



Zion Lutheran Church

January 2023

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

Sunday, January 1

First Sunday after Christmas / Communion

Sunday, January 8

Epiphany of Our Lord / Communion

Sunday, January 15

Second Sunday after Epiphany / Communion

Baptism

Sunday, January 22

Third Sunday after Epiphany / Communion

Sunday, January 29

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany / Communion

Annual Meeting

Pastor's Corner



Have you made your New Year's resolutions? I've kind of given up on them; they seem to fizzle out each year as I lose interest or momentum, or both. But there is something to be said about starting off a new year with a fresh look and fresh attitude about life.

As I contemplated resolutions this year, I realized that if you change just one letter in the word resolution, you end up with revolution. And I think God's resolution for us is just that: revolution. Complete change from what is to what could be.

We serve a God who is nothing less than revolutionary. *"I'm doing something new; it's happening. Can't you see it?"* [Isaiah 43:19] *Put on a new self, created after the likeness of God.*

[Ephesians 4:24] *The Word is constantly bearing fruit and increasing.* [Colossians 1:6]

Jesus set the revolutionary example for us: interacting with tax collectors and prostitutes, placing children in a prominent position, conversing alone with a woman who was neither a relation nor even a Jew, occupying a cross rather than a jeweled throne. *"My kingdom is not of this world."* [John 18:36] In other words, what we expect from this world—success measured as wealth and fame, retribution and vengeance, continued injustice in order to prop up the status quo—is not the world God wants for us.

God wants us to measure success in terms of service to others, to offer mercy rather than vengeance, to pursue justice even when it means we give up some of our own privilege. This is revolutionary.

So are we going to make the same old resolutions this year? Or are we going to be revolutionaries and follow in the way of Jesus? Are we going to lose interest in our resolutions? Or are we going to be on fire for revolutionary proclamation of the Good News of God in Jesus Christ? God is already bringing about revolutionary resolutions on behalf of all creation. [Revelation 21:5] Will we follow God's lead and make some revolutionary resolutions of our own?

In Christ's service,
Pastor Amy

Out of the Office

Pastor Amy will be out of the office January 9,10 & 11th. If you have a Pastoral emergency during those three days. Please reach out to church office 715-687-4110 or office@zionstratford.org. You may also reach out to Council President Dan Thompson 715-384-3431.



Zion's Annual meeting will be held **Sunday, January 29, 2023**. This meeting will follow worship. Any individuals that are active in committees or groups for church, please have your reports turned into the office.

Council Candidates Needed

Several current Council members have fulfilled their commitment this year, so we are in need of a few people who are willing to run for a 3-year Council position. The chairpersons of the Worship Team and the Evangelism Team, and the Faith Formation Youth positions will be open. Please prayerfully consider becoming a Council member, and if you are asked, or if you would be interested in serving on the Council, please notify the church office, Pastor Amy, or any of the Council members so your name may be put on the ballot for the congregational Annual Meeting on January 29th . Also, please speak to any of these individuals if you have any questions or would like more information. Thank you for your consideration.

Zion Church Cancellations

Zion will now be posting cancellations on WAOW channel 9.

Let's Watch The Chosen Together!

I'd like to gauge interest in a watch party for The Chosen. "A charismatic fisherman drowning in debt, a troubled woman wrestling with real demons. a gifted publican ostracized by his family and his people. A religious leader struggling with his beliefs. See Jesus through the eyes of those that met him." -from angel.com/watch/the-chosen/about#departments. This is one of the most thought-provoking "Jesus" shows I've ever seen, and I'm pretty skeptical about "Jesus" shows! We've got a big ole TV monitor sitting in the office hallway, a fireside room with comfy chairs, a kitchen where we can make some snacks, people who have questions and want to know more about Jesus...now all we need is a time to do it! The episodes are 30-45 minutes, leaving lots of time in-between for snacks and discussion. Let Pastor Amy or the church office know if you're interested in a Chosen watch party and make sure we have your email address (if you have one) and phone so we can determine a good day for the gathering



Library News

Seven great new books are now ready for check out in the library. They are located at the check out desk. Also books on Advent and Christmas are also featured. These are located on the shelf to your right as you come in the door, and some of them will be displayed on the center shelf after Thanksgiving. Come in and see all the possibilities for readers and viewers of all ages.

Church Automatic Door Locks

Recently, automatic door locks were installed at the east entrance to the church by the office. This means that the doors will have a specific set time to unlock and lock each day. If you need to enter

the church building outside of these hours, you will need to contact Kathy Busche, Administrative Assistant, in the church office during regular church office hours for access. Please plan accordingly. The church building hours will be:

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 7 am - 8 pm

Wednesday: 7 am - 9 pm

Friday and Saturday: 7 am - 6 pm

Building hours may change for holidays.

This project was paid out of the technology upgrades dedicated fund from the sale of the rental property.

Being Good Stewards: Turning Off Lights

Part of being good stewards of all that God provides is to use God's resources wisely. Zion needs your help. If you are the last person in a room or your student was the last person, please turn off the lights. The lights in the Education Wings and especially the light leading to the lower level from the Fellowship Area often gets forgotten. Your help will help Zion reduce costs as well as care for creation. Thank you.

Updating Membership Information

Zion is continuing to update the membership information and needs your help. To remain an active member in good standing, you need to complete a Membership Contact Information form if you haven't done so already. A fillable PDF form is available on the homepage of the church website at <https://zionstratford.org>. A hard copy is available from the office or in the Narthex. Thank you.

Monthly Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January newsletter is December 21. To submit an article about an upcoming ministry opportunity, please email the church office at office@zionstratford.org. Thank you

Treasurer's Report

To keep everyone informed of the financial status of Zion Lutheran, we will be starting a monthly Treasurer's Report in the newsletter. The overall purpose is to be transparent about how Zion is building a culture of generosity and being a steward (manager) of God's gracious provision in order to fuel Jesus' ministry.



Through November 30, 2022, **income** received to the Current (general offering) was **\$140,216.58**. This money is used to provide financial support for the ministry budget expenses such as faith formation, evangelism, worship, staff salaries, property, etc. This amount does not include the 10% benevolence. Thank you to everyone who is going above and beyond to financially support the mission and ministry of Zion.

The ministry **expenditures** are **\$141,173.66** as of November 30, 2022. Our expense budget is \$182,685.29. We are currently at 77.3% of expenses. Thank you to the ministry teams for being good stewards.

As of November 30, 2022, the church's **undesignated cash balance** is \$26,336.44. This is money that is not specifically designated to a specific purpose, such as utilities, mortgage debt reduction, lawn mowing, GermanFest, etc. The undesignated cash balance is like our savings account or reserve fund when our

expenses are more than our income. This can be quickly depleted if actual income doesn't match expenses.

As of November 30, 2022, our **benevolences (ministry to the world)** are:

Crossways Camping Ministry	\$ 1,461.00	53.1% of goal
ELCA 10% Benevolence	\$14,587.60	91.2% of goal
Lutheran Social Services	\$ 1,060.00	58.9% of goal
Missionary Support	\$ 2,286.00	65.3% of goal
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 4,736.80	145.7% of goal

As of November 30, 2022, the balance available in the **GermanFest/Crisis Bank** account is \$13,551.18

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Zion's ministry in Jesus' name with financial gifts. It takes all of us together to fuel our ministry plan.

With a grateful heart, Marge Redetzke, Council Treasurer

SCRIP: Shopping Supports Ministry

Your Scrip gift card purchases (gift cards to tons of stores across the country) provide funds for Zion youth experiences like mission trips and regional/national youth gatherings! Let's prepare for Zion youth to participate in upcoming opportunities by using Scrip cards for your shopping and gift-giving needs. It's easy! Simply contact June Krueger by phone or text, 715-897-0617, to check stock or place an order. Each card purchase returns a percent back of Zion, netting hundreds of dollars to the youth fund each year. Thank you for continuing to support Zion youth experiences!

Faith Formation for All Ages

Little Lutherans/J-Team

Little Lutherans and J-Team (K-6th grade) will be focusing on various aspects of Worship this year with games, crafts, and Bible stories. **These faith formation classes will be held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 3:15-5:15 pm.**

Children may arrive anytime between 3:15 and 3:50 pm, for

those coming from a non-Stratford school district. Information and calendar can be found at: <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/k-6th-grade/>.



Puppet Day

New Date: **Wednesday, January 4, 2023**

New Time: 12:30 -5:00 pm

New Information: Please register by Sunday, December 28 to office@zionstratford.org or schoenherr11@gmail.com this gives me time to plan and prepare. Thank you! Janet Schoenherr

Confirmation - "Bible Part 1"

On Wednesday, January 11, at 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.,

Confirmation students are required to participate in this CORE class about the 10 Commandments. Parent participation is highly encouraged. Adult congregation members are also encouraged to participate. Confirmation registration forms, class schedules, and more information available at: <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/7th-9th-grade/>.

Disciples in Christ

Disciples in Christ (10th grade) will meet on **Sunday, January 15 at 5:30 p.m.** Schedule and more information can be found at: <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation10th-12th-grade/>.

Bad Girls of the Bible

from 6:00-7:30 p.m., we will be rescheduled to **Wednesday, January 18th** discussing a chapter a month of “Bad Girls of the Bible” by Liz Curtis Higgs. Participants will need to purchase their own book if possible. Used books can be found from a variety of online vendors. More information on Adult Faith Formation opportunities can be found online at: <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/adult/>.



Dwelling in the Word

Learn, discuss and enjoy fellowship on **Wednesday** mornings at **10:00 a.m.** Bible study will resume on **January 18.**

We will be studying the

scripture for the upcoming Sunday worship. No experience required. We look up the scripture together with love and encouragement. Bibles are available or bring your own.

All Creation Sings

CHOIR REHEARSAL

All are welcomed and encouraged to sing praises!



Choir Rehearsal

Choir Rehearsals are held at 8:00 AM in the balcony. Next rehearsal dates:

January 8, 15, 22,

29. New members and all voices are always welcome. For more information, contact Mary Wussow at music@zionstratford.org.

Serving Our Savior Opportunities



Coffee Fellowship

Come join us in fellowship following worship each Sunday. If you wish to host fellowship, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the fellowship area. There are no longer restrictions on only bringing pre packaged food. Feel free to bring in home made goods. See you at fellowship.

Calling all Ushers, Assisting Ministers Media, Acolytes, etc.

For those people interested in signing up to serve at worship services please go to SignUpGenius.com on the web or use the free app. Search for sign ups using the email address: hutherbk@yahoo.com. Sign ups are usually available each month until the 17th for the following month. At that point the service schedule needs to be completed and sent to the church office.

Serving in Worship Substitutions

On vacation? At a sporting event? Family wedding? If you are scheduled to serve in worship as an assisting minister, acolyte, communion server, reader, usher, etc. and are unable to serve on that date, please look at the calendar and contact another person to switch with you. If you need a list of people to contact, please reach out to Brenda Huther at hutherbk@yahoo.com or at 715-581-2485. Thank you.

Altar Guild Needs Families & Individuals

The Altar Guild is seeking a few people to help keep the Chancel area looking great! A two month-a-year commitment is all that's asked of anyone. There's a book in the room to the south of the Chancel area you can look through to see if this is something that might interest you. Contact Marge Kollmansberger at mpkollman@yahoo.com Please prayerfully consider participating in this ministry.

Counters Needed

People are needed to assist with counting the church offering. No experience needed. Will train. It takes 20-45 minutes (possibly longer) depending on the season and the offering. Confidentiality required. Depending on the number of people who serve, time commitment is one to two times per month. For more information, contact Amy Cournoyer at ajcournoyer@yahoo.com or 715-650-1381.



Homebound Visits

Zion's Homebound Members are ready for home visits from congregation members. It helps them to feel connected, less lonely, and cared for. The commitment is one or more members per month. If you can serve this way, please contact Pastor Amy Heinz at pastor@zionstratford.org.



Birthdays & Anniversary

The listing of the dates for birthdays and anniversaries will now be posted in the weekly Monday email, in the weekly Sunday announcements, and on the Sunday PowerPoint announcements. This is to protect people's privacy and not make it easier for scammers to have access to this information. If you would like a complete monthly list to send out cards, please contact the office.

Technology Ministry

Council Minutes

Council minutes are now available on the church website at zionstratford.org/publications. You can also get a copy of the minutes by contacting Kathy in the church office or on the Information table by the church office.

Prayer Requests

Did you know that you can submit your prayer requests on the new ZionStratford.org website? You can also let people know that people are praying for them too. Check it out at <https://zionstratford.org/prayer>



Listen on
Podbean

Sermons by Phone or Podcast App

Audio recordings of Sunday sermons are now available by calling **848.204.2721**. You can also find it on the podcast apps *PodBean* and *Bullhorn* under the podcast name "Open Doors Open Hearts Open Hands." You can also find a recording and a copy of the bulletin at <https://zionstratford.org/publications/>.

Building Update 2022

Total monthly principal payments	\$ 8,083.08
Total monthly interest payments	<u>\$ 1,216.92</u>
Balance of loan as of 11-18-2022	\$129,871.62

Partners Bank

Building checking acct balance as of **12-02-2022** \$ 9,821.25

Payment Bi-Weekly	Start Balance	Payment Amount	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
09/09 & 09/23	\$137,954.70	\$3,100.00	\$413.75	\$2,686.25	\$135,268.45
10/07 & 10/21	\$135,238.45	\$3,100.00	\$405.65	\$2,694.35	\$132,574.10
----- 11/04 & 11/18	----- \$132,574.10	----- \$3,100.00	----- \$397.52	----- \$2,702.48	----- \$129,871.62

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Worship/ Communion 10am Christmas goodies potluck	2	3 6pm Worship Team Meeting	4 8am—11:30am Students Testing	5	6	7
8 9am Worship/ Communion	9 6pm Executive Team Meeting Pastor Amy gone	10 Pastor Amy gone	11 3pm JTeam/ Little Lutherans 6:30pm CORE class Pastor Amy gone	12	13	14
15 9am Worship/ Communion Baptism 5:30 Disciples for Christ	16 6pm Council Team Meeting	17	18 10am Bible Study 6pm Trust/ Memorial Team Meeting 6pm Zion Book Club	19	20	21
22 9am Worship/ Communion	23 6:30 pm Evangelism Team Meeting	24	25 10am Bible Study 3pm JTeam/ Little Lutherans 6:30 Confirmation Elective	26	27	28
29 9am Worship/ Communion Annual Meeting following worship	30	31				

Date	01/01/2023 1st Sunday after Christmas 9:00 AM	01/08/2023 Baptism of our Lord 9:00 AM	01/15/2023 2nd Sunday of Epiphany 9:00 AM	01/22/2023 3rd Sunday of Epiphany 9:00 AM	01/29/2023 4th Sunday of Epiphany 9:00 AM	02/05/2023 5th Sunday of Epiphany 9:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Darla Leick	Dan Wieland	Marge Kollmansberger	Casey Dasler	Brenda Huther	Riley Spindler
Reader	Darla Leick	Dan Wieland	Marge Kollmansberger	Casey Dasler	Brenda Huther	Riley Spindler
Acolytes	Bryn & Cooper Wiesman	Jackson Dahlke Ruby Casperson	Ella Schultz Lily Cournoyer	Abby & Hudson Ballerstein	Garrett Smazal Anika Weber	Reese & Reid Spindler
Ushers	Ray & Lindsay White family	Mark & Sandy Andersen	Phil & Kerri Schultz	Tadd & Janet Schoenherr	Wendy & Jasmine Grell	Jim & Cory Wiesman
communion assistants	Nancy Schoenherr Brian & Darla Leick	Lois Miller Dan & Deb Wieland	Marge Kollmansberger Brenda Castellano Angela Guralski	Casey & Jill Dasler Carmella Moon	Brenda Huther Kevin & Lois Miller	Riley Spindler Wendy Spaeth Sandy Andersen
communion steward	Rhonda Thompson	Deb Wieland	Amy Grell	Sandy Andersen	Patti Casperson	Rhonda Thompson
Fellowship	Cookie Potluck	Huther Family	Brian & Darla Leick	Mark & Sandy Andersen	Annual Meeting	Dan & Rhonda Thompson
Host	Property Robin Curtis	Stewardship Amy Cournoyer	Worship Lois Miller	Faith Form Ray White	Faith Form Y Jasmine Grell	President Dan Thompson
Bell Ringer	White family	Mark Andersen	Phil Schultz	Tadd Schoenherr	Wendy Grell	Jim Wiesman
Media	Connor Kreft	Kevin Miller	Rod Huther	Ted Dasler	Rod Huther	Marge Kollmansberger