



THE LIGHT

The Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Southington, CT

Winter - January/February

Vol. 8 Issue 1

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Community of Zion,

Christmas Eve 2020.....my first Christmas Eve at Zion. I was in the doorway (the blue door in the back). The worship assistant (Dean) was at the bottom of the stairs. The sound guy (Bill) was at the top of the stairs. The Messner family was in the library with microphones. The Holbrooks were in the sanctuary, also with microphones. John Miller was somewhere in between or maybe everywhere. The congregation was in cars in the parking lot. I said later that it was my favorite Christmas Eve. Not because of the way we worshipped (although it was a little closer to being at the manger, then the usual pomp of Christmas Eve). But because how it came together. The planning, the setting up, the participants, the cleaning up afterwards. People took initiative and did what needed to be done.

Christmas Eve 2024, 2:50 pm.....it was clear that there was going to be more people at worship than we had planned for (about twice as many people as the previous year). Not enough enough seats, not enough communion. But in those ten minutes before worship, people set up chairs, the Gathering Place was rearranged as overflow, and two additional people were recruited to help with communion....and worship went off without a hitch. Christmas Eve 2024 is now tied with 2020 as my favorite Christmas Eve. Not because of the way we worshipped. But because of how everyone was involved. Thank you to the people: who decorated the sanctuary, who put together the bulletins, who planned the worship, who led the music, who filled the candles, who assisted with the service, who set up and took down chairs and the Gathering Place and helped in ways I didn't see.

The people of Zion sure know how to pitch in and work together.

Peace,
Pastor Jeff

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 28th at 11:15AM

(immediately following the 10:15AM service)

We're excited to celebrate all that happened in 2023 and look forward to planning all that is to come in 2024!





PLEASE JOIN US!



Interested in finding out more about Zion?

Want to share what you are looking for at Zion? Looking to see how you might be involved and what opportunities there are for you? You have a chance to do all of that on Sunday, February 4th following the 10:15AM worship service. Members of the Council will be in the Gathering Place to talk with you and listen to you.


 **For Pastoral Care and Concerns,**
Please contact Pastor Jeff Stalley
by phone: cell # 860-490-5784 or
email: 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>December 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	\$ 39,994.56	\$ 31,632.71	\$ 24,721.61
Total Expenses	\$ 29,259.11	\$ 31,164.18	\$ 13,843.39	\$ 1,905.07
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (13,986.16)	\$ 8,830.38	\$ 17,789.32	\$ 22,816.54
<u>YTD 2023 Results (Jan-Dec)</u>	<u>2023 Budget*</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual v Budget</u>
Total Income	\$ 183,275.00	\$ 239,726.04	\$ 179,022.30	\$ 56,451.04
Total Expenses	\$ 351,108.00	\$ 353,244.58	\$ 323,353.77	\$ 2,136.58
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (167,833.00)	\$ (113,518.54)	\$ (144,331.47)	\$ 54,314.46

* Figures derived by dividing annual budget by twelve

 **Wednesdays in Lent...**
Join us on Wednesdays in Lent (February 21st & 28th, March 6th, 13th, 20th) for a light meal and then worship. We will meet in the Gathering Place at 6:00PM for soup and fellowship. Feel free to bring a sandwich or salad. We will move up to the sanctuary for worship at 6:30 pm (if you can't make it for the meal, you certainly can still join us for worship). Choir rehearsal follows worship. It would be a great time to join with the choirs as they prepare for Easter singing and ringing.

 **Ashes on Ash Wednesday...**
We will be worshipping at 7:00PM on Ash Wednesday (February 14th). During worship, there will be the Imposition of Ashes.
If you will not be able to attend that service or would like Ashes earlier in the day, Pastor Jeff will be in the sanctuary distributing Ashes from 6:30 - 8:00AM and 11:00AM - 1:00PM.

 **Did You Know?** You can read an inspirational verse of the week on Tuesdays on Zion's Facebook and Instagram pages? And on Thursday, on Facebook, you can see the Bible passages for the weekend services too!



Let's Meet...on Your Schedule!

Pastor Jeff is putting a pause on his weekly "out of the office" office hours, but continues to be willing to meet with you at coffee shops, bagel shops, ice cream shops or any similar place where you would like to meet. Of course, you can always talk with him at church. Just let him know.



Want to get the inside scoop on the Gospel of Mark (the gospel read on most Sundays this year)?

There is still time to join us for a the last 2 parts of this Bible Study! Find out how Mark is different from Matthew and Luke. What are the themes of Mark? What is the Messianic Secret? Who does Mark say Jesus is? We will meet again in the Gathering Place at 7:00PM on January 22nd and 29th



Zion Needs You!

Have you prayerfully considered serving on our Church Council? As we have been advertising for the past several weeks, the following positions are up for election at our January Congregational meeting: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Director of Worship & Music, Director of Membership & Witness, Director of Christian Education, and Director of Christian Fellowship. The incoming nominations have been underwhelming to say the least. Many current council members intend to seek reelection for their current positions, 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 questions.

You can email him at vicepresident@zionlutheranct.org

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; Justin Cappellino; Jonathan Cappellino.

Those in Hospitals / Care Centers / Assisted Living:

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

Wedding Anniversaries:

1/17, Peter & Debra Kurtz; 2/5, Kenneth & Carol Fedoruk; 2/18, John & Sandy Darling; 2/19, David & Diane Woolley; 2/20, LeAnn & Steve Kroll; 2/22, Becky & Todd Isaacson; 2/23, Cathy & Eric Watson.

Births: 1/9, Natalie Elizabeth Catrone, daughter of Jessica & Jordan Catrone
granddaughter of Michele & Bill Gibbs.

Deaths: 12/6; Marion Charlotte (Norling) Weeden, mother of Bonnie Zownir

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; Carolyn & Jimmy Griffin, cousin of Mark Proffitt; Penny Steindl; Chris Nadeau, friend of Nick Salerno; Jennifer, Joe, Ben, Nate, friends of Joyce Sues; Jim DeAcutis; Dave and the Main family, friends of Lois Garafola; Barbara Capello, friend of Lois Garafola; Marcy; MaryAnne, friend of John Miller; Ann French, sister of Alma Erickson.

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.

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

Sunday School News

Winter - January / February 2024

submitted by Ali Frega

Sunday School & Confirmation Class

I hope you had a great Winter Break with your family. Classes resumed on January 15th.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve. It was a great time sharing the Christmas story with everyone. I want to thank the students who shared their talents through reading lines and reading the Lessons that day.

Thank you to everyone who helped us with our costumes, lines and rehearsals.

We could not have learned it all without you.



A few pictures of our Sticker Nativities that Mrs. Proffitt brought us for Pageant Rehearsal Day. (left)

Youth Group

All meetings at 6:30PM unless otherwise noted.

January Meetings:

January 21st
and
January 28th
at Grace Methodist Church



February Meetings:

February 4th at Zion
and
February 25th at Plantsville C.C.
Date TBA: Bowling at
Lessard Lanes



It's Super Bowl Time!



Did your team make it to the big game? Do you have a team that you're cheering for? Are you just glad football is almost over? Regardless of your answers to these questions, you are invited to participate in Zion's version of the "SOUPER BOWL"!!!

Help our Southington community by donating to the "Souper Bowl of Caring!" At the end of worship on February 10 & 11, our confirmation students will be collecting monetary donations to benefit "Bread for Life". This program began in 1990 by a seminarian intern serving in S.C. His vision was to harness the energy of enthusiasm of Super Bowl weekend to collect donations and tackle hunger. Look for the SOUP POTS at church this weekend and THANK YOU for supporting our confirmation classes in their pursuit to help the local community!



A Peek into Zion Nursery School

All classes at ZCNS are studying 'Winter.' The children are all hoping for more snow in the forecast. They have enjoyed learning about animals in winter, creating snow birds and talking about what snowmen do at night. We are also currently in the middle of our second community service project of the year. Our 3s are collecting hats & mittens and our Pre-K and 4s are collecting fleece. They will use the fleece to make scarves at the end of the month. Hats, mittens and scarves will be donated to Southington Community Services.

Registration for 2024-'25 is open. The 3s & 4s classes are both full. There are still spots available in our Pre-K. Pre-K is typically for older students whose parents have decided to wait a year for Kindergarten or for those students with late in the year birthdays. If you have a child interested in Pre-K please call Danielle at (860) 628-6007.



"Snuggle Up"

Last January the church had a very successful stuffed animal drive to support the Southington Police Department. People have already begun to ask if we would be doing this again. YES!!! "Snuggle Up" has begun! We will be collecting stuffed animals of all shapes and sizes. They must be new stuffed animals. This year we will be delivering them to both *Prudence Crandall* and *The Friendship Center* in New Britain. *The Friendship Center* is a homeless shelter where individuals and families are provided with hope, comfort and dreams for a brighter future. These animals will surely provide the children with something to "snuggle up" with. We will be collecting them in the Gathering Place until Sunday, February 18th. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Proffitt at 860-621-4316. Thank you.



Please Join Us for Ladies Breakfast Saturday February 10th at 9:00AM

at the *Pepper Pot*, 9 Center St. All Are Welcome!

It's almost Super Bowl time, so how about helping out *Southington Community Services* by donating **SOUP** in time for the 'SOUPER' BOWL! **Canned fruit is needed too.** Items can be placed on the table in the Gathering Place. Thank you!



"Share The Love"



Share the Love will be starting again. We will be collecting \$5.00 gift cards for the individuals at "Bread for Life". Suggested gift card locations are Dunkin, The Dollar Tree, Subway or a place you prefer. These cards will be given to Missy at "Bread for Life" for individuals to receive them in time for Valentine's Day. There is a box on the front table where you can place your card. Thank you for your continued support.

All cards must be returned by Sunday, February 11th.



Bottles & Cans!!!

Don't forget to save those bottles & cans, they're now worth double the money! We also accept juice bottles, iced tea, anything that you are charged a deposit on so check your grocery receipts. Weather permitting we will continue sorting throughout the winter, meeting midday since it is warmer at that time. If unsure if we're going to be sorting, text or call Lois, 860-538-3925. All are welcome to come!

Donate to Our St. Pauly Clothing Shed!

Your donations to the shed continue to have a positive impact on Zion, but please remember to drop off your items in tied bags so they do not spill all over. Every donation helps! We receive over \$2,000 a year for the clothing that is donated, which together with the money received from the bottles and cans donations, helps to fund our annual operating budget and helps the planet too! Thanks to all who continue to donate clothing, bottles & cans.

Thank you, Lois

Christmas Pageant Highlights

Christmas Eve 3:00PM



January / February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 21 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM SS / Conf., Coffee Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion 6:30PM Youth @ Grace Methodist	22 7:00PM Bible Study	23 7:00PM Worship & Music	24 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:00PM Chapel Choir	25	26	27 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion
28 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School & Conf. Coffee Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion 11:15AM Congregational Meeting 6:30PM Youth @ Grace Methodist	29 10:00AM Bottles & Cans 7:00PM Bible Study	30	31 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:00PM Chapel Choir	Feb 1	2 1:00PM Knitting Group	3 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion & Healing Service
4 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School & Conf. Coffee Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion 11:15AM New Member meeting 6:30PM Youth @ Zion	5 10:00AM Bottles & Cans	6 7:00PM Worship & Music	7 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:00PM Chapel Choir	8 6:30PM Women's Group	9	10 "Souper Bowl" collection 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion
11 "Souper Bowl" collection 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School & Conf. Coffee Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion	12 10:00AM Bottles & Cans	13	14 Ash Wednesday Distribution of Ashes 6:30AM-8:00AM 11:00AM-1:00PM 6:30PM Worship with Distribution of Ashes	15	16 1:00PM Knitting Group	17 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion
18 Lent I 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School & Conf. Coffee Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion	19 Presidents' Day Office closed 10:00AM Bottles & Cans	20 6:30PM Council	21 Lenten Midweek 6:00PM Soup 6:30PM Worship Service 7:00PM Chapel Choir	22	23	24 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion
25 Lent II 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School & Conf. Coffee Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion 6:30PM Youth @ Plantsville Cong.	26 10:00AM Bottles & Cans	27	28 Lenten Midweek 6:00PM Soup 6:30PM Worship Service 7:00PM Chapel Choir	29	March 1 1:00PM Knitting Group	2 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion & Healing Service

January / February 2024

Return Service Requested

Website: zionlutheranct.org

email: pastor@zionlutheranct.org

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Rev. Jeff Stalley, Pastor cell#860-490-5784

