

Zion's Weekly Announcements

Sunday, December 6, 2020

"Stir up your might, and come to save us!" prayed the psalmist (Psalm 80:2, NRSV). Welcome to worship in Advent, as we await our Savior. In this Advent time of waiting, I wait now to hear a word from you, dear Lord.

Today we dedicated the Christmas tree to the glory of God for the years to come! This tree and the entrance tree were giving in memory of Gayle Sternberg. Thank you to Gayle's family for these magnificent trees.

The **Church Photo Directory** is here! Pick-up your copy in your church mailbox. May you enjoy looking at all those bright shining faces, God's children at Zion.

Portals of Prayer (January-February-March) has arrived! Check your church mailbox for them. Extra copies are in the church office.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: We are on Zoom this week, December 9 at 6:00 PM. Class material and Zoom link will be emailed on Monday morning. Remember to complete your weekly CHECK-IN on the confirmation page of Zion's website.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES

The evening Advent worship services will be on **Wednesdays, December 9 and 16**. In-Person service is Online only! This week's message is Panic to Peace!

LOOKING AT TODAY'S LESSONS

You Are Prepared through Repentance for the Coming of the Lord

"The gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1) begins when John the Baptist appears and comes *"proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins"* (Mark 1:4). As the prophet Isaiah had written, John is the messenger of the Lord, sent before His face to prepare His way. To this day, the ministry of the forerunner continues in the preaching of the Law and the Gospel and in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. By these ways and means, *"the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together"* (Is. 40:5), and the Good Shepherd *"will gather the lambs in his arms"* (Is. 40:11). He speaks *"tenderly to Jerusalem,"* and He comforts His people by pardoning their iniquity (Is. 40:1–2). What is more, He promises *"new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells"* (2 Peter 3:13). Repent, therefore, and humble yourself as you wait for His coming in peace (2 Peter 3:14), because He *"is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9).

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Isaiah 30:15 --- For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."

DRIVE-IN COMMUNION is on SUNDAY!!!

Due to the road construction on Bridge Avenue, our drive-in communion dates have moved! Plan to attend on Sundays from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM. If this does not work and you wish to walk to the church, please give me a call. I am available to minister to you. Remember, call the church office to make an appointment at 507-373-8609. Thank you.

+ Zion Ladies' Circle News +

The Zion Ladies Society will not be having any circle meeting in December.

Hannah, Martha, or Ruth Circle ladies, pick-up your **WINTER QUARTERLY!** They arrived just in time! Your issue is in your church mailbox.



The Zion Quilter will be selling Quilts between Thanksgiving and Christmas to raise funds for quilt batting. When you purchase a quilt or donate money for batting, please write out our check to Zion Ladies Society, earmark it with "Zion Quilters." Thank you for your support! Quilts made are donated to Lutheran World Relief.

+ ADVENT & CHRISTMAS +

A FRESH LOOK

Just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all.

God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever men may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God Is in the Manger*

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Before you know it, your mailbox will be filling up with Christmas cards from family and friends. Do you like to send Christmas cards? The Zion Ladies Society has Christmas card for sale. Each box (12 cards) is \$6.00. The cards are located in the main entrance by the church office.

SEASON OF HOPE

The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity — hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory — because at the Father's will Jesus Christ became poor, and was born in a stable so that 30 years later he might hang on a cross.

—J.I. Packer



We have a family for Christmas!!



They are a family of seven, parents and five children. Boy (10th grade), Boy (7th grade), Boy (3rd grade), Girl age 6, and Boy age 2. This family is very excited to be adopted by us for Christmas!

Monetary donations can be dropped in the box.

THIS IS THE FINAL WEEK TO GIVE!

Thank you so much!

• Additional Info and News •

LUTHERAN HOUR FOR NOVEMBER 29

"Seek My Face" – Daniel 9

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

We sometimes hear the voice before we see the face that goes with it. Seek God's face where you hear God's Word.

OUTREACH THOUGHT

Mark 1:1-8: An elderly man had been fitted with a hearing aid and returned to his doctor's office a week later for a checkup. "How do you like your new hearing aid?" the doctor asked. "Just fine," the man replied. "How does your family like it?" inquired the doctor. "Oh, I haven't told them yet," the man answered, "but I have changed my will three times already." How's your hearing? If we are hearing God's Word, well...it may not be just our will that we change, but our entire lives. God's voice was proclaimed loud and clear through the voice of Isaiah, Peter, and John the Baptist, who all speak the Law and Gospel calling for us to repent of our sin, to be forgiven, and to walk the way of God. By the grace of God, your hearing has changed your life! Ask someone, "How's your hearing?" and tell them what a difference hearing the Word of God has made for you!

STEWARDSHIP PONDERING

2 Peter 3:11 – "Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness ..." All the things of earth have an expiration date: "Good Until the Last Day." On that Day, all these things will be dissolved. The things that seem so important now will simply cease to be. Peter issues this to us as a challenge. Since this is so, what kind of life should we be living? What should your priorities be? On things? Or on the things of God?

+ Looking to Next Sunday +

REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE

You can register for the "In-Person" worship service on Sunday, December 13. Go to Zion's website (www.zion4jesus.org) and click on the picture that says, "Save My Seat." There you will be able to register for worship. If you would like me to register you, please call the church office at (507) 373-8609. We will keep it up until we have 55 worshippers!

NEXT SUNDAY, December 13: The appointed Scripture readings for the Third Sunday in Advent are Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, and John 1:6-8, 19-28. It is the Sunday of JOY!

+ This Week's Calendar +

Sunday, December 6, 2020 – The Second Sunday in Advent

9:00 AM – Online Service Available

9:00 AM – In-Person Service with Holy Communion

10:30 AM – Drive-In Communion Begins

1:00 PM – Drive-In Communion Ends

6:00 PM – Lutheran Hour on KATE Radio (1450 AM)

Monday, December 7, 2020

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

9:00 AM – Circuit Pastor's Conference at Holy Cross, Austin

6:00 PM – Church Council on ZOOM

Online Service Recording and Editing

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

6:00 PM – Confirmation Class on ZOOM

4:30 PM – Midweek Advent Service will be Online Service

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Friday, December 11, 2020

Online Service Prep and Set-up

Saturday, December 12, 2020

Online Service Recording and Editing

Sunday, December 13, 2020 – The Third Sunday in Advent

9:00 AM – Online Service Available

9:00 AM – In-Person Service with Holy Communion

10:30 AM – Drive-In Communion Begins

1:00 PM – Drive-In Communion Ends

6:00 PM – Lutheran Hour on KATE Radio (1450 AM)