

Zion Weekly News

December 27, 2020
1st Sunday of Christmas



ZION
Lutheran Church

Serving Christ by Sharing God's Love

A Warm Welcome to Zion!

*No matter where you are on your spiritual journey,
you are welcome in Zion's faith community.*

Check out our **NEW** website at ziongr.org, call,
or scan the QR codes for more information.
Like our Facebook page facebook.com/ZionGR.



COVID Update

We are doing our best to provide online and/or physically distanced worship and activities while following CDC, state and synod recommendations and keeping everyone safe. Evaluated weekly. Note that the MN Dept. of Health recommends people at high risk stay home. Staff are working a hybrid of office and home. The church is open for day-to-day business—call first to be sure someone is there—and small groups if scheduled. The south door is open when staff are present. **Please read the COVID Info & Procedures on p. 4.** Watch for updates as the situation evolves.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—elca.org.

WORSHIP

Online Worship Posted Sundays



8:00am—Zmail & [YouTube](#)

9:30am—[Facebook](#) premiere

Zmail signup [here](#) or on the website. Bible readings linked on Zmail. Offering donations [here](#) or mail.



Communion Outside—Wed., Jan. 13, 6:00pm

Join us on the south side of Zion for a brief communion service. Bundle and mask up.

Online Connection Card

For Guests and Members—On website homepage or [here](#)

Introduce yourself, request prayers, update contact info, message staff or submit communion records. (Prayer chain can also call 326-8553.)



Community Light Display

Zion's South Parking Lot

Lighted 4:30-10:00pm

We're leaving the lights on as long as we can! The big white pine is lit, and there's a tree display near the garage too that can also be used as a photo backdrop any time. Share your photos on Facebook and tag Zion. Drive by—we hope this brings some joy this Christmas!

*Thanks to those who gave staff
special gifts this Christmas season!
We so appreciate your kindness.*

Pastor Ben, Patty, Sonja & Tiina



A huge

Thank You

**to everyone who helped
with Christmas Eve Events
& Worship Videos
and the Christmas light
display! We couldn't do it all
without your help. We are
grateful for YOU!**



YOUTH STUFF

Tentative Timeline for Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Jan. 6 - 20	Confirmation, 5 th & 6 th Grade and Sunday School: Either a three week Epiphany Kit or weekly online material for Family devotions.
Jan. 6, 13 or 20	Weather depending, outside programing from 6:00–6:45pm for 5 th – 8 th Grade. Not required—an opportunity to be with friends and caring adults. Monday announcements each week to confirm.
Jan. 17	Middle School Event—outside, activity TBD
Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7	10:15–11:00am Sunday School in-person (Youth Rm.)
Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10	6:45–7:30pm Confirmation in-person, inside in Chapel, Fellowship Hall and one other room (121?)
Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10	6:45–7:30pm 5 th & 6 th Grade Youth in-person (Gym)
Feb. 17	Ash Wednesday

To be added to emails or if you have questions contact [Sonja Nelson](#).

Children's Ministry—Age 3 to 4th Grade Register for Sunday School [here](#) (potty trained and masked when in person).

Youth Registration Register [here](#) for 5th & 6th grade, 7th & 8th Confirmation, High School Youth, Peer Ministry & Middle School Youth.



YOUTH MINISTRY &
MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE
NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD

Mental Health Podcasts!

To educate and help families begin conversations. <http://www.nemnsynod.org/mental-health-podcasts.html>.

Epiphany Women's Facebook Bible Study Jan. 6-Feb. 10

Twice a week Bible lesson post with discussion through the week. Zoom meetings will occur on Jan. 10, 24 and Feb. 7. To sign up, go to Zion's Facebook page to request joining the group. After Jan. 4, the group will be closed and private.

God's work. Our hands.

Confirmation Mentors Needed for Lent!

Caring adults willing to text, call, email or write to a 7th or 8th grade youth. Our mentor program for Lent will be "distanced" with our social interaction through alternative forms. Mentors will receive a weekly schedule of easy, friendly questions for their youth, suggestions on how to interact and prayer suggestions for the week. If you are interested or have questions, contact [Sonja Nelson](#).

Zion's Open Closet

Free Clothing for Our Neighbors in Need

HOLIDAY CLOSURE—Dec. 11-Jan. 3



Need Clothing? Call 999-9631 Mondays from 9-noon starting Jan. 4 to place an order or leave a message. One order/family/month. Items are packaged for physically distanced pickup.

No donations until January—we are full. Thank you! Watch for updates as the situation changes.



Donations & Volunteers Needed

[Online](#) Food Shelf donations are welcome. To volunteer contact [Deb](#) at 612-619-4237—must be under 69.

The
Community Café

Free, curbside-to-go meals

Tue, Wed., & Thu., 4:30-6:30

Kiesler Wellness Ctr., 3130 SE 2nd Ave.

No volunteers due to COVID. Please support local restaurants who support Community Cafe through the annual Empty Bowls event.

COVID Info & Procedures

- We are doing our best to provide online and/or physically distanced worship/activities while following safety recommendations.
- **Masks required**—covering nose & mouth per Zion's COVID Plan and [MN Mandate](#). Children under 2 exempt, 2-5 encouraged.
- **Stay physically distanced—6 feet apart.**
- **Please use hand sanitizer and/or wash hands.**
- **If you or a family member have symptoms, are sick or exposed to a case, please stay home!** Symptoms can include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, fatigue, congestion or loss of taste or smell. Gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting or diarrhea are less common.
- **If you test positive and have recently been at church while infectious**, please contact the office.
- We are open for small groups with safety protocols required—you must be scheduled with the office for potential contact tracing. NEW! No food or beverages consumed in the building.
- [MN Dept. of Health](#) recommends people at [high-risk](#) (over 65 or underlying medical conditions) stay home. The [CDC](#) has info too.
- Church Council evaluates monthly. Watch for updates. See [Zion's COVID Plan](#) for detailed info. [NE MN Synod](#) recommends a conservative approach for the health and wellbeing of members.



NE MN Synod ELCA

Mental Health [Resources](#).
COVID info, podcasts, crisis numbers, etc.

EcoFaith Network Videos--
www.nemnsynod.org/ecofaith.html.



Media Access

Zion Weekly News: Print copies at the Welcome Center. No internet? To get one mailed issue each month, call the office.

Devotionals: On the lobby bookshelf—use south entrance—open when staff are present.

Worship CDs: No internet and homebound? We will mail a worship audio CD weekly on request. [Email](#) or call 326-8553.



Bible Studies

Martha Circle—2nd Wednesday at 9:00am—Fellowship Hall.
Rebecca Circle—2nd Thursday at 6:30pm on Zoom. Contact Peggy White at 360-2420 for more info or a Zoom invite. The studies are published in the *Gather* magazine. All women are invited! Check the new [WELCA website](#) for *Gather* links.

Foster Care Backpack Collection We continue to collect items for high schoolers. If you can contribute any new items, please contact Peggy White (218) 360-2420 or [email](#) to arrange a time to meet at church, and she will add your items.

- Women's or men's sweatpants (S,M,L,XL)
- T-shirts (all sizes)
- Deodorant
- Combs
- Brushes
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste (Regular size)
- Tampons or pads for females
- Journals or notebooks
- Adult Coloring Books/Colored Pencils
- Small, handheld games or decks of cards

Tuesday Call to Prayer can be practiced at noon Tuesdays. It is beautiful! The link is at womenoftheelca.org.

Prayer Shawls Do you knit or crochet? Prayer shawls are warm, soft and wrap around the recipient. Each stitch is filled with prayers, a gift of God's love through the skill of the maker...those prayers are felt. Here is a pattern [link](#). Questions? Fay Klande 492-4338 or Ann Godfrey 259-5548.



Summer Camp 2021

Registration is open! Half capacity on-site programs, in addition to Canoe Country and retreats based on CDC recommendations. No Day Camp in 2021.

Staff Employment Opportunities 2021

Looking for those who want to do camp in new ways and adapt to a changing landscape of serving youth. Apply [here](#) or contact for info.

VLMcamps.org, vlm@VLMcamps.org, 800-331-5148, 218-666-5465
Office CLOSED Dec. 24-Jan. 4



E-Giving @ Zion

**3 additional
ways to give:**

Introducing
GIVE+Mobile
from **VANCO**
PAYMENT SOLUTIONS.



- **Online**—Donate at ziongr.org
- **Text**—Text the amount you want to give, ex. “40” to (218) 935-6112
- **Give+ App**—Find “Give Plus” in the App store and search for Zion

***One-time donation or recurring...
make changes yourself any time without a form.***

Switching from offering envelopes? Notify us to take you off the order list. *Envelopes are ordered in summer for the entire year.*

Changing from Simply Giving? Fill out form (on website “Donate” page), sign and email/return to office to stop bank draft first.

Vanco is the same company we use for Simply Giving.

Zion Finance Update—November 2020

Thanks so much for your continued support!

Monthly Summary

Account	Budgeted Need	Received	Surplus/Deficit
General Fund	\$42,542	\$45,426	\$2,884
Building Fund	\$8,512	\$9,598	\$1,086
Renewing Zion	\$4,500	\$10,228	\$5,728
Mission Support (ELCA)	\$4,543	\$2,808	-\$1,735

Year-to-Date Summary

General Fund	\$467,958	\$394,737	-\$73,221
Building Fund	\$93,632	\$75,180	-\$18,452
Renewing Zion	\$49,500	\$47,850	-\$1,650
Mission Support (ELCA)	\$39,474	\$22,402	-\$17,072

Debt

Account	Balance
Building Mortgage	\$449,683
Honeywell Loans	\$0

Zion's Weekly Calendar

During this uncertain time, please watch for changes.

Sun., Dec. 27

8:00am Online Worship from the
NE MN Synod—Zmail &
YouTube Link

9:30am Online Worship from the
NE MN Synod—Facebook
Link

Sun., Jan. 3

8:00am Online Worship (YouTube
& Zmail)

9:30am Online Worship
(Facebook Premiere)

PLEASE NOTE:

***The church office will be closed
to the public Dec. 28-Jan. 1.
Staff will be in and out.***

Thu., Dec. 31—New Year's Eve

Fri., Jan. 1—New Year's Day

Holiday—Office & Church Closed

News Deadline is the 15th of the prior month.

Send news/calendar info to tiina@ziongr.org or bring to the office.

*Room Key: S=Sanctuary, CH=Chapel, CLC=Christian Life Center/Gym, K=CLC Kitchen,
L=Library, FH=Fellowship Hall, MR= Music Room, YR=Youth Room,
CR=Office Conference Room, LR=Living Room, BR=CLC Ball Room*



Zion Staff

2901 S. Hwy. 169, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

218.326.8553

Pastor
Worship & Music
Children, Youth & Family Ministry
Church Administrator

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