

*“From heav’n above to earth I come  
To bear good news to ev’ry home.”*

# From Pastor's desk

DECEMBER 2020

Dear Fellow-Redeemed of Zion,

We all had hopes back in Lent, that the virus would be short in duration, and things could get back to normal, both at home and in our church. Now we are looking at hope once again, that the virus will end soon, and that vaccines will be safe and effective. What a great gift that would be!

Here is the vaccine that prevents the plague of eternal death: The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. The body and blood of Jesus renders us safe, regardless of what the evil world can put in our path, including the virus.



We are very thankful that so far, few in our faith family have been affected by the pandemic. We pray that this blessing continues for everyone.

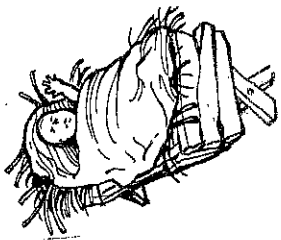
Now onward into Advent towards Christmas. As of now, we are planning the Christmas Eve Candlelight service as usual. We will try to have Sunday School and Confirmands involved. And we will sing our favorite hymns and carols. And we will share the hope that we all have concerning the coming of Jesus at the end of days.

Meanwhile, we care for each other, do the best we can with work and family, and yes, even recreation where possible. Our prayers will continue to plead for an end to the pandemic and the evil which has gripped our nation in these latter days.

And we will sing with the angels as we remember the first coming of Jesus, all the while hoping for His second coming soon. Amen!

Blessed Advent!

Pastor J  



# Zion News...



## Thank You...

The Helping Hands Food Pantry thanks members of the Zion congregation for their generous October food drive. The food pantry relies on the community for food donations and you have helped out not only with our weekly shopping days but also with the Thanksgiving food boxes that were distributed. We are so blessed to live in a community that helps us feed those in need during this very unusual year. Thank You!

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## Food Drive Continues

By popular demand, our food drive for the Helping Hands Food Pantry will continue until the end of the year. Please help support those in our community with food challenges.

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## 2021 Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2021 have arrived and are in the process of being assigned. They should be available by mid-December for you to pick up. If you don't find a box with your name on it, please contact Eric Oswald. If you are unable to pick up your envelopes in person, contact the church office to make delivery arrangements.



## 2021 Membership Directory

The 2021 Membership Directory is scheduled to be printed early in January. Please be sure to notify the church office if your address or phone number has changed.

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## Advent and Christmas Eve Services

As of now, Advent and Christmas Eve services are being planned. We are following the IDPH guidelines for social distancing and face coverings.

Midweek Advent Services are each Wednesday beginning at 7:00 P.M.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Thursday, December 24 beginning at 7:00 P.M.

If you are concerned about the number of folks attending the services and whether we have sufficient space to properly social distance, here are the measures we have taken to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Every other pew has been cordoned off. Family groups are encouraged to sit together.

If the Sanctuary is too full for your comfort, the tables and chairs in the Parish Hall can be utilized.

Likewise, chairs can be set up in the All Saint's Addition for your comfort.

## End of the Year Gifting

As you consider your end of the year gift giving, we are providing names and address of associated organizations for those special gifts or those hard to buy for family members.

This listing of organizations is not in any particular order and represents only a small number of worthy groups for your consideration

We hope that Zion would be considered along with the following:

Lutheran High School  
3500 West Washington St.  
Springfield, IL 62711

Concordia Seminary  
801 Seminary Place  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Camp CILCA  
4124 Camp Cilca Road  
Cantrall, IL 62625

Concordia Theological Seminary  
6600 N. Clinton St.  
Ft. Wayne, IN 46825

Lutheran World Relief  
P.O. Box 17061  
Baltimore, MD 21297-1061

Lutheran Hour Ministries  
660 Mason Ridge Center Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63141

Lutheran Women's Missionary League  
801 Seminary Place  
Suite L010  
St. Louis, MO 63105

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## ***Thrivent Choice Dollars***

*Some products sold by Thrivent Financial qualify to earn Thrivent Choice Dollars which you can allocate to LCMS organizations. If you have a Thrivent product be sure to allocate your Thrivent Choice Dollars before the end of the year. If you are unsure whether your Thrivent product earns Thrivent Choice Dollars, check with your Thrivent representative.*



# CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

*of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod*

## *News that You Can Use- Mid-month Update*

**Here is a list of additional items that were not available at the time of the November's "News that You Can Use" publication. Because of the time sensitive nature of these items, we are sharing now.**

### **ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SHARE**

***"Through the Old Testament in a Church Year"- audio resource by Issues, etc. with Ken Schurb***

#### **Through the Old Testament in a Church Year**

You can find resources that survey the Old Testament in a year. Here, however, is one that does so in a *church year*. Going through Old Testament history in chronological order, it correlates various Old Testament incidents with the church year's themes and emphases.

This audio resource will consist of a series of *Issues, etc.* interviews with CID staff member Ken Schurb during the 2020-2021 church year. The typical interview will run about 25 minutes, closer to 20 minutes if listeners fast-forward through various announcements. The interview recordings will be available on demand at <https://issuesetc.org/archive>

The series will commence on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2020, with an hour-long premiere that will highlight the biblical teachings of Creation (appropriate for Thanksgiving) and of the Fall and first prophecy of the coming Deliverer (for the First Sunday in Advent). In each succeeding week, God willing, you will find at least one interview, occasionally more than that, to unfold the story of the Old Testament through the church year. The series will end on the Sunday before Thanksgiving in 2021.

After listening to each of these interviews, you can ask yourself:

1. Now, how did that go? – What was the Bible story on which the interview centered?
2. Now, what is the Lord saying to me? – What was the Law in this biblical account? Where was the Gospel?
3. Now, how does this apply? – What applications to life did this interview state? Or which others might be suggested by it?

Listen for these interviews week by week. Dig into the Old Testament. At the same time, renew your acquaintance with and appreciation for the church year. It all centers in Christ!

## **ACROSS OUR DISTRICT**

### **YouthLead Training February 25-28, 2021 – St. Louis, MO**

**YouthLead** (formerly Lutheran Youth Fellowship) has equipped teens to develop and use their leadership skills as they serve Christ within their congregations and communities. The Synodical annual leadership training event in St. Louis is led by our teen Executive Team and gives teens the tools they need to mature in their faith, become leaders in their congregations, and reach out to their peers with the love of Christ.

**Who is Invited** Any high school youth who is an active member of an LCMS congregation can join us. We encourage you to contact your district before you register as some districts have supports for those attending this training. (CID has budgeted limited scholarship funds). We prefer teens attend with an adult leader from their congregation. Arrangements can be made for them to come unaccompanied.

Registration for youth and adults is \$375. This covers your food, housing, supplies and a shirt during the whole training. You will need to also cover your transportation to and from St. Louis. REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW. GO TO [LCMS.ORG/YOUTHLEAD](https://www.lcms.org/youthlead) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

### **Responding to Idols- Book Discussion (Zoom format)**

Identifying idols stands out as important in evangelism. When the church brings the Gospel to people around us, we should understand the idols we are up against. And we need to recognize the idols in our own hearts and lives.

Idolatry lies at the heart of all sin, so our dealing with it cannot be superficial. For when we sinners fail to fear and love and trust in God, we all find substitutes. We look for substitutes not only for God as Creator, but also as Redeemer and Sanctifier.

As a theologian and a preacher, Martin Luther had much to say about idolatry. Even when he wasn't using the word "idolatry," he was engaging with the subject. He did so regularly as he expounded God's Word in pulpit and classroom.

The book *The Unholy Trinity: Martin Luther against the Idol of Me, Myself, and I* by Michael Lockwood (CPH, 2016) lays out Luther's multi-faceted case against idolatry and for the one saving God. This book applies the reformer's biblical insights to our times today. For our idolatrous culture takes even good things and casts them as ultimate things. It coaxes us to do likewise. Against this, Dr. Luther provides stimulating spiritual help, centered on Christ.

Starting on Thursday, January 14, CID Evangelism Executive Ken Schurb will conduct one-hour Zoom discussions of this book every other week, with a break in February. Sessions will be live on Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. on:

Jan. 14 (Introduction and chapter 1), Jan. 28 (chapters 2 & 3), Feb. 25 (chapter 4) Mar. 11 (chapter 5), Mar. 25 (chapter 6), Apr. 8 (chapter 7), Apr. 22 (chapter 8), May 6 (chapter 9). Any "make-up" session that proves necessary would occur on May 20.

These conversations are open to all members of CID churches. Pastors and other rostered church workers are especially encouraged to participate. Send an e-mail expressing interest. We will take that as your registration, and reply with the appropriate Zoom link.

The sessions on the above dates will be recorded. If you cannot participate live, you can view the session later.

There is no cost for the sessions. In fact, CID will provide the first 25 registrants for these sessions a *gratis* copy of the book *The Unholy Trinity*. (Please reimburse the District \$3.00 for shipping costs.) If you register by January 3, 2021, we can mail a copy of the book early enough for you to read the introduction and chapter one before the first session on Jan. 14. Be sure to include both your e-mail address and your postal address in your e-mail message to [kschurb@cidlcms.org](mailto:kschurb@cidlcms.org)

## Poinsettia Order Form

Poinsettia will adorn our church again this Christmastime. The cost will be \$10.00 each and the colors to choose are white or red.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to order Poinsettia in memory of or in honor of someone, your payment and order form need to be in the church office no later than December 13. Poinsettia will arrive in time for our Christmas Eve service.

Please indicate below how many you would like and your color choice:

\_\_\_\_\_ White

\_\_\_\_\_ Red

In memory of:

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In honor of:

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# December Celebrations



## Birthday's

Ann Oschwald	12/10
Evan Manker	12/11
Isaac Rennecker	12/13
Harold Jurgens	12/15
Andrew Gleason	12/16
Sarah Bloch	12/17
Jo Anne Neathery	12/17
Shannon Rennecker	12/17
Diego White	12/17
Jennifer Thompson	12/19
Tristen Tewes	12/20
Laura Hecht	12/24
Cindy Pritchard	12/24
Mary Bernoteit	12/27
Dawson Wieland	12/27
Barry Morgan	12/29



## Baptism Birthday

Darrel Patrick	12/1
Debbie Edie	12/2
Jacob Hermes	12/2
Aiden Chipol	12/4
Steve Jurgens	12/4
Ben Pritchard	12/5
Chris Carter	12/12
Norm Stremsterfer	12/13
Ann Oschwald	12/15
Dave White	12/15
Robison Carter	12/17
Sue Matzat	12/18
Andrew Gleason	12/26
Parker James Kmett	12/28
Jean Morgan	12/28

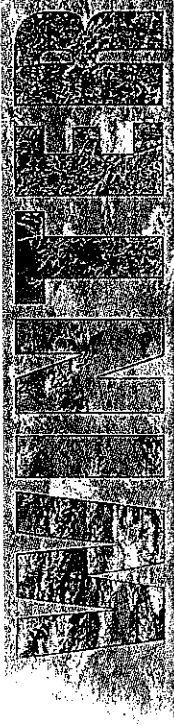
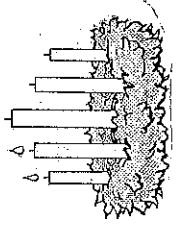
## Wedding Anniversary

John & Debbie Edie 12/23





# December 2020

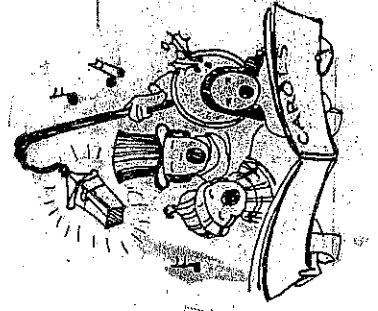
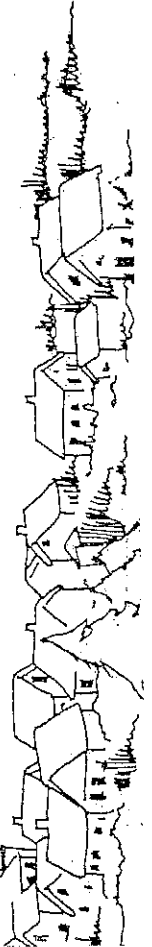


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.			Midweek Advent Service 7:00 P.M.			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.			Midweek Advent Service 7:00 P.M.			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.			Midweek Advent Service 7:00 P.M.			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M. Installation of Officers Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.				Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 P.M.	Church Office Closed	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.			Church Council 6:45 P.M.			

Notes: Elder: Dennis Boesdorfer

Due to the continuing pandemic, the Midweek Suppers will not be held prior to our Advent Services this year.

Joy to the World



Zion's Newsletter  
December, 2020

Zion Lutheran Church  
Rev. Don Pritchard  
525 North Cartwright  
P.O. Box 167  
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677  
(217) 626-1282

Sunday School/Bible Class 9:00 A.M.  
Divine Service 10:15 A.M.

LCMS

Email: [zionpp@casscomm.com](mailto:zionpp@casscomm.com)