

Zion Lutheran Church
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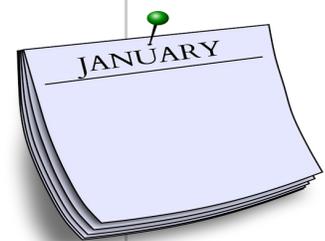
TOWER TOPICS
JANUARY 2020

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Service 8:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
(Communion ea. Sunday) (Communion 1st & 3rd Sun.)
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Church Office closed	2 Prayer Circle 11:00 Ensemble Practice 7:00	3	4
5 Sunday <u>School starts</u> 8:30 Comm. <u>Service</u> 9:30 Sun. Sch. 10:30 Worship	6 5:00 Special Olympics Mtg. 5:30 TOPS	7 <u>8:30 CAMA</u> <u>1:00 Staff Mtg</u> 6pm <u>Property-</u> <u>Comm. Mtg.</u> 6:30 <u>Evangelism</u> <u>Comm.Mtg</u>	8 1:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Sr. High Youth Group	9 Prayer Circle 11:00 Ensemble Practice 7:00	10 Newsletter Deadline	11 Private Event
12 <u>8:30</u> <u>Comm.Service</u> 9:30 Sun.Sch. 9:30 Human Trafficking <u>Workshop</u> 10:30 Worship	13 9:30 <u>Stitchery</u> <u>2:30 Library</u> <u>mtg.</u> 4pm <u>Out</u> <u>Reach</u> <u>5:30 TOPS</u> <u>6:30 Finance</u>	14 1:00 Staff Mtg 4pm BookClub 6:30 Executive Comm. Mtg.	15 Bulletin Deadline	16 11 am Prayer Circle 12:30 Lunch Bunch at Curly's at Evergreen	17	18
19 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sun Sch. 10:30 Worship	20 Martin Luther King Day 5:30 TOPS	21 6:30 Council	22 1 pm Bulletin- Deadline 6:30 Sr. High Youth Group	23 11 am Prayer Circle	24	25 Soup for Seniors 12:00
26 "Noisy Off." <u>8:30 Comm.</u> 9:30 Sun Sch. <u>10:30 Worship</u> 11:30-Annual Cong. Mtg. 12:30 sp c mt	27 9:30 Stitchery 5:30 TOPS	28 1:00-3"00 Staff Meetings	29 1:00 Bulletin Deadline	30 11:00 Prayer Circle	31	





Tower Topics

January 2020

Volume 31 Number 1

Rev. Scott Torkko

Website: www.cadillaczion.org

Church Office 775-9821

Email: zionlutherancadillac@gmail.com

For everything a season

Wanting his sons to learn not to judge too quickly, a man sent each, in turn, on a quest to look at a pear tree far away and report what he saw. The first son went in winter, the second in spring, the third in summer and the fourth in fall. Finally, the father gathered the young men together. "What did you see?" he asked.

The first son reported seeing an ugly tree, bent and lifeless. The second disagreed, saying it was budding with fresh new life. The third son reported finding a tree laden with sweet-smelling, beautiful blossoms, while the fourth insisted it drooped with ripe fruit.

The father said his sons were all correct, for they'd seen the same tree, though at different seasons of its life. "Don't judge a tree — or a person — based on just one season of life," he counseled his children. "Who they are can only be known at the end, when all life's seasons have been lived.

"Furthermore," he added, "don't give up on your own life if you experience a hard season, such as winter, or you'll miss out on the renewal of spring, the joy of summer, the fulfillment of autumn."

From Newletternewsletter.com

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Thoughts from Pastor Scott



“Fostering Connection with God, our neighbor’s, and one another.”

The above is what I think we at Zion do when we are at our best. In fact, I would go so far as to say missing any one of these “connections” would be missing part of what it means to be Zion Lutheran Church.

The word “foster” means, “to promote the growth of or development of; further; encourage.” When Zion is at its best, that’s exactly what we do...we promote, develop, and encourage connections with God, our neighbor’s and one another.

One way we see this best part of ourselves is thru committees nurturing these three areas. The fostering of connections with our neighbors looks like our outreach committee and all they do with people coming out of homelessness, the socks and underwear ministry, noisy offerings, and many other efforts. Groups fostering connection with our neighbors include our kids deciding our Sunday school offerings would be given beyond our congregation, the congregation council using year end money to give to places outside of ourselves, and Kids Hope mentors connecting with students and teachers at Forest View elementary. Committees fostering connections within our congregation look like homebound communion visits, the card ministry at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and the events the fellowship committee creates to bring us together. Many of these committees begin with a devotion and/or prayer, connecting its members to God. Worship, of course, is the central connecting point of

our congregation without which all 3 areas suffer.

It’s also true that when ministries have struggled they often have missed one or more of these connections that Zion is called to foster: being overly focused on ourselves at the expense of our neighbors, forgetting what makes us unique is our connection to God in Jesus through worship, failing to tend to our relationships with one another.

When we are connected to God, our neighbors, and each other people are less likely to vanish without anyone realizing it. People themselves are less likely to walk away from the congregation when they sense a connection to God, neighbors, and each other thru Zion.

“Zion Lutheran Church fosters connections with God, our neighbors and each other.” It is simple. It is clear. And it is who I believe Zion is when we are at our best.

Blessed to be your pastor,

Pr. Scott

Noisy Offering January 26th



Providing Transportation to those in need The January 26 "Noisy" Offering will, once again, support the purchase of bus passes for those in our local community who do not have their own transportation and struggle to have adequate funding for public transit. The money you so generously share allows the Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency (NMCAA) to give their clients bus passes. These passes are used to help a variety of clients to get to medical appointments or simply to get to the grocery store or run errands. So, please save up your loose change and help us make a "loud noise" of caring for our local community on January 26.

The Zion Book Club will be meeting Tuesday, January 14 at 4:00 p.m.. They will be reading *Where the Crawdads Sing*. For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens. Book Club hostess is Mary Shaw.



The Lunch Bunch

Meets on Thursday, January 16th at 12:30 at Curly's Pub at Evergreen Resort.

*Sign up sheet is on bulletin board
Hostess this month is Dottie Reinertson.*

The Lunch Bunch is a group of women who meet once a month for fellowship and lunch. It is open to all women who would like to attend.



Senior Soup Luncheon will meet Saturday, January 25th.

Penny Stange will be preparing beef stew with corn-

bread and dessert for the first gathering of the year. All seniors are welcome to come enjoy the delicious lunch and good fellowship at no charge.

Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.



A father was pounding on his son’s bedroom door early on a Sunday morning. Son, you have to get up and get to church.

There was no answer. Again, the father pounded on the door of his son’s room and pleaded with him to wake up and get ready for church.

The son replied, “go away. Let me sleep.”

Again the father knocked on the door and asked the son to get up.

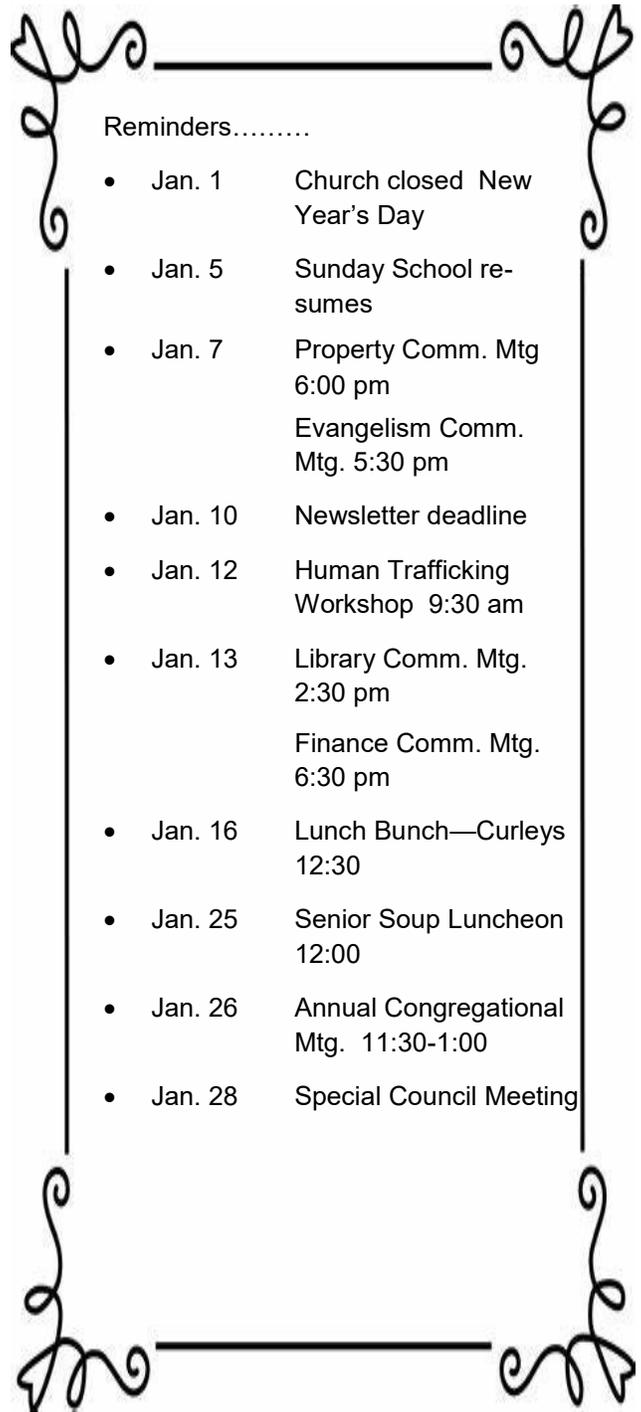
Finally, the son’s sleepy voice asked....”why. Why can’t you just let me sleep in? Why do I have to go to church today?”

The father answered in an exasperated voice.....

“because you’re the Pastor!!”



“In this moment I claim my power. I go within and touch the Divine that awaits my recognition. Together we move forward to create a life of passion and purpose that is ours to live!”



Reminders.....

- Jan. 1 Church closed New Year’s Day
- Jan. 5 Sunday School resumes
- Jan. 7 Property Comm. Mtg 6:00 pm
Evangelism Comm. Mtg. 5:30 pm
- Jan. 10 Newsletter deadline
- Jan. 12 Human Trafficking Workshop 9:30 am
- Jan. 13 Library Comm. Mtg. 2:30 pm
Finance Comm. Mtg. 6:30 pm
- Jan. 16 Lunch Bunch—Curleys 12:30
- Jan. 25 Senior Soup Luncheon 12:00
- Jan. 26 Annual Congregational Mtg. 11:30-1:00
- Jan. 28 Special Council Meeting

“Affirmations:

Today I make a promise to myself to begin doing my spiritual work. I move beyond the books and classes and make changes to my thoughts and actions. As I do, my life changes in magnificent ways.”

“Today I seek the joy of life. I look for only beauty and goodness, and that is all I see.”



Ministry Coordinator

Val Hanson



Ministries Coordinator Report This month's highlighted ministry is the Zion Library. It is run by a committee that reviews donated books before placing them in the library, purchases new selections, prepares them for checking out, highlights books for the congregation each month, and makes the library run smoothly. The group is happy to maintain this resource and strives to provide meaningful materials for the congregation. Patti Swanson, one of the co-chairpersons, says, "You don't have to leave your home to find something good to read. If you are a member of Zion, our library

is like having your very own personal library. A lot of committee members have read several of the books and can give you some good ideas on what to read. Just ask us!" You can support the work of the committee by checking out books! Directions for doing that are posted. The Library Committee would also love to hear from you regarding the types of books you would like to see in the library. The Library Committee would welcome new members. They meet the second Monday of each month at 2:30. For more information, contact Patti Swanson or Sue Ann Traviss.



Before and After

We give, expecting our chosen receiver to experience some pleasure from our choice.

We spend, we wrap, we hope, we expect.

But when the wrapping is no longer concealing the mystery of the gift, and the givers and receivers have experienced the myriad of feelings this season brings.....the music, the decorations, even the over abundance of food seems to lose some of it's attraction.

The expectation is no longer there. Once December 26th rolls around, all the sparkle of the season begins to fade and our thoughts go to putting all to rest for another year. We think of getting our life back into some semblance of



normality which provides us with an ease of familiarity.

What a difference in how we look at Christmas in the weeks before and then in the weeks after.

A beautiful season once again put to rest. Dried up trees lying in the snow banks waiting to be picked up and disposed of.

(Continued on page 5)

("Just A thought" continued from page 4)

With sincere gratitude and appreciation for all the beautiful cards, phone calls, visits, cookies and cake. Thank you so very much. It was the best birthday ever. Gratefully,



Virginia Wicklund

we give thanks

Thank you for helping to feed those in need. Thanks to your generous support, the King's Storehouse Food Pantry will have additional resources to provide food to those in need in our local community. Our November "Noisy" offering raised \$228.09. Thank you for your caring, generous support.

(Just A Thought continued from page 4)

Decorations are removed and packed away and for a day or two, until our senses adjust, there seems a bareness, a stark, get back to reality sort of feeling.

The cupboards and refrigerators hold the bits and pieces, left over and reminiscent of the specialties of the recent season and as the scales groan as reminders, those bits and pieces are scraped into the garbage. As New Year's Day rolls around, we actually have time to sit down and put our feet up. Watch a movie. Take a nap. There is no need to check our list and hurry to the store for another gift. No need to prepare a big dinner, write out cards, bake more cookies and wrap more gifts.

We take a breath and rehash in our minds all the moments of the past few days.

Was it worth it? Would we do differently next year? Did Christmas live up to our expectation? And just what was that expectation?

And now what? Where do we go from here? Is our life any different since this holiday and its influence on our world?

"How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given."

Did we receive it? Will we carry it over to the next Christmas—and the next?

Maybe we need to experience each of the seasons of

the coming year before we're ready once again for all the festivity of yet another Christmas, but may the Light from the manger stay with us and illumine our path and our hearts as we journey through this new calendar year.

Just a thought.....from Judie



Once again, the members of Zion have generously provided an abundance of hats and mittens to warm many school children in the coming year. Thank you.

How about a smile to start out the new year?

I was having trouble with my computer so I called Joseph, the boy next door whose bedroom looks like Mission Control, and asked him to come over.

He clicked a couple buttons and solved the problem.

I asked him what was wrong so I could fix it if it happened again. He replied, "it was an ID ten T error."

"What's that?" I asked.

He grinned and said, "haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before?"

"No," I replied.

"Write it down and I think you'll figure it out, he said.

So I wrote it down: I D 1 0 T.....

I use to like that boy!!



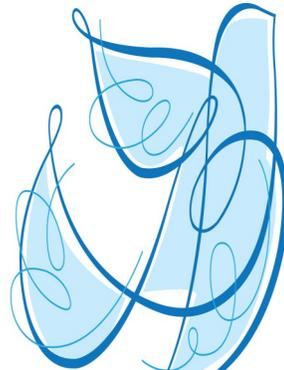


Prayer Requests

Continuing prayer requests:

New or updated requests

- Stewart C, son of Linda C, surgery recovery
- Brian B, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, began treatments 12-17-19.
- Robin S friend of Dan & Sherry S, health concerns
- Dennis M, recovering from pneumonia
- Carol J sister in law of Lee & Peggy J, back surgery recovery
- Linda C, surgery recovery
- Jana C, friend of Phil & Dar Kuusisto, health concerns
- Nancy G, health concerns
- Dan S, surgery recovery



Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer

- Deb B
- Barb B
- Colin C
- Dan S
- Kim G
- June E
- Kay F
- Norma J
- Allena M
- Janet S
- Shirley T
- Elaine W
- Arline W
- Ron W

To add a prayer request to our list, please contact Pastor Scott or the church office by phone at 775-9821 or by email at zionlutherancadillac@gmail.com



Prayer List Email Option

You can receive Zion's Weekly Prayer List by email. Those requesting the Prayer List by email will receive it on Friday afternoon each week. If you are interested, let Val know by calling the church office or email her at vhan-sonzion@gmail.com

Zion's Prayer Chain is happy to pray for requests that you have throughout the week. To request prayer, contact Linda Carlson or the church office at 775-9821. To join the Prayer Chain, contact Linda or the church office.

ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Anderson and Abby Zukauskay

FUNERAL COORDINATORS

Marilyn Bridges; Jim & Mary Meier

ACOLYTES

05 Audrina Runyon and Dezi Torkko
19 Erica Conradson and Ashlynn Becketl

OFFEE HOUR-8:30

05 Elsie Moore and Chris Venema
12 Karla Anderson, Paula Campbell,
and Carol Neverth
19 Ron & Lola Swanson
20 26 Woodie & Lois Durham

COFFEE HOUR-10:30

05 Randy & Marie Mercier
Rick & Patti Swanson
12 George & Cathy Cochrane
Roger & Rhonda Pitts
19 Char Davis and Deb Kulmacz
Ron & Sue Smith
26 Barbara Jo Johnson and Melissa Sjogren;
Keith & Leanna Johnson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS -8:30

05 Marilyn Bridges
12 Mike Vandervele
19 Chris Filak
26 Sue Anderson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS-10:30

05 Bobbie Brown, Char Davis and
Jill Runstrom
19 Sandra Durant, Jim Higgins
and Dan Vantkerkhooff

GREETERS-10:30

5 Bruce & Chris Norkoli
12 Beckie Kanipe and Marie Renneker
19 Dan & Peggy Vantkerkhoff
26 Allen Meyer and Beckie Kanipe

LECTORS-8:30/10:30

5 Marilyn Bridges/Jill Runstrom
12 Val Hanson/Jennifer Sück
19 Craig Johnson/Rick Swanson
26 Elsie Moore/Dan Vantkerkhoff

NURSERY

5 Sue Conradson and Kylee Machin
12 Heather, Autumn, and Madi Vanderstar
19 Ryan & Melissa Benzenberg
26 Freeman Family

SOUND TECHS-8:30/10:30

5 Scott Hanson/Jamie Peterson
12 Todd Bruggema/Joe Baumann
19 Eric Gustafson/Marty Dahlstrom
26 Dave Koenig/Lynn Gullekson

USHERS-8:30

5 Greg & Nancy Anderson
12 Mike & Kendra Vandervele
19 Cara Bosack and Paula Campbell
26 Joe & Deb Bielik

USHERS-10:30

5 Joe Baumann and Roger Pitts
6 Marty & Pam Dahlstrom
12 Bobbie Brown and Beckie Kanipe
Char Davis and Deb Kulmacz
19 Lynn & Kathy Gullekson
Dean & Mary Kidder
26 George & Cathy Cochrane
Eric Gustafson & Becky Speelman



Mark your calendar and make plans to attend the Annual Meeting as we review the past year and look to the upcoming year. This important meeting includes election of new Council members and approval of our 2020 Operating and Capital Budgets.

Copies of the 2020 Operating and Capital Budgets will be posted on the bulletin board at church in early January.

Weather Cancellations at Zion

Winter has arrived and with it has come wintry weather. Please use the following instruction to see if worship or special events are canceled at Zion if our weather turns winter: 1) Contact the church office: 231-775-9821 2) When the Voice Mail picks up, select "2" for worship times. 3) Listen to the worship time message, which will tell you if services/ special events are cancelled. If the worship time message simply gives the worship times, then worship is still on. 4) We will make every effort to have a decision about canceling worship by 7:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. 5) Please use good judgment about whether it is safe for you to be out on the roads even if worship is still taking place. Questions? Please contact the church office (775-9821).



Flower Chart



Remember a loved one or honor a special occasion with flowers

Every Sunday you have an opportunity to glorify God and to remember a loved one or to honor a special occasion in your life.

Congregational members, friends, or family members are invited to sign up on the Flower Chart at church to designate a week to donate flowers for our Sanctuary.

When the week of your choice arrives, simply call a local florist and place your order. They will deliver your flowers to the church in time for Sunday.

It's also a good idea to call me at church (775-9821) to be certain I know you are donating flowers so I can include the information in the Sunday bulletin. -Lori

"A young couple moves into a new neighborhood, and at breakfast one morning, the wife notices that the neighbor's wash, which is hanging up in the backyard, is not clean. She says to her husband, " Maybe they need to use better soap." This conversation happens several more times until one morning when the neighbor's wash is out, looking clean and bright. The woman comments to her husband that the neighbor must have changed her soap. He replies, "No, I got up early today and washed our windows."

That is how life is. What we see when we are watching others depends on the clarity with which we look."