

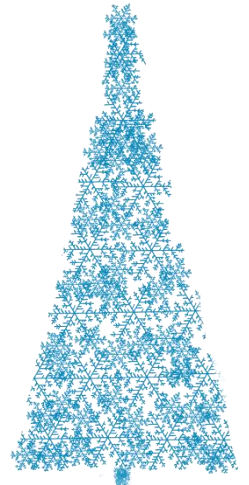


# Mt. Zion Lutheran Newsletter 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I decorated my house for Christmas recently and I ended up setting up three Christmas trees! I know it's excessive, but I just have so many ornaments! I love Christmas trees! I love the pine scent in my house for the month, I love the twinkling lights and I love all my ornaments and the history and story that each tell.

I recently read a legend of how trees came to symbolize Christmas (I cannot attest to the truth of this story!). The story goes that Martin Luther was walking in the woods on a winter's night and saw the light from the moon and stars filtered through the branches of the evergreens. Luther was reminded that because evergreens never are bare for the winter, they are a good reminder that Christ is always present. The stars reminded him that Christ is the light for the world. Struck by the beauty of the sight, Luther brought a branch home and began the custom of bringing evergreens into the home at Christmastime. The decorations with which we adorn our trees are imitations of the glowing moon and sparkling stars Luther saw that night.



I put candy canes on my tree! Candy canes have a rich history, as well. For a long time, peppermint candy sticks were a treat for kids. But one candy maker decided to twist the stick into a crook shape to both represent the "J" for Jesus and the shepherd's crook. The traditional white candy was swirled with red to represent Jesus' holiness and blood.

We put angels or stars on the top of our Christmas tree because both lead to Christ in the Christmas story. The angel told the shepherds where to find the baby and the wise men followed to star to find him.

Holly is a popular tree decoration because the holly leaves symbolize Jesus' crown of thrones and the red berries symbolize his blood. Bell ornaments ring out with joy at the birth of Christ. Bells are also worn around the neck of sheep to lead the shepherd to his flock. We ring bells to announce the coming of our shepherd! A gingerbread man is a symbol of God's creation—a reminder that we are all created by God. Poinsettias are popular because the flower looks like a star and reminds us of the star of Bethlehem.

This year as you decorate for Christmas, remember the rich meaning behind your decorations. We are not simply making our homes joyful for the season, but we are also placing throughout our living spaces reminders of Emmanuel, Christ with us.

Let us enter Advent with decorations that embody joy and worship.

Blessings, Pastor Erin

# FROM THE OFFICE

---



**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!** DATES TO  
REMEMBER

## 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

## **2017 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

If you wish to have your contributions counted as part of the 2017 Calendar year, please drop them off at the church on or before Friday, December 29, 2017.

## **FOUR WAYS TO GIVE in 2018 –**

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 or Simply Giving. There are forms also located at the information center, for you to fill out and return to our Financial Secretary – Joan Christopher.

## **ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING**

**Sunday, December 3**

The congregation will be voting on the 2018 budget and the proposed capital campaign expenditures at the annual budget meeting on Sunday, December 3, between services at 9:30 AM.

---

## **JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**Friday, December 15, 2017**

Please email any information to  
[secretary@mtzionhudson.com](mailto:secretary@mtzionhudson.com)

---

## **YOUTH GRANT APPLICATIONS**

**Sunday, December 31, 2017**

Grant Applications are due to the office no later than noon on Sunday, December 31

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](http://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. 21-Jan 2

# OUTREACH

---



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

Friday, December 15  
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](http://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 office.

---



## **WHITE ELEPHANT CHRISTMAS DINNER**

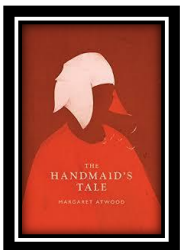
**ALL WOMEN OF MT. ZION ARE  
INVITED!**

**Thursday, December 14**  
6:00pm at Bayport BBQ in  
Bayport, MN

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

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

---



## **BOOK CLUB - December 11**

The Handmaid's Tale

by Margaret Atwood

*Discussion of book will be  
Monday, December 11 at 6:00  
pm at Hudson Bagel.*

## **DECEMBER WELCA INFORMATION JOY CIRCLE CHRISTMAS POTLUCK**

Thurs., Dec. 14 10:00 am  
In the Fellowship Hall

## **DEBORAH CIRCLE**

Tuesday, Dec. 5 Christmas Party  
6:30 pm Barkers Downtown Hudson

## **HOPE CIRCLE**

TBA

---

## **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 someone will contact you to let you know how many cookies you'll need to make.

\*please remember to leave your phone number.

The Exchange will take place between services on December 17

---



## **2017 GIVING TREE**

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

and for our College-Age Students.

Giving Tree & Give Tags will be available on November 27 in the Commons.

No need to wrap! Gifts can be placed in bags under tree - Gift Card can be placed in Anna Peterson's Mailbox.

Please have items here on or before  
December 10.

# OUTREACH



## CHILI FEED WRAP UP

On November 8, Mt. Zion hosted our 5<sup>th</sup> Chili Cook-off. We served over 100 people 13 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: **AARON ADAMS**  
Second Place – Karen McConville  
Third Place – David Miller

This year we added a new twist:  
A Brownie Bake-Off

Sweet treats for everyone – but the winning Brownie went to **FLORENCE HOPPI!!!**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ella, Sophia & Lucy Adams  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Karen McConville

This year the competition was the closest it has ever been and the 1<sup>st</sup> year each chili got at least one vote!

All donations that night went to 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Haiti: money raised from the Chili Feed, along with money raised from the silent auction items, the jewelry sales & peach sales. The total was: **\$2,030.95.**



Anna Peterson, Karen McConville & Kathy Opland would like to thank everyone who donated their time, made chili, sold merchandise, baked brownies or supplied food, bid on baskets, and bought jewelry & peaches. Because of your support, we can say this year's chili feed was a great success!

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Milestone

On November 8, our 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class built their toolboxes for their 7<sup>th</sup> Gr. Milestone!

On Sunday, November 12 they were honored during worship and will begin their journey into learning how to take their tools into the world to spread God's Love!



“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28:19



## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

On November 18, a group of 33 from Mt. Zion headed to Eagan, Minnesota to the Feed My Starving Children facility and Together they packed 236 Boxes, Providing 50,976 meals.  
Fed 141 kids for a year  
Cost: \$11,214.72

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

Our next food packing date will be  
**Saturday, March 10**  
2:00 – 4:00 p



# YOUTH & FAMILY

---



## YOUTH GRANTS

The deadline for applications is Sunday, December 31 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 13<sup>th</sup> St. S  
Hudson, WI 54016

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



## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MUFFIN BUNCH

*"For where two or three Gather in My Name,  
there am I with them."*

Sunday, December 10

\*Christmas Gift Exchange  
Muffin Bunch Crew!  
Join us Sunday December 10 between services at Keys Cafe for our annual Christmas celebration and gift exchange. Bring a fun gift - no more than \$10 in value - and join in on the laughter.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL INFORMATION



## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SAVE THE DATE

Sunday December 17  
10:30 worship

### REMINDER:

Parents ~ Saturday, December 16 we will have 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.

November 26

No Sunday School

December 17

Sunday School Christmas Program, during the 10:30 worship

December 24

No Sunday School

December 31

No Sunday School

Classes will resume after Christmas Break on January 7, 2018



## FAMILY CAROLING

Sunday, December 10  
Meet at the church at 11:30 for Lunch and "Practice". Then we will be traveling to CCH to carol to the

residents!

Please wear "FESTIVE WEAR"

# WORSHIP

---



## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
8:15 am Advent Service  
10:30 am Advent Service

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:00 pm Caroling Service  
Enjoy the season with your favorite Christmas Hymns and songs.  
A wonderful way to help kick off the Holiday.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
8:15 am Christmas Festival & Santa Lucia  
10:30 am Christmas Festival & Santa Lucia

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service  
Enjoy Marty Haugen's beautiful musical service by candlelight!  
Take a break to celebrate the true meaning of the season!

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
8:15 am Advent Service  
10:30 am Sunday School Christmas Program

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
9:00 am Advent Service \*We will have one service on Christmas Eve Morning.



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!

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:15 am Pick your favorite Christmas Carol Service  
10:30 am Pick your favorite Christmas Carol Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10



## 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.

Karen McConville will be serving a Scandinavian Fellowship and is asking any members who would like to supply a sample of a Scandinavian treat you make to let her know



## Christmas Festival

During both Services on December 10, 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!**



## Aloha Mt. Zion Congregation

The family of Betty Fyksen would like to

express our deepest appreciation for the sympathy, comfort, care, and assistance we received following our mother's death on June 1, 2017 through her memorial service on August 20, 2017. Our hope was that the worship service would reflect her abiding love for the Christian faith, the Lutheran tradition, and for all Mt. Zion members who continue to live their faith.

Betty enjoyed immensely Pastor Erin's faithful and engaging visits at Mount Olivet Careview Home. Thank you also to Joan Christopher for diligently managing memorial contributions and Anna Peterson for being a dependable liaison on many occasions. Deb Tonsager truly honored "mother's bench" with her beautiful playing of the Bach and Handel solos, and we are so grateful.

The Mt. Zion Circle Women were once again flawless regarding their hospitality at the food reception following the service. Providing a scrumptious array of dessert items, plus setting up, serving, and take down was invaluable support for our family.

Mt. Zion's Joy Circle members were Betty's "Christian sisters" to the end...they served as a living affirmation of the enduring foundation provided by the faith community at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church.

Our family members are living in many different places, but our hearts will always be thankful for Mt. Zion and the beautiful community of Hudson.

Karen S. Barber, Laurie F. Beise, and families

---

Dear Mt. Zion,

The Prawalsky family would like to thank the entire congregation for their love and support. The benefit for Lillie was a huge success. Thank you so much. God Bless.

Randy, Erin, Kaitlyn & Lillie



## FOR DECEMBER 2017

### MISSION:

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

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Hospitality Lead: Nicole Gelina  
8:15 am Hospitality Team:  
Ushers: Paul & MaryKay Mahler  
Greeters: The Romzek Family  
Reader: Linda Yde  
Communion Deacon: Don Kriegl  
Acolyte: Abigail Romzek

Fellowship: **OPEN**

Hospitality Lead: Olive Olson  
10:30 am Hospitality Team:  
Ushers: Henry & Oscar Nemitz  
Greeters: Andrea Goetz & boys  
Reader: Tara Sanders  
Communion Deacon:  
Noah Flattum  
Acolyte: Nora Beard O'Connell

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Ushers: **OPEN**  
Greeters: **OPEN**  
Acolyte: **OPEN**

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Hospitality Lead: Jim Eral  
8:15 am Hospitality Team:  
Ushers: Jim & Linda Letourneau  
Greeters: The Prawalsky Family  
Acolyte: Avery Anderson

Fellowship: Karen McConville

Hospitality Lead:  
Karen McConville  
10:30 am Hospitality Team:  
Ushers: Colin McConville &  
Earl Monson  
Greeters: The Adams Family  
Acolyte: **OPEN**

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Ushers: Gene Stahnke & Jim  
Greeters: John & Nora Flavin  
Acolyte: Nathan Becker

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Hospitality Lead: Kristen Johnson  
8:15 am Hospitality Team:  
Ushers: Scott & Sandy Johnson  
Greeters: Dennis & Kathy Opland  
Reader: Karen McConville  
Communion Deacon:  
Kaitlyn Prawalsky  
Acolyte: Danny Brown

Fellowship: Katie Jones

Hospitality Lead: OPEN  
10:30 am Hospitality Team:  
Ushers: Einar & Mic Hanson  
Greeters: Lucy Larson & **OPEN**  
Acolyte: Arabella Campana

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Hospitality Leads: OPEN  
9:00 am Hospitality Team:  
Ushers: Jack Flattum &  
Ryan Flattum  
Greeters: The Prawalsky Family  
Reader: Randy Prawalsky  
Communion Deacon: Linda Yde  
Acolyte: Noah Flattum

Fellowship: **OPEN**

**WATCH FOR UPDATES**

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 pm – Lead Andrea Dreier  
Ushers: Jim & Linda Letourneau  
Greeters: Mary Ellefson &  
The O'Connell Family  
Youth Readers: Brooke & Nils Dreier  
Communion Deacons: Don Kriegl, Nora Flavin & **OPEN**  
Acolyte: Nora Beard O'Connell  
Basket Holder: Sophia Adams

10 pm – Lead Karen McConville  
Ushers: **OPEN**  
Greeters: Andrew Gustafson &  
Carol Gustafson  
Readers: Andrew G., Robin A., David M., **\*Need 6** more **OPEN**  
Communion Deacons: Carol Gustafson, Mark Arneson \*  
**Need 2** More – **OPEN**  
Acolyte:

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Hospitality Lead: Nicole Gelina  
8:15 am Hospitality Team:  
Ushers: Lily & Abigail Romzek  
Greeters: Gene Stahnke &  
Sharon Tepper  
Reader: Mary Ellefson  
Communion Deacons: Eileen Wymer, Karen & Sofia Gigure  
Basket Holder: Henry Gigure  
Acolyte: Kaitlyn Prawalsky

Fellowship: Kathy Opland

Hospitality Lead: Olive Olson  
10:30 am Hospitality Team:  
Ushers: Scott & Christine Jahns  
Greeters: The Mahler Family  
Reader: Bill Olson  
Communion Deacon: Bill &  
Olive Olson and Nora Flavin  
Acolyte: Art Okerlund



# MILESTONES

---



- December 2 – Alexander Solberg  
December 4 – Sofia Gigure  
Anna Peterson  
December 5 – Steve Gerds  
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  
Zachary West  
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 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 – Norm Maser  
Reece Sundeen  
December 20 – Bill Peterson  
December 24 – Mykel Eickstadt  
December 27 – Austin Krochalk  
December 31 – Courtney Peterson

If we have missed your special day, or have the wrong information – please contact the church office at (715) 386-5409.



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
8:15 am Advent Service  
10:30 am Advent Service

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6**

7:00 pm Caroling Service

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
8:15 am Christmas Festival & Santa Lucia  
10:30 am Christmas Festival & Santa Lucia

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13**

7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
8:15 am Advent Service  
10:30 am Sunday School Christmas Program

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
9:00 am Advent Service \*We will have one service on Christmas Eve Morning.  
4:00 pm Children and Family Service.  
10:00 pm Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**

8:15 am Pick your favorite Christmas Carol Service  
10:30 am Pick your favorite Christmas Carol Service 2