
THE ZION HERALD

January 2024

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

The Pastor's Ponderings



This month marks the beginning of the season of Epiphany. Don't really know what the season of Epiphany is about? It wouldn't be surprising since that's true for many Christians! The season of Epiphany – like the stereotype of a middle child – ends up sort of sandwiched between two very significant periods in the church year: Christmas (Celebrated December 25 until December 5) and the Transfiguration – which this year is February 11. Because of that, it's easy to overlook it. It also is very near the festival day we celebrate as The Baptism of Our Lord, which often takes priority in our worship services.

Over time, different days are used for the feast of The Epiphany of Our Lord. Most common is the day immediately after the season of Christmas (the day after "Twelfth Night" which signals and end to that season). The word "Epiphany" is used to describe a sudden realization and in Christianity that sudden realization is the birth of Jesus, the Messiah. The Gospel of Matthew tells us that three magi (or "three Kings" or "three Wise Men") come from the East having followed a star their astrology charts told them would reveal a new king. When they entered the home of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus they were filled with joy and had an *epiphany* of the Christ-child. In many Christian traditions, this is understood to be the first extension of the announcement of a Messiah to Gentiles (that is, non-Jews). These magi are sort of our faith ancestors – non-Jews who did not know the God of Israel who came to know God through the birth of Jesus.

In North America, we have minimal traditions around the celebration of Epiphany, but that doesn't mean we can't celebrate it! Some traditions eat "King Cake" (in the US more typically eaten on Fat Tuesday) and others do a winter swim (Polar Bear Plunge, anyone?) One of the ones I like the most is a Blessing of a Home.

An Epiphany House Blessing usually starts with the Chalking of the Door: **20 + C M B + 23** Traditional Chalking involves these symbols and initials. These words of blessing are said as you write the letters and symbols:

January Readings

January 7

Epiphany of Our Lord

- Isaiah 60:1-6
- Psalm 72:1-7,10-14
- Ephesians 3:1-12
- Matthew 2:1-12

January 14

2nd Sunday After Epiphany

- 1 Samuel 3:1-20
- Psalm 139:1-6,13-18
- 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
- John 1:43-51

January 21

3rd Sunday After Epiphany

- Jonah 3:1-5,10
- Psalm 62:5-12
- 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
- Mark 1:14-20

January 28

4th Sunday After Epiphany

- Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- Psalm 111
- 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
- Mark 1:21-28



This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance: Write the appropriate character (left) while speaking the text (right).

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar,

M Melchior, and

B Balthasar,

*followed the star of God's Son who came
to dwell among us*

20 two thousand

24 and twenty-four years ago.

† Christ, bless this house,

† and remain with us throughout the new year.

You can then go through the home to each room and say a brief prayer for the things you hope God will provide for you or the things you are grateful for. Thank God for enough food to eat in the kitchen. Pray that God will keep you safe in your sleep in your bedroom, etc.

On January 7, we will celebrate the Sunday of the Epiphany of our Lord as Zion Lutheran Church and send you home with some chalk to use in your own home. I pray the season leads to an epiphany of who Jesus is in your life this year!

In Christian Love,
Pastor Sharilyn



**Mark your
calendar!**

**Our annual
congregational
meeting will
take place on
January 28th
after worship.**

Our New Oil Candles

You may have noticed that our altar candles are now always the same length! The Worship/Music/Memorial Committee elected to purchase oil candles for our altar and candelabras with funds from the Zion Lutheran Church Memorial Fund. No more dripping wax, nor more uneven burning, and much less mess and soot. Thank you to all of those who have donated to our memorial fund in honor of friends and loved ones. May our new altar candles serve as a light of hope and reminder of the presence of the Holy Spirit!



Our oil candles need refilling after about 3-4 worship services. Each candle needs to be carefully removed from its place and filled with oil. Thank you to Dennis Walker who built a special holder and rack so that we can move the candles without the risk of dropping them and spilling oil.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Just like last year, we will have a food drive for our local food pantry in February. Keep an eye on the NFL Playoff brackets so that you are prepared to vote for your favorite team! You will "vote" for the AFC or NFC Champion to win the Super Bowl by placing non-perishable food items or financial contributions in corresponding boxes. Will Zion Lutheran predict the outcome of the Super Bowl for the second year in a row?



It is true that what goes up must come down - and Christmas decorations are no exception. Help get the church ready for 2024 as we "take down and pack up Christmas 2023." Helpers of all ages and stages welcome. Come on **Saturday, January 13 at 9:00am** (or later). We will finish when we are finished (but the more hands, the faster it will go!

2024 Council Members:

President & Elder	Mark Prout
Vice President & Elder	Paige Walker
Secretary	Sandy Langdon
Treasurer	Libby Stroble
Deacon	Drew Walker
Trustee	Larry Hile

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!

January Birthdays

Pat Gillis	1-12
Mike Clamme	1-14
Virginia Langdon	1-23
Larry Hile	1-28



Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes November 21, 2023

Present: Mark Prout, Scott Clamme, Neil Stroble, Sharilyn Wendt, Paige Walker, Cindy Knote, Libby Stroble

Absent: None

A. Opening

- a. Call Meeting to Order - Cindy at 5:31pm
- b. Devotions from Paige

B. Secretary's Report

- a. Amend/Approve minutes from last Council meeting
 - i. Motion to approve by Libby, 2nd by Scott, Approved by All
- b. Correspondence
 - i. Acknowledgement from Synod and Wernle for donations
 - ii. Request for auditing firm for Synod - Libby will take care of
- c. Add Items to Agenda
 - i. None

C. Pastor's Report - October 2023

- a. Meet and Know Members
 - i. Pastoral Care Visits: 7
 - ii. Pastoral Acts: Rita Ferguson Funeral on 10/12/23
- b. Youth Education Program
 - i. First Semester of Confirmation Class: Luther's Small Catechism
- c. Outreach
 - i. Ask-A-Pastor (once/week): Available at Deja Brew for questions/concerns/etc- open to community. This will be paused until after the first of the year due to Wednesday Evening Advent Services.
 - ii. Jail Ministry (once/month)
 - iii. Worship Service at Envive Nursing Home (once/month)
- d. Community Partnerships
 - i. Mental Health Support Group
 - ii. Monthly ministerium meeting
- e. Upcoming Special Events
 - i. Thanksgiving Eve Worship - Please plan to attend Nov 22 at 7:00pm. Special offering will go to Community & Family Services Food Pantry.
 - ii. Mid-Week Advent Services
 - 1. Dec 6 - Fear Not!
 - 2. Dec 13 - Lost in the Night
 - 3. Dec 20 - Blue Christmas

D. Committee Reports

- a. Parish Education & Youth - Scott
 - i. Confirmation students will be Christmas Eve readers.
- b. Worship/Music/Memorial - Libby
 - i. Planned through Lent.
- c. Mission & Ministry - Cindy
 - i. Another Laundry Day in March.

E. Council Reports

- a. Deacon
 - i. Attendance and Holy Communion Report
 - 1. Oct 22 - 49
 - 2. Oct 29 - 39 (Comm: 37)
 - 3. Nov 5 - 39 (Comm: 38)
 - 4. Nov 12 - 32
 - 5. Nov 19 - 33 (Comm: 31)
 - ii. Assistance Requests
 - 1. None
- b. Elders
 - i. None

- c. Trustee
 - i. A/C - installation in progress
 - ii. Request from member to use some of C.Hughes money to re-do basement bathroom floors.
 - iii. Made commitment to buy washer/dryer for parsonage during call process - time to do that

- d. Treasurer

- i. Reviewed budget for 2024 - Motion to approve from Neil, 2nd by Mark, Approved by All

- ii. Report as of Nov 15

Deacon's Fund Checking	956.96
Deacon's Fund Savings	66.46
General Fund, Thrivent Invested	78,893.24
General Fund, VIA Checking	13,233.48
General Fund, VIA Membership	56.46
General Fund, VIA Money Market	41,761.63
Memorial Fund, VIA Checking	25,790.62
Memorial Fund, VIA Money Market	2,951.39
Mission Invest., Memorial Fund	7,076.24
ZLCW Kitchen Fund Savings	2,243.84
ZLCW Kitchen Fund Checking	150.00
TOTAL ASSETS	173,180.32

F. Business

- a. Advent/Christmas Donations - Grace Village. Motion by Mark, 2nd by Neil, Approved by All.
- b. Information gathered during Future Church conversations - Pastor Nyland coming back in December to speak with Council more.
- c. Blue Christmas (funding, inviting, advertising) - Mailings for every house in zip code. Motion by Mark, 2nd by Scott, Approved by All.
- d. Skills and Gifts Considerations in Summer 2024 Bishop Election at Synod Assembly - Pastor will complete and return to Synod.

G. Closing

- a. Lord's Prayer at 6:18pm
- b. Next Meeting: December 19, 2023 at 7:00pm with devotions from Libby

January 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Ask-A-Pastor at Deja Brew 5pm-7pm	4	5	6
7 Education Hour 9:30am Worship & Communion 10:30am	8 Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am	9 Piecemakers in Fellowship Hall 9:00am	10 Ask-A-Pastor at Deja Brew 5pm-7pm	11	12	13 Undecorate the Church 9:00am
14 Education Hour 9:30am Worship 10:30am Council Installation	15 Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am	16 Council Meeting in Library 7:00pm	17 Ask-A-Pastor at Deja Brew 5pm-7pm	18	19	20
21 Education Hour 9:30am Worship & Communion 10:30am Annual Mtg	22 Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am	23 Piecemakers in Fellowship Hall 9:00am	24 Ask-A-Pastor at Deja Brew 5pm-7pm	25	26	27
28 Education Hour 9:30am Worship 10:30am	29 Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am	30	31 Ask-A-Pastor at Deja Brew 5pm-7pm	 <p>PRAYING GOD GIVES YOU A year of favor FULL OF HIS UNENDING LOVE. May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us... PSALM 90:17a</p>		



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Sharilyn Wendt, Pastor
Church Office: 765-348-3157
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www.zionhc.org

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

January 2024 Sunday Servants

Greeters:

Jan 7 - Tom Armstrong; Pat Gillis
Jan 14 - Neil & Libby Stroble; Claretta Dutro
Jan 21 - Edi Tarter; Peggy Willmann
Jan 28 - Lewis & Joyce Willmann;

Assisting Minister:

Jan 7 - Mark Prout
Jan 21 - Michelle Walker

Lector:

Jan 7 - Linda Baker
Jan 14 - Neil Stroble
Jan 21 - Jennifer Doi
Jan 28 - Linda Baker

Acolyte:

Jan 7 - Clamme
Jan 14 - Walker
Jan 21 - Clamme
Jan 28 - Walker