

Zion Lutheran Church

Newsletter

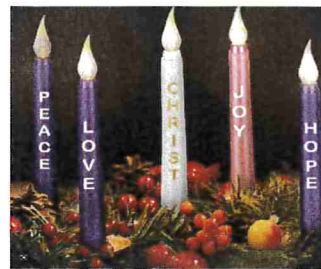
December 2022



Christ is coming. He's another day closer to being here at the writing of this article, and several days closer at your reading it (Unless He's already returned, in which case, the paper has been burned up; the computer destroyed; and the new heavens and new earth have been established and you won't care about this article: you'll be in the eternal presence of God. Christ is going to return. It's His promise: ⁷**"And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."** ...²⁰ **He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹ **The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.** (Rev. 22:7, 20-21)

You better not pout; you better not cry ... He sees you when you're sleeping; He knows when you're awake. He knows when you've been bad or good; so be good for goodness sake! But while this is also true of God (even if it is a song about Santa Clause), our God is not a Santa Clause God, though our Lord is a giver of much better gifts (Plus, He doesn't wait until the last minute to go out and buy them.), our God is a giver of gifts that are greater than those we unwrap on Christmas morning.

Advent is a season that confronts us with who we are and what we need. Christmas means very little, if we don't appreciate our great need. We are weak, afflicted, suffer with sickness and sorrows, fears and death.



I know that many of us have already set up our decorations and trees. While I personally struggle against that, I understand the impulse behind it: we are looking forward to something; we are awaiting a day or days of joy. In that way, setting up for Christmas isn't such a bad thing. We are looking forward to a better day.

Christmas is a time in which even the world pauses to celebrate (even if it's in a pagan way), but we take some time to rejoice in family and friends and have a breath of fresh air in a world full of darkness and hate and death.

Our God came into this world in our own flesh to bear our sin, suffering, and death that we might not die eternally. He was born to bear our sins to the cross; to die our death and rise that we might rise again to glory with our bodies intact and perfected – that we might be as He is: not God, but glorified, as He has been glorified.

Apart from repentance and faith (which is to say the same thing twice) we can't enter the kingdom of heaven. But Advent looks towards Christmas just as it looks toward the last day, and just as it looks toward the Lord's Body and Blood in the Sacrament: here we receive the foretaste of the feast to come, where the Lord Advents with us, and Christmases with us, and Good Fridays with us, and Easters with us.

He's coming soon: stay tuned this Sunday and the eternal Sunday to come. Blessed Advent.

Your servant in Christ,
Pr. Siebert

Pastor Siebert will be in his office at church on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00 and on Thursday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00 for private confession and absolution. You can call him at 785-262-7448 if you would like to meet with him when he is not in his office.

Angel Tree Ministry: Zion Lutheran Church is again partnering with Angel Tree Ministry to provide Christmas gifts for children whose mom or dad is in prison. There are tags on the Christmas tree in the narthex with a child's name and information. Please wrap the gift and return it, with the tag, to church by December 18. Suggested cost for the gift is \$25. Volunteers will deliver the gifts to the children. Thank you for participating.

Kingisepp Orphanage: Zion Lutheran Church has made a commitment through Orphan Grain Train to sponsor "our" orphanage in Kingisepp, Russia, dating back to around 2005. It cost \$840 per quarter or \$3,360 per year to sponsor the orphanage. We currently have \$350 in our account at Orphan Grain Train and our next quarterly payment needs to be sent in January. Please prayerfully consider making a donation for our orphanage. Checks can be made out to Zion Lutheran Church, clearly designating it for "orphanage".

Greetings from Pastor Ron Benson and Karen Reehl Tiederman of Orphan Grain Train

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the Name of our RISEN Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who was, who is and who is to come, amen. We pray, as we approach Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas, our schedule is such that in all things we keep Jesus the main focus and center of our life.

We give thanks to God today and always for you, for your support and prayers for the Mission God has given us to partner with, and share with His people away, the love of Jesus. It is because of His love for us, we love one another. You show that love by your generous offering. THANK YOU! Four of us recently returned from a mission trip to the Baltic countries. The trip was successful in many ways. We were able to visit all of our orphanages, prisons and elderly care facilities in the Baltics, plus a

few container sites along the way. We even spent the night at one of our orphanages, allowing us to spend a little extra time with those living there. We also began a brand-new program to extend visits to the orphanages and elderly care facilities, working with local churches and members. Another highlight is that we were able to meet and spend some time with three of our coworkers from Russia, Nikolai, Valentina, and Pastor Evgeny who works with the Hannah House. We were able to accomplish so much in the short time we were there. God truly blessed our time together. Please, keep all our coworkers, Directors, children the elderly and those who are in the prisons and in the hospitals in your prayers. The message that we heard from all of our friends is this, "we want our lives to be just like they used to be, and we want you to come back to see us again." Prayers change things. Please know you are in our prayers as we thank God for each of you. Your humble servants and friends, Pastor Ron Benson and Karen Reehl Tiedeman.

Karen Tiedeman will be at Zion on Sunday, January 15, 2023. She will give a presentation about Zion's orphanage in Kingisepp and her most recent visit to the Baltic countries at 10:15 in place of our regular Bible study time. You won't want to miss her informational presentation.

Parking Lot Project Up-date

The start of this project has been delayed. At this time, we don't anticipate that it will start until sometime after December 11.

It is expected to take about two weeks to complete. During this time, people attending worship services should enter the driveway north of the sanctuary and park in the graveled or grassy area north of the driveway. You will be able to enter church through the doors on the north side of the sanctuary. Volunteers will provide valet parking for those who needs special assistance by driving your vehicle to the entrance of the narthex.

LWML Mission Project for the month of December is the Hastings Food Pantry. A box will be in the back of the church to place your donations of non-perishable food items and paper goods.

Quilting/Sewing Group will meet at Zion Lutheran Church on Monday, January 9, at 10:00 AM. There are usually 5-6 ladies from each congregation who tie an average of 20-22 quilts each month. In 2022, 268 quilts have been completed and taken to the Orphan Grain Train facility in Grand Island. Other sewn items donated to Orphan Grain Train are book bags, diapers, pillowcase dresses, blankets, and comforters. In 2022, a total of 813 sewn items were donated. Marge Peterson made over 20 plastic mats that were donated to Orphan Grain train. Now that she has two new shoulders, she hopes to make about two mats per week. That is a lot of plastic bags being recycled. The sewing group is in much need for sheets to be used for quilt backs and liners. You can contact Janey Sittner if you would like more information.

Orphan Grain Train would like to thank everyone for all the volunteer hours and donations. They wish everyone a Merry Christmas and blessings for the new year.

Bible and Hymn Study (formerly the Worship Committee) will begin meeting every week on Wednesday, January 4, from 9:30 to 10:30 AM following ZCA Chapel Service. No musical experience is required. We will review the scripture readings, have a hymn study and select hymns to be sung during worship that enhance the messages of the readings. This is your opportunity to suggest some of your favorite hymns.

New Year's Eve Fun and Fellowship: Please join us in the West Fellowship room following the Saturday worship service to celebrate the beginning of the new year. Bring a snack and a beverage to share. There will be board games, card games, corn hole or just sit and visit.



Thank you to the crew who put up the snow fences. The group was diverse in ages ranging from 12 to 90. Roger Sittner, Ed Buss, William Kusters, Noah Kusters, Braden Hueftle, Brian Hueftle, Ron Lofing, Harold Kelley and Gayle Mankin. Photograph by Adam Mankin

On the Air for Christ: The cost of broadcasting our worship services for 2023 has increased to \$185. Zion Lutheran Foundation has provided funding for this ministry. With the current stock market, funding from the Foundation is uncertain at this time but will remain a priority. We are requesting a minimum of \$75 to sponsor the broadcast. This has always been an important mission outreach to our community and we are thankful for your continued support.





December Birthdays

Trenton Halbmaier	Dec 1
Robert Stark	Dec 1
Rose Henriksen	Dec 2
Royce Holliday	Dec 3
Matthew Wallin	Dec 3
Devin Hueftle	Dec 4
Tyler Weseman	Dec 4
Blake Bourland	Dec 6
Debra Goodrich	Dec 6
Andrew Critel	Dec 7
Gayle Kranau	Dec 10
Corinne Manske	Dec 10
Kay Struss	Dec 10
Keith Kopisch	Dec 12
Greg Eckhardt	Dec 13
Kenneth McGrath	Dec 17
Laura Hargis	Dec 18
Conner Kelley	Dec 21
Kieton Armstrong	Dec 25
Jerry Hull	Dec 26
Amanda Rooker	Dec 27
Susan Nielsen	Dec 28
Aidyn Dobrovolny	Dec 30
Lilian Rooker	Dec 30
DeLores Alloway	Dec 31

December Baptism Birthdays

Orva Lovejoy	Dec 1
Ed Buss	Dec 4
Linda Wills	Dec 4
Tyler Hinrichs	Dec 8
David Harlow	Dec 9
Sarah Fischer	Dec 12
Dylan Hinrichs	Dec 12
Rachel Eckhardt	Dec 14
Becky Koepke	Dec 14
Beth Koepke	Dec 14
Robert Meyer	Dec 14
Donna Peterson	Dec 16
Jarilyn Lyons	Dec 18
Trenton Halbmaier	Dec 19
Corinne Mankin	Dec 20
Devin Hueftle	Dec 21
Caden Boyer	Dec 24
Andrew Critel	Dec 24
Riley Roesener	Dec 25
Cameron Wright	Dec 25
Keith Kopisch	Dec 28
Caden Reents	Dec 29
Mikel Philippi	Dec 30
Brian Alloway	Dec 31
Brandon Minkler	Dec 31
Loren Uden	Dec



December Wedding Anniversaries

Andy and Misty Riales	Dec 11, 2011
Greg and Rachel Eckhardt	Dec 13, 1997
Mark and Joni Philippi	Dec 20, 1985
Andrew and Brenda Critel	Dec 21, 1991

December 2022

Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00 PM Zion Classical Academy Christmas Program	2	3 8:00 – 12:00 Altar Guild Cookie Walk 6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion
4 9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:15: Sunday School & Bible Class 6:00 Abundmusik at Zion Wanda	5	6 8:30 ZCA Chapel with Pastor Josh Davis 12:00 Advent Service 5:30 PM Advent Meal 6:00 PM King's Kids 7:15 PM Advent Service	7	8	9	10 9:00 AM LWML and Men's Bible Study Christmas Party 6:00 PM Worship Service
11 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15: Sunday School & Bible Class	12	13 8:30 ZCA Chapel with Pastor Paul Duffy 12:00 Advent Service 5:30 PM Advent Meal 6:00 PM King's Kids 7:15 PM Advent Service	14	15	16	17 6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion
18 9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:15: Sunday School & Bible Class	19	20 7:00 PM Executive Board Meeting	21 8:30 ZCA Chapel with Pastor Micah Gaunt 12:00 Advent Service 5:30 PM Advent Meal 6:00 PM King's Kids 7:15 PM Advent Service	22	23	24 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service with Communion
25 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15: Sunday School & Bible Class	26	27	28	29	30	31 6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion 7:00 New Year's Eve Fun and Fellowship