

Zion Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 314  
350 Pearl St.  
Cadillac, MI 49601

# *TOWER TOPICS*

## *JANUARY 2023*



### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**On line Worship**  
Sunday 9:00 a.m.

**In house Worship Services**  
9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

**Communion**  
1st & 3rd Sundays

**Sunday School**  
4 yrs through 6th grade  
2nd & 4th Sundays during 9:00 Service



# January 2023

# The Tower Topics

January 2023  
Volume 32 Number 1  
Rev. Scott Torkko

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## Honor Winter's Lesson

"See the pine trees and learn their lesson," a friend once said. "Pine trees are nature's reminder that growth continues even in the winter."

Winter is an important season in our lives. It is more than a time of coldness and snow. It's a time of going within. A time to rest from the work that's been done, a time to prepare for the lessons ahead. Long for the sun on your shoulders, but let the frost and cold come. The ground has been left fallow in preparation for nourishing the seeds of new life.

Honor winter's lesson. Despite this time of lifelessness and inactivity, this is still a season of growth. Trust what's being worked out in your soul. The snow will melt. The sun will shine again. The time will come to remove your heavy garb and return to the activity of life.

Cherish the winter. Cherish its quietness, the time of going within to rest and heal. Cherish this time of preparation that must come before new life.

Cherish the hope that lies beneath the snow."

Taken from Journey to the Heart

By Melody Beattie

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# January

**1** - 9:00 & 10:30 Worship

**2** - Officed Closed  
5:00 TOPS

**3** - 1pm Staff Meeting  
1pm Evangelism meeting  
5pm Fellowship meeting

**4** - 1pm Prayer Shawl meeting

**5**

**6**

**7**

**8** - 9:00 & 10:30 Worship  
9:15 Sunday School

**9** - 9:30 Stitchery  
4pm Outreach  
5pm TOPS  
5pm Special Olympic Board meeting  
6:30 Finance Committee

**10** - 1pm Staff meeting  
4pm Book Club  
5:15 Executive meeting

**11** - Library committee meeting

**12**

**13** - Tower Topic Deadline

**14**

**15** - 9:00 & 10:30 Worship with communion

**16** - 5pm TOPS  
7pm Cadillac Welcome Club

**17** - 1pm Staff meeting  
6:30 Council meeting

**18** - 4pm Extra Chromies group

**19** - 12pm Lunch Bunch - After 26

**20**

**21**

**22** - 9:00 & 10:30 Worship  
9:15 Sunday School  
11:30 Congregational Annual Meeting  
12:30 Special Council meeting

**23** - 9:30 Stitchery  
5pm TOPS

**24** - 1pm Staff meeting

**25**

**26**

**27**

**28** - 10am Confirmation retreat  
12pm Soup for Seniors

**29** - 9:00 & 10:30 Worship  
- Noisy Offering & Name Tag

**30** - 5pm TOPS

**31** - 1pm Staff meeting





## PASTOR'S PAGE

### *Thoughts from Pastor Scott*



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On Sunday, January 22, we will gather again for the annual congregational meeting. It's a time to reflect on all that has happened in the previous year and to shore up plans for the coming year. An annual report is pulled together by Kendra in advance of this meeting. Ministries share their work from 2022. A budget is presented and year end finances are disclosed for the congregation to review. Statistics related to worship and membership are provided. Pastoral acts are noted: funerals and memorials, weddings, baptisms.

Annual meetings have been rather calm in my time at Zion. This is not necessarily a bad thing. If annual meetings were uneventful because people just didn't care, or because there was nothing remarkable taking place, then we would have a problem. My sense is the calmness in our case comes from the efforts to provide clear and timely communication all year long. It comes from not burying challenges and struggles but, rather, addressing them as they arrive. It comes, I think, from people knowing that I am open to listening to both joys and struggles. I prefer to hear these things firsthand, and by and large I do.

Upon reflecting on the year gone by, I can't help but be proud of who we have so often been together. The ministry we share is impacting young and old alike. Zion's ministry means something to people who are connected here and to people in the community who aren't connected here. The ministry we have been about together over the past year doesn't revolve around one person. Instead, it's clear that our ministry is a team effort where we try mightily to ensure that no one stands on an island alone but is supported and surrounded in their efforts.

We are far from perfect. But perfection is not our goal at Zion Lutheran Church. As a wise, long-time member once said to me, "Pastor, we don't expect perfection. We expect kindness." When kindness is lacking, we repent and ask forgiveness. We acknowledge it and figure out how to move forward. When kindness is present, we claim it as part of our identity in Christ. We lift it up, knowing that kindness breeds more kindness.

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday, January 22 after the 2nd service. We will not claim perfection. Instead, we will strive towards kindness.

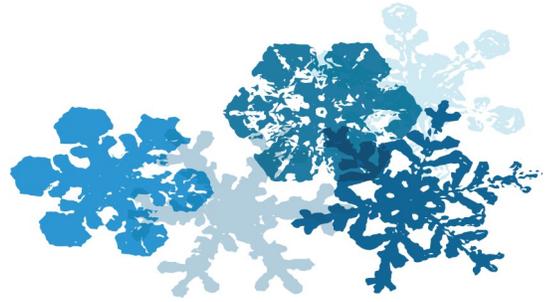
Blessed to be your pastor,

Pr. Scott



*Ministry Coordinator*

*Val Hanson*



The beginning of the new year has me thinking about Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. It's a passage that begins, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..." We are experiencing the endings of some seasons here at Zion. Several annual events will not be seen in 2023. On December 9, Marty Solomon led her last **Fika**. Traditional **VBS** did not have many participants and will be replaced with monthly family events in the summer. After evaluating all that was now available in the community, the Fellowship Committee determined **Trunk or Treat** was no longer needed. When things end, though, other things are born. The **Children's Christmas Craft Day** morphed into the **Family Fellowship Craft Night**. Also, a new season of concentration on outreach ministry has begun with lots of participation in the **Council on Aging partnership opportunities** and Safe Families discussions during church Council meetings. I wonder what seasons will end and which will begin in 2023. Of course, that's not for me to know right now, but I do know a few things. I know we will

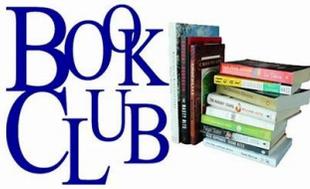
experience some endings and some beginnings. I know that God is in control. I also know that death and resurrection is the work of God and that, ultimately, **it is all good.**

### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday, January 22**

**Following 10:30 service**

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 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets. Copies of the annual report will be available at church for you to take home and review by mid-January.



*What's Happening at Zion this month*



The book club will be meeting Tuesday, January 10th at 4:00 p.m. They will be discussing the book *Bootlegger* by Mardi Link. The discussion leader is Marilyn Ulander.

If you'd like a time of fellowship and a delicious meal, join us at noon on Saturday, January 28, for our monthly Saturday Soup for Seniors. These lunches are a time for seniors (or anyone) to come together for a delicious meal and to enjoy a time of fellowship. There is no charge for the luncheons, but we do ask you let us know you're coming so we can be certain with have enough soup. To sign up either call the church office or sign up on the sheet posed on the bulletin board



*Prayer Shawl Ministry*

*The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets in the Fellowship Hall at Zion on the first Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m.*



Stitchery (quilters) meets every other Monday at 9:30 a.m.  
In January: 9th and 23rd. All are welcome to come lend a hand.



The January Women's "Lunch Bunch" is Thursday, January 19, at 12:00 noon. Our January luncheon is at the After 26 Depot Cafe (127 W. Cass St). Invite your friends and join us for fellowship and lunch. Please sign up by Sunday, January 15, so we can let the restaurant know how many are coming. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board at church. If you have any questions, please call the January hostess, Marilyn Bridges.

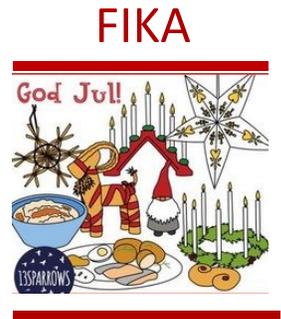


## Providing Transportation to those in need

The January "Noisy" Offering will, once again, support our long-term ministry of helping provide transportation to those in need in our local community. The money you so generously share allows the Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency (NMCAA) to purchase bus passes for local clients, who do not have their own transportation and struggle to have adequate funding for public transit.

In past years, Adam Traviss, who is a Housing Based Case Manager for NMCAA, used bus passes to help a variety of clients. These clients included a veteran who needed to get to VA appointments and the grocery store as well as a client who lived outside the city limits and needed to get into town for appointments and to run errands.

With the economy in turmoil, due to COVID-19, these bus passes are needed more than ever. So, please save up your loose change and help us make a "loud noise" of caring for our local community on January 29.



## Tribute to Marty Solomon For the FIKA

Many years ago, Sherry Reinertson began what came to be a Yule tradition for our church called the FIKA, a Swedish coffee with lots of treats.

It expanded into a lovely decorated fellowship hall filled with traditional Swedish articles and tables laden with many Swedish dishes including Swedish sausage, rice pudding, sandwiches and sweet treats.

One night a year, near Christmas, the women of our congregation gather together for the FIKA, bringing friends and relatives to enjoy a social evening of an entertaining program, good food and the singing of Christmas carols.

Before Sherry passed, she asked Marty Solomon to carry on this tradition. Marty took up the challenge and has continued the FIKA for many years. Many have gathered round to help her, even the men of our congregation, who have served in the kitchen.

(Con't on page 8)

(con't from Page 7 – Tribute to Marty Solomon )

Marty has put in many, many hours each year producing this annual evening treat for our church.

She has organized volunteers, food, entertainment, music and decorations that has given so many a delightful evening together to start off the Christmas season.

But to all good things there is a beginning and an end, and this year was the conclusion of the FIKA. Marty feels it's time to remove her director's hat, hang up her Swedish apron, and bring this tradition to it's end. She has earned a well deserved "retirement."

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Marty, your efforts have been appreciated by so many.

Perhaps, someone else will bring a creative idea to life in the future to fill the space left by FIKA. Until then, accept the thanks of all who have enjoyed the efforts that you and your team of volunteers have provided.

"Tack så mycket"

## Just a Thought

From Judie



Nudges

Ever had a thought float through your mind that there was a "good deed" opportunity before you, but you had other plans and let it go by and then later in a quiet moment, you regretted not acting on that thought but the chance had passed by?

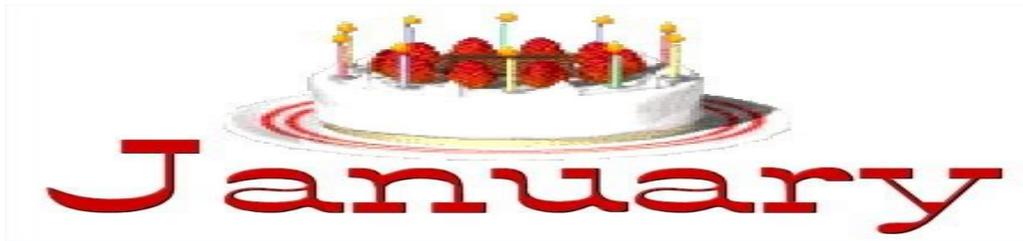
In reading the "Christ in our Home" booklet recently, it mentioned God's nudges.

We've all felt them at one time or another. When convenient, we follow them—when not, we dismiss them. What opportunities we may have missed when we dismiss them.

In this new year, maybe we can all become more aware of those nudges and be willing to respond to them. We may have to lay aside what we had planned in that moment and take a different path, yet He is trying to get our attention and it will be our choice as to how we respond.

What a better world this would be if we all paid more attention to the nudges our Father gives us now and then and respond willingly. Yes?

Just a thought.....



## BIRTHDAYS

01/01	Millie Z	01/16	Shirley G
01/02	Bob L	01/16	Mary Ann B
01/02	Joel G	01/17	Gail D
01/02	Marie R	01/18	Scott S
01/03	Wells L	01/19	Dave R
01/04	Garrin S	01/21	Scott T
01/05	Dean K	01/23	Tony H
01/05	Neal N	01/23	Maxwell S
01/05	Melissa C	01/23	Connor L
01/06	Cindy L	01/25	Lori A
01/06	Haili C	01/25	Jeff J
01/07	Avrey A	01/25	Marilyn B
01/07	Carolyn E	01/26	Brian K
01/09	Nancy J	01/27	Molly N
01/11	Cecelia S	01/27	Alexis D
01/11	Stacie W	01/31	Andy B
01/12	Richie M	01/31	Aaron B
01/13	Jenna W	01/31	Jacque R
01/13	Dorothy M	01/31	Jack B
01/15	Mick M	01/31	Elda S
01/15	Mike K		



- \*Tim S, Peggy & Lee J' son in law, brain tumor
- \*Mark R, Josh F's cousin, prostate cancer
- \*Linda C, health concerns
- \*Karl S Jamie P's stepfather, health concerns
- \*Jerry P, health concerns
- \*Laurie K, Cheryl R's friend, cancer
- \*Rick K, Terry K's brother, cancer

Recent deaths within our church family:

Roger A Dec 16, 2022  
Eva W Dec 22, 2022

Please remember Roger & Eva's family in your prayers.

*Please note ... Friends and family members will be listed for one month. Please contact the church office after the one month period if you wish them to be included another month.*

**Continuing prayer requests**

- \*Deb B
- \*Nancy G
- \*Allena M
- \*Wendy M
- \*Janet S
- \*Fatima, Nailya C's sister, lives in Ukraine

Zion's Prayer Chain is happy to pray for requests that you have throughout the week. To request prayer, contact Pastor Scott.

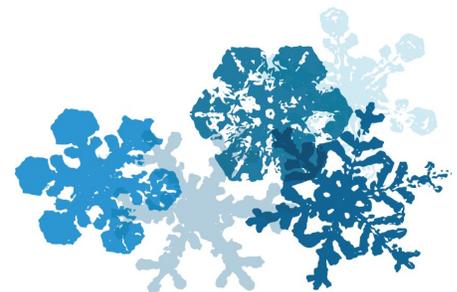


To add a prayer request to our list, please contact Pastor Scott or email [zionlutherancadillac@gmail.com](mailto:zionlutherancadillac@gmail.com)

# January Serving Schedule



<p><b>Sunday, January 1</b></p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 9:00 David Koenig</p> <p><u>Sound Techs</u> 9:00 Michael Vandervelde</p> <p><u>Ushers</u> 9:00 George and Karolyn Lackey</p> <p><u>Coffee Hour Hosts</u> 9:00 Marty Solomon and Maxine Swanberg</p>	<p><b>Sunday, January 8</b></p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 9:00 Jennifer Sück 10:30 Jeanette Baumgras</p> <p><u>Sound Techs</u> 9:00 Anne Koschmider 10:30 Randy Mercier</p> <p><u>Ushers</u> 9:00 Kendra Vandervelde 10:30 Dave Monson</p> <p><u>Coffee Hour Hosts</u> 9:00 Roger and Rhonda Pitts and Deb Kulmacz 10:30 Darlene Hettel and Bill Yost</p>	<p><b>Sunday, January 15</b></p> <p><u>Communion Assistants</u> 9:00 Cindy Evarts, Jim Higgins, and Sue Anderson 10:30 Bobbie Brown, Colleen Luhtanen, and Dave Monson</p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 9:00 Lois Durham 10:30 Barb Hazlett</p> <p><u>Sound Techs</u> 9:00 Eric Gustafson 10:30 Randy Mercier</p> <p><u>Ushers</u> 9:00 Woodie and Lois Durham 10:30 Rick and Patti Swanson</p> <p><u>Coffee Hour Hosts</u> 9:00 Joel and Nancy Grumm 10:30 Mary L. Benson and Marie Mercier</p>
<p><b>Sunday, January 22</b></p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 9:00 Marilyn Bridges 10:30 David Koenig</p> <p><u>Sound Techs</u> 9:00 Joseph Baumann 10:30 Randy Mercier</p> <p><u>Ushers</u> 9:00 Bob Shumway 10:30 Pam and Marty Dahlstrom</p> <p><u>Coffee Hour Hosts</u> 9:00 Marilyn Bridges and Carol Goodwill 10:30 Benzenberg Family</p>	<p><b>Sunday, January 29</b></p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 9:00 Elsie Moore 10:30 Colleen Luhtanen</p> <p><u>Sound Techs</u> 9:00 Scott Hanson 10:30 Maddie Masten</p> <p><u>Ushers</u> 9:00 Paula Campell 10:30 Millie Zukauskys and Beckie Kanipe</p> <p><u>Coffee Hour Hosts</u> 9:00 Schneeg Family 10:30 Alicia and Emmett Damgard</p>	





TIME  
FOR  
A  
SMILE



A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."



In a Saturday class, a teacher questioned all the children, "In case I sell my car and my house, donate all of my savings to the church, and arrange a grand garage sale as well- will there be any chance to enter heaven?"

One of the children from the class replied, "NO!"

"After I'm done with mowing the yard, cleaning the church daily, and keeping all the things tidy, would I be allowed into heaven?"

This time too, the reply was the same, "NO!"

"Darn," she proceeded, "then in which way can I enter heaven?"

From the last bench, a 5-year-old kid screamed, "You need to be dead!"

A Sunday School teacher asked the class, "Why did Mary and Joseph take Jesus with them to Jerusalem?"

A little boy raised his hand, "I know," he said. "Because they couldn't get a babysitter."

Wash your hands like you just chopped Jalapeno's and you're going to take your contacts out.

People write Congrats because they can't spell congratlashins !

My wife caught me standing on the bathroom scale, sucking in my stomach. She laughed and said "that won't help." I said, "it sure does." "It's the only way I can see the numbers."