

# The Tidings

Zion Lutheran Church

January 2024



A blessed new year to all of you! As we rip off the last page of our 2023 calendar and hang a fresh, crisp 2024 one, we hear many people encourage us to “ring in the new year.” Others will ask us to make New Year’s resolutions to shed a few more pounds and run a few more miles.

As the people of God, we enter the New Year “in the Lord.” After all, this is the truth that is conveyed in the acronym “AD.” It is the abbreviation of the Latin phrase *anno Domini*, meaning “in the year of the Lord.” So, while the world asks us to make the New Year memorable, relevant, and significant by our actions and resolutions, God asks us to greet the changing year by remaining in him.

This leads us to an important question. How do we remain in the Lord as we flip the pages on the calendar from month to month, year to year? To be sure, we remain in the Lord by remaining in Christ. We remain in the Lord by living as the baptized children of God and continually receiving his grace in Word and Sacrament in our weekly worship. We remain in the Lord in prayer. We remain in the Lord in devotions upon God’s Word through resources like Portals of Prayer or Our Daily Bread. We remain in the Lord by studying his Word in Bible Study such as the different Bible Studies that we offer here at Zion. These are ways that we live as “AD” people this calendar year and hereafter. We as a church must remain in the Lord and continue our pursuit to protect and grow God’s Kingdom here on earth.

Here at Zion Lutheran, we are putting into action all the items we talked about at our congregational meeting, starting with having an emphasis on elder care and youth engagement in our congregation and around the greater Kerrville area. One way we are doing that is by welcoming our newest Assistant Pastor, John Onstott (more info on page 3). Pastor Onstott will serve with a focus on elder care and outreach for Zion and follow in the footsteps of Pastor Rauhut, Pastor Bigott, Pastor Johnson and many others from our storied past. We are also looking to build back a team of others in the congregation that would like to take communion to our homebound members and assist us in better caring for our spiritual family. If you would be interested in that ministry, please call the office and let us know.

We are hitting the ground running as we prepare to welcome the LCMC from around the great state of Texas to Zion Lutheran for this year’s Texas District Annual Gathering the last weekend in July. The MOB (Zion’s men’s group) will start to work with staff to spruce up our buildings and the grounds as we get closer to hosting our brothers and sisters from around the state. If you would be interested in this ministry, please call the office and let us know.

## Contact us!

**Website:** [www.zionkerrville.org](http://www.zionkerrville.org)

**Staff Emails:**

Pastor: [pastor-caleb@zionkerrville.org](mailto:pastor-caleb@zionkerrville.org)

Office: [office@zionkerrville.org](mailto:office@zionkerrville.org)

Finance: [finance@zionkerrville.org](mailto:finance@zionkerrville.org)

Church Council: [zlccouncil2023@zionkerrville.org](mailto:zlccouncil2023@zionkerrville.org)

Media Center: [mediacenter@zionkerrville.org](mailto:mediacenter@zionkerrville.org)

Judy Johnson: [judyj4819@gmail.com](mailto:judyj4819@gmail.com)

Dan Stisser: [danmusic@zionkerrville.org](mailto:danmusic@zionkerrville.org)

Children's Center: [children@zionkerrville.org](mailto:children@zionkerrville.org)

*Staff*

Pastor- Caleb Williams

Assistant Pastor- John Onstott

Office Secretary- Elaina McCoulskey

Financial Secretary- Diane Hartjen

Choir Director/ Organist- Judy Johnson

Organist/ Choir Accompanist- Helen Steele

Contemporary Service Director- Dan Stisser

Bell Choir Director- Jim Abbatiello

Children's Center Director- Jessica Russell

Nursery Attendant- Makayla Behrens

Property Manager- Jerry Staggs

Custodian- Freddy Ortegon

*Church Council Officers*

President- Jim Motheral

Vice President- Leslie North

Secretary- Debbie Jascur

Treasurer- Carol Green

*Representatives*

Children's Center- Larry Cattran

Property- Joel Johnson

Outreach- Patty Putnam

Worship & Music- Tammy Myers

*follow us - [www.zionkerrville.org](http://www.zionkerrville.org)*



## Member Updates

### Member Deaths

Kathryn Chapman

Oct. 10, 1933-Dec. 4, 2023

Douglas Dale Hannemann

Mar. 19, 1953-Dec. 17, 2023

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Tim & Karen Welsh's

New Address

P.O. 400

Weaverville, NC 28787

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### New Members

Jeff Wilson

Jeff is a U.S. Army Veteran and Hill Country Native. He studied at Schreiner University and is a nationally ranked debator. He is a certified nursing assistant and is furthering his studies for mortuary science and funeral directing. He enjoys the outdoors and working with his hands, including landscaping and carpentry.

Christopher Platt

Christopher is new to Kerrville and moved here from Southington, CT. He loves to walk, read about history, and about God. He would also like to serve the church in any way he can.

## November Attendance and Giving

November Attendance: 659

November Growth: 4.55% decrease

Year to Date Total: 8,363

November Tithes : \$20,360

November Growth: 26.68% decrease

Year to Date Total: \$318,678.71

## Rev. John B. Onstott



### Assistant Pastor

The Rev. John Onstott, a native Texan, has dedicated himself to the service of others, both professionally and pastorally, for over 47 years. Pastor John was ordained an Episcopal priest in 2006 and has served congregations in three parishes in New Mexico and Texas.

He left the Episcopal Church as they started to stray from Scripture, much like we left the ELCA and served as an Anglican Priest. Pastor John served as the full-time Rector of St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church of the Hill Country in Kerrville, TX. Pastor John also served churches in El Paso and Houston.

While in Kerrville, Pastor John has served as a part-time funeral director at Grimes Funeral Chapels, as well as assisting numerous families who have not had a minister by conducting their funeral/memorial services. Pastor John is very familiar and plugged into the senior and medical communities here in Kerrville and brings a wealth of information and practical expertise in the field.

Prior to his work in ministry Pastor John was Managing Partner of the leading funeral home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, at the same time attending seminary and was ordained to the Diaconate and the Sacred Order of Priests in the Episcopal Church in 2006. He was first a full time Curate and then the Associate Rector of The Church of the Holy Faith. While at Holy Faith, Pastor John began numerous church programs, including a healing service. As President of the Santa Fe Rotary Club, he served two terms as Coalition Chair of the Santa Fe Immunization Coalition and worked closely with the First Lady of New Mexico, Mrs. Barbara Richardson and senior New Mexico Department of Health officials. Pastor John served on the Santa Fe

Quality of Life committee, and was a board member of Gerard's House, a facility helping children who lost loved ones to violence in New Mexico.

Pastor John served as the Director of Public Relations for the Houston family of Dignity Memorial's 30 funeral homes and 7 cemeteries. For the four years prior, Pastor John was the President and CEO of Geo. H. Lewis & Sons Funeral Directors in Houston. He sat on several boards of directors, including the Baylor College Medicine Partnership, the Huffington Center on Aging, the Texas Immunization Partnership, Governing Director of the Houston Symphony, Trustee of the Houston Grand Opera and worked intimately with the Junior League of Houston, The Houston Polo Club, The Houston Rotary Club and other organizations. While in Houston, John was a member of the Houston Petroleum Club and the Houston Racquet Club. On top of all this he is an Eagle Scout and member of the Order of the Arrow Brotherhood of Honor Campers as well as recipient of the God and Country award.

Pastor John has continued to be a staunch protector of the Christian faith and was exploring moving to the Lutheran Church as the many parts of the church as a whole move away from the belief that Scripture does not change, that the Word of God endures forever, and that we can decide what is and what is not a sin. Pastor John explored other synods of the Lutheran Church here in America, such as WELS and LCMS, but felt drawn to the LCMC and relished the opportunity to stay and serve in the Kerrville area. Pastor Onstott was being used to cover for Pastor Caleb while he was in Israel for pastoral care needs and has already served many in our congregation. Pastor John met with the Zion Church Council in August and has been carefully considered over the past six months. Once the Church Council re-established the position and the Church's Congregation funded the position, he met with the Council President, Vice President, and Pastor Caleb and with the agreement of the Church Council was extended the offer to become the next Assistant Pastor, which he accepted. He was looking to step away from running a church as the lead pastor, but still feels he has a lot left for the ministry and is excited for the opportunity to do just that here at Zion. Pastor John will start on January 21st and information about an installment service (which will take place on a Sunday, between the first and second Divine Service) will be coming soon.

## Worship and Music Notes

Judy Johnson

In April of 1979, I stayed late after the Maundy Thursday service to wash communion ware. After I got home, my water broke and my son was born in the wee hours of Good Friday. My OBGYN had just told me, "That baby won't come until after Easter." But God had other plans! Pastor Caleb reminded us that the season of Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for Christ's second coming, and that we don't know when. Just as I prepared for my baby's arrival, getting the nursery in order and having supplies purchased, we, too, must be prepared for Jesus' arrival. Heaven forbid we should be without oil in our lamps when the bridegroom arrives! (Matthew 25: 1-13)

***"Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."***

I made baptism banners for both my children; Matthew's had spring colors and a butterfly with the words, ***"Behold, I make all things new."*** The Easter season was especially meaningful that year as I held new life in my arms. We can't be born again from our mother's womb (as Nicodemus asked Jesus that night), but born into a spiritual relationship with Him. Only then can we be truly ready for His second coming.

As we enter a New Year with new hopes and convictions, may we earnestly seek the Messiah as the wise men did. May we kneel to worship him, remembering that when He comes again ***"every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."***

(Philippians 2: 10-11)

Many, many thanks to all who helped to make our Advent/Christmas season so meaningful at Zion! Let's keep that spirit alive as we enter the season of Epiphany, awaiting the glorious day when our Savior returns for His Church. That's us!

*Happy New Year! Come, Lord Jesus!*

## WOMEN of the WORD

**Our Zion Women's Circles are praying for you to join them! Please look at the meeting times and come join one or more of the Bible studies!**

**Contact Cathy Krutsinger if you would like more information about our Zion Women's circles.**

**The next WOW Board meeting will be on Monday, January 8th at 2:00 p.m. in the conference room and all Zion ladies are welcome to visit.**

**Thursday, January 4th-Ruth/Rebecca** will meet at 9:30 in the conference room. Their study is called I Am Who I Am.

**Thursday, January 11th-Mary/Martha** will meet in the conference room at noon. They will continue with a Joyce Meyer study called-Living Without Frustration: How You Can Find Satisfaction in God's Grace.

**Thursday, January 11th -Deborah** will meet in the conference room at 2:00. The circle has chosen The Gospel on the Ground by Kristi McLelland as their new study.

**Fellowship Breakfast Group** will meet on Monday, January 8th at 9:00 at Cracker Barrel. This long time ministry was started in 1988! All ladies and their friends are invited to attend! Please join us at Cracker Barrel the 2nd Monday of each month at 9:00. Let's keep this ministry going!

**Lutheran World Relief-** Hand quilting continues each Tuesday morning at 9:00 in the quilting room. Please join us! The Quilting Group has finished about 80 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The Ingathering for the quilts is set for October 31st. Jim and Shirley Smith will take the quilts, along with 16 fabric kits, to Holy Ghost Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg.

**All Women of Zion** are invited to participate in donating items for CAM and the Women's Crisis Center!

**Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM)-** The first Sunday of each month is designated CAM Sunday. A list of food items needed is posted on the CAM box in the narthex. CAM could also use more volunteers. Contact CAM about how you might serve!

**Women's Crisis Center-** Please donate laundry detergent and any travel size soaps, shampoos or other personal care items. Drop off items in the CAM box in the Narthex.



# January 2024

**Every Sunday**  
 8:30 Prayer Cell  
 9:00 Traditional Worship  
 10:10 Sunday School  
 11:00 Contemporary Worship

All activities are subject to change

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec. 31	<b>1</b> Office/ZLCC Closed 12:00 WM AA	<b>2</b> 9:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA 6:30 ACA 6:30 Men's Group	<b>3</b> 11:30 Prayer 12:00 WM AA 5:00 Prayer 5:30 Potluck 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA	<b>4</b> 9:00 LWR Sewing 9:30 Ruth/ Rebecca 10:00 LBC 6:00 Praise Team	<b>5</b> 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	<b>6</b> 10:00 AA 10:00 NA 1:00 Liberty in Action
<b>7</b> 9 & 11 Communion 6:00 NA	<b>8</b> 12:00 WM AA	<b>9</b> 9:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA 6:30 ACA 6:30 Council Mtg	<b>10</b> 8:00 Health Clinic 11:30 Prayer 12:00 WM AA 5:00 Prayer 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA	<b>11</b> 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 LBC 12:00 Mary/ Martha 2:00 Deborah 6:00 Praise Team	<b>12</b> 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	<b>13</b> 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
<b>14</b> 9 & 11 Food For the Poor 6:00 NA	<b>15</b> 11:30 ZLCC Board 12:00 WM AA	<b>16</b> 9:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA 12:00 Book Club 6:30 Men's Group 6:30 ACA	<b>17</b> 11:30 Prayer 12:00 WM AA 5:00 Prayer 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA	<b>18</b> 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 LBC 6:00 Praise Team	<b>19</b> 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	<b>20</b> 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
<b>21</b> 9 & 11 Communion 6:00 NA	<b>22</b> 12:00 WM AA	<b>23</b> 9:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA 6:30 ACA	<b>24</b> 11:30 Prayer 12:00 WM AA 5:00 Prayer 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA	<b>25</b> 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 LBC 6:00 Praise Team	<b>26</b> 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	<b>27</b> 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
<b>28</b> 11:00 Service in Old Sanctuary	<b>29</b> 12:00 WM AA	<b>30</b> 9:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA 6:30 ACA	<b>31</b> 11:30 Prayer 12:00 WM AA 5:00 Prayer 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA	<b>Feb. 1</b> 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 LBC 6:00 Praise Team	<b>Feb. 2</b> 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	<b>Feb. 3</b> 10:00 AA 10:00 NA 1:00 Liberty in Action

# **What's Happening at Zion Lutheran Children's Center**

*ZLCC is an outreach ministry of Zion Lutheran Church; serving the Kerrville Community by providing Quality Education in a Nurturing Christian Environment.*

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## **January Birthdays**

*Happy Birthday to You!!*

Luis	Carson
Emberly	Braylin
Arisa	Ms. Staci
Darren	
Julian	
Oakley	
Raelynn	



## **Curriculum**

Week 1: Snow and Ice  
Week 2: Winter Wear  
Week 3: Small Winter Animals  
Week 4: Big Winter Animals  
Week 5: Igloos and Eskimos



## **Bible Focus**

Week 1: The Beatitudes  
Week 2: Matthew 5:5-6  
Week 3: Matthew 5:7  
Week 4: Matthew 5:8  
Week 5: Matthew 5:10-12

- <sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.  
<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.  
<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.  
<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.  
<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.  
<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



Please join us for Sunday Services

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 n.m.

Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

All are welcome



## **Inclement Weather/Emergency Closures**

Should hazardous driving conditions prevent the Center from opening at 6:30 am, it will open as soon as employees can arrive safely. If forewarned of such conditions, the Center will close and parents will be notified by means of Facebook.

Generally, Zlcc will follow KISD inclement weather closings. Should ZLCC need to close separately from KISD, Announcements will be made as soon as a decision has been made. Every effort for advance notice will be made.

Thank you for your continued support of our program!



## January Worship Assistants

**Ushers:** 9:00 a.m. Brenda Craig & Beverly Fischer  
11:00 a.m. Ted Hannemann, Harold Johnson,  
David & Sharon Turlington, Bobby Wilke

**Liturgists:** Brenda Abbatiello, Carol Greene, Mark Bigott

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<b>January 7</b>	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>Reader:</b> Mark Bigott <b>Reader:</b> David Turlington <b>Altar Flowers:</b>
<b>January 14</b>	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>Reader:</b> Sybil Marsh <b>Reader:</b> Betty Houston <b>Altar Flowers:</b>
<b>January 21</b>	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>Reader:</b> Linda Mann <b>Reader:</b> Donna Shirley <b>Altar Flowers:</b>
<b>January 28</b>	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>Reader:</b> Rebecca Wolf <b>Reader:</b> Jerrielee Rust <b>Altar Flowers:</b>

If you would like to provide altar flowers on any Sunday, please sign up on the flower chart in the narthex or call the office at 830-257-8411.

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## Happy Birthday!

01/01 Leah Freed	01/11 Johnna Taylor	01/18 Gary Hartjen
Ted Hanneman	01/12 Noelle Christensen	01/20 Kent Bressler
Dean Johnson	Marilyn Thompson	John Harrison
Colleen McDonough	01/13 Clayton Baldwin	01/21 Caryn Gates
01/02 Philip Ford	Pam Hilton	Debiann Gavin
01/04 Frank Fagg	01/14 Jeannette Craig	01/23 Sue Tiemann
Buck Thompson	Kaitlin Haverlah	01/24 Pam Guthrie
01/06 Gregory Lucas III	Dot Moss	Ezekiel Weber
Suzanne Wehmeyer	01/16 Kelly McKeon	01/25 Brentyn Altman
01/07 A.J. Lucas	Karen Welsh	01/27 Leslie North
Mary Vestuto	01/17 Kristin Brown	01/28 Verdie Wellborn
01/08 Everly Mobley	Gwen Lucas	01/30 Sean Gavin
01/09 Kenneth Zysko	Staci Pollard	01/31 Westin Brown
01/11 Debra Grace		James Smith



# Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt  
Director of Mission Growth



## 2024... Call to Prayer

For more than a decade, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) has invited members of congregations to engage in an intentional period of prayer at the beginning of each year. Known as "Three Days of Prayer", former LCMC Service Coordinator Mark Vander Tuig established this annual practice to draw our collective attention back to the throne of grace. He boldly shared his conviction that "the church of Jesus Christ will never rise up until it first falls on its knees."

Once again, the call goes out to you and to me. On January 2-4, 2024, we are invited as the body of Christ to follow our Lord Jesus' example to pray, pray, and pray some more! And if you are reading this message after those specific dates, please set aside your own three days of prayer. There's nothing special about the particular days themselves, other than it is an annual reminder to set aside an intentional time for focused prayer.

While we do not need set formulas or pre-written prayers to direct us as we pray, some may find it helpful to prepare prayer guides to focus their time. Consider organizing your thoughts with a list of prayer topics. I would encourage you to set aside specific times of day in which you pause, center yourself before God, and offer your prayers in Jesus' name. For some, the historic practice of pausing for prayer every third hour is a helpful pattern. For others, a morning and evening routine of extended prayer time is more fitting. Still others will gather in groups with their church for a time of corporate prayer on each of the three days. Another idea is to organize a round-the-clock prayer vigil for 72 hours of continuous prayer.

The point is this: *how* we pray is not nearly as important as it is *that* we pray. The same can be said regarding what we pray for. First and foremost, give to God in prayer all that is on your heart and mind. Ask for God to guide you as you pray through the power of the Holy Spirit to bring to mind what to pray for. We trust as the Apostle Paul teaches in Romans 8 that the Holy Spirit will indeed intercede for us when our own words run out.

Our LCMC staff has developed a helpful prayer guide filled with ideas and resources. You can find it at [www.lcmc.net/three-days-of-prayer](http://www.lcmc.net/three-days-of-prayer). This year, we are invited to pray for our congregations and leaders, for those who do not yet know Jesus, and for the church around the world, especially our international mission partners. I would also ask that we remember to pray for the raising up and sending out of future ministry leaders. In Matthew 9, Jesus says, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers out into his harvest." We have so much for which to pray. As we begin a new year, I pray that we may see God move in and through his church. Let it start with you and me on our knees.

*Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at [www.harvestworkers.net](http://www.harvestworkers.net)). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Please contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or [bryce@lcmctexas.org](mailto:bryce@lcmctexas.org).*

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January 2024





HANGING OF THE GREENS

ADVENT



