

Focus

Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI

December 2022/January 2023

*Glory
to God
in the
highest, and
on earth
peace, good
will toward
men.*
Luke 2:14, KJV

Christmas at Zion

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

Sunday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day service 9:00 am

Saturday, December 31 ~ No evening service

Sunday, January 1 - Worship Service 9:00 am only

Feeling blue this Christmas?

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.

For the most part, Christmas is a time of celebration and joy. For many, however, this is a difficult time of year. Many people are carrying significant weights: grief, loss, depression, anxiety, financial stress, unemployment, uncertainty, aging parents, sick children, recent diagnoses, unknown illnesses. The public tone of the season does not resonate with many people's private experience. Zion's Worship and Music and Health Ministry Committees would like us to take a moment to remember that this can be a difficult season for some people. Please remember all who might have difficulty in your prayers.

Although Zion won't have a worship service dedicated to a "Blue Christmas," we will be recognizing these feelings in the prayers of the church the weekend of December 10-11. Also, Swedberg Funeral Homes will have a Holiday Remembrance Program at 2:00 PM on Saturday, December 10 if you feel you need extra support at this time of year.



Annual Meeting
January 29, 2023
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. 12 ordering deadline.

Financial Stewardship Update



2022 General Fund through November.

2022 Annual Budget	\$399,145
General Fund Balance October 31	\$ (5,414)
November Contributions	23,261
November Expenses	(33,617)
General Fund Balance Nov. 30	\$ (15,770)

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

A Note from the Treasurer: After a very good October of giving, November has been a backslide. Our budget deficit has dropped from \$-5,000 to \$-15,000. Hoping for a great December.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! And thank you Zion members for your continued support of Zion's ministries.

All 2022 Contributions Must Be Received by Sunday, December 25

for them to be considered for the 2022 year.



Any amounts received after this date will be entered in 2023.

2023 Contribution Envelopes available soon!



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



Candy Sale Dec. 10 & 11

Fudge, Chocolate Covered Prestels, and Chex Mix



Made by the Wee Care Cookie Elves!



Volunteers needed!
Please sign up online or contact the office. Thank you!

Sunday School Christmas Program

Saturday, December 17 at 5:00 p.m.
Please join us!



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.



The following positions are up for election/re-election in January 2023.



- ◆ Treasurer
- ◆ Secretary
- ◆ Church in Society
- ◆ Health Ministry *
- ◆ Life & Growth
- ◆ Property
- ◆ Worship & Music
- ◆ 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 29, 2023
11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary



You Were Chosen!

In the neighborhood I grew up in, competition was everything. It didn't matter so much what the competition was, just as long as there was a lot of action, physical involvement and in the end... a victor! Baseball and basketball were O.K.; football was much better.

In every childhood game and activity, I gave it my all. Over the years, I shed staggering quantities of blood, broke more than my share of glasses, and seldom backed down from a dare. Enthusiasm, a competitive spirit, and persistence was all I had. To be perfectly honest, I was a rotten athlete. I was small, uncoordinated, and often the last to be chosen when teams were picked.

It was distressing and humiliating to constantly be left until last. Even today, I don't like remembering the dread of standing in line, waiting to be chosen; seeing one and then another getting picked ahead of me. Hoping that the next name called will be yours. But knowing deep down inside, that you are going to be the last one standing in that line again. You've just got to experience it, to really understand the distress and humiliation of being chosen last.

That entire bittersweet experience has made me far more appreciative today of the enormous satisfaction that comes in the act of being chosen. To be chosen! Oh, I tell you, there is grandeur and glory in those three words, "I pick you." To be sought-out, hand-picked, appreciated and wanted are tremendous emotions for any of us to experience, at any age. It lifts the heart and swells the spirit to be chosen.

This Christmas season, I would impart this thought with you, **"YOU WERE CHOSEN!"** The Apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 1:3-5: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will..."* And again, God's Word speaks in 2 Timothy 1:9: *"God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according*

to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began..."

The magnitude of these two brief passages and in a wide variety of others, is almost beyond belief. It simply staggers one's sensibilities. You and I are called by God to be His, to be His very own, His children. You and I are chosen by the Creator of the universe and set apart from other people. We are different, we are special, and we are picked by God – Himself. We do not have to stand in line, waiting. We do not have to feel the frustration and distress of being passed over. We do not have to feel we are unwanted, or of no value, or last choice.

God wants us! For some strange, impossible to fully understand reason, God wants you and me. He wants us so much that He dealt Himself out of dignity, He laid down His majesty, He put on frail flesh, to become human, like you and me – in Christ. Why? So that we might be His people. So that we might be His own, live under Him in His Kingdom, and serve Him, and that we might be with Him now and for eternity.

That's why.

Paul states in Romans 8:28-30: *"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified."*

Simply, we are "set apart; called; put right and glorified,"

without our effort or deserving. And we can do one of two things. We can smile; fold our hands and nod pleasantly; saying, "That's nice." Or, the assurance that we are chosen by God should lead us to commit our bodies, minds, spirits and lives to Jesus Christ. What Christmas means to me and I hope you, is that there is someone who wants us. There is someone who

seeks us, who picks us especially, who loves and appreciates us. That someone, of course is God... with whom we each are His first choice.



In God's ministry,
Pastor Ludford





Memorial Gifts November 2021

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

General Fund

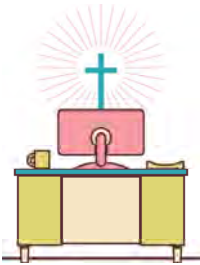
by Cynthia Lillge

In memory of Pam Bruecker

Endowment Fund

by Laurel Marquardt

In memory of Richard & Lois
Marquardt



Volunteer Opportunity at Zion!

Zion is seeking one or two people
to enter data one to two (1-2) hours
per week (job can be shared!).

Must have some computer skills
and be somewhat familiar with MS
Word and Excel.

Interested? Have questions?
Contact Debbie in the church office
or Mike Eidahl at 715-584-6542.



Poinsettias for Christmas!

If you would like to
help decorate the chan-
cel and church for the celebration of
Christmas, you may contribute a poin-
settia plant at the cost of \$20 each.

Please put the correct amount in an en-
velope - 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, December 12
ordering deadline.

Thank you!



Thank You Zion Church,

Shawano School District would like to thank you for your assistance in
providing the Wee Care food backpack program for our Shawano stu-
dents. You have been providing weekend food backpacks for our Pk-12th
grade students for the past 10+ years. This year Zion is currently provid-
ing for 77 students. Thank you for your amazing support to our students!



~ Shawano Schools

Thank You!

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy! They are the ones who
make our souls blossom! This is a thank you to Julie Effenberger and her
family and Winnie Preston for their help and kindness following my acci-
dent. There are truly angels here on earth!

~ Gibby McKinney

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for being a very supportive of Socktober! It was a huge suc-
cess! I collected 500 pairs from Zion alone, and overall I collected 1,084
pairs of socks! The socks have been donated to SCMS, SCHS, Hillcrest,
Olga Brener, SAM25, and Safe Haven. Thanks again for the incredible
support.

~ Madisyn Weinig



Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

I wanted to thank you all again for your beyond-generous scholarship
which has now been granted to me for the second year in a row. This
scholarship has lifted so much weight off my chest when it comes to pay-
ing for schooling, and for that, I cannot thank you enough.

I am now a sophomore in college, still working towards a major in Aero-
space Engineering and Mechanics at the University of Minnesota-Twin
Cities. I have joined a research group studying gravitational wave patterns
caused by supernovae way out deep into space. This has already been a
long and rather stressful journey, but the support I've received from those
back home give me the strength to achieve such high goals. I hope you
will always keep me in your prayers, as I will still be needing all I can get.

~ Carson Cummings

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Arica and I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Zion for sponsoring
our trip to the Jr. High Blast retreat in early November. I was blessed to
hang out with her and three other Zion youth for two days. It was held at
Crossways Camp/Imago Dei and although it rained all weekend, nothing
could dampen the Holy Spirit that was an obvious presence. One of the
key scriptures for the weekend was 1 Corinthians 3:10. This reminded us
all of the firm foundation that IS Christ Jesus! In addition, we sang, wor-
shipped, had Bible study, played games, did service projects, crafts, and
ate REALLY well. What a treasure our camping ministries are!

~ Karen Preston



ZION NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Zion would like an individual or two who would be
able to clear sidewalks of snow this winter. Mornings
before 7:30 am. Saturdays & Sundays as needed.
Zion will provide shovels and snow removal equip-
ment. This is a paid position.

Contact the office or Mike Eidahl if interested.





Stewardship Message

Getting the Point Across



Genuine stewardship stems from a right relationship with our Heavenly Father. Stewardship is not just giving your money, spending your time, and expending your energy; it is living a life of sacrificial giving of everything you are and have in response to God Who first gave everything He has to you. Stewardship that is “life giving,” not just “things giving,” presents a powerful witness to Christian and unbeliever alike.

This point can be illustrated by the following story: A certain Christian peasant lived on a high hill in Japan. One day he looked over his fields and saw a tidal wave approaching on the tail of an earthquake. He could see that his neighbors in the valley below, not having his vantage point, were oblivious to the danger they were in. How could he warn them in time?

Quickly he set fire to his fields and rang the church bell. His neighbors ran up the hill to help and were furious to discover that he himself was burning the fields. Turning back to return to their homes, they saw what he had seen. Their village was being destroyed before their eyes. When they asked him why he had done what he did, he told them about Christ’s sacrificial love for them and that he, in gratitude for that love, was sharing it with them.

Do you think he got his point across? Perhaps the peasant tithed. Maybe he had worked every Saturday on building the village church. It’s highly unlikely he was thinking about how to be a good steward when he saw that storm coming. His motivation was love for others as he had been loved. This is true stewardship - a lifestyle that issues naturally from Christian faith and life in God.

When each of us is in such a relationship with God, we, too, will be able to give sacrificially. As a congregation, we won’t be worried about our church finances and having a stewardship campaign or holding a fund-raiser.

As we end 2022, I would like to thank all of you who have contributed towards the ministries of Zion Lutheran Church this past year. Many have given sacrificially, and it has made a difference in people’s lives. We are so very close to meeting and surpassing our budget this year. If you are able to give an end of the year gift, it would be seen as a wonderful blessing. It would also be a huge asset and catalyst towards ministries going into 2023.

May God bless and your loved ones,

~ Pastor Ludford

Visit Zion’s Library!

The Curse of Misty Wayfair by Jaime Jo Wright. Left at an orphanage as a child, Thea Reed vowed to find her mother. Her search takes her to turn-of-the-century Pleasant Valley, WI. Her personal quest reawakens the legend of Misty Wayfair, a murdered woman who allegedly haunts the area and whose appearance portends death. A century later, Heidi Lane receives a troubling letter from her mother – who is battling dementia – compelling her to travel to Pleasant Valley for answers to her own questions of identity. When she catches sight of a ghostly woman haunting the asylum ruins in the woods, the long-standing story of Misty Wayfair. As two women across time seek answers about their identities and heritage, they must overcome the threat of the mysterious curse.

The Restoration by Wanda E. Brunstetter; *Prairie State Friends Book Three*. Priscilla Herschberger and Elam Gingerich, a childhood friend from her Amish community, have been courting for a while, but a marriage proposal seems to be in the distant future. David Morgan, an outsider raised in the modern world, often visits his grandparents in the area. He and Priscilla become friends, and David starts to research more about the Amish faith. Elam would do almost anything to convince Priscilla that David would never fit into the Amish way. Then on the eve of Elam’s planned proposal, a tragedy occurs that could make a way for Elam to have Priscilla all to himself. Who will ultimately win Priscilla’s heart?

City Girl by Lori Wick. The final novel in Wick’s trilogy finds Reagan Sullivan leaving the bustle of 1880s New York for a nanny’s job in Kinkade, Texas – only to discover the position is no longer available. She lands a job at the local hotel. Reagan tries to teach her new friend Katy – rancher Cash Rawlings’ spunky, older housekeeper, how to ride a bicycle. When Katy falls and breaks her hip Reagan moves in and assumes her household duties. Cash treats Reagan with kindness and softens her protective shell. It seems like a match made in heaven, but first Reagan must come to terms with the ghosts of her fragile past.

Open during business hours weekdays and Sunday mornings.



From Your Parish Nurse...

DECEMBER MONTHLY SAFETY TIP ... Baby, It's Cold Outside! When the temperature drops, people of all age run a higher risk of health problems and injuries related to the weather, including hypothermia, frostbite, and falls on ice and snow. Here are a few precautions everyone should know during the winter. Hypothermia occurs when your body temperature drops to a dangerous level. Your body temperature can drop when you are out in the cold for an extended time because it begins to lose heat quickly. Warning signs are skin is cold, pale or ashy; feeling very tired, confused and sleepy; feeling weak; problems walking; slowed breathing or heart rate. Call 911 if you think you or someone else has hypothermia. It is best to stay indoors on cold days.

Frostbite occurs when your body experience damage to the skin that can go all the way down to the bone. It most likely to occur on body parts farthest away from your heart. Common places include your nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers and toes. In severe cases, frostbite can result in loss of limbs. Cover up! All parts of your body should be covered when you go out in the cold. If your skin turns red or dark or starts hurting, go inside right away. If you suspect frost bite go to the Emergency room immediately.

Falls happen fast when slipping on icy and snowy conditions. Make sure steps and walkways are clear before you walk. Be especially careful if you see wet pavements that could be iced over. Clear away snow and salt your walkways at home, or hire someone to do it. Wear boots with non-skid soles, this will prevent you from slipping. If you use a cane, replace the rubber tip before it is worn smooth. Consider an Ice pick-like attachment that fits onto the end of the cane for additional traction.

Cold Weather Driving Tips: AAA recommend the following tips while driving in snowy and icy conditions. Keep a bundle of cold-weather gear in your car, such as first aid kit, blankets, extra warm clothes, food and water, flashlight, windshield scraper, shovel, rock salt or a bag of sand or cat litter (in case your wheels get stuck), Cell phone and booster cables. Have your car winterized before bad weather hits!

Be safe on sleds and snow tubes. Children should always be supervised. Injuries can occur quickly when kids are sledding or snow tubing. Keep away from motor vehicles. Often, sledding hills are not far from highways or roads. It's important to keep a safe distance. Kids can prevent injuries by sledding feet first or sitting up, instead of lying down head first. Pick a sledding location that is clear of obstructions like trees or fences and is covered by snow. A sledding hill should not be too steep, with a slope of less than 30 degrees, and should end with a flat runoff.

Ensure a happy, safe holiday season with these toy safety tips: Read the label. Warning labels give im-

portant information about how to use a toy and what ages the toy is safe for. Be sure to show your child how to use the toy right away. Think Large: Make sure all toys and parts are larger than your child's mouth to prevent choking. Avoid toys that shoot objects into the air. They can cause serious eye injuries or choking. For younger children, avoid play sets

with small magnets and make sure batteries are secured within the toy. If magnets or batteries are ingested, serious injuries and or death can occur. Look for stuffed toys that are well made. It should be machine washable and the label should say "nontoxic". For more information go to <https://pediatriccenterofroundrock.com>, <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/parents> and <https://exchange.aaa.com/safety/driving>

Proverbs 11:14 Where there is no guidance the people fall, But in abundance of counselors there is victory.

~ Jennifer Greiert, Parish Nurse

**Health Ministry Committee meets
on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 12:00 pm and
Monday, January 2 at 12 pm.**

New members are always welcome!



THANK YOU!

May 19, 2014 was my first day of employment here at Zion. Thank you for such a warm welcome, which made me feel like I belonged here. I have been working as a registered nurse since 1981. I had the opportunity to work in many different positions as a nurse. I enjoyed and loved them all. But, the one position that touched my heart the most was when I was a hospice nurse. I remember sitting at the bedside of my patients holding their hand as they traveled their last journey. It was such a spiritual moment for me to witness the spirit of their soul being swept into the presence of God. I felt at ease with my patients as it was so natural to pray with them. I realized my own last journey as a nurse must make a real difference to who ever I come in contact with and I thought how wonderful that would be if I could be a Parish Nurse. As I prayed about my future, prayers were answered. There in the newspaper was an advertisement for a Parish Nurse at Zion Lutheran Church. I interviewed for the position and was hired. I took my training to become a Parish Nurse at Concordia University in Mequon WI. Here at Zion I met so many wonderful, amazing people. The Health Ministry Committee have been so supportive in helping me grow in my faith. I am retiring from nursing, but, am so grateful for being Zion's Parish Nurse and making a difference in someone's life. I will not make myself absent, you will see me here and there. Thank You all so much, God Bless.

~ Jennifer Greiert



HOMME HOME YOUTH CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Hosted by the Health Ministry Committee

thru December 12

Box located in the Commons Area.

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

Snowmobile 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.**



**Merry Christmas
from Zion's Staff...**

Pastor Scott Ludford Debbie Bernard
Jennifer Greiert Jill Sousek
John Phalen Christie Wegner

The Parish Records



Deaths:

† Gary R. Holtz October 31, 2022
Memorial service Nov. 19, 2022 at funeral home.

Released by Request:

† Kathleen Brown
Moved to Wisconsin Rapids.



Happy Birthday



*Happy birthday
to 52 others in
December and
48 in January!*

Gregory Riemer... 60 on Dec. 17
N5735 2nd Dr, Bonduel 54107

Karen Buntrock... 80 on Dec. 18
N6737 Loon Lake Dr, Shawano

Gregory Onesti... 60 on Dec. 21
W6302 Townline Rd, Shawano

Carole Kurkiewicz... 80 on Jan. 14
411 W 1st St., Shawano

Rhonda Krueger... 60 on Jan. 18
N6002 Wolf River Rd., Shawano

Sharon Erickson... 85 on Jan. 18
127 Smalley St., Shawano

Woody Davis... 85 on Jan. 21
1135 S Lincoln St., Shawano

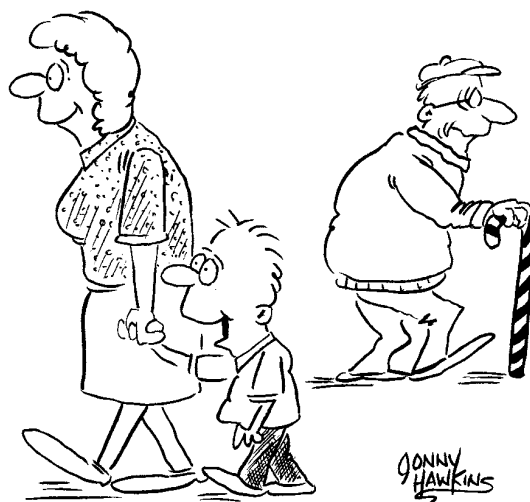


Book Club's Current Read...

On December 14 we will discuss
A Fall of Marigolds by Susan Meissner.

Club meets in the commons at 3:30 p.m. Interested in
reading and discussing the books, please join us!

Questions? Contact Joni Shebuski 715-526-6453.



"Grandpa sure makes growing old
look delicious."



CURRENT SCAMS PRESENTATION WAS INFORMATIVE



Held on Monday,
November 28.

*Thank You
Shawano
Police Department!*

Sponsored by the
Health Ministry Committee



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

715-526-2017
zion@shawanozion.org
www.shawanozion.org



E-mail address:

Pastor Scott..... sludford@msn.com
Debbie / Office zion@shawanozion.org
Jennifer Greiert..... nurse@shawanozion.org

OFFICE Holiday Schedule

Closing 12pm
Thursday, Dec. 22



CLOSED
Friday, Dec. 23
Monday, Dec. 26
Friday, Dec. 30



Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!



Back row: Peyton, Isaac, Aidan, Eli
Front row: Rosella, Maddy, Bailey, Arianna

The Shawano High School Tri-M National Music Honor Society held their induction ceremony on November 3, 2022. Bailey DeFere, Eli Popp, Rosella Wegner, and Isaac Welander were inducted into the society that evening and Arianna Alberts, Maddy Heling, Aidan Preston, and Peyton Schultz were recognized as continuing members.

Congratulations!



Meet the Wee Care Cookie Elves. Missing from photo is Ginny Hass, Peggy Woehler and Eileen Ebelt.

You did it again Zion members! 72 dozen peanut butter blossoms, 72 loaves of quick breads and seasoned pretzels all sold out in November. Thank you! Please stop by the display in the commons to learn all about Wee Care. We currently are packing 60 bags a week at \$6.64 per bag which is an increase of \$1.00 per bag from May. Your support is so appreciated.

**December will feature fudge,
chocolate covered pretzels and
Chex Mix on December 10 & 11.**

