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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion's Good News

January
2008

Epiphany

January 6th

All Sunday school students, teachers, and assistants are invited to the Family Center for a special Sunday school with many activities planned.



Congregational Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 27, 2008

9:00 a.m. (between the two services)

Sunday School will be held at 9:00 a.m.

Gathering together to celebrate the past year and step forward in faith.

Share in the vision and mission and ministry.

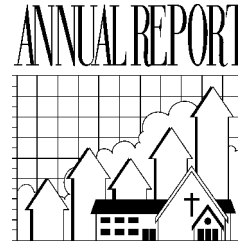
Agenda Items Include

2008 Budget

Team Reports

Building Update

A copy of the Annual Report will be mailed to all members prior to the meeting. Please review it and bring it along to the meeting. Thank you .



A Different New Year

On the first day of the New Year what are you thinking? Most of us think about some kind of New Year's resolution. These resolutions generally have to do with self improvement; everything from losing weight, to saving money, to getting more exercise. Those who study our behavior patterns tell us these resolutions last about two to four weeks and then we are back to our old ways.

Sometimes I feel Christmas shares the same statistics. During Advent we are full of anticipation and excitement for the coming of Christ. We worship, meet with family, give to those in need, and generally have a joyful spirit. But two to four weeks later we are back to our old ways.

May I suggest a different way to start the New Year and keep Christmas alive in your hearts and minds? Here is a list of new thoughts to keep your soul awake to God's spirit. Cut them out and tape them to your bathroom mirror and when you brush your teeth or comb your hair—which is pretty routine—ponder a couple of these ideas.

Today I sense amazement at the presence of God in my life.

Today I am grateful for life.

Today I will be open to the beauty all around me.

Today I will respect others and encourage people I see.

Today I will remember all those I love and hold dear.

Today I will speak kindly to myself as a child of God.

Today I will have compassion for the hurting ones.

Today I will remember who I am and whose I am.

Today we thank God for the opportunity to walk into another year of life. And we pray that God will help us to be faithful and to be generous as we rest in God's presence. Have a blessed New Year!

Pastor Sue



Annual Reports

Annual Reports will be due in the office by January 6th. These are the Team Reports for the Annual Meeting which will be held on January 27th at 9:00 a.m.

Thanks to Outgoing Council Members

Well done, best describes the dedicated service of the church council members who ended their terms: Diane Shanks (Evangelism) and Marge Kollmansberger (Worship). Thank you for the years you gave to Zion.



Council Members to be Installed

All Church Council members will be installed on Sunday, January 6th during both services. The new Council Officers and Members are: Pat Emon (Evangelism), Wendy Spaeth (Parish Education), Denise Marg (Worship). The list of all council members are on page 9.



Christmas Undecorating

What goes up, must come down. On Sunday, January 6th, the Christmas tree and decorations will be taken down. Please plan to stay after the 8 a.m. worship on January 6th to help out. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Thank You

A big THANK YOU to all who contributed to Operation Christmas. You made someone who might not have received a gift this Christmas very happy. Packages were delivered to Lutheran Social Services. Each year we receive many thank yous from those receiving the gifts.



Baptism

On Sunday, December 23rd, Kailyn Leigh Kline, daughter of William and Allison Kline received the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Kailyn's baptismal sponsors are Nathan Redetzke and Heather Seubert. Kailyn was born on October 9, 2007. May God bless her and her family.



Service of Thanksgiving

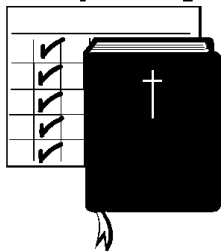
A service of Thanksgiving was held for Esther A. Ehrike on Friday, December 21st at the Sauter/Kundinger funeral home. Esther died on Sunday, December 16th at Bethel Nursing Home in Arpin. May God grant her eternal rest.

Bible Study - Ecclesiastes

Most of us at one time or another have asked the question: "What is the meaning of life?" When we ask that questions, we are having an "Ecclesiastes moment."

The Tuesday morning Bible Study will be taking a look at this interesting book in six sessions. Join us on Tuesday mornings 9 to 11 a.m. in the conference room. Pastor Sue will be teaching these sessions.

WEEKLY Study Group



Daily Discipleship Adult Bible Study

Daily Discipleship is an adult Bible Study held each Sunday morning, beginning on September 16th at 9:00 a.m. in the new Conference room by the offices. Daily Discipleship takes a look at the Gospel text for that Sunday and deepens our journey in God's word. Information and background for the text will be given in hand out form. The class will be facilitated by Pastor Sue and other lay members.

Acolyte Training

Training for 4th—8th graders who missed earlier training will be on Sunday, Jan. 18th at 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. Go to your classroom and then come to the sanctuary at 9:15. If unable to attend, contact the office or Grace Carpenter (687-4348). If a problem with your child being an acolyte you may also contact the office or Grace. Thanks for your help as we train your children in this important ministry.



55,000 square feet of Indoor
GAMES ~ RIDES ~ SPORT

Monday, February 4, 2008
(Stratford has NO SCHOOL)

Cost: \$19.00 / 3 hrs unlimited play
+ pizza & pop at 1:00 p.m.
Have fun from 1:00 p.m – 4:00 p.m

Activities: Laser tag, bumper cars,
go-karts, climbing wall,
mini-bowling, arcade, batting cage

Sign up in the Narthex

Open to all ages, members and non-members
Under 16 yrs old: must be accompanied by an adult

Organized by Youth & Family Team

Snack List

The following families are responsible for snack during Sunday school (please have it there by 8:30 a.m.). Please be available to help distribute snacks for the helpers and pick up and clean kitchen after distribution. Each family is to bring enough for about 50 children.

Jan. 6	Neil Burrows Family Dan Weber Family
Jan. 13	Tim Schoenherr Family Lori O'Neil Family
Jan 20	Dale Federwitz Family Frank Guralski Family
Jan 27	James Weiland Family Pat Wrench Family



Sunday School Calendar

- January 6—Baptismal Journey for Grade 2 **is canceled.**
Epiphany activities in the Family Center
- January 13—Baptismal Journey for 3 years olds on “Prayers”
- January 20—Baptismal Journey for Grade 3 on “Worship”
Sunday school sings 8 a.m.—3 year—first grade
Sunday school sings 10:15 a.m. 2nd grade—6th grade
Acolyte Training 4th—8th graders
- January 27—Annual Meeting—Sunday school will be held

The J Team

January 30th with games, devotion and activity. Keith Grell & Welch Families are in charge of food and the Stroetz Family is in charge of beverages.

Disciples for Christ

Disciples for Christ will be held on January 20th at 5:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space. Tiffany Oertel will be speaking.

Baptismal Journey

The second grade Baptismal Journey on “Baptism” has been canceled due to the Epiphany celebration that day in the Family Center. A card will be sent as to the new date.

Souper Bowl Sunday

February 3, 2008

The Souper Bowl of Caring is transforming the nation’s biggest week-end of football into its largest youth led week-end of giving.

Since 1990, the Souper Bowl of Caring has raised more than \$33 million for individual charities across the country.

Drop a dollar in the soup pot on February 3rd as you leave worship. Your donation will go directly to the Stratford Food Pantry.

With your help, more dollars will be raised, more lives will be changed, and more young people will experience the joy of serving Christ by serving others.

“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Sunday School—January 6, 2008

A special Sunday School is planned for all students on January 6th. We will be celebrating Epiphany.

All Sunday School teachers, assistants and students will meet in the Family Center. Activities for that morning include:

- * Epiphany Songs—We Three Kings and King of Kings
- * Explanation of “Epiphany” by Pastor Sue
- * Snack— “King Cakes”
- * Meet the Wisemen
- * Craft-Crowns

See all of you on January 6th.

Confirmation Electives 6:00—7:30 p.m.

January 2—Quilt Making
January 9—Evan Almighty

Confirmation Retreat

January 11, 12th—Ten Commandments
Starts at 7:30 p.m. on Friday at the church and done by 2 p.m. on Saturday. (No supper will be served on Friday, but there will be a late night snack)

Confirmation Core Class 6:00—8:00 p.m.

“Ten Commandments”
Wednesday, January 16, 23, 30



Council Minutes

Zion Lutheran Church Council met on Monday, December 17, 2007. President Marty Ferris called the meeting to order. Pastor Sue led Devotions and Leadership Training.

During the meeting the Council:

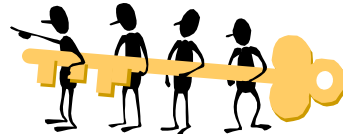
- Secretary Report M/S/C
- Treasurer Report M/S/C
- Boson Companies had their final walk-through. They assured us that they would work with us if we found any other changes or repairs that were needed.
- The Ketchup Fund went well and brought in approximately \$2,300. The election for Council officers and chairperson was held and the results are as follows:

President: Marty Ferris
 Vice President: Tadd Schoenherr
 Secretary: Rhonda Thompson
 Treasurer: Darla Leick
 Evangelism: Pat Emon
 Parish Education: Wendy Spaeth
 Property: Dan Schrameyer
 Stewardship: Rod Huther
 Worship Committee: Denise Marg
 Youth: Gary Wussow

- Thank you to all out-going Council members.
 - The Constitution will be reviewed and updated.
 - Deadline to get Committee Annual Reports to Wendy is 01/06/08 and the Annual Meeting will be 01/27/08.
 - M/S/C to create a policy that there is no cancellation of Sunday School or Church due to inclement weather.
- M/S/C to adjourn

Respectfully submitted by,
 Rhonda Thompson

With The 4 Keys



Family Devotions

As we begin a new year, read and reflect on the words from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Family Service

"We love, because God first loves us." (1 John 4:7-8). Be kind to the people you meet by offering them a smile, a greeting or a gesture as you pass by.

Caring Conversation

Several times this month, as a family, finish and discuss the following sentence:

One hope I have for the new year is ...

Rituals & Traditions

New Year's Eve is a celebration of the old and the new, the past and the future. Share about the past year. These sentence starters may be helpful:

One of the many blessings of this past year was ...

One of the disappointments of this past year was ...

One of the ways I have changed over the past year is ...

Building Update

Payment Date	Start Balance	Payment Amt	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
10/1/07	\$948,045.96	\$ 6,285.19	\$ 4,823.76	\$ 1,461.43	\$ 946,584.53
10/8/07	\$946,584.53			\$15,000.00	\$ 931,584.53
11/1/07	\$931,584.53	\$ 6,285.19	\$ 4,921.16	\$ 1,364.03	\$ 930,220.50
12/1/07	\$930,220.50	\$ 6,285.19	\$ 4,716.42	\$ 1,568.77	\$ 928,651.73

COST SUMMARY FOR 2006 ADDITION

\$1,214,719.97	Cost for building
\$ 2,111.37	Builder's risk insurance
\$ 2,607.00	Closing cost
<u>\$ 26,923.28</u>	Construction loan interest
\$1,246,361.62	

BENEVOLENCE

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actual (11-11-07)</u>	<u>Percent</u>
LSS	\$1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00	100%
Missionary	\$3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	100%
Crossways	\$1,900.00	\$ 1,945.50	102.39%
World Hunger	\$6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	100%
Mission Partners	\$ 750.00	\$ 780.10	104.01%

Thanks

Thank you for all of your prayers, thoughts and cards while Ted was a patient at the U.W. Hospital in Madison. Ted is home now and recovering.

Ted and Jeanette Schoenherr

Dear Children and Confirmation Class,

Thank you for coming to Northside singing Christmas carols and the beautiful gift. I also enjoyed frosting the Christmas cookies. Reminded me of the "Good Old Days". It was so much fun! Merry Christmas and God Bless each and every one of you.

Genny Grassl

Many thanks to Zion members for Christmas gifts and cards. Your generosity is overwhelming. I am grateful to serve beside you in Mission and Ministry. Thanks again!

Pastor Sue

Thanks to everyone who remembered me with cards, treats and gifts this Christmas. Also, thank you for the gift from the members of Zion. I appreciate the thoughtfulness during the year and all the help received from all of you.

Wendy Drexler

Thank you to all those who sent cards and gifts this Christmas. Thanks to the members of Zion for the Christmas gift. It was appreciated very much.

Janice Lee

Thanks to the members of Zion for the gift given for Christmas this year. It was greatly appreciated.

Gerry Viegut

Thanks to the members of Zion for the gift given for Christmas.

Patti Swenson

Thanks to Zion for the Christmas gift given us.

Pat and Ardell Emon



Thanks to Zion members for the gift given for Christmas.

Judy Polege, Marge Redetzke and Lori Uthmeier

Thanks

- To those who helped decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.
- To everyone who contributed poinsettias and bulletin covers.
- To those who gave and brought in the Christmas tree in the sanctuary and decorated it.
- To all the Sunday school kids and adults for the great job in the Sunday school program.
- To everyone who helps host the adult and Sunday school fellowship.
- To our organists, Judy Polege, Marge Redetzke and Lori Uthmeier.
- To our choir members and the people who give of their talents for special music.
- To our janitors who keep the church looking great.
- To our Council and Team members for all their work.
- To the group of people who help monthly with the newsletter.
- To Pastor Sue for all she does to coordinate the church activities.
- To all our staff for their hard work all year.
- And to everyone who participates in the mission and ministry of Zion Lutheran Church.

New Web Page Design www.zionlc.com

Zion's web page is available for your use! Please take the time to enjoy the features. The web site information will be current and informative. Committees can let the church office know if they want something included on the web page.

GoodSearch.com

Here is a new and easy way to raise money for Zion. Use GoodSearch.com for your search engine and enter Zion Lutheran (Stratford) as the charity you want to support and verify and each search will raise .01 cent for Zion. It doesn't seem like a lot, but we just received a check for \$36.48 for using Good Search which is powered by Yahoo!

There is also GoodShop (the new online shopping mall) which we could make about 3% on the purchases. So it does pay to use GoodSearch.com. Be sure to spread the word to your friends.





**Christmas Program 2007
"Christmas Around the World"
Sunday, December 16th**



Puppet Ministry News at Zion

Thank you to all who supported the Puppet Bake Sale.
It was a huge success!

Practice Schedule:

January 2, 2008

5:00 – 6:00 Practice

**Note time change. NO SUPPER

January 16, 2008

5:00 – 6:00 Practice

**Note time change. NO SUPPER

January 30, 2008

5:00 – 6:00 Practice

**Note time change. NO SUPPER



One-Way-Street Puppet Festival

March 28-29, 2008

**Everything I need to know about life,
I learned from Noah's Ark**

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you do so something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When your stressed, float a while.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Blood Pressure Screening

At the Stratford Community Hall 9:30—11:00 a.m.
2nd Wednesday of the month

Steak Feed

The Stratford VFW will have its monthly steak feed
on January 8th

Community Outreach Meal

St. John's Lutheran Church, Spencer will serve a free meal on the 4th
Tuesday of each month, from 5:00—6:30 p.m.

Melody Gardens Skateland

Christian Music Skate Date: November 23rd 7:30 to 10 p.m.
Admission \$2.75, skate rent \$.50

Story Night

Come in from the cold on Tuesday Jan. 8th @ 6:30pm
at the Stratford Branch Library family story night.
Enjoy some warm winter stories with your family!

Lutheran College

Symphony Orchestra
Saturday, January 26, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
Wausau East High School auditorium
2607 N 18th St., Wausau, WI
\$5 admission

For tickets call 1-800-4LUTHER or visit www.luthertickets.com

Financial Freedom Seminar

Saturday, January 12th
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Alliance Missionary Church
2203 E. Becker Rd, Marshfield
\$25 per person
More info: 387-3654

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

Church Office Hours:
Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Marty Ferris
V. President: Tadd Schoenherr
Secretary: Rhonda Thompson
Treasurer: Darla Leick
Evangelism: Pat Emon
Parish Ed: Wendy Spaeth
Property: Dan Schrameyer
Stewardship: Rod Huther
Worship: Denise Marg
Youth: Gary Wussow

PASTOR: Sue Eidahl

Home Phone: 687-4381
E-mail: eides@zionlc.com
Parish Associate: Janice Lee
E-mail: janicelee@zionlc.com
Secretary: Wendy Drexler
E-mail: wendy@zionlc.com

CHURCH OFFICE:

715-687-4110
FAX: 715-687-3541
WEB SITE: www.zionlc.com

WORSHIP ON SUNDAY AT 8:00 & 10:15 a.m.

Sunday School—9:00 a.m.

Summer Worship: 9:00 a.m.

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The 21st of each month.

ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

Thursdays by 9:00 a.m.

WEEKLY E-MAIL

Goes out on Monday early morning.
If you would like to receive it, please
email janicelee@zionlc.com

Please keep the office updated on:

- Address changes
- Births
- Deaths
- Hospitalizations