

ZION'S HERALD

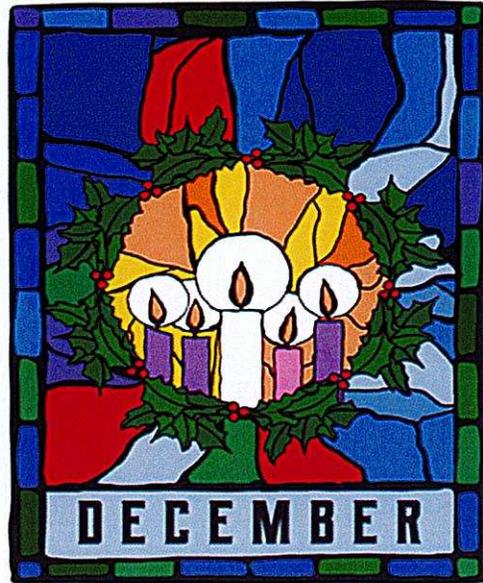
The Herald - December

Zion ~ Where Friends become Family™

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
December 2025

Volume No. 79

Issue No 12



Worship Services in December

Here is the information for worshipping in December.

- Wednesday, December 3rd, Advent Vespers Service Soup Potluck at 6:15 PM, Service at 7 pm
-
- Sunday, Dec. 7th, Pastor Don Carlson presiding
-
- Wednesday, Dec. 10th Advent Vespers, 6:15 potluck, 7 pm service
-
- Sunday Dec. 14th, Sunday School will present The Christmas Alphabet Poem, Rev. Mike Jacobs presiding for communion.
-

- Wednesday, Dec. 17th Advent Vespers, 6:15 potluck, 7:00 pm service
-
- Sunday Dec. 21st, Nancy Keeton will give the sermon, **NO COMMUNION**
-
- Wednesday, Dec 24th, **Christmas Eve Services** Rev. Mike Jacobs presiding 6 PM
-
- Sunday, Dec. 28th, Lessons and Carols, Rev Mike Jacobs presiding at communion
-
- Sunday, Jan. 4th, Jason Elms sermon, **NO COMMUNION**

The Worship and Music Committee have done our best to provide coverage especially over the Holidays. We hope to be able to cover for Sundays in January, but many retired Pastors do not want to travel over the passes in the winter.

From the Council President

We have received very good news with Pastor Tom Johnson accepting Zion's call to be our next Lead Pastor. Both the Call Committee and our Church Council unanimously and enthusiastically approved bringing Pastor Johnson to Zion.

The most important step remains! You, members of Zion's congregation, need to approve Pastor Johnson's call with a 2/3's or better majority vote, and

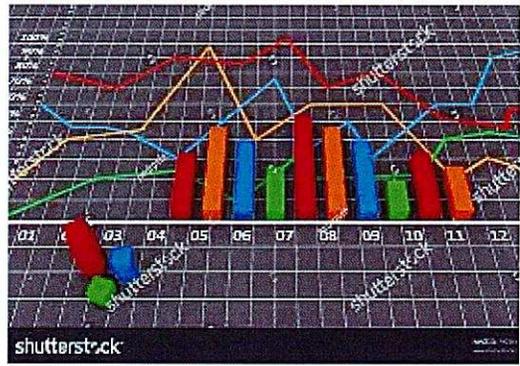
approve the financial package offered to Pastor Johnson.

We have scheduled a special Congregational Meeting for approval of those two items for Sunday, December 7th after our regular 10 AM service. I will convene that meeting at 11:15 AM. I hope everyone will attend!

Thank you all for your prayers and your patience in this time of transition! We are approaching a new "phase" of that transition!

In His Service,

Bob Bohac



FINANCIAL REPORT

In October we are \$43,968 below our budgeted income goal. The general fund balance is \$191,843. General giving for category 1 was \$14,575 and category 2 was \$8,971 for a total of \$23,546. Our general expenses YTD are \$213,675 compared to \$287,283 in 2024.

THANK YOU

To our Supply Pastors

We have had several supply/visiting pastors this past year. They have enabled us to have communion at our Sunday services as well as sharing insightful and challenging homilies. Our church council would like to show our appreciation by sending them a gift card (\$50) along with a letter of thanks.

If you would like to contribute to this effort, please indicate by writing "supply pastor gift" on your donation.

Thank you.

Starting "House Meetings" in January!

Pastor Mike Keys has been working with the members of the Church Council and "Bridging Group" to demonstrate how to extend the methods of "listening sessions" (used by the Transition Team) to small groups rather than one-on-one.

A "House Meeting" is a gathering of a small group of our congregation in

an informal setting to exchange thoughts about specific questions. The questions could be about the vision and goals for Zion or possibly readings from scripture. There would be a host, facilitator and a scribe along with 6 to 8 participants. The format centers around individuals responding to questions in the context of Respectful Communication Guidelines and Mutual Invitation.

Council members participated in a House Meeting this last month and would like to welcome others to participate. Our goal is to initially expand to 4 - 6 groups meeting during the middle weeks of January. We anticipate having an adult forum to further explain how these work on December 14th. We hope to see you there!

Bob Bohac

Update on the Building Project.

The remodel plans for the administrative wing of the building are moving forward, but a bit more slowly. There was an inspection done for asbestos and lead and there will some abatement needed prior to beginning construction. (Not a lot, thankfully).

Construction is anticipated to begin after the first of the year. The

administrative staff will be relocated to the Sunday School house and Sunday School will move to the Antler House. The counters will have some space next to the AV booth.

With luck, construction will be done in 12 - 14 weeks or so.

Funds pledged have reached our goal of \$360,000. What a wonderful generous congregation we have!



WOMEN OF ZION

Women of Zion, December, 2025
Hey Ladies..... we had a wonderful time at our November 3rd meeting. Lea Mathieu shared with us her routine of praying with beads every day. She uses scripture and personal prayer each morning with one of her many strands of prayer beads. It was so inspiring! Then we all designed and made our own strands of beads to take home for our own prayer time. It was such a

wonderful time.....thank you Pastor Lea for inspiring us!

Our annual Christmas Bazaar plans are well underway as I write this...tune in for a report and results of our efforts.

At our annual November Thank Offering Sunday, \$1143 was collected for the national organization of the Women of the ELCA! Thank you dear Women of Zion for your unselfish generosity!

Our December meeting will be on the 17th at 11:30. We'll have a lasagna lunch, and exchange gifts. Please see "Save the Date" in this newsletter for details. It is always fun....you won't want to miss this! Look for sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Looking ahead to a new year, our January meeting will be the start of a new book study. "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World". We have purchased books and will have them available at our Christmas lunch so you can read the first 6 chapters before our January 21st meeting. At the same time, we will distribute "Gratitude Journals" which we will work on during the first months of the year.

God is so very good! We are so very grateful for each of you who have faithfully joined us each month. I know we have been blessed many times over....and now we can look forward to welcoming our new pastor TJ and his wife Elizabeth to Zion in January God is faithful and we are blessed!

To God be the Glory!
Anne Bohac

**SAVE THE DATE!!!
DECEMBER 17TH AT 11:30 AM
WOMEN OF ZION ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND GIFT
EXCHANGE CAPER!!**

**Menu: Lasagna, Bread, Salad,
Homemade Christmas Cookies, Punch
and Coffee**

No charge for lunch.

**Bring a wrapped gift (no more than \$15)
and cookies if you wish.**

**All are welcome. Bring a friend!
Please sign up in fellowship hall so
we can get a head count.**

Thank you!

I am posting this note of gratitude to my faith community for all the prayers, cards and visits to me while I was going through chemotherapy for NH lymphoma.

I have been truly humbled by this outpouring of support. And I am sure this support has been a major reason why I can now say that my recent full body scan showed no sign of cancer remaining.

I am finding that words are inadequate to convey the depth of my gratitude.

All I can do is say 'thank you' from the bottom of my Heart

Bill Bigler



It was another successful **HOLIDAY BAZAAR**, thank you to the committee, worker-bees and those who contributed items for the raffle table, the 'Gently Used' and our Fellowship Room tables.....it was a terrific day! So many extra hands made it very successful. Thank you again to all who participated. There were lots of happy shoppers. Our total sales were \$5,500.00 – **WOW!!**

We will be giving checks of \$800 to Tuck Elementary School, Terrebonne School, Redmond Senior Center and Jericho Road. The rest of the monies will be put in our WELCA account for future use.

Again thank you to all of you... ZLC did it again!!!

Barbara Jones

Also, thank you to those who made the pies, lefse, cinnamon rolls and all the other goodies. Delicious treats!
It was fun to watch the lefse making groups!



Socks, socks and more socks!



Pictured: Bobbie Haas, Luann Johnson, Judy Soeten from Eagle Crest and Priscilla Bigler of Jericho Road

It has been a robust and satisfying year for our 2025 Socktober. Here at Zion, your weekly donations totaled 608 pairs of new socks! Thank you! Thank you! We are excited and thankful to report that we were able to collect from so many generous Redmond residents an all-time record of 4,105 pairs of new socks. This is our highest total during the past eight years of the sock drive. Part of our mission here at Zion is to be good helpers to our community and Socktober is just one of the ways each of us can fulfill this goal. All of the socks were delivered last week to Jericho Road, Mountain Star, FAN, Shepherd's House, & Neighborhood Impact. They were

so pleased and thankful, too. Please continue to shop for socks through the coming year so we can again be ready in 2026 to give a helping hand to the "feets" of our community.

God bless each of you throughout the coming holidays.

B 😊 bbie Haas

12 boxes of new socks were donated to Jericho Road this month with the following message, "We are excited to share with you many pairs of new socks that have been donated to us by the very caring and kind residents of Eagle Crest and Zion Lutheran Church. We are thankful to be able to help those in need in Redmond."

BELLS

***No Bell Practice after December 20th
Resuming on January 10th ***

Remember to Keep in our Prayers

Please keep in your prayers those who live in long-term care homes:

Brookside Assisted Living - Junemarie

Chinook Assisted Living - Lois R. Juniper Springs - Alice M.

Marquis Piedmont Rehab - Patti

And those in need of ongoing prayer: Gerry R



Health Ministry Highlights: Holiday Loneliness

Many of us, when considering the topic of healthy aging think of diet and exercise. Of course, these do matter. However, an article from the Mayo Clinic by Dr. Amit Shah, geriatrician, points out that "it's the quality, duration, and nature of your relationships that seem to matter most with aging".

Literature shows that social contact is like exercise for your brain. Loneliness and loss of social connections often increase as people age. The older we get, the more loved ones and friends we lose and families disperse. While we can never replace loved one, it's important to continue to make new friends and new connections.

The good news is that along with faith formation, the church is a wonderful vehicle for socialization to combat loneliness. As a community, there are typically many different opportunities to socialize and connect. There are Bible study groups, senior groups and multigenerational groups plus volunteer opportunities. As Faith Community, we can assist people

Come join us for Breakfast!



Our monthly breakfast is a great way to meet people, have terrific conversations and eat breakfast prepared by someone else! We meet on the **first Tuesday** of the month at the Redmond Pancake House for a time of good food and fellowship. Our next breakfast will be held at the **Redmond Pancake House on Tuesday, December 2nd, at 9:30 a.m.** Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to save a seat.

to make those connections and encourage them to take advantage of them.

It is normal to feel nostalgic and lonely especially at this time of year; whether you are in a house full of people or all alone, whether you are young or old, and it's not unusual to miss people who are no longer with you . Everything we see, from Hallmark movies to commercials, suggests that we all have big families to gather together with at the holidays, but that's just a fantasy for so many of us! We also have to accept that not every family is a happy family - and sometimes spending time with acrimonious family members or those who have harmed you in the past is the last thing you want to do during the holidays. Remind yourself that it is okay if you need to care for yourself by avoiding certain family members or certain places. Self-care should always be a priority and especially during the holidays.

When loneliness becomes a concern you want to address, here are seven ways to combat holiday loneliness:

1. Put Something to Look Forward to on Your Calendar .
2. Even Brief Conversations Have Important Benefits
3. Invite Others into Your Life

4. Enjoy Your Community's Holiday Offerings

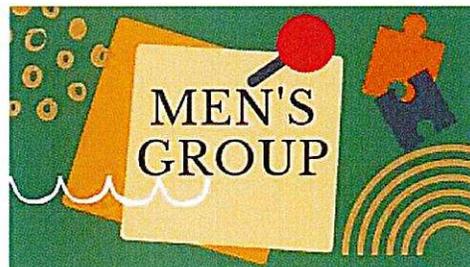
5. Call or Text People You Care About

6. Volunteering Can Change Your Perspective

7. Create New Solo Traditions .

Whether you are feeling alone or surrounded by good or supportive people it is good to remember: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door and it will be opened to you. MT. 7:7

Sources: J Christ. Nursing 2021 Oct-Dec; 7 Ways to Combat Loneliness - Psy Today Dec 2022



The Men's Group had a fun time at their first meeting which was November 12th. They voted to meet on the **second Wednesday** evening of the month. About 10 guys showed up and heard a lot about port wine from Anthony Kennedy - just back from his vacation in Portugal.

Please join us at 6:00 PM on December 10th for food and fellowship. This is an informal group that talks about whatever interests them. We have chefs (from Zion) preparing the meals.

The current coordinators for this are Anthony Kennedy, Dennis Marston and Fred Cook. Please let us know your thoughts as we move forward.



Please save the date: The Sunday School will be presenting their Christmas program during the Sermon time on **December 14th**. Please plan on coming and supporting them. They will present a short program and play bells.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL:
December 21st, December 28th, or
January 4th.



Education and Youth Update

Our Sunday School weekly program continues strong under the leadership of Pam Cole and Molly Small, who are also helping the children prepare a short Christmas program. Also, the children have been practicing handbells under Gloria McLeod's direction. The children will perform on December 14th during the church service. It will take the place of the Children's Sermon and pastor's sermon that day.

In other news, the Education Committee continues to regularly meet. We held two meetings in October--whew! The two meetings comprised of planning then reviewing the Fall Festival which was a success and planning for the upcoming Children's Christmas program. Our next meeting will be held Monday, January 5, 2026 at 1:00pm. Future planning will involve looking at a spring fun activity for the children.



**Fair Trade Coffee, Cocoa,
Chocolate and Teas are for sale.
See what you can purchase in
the cabinet in the kitchen.
Prices are listed inside on the
door.**

Financial Secretary Needed

Zion is in need of a Financial Secretary. Lynna Philips has been in this position for several years and she wants to retire. She will train whoever steps up to help Zion with this very important job.

The financial secretary is responsible for:

- 1. Conducting the Finance & Operations Team monthly meeting**
- 2. Financial Accounting System Contributions portion:**
 - **Ensure all contributions are recorded by reconciling Church Windows to Bank Statement**
 - **Input Credit cards, ACH and internet deposits prepared by Vanco input to Church Windows**
 - **Request Quarterly Giving and Statements from Church Windows**
 - **Send Quarterly statements to Church Secretary to be mailed**
- 3. Counters: Recruit and Update Procedures**
- 4. Attend Zion Church Council Meetings: Update Council as needed based on Finance and Operations monthly meetings.**

JERICO ROAD OUTREACH December 2025

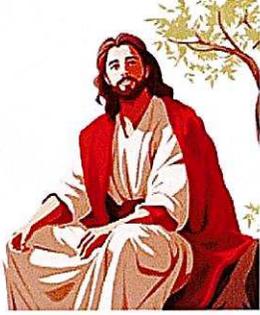
Our Outreach Team would like to thank all of the members of Zion who faithfully donate food to help support unhoused folks who live "in the dirt", as we say. They frequently tell us how grateful they are for the foods, clothing, and propane that we bring for them each Friday.

Sadly, there are more and more individuals who are living out there for any number of reasons, and food distributors are getting fewer supplies from places like Neighbor Impact and other sources. So we continue to rely on any foods we can get from Zion Any non-perishables are always welcomed... especially canned meats, peanut butter, canned chili and soups, canned fruit and vegetables, cereal.... The Shower Trailer is not winter proofed so we won't need soap or toiletries this winter. But toilet paper is always needed.

Many thanks again for your generosity, dear Zion members!!!
Anne and Bob Bohac, for Outreach Team

In His Service,
Bob Bohac

THE POETRY CORNER



THE GIFT

December is that time of year we
celebrate the birth
Of our Savior, Jesus Christ on this,
God's good, green earth.

Jesus was born of Mary, herself but a
child
A virgin chosen by God, pure and
undefiled.

How do we celebrate this most
important day,
A day that changed the world in a very
profound, amazing way?

Do we celebrate by giving gifts at a
great expense,
By going into debt, spending that
makes no sense?

Perhaps we over spend thinking Jesus
will praise our deeds.
But is that what He wants from us, an
act that follows greed?

December is a time that we have the
opportunity to share,
The birth of Jesus Christ and how He
came to care.

He came to earth to teach us the New
Covenant from God,
It's to love Him and each other
unconditionally-to love without
prejudice or fraud.

Christ roamed the earth to share
God's love for you and me.
He gave the gift of life as He hung
upon the tree.

So, as you purchase gifts and the
presents accrue,
Remember the gift that Jesus gave to
save sinners like me and you.

Nancy Keeton
December 2025



The Lion of Judah

The Lion of Judah
Star the universe released.
Revelation the genesis creation.
Majesty beginning and end.
Light transforming synergy.

Bethlehem a city chosen.
Miriam a faithful handmaiden.
Joseph trusted by God.
Angels proclaiming good news.

Sounds a mother's song.
Virgin Holy is born.
Miracle a baby boy.
Shepherd's the sweetest dream.

Hope the world rejoices.
Love embraced in swaddling.
Emmanuel newborn King.
Peace He is prince.

Son a priceless gift.
Grace heaven poured out.
Rejoice praise His majesty.
Joy the angels sing.

Truth Word is flesh.
Feasts celebrate and enjoy.
Touch a pure heart.
Humble as no other.

Laughter a Father's pride.
Freedom as never before.
Journey the kings came.
Fragrance frankincense and myrrh.

Reverberation deep calls deep.
Covenant a promise kept.
Worship the rose of Sharon.
Glory surrounds the throne.

Time destiny is fulfilled.
See harmony and unity.
Anointing compassion is given.
Proclaim He is LORD!

Jordon crossing to freedom.
Dove Spirit is Holy.
Signs mileposts of wonder.
Passover washing their feet.

Gethsemane an empty cup.
Cross righteous between thieves.
Tomb a linen remained.
Jubilee debt is paid.

Taste His new wine.
Universe redeemed and restored.
Dance the Messiah reigns.
Yeshua the LORD of Lord's!

The LION of JUDAH Roars!

December 22, 2005 – 5:55 am ~ ©Jennifer Lynn
Easton Joy / יניפר לין איסטון שמחה

Fred Meyer's Community Rewards Program

Zion is part of Fred Meyer's Community Rewards program! Every time you use your Rewards Card; you are sending a donation to Zion!

If you haven't already signed up, set up an online Fred Meyer account, search for Community Rewards and find Zion's non-profit number: **NU926**. It's that easy!

To submit an article or comment on the newsletter, please contact Kay at zionrdm@gmail.com.



What else is in the newsletter:

- December Calendar of events

- December Servers

(Please notify Kay if you are ill or out of town and cannot find someone to switch with. Please try to find a substitute first, thank you.)

- Daily prayers for December
- Letter from the Zion Lutheran Church Foundation