



# THE LIGHT

The Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Southington, CT  
December 2023 Vol. 7 Issue 10

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Community of Zion,

This is my annual letter where I step up onto my Christmas soapbox. It started years ago when someone told me they were too busy celebrating Christmas to come to worship on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Please note, this is not about shaming!!!! This is about finding opportunity.

Since that person said that to me, I've tried to get people to look at Christmas in two ways. There is Christmas (the gift exchange and parties) and Christmas (the Nativity of Our Lord aka the birth of Jesus, God coming into the world). Sometimes, maybe even more often, the first gets in the way of the second.

To be fair, secular celebrations of the winter solstice and the light were around before celebrating the birth of Jesus ("They were here first"). But even now, in this time of "Peace on Earth", we get caught up in all the activities and expectations of buying the right gifts for the right people, baking, decorating, and ramping up our social calendar. I get how that helps with the darkness of this time of year for those of us in the Northern Hemisphere. So I'm not arguing against doing all of that.

The reason why I'm on my soapbox is while all of that has its' place, I'm inviting you to also make room for the celebration of Christmas that is God coming into the world. At Zion, those opportunities include the Sundays of Advent, '*Bells and Blessings*', three opportunities for worship on Christmas Eve, and one on Christmas Day, and singing lots of Christmas hymns on December 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> during '*Lessons and Carols*.' Take time for peace, take time to remember that God is with us. I promise it won't diminish the gifts and baking and parties.

Stepping off my soapbox to wish you the peace and joy that only Christ can bring,  
Pastor Jeff

### **Have You Noticed? There's So Much Going on Around the Grounds of the Church!**


- The large hedges by Pastor's driveway were cut down to make a better site line onto Pleasant Street.
- Have you noticed more space on the lawn by the parking lot? The trailer was finally moved on 11/8 and the Green Container (holding Apple Fritter equipment) was moved to a new location soon after.
- The Crystal Palace (concrete building next to the parking lot) has a new roof, new garage doors, fresh paint and will soon have new gutters which is the last thing to be done before the snow flies!
- A backhoe is expected to come soon to remove the stumps from the hedges, widen the space by the dumpster and remove the footings from the trailer. Landscaping will be done in the spring.




Thank you to everyone who helped in these labor heavy projects, including the moving of the VERY HEAVY materials in the garage and the cutting down and removing of the hedges.  
You are a blessing!



Goodbye Trailer

 **For Pastoral Care and Concerns,**  
Please contact Pastor Jeff Stalley  
by phone: cell # 860-490-5784 or  
email: [pastor@zionlutheranct.org](mailto:pastor@zionlutheranct.org)

 **Join Us for Worship!**  
**Saturdays at 4:00PM**  
**Sundays at 8:00AM & 10:15AM**  
**Sunday School & Confirmation at 9:00AM**

**“Treasure Talk”** by John Miller

<u>October 2023 Results</u>	<u>2023 Budget*</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual v Budget</u>
Total Income	\$ 15,272.95	\$ 14,421.48	\$ 11,852.26	\$ (851.47)
Total Expenses	\$ 29,550.73	\$ 33,010.98	\$ 26,051.45	\$ 3,460.25
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (14,277.78)	\$ (18,589.50)	\$ (14,199.19)	\$ (4,311.72)
<u>YTD 2023 Results (Jan-Oct)</u>	<u>2023 Budget*</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual v Budget</u>
Total Income	\$ 152,729.15	\$ 157,528.84	\$ 131,293.76	\$ 4,799.69
Total Expenses	\$ 295,506.60	\$ 285,788.84	\$ 276,347.13	\$ (9,717.76)
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (142,777.45)	\$ (128,260.00)	\$ (145,053.37)	\$ 14,517.45

\* Figures derived by dividing annual budget by twelve

**Opportunity to Serve on the Church Council**

The following Church Council positions are up for election at January’s Congregational meeting:

President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Director of Worship & Music, Director of Membership & Witness, Director of Christian Welfare, Director of Christian Education, and Director of Christian Fellowship.

Current council members may elect to seek reelection for their current position if they have not yet served two consecutive terms. However, nominations are always welcome.

Our Vice-President, Peter Cappellino, serves as the chair of the nominating committee and is looking for members who would like to serve. Please reach out to him with nominations and question. You can email him at [vicepresident@zionlutheranct.org](mailto:vicepresident@zionlutheranct.org)



**About Worship...**

We are looking for cantors (people willing to sing/chant) to help lead the Kyrie or Hymn of Praise at the 4 pm and 8 am services. If interested, please contact Pastor Jeff.

Starting with the Christmas services, the Chalice (common cup) will be an option at Communion. It will not replace the individual cups, but will be an option. After you have received the bread, both individual cups and the common cup will be available for you.

Looking ahead to New Year’s weekend, worship will be on Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM and Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00AM

**There will be follow-up meeting of Southington’s Planning and Zoning Committee to discuss the development of the The Evergreen Property next door to Zion.**

Currently there is a plan for 18 homes to be built on the land adjacent to the church. **If you are interested, join others from Zion in attending on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM at the John Weichel Municipal Center at 196 North Main Street, Southington.** The proposed plans are posted in the Gathering Place. It is expected that questions raised during the November meeting, will be answered.

**Bible Study Coming In January**



The Gospel of Mark is the primary gospel we will be reading during worship throughout the next year. In order to get a better understanding of the gospel of Mark (and how it is different from Matthew and Luke), Pastor will be offering a Bible Study on Mark on Mondays, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM.

**Advent / Christmas Opportunities**



**Advent Worship on Wednesdays**  
December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM

**Bells & Blessings,**  
Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM  
(See Chris Messner if you’d like to participate.)

**Cookie Sale!**  
December 17<sup>th</sup> (between worship services)  
(pre-order forms available at Zion and in the weekly email)

**Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**The Nativity of Our Lord**  
Tailgating at 2:00PM  
(Parking Lot or Gathering Place depending on the weather)

**Worship**  
3:00PM, 6:00PM & 11:00PM

**Christmas Day - Worship @ 9:00AM**  
**Lessons & Carols - December 30<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00PM**  
**December 31<sup>st</sup>, New Year’s Eve @ 9:00AM**



# Remember in Your Prayers



Our prayer list is updated monthly - Let us remember these people as we pray daily.

## **Members of Zion**

### **Lord in your Mercy:**

Linda Graham; Beverly Clark; George McKenny; Pat Bojarski; LeAnn Kroll; Bill Umile; Sue Skrzypiec; Lee Bluis; Faith Schneider; Joan Cockcroft; Bouteiller family.

## **Those in Hospitals / Care Centers / Assisted Living:**

William Brown - The Summit; Jean Wiltse - Cedar Mountain Commons

## **Wedding Anniversaries:**

12/07, Bob & Lee Bluis; 12/13, Dean & Debbie Mauro

## **Deaths:**

11/18, Ralph M. Clough Jr., father of Kara Bouteiller

## **Family & Friends of Zion**

### **Lord in your Mercy:**

Debbie & Fred, Roz & Joe, friends of Carra Rockwood; Dennis & family, cousins of Carra Rockwood; Anna, Steve, siblings of Carra Rockwood; Stephanie, friend of Carra Rockwood; Mary Mousch, aunt of Karen Erasmus; Susan Chappo, friend of Karen Erasmus; Jerry Cozzolino; Bob Johansson; Alex Meyer, grandson of Lois & Ron Griszkauskas, Reno Pelletier, Robert Green, John Forster, friends of Lois & Ron Griszkauskas; Mia Falvey; Ralph Johansson, father of Deb Stalley; Stacey, friend of Joan Cockcroft; Lyndsey & Andrew; Ronald Romano, father of Anne Graham.

## **Service, For the men and women in the military serving our country:**

Russell Karshis, cousin of Dawne Cappellino; Staff Sgt. Michael McKenney; Lt. Colonel Zachary Fulton, USAF, nephew of Lisa Proffitt; Danny Woolley, son of Diane and Dave Woolley; Matthew DeLorenzo, U.S. Navy, friend of the Doran Family; 1st Lt. Colton McInnis, USAF pilot, son of Susan Prairie; 2nd Lt. Kurt Oden, USAF, nephew of Christine Kryzwick; Sgt. Phillip J. Reynolds, friend of Lynn McCormack.

+++++

*Weekly Prayer List Update: On November 4th, we re-started the prayer list. This is for a number of reasons. Sometimes, we have guests and visitors who put a name on the prayer list and then don't remember to contact us when it is time to remove that person from the list. Other times, because we may not see the list and only hear the first names, we forget to take our loved one/friend off the list. Or we may feel superstitious about taking a name off the list.*

*On the other hand, we do want to continue to pray for your loved ones, friends, and colleagues whom you want us to pray for. If there are people that you want on the prayer list or you would like to continue to be on the prayer list, please call / email the office to let us know who you would like to put on the list and for how long.*

*If you would like someone on the prayer list, please email  
the church office ([office@zionlutheranct.org](mailto:office@zionlutheranct.org)) or call 860-628-5759.*



# Sunday School News

December 2023

submitted by Ali Frega

## Sunday School & Confirmation Class

There will be No Class on Sunday, December 24th or December 31st - I hope you have a wonderful Christmas with your family.

We are Practicing for our Christmas Pageant. Our students are very excited to share the songs, Bible verses and Christmas story with you.

We are always looking for Volunteers to assist and teach our Sunday School classes - if you are interested, please contact Ali at [sundayschool@zionlutheranct.org](mailto:sundayschool@zionlutheranct.org) for more information.

## Youth Group

**Plantsville Congregational Church is Hosting Youth Group in December!**

We will helping with Angel Tree shopping this month.

Please look for specific information about where we will meet for the shopping excursions.

Students in grades 6-12 welcome to join from 6:30PM-7:45PM.

For more information on our Collaborative Youth Group please email Ali.

## Pancakes, Pancakes and more Pancakes...

On Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday School and Confirmation students enjoyed a pancake breakfast!

Thank you to Carra, Bogie, Betty Lou and Ali for this wonderful event, and to the confirmation students for helping serve!







## A Peek into Zion Nursery School

November was a short but busy month at Zion Christian Nursery School. Students learned many Thanksgiving songs and prepared all month to celebrate their annual Thanksgiving feast. Pastor Jeff visited our three year olds to read them a story about being thankful! In addition to Thanksgiving, fire safety was discussed this month. All three classes were treated to visits by the Southington Fire Department. Firefighters taught the children important fire safety skills and treated them to a tour of a firetruck!

As Christmas approaches, the Christmas spirit is alive and well at ZCNS! Students are learning new songs, making presents for families, and practicing hard for their Christmas programs.

Registration will open for the nursery school in December, so please call Danielle Muir at (860) 628-6007 if you have a child you'd like to register. Merry Christmas to all!

### We are Reactivating the Men's Fellowship Group!

All men are invited to join us for our Initial meeting on

Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM to discuss and plan activities for 2024. (As an example, a night out at

*East Side* German restaurant in New Britain for January.) Those who are interested, but are unable to

attend the 12/14 meeting, should contact Nick Salerno by email at [financialaffairs@zionlutheranct.org](mailto:financialaffairs@zionlutheranct.org)

or by phone at 254-226-5096.

We look forward to seeing you!

### Join Us for Special Advent Opportunities



'Advent Midweeks' on Wednesdays,  
November 26<sup>th</sup>- December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM  
Soup/Light Dinner, Learning Time,  
followed by Choir!

### Crocheting / Knitting Group



Join Zion's newly formed group!

We will meet in the *Gathering Place* on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at 1:00PM.

All skill levels welcome; beginners to experts!

*Next meeting is Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>!*

Contact Lisa Proffitt at 860-307-0671 with questions.



### REMINDER: Christmas Angel Tree



Gifts are due back to church by Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>! Thank you for your continued generosity in sharing God's love throughout our community and the world!

Contact Lisa Proffitt with questions at 860-621-4316

**Poinsettia & Cookie Box Order Forms are due (with payment) on or before Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>!**



Call the Church office with questions.

### Christmas Child Shoebox Update

Zion delivered 51 boxes (up from 43 in 2022!)

Thank you to everyone who participated by donating a shoebox and thank you to Mark & Lisa Proffitt and Cody Lord for bringing them to the collection site.



## Are You Looking to Get More Involved in the Life of Zion and Help Our Church Family Reach Out to the Community? If so, You are Just the Person I'm looking for!

My term on the Church Council, as Director of Christian Welfare has 1 more year. I would love for someone, who might be interested in taking over, work alongside me to continue our community outreach. Some things we have done in the past are School Supply Drives, Operation Christmas Child, Coffee Collection Veterans, the Angel Giving Tree, our Stuffed Animal Drive for law enforcement and The Love Fund supporting Bread for Life. Maybe you have some new ideas that you would love to try ???

Another important aspect of this position is organizing our Scholarship Selection Committee. If you are interested in serving alongside me this year and then prepare to replace me on Council, I would be so appreciative. If you are at all interested, please speak with me at church or call me at 860-621-4316. Thank you! Sincerely, Lisa Proffitt

# December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Nov 26 ADVENT I</b> 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM SS / Conf., Coffee Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:00PM Advent Midweek 7:00PM Chapel Choir	<b>30</b>	<b>Dec 1</b>	<b>2</b> 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion & Healing Service
<b>3 ADVENT II</b> 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School & Conf. Coffee Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion 6:30PM Youth @ Plantsville Cong.	<b>4</b> 9:00AM Decorate the Sanctuary	<b>5</b> 9:00AM Bottles & Cans 7:00PM Evergreen Property Meeting	<b>6</b> 1:00PM Coffee with Pastor @ Lion's Den 6:00PM Advent Midweek 7:00PM Chapel Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion
<b>10 ADVENT III</b> 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School & Conf. Coffee Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion 6:30PM Youth @ Plantsville Cong.	<b>11</b> 10:00AM Bottles & Cans	<b>12</b> 6:30PM Council	<b>13</b> 6:00PM Advent Midweek 7:00PM Chapel Choir	<b>14</b> 8:00AM Coffee with Pastor @ Perkatory 6:30PM Men's Group	<b>15</b> 2:00PM Gathering Place In use	<b>16</b> Cookies due by 9:00AM 9:00AM Cookie Packing 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion
<b>17 ADVENT IV</b> 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School & Conf. Coffee Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion 5:00PM Bells & Blessings 6:30PM Youth @ Plantsville Cong.	<b>18</b> 10:00AM Bottles & Cans	<b>19</b> 7:00PM Worship & Music (tent)	<b>20</b> 6:00PM Advent Midweek 7:00PM Chapel Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> No Worship Service today
<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> NO AM Worshp Services today 2:00PM Tailgating 3:00PM Worship / Holy Communion 6:00PM Worship / Holy Communion 11:00PM Candlelight Service / Holy Communion	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 9:00AM Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 4:00PM Worship Lessons & Carols

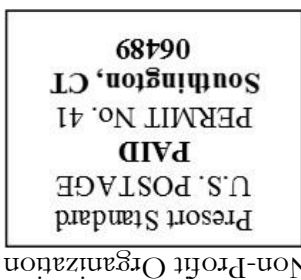
December 2023

Return Service Requested

Website: [zionlutheranct.org](http://zionlutheranct.org)

email: [pastor@zionlutheranct.org](mailto:pastor@zionlutheranct.org)

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
531 Woodruff Street, Southington, CT 06489  
Church (860)628-5759, office@zionlutheranct.org  
Rev. Jeff Stalley, Pastor cell#860-490-5784



Non-Profit Organization