



ZIONEWS

January 2011 Zion Lutheran's Monthly Newsletter

Ponderings at the beginning of a New Year...

I said to the man
 who stood at the gate of the year,
 "Give me a light that I may tread safely
 into the unknown."
 And he replied,
 "Go out into the darkness
 and put your hand in the hand of God.
 That shall be to you
 better than light
 and safer than a known way!"
 So, I went forth
 and finding the Hand of God,
 trod gladly into the night.
 And he led me towards the hills
 and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Minnie Louise Harkins, 1875-1957



In a world that is always telling us to "Grow up!" I find this poem to be a gentle reminder that the best way to live our lives may be to become more *child-like*. Jesus said that unless we become as humble as a child, we will never enter into heaven. (*Matthew 18:3*)

A child will humbly place her hand into the hand of God in complete and utter trust that God has her best interests at heart, and will take great care to guide her over the rough and rocky terrain that is life. A child will humbly allow God to lead him where God will, confident, that when he falls, God will pick him up, dust him off, comfort him for as long as is needed, then set him back on the path.

Notice that even with such loving guidance, the child still may fall. That is the reality of living in a "broken" world; bad things do happen. But, a child is resilient. Unless he or she is sick, a child will bound out of bed in the morning, looking forward to the adventure the new day

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1. Potential new members: Jodi Dixon, Rhett (Mikell) Lott and two children: Mackensie and Grayson, Nate Fichthorn, Mandy Zipperer, Georgia Foss, Elliott Foss (as an associate: keep Baptist membership for chaplaincy) Dan, Celeste Davenport, Jessica Funderburk (has two children, Devan and Layla who have not yet been baptized) to become members. Arline Devor would be a transfer of membership. A motion was made that if these persons wish to join after meeting with Pastor Barb that they be accepted as members. The motion was seconded and passed.
January 9, 2011 Congregational Meeting:
Agenda: Need include ratifying the Constitutional Changes from last year. Agenda will be presented at the January 2 Council Meeting. Notice will be put in the January Newsletter.
Sign-In: Plan to continue the sign-in procedures initiated last year and the issuing of name tags to voting members.
Times: Registration to begin at 4:00pm, start meeting at 4:30pm, finger food dinner to follow meeting.
Duties: Council members were assigned to take care of a nursery attendant, ballots/pencils, projector Set-Up, clean-up, and registration.
4. Zion's Long Range Plans: Zion's last long range plans date from 2005. It was decided that this should wait and be discussed with the new Council coming on in January.
5. Number of Members on Council: This year we have had only eleven members on council due to a resignation of a member after the congregational meeting. After discussion it was decided to keep the number at twelve. At congregational meeting, four members will be elected. Three for four year terms and one for a one year-term.
6. Pastor's Vacation time: Pastor Barb requested to take January 16 as one of her vacation Sundays but wanted to make sure not attending the Council Organizational meeting that evening would not be a problem. Council approved her request.

This is a reminder to everyone to please call the church office and/or Pastor Barb if you or your family and loved ones have any special needs, such as:

- an extended illness
- hospitalization
- a need for pastoral assistance
- Additionally, please share any joyous news, as well.

As a church family, it is important that we stay in touch with one another so we know how best to pray for each other as we share the "Good News" and worship Our Lord together! Thanks!



will bring, in spite of a set back. This is trust at it's best. Paul Tournier said, 'The spiritual life consists only in a series of new births. There must be new flowerings, new prophets, new adventures – always new adventures - if the heart of man, albeit in fits and starts, is to go on beating.' Every New Year presents us with new opportunities to find the blessings God has prepared for those who love him. Every day of the spiritual life has a miracle hidden in it, waiting to be discovered. The spiritual life is an adventure, for those who are not afraid to reach for it.

As a new day dawns, may it find you standing at the gate of the year, child-like in your humility and trust, ready to put your hand confidently into the hand of God, ready to trod gladly wherever he may lead. For God is a faithful companion on your journey, and safer than a known way.

May God gladden your heart, blessing you and those you love with new flowerings, new prophets and new adventures in 2011!

Happy New Year!!! Pastor Barb <><

*Behold, I am making all things new...
Revelation 21:5*

Pastor Barb will be in the Church Office

Tuesdays: 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m., Thursdays: 9: 00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

and evenings by appointment.

If Pastor Barb is called away from the office for an emergency during these times, you may still reach her by cell phone - 912-677-7011.

Just a reminder... Communion registration must be done once a year. The first time you commune in 2010, please fill out a communion card and place it in the offering plate. Families may list all names on one card.



There is still time to sign up for flowers for 2011.

Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Contact Emma Lee Dasher at 728-3222.

ZION Congregation Council Meeting Highlights - Dec. 5, 2010 (a full report is posted on the church bulletin board)

Reports

Minutes from the Nov. 7, 2010 Council Meeting were approved after correction of typing errors. Minutes from the Nov. 21, 2010 Congregational Meeting were approved after the addition of David Harris' name as seconding the motion to elect Charlie Heidt and Clayton Dasher.

The Pastor's Report for November 2010 was reviewed.

The Treasurer's Report for November 2010 was reviewed. We are still receiving funds for the love offering for Etheridge Dasher, decided to continue through December.

Committees

Property Committee: Price range for door mats \$45-100/mat. Decided to go with the better quality mats. Some one has asked we purchase more high chairs, will get estimate. Need to look into some type of high security lock up for expensive equipment. Plan to start having a property committee article in the newsletter each month. Planning a late winter/ pre-Easter clean up, work day.

Evangelism: Planning an "Operation Dump Day" to go through items in storage shed. First representative members from church groups will go through items and mark them as "Keep", "Throw Away", or "Donate". People will have an opportunity to look through the throw away and donate items and take home any that they donated if they wish. A second group will then throw away/ haul away items to be discarded. Possible start date, 12/29. Looking into a possible Valentine's Day Dance to be held in the Fellowship Hall.

Stewardship and Finance: Decided to place addition generic envelopes in the pews and not purchase the numbered envelopes. This will be announced in the bulletin and in the January Newsletter. Plan to make next year's budget based on income for first eleven months of the year and use the average monthly income as an estimate for December.

Unfinished Business

1. Replacement of AC Unit in Fellowship Hall: Awaiting the arrival of the condenser. Contractor wants to begin on a Monday. Hope to begin on Dec. 20.
2. Scout Hut Construction: Scout parents have cut out the damaged concrete with a concrete saw. Rental of saw cost \$84. Discussed that previous minutes said that we would get an estimate of the cost of just replacing the concrete and construction of the exterior walls, but that the project had not been approved. A motion was made to go ahead with replacing the concrete and erecting the exterior walls and siding using the funds (\$1,600) already committed to the project. The motion was seconded and passed.

New Business:

1. Correction to membership transfers: Matthew Eisenhart, son of Scott and Jennifer Eisenhart requested to transfer his membership from Holy Trinity to Zion, not their daughter, Kate. A motion was made to accept Matthew Eisenhart's transfer of membership. The motion was seconded and passed.

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Annual Congregational Meeting

- The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 9, 2011 at 4:00p.m. in the Zion Fellowship Hall. The Agenda for this meeting will be presented at the Sunday, January 2nd, Council Meeting.
- Voting members (all members of legal age who have communed or made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year) of the congregation are encouraged to attend.
- Voting Registration is from 4:00p.m. to 4:30p.m. Please register at the door and get a voting sticker between this time.
- Elections will include Congregation Council, Congregation Officers, Sunday School Officers and Representatives to Conference and Synod Assemblies.
- The complete Book of Reports will be distributed at the meeting.
- Please bring finger foods for our fellowship meal following the meeting.
- Childcare will be offered.

We hope to see you all there!

The Stewardship and Finance Committee has determined that using the generic pew envelopes will save us \$600.00 a year, so we will not be ordering numbered envelopes for 2011. Please us a pew envelope to designate your giving, or write on your check, and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!



We wanted to thank the ladies of Zion so much for the delicious cookies, & the prayers/visit from Pastor Barb, to my brother and Peggy's son, Frank. This meant so much to our family. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. **Donna Ogletree & Peggy Dow**

Thank you so much for your love, support, & prayers during the past few weeks. It was comforting to feel that Mom was a part of Zion's family in the short time she lived here in Effingham. Thank you also for the gift of "dining out". It was greatly appreciated.
Love always - **Sherri, Craig, Katie & Ryan Pittman**

Thank ya'll so very much for your continued support. I appreciate the prayers during my finals, and the poem in the card always makes me smile. Thanks for remembering me!
Love you and God Bless, **Megan Edwards**

I would like to thank the congregation for the pizza gift card. I really needed it! I hope everything is going well. I miss everyone!
Love, **Samantha Ogletree**

Thanks to the **Zion Congregation** for all the Christmas flowers, music, and special participation in Advent & Christmas Worship. Also, thank you to all who participated and helped with the Children's Christmas Program and all those that sang in the choir for the Cantata. What a beautiful celebration we were able to have!

Dear Zion WELCA, Thank you for the cookies. It is really cool.
From, **Stacy Atkinson**

Dear Pastor Barb & Zion Lutheran Church Members, On behalf of the Effingham County Pre-K families and staff, we would like to thank you for all your help with our "Frosty" night. You and your family were so accommodating. The families seemed to enjoy every aspect of the evening and we feel it was a huge success. Thank you again for helping expose families to literacy, community, and love!
Sincerely, **Jan Davis, Eden Knox, and Julie Sessions**

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Lutheran Youth Organization

News *submitted by Dana Lee Smith*

December Highlights

Thanks to all who participated in the Christmas program. You did a great job! Also thanks to all who went caroling and shared some holiday cheer.

Special thanks to the Effingham chapter of Thrivent for providing money to purchase gifts to distribute as we went caroling. After caroling, we enjoyed a meal with our special guests. Thanks to WELCA for preparing a delicious meal!

January

Wednesday, January 5th 6:00pm-7:30pm: Youth Bible Study
Please make plans to join us for this spiritual growth opportunity. Remember the meal starts at 5:15pm.

Wednesday, January 19th 6:00pm-7:30pm: Youth Bible Study

Come enjoy Bible study with us. Remember the meal starts at 5:15pm
Sunday, January 23rd 4:00pm-5:00pm: Souper Bowl Sunday Planning

Join in the planning for our annual Souper Bowl collection. Come learn what it's all about!

Sunday, January 30th 12:15pm-until: Youth/Parent Meeting & Super Clean Project

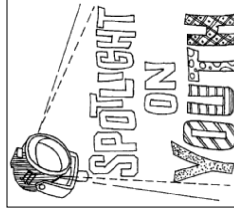
All youth and parents are asked to meet in the education building immediately following worship. Please make plans to attend as we make plans for our youth program. We need input from everyone. Parents should be prepared to complete health forms for youth. Following this brief meeting, we will clean both the education building and the church. For all who stay to help with cleaning, lunch will be served. Please make lunch reservations with Dana Lee by Sunday, January 23rd.

Plan Ahead

Sunday, February 6th: Souper Bowl Sunday

Friday, March 11th to Sunday, March 13th: All GA Youth Event at New Ebenezer Retreat Center

All youth in grades 6 - 12 are invited to participate in youth activities. For additional information contact Dana Lee Smith at 728-3227 or 665-1377.



WELCA Submitted by Dana Lee Smith

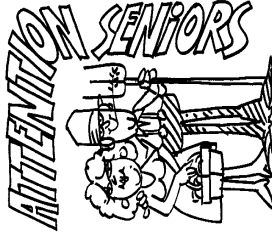
Another new year is here! As you begin this new year, think about how you can get involved in all that WELCA has to offer. Remember, every female member of Zion is automatically a member. All ladies are encouraged to take part and become involved in one of our four women's groups at Zion. It is a great way to work with others and make a real difference. One way that you can make a difference is through our special Love Offering. All WELCA units from churches in the Southeastern Synod collect a special offering during the year. This year's Love Offering will be collected to support campus ministry within our synod.

WELCA provides a great opportunity to serve God and others! Get involved! Please check the Zionews calendar for the monthly meeting schedule.

SENIOR CITIZENS!

The December weather was cold, but that didn't stop a great showing of 41 folks from coming out and enjoying Christmas fun together. The meal prepared by **Charlie & Melinda Heidt**, with **Cheryl Pannal** and **Judy Harmon** as helpers, was delicious. Thanks to everyone who helped prepare the meal &/or provided food. Besides playing Christmas games, 64 toys were donated by the senior citizens, & later delivered to DFACS, to help many children have a fun-filled Christmas.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 19th at 11:30 a.m. Several representatives from the Effingham Hospital will be our guest speakers. They will be updating us on programs and construction work going on there. The meal will be provided. Our average attendance in 2010 grew to 41! Folks enjoy getting out & visiting with others while eating a delicious meal. Don't stay home by yourself. Come join us at the January meeting.



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WELCA Ladies - The Cookies were a great treat! LYO - The dinner on Sunday evening and the carols you sang made a wonderful night out. My Zion Church Family - Thanks for the prayers and many cheerful cards sent to me throughout the year.

Thanks - Minnie Lee Zipperer

Thank you to WELCA for the cookies, to LYO for the carols and goody bag and to the Evening Circle for the Christmas present.
Love, Leona Helmey

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Anson Dasher** and **Lindsey Pickle** on their marriage December 18th, 2010.

Congratulations to **Nate Fichthorn** on his graduation from Georgia Tech as a Civil Engineer.

Congratulations to **Scott and Jennifer Eisenhart** on the birth of their grandson, **Jackson**, son of **Ellie and Jeremy Pelt**.

Congratulations to **H.E. Wright and family** on the birth of grandson, **Jack Wright**, who is the son of **Joel and Amy Wright**.

Change of Address & Phone #

Ted Kopf Phone # 912-856-3032
P.O. Box 212
Rincon, GA 31326



Zion welcomes new members, Georgia and Elliot Foss; Jody Dixon & Rhett Lott and their children McKenzie & Grayson; Celeste Davenport (Samantha); and Jessica Phillips (Devan and Layla) who became members of Zion on December 19, 2010.

Welcome Everyone!



Preschool Sunday School News

An enormous thank you goes to the Sonshine Preschool Sunday School Class. They donated over 20 books to **Project Story Book** sponsored by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. What a rewarding Advent service project for our youngest and fastest growing class!

A great big "Bravo!" to this same fantastic group on their singing and hand chime ringing at the Children's Christmas Program. What an entrance they made! "Away in a Manger" has never sounded so good. Thanks to Dana Lee Smith for leading our happy and energetic group.



Children's Choir by: Melinda Heidt

What wonderful Christmas Services we had at Zion! The Sunday School Christmas Musical "**Star of Wonder**" was professionally performed by our talented young people at Zion. It was such a fun musical telling the birth of Jesus by the stars in heaven. We had so many people tell us how great a job our children did. We thank God for our church, our youth and all our members of Zion. Again, thank you to all who helped us in any way to put together such a great program. Children's Choir will begin again on January 5, 2011. We are enjoying working with your child in choir. See you January 5th. Any questions please contact Melinda Heidt at 728-3288.

"You've Got Mail"

If you would like to have your newsletter sent to you via email instead of regular mail, please subscribe on the Zion website, www.zionlutheranga.com, or email secretary@zionlutheranga.org. Thank you!

Serving in January						
Date	Flowers	Acolyte *	Crucifer *	Assisting Minister	Nursery	Communion Servers
Jan. 2 (B)	Amber Hall	Melina HeidtHarris	Christian HeidtHarris	Sherri Pittman	Katie Sikes	Ronald & Joy Hutcheson
Jan. 9 (B)	Cheire Burns	Megan Edwards	Cassidy Edwards	Sean Vandenhouten	Dawn Holton	Brett and Misi Vandenhouten
Jan. 16 (B)	Sherri Pittman	Lauren Conaway	Autumn Conaway	Sean Vandenhouten	Brooke Burns	Teresa Sikes
Jan. 23 (W)	Judy Hart	Casey Pannal	Alex Peth	Dana Lee Smith	Lori Conaway	Francis and Norma Ralph
Jan. 30 (W)	Charlie Heidt	Charlie HeidtHarris	Anna Lee HeidtHarris	David Harris	Cheire Burns	Maudene Graham

* 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
January 3	Autumn Conaway	Alex & Benji Peth	If you cannot clean on your assigned week, Contact Dana Lee Smith @ 728-3227 or 665-1377 by Wednesday of the week assigned.
January 17	Anna Lee & Christian HeidtHarris	Cassidy & Megan Edwards	
January 31	Super Clean Project on Sunday, January 30th	Super Clean Project on Sunday, January 30th	

Month of	Greeters	Ushers	Visiting Comm.
January	Charlie and Cheryl Pannal	Joe Studier; Bruce Peth Scott Eisenhart; Bryan Vandenhouten	Norma Ralph

Women's Circles	Program	Place
Evening Jan. 4th	Mary Lou Thomas	Home of Melinda Heidt (728-3288)
Afternoon Jan. 6th	Mary Lou Thomas	Church Education Building
Circle of Friends Jan. 17th	Norma Ralph	Church Education Building
Mary/Martha TBD	TBD	TBD



January

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 2nd Sunday After Christmas 6p - Comm./Council Mtg.	3 7p - AA-ZFH <i>No Effingham County School</i>	4 7p - Evening Circle - Home of Melinda Heidt (728-3288) (Dec. Mag.)	5 2:30p - Children's Choir 4:30p - K-5 Faith Weavers 5:15p - Meal 6p - LYO Bible Study 7p - Adult Choir	6 2p- Afternoon Circle ZFH (Dec. Mag.)	7	8
9 <i>Baptism of Our Lord Sunday</i> 4p - Annual Cong. Mtg. Registration 4:30p - Meeting begins with Fellowship Meal following	10 7p - AA-ZFH	11 7p - Marlow Farm Bureau - ZFH - Covered Dish	12 2:30p - Children's Choir 7p - Adult Choir	13	14 6p - Chili Cook-Off 7:30p - Movie Night "Toy Story 3" <i>Pastor Barb On Vacation</i>	15 <i>Pastor Barb On Vacation</i>
16 2nd Sunday After the Epiphany 6p - Council Organization Mtg. <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> <i>Pastor Barb On Vacation</i>	17 7p - Circle of Friends - ZFH 7p - AA-ZFH <i>No Effingham County School</i>	18	19 11:30a - Sr. Citizens - Meal Provided 2:30p - Children's Choir 4:30p - K-5 Faith Weavers 5:15p - Meal 6p - LYO Bible Study 7p - Adult Choir	20	21	22
23 3rd Sunday After the Epiphany 9a - "Cong. Breakfast" - LMM 11a - Worship/Council/Installation 4 - 5p - LYO Planning	24 7p - AA-ZFH	25	26 2:30p - Children's Choir 7p - Adult Choir	27	28	29
30 4th Sunday After the Epiphany 12:15 Until - Youth/Parent Mtg. & Super Clean Project	31 7p - AA-ZFH					LMM-Lutheran Men in Mission LYO-Lutheran Youth Organization WELCA-Women of the ELCA ZFH-Zion Fellowship Hall