

# December

## 2019 MT. ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hello people of Mt. Zion!

I have two things I'd like to share with you this month.

The first is a practical update - my pastoral care emergency phone number is officially up and running! If you need immediate pastoral care, and the office is closed, then feel free to call **715-396-1465** and leave a voicemail. This number is operated through Google Voice, a free service that forwards the phone calls and voicemails to my personal cell phone. The voicemails are automatically transcribed and appear as a push notification so I can see what's going on as soon as you leave the message. Hooray technology!

I also mention two other options in the "leave a voicemail" message. The first is if you are in a medical or mental health emergency to hang up and call 911. Always a helpful reminder. The second is if you need support services, such as gas cards, rental assistance, food, 12-step groups, etc., then hang up and call 211. 211 is an incredible resource referral service operated by United Way. They have a huge database of local organizations that provide these services in communities across the country and know where to send people for the help they need. For example, in our area, they often refer folks to Operation Help or Grace Place, two wonderful organizations that we also support as a church. I mention this in the voicemail so people can get the help they need as quickly and accurately as possible.

Leaving the voicemail message for me in a pastoral or spiritual emergency is the quickest and most accurate way I can help you in those moments - the message avoids "phone-tag" situations, gives me the best number or time to call you back, etc. So please know that I am here for you, and if you need immediate spiritual support outside of office hours, please feel free to call **715-396-1465**. If your need is not immediate, please feel free to call the office or send me an email at [pastor@mtzionhudson.com](mailto:pastor@mtzionhudson.com) and I will gladly get back to you shortly.

The second thing I'm delighted to share with you this month is our Advent theme - "peace beyond our fears". The words of this theme are from Marty Haugen's wonderful hymn "Healer of Our Every Ill" and speak deeply to what many of us come seeking in this time and place. We all experience fear to some degree, and it's hard not to feel fearful in our world right now. Between unending natural disasters, violent conflict, rising mental health concerns, and a host of other crises, we live in what is often a very tough time. Sometimes the fear is more personal, what life looks like after losing a loved one, or after a medical diagnosis, or general wintery blues that make our minds uneasy.

In this season of Advent, we wait in joyous, reflective anticipation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Not all anticipation we experience is quite so joyful but waiting also need not be fearful or worrisome. We can celebrate simply dwelling, for the dark promises light to come, and that peace on Earth can be found in our Lord Jesus who heals all these ills. We must lean on these promises of God's light and peace in times of fear, for they provide new life within our spirits. Praise be to God, that God's beloved Son Jesus is coming so very soon and brings with him joy and peace for all the world.

I wish you and all your loved ones the happiest, safest, warmest, and most peaceful Advent and Christmas season.

Peace be with you,  
Pastor Carolyn



MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

### **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

### **2019 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

If you wish to have your contributions counted as part of the 2019 Calendar year, please drop them off at the church on or before Tuesday, December 31.

### **FOUR WAYS TO GIVE in 2020 –**

- **OFFERING ENVELOPES**
- **CHECKS**
- **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.

- **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 REPORTS**

Annual reports are due to the secretary on or before Noon on Friday, January 17.

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### **JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**Tuesday, December 17**

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

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### **YOUTH GRANT APPLICATIONS**

**Sunday, December 29, 2019**

Grant Applications for students who have completed a semester or term of school and are reenrolled for the next term are due to the office no later than 9:00a on Sunday, December 29.

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 “Youth”

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### **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.



### **OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**

December 4

December 23-26

December 31 – January 2



### **FOOD SHELF HELP**

A big thank you to all who donated items, money and/or time to

the Hudson Food Pantry in November. This year we had two (2) new church members help multiple times at the food shelf and a total of 19 volunteers donating their time.

All is greatly appreciated.  
Bless you, Kendra

### **Thank you, Pastor Kirstin Kellahe**

Last fall (September through December) while we were going through our pastoral transition, our former bridge pastor, Pastor Kirstin Kellahe, went above and beyond while she ministered with us. She preached numerous times during the fall and into the Advent season. She led many of our members through life transitions. On Sunday, we presented her with a beautiful hand-made quilt which was created by our Mt. Zion Quilters.

Thank you, Pastor Kirstin, for being there for us in our need.

### **Thanks to the Decorating Angels!**

On Nov. 24 a crew of Mt. Zion volunteers decorated the commons area and the sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season. We send out a big thank-you to Karen McConville, Harley Saathoff, Mark Arneson, Robin Arneson, Joan Christopher, Lori Rayome, Linda Letourneau, Jim Letourneau, Nils Dreier, Tim Dreier, Earl Monson, Craig Gustafson, Anne Dombrock, and Ed Dombrock. (My apologies if I missed anyone.) That was the largest turnout I have seen in a while. Also, a big thank you to Anna Peterson for promoting the decorating through the newsletter, bulletins and emails. Thanks to all!

Judy Meincke

Worship and Music Committee

### **FROM FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN**

Dear friends at Mt. Zion Lutheran,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of \$900 at our Eagan site. This gift will provide 3,750 lifesaving meals pack by FMSC volunteers.

Be sure to check our stories of hope at [www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org) To see the impact your gift has on children around the world.

You are champions for children needing hope today.  
Until all are fed,  
Katie

***Thank you notes from the \$5,000 Giveaway were received from Grace Place and Operation HELP.***

### **OPERATION HELP:**

We are so thankful for the Outreach Committee's donation to support the purchase of grocery gift cards for the Christmas Campaign for Kids. Operation HELP has continued this valuable program since the organization's inception and invites struggling families living within the Hudson School District to participate. We invite you to take a tour of our Resource Center at 901 4th Street, Hudson. Our volunteers are always delighted to show off our facility and have our supporters get a better feel for what we do.

### **TURNINGPOINT:**

On behalf of Turningpoint, thank you very much for your recent donation in the amount of \$1000. We are very grateful for your support.

This generous gift will allow us to continue to provide support and resources to achieve freedom for domestic and sexual violence.

*Thank you so much for this extremely generous support!*

*Amy Berg*

*Development Director*

### **GRACE PLACE**

On behalf of The Salvation Army and the families that pass-through Grace Place, we wish to thank you for your generous donation. We want you to know that your gift will make a real and tangible difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate in your community.

It is through the generosity and efforts of friends like you, especially during this financially, difficult time, that we are able to provide a safe haven and a fresh start to the residents for Grace Place. Your support is a blessing to the ministry!

Again, we thank you!

In Christ,  
Duana Bremer  
Shelter Director



## **BOOK CLUB**



December 6 at 6:00 pm

Hudson Bagel.

December book is Becoming  
by Michelle Obama

Our Book for January 2 is  
by Steve Chebosky



## **PRAYER SHAWLS AND QUILTS FOR THOSE IN NEED OF COMFORT**

Prayer shawls and quilts are available for those in need. If you know someone in need of one – please let Pastor Carolyn know.

## **NEEDED**

It's that time of year when we look to restock our Kleenex supply. If you would help stock our "TISSUE SHELF" please feel free to drop your donations of in the Workroom whenever is convenient for you.



## **THE POWER OF PRAYER**

The purpose of this ministry is to provide a means for those with an immediate or pressing concern to engage fellow Christians in corporate prayer for their situation.

We invite your requests for prayers ... for yourself ... for your family ... for your friends. Your prayer requests can be for times of concern, times of celebration, times of thanksgiving, or anything you wish.

You can call our Prayer Chain Coordinator: Joyce Johnson or contact the church office by email or phone.

We welcome you to join our prayer chain so you can pray for the requests that we receive. We have two active prayer chains: A phone chain and an email chain.

Please see Joyce Johnson or Anna Peterson if you are interested in learning more.

*"Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."*

*Mark 11:24*

## **OUR MISSION & PURPOSE**



As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

## **DEBORAH CIRCLE**

Tuesday, December 3

7:00 pm

At the home of Katie Jones

## **JOY CIRCLE**

Thursday, December 12

10:00 am

At the Church

Christmas Potluck

## **HOPE CIRCLE**

Tuesday, December 17

Noon

At the Home of Florence Hopp

## **WOMEN OF MT. ZION – CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Monday, December 9

5:30 – 7:30 pm In the Fellowship Hall

Bring Hot or cold Appetizer or Dessert to share  
Wrapped Gift (new or regifted) under \$15 for Game Exchange

Punch will be provided.

If you have questions, please contact Linda Letourneau

\*Can't make the whole thing? Come for what you can!



## **MEN'S GROUP**

Saturday, December 14

Mt. Zion's Men's group meets the  
2nd Saturday of the month at 8:30  
– 9:30 am in the fellowship hall.

Men's Group Goals - "To Do Good" for our congregation, our church, and our community.

Everyone is invited!

We would be happy to have you join us for breakfast and fellowship.

If you have any questions, please see Jim Letourneau.



## WRAP IT UP AND COOKIE DECORATING MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENT!

Christmas is a busy time of year!  
This Holiday season let our own Mt.  
Zion Middle School help you wrap your gifts!

*Simply sign up for a time slot, drop your gifts off at  
church, and pick your gifts up the same day!*

### WRAPPED AND READY TO GO!

If you have special paper, boxes or bows you would  
like used- please provide at the time you drop your  
gifts off.

Please be sure to clearly label who each gift is for  
and who it is from - so they are packaged correctly.

This event will be held at church on

**Saturday, December 15!**

### NOTE TO MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH:

Middle school! Please sign up to help with this event!  
You will earn a service point for confirmation for your  
hard work!

You will also be decorating Christmas cookies for  
fellowship the next day!

It will be a Holly Jolly Time! You won't want to miss  
it!

### YOUTH AND FAMILY EVENTS

Christian Education board is looking for 3 to 5  
people to volunteer to help organize, plan and lead  
youth and family events. If interested, please contact  
Andrea Dreier or Mary Stanton.



### **1-YEAR OLD – 1<sup>ST</sup> BIBLE** **DECEMBER 1**

*10:30 service*

Autumn Coulter, Hank Matzek,  
Henrik McConville, Howie Schletz, Chelsea  
Spreeman & Hayden Wallin will all celebrate their  
1 yr. Milestone on December 1 at the 10:30 service

If we have missed your child, please let the office  
know.

## YOUTH GRANT SCHOLARSHIPS



*Please go to the Mt. Zion  
webpage and download  
your application.*

<http://www.mtzionhudson.com/youth/grants.html>

The Post-Secondary Education Grant Committee will  
be accepting applications from now until December  
29, 2019 at 9:00 am

If you have completed one term/semester of Post  
High School Education and have enrolled in the 2020  
Spring term, you are eligible.

### **Mail completed form to:**

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

or drop it off at church before the  
**December 29, 2019 deadline**

### GIVE THE PERFECT GIFT...

#### GIVE BLOOD



Monday, December 30  
Noon – 6:00 pm  
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  
or provide bars/cookies, please see Anna Peterson in  
the church office.



# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:15 am Advent Service  
10:30 am Advent Service  
1 Yr. Old Milestone

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4**

6:30 pm Midweek Advent Service

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:15 am Advent Service  
9:20 am Sunday School Program  
10:30 am Advent Service

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11**

6:30 pm Midweek Advent Service

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:15 am Christmas Music Festival & Santa Lucia  
10:30 am Christmas Music Festival & Santa Lucia

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18**

6:30 pm Blue Christmas Service

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.

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:15 am Advent Service  
10:30 am Advent Service

## **MONDAY, DECEMBER 24**



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 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.

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

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

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## **THE FESTIVAL OF SANTA LUCIA Sunday, December 15**



The Tradition of Santa Lucia. The tradition goes that the oldest daughter in the family rises early on that day to prepare coffee and sweet rolls.

Then, wearing a crown of candles and a white gown with a red sash and singing special Christmas songs, she leads her siblings into their parents' bedroom to serve them breakfast.

Join us during worship on December 15 as we celebrate Santa Lucia and come for fellowship at 9:10 for Scandinavian treats.

If you have any questions or you can supply a treat for fellowship, please see Karen McConville.

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## **CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS. READ THIS! THIS IS FOR YOU!**

In August, Nicole Gelina helped facilitate a council retreat at Mt. Zion. Council members discussed information gleaned from the CAT surveys that would help us to move forward. The council and Pastor Carolyn brainstormed several possible ideas (in no particular order) that they felt would be used to evaluate the success of Pastor Carolyn's first year : sermons, youth, new members, pastoral visits, new members, personal relationships, the worship experience, adult education, financial stewardship, security, confirmation, member engagement, communication, pastor accessibility, the worship and sacraments, administrative infrastructure, learning and building relationships, teaching (confirmation and Bible studies) and pastoral care. After combining some of these ideas, we condensed our list down to our top six: personal relationships, pastoral care/visits, sermons, the worship experience, member engagement and pastor accessibility. We then discussed further, listing our top three: getting to know our congregation, worship, and supporting our youth. The council and Pastor Carolyn agreed that all of these are important, and the council will work with Pastor Carolyn to help her have success in all of these areas. We decided that we would start with our # 1 priority: to get to know us as individuals and as a congregation. Already, we have been working on this by encouraging people to wear a name tag on Sundays so Pastor Carolyn can connect names and faces. She has been visiting several ministry groups whenever she can. This is where the congregation comes in: We need you to help us with ideas of how to help Pastor Carolyn get to know the people of Mt. Zion.

Here is what you can do:

- Drop a suggestion (into the suggestion box at the information wall) of things that we can do to help Pastor Carolyn get to know us.
- Invite Pastor Carolyn to a meeting or activity in which you are involved at church. Dining groups come to mind.
- Let Pastor Carolyn know if you or a loved one needs pastoral care. Sometimes we hope that others will alert the pastor if we are ill or grieving, but the best way to get help is to let her know personally that there is a need.

Keep the church council informed of your thoughts! We are here for you!

Thank you! Your Church Council:

Olive Olson, Jim Letourneau, Andrea Dreier, Mary Stanton,  
Kendra Margl, Deb Miller, Judy Meincke, Scott Johnson,  
Stacie Nelson, Jackie Anderson, Ava Anderson and Sam Johnson,  
working with Pastor Carolyn.

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### **GIVING TREE 2019**

**DEC 1- DEC 15**



**Organization- T.H.U.G. Life** "Truly Humble Under God"

Mission: Provide for basic needs of homeless teens

Program: Provide for basic needs of homeless teens who want to finish school, including but not limit to basic hygiene and needs. Also living and school supplies, clothing, meals, warm beds, rides, and mentoring.

Many of these kids are still mobile, so they carry what they own with them. They all have socks and underwear (it's one of the first things that is given to them).

Items that are needed for teen and young adult:

- Good quality sock, fun socks
- Chapstick
- Warm quality gloves, hats
- Heat Packs
- Gift cards for gas stations, restaurants (DQ, Subway, McDonalds)
- Snacks- chips, granola bars
- Quarters, money in small bills

You can grab a tag off the tree or bring donated items to church and place under the Giving Tree in the Commons.

Cash or Gift Card donations – please place in Pastor Carolyn's Mailbox or give to Deb Miller – Giving Tree Lead



**December 2** – James Hayes  
**December 4** – Anna Peterson  
**December 5** – Steve Gerdtz  
**December 6** – Isabel Nemitz  
**December 7** – Tim Steinhoff  
**December 10** – Lauren Spreeman  
**December 12** – Gary Baribeau  
**December 12** – Roxanne Studelska  
**December 13** – Brandon Matzek  
**December 13** – David Miller  
**December 13** – Marcia Teschner  
**December 16** – Linda Flatt  
**December 17** – Megan Gelina  
**December 17** – Nicole Gelina  
**December 17** – Scott Veenendall  
**December 18** – Tracy Oswald  
**December 19** – Carol Gustafson  
**December 19** – Zachary West  
**December 21** – Colin McConville  
**December 21** – Kim Pilarski  
**December 21** – Jon Stojan  
**December 23** – Renee Eickstadt  
**December 23** – Joyce Johnson  
**December 25** – Baby Jesus  
**December 27** – Cindy DiGidio  
**December 28** – Sonja Johnson  
**December 28** – Sven O'Connell-Beard  
**December 29** – Randy Leen



**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  
**December 1** – Emily Holman  
**December 1** – Christine Jahns  
**December 1** – Katie Jones  
**December 2** – Ian Flattum  
**December 2** – Jessica Hines  
**December 2** – Kelsie Hines  
**December 4** – Barb Walczak  
**December 8** – Sabrina Keyes  
**December 10** – Jennifer Johnson  
**December 10** – Gene Stahnke  
**December 12** – Roxanne Studelska  
**December 13** – Scott Revoir  
**December 18** – Ken Revoir  
**December 19** – Reece Sundeen  
**December 24** – Mykel Eickstadt

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



**Mt. Zion Lutheran Church**  
**505 13<sup>th</sup> St. S**  
**Hudson, WI 54016**



## **CONTACT US**

**WWW.MTZIONHUDSON.COM**

**Church Office (715) 386-5409**

**Pastoral Care Needed? (715) 396-1465**

**Pastor ~ Carolyn Staats**

[pastor@mtzionhudson.com](mailto:pastor@mtzionhudson.com)

**Secretary ~ Anna Peterson**

[secretary@mtzionhudson.com](mailto:secretary@mtzionhudson.com)

**Organist**

Deb Tonsager

**Sr. Choir Director**

Craig Gustafson

**Treasurer**

Robin Arneson

**Financial Secretary**

Joan Christopher

**Parish Nurse**

Eileen Wymer

**Milestone Coordinator**

Robin Arneson

**Kid's Club Coordinator**

Amanda Stojan

**Custodian**

Andrea Goetz

**Council President**

Olive Olson