

# Zion Lutheran Church

## Newsletter

January 2024



As the days grow cold, I am pleasantly reminded of days past when my grandfather would put up his fishing shanty out on the ice of one of the inland lakes of Michigan and my father, uncle, and I would spend the day ice fishing. I recall the ice being 3-4 inches most of the time but it sometimes made me nervous when the ice popped and cracked because of the water adjusting to the flow of the dam somewhere further that created the lake we were floating atop. As I grew older, I notice some lakes where people would drive their trucks right out onto the ice, and someone once told me a train car could be supported by a mere 3 inches over the water.

Water is a fascinating creation of God. So much of what God made is affected by the unique properties of water. Unlike most other materials, water is less dense in its solid state, thus it floats in your lemonade and lakes don't freeze solid. Water tries to stick to itself, so water runs down the wall of your shower in beads, and bugs can run across the surface. This also plays an important role in water making its way up from the ground to the leaves at the top of the tree in your yard.

Water is capable of holding onto heat in such a way that a radiant heating system is highly efficient, but also moderates and affects the weather of the whole planet. Many substances will dissolve in water, thus the salty water of the ocean, and thus candy canes and chicken soups can be created for Christmas. But it also means that water is useful for cleaning up the chocolate frosting from your donut and rinsing your body after a dip in the Atlantic (though adding a water-soluble soap can help).

The strength of water is equally amazing. Frozen water can crack the concrete of a driveway, heave the walls of your basement

and burst the thickest of pipes. Because of its density the force of flowing water has shaped the surface of the earth and allowed a boat to float. And the pressure of water vapor sends the spout of Old Faithful high into the air and once drove thousands of engines that pulled heavy trains, propelled massive ships, and powered machines of industry.

All of these unique properties are connected to the design of God's creation of life. Plants and animals require water for life, and our God formed a planet for us to live on where it rains down upon us. The mere existence of water in the universe, with all of its attributes, and the abundance of this water on the planet earth testifies to the glory of God and His intricate design in all we see and experience. *For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps. He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses. (Psalm 135:5-7)* We should see in these finest details evidence of God's power and provision. *For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. (Romans 1:19-20)*

But as amazing as water is, it is simple. But from this simple substance God does something truly amazing. God connects His promise to simple water in Baptism. By means of this washing, God gives new birth; in it He cleanses us from sin; through it we enter eternal life; in it we receive the Holy Spirit; with it we are connected to Christ's death and resurrection. Baptism opens and delivers Heaven itself. All the other knowledge about water matters a whole lot less with this revealed. It was this knowledge that produced these words: *And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36)*

May the blessings of God continue to rain upon you in this coming year.  
Your servant in Christ,  
Pastor Siebert

## **The Reehl Mission Vision**

*"Bringing the love of Jesus to those most in need through humanitarian items and the words of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

December 21, 2023

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 have been informed there is some confusion out there regarding *The Reehl Mission Vision*. As most of you know, Pastor John Reehl started this ministry for these orphanages that we serve dating back to 2000. Since Pastor Reehl's promotion to heaven, Karen Reehl Tiedeman has carried on this vision. This past year, Karen and the Orphan Grain Train parted ways. A new organization has been established called *The Reehl Mission Vision* and functions independently. *The Reehl Mission Vision* has a Board of Directors, it has submitted all the necessary paper work for non-profit status, and it has its own by-laws. This being said, any funds sent to the Orphan Grain Train, we do not forward to the orphanage you sponsor. Again, just in case you don't know those serving on the Board of Directors are: **Co-Chairmen** Pastor Benson and Karen (Reehl) Tiedeman, **Secretary** Suzanne Jagels, **Treasurer** Lyle Weitzel, **Director** Cindi Jo Trahms.

*The Reehl Mission Vision* continues its working relationship with Nikolai and Valentina who serve our orphanages in Russia by purchasing, with your offering, those much-needed supplies, hygiene products, vitamins and medicines, as well as Bibles and warm boots. Pastor Artis Eglitis is helping us in Latvia; Renate and Valentina are helping us in Estonia; Pastor Arv is our main Mission helper in Lithuania and Tatiana is our super lady in Southern Russia. Most importantly, through this ministry Jesus Christ our Savior is proclaimed.

God's richest blessing for your New Year. You continue to be in our prayers and we ask that keep this ministry and us in your prayers. Your humble servants and friends,  
Pastor Ron Benson and Karen Reehl Tiedeman

**Just a note:** Zion Lutheran Church was blessed with gifts totaling \$1,495. This was sent to treasurer, Lyle Weitzel in mid-December. The goal is to provide \$3,360 annually. Gifts for our orphanage will be accepted throughout the year. Money donated needs to be clearly identified as being for our **Orphanage in Kingesepp or The Reehl Mission Vision**.

**Thank you** to all who donated money for OUR children who live in our Orphanage in Kingesepp.

## **ZION CLASSICAL ACADEMY NEEDS YOUR REPRESENTATION!**

Zion Lutheran Classical Academy Board of Directors would like to fill the additional board position granted to Zion Lutheran Church. At the inception of ZCA, Zion Church was granted two board member representation on the Board of Directors. At this time, we have one member on the board (Andi Brown) and would like to fill the other position. The Board maintains all requirements and documentation to remain a Recognized Service Organization: Educational Service Organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and maintains communication with both the LCMS and the Nebraska District Office. Representation and communication is so important between both ZLC and ZCA to continue the mission of ZCA to cultivate Truth, Wisdom, and Virtue in our students through classical Christian education to equip them for a life of service to God and neighbor.

Whether you are a parent, grandparent or interested Zion member, please consider becoming a ZCA board member. Please contact Andi Brown if you need more information or are interested. (402-519-0131)  
Thanking you in advance for your consideration of becoming an additional Board member.



### January Birthdays

Connie Gerhart	Jan 8
Vernon Kranau (94)	Jan 8
Braden Hueftle	Jan 9
Janey Sittner	Jan 11
Charlene Stapleman	Jan 17
Nicole Kathman	Jan 23
Morgan Miller	Jan 24
Kurt Kopisch	Jan 27
Landon Eckhardt	Jan 29
Dallas Roesener (80)	Jan 29
Jordan Torske	Jan 29
Douglas Roesener	



### January Baptism Birthdays

Seth White	Jan 3
Laura Hargis	Jan 7
Cassandra Wardyn	Jan 8
Debra Goodrich	Jan 10
Nichole Johnson	Jan 11
Matthew Wallin	Jan 12
Nancy Kottwitz	Jan 14
Corinne Manske	Jan 16
Connie Gerhart	Jan 22
Vernon Kranau	Jan 25
Susan Nielsen	Jan 26
Kieton Armstrong	Jan 28
Janey Sittner	Jan 29
Aidyn Dobrovolny	Jan 31
Greg Eckhardt	

### Notes from the Funeral Chairmen

Marge Peterson is stepping down from calling people for food. Lori Niederklein has willingly volunteered to do the calling. Thank you, Marge, for your many years of service and to Lori for taking on this task.

All ladies of the congregation are on the call list, but revised to exclude those over age 85 or those with health issues. If you wish to have your name removed from the call list, please notify Janey or RoGene. If you don't wish to participate in preparing food, would you be willing to donate \$10 when your name comes up? Any gentleman who would like to be included on the call list; we will gladly add your name.

Zion members and guests (family and friends) attending funerals at Zion, we request that you do not use the school bathrooms. When school is in session, and a funeral lunch is being served, we ask that you walk outside to get to the Performance Center and not through the school hallways, unless there is adverse weather conditions. Be careful when parking your vehicle to not block access to the building in case of a fire.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Janey and RoGene

**ACLEA DECORATING CLUB** will be getting together at the Poppe Shop, 5142 West Highway 6 just east of Adams Central and Pawliday Inn on the following dates:

Tuesday, January 9, 7:00-8:00 pm

Saturday, January 13, 8:00-9:00 am (coffee will be served) and 7:00-8:00 pm

Thursday, January 18, 7:00-8:00 pm

Everyone is welcome to assist in small projects to help prepare for this year's FIRE event.

Is there a small group (such as LLL LWML, a Bible Study Group) who would like to do a project? We can schedule that too.

Questions? Contact Molly Poppe at 402-278-1936.

November 24th, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ at Zion,

Thank you again for your continued prayers as I attend the seminary. We are just wrapping up an excellent two weeks at home with family to celebrate Thanksgiving. We are blessed to have both of our families living in Nebraska, so we were able to spend lots of time with both of our families. Sarah's family just got a new puppy, so we had fun playing with her. The puppy is a golden retriever and is full of energy! We also enjoyed watching football with my family and spending time with my siblings and nephews.

Our time at the seminary has just flown right by! We are a third of the way through my fourth year at the seminary, and I am about to start the winter quarter. Call Day is April 24th and we are so excited to find out where God will call us to serve.

I have been kept busy this year working in the chapel as the sacristan. This means that I get things ready for the preacher and liturgist each day for chapel. I also change the altar paraments, set up for communion, and do anything else that needs to be done in the chapel. This has been an incredibly rewarding job and has given me really good experience. If you ever watch the videos of the seminary's chapel services online, you might be able to spot me lighting the candles or something like that.

Sarah has been teaching in Lutheran schools for the past three years and really enjoyed that experience. This year she has been working as a nanny watching the baby of one of our seminary friends. She has enjoyed this experience as well and has enjoyed having a more flexible schedule this last year before we are called somewhere permanently.

The seminary has a basketball team and I am enjoying playing on it. We have fun playing against each other but also have the chance to play against some other schools, including against our sister seminary in St. Louis. That is always a fun rivalry game.

Sarah and I have been enjoying reading books together in the evenings. We like to read aloud to each other and discuss the books. We started this about a year ago and it has become one of our favorite things to do together. Right now we are reading *That Hideous Strength* by C.S. Lewis. We recently read *Anne of Green Gables*, which is one of Sarah's favorites, and *The Fellowship of the Ring* by J.R.R. Tolkien.

Sarah is in a book club with some of the other seminary wives. She also enjoys going to the Seminary Women's Association events. They have gatherings and classes for the seminary wives and deaconesses to attend and get to know one another. Sarah was especially excited when LCMS author, Katie Schuermann, came to speak to the seminary women in late October.

We hope all is going well with you! We are so blessed by your prayers and pray that God continues to bless you as well.

In Christ,

*Chris + Sarah Warneke*

Chris and Sarah Warneke

# January 2024

# Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	10:00 to 3:00 Quilt Tying at Peace Lutheran Church	7:00 Board of Elders	9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Confirmation Class			6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	10:00 to 3:00 Quilt Tying at Peace Lutheran Church		8:30 ZCA Chapel with Pastor Micah Gaunt 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Confirmation Class			6:00 PM Worship Service
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Class		7:00 Executive Board Meeting	8:30 ZCA Chapel with Pastor Joshua Davis 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Confirmation Class			6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Class			8:30 ZCA Chapel with Pastor Dunbar Grandparents Day 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Confirmation Class			6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion
28	29	30	31			
9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Class			8:30 ZCA Chapel with Pastor Siebert 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Confirmation Class			