

The Messenger



VOLUME XLVII, No. 12 DECEMBER 2014

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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

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Dimples

Dear dimple-covered Christians,

When they first began manufacturing golf balls, they made the covers smooth. Then it was discovered that after a ball had been roughed up one could get more distance out of it. So they started manufacturing them with dimpled covers. So it is with life; it takes some tough spots in life, some dimples, to make you go farthest.

God moved the apostle Paul to put pen to paper and write: "Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5:3,4). God allows us to suffer for our good.

But what good can come from suffering? A lot: perseverance, character, hope. Under the loving care of our good and gracious God even suffering leads to blessings. God allows us to suffer so that we are taught to persevere, to bear up under difficult situations. God allows us to suffer so that our character is built up like that of veterans who have endured a war. God allows us to suffer so

that we place our hope in God's promises and not in ourselves. God allows us to be roughed up so that we can go far in our service to him. He wants the people who serve him to be able to bear up under the constant attacks of a wicked world. He wants those who share his gospel to be people of character who are eager to do everything necessary to get the Word out. God wants those who are his very own to be people who lean on him when the road of life fills up with potholes.

Dimples. I usually don't think about their importance when I'm slicing into the woods. But the people who make them know. The One who has made us knows too. Trust in him.

Persevering with you through Christ,

Pastor Daniel Sims



Usher Schedule

December 7 and December 14

8:00am	10:30am
Team E2	Team L7
Delmar Vick (C)	Roger Weiland (C)
Dale Gajdosik (A)	Steve Weiland (A)
Randy Vick	Dan Weiland
Kenneth Schulz	Brady Weiland
Eric Turnquist	Bryce Weiland
Eliot Turnquist	Brett Weiland

December 21, 24, and 25

8:30am —Dec. 21	10:30am—Dec. 21
7:00pm—Dec. 24	10:00am Dec. 25
Team E3	Team L1
Lawrence Olson (C)	Tom Schultz (C)
Randy Koehn (A)	George Decker (A)
Waldamar Vick	Aaron Larson
Ty Vick	James Kopfer
Kevin Vick	Dayne Kopfer
Joe Grambsch	Brandon Lee

December 28 and January 4

8:00am	10:30am
Team E4	Team L2
Dale Sennhenn (C)	Dale Schultz (C)
Mark Lindell (A)	George Peeper (A)
Brian Sennhenn	Daniel Schultz
Andrew Bussian	Matt Ganser
Remington Lindell	Dylan Schultz
Brett Schraufnagel	Michael Hallberg
Scott Brenner	Zach Parpart

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.

Video Team Schedule

December 2014

- 7 Matt Greiling
- 14 Mark Lindell
- 21 Phil Manteufel
- 28 Randy Koehn



October Church Attendance

Date	Total
2/5	426
12	572
19	559
26	683



Greeter Schedule

December 7

8:00am—E9	10:30am—L1
Bill & Merle Nehmer	Leo & Audrey Fischer

December 14

8:00am—E10	10:30am—L2
Gene & Elaine Beier	Laurie Kirchberg
	Pat Premo

December 21

8:30am —E11	10:30am—L3
Harold & Delphine Schaefer	Rick & Lisa Gentz

December 28

8:00am—E12	10:30am—L4
Art Sharpee	Bernard & Genevieve Setz
Waldamar Vick	

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.

Church 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 - 623-4346
- Matt Vosberg, outreach - 920-210-3817
- Kurt Zander, property - 920-210-1107
- Dave Harle, stewardship - 623-3819

December Birthdays

Merle Nehmer	12th	80 years
Shirley Knudson	12th	82 years
Evelyn Wendt	23rd	95 years
Mildred Kehl	29th	81 years
Herbert Pergande	31st	85 years



Zion Lutheran Church - Estate Funds Report

Report for the Month of: **October 2014**

New Church/School Total
\$249,347.72 checking/savings

Previous Month Assets	\$514,311.45
Total Transactions	-\$95,773.31
Total Current Assets	\$418,538.14

Special Accounts
\$106,837.57
<i>included in Savings</i>

Accounts	Undesignated Checking	Undesignated Savings	NEW Church/ School Fund Savings	NEW Church/School Checking	WELS CEF Funds	Elva Rahn Estate	CD F&M 12-mo	CD's (Lunn/ Lenz)	Breakdown of NEW Special Accounts (deposited into new savings)
Previous Balance	\$10,291.85	\$86,475.82	\$303,787.71	\$24,653.71	\$59,983.82	\$3,644.08	\$10,474.46	\$15,000.00	chairs
Monthly Transactions*	(\$2,844.07)	(\$13,895.98)	(\$88,965.32)	\$9,871.62	\$60.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$295.00
Current Balance	\$7,447.78	\$72,579.84	\$214,822.39	\$34,525.33	\$60,044.26	\$3,644.08	\$10,474.46	\$15,000.00	Pew Chairs

* Breakdown Transactions									
(\$150.00)	(\$15,000.00)	\$300.00	\$140,000.00	\$60.33					
(\$805.00)	\$1,104.02	\$4,488.88	\$11,004.90	\$0.11					
(\$173.00)		\$50.00	(\$667.24)						
(\$545.94)		\$2,061.00	(\$3,736.61)						
(\$237.93)		\$1,310.26	(\$3,207.00)						
(\$3,417.00)		\$2,858.00	(\$4,885.00)						
(\$22.57)		\$31,371.54	(\$70.77)						
(\$8,132.00)		\$15,235.00	(\$300.00)						
(\$47.35)		\$2,360.00	(\$7,598.98)						
(\$129.99)		\$1,000.00	(\$1,992.50)						
(\$1,500.00)		(\$140,000.00)	(\$925.00)						
(\$9,450.00)		(\$5,000.00)	(\$2,861.84)						
(\$600.00)		(\$5,000.00)	(\$5,356.88)						
(\$1,060.75)			(\$19,764.00)						
(\$2,100.00)			(\$79,072.00)						
\$10,526.46			(\$178.00)						
\$5,000.00			(\$2,111.50)						
\$5,000.00			(\$2,828.05)						
\$5,000.00			(\$2,013.87)						
\$1.00			(\$1,900.00)						
			(\$60.11)						
			(\$680.00)						
			(\$343.70)						
			(\$580.23)						
TOTAL	(\$2,844.07)	(\$13,895.98)	(\$88,965.32)	\$9,871.62	\$60.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	

Total Transactions **(\$95,773.31)**

Explanation

Note: all expenditures paid for new church construction from undesignated checking will be reimbursed from

150 Joan Marks retirement	transfer to General Fund - 15000	Deposits of: 300 4488.88 50 2061 1510.26 2858 31371.54 15235 2360 1000	transfer from new church savings 140000
Jones Concrete -805	deposit 1104.02	transfer to checking -140000	Deposit 11004.9
Knox Box -173		transfer to undesign checking - 5000	Fearings-667.24
Caldwell Lumber -545.94		transfer to undesign checking - 5000	American National Bank payment-3736.61
Caldwell Lumber -237.93			Rietek -3207
Staples -3417			Best Sound -4885
Sherwin Williams -22.57			Zion general fund -70.77
Staples -8132			porta potty -300
Menards -47.35			Zion office acct. -7598.98
Office chair Wilke -129.99			Steve Roberts painting -1992.5
Morris carpet cleaning - fellowship hall floor -1500			H&H electric strike plate -925
Vanderhoff Studios stained glass -9450			Sure Fire -2861.84
Walcott -600			Heiar Fencing -5356.88
Top Notch Telecom -1060.75			Allen Steele -19764
Nic Henning - Grambsch bathroom -2100			Wolf Paving -79072
10526.46 title co deposit			Wright Plumbing -178
5000 transfer from new church savings			McKay -2111.5
5000 transfer from new church savings			County Materials -2828.05
5000 transfer from new church savings			Matt Weidner AV equipment - 2013.87
1 interest			Rietek -1900
Interest Received	\$61.44		True Value -60.11
			Area Glass -680
			Parking signs -343.7
			tv for entry from Best Buy - 580.23

Thank you for your donations!

chairs	\$295.00
Pew Chairs	\$1,120.00
Organ Refurbishing	\$3,805.60
Tables	\$2,504.00
Cocktop	\$807.49
Stained Glass Windows	\$42,940.00
Wall Ovens	\$2,742.49
Bell Tower	\$7,425.54
Dishwasher	\$1,019.99
Projection - Sanct	\$8,400.00
Projection - Fellow H	\$2,000.00
Screen Paint	\$800.00
Hearing Loop	\$75.00
Altar	\$2,500.00
Pulpit Paraments	\$2,275.00
Pulpit	\$2,900.00
Font	\$2,900.00
Cross & Christ	\$6,500.00
Future Proj Tech	\$3,800.00
Undesignated for New	\$12,027.46
TOTAL	\$106,837.57

Numbers in red are expenditures

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Financial Statement

	Oct 14	Jul - Oct 14
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Building Fund Donation	70.77	346.77
Extended Care Income	272.50	705.00
Financial Secretary	37,594.16	133,824.35
LLHS Building Income	380.00	1,466.90
LLHS Income	2,349.64	8,364.03
Other Donations	473.65	1,865.65
Other Reciepts	4.00	14,391.66
Sub teaching reimburse	0.00	1,385.30
Sunday School Income	0.00	2,000.00
Synod Missions Income	7,203.90	26,042.07
Transferred from Undesignated	15,000.00	44,000.00
WLCFS Income	131.00	800.30
WLIM Income	135.00	746.80
Total Income	63,614.62	235,938.83
Expense		
accounting-service	0.00	370.00
ACH fee	32.50	130.00
Building Fund Expense	0.00	346.77
Called Workers Salaries	22,303.29	87,253.52
Church Library Expense	329.50	329.50
Convention/Cont' Education	56.50	225.17
COPIER	0.00	488.77
Elders Board	209.98	209.98
Extended Care Expense	520.21	1,419.63
Guest Pastor	479.95	479.95
Health Insurance	6,188.75	24,441.00
Housing	635.00	2,665.00
Janitors	995.77	3,601.03
Liability Insurance	387.00	3,330.00
LLHS Building Expense	310.40	1,434.90
LLHS Expense	1,871.87	8,279.47
Maintenance	1,707.72	10,033.89
Meditation/Forward in Christ	532.92	1,111.68
Mileage	130.95	631.80
Miscellaneous	0.00	751.04
Organists	248.31	963.88
Outreach Board	528.71	2,286.22
Payroll Expenses	147.39	870.16
Payroll Taxes	6,619.96	22,231.15
Pension Insurance	0.00	6,240.00
Postage and Delivery	365.92	513.70
Secretaries	2,464.66	7,062.58
Stewardship Board	738.57	1,484.94
Substitute Teaching	0.00	0.00
Sunday School/VBS	18.84	1,019.07
Supplies	1,084.30	1,084.30
Synod Mission Expense	6,195.60	25,683.40
Teachers Hot Lunch	117.60	117.60
Telephone Expense	629.11	2,165.44
trash removal	0.00	180.00
Uncategorized Expenses	503.54	503.54
Utilities	7,258.24	17,163.99
WLCFS Expense	165.30	809.30
WLIM Expense	160.30	756.80
Worship	294.28	828.64
Total Expense	64,232.94	239,497.81

Ministrations

Deaths

18. Clifford Tjugum. Birth: 2/24/1920,
Death: 10/14/2014.

Zion's Ladies Society

Happy Holidays! Can you believe our Dec. 4th meeting is right around the corner? When you come to our 2:00pm meeting you may bring items for the Christmas Cheer Boxes and/or items for Zion's Relief Committee. The Cheer Boxes will be packed on December 8th.

The first and second graders from Zion School will be there to bring us news of Christmas. I hope more ladies from our congregation will join us.

Messenger Articles

Please submit your articles by **December 19th**. Contact Becky Weidner at 623-5796 if you have any questions.

Greeters Needed

Would you like to be a greeter on Sunday morning? Greeting our fellow brothers and sisters as they come to worship is a great way to get to know more of our members and to serve our Lord. Please contact Melody Krakow at 920-210-6323 or 920-623-4346.

Cheer Boxes

Every year in December the Zion Ladies Aid gives Christmas Cheer food boxes to Zion members in nursing homes, hospitals, assisted living facilities as well as people confined to their homes. We are always in need of homemade Christmas cookies. The boxes also contain small packaged food items (jello, pudding, raisins, etc.). We welcome all donations with thanks. The items (please have them marked "Cheer Boxes") can be brought to the church kitchen any time prior to December 8th. Please call Lois White at 623-5055 or Shirley Knudson at 623-2235

Teen Event Recap

A huge thank you goes to the teens that raked Zion members' lawns. It was a great way to show you care and that you have a service minded heart. Thanks also to the members that gave gifts to the teens for their service.

Seventeen teens went bowling in November for a fellowship activity. We had a great time catching up with friends. December 7th is the Teen Caroling Event. Please see Zion's website under the Youth tab for more information and to sign up.

Thank you to the teens who raked my lawn. There was a nice group, and they did a great job. I appreciated it so much. — Mabel Hein

O Come Let Us Adore Him

This Advent season we have the opportunity to gather for evening meditations to help focus and prepare our hearts and minds for our Savior's birth. Following these devotions, we'd like to gather for light snacks and fellowship--which this year will be in our new, conveniently located fellowship hall!

We are seeking volunteers to assist in providing the refreshments. There are three different dates: December 3rd, 10th, and 17th. An electronic sign-up has been created. Please visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e48a4aa2eaafc1-advent> to select the date(s) and item(s) that you'd be willing to contribute.

Contact Kelly Ihde with any questions or comments. (608) 712-7994, kaihde@hotmail.com

New Look for the Calendar

You'll notice our calendar layout has changed. In an effort to use time more efficiently, we have switched to using a Google calendar and its printable format. Thank you for your understanding.

Lakeside Lutheran High School Warrior Events

December

2nd Wrestling vs. Monona Grove 6:30p

5th Boys Basketball vs. Marshall 6p

9th Girls Basketball vs. Cambridge 6p

14th Christmas Concert with Band & Choirs in East Gym 7p

15th Boys Basketball vs. Waterloo 6p

Dec. 24th - Jan. 5th No School- Christmas Break



LAKESIDE LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL

Elders Board by Jeff Krakow

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

What a wonderful verse to reflect on for Thanksgiving! Our nation sets aside one day a year for giving thanks, but God says give thanks in all circumstances. Give thanks in all circumstances. Whether you're healthy or ill, give thanks. Whether you have a houseful of family or are a bit lonely, give thanks. Whether you have a well-paying, secure job or are unemployed, give thanks. We don't always know the reason for

the circumstances we find ourselves, but we do know *that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)* He loves you no matter your circumstance, give thanks for that. We must listen to Paul when he tells the Philippians *I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. (4:11b)*

God has given each one of us tremendous blessings; the greatest of these is His Son. As soon as Thanksgiving is over, we start the Advent season. This great event causes much rejoicing and He tells us to rejoice always. How can you not rejoice when you

think of what our Savior has done for us? It is pure grace that gives us the hope of heaven. Rejoice! I say it again, rejoice! Rejoice and give thanks! There it is again, give thanks. We have so much to be thankful for and yet we often times dwell on the negative. Look again at Romans 8:28 and rejoice and give thanks.

Let's rejoice this Thanksgiving and Advent season for the Lord has truly blessed us. When these events are done, let's rejoice even more for the wonderful gifts showered upon us. Let's rejoice always, pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Bring your children ages 6 months through 4th grade* to



Christmas for Kids

Saturday, December 6, 2014
9:00am—12:30pm
Drop off/Pick up anytime
Zion Lutheran School
822 Western Avenue, Columbus

*5th grade and up are welcome as helpers, contact Kelly Ihde 608-712-7994 for details.

Parents will enjoy **free childcare**. Children will have loads of **Christmas fun**. The main focus of the day will be on God's gift to us, His one and only Son, Jesus.

- † Older children will rotate in groups to activity stations participating in games, crafts, music, Bible lesson.
- † Younger children will stay mostly in one room while enjoying planned activities, free play, and lunch.

You can register by completing the registration form to the right and mailing to Zion Lutheran School, 822 Western Ave., Columbus, WI 53925. You can also register the day of the event at Zion Lutheran School; however, for planning purposes, **pre-registration is appreciated**. For more information, call Becky Weidner at 623-5796.

www.zioncolumbus.org

Christmas for Kids Registration Form

Parent(s): _____

📍 Address: _____

📞 Home: _____ Cell: _____

✚ Emergency Contact Number: _____

☺ Children to be enrolled (attach list of additional children)

1. Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____

2. Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____

3. Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____

• Estimated Drop off/Pick up times _____

• Anything else we should know? (allergies, diabetes, medication, etc)? _____

• Please attach or bring with you any specific instructions for nursery age children.

• Do you have a church? Yes No
Church Name: _____

New Building Open House

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Church Open Houses which took place in November. Each family that came to an Open House was given a Zion bag to remember their visit. We gave away almost 300 bags! We still have some bags left so if you know of someone who was not able to attend (a friend, neighbor, relative) and would like one, please talk to Pastor Sims. Each bag contains useful information about our church and school along with some other fun Zion items. Again, thank you to everyone who shared their time and talents to make it a successful event, to God's Glory!



“Auf Wiedersehen”

This past month the pipe organ was packed up and taken to Chicago to be cleaned and stored. Not only the pipes lined the floor of the old church, but all the wiring for the stops and the parts that housed the organ pipes. These parts, pipes, and pieces were carefully loaded into a U-Haul headed for Chicago until one day when we will see them in the space that is dedicated for them in our new church building.

We say, “auf wiedersehen,” to our beloved old German organ. This is a fitting saying because literally translated it means “until we meet again.” It is sad to see this instrument leave when it has served us for so many years. However, it is not the last that we will hear from it. We will hear it again (when the organ fund is at its max), and it will ring out its beauty once more in a new space refurbished and restored.



kid's page

"Away in a Manger"
PLATE



Make this special plate as a gift to give this Christmas.

What you need:

- Clear glass plate
- Acrylic craft paint
- Paintbrush and water
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Turn plate upside-down on table. Paint one of your palms brown, and press it on the center of the plate.
2. Rotate the plate so fingers point down. Using yellow paint, make a straw bed in the palm.
3. Mix white and brown paint for Jesus' face. Use white paint for a swaddled body.
4. Paint a yellow star above Jesus and a yellow border around the plate rim.
5. When paint is dry, turn plate over. With the marker, draw dots for Jesus' eyes and write the words of Luke 2:12 around the plate rim.



Born king of the Jews

Matthew 2:1-2 says that after Jesus was born, wise men came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?" Complete the puzzle to discover what they found in Bethlehem.

Directions: In the grid below, draw lines by starting at the first number in each list and stopping at the last.



★ ★

16-17	28-17-6	61-50-39	8-7-18	106-96-85-97-107-106	42-41-52-63-64-53
3-14-25	36-47-58	104-105-106	38-49-60	89-100-111-123	107-108-109-120-130
2-3-4	5-16-27	19-18-29-30	69-79-89	80-92-103-104	125-135-134-124-123-133-134
40-51-62-39	37-47-59	105-95-84-96		124-125-126-127-128	69-80-91-102-103
				129-130-142-141-129	141-140-128-129

•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143

Flags in the Worship Space

Old Glory and God's Glory

At its regular meeting on November 12, 2014, the Church Council discussed the issue of whether or not to place our national flag in the new church. Here are some of the key issues they have been studying:

Key Issues

- A key question is this: Is Christianity an American religion? Obviously, the answer is no. Christianity is a-political. It is both cross-cultural and counter-cultural. Our Savior made clear that his "kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). Jesus came to die for all people regardless of race, country or political ideology. The Christian Church is made up of people from "every nation, tribe, people and language" (Revelation 7:9). The American flag represents the ideals of one nation at one point in the world's history. Care should be taken that the American flag not be seen as a Christian symbol.
- Though we are proud to be Americans and grateful for the freedoms God provides us as citizens of this great country, the purpose of worship must be clear. We don't come to God's house to honor our great nation. We don't come to thank brave veterans, grateful as we are for their service. We come to God's house to give thanks to him alone for the blessings of his grace, especially the blessing of full and free forgiveness in Christ. Certainly, among the blessings for which we give thanks to God are the freedoms we enjoy as American citizens and the brave men and women who have defended those freedoms. However, we must always remember that, "every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17). We thank God for those who have defended our freedoms. We pray for the leaders in our government and the members of our armed forces. We do it all remembering that, for every freedom we enjoy, spiritual and political, the glory belongs to God alone.
- Symbolism in worship is important. Our chancel has been carefully planned and designed. The purpose of every piece of furniture and art in the sanctuary is to direct our attention to God's grace in Christ. The American flag is ill-suited for this purpose. For this reason placement of the flag was not part of the planning process for our new church. A couple of helpful quotes:
 - ◇ Some churches like to include the national, Christian, and denominational flags in the chancel. While many Lutheran congregations have displayed flags of one sort or another, building committees ought to carefully analyze this tradition. Altar, pulpit, and font "all point to Christ," while national flags "speak not of Christ, but of the nation." Especially in an age when so many Christian churches confuse the separate roles of church and state, it may be wise to place national flags in the narthex rather than in the chancel. (*Christian Worship: Manual*, NPH 1993, p. 85. Quotes are from Bruggink, *Christ and Architecture*.)
 - ◇ Many Lutheran churches display flags in the chancel or nave, but this practice must be discouraged. The national flag is a symbol of the state whose values and purposes are different from, and sometimes incompatible with, those of the church. If congregations insist on having the flag, it should be displayed in the narthex or fellowship hall. (*The Altar Guild Manual*, Lee Maxwell, CPH 1996, pp. 45-46)

(continued →)

- Display of the American flag in church does not have a long history. Rev. Bryan Gerlach, chairman of the WELS Commission on Worship, notes: "The display of the national flag is a short-lived tradition. Lutherans never did this prior to World War I and then only in America. German Lutheran churches seem to have begun displaying the flag during and after World War I and World War II to make clear that they were loyal to the United States. The perceived need was perhaps stronger when worship was conducted in German."
- Displaying the American flag in the worship space can easily confuse the doctrine of the two kingdoms. To the state God has given the sword (force of law) for the purpose of keeping order. To the church God has given the gospel (the means of grace) for the purpose of making disciples. Rev. Gerlach states: "Separation of church and state emphasizes the *political* notion that the state should not seek to influence the church and that the church should not rely on the state to carry out spiritual goals. The doctrine of the two kingdoms emphasizes the *biblical* teaching that God operates through both the state and the church. Luther called the state 'the kingdom of God's left hand' and the church 'the kingdom of God's right hand.' These two are to be kept separate not only for political reasons but also for spiritual reasons ... The doctrine of the two kingdoms is there for our good. It neither diminishes patriotism in the kingdom of the left hand nor 'Americanizes' the nature of the church in the kingdom of the right."
- A WELS pastor comments: "A flag is a symbol that represents a certain segment of a divided human race. It does not represent God, God's Word, God's sacraments, or any divine truth. And we ought not foster a notion that our nation – much as we love it – is God's favorite."

Conclusion

Rev. Gerlach states: "It is best not to display national flags in the chancel or in other places within the worship space ... It is probably best to reconsider placement of flags during a new church construction project, renovation or remodeling." It is this last bit of advice that has brought this issue before us at this time.

For all of the reasons stated above, the Elders Board, Church Council and pastors agree that it is best not to display the American flag in the worship space. However, they feel that including our flag in some way on our property is desirable. For this reason, they are suggesting two options:

1. Place the flag in our fellowship hall, or
2. Add lighting to the large flag that flies on our property so that it can be on display at all times.

The members of the Church Council take this matter very seriously and would appreciate hearing from you. What are your thoughts? Which option do you prefer? Please let them know. Thank you for your thoughtful and prayerful consideration of this matter.

Zion Lutheran Church

December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			4:00 pm Public School Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Advent Devotion 7:30 pm Zion Choir	2:00 pm Ladies Aid Meeting	6:00 am Breakfast Bible Study	9:00 am Christmas For Kids
7 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 12:15 pm Teen Caroling	8 6:30 pm Board of Ed Meeting	9	10 4:00 pm Public School Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Meeting Night 7:00 pm Advent Devotion 7:30 pm Zion Choir	11	12 6:00 am Breakfast Bible Study 5:00 pm Basketball at Helenville	13 8:50 am Christmas Service Practice
14 8:00 am Handchimes, Junior, Zion, & Bell Choir 8:00 am Worship with Children's Message 9:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship with Children's Message 1:00 pm Gift Wrapping Social	15	16 1:30 pm Christmas Concert 6:30 pm Christmas Concert	17 4:00 pm Public School Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Advent Devotion 7:30 pm Zion Choir	18	19 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 am Breakfast Bible Study 5:00 pm Basketball vs Holy Cross	20
21 8:30 am Children's Christmas Service Worship 9:15 am NO Sunday School or Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Children's Christmas Service Worship	22	23 12:30 pm Early Release	24 No School - Christmas Break 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	25 No School - Christmas Break 10:00 am Christmas Festival Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 am Zion Choir and Bell Choir	26 No School - Christmas Break	27 No School - Christmas Break
28 No School - Christmas Break 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am NO Sunday School or Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion	29 No School - Christmas Break	30 No School - Christmas Break	31 No School - Christmas Break 5:00 pm New Year's Eve Worship with Holy Communion			



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The Messenger

Newsletter of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School

**"I am bringing
you good news
of great joy
for all the
people."**

Luke 2:10, NRSV



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Wednesday Advent Devotion at Church..... 7:00p
Friday Bible Breakfast at Church.....6:00a
Sunday Worship at Church..... 8:00, 10:30a
Sunday Adult Bible Study at Church9:15a
Sunday School at Zion School9:15a

*School located at 822 Western Ave.
Church located at 812 Western Ave.*

Upcoming Events

Sat., Dec. 6 • Christmas for Kids
Wed., Dec. 10 • Meeting Night at Church
Fri., Dec. 19 • Newsletter Deadline
Tues., Dec. 16 • Christmas Concerts at School
Sun., Dec. 21 • Children's Christmas Services
Tues., Dec. 23 • Early Release at 12:30pm
Wed., Dec. 24 • Christmas Eve Services
Thurs., Dec. 25 • Christmas Day Service
Wed., Dec. 31 • New Year's Eve Service