

# The Contact

*Faith. Family. Community.*

Pg. 2 Prayers, Birthdays, Anniversaries  
Group Gatherings  
Display Case  
Z-Book Club  
Angel Tree

Pg. 3 Greeters, Readers, Acolytes  
Poinsettias  
Christmas Services  
Christmas Ushers  
Confirmation/SS  
Mitten Tree

Pg. 4 Altar Guild, Ushers, Hospitality, Meetings, Choirs, Office Closings, Thank You's  
Vicar Update  
Epiphany

Pg. 5 Council Highlights  
IMF

Pg. 6 Financial Update  
Mission Trip

Pg. 7 Calendar

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Kindergarten and older will rehearse for the Christmas program on Saturday, **December 2** at 9 AM. This year's Christmas program will be on Sunday, **December 10** at 4 PM. The program will feature Zion's children, teens, and young adults. This year's program is titled "Tree-Mendous Love: From the Manger to the Cross."



## ADVENT SILENT NIGHTS

New this year, we will be hosting a free time of prayer, meditation, relaxation, and rest in the sanctuary on Thursdays in Advent. Come and go as you please between 5 and 9 PM on Thursday, **December 7, 14, and 21** as we all prepare for and await the coming of our Lord.



## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Christmas Caroling to shut-ins will be held **Saturday, December 16**. The schedule:  
4:00-4:45 PM - Soup supper  
5:00-5:30 PM - Table Worship at Zion  
5:30 PM - Meet at church to leave for caroling!  
Please sign up at the church or use this link



[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeOOKISRmrEeVPSEiwLNbhlHAH6Mr3JJPQWbsPr1eF8sgPHDew/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeOOKISRmrEeVPSEiwLNbhlHAH6Mr3JJPQWbsPr1eF8sgPHDew/viewform?usp=sf_link)

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the church office.

## ADVENT MUSIC PROGRAM

Please join the Bell Choir and organist, Charles Potter, for an Advent Music Program on **Sunday, December 17** at 3 PM in Zion's sanctuary.



## PRAYERS AROUND ZION

*"Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs."*

### FOR THOSE THAT ARE ILL:

Bob Nicolai, Deb Burke,  
Nancy Franklin, Sharon  
Pugh, Gary Sebbert

### FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE:

Laurie Noah on the loss of  
her husband, Roger.  
Mary Butcher and family on  
the loss of Keith.

### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

*Birthdays with \* beside the  
name represents a birthday  
of 90+ years, \*\* represents  
100+ years. Anniversaries  
listed are for 50+ years.*

Bette Logel	12/4
*Anita Davis	12/9
Barb Sabbath	12/13
Carol Christophersen	12/21
*Shirley Stange	12/23
Ruth Starkweather	12/24
Elaine Petersen	12/25
Carl Carlson	12/28
Dick Marr	12/29
Bob Martz	12/30
Bob & Bonnie Nicolai	12/15
Sharon & Betsy Martin	12/18

## OUT - TO - LUNCH BUNCH

Out-to-Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 AM  
on **December 14** at *Yacky Shack*. Sign up is  
available on the nursery bulletin board.



## SUPPER CLUB

Supper Club will meet at 6:00 PM on  
**December 16** at *Thai Restaurant*. Sign up is  
available on the nursery bulletin board.



## GROUP 5

Group 5 will meet on **December 19** at 9:30 AM  
at for their Christmas Party.

5

## GROUP 6

Group 6 will meet on **December 10** at 6:00 PM  
at *Osaka* for dinner then go to *Karen Goodell's*  
for their Christmas Party.

6

## DISPLAY CASE

The next display case will be TBA. Please check  
back in the January 2018 Contact for what the next  
theme will be.

## Z-BOOK CLUB

The next meeting for Z-Book Club will be  
Monday, **December 11** at 5 pm at *HyVee  
Market Café*. The book we will be reading is  
Read My Pins by Madeliene Allbright.



## ANGEL TREE

There are new angel tags placed on the angel  
tree for residents of Lutheran Living who have  
no family members and may not be  
remembered at Christmas. These gifts need  
to be gift wrapped and returned by **December 17**.



## GREETERS UP:

12/3 - Tim & Vivien Halloran  
12/10 - Charlie & Jan Drumm  
12/17 - Ruth Starkweather & Lois Greenwald  
12/24 - Sheryl Mercer (9AM, 4 & 9 PM)  
12/31 - Jim & Linda Maas

## GREETERS DOWN:

12/3 - Rosendo & Stacey Ramos  
12/10 - Bob Nicolai  
12/17 - Gary & Judy Sebbert  
12/24 (9AM) - Dave & Terri Hanson  
12/24 (4PM) - Dave & Dyann Roby  
12/24 (9PM) -  
12/31 - Steve Knox & Sherry Manley

## READERS:

12/3 - Katie Harris  
12/10 - Dave Reusswig  
12/17 - Carolyn Kemper  
12/24 & 31 - No Readers

## ACOLYTES:

12/3 - Brock True & Austin Lawrence  
12/10 - Matt Richardson & Nathan Taylor  
12/17 - Lizzy Mills & Matt Richardson  
12/24 (9AM) - Ryan Mandsager  
12/24 (4PM) - Brock True  
12/24 (9PM) - Matt Richardson  
12/31 - Aidan Armstrong

## CROSSBEARER:

12/24 -

## POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias can now be ordered. Envelopes are located in the Narthex. Price per plant is \$9.50. Please return envelopes by **December 20**. Plants will come from Blooming Ideas in Wilton.



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas services for Zion are as follows:  
**Saturday, December 23** at 5 PM - Lessons and Carols

**Sunday, December 24** at 9 AM - Lessons and Carols

**Sunday, December 24** at 4 PM - Family worship with candlelight & communion

**Sunday, December 24** at 8:30 PM - Christmas Choir Concert from Zion's Senior Choir

**Sunday, December 24** at 9 PM - Late worship with candlelight & communion

*\*There will be no services on Christmas Day and the church will be closed.*



## CHRISTMAS USHERS

Extra ushers are needed to help with the 4 PM and 9 PM Christmas Eve worship services. If you are able to volunteer for one or both of these services, please speak with Riley Padgett (319-212-0396).



## CONFIRMATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please note that confirmation classes will not be meeting on **December 20 and 27** due to Christmas and New Year's. Classes will resume on *January 3, 2018*. Sunday School will not meet on **December 24 and 31** but will resume on *January 7, 2018*.



## MITTEN TREE

Sunday School Sponsored Opportunity: The 4th and 5th Grade Class put up the Mitten Tree and it will remain up until Epiphany in January. Mittens, hats, scarves, socks, underwear, and sweat pants can be placed on the tree. They will be given to LSI, MCSA, and schools for children in need.



## ALTAR GUILD:

Stacey & Sheryl

## USHERS:

Riley Padgett, Mike  
Watson, Mark Perisho,  
Duane Williams, Charles  
Meyer

## HOSPITALITY:

12/3 - Parish Ed/Youth  
12/10 - Finance  
12/17 - Social Ministry  
12/24 - No Hospitality  
12/31 - No Hospitality

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Gateway: 3:15 PM on 12/8  
All Comm: 6:30 PM - 12/7  
Executive: 6:15 PM - 12/14  
Council: 7 PM - 12/14

## CHOIR PRACTICES:

Bell Choir at 6:15 PM on  
12/6, 12/13, 12/20  
Senior Choir at 7 PM on  
12/6, 12/13, 12/20

## OFFICE CLOSINGS:

The church office will be  
closed on Monday,  
December 25 and Monday,  
January 1, 2018.

## THANK YOU'S:

Thank you so very much for  
the beautiful flowers.  
~Pat Richardson & family

## VICAR UPDATE

Grace and Peace to you this advent season! I will be gone from Zion during the first weekend of December to meet with my bishop in Massachusetts and stand before a panel of 15 people for my final approval for ordination. By the time you read this, I will have (hopefully and God willing) received this approval. This is the last step before I begin the process of waiting to receive paperwork from congregations looking to call a new pastor and I begin the interview process. This may happen quickly, or may take several months. As of now, I plan to continue to serve among you until I receive my first call. I am grateful to continue to share in this advent season of active waiting with you all.



## EPIPHANY

Epiphany is **January 7**. Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, changing water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.



## NOVEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Stewardship reported that the pledges from Consecration Sunday were about the same as last year with \$200,906 in pledges.
- Zion Council approved new guidelines in renaming the Mission Fund to the “Innovative Ministry Fund” (IMF). The purpose is to give directions of what the monies in the fund are to be used for.
- Zion Church received \$20,000 from the Flickinger Estate. One half went into the Trust Fund and one half into the IMF. Council approved donating \$2,500 to the Flickinger Learning Center.
- An existing “Zion Fellowship Hall Guidelines” was presented and needs updated. A committee headed by the President is to review and bring back to the Council updated recommendations.
- A motion was made and approved by Council to transfer \$11,000 from the Gateway Fund to the Church Unified Fund to meet expenses.

## INNOVATIVE MINISTRY FUND (IMF)

**Definition:** The Innovative Ministry Fund (IMF) of Zion Lutheran Church exists to provide funding and grants to new, creative, innovative, or irregularly occurring ministry opportunities of Zion Lutheran Church and its associated ministries.

**Uses:** The IMF may be used to fund new ministry projects or initiatives from the congregation that have not been regularly budgeted for. They may arise from a particular committee, or a group of members, but should have a plan in place to support the ministry initiative. This encourages innovation, creativity, and taking risks for the sake of the gospel.

**Access:** IMF funding is available through a request made directly to the finance committee in consultation with pastoral leadership. The finance committee may then make a recommendation to the executive council, which may then carry the motion to the church council.

**Limits:** The IMF is not to be used to pay regularly occurring expenses, bills, invoices, or other regularly budgeted items. That is to say, the IMF is not a fund to cover any budget shortfalls, but is rather designated for the aforementioned purposes.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

	Oct 2017 Actual	10/12 Yr. Budget	Yr-to-Date Difference
Budgeted Income	\$210,141	260,076	(49,935)
Budgeted Expenses	<u>245,855</u>	<u>260,076</u>	<u>(14,221)</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>(35,714)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(35,714)</b>
Unbudgeted Income	9,447	-	9,447
Unbudgeted Expenses	<u>3,497</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,497</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(29,764)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(29,764)</b>

### Fund Balances

Unified	\$109,572	Designated Benevolences	\$0
Building	\$9,945	Quilters	\$2,170
Memorial	\$22,586	Mission	\$103,550
Fellowship	\$7,660	Flower Fund	\$2,652
Youth	\$11,514	Gateway	\$41,071

## MISSION TRIP

Gloria Dei and Zion Lutheran Churches in Iowa City are co-sponsoring a mission trip to the Gulf Coast to aid and support those affected by recent disasters. We have reserved a 47-seat bus for **January 6-13, 2018** and are now looking for people who are interested in going on the trip or supporting it in other important ways.

Cost for transportation on the bus will be \$200/person. Financial assistance is available to individuals who would like to go on the trip but find the cost prohibitive. We are hoping to keep additional costs to a minimum by staying in church basements or tent cities for volunteers.

You are encouraged to sign up for the trip now. Seating is limited to 47 participants. We have created a Sign-Up Genius link where you can register for the trip online. Sign-up sheets are also available at both Zion and Gloria Dei.

If you do need financial assistance, please register for the trip first, and then contact Deacon Pam Larabee-Zierath at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Pastor Jennifer Lutz at Zion Lutheran Church, or Pastor Sarah Goettsch at Lutheran Campus Ministries.

We are also looking for people interested in supporting the trip financially even though they may not personally be able to attend. Donations of any amount are welcomed. One option you might consider is "sponsoring a seat" for a participant with a donation of \$200.

And, of course – and always! – we cherish the support of those who keep the members of our trip and the people of the Gulf Coast in their continuing prayers.

# December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26 LSI Angel Gifts Due/Lutheran Living Tags Up 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Ed.</p> 	<p>27 12:00 PM Contact Articles Due</p>	<p>28 9:00 AM Quilting Ladies 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>29 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study @ Zion MPR 6:15 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation @ Zion 7:00 PM Senior Choir</p>	<p>30 9:00 AM Contact Assembly</p>	<p>1 3:15 PM Gateway Meeting</p>	<p>2 9:00 AM Christmas Program Practice 5:00 PM Table Worship</p>
<p>3 First Sunday of Advent 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Ed.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 9:00 AM Quilting Ladies 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>6 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study @ Zion MPR 6:15 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation @ Zion 7:00 PM Senior Choir</p>	<p>7 5:00 PM Silent Nights 6:30 PM All Committee Night</p>	<p>8 3:15 PM Gateway Meeting</p>	<p>9 5:00 PM Table Worship</p>
<p>10 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Ed. 3:00 PM Peace Vigil - Discovery Center 4:00 PM Christmas Program 6:00 PM Group 6 - Osaka Restaurant</p>	<p>11 5:00 PM Z-Book Club - HyVee Market Cafe</p>	<p>12 9:00 AM Quilting Ladies 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>13 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study @ Zion MPR 6:15 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation @ Zion 7:00 PM Senior Choir</p>	<p>14 11:30 AM Out-to-Lunch Bunch - Yacky Shack 5:00 PM Silent Nights 6:15 PM Exec. Committee 7:00 PM Church Council</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 4:00 PM Caroling Soup Supper 5:00 PM Table Worship 5:30 PM Caroling 6:00 PM Supper Club - Thai Restaurant</p>
<p>17 Lutheran Living Gifts Due 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Ed. 3:00 PM Advent Music Program</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 9:30 AM Group 5 - Christmas Party 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>20 Poinsettia Orders Due 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study @ Zion MPR 6:15 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Senior Choir</p>	<p>21 First Day of Winter 5:00 PM Silent Nights </p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 5:00 PM Table Worship </p>
<p>24 Happy Christmas Eve 9:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service - Family Friendly 8:30 PM Christmas Choir Concert 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service</p> 	<p>25 Merry Christmas - Office Closed!</p> 	<p>26 9:00 AM Quilting Ladies 12:00 PM Contact Articles Due 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>27 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study @ Zion MPR</p>	<p>28 9:00 AM Contact Assembly</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 5:00 PM Table Worship</p>
<p>31 Happy New Year's Eve 9:00 AM Worship </p>	<p>1 Happy New Year's - Office Closed! </p>	<p>2 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study @ Zion MPR 6:15 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation @ Zion 7:00 PM Senior Choir</p>	<p>4 6:30 PM All Committee Night 6:30 PM Pub Theology @ Wine Nutz</p>	<p>5 3:15 PM Gateway Meeting</p>	<p>6 Epiphany 5:00 PM Table Worship</p>

Lutheran Church



*DECEMBER 2017 | KEEPING ZION CONNECTED*

# THE CONTACT

Zion Lutheran Church  
513 Sycamore Street  
Muscatine, IA 52761  
563.263.5074

Visit us online at [ZIONMUSCATINE.ORG](http://ZIONMUSCATINE.ORG)  
Follow us at [TWITTER@ZIONMUSCATINE](https://twitter.com/ZIONMUSCATINE)