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December 16, 2022

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# Zion Connection

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Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!

We're all about helping you get connected -

With one another, with your faith, with the greater church,  
and with opportunities to serve our community & beyond.

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## Christmas 2022 Services at Zion

### Friday, December 24th @ 4:00pm

On Christmas Eve, our Zion family will join with all Christians throughout the world to sing the songs and proclaim the message of Christmas. We hope you will join us, either in-person or via livestream ([Link](#)), for a special service of Bible readings, Christmas carols, and candlelight. Together we will celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus, not only as a babe in the manger, but also as Lord and King.

### Sunday, December 25th @ 11:00am

We will also gather to worship the newborn King on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th at 11:00am. We hope you will join us, either in-person or via livestream ([Link](#)).

## The Christmas Story - Luke 2:1-20

### A Reading and Christmas Greetings

From ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton: "Merry Christmas and a blessed Advent! This is a season of preparation. As we prepare for family gatherings, home-cooked meals, and Christ's birth, let us take a moment to relax, breathe, and receive the Christmas story. Merry Christmas, dear church!" (Filmed at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Racine, Wisconsin) [Video Link](#) - [Print Version Link](#)

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## Church Calendar

(For more info re: any of these events, [please email the church office.](#))

**Weekly Worship Service** -  
11:00am - In-person and via  
livestream ([Link](#))

**Men's Prayer Breakfast** -  
Mondays, 8:30am @ Rainbow

**Pastor's Bible Study via  
Zoom** - Thursdays, 2:00pm

**Mah Jongg Fellowship** -  
Fridays, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

**Christmas Eve Service** - Sat.,  
Dec. 24th, 4:00pm

**Christmas Day Service** - Sun.,  
Dec. 25th, 11:00am

**Jan. Church Council Mtg.** -  
Sun., Jan. 8, 12:00pm

**Jan. WELCA Meeting** - Mon.,  
Jan. 9, 10:00am

**2023 Congregational Mtg.** -  
Sun., Jan. 29, 11:50am (+/-)

## Sanctuary Flowers

Chancel flowers in December are given in thanksgiving for the faith-filled ministry of Pastor Nielsen and Marci among us.

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## Annual Congregational Meeting 2023

**Sunday, January 29, 2023**

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held January 29, 2023, immediately following the worship service. The meeting will be live-streamed ([Link](#)) for members who are not able to attend in person. At present, the agenda includes the following items:

1. Proposed amendments to the constitution, mandated by ELCA synodical action last year.
2. Election of Council: Two council positions for 3-year terms need to be filled, and congregational approval of Becky Wehman to continue for the two remaining years (she was selected by the council in early 2022 to fill a vacancy).
3. Approval of the 2023 Budget.

Copies of the proposed agenda items will be made available in early January. Annual reports about Zion's activities in 2022 will also be shared. Additional agenda items should be proposed to the Council before its January 8, 2023, meeting. **Super Special Note:** If there is interest, it has been proposed that the meeting be followed by a pot-luck lunch. All in favor say, "Yum!"

### Spotlight on Ministry -

#### Donations to Building Maintenance Fund

Zion's Building Maintenance Fund is a designated budgetary fund through which Zion family members can donate specifically for the maintenance and improvement of our church building and parsonage - think electric, plumbing, painting, roof repair, etc. To date, donations to the fund have provided a large portion of the cost of the new A/C unit, as well as the cost of much-needed plumbing repairs. Donations can be made at any time of year, for any purpose, and in any amount. Those wishing to donate are asked to please clearly mark the intended purpose of their donation on the check.

#### Volunteers at The Neighborhood Center of South Lake ([Website](#))

Zion is proud to recognize several volunteers who have faithfully served our neighbors struggling with food insecurity during 2022. Zion's TNC volunteers include: Ann Schultz, Susan Skyzinski, Dona Olesen, Eric Olesen, Rae Starke, Joy Albrecht and Joan Missell. As the number of those struggling with food insecurity continues to rise, so does the need for volunteers. **If you would be interested in learning more about volunteering at TNC**, please just ask any of those listed above.

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## Sunday Scripture Readings

**Sunday, December 18th**  
(4th Sunday in Advent)

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

**Saturday, December 24th**  
(Christmas Eve)

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Luke 2:1-7, 8-14, 15-20  
John 1:1-5

**Sunday, December 25th**  
(Christmas Day)

Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]  
John 1:1-14

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## December Birthdays

**1st** - Sue Wells  
**2nd** - Ran Slifer  
**21st** - Roy Cousino  
**27th** - Stephanie Stankiewicz

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## Prayer Request List

Our prayers are requested for:

**Healing:** Roy, Lou Ann, Rich, Leif, Monika, David, Malcolm, Dylan, Mike, Bob, Jim, Susan, Karla, Karen, and Chris.

**Comfort in Sorrow:** Family of Grace Richardson upon her passing; family of Val Boyd upon the loss of Jaime.

**To add a name(s)** please speak to Pastor, Susan S., or Joy, or [email the church office](#).

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## Reprints

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Reprinted from 12/2/22 edition of *Zion Connection* -

### As We Journey Through Advent

The meaningful season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparing for the birth of Christ, is upon us. The following resources can help guide us as we seek to prepare our hearts for the entrance of Christ into our world. May our hearts be captured by the ultimate gift — Jesus — this Advent season.

#### **Series of Daily Devotions - Luther Seminary**

Luther Seminary, located in St. Paul, MN, has prepared a 2022 Advent daily devotional, entitled “Fling Wide the Door,” for personal or congregational use this Advent season. [Click here to read.](#)

#### **Series of 4 Weekly Advent Devotions - FL-Bahamas Synod *Just Love***

The JUST LOVE Team of the FL-Bahamas Synod is pleased to offer these four Advent devotions for use by individuals and congregations wishing to explore the themes of Advent as they are experienced by marginalized communities. [Click here to read.](#)

#### **Series of 4 Weekly Advent Devotions - WELCA**

Tired of the commercialized rush toward Christmas? In this Advent devotional, entitled “Good Things Come in Small Packages,” we are led to move from wanting to waiting at Advent. Author Rev. Dr. Becca Ehrlich leads us toward a better understanding of the season and of how “good things come in small packages.” [Click here to read.](#)

#### **December Monthly Devotion - WELCA**

WELCA’s monthly devotion for December is entitled “Best Laid Plans.” When things don’t go according to plan this Christmas, remember what is most important: Jesus is with us. [Click here to read.](#)

#### **Special Online Worship Service (WELCA) - Blue Christmas: Bring Your Fear, Loss and Grief**

Memories of the past and the pain of the present can leave many people feeling less than merry in December. A special “Blue Christmas” worship service will be held on the longest night of the year, December 21st. The service (webinar) will take place at 7:00 p.m. CST (8:00pm EST) on Wed., Dec. 21, 2022, via Zoom. [Please register here to attend.](#) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.