



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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December 2023 Newsletter

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December SERVANT SCHEDULE:

	GREETER	LECTOR	COMM. ASST.	USHER
<u>12/3</u>	Cherie Quigley & Kathy Trask	Polly Weichel	Lloyd McKenna	Bill Cowen
<u>12/10</u>		Pat Fredrickson	Pat Fredrickson & Kay Golik	Sharon Nordahl & Jim Fredrickson
<u>12/17</u>	Lloyd McKenna	Lloyd McKenna		
<u>12/24</u>				
<u>12/31</u>				Byron & Carol Swanby

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



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

We share God's call to experience purpose, wholeness, and community in Jesus Christ and faithfully steward his creation.



Merry Christmas,

I am writing to you the week of Thanksgiving, knowing that I will be missing the first Sunday of the church year, December 6th, which means I will also be missing the first weeks of Advent. Therefore, I want to take the time to explain the “different” kind of Advent wreath Zion will be experiencing this year.

The “normal” custom is to light a candle each Sunday of Advent to symbolize the “light” Christ brings into the world at his birth. When researching this custom we find that there are various meanings and names for the candles, however, the most prominent are hope, peace, joy and love.

This year Zion will have this “usual” wreath at the front of the sanctuary alongside a lit, dark, wreath. The symbolic meanings of the lit dark wreath candles are: despair, division, sorrow and hatred. Week by week, Zion will extinguish these realities of our lives as we light what Christ brings to us. It is hoped that this visual will remind each one of us how God loved us so to send His Son to be the light that no darkness can overcome.

Christmas Eve will be a grand celebration of the coming light of Christ. Since Christmas Eve is on a Sunday at 9:30am we will celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent. At 4:00pm there will be a candlelight service in the sanctuary and at 8:00pm an outdoor celebration in the parking lot. I look forward to celebrating all of these services with you.

In Christ,

Pastor Audrey

December Social Concern is...

The Salvation Army

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](#).

If you would like to contribute to this effort, please mark Salvation Army in the memo line of your check.

Click [HERE](#) to see the December calendar.

Staying connected with our church just got easier. Just download the Instant Church app and you will have access to our church directory.



If you haven't already, please download this app. You can use your home computer or a smart phone. If you are no able to do either of these options, we Have printing hard copies in the office.

ZLCW Bazaar
December 9th

@ [Zion Lutheran Church, Lewistown](#)

9:00am - 1:00pm

We will be serving Sweet Rolls from 9-11am and Chili, Chicken Noodle Soup, Bread and Pie will be served 11am - 1pm



CHRISTMAS
BAZAAR



Children's
PROGRAM

Sunday
December 17
During Worship

Wednesday Night Line-Up

*B.L.A.S.T. and Rainbow Choir will meet from 3:30pm-5:30pm

*Wee Singers will meet from 5-5:30pm

*Confirmation will meet from 4:00pm – 5:00pm

*Dinner 5:30 – 6:30pm

*Worship 6:00 – 6:20pm

*PZYG 6:45 – 8pm



- * Jessie Stewart
- * Tia Gaughan
(Pam Bowen's granddaughter)
- * Becky Woltermann
- * Patty Stranz (Falan's Mom)



9:30am Advent 4 Worship

4:00pm Indoor Candlelight Service

8:00pm Outdoor Worship

If you would be willing to help during any of these services, please let Falan or Pastor Audrey know.

Greetings Zion family,

I suppose you have heard, Eric and Audrey are leaving us AGAIN! They say we wouldn't like to go with them because it is so far and it will be a lot of travel time. I am not so sure about that. I think they just want to get away from us and have fun without us.

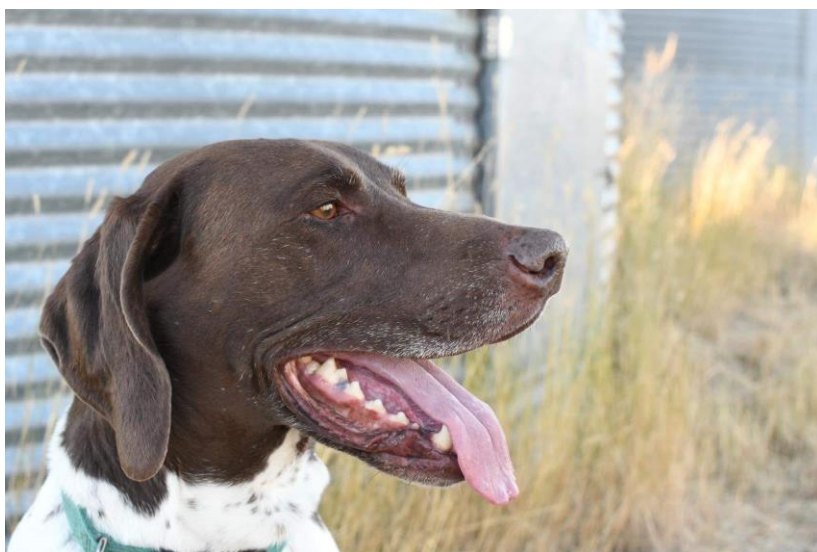
They also say we will not be alone. They have been telling us about this lady that is traveling all the way from some place called Pennsylvania to stay with us. I really don't know if I like the sounds of that. If she is from so far away how will she know how to take care of us in this place? It all sounds a little suspicious to me.

Then, there is the fact, that we are all still sad. We miss the leader of our pack, Gunner. As you know Gunner was sick all summer... but he still went on walks with us and has always been the leader of us. He ran ahead; he watched out for us and got after us if we didn't follow the rules. Gunner was a gentle, good leader. But the sickness was too much (Pastor Audrey said it was something called "bone cancer), and November 2nd Gunner left in the morning and never came home. Pastor Audrey explained, Gunner died.

Now we are left without a pack leader AND Pastor Audrey and Eric are going to be gone. So, please, please, pray for us. We will try to be good and listen to this lady from a far off land, but, well... we are a little frightened and lost. I hear pastor Audrey always tell people that when they are lost to let our creator know our need and our creator will answer us and never leave us alone. She also tells people if they don't know what to pray, others will pray for them. This is why I am asking you for prayers for all of us. Pray we all have courage and that Pastor Audrey and Eric return safely. Thank you.

Until their return,

Duke



DUTY GUIDELINES FOR USHERS

1. Be on duty fifteen minutes before service.
2. If necessary, turn on lights in nave, chancel, and narthex.
3. Make sure guest register is open and working pen is with it.
4. Check bulletin for baptism or special events that may need attention. Check with pastor if you have questions.
5. Stand near the nave doors to distribute bulletins. As needed, usher persons to their pews (e.g., the infirm, new members, etc.) especially as last minute folks come in and see that the back pews are full.
6. Fill out the *Attendance Record*. Leave in the narthex or place in the offering plate.
7. **The Offering**
 - Offering plates will remain at the back (not passed through the pews).
 - Always look at the bulletin to see when the offering should be taken to the front.
 - Receive the offering in the choir loft and narthex, as needed.
 - Ushers come forward with the offering plates when the acolyte comes to the altar rail to receive the offering plates.
9. **The Communion.**
 - Ushers should open the narthex doors and take their positions in the aisle at the front during the singing of the “Lamb of God”, so that members can be directed forward while the pastor communes the assistants.
 - Ushers will move back pew by pew to maintain a steady line of communicants.
 - Inform the pastor if there are persons to be communed in their pew.
10. Tidy the pews after worship. Pick up papers and put hymnals and Bibles in place.

Communion Guidelines

Please come to the sacristy during the singing of the “Holy, Holy, Holy”.
(If that is not sung, come during the Offering.)

Wash your hands at the sink.

Decide who will:

- who will serve wine, who will pick up cups (if serving by trays),

During the singing of the “Lamb of God” come to the front and stand at the altar to receive communion.

Leave the emptied trays at the altar. Place the covers on the unused trays remaining on the tables.

Exit through the sacristy to take your seat.