

# Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

## December 2025



### And the Child Grew...

As we enter the Advent season in anticipation of Christmas, the focus is on the birth of Jesus (aka Immanuel -God with us). Acknowledgement of this world-shaking event is important, however, anyone who has been an older sibling, a parent, aunt, uncle or grandparent, quickly becomes aware that children grow very rapidly, both physically and mentally. Jesus' time as a baby was as fleeting as most children who quickly become toddlers, exploring the world and all it entails.

Jesus learned and lived the Jewish laws, faith and culture, but grew in wisdom, knowing that his mission was to expose the world to God's love that goes so far beyond the divisions we see perpetuated in the name of law, faith, tradition and culture. His impact on the world was not limited to worship of the adorable child in the manger, but as Jesus said, "For the works that the Father has given me to finish-the very works that I am doing-testify that my Father sent me." (John 5:36)

While we will joyfully celebrate Jesus' birth, let us not ignore the wake-up call that His birth set in place for each of us. Our hearts must be fully engaged to do as ordered in Micah 6:8 "...To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." This Christmas may we look forward to Jesus' second coming to earth, this time fully invested in declaring God's mercy and grace to all through faithful following.

submitted by Sally Middleton

**For further reference, see also:** Proverbs 19:21; Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7 and 40:3; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:23; John 1:29, 5:30 and 6:36-38; Galatians 4:4-7; 1 Peter 2:9 and 1 John 4:10.

## PRAYER/HEALTH CONCERNS:

**Trudi and Ed McNulty**, both have some health issues they are dealing with currently. Prayers appreciated. **Bonnie Herman**, who had surgery on her re-injured hip, is experiencing numbness in her foot. Please lift up Bonnie, comfort, strength, good medical decisions and healing. She also has drop foot on the other foot from an injury years ago. Bonnie is a friend of Sue Davila.

**Jan Coffman**, her leg is doing great. She has broken her big toe on that same side. She doesn't know how the fracture occurred, but it is not painful. She is wearing a special shoe. It is her right leg, but she is able to drive. Please continue to lift up Jan, comfort, strength, and healing.

**Phyllis VanZile**, Phyllis who is 90, has been experiencing pain and is on different meds to help control her discomfort. Please lift her up, comfort and peace. Phyllis is Dave's mother.

**Blaine VanZile**, Blaine who is 41, is experiencing some challenges in his life. Please lift him up to help him make good choices.

**Jeanne Young**, who is in her 80's, who had leg surgery in early September, has left the rehab center where she was rehabbing to get stronger. She has moved in with her son and daughter-in-law continuing to get stronger preparing for her valve replacement surgery. Please continue to lift Jeanne, strength, God's timing for a successful surgery and adjusting to living with her son due to not being able to return to her home yet. Jeanne is Lesley's neighbor.

**Mary O'Connor**, Mary who is 60, has ovarian cancer and went to Mayo for a second opinion. They determined she will have 3 chemo treatments 21 days apart. Then she will have scans done and possible surgery. Please lift up Mary, comfort, strength, successful treatments and possible surgery as well as prayers for her family. Mary helps with the Clothed With Compassion.

**Kerry Richards**, his second shoulder surgery due to a fall has been postponed. Please lift up Kerry comfort, good medical decisions and the surgery to be rescheduled soon.

**Phyllis Tubbs**, Phyllis continues to improve. She is progressing well in PT and she feels good. She is at Greenleaf in Elkhart. Please continue to lift her up, strength, good PT results and A-fib remains under control.

**Bill Owen**, is dealing with some health issues. Please lift him up comfort, strength, good medical decisions and healing. Bill is Ruthann's son.

**Josie Butler**, has experienced reoccurring squamous cell skin cancer and procedures. She is scheduled for another biopsy soon. Please lift up Josie comfort, good medical decisions, successful removal if needed and healing. Josie is a friend of Steve and Jerri.

**Pastor Karen**, is scheduled for a total knee replacement Jan 16<sup>th</sup>. She is able to walk with a cane and has minimal pain. She will be able to work until surgery date. Please continue to lift her up, comfort and strength waiting for her scheduled surgery.

**Randy Crusemeyer**, Randy who is 54 had a stroke in July. He is home and having mobility issues and experiencing discomfort. Please lift up Randy comfort, strength, assistance with his mobility and healing. Randy is Helga Maria's nephew.

**Steve Nystrand**, 64, has been diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer. He has had surgery and radiation treatments. He starts chemo this week, 6 treatments every 3 weeks. Please lift up Steve comfort, strength, good medical decisions, successful chemo treatments and remission as well as prayers for Jenny his wife who is a nurse. Steve and Jenny are neighbors of Tom and Nancy.

**Prayers for our servicemen and women both at home and abroad.**

**Those unable to worship with us: Mike Griggs and Maria Richards**

**Prayers for all unspoken requests both emotional and physical.**



**CHURCH  
COUNCIL  
MEETING  
December 9,  
2025 AT 6:00  
PM**

Week	Number
11/02	48
11/09	70
11/16	60
11/23	66
11/30	
AVERAGE	

## CARING CHRISTIANS

Zion Lutheran is a “family” of people who show their faith both in word and action. This year, ‘Caring Christians’ monthly newsletter article describes a social ministry challenge. In December, the budgeted \$50 from Social Ministry will go to our traditional outreach event: The Angel Tree. Every year, Angel Tree Christmas brings children and their incarcerated mom or dad together on Christmas, one gift at a time. Zion has taken part in this project for years by delivering to children a gift, the Gospel message and a personal message of love on behalf of their mom or dad behind bars. Jerri Hisey leads this project and has provided several ways you can be involved. She will keep us all updated as the process moves forward. For instance, you can shop for a designated child (tags with requests will be available soon) or you may put money or check in a pew envelope or other form so long as it is clearly marked to indicate it is meant for this cause. If you have questions, check with Jerri for answers so you can be part of this sharing Christmas project.

Thank you to all of you who have taken part in the 2025 Social Ministry opportunities!



**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO  
BE PRESENT FOR YOUR  
SLOT, PLEASE CONTACT  
ANOTHER VOLUNTEER  
TO TRADE PLACES!**

**Thank you!**

### SCRIPTURE READERS

December 7 Gloria Davila, Maria Davila  
December 14 Steve Krallman, Lisa Thalmeimer  
December 21 Jim Kensinger, Aaron Crocker  
December 28 Greg Siberry, Sally Middleton  
January 4 Lynn Shelley, Lyn Hisey

### OFFERING COUNTERS

December 7 Steve Krallman, Dave VanZile  
December 14 Lois Bostian, Lyn Hisey  
December 21 Jim Kensinger, Amber Teall  
December 28 Dave Teall, Marv Middleton  
January 4 Chris Harrison, Jerri Hisey

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

December 7 Sue Davila  
December 14 Lana Stutsman  
December 21 Katie Teall  
December 28 Amber Teall

## The Hub Donations

For the month of December our church will be collecting canned fruit (peaches, pears, and fruit cocktail) for the Hub. Please bring all donations to the table right inside the doors of the church.



### WORSHIP ASSISTANT

December 7 Steve Krallman  
December 14 Sue Davila  
December 21 Dave Teall  
December 28 Chris Harrison  
January 4 Randy Yohn, Steve Krallman

### ALTAR CARE

December 7 Lana Stutsman  
December 14 Jerri Hisey  
December 21 Lois Bostian  
December 24 Jerri Hisey  
December 28 Darlene Ashcraft  
January 4 Lana Stutsman

### GREETERS/USHERS

December 7 Aaron & Jeannine Crocker  
December 14 Chad & Sheila Root  
December 21 Sherry Sigsbee, Phyllis Tubbs  
December 24 Phyllis Tubbs, Jerri Hisey  
December 28 Elaine Wolkins, Amber Teall  
January 4 Aaron & Jeannine Crocker

### REFRESHMENTS

December 7 Lyn Hisey, Judy Sparr  
December 14 Jan Cauffman, Liz Yohn  
December 21 Ruthann Owen, Jerri Hisey  
December 28 Darlene Ashcraft, Chris Otto  
January 4 Sue Davila, Amber Teall

December 2 Amber Teall  
December 14 Jeannine Crocker  
December 17 Phyllis Tubbs  
December 18 Darlene Ashcraft  
Jim Ashcraft  
December 22 Ann Congdon  
December 24 Greg Siberry

### TECHNOLOGY TEAM

December 7 Marv Middleton  
December 14 Juan Davila Jr.  
December 21 Dave VanZile  
December 28 Dan Teall  
January 4 Marv Middleton

# December

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 9:00 am Quilting  6:30 pm Advent Service	4 9:00 am Men's Group	5	6 8:30-10:30 am Café Compassion  9:00 am to noon Clothed With Compassion
7 8:15 Adult Sunday School 9:00am Fellowship 9:30 am Worship Service  Holy Communion  Second Sunday of Advent	8	9 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	10 9:00 am Quilting  6:30 pm Advent Service	11 9:00 am Men's Group	12	13 9:30 am Biblical Journaling (come and go as you please)
14 8:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:00 am Fellowship 9:30 am Worship Service  Third Sunday of Advent	15	16	17 9:00 am Quilting  6:30 pm Advent Service	18 9:00 am Men's Group	19	20 9:00 am to noon Clothed With Compassion
21 8:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 am Worship Service  Holy Communion  Fourth Sunday of Advent	22	23	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27
28 8:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:00 am Fellowship 9:30 am Worship Service	29 11:30 Young At Heart at Perkins	30	31			



# **Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes**

Date: Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Zion Church

Attending: Chris Harrison, Pastor Karen Strietelmeier, Chad Root, Jerri Hisey, Sue Davila, Sally Middleton, and Marv Middleton

## **Devotion**

Chris opened the meeting at 6:05 PM. Marv led a devotion and prayer. The devotion was in reference to Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation and the interpretation of the Beatitudes as a call for action, rather than a passive acceptance.

## **Secretary's Report**

The October 2025 minutes were referenced as being emailed to all parties. Sally motioned to accept the Secretary's Report, and Sue seconded it. Motion carried.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Jerri presented the Treasurer's Report for October. Marv motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, and Chad seconded it. Motion carried.

## **Pastor's Report - Pastor Karen**

Pastor Karen shared activities from the past month, including the Celebration of Life for Shirley Yoder, the monthly breakfast, a visit to Phyllis Tubbs, and preparations for Advent.

## **Ministry Area/ Council Liaison Reports**

Long Range (Chris): Gutters and brickwork for the pavilion tabled until spring.

Fellowship (Sue), Worship and Music (Absent), Personnel (Chad), Stewardship (Jerri), Pastoral Advisory (Juan, Sally, Chris H.), Cemetery (Marv), and Evangelism (Jerri): Nothing to report.

Social Ministry (Sally): November is World Hunger (HUB and ELCA) and December is Angel Tree

Property (Marv): Picnic tables are cabled, Steve H. is taking the mower for service, the old church is lockable and secure, and the cross lighting is being evaluated.

Finance & Audit (Marv): 2026 budget now has "Ministry to Supply Pastor."

Nominating (Juan Davila, Lana Stutsman): Voting for council members on 11/16/25. Fourteen people will be required for a quorum.

Christian Education (Sue): Sunday School is going well for the little kids. Chad to inquire about Sheila helping with a few of the older kids.

Technology (Chad): Marv proposed that an Administrative Assistant computer be purchased for less than \$1,000 (make and model shared), and the existing computer will be transferred to Pastor Karen's desk. Sue motioned to approve. Sally seconded. Motion carried.

## **Old Business**

Hunger Auction Results (Jerri): \$4,197 auction, \$320 quilt, \$107 lunch, \$223 kids

Clothes Closet (Chris): New drop-off time of 10:00-1:00 on Thursdays may need some review, as some people have had difficulty opening the door. The new occupancy limits have reportedly helped the staff.

The HUB: December donations will be canned fruit. Jerri to share specific details with the congregation.

Elections / Congregational Meeting - mentioned above.

Advent Services: Reminder, the Advent season begins 11/30. Wed services will be held 12/3, 12/10, and 12/17 at 6:30 PM. The Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:00 PM.

## **New Business**

Reorganizing and Use of Committees: Pastor Karon shared an updated list of committees with bulleted areas of responsibilities, along with a possible participation template. After much discussion about how to improve the committee structure and processes for running the church, Chad agreed to draft a revision to the documents in an effort to capture ideas from our review. This will be submitted to Leslie in time to distribute to all council members for review before our next meeting.

## **Other Business for the Good and Welfare of the Church**

Nothing shared.

## **Next Meetings**

Date: Tuesday, Dec 9th, 6:00 PM

Devotion – Chad

## **Adjournment**

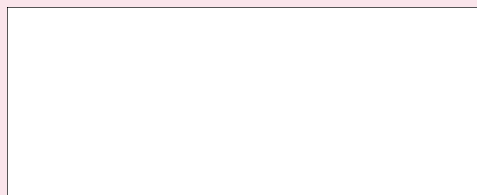
Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by: Chad Root

Zion Lutheran Church

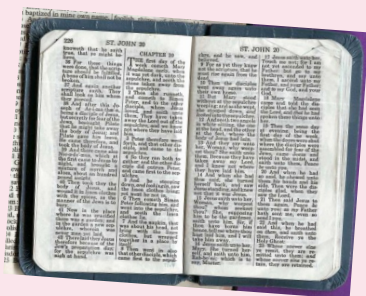
20943 CR 6

Bristol, IN 46507



#### **Zion's Mission**

**We are a family of Christians who  
choose to worship, to learn, to witness,  
and care  
by reaching out and sharing ourselves  
through the Good News of God, the  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**



***Jesus said,***

***"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No  
one can come to the Father  
except through me."***

***John 14:6***

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**20943 CR 6**

**Bristol IN 46507**

**Rev. Karen Strietelmeier**

**Music Director - Becky Goodman**

**Secretary/Editor - Lesley Harrigan**

#### **OFFICE HOURS:**

**Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-2:30  
p.m.**

**Phone - 574-848-4880**

**[www.zionbristol.org](http://www.zionbristol.org)**

**(Please call if we can be of service.)**

**[Email: office@zionbristol.org](mailto:office@zionbristol.org)**