

ZIONNEWS

A Publication of
Zion Lutheran Church – LCMS
Painesville, Ohio
DECEMBER 2023

Sharing the Message of Salvation through Jesus Christ, Strengthening Believers, and Caring for People in Need.

A Heavenly Christmas

By Pastor Travis Henry

*Were earth a thousand times as fair
And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small
A cradle for the Lord of all.*

*And so it pleases You to see
This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might
Are weak and worthless in Your sight.*
(Martin Luther; LSB 358:10,12)



So you think heaven is beautiful, huh? The streets are paved with gold, set against the brilliant white of the clouds that hold the city. Just down the road sits a mansion that is your house, with a throne-like chair in front of your place at the banquet table. Your dinner plate is filled with the finest of delights, enough to make you content to the brim.

Well, I'd like to give you a different picture of heaven. This is taken from a Martin Luther Christmas sermon:

Joseph was of the lineage of David and had to go to Bethlehem, the city of David. Despite his royal ancestry, he was so poor that he had been unable to make a living in Judea and for that reason had transferred to Nazareth. Now he had to go back. Scripture says that he took with him "Mary his espoused wife, being great with child." She would have had good reason to excuse herself from making the journey so close to her time, but she said nothing because she wished to trouble no one. We can see how poor Joseph must have been that he could not afford to hire some old woman or neighbor to stay with Mary and look after her while he was gone.

How unobtrusively and simply do those events take place on earth that are so heralded in heaven! On earth it happened in this wise: There was a poor young wife, Mary of Nazareth, among the meanest dwellers of the town, so little esteemed that none noticed the great wonder that she carried. She was silent, did not vaunt herself, but served her husband, who had no man or maid. They simply left the house. Perhaps they had a donkey for Mary to ride upon, though the Gospels say nothing about it and we may well believe that she went on foot. Think how she was treated in the inns on the way, she who might well have been taken in a golden carriage, with gorgeous equipage! How many great ladies and their daughters there were at that time, living in luxury, while the mother of God, on foot, in midwinter trudged her weight across the fields! How unequal it all was! ...

Bad enough that a young bride married only a year could not have had her baby at Nazareth in her own house instead of making all that journey of three days when heavy with child. The inn was full. No one would release a room to this pregnant woman. She had to go to a cow stall and there bring forth the Maker of all creatures because nobody would give way.

"And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she would be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger."

Heaven is where Jesus is. He is with you, in his promise of salvation. Remember that this Christmas.



ZION FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

Thank you Zion for your gracious generosity for the Thanksgiving baskets! We were able to supply 50 families in our community with Thanksgiving dinner supplies, all within a one-hour time period on November 21.

October, 2023 – 83 Households Served – 293 Individuals Served (101 Children, 192 Adults)

The Zion Food Pantry began in a basement closet in the 70s to provide for the hungry and was supported exclusively by congregational volunteers. Due to its success, it outgrew the closet and eventually was moved into the west-facing garage by Zion's kitchen, where it operates today. Through the continued growth of the pantry over time, we have reached a point where the pantry space no longer accommodates its needs.

The church's good reputation quickly led to a significant response from the community, resulting in drastic constraints on space and budget. It eventually became impossible to provide food for so many without additional assistance. Zion's partnership with the Cleveland Food Bank ensured mercy would continue to reach outstretched hands. Zion abides by The Cleveland Food Bank's non-discrimination rule, which dictates that all pantries provide an atmosphere in which the guests never feel obligated to participate in any church activities to obtain food. We honor that policy, but make sure that any scripture related literature, books, non-food goods, or flyers advertising community and church activities are made available to the guests on separate tables on a strictly voluntary basis. If any guests ask for prayer for special needs, our volunteers accept their request and if asked, will pray for them privately outside the pantry guest area.

Today, space is so tight that traffic flow on Hayes Street cannot handle the food pantry line of cars. After registering, individuals and families wait in their cars in line before driving from the church parking lot onto Mentor Avenue then to Hayes Street and into the small driveway near the school playground, where the food is distributed.

Zion is blessed to provide this ministry to give food, support, and encouragement to the guests of the Food Pantry, responding to ever-growing needs reflected in recent data. One survey in 2023 found adults in 2 out of 3 households receiving aid from food banks were eating less at mealtimes or skipping meals altogether because there wasn't enough. 50% of these families had to choose between food and housing, 55% between food and healthcare or medicine, and 66% between food and utilities. As Christ desires, we are determined to respond to the 15% increase in demand for Zion's food pantry from 2022 to October 31, 2023.

Matthew 25:37-40 – “Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’”



Offering Envelopes for the Year 2024

will be available for pickup starting the weekend of December 16 & 17 in the church narthex. Please do not begin to use



them until after January 1. If you cannot find your box, please leave a message in the church office.



Poinsettia Plants to Decorate the Sanctuary

may be ordered for \$6.25 each. Please use the order forms to indicate your dedication. The order form along with payment can be placed in the offering plate or brought to the church office. Please submit by Sunday, December 3. Orders received after the 3rd are subject to availability.



WOMEN'S Fellowship



Zion Women's Fellowship Group

The Zion Women's Fellowship group's next meeting is December 16, 2023 from 9:30 am to 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Zion.

Attendees are asked to bring homemade or store-bought Christmas Cookies to donate to the homeless at Project Hope.

We are also having a "White Elephant" Christmas Gift exchange.

All ladies are welcome!

Contact: *Carole Cooper* - 440-376-7798 or cvocooper@sbcglobal.net

The Christmas Card Mailbox

runs now through December 17! Send Christmas cards to Zion members by depositing them in the Mailbox in the lobby. To "cover postage," a freewill offering will be accepted to benefit Zion's Outreach Ministry toward our community. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to sort cards, contact *Diane Shook*, 440-413-7654.



The CHRISTMAS SHOP



The Christmas Shoppe
Saturday, December 2, 2023
9 am – 11 am
Set-up begins at 8:30 am

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT RETURNS!

Gently used items will be offered to our community for free! All tables are reserved now, but **home-baked cookies** are needed for our guests. Please package the cookies by the half dozen in Ziplock bags & drop them off in the church office. Label if nuts/nut butter are added. A sign-up sheet for the cookies is on the lobby bulletin board. Contact *Penny Broge* at 440-357-8664.



LWML MISSION OF THE MONTH

A Healing Space for At-Risk Children Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, ND — \$100,000

The Christ-centered, healing ministry of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch creates an eternal, life-giving impact in the lives of children, age 10 to 18, who have faced unimaginable trauma. Due to childhood traumas of violence, abuse, neglect, and more, Ranch children experience debilitating emptiness and loneliness at the deepest of levels; levels that only Christ can heal.

A specialized chapel has been designed to provide hope and healing for at-risk children, ages 10 to 18, in the care of the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Bismarck, North Dakota, campus. Children at this facility have faced severe trauma in their lives, and need healing that only Jesus can give. This mission grant will help with building costs of the new chapel and provide spiritual care for these children, their families, and the Ranch staff. A construction date of Spring 2024 has been set to build a chapel to serve as a healing space to help them know and experience the mercy of Christ and His healing power. This grant will help meet the construction costs of the Chapel on the Bismarck campus and provide healing for at-risk children.

In response to the Great Commission as found in Matthew 28:19-20, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



"A Healing Space for At-Risk Children" fills a crucial gap in spiritual care on the Ranch's Bismarck campus with a new chapel specifically designed to be a healing space for traumatized boys and girls.



The mission of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is to help at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ.

Please pray for this very needed ministry and remember that there are Mite boxes available in the Narthex and church lobby for you. Coins and prayers are needed to help fund this ministry and the other mission grant recipients chosen at the 2023 LWML Convention. Bring your Mite boxes with your donations at your convenience. There is a large Mite Box into which you may place your donations. Thank you!



**Project Hope
for the Homeless**
Restoring Hope. Renewing Lives.

We will, once again, be adopting families/residents from the homeless shelter for their Christmas Ministry.

Once information is obtained, there will be tags posted in the Lobby. Please take a tag and return the gift with tag attached (unwrapped). I will collect the gifts, wrap them, and deliver all to the shelter. Look for updates in the upcoming bulletins. The collection will most likely start December 1 and run through December 14. Any questions, contact *Lora Babic* at 440-728-7281.

Salvation Army Angel Tree

All tags are taken! Please return the gifts UNWRAPPED to Zion Office with the code number of the Angel tag affixed to the gifts before December 4. Thank you!





Zion Shoebox Ministry

Thank you Team Zion! With your generosity we were able to pack 311 quality Shoeboxes. For short, we call them GO Boxes – Gospel Opportunity Boxes.



GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.

Each of the 311 Shoeboxes will be given to a child, but not opened until they have heard, in their own language, the story of The Greatest Journey. Then they are allowed to open their very special gift. Our prayers come springing out as these children squeal with delight in getting a real gift from us which represents the love God has for them. Check out the excitement on YouTube- Samaritan Purse Shoebox.

After opening the boxes, the children are given the opportunity to learn more about God, Jesus, and their love for the world. Over 50 million children have been discipled through The Greatest Journey, 24.9 million graduates and 17.4 million decisions for Christ. Our 311 boxes will raise that total next year.

Please continue to pray for our team as we plan our 2024 calendar. Our packing season is over, but on Facebook- Shoebox Team Zion, you can see pictures from the excitement we had this year.

Joyful Thanksgiving & Blessings,

Shawn Biese



The Hope Chest — 1 Victoria Place, Suite 321, Painesville

Thank you for your past support of The Hope Chest. It is a Lake County Mission organization that provides for the physical needs of many homeless and financially challenged. The Hope Chest partners with Jobs & Family Services, Project Hope, Salvation Army, Forbes House, Lifeline, YMCA, schools, pastors, and emergency sources. The Hope Chest is filled with donated clothes, shoes, school supplies, toys & games, towels, bedding, kitchen items, (cutlery, pots & pans) and even small household appliances that clients with a referral can 'shop' for 3-4 times a year. NO money is needed by the clients.

All these items are donated when someone cleans a closet, gets new, or doesn't need an item anymore. Currently, The Hope Chest is especially in need of girl's winter coats, thick gloves for all ages & sizes, men's shoes, 2-piece toothpaste holders, and winter clothes. Items can of course be new, but we accept "like" new from your closet or storage bins.

As you are decorating for Christmas celebrations & shopping for gift giving, consider setting aside items you no longer use or have outgrown, to make room for the new items you will be getting. Set your old items aside and bring to church in a bag marked for "HOPE CHEST." If you gather a full trunk load, please deliver to the back of Victoria Place off South St. Clair St. Look for the dock with 3 big blue doors. Donations are accepted Mon-Thurs, 9:30–12:00 and the phone number is posted for someone to come down and pick-up your donations.

Thank you,
Shawn Biese

I needed clothes and you clothed me
Matt 25:36





- 1 Alice Bonness, Samantha Dean
- 2 Cynthia McBride
- 3 -----
- 4 Madeline Sulc
- 5 Stephanie Surmacz, Howard Wheelock, Chris Baxter
- 6 Madeline Buehner, Matthew House
- 7 Annika Behrend, Lily Brunstetter
- 8 John Dean, Heather Kenst, Lori Lange, Diane Rutkosky
- 9 Peter Percassi, Michael Nocera
- 10 Trevor Meadows, Chris Rentz
- 11 Alan Borlie, Robert Garrett, Chris Griffith, Gerald Lane
- 12 Gayl Fuizzotti, Logan Hess, Chuck Hunt, Travis Skaggs, Robert Wienhold
- 13 -----
- 14 Char Ebbert, Paul Rutkosky
- 15 Thang Pham, Sandra Righi
- 16 Mark McGrath
- 17 Halle Horvath
- 18 Ethan House, Evan Reigle
- 19 Sarafina Galinac
- 20 Caleb McWhorter
- 21 Susan Taylor
- 22 Gretchen Arnold, Kimberly Peterson, Gianna Righi
- 23 Matthew Lakia, Jessica Wood
- 24 Galen Edwards, David Goodridge
- 25 Mark Baker, Christine Wellman
- 26 Dona Bancroft
- 27 Mary Greig, Timothy Bennett, John Brunstetter, Rod Penfield
- 28 Janice Brown, Maarika Haller, Lonnie King
- 29 Carl Schoenig
- 30 Robin Banno
- 31 Amy Capelli, Jodi Green, Ingrid Spiesman, Stephen Jones, Annette Koscik, Joshua Moses

If your birthday is not listed here,
please let the office know.
We want to help you celebrate your special day!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for the upcoming Sunday School Christmas Pageant scheduled for Sunday, December 17, 2023 during the 9:00 AM Worship Service. Each child will have a part in presenting the Christmas story based on Luke 2. We invite all families and friends to join us for this special Christmas event. A reception will be held following the Worship Service during Sunday School hour.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Nancy Wentling (Beginner SS), Cindy Garrett (Primary 2-5), Quest Dobbelaire (Primary 6-8) or Monica and Stephen Jones (Youth 9-12).

*Join us in wishing our members a
Happy Milestone Wedding Anniversary!*

Leslie & Roman Poliszczuk –
30 yrs on December 4!

Ellen & Michael Mulroy –
5 yrs on December 15!

Luke & Krista Johnson –
15 yrs on December 31!

Handel's Messiah

G.F. Handel's "Messiah" will be presented Sunday, December 3 at 4 pm at St. Gabriel Catholic, 9925 Johnnycake Ridge Rd., Concord Twp, by the Lake County Messiah Chorus. The community is welcome to attend!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p><i>This symbol means that communion is offered during the Worship service. Communion is offered every 1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturday and every 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sunday.</i></p> 		<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 A Christmas Shop</p> <p>5:30 P Growing in Prayer Group</p> <p>6:30 P Worship Service</p> <p>7:30 P Bible Study Class</p>
<p>3</p> <p>9:00 A Traditional Worship Service</p> <p>10:15 A Sun. School/ Bible Study</p> <p>11:30 A Contemporary Worship Service</p> <p>1:30 P Confirmation 2</p> <p>3:30 P Youth Group</p> <p>4:00 P Handel's Messiah Chorus</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:45 P Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 A Bible Breakfast</p> <p>4:00 P Parishscope Deadline</p> <p>7:30 P Scouts</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 A Women in the Word</p> <p>1:00 P Women in the Word</p> <p>5:50 P Confirmation 1</p> <p>6:30 P Advent Service</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30 A Nursing Home Ministry</p> <p>7:00 P Trustees</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:30 P Growing in Prayer Group</p> <p>6:30 P Worship Service</p> <p>7:30 P Bible Study Class</p>
<p>Directory Photos 2-8:30 P</p>						
<p>10</p> <p>9:00 A Traditional Worship Service</p> <p>10:15 A Sun. School/ Bible Study</p> <p>11:30 A Contemporary Worship Service</p> <p>1:30 P Confirmation 2</p> <p>3:30 P Youth Group</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:45 P Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 A Bible Breakfast</p> <p>4:00 P Parishscope Deadline</p> <p>7:30 P Scouts</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 A Women in the Word</p> <p>1:00 P Women in the Word</p> <p>5:50 P Confirmation 1</p> <p>6:30 P Advent Service</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30 A Nursing Home Ministry</p> <p>6:00 P Council</p> <p>7:00 P Elders</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00 P Youth Group Lock-In</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30 A Women's Fellowship</p> <p>5:30 P Growing in Prayer Group</p> <p>6:30 P Worship Service</p> <p>7:30 P Bible Study Class</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:00 A Traditional Service- SS Pageant</p> <p>10:05 A SS Pageant Reception</p> <p>10:15 A SS / Bible Study</p> <p>11:30 A Contemporary Worship Service</p> <p>2:00 P Voter's Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:45 P Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 A Bible Breakfast</p> <p>4:00 P Parishscope Deadline</p> <p>6:00 P Food Pantry</p> <p>7:30 P Scouts</p>	<p>20</p> <p>No Women in the Word</p> <p>5:50 P Confirmation 1</p> <p>6:30 P Advent Service</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30 A Nursing Home Ministry</p> <p>January Newsletter DEADLINE</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>No Growing in Prayer Group</p> <p>6:30 P Worship Service</p> <p>7:30 P Bible Study Class</p>
<p>24</p> <p>10:30 A Traditional Advent Worship Service w/ Comm.</p> <p>5:30 P Contemporary Candlelight Svc.</p> <p>7:30 P Traditional Candlelight Svc.</p> <p>10:00 P Traditional Candlelight Svc.</p> <p>(No Comm. @ PM Svcs)</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day</p> <p>Zion Office Closed</p> <p>10:30 A Christmas Day Service w/ Comm.</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>7:00 A Bible Breakfast</p> <p>4:00 P Parishscope Deadline</p> <p>6:00 P Food Pantry</p> <p>7:30 P Scouts</p>	<p>27</p> <p>No Women in the Word or Confirmation 1</p>	<p>28</p> <p>No Men's Ministry</p> <p>9:30 A Nursing Home Ministry</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:30 P Growing in Prayer Group</p> <p>6:30 P Worship Service</p> <p>7:30 P Bible Study Class</p>
<p>31</p> <p>10:30 A Traditional Worship Service</p> <p>6:30 P New Year's Eve Service</p>						

Voters' Meeting
Sunday
December 17 at
2:00pm



Zion Trustees have changed their monthly meetings to the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, beginning January 8. They are also in need of more members! Do you have a passion and talent for building and maintenance upkeep? Put your skills to good use in God's House! Contact *Aaron Kangas* at 440-376-9021.



Zion Lutheran Church

508 Mentor Avenue · Painesville, Ohio 44077
440-357-5174 · www.zionpainesville.org

Jesus lays down His life for...

WORSHIP

TRADITIONAL:

Saturday 6:30 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

CONTEMPORARY:

Sunday 11:30 am

SENIOR PASTOR

REV. DR. KURT ZIEMANN

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

REV. TRAVIS HENRY

DEACONESS INTERN

Elizabeth Dobbelaire

OFFICE:

(440) 357-5174

office@zelc.com

www.zelc.com

Jan Brown

Caitlyn Snyder



Midweek Advent Services

6:30 pm Wednesdays

December 6, 13 & 20



Saturday, December 23 — 6:30 pm Advent 4 Service

**Sunday, December 24 — 10:30 am Traditional Advent Service w/
communion**

Christmas Eve ~ Sunday December 24

5:30 pm — Contemporary Candlelight Service

7:30 pm — Traditional Candlelight Service

10:00 pm — Traditional Candlelight Service

Christmas Day — Monday December 25

10:30 am — Traditional Service w/communion

First Week After Christmas Services

December 30 — 6:30 pm Traditional Service w/ communion

December 31 — 10:30 am Traditional Service w/ communion

December 31 — 6:30 pm New Year's Eve Service w/ communion

