



**Zion Lutheran Church
December 2020 Worship Schedule**

Sunday live 10:00 am on Facebook

Links posted to website and emailed

824 NE 4th Avenue Camas, Washington

Associate Pr. Susan A. Dollinger

360-834-4201 office

Email: info@zionluthcamas.org

Website: www.zionluthcamas.org

Christmas Toy Drive

Our local Toy & Food Drives are in a lot of need this year! We are teaming up with C.A.R.O.L. in the Camas-Washougal area (Christmas Activities Relief Organization Limited) to provide toys and gift cards. Foods collected will go to the Treasure House.

Please bring unwrapped toys for kids age 10 and younger to place under our tree in Danielson Hall, and gift cards or a donation to purchase gift cards for children 11 and older to the mail box outside the office window **before December 14**. Non-perishable groceries can also be dropped off at Danielson Hall.



As our Poinsettia Garden will not happen this year, each family that brings a gift or a food donation will be represented on

the tree by a red bow, and the opportunity to dedicate their gift in memory or honor of someone. A "Red Bow" form will be attached to the video link of each Sunday service through the 6th. A flyer printed with the names will be attached to the Christmas Eve service bulletins, available for pickup or mailed to anyone wishing a copy.

We hope that this visible

reminder of caring for our neighbors is a joy to you, and a way to remember our loved ones.

Please remember to pick up your offering envelopes at the same time you bring your donations; a table will be set up just inside the double doors.

Please call Pam Ensley with any questions or needs for our Toy & Food Drive 503-781-7978.



Confirmation Schedule

Dec. 6 6:30 – 7:30 Zoom
Dec. 13 6:30- 7:30 Zoom
Confirmation will resume until January 10.

Bible Study 1 Samuel

Dec. 3 read chapters 25-28
Dec. 10 read chapters 29-end and wrap up. Bible Study will resume in January with a new study.

Bible Narration

We are starting in Exodus on Dec. 3. We will have class Dec. 3, 10, 17 and will resume in January.

ADVENT SERVICE

Wednesday night Advent services will be held at 7:00 pm on Dec. 2, 9, and 16 on Facebook live.



Prayer Chain

Beth Farrington, Barbara Breitenbucher, Alan Hansen, Carrie Golladay

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,
Thank you for participating in this year's Adopt-a-Room program. Open House Ministries has been hard at work updating rooms and creating fresh spaces for new families moving into the shelter. The pandemic has challenged our normal flow of Adopt-a-Room donations this year and we appreciate the flexibility shown by all the donors.

Open House Ministries is blessed by friends like you because we know you understand the impact of the Adopt-a-Room program. Having basic needs met helps relieve stress as residents get the help they need with alcohol and drug addiction or mental health issues. Your generosity plays a big part in making each family feel safe and at home.

After families graduate the program at Open House Ministries, families continue to be blessed by having these

December Zoom Meetings	
Staff Meeting	10:00
Wed 9, 23	
Confirmation	6:30- 7:30
Sun 6, 13	
Bible Study	10:00
Thurs 3, 10	
Council	4:00
Tues 15	
What's Brewing?	5:30
Tues 22	
Men's Study Group	7:30
Thurs 3, 10, 17	
Narration	3:30
Thurs 3, 10, 17	

necessary household items to set up their first home. Your help bridges a financial gap and helps families gain the independence required for a successful future. Thank you so much for your help this year. You are a blessing to Open House Ministries. Merry Christmas!
Ruth Bennett



Godly Play

Dec. 6 - Advent Part I
Dec. 13 - Advent Part II
Godly Play will be back January 10. Have a wonderful Christmas!



December 2020

*Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place
in this way.*

Matthew 1:18a

Dear ones, it has been another tough month, and I know that many had plans that have been cancelled, or changed...again. The change of plans for Thanksgiving for some hit a more sour note, as they involve an important holiday steeped in tradition and family. Many are feeling not so merry and bright this season. Yet, the story that remains the same is the Christmas story that we hear and engage in each year.

We hear our beloved happy Christmas music and the beautiful Christmas story which is supposed to fill our hearts with calm, peace and joy. We remember the birth of the baby that changed the world. There was, however, another story. With all that is going on in the world these days, perhaps a reminder is relevant.

Mary and Joseph traveled a long way to be registered, about 80 miles. It didn't matter that Mary was about to give birth; they were required to make the trip. They were in the reign of Herod the Great who was neither kind nor tolerant. They were registering so that they would be taxed. Eventually they had to flee to Egypt to escape the jealous ruler who had no interest in sharing space with a baby king.

Jesus' parents were poor, Mary ended up in a barn to give birth instead of at home with her mother or anything familiar nearby. She had to lay her precious newborn baby in a trough. Later, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus became refugees, afraid, escaping in the middle of the night.

The background of Jesus' birth is actually a story of difficulties and challenges, rejection, and fear.

The season of Advent is about waiting. Not waiting in the light of day, but waiting in the dark of night. It's about waiting with an expectant patience that something amazing will be happening soon.

Dear ones, in one more month we turn the calendar to 2021. I am sure we all await the day. While the beginning of 2021 looks like much of the same, we wait in expectancy for a new horizon. We hold on to that hope, which sheds a light onto this difficult journey that we have all been on. Our patience and tenacity are still needed.

The story of Jesus' birth takes place within and among another story, one that holds challenge, scarcity, and fear. Jesus' birth brings forth the light and heavenly hosts praising God, proclaiming "Glory to God in the highest heaven," to a harsh world of uncertainty. It is the same situation today.

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Let the story of Jesus break into whatever world you are living in, whether your world is filled with trepidation, sorrow, joy or zeal. Let today be about praising God Most High. Give thanks for a baby king named Jesus.

Jesus brought the light of hope into our world, a light so bright it radiates though us today as it did for the generations and generations of saints before, and as it does into the future and beyond. The hope of Jesus even radiates today in 2020 with all that is and all that has been. Stand in its rays. Bask in the Glory of God.

Book Club meets

Dear Reading Friends,

Good to see many of you at our Zoom Book Group meeting last week.

Thank you to Pam Hankins for leading discussion and for all the additional information she provided about North Korea. I happened upon a couple TV National Geographic specials on North Korea you may find interesting if you have Comcast On-Demand. Go to the On-Demand channel to TV Shows to By Network to National



Geographic to Specials, then scroll to North Korea. Hopefully these instructions are clear, if you are interested in watching these documentaries.

We won't have a book group meeting in December, so our next scheduled meetings and book choices are as follows:

January 14, 2021: *Us Against You* by Fredrick Backman.

Sandra Meeker will lead the discussion.



February 11: *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn. Karen Gates will lead discussion.

March 11: *This Tender Land* by

William Kent Krueger. Lois Schroeder will lead discussion.

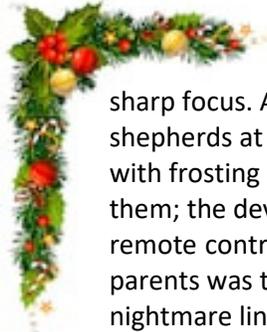
April 8: *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. Pat Edwards will lead discussion.

May and June: TBD Please let us know if you have a book you would like the group to read and lead discussion.

January meeting time is 1 PM via ZOOM unless notified otherwise. Let Sandra or me know if you would like a book ordered via Amazon Prime for you.

Wishing you all a blessed and healthy Advent!

Karen Gates



Although Christmases begin to run together in my memory, a few special moments pop into sharp focus. A small sheep running to catch up with the shepherds at the church program; sugar cookies so overloaded with frosting and sprinkles that only other children would eat them; the devastating discovery on Christmas morning that a remote control truck would not operate. Even more dreadful for parents was the realization of the return to Toys R Us with its nightmare line.

Our son Alan was born in November, and one of those special memories connects to his first tree, which was also our first in our brand-new double wide mobile home. Tree ornaments in our families are collections of old treasures, children's handcrafts, and a perhaps few new things added, gifts or mementos. Today the collection is vast and requires selection. But back then, our daughter Sharla being only nineteen months old, the handcrafts were limited to a plaster tree made by the Zion WELCA in 1963 and a photo ornament in which I had put her recent picture. (My earlier attempt at a snowflake paper chain ended with a shower of confetti.) There wasn't a lot to decorate with, but there was no tree either. For our first three Christmases, a local tree farm had been our source and we had relished the hike through the fields for the perfect one. But Alan was three weeks and fussy, the weather was really cold, Sharla insisted on walking which just wasn't feasible – all conspired against hunting a tree. Time slipped by. The farm was always pre-dawn to after dark, the new baby was demanding, and even more so a toddler who had always been center stage.

December 23, and at Dave's lunchtime we drove a mile to another tree farm, a roadside sign advertising "Pre-cut Available". We weren't really happy about taking this route but it seemed inevitable.

And yet a small miracle awaited us. A bank had ordered a tree for their lobby – a full, big tree that was flocked white – and for some reason had not collected it. The owner was happy to sell it to us for a fraction of the cost (\$15, I think) and we took it home. Our few decorations did not detract from its snowy beauty. Little Sharla stood looking at it, head tipped back to see the star way up with such a wondering awe on her face, I thought our first sight of eternity might call forth such a look. I'll always remember that.

May these blessed days of Advent be touched by your precious memories and the smiles they call forth.

Patricia Hagensen



FINANCIAL DIGEST

OCTOBER

BUDGETARY INCOME YEAR/DATE	222,984.64
BUDGETARY EXPENSES	187,108.20

BUDGETARY OFFERING MONTH YEAR/DATE

2020	14,640.46	222,984.64
2019	27,470.44	234,066.12

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON		# of Sundays	Avg/YR to Date
2020	1417	10	142
2019	547 5959	43	139



Zion Lutheran Church Staff:

Ministers	Entire Congregation
Associate Pastor	Susan Dollinger
Youth Minister	Pam Ensley
Office Assistant	Sandra Meeker
Music Staff:	Karen Rezabek, Gary Ritter
Nursery Attendants	Emily McElhaney, Alexa Gaudio, Brooke Gaudio, Christina McElhaney
Sound Techs:	Nolan Purkerson, Reid Frank, Max Malcom
Custodian	Tye Cobb
Council Officers:	Pres. Leslee Froehlich, Vice Pres. Adam Sitler Sec. Kelly Bruce
Administrative Assistant	Patricia Hagensen

The **Zion Messenger** is the monthly newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, located at NE 4th & Garfield, Camas, Washington. Worship services are at 9:00 am (traditional) and 11:15 am (contemporary). Pr. Susan A. Dollinger can be reached at 360-834-4201 ext 202 or 503-548-7997 (cell).

Administrative office hours are 8-12:00 Mondays and 8-5:00 Tuesday - Friday. Email can be sent to info@zionluthcamas.org. The website is zionluthcamas.org. For youth & family ministry, the email address is youthminister@zionluthcamas.org.

“As a welcoming Body of Christ, we celebrate and share God’s saving grace for all.”

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