my hands two leg bones and a piece of an ear are worthless, but in God’s hands they are the building blocks of a new life.

No matter where you are and where you’ve been; no matter what failures and mistakes you have made God can take what is left of the pieces of your life and redeem it for something great. You may be low today but God is getting ready to do something in your life that will amaze you. God isn’t finished with you yet. Two leg bones and a piece of an ear is all you need for God to show His power in your life. There is hope for you. We must remember the lessons from two leg bones and a piece of an ear that God restores, remains and redeems. There is a blessing right around the corner!

In God’s ministry,
Pastor Ludford



Our Goggle calendar is available via our website.
You can always stay up-to-date!
www.shawanozion.org



Daylight Savings Time
Ends! Fall back Sunday,
November 7 at 2:00 a.m.

Memorial Gifts

October 2021

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

General Fund

by Doug & Christie Wegner
In memory of Dennis Draper

Church in Society Fund Wee Care

by Ken & Bonnie Wolf
In memory of Dennis Draper

Youth Fund

by Doug & Christie Wegner
In memory of Dan Krone's
brother, Dr. Timothy Krone



Gifts & Memorials

At Zion you may donate a gift or memorial—or honor someone—by contributing to any of the following funds!

General Fund
Building Fund
Sound/Video Project Fund
Camp Scholarship Fund
Church in Society Fund
Computer Fund
Health Ministry Fund
Library Fund
Music Fund
Park Sound System Fund
Education Fund
Worship Appointments Fund
Undesignated Fund
Youth Fund
Endowment Fund

Make checks payable to
Zion Lutheran
Church.

Questions?
Contact the church
office.



Yarn needed!

Drop off donations at the information desk. Thank you!

Thank you!

Dear Zion Congregation,

I would like to thank you so much for the scholarship awarded to me. I'm in my sophomore year at UW-Stevens Point and studying psychology and sociology with an emphasis in criminal justice. I have been enjoying my classes so far this year. With the love and the support of Zion, I am able to continue to reach my goals. I look forward to worshipping with all of you at Christmas this year. Thank you again!

~ Lauren Welander

Prayers Shawls are Needed!

If you enjoy crocheting or knitting we are in need of prayer shawls. When making a prayer shawl you are infusing each stitch with hope, warmth, love, compassion and care. When the gift of a prayer shawl is received, that warmth is felt, the connection is recalled and the healing takes place. Your prayer shawls can be brought to the office when finished. Thank you very much!



~ Health Ministry Committee

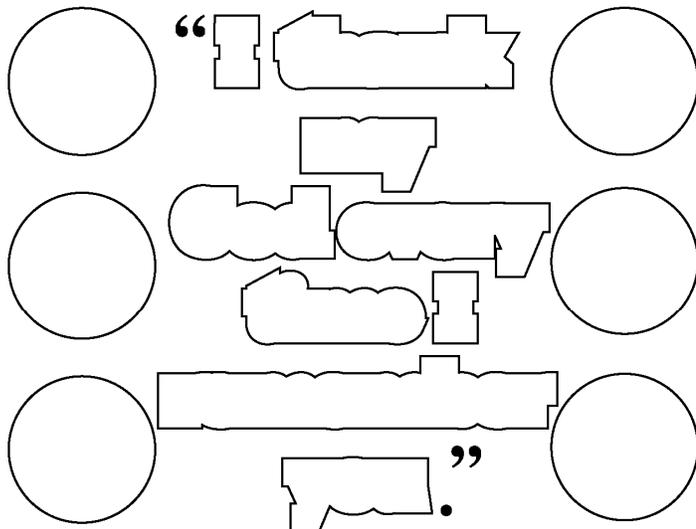


Thanksgiving and Prayer

When Paul sent a letter to the church at Philippi, he told his friends how he felt about them. Finish this puzzle to read what Paul wrote in Philippians 1:3.

Match words in the list below to the correct word shape. Then write the letters inside each shape. In the circles, draw the faces of people you're thankful for in your life.

WORD LIST: remember time you I God
I my thank every



Answer: "I thank my God every time I remember you."

From Your Parish Nurse...

2021 Thanksgiving and Gratitude

Thanksgiving is a day of celebrating the harvest and other blessings in the past year. A time to be thankful and appreciate who you have and what you have. It is a time for families to meet, socialize and enjoy each other's company, sometimes the only opportunity in a year.

Thanksgiving may be different this year as the coronavirus and delta variance pandemic continues and cases increase across the country. Some families will not be able to gather in person, while others will be mourning the loss of loved ones, loss of jobs and loneliness.

This year it's all about keeping everyone healthy so we can do all that next year. This year we are grateful to those who are not making the trip, crowding around the table, and all the rest.

Feeling grateful during our lowest moments probably won't be easily access during times of grief and that is OK. However, when you can reflect on your personal gratitude, being thankful for your relationships is a good way to start. Gratitude glorifies God. This alone would be reason to give thanks to God. Our gratitude glorifies God as we exalt not the gifts, but the Giver. Gratitude helps us realize all we have comes from God.

Tell someone how thankful you are for the things that they have done for you. Family whether they are your

blood relative or a family you chose. Friends that pick you up on the bad days and celebrate with you on the good day. Having pets and spending time with them can bring much joy to your soul and a grateful heart for their faithful companionship. Showing thanks by giving back to others by volunteering at a soup kitchen, donating your time and money to a charity.

Special moments of gratitude are being thankful for long weekends. Having the time to enjoy the day off and relax. Seasons are special, it's beautiful to see the colorful leaves of autumn and it is nice to see green leaves growing in the spring.

Financial gratitude by either having a job to earn money or investments that grow overtime can provide good peace of mind. Environmental gratitude's is to be here on earth to live comfortably with fresh water, clean air and sunshine. There are many more reasons to be grateful. For more information on gratefulness go to <https://antimaximalist.com/gratitude-list/> or <http://www.biblemoneymatters.com>

We are facing a new year that offers possibilities of opportunities and we can be grateful for that! The Health Ministry Committee wishes everyone a blessed and grateful Thanksgiving.

Psalm 136:26 Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever.

~ Jennifer Greiert, Parish Nurse



Join Health Ministry Committee!

The mission of Health Ministry is "To share Christ with others through loving care, inspiration and encouragement" by working to promote wholeness of body, mind and spirit in the congregation and the community.

Our committee meets the first Monday of each month at 12:00 pm via Zoom and in Rm 101.

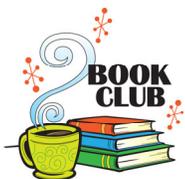
We met November 1st. Our next meeting will be Monday, December 6.

Book Club's Current Read...

On November 10 we will discuss

Summer Island

by Kristin Hannah.



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 AED is working!

The new battery has been installed.



With your help, the Health Ministry Committee collected

583 Pairs of New SOCKS for Safe Haven and SAM 25 this October!

Thank you all for your donations!

Stewardship at Zion

"Pay careful attention..."

I read a story of a woman who had finished her shopping and returned to her car to find four men inside it. She dropped her shopping bags, drew a handgun from her purse, and with a forceful voice said, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car!" Those men did not wait for a second invitation. They got out and ran like crazy!

The woman, understandably shaken, quickly loaded her shopping bags and got into the car. She just wanted to get out of there as fast as she could. But no matter how she tried, she could not get her key into the ignition.

Then it hit her: This isn't my car! She looked, and indeed her car was parked four or five spaces away. She got out, looked around to see if the men were near, loaded the bags into her own car, and drove to the police station to turn herself in.



The desk sergeant, after hearing her story, nearly fell out of his chair laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four men were reporting a carjacking by a woman with glasses and curly white hair, less than five feet tall, and carrying a

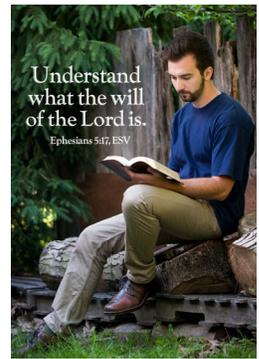
large handgun. No charges were filed. She thought it was her car, but it really belonged to someone else.

God has entrusted to our management time, possessions, abilities, and even our very being. All are to be used for His honor. We will be accountable for all these things and how we have used them. God has high expectations that we will serve Him and grow to think and care and love like He does.

The white-haired lady was mistaken as she went to the wrong car, wielded a gun, and sent the passengers scurrying. But hers was an honest mistake. It wasn't her car. And she wasn't held accountable for her actions. But we will be held accountable. All that we call "ours" is actually His. My prayer is that we will - that we do - properly manage what He has entrusted to us.

The Apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 5:15-17: "Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk - not as unwise people but as wise - making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So, don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

~ Pastor Ludford



Visit Zion's Library!

Auschwitz Lullaby by Mario Escobar. On an otherwise ordinary morning in 1943, Helene Hannemann is preparing her five children for the day when the German police arrive at her home. Helene's worst fears come true when the police, under strict orders from the SS, demand that her children and husband, all of Romani heritage, be taken into custody. After a terrifying trek across the continent, they arrive at Auschwitz. Her husband is separated from them. It is discovered that Helene is not only a German but also a trained nurse, she is forced into service at the camp hospital—overseen by Dr. Mengele himself. He asks her to organize a school for the Romani children in the camp. Through sheer force of will, Helene provides a haven for the children of Auschwitz – an act of kindness and selflessness so great that it illuminates the darkest night of human history.

The Ornament Keeper by Eva Marie Everson. Separated from her husband Jackson after 20 years of marriage, Felicia Morgan is not interested in decorating for Christmas. But her children convince her to at least let them put up a tree. She begins to unwrap the ornaments Jackson gave her each Christmas to represent another year of their marriage and family. With each ornament, she starts to see not only the story of their marriage but also the story of Christmas. This is a heartwarming story of how forgiveness and healing can often come by a long and winding path.

Cricket at the Manger by Edith Hope Fine. A little cricket is in the stable trying to sleep, but is kept awake by all the noise – lots of people, a weary man and his wife with a donkey, a shepherd girl, and an angel. The cricket is lifted up to see what is in the manger.

This Is the Star by Joyce Dunbar. With full page illustrations, the book tells the story of Jesus' birth. This is the Christ child, born to be king. While hosts of heavenly angels sing.

This Is the Stable by Cynthia Cotton. The story shows pictures and tells who the characters are who come to the stable the night Jesus is born.

Open during business hours weekdays and Sunday mornings.





Russ Wise and John Dovorany (pictured above) are volunteer delivery people for the Wee Care food packets to the schools. This week 12 cartons went out. *Thank you!*

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

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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)**



Office Closed
Thursday & Friday
Nov. 25 & 26



ELCA National
Youth Gathering
Meeting
Sunday, Nov. 14
at 1:00pm



The Health Ministry Committee is so thankful and grateful to all of the people that came to donate blood on September 27, 2021 here at Zion Lutheran Church. All openings were filled, and the goal met. 22 units of blood were collected. Our group's donation has the potential of saving up to 66 lives. Way to go!