

THE ZION HERALD

December 2021

"Happy are those whose strength is in God, in whose heart are the highways to Zion." Psalm 84:5

December Readings

December 5

Second Sunday of Advent

- Malachi 3:1-4
- Luke 1:68-79
- Philippians 1:3-11
- Luke 3:1-6

December 12

Third Sunday of Advent

- Zephaniah 3:14-20
- Isaiah 12:2-6
- Philippians 4:4-7
- Luke 3:7-18

December 19

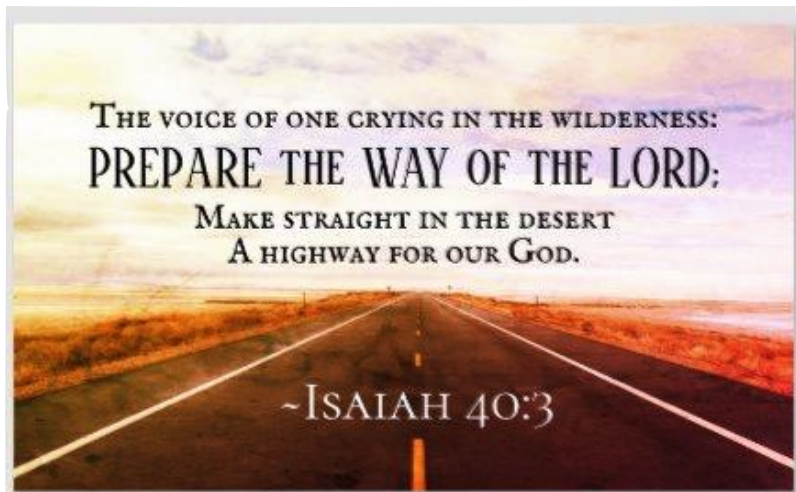
Fourth Sunday of Advent

- Micah 5:2-5a
- Luke 1:46b-55
- Hebrews 10:5-10
- Luke 1:39-55

December 26

First Sunday of Christmas

- 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
- Psalm 148
- Colossians 3:12-17
- Luke 2:41-52



The Pastor's Ponderings

I'm excited to celebrate my first Advent season with Zion! The season of advent is a time of hope, preparation, waiting, and attentiveness to God's breaking into the world.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." (Isaiah 40:3)

"I just feel lost."

It's a phrase I have heard many times - I've even said it a few times myself. It's interesting how many ways we use the word "lost" - sometimes a thing or person is lost when we don't know where to find it. Others when we end up somewhere unfamiliar and don't recognize anything. Other times it means that we were not the winners at a game. It can also be much less literal, meaning a person has a feeling of confusion or uncertainty. In these times, we sometimes find ourselves wandering (literally or figuratively) and trying



Prepare the Royal Highway

Please join us for mid-week Advent services on Wednesdays at 7:00pm.

December 1
Highway Under Construction

December 8
G.P.S. (God's Positioning System)

December 15
Standing at the Crossroads

December 22
Detour Ahead

to find our way once again.

The comforting thing for me is that God knows we tend to get lost. Like a Good Shepherd, God doesn't simply abandon us - but will go out of the way to find us and bring us back. Even in the times when we feel most lost, most uncertain, most like we can't win for losing, God knows how to find us once again.

Advent is the season of hope, waiting, and preparation. As we prepare for the arrival of Jesus on Christmas, we are also called to prepare a place for God in our hearts and lives. In the same way that a path in the wilderness (Is. 40:3) makes for easier travel, a path for God to enter our lives creates comfort even in the most challenging of times. Prepare the way of the Lord!

Pastor Sharilyn

Christmas Eve Worship

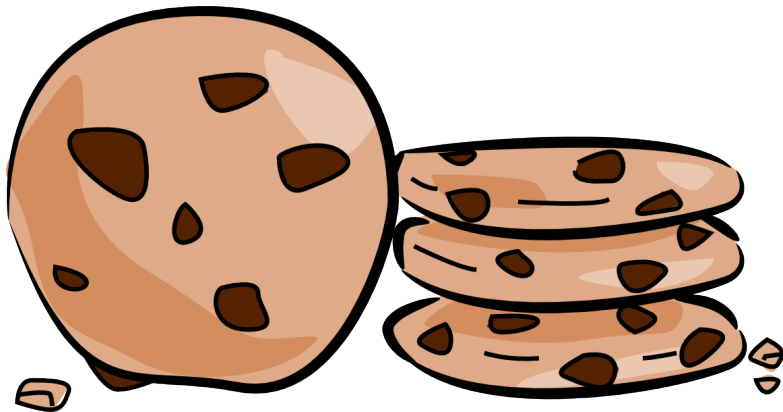
All are welcome to celebrate the birth of Christ with us on Christmas Eve. We'll gather at 7:00pm and start with a short Christmas recital. Our worship will continue with a service of Holy Communion with beloved Christmas hymns and scripture readings. Please join us - invite your friends and family to join us as well.



Cookie Exchange

Our Thanksgiving Pie exchange was a great success! There were all variety of pies (pecan, apple, pumpkin, sugar cream, and many more...) and we all enjoyed a preview of a Thanksgiving Feast. Since we had so much fun, why not try a cookie exchange?

On December 19, everyone is invited to bring some cookies to exchange. You can also bring bars, fudge, or any other Christmas dessert! Please package them as “half-dozen” groups (six cookies, six bars, six pieces of fudge, about six “servings” of chocolate pretzels, etc.) Ziploc style bags or single-use foil/plastic containers work well. Mix and match to have some different Christmas treats to serve at your own celebration or share with friends and family. Even better? Print off the recipe and include it so that the recipient can try it themselves next year!



thank you!

It seems like uncertainty and upheaval are the standard in the last two years, but particularly for Tim Stanley and his family as he awaited a new liver. The good news is that his new liver is functioning well and he has started to regain some of the weight he lost. Tim wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, well wishes, and support. That’s what being a church family is all about.



Our congregational meeting will be held on January 30, 2022 after worship. We have a lot of things to discuss, and everyone’s input is needed and welcome! Some of the things on the agenda:

- Staffing decisions
- Worship time
- Parsonage updates
- Yearly budget

Mark your calendars - we have much to discuss in the business of doing church!

December Birthdays

Betty Hendricks.....	12-2
Owen Ehlers.....	12-3
Cindy Knot.....	12-3
Peggy Willmann.....	12-5
Kelly Ford.....	12-7
Ashley Armstrong.....	12-11
Brady Monce.....	12-14
Vikki Armstrong.....	12-22
Shelley McCammon.....	12-22
Mark Grile.....	12-23
Mary Ehlers.....	12-27

October Council Minutes

October 18, 2021

Attending: Pastor Sharilyn, Mark, Shay, Scott, Libby, Drew

Absent: Jody

A. Opening

- A. Call meeting to order at 6:01pm by Mark.
- B. Devotions by Mark

B. Secretary's Report

- A. Amend/Approve minutes of last Council meeting
 - A. Motion to approve - Drew
 - B. 2nd - Scott
 - C. Approved by all
- B. Correspondence - none
- C. Add Items to Agenda - none

C. Pastor's Report

- A. Meet and know members of the Congregation including shut-ins and non-attendees
 - A. Pastoral Care - 2; with communion - 9
 - B. Meet & Greet - 8
 - C. Call/Phonetag/Phone Care/Mailed Note - 14
 - D. Pastoral Acts: Funeral of Bill Thomas
 - E. Planned Tasks: Continue attempts to schedule meet & greets
 - F. Needed: Sit down with a few members who can tell me about non-attendees on our mailing lists
- B. Create and build an education program for our youth
 - A. Sunday school
 - B. Continued to get information about Youth Gathering
 - C. Planned Tasks: Faith Formation webinars with INKY Synod (Oct 21 and Nov 11)
 - D. Needed: Guidance and Feedback - Is it wise to schedule a committee meeting?
- C. Help create an outreach program to bring in new members and reach the community
 - A. Requested meeting for Mission & Ministry committee (in progress)
 - B. Tech Setup (in progress)
 - C. INKY Webinar Creating a Hybrid Church
 - D. Needed: Additional volunteers or feedback on outreach interests
- D. Get involved in community partnerships to build an inviting Christian network in the county
 - A. Meeting with Local Ministerium - plan to continue meeting monthly

- B. Tailgate Food Distribution - Blackford County Client Consultation Board
- C. Needed: Information on outreach/activities members work with (discussion during Meet & Greets)
- E. Create a schedule that allows us to know when/how to communicate with the pastor
 - A. Updated schedule published

D. Committee Reports

- A. Parish Education & Youth
 - A. Nothing new. Everything going well.
- B. Worship/Music/Memorial
 - A. Songs are being picked. Things are moving along.
- C. Mission and Ministry
 - A. Creating this group is in process. Would like to have meeting soon.

E. Council Reports

- A. Deacons
 - A. Attendance and Holy Communion report in low to mid 40s
 - B. Spoke with an individual about getting a hotel for a couple of nights until his HUD came through.
- B. Elders - none
- C. Trustees
 - A. Called air quality and did a check on the parsonage. Definitely mold in the basement. Waiting for other results.
 - B. Telephone company will be cutting down trees. Request that stumps be ground up.
 - C. Curtain rod in Sunday school room was broken. This will be replaced.
 - D. Curtain rod in parsonage will also be fixed very soon.
- D. Treasurer
 - A. Deacon's Fund Checking 688.68
 - B. Deacon's Fund Savings 66.18
 - C. Total General Fund, Thrivent Invested 86,247.28
 - D. General Fund, VIA Checking 11,161.30
 - E. General Fund, VIA Membership 56.22
 - F. General Fund, VIA Money Market 70,250.84
 - G. Memorial Fund, VIA Checking 16,596.42
 - H. Memorial Fund, VIA Money Market 5,518.66
 - I. Mission Invest., Memorial Fund 7,014.73
 - J. ZLCW Kitchen Fund Savings 1,722.69
 - K. ZLCW Kitchen Funds Checking 150.00
 - L. Total Checking/Savings 199,473.00

F. Old Business

- A. Tech and Worship Update
 - A. Hoping to record next Sunday and stream the following Sunday
 - B. Church webpage is completely lost. Process is underway to set back up under another server. Will use new company to keep webpage up. Some things were able to be saved and added to the new page.
- B. Thanksgiving Eve Plans
 - A. No service this year. Re-evaluate next year.
- C. Budget Committee Plans
 - A. Meeting next month, December for council to see, ready for semi-annual meeting in January. Mark will speak with Jody about setting up a meeting in November.
- D. Thanksgiving Offering
 - A. Go to Wernle
- E. Boiler Condition
 - A. Scott will ask Tom to check on this.

G. New Business

- A. Installation Service 10/31
 - A. 4 speaking parts - Jody Stanley, Mark Prout, Michelle Walker, Kaylin Clamme
 - B. Acolytes - Clamme kids
- B. Funeral Pall
 - A. No one is aware of where it is. Need to look for it.
- C. Planning/Ministry Focus
 - A. Where are we going in the future? Portland Lutheran Church asked if we would like to have a shared ministry with them. Pastor said she will not be working with both congregations. She thinks our congregation needs a full time pastor just for them. Maybe in the future that will change as our churches change. It is something we need to look into for the future and make a plan so we are prepared when we are in need of this. We will not be sustainable in the long run and we need to know how this will look and be prepared for it. Scott suggested maybe a shared youth ministry would be beneficial.
- D. Request from INKY Synod regarding Bishop Election 2022
 - A. Letter from the Synod - top 3 matters of priority to be looked at the bishop; top 3 gifts deemed important to the bishop
 - B. Council members will be emailed and respond. Discuss at next meeting.

H. Closing

- A. Lord's Prayer at 7:25pm


I. Next Meeting

- A. November 15, 2021 at 6:00pm with devotions by Libby Stroble



December 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7pm Advent Worship	2	3	4
5 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	6 8am Coffee & Jesus at Common Grounds	7	8 7pm Advent Worship	9	10	11
12 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	13 8am Coffee & Jesus at Common Grounds	14 9am Piecemakers	15 7pm Advent Worship	16	17	18
19 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Cookie Exchange	20 8am Coffee & Jesus at Common Grounds 7pm Council Meeting	21	22 7pm Advent Worship	23	24 7pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day
26 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	27	28	29	30	31	
	 Pastor Sharilyn Out of the Office					

Zion Lutheran Church
308 S Monroe St
Hartford City, IN 47348



✠ Serving the Lord in Gladness ✠

Sharilyn Wendt, Pastor
Church Office: 765-348-3157
zionluth.hc@gmail.com
www.zionhc.org

Youth Sunday School at 9:30am
Worship at 10:30am

December 2021

Council Members:

President & Elder	Jody Stanley
Vice President & Elder	Mark Prout
Secretary	Shay Clamme
Treasurer	Libby Stroble
Deacon	Drew Walker
Trustee	Scott Clamme

Pastor Sharilyn's Information:

Cell Phone: 812-272-2936
Email: sharilyn.wendt@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9am-Noon
Other Times by Appointment
Please call first to be sure she is in!

Sunday Servants:

Lectors:

Dec 5 - Sandy Langdon
Dec 12 - Paige Walker
Dec 19 - Linda Baker
Dec 26 - Linda Baker

Acolytes:

Dec 5 - Clamme Family
Dec 12 - Walker Family
Dec 19 - Clamme Family
Dec 24 - Clamme Family
Dec 26 - Walker Family

Assisting Ministers:

Dec 5 - Michelle Walker
Dec 19 - Linda Walker