

ZION TIDINGS **December 2023**



“Serving Christ through Serving Others”

Preparing for Advent

As the church year comes to a close, (Christ the King is the last Sunday in our church year) we look forward to a new church year that begins with the season of Advent. Advent is a time to prepare again for the birth of the Savior in the manger. It is also a time to prepare our hearts to receive the Savior as He breaks into our lives in so many different ways. The challenge of Advent is for us to be ready, to prepare to receive the Savior in our hearts and the humble beginning in the stable.

So, I am inviting you to an Advent service at the church **Wednesday, December 13th at 6:00 p.m.** In a world that certainly seems to be “stirred up” in so many places, I want to use the “Stir Up” prayers for Advent as a way to look at our preparedness to receive the Savior of the world.

“Stir up Your power, Lord Christ and come.”

“Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way for Your only Son.”

“Stir up the wills of Your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears.”

“Stir up Your power, Lord Christ, and come.”

We will have a time of song, study and prayer as we come together to prepare our hearts.

God Bless You!
Pastor Dale



Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church 14 West Walnut St., Tipp City, Ohio 45371- Phone: 1(937) 667-3110

Web Site: www.ziontippcity.org **Emails:** **Pastor Dale Schaefer** - office@ziontippcity.org

Zion office - office@ziontippcity.org **Prayer requests** - prayers@ziontippcity.org or office@ziontippcity.org

Jessica Dorn, Christian Education director - christianed@ziontippcity.org

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE January “TIDINGS” is Monday, December 20, 2023

Mission of the Month

ELCA Good Gifts



On the Christmas tree in the lounge area, you will find ornaments that have pictures of animals and other needed items for those in need throughout the world. For example, you may pay for ten chicks for \$10, honeybees for \$20, seeds and gardening tools for \$50, a clinic visit for a child for \$10. You can also donate any amount of money and the Women of Zion can put the money toward a more expensive animal - like a goat for \$50!

Please take an ornament and return it with a check made payable to Women of Zion. Please place your check in the basket on the table in the lounge.

Any questions contact Deb Keppel.

December Birthdays

1	Jacob Pytel	9	Carla Frame	21	Alice Replogle
2	Susan Pytel	10	Ginger Schaefer	27	Sue Von Aschen
3	Maggie Powder	15	Mark Sauls	29	Jennifer Johnson
5	Carol Phillips	17	Shirley Rawlins	31	Kim Galli
8	Lisa Phillips	19	Noah Garvic		Rusty Rizzotte



Upcoming Events

Live Nativity
Wednesday, December 6th
6:00 pm– 8:00 pm

Several Tipp City churches are working together to present a living nativity story. There will be 9 stations, the first five of which will be in our front lawn. Zion will represent the 4th station, with Mary and Elizabeth. We will also offer popcorn, coffee and hot chocolate to those attending. The final four stations will be in the Methodist church parking lot and they will be offering refreshments as well.



Women of Zion Christmas Dinner

Thursday, December 7th

6:00 Gathering Time

6:30 Dinner

7:00 Micah



Cost is \$18 per person, paid in advance. Please make check payable to Women of Zion and put it in the envelope on the table in the work room.

MENU

Boursin Chicken OR Vegetable Lasagna

Roasted Potatoes

Glazed Carrots

Spinach Salad with Feta

Roll

Pie



There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hallway.
Deadline for reservations is this Sunday, **November 26th**

Advent Schedule

Advent Service - Wednesday, December 13th, 6:00 p.m.

A time of song, study and prayer

Children's Service – Sunday, December 17th, 10:00 a.m.

Our Zion kids will be conducting the entire worship service.

We will also be welcoming new members

Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24th, 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

There is NO Sunday School that morning

There will be a regular church service at 10:00 am on Sunday and a Christmas Eve service at 7:00 that evening.

You're Invited

St. John's Lutheran Church in Vandalia has extended an invitation to Zion members to attend their Advent Midweek Worship services at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, December 6, 13 and 20th. There is a soup supper prior to the services at 6:30 p.m.

Blessed Shoeboxes

48 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes were blessed on November 11th and 12th. Prayers were lifted that the hurting children and their families will be impacted and their hearts will be opened to God's love and the message of grace through Jesus Christ. Continue to pray that, as they are sent around the world, they will be useful tools to open doors for the proclamation of the gospel.



Women's Retreat – Freedom of God's Grace - November 4th

Zion family,

Thank you to everyone who helped make the women's retreat so special. We had 25 women in attendance, and I'm pretty sure all of them have thanked us.

Many people worked hard to create such a successful event. Deb Keppel, Jill Greer, Donna Slyman, Debby and Randy Turner, Linda Holt, Annette Calicoat, Lil Nichols, Ruth White and Joyce Zimmann. Even Jackie Glawe and Terri Darrah had made contributions from 2020. Of course we could not have done any of it without Kristen Zimmann's fabulous teaching skills. Mostly, we would like to thank you, the congregation, for all of your prayers.

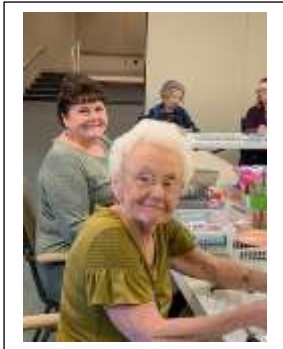
God's Blessings,

Pam Sauls and the retreat team



Hospice Ornament Creation

On Tuesday, November 14th, five of Lilian Nichols' clay class members, along with six women of Zion and two guests finished **655 ornaments** to donate to Hospice for their trees, which are given to patients. Additionally, 3 clay class members who couldn't participate due to health issues joined the fun for a short time. A carry-in meal was enjoyed and much laughter prevailed.



OHIO'S
Hospice
OF MIAMI COUNTY



Library Update

There have been a few infusions of books into our library and we have added additional "bookcases". The official Dewey Decimal System is not in place and there isn't a specific order at this point, so you will have to peruse the selection. The sign out sheet has also been moved to that room.



Kids Sunday School

The children in grades K-5 will be learning about:

12/3 – Jesus is born (begin practicing to lead church service)

12/10 – The wise men follow the star

12/17 – Children's church production

If your child will not be here for a weekend but you would like for them to learn from home, please reach out to me and I will give you the craft along with the lesson which can be watched on Right Now Media.

There will be **NO Sunday School on Sunday, December 24th or 31st.**

Worship & Music Committee

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Attending were: Carla Frame, Susie Gray, Bill Jones, Deb Keppel, Kervyn Mach, Dale Schaefer, and Lori Sebastian. Advent begins the weekend of Saturday/Sunday December 2nd/3rd. It was recommended by Worship and Music Committee to hold services Dec. 24th as follows:

(a) 4th Sunday in Advent at 10am and

(b) one Christmas Eve service at 7pm in the evening.

We have some special music lined up for this winter. Linda Holt and Doug Albright will be providing trumpet prelude and accompanying choir on November 19th. Further, Susie Gray has special music lined up (Kristen Zimmann - flute) for Christmas Eve.

Bill Jones and Susie Gray provided the vocal choir updates. The choir continues learning additional songs from All Creation Sings with Bill Jones and Mitch Tayse on guitar. The choir schedule is set through mid-January. Felicia Young collected money from choir members in memory of Mike Werts. The choir plans to purchase a memorial piece and sing Easter Sunday to recognize Mike's service.

Bells will play the first Sunday in Advent: December 3 at the 10am service.

Deb Keppel reported altar goes smoothly. Deb and Bob found a new candlelighter for the worship service at Dayton Church Supply. The taper or wick had gotten stuck in the wax in the old implements. Deb stated the altar paraments would need to be changed according to the church seasons upcoming.

For Advent, we will switch to Setting One in the liturgy. In lieu of the special advent readings, we will have the kids sing a simple advent song while the corresponding candles in the advent wreath are lit.

Pastor stated there is a baptism on November 26th. Chuck Powder and Andrew Weprin are working on the sound system project. For the moment, Fellowship Hall has taken priority. The microphone set up seems to be working well in the sanctuary, but unclear when sound for choir will be added. Pastor has been checking the attendance on the live stream – and we have an average of 20 clicking each week.

Next meeting is on **Wednesday, January 10 at 6pm.**

Thanksgiving Message from Jason

Mom, Andrew, friends and family, and brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

This Thanksgiving as I prepare to be away, yet again, from all those whom I love, I am struck with the thought of what I am truly thankful for. Often, in times in our lives that we consider hardships, we say things such as I am thankful to still be alive, or I am thankful I am still healthy, or I'm thankful to still have my job. But those sentiments, while true seem somewhat empty to me and a bit of a cliché. So, I will share with you my thanks this season, and I hope you decide to stop, examine your own lives and really find what you are thankful for.

I am thankful for the time-out in my life to build an intimate relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. I am thankful that God has provided protection from harm each and every moment I have been here. I have been surrounded by friends who share advice, struggles and emotions with me. I have gained a better understanding of the Bible through my relationship with the Holy Trinity. My thoughts have matured spiritually. I have forgiven, prayed for, and helped those whom I consider enemies because God has led me to do so. Twenty minute talks each day with my mom are a true blessing and I long for more. I am thankful church services twice a week and a nightly prayer circle that has grown exponentially since we (inmates) started it. All my needs are provided for, clothing, food, shelter, facilities for hygiene, etc. Pastor Dale visits me and I receive letters from loved ones from time to time. My list keeps getting bigger and bigger each moment, and I can't possibly put everything down in writing. These are just a few examples of that in which I am thankful for this Thanksgiving. I hope you all have a blessed Thanksgiving this year and feel free to share your thanks with me as well. The sharing of thanks lifts each of us up and helps us to be even more thankful. All thanks and praise are given to God our Father! I love all of you!

God bless each and every one of you,

Jason

Message from Debbie Weprin: I would also like to add my personal message and thanks to everyone at Zion who has stood by me, Andrew and Jason during this extremely trying time. Your prayers, kind words and actions mean more to me than I know how to express. Your generosity blows me away. Time and again, I am reminded that we at Zion are truly a FAMILY, not just people who happen to see each other on Sunday morning. I firmly believe that God led us to Zion as the perfect church at the perfect time. Without everyone here I am not sure how I would have been able to make it through these last 18 months.

New Media Center

Many thanks to Andrew Weprin, Chuck Powder and Mitch Tayse for all of their time and effort creating this beautiful media center/projector cabinet. It has already enhanced gatherings in the Fellowship Hall.



Council Meeting Report

November 14th, 2023

council
highlights

1. Approved meeting minutes October 10th Council Meeting.
2. Approval of the September 2023 financial reports.
3. St. John's in Vandalia has extended an invitation to join them for Advent services on December 6, 13, and 20. Soup supper at 6:30 PM and service begins at 7:00 PM.
4. Upcoming Dates for the Calendar:
 - Annual Dinner and Meeting -November 19th
 - Live Nativity -December 6th
 - Women of Zion Christmas Gathering December 7th
 - Zion's Advent Service-December 13th
 - December 24th –Regular morning service at 10 AM and Christmas Eve Service at 7 PM.
5. Technology Team Project of Upgrading the Projection and Audio Systems in the Community room is near completion. The new Media Console will be dedicated during the Annual Meeting.
6. The property committee is pleased to report the concrete project on the West side of the church building has been completed.

Prayer Requests

Pray for our homebound member: Patsy Furrow

Prayer requests: Prayers are needed for Bob Lenehan who is recovering from a fall. Prayers of thanksgiving for Greg Watkins who is doing well after his surgery. Continue prayers for John LeGros, and Brian Watkins. Keep in your prayers Debbie Turner and Barb Kruse. Dave Cook has stage 4 cancer and his wife Sue Cook has stage 4 breast cancer. Pray for Chalmer Mader, Christine Copeland, Pat Cowan, Miriam Comer, Fred Staie, Debbie Weprin, Andrew Weprin, Jason Weprin, Cindy Moore, Larry and Lil Nichols, Carol Phillips, Lilo Myers, Shirley Rawlins, AnnaMarie Stover, Jan Aller, Tom and Alice Replogle, Gloria Bilbay, Gwen Miller, and Marina Hernandez.

Zion's Prayer Chain is sent out weekly through email. It lists prayers needed for those in our community and world. If you have signed up to receive the prayer chain and have not received it recently, please let the office or Linda Holt know. If you have never been a part of the prayer chain and would like to receive it, let us know that, as well. To request prayers, or take an individual off the prayer chain, email them to prayers@ziontippcity.org. You can also access this through Zion's website www.ziontippcity.org. or call the church office at (937) 667-3110. Thank you.



Thanksgiving & Congregational Meeting



Over 70 Zion members enjoyed a feast and fellowship on November 19th.



New Ramp



Old broken ramp



Demolished ramp



Pouring the new



Freshly poured



Backfilled alley & expansion joints



Finishing touch... 1894 Step in place



Temporary railing thanks to Bob K.

Thank you, Thank you

Thank you to all who helped with Mike's service/lunch. Everything would have been just as he would have wanted. From Mike's original stroke in 2009, you have been there for us.
Terrie Werts & Family

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

I am so thankful for your prayer filled support for my husband, Kyl M. Watkins. The Pastor came to visit my Brother-in-law's house back in July and said the most beautiful prayer over Kyle. I wanted to thank him for that and I want to thank one and all who sent your positive thoughts and prayers our way. God bless you and keep you.

Sincerely,

Theresa J. Watkins and the Volk Family



Dear Members,

On behalf of the Veterans, families and staff of the Dayton VA Medical Center, I wish to extend our sincere appreciation for your donation of "thank you" cards for Veterans.

Your thoughtfulness reflects the concern that you feel for our Veterans and their service to our country.

Your contribution makes it possible for us to enhance the care we provide for our Nation's heroes, the Veteran patient.

Again, thank you for caring.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Knight

Chief, Center for Development and Civic Engagement.



Choir News

Don't miss two great choir anthems this December! On Dec 10, we sing a peppy piece titled "**O Come to Set Us Free**", a spiritual, arranged by Mary McDonald. Then, at the 7pm Christmas Eve service, we sing "**Carol for Advent**" by Don Besig/Nancy Price, **featuring a flute solo by Kristen Zimmann**. The choir is not all hard work, on **Dec 13**, after rehearsal, we will have our Christmas Party for choir members and their spouses.

For those considering joining the choir, please keep in mind that we do skip some rehearsals and Sunday performances throughout the year. Just check the bulletin for choir rehearsal schedules.

Bill Jones



Property Committee Meeting Report

November 6, 2023

- Star City Concrete is completing the ramp construction and a temporary railing will be installed until the permanent railing is finished.
- Butler Heating and Cooling replaced the heat exchanger in the kitchen HVAC system.
- The Evergreen contract for snow removal was reviewed and approved.
- The Giving Tree was brought down to the lounge area, two toilet handles were replaced in the women's restroom, the ping pong table in the high school room was temporarily fixed but will need more repair, basement light fixtures were repaired and the other items on the monthly work list were completed.

The next meeting will be Monday, **December 4, 2023** at 6:00 p.m.

Women of Zion Meeting

November 12, 2023

- 48 boxes were packed for Operation Christmas Child
- The women's retreat, with Kristen Zimmann leading was held on November 4th. 25 women attended.
- All chairs have been purchased for the fellowship hall. Thank you to Linda Holt for spearheading this and to Randy Turner for assembling chairs.
- The Giving Tree is in place with ornaments for Adopt-a-Family, the November mission of the month.
- Hospice ornament making event will take place Tuesday, November 14th along with a carry-in lunch.
- Thanksgiving dinner and congregational meeting will be November 19th. Sign-up sheet is posted.
- Women of Zion Christmas Gathering will be Thursday, December 7, beginning at 6:00 pm. Attendees are asked to bring hats/gloves/mittens to be distributed to area elementary school children. Sign-up sheet is posted.
- Cheer plates will be assembled and delivered Monday, December 11th.
- College Care packages will be assembled and sent to college students in time for Valentine's Day.
- January mission of the month will be a sock drive for Shoes for the Shoeless. More information to come.
- December mission of the month has been changed from donations to the Good Samaritan Fund to donations to the ELCA Good Gifts program.
- Kathy Groth reported the Wernle Youth and Family Treatment Center is in need of donations for Christmas presents for the residents. It was decided to donate \$400 to this program.

Next meeting will be **Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

All women are invited to attend.

Fellowship Hall Chair Update

The chair drive is complete! By now, you most likely have had the pleasure of sitting on the new chairs. The white chairs give a fresh look to the fellowship hall and comfort comments have been very favorable. The arm chairs (although two different colors – we won't go into that here) are comfortable and provide extra support to those of us who need help getting up.

A HUGE thank you to the following who were instrumental in assembling the arm chairs: Randy Turner (who picked up 10 boxes of chairs from our barn and transported them to his house to assemble them), Chuck and Erma Swanson and Garry Yunker who assembled the first of the new arm chairs. And a very grateful thanks to all who contributed funds to help purchase the chairs!

Linda Holt and The Women of Zion

Call Committee Update

As of this writing (Nov 14, 2023), the Call Committee has interviewed 10 pastoral candidates. We began in the summer/fall of 2022. Pastor Bob Abrams (assistant to the Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod) will continue to send us potential candidates.

A brief summary of the call process:

1. The Call Committee receives a candidate from the Synod.
2. The Call Committee has a remote interview via Zoom. We vote to either release the candidate or call the candidate to come for an in-person interview if they agree. After that interview, the candidate can decide if Zion is a "good fit" for them or decide that we are not.
3. If the candidate decides Zion is a good fit, they are recommended to council. The council then calls the candidate for an in-person interview.
4. If the council decides to call the candidate as our pastor, a compensation package is discussed. If the candidate agrees, they are presented to the congregation for an informal "meet and greet" (not an interview). The congregation then will vote on the candidate.

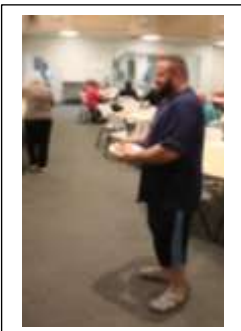
As you can see, this is a multi-tiered process. I think all of us thought we would have a new pastor by now. God is working. Not in our time, His time. Please keep praying for the candidates, Zion, and the Call Committee. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Linda Holt, Call Committee Chair, Bob Keppel, Council Representative, Carla Frame, Bill DeVenzio, Tim Rambeau, Jennifer Johnson, Madelyn Lopez (youth rep).

Volunteer Breakfast

Thanks to Pastor Dale for a wonderful breakfast provided by Chris Cakes. It was an entertaining way to enjoy pancakes and Happy the Clown provided a whole suitcase full of fun as well. The Zion travel mugs rounded out the "thank you" to the many Zion volunteers. A good time was had by all.





Volunteers are the heart and soul of ministry.



Volunteers are the hands and feet of Christ.



Zion is full of members who make a difference in the world!

December 2023

Calendar of Events at Zion

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Property Mtg. 6 Boy Scouts 6:30	Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	Live Nativity 6-8 Choir Rehearse	WoZ Party 6:00		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Compassion Friends Service 2 pm	Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Boy Scouts 6:30	Quilts 10 Comm Mtg 5:00 Council 7p AA 8-9 pm	Advent Svc 6:00 Choir Rehearse			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Boy Scouts 6:30	Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	Choir Rehearse			Communion Saturday
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
No Sunday School Worship 10:00 am & 7:00 pm	 Office Closed	Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	NO Choir			
31						
No Sunday School Randall Residence						
						