



Mt. Zion Lutheran Newsletter 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I LOVE Christmas Carols! One of my favorite parts of being part of the life of the church is singing all those beautiful Christmas hymns at Christmas time! I nearly always forget about the many wonderful Advent hymns and must remind myself to not schedule Christmas hymns too early! I also love Christmas trees. I want to set my tree up every year on Black Friday. There is something so magical about the lit tree and all the ornaments with long histories. I love Christmas shopping and Christmas cookie baking and wrapping paper and reading Christmas books and watching Christmas movies! In short, I love Christmas.

I suspect many of you are like me and love Christmas. That is why it's important to remind us that the month of December is not part of the Christmas season, it's part of the Advent Season. Advent is the beginning of our church year, a fresh start, a new year of celebrations. Advent begins 4 Sundays before Christmas (this year on November 27th) and ends on Christmas Eve. The word "Advent" means "coming" or "arrival". The season of Advent focuses on the celebration of the coming of Jesus Christ in birth and the anticipation of the second coming of Jesus Christ. Advent is more than just a season of getting into the Christmas spirit, or celebrating Jesus' birth 2,000 years ago. It is also celebrating the revelation of God in Jesus Christ, where all creation might be reconciled to God.

Historically, the color representing Advent has been Purple. Purple is the color of fasting and penitence and royalty and is used to welcome the Advent of Jesus, our King. However, in recent times, many churches, including ours, use blue to mark the season of Advent to symbolize the night sky or the waters in the creation story to mark the beginning of a new creation. Blue is also the color of hope, anticipation and preparation.

The Advent wreath is a popular symbol of Advent. It is a circular wreath with 4 candles around the wreath and one in the middle. The circle of the wreath reminds us of the God of eternity, who has no beginning and no end and the candles remind us of Jesus and the light in the darkness that his birth brought. The 4 outer candles symbolize the period of waiting that we celebrate during Advent. Each Sunday in the 4 weeks of Advent, one more candle is lit until Christmas morning, when we celebrate Christ's coming and the center candle is lit.

This Advent season, as we near the celebration of Christ's birth, let us not forget the unique season of Advent. It is not the Christmas season, but a time where our church contemplates what Christ's arrival means and anticipates the coming Advent of God.

Let us not rush Christmas and take this time to truly remember what it means to be waiting for a savior.

Blessings, Pastor Erin

FROM THE OFFICE



YEAR-END GIVING

The end of the year is quite often a time of great generosity. For some it is the Christmas spirit, for others it is the result of a meeting with an accountant, and others find it to be a time to fulfill giving commitments which might have fallen behind over the course of the year. Whatever the reason, thank you! Our collective generosity makes a difference in the lives of many people. If you are planning to make a year-end gift to Mt Zion by mail, please allow enough time for delivery. If you plan to drop off your gift, the newsletter calendar shows our year-end office hours. If you have any questions please contact Joan Christopher, our financial Secretary. Call the Church office for contact information

2016 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

If you wish to have your contributions counted as part of the 2016 Calendar year, please drop them off at the church on or before Friday, December 30, 2016.

FOUR WAYS TO GIVE in 2016 –

1. Offering Envelopes.
2. Checks.
3. Cash. If you are paying with cash, please use the envelopes in one of the windows at the information center in the Commons. This will allow us to give you credit on your statement.
4. On-Line Giving. There are forms also located at the information center, for you to fill out and return to our Financial Secretary – Joan Christopher.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!** DATES TO
REMEMBER
**ANNUAL BUDGET
MEETING**

Sunday, December 11

The congregation will be voting on the 2017 budget and the proposed capital campaign expenditures at the annual budget meeting on Sunday, December 11, between services at 9:30 AM.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Friday, December 16, 2016

Please email any information to secretary@mtzionhudson.com

YOUTH GRANT APPLICATIONS

Sunday, December 25, 2016

Grant Applications are due to the office no later than noon on Sunday, December 25.

If you need an extra application, you may pick up a form at the information center in the Commons or visit the website at www.mtzionhudson.com – under “Trending”.

UPDATED DIRECTORIES

If you would like an updated church phone directory – please see Anna in the office or leave a note in her box that you are interested in having one made for you.

If you have updated information or have moved in the last 6 mo., please double check to make sure the church has the most current information on record.

Thank you for your help.

OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

Dec. 22-23 & 30

OUTREACH



**GIVE THE PERFECT
GIFT...
GIVE BLOOD**

Friday, December 16
from Noon – 6p

In the Fellowship Hall of Mt. Zion.

For appointments, you can call 1-800-733-2767 or log onto www.redcrossblood.org and search by sponsor code Mt. Zion or area code 54016.

If you would like to help the day of the blood drive please see Anna Peterson in the church offic

We will need people to help check people in and make sure donors have juice and a snack after their donation.



**WHITE ELEPHANT
CHRISTMAS DINNER**

ALL WOMEN OF MT. ZION ARE
INVITED!

Thursday, December 15

6:00pm at Bayport BBQ in
Bayport, MN

Please bring a white elephant gift (*or not) for the Gift Exchange.

Dinner will be provided by Bayport BBQ (Chris & Kristen Johnson – THANK YOU!)
The cost will be \$16.00 (Includes dinner and a beverage)

White Elephant Gifts can be Handmade; something you received as a gift but it not your taste; something you find funny or just something you want out of your house!

DECEMBER WELCA INFORMATION

JOY CIRCLE CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Thurs., Dec. 10 10:00 am
In the Fellowship Hall

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Tuesday, Dec. 13 Christmas Party
6:30 pm at the home of Katie Jones

HOPE CIRCLE

Monday December 12th
12:00 Noon at the home of Florence Hopp



COOKIE EXCHANGE

It's that time of year to sign up for the Mt. Zion Cookie Exchange.

If you are interested, please sign up at the information center and Melissa Hines will contact you to let you know how many cookies you'll need to make. * so please remember to leave your phone number.
The Exchange will take place between services on December 18

DECEMBER BOOK CLUB

Monday, December 12

“The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” by C.S. Lewis

6:00 pm Hudson Bagel

TECH SUPPORT & GAME NIGHT

AARP qualifiers and Middle/High School game/technology help day will be December 11. This will be the only December meeting due to Christmas being on the 4th Sunday

OUTREACH



CHILI FEED WRAP UP

On November 9, Mt. Zion hosted their fourth Chili Cook-off. We served 70 people 11 different varieties of chili. Each person had the opportunity to taste and vote on which chili was their favorite and which chili would have the bragging rights of MT. ZION'S BEST for one year. This year did not disappoint, giving the bragging honor to:

Anna Peterson

#3 "All of the Flavor, None of the Burn"

Aaron Adam Second Place

11 "Winner Winner, Chili Dinner!"

Pastor Erin Third Place

6 "White Chicken Chili Delite"

All donations that night went to the Mt. Zion Relay For Life Team

Event Total: \$355.00

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

On November 5, a group of 33 from Mt. Zion headed to Eagan, Minnesota to the Feed My Starving Children facility and packed **148 boxes** which equals **33,400 meals!**

THANK YOU to all who came out to support such a wonderful Outreach Ministry.

Our next food packing date will be **Saturday, April 8!!!**



2016 GIVING TREE

Please check out the Giving Tree for items for the Men spending Christmas at Exodus House in Hudson.

Please take a tag or two and return them **UNWRAPPED** to Church on or Before Sunday, December 11.

CHRISTMAS H.O.M.E. MEAL

The Outreach Committee would like to see if there are 2 people from the congregation that would like to help with the December H.O.M.E. Meal.

3 time slots are available.

- 1.) 1:00-3:30 Food prep
- 2.) 3:30-5:00 Final set up & kitchen clean up.
- 3.) 5:15-7:00 Busing tables, washing dishes
(the most help on this time slot)



We need 3 dozen Christmas cookies from each church.

Have them delivered to Bethel Downtown before 3:00 PM on Thursday December 15th.

DRIVING VOLUNTEERS

We have a few requests from Non-Driving members and guests for rides to and from Church on Sunday Mornings. We are looking at putting a "Driving Volunteer" list together. If you are interested, even if it is driving "as needed", please let Sonja Johnson, Olive Olson or the church office know.

BLOOD DRIVE VOLUNTEERS

We will be having a Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, December 16 and need two volunteers for each shift.

- Noon - 2:00p
- 2:00 - 4:00p
- 4:00 - 6:00p

One to help check donors in and one to serve juice and snacks from the kitchen when they are finished. Please contact the church office if you can help

YOUTH & FAMILY



YOUTH GRANTS

The deadline for applications is Sunday, December 25 with recipients being presented their educational grants in late January 2017.

All Mt. Zion grants are for persons currently enrolled in a post-secondary education program and are to be used to finance second term expenses in the year received. Selection criteria are outlined on the application form.

Mail completed form to:

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church
c/o Youth Grant
505 13th St. S
Hudson, WI 54016

Forms can be found on the Mt. Zion website under "TRENDING" and at the information center in the Commons

CARE PACKAGES

All Post High School Care packages will be blessed during worship on December 4 and shipped on Monday, December 5.



HIGH SCHOOL MUFFIN BUNCH FOR DECEMBER

December 4 & 18

All Mt. Zion high school youth are invited. We meet in the commons and travel to Hudson Bagel.

9:10 – 10:10 Hudson Bagel

If you have any questions, please see Karen Gigure.



Sunday December 18

10:30 worship

Please join us Sunday dec. 18 during the second service for the Sunday school presentation of the Christmas story. The birth of Jesus is narrated along with poems, bible verses and songs. The kids are working very hard to prepare! You won't want to miss it!

REMINDER:

Parents ~ Saturday, December 17 we will be a dress rehearsal at 10:00 am in the lower level of church.

THE DAY OF CHRISTMAS PROGRAM please have your children here by 9:20 (Lower Level) to get dressed and ready for the program.

Sunday School Dates and Information

Sun., Nov. 27: No Sunday School

Sun., Dec. 4: 9:20 am

Sun., Dec. 11: 9:20 am

Sat., Dec. 17:

10:00 am Rehearsal

Sun., Dec. 18:

10:30 am Christmas Program during
10:30 am Worship

Dec. 25 & Jan. 1:

No Sunday School

Classes will resume after Christmas Break on January 8, 2017

WORSHIP

ADVENT & WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

1st Sunday of Advent
8:15 & 10:30 am worship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

2nd Sunday of Advent
8:15 & 10:30 am worship
1 yr. Milestone Sunday

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Holden Evening Prayer Service
Coffee & Cookie 6:30 pm
Worship 7:00 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

**Santa Lucia and
Music Ministry Sunday**
3rd Sunday of Advent
8:15 & 10:30 am worship

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Blue Christmas
Coffee & Cookie 6:30 pm
Worship 7:00 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

4th Sunday of Advent
8:15 & 10:30 am worship
10:30 am Sunday School Christmas Program

Saturday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00 pm Family Christmas
10:00 pm Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship
9:00 am

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11



THE FESTIVAL OF SANTA LUCIA

The festival of Santa Lucia begins before dawn, on the thirteenth of December.

Throughout Sweden, the eldest daughter in each household comes to her sleeping parents, dressed

in a long white gown tied with a red sash, and wearing a crown of lingonberry leaves in which are set seven lighted candles. In her hands she carries a tray of steaming hot coffee and "Lussekatlor". The procession includes her sisters and brothers also dressed in white, holding lighted candles, and singing of the light and joy of Christmas.

The sisters of the Lucia Bride wear a wreath of tinsel in their hair and a piece tied around their waist, while the boys have tall pointed caps sprinkled with stars. Awakened by the lights and the singing, the parents arise and eat the breakfast served, thus ushering in the Christmas season.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11



Both Services on December 11 our very own Mt. Zion Junior Choir, Mt. Zion Tone Chimes & Mt. Zion Senior Choir, will be presenting to you their

Christmas Music Festival!

Please come join us on a Sunday Morning
FILLED with CHRISTMAS CHEER!

WORSHIP



**JOIN US THIS
DECEMBER FOR
WEDNESDAY
ADVENT SERVICES!**

Take a break and celebrate the coming birth of Christ and this beautiful church season! All services will begin at 7pm and last until 7:30 with coffee, Christmas cookies and fellowship from 6:30 to 7:00 beforehand.

HOLDEN EVENING SERVICE ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Enjoy Marty Haugen's beautiful musical service by candlelight! Take a break to celebrate the true meaning of the season!



**BLUE CHRISTMAS
SERVICE ON
WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 14**

This service is a quiet, contemplative prayer service with time to pray for those who are going through any sort of difficulties this holiday season. Christmastime can be hard for those who are grieving, in financial distress, depressed, stressed out, in transition, lonely, lost or ill. This service is a time to pray for those who aren't so jolly this Christmas season, to reflect on Bible passages, sing some of our quieter Christmas hymns and thank God for the birth of Christ, who we need the most when we are in times of trial. Join us for a time of prayer for yourself or a loved one

**JOIN US ON
CHRISTMAS EVE TO
CELEBRATE THE
BIRTH OF CHRIST!**



At **4:00 pm** we will have our joyful Children and Family Service. This service will include youth worship leaders, musical performances by members of Mt. Zion and our Jr. Choir, and fun and songs for all ages! Let your hearts ring out with joy!

At **10:00 pm** will be our Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols. Hear the story of Jesus' birth, sing your favorite Christmas Carols, enjoy the music of our Senior Choir and other Mt. Zion members. The service will end with the traditional lighting of candles and singing "Silent Night". There is no more beautiful way to end your Christmas Eve!

CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE COMMONS

The Sunday School classes have made ornaments to purchase for 50 cents each. All money will go towards their effort to raise money for the Capital Campaign fund.



ANGEL TREE

You are invited to bring an angel Christmas ornament to church the weeks of advent to hang on our Angel tree to celebrate the angels in your life

WORSHIP

HOSPITALITY TEAMS FOR DECEMBER 2016

MISSION: To provide a welcoming experience for all who walk through our doors

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:15 am – Hospitality Lead: Nicole Gelina
Greeters: Jim & Nicole Gelina
Ushers: Jim & Sonja Johnson
Reader: Robin Arneson
Communion: Renee Eickstadt
Acolyte: Avery Anderson

Fellowship – MaryKay Mahler

10:30 am – Hospitality Lead: Olive Olson
Greeters: Paul & MaryKay Mahler
Ushers: The Okerlund's
Reader: Bill Olson
Communion: Olive Olson
Acolyte: Arabella Campana

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer
Ushers: TBA
Acolyte: Nora Beard O'Connell

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:15 am – Hospitality Lead: Jim Eral
Greeters: Randy & Erin Prawalsky
Ushers: Harley & Joan Saathoff
Communion: Jim Eral
Acolyte: Noah Flattum

Fellowship – Santa Lucia Fellowship

10:30 am – Hospitality Lead: Karen McConville
Greeters: Sally Nuebel & Lucy Larson
Ushers: Colin McConville & Earl Monson
Communion: Mic Hanson
Acolyte: Oscar Nemitz

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:00 pm Blue Christmas
Ushers: TBA
Acolyte: TBA
Special Music: TBA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:15 am – Hospitality Lead: Kristen Johnson
Greeters: Scott & Sandy Johnson
Ushers: Mike & Linda Yde
Reader: David Miller
Communion: Karen Gigure
Acolyte: Emily Gerds

Fellowship – OPEN

10:30 am – Hospitality Lead: Open
Greeters: Lynne Baker & Andrea Goetz
Ushers: Jim & Gwen Paulson
Communion: Jon Schneewind
Acolyte: Maggie Gustafson

CHRISTMAS EVE\DECEMBER 24

4:00 pm
TBA

10:00 pm
TBA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:00 am – Hospitality Lead: Andrea Dreier
Greeters: TBA
Ushers: TBA
Reader: TBA
Communion: TBA
Acolyte: TBA

Fellowship – OPEN

MILESTONES



Camille
McConville

December 2 – Alexander Solberg

December 4 – Sofia Gigure
Anna Peterson

December 5 – Steve Gerdts

December 6 – Isabel Nemitz

December 7 – Tim Steinhoff

December 10 – Samantha Keyes
Lauren Spreeman

December 12 – Gary Baribeau
Roxanne Studelska

December 13 – Brandon Matzek
David Miller
Marcia Teschner

December 14 – Wendee Dombrock

December 16 – Linda Flatt

December 17 – Megan Gelina
Nicole Gelina
Scott Veenendall

December 18 – Tracy Oswald

December 19 – Carol Gustafson

December 21 – Colin McConville
Kim Pilarski
Jon Stojan

December 23 – Renee Eickstadt
Joyce Johnson

December 25 – Baby Jesus

December 27 – Cindy DiGidio

December 28 – Sonja Johnson
Sven O'Connell-Beard

December 5 – Mark & Laura Romzek

December 10 – Don & Carol Kriegl

December 14 – Steve & Renee Eickstadt

December 22 – Gary & Deb Hauschildt

December 28 – Lee & Kathy Halberg

December 29 – Jim & Nicole Gelina

December 31 – Josh & Krista Spreeman



BAPTIZED

December 1 – Jackie Anderson
Emily Holman
Christine Jahns
Katie Jones

December 2 – Ian Flattum
Jessica Hines
Kelsie Hines

December 4 – Barb Walczak

December 8 – Sabrina Keyes

December 10 – Jennifer Johnson
Gene Stahnke

December 12 – Jason Gigure
Roxanne Studelska

December 13 – Scott Revoir

December 18 – Ken Revoir

December 19 – Andrew Krochalk II
Norm Maser

December 20 – Bill Peterson

December 24 – Mykel Eickstadt

December 27 – Austin Krochalk

December 31 – Courtney Peterson



DECEMBER 4

We will be celebrating our
1-yr old Milestone with

Raylynn Blue
Austin Krochalk
Haiden Matzek