

# Zion Lutheran Church

210 North Wayne Street  
Saint Marys, Ohio 45885

Zion Lutheran Church is a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)  
and a congregation of the Northwest Ohio Mission District.

A monthly publication of Zion Lutheran Church

December Volume 2020, Issue 12

## Can the End of 2020 Come Too Soon?

That is the question I am asking myself these days as we move from the month of November into the month of December? I keep looking past December to January and the end of 2020.

- Will the ending of this year bring about the ending of the Coronavirus that has held us prisoner for so long?
- Will quarantines come to an end?
- Will the New Year bring about a lifting of the restrictions placed on us by Governors and Health Department Directors?
- Will masks go away, or are they a part of life from now on?
- Will families be able to gather together, in large numbers, without fear?
- Will life look more like 2019 rather than 2020?

I know that many of you are wondering and asking the same kinds of questions, plus many questions not listed here.

And while we look for hope in the upcoming year, let us not place too much hope in social distancing, masks, travel restrictions, quarantines and a vaccine. Let's not forget we have the entire month of December to experience yet.

A month that has three weeks of Advent in it. A time of anticipation of the Lord's coming. A remembrance of when Jesus first came to earth as a newly born baby from the virgin Mary, to the anticipation of Jesus' second coming as the Triumphant Judge of the Living and the Dead. It is a season of hope and of staying awake as we, on this side of the cross, wait and watch for our Lord.

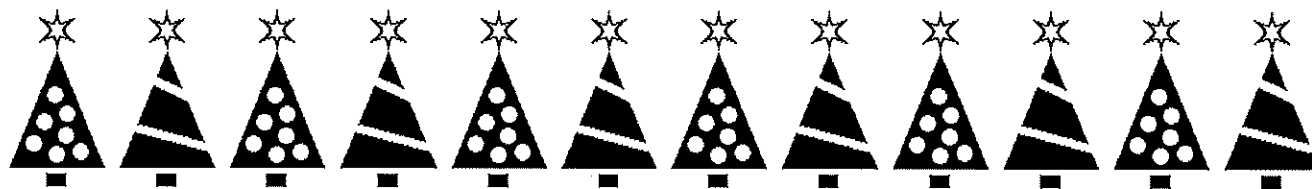
I hope you will join us for our Midweek Advent services with the theme "Savior of the Nations." That's what Jesus was and is, the Savior of all the Nations, the Savior of creation. We will gather in the main sanctuary at 7pm on December 2nd to contemplate the Invitation, and again on the 9<sup>th</sup> to consider the Announcement, and the 16<sup>th</sup> to ponder His Throne.

Then, join us for Christmas Eve worship at either 7PM and 11PM. We offered a 4PM Christmas Eve service, but we are so nearly full that I believe there won't be space for anyone else after this newsletter is mailed. We are social distancing, so our occupancy is more limited than usual. We can hold between 80 and 100 people

(depending on spacing requirements) at those two services and we already have 29 who have signed up for 7PM and 3 for 11PM. Don't delay, let us know soon what service you hope to come to and how many people will be with you, as we try to worship the Lord and remember his birth into the world he came to save.

If you haven't been to worship but are planning on attending Christmas Eve services, you can still call the church office, 419-394-3115, and tell us what service and how many. May the Lord watch over you and keep you healthy and safe this holiday season.

Blessings, *Pastor Bill*



## December 2019

T/1	6:00 p.m.	Trustee Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Advent Service
	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting	S/20	8&10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Svcs.*
W/2	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting		9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School
	12:30 p.m.	Bulletin Info. Deadline		9:15 a.m. Crossroads
	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Advent Service*	M/21	12:30 a.m. Bulletin Info. Deadline
F/4	7:00 p.m.	Shop Til U Drop	W/23	11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
S/5	9:00 a.m.	Men in Mission Bible Study		7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Committee Mtg.
S/6	8&10:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship Svcs.*	T/24	12 Noon Office Closes
	9:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School		4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Svc.*
	9:15 a.m.	Crossroads		7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Svc.*
T/8	7:00 p.m.	Apostles' Creed Bible Study		11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Svc.*
W/9	9:30 a.m.	Women Council Meeting	F/25	Merry Christmas/Office Closed
	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting	S/27	8&10:30 a.m. Carols & Lessons Svcs.*
	12:30 p.m.	Bulletin Info. Deadline		9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School
	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Advent Service*		9:15 a.m. Crossroads
T/10	2:00 p.m.	Apostles' Creed Bible Study	M/28	2:00 p.m. Office Closes
S/13	8&10:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship Svcs.*	T/29	2:30 p.m. Office Closes
	9:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	W/30	12:30 p.m. Bulletin Info. Deadline
	9:15 a.m.	Crossroads		2:30 p.m. Office Closes
M/14	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop #360		NO WORSHIP SERVICE
T/15	3:30 p.m.	Newsletter Article Deadline	T/31	2:30 p.m. Office Closes
W/16	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting		
	12:30 p.m.	Bulletin Info. Deadline		



## Memorials as of November 23<sup>rd</sup>

Gifts were given in memory of Jack Rouhier by *Dwayne & Ruth Hoenie, Richard & Sue Hecht, Ed & Linda Yahl, Harry & Nora Staunton, Bud's Chevrolet-Buick, Jim & Julia Grim, Neil & Joyce Cook, Madison Mills United Methodist Church, Jeff & Louann Thompson, Vic Von Blon, Rebecca Harvey, Doris Cook, Myra & Quentin Clark, Mary Schelby, Anne & Ralph Bonzo, Robert & Dianna Hall, Joyce Finke, Darwin & Beverly Zeigler, Donald & Susan Nuss, Phyllis A Ford, Bob & Linda Suchland, Steve & Dora McAfee, Dorothy Huwer, Dorothy Berner, Robert & Laura Berner, Ted & Sandy Hasis and Family and Steve, Nancy, Megan and Kurt Mowery.*

Gifts were given in memory of Marvin Opperman by *Richard & Sue Hecht, Ed & Linda Yahl, Kraig & Miriam Johns, Harry & Nora Staunton, Andrew & Deborah Tobias, Harold & Betty Hussey, Tom & Dianne Logan, Wavalene Opperman, Lois Axe and Judith Coucouvanis.*

Gifts were given in memory of Larry Wilkins by *Richard & Sue Hecht, Harry & Nora Staunton.*

Gifts were given in memory of Sandra Shoup by *Charles & Ann Shoup, Nora & Harry Staunton, Nancy Fortman, Emily Leonhard, Sally Sands and Ted & Sandra Hasis.*

A gift was given in memory of Phyllis Lutterbeck by *Auglaize Eagles #767 Auxiliary.*

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## Zion Women News

Women have been very active completing baby kits, personal care kits, and school kits, and knotting quilts for LWR and NALC Disaster Relief in November. We met on three Thursdays in November to work together. It is lots of fun and is extremely rewarding to know that we are helping those who are less fortunate than us.

December workdays on December 17, and the recently scheduled additional workday on December 3, have been cancelled due to the November workdays.

Installation of ZWNALC officers for 2021 will be January 3, at both worship services, 8 & 10:30 a.m. We appreciate the services of the two who are finishing their duties of Chair and Secretary: Linda Yahl and Pam Fledderjohann.

We hope that you have a Blessed and Merry Christmas as we remember the birth of Christ!

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“Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.”

—Neal A. Maxwell

## Dorcas Quilters News



Reminder to all women who quilt...because of the holidays and COVID 19 virus, Dorcas Quilting has suspended their Tuesday morning quilting until Tuesday, January 12, 2021. Mark your calendars appropriately.

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## Prayer List

We invite you to include the following people, who are family and friends of our members, in your daily prayers:

Janet Dicke  
Tanner Fortman  
Judy Von Blon  
Juli Clark  
Brent Paulus  
JoAnn Cooper  
Adam Poe  
Judy Howell  
Debbie Fishbaugh  
Carol Singleton  
Don Deitsch  
Lindsay Stephan  
Marvin Elsass  
Chad Reiher  
Rick Moyar  
Tammy Klosterman  
Nathaniel Henline

Karmindy Mertz  
William Franklin  
Pastor Tim Smith  
LeeAnn Merricle  
Kim Peyton Reyes  
Sandi Deerhake  
All those living with or around  
the Corona virus  
Family of Harold E. Lauth  
Family of Sandy Brown  
Millicent Irish  
John Vogel  
Jim Merriman  
Ben & Heather Roode  
Bill Grunden  
Gloria Schroer

Alma Kuffner  
Caleb Yahl  
Kelly Taylor Schaus  
Cory Van Gundy  
Ron Luthman  
Sean Lawler  
Andrew Johnson  
Michael Carroll  
Nathan Adams  
Eli Handy  
Brad Platt  
Jacob Yahl  
Daniel C. Lukac, IV  
Jason Gross  
Kyle Schmehl  
Michael Franklin

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## Advent Services

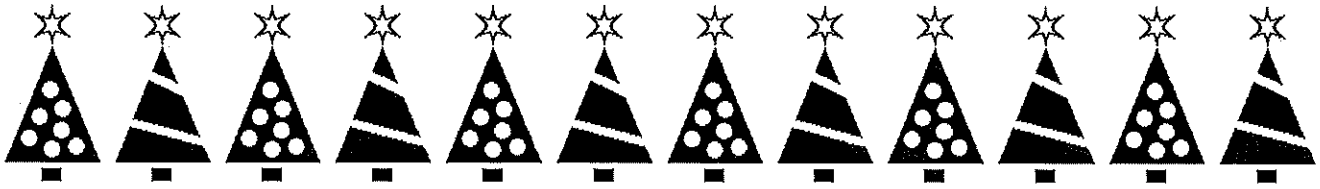
Join us this Advent for our Midweek Worship services at 7 p.m., on Wednesday evenings. This year our theme is: "Savior of the Nations"

- **Wednesday, December 2** – The Invitation
- **Wednesday, December 9** – The Announcement
- **Wednesday, December 16** – His Throne



"Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to."

—Bill Vaughan



## Shop-Till-You Drop

All are welcome to participate in Zion's Annual Shop Till-You-Drop shopping spree. Meet at Walmart, on Friday, December 4. We invite everyone, adults, youth and families, to meet inside Walmart, at 7 p.m., by the service desk. If you plan to attend, please sign up on your "I Worshiped Today".

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## Toys for Tots

The Toys for Tots box is here in the portico. They are asking for unwrapped new toys, in their original packaging for infants up to 18 years of age. Please no used toys or stuffed animals. Deadline to drop off toys is Sunday, December 13.

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## December Birthdays

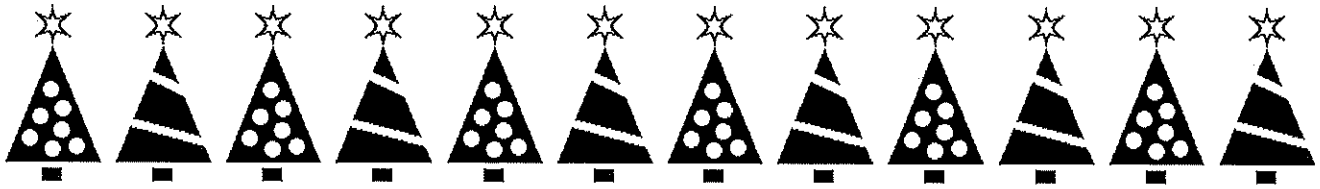
01–Riley Borsch, Erin Wenning	14–Amy Nighswander, Deborah Orr	Schelby, Caleb Yahl, Deborah Yahl
02–Bennett Glass		
04–Tyler Ruvoldt, Josh Wingett, Amanda Huttis	15–Edwin Reier, Frederick Vogel Jr., Hudson Roby	24–Natasha James, Thomas Sudman, Chad Wuebker
05–Anne Hines	17–Jennifer Miller, Theodore Heinfeld	26–Noreen Stienecker
07–Kendra Rothe	18–Michele Holtzapple	27–Corey Lutterbeck
08–Amy Hart	19–Harry Staunton	28–Maxwell Karner
09–Joyce Finke, Michael Rutschilling	20–Bridget Alley, Margaret Moore, Kirsty Opperman	30–Justin Schultz
10–Jodie Perkins, James Suchland	22–Erica Kogge, Lorra Prater, Melissa Sudman	31–Becky Hinschlager, Nina Spencer, Jordan Weber, Susan Wilkins, Savannah Slater
11–Carol Peyton, Jacob Sharp	23–Jennifer Eberle, Eric Langsdon, Mary	
12–Megan Roby, Dora Mc Afee		
13–Courtney Voisard		

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## Newsletter Article Deadline

The deadline to submit articles for our January 2021 newsletter is Tuesday, December 15. Please submit all articles to the church office by 3:30 p.m. Here are the various ways to submit your articles to us:

- Fax: 419-394-1239
- Bring it to the church office by the deadline.
- Write us a note on the "I Worshiped Today"
- Leave a message on our answering machine: 419-394-3115, after 4:30 p.m.
- Send your article by e-mail: [kbishir@hotmail.com](mailto:kbishir@hotmail.com)



## Loose Offering

Our loose offerings each Wednesday and Sunday for the month of December are earmarked to support North American Lutheran Seminary.

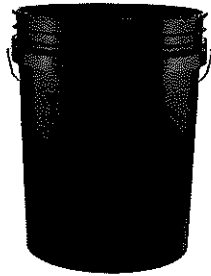
The loose plate offerings for Christmas Eve will go toward Zion's current expenses.

## Year-Round Project

Our Men in Mission are collecting supplies for flood buckets. This will be a year-round project, to have buckets available for when a disaster happens.

### *Flood Buckets and Supplies:*

- 5-gallon bucket with lid (provided)
- 1 gallon of bleach (provided)
- 3 black trash bags
- Cleaning liquid (Murphy's, Pine Sol, etc.)
- Comet
- Scrub brush
- Dust masks (N-95)
- Leather Gloves
- Cloth Gloves
- Rubber Gloves
- Rags/sponges



You may supply one or more of the items for the buckets, or you may assemble a bucket yourself. Drop off your supplies or bucket by the church elevator.

## Zion's Web Address

Our web address is : [www.zionstmarys.org](http://www.zionstmarys.org) We continually change the appearance, post up-to-date announcements, update our schedules, publish

our monthly newsletter and update our calendar. Bookmark us and visit our website.

## Staff E-Mail Addresses

Zion is linked to the Internet. We are currently receiving e-mail service provided by bright.net. Staff e-mail addresses are:

- Pastor Bill Maki . . . . . [wem1@aol.com](mailto:wem1@aol.com)
- Kathy Bishir . . . . . [kbishir@hotmail.com](mailto:kbishir@hotmail.com)
- Ann Maki . . . . . [annmmaki@yahoo.com](mailto:annmmaki@yahoo.com)
- Adam Poe . . . . . [ympoe@yahoo.com](mailto:ympoe@yahoo.com)
- Mindy Thiebeau . . . . . [zionbpe@hotmail.com](mailto:zionbpe@hotmail.com)
- General Mail [zionlutheranstmarys@bright.net](mailto:zionlutheranstmarys@bright.net)

## Office to Be Closed

The church office will be closed at noon on Thursday, Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>, and all day Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Christmas Day.

The church office will have limited hours, beginning on December 28 until year end. They will be Monday-12/28: 8:30A-2P; Tuesday 12/29: 8:30A-2:30P; Wednesday-12/30: 8:30A-2:30P; and Thursday 12/31: 8:30A-2:30P.

sponsor of our WCSM radio broadcast—St. Marys Chrysler.

Volunteers are needed to help with the sound board. No experience needed!

## 2021 Flower Chart

The 2021 Flower Chart is now available on the bulletin board by the alley entrance. We invite you to select the date you wish to provide flowers. On the Tuesday before the date you selected, order your arrangement from your favorite florist, and contact the church office, 419-394-3115, to let us know what information you would like included in the bulletin.

Altar flowers left after the weekly 10:30 a.m. worship service, and will remain on the altar until Wednesday; unless they are picked up by the person who placed them there. If they haven't been picked up by Wednesday by 12 noon, they will be removed.

## Member Address Changes

MR JEREMY KEMMANN  
806 W SPRING ST  
ST MARYS OH 45885

MR & MRS DAVID LUTZ  
1121 KIMBERLY DR  
SAINT MARYS OH 45885

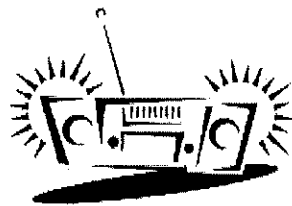
## Financial Information

Our current financial information for Zion is as follows for **year-to-date** for the month of November 30, 2020:

- Beginning Bank Balance 1/1/20 .. \$5,483.62
- Income year-to-date NOV ..... +274,438.41
- Expenses year-to-date NOV ... -202,961.42
- Payroll WH/Benevolence ..... -2,558.09
- Ending Bank Balance NOV ..... \$74,402.52
- Checks Pending Payment ..... -0-
- Balance on Roof Loan ..... \$123,795.32

“The only blind person at Christmastime is he who has not Christmas in his heart.”

—Helen Keller



Radio Broadcast

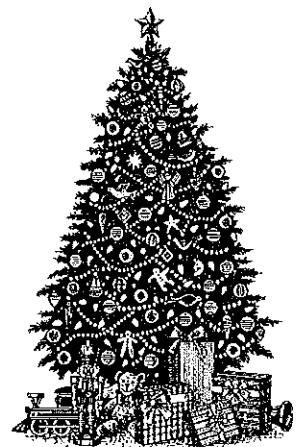
## We are on the Radio

Our 8 a.m. worship service is broadcast live on WCSM radio 96.7 FM. Thank you to our primary

## Fear not!

On that first Christmas night, the angel said to the shepherds: “Do not be afraid” (Luke 2:10). What is there to fear from a baby? A baby is powerless, with no guile, no anger and no judgment, only needing from us without fearing we will not provide: simply trusting, and content to be resting in our arms. This is how God came. This is Christmas. This one child, and for a time, perhaps too brief, our fears are taken over by our love for this child, and he is able to change our hearts. ...

In Jesus, we are free to live life as fully and as joyfully as we will allow ourselves. For it is only we who hold ourselves back. God does not. For God has forgiven us in this baby and will not restrain us from living with sheer abandon, trusting in this gentle and gracious God, who keeps telling us: “Do not be afraid.”



—Gary Westgard, *At Break of Day*

November 2020

Dear Fellow Zion Members:

With Christmas fast approaching, it's that time of year to look back at all the things that we are thankful for and the many ways God has blessed us this past year. Many of us know someone or have had a family member who has been directly impacted by COVID-19 this past year. We are fortunate to have a faith-based family here at Zion Lutheran Church and the opportunity to meet and pray together on a regular basis. My hope is that you have been blessed in some way by being a member here at Zion Lutheran Church.

If you have been touched in a special way this past year by Pastor Bill Maki, Youth Director Adam Poe, Office Manager Kathy Bishir, Office Assistant Ann Maki, Director of Board of Parish Education Mindy Thiebeau, Organist Merilee Miller, Pianist Miriam Johns or Custodian Emily Meinerding, I encourage you to show your appreciation in some way. This can be done by saying a prayer for them, sending a thank you note or card, or giving them a gift. I feel we owe all these people a deep-felt "Thank You" due to their dedication to our congregation.

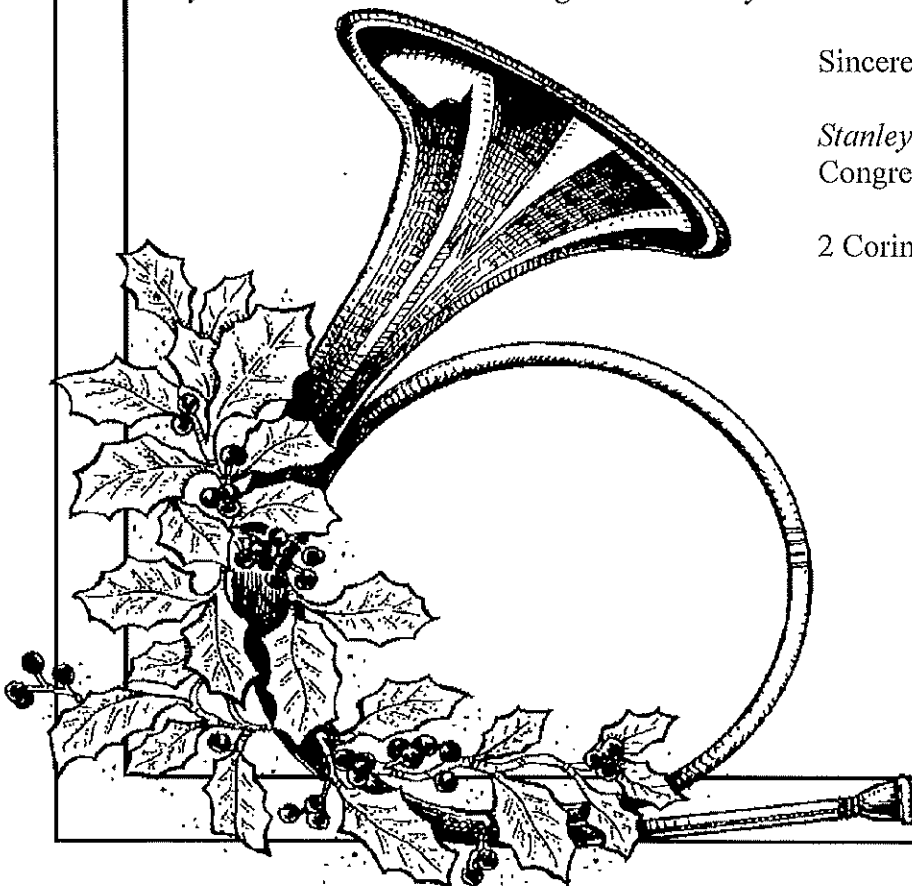
As in the past, if you desire to give a monetary gift, you will find two envelopes for that purpose enclosed in your church offering envelope packet – one for Pastor and one for the staff. (Please include a note of what amount and to whom it is intended in the staff envelope.) Please place these envelopes with your gifts in the offering plate or send them to the church office on or before Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. The gift from the congregation will be given to them on or before Christmas Eve.

May this Christmas Season bring Peace and Joy to You and Your Family.

Sincerely,

*Stanley Brown*  
Congregational Council President

2 Corinthians 9:6-15



Zion Lutheran Church – St. Marys, Ohio 45885  
zionlutheranstmarys@bright.net  
www.zionstmarys.org