

December 3, 2021

# 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.

## Advent: A Season for Waiting and Preparing

Members of our Zion family have been hard at work preparing our church sanctuary for the special worship season of Advent. We offer here a heartfelt thank you to the following -

- All who worked so hard to decorate our beautiful sanctuary for Advent. Thank you, Rae Starke, Valerie Boyd, Pat McCurdy, Gail Huntley, Dona Olesen, Eric Olesen, Susan Skyzinski, Rich Skyzinski, Rich McCamant, and Louise Willim.
- Susan Skyzinski and Louise Willim for ordering, transporting and continuing to care throughout Advent for all the beautiful poinsettias donated by members of our worshipping community.
- All those listed on the Poinsettia Donations List which was distributed at church this past Sunday. (A copy is attached to the email with which this newsletter was sent.) What a wonderful gift of love these beautiful flowers become when offered in memory or honor of loved ones, in appreciation of blessings received, or to the glory of God.
- Leif Zetterlund and Monika Ferrmark-Zetterlund for their gift of two poinsettia plants in honor of their beloved parents. Leif & Monika were traveling when the complete list of poinsettia donations was prepared and distributed.

## 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

### Mah Jongg Fellowship -

Fridays - 1:00pm @ Zion (RSVP  
to Gail Huntley)

### Women's Christmas Lunch -

Friday, Dec. 10th @ Lake  
David Park, 11:00am

### Church Council Mtg. -

Sunday, Dec. 12th - 12:00pm

### Christmas Eve Worship

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

## Zion Family Birthdays in December -

**2nd - Ran Slifer**

**21st - Roy Cousino**

**27th - Stephanie Stankiewicz**

## Women's Christmas Fellowship

**Friday, Dec. 10th @ 11:00am**

All of our wonderful women of Zion are cordially invited to WELCA's annual Christmas get-together. Whether you are able to participate in WELCA activities during the year or not, this is a time for ALL Zion women to join together in a time of fun and fellowship.

**In hopes that the much-loved and greatly missed women** who have been unable to return to Sunday in-person worship can join us, if even for just a few minutes, we will be gathering outside (weather-permitting). Pavilion #1 at Groveland's newly-renovated and award-winning Lake David Park has been reserved for us. Since the pavilion is located right beside the park's u-shaped driveway, even a quick drive-by visit to share a bright smile and a Christmas greeting would be an option. Of course, we'll reschedule if the weather does not cooperate, but we're hopeful and prayerful. Regardless, be sure to check the temperature before leaving home and dress accordingly.

To ensure everyone's safety, please bring your own lunch and beverage. There will also be an optional gift exchange (\$5-10 max. price) for those who would enjoy participating.

## For Your Personal Advent Journey

### **Devotion: A Season for Waiting and Preparing**

Advent is a holy time, a time of incubation when we are made healthy and whole. At the same time, Advent is not a time for idle waiting, watching, and wondering. No, Advent is a time for active preparation. [Read Women of the ELCA's December devotion.](#)

### **2021 LSM Musical Advent Calendar**

Since the nineteenth century, households and congregations have marked the days before Christmastide with many types of Advent calendars. The season of waiting and longing for the "already-but-not-yet" incarnation of Jesus unfolds amidst waning daylight in the Northern Hemisphere, a time of yearning for hope, joy, and peace.

Each day from November 28th to December 24th, join the Lutheran Summer Music Academy for a moment of music and reflection. Selections will be posted daily on the following website: [LSM Advent Calendar.](#)



## Sunday Scripture Readings

### **Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021**

Malachi 3:1-4  
Luke 1:68-79  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6

### **Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021**

Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Isaiah 12:2-6  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Luke 3:7-18

### **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

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## Updated &/or Repeated Information

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### FNC Struggling With 2021 Turkey Crunch

We have all probably noticed while preparing for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday that turkeys are in short supply this year, especially those that are 'not too large' and are reasonably priced. As a result, our local food pantry, [Faith Neighborhood Center](#), is struggling to find enough turkeys for the 800+ families they will serve for the next big family holiday - Christmas. So this year, FNC is asking members of the community who are able to donate \$15.00 gift cards (Winn-Dixie or Publix). A gift card will be included in each client's Christmas dinner food box in place of a turkey so that families can purchase their own turkey, ham, or other protein replacement.

If you would like to provide a gift card, please simply place your donation (cash, check or gift card) in the Zion offering plate on Sunday **or** mail a check to Zion (PO Box 607). Please make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church, but clearly note on the check (or the cash envelope) that it is to be used for FNC Christmas. Treasurer John Renn will send the funds directly to FNC.

### Christmas Gifts for LSF Foster Kids

LSF ([Lutheran Services Florida](#)) is an organization dedicated to serving those most vulnerable members of our communities by providing life-changing human services to all people regardless of age, background, or belief system. LSF is dedicated to serving children and families, youth and teens, adults and elderly, refugees and immigrants through various programs ranging from substance abuse and mental health to education. The lives of 1 in 50 Floridians is impacted by LSF through various services offered across the state.

This Christmas season our Zion WELCA group is teaming up with LSF to help ensure that all children in the LSF foster care program, both in-home and residential, receive a personal Christmas gift. Rather than the actual gifts, WELCA is collecting monetary donations which will be sent directly to LSF. These funds will be used by LSF to purchase holiday gifts for each child based on his/her wishes.

**If you would like to join Zion's WELCA members in their support of these special children**, 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 LSF Christmas. Our awesome treasurer, John Renn, will see that the funds are sent to LSF.