

The Messenger



VOLUME XLVIII, No.12 DECEMBER 2015

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Our Mission

The mission of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School is to preach and teach God's saving Word in all its truth and purity.

Get in Touch

Church/School Office

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(920) 648-2321

CALL ACCEPTED

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I have made a decision concerning the divine call to Immanuel Lutheran in Manitowoc. After prayerful deliberation, I have decided to accept the call to Immanuel and leave my current calling here at Zion. I would like to share with you some of my thoughts that led me to this decision.

These past few weeks of deliberation have been a roller coaster for my family. Sleep has been elusive. I have been privileged to receive seven calls in the past eight years. I returned six of them, but this one would not let go. The Holy Spirit was working behind the scenes in my mind and heart. Though the decision was clear, it was not easy. I love Zion and Columbus. I raised my family in this community and congregation. I have been privileged to serve with my brother Pastor Wilke, with brothers and sisters on the faculty and with all of you as partners in the gospel for the past 14 years. Together we have worshiped and served, studied and grown and reached out with the gospel. God even allowed us to build a beautiful new church and organ to his glory. Leaving all this behind is no small matter for me or for you!

So then why am I leaving? It's all about gifts, needs and timing. It was clear to me early on that my gifts match well with the needs of Immanuel. Immanuel is about the same size as Zion and is normally served by two pastors. For the past ten months they have not had a pastor of their own. They are also vacant at the principal position and just extended a call to fill that position last Sunday. They are in need of strong pastoral leadership, assistance in the areas of organization and administration

and help with worship and outreach. I believe that my God-given gifts match up well with what they need. Timing is also important. For the past few years I have been wondering if it was time for me to leave Zion so that a man with different and perhaps better gifts could come in and work with Pastor Wilke, our leadership and all of you to continue Zion's mission. Now, with our building and organ complete, with many excellent leaders and dedicated members eager to move forward with our mission, with our ministry on a solid foundation, it seemed to me the timing was right for a change. Is there still work to do here at Zion? Absolutely! However, I believe I can best serve the Lord in his kingdom right now at Immanuel in Manitowoc.

So what's next? Changes are coming. Over the next several weeks my family and I will prepare for the move to Manitowoc. I will take the necessary steps to transition from ministry here to ministry a couple of hours north. Pastor Wilke and our leaders will begin to make preparations for calling another pastor. I am confident that the Lord already has in mind the man who will serve as your next shepherd, and that through him the Lord will bless you richly. Most likely, I will preach my last sermon as your pastor in early January.

There will be some changes, but so much remains the same. You have the same congregation to carry on the ministry. You have the same time and talents to serve the Lord in worship, Christian education and gospel outreach. You have the same beautiful sanctuary, and the music and message to fill it. Most importantly, all the eternal

things are intact. You have the same Lord, the same hope of the resurrection, the same baptism, the same Supper, the same message from the pulpit – none of these things change. **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever** (Hebrews 13:8).

Please know that even though the Sims family is leaving Zion for Immanuel, we love you all dearly. You will always be a part of us. Soon we will say our temporary goodbyes until we meet again - maybe sooner, maybe later, but certainly forever.

Thank you all for 14 amazing years of growing in Christ, for all your kindness and support, energy and encouragement that made our lives here blessed beyond measure. God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Sims

Greeter Schedule

December 6

8:00am — E7	10:30am — L1
Dale & Joyce Gajdosik	Nancy Huebner & Sara Hana

December 13

8:00am — E11	10:30am — L2
Harold & Delphine Schaefer	Laurie Kirchberg & Pat Premo

December 20

8:00am — E12	10:30am — L3
Art Sharpee & Waldamar Vick	Rick & Lisa Gentz

December 27

8:00am — E13	10:30am — L4
Leo & Audrey Fischer	Bernard & Genevieve Setz

If you are interested in being added as a greeter or need to be removed from the schedule, please contact Melody Krakow at 623-4346

Video Team Schedule December 2015

6	Phil Manteufel
13	Mark Lindell
20	Randy Koehn
27	Matt Greiling



October Church Attendance

Date	Total
1/4	401
8/11	523
15/18	347
25 (Organ Dedication)	405

Usher Schedule

December 6

8:00am
Team E7
Rick Gentz (C)
James Greiling (A)
Matt Greiling
Nicholas Arndt
Mark Hintz
Tom Kitzerow

December 6, December 13, and December 20

8:00am December 13	10:30am December 6
8:30am December 20	10:30am December 13
Team E8	Team L2
John Evers (C)	Dale Schultz (C)
Lee Evers (A)	George Peeper (A)
Austin Evers	Daniel Schultz
Logan Kehoe	Matt Ganser
J Doyle	Dylan Schultz
	Michael Hallberg

December 20, December 24, and December 25

4:00pm December 24	10:30am December 20
10:00am December 25	7:00pm December 24
Team E1	Team L3
Jeff Henning (C)	Jim Kluetzman (C)
Daryl Berndt (A)	Matt Huber (A)
Leo Fischer	Dave Harle
Matt Weidner	Michael Uttech
Rodney Hacht	Rodney Cooley
Mark Tiedt	Gary Schuhmacher

December 27 and December 31

8:00am December 27	10:30am December 27
	5:00pm December 31
Team E2	Team L4
Delmar Vick (C)	Bruce Zander (C)
Dale Gajdosik(A)	Kurt Zander (A)
Randy Vick	Kane Brownsowski
Kenneth Schulz	Wyatt Brownsowski
Eric Turnquist	Bradley Sennhenn
Eliot Turnquist	Neal Sennhenn
	Zach Beyer

If you have any questions about the schedule, would like to be added as an usher or won't be able to serve any longer as an usher, please call Julie Doyle at (608) 846-5103.

Council Names and Numbers

Rick Gentz, President - 623-2507
Bruce Zander, Vice President - 623-5217
Jason Langille, Secretary - 608-837-2148
Brady Weiland, Treasurer - 920-285-7362
Dan Retzlaff, Education - 623-2623
Jeff Krakow, Elders - 920-210-2388
Matt Vosberg, Outreach - 920-210-3817
Kurt Zander, Property - 920-210-1107
Dave Harle, Stewardship - 623-3819

Zion Lutheran Church - Estate Funds Report

Report for the Month of:

October 2015

Previous Month Assets	\$282,760.81
Total Transactions	\$311,057.69
Total Current Assets	\$593,818.50

\$249,146.96	New Church/School Total
	<i>checking/savings</i>

		----- Monthly Statements -----		
Accounts	Undesignated Checking	Undesignated Savings	NEW Church/ School Fund Savings	NEW Church/School Checking
Previous Balance	\$1,746.57	\$14,964.64	\$231,531.87	\$9,043.27
Monthly Transactions *	\$9,603.73	\$292,882.14	\$11,940.83	(\$3,369.01)
Current Balance	\$11,350.30	\$307,846.78	\$243,472.70	\$5,674.26
Transactions	(\$150.00)	(\$4,000.00)	(\$4,623.38)	(\$3,000.00)
	(\$38.95) Caldwell Lumber	(\$1,000.00) transfer to undesignated checking	(\$1,548.29) American National Bank church loan	(\$9.01) gift to Dr. Wayne Wagner for organ consult
	H&E Security - electrical upgrade	\$297,882.14 sale of church and parsonage - proceeds	\$4,187.00 deposit	(\$360.00) Byco - ceramic tile repairs
	(\$2,750.00) old church/parson Keim Painting - steeple work		\$1,516.00 deposit	
	(\$960.00) Jerry Juggum - tree removal		\$5,291.00 deposit	
	(\$290.00) Omni Technologies - Monitoring new Zion		\$4,598.50 deposit	
	(\$1,337.50) H&E Security - inv 1805 1806		\$1,440.00 deposit	
	(\$20.00) Mettas Powers - cushion repair		\$1,080.00 deposit	
	(\$75.00) Brunke Heating & Cooling - old church/parson			
	(\$150.50) Brunke Heating & Cooling - old church/parson			
	\$0.40 Interest			
	\$4,000.00 transfer from savings			
	\$1,000.00 transfer from savings			
	\$10,375.28 Zion office & Ladies Aid			
Monthly Transactions TOTAL	\$9,603.73	\$292,882.14	\$11,940.83	(\$3,369.01)
Total Transactions	\$311,057.69	Plus.....	Two CD's	
<i>Interest Received</i>	\$0.40		CD F&M 12-mo	\$10,474.46
			CD's (Lunn/Lenz)	\$15,000.00
			<i>Interest</i>	\$0.00
				\$10,474.46
				\$15,000.00

Note: In order to sell the old church & parsonage, repairs were required. Expenses this month were part of the repairs.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church General Fund Financial Statement

	Oct 15	Jul - Oct 15
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Building Fund Donation	0.00	86.00
Church Library Donation	-92.41	57.59
General Fund Offerings	34,388.18	137,891.33
LLHS Building Income	232.00	1,020.00
LLHS Income	2,022.83	8,110.08
Other Donations	13,094.00	13,550.50
Other Reciepts	3.78	21.71
Sub teaching reimburse	0.00	45.00
Synod Missions Income	4,660.67	17,960.15
Transferred from Undesignated	0.00	28,200.00
WLCFS Income	2,043.00	2,557.00
WLIM Income	106.00	619.00
Total Income	56,458.05	210,118.36
Expense		
ACH fee	-10.80	0.00
Building Fund Expense	0.00	86.00
Called Workers Salaries	21,791.06	83,441.32
Church Supplies	219.65	647.85
Convention/Cont' Education	40.00	48.90
Copier	0.00	678.15
Guest Pastor	0.00	250.00
Health Insurance	4,887.90	19,551.60
Housing	635.00	2,540.00
Janitors	1,824.44	2,751.91
Liability Insurance	0.00	325.00
LLHS Building Expense	232.00	1,020.00
LLHS Expense	2,022.83	8,110.08
Maintenance	1,274.50	12,926.38
Meditation/Forward in Christ	0.00	720.92
Mileage	530.70	1,779.55
Miscellaneous	0.00	55.00
Organists	173.11	794.10
Outreach Board	0.00	810.20
Payroll Expenses	210.72	931.68
Payroll Taxes	6,364.80	23,421.97
Pension Insurance	0.00	6,300.00
Postage and Delivery	72.68	602.53
Secretaries	1,483.07	6,608.77
Stewardship Board	403.37	1,839.49
Substitute Teaching	0.00	45.00
Sunday School/VBS	35.38	949.27
Synod Mission Expense	4,660.67	17,960.15
Telephone & Internet Expense	234.88	962.50
Utilities	4,193.70	14,498.63
WLCFS Expense	2,043.00	2,557.00
WLIM Expense	106.00	619.00
Worship	254.12	699.11
Total Expense	53,682.78	214,532.06

Fellowship Hall & Pantry Usage

Your Zion Pantry Committee has written up a contract for Fellowship Hall and Pantry usage. If you would like to reserve our beautiful fellowship hall for your next party or gathering, contact the office to reserve your date and to pick up the necessary paperwork.



Ministrations

Deaths

7. Margaret Bader. Born 10/21/1922, Died 10/1/2015.
8. Addie Berndt. Born 7/23/1936, Died 10/27/2015.



Shirley Knudson	12th	84 years
Evelyn Wendt	23rd	97 years
Mildred Kehl	29th	83 years
Herbert Pergande	31st	87 years

Ladies' Aid

The holidays are here. On December 3rd we will meet at 2pm to decide on Christmas gifts, bring items for Zion's Relief Committee and plan for the Christmas Cheer boxes. We will also be entertained by Zion School students.

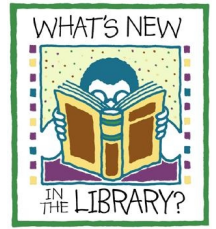
May we all be thankful for all the blessings we have, not only during the holidays, but every day of the year.

Zion School Scrip Program

The Zion Lutheran School Scrip program is in full swing with families earning rebates toward next year's tuition at lightening speed! Our sales have increased 50% since this time last year. A special thank you to our sales team who devotes their time before and after school to offer this opportunity to Zion, and to our other volunteers who keep it running smoothly behind the scenes. Also, a huge thank you to the Zion Church members without Zion students who make special trips over to school to order and pick up gift cards - the tuition assistance fund is growing because of you! Just a reminder, December 11th is the last day to order gift cards in time for Christmas gift-giving.

News from our Librarian

For the first time in several years, the church library is working without any budget allocations. Thanks be to God, you'd never know it! I have been busily entering in new items generously given by donation to us by Zion members and by our WELS-Church Librarians' Organization. We even have a beautiful new rocking chair recently donated to complete the space.



I'm also happy to say we are having more checkouts and new users than ever before. In fact, we will soon have 200 patrons who've grown in God's Word through the use of the church library. I'd like to thank Pastor Sims for his dedication over the past 11 years in making sure our library is the best it can be. Here's a list of our newest items:

Be Still: 45 Days Of Living In God's Stillness
Behold! I Am Coming Soon: Advent Devotions On the Book of Revelation
Celebrate Home: Great Ideas For Stay-at-Home Moms
Cherished Gifts: Devotions for Moms By a Mom
Christian Time Management: Investing God's Gift Wisely
Come, Take a Seat: A Start For Your Own Personal or Family Devotions
Commentary on Galatians
Commentary on Romans
Devotional Thoughts For Christians In Conflict
Foundations: A Parent's Introduction To Christian Education
Grace Abounds: The Splendor Of Christian Doctrine
I Didn't Plan To Be a Single Parent
It's Not Fair (The Tree House Kids Series)
The Legend Of the Sand Dollar: An Inspirational Story Of Hope For Easter
Lies and Deceptions (Novel Devotions)
The Lord Will Answer: A Daily Prayer Catechism
Loved! Devotions For Teens By Teens
Luther's Catechism
Luther's Large Catechism: A Contemporary Translation With Study Questions
Nobody's Friend (The Tree House Kids Series)
The Pentecost Story
A Picture Of God: 3 In 1
The Power Of Communication: For Richer Interpersonal Relationships
The Sheep That No One Could Find
Starting At the End: Worldview, God's Word, and Your Future
Temptations: Novel Devotions
A Time For Everything
Today's Light FAQ's
Upbeat Faith For Downbeat Days
What Really Happened To the Dinosaurs?
You Ask About...Faith: Questions Teens Are Asking
You Ask About...Relationships: Questions Teens Are Asking
Your Questions, Scripture's Answers

Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger articles by **December 11th**. Contact Sue Henning at 920-623-2569 or suehenning25@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Have you ever run a race? I have many times, though it was more than 40 years ago. You can get very tired, maybe it's more frustrated, or, as God says, you grow weary and lose heart. There are two races I remember very well. One, I grew very weary and was losing heart and the other; I was just frustrated. I did win both (the second wasn't so much a race as it was a run).

God tells us to **Run in such a way as to get the prize.** (1 Corinthians 9:24b) He continues in verse 25, **Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.** Yes, I won the race I have referenced, but it was a crown that did not last. In fact, it was a watch that I lost within two years (probably one; that I don't remember).

Let's look further at Hebrews. **For the joy set before him he endured the cross,** our Savior endured the cross for us **and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.** How beautiful is that? We are the joy that was set before him and he endured the cross for us miserable sinners! Our selfish, prideful, greedy bodies grow weary of meeting together and we lose heart in bringing our first fruits to him who endured the cross! Yet, he endured our opposition to him so that we will not grow weary and lose heart. **Fix your eyes on Jesus!** Where will you be during our worship services? Will you be too weary to come and sing praises to him who loves us so much he suffered hell so we wouldn't have to? Will you lose heart because you feel he didn't answer your prayer (at least not the way you wanted him to) and miss the wonderful blessings he showers on us during worship? **Fix your eyes on Jesus!** We are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses. We have wonderful, dedicated, faithful called workers. We have a beautiful building to gather and hear and study his word. We have fellow members who pray for you and love you and long to worship with you. As we recently heard, our building resonates beautiful music when we open our mouths and sing his praise! Don't miss out on such great opportunities! Return to him, sing praise to him, and glorify his name with your presence in worship! **Fix your eyes on Jesus!**

As we come to Thanksgiving and then into Advent, let us remember Him who gives us all things and return to Him the first fruits of all those wonderful blessings.

Glorious Father in Heaven,

We come to you as we are broken, miserable sinners. Thank you so very much for giving us your Son to endure the cross and suffer the hell that we deserve. After all you have done for us, we still ask for more and you continue to bless us more. We need continued encouragement. Strengthen us through your Word and Sacrament. Keep us from growing weary of coming to your table and from hearing your word. Teach us the true meaning of joyful first fruits giving. Encourage us to encourage others. Fix our eyes on Jesus. We ask this in the name of your Son, our sinless, resurrected, and ascended Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.



Save the Date for Grand Event V!

The date and theme are out, so be sure to mark your calendar to join the fun. Saturday, February 13, 2016, will celebrate our "Walk by Faith" in this valuable teen ministry at Lakeside Lutheran High School. This fun social fundraiser makes a critical difference in the growth of our student assistance fund and several other areas. Interested in helping plan the where and how and what else? Have something to donate to the auctions? Please contact Bari at (920) 648-2321 x2223 or bvredeve@llhs.org.

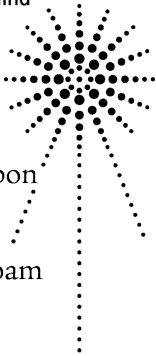
kids page

STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Make a mobile to remind you of Jesus' birth.

What you need:

- Paper plate
- Hole punch
- Thin blue ribbon
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Yellow craft foam
- Marker



What you do:

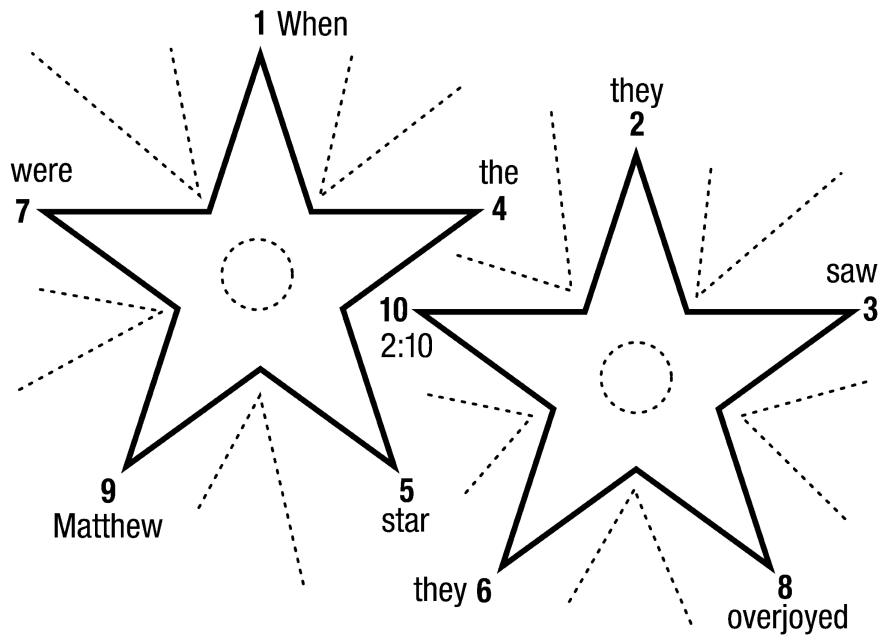
1. With the paper plate upside down, punch evenly spaced holes along the rim. Gently fold the plate and punch a hole in the center.
2. Cut pieces of ribbon, thread them through the holes as desired and tie the ribbons securely.
3. Trace several small stars and one larger star on the foam and cut them out. Punch a hole atop a point of each star.
4. Tie one small star to each outer-rim ribbon.
5. Thread a longer ribbon through the center hole and tie the large star to the other end.
6. Write a verse on the plate or large star. Hang the mobile from the ceiling with another piece of blue ribbon.



The star of Christmas

When Jesus was born, a star led the wise men to him.

Directions: Place the words in order, by their numbers, on the blanks below to complete Matthew 2:10, NIV.



“ _____
 _____ , _____
 _____ .
 _____ : _____ , NIV

Answer: “When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.” Matthew 2:10, NIV

GET YOUR ZION APPAREL

Order by December 6



Pickup December 20
@ Church

The Zion Outreach board is working with Cardinal Embroidery of Columbus to offer several different clothing items with the Zion Church logo.



Go to zionapparel.itemorder.com to see the products available, order online, and pay with credit or debit card.

If you would prefer to pay with check or are concerned with sizes of the items, just go to Cardinal in downtown Columbus and they will be glad to assist you.



Contact Matt Weidner 920-623-5796 with questions

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If you would prefer to pay with check or are concerned with sizes of the items, just to to Cardinal Embroidery in downtown Columbus and they will be glad to assist you.

Contact Matt Weidner at (920) 623-5796 with questions.

Zion Lutheran Church

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Items preceded by * take place at school.</i>		1 Relief Committee Collection 6:30 pm Bible Information Class	2 Relief Committee Collection *Board of Education Observation Day 4:00 pm 6th-7th Grade Public School Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Advent Meditation 7:30 pm Zion Choir	3 Relief Committee Collection 2:00 pm Ladies' Aid Meeting 6:00 pm *Got Fitness 6:30 pm Worship with Holy Communion	4 Relief Committee Collection 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	5 Relief Committee Collection A-team Boys BB LPS Kick-Off Tournament at LPS
6 Relief Committee Collection 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 am *Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion	7 6:00 pm Outreach Board Meeting 6:15 pm *Got Fitness 6:30 pm *Board of Ed Meeting	8 6:30 pm Bible Information Class	9 4:00 pm 6th-7th Grade Public School Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Advent Meditation 7:30 pm Meeting Night 7:30 pm Zion Choir	10 6:00 pm *Got Fitness 6:30 pm No Evening Worship	11 MESSENGER DEADLINE 6:00 am Bible Breakfast 4:00 pm *BB Games Home vs. St. John's, Watertown	12 9:00 am Children's Christmas Service Practice
13 8:00 am Worship with Zion, Bell, Junior Choirs and Handchimes 9:00 am *Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship with Zion, Bell, Junior Choirs and Handchimes	14 Cheer Box Delivery 6:30 pm *Board of Ed Meeting	15 1:30 pm *Christmas Concert 6:30 pm *Christmas Concert	16 4:00 pm 6th-7th Grade Public School Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Advent Meditation 7:30 pm Zion Choir	17 6:30 pm No Evening Worship	18 6:00 am Bible Breakfast 4:00 pm BB Games Away vs. Pease, Sun Prairie	19
20 8:30 am Children's Christmas Service 10:30 am Children's Christmas Service	21 No School - Christmas Break	22 No School - Christmas Break	23 No School - Christmas Break 4:00 pm No Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Zion Choir	24 No School - Christmas Break 4:00 pm Candlelight Worship 7:00 pm Candlelight Worship	25 No School - Christmas Break 6:00 am No Bible Breakfast 10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion, Zion and Bell Choirs	26
27 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion	28 No School - Christmas Break	29 No School - Christmas Break	30 No School - Christmas Break 4:00 pm No Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Zion Choir	31 No School - Christmas Break 5:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion		



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The Messenger

Newsletter of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School

December



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Thursday Worship.....6:30pm
Friday Bible Breakfast.....6:00am
Sunday Worship at Church.....8:00, 10:30am
Sunday Adult Bible Study at Church.....9:00am
Sunday School at Zion School.....9:00am

Church and School located at 822 Western Avenue

Upcoming Events

Thurs., Dec. 3 - Ladies' Aid Meeting, 2:00pm
Wed., Dec. 9 - Meeting Night, 7:30pm
Thurs., Dec. 10 - No Thursday Worship Service
Tues., Dec. 15 - Christmas Concert, 1:30 & 6:30pm
Thurs., Dec. 17 - No Thursday Worship Service
Sun., Dec. 20 - Children's Christmas Service, 8:30 & 10:30am
Thurs., Dec. 24 - Candlelight Worship, 4:00 & 7:00pm
Fri., Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Worship, 10:00am
Thurs., Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve Worship, 5:00pm