



### **The Herald**

Published monthly, to provide both  
inspiration and information on  
the activities of the Zion Family

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
505 Main Ave. N.  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701-1996  
Phone - 218-681-3296

**Vol. 22**

**December 2022**

**No. 11**



### **The Season of Advent**

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. If Christmas Eve is a Sunday, it is counted as the fourth Sunday of Advent. This year

Christmas Day is a Sunday, so the fourth Sunday of Advent is the 18<sup>th</sup>, and the first Sunday of Advent is in November.

The Alpha and Omega is often used as an Advent symbol, “I am the Alpha and the Omega [the first and the last, the beginning and the end],” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty” (Rev 1:8 and 22:13).

Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, and Omega is the last letter. Not only does this symbolize the One who has come and will come again, it also emphasizes the continuity of God's work in history throughout both the Old and New Testaments.

The word Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000-year-old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. Scripture readings for

Advent reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life.

In this double focus on past and future, Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, as they affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power. That acknowledgment provides a basis for Kingdom ethics, for holy living arising from a profound sense that we live “between the times” and are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God’s people.

Historically, the primary sanctuary color of Advent is purple. This is the color of penitence and fasting as well as the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the King. Purple is still used in some traditions. The purple of Advent is also the color of suffering used during Lent and Holy Week. This points to an important connection between Jesus’ birth and death. The Nativity and the Incarnation cannot be separated from the crucifixion. The purpose of Jesus’ coming into the world, of the “Word made flesh” and dwelling among us, is to reveal God and His grace to the world through Jesus’ life and teaching, but also through his suffering, death, and resurrection. To reflect this emphasis, originally Advent was a time of penitence and fasting, much as the Season of Lent and so shared the color of Lent.

In recent times, however, Advent has undergone a shift in emphasis, reflected in a change of colors used in many churches. The penitential aspect of the Season has been reduced and an emphasis on hope and anticipation has been increased.

Most Protestant churches now use blue to distinguish the Season of Advent from [Lent](#). Royal Blue is sometimes used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use Bright Blue to symbolize the night sky, the anticipation of the impending announcement of the King’s coming, or to symbolize the waters of Genesis 1, the beginning of a new creation.

Advent helps us to prepare for Christmas, the remembrance of Christ’s birth. Let us remember the words of the angel this December, “Peace on Earth.”

This Christmas Pauline and I wish to extend to you our hopes for a blessed Christmas for you and your family. And let us all remember that Jesus is “the reason for the season.”

Pastor Mark Helgeland



- **December 3** – Spirit of Giving
- **December 4** – Blood pressure screening
- **December 4** – Silver Creek Sunday school program and potluck
- **December 13** – 2:00 - WELCA Christmas Tea
- **December 15** – Holiday Train – 7:30
- **December 18** – Sunday school program during worship
- **December 18** – Faith and Fellowship breakfast
- **December 19** – Deadline for poinsettias
- **December 24** – 4:00 Christmas candlelight service, 10:00 Holy Communion service
- **December 24** – 5:30 Silver Creek candlelight service (No service Christmas Day)
- **December 25** – 9:00 Christmas Day worship
- **January 5** – Quilting resumes (no quilting in December)
- **January 15** – Silver Creek annual meeting



## POINSETTIAS

If you wish to bring a poinsettia or flower to share for Christmas services, you may bring them in the week of Christmas. If you are sharing the flower in memory or in honor of a loved one, please call or email the church office by Dec. 19th to have it listed in the Christmas bulletin.

## President's Message Laura Rude



Dear Zion Brothers and Sisters,

In case you didn't know, we have an amazing church family! I reflect on the words of a song the Sunday school kids recently sang called, “We Are the Church.” I hope we truly cherish each other and the time we spend together talking, eating, laughing, and worshipping. What a blessing!

The Christmas season presents so many wonderful ways to embrace and share Jesus' love and the true reason for the season. Whether it is participating in Operation Christmas Child, Spirit of Giving, providing items for the care kits, making quilts, volunteering for special events, teaching Sunday School or Confirmation, participating in worship services, reading Scripture during services, (I can go on and on) you are letting your light shine bright. What a gift you share with the world!

I want to acknowledge and give a **BIG THANK YOU** to Pastor Mark for his commitment to Zion over the last year. His guidance and experience were truly invaluable as we worked towards calling a new pastor. His last official Sunday service as Interim will be December 25<sup>th</sup>. Please take time to express your gratitude for all he's done for Zion! (Maybe we should include an 'Ole joke' section in the Newsletter so we don't miss out!) 😊

With that said, we want to extend a very warm welcome to Pastor Kristin Ostercamp and her family. Her official first day will be January 1, and her first Sunday service will be January 8. This is an exciting and perhaps anxious time as we transition to a new full time Pastor. Please keep Pastor Kristin, church staff and leadership and our church overall in your prayers. Change is not always easy, and good communication is key to having a successful transition. I'm open to any feedback that you may have, so please share.

Closing with words from a beautiful Christmas song from Casting Crowns -*The Christmas Offering*-

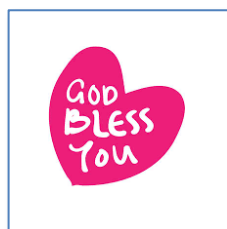
*"I bring an offering of worship to my King. No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing.*

*Jesus, may You receive the honor that your due. O Lord, I bring an offering to You."*

Merry Christmas and God Bless~  
Laura Rude - Zion President

## Thank you, Pastor Mark

Thank you, Pastor Mark for your spiritual guidance and commitment to Zion over the past months. We appreciate the time you spent with us and wish you all of God's blessings as you enjoy retirement.



## Evangelism/Lay Ministry

Cards will be sent out to our nursing home, shut-ins, and members that we miss. If you want to be included or know someone that should be included, please call the church office.

We will be serving communion to the nursing homes monthly, and in January we will be reaching out to our home bound members to share this service with them.

We are anxious to start working with Pastor Kristin in developing possible Bible studies, adult education, and other items of interest to share during the fellowship hour. If you have ideas or needs that we can help with, please reach out to us through the church office, and we will get back to you.

The Evangelism/Lay Ministry Board



As we look to our celebration of Christmas, many of our hearts are filled with warm memories and eager anticipation. For persons who have experienced a loss of a loved one, this can be a very difficult time. There are a few ways we can be a comfort to those who are

grieving. First, we need to remember that there isn't a right thing to do or say that will make the pain go away. We need to be willing to simply be a continued presence in our friend's life. It can be a comfort to just sit quietly. We can always be willing to listen. The pain of loss creates a deep and abiding loneliness, this is magnified when those grieving feel separated from others.

Second, we need to take our cues from our friend. If they need to cry and experience sadness, we need to be able to be with them without trying to "cheer them up". If they need reassurance of their worth, we need to be affirming. When they need to hear words of comfort from our Lord, we need to speak these to them.

Third, we need to remember them in our prayers and let them know we are praying for them. May we "comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (Corinthians.1:4)

Wishing you God's rich blessings of peace, joy, and perfect love. Have a Merry Christmas season and take time to enjoy as many of the holiday events you can



God's Blessing & Peace—Parish Health

## Silver Creek

Christmas is not only about buying new clothes and preparing sweets. Christmas is about spreading the love of Jesus Christ to whomever we meet. Let's keep Christ in Christmas.



We will be having our annual Christmas program on December 4th during our regular service at 10:30. We will be seeing and hearing Christmas story through the eyes of the animals in the stable. We are looking forward to having children and adults working together to bring the nativity alive. Following services, a potluck meal will be enjoyed by all. A free will offering will be taken to help Florida residents with relief from hurricane. Another highlight is the old-fashioned treat bags. Please plan to join us for a time of fellowship with friends and neighbors.

Our Christmas service will be held on Christmas Eve at 5:30 with holy communion and candlelight service. There will not be a service on Christmas Day. Also, there will be no services on January 1st. Mark your calendar for our annual meeting on January 15th following services.

After an extended time of searching for a pastor, we are happy to welcome Kristin Ostercamp. She will be at our services starting January 8th.



Council will meet December 18th following services.

WELCA will not meet in January as for years we have had to cancel our meeting due to weather. Plan to continue meetings starting the first Wednesday in February.

Special thanks goes out to all the volunteers who have donated their time and talents to

make our church beautifully decorated and worked together to have another Christmas program that is extra special.

Bev Rupprecht

## Thank You to Pie Auction Participants



Many thanks to all who donated baked items for the auction, to our auctioneer, Dale Svendsgaard, to the generous bidders who purchased the 32 delicious desserts and breads, and to those who contributed additional donations. A total of \$6,775 was raised for our Faith Fund/General Budget.

## WELCA Happenings

### WELCA Christmas Tea - December 13

All Zion ladies are invited to attend this festive event on Tuesday, December 13, at 2:00 p.m. Each is asked to bring 10 cookies to share for refreshments; extras will be donated to be used at the Christmas Train community event later that week. A short program will be given, and Christmas cards will be prepared for mailing to our congregation's shut-in's. Hostesses are Sharon Jorde and Sharon Wagner. Board meets at 1:00 p.m.

### Lutheran World Relief Shipment

Thank you to all individuals, confirmands, and groups who made quilts, utilized their Thrivent gift cards, purchased and assembled various kits, helped pack up shipment boxes, and to Rodney Knutson and Ruth Ostby for loading and delivering the boxes to the truck. Zion provided a total of 242 personal care kits, 52 baby care kits, 59 school kits, and 26 quilts in 2022.

### Anna Circle

Anna Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 21, 11:30 a.m. at Glenice Johnson's home (811 Main Ave. N, TRF) for their annual Christmas pot-luck luncheon. Guests are welcome too.



## **Zion Lutheran's Congregational Council Minutes Tuesday November 15, 2022**

The Congregational Council Meeting was called to order by President Laura Rude at 7:00 pm.

In attendance were President Laura Rude, Pastor Mark Helgeland, Denny Minks, Renae Franke, Penni Nelson, Mike Spears, Glenice Johnson, Deb Fulton, Darlene Hulteen, Patty Schob and Deb Holtan.

Pastor Mark led the council in prayer.

The Secretary's Report from October 18, 2022 was presented. Spelling corrections were made under Silver Creeks report. The word initiation should read invitation. Also under the Call Committee, the word reveled should read revealed. A motion was made by to accept the minutes with the corrections. The motion seconded. The motion carried.

The Secretary's Report for the Special Congregational Meeting from Sunday October 23, 2022, was also presented. A motion was made to accept the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was presented. The Nelson CDs renewed on October 25th at 2.7%. Renae pointed out that the money for the new AED came out of memorial funds/checking. Deb Fulton questioned the large amount taken from the budget for her board. This amount was for the pulpit supply for the summer months. Renae asked the council about a new computer for Pastor Kristen Osterkamp. Laura Rude said we will wait to see what Kristen wants.

Pastor Mark gave his report. In the last month he had performed one baptism, one funeral, had one counseling session, one hospital visit and one home visit. Pastor Mark announced his last Sunday preaching will be on Christmas Day.

Laura stated that we will need pulpit supply on Sunday January 1st. Kristen's first Sunday preaching will be Sunday January 8th.

**Silver Creek:** Penni Nelson reported Sunday December 4th will be their special Christmas service followed by a potluck dinner. Penni reminded Laura about finding a time to get the new contract in place.

**Health Committee:** Patty Schob submitted their report. Patty stated that Darlene Wiseth is glad to have her certification. Communion for the nursing homes is to be on the fourth Tuesday of the month, but this could change depending on Pastor Osterkamp's schedule. Nursery staffing was discussed. Tim Cook from Sanford TRF ambulance set up the new AED.

**Recognition for Linda Hamrick:** The "Thank You" gathering went very well! In continuing with the appreciation for all that Linda does for our church and congregation, a motion was made by Denny Minks to give Linda a \$2,000.00 bonus. The motion was seconded by Mike Spears. The motion carried.

**Stewardship:** The Pledge Cards are due by November 20th. Laura suggested no Temple Talk that Sunday due to such a busy service.

**Worship:** Deb Fulton reported that they will need someone to help with calling and finding readers for Sundays. Carol Narverud has been doing it for several years and wants to be done and pass the job on to someone else. The families for lighting the candles on the Advent wreath are lined up.

**Properties:** Mike Spears reported that the dumpster was filled. An electrician has been contacted to repair the lights in the canopies. Mike stated he had gone to the city meeting about the church's property tax. The parking lot was striped. He hasn't heard anything from the sign company. The wooden shelving in the old library will be removed. Christmas trees will go up on Friday November 25th.

**Evangelism and Lay Ministry:** Deb Holtan reported for Marijo Nabben. The first annual "Tree of Thanks" is up and there is much excitement to see the response to it. The board will be sending out Christmas cards at their December board meeting. The board will compare mailing lists with WELCA's list.

**Christian Ed and Youth:** There wasn't anyone to represent the board. Laura Rude stated that the board's last event was cancelled due to lack of kids signing up for the event. Sunday December 18th is the Sunday School program which will include Little Lambs to 5th grade. Cornerstone Kids will also sing.

**Parish Fellowship:** Glenice Johnson reported that the Pie and Dessert Auction will be on Sunday November 20th. Proceeds will go towards the "Faith Fund". Glenice stated she went through the churches active list and found that there were around seventy names that are not in the Sharing Servants booklets. December's Sharing Servants still needs a leader.

**WELCA:** Glenice Johnson reported that the totals (from this spring and fall) on kits sent to Lutheran World Relief are: Personal kits-242; baby care kits-52; school kits-59 and quilts-26. Their December 13th meeting will be their "Christmas Tea". The group will also be providing cookies for the Holiday Train (as will other area churches) which will come to Thief River on Friday December 16th.

**Public Relations:** Darlene Hulteen submitted her report. The website is still being updated with information. Darlene asked if there should or could be a link to the church's constitution. Also links for the annual report, and council minutes. Paul Swanson, the rep for the new church directory has sent tentative dates for booking appointments for taking directory pictures. Those dates are February 28th through March 4th and May 9th through May 13th. Booking appointments will need to be done online. Pictures can be submitted. The board will reach out to those that are homebound or in nursing homes. There is a need for hosts and hostess during the days scheduled for picture taking. Darlene also stated that you do not have to be a member of Zion to have your picture in the directory.

**Spirit of Giving:** The committee has met, and things are in place. Spirit of Giving is December 3rd with more information to be announced in the upcoming bulletins.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm following the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by  
Deb Holtan, Council Secretary



## Confirmation News!

### 65+ Supper

A huge thank you to all the confirmation students who helped with our 65+ supper! You all did an awesome job! Thank you to Mike and Jodi Flaagan and all the adults who helped. We couldn't have done it without you. And thank you to all of you who came and dined with us. You are all special and we appreciate each and every one of you!

### December

**December 7** - Appreciation night for  
Pastor Mark  
Pizza and ice cream at 5:30  
Lessons at 6:15



**December 14** - Confirmation classes out  
in the community!  
Serving and spreading Christmas cheer!

**December 21 and 28** No Confirmation

**REMIND-** [@ziontrf](#)

We are coming up on winter weather!  
This is the best way to find out about confirmation cancellations.  
Please make sure you are signed up.

### Requirement Updates

Requirement updates will be sent out at the end of the month. Please make sure you are getting them done. Do not forget - attendance at class is important!!



**Sunday School** for Little Lambs – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Cornerstone Kids - 10:00AM -11:00AM  
 Church service - 9:00AM-10:00AM

\*Parents are welcome to stay for fellowship - Coffee and muffins in Fellowship Hall

**December 18** - Little Lambs -5<sup>th</sup> Grade and Cornerstone Kids  
**Christmas Program** at the 9:00 Service. There will be Sunday School!



**December 25 and January 1** - No Sunday school

*Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*  
 Classes will begin again January 8th.

## Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone that helped fill shoeboxes and gave donations! The 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class was able to fill/pay shipping for 43 boxes. Zion was able to deliver a total of 71 boxes!



## Worship Together in the Sanctuary

Zion – 9:00 - Silver Creek – 10:30  
 Zion Sunday School – 10:00

## Worship Online

If you choose to worship from home, take advantage of the alternatives to in-house worship.

- KTRF radio – 1230 AM at 9:00
- Cable TV – Channel 3 – KTRF – 9:00
- Garden Valley – Channel 37 – 12:00 Noon
- Log in to Zion's webpage – [ziontrf.org](http://ziontrf.org) and listen to the service over the internet.
- Facebook Live – 9:00 on Zion's Facebook Page





# December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>SUNDAY BROADCASTS</b> <b>9 AM CABLE 3</b> <b>9 KTRF BROADCASTS</b> <b>12 NOON CABLE 37</b>				<b>1</b> 9 SAIL Exercise  No Quilting in December No Prayer Shawls in Dec.  9-7 Spirit of Giving Ingathering	<b>2</b> 7 Men's Breakfast/Biff's  9-5 Spirit of Giving Ingathering	<b>3</b> 8-Noon Spirit of Giving  
<b>4 ADVENT 2</b> 9 Zion Holy Communion Worship 10 Sunday School 10 Blood pressure screening 10 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Silver Creek Christmas Program & Potluck 1 Diane Johnson Recital	<b>5</b> 9 SAIL Exercise  6:30 Scouts	<b>6</b> No FC Nurse hours today 9:30 Staff Meeting Noon Pastors Text Study Noon Foundation Mtg. <b>BOARD MEETINGS</b>	<b>7</b> 5:30 Confirmation—Appreciation for Pr Mark with Pizza & Ice Cream 6:15 Confirmation classes 6 God's Joy Choir 7 Senior Choir	<b>8</b> 9 SAIL Exercise 10 LSS Caregivers discussion in lounge	<b>9</b> 7 Men's Breakfast/Biff's	<b>10</b>
<b>11 ADVENT 3</b> 9 Zion Worship 10 Sunday School 10 Coffee Fellowship 10 Jan. Sharing Servants mtg 10:30 Silver Creek Worship 4 Laura Rude Recital	<b>12</b> 9 SAIL Exercise  6:30 Scouts	<b>13</b> 9-12 FC Nurse hours 9:30 Staff Meeting Noon Pastors Text Study 1 WELCA Ex Board 2 WELCA Christmas Tea 3:30 Parish Health Committee	<b>14</b> 1:30 Sarah Circle in lounge 6-Confirmation Classes—community event 6 God's Joy Choir 7 Senior Choir	<b>15</b> 9 SAIL Exercise	<b>16</b> 7 Men's Breakfast/Biff's	<b>17</b>
<b>18 ADVENT 4</b> 9 Sunday School Christmas Program 10 Food & Fellowship 10 Sunday School 10:30 Silver Creek Holy communion Worship	<b>19</b> 9 SAIL Exercise	<b>20 Newsletter Items Due</b> 9-12 FC Nurse hours 9:30 Staff Meeting Noon Pastors Text Study  <b>7 ZION COUNCIL</b>	<b>21</b> 11:30—Anna Circle 6 God's Joy Choir 7 Senior Choir No Confirmation	<b>22</b> 9 SAIL Exercise	<b>23</b> 7 Men's Breakfast/Biff's	<b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 4 PM Candlelight Service; Cable 3/KTRF Broadcast 5:30 Silver Creek Service 10 PM Candlelight Service with Holy Communion
<b>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 9 Zion Worship No Sunday School No Silver Creek Worship	<b>26</b> Church Office Closed	<b>27</b> No FC Nurse hours	<b>28</b> No Confirmation	<b>29</b> 9 SAIL Exercise	<b>30</b>	<b>31 NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>  Contributions due by Noon Dec. 31 to be counted on 2022 contributions. If mailing, please mail early so it will be received by Dec. 31.