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Zion Lutheran Church

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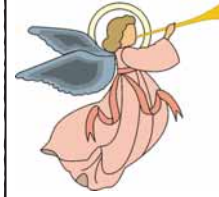
Pastor Barbara Koch

Address Service Requested



ZIONNEWS

December 2011 Zion Lutheran's Monthly Newsletter



The Miracle on *Your* Street...

We pushed ourselves away from the table, groaning with pleasure and patting our bellies – another

Thanksgiving dinner resting snugly under our belts.

We stood with difficulty, and ambled on out to the living room to enjoy another family tradition – watching the original version of *The Miracle on 34th Street*. We love to watch Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in black and white and are delighted every year when eight year old Susan discovers that her friend, Kris Kringle, who she at first thinks is just a nice old man with whiskers, really *is* Santa Clause! By the end of the movie, she has come to believe.

One of the most poignant scenes in the movie is when the children line up at Macy's to sit on Santa's lap and tell him what they want for Christmas. Susan watches with growing amazement as Kris, the store Santa, seems to know what each child wants before they ask him! Then, a little orphan girl from Holland steps up. She looks sadly at her feet as her adoptive mother explains that she won't be able to tell Santa what she wants for Christmas, because he doesn't speak her language. But, Kris breaks in and greets the child in her native tongue. Her eyes light up, and she grins with delight! "Oh, Sinter Klaas!" she cries, as she throws herself onto Santa's lap. Her grief and homesickness vanish for a time as they sing a familiar carol together, and talk of how Christmas is done in her own country. For just a little while, her strangeness vanishes, and she feels at home. Better than the gift she hoped to receive on Christmas morning is the gift she is given at that moment – the gift of belonging.

All of us have the basic human need to feel we belong, somewhere, to someone. That is why Christmas is both the most loved *and* the most difficult holiday of the year. When you are surrounded by family and friends, and have enough of all you need, it is a celebration indeed! But, when you are alone, or out of work, or ill, it can make you feel like a stranger – an outsider, standing on the sidelines, watching the party going on, with no one who speaks your language.

But, a miracle has happened on *your* street! Jesus knows what you need before you even ask him! He speaks to you in a language that you can understand, and makes your eyes light up! He draws you into the family of God; makes you a part of something so wonderful, you can't help but grin from ear to ear. He gives you the gift of belonging, and heals your homesick heart.

So, don't spend Christmas looking at your feet, feeling like you don't belong! Come! Spend your Christmas as a part of the Zion family. Let the carols lift your spirits. Let the story of Jesus' birth become a part of *your* story. *Believe* that miracles *do* happen! Let one happen to *you*!

May the song of the angels fill your days with joy!

Merry Christmas! Pastor Barb <><

"It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world" John 4:42



The Advent season has begun!

The symbol of Advent is the evergreen wreath which represents eternal life. On it are four blue candles, which remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. Each Sunday in worship one of our families will light a candle on our Advent wreath. One candle was lit the first week (11/27), two candles will be lit the second (12/4), three candles the third week (12/11), and all four candles the fourth week (12/18). On Christmas Eve, the end of Advent, we will light all four candles plus the Christ Candle in the middle. Each week, the light grows brighter, and reminds us that the Light that is Christ grows stronger every year as we await his return in all his glory, on the Last Day!

Reminder: **Advent/Christmas Poinsettias** ordering deadline is **December 4th!** Contact Rene' Atkinson at 912-728-6757 with questions.



The Flower Chart for 2012 is almost full, so look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex to get your date secured. Contact Emma Lee Dasher at 728-3222 for questions.



November Congregational Meeting Update

Ebenezer Trustees for the 2012 term year have been elected. **Charlie Heidt** and **Clayton Dasher** were re-elected to represent Zion. Thanks to them for being willing to serve.



	Income	Expenses	Balance
January - October 2011	\$147,277.86 Note (1)	\$149,690.92 Note (2)	(\$2,413.06)
Weekly Average	\$3,347.22	\$3,402.07	(\$54.84)

Notes: (1) Includes \$23,000.00 from the Ebenezer Trustees.
(2) Includes \$20,000.00 to the Building Fund.

Plan Ahead

Sunday, Jan. 8th - 6pm - Committees/Council Meeting
 Sunday, Jan. 15th - 4pm - Annual Congregational Meeting
 Sunday, Jan. 22nd - 11am - Installation of Council & Sunday School Officers

.Congregation Council Meeting Highlights November 6, 2011

Minutes of October 2, 2011 Council Meeting were approved as amended.

Reports: The Pastor's Report for October 2011 was reviewed.

The Treasurer's Report for October 2011 was reviewed.

Committees

Property Committee: Updated action list – Minor repairs addressed as they happen.

Evangelism Rincon Lions' Christmas Parade is Nov.19 at 9:00 am. Guyton Parade on December 3. Same float entered for each event. Suggestion to drive float through our nearby neighborhoods. Will follow. Yard Sale is March 3, 2012. Recommend offering a Zumba Class once a week in the fellowship hall. Ok'd by Council with a signed medical release for participants, & check with insurance coverage as well. Other suggestions: monthly book club; continuing Movie Nights; Gospel Sing led by Elliott Foss.

Finance/ Stewardship: "Stair Steps of Giving" graph prepared. Will go into the bulletin as amended.

Worship and Music: Services planned for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Lenten Services time per Council consensus will be 5:30 pm. Sunday evenings.

Social Ministry: Collecting candy for troops in Operation Gratitude. Deciding what animals to buy with "Barn" funds for World Hunger.

Unfinished Business

Addition to Agenda for Congregational meeting in January presented: 2009 Constitutional Changes need ratification. Letter to the Bishop of Southeastern synod to address concerns of how mission churches are supervised/supported. Letter approved. Will be signed by all council members.

New Business

Requests for Interment of Jennie Coleman Stone by Kenneth Stone, husband, approved by Council for interment in Coleman Family plot in Zion Cemetery. *Model Constitution* from Churchwide Assembly distributed on line for congregations to update their constitutions. Will compare it to our constitution and see if changes are needed. *Social Media* Policy to be developed. A task force of three council persons will write and recommend a policy to Council in Dec. Solar Panels for energy use discussed. Property to continue research. *A Girl Scout Troop* requests to meet in the fellowship hall on Tuesday nights. Council agreed if a member was present and it did not conflict with other activities. *To reduce mailing costs* of newsletter, plan to contact inactive members to see if still wish to receive newsletter, and to offer email delivery.

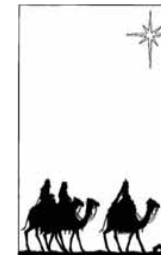
Announcements/Correspondence Received a letter announcing the Dates for County Voting in 2012. Appeal continues for Luther Ranch. Post to bulletin board for individual donors. Will put the proposal to change the meetings to the second Sunday of the month beginning in February 2012 on the agenda for the Congregational meeting in January, 2012.

Next meeting: December 4, 2011. Committees at 6:00pm/ Council at 7:00pm. Sherri Pittman, secretary

Children's Christmas Program

Star of Bethlehem

Sunday, December 11th at 5 p.m.



Our church family is cordially invited to enjoy a special presentation of the Christmas story. Using a retelling of the Nativity from our children's *Spark Story Bible*, our children and youth will sing about the events leading up to Jesus' birth and the arrival of the Wise Men. There will be an angel medley by our Sunshine Singers, a lovely duet between Mary and the angel Gabriel, congregational singing, and new and familiar Christmas songs presented by our youth choir.

The offering collected at the program will go to help needy families in our community. If you know of a family in serious need of assistance this holiday season, please contact Sherri Pittman.

We hope that you and your family & friends can join us! Please bring finger foods to share for a time of fellowship after the program. Drinks will be provided.

Christmas Cantata Presented Christmas Eve!

This year's *Christmas Cantata* entitled "Holy Night of Miracles" will be presented by Zion's Adult Choir during the *Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service* on Saturday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m. Lloyd Larson's music is a blending of familiar carols with new Christmas anthems. The choir has been practicing for months under the gifted direction of Dana Lee Smith.

One miraculous night in Bethlehem changed the course of human history forever, a baby came to earth as God in human form. "Holy Night of Miracles" is a reminder that the hope born on that first Christmas night is still needed today and ultimately found in the miraculous Child born in Bethlehem so many years ago. May we realize anew the powerful promise that one of God's greatest gifts, represented in this Holy Child, is that of hope - hope for today, tomorrow and for all eternity!

Christmas Caroling

Get your singing voices ready! It's time for Christmas Caroling! Zion's youth will go Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 18th. We'll meet at the church at 4:00pm. We'll arrive back to church by 6:30pm for dinner. This is a youth sponsored event, but we invite anyone who wishes to join in singing to attend. Please contact Dana Lee Smith at 728-3227 if you wish to attend.

Friday "Movie Night" at Zion!

Grinch stolen your family fun? We've got some to share with you at our Christmas big screen showing!



'Tis the season for family fun without breaking your budget. Come join Zion on December 2nd for our final movie night of 2011. We will be showing "How the Grinch Stole Christmas". Concessions will be available for minimal pricing or bring your own. Hope to see you there!

Quilt Making



Quilts are in need everywhere! If you would like to be a part of the new **Quilt Ministry**, starting in January, please contact Norma Ralph (912-313-2465). Even if you don't have a sewing machine, you can still get involved! We will need folks to cut, pin, tie, and so on. If you have material and need a home for it, let Norma know as well.



Committee and organization reports are needed for the 2011 Annual Report of the Congregation (book of reports). Reports must be in to the church secretary by December 18th in order to allow time for assimilating the 2011



Youth Holiday Help!

*The Thanksgiving pies have all been baked,
All the leaves in the yard are raked.
Now it's time to wrap the presents with a pretty bow
And hang all those Christmas lights, but none too low!
The Zion Youth can help with this and more,
They have many talents galore!
Give them a call and set a date,
It's never too early, or even too late!*

For additional information, see below or please contact Dana Lee Smith at 728-3227.



"Youth for Hire" Project

Submitted by Dana Lee Smith

Zion Lutheran Youth Group is *well underway* with their plans to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering July 18th-22nd, 2012 in New Orleans, LA. This event only happens every 3 years and hosts approximately 30,000 youth and leaders. The theme is "Citizens With the Saints". Part of this experience will include service to others as we continue working to assist with recovery efforts associated with Hurricane Katrina and the Gulf oil spill. Each day of the Gathering, thousands of youth will be out serving others. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to make such a large impact and truly make a difference on a huge scale. The Gathering will also provide opportunities for us to experience worship and renewal as we gather daily. We estimate that this trip will cost approximately \$1,200 per person. Through Zion's "Youth for Hire" project, each youth attending is working to raise \$500 towards the trip. Please make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Youth. Thanks for helping us to achieve our goal!

Alex Peth – 728-3495

Anna Lee & Christian HeidtHarris – 728-9184 or 601-2469

Lutheran Youth Organization News

submitted by Dana Lee Smith



Calling all Carolers!!!! If you enjoy singing and spreading some holiday cheer, please make plans to join us for our annual Christmas Caroling trip. We invite all congregation members to join us for caroling and dinner. Please let Dana Lee know by Sunday, December 11th if you plan to attend so that transportation and dinner arrangements can be made.

December Events

Wednesday, December 7th 6:00pm - 7:30pm: LIFE! (Living in Faith Everyday)

Come to LIFE! Join us for Bible study and fun as we discover how to put our faith into action.

Saturday, December 10th 10:00am – 12:00pm: Christmas Program Practice

This is our dress rehearsal for the Christmas Program. This will be our only group rehearsal. We need everyone to attend so that we can put the final touches on our production.

Sunday, December 11th 5:00pm: Christmas Program

Invite your friends and family to attend!

Sunday, December 18th 4:00pm – 8:00pm: Christmas Caroling

It's Christmas Caroling time! We'll leave Zion at 4:00pm. We'll travel to the Effingham Care Center and visit some of our homebound members as we spread a little Christmas cheer! We'll return to Zion as we host a special dinner for our special 80 + year old members.

Plan Ahead

Sunday, January 8th: Social/Service

Wednesday, January 18th: 6:00pm – 7:30pm: LIFE

Sunday, January 22nd: Social/Service

All youth in grades 6 – 12 are invited to participate in youth activities. Our youth program meets on most 1st and 3rd Wednesdays for Bible study. We meet on 2nd and 4th Sundays for service and social projects. For additional information about youth activities, contact Dana Lee Smith at 665-1377.



Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Minnie Lee Zipperer** on her death, November 9th, 2011. She was buried in Zion cemetery on the 13th.

“Mama Minnie” will be missed by all!

Thank You 

Thanks so much to the Zion family for our wedding shower and the gifts we received. They will really help us set up house keeping. Thanks also to everyone who helped us have a beautiful wedding and reception - You all are the greatest!

Love, Christina and Marty Jeffers

Thanks to everyone who helped to make our annual **Fall Festival** a success. All those attending had a great time participating in the games and activities, enjoying the food and listening to the music of **Dan Corrieri**. We had lots of community folks drop in to enjoy the afternoon with us. Thanks to all of you!

Thanks to everyone for your love, support, and prayers while Mom was in the Extended Care Center and in the time since her death. The meal after the funeral was wonderful. Your calls, visits, and caring thoughts have been sincerely appreciated. **God Bless you all.**
The Family of Minnie Lee “Mama Minnie” Zipperer

Thanks to those who helped with worship, food, and attended the Joint Thanksgiving Service held at Zion. It is wonderful to have the privilege of worshiping with others in our community.

I thank my **Zion Church family** for your love and support through visits, calls, cards, and especially prayers during my recent hospital stay. A special thank you to Pastor Barb for her pastoral care; her concern, visits, and prayers were comforting. Please continue to pray for me and my healing. **In Christ, Melinda Heidt**

Welcome to the Zion Family!

Savannah Rayne, infant daughter of **Joseph & Kamie Bentley**, was baptized on November 13th.

We pray God's blessings on Savannah and her family.

Come to LIFE! on Wednesday December 7th

LIFE! (Living in Faith Everyday!)

Wednesday activities: our family-style meal (5:15pm), youth Bible study (6:00pm), adult Bible study (6:00pm), and our K-5th program (4:00pm) that focuses on Confirmation material. We invite you to **Come to LIFE!** on Wednesday, Dec. 7th for a Turkey/Dressing meal.



Dinner is open to all who enjoy great fellowship and delicious food. Dinner is \$5 for ages 11 & up, \$2 for ages 4-10 and free for children 3 and under; the maximum is \$20/family. For planning purposes, we ask that you make reservations with Norma Ralph (912-313-2465). Even if you forget to make reservations, all are welcome, always!

“K-5 Kids” is for children grades K-5. After the meal, Dana Lee Smith will lead a *Bible Study* class for *Youth* (grades 6-12). Pastor Barb will lead the *Adults* in a Bible Study and discussion of the readings for the upcoming Sunday worship service.

Women of the ELCA Submitted by Dana Lee Smith

Get out your favorite cookie recipe! All ladies are invited to make cookies for packaging. These “cookie tins” will be distributed to those 80 and over and those who are ill in our congregation. Bring your cookies to our packing night on Sunday, December 4th at 7:00pm. This is a great opportunity to spread some holiday cheer.



Our **Angel Tree** project is up and running. Please check out the display in the entrance of the fellowship hall. The money raised from this project will go to the ELCA Disaster Response to buy seed for replanting in flooded countries in Central America. There are many items for sale. This is a great way to help out others and complete your holiday shopping.

Newly elected officers:

President: **Dana Lee Smith** *Vice President:* **Melinda Heidt**

Secretary: **Cheryl Pannal** *Treasurer:* **Emma Lee Dasher**

Committee for Community: **Mary Lou Thomas**

Committee for Growth: **Sherri Pittman**

Committee for Action: **Lida Peth**

All women of Zion are members of WELCA. You are invited to take part and get involved in your organization. Bible study meeting times and locations are listed in Zionews.



Blessing of a Christmas Tree



God
of all
creation,
we thank you
for this Christmas
Tree, which brings beauty,
good memories and the promise
of new life into our home. Bless all who
gather around this tree to keep the Christmas
festival in the warm glow of its lights. We wait for
the coming of Christ, who brings us days of everlasting
justice and peace. You are our God,
living and
loving,
forever
and
ever.
Amen.



LMM BREAKFAST SOCIAL

Many came and enjoyed a great breakfast social hosted by the Lutheran Men in Mission in November. The LMM will not be hosting a breakfast social in December. Breakfast will resume in January on the fourth Sunday. For more information, contact Clayton Dasher at 728-3222.

Church Directory Updates

Thomas Peth/Celeste Davenport PO Box 414 Tipton, MO 65081	Carroll Waldhour 2542 Westover Drive Statesboro, GA 30458
Darol Wilson 197 Greenbriar Drive Ozark, AL 36360	Mark Smith 2155 Benton Blvd. Apt. 11104 Pooler, GA 31322

Serving in December						
Date	Flowers	Acolyte *	Crucifer*	Assisting Minister	Nursery	Communion Servers
Dec. 4 (B)	Gloria Sheppard	Josie Sapp	Cassidy Edwards	David Harris	Victoria Davis	Cheryl Pannal & Misti Vandenhouten
Dec. 11 (B)	Terry Sexton	Caycee Pannal	Megan Edwards	Sherri Pittman	Amber Hall	Amy Young & Diane Counts
Dec. 18 (B)	Norma Ralph	Megan Sapp	Abby Hutcheson	Dana Lee Smith	Brenda Pack	Bessie Studier & Marjorie Leonhardt
Dec. 24 (W)	Cheire Burns	Caycee Pannal	Alex Peth	<i>Candlelight Service & Cantata</i>	<i>Open if Needed</i>	Louise Sebastian & Rene' Atkinson
Dec. 25 (W)	Cheire Burns	Lauren Conaway	Autumn Conaway	Elliott Foss	<i>Open if Needed</i>	Ryan & Katie Pittman

* Acolytes and Crucifers need to meet in the pastor's office 10 minutes before worship (10:50 am).

Week of	Clean Church	Clean Education Building	Questions/ Changes
December 5	Alex & Benji Peth	Anna Lee, Christian, & Charlie HeidtHarris	If you cannot clean on your assigned week, contact Dana Lee by Wednesday of the week assigned. Remember, you MUST have an adult present when cleaning!
December 19	Andrew Sapp	Cassidy, Megan & Aaron Edwards	

Month of	Greeters	Ushers	Visiting Comm.
December	Francis & Norma Ralph	Joe Studier Craig Pittman Trey Davis Mike Sueirro	Distribution of Christmas Cookies

Women's Circles	Program	Place
Evening Afternoon Circle of Friends Mary/Martha Dec. 4th 7:00p.m.	Cookie Packing	Church Education Building

Senior Citizens!



We had a record breaking 50 folks at our November meeting to hear **Wanda Price** from the Sanitation Dept. talk about the new recycling program coming to Effingham Co. The program should start in January and we will be able to recycle paper products, all glass, metal, aluminum, and plastic if it has a recycle symbol on it. A blue container will be provided to each household for recycling purposes. – All at no extra cost to the taxpayer!

The Thanksgiving meal prepared by **Charlie & Melinda Heidt, Cheryl Pannal, Judy Harmon, and Georgia Foss** was delicious. Thank you to them and everyone else who brought food to share and/or helped clean up afterwards.

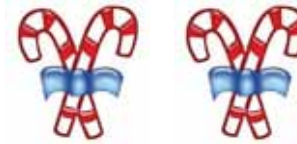
Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, Dec. 14th, at 11:30 a.m. A Christmas meal will be provided. New toys (up to \$5) will once again be collected to be given to needy children of all ages through the United Way. (The toys should not be wrapped.) If you don't want to shop for a toy, you may bring several dollars to donate towards the purchase of toys. Bring a friend, and come on out for good food and fellowship during the holiday season.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR Children's Choir by: Melinda Heidt

Our children's choir is a blessing to our church. They have been doing a great job learning new songs and singing every Sunday. Please let them know how much you enjoy hearing them sing. We will sing every Sunday and at our special Christmas Services. If you know in advance that your child will not be at one of the Services please let me know. **We will have a Christmas party for the children on December 14th. We will not practice again until January 11, 2012.** If you have a child that would like to sing in the children's choir, please let me know. Thank you to the parents and children who put a lot of time in practicing and singing every Sunday. It is truly a blessing to our church to hear the choir singing praises to God every Sunday. If you have any questions please contact **Melinda Heidt 728-3288.**



December



Each Sunday
 9:45 am - Sunday School
 11:00 am - Worship Service
 with Holy Communion

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>LMM- Lutheran Men in Mission LYO- Lutheran Youth Organization WELCA- Women of the ELCA ZFH- Zion Fellowship Hall</p>				<p>1</p>	<p>2 7:30p - Zion Movie Night "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"</p>	<p>3 10a - Float Line-up 11a - Guyton Christmas Parade</p>
<p>4 <i>Second Sunday in Advent</i> 6p - Committee Meetings 7p - Council Meeting 7p - Pack WELCA cookies <i>Poinsettia Deadline</i></p>	<p>5 7p - AA-ZFH</p>	<p>6 6:30p - Girl Scouts</p>	<p>7 2:30p - Children's Choir 4:00p - K-5 Kids 5:15p - Meal 6p - LYO Bible Study 6p - Adult Bible Study 7p - Adult Choir</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 10a - Children's Christmas Program Practice</p>
<p>11 <i>Third Sunday in Advent</i> 4:30p - Children's Christmas Practice 5p - Children's Christmas Program/ Fellowship</p>	<p>12 7p - AA-ZFH</p>	<p>13 6:30p - Girl Scouts Christmas Party - ZFH 7p - SE Middle School Christmas Chorus Concert</p>	<p>14 11:30a - Senior Citizens - Meal Provided 2:30p - Children's Choir 6p - Adult Bible Study 7p - Adult Choir</p>	<p>15 6p - Cub Scout Christmas Party - ZFH</p>	<p>16 7p - Boy Scout Christmas Party - ZFH</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 <i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i> 4p - LYO Christmas Caroling 6:30p - LYO/80+ Senior Dinner <i>Annual Reports Deadline</i> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p>	<p>19 7p - AA-ZFH</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 <i>No Children's Choir</i> 6p - Adult Bible Study 7p - Adult Choir</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 7p - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Cantata & Communion</p>
<p>← No Effingham County School Dec. 19 - Jan. 4th →</p>						
<p>25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 11a - Lessons & Carols with Communion</p>	<p>26 7p - AA-ZFH</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 <i>No Choir Practices or Adult Bible Study</i></p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>
<p>← No Effingham County School Dec. 19 - Jan. 4th →</p>						