



# Zion Tidings

Serving Christ Through Serving Others

December 2020

Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church 14 West Walnut St., Tipp City, Ohio 45371 Phone: 937-667-3110

Web Site: [www.ziontippcity.org](http://www.ziontippcity.org) Emails: Pastor Jeff Glawe - [office@ziontippcity.org](mailto:office@ziontippcity.org)

Zion office - [office@ziontippcity.org](mailto:office@ziontippcity.org) Prayer requests – [office@ziontippcity.org](mailto:office@ziontippcity.org)

Jackie Glawe, Christian Education director - [christianed@ziontippcity.org](mailto:christianed@ziontippcity.org)

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY "TIDINGS" on Wednesday, December 18.



Since I have been alive on this earth, the church as never experienced a church calendar year like this past one for sure. COVID-19 is happening we cannot get away from it. It has been everywhere since March. Jackie and I say to each other when we go places, "Mask Up".

Advent starts the new year in the church calendar and it begins the weekend of November 28-29. Advent is a time for us as followers of Jesus to prepare ourselves for a new beginning in our relationship with God. Advent generates hope in us as we await the Savior's birth on Christmas.

Advent, besides being about hope, is a time to prepare ourselves for a new beginning in the new year. Advent is a time to make ready and prepare your soul for growth in this upcoming church year. Advent is a time to disconnect as much as possible from COVID-19, to pause and reflect upon your life with Jesus.

One of the most insightful words of wisdom I received during my one year internship before becoming a full time pastor was from a retired pastor. He stated to me, "The key to success in being a pastor relies on this, keep it simple and joyful with God's people". I am encouraging you all to keep it simple and joyful this advent season. I

challenge all of us to quiet ourselves, pick a place of solitude, and list things you are thankful for. Once you comply your list share it with some people.

One of the best ways to prepare your soul for healing is this little exercise. A thankful list can be simple and joyful. Where did I hear that before? Great words of wisdom from a retired pastor who has now gone on to his new life with his Savior Jesus Christ. *And all God's people said, Amen!*

### MISSION OF THE MONTH The Good Samaritan Fund

This fund assists individuals with utility bill help, rental assistance, gas, an emergency hotel stay, etc. No cash is given to the individual. We help in the form of a check to the utility or rental company. A gas card, only good for fuel, is given when needed by an individual. For a hotel stay we work out an agreement with the person in charge. For food assistance we refer them to the Food Pantry. We do keep a list of individuals and their request in order to control repetitive requests.



Please pick up your poinsettia plant by January 2 & 3.

# Advent

*A Season of Hope  
& Expectation*

by Lori Sebastian

Advent is a time of preparation. One beloved song during Advent which many Christians are familiar is the Magnificat, specifically music and text written to express Mary's song of praise in Luke 1:46-55: **My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.**

During the Advent and Christmas season, another text is often read – the Benedictus (**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel**) – found in Luke 1:68-79. Zechariah sang this praise for his son John the Baptist's circumcision. The words commemorate the hope that the Messiah is coming and the role that his own son had in the divine story. Quite the celebration considering John was a miracle that occurred being born to older parents (Zechariah and Elizabeth); this song by Zechariah were his first words after being mute for several months!

Lastly during Epiphany, a text is read which is titled The Nunc Dimittis. The elderly priest Simeon, who had waited most of his life for the Messiah to come, had a vision from the Holy Spirit that he would not leave earth until He had seen the Promised One. Enter Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus to the temple. Simeon sang what we know today as the Nunc Dimittis. Luke 2:29-32. **"Now Lord, you let your servant go in peace. Your word has been fulfilled. Mine own eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people. A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel."**

Although I had been familiar with all these texts at various points in my upbringing and musical career, it wasn't until recently that I recognized all 3 of these important canticles are in the first 2 chapters of the Scripture of Luke. 3 is a special number in Christian faith (like the concept of the Trinity). And I have to think these 3 canticles are more than just "coincidence".

For Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, we will sing various verses from 2 of the canticles prior to the Gospel reading. We will sing ELW 251 (My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness) – which is a

relatively new text published by Augsburg Fortress (1995) based on the Magnificat set to the tune Kingsfold. The English folk tune Kingsfold is a strong minor tune – celebratory, yet reflective. Then during Epiphany, we will sing Blessed Be the God of Israel (ELW 250) – the Benedictus - to the same tune. With repetition, we will add a tune to our repertoire, and sing the different verses of the 2 canticles. During Epiphany, we will sing the Nunc Dimittis as the as part of Setting 1 Liturgy.

**ELW 251 - My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness** (based on the Magnificat)

1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;  
I sing my Savior's praise!  
You looked upon my lowliness,  
and I am full of grace.  
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age  
This blessing shall proclaim—  
Great wonders you have done for me,  
and holy is your name.

2 To all who live in holy fear  
your mercy ever flows.  
With mighty arm you dash the proud,  
their scheming hearts expose.  
The ruthless you have cast aside,  
The lowly throned instead;  
the hungry filled with all good things,  
the rich sent off unfed

3 To Israel, your servant blest,  
your help is ever sure;  
The promise to our parents made  
their children will secure.  
Sing glory to the Holy One,  
Give honor to the Word,  
And praise the Pow'r of the Most High,  
one God by all adored.

**ELW 250 - Blessed Be the God of Israel** (the Benedictus)

1 Blessed be the God of Israel  
who comes to set us free  
and raises up new hope for us:  
a Branch from David's tree.  
So have the prophets long declared  
that with a mighty arm  
God would turn back our enemies  
and all who wish us harm.

2 With promised mercy will God still  
the covenant recall,  
the oath once sworn to Abraham,  
from foes to save us all;  
that we might worship without fear  
and offer lives of praise  
in holiness and righteousness  
to serve God all our days.

3 My child, as prophet of the Lord  
you will prepare the way,  
to tell God's people they are saved  
from sin's eternal sway.  
Then shall God's mercy from on high  
shine forth and never cease  
to drive away the gloom of death  
and lead us into peace.

\*Hymn text reprinted with permission ONE LICENSE, License #A731977 and Augsburg Fortress Publishers, #SBL09644H



## CHEER PLATES update

Due to Covid-19, the annual Cheer Plates event will not be happening this Christmas season. The folks who usually receive the plates will find something in their mailboxes soon from the Cheer Plates team. The team hopes to be able to reinstate this fun and yummy event as soon as the pandemic plays itself out.



The 2021 Flower Chart has been posted. Please write your name under "presented by". You may also write a message to go in the bulletin (in memory of, in honor of, in celebration of . . . anniversary, birthday, graduation, special event etc.) on the chart. Flower color as well as flower preference may also be requested. Altar flowers are ordered from the new florist in downtown Tipp City, *Always Blooming*, on Main Street. The cost will still be \$40.00 for two vases. Payment can be put in your offering envelope (designate "altar flowers"). The following individuals are signed up in December:

Dec. 6	Pat Cowan
Dec. 13	Mary Rogers
Dec. 20	Dean & Lilo Myers
Dec. 24	Jeff & Jaque Mitchel
Dec. 27	Earl & Cindy Moore

### Secret Sister Reveal Party

The date for the Secret Sister Reveal Party has been changed to **Sunday December 20**. It will be after church at 11:30 in the fellowship hall.

Boxed lunches will be provided. You have a choice of chicken salad on croissant or turkey wrap. Chips and a cookie are included. The cost is \$7.95. Please give your money to Linda Holt or Linda Short in the office. Drinks will be provided by the Women of Zion.

There is a sign-up sheet for your sandwich choice in the hallway between the offices and the fellowship hall. You can also call Linda Holt at 937-947-2093 or 937-573-6594.

There is a chance it will be cancelled if there are additional mandates from the Governor or the Synod concerning the coronavirus. We will keep you posted. In the meantime, please continue giving your Secret Sister your small gifts and prayers!



**Cris Kister** has a new address. Please make the change in your photo directory. She is at Springmeade: 35 Marigold Lane, Rm. 4, Tipp City, OH 45371.



### New e-mail and Phone

**Gary & Kathy Groth** have a new e-mail and new phone numbers: **E-mail** grothkathleen@gmail.com  
Gary: 1 937-216-2746  
Kathy: 1 937-216-2071  
Please update your photo directory with these changes.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S



- 2 Susan Pytel
- 3 Maggie Powder
- 5 Carol Phillips
- 8 Lisa Phillips
- 9 Carla Frame
- 10 Ginger Schaefer
- 13 Jean Turner
- 15 Lieselotte Myers, Mark Sauls
- 17 Shirley Rawlins
- 19 Noah Garvic
- 21 Alice Replogle

- 27 Sue Von Aschen
- 29 Jennifer Johnson
- 31 Kim Galli, Rusty Rizzotte



## Offering Envelopes



If you check "Other" on your offering envelope box, please indicate where you wish your offering to go, such as ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran World Relief, Southern Ohio Synod, etc. This will help when posting contributions in to the computer. Also, if you are paying for altar flowers please designate "altar flowers" on the memo line of your check or on the "other" box of your offering envelope. It is \$40.00 for both vases. Only those individuals with an assigned offering box number will receive a giving statement with the breakdown of their offering.

**2021 offering envelopes** will be out in mid-December for members to pick up. They will be alphabetical and in some cases assigned new numbers. **Please do not use the 2021 envelopes until January 2nd & 3rd.** Also, please check to make sure you have picked up the correct box of envelopes.

If you are not a member, but attend regularly, and would like a box of envelopes, please let the office know and we will put a box in your mailbox. THANK YOU.

### UPDATE ON HOSPICE ORNAMENT MAKING DAY....

By Lil Nichols

A good productive time and fine fellowship occurred at Zion on November 10, as members of our church pitched in with Lilian Nichols and the other polymer clay artists to produce small ornaments for Hospice Christmas trees. There were several knitters who turned in 8 bags of hearts. There are over 600 ornaments! Thanks to the 'stringers' who added strings to any ornaments lacking them: Ruth White, Donna Slyman, and Kathy Groth. And thanks to all who donated knitted hearts and other ornaments for this annual project, now in the third year. Over 200 trees are given out each year, and if each tree has even 10 ornaments, that is a lot of ornaments!

**Home bound residents specially thought of:** Patsy Furrow, Hap Johnson, Herb Johnson, Bob Kuhls, Belia Parrish, Carol Phillips

Please say a special prayer for our STNA'S, CNA'S, Nurses and Doctors who are caring for Covid-19 patients. May God watch over and protect these caretakers and their families.

**Pray for:** Fred & Jan Aller, Norm Barnhart, Brad Bailey, Laura Barnes, Gloria Bilbay, Andrew & Savetka Brazie, Sue Cook, Sue Coon, Pat Cowan, Ina Crenshaw, Dawn Greenwalt, Dawn Greenwalt (2 daughter-in-laws with the same name have cancer), Phillip Nemeth, Larry & Lillian Nichols, Carolyn Oaks, Trapper Phillips, Roger Pusey, Tom Replogle, Laura Roeth, Mary Rogers, Pam Sauls, Brian Sebold, Raymond Michael Stollmer, Jr., Debbie Turner, Kyle Watkins, Irene Watson, Jason Weprin.

**Those who have lost loved ones:** Cris Kister whose husband Roger passed away.

The family of Brad Teaford, Pat Cowan's grandson, who passed away as a result of a car accident.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Worship and Music Meeting – Weds. November 4, 2020

On Wednesday, November 4, 2020, the Worship and Music Committee met. Attending were: Terri Darrah, Carla Frame, Pastor Glawe, Susie Gray, Linda Holt, Deb Keppel, Kervyn Mach, and Lori Sebastian. Pastor began the meeting in prayer.

We talked about Christmas. The suggestion, which will be sent to council for feedback, would be two Christmas Eve services held at 5pm and 7:30pm. We would have space for approximately 80 people in the Fellowship Hall and attached Sunday School room with social distancing in effect. We will offer Communion at both services; altar committee will

work out details. We will have the candle lighting (during Silent Night), sing hymns during Communion, and arrange special music for 10 minutes prior to the service.

Vocal choir, bell choir, chime choir continue to be on hold for present

Carla reported on the altar information. The new communion schedule is working well. Sundays where communion is offered, we are seeing a slight attendance bump. Thanks to Colleen Flayler who created an artificial arrangement for us to use during the fall season. Deb reported that Always Blooming is a new florist in Tipp City, and we will be resuming live arrangements in December. We are also ordering poinsettias for Christmas Eve Service. Deb will coordinate the advent candle wreath, manger scene, and tree with Chrismons so are Fellowship Hall is seasonally decorated

Lori thanked everyone for learning Setting 2 this summer and fall. During the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons we will switch to Setting 1. Further, normally, we do a special family advent reading with the advent wreath. This year, we will have a reflection printed in the bulletin / on the screen for when the appropriate candle(s) will be lit prior to the service. The plan would be to return this "advent reading" custom next advent season, post COVID!

Pastor provided some additional updates. He thanked everyone for their efforts. He also was excited to announce that Dale Schaefer will be aiding him with congregational visits and worship services starting at the end of November. Welcome Dale!

We talked about remote worship. There are still some sound issues with volume level being set appropriately for in person worship versus the recording. While we were meeting, Chuck Powder was working with sound technicians to install some new equipment, so we are hopeful that will improve the quality.

Our next Worship and Music meeting will be held Wednesday, January 6, 2020 at 1PM.

### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT**

No Report

**The next meeting: Monday, December 7, 2020**

@ 6:00 p.m.

### **WOMEN OF ZION MEETING – November 8, 2020**

No Report

**Next Business Meeting: Jan. 10, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.**

### **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – November 10, 2020**

1. Council approved September financials.
2. Council approved October minutes.
3. Pastor Dale Schaefer will be starting on November 30 as a Pastoral Care/ Outreach minister to help Pastor with staying connected with our Zion Church family during the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. An insert will be in the worship bulletins November 21-22, 28-29, and December 5-6 in reference to which service each family unit will attend on Christmas Eve. Each family will fill out the insert with their choice of service either the 5:00pm service or 7:30 service. Because of COVID we have to limit the amount of people for each service and hope for equal distribution at the two services.
5. The sound system has been updated in the fellowship hall for our worship services. We will continue to monitor the sound quality of our worship services.



**<<<The Youth still have some beautiful 2020 Wall Calendar's available for just \$7.00>>>**

## **GRACE PLACE NEWS**

**Prek - 4th** - Instead of video lessons for Sunday School we will now send the lesson and crafts to complete at home. The most recent activity

children Prek - 4th grade are working on is "What I Am Thankful For" craft. We hope to share some finished projects in the next coming months.

**5th-6th graders** will be receiving Advent/Christmas Trivia Cards to share and learn with their families.

**7th-12th graders** have been meeting on Zoom every other Wednesday. During one of the Wednesday night Zoom's we discussed the changes this pandemic has brought to their lives and that one thing is constant and that is God and his promises. The youth looked up a promise from God and shared it with the group.

The Youth Group would love to share some of the verses shared in the group so you can look them up on your own and be reminded of God's promises too.

Isaiah 43:2

Isaiah 54:10

James 1:5

Isaiah 40:28-29

Deuteronomy 31:8

Nahum 1:7

God's peace,  
Jackie

#### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

*Please have articles in to the church office  
by Wednesday, December 18 for the  
January 2020 Tidings.*

*Thank you!*



