



B.A.S.I.C. Newsletter

Brothers and Sisters in Christ at
Zion Lutheran Church of Mondovi



December 2024

His Name Shall Be Called ...

Advent is here! Christmas is coming! All around us we see many people, young and old, getting ready. But bright lights and decorations, trees and tinsel, cards and gifts, festive foods and parties do not guarantee genuine Christmas joy.

How do we make the most of Christmas? By directing our attention to the Christ born in Bethlehem. But we must see more than just a baby in a manger. This is “Immanuel” - God with us (Matthew 1:23), the only-begotten Son of the eternal Father in heaven. He is the greatest gift of God’s love, coming into our world to save sinners like you and me.

We make the most of Christmas by keeping Christ at the center of our celebration. We do that by making room in our lives for Him, even as we make other preparations for Christmas. Jesus is the reason for the season.

Who is Jesus? Since the dawn of time, billions of people have walked on planet Earth. Of those billions of people, one stands far above all of the others in significance and importance. His name is Jesus.

Jesus never wrote a book, and yet millions of books have been written about him. Jesus never painted a picture, and yet the world’s greatest art has him as its source for inspiration. Jesus never traveled very far from his birthplace, and yet his message has gone all around the world. Jesus had only a handful of followers, and yet today over 30 percent of the world’s population claim to follow him. We don’t know the exact date of his birth, and yet more people celebrate his birthday than any other.

During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of God’s Son. He was given the name Jesus – a Hebrew name that means “God saves.” In addition to this name, Holy Scripture calls Jesus by various titles which describe something about His person or work.

In this year’s midweek Advent Services we are going to examine four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. Those titles are “Wonderful Counselor,” “Mighty God,” “Everlasting Father,” and “Prince of Peace.” We will learn how each of these titles describes something about who Jesus is and what He did for us and for our salvation. Our Sunday Morning Bible Class will also explore these names and prophecies pointing to our Savior.

Join us at Zion for our Advent Services each Wednesday at 11 am, or at 7 pm (with an Advent fellowship meal), and learn more about who Jesus is and why He is the reason for this holiday season.

Come and worship with us also on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and hear again the Good News of great joy that “To you is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!”

God’s blessings to you, in Christ - Pastor Mark Benning

Parish News

What’s going on in the Call Process?

Pastor Adam Finney has declined the Call to serve at Zion. He didn’t feel he was a good fit and that Zion may prefer a more traditional LCMS pastor. After consulting with Pastor Wessel, our Circuit Visitor, the Call Committee unanimously agreed on scheduling another Congregational Call Meeting. The candidates are Pastors Castens, Gustafson, and Johnson. Please continue to pray for the Call process and a successful Call.

Congregational Call Meeting
11:30 AM Sunday, December 1st, 2024
Zion Fellowship Hall

Please continue to watch the bulletin for any updates.

Advent Series

His Name Shall Be Called: During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of God’s Son, who was given the name Jesus—a Hebrew name that means “God saves.” In addition to His earthly name, Holy Scripture calls Jesus by various titles which describe something about His person or work. In this year’s Advent series, we are going to examine four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. Those titles are “Wonderful Counselor,” “Mighty God,” “Everlasting Father,” and “Prince of Peace.” We will learn how each of these titles describes something about who Jesus is and what He did for our salvation. Each mid-week service will focus on a different title while the Sunday School will use all of these titles to share the Christmas story. Midweek services are held at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm. Lunch is served after the 11:00 service, and at 5:15 before the 7:00 service.

Angel Tree

Zion's Angel Tree is up by the Parish Hall. We have 5 families we will try to help through the holiday season. Our Christian Care Committee will also send out Hansen's gift certificates for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. If you would like to help, simply choose an angel from the tree. On the Angel you will find ages and gift ideas. Please write your name and number in our book so we know who has each Angel. Please have wrapped gifts with attached Angel back to Angel Tree by Dec 15th. If you would prefer, we also accept monetary donations to shop for any extra angels. Just address an envelope with Angel Tree. Thank you!!

School Presentation at Zion Cleghorn

A LC-MS SCHOOL in the Eau Claire area? Zion Lutheran Church, Cleghorn will be hosting a conversation about the possibility of a future Lutheran School in the area. This conversation is for those who feel that a future Lutheran School would be a blessing for area congregations and participating families. Rev. Preston Paul, Region C Vice President of the North Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod will present and facilitate the conversation. *The conversation will begin on Saturday, December 14th at 1PM at Zion Lutheran, E3720 County Rd HH, Eleva, WI.*

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class

– Advent is a perfect time to take moment and prepare. In the month of December we will prepare by looking at the titles Jesus was given in Isaiah. Each week we will look at a different title and learn more about what it tells us about Jesus and how he works in our lives. Dec. 1 we will look at Wonderful Counselor. Dec. 8 will be Mighty God. Dec. 15 will be Everlasting Father, and Dec. 22 will be Prince of Peace. Come join us as we study Scripture together.



Sunday School

Our Sunday School, preK – 8th graders will be helping to lead the Sunday morning service on Dec. 15. We are beginning to practice our parts already and are excited to share with the congregation the Good News of Jesus' birth. Students in preK - 5th grade will be acting out the nativity as well as leading us in song. The middle school kids will be guiding us through the Titles of Jesus as we prepare to celebrate his birth. On the 15th students should be in the basement gathering room at 8:30 so we can prepare. After the service we will have activities that can be enjoyed by both the children and parents. On the 22 & 29 of December there will be whole group activities for students who are able to join us.



ADVENT in a Box – is an activity for families to take advantage of. It is designed to be a simple way for families to nurture faith during Advent as we remember God's faithfulness and prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. Each day families will look at a Bible verse, a brief devotional thought and prayer. These activities will be out at the end of November. Our prayer is that families take one for

themselves, and that our extra boxes are shared with our neighbors. Watch for these!

“Oh, Come, Little Children”

There is a *new book* in the children's library titled “Oh, Come, Little Children” by Anita Reith Stohs. The story and the illustrations of the birth of Christ are done through the children's song.

Confirmation

During the month of December our students will continue to look at the Apostles' Creed. As we begin to explore the second article, what a beautiful tie-in to the Advent season. The kids will see the importance of Jesus becoming flesh and stepping into our world for their sakes. Please continue to pray for our kids who are learning about their Savior! Pray that they would grow in their knowledge and faith and then share that with others.

Fall Wreath & Porch Pot Fundraiser

Our senior high youth were busy with fellowship fun making and selling porch pots and wreaths on November 26th, for your Advent and Christmas decorating. Thank you for your support!

Senior High Dates to Save

Senior High Youth – A couple special dates to remember. Dec. 1 the Sr. High Youth will help decorate the church. This will happen after the church services with a meal to follow! On December 8 we will be doing Christmas cookie decorating beginning at 11:30.

Senior High Youth

Youth Gathering – We have 10 (6 youth and 4 adults) who are planning to attend this year's LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. As they look at Hebrews 12:1-3, they will grow in what it means to endure. Pray for our youth as they prepare for this experience. Your support as a congregation is so important!



The 2025 LCMS National Youth Gathering

will be held in New Orleans. Zion is in the planning stages for this coming summer's event. Held every 3 years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to be

encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

The Mondovi Area Food Pantry is currently searching for a Director. This is a volunteer position. A great team of volunteers run the Pantry, yet a Director is needed to oversee operations. The current Director will work with and assist the new Director. This position is available immediately.

If interested in a very fulfilling opportunity to give back to the Mondovi/Eleva/Gilmanton communities, please call 715-926-3115 and leave your name and phone number. Someone will call you back with more details and answer any questions you may have.

Zion Ladies Society

November 14, 2024

The Thursday, November 14 meeting of the Zion Lutheran Ladies Society was held in the Bible study room. Ginny Gunderson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. There were eleven members present. Pastor Mark Benning gave the devotion and Bible study. The devotion was from the Chronicles of Narnia and about Aslan, the Lion. The Bible study was “A Reason to Celebrate” from the Lutheran Women’s Quarterly Fall 2024. We celebrate Christmas; that the Lion of Judah was born and dwelled among us. The business meeting began with the reading of the October 10 minutes. Brenda McKissick made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Deb Hill. Motion carried. Brenda McKissick gave the treasurer’s report and it will be submitted for review.

Old Business- There was a motion in the October 10 minutes to invite and give tickets to the three Mondovi police officers to attend the German Dinner. This was not done and it was decided to remember to give them tickets to the German Dinner in 2025. Mary Standaert reported on the German Dinner preparation and serving. The dessert for the dinner next year will be apple cake. The next serving group to serve a funeral or event is #1. Ginny led the prayer for the prayers requested. The prayer shawl ministry report was given. Thank you cards received were shared. The Zone 15 scrapbooking event held on Saturday, November 9 was a well attended servant event.

New Business- Mary Standaert reported on the November 13 Sharing Table event. It was well attended and served 172. It would be helpful to have a Sharing Table committee. The Ladies Society officer election was considered by the members. With no nominations for President or Vice President, Elizabeth Leasum made a motion to unanimously elect the present President Ginny Gunderson and present Vice President Robin Taylor to serve in 2025, seconded by Margaret Ronnei. Motion carried. The Ladies Society handbook for 2025 will be proofed by the chairmen and returned to Diane before November 28. The handbook will then be printed and available on December 12. Mary Standaert made a motion to serve Lions Club in September and October instead of June and July, seconded by Jeanne Anderson. Motion carried. The December 2 Senior Fellowship will be served by Emily Benning. Christmas gifts for church staff were discussed. LaRae Grotzinger made a motion to give a monetary gift, seconded by Bev Brion. Motion carried. Names for the members to remember a shut-in were drawn. The December 12 meeting

will start at 10:30 a.m. the shut-in gift bags will be assembled. Please bring 3 dozen cookies (2 dozen for shut-ins and 1 dozen to sample:). There will then be a Christmas Party luncheon at Buzz's. Motion to adjourn. The League Hymn sung. The Lord's Prayer was prayed.
Respectfully submitted by, Elizabeth Leasum, Recording Secretary

**Voter's Assembly Meeting
Sunday, November 3, 2024**

The Zion Lutheran Church Voter's Assembly meeting was called to order by Dan Heike, President at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Vacancy Pastor Mark Benning opened with prayer.

Recording Secretary's Report- The minutes from the August 11, 2024 meeting were presented. A motion was made by John Gehrke to approve the minutes, seconded by Joel Lewiston. Motion carried.

Financial/Treasurer's Report- Deborah Deutscher presented the church finances. A motion was made by John Gehrke to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Keith Reinhardt. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report- Still enjoying serving here and will continue as long as needed. I have discontinued Thursday Bible Class for now.

Board of Trustees- Dan Nowaskey reported on the carpeting of the steps at the front entrance of the church- this project might have to wait until spring 2025 due to the weather.

Elder's Report- Joe Osenga reported that the elders discussed the calling of a pastor, that the Wednesday, November 27 worship service will be the Thanksgiving service, and that they set the elder serving schedule for November. The Bible study led by Pastor Mark Benning on Thursday mornings will be "put on hold" until January 2025.

Evangelism Committee- Diane Ashwell reported that the Garm's Family Christmas Concert will be held on Saturday, December 7 at Zion with snacks and hot chocolate to be served. Saturday, December 7 is also the day of Mondovi's Holiday Parade.

Stewardship Committee- note that the council is the stewardship committee.

Christian Education Committee- John Gehrke reported that the children's Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 15 at the 9:00 a.m. worship service.

Youth Committee- Joe Osenga reported that there are 6 youth and 4 chaperones planning to attend the National Youth Gathering at New Orleans in 2025.

Old Business- Mike Ashwell and those that also helped to install the fence along the creek were thanked by the assembly. There will be a 75th Anniversary celebration in 2025 to celebrate the building of the church in 1950. Members to be on a committee to plan are needed- one thing that can be included in the events of the celebration could be the burning of the mortgage.

New Business- The proposed amendment to the Bylaws for the board of trustees was discussed. Matt Mohn made a motion to accept the proposed amendment to change the number of trustees from 3 to 4 and accept their voting rotation, seconded by Laura Nowaskey. Motion carried. Next, the assembly voted on the officers for 2025. Nominations for each of the offices were opened up to the floor and with no nominations from the floor (for each of the following offices) was closed. Each of the following officers were elected with no objections- Vice President Andy Heike, Treasurer Deborah Deutscher, Elders Joe Osenga, Matt Mohn, Galen Aase, Trustees Mike Ashwell, Joel Lewiston. The Recording Secretary position still needs to be filled.

Other new business included the LWML Zone 15 Vice President Lynn Bechel reporting on the Saturday, November 9 scrapbooking event planned at Zion and a Board and Brush event planned for March 2025.

Dan Heike asked the assembly to note that a family reunion planned for June 22, 2025 has been changed to June 29, 2025.

David Reineke reported that the Saturday Men's Group that was planning to meet November 16 has been changed to November 9.

Pastor Mark Benning asked that Joel Lewiston report on his helping (with the Samaritan's Purse) in the southeast of the United States where there was so much damage from the hurricane. Joel Lewiston reported that the watermark for some of the flooded area on trees went as high as 15 feet, he helped as a day volunteer to cut down trees and clean up property.

Ginny Gunderson reported that sales from the quilts raised \$2,575 sent to Orphan Grain Train Hurricane Relief.

The budget for 2025 will need to be considered for any changes that could be needed with the calling of a pastor especially in the budget for health coverage. Ginny Gunderson made a motion to pass the proposed budget for 2025 with the addendum that the elders may need to make changes to the budget with the calling of a pastor, seconded by Dan Linse. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn. Pastor Mark Benning closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by, Elizabeth Leasum, Recording Secretary

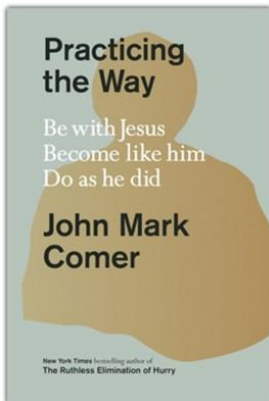
These minutes unapproved, to be approved at the next Voter's Assembly.

The meeting continued with Rev. Jonathan Wessel and the call committee. Jane Reineke recorded the minutes for this portion of the meeting.



ZION CHOIR NOTES

Adult Choir – Now is the perfect time to join us! We meet every Thursday night at 6:30. We are focusing on Advent and Christmas music this month. It's the perfect way to prepare for Jesus' birth! Join us any time, we would love to have you!



Men of Zion- Saturday Men's Group

Our Saturday morning monthly study with breakfast will meet on Saturday, December 14. We are continuing with the book we started in June - *Practicing the Way*. This is a very practical study on what it means to be an 'apprentice' of Jesus. We are providing this book for all who are interested and want to join us. Please let me know if you need a copy of this book. I will make sure to have one ordered and available for you.
David Reineke

Christmas Blessings from your Zion Card Cart



🎄 Beautiful boxes of Christmas cards and many, many individual Christmas cards plus holiday napkins are on display in the Resource Center card display (along with many other types of cards as usual also). This year, we are offering the single Christmas cards at only 25 cents each rather than the usual 50 cents. Monies can be left with our AA Diane or put in the church "bank" on the card shelf or given to Brenda Mc.

Thank you so much ! and enjoy 😊

EVANGELISM MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2024

Garms Family Christmas Concert

When: December 7, 2024, Saturday 6:00pm Door opens at 5:00pm

- The Garms Family will arrive at 2:30pm. Need someone to help them unloading their equipment. - Ken/Mike
- Need someone to look after their instrument and merchandise table after they finish their setup and sound check. – Reggie/Ken

Evangelism will serve snacks after the concert

- Sam's club will donate 2 big trays of cookies. Will also buy a tray of brownies and Milk using a Thrivent card.
- Need to buy paper cups to be used for hot chocolates.
- Eau Galle – will donate a 14" tray of sliced cheese.
- Gundersons will donate Summer Sausages half of whatever quantity we will buy.
- Coffee, Milk, and Water will be served too.
- Rice noodles dish - Reggie
- Also need to check/buy disposable plates.

Next meeting: January 14, 2025 6:00pm.

Christian symbol



ADVENT COLORS — One of the season's symbolic colors is blue, representing hope. During Advent, we wait in hope to celebrate again God's coming in human form. We also look forward in hope to Christ's coming in glory at the end of the age. Purple symbolizes the royalty of Jesus, the coming Prince of Peace, and the penitence with which we receive him. Some congregations also use pink or white candles in Advent wreaths, with pink symbolizing joy and white symbolizing the Christ Child.

December Birthdays

1-Michael Ronnei
3-Brenda Accola
5-Jana Olson
7-Audrey Aase
7-Trevor Lay
8-Issaiah Hill
8-Lonnie Peterson
8-Ricky Sessions
9-Julia Heike
9-Sadie Horton
10-Vicki Denk
11-Randy Sessions
12-Crystal Groven
13-Julie Vollmer
14-Chris Gums
15-Kaleb Blodgett
15-Eastyn Dziekan
17-Candy Anderson
17-Ed Gunderson
18-Joann Gavin
18-Kimber Haigh
18-Julie Loscheider
19-Christopher Benning



20-Elizabeth Fluekiger
20-Matthew Triggs
22-Joann Buchholz
22-Savanna Engels
25-Trista Lay
26-Margaret Sessions
28-Robynn Brantner
28-Dan Hill
29-Nancy Glanzman
29-Roger Sessions

December Anniversaries

1-Larry & Jeanne Anderson
7-Reggie & Lucy Corpuz
8-Margaret & Donald Ronnei
19-Robert & Lucile Accola
20-Karl & Kaye(Koch) Triggs
28-Randy Crank & Barb Wright
(Crank)
31-Craig & Julie Loscheider
31-Radny & Laurie Mann



Project Luke 3:11

Once again we have a donation box located in our lobby area under the office window for anyone that has gently used items that they would like to donate to help the less fortunate in our community. This year they are once again asking for winter coats, boots, hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and blankets. The Huberts take their trailer loaded with these items to different places like the food pantries and other places in our area that people frequent to be available for others to get items that will help them through tough times. *“He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise” Luke 3:11*

Growing in Faith

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will take a deeper look at the prophecies and promises of the coming Lord Jesus Christ, such as Isaiah 9:6, following our Advent Service theme: “His Name Shall Be Called ...” Everyone is welcome to join us!

Our Monday Night Bible Study meets every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. Please feel free to join us.

Men’s Group will meet again on December 14th. We enjoy breakfast, watch & discuss a video, and encourage one another as men of faith.

Rachel Circle is a women’s Bible study that meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:30 pm. Feel free to join these ladies anytime.

You are most welcome to Worship

Sundays - 9:00 a.m.

Wednesdays – 11 am & 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve – 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day – 10:00 a.m.

New Years Eve – 7:00 p.m.



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