

# *The Messenger*



Zion Lutheran Church

(651) 459-3010

Volume 1     January, 2012

**Office Hours—**

**8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.— Monday through Thursday  
Closed Fridays**

**ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 29, 2012  
11:00 A.M.**

**(or when the 10:00 A.M. service ends)**

Please plan on attending the Annual Meeting. Your vote is important to Zion. One of the things on the agenda is:

- Election of three (3) new council members each for a three year term and one (1) youth member for a one (1) year term. Candidates so far are:
- Judy Alverson, Kathy Bracher, Zac Dockter, Jason Gamache, Jim Janssen, and Daryl Nohrenberg for adult candidates.
- Carley Eriksen and Alex Strauss for youth candidates.

Thank you!

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I wonder what it was like for Mary and Joseph and Jesus after the glorious days in Bethlehem, when everything returns to normal in Nazareth. There is no record of those early years of their life in Nazareth (except for two trips to Jerusalem). I would expect that they might have been a pretty unremarkable family. What scripture does say of Jesus during that time is that he “grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.” (Luke 2:40) To the average Nazarene skeptic it might have appeared that Jesus was just another neighborhood kid. They didn't recognize the favor that was upon him.

That's the problem with an ordinary God-filled life. It just doesn't appear to be remarkable. Much like our own lives from day to day, as Christians with God inside there's normally nothing surprising about us. Being a Christian doesn't make you more powerful, prestigious or popular. You're just one of the crowd. The favor is there, but it's not flashy. That's the way God intended it to be.

What is remarkable about the God-life in you, is the favor that rests upon you. It's not very obvious. Some people might see it, but most people cannot. Webster defines “favor” as “friendly regard shown toward another especially by a superior, approving consideration.” In other words, God appreciates you. What does it mean to you that God appreciates you? This is the kind of atmosphere Jesus grew up in.

If you grew up in a critical atmosphere you might not be able to understand that God appreciates you. As you grow up your superiors criticize you, analyze you, evaluate you, judge your performance, give you a grade. You learn to define who you are by how others see you. How often did you get a sign of appreciation from a parent, teacher, or other adult?

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The Good News is that God appreciates you, approves of you. The Holy Spirit is the seal of his approval upon you. The world will not appreciate you anyway near as much as God does. His Holy Spirit in you is the proof that you are approved by God. If you have any question as to whether you are appreciated (because we rarely get the kind of affirmation we need from those around us) just look inside you where the Holy Spirit dwells. Let his Joy over you become your strength and shield. Let his Peace guard and keep you heart. Remember, you are walking into a new year, with God's approval upon you.

Pastor Mike

## **TRANSFORMATIONAL TEAM NEWS**

We have been meeting every two weeks for the past three years, learning how the transformational process works, and leading in some changes to help Zion Lutheran become a more vibrant and influential leader in our community. The ELCA has helped us during that time with a grant to cover part of the cost of hiring a pastor. That grant was designed to diminish over the first three years, in three steps. Each time part of the grant was completed Zion Lutheran took financial responsibility for that share. The last part of that grant is finishing in January 2012. So, beginning in February Zion will be taking responsibility for that third part, which will mean an overall increase in our budget of 1.5% for 2012, which amounts to a monthly increase of \$583. The transformational process will continue thereafter, with the expectation that opportunities for outreach and ministry in and to the community will continue.

Pastor Mike

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Dear Friends,

The water on the lake was like glass. The reflection of the tree that rested on its surface was clear and smooth. Everything was still and unchanging. Unbeknownst to the gentle lake below, on a branch of the tree far above a drop was forming. A tiny bit of water was trickling down the length of the branch and gathering in ever increasing volume at its tip. At precisely the right moment, (a moment known only to the Creator) the drop of water – DROPS! Plink – it goes into the still water below, breaking the glass image and sending ripples out and out and out eventually hitting the far shore of the lake. It only takes one drop to change the whole scene. Now imagine what a rainstorm of drops would do.

On that same lake there sits a small boat. It is there for public use, paddles and all. On one particular day it was apparent that the boat had not been used in some time. The paddle handles were splintered apart in such a way as to make them useless. The boat was dirty and nearly full of water. It was well on its way to sinking down under the water and becoming useless to everyone. But there, resting gently on the surface of the water in the boat was hope in the form of a plastic milk container, cut into the shape of a scoop. A single hand reached out, took hold of the hope and scooped up a bail-full of water, and then another, and another. So much water, one little scoop. Surely there was a faster and more efficient way to make this boat useful again. Nope – it takes many hands bailing a little at a time.

Mother Teresa once said, “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” A small drop of water, a single hand of hope. Here at Zion Lutheran Church we have been that drop of water, that hand of hope for over 40 years. In the midst of our busy lives it is perhaps good to remember and reflect on all the ministries we have going on in this house of God. Every day of the week our building is being used to build up the

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Kingdom of God. Boys are being led into a life of faith, discipline and service in Boy Scout meetings and girls in Girl Scout meetings. Quilters are busily sewing, piecing and tying quilts that will be sent to people in need all over the world. At numerous times during the week members are meeting for various Bible studies. There are so many others, too numerous to mention here. On Sundays we come together in fellowship to worship the Lord in song, prayer and the Word, and communion. How is all this possible? It is possible because we have taken to heart that offering prayer that we say every Sunday: “Merciful God, we offer with JOY and THANKSGIVING what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.” The thing that makes all this possible is called “stewardship”.

Stewardship is a way of life. Stewardship is a conversion of heart. Stewardship is centered in the Eucharist. Stewardship is a disciple’s response. Stewardship is part of our vocation. Stewardship is an honor and an opportunity. Stewardship changes lives, our own and others. Stewardship is an expression of love.

Each of us has our own stewardship story.

What is your stewardship story?

YBIC,

Chuck Kaiser

## **OFFERING COUNTER NEEDED**

An offering counter is needed for the **third Sunday** as Julie Wilmert is leaving. Please let the church office know if you are interested. Contact Jerry Olson, Stewardship/Resource Team or the church office.

## **YOUTH/EDUCATION MEMBERS NEEDED**

Zion very much needs members – and leadership – for the Youth & Education Team. Due to work conflicts and other obligations, there are currently no members of this team, just the council representative to that team. We really need someone with an active interest in youth programming and education who can step forward and provide “stewardship-by-doing” for our young members.

For a long time now Zion has been in a Catch-22 situation with youth. Dwindling numbers of children in the congregation meant less activities and less activities meant families with kids leaving for churches with larger youth programs. But we DO have children at Zion and an obligation to minister to them through youth activities and education. The stronger these programs can become the more attractive Zion can be to new and younger families.

If you feel called to serve in this way, please contact Todd Caughey at 769-1221. Thank you.

### **LOOK WHO IS TURNING “70”!**

**JACKIE MARTIN      JANUARY 12, 2012**

How much fun would it be for Jackie to get a lot of birthday cards this year. She would love it! So if you have time, please send her a card at the following address:

Jackie Martin  
Water Edge Assisted Living—Apt. 106  
11040 N. State Road 77  
Hayward, Wisconsin 54843

Thank you very much!      Diane Purcell



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

### JANUARY

1-1	Heil, Maren	1-1	Getty, Samuel
1-2	Heyerdahl, Rose	1-6	Matovich, Peter
1-8	Vaala, Howard	1-12	Martin, Jackie
1-15	Luedtke, Arthur	1-17	Steinkraus, Mike
1-20	Anderson, Dave	1-23	Walton, Harold
1-23	Starkson, Hjordes	1-24	Shelton, Ronald
1-24	Collins, Sharon	1-24	Umbreit, Gary
1-24	Howland, Jan	1-27	Stenlund, Gary
1-28	Houdek, Carol	1-28	Steinkraus, Bob
1-30	Nohrenberg, Sarah		

## **BIBLE STUDIES**

### **Wednesday evenings: - 6:30 P.M.**

Divine Drama—Our Narrative

Consists of an overview study of the New Testament.

Led by Pastor Mike

### **Second Monday of the month—10:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.**

“To Follow and Serve: The Gospel of Mark” from the Lutheran Women Today”.

Led by Evie Boyer

Please contact her at 459-4261.

## **GREETING CARDS**

If you know of any women within our congregation that would appreciate a “thinking of you” card, please contact me at 459-2065. Thank you. Sheila Paulsen



**ZIONS MENS CLUB  
ANNUAL CHILI DINNER  
SET FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

Zion Men's Fellowship will host their annual chili dinner on Sunday, February 5 (Scout Sunday), with serving from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The event is open to the general public, so be sure to invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

The menu will include hot, mild, and wild homemade chili; toppings, crackers, hot dogs, chips, French bread, brownies, lemonade, milk, and coffee. Tickets will cost \$6 for persons 12 and over, and \$4 for children age four to 11; children age three and under may eat at no charge.

Tickets will be sold at the door, and in advance in Fellowship Hall during both Sunday coffee hours, beginning on January 1. Purchasing tickets in advance is recommended. Orders for chili in quart containers will also be taken in advance, at \$7 per quart.

Net proceeds of the event will again go to Boy Scout Troop 286, the troop sponsored by Zion Lutheran Church. Matching funds have been applied for from the Dakota-Washington Chapter, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Please join us for this great annual event!



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## ZION BOOK CLUB

Zion Book Club: meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7 pm at Zion.

- **January 2012: Friendship Care by Lynn Hinton**
- **February 2012—Waiting for Morning by**
- **Karen Kingsbury**
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Discussions are led by Evie Boyer. All are welcome – please join us. Even if you haven't finished the book, you will enjoy the discussion and fellowship.

**Friendship Care** has a lot of good humor, tender moments and life lessons that abound in this heartwarming portrait of small town Southern life that is anything but simple and quiet. Five churchgoing women from Hope Springs, N.C., animate this humorous, poignant tale of coming to terms with one's weaknesses, honoring the fragility of life, loving passionately, laughing through tears and thinking with the heart.

Evie Boyer

## ZION PRAYER CHAPEL AVAILABLE FOR USE BY ALL MEMBERS AND VISITORS

Located off the narthex in the former north coatroom, Zion's prayer chapel is open to all Zion members and visitors during regular church office hours. In the midst of life's complexities, the space provides a private, quiet, serene, and inspirational opportunity for prayer, meditation, and reflection. There is seating for two in the prayer chapel.

## **NEWACTIVITY AT ZION!**

We now have a Photography Club (no name yet, but I thought the “Snap Shots” would be kind of fun). We are covering many topics, especially those having to do with these complicated snapshot cameras most of us have now. There are a LOT of helpful YouTube videos out there that we will use as well as some other resources from the library. We meet the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at church.

Contact Pastor Mike for more details.

## **ZION FAMILY ARCHERY**

The Zion Family Archery Group now meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at **High Five Archery in Stillwater**. We shoot for 60 – 90 minutes and end with a brief prayer and meditation. All are welcome to shoot or just watch and enjoy fellowship. We encourage you to stop by with your family or neighbors and experience the fun.

Contact us:

**Doug and Gail Jones**

**Barnsdale48@comcast.net**

**651-459-4957 Home**

**651-323-4231 Cell**

## **THANK YOU!!!!**

Social Outreach Committee took 40.6 pounds of outer and underwear to the Union Gospel Mission A “BIG” thank you goes to the congregation for helping us with this worthwhile event!

Karen Keiper

**COUNCIL PERSON ON DUTY**

Jan. 1 Jerry Neilson  
Jan. 8 Chuck Kaiser  
Jan. 15 Kay Richert  
Jan. 22 Jerry Neilson  
Jan. 29 Carley Eriksen

**OFFERING COUNTERS**

Jan. 1 Shelia Paulsen  
Mary Hammerly  
Jan/ 8 Julie Wickard  
Don Leslie  
Jan. 15 Julie Willmert  
Marie Prior  
Jan. 22 Jim Spears  
Paul Paulsen  
Jan. 29 Ron Eriksen  
Don Leslie

**HOSPITALITY DESK**

Jan. 1 Judy Gisselquist  
Jan. 8 Diane Shelton  
Jan. 15 Mary Hammerly  
Jan. 29 Donna Houseman

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!**

**Please check the sign up sheets on the tri fold board in the narthex (by the Secret Sister window). We need people to help with communion, be greeters, readers, or to be at the Hospitality desk to greet visitors (and members!!) This is one way for you to become more involved in the workings of Zion without making a big commitment!! There is training for helping to either set up or serve communion.**

**Zion Lutheran Church**

**General Office**—651-459-3010, office @zioncg.org

**Pastor Mike**—pastormike@zioncg.org.

**Kathy**—Admin. Asst.—kathy@zioncg.org

**Kathy Bracher**—Messenger Articles—cbracher@comcast.net

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# Zion Lutheran Church

[www.zioncg.org](http://www.zioncg.org)



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