



Zion Messenger

Zion Lutheran Church

December 2024

Advent Services

7:00 pm Wednesdays Dec. 4, 11, 18

Christmas Eve 4 & 8:00

All are welcome!

Worship on Sundays at 10:00 am

Live stream on Facebook

Zion Lutheran Camas ELCA

824 NE 4th Avenue Camas, Washington

Pastor Christopher Hogstad

360-834-4201 office

Email: info@zionluthcamas.org

Website: www.zionluthcamas.org

SERVICE

ALTAR GUILD

Marilyn Anderson, Florence
Faraone, Beth Farrington

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Dec. 1 LaDene Mattson
Dec. 8 Leslee Froehlich
Dec. 15 Marilyn Anderson
Dec. 22 Megan Hogstad
Dec. 24 4:00 Pam Ensley
 8:00 Jolene Myers
Dec. 29 Marilyn Anderson

BASKET ASSISTANTS

Dec. 1 Kathryn Sitler
Dec. 8 Deanna Eichler
Dec. 15 Tiffany Ladage
Dec. 22 Taylor Hogstad
Dec. 29 Jean Dossett

GREETERS

Dec. 1 Haralsons
Dec. 8 Jolene Myers
Dec. 15 Adam Sitler
Dec. 22
Dec. 29



I wish to thank all the people who helped at any time in the office this year -- while I was out of the office, preparing the *Messenger* for mailing, helping with Easter or Christmas bulletins or annual reports. Your assistance is so appreciated!
Blessings to you all,
Pat Hagensen

COFFEE HOUR

Dec. 1
Dec. 8 Bembenek
Dec. 15 Sitler
Dec. 22 Ensley
Dec. 29

LECTORS

Dec. 1 Barbara West
Dec. 8 John Dietrich
Dec. 15 Austin Hogstad
Dec. 22
Dec. 24 4:00
 8:00 Megan Hogstad
Dec. 29 Lee Ellen Gilronan

FLOWERS

Dec. 1 Bleak
Dec. 8 Bembenek
Dec. 15
Dec. 22 Gardner
Dec. 29 Holland

Weather update



In the event you want to know if a snow or ice storm is affecting a scheduled worship service, call the church phone number (360-834-4201) and listen to the message. We want you to be safe, avoid hazardous conditions and keep you informed.

Noisy Offering

December 1st's
Noisy Offering will go to the WHO (Winter Hospitality Overflow) shelter at St. Paul Lutheran in Vancouver. Bring your noisy coins or silent bills to make a difference in the world!



Meal Ministry

Zion is revitalizing our ministry towards members who will benefit from temporary meal support. Previously known as "Helping Hands", this ministry is intended to assist members during challenging and uncertain times like an illness, recovery from a medical procedure, the arrival of a newborn, or a death in the family. Please inform Pastor Chris or Pat if you would appreciate meal support from your sisters and brothers at Zion. A representative from the Zion Care Group will reach out to you to coordinate your meals.



Men's Breakfast holiday van adventure

Zion men - we're using Zion's van to take us to breakfast at Black Bear Diner on Tuesday, December 3rd. Departure 8:45 a.m. returning by 11 a.m. (estimate).

Breakfast at Black Bear offers a myriad of food options, something for everyone! Please sign up in Danielson Hall; there is a maximum of 12 seats. Suggested donation to Zion is \$2 covering the cost of van use and can be paid the morning we depart. Join us as we kick off the holiday season with fellowship and a delicious breakfast.





Greetings in the name of the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ!

We are people of hope. Hope for the here and now; hope for the future.

During this Advent season as we wait, watch, and hope for God to appear, what do we hope for? Is our hope limited to ourselves or expanding out into the community God has brought us to and the people we journey with?

This year the lectionary comes mainly from the Gospel of Luke. In it Jesus brings hope to those on the margins and outside societal norms to prove that God is always with us in all things. Jesus also states multiple times that he has come to bring repentance to all and in repentance we find hope. Hope that God does stay with us. Hope that grace does abound to meet us where we are at. Hope that what we fear will not take place and everything will be all right.

For many, hope comes in new life. There is nothing more that signifies new life than a new born baby. So much is hoped for in that child, often that hope is grounded, however at times that hope is misguided and unrealistic. Trouble often starts there. When unrealized hope gets shattered grace is hard to realize. The life of Jesus is filled with hope. For many hope coming in the way they think it should is appropriate. The shattering of that hope as Jesus speaks and acts in truth and love is what gets people against Him in Luke's gospel.

We are not alone in a life of hope.

Fear is what shatters hope most often in my experience. Fear that life will not end up the way dreamed. Fear that family and friends will leave, and one will be alone. Fear that no one cares. To those fears, and many others, Jesus speaks of being found and rejoicing among many. We may search for hope ourselves but hope found is shared equally among all the people. We are not alone in a life of hope. We rejoice with each other when hope comes to life. We share times of grace in being known by God. We share in the hope that is to come.

“Do not be afraid (*fearful*); for see I am bringing good news of great joy for **all the people**: to you (y'all) is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11 (changes mine). These are words of hope amid fear and uncertainty. No one

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knows then how or when this Savior will grow into or what He will bring. We as post Easter Christians do know. We know because we have heard the stories and experienced hope ourselves. In that hope we go forward in life and in faith with grace and hope leading us on.
Pastor Chris



Food & toy drive for C.A.R.O.L.

For the past 70 years, the C.A.R.O.L. program has helped to provide happier holidays for the less fortunate in the community through the consolidated efforts of service clubs, organizations, and individuals from the community. Members of the Camas-Washougal Fire Department and East County Fire & Rescue coordinate donations and delivery of boxes full of food and gifts.

Last year, thanks to the donations received from the public, donations were delivered to **82 families**, which included **233 children**. In addition, staff was able to provide three boxes of perishable and non-perishable food and gifts for children up to 16 years old. This could not have been done without your help! In the hopes that this year's



program will be as successful as those in years past, the C.A.R.O.L. committee is asking for your help. Monetary contributions are needed -- please make checks payable to Zion.

Contributions of non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped toys or gifts are also greatly appreciated. In addition, gift cards and movie passes are also welcome and make great gifts for teenagers. Donations can be dropped off at the church Christmas tree or either of the Camas fire stations (616 NE 4th Ave. or 4321 NW Parker St.) by **Dec. 12.**

Poinsettia garden!

A beautiful Christmas tradition at Zion is the Poinsettia Garden. The congregation has the opportunity to provide the plants in memory or honor of someone, or just to add to the garden. A flyer printed with the names is inserted in the Christmas Eve service bulletin. After the evening December 24 services, the plants may be taken home or left to be taken to shut-ins.

If you wish to order a poinsettia, please put your name and check/cash (\$15 -- checks made out to Zion Lutheran Church) in an envelope labeled "Poinsettia" and place it in the offering, mail it to the church office, or drop it off there by Tuesday, December 17.



Please note, you may still purchase your own poinsettia and bring it to the church by 10:00 am December 23. You will still complete the poinsettia form from a December 8 or 15 bulletin. If you intend to take it home after Christmas, please mark it with your name. If you order your plant and wish to keep it, please take one that does not have a name on it.



Hello Zion Family!

Zion Youth wish you a wonderful holiday season! We pray for health, joy, and overall goodness to fill your lives as we finish the year 2024 and enter into 2025.

This year has been so beautiful in every way, and as Youth Director I can't help but believe the best is yet to come. God has so much more in store to grow Zion as a whole and plant new spiritual blessings in our hearts. One of the greatest lessons I've learned since working here is that Jesus our Lord and Savior wants to show us His character. We get to read of His peace that comes through gentleness (and sometimes a sword) in scripture, but we also have the honor to see it day to day. God is the "I am" which means that His presence and glory is magnified in ALL things. There is no situation on earth that He cannot turn for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. For anyone at Zion who struggles through the holidays, this

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message is for you: God wants to be good to you. He wants to bless you. He has gone through all the pain and gladly put Himself in Christ Jesus to die for our sins (Col. 1:19). The beauty of Christmas is the honoring of sacrifice.

Looking forward

Dec 6th: Christmas Movie Hangout! (with Mexican hot chocolate) @6pm.
All Youth ages 12 to 18 invited.
Location: Junior Chapel



Dec 15th: Gingerbread House Decoration Family Day! 4-6pm
All families are invited to bring their own gingerbread house or gingerbread cookies and Zion will provide decorations (frosting, sprinkles, and more)!
Location: Social Hall.

Dec 17th: Dairy Queen and Service Project 5:30pm to 8pm.
Zion Youth encouraged to bring \$\$ for food and we will do a service project after!
Location: Junior Chapel.



Dec 20th: Youth Christmas Formal 6pm to 9pm.
Location: Social Hall.

This is a black tie and fancy dress event! Our first annual Christmas Formal where we eat good food, play games, and celebrate the year we've had together. Zion Youth are encouraged to invite any and all friends! Tickets are \$5. If you have concerns with buying a ticket, let Destiny or Pastor Chris know.

Jan 4th: Family Youth Day, 12pm



to 4pm.

Location: Social Hall
Join us for a great family day where we will play games, eat snacks, and do crafts! This will be a wonderful time to invite families in the community to participate and get to know our Zion family.

Blessings,
Destiny Rose Nielsen

Women's Thursday group enjoys Advent study

Please join us December 5 for an Advent study ***The Women of Christmas: Experience the Season Afresh with Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna*** by Liz Curtis Higgs:

God Reached Down from Heaven with the Best Gift of All

A sacred season is about to unfold for three women whose hearts belong to God. Elizabeth is barren, yet her trust in God remains fertile.



Mary is betrothed in marriage, yet she is willing to bear God's Son. Anna is a widow full of years, yet she waits patiently, prayerfully for the Messiah to appear in the temple courts.

Following in their footsteps, you too can prepare for the Savior to enter your heart, your mind, and your life in a vibrant, new way.

Best-selling author Liz Curtis Higgs explores the biblical stories of Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna, unwrapping each verse with tender care and introducing you afresh to *The Women of Christmas*.

This study will meet **December 5, 12, and 19** in the Conference Room. You may purchase your own book or we can purchase for you. We look forward to spending time together!

Caren Frank and Pam Hankins

Advent & Christmas Schedule

Advent Service

7:00 pm

Wednesdays December 4, 11 & 18

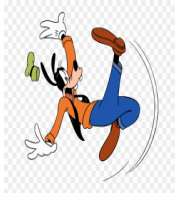
Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 & 8:00

Carols, Candles & Communion

Emergency Contact Information

A voluntary program to keep emergency contact information at



Zion is in place. If anyone should experience a medical emergency at Zion, the emergency contact form will hold the name, phone number, and address of the person(s) you want to be notified. All members are encouraged to email, call, or stop by the church office to provide Pat with their emergency contact information.

Zion's Endowment Fund

There are many options through lifetime giving arrangements that may benefit you, your family, and Zion. Lifetime giving complements your estate planning and often improves your current financial and tax situation. Consider a planned gift of kindness to Zion! For more information call a member of the Endowment Team:

Cheryl Sonju	360-835-7670
Ken Mattson	360-834-3301
Linda Hansen	605-254-5016
Joe Keller	503-313-6646
Deanna Eichler	512-925-9105

Book Club meets in January

Many thanks to Pat Edwards for leading a stimulating discussion of *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn. We do not meet in December, but will resume on Thursday, January 9, 2025!

Meanwhile, you can be reading our next book *The Girl Behind the Wall* by Mandy Robotham. Pam Ensley will be our discussion leader.

The book begins when the Berlin Wall goes up and twins Karin and Jutta find they are on opposite sides of the wall!



Everyone will need to obtain their own book.

Looking ahead:

February:

The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd; Leader Mary

March: *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers; Leader Destiny

April: *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave (Book kit at library) Leader Florence

May: *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt
Leader Pam Hankins

June: *The Ginhouse Hollow* by Karen Frees; Leader Jolene

All are welcome!



Upcoming van travels

Saturday, December 7 - Christmas Lights

Come and see the festive lighted Christmas ships as they show off their finery at the Port of Washougal. We will drive around local Christmas light displays and maybe stop for coffee or hot chocolate along the way.

Level of difficulty - Easy

Suggested donation to Zion: \$1.00

Departure 5:45 pm; return *estimated* 8:00 pm



Reservations (\$1.00) must be paid at the office by December 2. If all seats are taken, you may ask to

be placed on a waiting list in case of a cancellation. Maximum - 12, must have 8 to maintain the trip.



Friday, December 13 - Christmas Concert at Trinity Lutheran Church

Like Christmas music? Enjoy an extra helping of this treat for your ears when the Community Choir at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vancouver presents *Season of Song*, a Christmas concert that shares the musical talents of many within their congregation and the greater community. Several Zion parishioners participate in this choir. Let's show our support and go as a group to enjoy this choral evening.

Level of difficulty - Easy

Suggested donation to Zion: \$2.00

Free will offering at the church

Departure 6:00 pm; return *estimated* 9:00 pm

Reservations (\$2.00) must be paid at the office by December 6 at 5:00 pm, and will close then or when trip is full; if all seats are taken, you may ask to be placed on a waiting list in case of a cancellation. Maximum - 12, must have 8 to maintain the trip. **If 8 paid reservations are not received at the office by 5:00 pm December 6, the trip will be cancelled.**

FINANCIAL DIGEST

OCTOBER

BUDGETARY INCOME YEAR/DATE 230,954.14
BUDGETARY EXPENSES 273,354.36

BUDGETARY OFFERING MONTH YEAR/DATE

2024	24,695.63	230,954.14
2023	30,914.15	264,047.91

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON		# of Sundays	Avg/YR to Date	
2024	349	3439	43	80
2023	397	3846	44	87



Zion Lutheran Church Staff:

Ministers	Entire Congregation
Senior Pastor	Christopher Hogstad
Music Staff:	Ethan Lai, Gary Ritter
Youth Ministry Director	Destiny Nielsen
Digital Media Coordinators	Kathryn Sitler, Taylor Hogstad
Sound Techs:	Kylie Ericcsen, Austin Hogstad, Max Malcom Daniel Martinez, Matt Sitler, Kathryn Sitler
Council Officers:	Pres. Kelly Bruce, Vice Pres. Susan Purkerson Sec. Florence Faraone
Administrative Assistant	Patricia Hagensen

The **Zion Messenger** is the monthly newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, located at 824 NE 4th Avenue, Camas, Washington. Worship service is at 10:00 am. Pr. Chris Hogstad can be reached at 360-834-4201 ext 202 or 360-835-2925. 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. Worship live on Facebook at Zion Lutheran Church Camas ELCA

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