



# ZIONEWS

December 2010 Zion Lutheran's Monthly Newsletter

## *The Holy Mystery...*



Life is so full of mystery. There is so much more to every thing than meets the eye! Layers upon layers of meaning lie wrapped around hidden truths that take a lifetime to unwrap. Always there are new discoveries, new information, and the things we thought we understood to day, make no sense tomorrow. And yet, we try so hard to make sense of it all! Always digging around, rooting at things, working hard to uncover the secrets of life.

Counselors use the example of an onion. When you have a problem, you peel away the layers, one by one, until you get to the core of the issue that lies within, so you can heal. It takes patience and hard work. There are no shortcuts. You can't just pick up a knife and chop at it to figure things out. Everything depends on your efforts. And, the nearer you get to the center, the more tears you shed. That model works well for things of the emotions. But, when it comes to the spiritual, I prefer to use the example of a rose.

A rose, like an onion, has many layers. But, unlike the onion, you can't peel away at it. There is nothing we need do or *can* do with a rose, but allow it to unfold as it will. How it reveals itself is a mystery. You can't hurry the process, or you end up ruining it. Everything depends on the rose itself. And the lovely bloom you enjoy in the end comes to you as a gift – not something you have sweated over or cried over.

So, too, is the mystery surrounding this season we call Christmas. Here, in the coolness of winter, at the darkest time of year, a rose is blooming. Layers upon layers of meaning lie hidden in the ancient story of Jesus' birth. How God took human form, came down as a vulnerable baby, lived among us, died, and lived again, simply for the love of us. Every time we hear it, we shake our heads in wonder. For always, embedded in the old story, is new information, new discoveries, and what we thought we understood yesterday makes no sense today. We find ourselves wrapped in mystery, wide-eyed and whispering like Mary, his mother, "How can this be?"

There is nothing we need do or can do with this Holy Mystery called God, but sit quietly and allow the mystery to unfold as it will. God reveals God's self to us, a little more each year. We can't hurry God along. If we try, we

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Pastor Barbara Koch

Address Service Requested

end up ruining it. Christmas, for those who believe, is a time when we sit, empty hands uplifted, waiting to receive anew the most perfect gift – the most lovely bloom – the one perfect rose that is God’s great love gift to us all – Jesus Christ, our Lord. How different this is from how the world celebrates Christmas!

Come in from the cold. Come into the church. Come into the place where you can retreat from the hectic schedules, impossibly long lists of things to do, the urgent appeals to “Buy! Buy! Buy!” Spend this Christmas in joyful appreciation of the Holy Mystery. Come watch God’s everlasting love for you unfold.

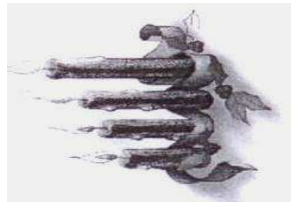
God’s blessings on you and your loved ones, this Christmas and always,

**Pastor Barb** <><

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.  
 Authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named  
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
*Isaiah 9:6*

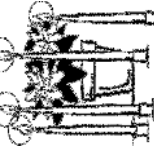
**The Advent Season is here!**

The symbol of Advent is the evergreen wreath. The circle of greenery represents eternal life. Its five candles remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. Each Sunday in our worship one of our families will light the candles on our Advent wreath:



one candle the first week, November 28th;  
 two candles the second week, December 5th;  
 three candles the third week, December 12th;  
 and all four candles the fourth week, December 19th.  
 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.



**Reminder: Advent/Christmas Poinsettias** ordering deadline is December 5th! Contact Rene’ Atkinson at 912-728-6757 with questions.

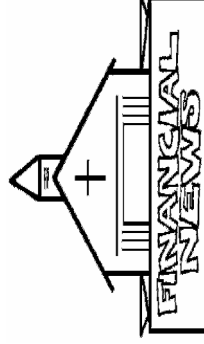
**November Congregational Meeting Update**

Ebenezer Trustees for the following term year have been elected. **Charlie Heidt** and **Clayton Dasher** will be representing Zion. Thanks to them for being willing to serve.



**NEW TELEPHONE LIST**

A Telephone List is being created to keep the congregation better informed of prayer and other concerns as they arise. It will be an automated system with all calls going out at once. If you would like to be on this call list, please call the church office (728-3430) or email ([secretary@zionlutheranga.org](mailto:secretary@zionlutheranga.org)) with your name and phone number. (You can also sign up on the list in the narthex.) No matter where you live in the U.S. you are welcome to be on this list. Remember to leave your area code if it is not 912. Thank you to **David Harris** for setting up this call system.



	Income	Expenses	Balance
January - October 2010	\$129,019.54 Note (1)	\$134,767.33 Notes (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7)	(\$5,747.79)
<b>Weekly Average</b>	<b>\$2,932.26</b>	<b>\$3,062.89</b>	<b>(\$130.63)</b>

- Notes: (1) Includes \$6,300.00 from the Ebenezer Trustees.  
 (2) Includes \$6,484.12 to Abundant Life Community Church.  
 (3) Includes \$2,023.06 for Sanctuary Insulation and Building Locks.  
 (4) Includes \$4,210.30 for Roof Repairs in excess of the Building Fund.  
 (5) Includes \$4,100.00 for Prayer Labyrinth Construction (Hart Memorial Fund).  
 (6) Includes \$500.00 Insurance Claim Deductible.  
 (7) Includes \$1,300.00 for Education Building HVAC Unit Repairs.

## ZION Congregation Council Meeting Highlights - Nov. 7, 2010

(a full report is posted on the church bulletin board)

### **Reports**

*Minutes* from the Oct. 3, 2010 Council Meeting were approved as printed.

*The Pastor's Report* for October 2010 was reviewed.

*The Treasurer's Report* for October 2010 was reviewed. Land Fund and making payments on the land purchase continue to be biggest concern.

### **Committees**

*Property Committee:* Per Council, Property may do basic maintenance up to \$1000 without needing Council's approval. Still collecting information for Cemetery Policy.

*Evangelism:*

Zion's float won first place in their division in the County Fair Parade. The Committee would like to use prize money to update the float for the Guyton and Rincon Christmas Parades and to purchase a Christmas tree to decorate with a fishing theme. The tree will be auctioned off as a part of Zion's contribution to the Relay for Life. Council approved. It was suggested that signs be posted when taking pictures at Zion's events stating that pictures taken may be used on the church's website to offset liability.

*Stewardship and Finance*

Plan to combine and reinvest three endowment funds for better returns. A motion was made to reinvest the endowment money using the best option as determined by the Finance Committee. Motion carried.

*Music and Worship:*

Requested that the financial summary statement be placed in the bulletin on a monthly basis rather than weekly to save space in the bulletin.

### **Unfinished Business**

1. Replacement of AC Unit in Fellowship Hall: Unit is on order.

Should arrive in December.

2. Scout Hut Construction: Discussed options for expansion of Scout Hut. We want to support the Scouts, but funding is very limited. A temporary solution was agreed upon for a year, while we collect funds for permanent expansion. Family members with Memorial funds will be contacted as a possible resource.

### **New Business:**

Membership requests: Three new members were approved for transfer to Zion by Council action.

### **Correspondance**

1. ELCA Maritime Ministry will continue at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church under the direction of Chip Lingle. A notice for ways to support the ministry will be posted in Fellowship Hall, along with letters requesting financial support from LTSS, Lutheridge/Lutherock, and Lutheran Campus Ministry at GA Tech.

*Sherri Pittman, secretary*

## **Constellation Celebration!**

Zion's children and youth invite you to join their celebration of the Christmas season! On Sunday, December 12 at 6:30pm they will present their Christmas program, "Star of Wonder." Watch the "stars" of Zion as they come out and "shine!"

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 or Melinda Heidt. Come and enjoy a wonderful program to help bring the true spirit of Christmas into our hearts!

*Please bring finger foods to share in fellowship after the program. Drinks will be provided.*



## **Christmas Cantata Presented Christmas Eve!**

This year's *Christmas Cantata* entitled "Rise Up! A New Light A Comin'" will be presented by Zion's Adult Choir during the *Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service* on Friday, Dec. 24th at 7:00 p.m. Lloyd Larson's music is an inventive mixture of spiritual and carol arrangements with newly composed music.

The choir has been practicing for months under the gifted direction of Dana Lee Smith, and this fine musical presentation promises to be a wonderful beginning to your Christmas celebration! The powerful call, "Children, go where I send thee." is the inspiration and the ultimate message of this stirring telling of the gospel story. Pamela Martin's narrative is filled with inspired scenes highlighting all those who were sent: prophets sent to prepare the way for the coming Messiah; angels sent to carry the news to Mary; Mary and Joseph sent to Bethlehem to humbly bear God's Son; shepherds sent to worship the Child in the manger; wise men sent from distant orient lands with precious gifts for the Child; and, finally, Christians sent into the world to proclaim the gospel message that a new light is comin'!

### *With Sincere Sympathy*

**For Clifford Jackson, Minnie Lee Zipperer, Bessie Studier, and Jack Helmey and families** on the loss of their brother, **Walton Helmey**, on Nov. 3rd. His funeral and burial were at Zion on Nov. 5th.

**For Sherri and Craig Pittman and family** at the loss of Sherri's mother, **Jerri Scholz** on November 2nd. The funeral was held in Indiana.

*We pray God will comfort those who mourn.*



The family of **Walton Helmey** would like to say "Thank You", to the Zion congregation for all of the food, calls, visits, and caring thoughts during their time of loss. It has been sincerely appreciated.

Thanks so much to the **Zion Family** for the visits, phone calls, cards, prayers, and well wishes. Your thoughtfulness was every bit as important as any medical attention I received in speeding my recovery. Love to all, **Mary Johnson**

Thanks to all our friends here at Zion for your love, support, and prayers both during the months Mom lived here in Effingham County at the Extended Care Center and in the time since her death. It really made a difference to us to know that you were looking in on her and saying "hello" and that even if she was not aware of it, she had an extended family here at Zion. God Bless you All!

**Sherri, Craig, Katie, and Ryan Pittman**  
Thank you to EVERYONE who participated in Zion's first **Trunk or Treat**. It was a fantastic evening with lots of decorated "trunks" and folks dressed up in great costumes. The number of "treaters" who stopped by was awesome. Zion knows how to throw a party!!

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 the Pace Brothers. We had lots of community folks drop in to enjoy the afternoon with us. Thanks to all of you!  
*Cont. on page 5*

## **Lutheran Youth Organization**

**News** *submitted by Dana Lee Smith*

### November Highlights

Thanks to all the youth who participated in the "Zion Fix-It Day" and those who helped with the fall festival. We also enjoyed a "Surprise Service" day as we shopped for caroling gifts.

### Special Youth Project

We are collecting new and gently used jackets/coats for children, youth and adults. They will be distributed to those in need in our community. There is a collection basket in the entrance of the fellowship hall. So, clean out your closets and ask your family and friends to donate too!

### December

**Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00pm-7:30pm:** Youth Bible Study  
Please make plans to join us for this spiritual growth opportunity.

**Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm:** Christmas Program

All youth are encouraged to attend this year's program. Even if you don't have a part in the program, please plan to attend and support your fellow youth.

**Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm-7:30pm:** Youth Bible Study  
Join us for the last Bible study of the year!

**Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm-8:00pm:** Christmas Caroling

Join us as we continue a Zion tradition of caroling to our homebound members in the area. We'll meet at the church at 4:00pm and return back to church by 6:30pm for dinner with our special invited guests (seniors 80 years and older). Bring a jacket and bring your singing voices!! Come help us as we share the joy of the season!! If you plan to attend, let Dana Lee know by Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

### 2011 Plan Ahead

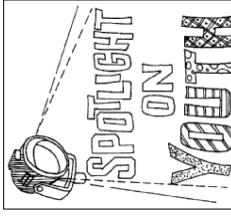
**Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm-7:30pm:** Youth Bible Study

**Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> :** Social/Service Project

**Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm-7:30pm:** Youth Bible Study

**Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> :** Social/Service Project

*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

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Relay for Life Cancer Drive. Items for sale include candy, bread and ready to mix soup and dessert items. This is a great way to help out others and complete your holiday shopping.

Remember, every female member of Zion is automatically a member of Women of the ELCA. All of you are encouraged to take part and become involved in one of our four women's groups at Zion. Please check the Zionews calendar for the monthly meeting schedule. It's a great opportunity to serve God and others! Get involved!

*Cont. from page 4*

Thanks to all those who worked so hard on our float for the **Rincon Christmas Parade!** Thanks for all of those who came to ride in the float, and pass out flyers and candy! You are a blessing to Zion!

Thanks to the choir members who helped sing in the mass choir at Bethesda Methodist for the **Joint Thanksgiving Service.** Thanks also to those who helped provide food for the reception afterwards. Twenty-seven of Zion's folks attended the very nice community service.



*Zion welcomes new members, Scott and Jennifer Eisenhart and their son, Matthew Eisenhart., who transferred their membership into Zion on November 14th, 2010.*  
Welcome Eisenhart Family!

**P L A I N I A I H E A D**

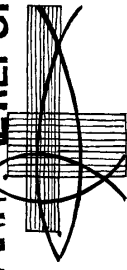
### **Guyton Christmas Parade Float**

Zion will have a float in the Guyton Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 11th. Anyone willing to ride and/or participate, please be at Guyton Elementary School at 10:15a.m. Call Rebecca Heidt (519-0079) or Cheryl Pannal (772-5465) if you have any questions.

### **ANNUAL REPORTS DUE SOON!**

Committee and Organization Reports are needed for the 2010 Annual Report of the Congregation (Book of Reports). Reports must be in to the church secretary by December 19th in order to allow time for assimilating the Book of Reports for the 2010 Annual Congregation Meeting on January 9, 2011. Please put your report in the secretary's mailbox marked "pickup". Thank you!

**ANNUAL REPORT**



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.

### **New Membership Class Begins!**

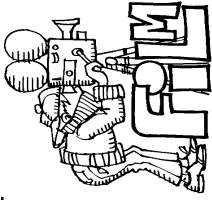
Do you have questions about what we ELCA Lutherans believe, or why we worship the way we do? Are you interested in becoming a member of Zion? Then join Pastor Barb and other interested folks for a three-session *Membership Class* held December 5, 12 and 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Education Building. New Members will be welcomed into the Zion faith community on December 19, during the 11:00a.m. worship service.

The *Membership Class* will give you an idea of who we are as a people of God, and will help you decide if you want to become an active participant in our life together here at Zion. The classes are also designed to deepen your relationship with other participants and with Pastor Barb.

You are welcome to participate in the Membership Class even if you are not yet sure you wish to join Zion. Family and friends are welcome to join you as you learn about Zion. If you would like to participate, or have any questions, please speak with Pastor Barb.

### 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 3rd for our final movie night of 2010. We will be showing "Miracle on 34th Street". Concessions will be available for minimal pricing or bring your own. Hope to see you there!



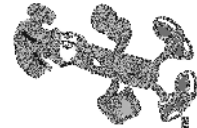
The women of the congregation are invited to a *bridal shower* for **Lindsey Pickle & Anson Dasher**, Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM in the Zion Fellowship Hall. They are registered at Bed, Bath, & Beyond, Macy's and Belk's.

### "You've Got Mail"

Zion will be offering everyone the chance to "go green" and receive their monthly **Zionews** via electronic mail starting with the January 2011 newsletter. 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](http://www.zionlutheranga.com), or email secretary@zionlutheranga.org by Tuesday, December 21st. Thank you!

### MANNA HOUSE

Manna House will be closed for the holiday season from Thursday, December 23rd thru Sunday, January 2nd, 2011.



### Coupons Needed

Please donate any un-used Lowe's or Home Depot discount coupons to the property committee. We need materials to expand the Scout Hut. Please turn coupons in to Craig Pittman. Thank you.

### SENIOR CITIZENS!

Chaplain Ramsey Mannon, from the Sheriff's Department, presented a very interesting program to the thirty-seven folks at our November meeting. He shared many helpful safety tips for both at home and while shopping during the holidays – and the year around. Always be aware of your surroundings!

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

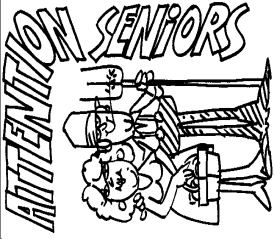
Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m. A Christmas meal will be provided. New toys (up to \$5) will once again be collected to be given to needy children of all ages through DFACS. (The toys should not be wrapped.) If you don't want to shop for a toy, you may bring 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 by: Melinda Heidt

Can you believe Christmas is almost here? The children are excited about their parts in the upcoming performance of "Star of Wonder" on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The children will need to arrive at 4:00 pm for a short practice and pizza. We will costume the children at 5:00 pm.

**Please note the remaining practice times and dates: Sunday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 12:15p.m. & FINAL REHEARSAL (DRESS)**

**Saturday, Dec. 11th, time to be announced.** Also, they will sing at the Friday, Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm. It is important that they attend the practices that are left and the Christmas Eve Service. We will practice on December 15<sup>th</sup> and have a Christmas party. We will not practice on December 22<sup>nd</sup> or December 29<sup>th</sup>. We will resume practice on Wednesday, January 5, 2011. We wish you a very good Christmas and a wonderful year in 2011. God bless each of you for your prayers and support during the year for our children at Zion.



Serving in December						
Date	Flowers	Acolyte *	Crucifer *	Assisting Minister	Nursery	Communion Servers
Dec. 5 (B)	Judy Hart	Devan Funderburk	Christian HeidtHarris	Dana Lee Smith	Dawn Holton	Katie Pittman
Dec. 12 (B)	Ann Lowe	Luke Dasher	Alex Peth	Sean Vandenhouten	Brooke Burns	Ryan Pittman
Dec. 19 (B)	Terry Sexton	Megan Edwards	Cassidy Edwards	Sherri Pittman	Sarah and Kevin Farmer	Brooke and Cheire Burns
Dec. 24 (W)	Karen Dasher	Charlie HeidtHarris	Anna Lee HeidtHarris	No assisting minister	Open if Needed	Louise Sebastian & Rene Atkinson
Dec. 26 (W)	Karen Dasher	Lauren Conaway	Autumn Conaway	Dana Lee Smith	Amber Hall	Dana & Dana Lee Smith
* 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 6	Alex and Benji Peth	Autumn Conaway	If you cannot clean on your assigned week, Contact Dana Lee Smith @ 728-3227 or 665-1377 by Wednesday of the week assigned.
December 20	Cassidy and Megan Edwards	Anna Lee and Christian HeidtHarris	

Month of	Greeters	Ushers	Visiting Comm.
December	Joy and Ronald Hutcheson	Joe Studier Trey Davis Wade Zipperer Francis Ralph	Cookie Delivery

Women's Circles	Program	Place
Evening Afternoon Circle of Friends Mary/Martha	Cookie Packing	Church Education Building

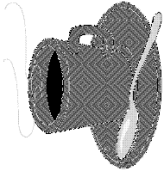
## Christmas Caroling

Get your singing voices ready! It's time for Christmas Caroling! Zion's youth will go Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. 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.

### Good Shepherd Maritime Ministry

**Chip Lingle** (former pastor at Faith, Savannah) is now the chaplain for the new ELCA Maritime Ministry out of Good Shepherd, Garden City. (The members of Good Shepherd voted in September to no longer provide the use of their facilities for the non-ELCA Maritime Bethel at Savannah, Inc.) Chaplain Lingle has published a list of basic needs and wants for their new Good Shepherd Maritime Ministry. Some items include computers, computer desks, knitted/crocheted hats, and volunteers. A full listing is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you would like to volunteer or donate, please contact Chaplain Lingle at 912-704-6832.

### **BREAKFAST SOCIAL**



Many came and enjoyed a great breakfast social hosted by the Lutheran Men in Mission on Sunday, November 28th. 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.

**Pastor Barb will be in the Church Office**

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



# December 2010

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
LMM - Lutheran Men In Mission LYO - Lutheran Youth Organization WELCA - Women of the ELCA ZFH - Zion Fellowship Hall			1 2:30p - Children's Choir 4:30p - K-5 Faith Weavers 5:15p - Meal 6p - LYO Bible Study 7p - Adult Choir	2 7p - Eagle Scout Board of Review - ZFH	3 7:30p-Zion Movie - "Miracle on 34th Street"	4 1p - Pickle/Dasher Bridal Shower - ZFH
5 2nd Sunday of Advent 10a - New Member Class 12:15p - Children's Christmas Practice 6p - Comm./Council 7p - Pack WELCA Cookies	6 7p - AA-ZFH	7	8 2:30p - Children's Choir 7p - Adult Choir	9 6:30p - Marlow Pre- School Movie- ZFH	10 11	10:15a - Float in Guyton's Christmas Parade TBD - Children's Christmas Program Practice
12 3rd Sunday of Advent 10a - New Member Class 4p - Children's Christmas Practice 6:30p - Children's Christmas Program/ Fellowship	13 7p - AA-ZFH	14 6:30p - Eff. Women in Busi- ness - ZFH	15 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	16	17 6p - Cub Scout Christmas Party - ZFH	18
19 4th Sunday of Advent 10a - New Member Class 11a - New Members Received 4p - LYO Caroling 6:30p - LYO/Senior Dinner <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	20 7p - AA-ZFH	21	22 No Children's Choir 7p - Adult Choir  <i>No Effingham County School</i>	23	24 7p - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Cantata & Communion	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>
26 1st Sunday of Christmas 11a - Lessons & Carols with Communion	27 7p - AA-ZFH	28	29 No Choir Practices  <i>No Effingham County School</i>	30	31	