

Through Zion's Window

January 2024

Dear friends in Christ,

As we begin this new year, welcoming fresh opportunities and possibilities, we're reminded of the beauty of renewal and new beginnings that God graciously grants us. Just as the calendar turns, starting a new chapter of our lives, our faith invites us to reflect on the themes of renewal, revelation, and our sense of belonging in God's family.

The New Year often arrives with a sense of renewed hope—a chance to hit the reset button, set goals, and dream big. In a similar way, our faith journey is marked by moments of renewal. Celebrating Christ's baptism on January 7th is an opportunity to remember our baptism and celebrate the cleansing and renewal it signifies—a spiritual rebirth that invites us to live in the fullness of God's grace daily.

Epiphany (January 6th) reminds us of the Magi's journey, guided by a star, to find and worship the newborn King. Their faith and perseverance in seeking Jesus can reflect our own for revelation and understanding. As we navigate this year, may we seek God's guidance in every aspect of our lives, trusting that His light will illuminate our paths.

Our journey in faith hinges on trust—a firm belief in God's promises. Just as the Magi trusted the star's leading, we're called to trust in God's guidance and provision. Baptism symbolizes this trust, signifying our acceptance of God's grace and our commitment to follow Christ's teachings.

At a quick glance our congregations can seem amazingly **not** diverse. But that belies the truth revealed in each of our unique experiences. I am blessed when I am invited to visit with members because I get to hear your stories and backgrounds and they are so diverse. So, just as Epiphany demonstrates the inclusion of all nations in God's plan, our community reflects the unity amidst our diversity. Together, we belong to God's family, supporting and uplifting one another through life's joys and challenges.

As we start this new calendar year together, let's embrace the themes of renewal, revelation, faith, and community. Let's strive to grow deeper in our faith, supporting each other in love, and being beacons of hope in our community.

May this New Year be filled with blessings, growth, and a deeper sense of God's presence among us.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Doug



Parish Council Meeting 11/12/23 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:45 AM by President Jerry Liesener

Members present: Frank Wolter, Debbie Guenther, Jerry Liesener, Natalie Siedschlag, Christine Siedschlag, Sally Schoenike, Lynn Clemans, Carrie Wendorf and Pastor. Devotions were led by Chris Siedschlag. Next month devotions by Carrie Wendorf.

Secretary's report approved on motions by Chris and Frank

Treasurer's report approved on motions by Debbie and Lynn

Discussion on Pastors benefit package and schedule

Pastor will be leading a study group beginning 11/22 on "It's a Wonderful Life" to be held at Cross

The Christmas holiday schedule was discussed; Christmas Eve morning (last Sunday of Advent) will be a joint service at Cross at 9:00 and will also be the Childrens program. Christmas Eve will be both at Zion and Cross. Christmas morning will be with Holy Name at Zion

The Veterans breakfast was attended by 20 people and gift bags were given to all veterans attending January 6 will be the next breakfast and Cindy Wagner will be presenting about her woodworking group

We will be raising money in the future for the Heifer project (goats)

It was decided to give a donation in memory of Pastor Goodrich to Shorehaven

Frank said that the church needs a new vacuum and rug for the entrance

Addi will be working on the new website with possibilities sent to the council members to look at

It was suggested that a yearly calendar be entered on the website so certain activities are listed and planning can be done.

Three positions are opening on the council and will be voted on at the annual meeting in February: Worship, Mission, Building and Grounds

The meeting was adjourned and closed with the "Lord's Prayer"

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Guenther

Adult Education



Class will be every 1-4th Wednesday from 10:00-11:30AM. All are welcome, Join us!

We will be finishing up our book study in the next several weeks and are looking for suggestions on our next study. If you have a book in mind please contact pastor.

This year's congregational meeting will be held on February 11th. Deadline for reports will be January 28th. Please email you reports to the office as soon as possible. Thank you!



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Pastor will be moving fellowship gathering to Tuesdays from 12-2pm at Whelan's. Join him for fellowship and conversation. All are welcome!

Note: Fellowship will resume on January 9th after Pastor's Christmas Vacation.

We will be providing coffee each week after worship. If you would like to bring in treats, please do.



Please Pray for...



Ellen Braunschweig

Peyton Wolter

Donna Meotke

Ross & Jacob Kopfer

Shirley Koeppl

Marlee Smith

Carol Schuett

Bernice (Bede Zwieg's sister)

Kathy Hetzel

Karen Wolter

Sean Stein

Laure Schwefel

Chris (family of Carrie Wendorf)

Kim (family of Carrie Wendorf)

Bonnie Katzfey

Family of Dan Ferrise

Alan Peterson

Family of Millie Kopfer

On January 28th at 5:00pm Zion will be holding a Goat Drive fundraiser. This Fundraiser is to raise funds for the purchase of 10 goats for families in need overseas. The menu will be gyros and the cost will be \$10 per person. Please see poster in the narthex for more details.



On February 4th Zion will be holding a Game Day and potluck from 11:30-4:30pm. Please bring a dish to pass. All are welcome!

We will be holding a Friendship Breakfast on Saturday January 6th at 8:00am. Everyone is invited to attend! Please let us know if you are able to join us.

Cindy Wagner and her wood carving group will be giving a presentation.

Please RSVP to Natalie at 920-285-4503 or Christine at 920-545-8439 by January 1st. Thank you!



We are in need of some more photos for the Website. If you take photos when you are at church or at fellowship activities, please send them to the church office as an attachment. Thank you!



On December 11th a total of 103 gifts and \$75 cash was delivered to Shorehaven Health Center from the Giving Tree collection. Thank you for your generosity this Christmas.

Blessings to all,
Christine and Natalie
Zion Missions Committee

Nominating Committee will meet Wednesday January 3, 6:00 p.m

Oktoberfest Post Event Meeting will meet Wednesday January 10,
6:00 p.m



Mark your calendars for February 25th. Zion will be hosting its Annual Chili Lunch from 10-1pm. Stay tuned for more details!

Thank you to John Siedschlag for fixing the right projection screen in the Sanctuary.

