



# Tower Topics

## November 2020

November 2020  
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 Rev. Scott Torkko

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### The beginning of Advent

November is the month of Thanksgiving, but it often also includes the beginning of a new church year. This year, November 29th is the first Sunday of Advent. The season of Advent is about Jesus, the Word, “coming.” It’s about anticipating and preparing for Christ’s arrival.

God comes to us in many and various ways. He speaks to us through the prophets and saints. He comes and speaks to us when we are listening. He comes in the beauty and mysteries of nature. Most of all, God comes in the person of Christ, speaking to his listeners face to face.

Pastor Edmund Steimle put it this way: “The Christian story is a story of God coming into the middle of life, of our lives, opening the dialogue with us.”

That’s what Advent is really all about: God visiting the earth in person to speak with anyone and everyone who is ready to do so.

From NewsletterNewsletter

Sunday November 1, 2020



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# Calendar for November

Sunday Services 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.- Limit 60 people - sign up required

Every Monday @ 9:30 Stitchery

Bulletin deadline Wednesdays @ 1:00 p.m.



1st & 3rd Sundays GIFT Time (Family Sunday School) @ 9:45

Nov 1 All Saints Sunday (honoring 12 members who entered heaven this past year)

Nov 4 Fellowship Committee @ 6:30

Nov 9 Outreach Committee @ 4:00

Nov 9 Finance Committee @ 6:00

Nov 10 Executive meeting @ 4:15

Nov 13 Newsletter deadline

Nov 16, 18, 19 communion @ noon. Wed. Nov. 18 also @ 7pm Sign up

Nov 16 & 30 High School Youth Group

Nov 17 Council Meeting @ 6:30

Nov 26 & 27 Church office closed for Thanksgiving

Nov 29 Food Pantry and Noisy Offering for Lutheran Disaster Response

Nov 29 First day of Advent

Staff meetings 1-3 every Tuesday

## PASTOR'S PAGE

### The Year of Gratefulness

Advent is coming....Sunday, November 23rd. In the Christian church, Advent is the beginning of a new church year. What does a new year mean? A new start, to be sure, but also new years resolutions.

I know that most of you who make resolutions follow the calendar year and begin those in January. But do you really want to hang on to this past year any longer than you have to? Why not instead live according to the Christian calendar by participating in a faith-filled new year resolution beginning November 23rd.

I am declaring the coming new year on the Christian calendar, "The Year of Gratefulness." With all of the struggles the past year has provided, with all of the disruptions to life that 2020 brought, with all of the uncertainty hanging in the air, let us be grateful.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

The call to "rejoice always" is not a call to ignore reality. It is not a suggestion to downplay your difficulties, grief, or fear. Rather, it is a call to find gratitude in the midst of difficulties, grief, and fear. There is something about searching for that which we are grateful for that allows us to sense God at work in our lives when it may otherwise be hard to see.

To help you track gratitude in the coming year, Zion's leadership has ordered 200 "Gratitude Journals." You can pick one up in church beginning Sunday, November 23rd. You can pick one up in the church office after that date. Or, you can call the church office and we will deliver one to you.

There's nothing fancy about these journals. It has gratitude on the cover. And "Zion Lutheran Church." And Zion's leaf. Inside it has lines for you to write



on. Gratitude isn't necessarily clever. Gratitude doesn't have to be flowery. But gratitude can be cultivated. Reflecting and searching may be necessary for you to give thanks.

I look forward to the year of gratitude ahead of us. Being reminded daily or weekly that we are blessed may help our head and heart to come out of the chaos and place us in the very presence of God's love.

May 2021 be the year we learn more deeply what it means to be grateful.

Blessed to be your pastor,

Pr. Scott

Gratitude Prompts on page 4

## **Gratefulness Prompts**

Monthly ideas to get you thinking about gratefulness

December: What gifts have you received recently, or not so recently, that you deeply appreciate? When have you had the privilege of giving a gift that has meant something to someone else?

January: What does winter make you grateful for?

February: Who has loved you well in your life? Who are you thankful that you have had the privilege of loving?

March: What have you learned from Jesus that you are grateful for?

April: What is it about spring that makes you grateful?

May: Name family members and friends who you are grateful for...and why!

June: What thanksgivings come with the summer months?

July: What are your favorite foods? Is there someone who introduced you to them?

August: What have been the best parts of your summer? Why?

September: In what ways is daily work a gift? What parts of your daily routine are a gift?

October: What do you enjoy about fall?

November: What is your favorite thanksgiving ritual? Who or what makes it your favorite?



## **General Gratitude Prompts**

\*In whom have you seen something of God today?

\*What or whom has been encouraging to you?

\*Where do you see new life springing forth?

\*What in your life feels in synch at the moment?

\*Name things you can't live without (breath, food, water, relationships, etc.)

\*What life lesson did you learn today or this week?

\*How has God answered prayer for you recently?

\*Where is your happy place? Go there in your mind. Who or What is there that you are thankful for?

\*What have you had the opportunity to do today? This week?

\*How have you been able to live your faith today? This week?

\*Whom have you had the opportunity to bless?

\*How has following Jesus blessed you? Challenged you? Give thanks for both.

*Ministry Coordinator*

*Val Hanson*



## Ministries Coordinator Message

The topic of gratitude keeps coming up lately, and it has me thinking of you. I am thankful for you because.....

- I know you're there. I know that if I need support or prayers or help, you will come through.
- You brighten my days. You wave at me as you pass through the fellowship hall on your way to do whatever brought you to the building, or drive by in your car, and I can feel you smiling behind your mask.
- I see you taking care of each other.
- I get to laugh with you.
- You ask good questions. I grow because of them.
- More than one person has said to me lately, "How can I help?" Every time I hear those words, they touch my heart.
- You do what you can to support Zion's ministries and to be faithful.

This month, I just want to say thank you for these and other small moments of joy that the faith community you've created allows me to experience.

Val



Routinely grateful

When a national day of thanksgiving was established on the fourth Thursday in November, it was not because that was a particularly thankful day. It was intentionally chosen precisely because of its arbitrariness to remind us to say "thanks" on a daily basis for the bounties God has heaped upon our lives.

For Christians, every Sunday is a Thanksgiving feast day. Every Sunday at worship, we give thanks for the greatest event ever to hit planet Earth, the greatest "opening" in human history — the open tomb, testifying to Jesus' resurrection. Every Sunday is Thanksgiving Sunday. Every Sunday dinner is Thanksgiving dinner.

Taken from Newsletternewsletter.com



## Thank you for your service

Dear Veterans

On Veteran's Day when we say "thank you for your service" we really have no idea of what your service was like. To leave a country of comfort and freedom and find yourself in a place where bombs may have actually been "bursting in air" and where every day may have been a gamble of life or death is an experience most of us can not even imagine.

But please accept our words of thanks for your service to mean we appreciate whatever you experienced in an effort to keep us safe and secure to enjoy the freedom we live within because of your willingness to serve.

We live and breathe in freedom because of that service and we thank you sincerely for it.

From a grateful country

written by Judie Sprague



## LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

The news moves so quickly. A disaster will hit and we hear about it for a day or maybe two and then the news moves on. Unfortunately for the people left behind, those disasters aren't so quickly forgotten. The Outreach Committee invites you to join them in supporting the ELCA's Disaster Response organization - The Lutheran Disaster Response.

If you're unfamiliar with The Lutheran Disaster Response it brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, they stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. Presently, some of the emergencies they are providing relief for include the following:

U.S. Wildfires

Hurricane Response

U.S. Severe Storms

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

U.S. Tornadoes

U.S. Flooding

Middle East and Europe Refugee Crisis

**So, save up your loose change and help us make a loud noise of caring on Sunday, November 29th.**



## G.I.F.T. – Growing In Faith

**Together:** Sunday school will look a little different this year. This year we are doing a family Sunday school where we will be growing in faith together. It starts October 18 @ 9:45-10:15. GIFT Time will be held every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Come join us!

## Trunk or Treat Time Change

Our Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 31 from 1:00-4:00PM. We have changed the time in order to coordinate with an event at Samaritas. Bring your mask and candy or trinkets to pass out. If you would like to participate, but can't be here on the 31st, there is a collection table in the fellowship hall for individually wrapped candy donations.



# New Future for New Hope Center

September update

Hello Friends,

**1 John 3:18** let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

The Walls are going up. Volunteer work will begin again on October 20<sup>th</sup> which is a Tuesday. We will plan on working Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. The tasks will be; soffits, fascia, windows and interior walls.

We still have several volunteer jobs that need to be filled. Some of the jobs are:

- Construction Leads (8 to 12 people) – Plan for tools and material needed and set up and supervise the jobs to be done.
- Safety and sign in helpers – prepare and staffs sign in table on job days, reviews and files waivers, reviews safety signs and instructions with volunteers.
- Resource Call Team Leader and 2 to 4 helpers – fills schedule with volunteers and requests/informs volunteers on tools, clothing and personal material needed.
- Construction Event Coordinator – requests a Pastor to lead each event in prayer, coordinates lunch meals (if covid appropriate), coffee and bottled water.

Please come by the site at 1125 Lincoln St. in Cadillac, say a prayer for us.

In His Service,

Mark Mogan

New Hope Board Secretary [m\\_mogan@outlook.com](mailto:m_mogan@outlook.com) 231-429-2974





*Just A  
Though  
from  
Judie*



I awoke at 4:00 a.m. with thoughts running through my mind so heavily that I knew my sleep was over. Sitting in the quiet until dawn, I had my first episode of anxiety resulting from this Pandemic we're all experiencing.

Since the middle of March, my husband and I had decided to be as safe as possible, given our age and health conditions and the public warnings on television.

We joined the many who determined to ride out the storm of this invisible virus and self isolated ourselves by staying home.

There were a few changes - no more trips to the grocery stores, arranging our needs to be delivered; putting a hold on volunteer work outside the home; watching church services on the computer and no more family get togethers or gatherings with friends.

Yet, spring had sprung and we were busy planting flowers and occupied daily with outdoor chores and activities around our home.

Summer followed with many opportunities to be outside taking walks, bike riding, boating, visiting with neighbors and family, (at a distance, w/masks) but always outdoors.

As the temps begin to drop and the bikes, the boat, and the outdoor furniture were put away for the winter, I began to notice a change. Our activities have become contained within the walls of our house. We no longer are able to visit with family, neighbors and friends outside. We continue to keep busy with projects around the house and I manage to continue some of my volunteer projects within my home and keep contact by phone, text messages and computer with others but all of a sudden, as I sat in the dark quiet of the night, I felt the isolation.

There are those all around me beginning to return to the activities of life - attending meetings - attending church services - having family gatherings - yet, the news daily warns us of a resurgence of this deadly virus and I acknowledge that my husband and I are in the "high risk" category and so facing the upcoming

holidays without our usual family gatherings is already affecting our emotions.

Many of you reading this are experiencing much the same.

It feels like we are on the outside, looking in and watching others enjoy the things we once took for granted.

Sadness began to envelop me and in my inner dialog with God I asked for guidance and comfort.

At that moment, the words of a cherished hymn floated through my mind. "This Is My Father's World.....and let me never forget.....that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet. Why should my heart be sad? The Lord is King, let the heavens ring, God reigns, let the earth be glad." These words gave me comfort and a renewed peaceful attitude.

Pandemic or no pandemic, it truly is my Father's world. Though I may still, at times, feel a loneliness, in the temporary separation from all the cherished activities of life - I rest in the fact that God is in control. And as the night begins to recede and the dawn appears, another hymn flows into my mind - "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" and the words "all I have needed, Your hands have provided.....great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me." And my spirit is replenished and I know ALL WILL BE WELL.

p.s. Dear congregation, please pray for all who are experiencing the adverse effects of this pandemic.

Just some thoughts from Judie

"I looked in temples, churches and mosques. but I found the Divine within my heart." Rumi



### Yarn, Yarn, and More Yarn!

We have lots of yarn because of a generous donation. Stop by the church and take your pick. Remember, it's time to start thinking about the hat and mitten tree. Also, prayer shawls and our baby ministry



## Advent Wreath Craft and Fellowship

Families or individuals interested in making an advent wreath for their home are invited to come in and do so. We plan to offer as many time slots as needed so that numbers there are no more than 12 people at each session. The first two options are: Thursday, Nov. 19, at 4:30PM and Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 11:00AM. If those fill, we will add more options. Each family or individual will work at their own table and masks are required. You may sign up for a slot by clicking [here](#) or by calling the church office at 775-9821.



*Thank you Zion family for your thoughts, prayers and cards after the recent passing of my brother Rick.*

*They were truly felt and very much appreciated.*

*Dianne Newman*

Dear Pastor Torkko and Church Family of Zion,

Thank you very much to everyone who came to my mom's little art show to celebrate her 100th birthday. She received some lovely cards as well as some kind comments in her memory book. Thank you also for your prayers during the last several years.

My mom has moved to Sunnyside Assisted Living. We are hoping for a smooth transition.

Thank you again, Barb Tatarchuck, daughter of Elaine Weigle

## Gratitude Video

We have so many blessings in our lives. Our GIFT time participants invite you to share some of your favorites and help them create a video that will promote gratitude. Simply send pictures showing something for which you are thankful to the church office by November 22. We're hoping for a wide range of examples, so feel free to choose something others might overlook or just not think of right away. Our goal is to have the video ready to share by the beginning of Advent. You may email the pictures to [zionlutherancadillac.com](mailto:zionlutherancadillac.com), text them to 878-3898, or stop by the church office with a print. The video will be posted on the Zion Facebook page, so please be sure to get permission from parents before sending in any pictures that include children.





David A

Kylee M

Brian B

Kraig M

Cathy C

Parker G

Jacob G

Dan V

Jim M

Melissa B

Scott P

Donna F

Sue Ann T

Kristeen C

Bailie T

Victoria M

Roger P

Dylan D

Jen S

Kyla R

Averie W

Greg A

Beckie K

Dennis M

Ashley B

Nancy A

Heather D

Journey P

Virginia W

Vern D

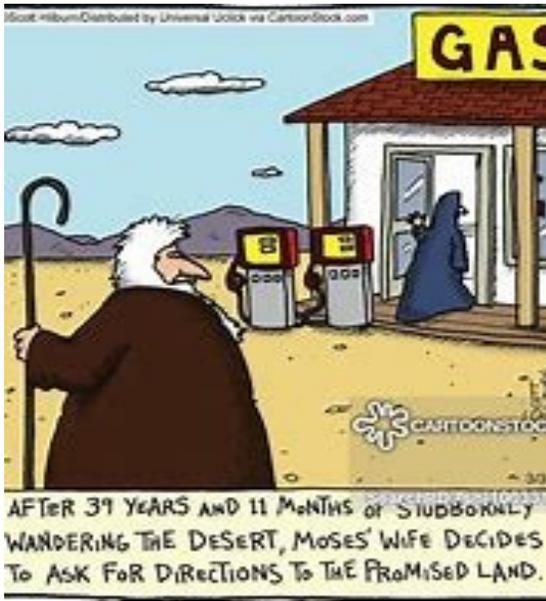
Fred M

Richard H

*Remember Virginia W on her 100th birthday. Please call the church office if you would like more information.*



# Smile and laugh a little



A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" As she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late... But please don't shove me either!"

Little Johnny's new baby brother was screaming up a storm.  
Johnny asked his mom, "Where'd he come from?"  
"He came from heaven, Johnny."  
Johnny responded: "Wow! I can see why they threw him out!"

The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.

## A Bit of Covid Humor

I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.

Still haven't decided where to go for Christmas----- The Living Room or The Bedroom.

Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.

I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks we'd go from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone

Homeschooling: My child just said "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year".... I'm offended.

Homeschooling: One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.

A married couple were arguing who is making the coffee, the wife said that in the Bible it says that men should make the coffee and the husband asked her where it said that. The wife opened the Bible and said:  
"Right here in HEBREWS!"



"CAN'T YOU FIND A DIFFERENT SHIRT TO WEAR TO CHURCH?"



## Prayer Requests

New prayer requests or updates as of Oct 11:

- Abbey, Dan and Sherry S's granddaughter, complications from Covid
- Pat E who is being treated for stage 4 melanoma
- Keith Z, health concerns
- Brian B, pancreatic cancer
- Dr. David R, friend of Dave and Linda M, lymphoma treatments
- Richard W, multiple health concerns

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

### Continuing prayer

#### requests:

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



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

## November Serving Schedule

Altar Guild: Sue Anderson and Gail McDonald

### Disinfector-Between Services

01-Shirley Gibelyou  
08-Marilyn Bridges  
15-Lois Durham  
22-Marie Mercier  
29-Carolyn Emerson

### Disinfector-Following 10:30 Service

15-Patti Swanson

### Greeter/Hand Sanitizer 9:00/10:30

01-Roger and Rhonda Pitts/Beckie Kanipe  
08-Holly Williams/Lee and Peggy Jones  
15-Carol Neverth/Pam Dahlstrom  
22-Paula Campbell/Barb Hazlett  
29-Karla Anderson/Marie Mercier

### Lector 9:00/10:30

01-Marie Mercier/Lee Brown  
08-Elsie Moore/Lindsey Torkko  
15-Joseph Baumann/Dan Vantkerkhoff  
22-Lois Durham/Barb Hazlett  
29-Carolyn Emerson/Kaitlyn Johnston

### Sound Techs 9:00-10:30

01-Anne Koschmider/Lynn Gullekson  
08-Joseph Baumann/Eric Gustafson  
15-Maddie Masten/Marty Dahlstrom  
22-Michael and Tucker Vandervelde/Randy Mercier  
29-Scott Hanson/Lynn Gullekson

### Ushers 9:00

01-Bruce and Chris Norkoli  
08-Vandervelde Family  
15-Woodie and Lois Durham  
22-Roger Pitts  
29-Cara Bosack

### Ushers 10:30

01-Pam and Marty Dahlstrom  
08-Dan Vantkerkhoff  
15-Rick and Patti Swanson  
22-Beckie Kanipe  
29-Eric and Becky Gustafson

