

From the Pastors



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²² By the mercies of the Lord we are not consumed, for his compassions do not fail. ²³They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22 & 23 (EHV)

HAPPY NEWYEAR . . .? BLESSED NEWYEAR!

A new calendar year brings both planning and speculation. Humanly speaking, we go into a new year thinking that this year, 2023, will be a better year. We plan to be better, eat healthier, exercise more, save some money, avoid unhealthy relationships and unhealthy activities. We want to learn more academically, love more deeply, grow in Christian faith, and enjoy life. Yes, indeed, that's what we want.

Will that happen? Perhaps, 2023, will be THE YEAR. Maybe it will be the best year of your life.

Or maybe not. Perhaps you will catch a disease, get in a car accident, develop an addiction, loose a loved-one, get fired, or down-size your house. Maybe 2023, will be a struggle. Maybe it will be the worst year of your life. Or it could be another year of mountains and valleys, highs and lows, blessings and curses.

We will do what we can do to make 2023 a HAPPY NEWYEAR. These are the verbal good-wishes we extend. HAPPY NEWYEAR.

Understanding that Jeremiah wrote Lamentations, what do you think Jeremiah understood. He lived at the time Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians. He was an eye-witness to the siege of his capitol city. He watched the Babylonians enslave Israelites and haul them off into captivity. He wept over the damage and destruction of all the physical blessings Israel possessed. He mourned over the fate of his countrymen knowing their slavery would rival the slavery of Egypt. He worried about the spiritual deterioration of his people which did bring about the Lord's chastisement in the form of the Babylonian captivity.

We're sure that Jeremiah wanted a HAPPY NEWYEAR. Yet Jeremiah would accept a BLESSED NEWYEAR.

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How does one resolve it?

Jeremiah voiced both the truth and faith. God's mercies are new every morning. The contrast between grace and mercy is this. Both are expression of God's love. God's grace has Him give us things we don't deserve. God's mercy is God not giving us what we do deserve.

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Communion is offered regularly on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, and the Wednesday that precede that Sunday. Individual Cup will be available at the Sunday Communion Services. Individual Cup will be available at the Wednesday Communion Services.

کھ Wed., Jan. 11 Sun., Jan. 1 & Jan. 15

AFTERNOON WORSHIP

Please join us for an afternoon worship service on the second Tuesday of each month. Individual cup communion will be served. 1:30 p.m., Tuesday January 10 So every day we sin. Some sins are conscious and deliberate. Some are reactive and responsive. Some are accidental and unconscious. The fact remains that we daily sin much.

If God gave us what we deserve, He would sever all ties with us. He would abandon and exile us. He would punish us for our transgressions with pain physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. We would want to be obliterated rather than suffer so greatly.

Both Jeremiah and we understand and believe – God's mercies are new every morning. Every moment of every day, week, month, year, decade, and life-time, God does not give us what we deserve.

• Instead He gives us **life**:

- \mathbf{P} "It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it." Isaiah 45:12
- Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." John 10:10
 - Instead He gives us **membership in His family**:
- ♥ "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:26
- * "But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those who under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons." Galatians 4:4 & 5
 - Instead He gives us **salvation**:
- * "For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith . . ." Ephesians 2:8
- * "But because of His great love for us, God who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ, even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved." Ephesians 2:4 & 5

You may or may not have a HAPPY NEWYEAR in 2023. Yet you surely will have a BLESSED NEWYEAR in 2023.

BLESSED NEWYEAR

²² By the mercies of the Lord we are not consumed, for his compassions do not fail. ²³They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness.

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EHRISTIAN DUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL, BIBLE CLASSES AND YOUTH GROUP: The Adult Bible Class meets in the church basement; Sunday school (ages 3 through 7th grade) meet in the gymnasium; and Youth Group (8th—12th grades) will meet in the youth room in the church basement. All Sunday classes will meet from at 10:15 a.m.

LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL — Zion started a school in 1858. Currently we teach students from Preschool through 8th grade. Our staff of five teachers are both certified and experienced to provide instructions in all academic areas, but especially in God's Word. They are:

Deanna Schneck — Preschool Stacey Sordahl—Kindergarten Michelle Roth — Grades 1 & 2 Ryan Roth — Grades 3 & 4 Bryan Schneck — Grades 5, 6, 7, & 8 and Principal

PRINCIPAL REPORT



Principal's Report – January Zion Messenger

"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." – Matthew 2:2

I have always loved the story of the magi, or wise men. Historically, we know so very little about them. Though the traditional song about them gives a lot of details, in truth the Bible gives us very little information. We really don't know how many there were, where exactly they came from (other than "the east"), or how long exactly it took for them to reach Bethlehem. What we do know is that, through a sign in the heavens and some exposure to Old Testament prophecies, it was revealed to them that the Messiah was born, and that he was important enough for them to make a journey to see him and present some very precious gifts. Perhaps the reason I've always felt a close connection to their part of the story is the things we have in common with them. They were Gentiles (non-Jews), and so are we. Gentiles were not the chosen people of the promise, yet through Jesus's redeeming work they (and we) are part of the "all nations" to be blessed with the gift of salvation. Our knowledge of the promised Savior like theirs came not from an angelic announcement, but the revelation of God's Word. Through the Holy Spirit, that same Word works on the hearts of God's people to continue to seek him out and be near him today.

Though it does not tell us in the Scriptures, I can imagine that, like the shepherds, the magi did not keep their knowledge to themselves, but continued to share their excitement and joy. Why wouldn't they? As we finish up our Christmas season, put away our decorations, and enter a new year, I pray that we may continue to share the joy of our salvation through Jesus with those around us as we continue telling the story of Jesus that started in Bethlehem but ended with a cross, an empty tomb, and a fulfilled promise to all who believe.

We enjoyed the story retold by our preschool classes and our grades K-8 students as they presented their messages of our Savior's birth at our preschool and elementary school Christmas services on December 21st, What a great opportunity for our students to do "shepherds' and angels' work" sharing the good news of great joy for all people with our church and school family, as well as other family and friends. Thank you, Zion students and teachers, for sharing your Christmas joy!

Beside our Christmas preparations, the co-ed basketball teams assembled and began their practices in December. Coaches Steve Sordahl and Ryan Roth are preparing grades 3-8 students in three teams: C (grade 3-4), B (grades 5-6) and A (grades 7-8). With our smaller classes we will have some overlap within the teams and plenty of action for our players. We thank the coaches for their work as they prep our Warriors for the upcoming season. Pee Wee Poms and Cheerleading will start practices in January, with Mrs.Stacey Sordahl coaching. Our A team will participate in their first games at an HVL pre-season tournament on January 7th, and our first home game will be on January 27th. A big thank you also goes out to our Zion CEA, as our basketball teams and cheerleaders will be sporting new uniforms for this season, provided by the CEA.

PRINCIPAL REPORT (CONT.)

The students and families at Zion again hosted a "giving tree" again this year for the residents and those served by Paula's House. The gifts were much appreciated by Paula's House residents. In January we plan to participate in St. Jude's "Math-a-thon", with students having the opportunity to practice their math skills while raising funds for St. Jude's children's Research Hospital.

Students and teachers alike enjoyed a rest as classes recessed from December 22nd through January 4th for the Christmas holiday. Classes resume on January 5th.

January 13th will mark the end of our 2nd quarter and the halfway point for our school year.

As we look forward to the new year that God has planned for us, we appreciate our school family, and especially our parents who recognize how important the knowledge of Jesus and his gift of salvation for us is to their children's educational and spiritual development, and that they are willing to use their gifts to support Christian education. We are very pleased with the continued success of our preschool and K-8 programs, and our school board is working on plans to continue the current momentum of growth into the future. We know that God has us in his hand and will continue to provide as we place our trust in him.

God's blessings to you this New Year as you as we look forward to another year of God's grace in our lives. Thank you, Zion congregation, for your continued prayers and support of Zion Lutheran School. You are a blessings to these lambs and their shepherds!

In Christ's service and yours,

-Principal Schneck

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

POINSETTIAS: Thank you to everyone who donated to beautify our sanctuary with poinsettia plants this year. Please feel free to take home your plant.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2023 are available in the school hallway. If you don't see your envelopes, please contact the office.

2022 CONTRIBUTIONS — The financial secretary will close the books on 2022 on December 31, 2022. To receive credit for 2022, all contributions must be received by that date.

ALTAR GUILD FOR 2023—There is a sign-up sheet in the west foyer for Altar Guild volunteers for 2023. We really do appreciate all the help we get through the year with this service of love. If you haven't ever done Altar Guild, please consider helping out. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office.

INSTALLATION OF NEW CHURCH COUNCIL POSITIONS: Newly elected councilmen will be installed at the 9 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 8, 2023. They are: Vice-President-Jason Burke; Recording Secretary-Ray Palmatier; Financial Secretary-Joe Schmeling; Elder Chairman-Mark Kipf; Education Chairman-Erich Freiny; Trustees Chairman-Keith McBee. We thank all these men for their willingness and efforts to serve us and Christ. God bless you all.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS TAKE DOWN— We are planning to take down Christmas Decorations in the sanctuary beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 14th. If you are able to help, please join us. THANK YOU.

CHURCH SERVICE LIVE STREAMING VOLUNTEERS

Zion is looking for volunteers to help live stream church services. Once trained, volunteers will be scheduled for services based on their availability, similar to the usher schedule. All members 13 years old and older are welcome to volunteer. This is a great opportunity for youth to serve. Contact Steve Sordahl (<u>sjsordahl@gmail.com</u>) or the office for more information.

OPEN FORUM—Sun., Jan. 22 @ 10:15 a.m. QUARTERLY VOTER MEETING—Sun., Jan. 29 @ 11:30 a.m.

THANK YOU!

CRADLE ROLL—Thank you to Carol Pitcher who has faithfully volunteered to do the Cradle Roll at Zion.

THANK YOU – The faculty and staff of Zion would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the Christmas greetings and gifts from our family of faith: on behalf of our office coordinator, Amy Vanisacker; teachers, Mrs. Schneck, Mrs. Sordahl, Mrs. Roth, Mr. Roth, Mr. Schneck, Pastor Sitzman & Pastor Ulrich – thank you for your expressions of well wishes and love.

THANK YOU - At the end of December, the following will have concluded their service in these offices: Vice President-Jeff Grubb; Recording Secretary-Ben Husby; Financial Secretary-Joe Schmeling; Elder Chairman-Mark Kipf; Education Chairman-Erich Freiny; and Trustee Co-Chairmen-Kevin and Co-rey Kohler. THANK YOU. Thanks for your desire to prosper Christ's Kingdom. Thanks for your time and efforts. Thanks for everything. We appreciate it and so does our Lord.

Well done, good and faithful servant! Matthew 25:23

MEMORIALS (Given to General Fund, unless otherwise noted)

In memory of Helen Henegar (Zion Member Tuition Fund)

from

Diane Bilicic

Elaine Stoll

In memory of loved ones Ken & Mary Ann Havekost

Council Meeting Highlights

There were 12 Council Members present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Steve Sordahl

- I. The meeting was opened with a devotion by Pastor Sitzman
 - A. Only the Redeemed will walk there
- II. M/S/C to approve the council minutes from Nov 17, 2022. (Krueger, Grubb)
- III. M/S/C to approve the submitted Pastoral Report for Thursday, Dec 15, 2022 (Krueger, Grubb)
- a. Pastor Ulrich will step in for Mark Kipf to report for BoElders
- b. Pastor Hunter will lead a Marriage Retreat on Friday & Saturday Mar 17 & 18 2023 here at Zion
- c. Pastor Sitzman will attend the WELS leadership conference
- d. Pastors and Elders are recommending that Zion receive into communicant membership Joyce Collins by profession of faith

e. Pastor Joel Gaertner will be at Zion both Wed, Jan 25 and Sun Jan 29, 2023 to preach the JESUS CARES Ministry.

f. Pastor Sitzman will be on VAC Dec 26-31

g. Estate gift – Zion received a sizeable gift from the estate of Bill Salow. The family has indicated that the funds should go towards capital improvements.

- h. Conclude with the Augsburg Confession XVII
- IV. M/S/C to approve the printed Principal Report (Krueger, Grubb)
- a. Enrollment at 84
- b. Grade 5 student has ended enrollment Dec 12 due to a family situation
- c. Christmas holiday break starts December 22 through Wed Jan 4, 2023
- d. Pre-K Christmas service "A night like no other
- V. Board Reports
 - A. M/S/C Board of Ed oral report (Grubb, Krueger)
 - I. Met Dec 12
 - II. None of the 4 deliquent accounts from 2021-2022 school year have been resolved, credit company will continue to pursue delinquent account holders
 - III. No delinquent accounts for 2022-2023 school year
 - Iv. BoEd will meet in January with teachers to discuss classroom organization, adding 5 day Kindergarten, deciding if current classroom arrangement is appropriate

B. M/S/C to accept BoElders report from Dec 6 and Statistical report from 4Q2022 (Freiny, Grubb)

I. Ash Wednesday imposition of ashes was discussed by Pastor Sitzman detailing his roll-out plan for imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday

- Ii. Pastor Ulrich will be serving at St. Stephen, Adrian on Jan 1, 2023
- III. WELS leadership conference 16-18 JAN 2023
- Iv. BoElders are recommending that we accept Joyce Collins into membership
- V. BoElders recommend that church doors lock about 9:10 during Sunday service for security purposes

C. M/S/C to accept Board of Outreach verbal report by Pastor Sitzman (Krueger, Grubb)

- i. Christmas for Kids on 3-DEC in the afternoon 1-4pm. 28 kids attended
- Ii. Will work to make even more improvements next year
- D. M/S/C to accept Board of Service & Fellowship no report
- e. M/S/C to accept the Board of Stewardship no report

Council Meeting Highlights

- f. M/S/C to accept the Trustees oral report by Corey Kohler (Krueger, Grubb)
 - i. Security System is installed
 - Ii. New bathroom quotes are still in progress
 - Iii. Parking lot light/camera needs service
 - Iv. Corey will continue on the cottage committee

Vi. M/S/C to accept the Treasurer's Report: Balance Sheet Nov 30, 2022, P&L Comparison for JAN - NOV 2022, P&L comparison YTD November 2022 (Krueger, Freiny)

- a. Balance Sheet is in balance
- b. P&L income is up roughly \$25k year over year
- c. P&L expenses is up roughly \$50k year over year, creating a deficit of ~\$25k compared to last year

Vii. M/S/C to accept the Financial Secretary's report which is submitted for the month of November 2022 and included in the handout packet. (Krueger, Grubb)

- A. Numbers balance
- VIII. MSC to accept Committee Reports -
- a. Financial Staff Committee still an opening
- b. Budget Committee –
- c. Nominating Committee no report
- d. Security Committee No Report
- e. Audit Committee No report
- f. Technology Committee (Krueger, Grubb)
 - i. New office computer
 - Ii. Replace Shepherds Staff with MS Office or Google Docs
 - ii. New network switches and routers installed
 - Iv. Looking into wireless intercom
 - V. Looking into new computers for council and counting room
 - Vi. New web-page help has been secured, Jing Loos
- g. Cottage Committee No Report
- h. Bell Committee No report
- i. Church Furniture (Krueger, Robinson)
 - i. Custom Upholstered furniture is now estimated for MAR-APR, year is not specified, but assumed to be 2023
 - Ii. New pamphlet holders will be delivered next week
 - Iii. Mysterious concrete benches showed up on property and will be disposed of shortly
- IX. Unfinished Business
 - A. TENETS of Leadership The Second Article
- X. New Business
- a. M/S/C to accept Joyce Collins into membership via confession of faith (Krueger, Freiny)

b. M/S/C to lock the school doors (entrance A) at 9:10am on Sundays after service starts for security purposes (Kohler, Grubb)

c. M/S/C to receive a gift of \$71,771.70 from the estate of Bill Salow towards the capital improvement fund 9559 (Grubb, Krueger)

XI. With no other business needing attention, M/S/C to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 8:10 PM (Husby, Krueger)

A. Next council meeting will occur on JAN 19, 2023 7PM Respectfully submitted, Ben Husby

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS
9:00 a.m. Worship services (IC/CC)
9:00 a.m., Installation of Church Council
10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Youth Group
NO Bible Class
7:00 p.m. Worship Service
8:00 a.m., School resumes
9:00 a.m. Worship services
10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Youth Group
7:00 p.m. Board of Education
10:00 a.m. Bible Class
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship Service (IC)
7:00 p.m. Board of Elders
7:00 p.m. Worship Service (IC)
9:00 a.m. Un-decorate Church
9:00 a.m. Worship services (IC/CC)
10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Youth Group
No School/Office closed—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
10:00 a.m. Bible Class
7:00 p.m. Worship Service
7:00 p.m. Church Council
9:00 a.m. Worship services
10:15 a.m. Sunday School & Youth Group
10:15 a.m. Open Forum
10:00 a.m. Bible Class
7:00 p.m. Worship Service
9:00 a.m. Worship services
10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Youth Group
11:30 Voter's Meeting

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

-					-
	Jan. 1	Jan. 4 & 8	Jan. 11 & 15	Jan. 18 & 22	Jan. 25 & 29
Altar Guild					
LIVE STREAM					
HELPERS					
USHERS	Jan. 1 Joe Koch Dave Benge Joe Schmeling	Jan. 8 Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson Alan Bober	Jan. 11 Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson Alan Bober Jan. 15 Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Jake Burke Juergan Koenig Matt McCormick	Jan. 22 Russ Vitale Keith McBee Mark Kipf	Jan. 25 Russ Vitale Keith McBee Mark Kipf Jan. 29 Rob Krueger Ralph Naveaux Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny
COMMUNION Helpers					

²² By the mercies of the LORD we are not consumed, for his compassions do not fail.
²³ They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness.
²⁴ My soul says, "The LORD is my portion. Therefore, I will hope in him."
²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.
²⁶ It is good to hope quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

Lamentations 3:22-26

CHURCH COUNCIL & BOARDS

PRESIDENT	Steve Sordahl
VICE-PRESIDENT	Jason Burke
SECRETARY	Ray Palmatier
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Joe Schmeling
ASST. FINANCIAL SECRETARY	VACANT
TREASURER	Jeremy Robinson
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF EDUCATION	Erich Freiny
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF ELDERS	Mark Kipf
CHAIRMAN, OUTREACH	Jeff Heusman
Co-CHAIRMAN, SERVICE & FELLOWSI	HIP
Mark Fuerstenber	g, Ken Vagt, & Mel White
CHAIRMAN, STEWARDSHIP	Rob Krueger
Co- CHAIRMAN, TRUSTEES	Keith McBee

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OPEN FORUM— Sun., Jan. 22 @ 10:15 a.m.

QUARTERLY VOTER MEETING— Sun., Jan. 29 @ 11:30 a.m. THE MESSENGER is printed monthly for the members of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church for the purpose of informing them of the upcoming events along with sharing the good news of the Gospel and information about our members. It is also intended to help and inform those not in our church family.

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> > **Pastor Ross Ulrich** 734-244-4553

Pastor Greg Sitzman 734-309-7877

Principal Bryan Schneck 907-331-7761

Steve Sordahl, Church Council President 734-658-3702

> Jeremy Robinson, Treasurer 734-586-2688

> > Mona Vitale, Organist 734-242-8061

Ross Ernest, Organist

Dottie Bober, Organist

Deanna Schneck, Pianist

Kayla Liechty, Pianist

Miller Sordahl, Pianist

Brenda Chandonnet, Friends in Faith Contact 734-915-5477

> Sherry Fuerstenberg, Ladies Serving Groups Contact 734-654-3736

> Amy Vanisacker, Office Coordinator 734-790-1481

JANUARY 2023 Zion Ev. Lutheran Church & School

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 a.m., Worship (IC/CC) NO Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Youth Group	2	3 NO BC	4 7:00 p.m. Worship	5 8:00 a.m. School Resumes	6	7
8 9:00 a.m., Worship (IC/CC) 10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Youth Group	9 7:00 p.m. Board of Education	10 10:00 a.m. Bible Class 1:30 p.m., Afternoon Worship (IC) 7:00 p.m. Board of Elders	11 7:00 p.m., Worship (IC)	12	13	14 9:00 a.mnoon Un-decorate Church
15 9:00 a.m., Worship (IC/CC) 10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Youth Group	16 No School/ Office Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17 10:00 a.m. Bible Class	18 7:00 p.m. Worship	19 7:00 p.m. Church Council	20	21
22 9:00 a.m., Worship (IC/CC) 10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group, NO Adult Bible Class 10:15 a.m. OPEN FORUM	23	24 10:00 a.m. Bible Class	25 7:00 p.m. Worship	26	27	28
29 9:00 a.m., Worship (IC/CC) 10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Youth Group 11:30 a.m. VOTER MEETING	30	31 10:00 a.m. Bible Class				

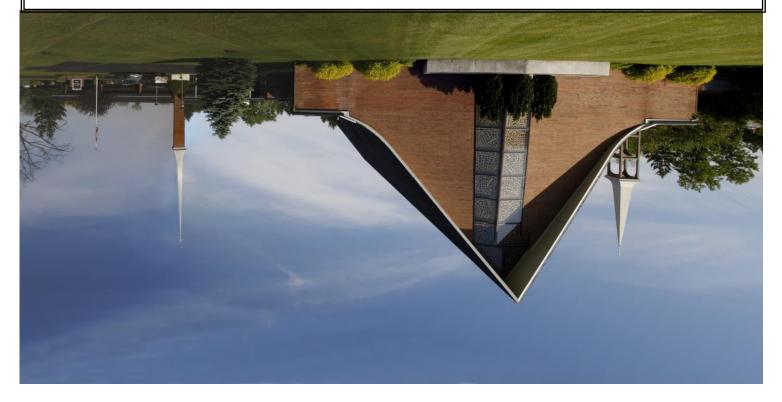
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