



Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau + Advent 1 + December 1 and 2, 2018

PRAYING

In Our Prayers This Week

Persecuted Christians in:

Sudan

Pakistan

Eritrea

Sister Congregation

Lehurutshe Parish, South Africa

Missionaries

~ **Elliot and Serena Derricks,**
Lutheran Bible Translators

Studying at Seminary

~ **Vicar Joe Pinzl**

Comfort, Healing, Recovery:

~ **Jessica Prebeg**

~ **Theresa Habeck**

Those who need our on-going prayers:

~ **Jim Bittner**

~ **Bill Brandis**

~ **Les Brolliar**

~ **Carol Edelburg**

~ **Barbara Ellen**

~ **Rita Falk**

~ **Ben Fiedler**

~ **Barry Gilbert**

~ **Avery Kluck**

~ **Carl Koch**

~ **Jason Kronstedt**

~ **Ray Kurth**

~ **Debra Mertes**

~ **Emma & Sarah Mertes (twins)**

~ **Grace Mueller**

~ **June Mueller**

~ **Tina Parker**

~ **Barb Ramker**

~ **Krista Salas**

~ **Renee Shorey**

~ **David Skola**

~ **Ethel Ann Smith**

~ **Elroy Tapper**

~ **Jayne Zilisch**

~ **Nancy, godmother of Sue Hafemeister**

~ **those recovering from natural disaster**

~ **Zion's homebound members**

FUNERAL

Ray Kurth fell asleep in the Lord on November 25 and now awaits the return of Christ and the resurrection of all flesh. Ray was given Christian burial from Zion on November 30. May God comfort Ray's family and friends in their mourning.

Please submit your prayer requests to the church office (715-848-7286). We can print prayer requests that you make for yourself or immediate family members.

LITURGY

Receiving the Gifts

Midweek Advent Worship

Wednesdays, 10 & 6:30

Sermon Series: "Hosanna! Advent at the Altar." Learn how the three traditional hymns sung at Holy Communion teach us about the coming of Jesus into our lives yesterday (Bethlehem), today (liturgy), and at the end of time (fulfillment).

The Liturgy This Season

Advent is a season of hope as we learn anew how Christians wait for their Lord Jesus. His birth at Bethlehem, celebrated not in Advent but at Christmas, anticipates His final coming at the end of time. Advent therefore focuses on hope, repentance, and patience.

Color: dark or violet blue, the color of the Virgin Mary ("pregnant waiting")

Changes: The hymn of praise, or Gloria, as the song of the angels goes away until Christmas. This is because it is introduced by the "song of the angels" – they were the first to sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth," to the shepherds outside of Bethlehem. We therefore, in a playful way, delay using it until the angels "return" at the Lord's birth.

Next Sunday:

Advent 2: Malachi 3:1-7b; Philippians 1:2-11; Luke 3:1-14; Psalm 66:1-12

Sermon: "Fruits of Repentance"

Heroes of the Faith in December:

Saint John of Damascus

December 4

Once a high servant in the Islamic court, John entered a Christian monastery in 716 A.D. and was ordained a priest. He is remembered for defending the use of images in worship and writing such hymns as the Easter hymn, "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain." An insightful thinker, John is often called "the last of the Church fathers," and dedicated his life to the true and orthodox faith of Christ.

Saint Nicholas of Myra

December 6

Saint Nicholas, from whom the "Santa Claus" legend is derived, was a real person in history. He was a Christian bishop in Asia Minor (present day Turkey) and was renowned for his care and compassion. In particular, he is remembered for helping children in need, including young girls who needed dowries to be married. He thus reflects the compassion of God for us, who loves us as a father loves his children.

Free cards commemorating these holy brethren and others are available in the narthex.

CATECHUMENATE

Learning the Gifts

Sundays, 10:15 AM:

"Christ the Servant." Learn from Scripture how Jesus serves His people.

Dec. 2: **Christ the Son**

Dec. 9: **Christ the Lamb**

Dec. 16: **Christ the Physician**

Dec. 23: **Christ the Slave**

Tuesdays at 9 AM: Word-Made-Flesh."

The Sunday liturgy is *soaked* with Holy Scripture! Come and learn this "word-made-flesh." *This week: Kyrie and Gloria*

Thursday Men's Breakfast at 7AM: Acts of the Apostles

For the next few weeks, we will be exploring Acts 1-2, looking particularly at how Acts has inspired the church liturgically and how the book of Acts itself is about the liturgy, that is, about the gifts of God coming to his beloved, chosen, and redeemed people through Word and Sacrament. We start at the beginning this upcoming week, starting at Acts 1:1.

Sunday School

This Week's Lesson

The Sunday School students study the story of "Lydia" today. Just as God worked His miracle beside the river, clothing Lydia with Christ in Baptism, so God works His miracles in pulpits and fonts around the world today, destroying the work of Sat an, ripping believers from the jaws of death, washing away

sins in water tinged with Jesus' blood, and clothing believers with His righteousness. Parents could ask, "How did God use water to save Lydia and us? Who does God use to reveal His Word to us today?"

Coram Deo

Part of learning what God gives us through Jesus Christ is taking up a path of daily Scripture reading and prayer. Coram Deo is a devotional society at Zion that helps equip you for this soul-enlivening task. For more information, call the church office and/or speak to a pastor.

Upcoming Learning Event

The Way, The Truth, the Life

Wednesdays, February 20 to April 10

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Learn the faith; renew your faith! This class is **for those seeking to become Lutheran and join Zion and for all those who want to deepen their knowledge and practice of the faith.** Do you know anyone who might appreciate this class? Make it a joint effort: invite that person and come along! If interested, please contact the church office.

OUTREACH *and* MERCY

Sharing and Being the Gifts

Zion's Mission Goal This Month:

Greater Wausau Christian Services (\$4,000)

Since 1981, GWCS (Greater Wausau Christian Services) has provided a pastoral presence and various programs of support to residents of our community's institutions. There are 13 churches who are members and who support GWCS. Specifically, the efforts of GWCS has centered on local nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and the county jail. In addition to the jail support and nursing homes, GWCS recently has put a greater emphasis on juvenile facilities and refurbishing the jail library.

The GWCS worship program has local pastors who are scheduled to lead worship services for the nursing homes on a weekly basis. Pastors Gjerde and Johnson and Vicar Pinzl take their turn in the rotation. Residents have come to appreciate the variety of pastoral leadership types, as each week a different pastor shows up. In addition, church services are held each Sunday evening at the county jail. Twelve different pastors lead these services on a rotation basis. The service consists of singing, bible reading, a message and prayer, concluding by saying together "The Lord's Prayer." Zion has been a part of GWCS since its inception. Your special gift of support is greatly appreciated.

Advent Warm Clothing Collection

Zion will be collecting warm clothing this Advent to share with the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army has requested *new* (never worn) hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, coats, and boots for adults and children alike. All items may be brought to the church office or placed in baskets located near the altar starting December 2.

Advent Book Collection

The Salvation Army is also requesting children's books to share with central Wisconsin's youth! Families trying to "make ends meet" rarely purchase books for their children – your gifts can make a difference! All items may be brought to the church office or placed in baskets located near the altar starting December 2.

Keeping in Touch With College Kids

Do you have a son or daughter going to college? Zion wants to stay in touch! Please advise the church office the student's name, school, and address. The Zion Elders thank you.

Donations to Zion's Building Fund

Thanks be to God, He has provided Zion church with a place to worship and minister to the community that proclaims the faith of Jesus Christ. Zion's building fund, the Hansen Fund, helps to maintain and improve this property so that it may

continue to serve God's mission for years to come. Please consider directing donations and memorials to this helpful fund.

Altar Guild Christmas Party

... will be held this Tuesday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall, with the pastors and staff as guests. The program will feature Christmas music and games. Hostesses are Bonnie Glasel, Deb Thomas, and Bonnie Waack. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to the church office, 715-848-7286.

Women of Zion Christmas Pot-luck

Women of Zion will have their annual Christmas Gathering on Wednesday, December 5 at Noon in the church hall. We will have catered chicken, pot-luck style side dishes, and dessert. After lunch we will sing Christmas carols with music provided by Kantor Beethe. Please join us for this lovely afternoon event, all at no charge. RSVP by Monday, December 3 on the yellow sheet in the church office or call the church office, 715-848-7286.

Women of Zion Christmas Gifts for Zion Shut-ins

Please bring a wrapped Christmas gift for Zion shut-ins, labeling your gift so the pastors know if the gift is for a man or a woman. Gifts that shut-ins like are: individual packets of Kleenex tissues, large boxes of Kleenex tissues, cough drops, and decorations that are winter-themed that can be placed on a table top. **Bring your wrapped gift to the church office.**

Transportation Needed

A female parishioner needs a ride on Sunday to Zion's 9:00 a.m. service. She lives by Wausau West High School off of Stevens Drive. She has memory issues, but is mobile. Please call the church office, 715-848-7286 if you can volunteer.

Christmas Decorating Fund

Refer to the insert page in today's announcements. Your response is due by Monday, December 17.

Parish Nurse

Lenore Grosinske, Zion's parish nurse, is available for assisting you with Blood Pressure, understanding your medications, and getting you to appointments. She will assist with issues regarding medical bills that you may be having a hard time understanding. Also, if you need to dispose of outdated medication, she is able to do that for you. You may contact Lenore directly at 715-848-5112; or email: lenor72@yahoo.com.

Pick Up Your Containers in the Church Kitchen

There are leftover containers from Strassenfest food donations that need to be picked up. Pie plates, pickle jars, and Tupperware storage containers are in the "coffee room" by the church kitchen. If not picked up, they will be donated to the next rummage sale. Thank you.

Inspirational Life 2019 Calendars

We have several copies of 2019 calendars provided by Helke Funeral Home. You

may take a copy from the tables in the narthex, and the reception area at the northwest entry of Zion.

We Need More Plastic Bags and People Who Crochet

... for the Homeless Mats project. Due to the nature of this project, we would like donations of clean plastic bags, from department stores, big box stores, and grocery stores. Bring your donations to the conference room by the church office. Also, we need people who will crochet the mats. This can be done at church or at home. Call Lori, 715-551-0566 for more information.

Burden Bears

A project of the Women of Zion is Burden Bears. These small, stuffed toy bears are decorated with each bear holding a quilt and an attached poem with comforting words. These are to be given to someone who is in need of comfort. Call the church office, or stop in if you or someone you know, would like a Burden Bear.

Small Stuffed Teddy Bears are being requested for the Women of Zion's Burden Bear project. Please bring your new or gently-used donations to the church office.

Portals of Prayer

... for October through December are available in the narthex and by the church office reception area. Large print copies are also available.

Ideas for Action Teams

Refer to the bulletin board posting at the northwest entrance of Zion for the many ideas from Thrivent Financial's action teams across the country that have accomplished service projects. You can strengthen Zion by organizing a team. You will receive up to \$250 in "seed money." If interested, Thrivent members may call the church office if they are not sure how to get started.

Altar Guild Volunteers Needed

Women, and men, are being asked if they would like to join Zion's Altar Guild. You will be trained by the members of the Altar Guild to set up the communion services, and also care for the garments worn by the pastors and communion assistants. We have a rotation of five teams, where you would work every fifth month. If interested, call the church office.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Events around Central Wisconsin

Wausau Lyric Choir

... will perform its 2018 Christmas concert "Christmas Classics – A Joyful Celebration" on **Saturday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 p.m.** at First Presbyterian Church, 406 Grant St., Wausau. No charge, but free-will donations will be accepted.

Hand-Crafted Creations (formerly Talent Shop)

Located at 319 4th St., Wausau, their hours

are Monday thru Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The 319 Gallery, Inc. has five gallery rooms of all local artists including the Hand-Crafted Creations area, formerly Talent Shop. Any local artists interested in joining, please call June Zentner, 715-297-7993.

School Bus Drivers Needed

Lamers is recruiting new Route Drivers with paid training. Apply in person at their Weston office, 3805 Concord Avenue. Call 715-298-6110; or online: GoLamers.com/employment

Faith in Action

- Are you age 60 or older? Do you need a little extra help with transportation to medical appointments or grocery shopping? Friendly volunteers from Faith in Action of Marathon County are ready to deliver food from The Neighbors' Place to your doorstep.
- Also, volunteer drivers are needed to help with transportation.
- To request assistance, or to volunteer as a driver, please contact Linda at 715-848-8783; or email: wausaufiainfo@gmail.com.

Hospice Volunteers Needed

Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice needs volunteers to provide a comforting presence and emotional, social support to their patients and families in their Hospice Program. Volunteers help patients in their end-of-life journey, to live in dignity and peace while helping to offer a pain-free and comfortable environment. Call Samantha Giese or Tasha Stencil at 745-847-2424; or visit the website: www.aspirus.org/volunteers. Training is based on the volunteer's schedule and needs.

Volunteers Needed for Service Trips

Good News Project, a local nonprofit operating in Wausau for 35 years, has openings for volunteers for their upcoming service trips in the U.S. and in the Caribbean. More information can be found at www.goodnewswi.com or by calling 715-843-5985, M-F, 9 am - 5 pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Upcoming events at Zion

- **Saturday, December 8 – 9:00 am to noon:** Decorating Church Nave and Sanctuary
- **Saturday, December 15 – 5:15 p.m.:** Sunday School Pageant
- **Sunday, February 10, 2019: 2:00 pm to 6:00 p.m.:** Winter Tea in church hall

Attendance: Nov. 22, 24, and 25:

Thanksgiving Day:

10:00 am 102

Saturday:

5:15 pm 45

Sunday:

9:00 am 160

11:00 am 47

Total: 254

Zion's Financial News

Income last week: \$ 16,277
Year-to-date income: \$510024
Year-to-date expenses: \$608,546

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday • December 2

- 9:00 am Holy Communion;
WSAU Radio
- 9:15 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Pre-Confirmation
- 10:15 am Bible Study / Fellowship
- 11:00 am Holy Communion

Monday • December 3

- 6:15 pm Group Home Ministry

Tuesday • December 4

- 9:00 am Bible Class
- 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- 1:00 pm Homeless Mats in
church hall
- 7:00 pm Altar Guild Christmas Party
in church hall

Wednesday • December 5

- 10:00 am Matins
- 12:00 pm Women of Zion Christmas
Party in church hall
- 6:30 pm Vespers
- 6:30 pm Confirmation
- 7:10 pm Hand Chime Choir

Thursday • December 6

- 7:00 am Men's Bible Class
- 6:30 pm Kantorei Rehearsal

Saturday • December 8

- 9:00 am to 12:00 noon: Decorate Zion's
Sanctuary
- 1:30 pm–3:00 pm: Sunday School
Pageant practice in
sanctuary
- 5:15 pm Communion Service

Sunday • December 9

- 9:00 am Holy Communion;
WSAU Radio
- 9:15 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Pre-Confirmation
- 10:15 am Bible Study / Fellowship
- 11:00 am Holy Communion

Next Sunday:

Advent 2: *Malachi 3:1-7b; Philippians 1:2-11;*
Luke 3:1-14; Psalm 66:1-12

Bálint Karosi: Zion Concert Organ Series

... is telecast on **Channel 980 on Charter**,
Saturdays at 9 p.m., Mondays at 4:30 p.m.,
and Fridays at 12:15 p.m.; on **VieBit**:
[https://waam.viebit.com/player.php?
hash=bW0QjkkAUo5r](https://waam.viebit.com/player.php?hash=bW0QjkkAUo5r); on **YouTube**:
<https://youtu.be/qjDc1QdOwXM>

"Zion Reformation Service"

... is telecast on **Channel 980 on Charter**,
Thursdays at 4 PM and Wednesdays at 7
AM.; on **VieBit**:
[https://waam.viebit.com/player.php?
hash=iPuke72BRG0m](https://waam.viebit.com/player.php?hash=iPuke72BRG0m); on **YouTube**:
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=DDQhMpSJ2xM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDQhMpSJ2xM)