

Through Zion's Window

December 2022



A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." -Isaiah 40:3

When are they coming? Are we there yet? How much longer? As humans, we have had times when we have eagerly anticipated an event in our lives. It could be the day that we leave to go on a vacation? Or maybe to celebrate our birthday? Or maybe getting a new pet? Or a new home?

Often we are not very good at waiting. I remember way back when I bought my first personal computer and a 4800 baud modem. In 1987 that was a fast online connection which meant that, while the computer connected, I only had time to make toast and refill my coffee before I was up and running. Before that, with my dad's 2400 baud modem, I could have made eggs to go with the toast.

How society changes! Today I expect my web browser to connect to the page I am trying to reach in moments. I don't have the patience any longer to listen to the screech of the connection and watch the site load, almost line by line, on my monitor. Like many of us I want what I want when I want it. Waiting is for the birds.

But Advent is a season of waiting. We have a special calendar, that helps us mark the time and be patient :) Advent is an intentional time to prepare for the coming of Christ. We do not want to procrastinate until the last minute, but take our time and not skimp on our chores. Do a deep clean of our hearts and minds. Take an inventory of our blessings and woes. Remember, we are not simply preparing for the coming of Christmas day where we celebrate the birth of Jesus two millennia ago. We are also preparing and anticipating the coming of Jesus in our lives today.

However, the coming of Christ is not something that will happen on our schedule. Like those first online connections it will happen when it happens. Advent is a time of hoping, waiting and reflecting before Christmas. In the rush toward what is, for many, the biggest holiday of the year, sometimes we forget to take time to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus in our own lives. During Advent and the season of Christmas, we experience Jesus born again in us.

Advent is the church season in which we concentrate on our hope for Jesus' renewing presence in our lives and our own readiness to welcome him into our lives and world.

The world around us can seem so frightening with stories of wars and gun violence in our communities; with disease and illness, hunger and poverty. It is in the midst of this darkness that we anticipate the light of Christ.

I need hope. I need light. Do you need it too? Christmas is coming. Christ is coming. In the form of a tiny, vulnerable baby, Christ will come. A miracle for us all.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5).

Blessings in Advent anticipation,

Pastor Doug



Church Council Meeting November 13, 2022, The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Liesener. Devotions were led by Mike Johnson. Christine Siedschlag will do devotions for December's meeting.

Reports:

Secretary's report: The minutes were approved, with one addition, the vaccination clinic at Zion will be November 17 from 9am-12pm.

Treasurer's Report: The report was approved. The endowment fund is down about \$60,000 due to the stock market's performance this year.

Pastor's Report: The Sunday School is doing well. There will be a Christmas Day Worship service at 9:00 with Cross at Zion. Cross will host the January 1st service at 9:00am. The Advent wreath will be handled by the Siedschlags and the Wendorfs. Other families are needed to help out with the wreath.

Ministry Reports:

Parish Ed: See Pastor Report. Worship: We will do communion at the rail on the second Sunday of each month. The holiday worship plans have been covered in the Pastor's report.

Evangelism: Coffee hours will continue for the future. The "Craft and Snack Nights" are having quite a few participants. Money will be provided for the materials. Doreen Schultz in sending cards to shut-ins and also birthday greetings to all members at large. There was also some discussion to start buying Meru Coffee again.

Missions: The vaccine clinic will be Thursday, November 17, from 9-12 at Zion. The Bread and Roses is also Thursday, November 17th, beginning at 4:00pm at Immanuel, Watertown. The Zion Giving Tree is up in front of the sanctuary. The Shorehaven Tree will be coming soon. Some mention of a Saturday morning breakfast at Zion was proposed as a fellowship time.

Stewardship: Many Packets have been returned so far, but quite a few packets are still outstanding. The ones left in the mailboxes will be mailed out shortly.

Building and grounds: The doors on the shed need attention. The wall behind church is leaning. It needs work. Where the concrete slab (by the lower back door) meets the blacktop there is a large drop. It will need to be repaired. The light on the rear of the church building was replaced by Gary Gregory who lives behind the church building. Compensation will be offered to him.

Old Business:

Pastor and Franklin Wolter came up with a Janitor's job description. The list was shared with council and was approved. We compiled a list of the Church Secretary's job description. Carrie Wendorf will edit the list and compile a final copy and present it to Addy. We plan to have a Q&A discussion December 4th. The topic will be changing worship times so the Pastor has more time between church services.

New Business:

The congregation will issue gift cards for Addy, Doreen Schultz, Franklin Wolter, and Lily Mireau. We will also be presenting Pastor with a gift card.

Carrie Wendorf will compile a proposed budget for the year 2023. The proposal should be ready by the next council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Johnson, Council Secretary.

We will be hosting a Q&A session on December 4th after worship to discuss possible changes to the worship schedule. Please stay after worship to share any questions or concerns you may have at that time. The letter from Church Council will be attached to the newsletter for more details.



Adult Education



Adult Education will be from 10:00-11:30 at Zion, every 1st- 4th Wednesday. All are welcome! We are doing a book study on "A Christmas Carol".

Sunday School will be held sometime in December. Stay tuned for more details.



Zion Lutheran held a fall vaccine clinic on Thursday November 17th with the help of Jason, Pharmacist from Hometown Pharmacy in Watertown. The clinic was successful with 16 adult covid boosters and 11 flu shots being given in a 3 hour period. Lynette from the CWCAA was on hand to present \$50 gas cards to those getting covid vaccines from Grant funds received covering 5 Wisconsin counties.

Thanks to Natalie Siedschlag for assisting me with the clinic, Karen Wolter for donating the home baked cookies and Franklin Wolter for tending to the slippery spots in the parking lot.

Christine - Zion Missions Committee



Pastor will be at Whelan's Fridays from 10-12. Join him for fellowship and conversation. All are welcome! In the event of any changes Pastor will update you via Facebook.

We will be providing coffee each week after worship. If you would like to bring in treats, please do. Pastor will be joining us the second Sunday of the month.

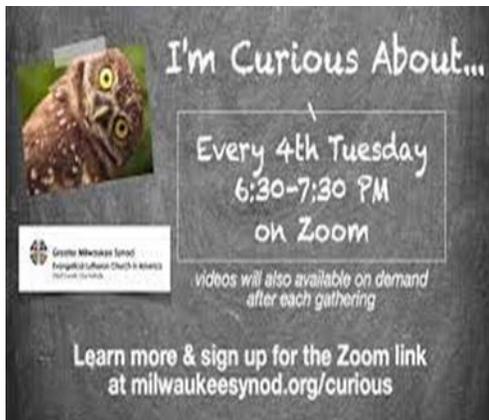


If you are interested in participating in the baking of our Communion bread each week, a sign-up sheet is available in the narthex on the bulletin board. It's a great way to participate.

Please
Pray
for...



Ellen Braunschweig
Shirley Chatfield
Carly Ostrom
Peyton Wolter
Tom & Donna Meotke
Ross & Jacob Kopfer
Patrick Jones
Art Hall
Millie Kopfer
Roger Kopfer
Rachel Zwiig
Shirley Koeppel
Marlee Smith
Brian Wolter
Carol Schuett



Our synod's Mission Table will host an hour-long, monthly gathering on Zoom for Christians who want to dream together about where God is leading the Church.

New topics each month, every 4th Tuesday from 6:30 - 7:30 pm, via Zoom. Come, hear inspiring reflections from others. No experience is needed. All voices are welcome.

Contact Rev. Matthew Short at matt@milwaukee-synod.org with questions.

Zion Lutheran Church members volunteered at Bread and Roses on Thursday November 17th. Thank you to those that volunteered to serve at the meal site, bake and donate food. 215 plus community members were served a delicious curbside meal. The numbers continue to go up each week. Two weeks ago nearly 300 were served. Thank you for your generosity and willingness to help with this important cause. Blessings to all of you, Christine - Zion Missions Committee



Zion's dates for serving in 2023 currently are April 20th and October 12th. Stay tuned for more updates!



Attached on the back of the newsletter is this year's list of names from All Saints Day.

Holiday Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Worship: 4pm at Zion and 6pm at Cross

Christmas Day Worship: 9am at Zion

New Year's Day Lessons and Carols: 9am at Cross



Shorehaven is once again collecting items for their holiday tree gift drive. We have a giving tree put together in the narthex. Any questions please contact Christine.