

WELCOMING ALL, GROWING & SHARING GOD'S LOVE



## "When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet [wool]."



— Proverbs 31:21

#### HEALTH MINISTRY

#### WALKING FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

ZION Health Ministry challenged as many people, who were interested, in Walking for the Health of It challenge led by ZION Health committee member Joyce Phalen. It was held from Sept. 9-Dec. 3, 2023. We had 18 people who started and 17 finished their new way of life. Pep talks, encouragement and recipes were part of the challenge, in order to better help with healthy food choices for the holidays. The group met once a month for more support and encouragement, recipes and friendship. The total miles and prizes were given out at the get-together on Dec. 11. Walking, swimming, gardening, taekwondo, push-ups and riding bicycles, were all used and converted to steps. This group showed they really cared about their overall health. We then discussed if there is interest in doing it in 2024. Stand by for Moving for Your Health coming this Spring! Happy New Year to all.

#### **SOCKTOBER**

Fifty-four pair of socks were collected and divided between SAM25 and Safe Haven, brining the total to 492 pairs. Thank you so much to all of you for your donations!

#### **UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVE**

ZION's next **Blood Drive** will be held Mon., April 15. Please track your 56 days, so you may donate at our Blood Drive.



#### YOUTH

#### **ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING**

ZION Youth are attending the National Youth Gathering July 16-20 in New Orleans. An exciting opportunity for youth in grades 8-12! Sign up at the Info Desk or contact Curt Preston at 715.853.4999. Watch for planning meetings! Visit www.elca.church/gathering for more information.

#### THANK YOUS

ZION Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the prayer shawl and the reception after my confirmation ceremony. It's nice to have a supportive community. Thank you ~ Claire Wegner

To whom it may concern,

I would like to thank the congregation and those who donated to the fun for the generous scholarship I received this year, not to mention those I have received in years prior. The funds greatly assist me in paying for school and in general make things a little easier when it comes to finances. Wishing you all a Happy New Year. Thank you again ~ Calvin Schultz

Dear ZION Lutheran members,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Homme boy's program. We very much appreciate it! Blessings to you ~ Pamela Cotton, MA, CSW

ZION Lutheran Church.

Thank you for your recent donation to SAM25. Your kindness and generosity is appreciated! ~ SAM25

ZION members,

I wanted to reach out and say thank you for the scholarship. It definitely helped to push me further on my way to being able to become a better person and to become a strong person in the church community. I look forward to what I will be able to achieve thanks to your thoughtfulness. Sincerely ~ Peyton Schultz



**SPECIAL THANKS** to the following for sharing their special music at ZION Christmas services: Grady Krone, Deborah Meier, Bailey DeFere, Kennedi Meyers, Jericho Moses, Akyrie Onesti, Elias Popp, Claire Schroeder, Kendra Strebel, Rosella Wegner & Abby Wotjz.

2023 Contribution Statements have been emailed to you, or were mailed to your home address.



# God's Message of Hope

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'"



— Isaiah 52:7

Would you believe this verse from Isaiah is a 2,600-year-old Christmas greeting from God? It is! God originally sent this greeting to those Jewish people who were exiled in Babylon (present-day Iraq) in the sixth century B.C. The Lord also had the prophet send this greeting to the ragtag handful of people who remained behind in Jerusalem, the once proud capital of the Jewish nation.

Can you imagine their mindset? Whether they were hauled off to Babylon or remained in the ruins of Jerusalem — it must have seemed their whole world was out of control. Their ancient homeland of Israel, once promised to their ancestor Abraham and his family, was destroyed. Their worship life was in shambles. The sacrifices they offered, which foreshadowed the work of the promised Savior, were no longer offered on the huge bronze altar outside the temple. In fact, the temple, built by great King Solomon, had been trashed and torched by the armies of Babylon. There must have been an ache in their hearts as these people prayed to God. They had nothing.

Is this how God's promises to Adam and Eve, to Abraham and to King David would end, with a whimper in the desert of the ancient Near East? Of course not. God is faithful. He sent a greeting of hope to these hopeless people. The God of faithful love and mercy came to his weary and lonely people with a message of good news. 'Your God reigns!' God would make it possible for those exiled in Babylon to return home.

Looking at our recent celebration of Christ's birth, we can relate to this Christmas greeting because in reality we are a people who have nothing. As we stand before God, we see our sins are cause for a spiritual exile. God has every reason to cast us out of his presence — to send us away from his goodness. Adam and Eve forsook the complete, wholesome peace that was theirs in Paradise. As a result, we lack that perfect peace. In fact, we don't even deserve it. We don't even deserve the little blessings God gives in our lives. We don't deserve God's message of hope. The truth is we deserve to be exiled to sin and death forever.

Oh! We may have tinsel and toys, lights and presents. We may have the things providing temporary pleasure, and we might think that's enough. Our sinful hearts may think it's enough to hear Christmas carols on the radio, to taste Christmas cookies, or receive a peck on the cheek from underneath the mistletoe. But that's not enough. Such things cannot fill our hearts with peace. It's at Christmas many people feel depressed and alone. It's at Christmas we miss loved ones who have passed away. The glitter of the holidays just isn't enough to keep peace in our hearts. That is not what Christmas is. For Christmas is nothing, and we have nothing if we don't have God's greeting of "good tidings."

The God of history, our all-powerful and merciful God, intervened in the world scene for us all. The Christmas angel came to the shepherds that first Christmas announcing, "Peace

on earth!" And God has sent his Christmas greeting to you, "Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" That's what Christmas is all about. God gives us what we need in his Holy Word. He gives us a message of hope and love, and he gives us the ability through His Holy Spirit to receive and believe it.

God has delivered us. That's the perfect gift. Jesus Christ is what Christmas is all about, the reason for the season. He is the Son of God and Son of Mary who came to trade himself for us in life and death. The One who had every right to condemn and exile us found a way to pardon us without violating his own perfection. Christ came to deliver us from the guilt of sin and the fear of death. He came to deliver us safely to his home in heaven.

Christmas is all about needy people and how God has supplied all our needs. He's provided the best gift of all, our salvation. Again, we've heard the good tidings of the angels. The messengers have come to our hearts again and brought wonderful news of deliverance from sin, death, and the devil. Every time we hear the Christmas message — God's good news greeting — we are assured that we are not sentenced forever to live in an inside-out, upside-down world. In Bethlehem, God came to assure us that he has a better life in store for us. a life forever in his presence.

May God bless you and your family as we enter the new year!

~ Pastor Scott Ludford

#### HOMME HOME THANK YOU

Dear Members of ZION Lutheran Church in Shawano.

I would like to personally thank you for the huge Christmas donation you made to Homme Youth & Family Programs. Just to share a little bit about what it means for our kids to have presents for Christmas. Many of our boys would get









little or nothing to open on Christmas morning, some, this is the first time they've received anything. We as staff at Homme know how much they appreciate it just by the looks on their faces ... I wish you could see them. It's also a sad time for some of them as they will not be with their loved ones, so knowing there are those, like yourself, who care enough to remember them helps greatly.

I spent over ten years at Homme, retired for 18 months and now have been back for over a year. ZION has been a huge supporter of our work with the boys, as I have seen for years. I cannot tell you how much it is appreciated.

I am speaking at Shawano Area Conference of Churches Annual Meeting on Feb. 4 in Little Suamico, Wis., and have asked our unit supervisor Stephana Andres who heads our Christmas programs at Homme, to come along to share in-person what the gifts given to our boys mean to them.

I would also invite a small group of you to come visit us at Homme, so we can share our work with you. We have chapel services on Sunday morning. I could have two or three boys come back to the chapel to share them personally if you would like.

Please let me know if there's anything else I can share. May the blessing of God be upon you and your congregation.

~ Monte Smith, Spiritual Counselor/Chaplain

# ANNUAL MEETING ZION Annual Meeting will be Sun., Jan. 28, 2024 at 11:30 AM

in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend.

#### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

The following **positions are up for election or re-election** in January 2024.

- ✓ President
- **✓** Vice-President
- **✓** Stewardship
- ✓ Education



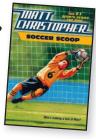
✓ Life & Growth ✓ Church in Society

#### LIBRARY

#### **NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

<u>Soccer Scoop: Who's</u> <u>Making a Fool of Mac?</u> by Matt Christopher

Mac is the best goalie on his soccer team and he's not afraid to let everyone know it. Then



somebody on the school newspaper creates a new comic strip that caricatures Mac and his performance on and off the field. Mac wants to put a stop to it, but no one seems to know who the cartoonist is. He thinks it must be someone on the soccer team itself, because the strip is too tightly connected to the team for it to be an outsider. But his suspicions lead to one dead end after another. Can he discover who the artist is before the comic strip gets out of hand?



<u>Slam Dunk</u> by Matt Christopher and Robert Hirschfeld

When a new school year starts, and thirteen-year-old basketball star Julian

feels a lot of pressure as he realizes he is the only remaining player from last year's winning team, a friend's health crisis helps him regain perspective.

<u>Rebel Horse Rescue</u> by Miralee Ferrell

Summer is winding down for Kate and her friends when a surprise visitor appears at her family's

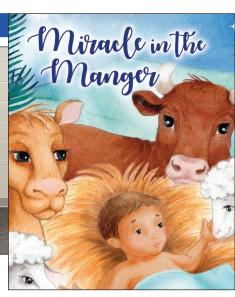


stable — a beautiful horse wearing a halter and a bad attitude. Dubbing the horse "Rebel," the friends set out to find the horse's owner. Where did he come from, and why are horses all over the area disappearing from their pastures and paddocks? It's a mystery that even the sheriff can't figure out, so Kate heads up the investigation. When Kate's autistic brother develops a connection to Rebel, Kate wonders — did God bring Rebel to them for a bigger purpose? A perfect book for kids ages 9-13.

#### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Sunday School students performed their Children's Christmas program Dec. 16 entitled "*Miracle in the Manger*." The kids and teachers put on a fantastic play.



#### WEE CARE FOOD PACKS











**HELP FROM WOLF RIVER HIGH** Wee Care received help packing food bags for school kids from Wolf River Lutheran High School. They packed enough bags in one hour for several weeks of supplies to school kids.



**DONATION TO WEE CARE** 

Wee Care volunteers accepted a donation from Shawano Specialty Papers, presented by Linda Thomas.

#### OATMEAL COOKIE SALE

Wee Care will be selling **oatmeal cookie**s on Feb.3-4. Mark your calendars and help support a great cause!













WEE CARE BAKING BREADS & COOKIES

#### CHURCH IN SOCIETY

#### **FOOD PANTRY**

Our food pantry is in need of paper bags, but <u>not</u> plastic. Thank you for your support of food donations for SAPARC (Shawano Area Food Pantry and Resource Center) as we continue to replenish their shelves with donations.

### ZION'S BOOK CLUB

Come join **ZION's Book Club** on **Wed., Feb. 14** at **9:15 AM** in ZION's Library. We are reading *The Clover Girls by Viola Shipman*. Bring your favorite book to share with us. Questions, call Deb Larson at 320.493.0284 or Dorothy Eidahl at 715.526.2650. Hope to see you there!

## FESTIVAL OF TREES

Thank you so much for helping us revive the **Festival of Trees** at ZION.

We had many good comments about our efforts to spread God's light!

The trees were absolutely gorgeous and added a beautiful touch to ZION for Christmas time.









#### IN MEMORY OF

HAROLD "TED" RUDIE given by:

R Laurel Marquardt . Endowment fund PAM BRUECKER given by: R Pam's Mother, Bonnie Lillge . ZLCW Quilter's fund HARLAN MARTIN given by: R Marlene Johnson . Music fund R Dawn Brock . Endowment fund R Ted & Yvonne Wolf . Music fund R June Peters . Music fund R Donna Davis . Music fund R Donna Davis . Music fund R Donna Davis . Music fund R Donna Prock . Endowment fund R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Sound System fund R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Sound System fund R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Sound System fund R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Sound System fund R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Sound System fund R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Sound System fund R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Sound System fund R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Sound System fund R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Sound System fund R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Sound System fund R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Sound System fund R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Joel Yeakey seminary education R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Joel Yeakey seminary education R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Joel Yeakey seminary education R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Joel Yeakey seminary education R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Joel Yeakey seminary education R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Joel Yeakey seminary education R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Joel Yeakey seminary education R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Joel Yeakey seminary education R Larry & Judy Kilbourn . Joel Yeakey seminary education R Davis Gind R Mark & Dien Larsen . Joel Yeakey seminary education R Judy Kilbourn . Judy Kilbourn . Judy Kilbourn . Joel Yeakey seminary education R Judy	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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R June Peters	R Ted & Yvonne Wolf	
R Mike & Dorothy Eidahl	R June Peters	
R Donna Davis		
R Karen Buntrock		
R Gene & Barb Hoppe	R Karen Buntrock	
R Julie Effenberger	R Gene & Barb Hoppe	R Jane NaparallaJoel Yeakey seminary education
R Nancy Syndergaard	R Julie Effenberger	
R Donna & Peter Putnam	R Nancy Syndergaard	
R Dean & Vicki Martin	R Donna & Peter Putnam	
R Tracy & Michael Crawford	R Dean & Vicki Martin	
R Charlene Larsen		
R Bruce & Carol Schmidt	R Charlene Larsen Music fund	
R Janice & David Reinhardt		
R Janice & David Reinhardt		
R River Ridge Condominiums  R Fred & Kathy Beyer  R Mark & Ellen Heideman  R Judy Kilbourn  R Diane Rugalski  Music fund  R Diane Rugalski  Music fund  R Al & Marge Wichmann	R Janice & David Reinhardt	
R Fred & Kathy Beyer		
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#### GIFTS & MEMORIALS

At ZION, you may give a gift or memorial, or honor someone, by contributing to any of the following funds.

Education • Camp Scholarship • Church in Society • Computer • Health Ministry

Library • Music/Sound System • Undesignated • Youth • Worship Appointments

#### HOLY BAPTISMS

R Mary Martin .....Joel Yeakey seminary education

R Lee Lemke......General fund

• Emberly Betty Steichen ~ Nov. 12, 2023 <u>Parents</u>: Bradley J. & Amber E. Steichen <u>Godparents</u>: Eric Fellenz & Robert Steichen

PHIL ERICKSON given by:

• Adler Randall Von Loh ~ Jan. 14, 2024

<u>Parents</u>: Kyle R. & Courtney L. (Boerst) Von Loh

<u>Godparents</u>: Jennifer A. Oelke & Dylan J. Teske

#### FUNERALS

R John & Peggy Woehler ... Joel Yeakey seminary education

R Bonnie Wolf ...... Wee Care fund

R Mike & Dorothy Eidahl ......Park Sound System fund

R Peggy Ray...... Wee Care fund

R Bob & Jackie Weier ...... General fund

• <b>Guido Paul Furloni</b> ~ 1941-2023	Dec. 8, 2023
• Rose Ann Fuhrmann ~ 1928-2023	Dec. 11, 2023
• <b>Harlan Eugene Martin</b> ~ 1929-2023	Dec. 16, 2023
• Harold "Ted" Rudie, Jr. ~ 1938-2023	Dec. 26, 2023
• William "Bill" Heling ~ 1940-2023	Jan. 27, 2024







#### THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Eligible Thrivent members earn Choice Dollars until Dec 31. Then they can direct them Jan 1-March 31. Please consider directing your Choice Dollars to ZION Lutheran Church. R

# HOW TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

#### **Online**

- 1. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
- In the "GET STARTED" section on the right, click Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars®.
- Log in by entering your user ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click "Register for account access.")
- 4. Choose the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
  - a. To direct to a previous organization:
    - Click "Direct Now" next to the organization's name, or
    - Click on the "View activity history" link, scroll down and click on the name of the desired organization.
  - b. To direct to a new organization, enter keyword(s) like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click "Search."
- Choose "Direct All" or enter a specific number and click "Direct Now." Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

#### By phone

- Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."
- 2. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or 2 to hear Thrivent Choice Dollars® program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
- A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

# Thrivent Choice®—Generosity strengthens communities

Thanks to Thrivent and its clients with membership,

#### Zio Lutheran Church

has received \$83,114 Choice Dollars® grant funds since July of 2010.

#### Grant funds distributed nationally

The Thrivent Choice program has helped support churches and other nonprofit organizations since 2010:



More than \$550 million in Choice Dollars grant funds distributed



Over 625,000 clients participated



More than 45,000 organizations received outreach funding

#### Help strengthen communities and change lives

Eligible Thrivent clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds by directing Choice Dollars.

#### You can have an even bigger impact

Clients and others can also make personal donations. Thrivent, in partnership with Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing™, provides an online platform for donations to enrolled organizations. Thrivent will cover all the processing fees, so 100% of your donation goes to help.\*

To learn more, visit thrivent.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:00 AM -Worship Service	8:30 AM -Strong Bodies	7:30 AM -Strong Bodies	8:30 AM -Strong Bodies	7:30 AM -Strong Bodies		5:00 PM Worship Service
9:15 AM -Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM -Sunday School	3:30 PM -Women's Evening Bible Study - Library	8:00 AM -Men's Breakfast - Shawano's Cafe	5:00 PM -Joyful Ringers Rehearsal	10:30 AM -BrLaws Committee Meeting		
10:30 AM -Adler Von Loh Baptism		9:00 AM -LWR Mission Quiting	6:00 PM -Confirmation Class	4:30 PM -Girl Scouts #4723-Rm B24		
10:30 AM -Worship Service				6:30 PM -Girl Scouts #4717		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:00 AM -Worship Service	8:30 AM -Strong Bodies	7:30 AM -Strong Bodies	8:30 AM -Strong Bodies	7:30 AM -Strong Bodies		5:00 PM Worship Service
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9:15 AM -Sunday School		onawanos care	Refleatsal	P24		
10:30 AM -Worship Service		9:00 AM -LW K Mission Quiting	6:00 PM -Confirmation Class			
Annual Report Distributed						
28	29	30	31			
8:00 AM -Worship Service	8:30 AM -Strong Bodies	7:30 AM -Strong Bodies	8:30 AM -Strong Bodies	いるのかない		
9:15 AM -Choir Rehearsal		8:00 AM -Men's Breakfast -	5:00 PM -Joyful Ringers	-	<	
9:15 AM -Sunday School		Silawallos Cale	Relied sal			
. 0 . 1 . 11 . 11 00 01		9:00 AM -LWK Mission Quiting	6:00 PM -Confirmation Class		\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	70

Journey with Jesus (Imago Dei) 5:00 PM Worship Service 5:00 PM Worship Service 5:00 PM Worship Service 5:00 PM Worship Service Wee Care Oatmeal Cookie Sale 17 Journey with Jesus (Imago Dei) Office Closed 16 33 4:30 PM -Girl Scouts #4723-Rm B24 6:30 PM -Girl Scouts #4717 6:30 PM -Girl Scouts #4717 6:30 PM -Girl Scouts #4717 7:30 AM -Strong Bodies 12 4:30 PM -Joyful Ringers Rehearsal 6:00 PM -Confirmation Class 1:00 PM -ZLCW Board Meeting Lenten Worship Services 11 AM & 6 PM Lenten Worship Services 11 AM & 6 PM 6:00 PM -S. S. Teacher's Meeting Ash Wednesday Services 11 AM & 6 PM 5:00 PM -Joyful Ringers Rehearsal 4:30 PM -Joyful Ringers Rehearsal 8:30 AM -Strong Bodies 9:15 AM -Book Club-Library 8:30 AM -Strong Bodies 4:30 PM -Joyful Ringers Rehearsal 8:30 AM -Strong Bodies 8:30 AM -Strong Bodies 9:00 AM -LWR Mission Quilting 9:00 AM -LWR Mission Quilting 9:00 AM -LWR Mission Quiling 10:30 AM -Finance Committee 6:00 PM -Property Committee 3:30 PM -Women's Evening Bible Study - Library FEBRUARY 9:00 AM -LWR Mission Quilting 8:00 AM -Men's Breakfast -Shawano's Cafe 8:00 AM -Men's Breakfast -8:00 AM -Men's Breakfast -Shawano's Cafe 7:30 AM -Strong Bodies 7:30 AM -Strong Bodies 7:30 AM -Strong Bodies 8:00 AM -Men's Breakfast -Shawano's Cafe 3:00 PM -Council Meeting 7:30 AM -Strong Bodies 13 Shawano's Cafe 6:00 PM -Stewardship Committee Library 3:30 PM -Women's Evening Bible Study - Library 6:00 PM -Girl Scouts Leader's 8:30 AM -Strong Bodies 5:00 PM -Worship & Music Committee - Library 6:00 PM Youth & Family Committee Meeting 8:30 AM -Strong Bodies 8:30 AM -Strong Bodies 12:00 PM -Health Ministry 8:30 AM -Strong Bodies 12 Meeting 10:30 AM -Sunday School Sings 10:30 AM -Worship Service Journey with Jesus (Imago Dei) 10:30 AM -Worship Service 10:30 AM -Worship Service 10:30 AM -Worship Service 8:00 AM -Worship Service 8:00 AM -Worship Service 8:00 AM -Worship Service 9:15 AM -Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM -Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM - Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM -Sunday School 9:15 AM -Sunday School 9:15 AM -Sunday School **Annual Meeting** Wee Care Oatmeal Cookie Sale 10:30 AM -Worship Service 8:00 AM -Worship Service 9:15 AM -Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM -Sunday School 1