
THE ZION HERALD

December 2023

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



The Pastor's Ponderings

Thank you to everyone who participated in our events this last fall to discuss the future of ministry here at Zion Lutheran Church! On October 29, Pastor Nancy Nyland visited to lead us in a discussion on our strengths, areas of growth, and hopes for the future.

During this discussion these themes emerged:

1. Increasing and expanding outreach is the area our members are most interested in focusing on. Zion already has been successful in this locally with our God's Work Our Hands "Free Laundry Day." One possible outreach need that was discovered is service to our local educators. There are programs in Hartford City for children (backpack events, etc.) but our local teachers and administrators also have needs that we might be able to meet.

Current Opportunities in Outreach: We will be planning another free laundry event in the spring - look for the date upcoming. We are also adopting families for Christmas. You can donate to purchase items or talk to Michelle Walker to learn how you can help. Pastor Nancy also forwarded a list of Outreach Ideas that have been distributed to the Church Council.

2. We want to do better inviting and welcoming guests to our worship services. Pastor Nancy spoke with us about learning to be more comfortable inviting people to worship with us. She also talked about research that shows an invitation from a friend being the primary way a person started attending a church. We also spoke about ways that we could more effectively follow up with visitors or invitees.

Current Opportunities in Welcoming and Evangelism: Would you be willing to serve as a greeter at our worship? Please let the church office know. Are you willing to learn ways to (in a not-pushy-or-aggressive-way) invite people to attend worship? There are books we could read together as a group to help us be comfortable with this. In coming weeks and months we will need some people willing to do followup with visitors - be praying about if you have the skills to serve Zion in this way.

December Readings

December 3

First Sunday of Advent

- Isaiah 64:1-9
- Psalm 80:1-7,17-19
- 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
- Mark 13:24-37

December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

- Isaiah 40:1-11
- Psalm 85:1-2,8-13
- 2 Peter 3:8-15a
- Mark 1:1-8

December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

- Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11
- Psalm 126
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
- John 1:6-8,19-28

December 24

4th Sunday of Advent

- 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16
- Psalm 89:1-4,19-26
- Romans 16:25-27
- Luke 1:26-38

December 31

First Sunday of Christmas

- Isaiah 61:10-62:3
- Psalm 148
- Galatians 4:4-7
- Luke 2:22-40



3. We want to find ways for our youth to be more involved in our congregation. While Zion does not have a large number of youth in our pews, those we do have a very much a part of our church family. We talked about ways that we can help our young people be more involved.

Current Opportunities in Youth Development: Consider taking some time on an upcoming Sunday and asking one of our young people about their interests. We have already enlisted the help of our confirmation class to read the lessons at our Christmas Eve service this year - be sure to attend and show your support for the (sometimes a little nerve-wracking) service they are providing for us.

What an exciting time to be the People of God here at Zion! There are so many opportunities at Zion to serve one another and our community. May God encourage and sustain our work!

In Christian Love,
Pastor Sharilyn



Christmas falls on a Monday this year. As a result, our 10:30am worship will be the *Fourth Sunday of Advent*.

At 7:00pm we will gather again to celebrate Christmas Eve with our *Candlelight Service* focusing on scripture readings and Christmas Carols.

Communion will be celebrated at the evening Christmas Eve service.



December 6, 2023 - 7:00pm (Fellowship Hall)
Fear Not!

The angels who appeared to Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph all proclaimed "Fear not!" in response to the human emotions displayed before them. God's word also breaks into the fears of our world with the promise of Christ. Surely God is our salvation; we will trust, and will not be afraid.

December 13, 2023 - 7:00pm (Fellowship Hall)
Lost in the Night

In the midst of darkness, we long for the coming of the light of Christ. Within this service, the text of the hymn "Lost in the Night" (LBW 394) gives us words to express our deepest pleas for God's mercy and salvation. Together we cry out: "Christ is coming soon! Come and save us soon!"

Mid-Week Advent Refreshments



We would like to offer coffee and cookies during the mid-week advent services. Anyone willing to donate, please drop off cookies in the kitchen anytime on

Wednesday before 7:00pm. Thank you!



This year Zion has adopted 10 local children. Money is due by December 3. Join us to wrap gifts on December 10 during Education Hour in Fellowship Hall.

2024 COUNCIL

Thank you to our newly elected church council! They will begin their tenure on January 1, 2024.



Elder/VP: *Paige Walker*
Secretary: *Sandy Langdon*
Treasurer: *Libby Stroble*
Trustee: *Larry Hile*
Deacon: *Drew Walker*
Cemetery Trustee: *Fred Walker*

December Birthdays

- Betty Hendricks 12-2
- Owen Ehlers 12-3
- Cindy Knotte 12-3
- Peggy Willmann 12-5
- Kelly Ford 12-7
- Ashley Armstrong 12-11
- Brady Monce 12-14
- Vicki Armstrong 12-22
- Shelley McCammon 12-22
- Mark Grile 12-23



Join us on Saturday, December 2 beginning at 9:00am to decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season! There are jobs for all ages and abilities!

Blue Christmas

A Service of Remembrance and Hope

While Christmas is a time of celebration, many are left with feelings of loss, grief, or sadness that seems out of place as others celebrate. Join us as we gather to seek the comfort that comes from knowing God is with us in our times of sorrow.

DECEMBER 20, 2023

7:00 PM

2023 Council Members:

President & Elder	Cindy Knotte
Vice President & Elder	Mark Prout
Secretary	Paige Walker
Treasurer	Libby Stroble
Deacon	Scott Clamme
Trustee	Neil Stroble

Pastor Sharilyn's Information:

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

Office Hours:
Monday: 2:30pm-5:30pm
Tuesday & Thursday: 9am-Noon
Other Times by Appointment
Please call first to be sure she is in!

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH INVITES YOU

Candlelight

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

SUNDAY
DEC 24
7:00 PM

308 S MONROE ST
HARTFORD CITY

Facebook Livestream:
www.facebook.com/zionhartfordcity



MORE INFORMATION
Visit www.zionhc.org
Call (765) 348-3157

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Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2023

Present: Cindy Knotte, Libby Stroble, Paige Walker, Pastor Sharilyn

Absent: Mark Prout, Neil Stroble, Scott Clamme

A. Opening

- a. Call Meeting to Order - Cindy at 7:01pm
- b. Devotions from Cindy

B. Secretary's Report

- a. Amend/Approve minutes from last Council meeting
 - i. Motion to approve by Libby, 2nd by Cindy, Approved by All
- b. Correspondence
 - i. Letter from Synod about qualities for new Bishop
- c. Add Items to Agenda
 - i. None

C. Pastor's Report - September 2023

- a. Meet and Know Members
 - i. Pastoral Care Visits: 4
- b. Youth Education Program
 - i. Education Hour returned September 17
 - ii. First Semester: Luther's Small Catechism, Luther specific instruction
- c. Outreach
 - i. Ask-A-Pastor (once/week): Available at Deja Brew for questions/concerns/etc-open to community
 - ii. Jail Ministry (once/month)
 - iii. Worship Service at Envive Nursing Home (once/month)
 - iv. God's Work Our Hands (September 10)
- d. Community Partnerships
 - i. Mental Health Support Group resumes September 11

D. Committee Reports

- a. Parish Education & Youth - Scott
 - i. Looking into adding another Bible Study during the week in the evening.
- b. Worship/Music/Memorial - Libby
 - i. Planned through November. Working on Advent.
- c. Mission & Ministry - Cindy
 - i. Setting up a meeting.

E. Council Reports

a. Deacon

i. Attendance and Holy Communion Report

1. Sept 24 - 44
2. Oct 1 - 46 (Comm: 44)
3. Oct 8 - 41
4. Oct 15 - 44 (Comm: 42)

ii. Assistance Requests

1. None

b. Elders

- i. None

c. Trustee

- i. A/C - installation moved to mid November

d. Treasurer

i. Report as of Sept 30

Deacon's Fund Checking	830.26
Deacon's Fund Savings	66.46
General Fund, Thrivent Invested	80,458.87
General Fund, VIA Checking	13,062.88
General Fund, VIA Membership	56.46
General Fund, VIA Money Market	39,723.57
Memorial Fund, VIA Checking	27,231.42
Memorial Fund, VIA Money Market	2,950.63
Mission Invest., Memorial Fund	7,073.84
ZLCW Kitchen Fund Savings	2,243.84
ZLCW Kitchen Fund Checking	150.00
TOTAL ASSETS	173,839.97

F. Business

a. Donation to Wernle - \$10K for matching funds goal. Motion to bring to congregation by Libby, 2nd by Paige, Approved by All.

b. Bishop Election

c. Reformation Day/Pastor Nyland's Visit

d. Congregational Vitality Report

e. Budget Meeting - Will be set up before next Council meeting



f. Nominating Committee - Cindy will ask congregation for help. Plan to have election on November 19.

G. Closing

a. Lord's Prayer at 8:03pm

b. Next Meeting: November 21, 2023 at 7:00pm with devotions from Paige

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Hanging of the Greens 9:00am
					3 Education Hour 9:30am Worship & Communion 10:30am	4 Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am Mental Health Support Group in Library 6:30pm
10 Education Hour 9:30am Worship 10:30am	11 Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am Mental Health Support Group in Library 6:30pm	12 Piecemakers in Fellowship Hall 9:00am	13 Midweek Advent Service in Fellowship Hall 7:00pm	14	15	16
17 Education Hour 9:30am Worship & Communion 10:30am	18 Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am Mental Health Support Group in Library 6:30pm	19 Council Meeting in Library 7:00pm	20 Blue Christmas Service in Sanctuary 7:00pm	21	22	23
24 Worship 10:30am Candlelight & Communion 7:00pm	25	26	27	28	29	30
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Pastor on Vacation available by cellphone if needed </div>						
CHRISTMAS						
31 Worship 10:30am						



**308 S Monroe St
Hartford City, IN 47348**

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

**Education Hour/Confirmation at 9:30am
Worship at 10:30am**

December 2023 Sunday Servants

Greeters:

Dec 3 - Matt & Allie Clamme; Edi Tarter
Dec 10 - Peggy Willmann; Max & Sandy Langdon
Dec 17 - Matt & Allie Clamme; Eldon Willmann
Dec 24 (AM) - Dennis & Debbie Walker; Pat Gillis
Dec 24 (PM) - Still Open!
Dec 31 - Lewis & Joyce Willmann; Pat Gillis

Assisting Minister:

Dec 3 - Michelle Walker
Dec 17 - Linda Walker
Dec 24 (PM) - Mark Prout

Lector:

Dec 3 - Matt Clamme
Dec 10 - Sandy Langdon
Dec 17 - Allie Clamme
Dec 24 (AM) - Kathy Sharp
Dec 24 (PM) - Church Youth
Dec 31 - Cindy Knotte

Acolyte:

Dec 3 - Walker
Dec 10 - Clamme
Dec 17 - Walker
Dec 24 (AM) - Clamme
Dec 24 (PM) - Walker
Dec 31 - Clamme