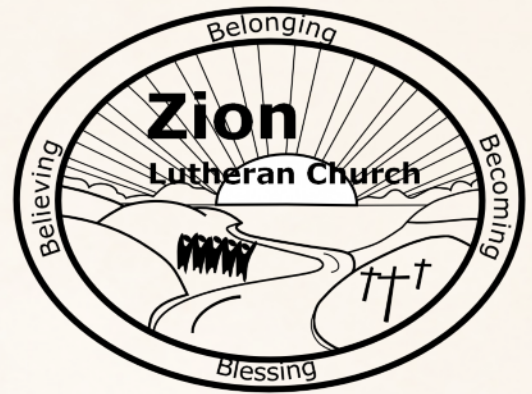


The Tidings

Zion Lutheran Church

January 2022



Pastor's Notes . . .

The Perfect Pastor

I have had this humorous piece in my files for, what seems, forever. It's a church joke with just a hint of exaggeration :)

- The Perfect Pastor preaches exactly 10 minutes. He condemns sin roundly, but never hurts anyone's feelings. He works from 8 a.m. until midnight, and knows how to fix the plumbing.
- He is 29 years old and has 40 years' worth of experience. Above all, he is handsome.
- The Perfect Pastor has a burning desire to work with teenagers, and he spends most of his time with the senior citizens.
- He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his church.
- He makes 15 home visits a day and is always in his office to be handy when needed.
- The Perfect Pastor always has time for church meetings and all of its committees, never missing the meeting of any church organization. And he is always busy evangelizing the unchurched.
- The Perfect Pastor has perfect children and his wife plays the organ.
- The Perfect Pastor is always in the next town over!

We have just begun the long and difficult process of pairing our congregation up with new pastoral leadership. You have filled out a simple questionnaire that highlights expectations and desires you feel are essential for any leader. You have an excellent team on the call committee. They bring a variety of talents and discernment to this process. But no matter how much we try there are never any guarantees. That is why I believe we need to remember that there are no perfect pastors or perfect call committees or perfect churches or perfect processes. As I like to say, there is only one hero in the Bible and He is Jesus. So, we pray, not for the perfect pastor but for the perfect master who has promised to provide.

God bless your ministry,

Pastor Mike

As an aside. The call process we are undertaking is very different than what you or other Lutheran churches have followed. The only process we know is the pastor leaves and an interim is called. Then the call process begins. This usually can take a year or two, depending on the supply or the hierarchy. In our previous denomination, and subsequent other Lutheran denominations, the retiring pastor and the called pastor never meet. It was actually discouraged so the transition might be made easier.

I have spoken with many pastors and leaders of congregations about my idea for a new process and have received favorable feedback. They have asked me to keep them informed about how it might work. To be short, we intend to call a pastor 2-3 months prior to my last Sunday. We will work together during this time-sharing thoughts and information about the personality of the congregation and hopefully the new pastor's vision of the future. I'm hoping the two of us working together can bring a positive feeling. My only involvement is to give advice to the call committee. I will not be a part of any interviewing or deciding. That is the Spirit and congregations' partnership. This is exciting and a bit of lip biting for all of us. However, as God told Moses, "Tell the people to move forward!"

Contact us!

Website: www.zionkerrville.org

Staff Emails:

Office: office@zionkerrville.org

Pastor: pastor-michael@zionkerrville.org

Finance: finance@zionkerrville.org

Church Council: zlcouncil2021@zionkerrville.org

Media Center: mediacenter@zionkerrville.org

Judy Johnson: judyj4819@gmail.com

Misty Erlund: mistymusic@zionkerrville.org

Dan Stisser: danmusic@zionkerrville.org

Children's Center: children@zionkerrville.org

Please notify Rachael in the church office if your email address changes



Staff

Pastor-Michael Williams
Office Secretary - Rachael Wheelock
Financial Secretary - Diane Hartjen
Youth & Volunteer Coordinator - Misty Erlund
Organist/Choir Director - Judy Johnson
Contemporary Service Director - Dan Stisser
Choir Accompanist/Organist - Amy Williams
Bell Choir Director - Jim Abbatiello
Children's Center Director - Jessica Russell
Nursery Attendant - Alex Legender
Building Maintenance - Scott Wheelock
Building Custodian- Freddy Ortega
Altar Guild - Linda Mann & Donna Shirley
Ushers - 9-Beverly Fischer, 11-Hank Johnson

Church Council Officers

President – Gary Hartjen
Vice President – Jim Motheral
Secretary – Karen Welsh
Treasurer – Debra Grace

Representatives

Children's Center – Larry Cattran
Property - Joel Johnson
Outreach - Bob Gates
Worship & Music - Tammy Myers

*Happy
New Year*

Member Updates

Deaths

Florine Kneese

Memorials

In memory of Florine Kneese given by:

Joe and Debra McLerran

Gladys Ottman

Greg and Karen Henrickson

Jackie Kneese

Helen Balcar, Shawn and Dianne

Cathy Itz

Delbert and June Oehler

Membership

Jana Nolan transferred to Zion in December

Baptisms

Phoebe Nolan

Thank you

Zion staff want to thank all those who contributed to the 'Outside Lights and Holiday Decorating' project this year. Whether by donations of goods, monetary giving or volunteering to assist, we are grateful to you for being part of making this beautiful historical church *merry and bright*; but, most of all, we are blessed to be a light for Jesus in our community.

A big thank you to all of those who supported the Giving Tree Project benefiting local shelters. It is because of your generous and thoughtful giving that we were able to bring much needed gifts and supplies to our local youth and women's shelters.

Worship & Music Notes

Judy Johnson

Many thanks to Amy Williams and all who participated in our Christmas Celebration: **Beyond the Gifts of the Magi!** It was a festive morning with an emphasis on all God's gifts to us.

No one receives an indescribable gift without telling everyone and showing his/her joy in the process. Just look at the folks on TV game shows, screaming and jumping up and down when their prizes are awarded. Or watch people standing, waving their arms wildly when their team has made the winning play. They can't contain their joy! And they want to tell everyone, re-living the wonderful events and the excitement of it all.

Jesus Christ is and will always be the best gift you ever received.

It's as if you won a multi-million dollar prize, the lottery, and the Publishing Clearing House sweepstakes. And the best part is that it never diminishes. All earthly gifts are consumed, and of course we can't enjoy them after we die, but not Jesus!

He is the gift that just keeps on giving.

Make a 2022 New Year's resolution to share this good news with others and witness to His love and grace. It's the best gift you can give someone!

January Calendar Highlights

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Jan 2 | New Year (Eccl. 3: 1-3) |
| Jan 9 | Epiphany (Matt. 2: 1-12) |
| Jan 16 | Confirmation/ Escape to Egypt (John 2:1-11) |
| Jan 23 | Return to Nazareth (Matt. 2:19-23) |
| Jan 30 | Next Gen |

Women of the Word

Contact Carolyn Freeman if you would like any information about our Zion Women's circles-830-896-0247.

Tuesday, January 4th

Sarah Circle will meet at 6:30 to study-Living Victoriously During Difficult Times.

Thursday, January 6th

Deborah Circle will meet in the conference room at 2:00 for their study.

Ruth/Rebecca Circle will meet in the adult Sunday School Room at 9:30 to continue their study of The Sermon on the Mount.

January 10th

Fellowship Breakfast Group will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00. Bring your own snack.

Thursday, January 13th

Mary/Martha will meet in the conference room at 12:00 to study - Are You Resisting or Assisting the Devil?

Lutheran World Relief

If anyone is interested in hand quilting, please join us on Tuesday's at 9:00 in the quilting room. The quilters have already begun on quilts for this fall! We still need cotton sheets of all colors, but especially, white.

Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM)

Our suggestion for **January** is **jellies**. **Grape jelly is always a favorite!** Just drop off foods in the box in the Narthex/Old Sanctuary basket or take foods directly to CAM.

Women's Crisis Center

Please donate any travel size soaps, shampoos or other personal care items. Drop them in the CAM box in the Narthex.

Sarah Circle will be donating laundry soap in December.

The WOW Thankoffering service was held on November 14th. The recipient of this year's offering went to support our missionary family. We were able to send \$1500 thanks to your generosity!

WOW provided lunch for rehearsal on December 12th.

January Worship Assistants

Ushers: 9:00 a.m. Bill and Brenda Craig
 11:00 a.m. Bobby Wilke, David & Sharon Turlington, Ted Hannemann, Denny & Joyce Doyle, Harold Johnson, Donna Shirley, Eddie & Julia Garza

Liturgists: Brenda Abbatiello, Misty Erlund, Karen Saunders, Judy Johnson, Amy Williams, Carol Greene

January 2-	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Reader: Mark Bigott Reader: Dennis Doyle Altar Flowers: Wheelock Family
January 9-	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Reader: Karen Saunders Reader: Gaye Janice Altar Flowers: Eric Franke & Kay Brown
January 16-	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Reader: Michael Borchers Reader: Linda Johnson Altar Flowers: Tim Welsh
January 23-	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Reader: Catherine Krutsinger Reader: Jerrilea Rust Altar Flowers: Walter & Karen Saunders
January 30-	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Reader: Next Gen Reader: Next Gen Altar Flowers: Available for sign-up

If you would like to provide **altar flowers** on any Sunday in 2022, please sign-up on the flower chart in the narthex or call the church office at 257-8411 and speak to Rachael for specifics.

January Birthdays

HANNEMANN, Ted	01/01	BALDWIN, Clayton	01/13	ALTMAN, Brentyn	01/25
MCDONOUGH, Colleen	01/01	CRAIG, Jeannette	01/14	NORTH, Leslie	01/27
FORD, Philip	01/02	HAVERLAH, Kaitlin	01/14	WELLBORN, Verdie	01/28
FAGG, Frank	01/04	MOSS, Dot	01/14	GAVIN, Sean	01/30
THOMPSON, Buck	01/04	MCKEON, Kelly	01/16	BROWN, Westin	01/31
CHAPMAN, Glen	01/06	WELSH, Karen	01/16	SMITH, James	01/31
LUCAS, Gregory III	01/06	LUCAS, Gwen	01/17		
WEHMEYER, Suzanne	01/06	POLLARD, Staci	01/17		
LUCAS, A J	01/07	HARTJEN, Gary	01/18		
VESTUTO, Mary	01/07	POLLEI, Jack	01/18		
SAUNDERS, Karen	01/09	BRESSLER, Kent	01/20		
ZYSKO, Kenneth	01/09	HARRISON, John	01/20		
GRACE, Debra	01/11	GATES, Caryn	01/21		
TAYLOR, Johnna	01/11	GAVIN, Debiann	01/21		
CHRISTENSEN, Noelle	01/12	TIEMANN, Sue	01/23		
THOMPSON, Marilyn	01/12	GUTHRIE, Pam	01/24		



Every Sunday
 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 10:10 Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

January 2022

All activities are subject to change



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
2 CAM Communion 8:30 Prayer Cell 10:10 Confirmation 12:30-3 Sr. High Mtg. 6:00 NA	3 3 Days of Prayer *Repentance* 12:00 WM AA	4 3 Days of Prayer *Restoration* 8:30 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA 2:15 Exercise Grp 6:00 A A. 6:30 Sarah Circle 6:30 A C O A	5 3 Days of Prayer *Revival* 10am ZLCC Chapel 12:00 WM AA 6:00 Jr. High Mtg. 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA	6 9:00 LWR Sewing 9:30 R&R Circle 10:00 God's Word Bible Study 2:00 D&D Circle 6:00 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:00 Exercise Grp 6:00 Sponsors Mtg.	7 9:30 Call Committee Mtg 5:30 AA	8 10:00 Aglow 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
9 Baptism of Our Lord 8:30 Prayer Cell 10:10 Confirmation & Sunday School 11 am Contemporary Service in Old Sanctuary 6:00 NA	10 9:00 Women's Breakfast 12:00 WM AA 11:30 ZLCC Brd. Mtg. 12:00 WM AA 2:00 WOW Brd. Mtg.	11 8:30 Staff Mtg. 12:00 AA 2:15 Exercise Grp 6:00 A A 6:30 Council Mtg 6:30 A C O A	12 10 am ZLCC Chapel 10-11 Quilt Guild Brd. Mtg 12:00 WM AA 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA	13 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 God's Word Bible Study 6:00 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:00 Exercise Grp 6:00 Sponsors Mtg.	14 Newsletter Deadline 9:30 Call Committee Mtg 5:30 AA	15 9:00 Garden Club 10:00 NA 10:00 AA
16 Communion 8:30 Prayer Cell 10:10 Confirmation Sunday School 12:30-3 Sr. High Mtg 6:00 NA	17 8:30-4:30 Quilt Guild OS 12:00 WM AA	18 8:30 Staff Mtg. 8:30-4:30 Quilt Guild OS/FH 8:30 Staff Mtg. 12:00 AA 2:15 Exercise Grp 6:00 A A 6:30 ACOA	19 12:00 WM AA 10-12 Sista's Study 6:00 Jr. High Mtg. 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA	20 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 God's Word Bible Study 6:00 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:00 Exercise Grp 6:00 Sponsors Mtg.	21 9:30 Call Committee Mtg 5:30 AA	22 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
23 8:30 Prayer Cell 10:10 Confirmation & Sunday School 11am Service in Old Sanctuary 1-3 Next Gen Mtg. 5-6 Prayer Hour 6:00 NA	24 12:00 WM AA	25 8:30 Staff Mtg. 12:00 AA 2:15 Exercise Grp 6:00 A A 6:30 ACOA	26 10:00 ZLCC Chape 10-12 Sista's Study 12:00 WM AA 6-8 Next Gen Mtg. 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA	27 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 God's Word Bible Study 6:00 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:00 Exercise Grp 6:00 Sponsors Mtg.	28 9:30 Call Committee Mtg 5:30 AA 6:30 Movie Night	29 10:00 AA 10:00 NA 1-3 Next Gen Mtg
30 8:30 Prayer Cell 10:10 Confirmation Sunday School Next Gen Service 6:00 NA	31 12:00 WM AA					

Mission Moments

Reflecting on Advent & Christmas

By Kari Malinak

Happy New Year! Well, as I write this, happy new liturgical year! With Advent, the Christian Church begins a new cycle of seasons and liturgy. Advent is a special season filled with hopeful anticipation, expectation, and joy knowing the celebration of Christ's birth is only a handful of weeks away. Advent is also a penitential season in which we reflect on the need of God entering this sinful world and our own sinful nature. In our modern world, though, we can lose the meaning in a hectic holiday season. So, writing this now, I hope we can appreciate Advent and Christmas in a calmer time.

In this Mission Moment, let's join to reflect on Christ's birth: Consider the King of kings, the Lord of lords, before His birth. As the second person of the Trinity, Jesus could have rightfully entered this world with pomp and circumstance, demanding glory and laud; instead, we find an infant born in humble means and placed in a feeding trough. What do the crude circumstances of Christ's birth tell us of the nature of God and the nature of God's kingdom?

First, we witness the humble and gentle Spirit of the Lord. As Paul writes to the Philippians, Jesus "did not count equality with God a thing to be exploited, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men." Jesus did not exercise His divine right, demanding to be served and worshiped, but came to serve humanity by living perfectly, as none of us can do, to give us His own righteousness through His death and resurrection.

Second, in His humble birth and life, we see that Jesus and His Kingdom are for all – there is no earthly hierarchy or preference involved in His birth and there is no earthly hierarchy or preference involved when He will come again to draw us all unto Himself.

In this new year, reflect on Jesus' humble birth, asking yourself:

- Why does it matter (if it matters, at all) that the God who created all the world entered humanity without pomp and circumstance or luxury?
- Why did God choose this particular setting and scene for Jesus to enter the world, and what does this tell us about the nature of the kingdom of God?

Advent opens for us, not only the new liturgical year, but the opportunity to share with others the extent of God's love. Let's pray...

Lord, we lift praise and thanks to You for entering humanity so long ago. We give You all glory for showing us Your own gentle Spirit and for counting us worthy to receive Your forgiveness, though we cannot and have not earned it. Bless us these Advent and Christmas seasons, giving us the courage to share You with others, telling of Your humble birth that those around us may know You as their eternal loving and saving Lord. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Note: This guest post is by Kari Malinak. Kari serves as the Associate Pastor of Living Word Lutheran Church in Grapevine. Kari was elected to the District Council in 2020.

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). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Feel free to contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 ext. 2 or bryce@lcmctexas.org.