

December 2, 2022

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.

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.](#)

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
Restaurant

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

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

Women's Christmas Party @
Zion - Fri., Dec. 2nd, 11:00am

Church Family Group Photo
Day - Sun., Dec. 4th, 12:00pm

Dec. Church Council Mtg. -
Sun., Dec. 4th, 12:00pm

Next WELCA Meeting -
Mon., Jan. 9, 2023, 10:00am

Sanctuary Flowers

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

Journey Through Advent - (cont.)

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.

Serving Others During Advent

Diapers For [The Neighborhood Center](#)

Our Christmas tree built out of packages of diapers (sizes 4, 5 & 6) is starting to grow! As we collect the packages and boxes throughout the Advent season, we'll watch our tree(s) grow bigger and bigger. Bring your diapers anytime now!

Donate Your Old Electronic Devices

If you have an iPad, iPhone or other electronic device in good working order that you no longer need and are willing to donate (with charger, if possible), please contact [Grace El-Yateem](#). Grace will be sending the devices to a Christian school in Amman, Jordan, for students who cannot afford them and need them for school. If you have questions or would like more info, please contact Grace at (347) 683-8603 or Gkyateem@aol.com. **Note:** Zion member Joy A. will be sending a box to Grace. If you would like to include your donated device(s) in Joy's box, please just [let her know](#).

Calendar Notes From WELCA

- A final reminder that our annual women's Christmas party will be held on Fri., Dec. 2nd, @ 11:00am - ALL are invited! **Note:** This event replaces our regular monthly meeting for December.
- Due to the New Year's national holiday on Jan. 2nd, our January WELCA meeting will be held on Mon., Jan. 9th, 2023, 10:00am.

Sunday Scripture Readings

Sunday, December 4th (2nd Sunday in Advent)

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday, December 11th (3rd Sunday in Advent)

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

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

December Birthdays

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

Prayer Request List

Intercessory prayer is a meaningful way we can support one another. **Our prayers have been requested for:**

Leif, Monika, Malcolm, Dylan, Mike, Bob, Jim, Susan, Karla, Karen, Chris and Jaime.

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

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Time to Spread the Word, Zion!

As you know, Zion's weekly worship service is now being livestreamed via our primary Facebook page. Thankfully, our beloved livestream 'regulars' were able to find us this past Sunday. Now, Zion, it's time for us all to do our utmost to help others in our community find us, too!

We all remember the days of the professionally-printed trifold brochures that every church and civic club passed out to members of the community. The brochures had all kinds of info about the group - activities, goals, leaders, etc. Can you, however, even remember the last time someone handed you a brochure like that? These days, those brochures have been replaced by a Facebook page. The great news for us is that the FB page is absolutely free, can be easily updated, and has the potential to reach unlimited numbers of our neighbors. We need your help, though, in using our Facebook "brochure" to spread the word about Zion and all our various ministry happenings!

For ALL of us, even those who are not Facebook users -

- Anytime you mention Zion to someone for whatever reason, please simply add, "You should check out our Facebook page. It's Zion Lutheran Church, Groveland." Maybe they will or maybe they won't, but it's certainly worth a mention! As you attend various Zion activities and events, please take a couple of photos, especially of smiling faces, and send them to Susan S., Rae, or Joy. We have nice photos of our building and of our lovely sanctuary, but we all know that it's our people who make Zion so special.

Those of us who are Facebook users (regularly or merely occasionally) can dramatically increase the number of people who see Zion's posts by -

- Going directly to Zion's page ([Zion Lutheran Church, Groveland, FL](#)) and clicking on both 'Like' and 'Follow'.
- Clicking 'Like' or 'Love' or 'Care' or 'Wow' on each individual Zion post that appears in your newsfeed.
- Clicking on the 'Share' symbol that appears at the bottom of each individual Zion post.

Group Photo Day at Zion - Sunday, Dec. 4th

And finally, the large group photo which is Zion's official Profile Picture on Facebook is quite out of date. Many pictured have been gone from Zion for many years, while many of our newer Zion family members are not included. So, Zion, we seriously need you to participate in a photo op on Sunday, December 4th, immediately after the worship service. This is not a time for camera shyness or such 😊 - it's all about meeting and welcoming our Groveland area neighbors. We need as many smiling faces as possible!