

December 13, 2021

Zion Connection

547 So. Main St., PO Box 607, Groveland, FL 34736

(352) 429-2960 | info@zionlutheranfl.com | [Zion Website](#) | 



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.

Christmas Eve Worship 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.

Abound in Hope

A Christmas Message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

This is our second pandemic Christmas. We thought this would be over so long ago. And still, we wear masks; we're physically distant; we can't be with friends and family as we used to do. And also, there's so much that's broken in this world, so much that tells us, "Why have hope? Just give up."

But we have a hope that's stronger than any of this, stronger even than death. The hope of God comes in the form of a tiny baby, a helpless child; nevertheless, who grew to a man and in his fragile strength was willing to die on the cross and was raised again.

Church Calendar

Weekly Worship Service -

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

Men's Prayer Breakfast -

Mondays - 8:30am @ Rainbow
Restaurant in Groveland

Pastor's Zoom Bible Study -

Thursdays - 2:00pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Service - Fri., Dec. 24th @
4:00pm - In-person and via
livestream ([Link](#))

WELCA Meeting via Zoom -

Monday, Jan. 3rd @ 10:00am

Church Council Mtg. -

Sunday, Jan. 9th @ 12:00pm

Zion Annual Mtg. - Sunday,

Jan. 30th, immediately
following the 11:00am service

Zion Family Birthdays in December -

2nd - Ran Slifer

21st - Roy Cousino

27th - Stephanie Stankiewicz

(Christmas Message- continued)

I don't know what next Christmas will bring. I don't know what New Year's will bring. But I do know we have hope.

St. Paul put it this way:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Merry Christmas, dear church.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

[\(Link to Video Message\)](#)

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Zion Lutheran Church will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 30, 2022, following the 11:00am service. The meeting will be live-streamed [\(Link\)](#) for members who are not able to participate in the in-person service. The main items of business will be electing Council members, approving the budget, and voting on an amendment to the Constitution.

The amendment would change Sections 12.05 c. and d. to allow the Council to enter into contracts and access up to \$7500 rather than the present \$1500. Given the age of Zion's property and the rising costs of material and labor, the \$1500 cap limits the Council's ability to quickly address emergency needs in a timely manner, such as this past summer's air conditioning breakdowns. Such lag time could mean that Zion's property would be unusable while we wait for the Constitution's requirements (calling a meeting, announcing it for 2 consecutive Sundays, and mailing out notification of the meeting 10 days prior to the meeting and obtaining the approval of the congregation) to be fulfilled.

Following are the portions of the Constitution we are recommending be amended.

C12.05. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.

c. The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to ~~\$1500~~ \$7500 for items not included in the budget.



Sunday Scripture Readings

Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Friday, Dec. 24, 2021

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

Memorial Service for Jerry Anne Wehman ❤️

A memorial service, both in-person at Zion and via livestream [\(Link\)](#), will be held for Jerry Anne Wehman on Sunday, Dec. 26, at 2:00pm. The family welcomes all who knew and loved their dear Jerry Anne to attend.

(Annual Meeting - cont.)

d. The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur obligations of more than \$~~1500~~\$7500 in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by a Congregation Meeting. The budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on in ~~partnership~~ collaboration with the synod and churchwide organization.

If you would like a copy of the entire Constitution, they are available at church in the office.

Peace,
Gary Lenning
Zion Congregation Council

From Lutheran Disaster Response

On the night of Dec. 10, a devastating outbreak of more than 30 tornadoes swept through six states. Kentucky was impacted the most, with more than 70 people reported dead. Homes and businesses were destroyed, including a candle factory in Mayfield, Ky., where first responders are still searching for survivors. More than 330,000 people are without electricity across multiple states. The full extent of the damage is expected to become clear in the coming days.

Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with partners in the affected areas, including the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, to respond to immediate needs. Given the initial damage assessments, recovery will likely take years, and Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to accompany survivors until the response is complete.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for "U.S. tornadoes" will be used entirely (100%) to assist those affected by tornadoes until the response is complete. Together, we can support those who are on the long road to recovery. Please give today.

If you would like to join LDR in support of those affected, please simply place your donation in the Zion offering on Sunday morning or mail a check to Zion (PO Box 607). Please make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church, but clearly note on the check that it is to be used for LDR U.S. Tornadoes. Our awesome treasurer, John Renn, will see that the funds are sent to LDR. Or, donations made be made online directly to LDR via [the LDR website](#)