

ZION TIDINGS December 2024



“Serving Christ through Serving Others”

Awaiting the Messiah

As we enter the time of Advent and Christmas, we turn our attention to the coming of Jesus, the coming of the Christ-child. These are special days where families get together, where we give presents under the tree and drink eggnog late into the night. Already, Tipp City is decorated beautifully with lights and music galore. Truly, this is a moment for celebration. We celebrate the incarnation of God, the fact that God cares so much about us that He willingly entered into this world so that He could save it. But my friends, this coming was not a one-time thing. God did not show up in the past and then leave us alone. Far from it! God is just as present with us as He was back then and will be into the future.

The season of Advent and Christmas is a season to remember what God has done in the past. This is true. It is also a season to take stock of what God is doing in the present while also placing our hope in the future. God is not done breaking into our world. I want you to take stock of where you see God in our world today. Where do you experience God in your life? What reminds you of God as you go about your day? Think about that for a moment.

And then, when you are ready, think about your hopes for the future. Where do you want to see God break in? How would you like to experience God in your life? Place your hope in God and what God is doing. The future belongs to God and God will ultimately have the last word. Christians refer to this as the Second Coming— a moment when Jesus will come again and right every wrong while wiping away every tear. This is a way to say that the future belongs to God, just as the present belongs to God as well as the past. This is a season for hope, a season to pay attention to the good gifts of God, a season to share this good news with others. I pray that this season is a blessing to you.



Pastor Jaren Summers



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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 Friday, December 20, 2024

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 by December 31st.

Any questions contact Deb Keppel.

December Birthdays

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Upcoming Events

Women of Zion

Thursday, December 5th

Gather at 6:00

Dinner 6:30

Program 7:15 – The Troy Tones



The reservation deadline has passed.

We look forward to seeing everyone who has signed up.

Advent Schedule

Children's Service – Sunday, December 8th, 10:00 a.m.

Our Zion kids will be conducting the entire worship service.

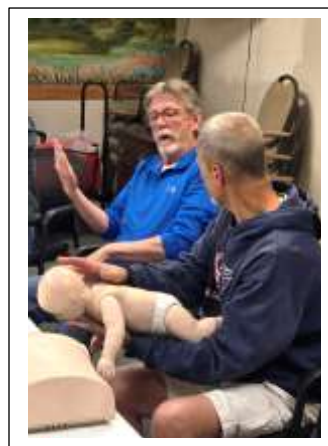
Advent Service - Wednesday, December 11th, 6:00 p.m.

A time of song, study and prayer

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24th, 7:00 p.m.

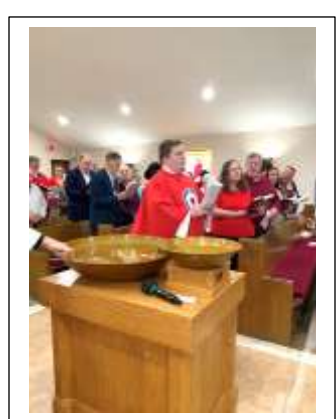
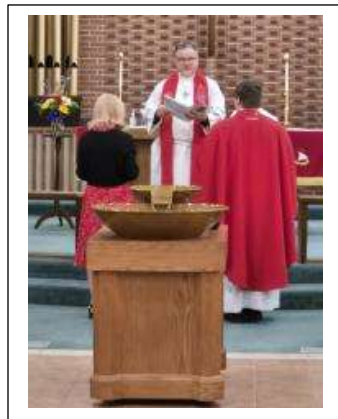
AED Training

On October 28th, Heidi Jones from Tipp City Emergency Services conducted American Heart Association training on CPR, use of the AED and some basic first aid for choking and bleeding. Hopefully, we will never need to use it but should an emergency occur, the following people have been trained: Pastor Summers, Matt Sauls, Chuck Swanson, Deb & Bob Keppel, Kristen Zimmann, Denise Jacobs, Donna Slyman, Brent Reedstrom, Susie Gray, Tim Rambeau and Annette Calicoat. The AED cabinet is alarmed so, when it's opened, anyone trained should hear it and locate the person in distress. Many thanks to those who volunteered, Heidi, and especially the Tipp Foundation for funding the training with the grant.



It's Official!

After a long search, we now officially have a full-time pastor! Pastor Jaren Summers was installed on Reformation Sunday, October 27th, by Pastor Bob Abrams, Assistant to our Synod Bishop. The well attended service included a sermon by Pastor Abrams, special music, a participatory installation ceremony, and was followed by a wonderful reception.





Presentation of the Stole



Our Sign Also Makes It Official

If you haven't noticed, our church sign at the Walnut Street entrance now has a placard with "Pastor Jaren Summers".



More Congratulations for Pastor

As if being installed as Pastor of Zion wasn't enough excitement, Pastor Jaren and Kendra unexpectedly welcomed their newest family member on October 24th. Born at 5:20 pm, Elliana Josephine weighed 7 lbs 3 oz, measured 19.25 inches long and is in perfect health.



To quote Pastor, "we are smitten". Brother Ezra is also in love with his baby sister. Welcome to our beautiful new Zion member!

Christian Education

Sunday School

- 12/1 No Sunday School (Thanksgiving)
- 12/8 No Room: Children/Youth Church
Possible tree decorating after church
- 12/15 Spark Bible Stories: Zechariah
- 12/22 Spark Bible Stories: Jesus is Born
- 12/29 No Sunday School



No Room: Children/Youth Church

On Sunday, 12/8 the children and youth will be taking over church! They will serve as greeters, ushers, readers, acolyte, communion assistant and will deliver a special interactive message. Bring a friend as the children and youth step up and serve! All children and youth are welcome to participate in this event.

Right Now Media

As of 12/1/2024, we will no longer be offering a subscription to Right Now Media. After two years of the subscription and a steady decline of use, the staff and council members decided that it would not be responsible to continue the yearly subscription.

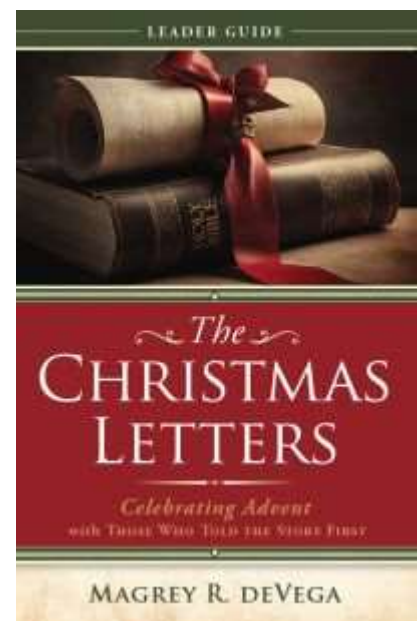
Tipp City Park Tree Decorating

For the second year, Zion has adopted a tree at the Tipp City Park and will be decorating it. Families enjoyed decorating the tree last year, and we hope that more will join in the fun this year! Because we don't know exactly when the tree will be installed, the **tentative date** to decorate the tree is **December 8th** after worship.

Adult Sunday School

During Advent, the Adult Sunday School class will be studying *The Christmas Letters* by Magrey DeVega. You may or may not know the story of your birth. If you do, there is something special about hearing your origin story again and remembering how it all began for you. That's why we observe Advent: to celebrate how it all began for us. In *The Christmas Letters*, Magrey deVega invites you to hear about the miracle of Christ's birth from those who first told the story. The letters in the New Testament contain the first attempts by the church to understand and celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation. They point us to the origins of what we believe about Jesus, fully human and fully divine.

We meet each Sunday morning at 9:00 in the Adult Sunday School room. We will not have class on December 1st because it's Thanksgiving weekend. We have many good discussions and conversations! All are welcome to join us.



Charlie Brown Thanksgiving

The Charlie Brown Thanksgiving was a huge success! We had a total of 17 children! We began with lunch and watched a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving, moved onto games, a Bible story, and crafts. Multiple families reported that the children had a good time. This event couldn't have happened without all of the volunteers who gave their time, and really stepped-up during Jessica's recovery.



Donations for Family Abuse Shelter Troy

The collection bin (which used to be for Jeremiah's Letter) in the entry is now for The Family Abuse Shelter in Troy. The mission of the Family Abuse Shelter of Miami Co., Inc. is to provide safe shelter to homeless and abused persons in times of crisis and to offer life-changing services promoting stability, dignity and self-reliance. Items needed are:

- Cleaning products
- Paper towels/toilet paper and Kleenex
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Body Wash
- Toothpaste/toothbrushes
- Diapers
- Canned formula
- Toys
- Baby wipes
- Twin sheets/blankets
- Feminine hygiene products



Women of Zion Meeting Highlights

November 10, 2024

- Operation Christmas Child boxes will be delivered to Troy location Monday.
- Child Care Choices Quarter Auction held November 7th went very well. They may want to use our facility again next year.
- Hospice Ornament making and potluck lunch will be Tuesday, November 12th.
- Thanksgiving dinner and congregational meeting will take place November 17th.
- There was discussion regarding WoZ Christmas Gathering on December 5th
- Cheer Plates will be assembled at Zion on December 10th.
- All ornaments have been taken from the giving tree for our Adopt-a-Family mission.
- The December mission of the month will be giving to the ELCA Good Gifts program. Ornaments detailing what is needed will be on the giving tree for people to take.
- A Secret Sisters program will begin in January. There will be more information about this in the bulletins and Tidings.
- The Blessing bags program will also begin in January. More info in the bulletins & Tidings.
- The Prayer Shawl ministry continues. People are needed to knit or crochet. Currently there are 2 women's and 3 men's shawls available.



Next meeting is **Sunday, January 12th at 5:00 pm**

All women are encouraged to attend!

Correction to Last WoZ Minutes in November Tidings

\$2,000 was also donated to Atonement Lutheran Church in Wesley Chapel, Florida, where several of our members attend during the winter months.

2025 Missions of the Month

Starting in January, you will see a different schedule for our monthly missions. In addition to opportunities for providing funds or items for non-profits, we will also include opportunities for service projects, such as serving a meal at St. Pat's Soup Kitchen. There will also be events planned for the women of Zion. In February, Zion women and their guests will enjoy a Valentine Video Night. Be sure to check the monthly *Tidings* and bulletins for information on how you can serve.

Property Committee Meeting Report

November 4, 2024

- In October, John Greer, Bob Keppel and Tim Rambeau painted Pastor Summers' office.
- Butler Heating and Cooling checked out our HVAC and boiler system for the heating season.
- The committee will recommend to Council that the Lutheran Cemetery mowing be hired out.
- Handles were installed on the Third Street door and the chair room door.
- The toilet in the women's restroom was repaired.
- The monthly work list was completed.

Next meeting: **Monday, December 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**



Worship & Music Meeting

- On Wednesday, November 6, the Worship and Music Committee met. The attendees were: Carla Frame, Susie Gray, Bill Jones, Deb Keppel, and Lori Sebastian.
- We expressed gratitude to Kristen Zimmann who provided flute music, Linda Holt who provided trumpet music at the Installation/Reformation, the choir for all their work on the Rutter piece, Denise and Lara Jacobs for the new red Reformation banners, and Annette Calicoat for all her work with the bulletins, handling the office, and helping coordinate funeral services.
- We reviewed Reformation, All Saints' Day, and the funeral services. We looked ahead to Christ the King Sunday – Nov. 23/Nov. 24. In addition, the beginning of Advent is Nov. 30/Dec. 1. We will be using liturgy setting 1 during Advent and introducing the Kyrie. We will also utilize the advent song Light One Candle. Additional notes:
 1. We will offer a devotional service on Weds., Dec. 11, at 6pm.
 2. We will hold one Christmas Eve service on Tues, Dec. 24, at 7pm
- Bill Jones and Susie Gray gave Vocal Choir updates. Choir Sunday will be May 18, 2025. Music is selected for the remainder of this 2024 year. Bill and Susie are working on planning ahead for 2025.
- Lori stated bells will ring Sunday, Nov. 10, and that will be our last time ringing this year.
- Carla Frame and Deb Keppel discussed Altar Committee issues. Carla will be discussing a plan for Communion at the rail at certain services, possibly beginning during Advent. There was inquiry about gluten-free communion wafers. Unless we have an individual regularly attending who requires this special item, this issue has been tabled.
- The technology committee continues to update our sound system. The sound board (mixer) was moved to the loft so it could be adjusted while videoing. However, due to limited inputs and age of the technology, a new mixer has been ordered and will be installed soon. Until the mixer is updated, the recording and live stream will not have a wider range of volume. Thank you to Chuck Powder and Andrew Weprin for their service in improving our sound system.

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, January 8th at 6:00 p.m.**

Choir Notes

Well, it's been a busy start to this year's choir season! The choir sang several challenging anthems this fall! Advent and Christmas season brings a little less intensity for the choir. We plan to have our Christmas party this year! We also plan to robe and sing Christmas Eve.

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.



Council Meeting Report

November 12, 2024



1. Approved minutes for the following meeting:
October 8th Council Meeting approved
2. Approved Treasurer's reports for the month of September '24
3. The Council Members reviewed the President's Report and Meeting Agenda for the upcoming Annual Meeting to be held on November 17th and made their suggestions as to changes and additions to the report.
4. A new program was discussed which is Bible and Brew. "Bible and Brew" is a fellowship group that combines the study of sacred scripture with the enjoyment of brewed beverages. The goal of this outreach program is to create a space for fellowship, spiritual growth, and community.
5. It was reported by Pastor Summers the current web site for Zion Lutheran Church will be getting a facelift. The site is under review and changes will be underway in the months ahead.
6. Notes upcoming dates for the Calendar:
 - November 17th - Thanksgiving Dinner and Congregational Meeting
 - December 5th - Women of Zion Christmas Dinner
 - January – WoZ Secret Sister's Program -Date-TBD

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

SHHHHH! It's a Secret

A Secret Sister community is a group of women who share kindness and support through encouraging notes, small gifts, and prayer (anonymously) throughout the year. At the Women of Zion dinner on Dec 5, there will be Secret Sister forms available if you are interested in participating. If you are not attending the dinner, there will be additional forms in the narthex.



After the forms are returned, names will be anonymously matched. Beginning in January, you can begin your exchanges. Notes, cards, and small gifts can be sent or placed in the church mailboxes. You can deliver or send them on a regular basis, randomly, or during special occasions.

Early in 2026, there will be a "reveal" get-together. It's always fun to try to figure out who your secret sister is! Long-time friendships can be celebrated or new friendships can be formed – and who doesn't like a new friend?

Pick up your Secret Sister form at the Women of Zion dinner or in the narthex beginning on Dec 8. Place the completed forms in the box in the narthex. **The deadline to turn in the questionnaire is Sunday December 29.** See Linda Holt if you have any questions.



Members of Zion Make A Difference!

Dear Women of Zion Lutheran,

Thank you so much for your gift to the soup kitchen. We really appreciated your kindness and thoughtfulness. God Bless you. We will use your gift to continue feeding our local neighbors. Thanks again, Dick Steineman, St. Patrick's Soup Kitchen

We, the Comer Family, would like to express our deepest gratitude to the entire congregation and pastors of Zion for the outpouring of love and support during this challenging time. Your prayers, visits, food and countless acts of kindness have provided us with comfort and strength as we cared for our dear mom, beloved grandma, and great-grandma, Miriam Comer. Your thoughtfulness has truly meant the world to us, and we are forever grateful to be surrounded by such a compassionate and loving church family.

With sincere appreciation, The Comer Family

Dear Women of Zion Lutheran Church,

THANK YOU! On behalf of the Board, Staff and especially the families served by programs through Partners in Hope, I would like to express how truly grateful we are that you chose to make an investment in the lives of others through your generous support.

Your donations of \$500 on October 22, 2024 will support many families in our community.

We follow in God's footsteps as He calls us to serve our community as Christians. We are blessed to live in a community where everyone is cherished as God's children.

With God's love, Noel Martin, Executive Director

Women of Zion Lutheran Church,

Needy Basket acknowledges your donation of \$500 on October 22, 2024, to support our efforts to assist the needy families of Southern Miami County. Your donation is very much appreciated. Thank You.

In 2023, Needy Basket volunteers filled 1,448 requests for food under our emergency food program and helped 5,551 individuals. In addition, we continued our support for the "Lunch on Us" program that provides lunches to children of low-income families during the summer when they are out of school. Also, our annual holiday program provided 227 families with a Christmas meal, toys for children under ten years old, and a VISA gift card for kids from eleven to seventeen years old.

Gratefully, Thomas Enders, Treasurer

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$736.90 to the Lutheran World Relief Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund!

You are truly God's hands and feet around the world, serving as stewards of God's love to our most vulnerable neighbors. With your gift, you are sending a tangible reflection of God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering. We are so very thankful.

When families in Latin America face the devastation of natural disasters, your generosity greets them with Mission Quilts and Personal Care Kits. In Tanzania, where a simple school kit can make a radical difference in school attendance, you are helping ensure a brighter future for a generation.

Thank you for being part of this critical work. May God bless you, as you have blessed your neighbors around the world.

Warm Regards, Daniel Speckhard, President and CEO

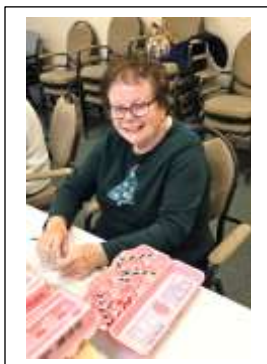
Thanks to this congregation for the cards, sympathy, and the wonderful lunch after Larry's passing. He was always willing to help me get to church and choir, as long as he was able. I surely appreciate my church family!

Lilian Nichols

Ornaments for Hospice



On Tuesday, November 12th fifteen ladies and one husband from Lily's clay class and Zion gathered and created 650 ornaments for Miami County Hospice. Hospice provides about 200 trees to families to help them through the Christmas season at a difficult time. The group, along with Pastor Summers, enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch too.



Operation Christmas Child

Zion packed, blessed and shipped 39 shoe boxes. They are on their way to bless kids in need.





In The News

Pastor Jaren made the front page of the Tippecanoe Gazette. If you want to read the article, it's hanging on the wall between the workroom and the conference room.



Thank you to Denise & Lara Jacobs for creating the beautiful Reformation banners. Each is full of carefully crafted symbolism.

Thanksgiving Dinner & Congregational Meeting



It was a great turnout with about 80 people. The meal was delicious, the budget was passed and Matt Sauls was voted in as Church Council Vice President, to serve in Brad Kennedy's stead.

Prayer Requests

Prayers of Thanksgiving Give thanks for God's hand on Zion Lutheran Church, all the blessings he gives us, Pastor Summers, Kendra, Ezra, Elliana, and the members and friends of our church.

Pray for those with specific requests: Many prayers are needed for the family of Wanda Lenehan: Her daughter, Tracey, will have surgery on Dec 30 for a brain tumor, her son-in-law, Bob, is terminally ill, and 2-year-old great-granddaughter Margo is being treated with medication and is home. Pray for Amy Byrd who has been moved to Troy Rehab and Healthcare Center. Also keep Jack and Sharon in prayer. Prayers are needed for Gwen Miller (grandmother of Susie Gray), Colonel Troy Cramer, and Todd Dunmire (Pam Sauls' nephew), those with mental illness


Continue to pray for: James Oaks, Sue and Dave Cook, Brian Watkins, Chalmer Mader, Christine Copeland, Fred Staie, the Weprin Family, Cindy Moore, Carol Phillips, Lilo Myers and Shirley Rawlins.

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.

pray

December 2024

Calendar of Events at Zion

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 NO Sunday School	2 Quilts 10:30 Property Mtg. 6 TOPS 3:30 - 5	3 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	4 Blood Drive Choir Rehearse 7	5 Women of Zion Dinner 6:00 - 8:00	6 Office Closed	7 Communion Saturday
8 Children's Service WoZ 5:00 Compassionate Friends Service & Dinner 3:00	9 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Scouts 6:30	10 Quilts 10 Comm Mtg 5p Council 7p AA 8-9 pm	11 Advent Service 6:00 Choir Rehearse 7	12	13	14
15	16 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Scouts 6:30	17 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	18 Choir Rehearse 7	19	20	21 Communion Saturday
22	23 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Scouts 6:30	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00	25 Office Closed 	26	27	28
29 Randall Residence Outreach	30 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Scouts 6:30	31 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm 