

For
Unto Us
A Child
Is Born

From Pastor's desk...

December 2021

Dear Fellow-Redeemed of Zion,

Advent! Celebration! Gifts! Family visits! Wonderful food and all the things we traditionally expect at this time of year, coming soon!


What does God expect at this time of year? The same things He is looking for the year around: His redeemed people, gathered around Word and Sacrament, with their Pastors and fellow Christians singing praises to their Savior, and showing the world that their most holy faith is not in things, but in His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. He is looking for His people, constant in prayer and service to one another, sharing both griefs and joys with one another, and encouraging one another, "even as the time draws near."

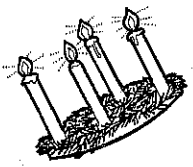
That "time" will be the day that time as we know it will come to an end. That "time," or "Day of the Lord" will shatter all worldly preoccupations and false beliefs. All the heresies will end. The mouths of all false prophets will be closed, and the lies of the Devil will be totally revealed. What "day" or "time" is that?

It is the day of Christ's second and final Advent! Those whose faith has remained unwavering will rejoice. Those who have rejected Bethlehem's child will weep and grind their teeth. Those for whom daily repentance and faith has been their humble exercise in the graces of their Baptism will cheer their eternal salvation and be with Jesus and all the saints in a paradise that will have no end.

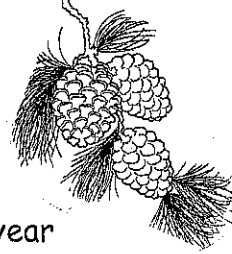
Meanwhile, we wait. We rejoice that we can in fact review Jesus' first coming, in humble circumstances and all the wonders of His love as we "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" the wonderful Bible stories. They are all for you and me, lost sinners if Jesus had not come the first time, and resurrected saints when he comes again!

Blessed Advent and Christmas to all!

Pastor P. 



Zion News....



Thank You! As the 2021 calendar year comes to an end, and the new church year begins, we'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who has contributed to the success at Zion over the past year. So many members of the faith family are quietly working 'behind the scenes' to ensure that our services and events proceed without interruption. The past couple of years have presented challenges never before experienced at Zion, but our members have stepped forward to be sure that God's House of Worship at Zion endures. Thanks to all for your service!

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2022 Membership Directory... The 2022 Membership Directory will be published in January. Please be sure the church office has your current address, phone numbers and email addresses to include in the directory.

2022 Offering Envelope Packets.... Have arrived and are currently being assigned. Your packet should be available to pick up on the table in the Parish Hall beginning on December 19. If you don't find a packet assigned to you, please see Eric Oschwald.

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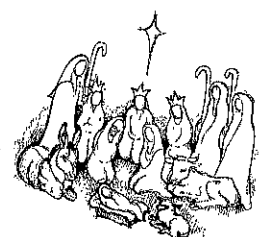
Dear Friends..

As always we send our thanks for the bulletins and wonderful services. We wish we were there with you. God's blessing on your ministry.

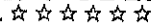
In Him,
Eddie & Marie Balfour

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Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sherman, invites you to join them on Sunday, January 2, 2022 at 3:00 P.M. for installation of Pastor Matthew Scheider as head pastor of Good Shepherd. A meal is planned for after the service, so reservations are required. RSVP by Sunday, December 19 by calling (217) 496-3149 or email churchoffice@gsslcms.org.



Advent



Advent begins on Sunday, November 28. Our mid-week Advent services will be held on Wednesday evenings, preceded by a light supper. Below is our worship schedule:

Sunday, November 28

Divine Service 10:15 A.M.

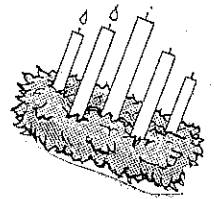
Wednesday, December 1

Supper at 6:00 P.M. (Sloppy Joes) prepared by John & Debbie Edie

Service at 7:00 P.M.

Sunday, December 5

Divine Service 10:15 A.M.



Wednesday, December 8

Supper at 6:00 P.M. (Pulled Pork) prepared by the Confirmands and their parents.

Service at 7:00 P.M.

Sunday, December 12

Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M.

Wednesday, December 15

Supper at 6:00 P.M. (Polish Sausage & Sauerkraut) prepared by Mary Seipel.

Service at 7:00 P.M.

Sunday, December 19

Divine Service 10:15 A.M.

Wednesday, December 22

Supper at 6:00 P.M. (Pizza) prepared by Casey's, provided by Sue Matzat.

Children's Christmas Program at 7:00 P.M.



Friday, December 24

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 7:00 P.M.

**Plan to join us, and invite your family and friends,
as we travel to Bethlehem this year.**

Poinsettia Order Form

Poinsettia will adorn our Sanctuary again this Christmas season. If you would like to order Poinsettia in honor of/memory of someone, please complete the information below and return the order form and payment to the church office no later than December 12, 2021. Cost is \$ 13.50 each.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

#_____ Red

#_____ White

In Honor of

In Memory of

Pleasant Plains Helping Hands Food Pantry

We are once again collecting non-perishable food items, personal items and cleaning supplies to assist those less fortunate in our community. Our collection drive will continue until the end of December.

Suggested items needed include:



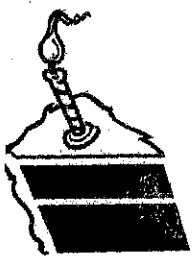
*Cereal
Pasta & Sauces
Canned Vegetables
Canned Meats
Canned Fruits
Flour
Sugar
Spices*



*Box Meals - Hamburger Helper, etc.
Condiments – Ketchup, Mustard, Pickle Relish, Mayo etc.
Laundry Detergent
Dish Soap
Shampoo
Body Soap
Deodorant*

Cash donations are also needed by the Food Pantry to purchase perishable items.

Your donations may be placed on the designated table in the Parish Hall. Please be sure to check expiration/use by dates on your donations.



December Celebrations



Birthdays

Ann Oschwald	12/10
Evan Manker	12/11
Isaac Rennecker	12/13
Harold Jurgens	12/15
Andrew Gleason	12/16
Sarah Bloch	12/17
JoAnne Neathery	12/17
Shannon Rennecker	12/17
Diego White	12/17
Jennifer Darnell	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

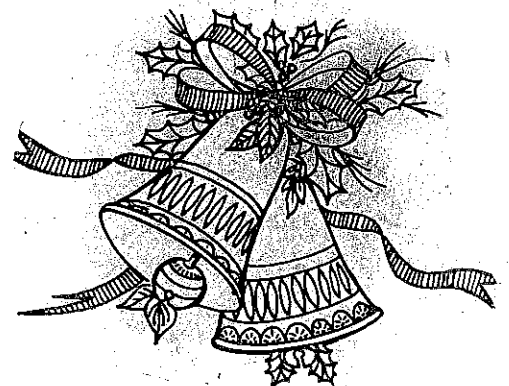
Baptism Birthday

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
Norman 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

YOUNG
MARRIEDS



Reason # 12

God Blesses Tithers

A man visits hell where he sees people sitting around a big table laden with food. Everyone has three-foot chopsticks with which to eat their food, but they are angry, frustrated, and hungry because the chopsticks are too long to get food into their mouths. Then he visits heaven, where he sees another table with an abundance of food. Once again the diners are using three-foot chopsticks, but they are joyful, content, and full.

The people have learned that by feeding and serving others with their chopsticks, they have plenty to eat.



This attitude of fulfillment and contentment belongs to all who are generous in giving to and serving others, for God blesses us as we give our tithes and offerings to the Lord's work. We don't give to be blessed, but the Lord promises to *"open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need"* (Malachi 3:10).

As we respond to God's love for us by giving, He reacts by giving us even more. *"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you"* (Luke 6:38). When we give to others, we experience one of the true joys of being Christians. The blessings we receive from God as a result of our generosity are much greater than anything we can give to Him. God doesn't need our gifts, but He asks us to give them, He accepts and uses them, and gives us joy in sharing them.

In our prayers, we can ask God to help us understand and experience the words of Solomon, *"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered"* (Proverbs 11:24).

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for teaching me the importance of giving and for giving me joy and satisfaction from sharing with others. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND, INC.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT-LCMS

1850 North Grand Avenue West
Springfield, IL 62702-1626



November 18, 2021

Dear Participating Churches and Schools in the Growth Bond Program,

God's Grace and Peace to you from the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund!

As communicated a few months ago, the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF) Growth Bond Program is now officially terminated. All growth bonds have been redeemed to their owners.

We have also received some requests for redemption of unused stamps, partially completed growth bond books, and previously unsubmitted growth bond books, but we know additional stamps still reside with our churches, schools, and children. You still have time to redeem them for face value, but they must be received by December 31, 2021, for redemption.

Please submit for redemption all unused stamps and stamps in booklets by December 31, 2021, to the CID-CEF (1850 N. Grand Ave. W., Springfield, IL 62702). We ask churches and schools to please communicate this request as necessary to members of your congregations and schools.

We thank you for participating in the Growth Bond program and pray that your youth have likewise grown spiritually from the knowledge that they have assisted with reaching souls by providing the use of their treasures to build and grow our churches and schools in the Central Illinois District.

Blessings,

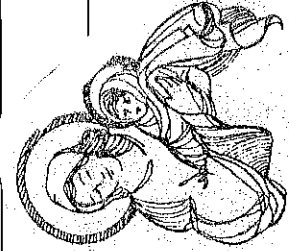
Christine Anderson
Executive Director
CID - Church Extension Fund



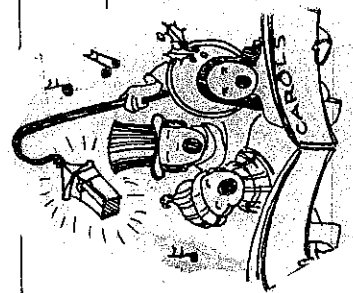
December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
			Midweek Advent Schedule Supper 6:00 P.M. Service 7:00 P.M.			Confirmand Class to Millikin Vespers
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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 Schedule Supper 6:00 P.M. Service 7:00 P.M.			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M. Installation of Officers Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.			Midweek Advent Schedule Supper 6:00 P.M. Service 7:00 P.M.			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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.			Children's Christmas Program Supper 6:00 P.M. Service 7:00 P.M.		Christmas Eve Service 7:00 P.M.	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
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.						
2	3	Notes: Elder - Bob TeRonde				



Christmas



Zion's Newsletter
December, 2021

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



*Have
A
Blessed
Christmas*

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

LCMS

Email: zionpp@casscomm.com
Website: www.zionpp.net



Come All Ye Faithful