



Zionews

December 2021

God Does Not Abandon Us

Psalm 139 gives us a beautiful example central to the Lutheran expression of Christianity: God does not abandon us. No matter what is happening in your life, no matter how bad things seem, God has not left your side. No matter what is going right, no matter how good things seem, God has not left your side.

**Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

-- Psalm 139:7-12

How fascinating that the Hebrew scriptures make this point! The same scriptures that give us another powerful name for God that we Christians see being fulfilled at Christmas - Emmanuel, God with us!

As we move from Advent waiting into Christmas celebration, I pray that you can sense God's presence because God is always there. God never abandons you. In the darkness and waiting of Advent, God is with you. In the joy and celebration of Christmas, God is with you. There is nowhere you can go where God is not already there.

May this Christmastide make you more aware of God's constant present of God's constant presence.



Carolyn's Corner . . .

Happy New Year 2022!

Do you make New Year's resolutions? If so, do you keep them?

It seems that as we begin a new year, we have a sense of starting over, getting a fresh beginning, another chance, and resolutions might be a way to focus on those things we might want to improve in our lives.

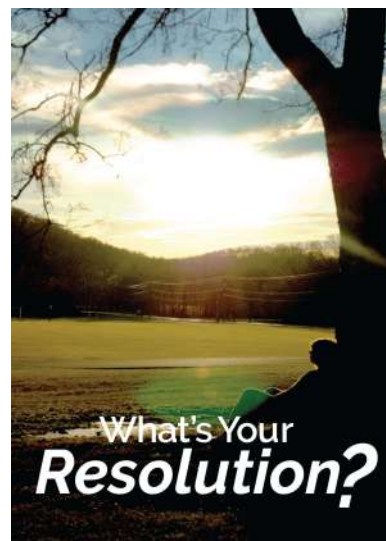
Some usual New Year's resolutions might be to quit smoking, to lose weight, exercise more, to manage money better, to spend more time with family; all good goals. Or maybe, as followers of Jesus we resolve to read our Bible or pray more often. Or, perhaps more frequent church attendance is on the list. New Year's resolutions might be effective, but often the resolver lacks the discipline to carry through.

In order to be successful with change, the resolution must be important and there must be motivation. Ask yourself why this resolution is important, why do you want to do this thing. Is it to develop a better habit and make you a better person or is it for you or is it to look good to your friends? Will it change your behavior or attitude?

As we begin this new year, think about what changes would serve your life in a positive way. Pray for guidance and motivation as you plan ahead. Then, with God's guidance, decide what goals – resolutions will help you get there.

Some places to find God's guidance might be James 1:5 (ask God); pray for wisdom; find an accountability partner to encourage you when you are giving up; prayer – God will answer!

Blessings,
Carolyn



Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

December Readings for the services

Dec 05	Malachai 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Philipians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
Dec 12	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philipians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Dec 19	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:46b-55	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]
Dec 26	1 Samuel 2:18-20,26	Psalms 148	Colosians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52



Nickles & Noses for (September &) October

As a reminder, these numbers are two months behind to account for the bookkeeping schedule.



September Offerings

	Monthly	Year to Date
Actual	\$26,993.21	\$292,479.35
Budget	\$36,575.00	\$329,175.00

October Offerings

	Monthly	Year to Date
Actual	\$33,836.14	\$326,315.49
Budget	\$36,575.00	\$365,750.00

October Attendance 5 Saturdays, 5 Sundays

	In Person	Online	Total	Average
Saturday	157	110	267	53
8:00	296	186	482	96
10:30	310	248*	558	124
Total	763	544	1,307	273

*There was one 10:30 service when the online service did not stream.

Zion Youth



The Zion Youth Group is back! Under the leadership of Vicki Boesch, the youth are busy planning lots of activities to serve God, the community and to have fun together. At this time they are meeting at 9:15 each Sunday morning to share a Bible story/devotion and to do service projects or other team building activities.

Thank you to all who donated socks for the Youth "Socktober" project more than 1,500 pairs of socks of all sizes were collected and are being distributed through various organizations in Sandusky to those in need.



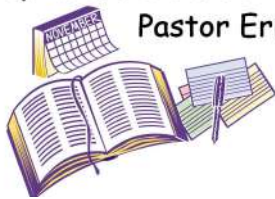
★ children's ★
Christmas Program
December 19th
at Both Services

REMINDER: The side portico door is scheduled to be unlocked for any regularly scheduled meetings and events. Please inform those in your group that they can enter through that door instead of buzzing in through the office.

Thank you for making this year's Community Thanksgiving Dinner a success! Through your generous donations monetarily, donations of turkeys and pies, and volunteers who did everything from baking pies and turkeys to delivering meals to serving and cleaning, we were able to feed many in need.



Drop-in & Visit with



Pastor Eric

Pastor Eric has drop in hours on Mondays from 1pm to 3 pm and Tuesdays from 10am to Noon. If you just want to drop in and say, "Hi," or play a game, or ask that one question you've always wanted to ask, feel free to just drop in. You can also call Pastor Eric anytime at 419-503-5288.

All Saints Candles

If you have not picked up the candle with the name of your loved one on it that was lit for the special All Saints Service, you can pick it up in the church office until December 15th.



All Saints' Day



Our holiday worship schedule has changed some from when we last celebrated these holidays together in 2019. So here is our 2021 schedule!

Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 19th, Both Services

Christmas Eve Family Service
December 24th at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service
December 24th at 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Communion Service
December 25th at 10:30 a.m.

No Service at 6:00 p.m. on December 25th

No Service at 8:00 a.m. on December 26th

Sunday, December 26th at 10:30 a.m.
Service of Lessons and Carols
(No Communion)

Worship Leaders

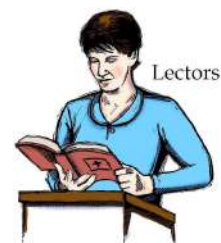
Children's Message



December	5	Pastor Eric or Deacon Carolyn
	12	
	19	
	26	

Lectors

		8:00 am	10:30 am
December	5	Mark Stuckey	Judy Mears
	12	Mike Bailey	Karen Wu
	19	Andy Gundlach	Madison Yontz
	26	Merry Christmas! No Lectors Scheduled	



Prayers of the People

December	5	Martha Thompson
	12	Carla Mitchell
	19	Judy Mears
	26	

Greeters

December	5	(8:00) Rich and Mary Ann Bevington (10:30) Dianne Farrar
	12	(8:00) Darlene Lowery & Tracey Risner (10:30) Dean & Karen Slater
	19	(8:00) Roz Orticari & Rainey (10:30) Kevin, Donna, & Madison Yontz
	26	(10:30) Darlene Lowery & Tracey Risner



December	5	(8:00) Rich and Mary Ann Bevington (10:30) Dianne Farrar
	12	(8:00) Jeannie Johnson (10:30) Dean and Karen Slater
	19	(8:00) Roz Orticari & Rainey (10:30) Kevin, Donna, and Madison Yontz
	26	(10:30 only) Tracey Risner and Darlene Lowery

December	5	Andy Castello/Schimmels	Andrew Castello	Greg
	12	Andy Castello/Schimmels	Andy G.	Sarah
	19	Andy Castello/Schimmels	Dean	Tom/John
	26	Andy Castello/Schimmels	Janet	Tim



Christmas Memorials

Christmas memorials and honors can be submitted until Noon on December 9th. You can pick up a form at the main usher stand, in the Church office, or use the order form in the November Zionews Letter.

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flower List for 2022 is posted on the bulletin board outside of the restrooms. Please reserve your preferred dates. As a reminder, the cost for the center vase is \$25.00 and the cost for a side vase is \$20.00.



Do you have an extra 4'-5' Christmas tree that you would be willing to donate to Zion for Gathering Room projects? Please contact the church office at 419-625-2112

FIRELANDS CHORUS, INC. IS PROUD TO PRESENT THEIR 2021 CHRISTMAS



PROGRAM, "MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS PAST" ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10TH, 2021 AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 2021 AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH. DOORS OPEN AT 7:00PM, AND THE PROGRAM BEGINS AT 7:30PM. THE

FIRELANDS CHORUS IS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MR. JEFFREY KEARNEY. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND AND ENJOY A WONDERFUL EVENING OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC!



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting

November 10, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Martha Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Rev. Eric Bodestab, Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt, Andrew Castello, Faye Gast, Darlene Lowery, Sheree' Miller, Carla Mitchell, Roslyn Orticari, Martha Thompson, and Kevin Yontz. Recording Secretary, Lori Wobser

Absent:, Tom Kinsel, Nancy Stewart, Savannah Castello, and Jarrod Todi.

OPENING DEVOTION & PRAYER:

Pastor Eric opened with a short devotional and prayer.

AGENDA:

Agenda approved as submitted.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from Care and Share in thanks for crockpots.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for the October 13, 2021 Council meeting stand as submitted with one correction: reference to the Sunday School room under Property and Facility report is amended to Sunday School Office as a point of clarification.

CLERGY REPORTS:

Pastor Eric – Written report submitted as filed.

Deacon Carolyn – Written report submitted as filed.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Martha Thompson, President – No report submitted.

Vice President, Carla Mitchell – No report submitted.

Secretary/Treasurer, Tom Kinsel – Written reports submitted as filed. Reports include September financials as they were not available for the October meeting.

MINISTRY TEAMS REPORTS:

Worship & Music – Sheree' Miller – Verbal report: Worship and Music Planning met earlier in the day to schedule hymns through the end of the year. The Children's Message will continue through the end of the year and will then be suspended.

Faith Formation – Jarrod Todi– Written report submitted by Vicki Boesch. Deacon Carolyn shared that Sarah Kemp is continuing work on the glass project for Zion. She is working on funding for her project. JOYTime is going very well and growing.

Stewardship & Administration –Roslyn Orticari – The next Stewardship and Administration meeting is scheduled for Nov. 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Youth & Young Adult – Andrew Castello and Savannah Castello – No written or verbal report submitted.

Property & Facilities – Faye Gast/Kevin Yontz – Written report submitted. Faye contacted MC Carpet Care and scheduled the carpet cleaning of the stairs, chapel, gathering room, and hallway for November 18, 2021. She also contacted Randy Koch regarding the steel door to the staff entrance and the specialty storm window that blew out last winter. Basement lighting was discussed. Contractors to be contacted for estimates on lighting, electrical, and suspended ceiling. The Girl Scouts have requested use of the basement for a special meeting in April. Until we know what the basement work project entails, we need to wait on this request. Gallons of hand sanitizer and disinfectant for backpack sprayer need to be moved from the Sunday School office shelving to the custodian area.

Parish Life – Darlene Lowery – There was a meeting of the cookie bakers. Gathering Hosts need to be added to the bulletin as a reminder to those who are to serve.

Mission & Outreach – Nancy Stewart – Written report submitted. Darlene mentioned that we need to submit a grant request to Wightman Wieber Foundation next year for the Thanksgiving Dinner.

OLD BUSINESS:

CIVISTA Account: Carla Mitchell reported the General Fund and Foundation accounts were both opened at CIVISTA. Lori is ordering checks for both accounts. We will be

ready to start using the accounts on January 1, 2022.

Gas/Electrical Contracts: Andrew Castello volunteered his time to research rates for both the gas and electric. Property and Facilities approved new contracts with lower rates.

Congregational Meeting: Pastor Eric will be in the AV booth letting members in via Zoom.

Budget Questions: No further questions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Holiday Schedule for Church Staff:

Discussion this month regarding day after Thanksgiving. Office Administrator would like clarification. Previously the Friday after Thanksgiving was observed as a paid holiday. When revisions were last made to the holiday schedule, we were closed on Fridays. A motion was made to give the Friday after Thanksgiving off as a paid holiday to the staff. Motion carried.

Patterson Family Scholarship Fund: The Patterson Family would like to meet with the Executive Committee. They are creating a Charitable Foundation and would like Zion to be a part of that. It will be brought to Council when all of the particulars are worked out.

Office Documents: Lori Wobser presented new office documents to the Council. An Announcement Form was created. If you need an announcement in the bulletin, Zionews, fliers, etc., please complete the form which is located in a folder on Office Administrators desk. Either give it to the office staff or place it in the top basket which is clearly labeled on the Office Administrator's desk. Disbursement Request Form: If you have to turn in receipts

for reimbursement, this form must be completed, receipts attached, the proper fund selected for reimbursement, and signed. This form is completed for every bill/reimbursement that comes through the office.

Basement Rental: A request was made from an outside party requesting rental of the space. Once money changes hands that put us in a different Insurance category. An organization that we sponsor or that works with us we don't charge. A motion was made to not rent the basement or any other part of the church. Motion carried.

Re-Designation of Undesignated

Gifts/Memorials: Current undesignated is split as 50% General Fund/25% Facilities Fund/25% Capital Campaign. Facilities and Capital Campaign are now incorporated into one. Motion was made to re-designate undesignated funds as 50% General Fund/50% Facilities. Motion carried.

Additions: There is a need to have a discussion with the youth, parents, and youth leadership. Council presented Lori Wobser with a commemorative garden stone in memory of her dad who recently passed away.

ADJOURNMENT: Lord's Prayer lead by Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori A. Wobser, Recording Secretary

Annual reports are due to Lori Wobser (loriwobser@zionsandusky.org) no later than December 27th and should be sent in a Word.doc.

Please make sure that any year end giving (above and beyond the weekly offering) is submitted prior to December 23rd to the church office to ensure that it gets credited to your giving statement for 2021.











If you would consider being a Gathering Host and/or Greeter for the 8:00 or 10:30 service, please contact Darlene Lowery at 419-541-0462, call the church office at 419-625-2112 to leave your name and number, or sign up on the bulletin board.



**The Church Office will be closed
Friday, Dec. 24th & Monday, Dec. 27
Friday, Dec. 31st & Monday, Jan. 2nd 2022**

December 2021




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. Matthew 2:10</i></p> 			<p>1 8:00 am Lectionary Study 9:30 am Staff Meeting</p> <p>2:00 pm Circle of Friends 6:00 pm Executive Committee 6:30 pm Agape</p>	<p>2 9:30 am Priscilla Group</p> <p>7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p> 	<p>4 Life line Screening</p> <p>6:00 pm Worship</p>
<p>5 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult Forum w/PE—Library 10:30 am Worship / WLEC Broadcast 1:30 pm Confirmation</p> 	<p>6 1-3:00 pm Pastor Eric Drop In Hours 2:00 pm Temple Caretakers 4:00 pm Foundation</p> <p>7:00 pm Firelands Chorus Rehearsal 7:00 pm Troop 8 Scouts</p>	<p>7 9:00 am Quilters 10-Noon Pastor Eric Drop In Hours 1:30 pm Text Study—In Person/FB</p> 	<p>8 8:00 am Lectionary Study 9:30 am Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Council</p> 	<p>9 Christmas Memorial Deadline</p> <p>7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30 pm Firelands Chorus Concert</p>	<p>11 1-5:00 pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor</p> <p>6:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Firelands Chorus Concert</p>
<p>12 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult Forum w/PE—Library 10:30 am Worship / WLEC Broadcast 1:30 pm Confirmation</p>	<p>13 10:30 am Praying In Color—Zoom 1-3:00 pm Pastor Eric Office Hours 2:00 pm Temple Caretakers 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Troop 8 Scouts</p>	<p>14 9:00 am Quilters 10-Noon Pastor Eric Drop In Hours 1:30 pm Text Study—In Person/FB</p>	<p>15 ZIONEWS DEADLINE</p> <p>8:00 am Lectionary Study 9:30 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Book Connection 7:00 pm Girl Scout First Aid Training</p>	<p>16 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 6:00 pm Worship</p> 
<p>19 8:00 am Christmas Program 9:15 am Adult Forum w/PE—Library 10:30 am Christmas Program/ WLEC 1:30 pm Confirmation</p> 	<p>20 1-3:00 pm Pastor Eric Office Hours 2:00 pm Temple Caretakers</p> <p>5:00 pm Property/Facilities 7:00 pm Troop 8 Scouts</p>	<p>21 9:00 am Quilters 10-Noon Pastor Eric Drop In Hours 1:30 pm Text Study—In Person/FB</p> <p>6:00 pm JOY Time 7:00 pm Stewardship/Admin. Mtg.</p>	<p>22 8:00 am Lectionary Study 9:30 am Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Faith Formation</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>24 OFFICE CLOSED 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship</p>  <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>25 10:30 am Christmas Day Worship</p> <p><i>Merry Christmas from Pastor Eric, Deacon Carolyn, Lori, and Kathy!</i></p> 
<p>26 10:30 am Service of Lessons and Carol</p>	<p>27 OFFICE CLOSED Annual Reports Due</p>	<p>28 9:00 am Quilters 10-Noon Pastor Eric Drop In Hours 1:30 pm Text Study—In Person/FB</p>	<p>29 8:00 am Lectionary Study</p> <p>Office closed in the morning for Staff Development.</p>	<p>30 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>31</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	