

Zion Weekly News

December 20, 2020
4th Sunday of Advent
Week 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.

Celebrate the Birth of Jesus! Christmas Eve with Zion

Thursday, December 24

All is Calm, All is Bright

A Christmas Eve Pilgrimage

Outdoors—South Parking Lot

3:00-4:00pm Drive-Thru Event

5:00-7:00pm Walk-Thru Event

Communion Available

**Sign up for 15-minute arrival increments [here](#)—
attendance limited. Masks and distancing required.**

Please enter at north driveway and exit the south.

For Walk-Thru, park in north lot and go through the church.

No internet? Call Tiina 326-8553 to sign up.

Christmas Worship Online

**3:00pm Folk & Praise — 5:00pm Traditional
Facebook Premiere**

Zmail & YouTube Posted at 3:00pm

Worship any time at your convenience.

Community Light Display

Zion's South Parking Lot

Lighted 4:30-10:00pm

The big white pine is lit! 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!

Advent at Zion



*The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.* John 1:5

Online Worship Posted Sundays

8:00am—Zmail & YouTube OR 9:30am—Facebook premiere

Zmail signup on the [website](#). Worship any time at your convenience.
Offering donations [here](#) or mail to the church.

Online Connection Card

For Guests and Members—[Here](#) or website homepage.

Introduce yourself, request prayers, update contact or communion info.

Volunteer Opportunities for Christmas Eve Setup

We need your help. Shifts starting at 10:00am and ending with takedown following the events. **If you can help, please contact [Tiina](#) or call the office 326-8553.**

We will need ushers, parking attendants, luminary setup, luminary lighting, prayer station candle lighters, stations setup (moving hay bales, manger, choral risers, nativity, communion station, prayer station, sound system), take down, etc.



Christmas Poinsettias in memory of...

- Our departed loved ones given by Jim & Sylvia Olson
- Ed & Ellie Bruns given by Chris & Bill Threinen
- Our parents, Bryce & Renee Ross and Jim & Margaret Medure given by Donna & Pat Medure
- Robb, Grandma Edith and Grandpa Bob given by Lyle & Tiina Eidelbes



Christmas Poinsettias in honor of...

- The essential workers during and beyond this time of pandemic given by Paula & Bob Ross. Prayers for safety and well being.
- Study group and renewal group given by Jim & Sharon Haiskanen
- Erinn, Zach, Amy, Owen & Claire given by Lyle & Tiina Eidelbes

A gift to ELCA World Hunger in memory of...

- Robert Salmi, Jon Brandt, Earl & Eldora Peterson, Harry & Margaret Brandt and Harry E. Anderson given by Nancy Salmi

A gift to ELCA World Hunger in honor of...

- Our parents, our children and their spouses and our 10 grandchildren given by Nancy & Roger Ralston

God's work. Our hands.

Zion's Open Closet

Free Clothing for Our Neighbors in Need

HOLIDAY CLOSURE—Dec. 13-Jan. 3

NO DONATIONS until January—we are full. Thank you!



Donations & Volunteers Needed

[Online](#) Food Shelf donations are welcome. To volunteer contact [Deb](#) 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 Empty Bowls event.

YOUTH STUFF

Programs Paused For the safety of all, we are paused for in-person programs. Sunday School and Confirmation will use Advent kits at home as our major December activity. Contact [Sonja Nelson](#) to be added to emails. Please be patient as we journey through this time, trusting in the hope of Jesus.

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>.

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.

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. 20—Advent 4

8:00am Online Worship (YouTube & Zmail)

9:30am Online Worship
(Facebook Premiere)

Mon., Dec. 21

1:30pm Staff Meeting (FH)

Tue., Dec. 22

4:30pm Finance Committee (FH)

6:00pm Church Council (FH)

Wed., Dec. 23

6:00pm Holden Evening Prayer—
Facebook & YouTube

Thu., Dec. 24—Christmas Eve

3:00-4:00pm All is Calm, All is
Bright Christmas Eve DRIVE-
Thru—**Reservation
Required**—see p. 2

3:00pm Christmas Eve Worship,
Folk & Praise & Traditional—
Zmail & YouTube

Worship at your convenience

3:00pm Christmas Eve Worship,
Folk & Praise—Facebook
Premiere

5:00-7:00pm All is Calm, All is
Bright Christmas Eve WALK-
Thru—**Reservation**

Required—see p. 2

5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship,
Traditional—Facebook
Premiere

Sun., Dec. 27

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



All is Calm, All is Bright. God is with us.

Merry Christmas from Zion's Staff!

Pastor Ben, Patty, Sonja & Tiina

Zion Staff

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

Pastor

Worship & Music

Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Church Administrator

Ben Buchanan

Patty Dorn

Sonja Nelson

Tiina Eidelbes

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