



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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December 2021 Newsletter

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December SERVANT SCHEDULE:

	USHER	LECTOR	COMM. ASST.
<u>5</u>	Falan & Cheyenne Aanenson	Annette Fjeldheim	Kent & Nina Yunker
<u>12</u>	Jim Fredrickson	Pat Fredrickson	Kathy Trask
<u>19</u>	Phil & Pam Koterba	Bob Giese	Vickey Cowen & Lana Papp
<u>26</u>	Brian Sallee	Scot Solberg	Scot & Chelsea Solberg
<u>1/2</u>	Sharon Nordahl	Angie Maier	Angie Maier & Kenadee



*IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FULFILL YOUR DUTY, PLEASE FIND YOUR OWN REPLACEMENT



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP, FAITH IN ACTION, OUTREACH, FELLOWSHIP, NEWS, EVENTS, CAUSES, HAPPENINGS, COMMUNITY, STEWARDSHIP, MINISTRY, CONNECTIONS & MORE!

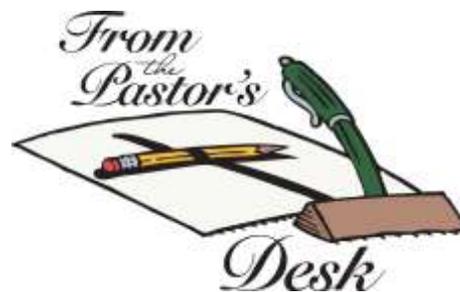
December Social Concern is...

The Salvation Army

We are in need of volunteers to ring the bell at Albertsons on the 13th & 14th from 10:00am to 7:00pm.

The Salvation Army is a [Protestant Christian](#) church and an international [charitable organization](#). The organization reports a worldwide membership of over 1.7 million,^[3] consisting of soldiers, officers and adherents collectively known as Salvationists. Its founders sought to bring [salvation](#) to the poor, destitute, and hungry by meeting both their "physical and spiritual needs". It is present in 132 countries,^[4] running [charity shops](#), operating [shelters](#) for the [homeless](#) and [disaster relief](#), and [humanitarian aid](#) to [developing countries](#).

Thank you for your generous support of \$3175 to the Elevator Fund in November!



Dearest friends of Zion Lutheran Church,

One of my all-time favorite Advent hymns is *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. Like all traditional hymns do, it takes me back to my childhood by conjuring up all sorts of wonderful images. I remember humming it while helping my grandpa set up his hand-carved nativity set; it causes me to remember sitting with my family in church, whose hard pews were somehow softened by the smells of fresh greenery and the hues of blue paraments and drapery; I think back to my mother's stern yet slightly-humored eyes beckoning my siblings and me to be quiet as we stood snickering, dressed like little shepherds and sheep, waiting to recite our lines in the Christmas pageant. Poinsettias, cookies, oranges, baby Jesus in a manger, candles flickering in the darkness--all these things come to mind when I sing or hear this hymn.

But what also comes to mind these days is the history of this hymn. Upon learning about it, it continues to shape my love for tradition and also my awareness that God's church always needs to be transforming. In reference to tradition, the lyrics of this hymn are, in fact, paraphrased verses of what are known as the great "O" *Antiphons*--call and response litanies traditionally sung by Christian communities dating all the way back, some speculate, to the eighth century! Later published as a complete hymn in the *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum* in Cologne, Germany, 1710, versions of these verses were originally sung with the *Magnificat* at Vesper services on the seven days (December 17-23) leading up to Christmas Eve. The lyrics remind me of how meaningfully steeped we are in ancient tradition and how tradition works to ground us in less than arbitrary ways. At the same time, however, the lyrics also beckon us to always be looking forward, embracing newness and transformation. Verse 2 in our hymnal version, for example, reads: O come, O Wisdom from on high/ embracing all things far and nigh/ in strength and beauty come and stay/ teach us your will and guide our way. Hence, this hymn calls us to not fear the future but instead embrace it by living into the tensions that exist between traditional and modern ways of being God's church in the world.

The history of the actual tune to this hymn also gives me pause. Before it was ever associated with the words we sing today, the hymn-tune actually accompanied a processional and responsory litany for funerals dating back to the 15th century. The combining of the advent antiphons with a tune traditionally used for funerals seems brilliantly appropriate, for themes of birth and death or death and resurrection have and are always meant to coincide with one another. Death and resurrection are, after all, the main themes in our Christian story, and as we anticipate the Christ child this Advent season, our Scripture texts will also be asking us to die to our unhealthy habits and tendencies towards individualism, greed, division, negligence, and violence. Our texts will speak of God's judgment of these things as harmful and unhealthy for us as we await Christ's eventual return.

Suffice it to say, this hymn is special because it stands as a testament to God's advent having finally arrived for those who have been waiting all year or often their whole lives to hear the gospel! It challenges us, as God's church, to value our traditions but to also bury old ones that no longer give relevance to the gospel as it needs to be proclaimed today. This hymn calls us to be brave and to seek new and more embracing ways to serve the stranger and welcome the outcast into our midst. Therefore, going forward with you, this hymn is my solemn prayer for our community. I pray that all of us will strive to take part in what God is doing right now to make Christ's gift of grace known to those who are desperate to receive it. Be looking and listening for new ways to live into your faith and share God's love with others come the new year. Happy Advent, everyone!

Your sister-servant,
Pastor Stacey

Growing in Faith

Zion Lutheran Church has many ways to grow in faith all while getting to know the people in our church family. Weekly worship services take place on Sundays at 9:30 am. For even more ways to make connections & grow in faith take look at what's happening at Zion every week!

- **ZLCW Circle Bible Studies:**
 - Hosanna Circle** – Bible study meetings the 2nd Thursday of the month at 4 pm in the Fireside room. Contact person: Lynette Sallee 406-535-5236
 - Rachel Circle** – Bible study meetings the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room. Contact person: Debby Shobe 406-535-5864
 - Ruth Circle** – Bible study meeting the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Contact person: Kathy Trask 406-535-5601
- **Men over Lunch**—Join this lively men's group each Wednesday at 12:00 pm for good food and good company! Men Over Lunch meet at the Elks
- **B.L.A.S.T.** – Stands for Believe, Learn, and Seek Truth. 2nd -6th grade kids meet Wednesdays after school at 3:30 – 5:00pm
- **Confirmation Classes** – 7th & 8th grade kids meet at 3:45 pm on Wednesdays in classes designed to teach bible lessons in preparation for the Affirmation of Baptism.
- **Youth Group** – High Schoolers meet from 6:30- 8:00pm on Wednesdays with dinner provided.

Have you found our worship services online?

The easiest way to find our online worship videos is to go to our website: www.zionlewistownelca.com

On the front page of the website are two icons:

 **YouTube** will take you directly to our YouTube channel where you can watch at the same time as an in-church service. Previous services are also available here. Check out Playlists to find funerals and Children's Time videos.

 **facebook** will take you directly to the Zion Facebook page. Click on the More tab and scroll down to Videos to find some of our past worship videos.

On our website you can also point to the Worship tab and a drop-down menu will show Video Worship Services. These videos are from previous services along with access to a bulletin for each service.



B.L.A.S.T.

Highland Park kids should find a buddy and walk to Church

Lewis and Clark kids will meet their driver in the parking lot as usual.

-Falan 😊



Believe Learn and Seek Truth

Upcoming Lessons

Dec 1: 6th A Good Ruler
2nd-5th Play Practice

Dec 8: 6th Zechariah
2nd-5th Play Practice

Dec 10: Parents night out

Dec 12: Christmas Play

Dec 15: Jesus is Born

Dec 22 & 29: No B.L.A.S.T.

Jan 5: The Boy at the Temple



The Rainbow Choir Christmas play is Sunday December 12th during worship.

Attention:

Please note that if you are trying to send mail to Zion please use this PO Box.

**Zion Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 147
Lewistown, MT 59457**





Council has approved the use of Instant Church Directory. Using this you can have an up-to-date directory with you wherever you go.

-You will have the ability to update your information when ever needed. Members are able to upload their own family picture. We will also have the option to have a professional photographer take your photos.



-The app can be downloaded on iPhones, iPads, Android Devices and Kindle Fire.

-Members use the email address in the directory to create their own password.

-Only members who are entered in the directory can login to the website, and if the member is removed, they no longer have access.

-We will also have printed copies available for members who would like one.

How To.....

1. Download the app
-Instant directory
2. Create a Log In
3. Use your email on file at the church
4. Create password
5. Confirm in your email
6. In the app touch the 
≡ to Edit My Family

From there you should be able to add a family photo and any information that you would like. If there is info that you do not want to add leave the space blank.

Security information from Instant church Directory.

Member Information Security.

Even though your data is stored with us, we at Instant Church Directory do not access your members' data, except for specific troubleshooting purposes within the directory. All data provided by members is held securely and we do not use member information such as phone numbers or emails for marketing purposes (either internally or by selling the information to other organizations.)

Click [here](#) to view the December Calendar.

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PO Box 147
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