

# ZION'S TIDINGS

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## ZION WELCA POTLUCK CHRISTMAS PARTY

The WELCA Christmas potluck will be at noon on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Husbands or significant others are encouraged to attend. Ruth Circle is hosting.



## LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

*Experience God's Compassionate Love*

Thursday, Dec., 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Every year, some of us can't enter into the joy of the Christmas Season. It could be many things; mourning someone who has died or who may die soon, coping with the aftermath of divorce, job loss, illness – any of the different, unfortunate and tragic circumstances that life sometimes serves up.

The Longest Night Service is a way to acknowledge this reality. The service is a quiet, meditative time of remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Come join us for prayer, scripture, readings and hymns.

The name "Longest Night" reflects that during the season of long nights, those nights can be when sadness and loss seem overwhelming. It is especially difficult when, for others, it is a season of joy.

**Patrick Murphy** will be performing Christmas and Holiday Music at Zion of Amor at 3:30 p.m. on Sun., Dec., 16<sup>th</sup>. Join us for a fun, festive afternoon. Refreshments following. Free will offering to fund the purchase of a new PA system for the church.



## Christmas Carols of Amor

Wed., Dec 5<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m. Soup Supper  
6:45 p.m. Carols



Come enjoy beloved carols, talented singers, delicious food and great fellowship.

## LUCIA FEST BREAKFAST

Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. This has been a tradition at Zion for many, many years. There are sign-up sheets in the narthex to provide the food, help prepare, decorate and serve.



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Monday, Dec. 24

**3:00 p.m. - Family Service** geared to younger families with children. Christmas readings, carols, and a children's sermon.

**5:00 p.m. - Traditional Candlelight Service** with carols, readings, choir, children's and adult sermons, and the lighting of candles.

**10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service** with lots of joyful singing of Christmas carols and the lighting of candles.



## Pastor's Paragraphs

Dear Members and Friends,

The season of Advent is with us once again. Advent is the season of the church year that helps us focus our attention on the coming of Jesus Christ. Advent begins a new church year. Each year we focus on one of three Gospels: Mathew, Mark, and Luke; this year's focus will be on Luke.

Advent begins with what may seem to be a strange theme: the Second Coming of our Lord. The remaining three Sundays will focus on His birth in the manger in Bethlehem. Advent is a season of hope and a season of waiting. We light one more candle on the Advent wreath each week to remind us that the time is drawing near for Christmas. We use this time of waiting to prepare ourselves for the birth of our Savior, so that when Christmas comes we will be ready in our hearts to receive Him. We are also then, prepared for His Second Coming whenever God decides that the time is right.

The stores have been preparing us for the Christmas holiday time since October, trying to get us into the spirit of buying presents and spending money. They depend on the Christmas season to make lots of money, and so we have been hearing the 'songs' of the holiday season earlier each year. As our culture becomes more and more secular each year, we hear less and less about Christmas, and more about 'holidays' and the 'spirit of giving.'

I would encourage parents and grandparents to be ever-mindful of this and work hard to keep the celebration of Christmas a celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Teach your children and grandchildren what the Christmas season is really about, and help them understand why it is that Jesus came to earth—to bring the presence of God to this world in the flesh, to live among us and teach us what God desires of His people. Jesus came to restore our broken relationship with God and freely gave Himself as the sacrifice for our sins. Without Jesus, there would be no Christmas and we would be living without the hope of salvation and forgiveness. It would be a dark and pitiful existence. It is fun to talk about Santa, Rudolph, the Elf on a Shelf, etc. but only as they point to Jesus. Remind children that we exchange presents as a reminder of the gifts the Wise Men brought to Jesus. Christmas is a time of joy for Christians because of the wonderful gift God has

given us—a gift that should be shared through loving service to others.

Advent prepares us for all this, and we really need to take the time to prepare. We remember the call of Jesus to love one another, and by sharing our blessings with others through acts of kindness and love we can help spread Christ's love. You can also spread the true meaning of Christmas by using the traditional greeting, "Merry Christmas!" instead of the 'happy holidays' that is becoming more prevalent.

Our confirmation class meeting on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 will be viewing the movie, "The Nativity" after having studied the events leading up to the birth of Jesus during November. This movie presents a fairly realistic understanding of the events and historical drama leading up to the coming of our Savior. I would like to invite anyone who would like to see the movie to come and watch. It will be shown in the Gathering Room beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Merry Christmas! *Pastor Jim*

## Did You Know?

If you are 70½ years old or older, you can take advantage of a simple way to help those we serve and receive tax benefits in return. You can give up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to a qualified charity

such as Zion Lutheran Church of Amor without having to pay income taxes on the money.

You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions. Your financial institution forwards the checks directly to Zion, so please let the office know that you are doing a qualified distribution.

This law no longer has an expiration date so you are free to make annual gifts to Zion this year and well into the future.

You are blessed - how will you bless others?





## El. J. Elucidates – Odds and Ends or Bits and Pieces

**Happy New Year!** December and Advent mark the beginning of a new church year. This is a great time to put the mistakes of our past behind us. We need to use this time to repent and ask forgiveness as we move forward in the new year. Our sins are cleansed time and time again by our good and gracious God.

**Personal Thank You notes:** Over the past few weeks I have been physically limited by my left knee replacement. During this time, I have come to appreciate the generosity of Zion, its organizations, and its members. It began when Pastor Jim visited me in the hospital. It continued with the delivery of a quart of home-made soup to warm my heart and soul. It built as I received a prayer shawl. It increased even more as I received get well cards from Zion member after Zion member. People called asking if they could help. It culminated when I returned to work on Wednesday November 14, and a steady stream of well-wishers stuck their faces in my office door welcoming me back. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces! Please know that I could feel the power of your prayers! My speedy recovery is as much a direct result of your prayers as it is of my physical therapy! Thank You Zion for everything that you have given me.

**Care giver awareness:** My knee replacement has made me extremely cognizant of the role caregivers play. My wife Denise has been my caregiver and I thank her from the bottom of my heart. I also thank everyone who is serving as a caregiver in their own life. Caregivers are truly the presence of God in their care receiver. May God bless all care givers with the knowledge that they are God's hands and the strength to persevere.

**Prayer Wall:** About 1 year ago we established a prayer wall in the fellowship hall. The response has been overwhelming. The wall is full of prayers. We plan on continuing the wall into 2019 with a slight adjustment. The wall will be broken into a few general topics. One area will be for prayers of thanks. Another area will be for our cries for help. We'll also have an area to encompass any prayer that defies classification.

**Sunday School Christmas program:** Its coming to a church service near you! Ann Gibbs, Bob Roberts, Tina Bladow, and all of the Sunday School teachers are working diligently to prepare the program. The true meaning of Christmas will jump out at you! The program will be December 16 during the regular 10 a.m. service.

**A Writing Challenge:** While sorting through some books at my home, I ran across an old favorite from my youth. It was purchased for \$0.45 from the Scholastic Book Services. The back cover shows use and there are pen and pencil marks throughout the inside pages. You can tell just by looking that this book was loved. The title? A Wreath of Carols. Nowhere in this book is Santa mentioned. Chestnuts are not found roasting on an open fire. Page after page finds the true meaning of Christmas laid out for us to see and experience.

My personal challenge is to share the meaning of Christmas by arranging the titles that are found in this book in such a way that they tell the story. In a few circumstances I went to the words of the song for placement. Please look at the titles and decide if I arranged them correctly or if there is a better way to share the story. That is your writing challenge! Due to the nature of the task it is in free verse poem format rather than in prose.

### A Christmas Carol

O Come, O Come Emmanuel,  
We're Coming to Greet You,  
Christmas Is Coming,  
Children Go Where I Send Thee,  
Jesus Maria, O Little Town Of Bethlehem,  
What Child Is This,  
What You Gonna Call Yo' Pretty Little Baby?  
Behold A Silly Tender Babe, Away In The Manger,  
Beside Thy Cradle, Cradle Song from Haiti,  
A Scotch Lullaby,  
Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming,  
Bring A Torch Jeanette Isabela,  
Silent Night, It Came Upon the Midnight Clear,  
On That Holy Midnight,  
All My Heart This Night Rejoices,  
I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day,  
Angels from The Realms Of Glory, The First Noel,  
Hark the Herald Angels Sing,  
Angels We Have Heard On High,  
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks,  
Rise Up Shepard and Follow,  
Go Tell It on The Mountain, Joy To The World,  
Oh, Come All Ye Faithful, God Rest Ye Merry,  
Gentlemen, Good Christian Men Rejoice,  
Every Star Shall Sing A Carol,  
The March Of The Kings,  
I Saw Three Ships, The Three Kings,  
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent, The Blessed Bird,  
Good King Wenceslas, Wassail Song,  
Deck The Halls,  
Gather Round The Christmas Tree,  
O Christmas Tree, The Holly And The Ivy,  
The Twelve Days Of Christmas,  
We Wish You A Merry Christmas.

El. J. Arntson

## FROM THE OFFICE



All giving for 2018 needs to be in the office by noon on Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>.

Please be sure the office has your correct address for your year-end statement and for the annual report directory.

### ANNUAL REPORTS!

Annual Reports are due Monday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Financial Reports are due Monday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> from the following:

- WELCA
- Youth Group
- Cemetery
- God's Acres
- Quilting

### THE ANNUAL MEETINGS

of Zion Lutheran Foundation and the Zion Lutheran Church will take place on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> following the worship service.

### ANNUAL MEETING VOTING

Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Absentee ballots shall be permitted. Contact the church office for a ballot.

### HOSPICE ANGEL TREE



For a \$5.00 donation to Hospice, you may place an angel on the angel tree in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Someone will be by the tree before and after the service to collect the money and hand out the angels.

### CHURCH DECORATING

Christmas decorating will take place on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to help.

## YOUTH

### CONFIRMATION

Wednesday, Dec. 5  
6:00 p.m.

Snacks: The Griffin Family

Wednesday, Dec 19  
6:00 p.m.

Snacks: The Bricker Bladow  
Family

### Faith N' Films

Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m.

### Our Sympathies to..

Brenda Hildebrand and family on the deaths of her brother and his longtime love.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>  
at 8:00 a.m. at Zion. Karen Umland will be speaking on being a wish grantor with Make A Wish.

### 2019 Budget

Zion Council has approved the 2019 budget – pending yearend adjustments. If you have any questions or would like to see the proposed budget, please call, email or stop into the office.

*"If we threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back"*

### Quilting

The Zion Quilters will take a break in December. Quilting will resume on Mon. Jan 7<sup>th</sup>.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Sunday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.  
Come enjoy the spirit of Christmas.

## Sunday School News...



**Dec 2:** Sunday School;

**Dec 9:** NO Sunday School (St. Lucia)

Christmas Program practice at 11:00 a.m.

**Dec 16:** "Dress rehearsal" for the program during Sunday School time; then the Christmas Program during the 10:00 a.m. service

**Dec 23:** NO Sunday School (Christmas break)

**Dec 30:** NO Sunday School (Happy New Year!)

**Jan 6:** Epiphany Sunday School Extravaganza – complete with service project.

### RUTH CIRCLE

Yvonne Erickson will host the Ruth Circle Christmas potluck at noon on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Erickson cabin on Twin Lakes (long driveway across Hwy 74 from the Erickson farm). Spouses are invited. Questions? Call Yvonne at 495-3321.

**DORCAS, MARY and SARAH CIRCLES** will not have meetings in December.

**The weekday Women's Circles** will meet jointly in Jan-Feb-March.

Serving schedule:

- January - Mary Circle
- February - Dorcas Circle
- March - Ruth Circle

## ANNUAL SCANDINAVIAN BAKE SALE and WORKDAY at ZION!

**UFF DA! Time to start baking for the  
Christmas holidays.**

**SCANDINAVIAN BAKING WORKDAY** Friday,  
December 7th at 9:00 a.m.

Please join us for all the fun. The Zion kitchen will be set up for making lefse, krumkaka, sandbakkels, rosettes, and spritz. Some of our Zion members will be demonstrating how to make these Scandinavian goodies, and lots of helpers are needed to make this a festive day. We encourage the men of Zion to join us for the day. Coffee and treats will be served throughout the day. Soup lunch served at noon. If you are unable to join us for the bake day and would like to donate some Scandinavian goodies for the bake sale, please have them wrapped and at the church by 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. Sponsored by WELCA.

**SCANDINAVIAN BAKE SALE** On Sunday,  
December 9<sup>th</sup>, all of these Scandinavian goodies will be for sale following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. There will be no early sales.

Glendelig Jul!

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### **ZION'S MISSION STATEMENT:**

*We are claimed, gathered, and sent forth to serve  
and witness in Jesus' name.*

### **ZION'S VISION STATEMENT:** *Zion is a*

*welcoming church where all people will experience  
a vibrant lifelong journey in faith through worship,  
education, mission and service.*

**WELCA** is collecting mittens, caps and scarves to be donated to LSS for needy children. There is a basket in the narthex/lobby for your donations. The last day to bring them is Sun., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Because smiling is good for your health....**

I dreamed that I ate a muffler. I woke up exhausted.

Why was the pirate bad at playing cards?  
Because he was standing on the deck.

## 12 Christmas Prayers

With the busy, stressful holiday time upon us, let us pray for the spirit of the season....

**Love** - *Lord, help us follow the way of love--let the love of Christ compel us* (1 Corinthians 14:1; 2 Corinthians 5:14).

**Hope** - *Enlighten the eyes of our heart so that we may know the hope You called us to* (Ephesians 1:18).

**Joy** - *Restore the joy of Your salvation to us; let us experience the joy of Your presence* (Psalm 51:12; 16:11).

**Peace** - *Let Your peace rule and guard our hearts; give us more of You - You are our peace* (Colossians 3:15; Philippians 4:7; Ephesians 2:14).

**Favor** - *Let Your favor rest on us* (Luke 2:52).

**Life** - *Shine Your light of life on us; help us to walk in it* (Job 33:30; Psalm 56:13)

**Salvation** - *Help us to fear You so we can unlock the treasure of Your salvation* (Isaiah 33:6).

**Selflessness** - *Keep us from self-seeking attitudes that reject truth* (Romans 2:8).

**Generosity** - *Make us rich in ways that result in generosity on our part so You will be praised* (2 Corinthians 9:11).

**Seeking** - *Encourage us to seek Your face with all our hearts* (Deuteronomy 4:29; Psalm 27:8).

**Receiving** - *Help us receive Your kingdom, Your Spirit, and Your grace* (Daniel 7:18; John 20:22; Romans 5:17).

**Praise** - *We ascribe glory to Your name, Lord; we come before You in worship for You are holy* (1 Chronicles 16:28-29).

## LIBRARY NEWS



Our library has a new mascot named Chris. He is a "Chrismoose". That is a moose in Christmas garb. He is probably sitting on the floor or a table with a book, enjoying a good story.

There is a good choice of seasonal reading available for young and young at heart in our library. We could list it here, but better yet, come and look around!

DVD movies may be just the right thing for a vacation time relaxing moment. Music CD's are on the shelf as well. Variety can be a surprise while baking cookies at home or resting after a good snow shoveling experience.

Our next book discussion will be February 7, Thursday at 1:30 p.m. February is black history month and The Pecan Man will be read to coincide with that event.

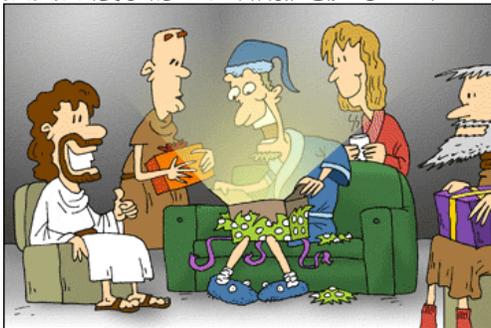
Laura Zimmerman has a family Advent devotional with daily readings for each day in Countdown to Christmas. Have you tried a new way of anticipating Christmas? We used to have the Fleet Farm toy catalog. Now that is probably an online technique, but we still have the chance to talk to one another in the advent season with these daily reading opportunities.

In honor of our first snowfall, check out the book Snowflake Bentley written by Jacqueline Martin, with wonderful woodcut illustrations by Mary Azarian. Willey Bentley loved snow and lived in the snowbelt of Vermont. This story tells how Willey's childhood love of snowflakes developed into a serious science study.

"Of all the forms of water, the tiny six-pointed crystals of ice called snow, that form in such quantities within the clouds during storms, are incomparably the most beautiful and varied."

Sharon Fleischauer – Library Team

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Thanks to Andrew S.

ETERNAL LIFE, MY FAVORITE ... THANKS JESUS!

12-21-2007



## GIVING TREE PROJECT 2018

This is our TENTH year of participating in the GIVING TREE PROJECT !! This project is so important for several Battle Lake School Families, helping to make their Christmas a lot happier ! There are now four area Churches involved; Zion Lutheran of Amor, First Lutheran Church of Battle Lake, Eagle Lake Church, and our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Battle Lake. A representative from each Church met at the Battle Lake School on November 19<sup>th</sup> to divide the names, and create the tags. I will inform you at a later date as to how many children / families are being helped.

The PROCESS is basically the same as past years:

1. Choose your tags, and PLEASE HANG ON TO THEM !!! I have found that the easiest way to find out what an "unknown toy or item" is, is to do a "SEARCH" on GOOGLE or AMAZON. This way you get a good "visual" and "approximate price". Ordering from AMAZON also has "fast delivery" (I use this often, and it's WONDERFUL). I have hung the PANT & SHIRT tags together again, so you are able to buy a matching outfit. Although we put their "favorite color" on the tag, it isn't necessary to buy that color.....any color is fine.
2. Once your gift has been purchased (gift receipts are nice to include), please wrap, or gift bag your items, and ATTACH THE TAG securely to the gift. There is a "code system" that the school uses to keep the children's names confidential.
3. All packages need to be BACK TO THE CHURCH BY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> @ 2:00 p.m. Place them in the far SW corner by Pastor's Office in the Fellowship Hall. I will be loading them up and delivering them to the school later that afternoon when school is out. If you are in Battle Lake, you may also drop your gifts off at the Battle Lake School Elementary Office . Use the main entrance, and ask for either Nya Haberman or Kathy Kesinger. These ladies take over from that point, doing the separating and distributing.
4. If you have taken a LARRYS TAG, please make your checks out to **ZION** and leave the CHECK & TAG with Lynn in the Church Office. If

all the tags are gone, you still can leave a monetary donation with Lynn to add to the tag amounts. Again, just make your check out to **ZION**.

You can also make a monetary donation to the Battle Lake Public School. They will use these monies to purchase sport fees, Drivers Ed fees, Year Books, etc for certain students-in-need.

It is AMAZING every Christmas Season, the number of kids & families we end up helping.....and please know, your help in this project is appreciated by SO MANY !!!! I absolutely LOVE being the representative from Zion, as it gives me such a "HAPPY HEART" to see the amazing generosity and kindness within our wonderful Country Church !!!

God's Blessing to you All,  
Tanya Hensch - "Giving Tree" Elf

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Chuck Erickson from the God's Acres Committee, presented Bob and Lucy Roberts with a small gift of appreciation for their support of God's Acres. Chuck created the artistic "pig" from scrap metal he found around his farm.

Many thanks to the Roberts' and Amor Pork for their contribution of meat products to many Zion and God's Acres events.



### Thank you to.....

- Zion's Stephen Ministers for bringing Christ's care to those in need.
  - Those who donated to the Richville Clothing Mission and especially to those who took the large number of items there.
  - To Gary Harrington for lining up our November 25 Adult Forum speaker and to Lynn Melchior for sending out a press release.
  - To those who decorate our fellowship hall to match the changing seasons
  - To the members of the Church council for their commitment to making Zion the best church that it can be.
  - To the stewardship team for reminding us that stewardship is not just money. Everything we have or hope to have is God's. We are just a caretaker of what he has given us.
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### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Jeff & Becky LeDoux**  
Sponsors: Duane & Rose Hovland  
Action Group: Summer B



**Alice Johnson**  
Sponsor: Wilma Haring  
Action Group: Summer C



## Editor's Thoughts.....

My mouth was watering. I could hardly wait for my delicious breakfast. My loved ones next to me were talking about news headlines. The conversation meandered along fine until a verbal sparring match broke out. I eyed my fellow booth mates. My thoughts raced. Would this lead to someone storming off in a huff? My yummy breakfast hitting the wall?



I was struck by their strong convictions; amazed that they both felt so passionately – and differently. I said nothing but listened (yea I know kinda hard to believe...) I thought about what I believed; how I would argue my beliefs.

As I sat there, nervous and protective of my eggs benedict, I thought: Do I join in? Do I focus on my breakfast and ignore the conversation? Do I play peacemaker? I firmly believe we have differing opinions for a divine reason; I'm glad we are not carbon copies of each other.

Fortunately, my loved ones found points to agree on. My breakfast was safe again. Later, I thought about my reaction. Did my choice of action reflect my faith? Did I respect other's opinions when they did not match my own?

God give me the strength to live out my faith in all I do.

Grateful, Lynn Melchior

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**Make-A-Wish**

### **Dreams for Kids/Make-A-Wish Silent Auction**

Dreams for Kids is the local fundraising arm of Make-A-Wish. Funding local wishes is a tall order as wishes can cost as much as \$10,000.00. YOU have the opportunity to support local wish children thru the Silent Auction at Zion Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> thru Dec 9<sup>th</sup>.

The gift baskets and silent auction items will be outside the office door during church and office hours. Pick up a gift for someone on your list and help a critically ill child at the same time. Thank you for blessing others.

## Notice of Proposed Zion Annual Meeting Date Change

Over the last several months, the Zion church council has discussed changing the annual meeting date. At the November council meeting, the council voted to move the annual meeting to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Sept. and have the congregation discuss and vote on it at our Jan 2019 annual meeting.

You should ask 'why change'?

- This change would allow those not here during the winter months to be at the annual meeting and participate in decisions that impact the congregation.
- It will allow more members to be part of committees that impact the content of annual meeting i.e. budget, finance, elections and leadership voting.
- The next year's budget would be approved in Sept for Jan 1 and this would allow staff to make wise decisions on the benefits for the upcoming year. Now they must guess as to pay and benefit changes because the budget is approved in January which is after choice deadlines.
- This would also impact committees as they will have a 3 month window to plan activities for the next year starting in January. This would be a time gain of 3 to 4 months in planning.

The congregation should discuss this among themselves, with council members, and committee/team members. On Jan 13, 2019 we will have an informational forum for the congregation to discuss the pros and cons of this change so you can be more informed on the topic.

### **Need a Stocking Stuffer?**

God's Acres T- Shirts will be available for purchase Sunday, December 16 in the Narthex.

Cost \$10.00. Proceeds from the sale will support 2019 God's Acres improvement projects.



## Musically Speaking “When Morning Dawns”



Photo by Amy Drake

As Advent and Christmas are upon us, we will soon be lighting the Advent wreath candles again. The Prophecy candle is lit first, and its purpose is to remind us of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold Christ’s birth. Sometimes also known as the Hope candle, it represents the anticipation Christians feel as they await the Messiah’s coming.

This year, the congregation will sing a corresponding verse of the hymn “The King Shall Come” (*ELW* 260) each Sunday during the candle lighting (e.g., the second verse on the second Sunday of Advent). Its tune, MORNING SONG, is attributed to Elkanah Kelsay Dare (1782-1826) ([hymnary.org/text/the\\_king\\_shall\\_come\\_when\\_morning\\_dawns](http://hymnary.org/text/the_king_shall_come_when_morning_dawns)) and opens with a melodic interval of a perfect fourth, a difference of five half-steps between two pitches. The perfect fourth is defined as a consonant strength, and using it in church music is a classic way to show vigor and commitment when worshipping God. The perfect fourth is the same two tones that open the “Bridal Chorus” (aka, “Here Comes the Bride”) from Richard Wagner’s 1850 opera *Lohengrin*. It’s also an interval often recognized because it’s commonly used in Gregorian chants.

In contrast to the promise the title suggests, the hymn is written in F minor. This key produces a plaintiveness that sounds sorrowful and seems unexpected for John Brownlie’s (1857-1925) lyrics, “The King shall come when morning dawns /

and light triumphant breaks, / when beauty gilds the eastern hills, / and life to joy awakes” (ibid). Perhaps Brownlie chose the minor key to suggest that waiting for the King often seemed wearisome and interminable. Yet still, the song is hopeful, and most of the forward movement is stepwise and ascending. This progression fits the theme of dawn breaking and the sun rising to shine upon the hills.

Each Sunday, the congregation will also sing the fifth verse and conclude with “Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: / come quickly, King of kings.” Brownlie based these words on Rev. 22:20, “a paraphrase of the ancient prayer of the church ‘Maranatha,’ or ‘Lord, come quickly’” (ibid). As a result, the mix of a perfect fourth, the key of F minor, and the heartening lyrics create a lovely piece that confirms Jesus’s appearance as our light and salvation.

While I was considering the theme for this article, I saw Amy Drake’s Facebook post of a beautiful sunrise. Her photo perfectly illustrates the verses’ many references to morning and sunlight, for example, “crowned with glory like the sun” (7) and “brighter than the rising morn” (9). I immediately asked if I could use her picture, which she graciously permitted.

Please attend the two events the Worship and Music Committee have arranged to celebrate the Advent season. December 5th is “Carols of Amor” featuring a soup supper followed by familiar Advent and Christmas congregational hymns, solos, and ensembles by our members.

Patrick Murphy will share his talents with us the afternoon of December 16th, and the proceeds from his concert will go towards purchasing a portable PA system for Zion. We feel this could be used indoors for large events and outdoors on the courtyard, at God’s Acres, perhaps in the prayer garden, etc. Come support our endeavors and enjoy the music!

May each of you have a blessed Christmas.

~ Sandra Sedivy



## Summary of Zion Council Minutes November 13, 2018

*These are condensed and not approved*

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to approve Secretary's Report on October 10, 2018, made seconded and approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion to accept and include file for review made, seconded and approved.

**Committee, Team and Pastor Reports:** See written reports.

### **Business:**

- 2019 Zion budget reviewed. Motion made to accept the budget as presented, allowing for minor adjustments at the January council meeting and Annual Meeting. Seconded and approved.
- Lynn Melchior presented on using a Narrative Budget as a way to present budget information in a non-number/spreadsheet style. A narrative budget tells a story of the way the budget is fulfilling the promises made in Zion's Mission Statement. Motion to move forward with support from council to use a Narrative Budget. Seconded. Approved. Look for more information on this in following months.
- Continued discussion on changing the meeting time of the annual meeting to September to allow for more participation by snow birds, better planning for staff regarding health ins. choices, etc., and ease in creating budget. Motioned to change annual meeting to September with approval of congregation at a congressional meeting. Seconded. Approved. Motioned to move the date to the third Sunday in September. Seconded. Approved. Meeting notice will be in Tidings.
- Motion to accept the resignation of a Faith Haven board member. Seconded and approved.

Council adjourned.



## 12 Days of Christmas Song

Some say each day has a hidden meaning ...

The "true love" represents God and the "me" who receives these presents is the Christian.

The "partridge in a pear tree" was Jesus Christ who died on a tree as a gift from God.

The "two turtle doves" were the Old and New Testaments - another gift from God.

The "three French hens" were faith, hope and love - the three gifts of the Spirit that abide (I Corinthians 13).

The "four calling birds" were the four Gospels which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The "five golden rings" were the first five books of the Bible also called the "Books of Moses".

The "six geese a-laying" were the six days of creation.

The "seven swans a swimming" were the "seven gifts of the Holy Spirit". (I Corinthians 12:8-11; Romans 12, Ephesians 4; I Peter 4:10-11).

The "eight maids a milking" were the eight beatitudes.

The "nine ladies dancing" were nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22 & 23)

The "ten lords a-leaping" were the Ten Commandments.

The "eleven pipers piping" were the eleven faithful disciples.

The "twelve drummers drumming" were the twelve points of the Apostles' Creed.

*Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.*

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMOR TREASURER'S REPORT October 2018

<b>Income</b>	<b>Oct Actual</b>	<b>Year to Date Actual</b>	<b>2017 Budget</b>	<b>Budget Used</b>
Sunday Offering	28,564.71	216,066.21	271,926.00	79.46%
Special Offering	0.00	2,128.65	6,000.00	35.48%
Other Income	59.85	1,720.00	860.00	200.00%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>28,624.56</b>	<b>219,914.86</b>	<b>278,786.00</b>	<b>78.88%</b>
 <b>Expense</b>				
Our Benevolence	1,416.66	15,703.26	19,000.00	82.65%
Missions	0.00	7,607.58	14,000.00	54.34%
Pastoral Compensation	8,538.03	84,295.35	100,737.00	83.68%
Pastoral Expense	391.31	4,930.63	5,200.00	94.82%
New Members/Outreach	0.00	1,663.92	2,150.00	77.39%
Education	1,737.62	13,948.88	26,290.00	53.06%
Library	19.20	190.68	300.00	63.56%
Music & Worship	853.00	14,737.75	19,742.00	74.65%
Altar	16.99	298.25	400.00	74.56%
Office Staff	3,190.91	35,438.53	42,318.00	83.74%
Stephen Ministry	13.64	62.89	300.00	20.96%
Office Expenses	1,089.98	10,528.63	14,504.00	72.59%
Stewardship	-12.89	17.05	300.00	5.68%
Planning	60.00	900.90	710.00	126.89%
Property Management	1,973.74	20,502.72	28,178.00	72.76%
Maintenance & Repairs	160.00	1,846.50	2,957.00	62.45%
Capital Improv/Emerg Op	0.00	0.00	1,700.00	0.00%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>19,448.19</b>	<b>212,673.52</b>	<b>278,786.00</b>	<b>76.29%</b>
<b>Income Less Expense</b>	<b>9,176.37</b>	<b>7,241.34</b>	<b>0.00</b>	

### ATTENDANCE / CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2017 / 2018

2017 October		
Date	Attendance	Contributions
1-Oct	176	\$6,085.00
8-Oct	116	\$3,833.00
15-Oct	227	\$5,861.58
22-Oct	153	\$3,351.00
29-Oct	164	\$5,110.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>\$24,240.58</b>
<b>AVE</b>	<b>168</b>	

2018 October		
Date	Attendance	Contributions
7-Oct	187	\$5,644.00
14-Oct	163	\$5,989.71
21-Oct	135	\$6,931.00
28-Oct	200	\$10,195.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>\$28,759.71</b>
<b>AVE</b>	<b>171</b>	

### Restricted Funds October 2018

Flowers	56.48	Music Fund	1,679.24	Men's Group Funds	257.82
Improvement Fund	686.20	Youth Group	50.00	Miss Jam Pass Thru	-376.00
Designated Giving	2,082.82	Found. Pass Thru	370.00	Twins Game	0.00
Food Shelf	1,140.41	Sunday School Projects	0.00	Helping Hands	2,049.86
Sunday School	2,626.28	Stephen Ministry	1,566.74	Missions	610.00
World Hunger	300.00	Funeral	1,439.49	Jamaica House	5,151.21
Cemetery Fund	0.00	Fair Trade Coffee	356.37	Technology	544.40
Library Fund	1,035.57	Organ Fund	0.00	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,601.32</b>
Memorials & Gifts	3,514.43	Pancake Breakfast	0.00		
		God's Acres	455.00		

## December Action Group

### Leaders:

#### Carol Gealow

Barfknecht, Joe & Kendra

Mikah

Berge, Chris

Carlson, Larry & Roberta

Charest, Mike & Lori

Currie, Ty & Lindy

Mesa, Cruz

Drake, Jeff & Amy

Jessica, Connor

Fleischauer, Sharon

Fournier, Alma

Hanson, Joel

Holmgren, Dave & Lori

Jacob

Kaspari, Jon & Brenda

Pulford, Todd & Debbie

Sedivy, Jeff & Sandra

Solberg, Larry & Helen

Mikayla, Hannah

Stevens, Tom & Annette

Samantha, Michael

Thompson, Susan

Wherley, Jim & Kristin

## Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

On Wed., Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>,  
the women of Zion assembled  
25 Birthday Bags for the  
Battle Lake Food Shelf.

We also assembled 34  
gift bags for 3 to 10 year olds  
for Somewhere Safe.

Thank you to everyone  
who donated items and/or  
money and to those ladies  
who came and helped!

## January Action Group

### Leaders:

#### Duane & Nancy Hanson

#### Vern & Muriel Foster

Barry, Laramie & Jessica,

Chase, Charlee, Alexa,

Lanston

Barry, Leigh & Shana

Cody, Lauren

Carlson, Larry & Roberta

Enerson, Darryl & Terry

Erickson, Linda

Erwin, Dave & Kelly

Fleischauer, Stuart & Christine

Gibson, Garrison, Calista,

Macy

Harder, Alan & Muggsy

Hoefl, Kathy

Hovde, Lyle & Sylvia

Hovde, Ben

Miletto, Steve & Kay

Petschl, Norma

Seeman, Craig & Pasibeth

Crisavydenil, Clodarl

Thorson, Dan & Sandi

Wilcox, Lowell & Doris



## SHARE A POINSETTIA

If you would like to  
share a poinsettia with Zion this  
Christmas, the cost is \$10.00 per  
plant. You may take your plant  
home after the last Christmas  
Eve service. The plants may be  
given in memory or in honor of  
someone or can be purchased  
for personal use. Please  
enclose payment with your  
order. Make your check payable  
to Zion.

Name:

Number of plants for Zion:

In memory of:

In honor of:

To the glory of God:

*Where you spend money is a  
vote for the world you want.*

What DO you want in the world?