



Zion Lutheran Church

The Messenger

January 2024

A Message from the Zion Lutheran Council President :

December brought us the winter solstice; the shortest, darkest day of the year. It also brought a farewell to the ministry of Pastor Jake and Pastor Mike at Zion. Dark days indeed!

However, following the solstice, each day becomes a little brighter, a little longer. The church also celebrates the coming of the Light of the World in the form of the humble Christ child in a Bethlehem manger.

So, here we stand at the beginning of a new year. Do we plunge into a darkness of uncertainty that may lie ahead or do we embrace the light and hope of the world brought by the Messiah? The choice is ours.

When I look back at 2023, I see a re-invigorated congregation who had the faith and confidence to face the future. We have embraced Affordable Housing and we continue to explore the future use of our extensive facilities once the Appleton Bilingual School's lease ends. Exciting stuff!

We are also moving ahead in the search for a new pastor. This search will take time because we want to find the right person to minister to Zion. In the meantime we will continue to have pastoral coverage with supply pastors leading our worship services. Please make these individuals feel welcome.

There are so many thanks due to the dedicated individuals who made 2023 such a successful year. I pray that all of you who took such an active role at Zion will continue your support as we move ahead. We can do this together as did our ancestors 140 years ago. We are a community of faith; the challenge for 2024 will be "Let your Faith be greater than your Fear"!

-Sue Bunkert, Council President



January 2024

Zion Lutheran Church

Monday, January 15, 2024	Submissions due for Febuary's calendar
Monday, January 1	Office Closed
Tuesday, January 2	Staff Orientation Meeting 11:30am
Wednesday, January 3	Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm
Sunday, January 7 Isa 60:1-6, Ps 72:1-7, 10-14, Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12 Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am Worship Service 9:00 am followed by Coffee Hour Sunday School & Confirmation	Epiphany of Our Lord/Baptism of Our Lord Communion: Pastor Mike Assisting Ministers: Deb Reis and Grace Van Eyck Acolyte: Lily Gruselle Musician: William Surtees Opens: Gene Wiese Closes: Greg Pettigrew Fellowship: Colleen Malchow
Monday, January 8	Housing Roundtable Meeting with Bonnie Nussbaum Finance Meeting 6:00pm
Tuesday, January 9	Zion Mutual Homes Meeting 10:00am Staff Meeting 10:30 am-11:30am
Wednesday, January 10	Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting 7:00pm Deadline for Submissions for Annual Report
Sunday, January 14 1 Sam 3:1-10 [11-20], Ps 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Cor 6:12-20, John 1:43-51 Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am Worship Service 9:00 am Followed by Coffee Hour Sunday School & Confirmation	Second Sunday of Epiphany Pastor Jan LaVake Assisting Minister: Wendy Sachs Reader: Stephanie Draheim Acolyte: Alexa Rusch Musician: William Surtees Opens and Closes: Greg Pettigrew Fellowship: Diana Staedt
Monday, January 15	Development Team Meeting with Bonnie Nussbaum Parish Council Meeting 6:30pm
Tuesday, January 16	Staff Meeting 10:30am-11:30am
Wednesday, January 17	Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm
Sunday, January 21 Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Ps 62:5-12 1 Cor 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20 Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am Worship Service 9:00 am followed by Coffee Hour Sunday School & Confirmation	Third Sunday of Epiphany Pastor Karen Jewell Assisting Minister: Tom Meltz Reader: Pennie Reis Acolyte: Charlee Weiland Musician: Heather Watney Opens: Jim Schley Closes: Greg Pettigrew Fellowship: Karen & Elmer Luedtke
Monday, January 22	AASD Staff Development 7:30am-3:30pm
Tuesday, January 23	Staff Meeting 10:30am-11:00am
Wednesday, January 24	Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm
Thursday, January 25	Historical Central Neighborhood Book Club 6:30pm
Sunday, January 28 Deut 18:15-20, Ps 111 1 Cor 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28 Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am Worship Service 9:00 am followed by Coffee Hour Sunday School & Confirmation	Fourth Week of Epiphany Pastor Karen Jewell Assisting Minister: Gwen Schwandt Reader: Tricia Kasten Acolyte: Ava Dorn Musician: William Surtees Opens: Gwen Schwandt Closes: Greg Pettigrew
Monday, January 29	Planning Team Meeting with Bonnie Nussbaum
Tuesday, January 30	Staff Meeting 10:30am-11:30am
Wednesday, January 31	Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm

Zion Council Minutes

11/20/2023 at 6:34 pm

Present: Sue Bunkert, Pastor Jake, Ray Pitman, Carl Abendroth, Kandie Wilz,
Tammy Mossholder, Gail Hunter, Kyle Moseng

Opening devotion by: Ray Pittman

Approval of Agenda: Approved

Approval of October's Minutes: Approved

Pastor's Report: Approved

He has been busy with HR stuff. New Personnel Heather (web) and Kimberly (office) are thriving and getting into their roles efficiently and quickly. Jacilyn (finance) starts Dec. 6.

We will put their bios up so that the congregation can get to know them better. Dec. 10 town hall meeting with congregation (fellowship) with Affordable Housing... giving updates and answer any questions. GLCI- generate living committee institute- nonprofit, applying for grants, rent space from Zion, help create living wages for people (\$24). Dec. 2 Meeting with Mayor, Bonnie Nussbaum (Affordable Housing Project) and GLCI

Advent services: Soups from Jacob Market, bread from Breadsmith, desserts from congregation, community is invited, service at 6:30pm, supper at 5:00pm-6:15pm, dates are Dec. 6, 13,20, round table at supper with people.

Christmas Eve services at 4pm and 7 pm

No Christmas Day service (Other churches in area will have services)

Committee Reports: Approved

Property: A lot of discussion of the parsonage. Core group to go through the parsonage to see what items need attention. Moving day of items out of the Parsonage is Dec. 15th. Pastor had gone through and selected items to keep for the church.

Zion Mutual Homes: The elevator died. Arnie has 2 bids for a new one and present to congregation and vote about them and decide which one to go with. Hoping to have a 3rd bid by the time they meet with congregation. Mutual Homes will finance.

Committee voted to increase rent \$25 as of Jan. 1, 2024.

Personnel: new position church administrator, have a job description and needs approval from council. Motion made and seconded by council to post job at indeed.com.

Finance: Reviewed spreadsheet

Old Business: Call Committee has a meeting Monday November 27, 2023

New Business: Thank you notes from Pastor Jake and Mike.

Supply pastor coverage through January

Gwen proposed a \$1000 scholarship to Lawrence organ student, comes from Jentz foundation scholarship fund. Motion made and approved to give Lawrence college William S., Organ study student. \$1000, \$500 increments.

Next Meeting- December 18, 2023 @ 630 pm

Devotion to be led by: Kyle Moseng

Motion to dismiss: approved

Lord's Prayer

Life Passages



Bob Page died on Sunday, December 3rd. The funeral was held on Saturday, December 30th. Please keep the family of Bob in your prayers.

Jan Mossholder died on Saturday, December 30th. The funeral was held on Saturday, January 6th. Please keep the family of Jan in your prayers.

Confirmation Classes

Sanctuary Secrets: Why are there arches in the Zion Sanctuary?
Why is there a bird?? Where is the gardener? Why do the colors change?
What color is the Hymnal?

Join the Confirmation class in the Sanctuary after worship on Sundays between January 7th and February 18th to find out.

Raise Right Fundraising

Gift cards are a gift that people give throughout the year. Zion is participating in the Raise Right fundraiser. Zion receives a portion of the gift card sales depending on which retailers are chosen. Our December order was great & we received approximately \$100 from the sale. Please consider continuing with those sales and fundraising money for Zion. This is a good and easy fundraiser. If you wish to order gift cards for whatever occasion, birthdays, thank you, etc. please contact Lynn Walter. You can reach me by email at lynn7403@att.net or text or call 920-659-1021. Thank you for thinking of Zion the next time you want to purchase gift cards.

Property Matters

We all can be grateful for the weather we've been having, it affects our home heating cost and certainly does for the church! This is the first Christmas since I've been at Zion (some 46 years) that we didn't heat the church for Christmas Eve!

We have some opportunities for volunteers to help with cleaning and throwing of items from the lower level Sunday School rooms. Is there someone that would like to assist with any of these projects? Please contact Gary Neumann (920.284-0205); Gene Wiese (920.213-5851); or Gwen Schwandt (920.475-5956).

Our property needs everyone to help, give any of us a call and we'll find a job for you to do! Thanks for considering and helping us "unclutter" some areas of our buildings. -Gwen Schwandt

Homebound Visitors

We currently have nineteen members of Zion that are either homebound in their own home or confined to an Assisted Living or Nursing Home facility.

There are probably more members that fit into these categories, we just don't know about them. There are seven visitors that see shut in members and bring them communion every 6 to 8 weeks. During this time without a Pastor there is even a greater need to possibly cover hospitalizations. Would you consider assisting in this ministry? Please prayerfully consider what this opportunity would do for you and also through you to others. Contact the Church Office (920.739-3104) or Gwen Schwandt (920.475-5956) with your "Yes, I would like to help visit some of our homebound folks".

Thanks, you will be a blessing to others! -Gwen Schwandt

Zion Lutheran Church Staff Updates

Kimberly Gordon joined our staff as our new Office Coordinator in November, replacing Sarah Clarke. **Heather Plainse** resigned her position as Communications Coordinator as of December 22nd. **Pastor Jake** and **Pastor Mike** ended their service as interim pastors to our congregation on December 31st. **Karen Farlow** joined our staff as Church Administrator on January 2nd.

New Staff Biographies

Kimberly Gordon



Kimberly Gordon grew up in Winneconne, Wisconsin and majored in history at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh where she earned her Bachelor's degree. She is married to Thomas, a Marine Corps veteran who went on three combat deployments during Operation Iraqi Freedom in service to our nation. Together they have eight children: Claudia-14, James-12, Joshua-12, Liam-11, Bianca-9, Isaac-9, Vivianne-6 and Thomas Jr.-4. Kimberly is currently attending the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh to obtain her Master's degree in Professional Counseling. She loves to bake, garden and travel-visiting art and history museums, state and national parks, botanical gardens and the best local restaurants.

Karen Farlow

My name is Karen Farlow and I am the new Church Administrator for Zion Lutheran Church in Appleton. My professional background has been in leadership, management, and human resources for multiple different industries including owning and operating an HR consulting firm. Prior to my professional career, my education experience included a Bachelor of Arts in Youth and Family Ministry and a Master of Arts in Religion. I studied theology and ethics at the ELCA seminary Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. I am pleased to utilize my education and experience to lead and nurture the administrative functions at Zion. I live in Fox Crossing with my husband, Russell, and two dogs, Miss Lady and Telli. We enjoy camping, fishing, science fiction shows, and watching sports, especially our Green Bay Packers. I can be reached at karen@zionappleton.org and look forward to getting to know each other better.



Zion's Affordable Housing Project



Community Vision Fund awards \$25,000 to Zion Affordable Housing Project

Zion Lutheran Church in Appleton is pleased to announce The Community Vision Fund within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region has awarded a \$25,000 grant to the Zion Affordable Housing Project for early development efforts in creating affordable housing units as a part of a wider project at Zion's Oneida Street campus.

Dr. Bonnie Nussbaum, Zion's project manager states, "This project is slated to accomplish multiple things. Many people in this area are struggling to find affordable housing. Many churches are struggling financially, yet are land-rich. A win-win is to utilize land that churches have, generating income for those churches, and expanding the Fox Cities' stock of available, affordable housing." Nussbaum also indicated that, although facilitated by Zion and rooted in their church mission, access to the housing will not require any sort of religious affiliation or specific journey of faith.

Nussbaum indicated this is a grassroots project, involving support from many area churches and faith traditions, along with local not-for-profit organizations. The Community Vision Fund grant is the first outside funding awarded for this project. "We so appreciate the Community Foundation for their generous support in getting our project funded", Nussbaum said. Zion Lutheran Church has provided two internal grant awards to foster the project as well.

For more information, to attend a listening session or to be added to the newsletter recipient list, contact Dr. Bonnie Nussbaum at bonnie@empowermentandpurpose.com.

The Zion Affordable Housing Project is a grassroots effort to create affordable housing in a variety of ways that are accessible to individuals and families struggling to find adequate housing options. Grounded in Zion Lutheran Church's 140-year history of providing outreach and support to the people of the Fox Cities, this project is predicated on the Zion mission of "Creating Community through God's Love and Guidance".

Church Happenings in December



Gwen Schwandt and Pastor Jake delivered boxes containing all the trimmings for a holiday meal for ten families in need from Columbus School.



The children from the Sunday School program presented a play at the worship service on December 17th.



Pastor Jake and Pastor Mike were celebrated with a brunch on December 31st, their last Sunday of service to Zion Lutheran as interim pastors. Pastor Mike has graciously agreed to provide urgent pastoral care to our members during this time of transition. We thank them both for their dedicated service to our community and wish them the best.

Memorials Gratefully Received

Mr. & Mrs. David W. Weber for World Hunger-Given in memory of William Eggert

Mr. Harry Hameister for Bell Tower Restoration-Given in Memory of his Mother & Father (Lena & Harry Sr.) and his Uncle Henry and his sister Helen and her husband Jim

Mrs. Karen Meyer for Bell Tower Restoration-Given in Memory of Wayne Meyer

Janeth and Judith Brown for the general fund-Given in Memory of Philip and Alice Brown

Mr. & Mrs. Greg Pettigrew for Organ Loan Repayment to Foundation-Given in Memory of Darrell Kintopf

Mrs. Marilyn Hetzler for Organ Loan Repayment to Foundation-Given in Memory of Darrell Kintopf

Mr. James Schley for Organ Loan Repayment to Foundation-Given in Memory of Darrell Kintopf

Thank You from Zion

Thank you for your service to our departing interim pastors:

Pastor Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer, and Pastor Mike Dismer.

Thank you to Gary Neumann for his time and expertise repairing the vertical lift at the front entrance to the church, enabling Zion to be more accessible to all.

Thank you to the Schwandt family for sponsoring the string quartet at the Christmas eve worship service in memory of their husband and father, Donald E. Schwandt.

Thank you to Gwen Schwandt for her dedicated service to the Zion Community.

Thank you to Lynn Walter for all of her hard work creating the bulletins for worship services.

Thank you to Colleen Malchow, Mary Mc Donald and Ann Brandt for assembling the bulletins.

Thank you to Lynn Walter, Sue Joosten, Linda Wirtz, and Janice Staedt for volunteering to cover office hours.

Thank you to Janice Staedt for her work with our membership files in Shepherd Staff.

Thank you to Diana Staedt, Barb Carlson, Carol Gipp, Colleen Malchow and Gail Hunter for providing fellowship in December.

Thank you to all those who assisted with the Pastors' departure brunch and donated towards their gifts.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to serve as assisting ministers in December: Wendy Sachs, Tom Meltz, Deb Reis, Grace Van Eyck, and Gwen Schwandt.

Thank you to Cheryl Meyer for serving as cantor for our Advent services.

Thank you to all who donated items for our Blessing Box. We have seen an increase in use recently, and your donations are so important for members of our community in need.

Thank you to Pastor Mike Dismer for agreeing to provide urgent pastoral care to our members during this time of transition.