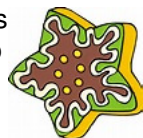


DECEMBER – 2017
ZION NEWS
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Insert – Calendars for December

Cookie Walk
Saturday, December 9th
Zion Lutheran Church
Dorcas Society
8:30 a.m. – 11:30a.m.



The Dorcas Society's Annual Christmas Cookie Walk is a great way to stock up for the Christmas Season. The entire congregation

Bakes their favorite homemade Christmas cookies which will be on sale for a few hours on Saturday morning....

You are reminded to have your cookies in the kitchen on Friday, December 8th.

Proceeds from this event will be used by the Dorcas for future purchases at Zion.

Thanks for your help!
 8:30 a.m. – 11:30a.m.



CHURCH DECORATING –DECEMBER 3RD!!!

Please join us after the 9am service to help with our Christmas Decorating. It is a big job, but won't take long if we get enough help. All are welcome. For those who can help, there will be a light lunch at noon served by the Zion Dorcas members.



ZION NEWS

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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DECEMBER 2017

Life Goes On

Dear friends in Christ Jesus,

Recently I received a letter from the Illinois Secretary of State's office. Probably just as you do, when I receive a piece of "official correspondence" from a governmental agency, part of me cringes just a bit! After all, governmental officials rarely contact us with good news – usually such correspondence cause us a bit of hassle (at a minimum) or a lot of trouble (at a maximum!).

So, imagine my consternation as I gingerly opened the envelope to read the following:

Dear Friend:

Thank you for participating in the organ/tissue donor program. Currently, there are more than 5.4 million people registered. However, there are more than 5,000 people waiting for a lifesaving transplant and each year in Illinois about 300 people die due to the shortage of available organs. One person's gift can provide life or improve the quality of life for 25 people.

If you know someone who has not yet joined the registry, please talk to him/her about signing up to become organ/tissue donors. As you know, it's a very simple process: Register at a Driver Services facility, Call 800-210-2106, or Visit www.LifeGoesOn.com.

Again, thank you for choosing to help others by taking part in this lifesaving program.

Sincerely,

/S/ Jesse White, Secretary of State

Actually, I had forgotten that I'd signed up to be an organ and/or tissue donor when I had renewed my license plate earlier this fall.

Yet, the more that I thought of this letter and the Christmas Season that fast approaches us, the more that I thought that Jesus' coming to our world to give us Life in His saving name is very often forgotten by so many!

Sadly, some of the very first to decorate their homes for Christmas and those who compete their Christmas shopping before Thanksgiving, NEVER attend church *at all* during the Christmas Season!

Yet, we Christians understand that the occasion of Christmas is, really, a celebration that *eternal* "Life Goes On" for us in heaven with our gracious God!

Think about it... who would celebrate someone's birthday AND NOT SHOW UP to do so when it was easily within their means? It makes no sense, does it?

In these coming Advent and Christmas Seasons, please make it a priority to "show up" at the home of our Lord Jesus who came as a baby in order to die and rise for us. Join with your fellow Christians to look in awe at the mighty God who wants us to have Life [that] Goes On with Him in heaven!

A Merry and Blessed Christmas to us all! See you in Church!

Pastor Rock

P.S. – I also urge you to prayerfully consider signing up for the ***Life Goes On*** program administered by the Illinois Secretary of State office!



UPDATE ON COVERED WALKWAY PROJECT

As of the date of writing this newsletter article, our Building Committee still awaits receipt of all the bids for our project. As mentioned last month, our architect had some delays in accomplishing his work in order to provide the various contractors and subcontractors with the detail that they needed to complete their bidding process. The committee is very hopeful that final decisions and recommendations can be accomplished before the end of this year. Those recommendations will then be brought to the Voters Assembly of Zion for their consideration and possible approval.

ANGLES ON ADVENT ANGELS

Yes, that's sort of a tongue twister AND brain teaser, isn't it? *Angles on Advent Angels* is the title of the series of sermons that will be preached for our special midweek Advent services this year.

So what IS your angle on angels?

- Are they part of your daily life, or do you rarely think about their role?
- Do you have a "cute" angle on angels, thinking of them as adorable charms made for collecting?
- Or do you often consider the ongoing battles that angels fight against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms on your behalf?

Most of us have an opinion, or angle, on angels. In this Advent series, we will prayerfully consider how God used angels to prepare the world for its Savior, His Son, Jesus.

This year the calendar allows for three midweek Advent services. They will be held on three successive Wednesdays, beginning on Dec. 6th. (Also on Dec. 13th & 20th.) As a way to accommodate people's busy schedules, each service will be held at both 2 & 7 PM on each of those Wednesdays. Furthermore, please note that the upper grades of our school will have their annual *Lessons and Carols* service during the two services on Dec. 13th. That service is always well received by all who are able to attend it!

Please plan to attend all three weeks of these services. By doing so, your enjoyment and appreciation of Christmas will be all the more complete!



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH AT 7PM- SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE



Last year a special "Service of Remembrance" was held to help those who have lost loved ones go through the festive time of year – but now without their departed loved ones.

In spite of very poor weather conditions last year, the service was well received by not only Zion members but also members of our community.

This year's service is scheduled to be held on **Sat., Dec. 9th at 7:00 PM**. The simple, brief service is intended for all, but especially for those who wish to remember in prayer, song, and Scripture readings their loved ones who have passed away.

During the course of the service, the worshippers may present the name(s) of their loved one. The names will be read aloud, the church bell will be rung, and the worshipper may also light a candle in remembrance of that person. Following the service, our Board of Outreach will serve light refreshments.

Again, please remember that this is for both our own members AND anyone within our area. Please spread the word to your friends and family. Perhaps through this effort, we can help many people find more joy at this time of year. Please see Pastor Rock for more information.

NEED A STOCKING STUFFER?



WE ARE TAKING ORDERS FOR VENDOR GIFT CARDS

Just think of all the ways you can use a gift card...

- Big Presents or small Stocking stuffers
- Hard to buy for teens and young adults
- Friends & family you mail gifts to
- Yourself – buy a card and
 - Use it to shop
 - Put gas in your tank
 - Have lunch when you need a break
 - Have dinner when your shopping is done
- Think ahead to birthdays or special occasions

Fill out the order form, enclose your payment, and turn it in to the church office. **ORDER DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 4TH**



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

**THE DORCAS SOCIETY AND THE SENIOR WORSHIP WILL
BE COMBINED AGAIN THIS YEAR TO MAKE IT AN EVEN
BIGGER AND BETTER CELEBRATION.**

Dorcas Ladies and Senior Worshipers – you are invited to attend the Communion Worship Service at 11:00am followed by the Christmas potluck at 12:00pm in the Parish Hall.

Gentlemen –this may be your only opportunity EVER to go to a Dorcas Christmas Potluck. You will be amazed at the wonderful food they prepare for this special occasion.

Dorcas members, you are asked to bring a dish to share. There will be games & entertainment. There will be a collection taken for Lutheran Child & Family Services in lieu of a gift exchange. The luncheon will be hosted by Annie Janota, Kay Bunte, Ginny Peterson, Janice Strenge, & the Senior Worship Committee.

Visitors & Guests are always welcome to attend.



**DOOR COLLECTION - DECEMBER 2ND & 3RD FOR
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GOODIE BAGS.**

Bags will be given to all children in attendance for the Sunday School Christmas Program at 9 A.M. on Sunday, December 17th. There is a container in the narthex where you may bring individually wrapped small candy bars, candy canes, individual decorated Christmas cakes, etc. Nuts & fruit will be purchased with the money from the door offering.



ANGEL TREE

**ALL GIFTS AND GROCERY CARDS ARE
DUE BY DECEMBER 3RD!**

Angel Tree - For those of you who are quick enough to get an angel from the tree, please sign the sheet so we know that each 'Angel' has been taken. These gifts **DO NEED TO BE WRAPPED** & THE ANGEL ATTACHED TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE WRAPPED GIFT.

Lutheran Child & Family Services Foster Care Christmas Program. Once again we have the opportunity to support LCFS with gifts for their foster children. These gifts are not for a specific child but for a boy or girl in a specific age group. LCFS will distribute the gifts to the appropriate child. **DO NOT WRAP THE GIFTS FOR LCFS BUT DO ATTACH THE "HEART" TO THE GIFT.**

Some suggestions for the LCFS Foster Care Christmas Program:

1. **Books** – From nursery rhymes to teen books
2. **Board games** – Fun to play from preschool to teen.
3. **Gift cards** – \$25 gift cards are great gifts for teenagers
4. **Toys** – A special gift to open on Christmas morning.
5. **Financial gifts** – Enables LCFS to fill in gaps and purchase items for the children.

ALL DONATIONS WILL BE NEEDED BY DECEMBER 3RD.



**WALT'S OR ALDI'S GIFT CARDS OR MONETARY DONATIONS ARE
ANOTHER WAY TO JOIN IN THIS COMBINED EFFORT.**

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NOTES



The high school youth are planning to have a full day together on **Sunday, December 17th**. Immediately after that morning's worship service concludes, they will leave to attend the German Christmas Market (*Christkindlmarkt*) at the Daily Plaza in downtown Chicago.

They have done this for several years and continue to enjoy their time visiting it! That same day, following their return from the Christmas Market, the group will go Christmas caroling at various homes and facilities where our members and others reside. The youth also greatly enjoy caroling and sharing the warmth of the Season with others in this manner. **All Zion youth are invited** and encouraged to go with us. Please call Barb Harvey at 708.567.6834 or Pastor Rock at 708.363.9863 for more information.



Zion Lutheran School NEWS!

For the month of November Preschool and Pre-K have been giving many thanks to Jesus for all that he has given to us. We talked about how God gives us what we need and has blessed us in so many ways. Come check out our thankful tree in the hallway if you're able to! We have just started preparing for our Christmas Programs. We have many songs and finger plays to learn. Overall, Preschool and Pre-K have been busy busy busy!



YOU'VE GOT MAIL!



Note: Periodically letters to the congregation are received in the church office. The following came to us from Lutheran Church Charities following their receipt of our gift to help their "Comfort Dogs" go to Las Vegas following the horrific mass shooting that occurred there on October 1st of this year.

Dear members of Zion Lutheran Church,

I want to personally thank you for your faithful support to Lutheran Church Charities for your gift of \$284.00 to the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Travel Fund – Las Vegas. Dollar for Dollar, EVERY dollar given goes directly to the cause for which the gift is received. Your support allows Lutheran Church Charities to continue to touch lives with the presence of Jesus Christ!

Serving Together, Serving Christ, so we can serve others IN HIS NAME,

/s/ Tim Hetzner, President / CEO

**AROUND THE WORLD
2017 DINNER AUCTION**

Income:

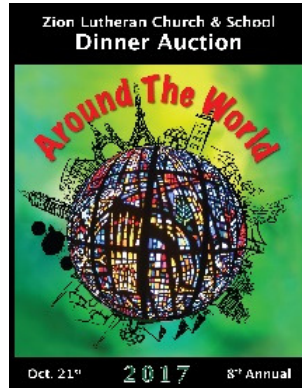
Donations	\$ 5,550.00
Tickets	9,700.00
Ads	2,650.00
Wine Table	1,140.00
Beer Table	855.00
Chocolate Table	250.00
Wrist Bands	1,515.00
Fund A Cause	13,140.00
Round Up	260.00
Silent Auction	10,616.00
Bidding Frenzy	1,165.00
Live Auction	<u>10,450.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME:	\$57,291.00

Expenses:

Postage	\$ 30.00
Serbian Hall	6,847.26
Drink Tickets	675.00
Printing	758.10
Split the Pot	750.00
Wine Purchase	126.37
Kraft Auction	<u>3,500.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$12,686.73

TOTAL NET INCOME: \$44,604.27

(as of November 5, 2017)



**Thank
You!!!**

Thank you, everyone, who supported our annual Dinner Auction in any and every way. Even if you were not able to attend the event, we appreciate all the donations, support, and prayers. *We are in the process of **beginning to think about next year.*** We welcome any suggestions and offers of help.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS



Poinsettias will be available again this Christmas season for \$8 each through the Christian Growth Committee. The poinsettias will decorate the Altar through Christmas Day. You may take your plant



home following the Christmas Day service.

Due to limited space on the altar, only 66 poinsettias will be ordered. Place your order early to guarantee having a plant to take home. Names will be listed in the Christmas Eve & Christmas Day bulletins.

Thank you for your support!

If you are placing this/these plant(s) in someone's memory or for another occasion, please note below. Please print clearly. This information will be printed in the bulletins on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Plant 1. _____

Plant 2. _____

Plant 3. _____

Plant 4. _____

Plant 5. _____

Number of Plants _____ x \$8.00/plant = Total: \$ _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Your name: _____

**Please Make Checks Payable To:
ZION CHRISTIAN GROWTH COMMITTEE**

If you choose to participate, any amount over the cost of the poinsettias will be given for the support of Seminarian Jonathon Torreson at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

2017 ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 2

5pm Worship Service



Sunday, December 3

9am First Sunday in Advent

Wednesday, December 6

2pm & 7pm Midweek Advent Service

Saturday, December 9

5pm Worship Service

7pm Service of Remembrance

Sunday, December 10

9am Second Sunday in Advent

4pm Zion School Kindergarten through Fourth Grade Program

Wednesday, December 13

2pm & 7pm Service of Lessons and Carols with Zion's Fifth through Eighth Grade School Children

Saturday, December 16

5pm Worship Service

Sunday, December 17

9am Third Sunday in Advent

Zion Sunday School Christmas Service

(no Communion)

Wednesday, December 20

2pm & 7pm Midweek Advent Service

NO Worship Service Saturday, December 23



Sunday, December 24

9am Fourth Sunday in Advent

5:30pm & 8pm Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion (Both are Candle Light Services)



For
unto
us
a
CHILD
is born
unto us a **Son**
is given, and the
Government shall be
Upon His shoulders,
and His Name shall be called,
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Isaiah 9:6

Monday, December 25
10am Christmas Day Worship with Holy
Communion

NO Worship Service Saturday,
December 30

Sunday, December 31
9am Worship Service
6pm New Year's Eve Worship Service



DEFICIT REDUCTION DRIVE HAS LAUNCHED! The Deficit Reduction Drive began November 18th! This year's effort has a nice new feature -- "**MATCHING FUNDS.**" A pool of members have together committed \$28,300 dollars (to date) which are available to be **matched dollar for dollar** with funds that are contributed by the rest of our congregation! This is an amazing

opportunity, as the first \$28,300 given to this drive will be doubled. As in prior years, you need only take an ornament (or two!) off the tree in the narthex. Then fill one side out and place it in the box on the table. Red ornaments are \$500, green ones are \$250, and white ones are blank allowing you to fill in a dollar amount within your means. Take the other half of the pledge ornament home to use as a reminder to yourself of your pledge. The money will be used to help reduce the budget deficit.

