

The Zion Lamp



ZION LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL
Decatur, Indiana

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path..”

Psalm 119:105

December, 2010

IT IS ALL ABOUT HISTORY

Christmas is always a special time for most families. I was blessed to have most of my extended family all living in the same city and we would get together fairly often for the major holidays. Christmas was different because we would begin with a big family meal and then read the accounts of the birth of Jesus from the family bible. As far as I knew this was done every year for decades going back beyond the memory of even my great-grandmother. On that day we became part of a long family history as we heard HIS story.

As you and your family prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus this year take a moment to read the biblical accounts of His birth. It is more than just a story. It is HISStory. It happened at a real moment in time, in actual time and space. The Biblical accounts give us clues as to when the birth of Jesus took place. The Gospel of Matthew points out a little of the time and place in which HISStory took place, “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod, the king, behold wise men from the east came to Jerusalem.” Herod is a historical figure, a person who existed in a certain time and place. He was a key person in the account of the birth of Jesus. The Gospel of Luke mentions Caesar Augustus and the decree he issued that a census be taken of the entire Roman world. Augustus and his census put the birth of Jesus in history, in real time and space and not just some event that we suppose happened. How-

ever, in reality the true history is HISStory. All of history is about HIM, about the savior who is born for us, born to set us free, born to bring us everlasting life.

When we read the account of the birth of Jesus we are reading HISStory and our story. Jesus did not just come over 2000 years ago in an event that means little to us today. Instead the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem is truly the fulfillment of history, it is a new beginning of history, and it is our history. It is our history of salvation, it is our history of forgiveness, it is our history of eternity with God. As you come to Advent services, do your shopping, light your candles and sing your hymns this season, make HISStory by making your story.



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IMPORTANT CHURCH NEWS

PULSE MODERN WORSHIP SERVICE

In December, PULSE service will be held on Saturday the 11th at 7:00 pm. There will be only one PULSE service in December since the 4th Saturday is Christmas Day. PULSE is a praise service with a band and music like that of Christian radio—yet we have all the important elements of our regular services. If you have not attended PULSE or you have some friends or family who are not familiar with our church, then PULSE is the perfect place to bring them to introduce them to Zion and the Christian faith.



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN

It's time to start planning the outreach we will be doing during the Advent Season. We will be helping ten children through LOVE, INC's Emmanuel Project, as we have done in previous years. We will also be helping three families through Lutheran Social Services "Adopt-A-Family" Program. This program asks us to provide the following for these three families: two new items for each family member, one toy for each child, a gift card in the amount of \$30 or more for perishable and nonperishable food, grocery and hygiene items. The donations for these projects need to be in by December 5. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mandy Lengerich at 692-2073.

THRIVENT CHAPTER NEWS

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!! ADAMS COUNTY THRIVENT CHAPTER NEEDS BOARD MEMBERS!!!!

Anyone interested in having his or her name submitted for a Thrivent Board member of President or Records Keeper (secretary) please contact any Thrivent Board member. New Board members are needed to conduct the leadership duties. Without the above Board members, our Adams County Chapter will not receive funds from Thrivent Financial to help with benefits and deserving people. The chapter leadership Board is responsible for approving the Care Abounds in Communities Program funding issues. In 2010, our Adams County Chapter Board approved the following funds: HAAA \$500, Poe Fire Department \$500, Geneva Fire Department \$500, Concordia Seminary Guild \$500, Adams County Crisis Shelter \$1600, Immanuel House \$2940, and Adams Country Relay for Life \$7200. Friends of Wyneken will be allocated \$1000 in December. The only requirement for being a Board member is to be a Thrivent Financial Benefit member 16 years or older. Please consider this volunteer service to your Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Adams County Chapter ASAP.

Board Members: Duane Franz 623-6728 Norbert Bleeke 724-9486
 Elvin Hormann 724-3101 Sharon Ewell 547-4169
 Jeannie Thieme 724-9346
 Leanne Busick 724-7871

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Adams County Chapter will meet at Preble Gardens on Thursday, December 9 at 8:15 a.m. for the December Breakfast Buffet Meeting. All Board members, advocates, special advisors, CLU FIC Financial consultants of our Thrivent Financial office, Thrivent members, spouses, and all interested parties are invited to attend. If you wish to attend, please notify Duane Franz at 623-6728 or Elvin Hormann at 724-3101.

QUARTERLY CHARITY for OCTOBER-DECEMBER: The Hope Clinic

The Hope Clinic is "proudly committed to giving women and their children hope" by:

- ◆ Striving to be the first choice for women in Adams County & surrounding areas facing unplanned pregnancies;
- ◆ Offering support programs for women who are struggling to meet the challenges of providing material needs for their children;
- ◆ Offering educational assistance to parents in their endeavors to increase their parenting skills

Free services provided to clients include:

- ◆ Pregnancy testing & ultrasound confirmation of pregnancy
- ◆ Client education in regard to sexual integrity and STDs
- ◆ *Baby Bucks* incentive program & free diaper program (income-based)
- ◆ Maternity and infant clothing loan programs
- ◆ *It's All About Me* sexual integrity presentations for students and groups
- ◆ *Tender Mercies* post-abortion recovery program

The Hope Clinic is located at 970 S. 11th Street, Decatur (260-728-4191); and, at 165 W. Water Street, Berne (260-589-3561).

We will be collecting the following items for the clinic during November:

Hope Clinic Wish List

Baby: wash, lotion, shampoo

Packs of wipes and washcloths

Toys: rattles, stacking blocks, doughnuts, etc., puzzles, other toys for infants to 3 years of age

Clothing: onesies, socks for infants to tots age 3

The Hope clinic can also use any other baby related items, except formula or food. The Clinic will accept "gently used" items such as toys, baby swings, etc.



ADVENT 2010
COME HEAR HISTORY
CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT HIS PRESENCE

- November 28 First Sunday in Advent—"The Promise of HIStory"
- December 1 Midweek Advent Service—"HIStory in Carols" 12:00
Concordia High School Chamber Choir—"HIStory in Music" 7:00 pm
- December 1 Advent Happening with Meal—
Making Advent Wreaths 5:30 pm
- December 2 Grace Bible Study-Advent Tea 7 pm
- December 5 Second Sunday in Advent—"Waiting for HIStory" (Children bring empty shoe to Worship for St. Nicholas)
- December 5 Youth Christmas Party 6-8 pm
- December 8 Midweek Advent Service—"HIStory in Traditions" 12:00 and 7:00 pm
- December 8 LWML Christmas Luncheon—12:00 pm
- December 8 Advent Happening with Meal—
Christmas Cards for Missionaries 5:30 pm
- December 12 Third Sunday in Advent—"Proclaiming HIStory"
- December 12 Agape Express Puppet Show— 6 pm
- December 15 Zion Lutheran Preschool Christmas Program—7:00 pm
- December 16 Zion Lutheran School Christmas Program—7:00 pm
- December 19 Fourth Sunday in Advent—"The Beginning of HIStory"
- December 19 Advent Conspiracy—Food Box Assembly—1:00 pm
- December 24 Advent Conspiracy—Food Box Delivery—10:00 am
- December 24 Family Christmas Eve Service—"HIStory is OURstory" 7:00 pm
- December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight—"HIStory is OURstory" 10:00 pm
- December 25 Christmas Day Worship—"Go Tell HIStory" 10:30 am
- December 26 Sunday Worship 8:00 am & 10:30 am



TREASURER'S REPORT

Funds received through 10-31 have exceeded 2009 receipts by \$70,000.

Expenses through 10-31 have decreased by \$4,000.

With a united goal of balancing our ministry funding plan, the members of our church body have generously given of their financial blessings and the boards have shown careful management of resources. As a result, the gap between receipts and expenses has been reduced significantly. For the month of October, we had a net increase of \$12,650 and the shortfall year-to-date is \$5,128.

Balance in the checking account is \$100,000. this amount has steadily increased during the past several months. Envelope contributions are up 10% over the previous year — \$42,000 increase which includes \$12,550 received in the "Filling the Gap" envelopes.

Zion's members have been moved by God to share their financial blessings in support of the ministry of Zion. We have been blessed with workers who minister to our church family through worship services, Sunday School, Bible study and day school.

As part of our outreach to the community, a check in the amount of \$90 was sent to Love, Inc. These are the total funds that were contributed during the 3rd quarter mission project of the Stewardship Board.

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

THRIVENT OPEN HOUSE

Join your local Thrivent financial advisors at an open house on Friday, December 10, from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. There will be food and fun. Door prizes will be given every half hour beginning at 11:30 a.m. with a grand prize at 6:00 p.m. The address is 1737 Morningstar Blvd (off 13th Street) in Decatur. For more information, call (260) 724-4222.



CHURCH AND AREA NEWS

SNEAKER SERVICE—WEDNESDAYS AT 6:00 PM

The sneaker service will resume in January after the Advent and Christmas season has concluded.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY LUNCHEON

December 8 will be our annual Congregational Christmas luncheon at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. All food will be furnished. Both men and women are invited. There will be entertainment and Christian fellowship. You are asked to bring paper products or canned goods for the seminarians. Hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS AT THE EMBASSY CONCERT

Concordia Lutheran High School's Music Department will be holding its annual Christmas at the Embassy Concert, *The Bells of Christmas*, on Sunday, December 12 at 4:00 p.m. at the historic Embassy Theater.

Please join with Concordia students and staff as well as members of other area Lutheran schools as we share His Gift with others.

You may order a pair of tickets at the price of \$6.00 per ticket. Additional tickets are available at \$12 for adults and \$6 for seniors and students. All seats are open seating. You may pick up tickets Monday-Friday through December 10 at the high school from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. On the day of the performance, tickets will be available at the Embassy for the full price of \$12. We hope you can join us at this very special event.

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS

We are ordering poinsettias for Christmas. You can purchase one in memory of a loved one, or for blessings received. Place your order with the church secretary by December 17. The price is \$11.00 with \$1.00 going to the Zion Scrip Program. The poinsettias will be in church Dec. 19 thru Jan. 2.

Church decorating day is December 11, beginning at 8 a.m. Come join the fun! We would really appreciate your help.



Receive The Lamp by EMAIL - We at Zion are trying to reduce the number of newsletters that we mail out each month. We currently mail out over 500 newsletters each month. We would like to reduce that amount by at least 20-30% because it would not only save us postage, but paper, ink, and wear on our copy machine. If you would like to receive The Lamp by email, please call the church office or contact Pastor Phil at pphifer@ziondecatour.com.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT CHORAL EVENING PRAYER

Concordia Seminary will hold this service on Sunday, December 5 at 4 p.m., at Kramer Chapel. It will feature works by: Johann Sebastian Bach, Andreas Hammerschmidt, Josef Rheinberger, Eric Whitacre and Healey Willan. Please plan to attend and enjoy this musical performance.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

IRA decisions in November and December! — Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is sharing with you another stewardship investment opportunity through individual retirement accounts (IRAs). Roth IRAs can provide tax-free income for you now and in retirement—and for your beneficiaries after your death. Roth IRA contributions are made after-tax and any taxable income resulting from a Roth conversion is taxed in the year of conversion.

Tax Relief for 2010 Conversions — The law provides a special tax rule for 2010 conversions. If you have a traditional IRA and want to convert it to a Roth IRA you have the option to pay the entire tax for 2010, or spread the taxation over 2011 and 2012.

If you are ready to open an IRA or rollover eligible 401(k) or 403(b) plans to LCEF, call 1-800-843-5233. IRAs invested through LCEF feature: No startup or annual maintenance fees; competitive interest rates. Now paying 3.29 APY for 5-year Fixed Rate Term Note (Nov. 2010); low required opening balances; and they are easy to begin with the LCEF Information Representatives. Don't go another year without opening an LCEF IRA and let your retirement savings help support the ministry of the Church. Note: Before making any decisions, always speak to your financial or tax advisor. UMB Bank, n.a. serves as the custodian of the LCEF IRA program. LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

1ST	NOLAN GRIFFITHS	13TH	LOIS BROWN	26TH	JOSE AVALOS
2ND	MARY CHRISMAN		NATHAN COLCLASURE		BARBARA HARVEY
	PAUL REIDENBACH		MICHAEL FRANZ		GRANT MILLINGTON
	JENNA WITTWER	14TH	MICHELLE SHULER	27TH	DARREN POWELL
3RD	HARLEY HUFFMAN		NICHOLAS HALL		JESSICA SMITH
	SHERRY LISTER		TODD KRUECKEBERG	29TH	CODY BEER
	BARBARA NEADERHISER		CINDY MARCKEL		ANTHONY BUSSE
4TH	ARLEN FRANZ	15TH	TAYLOR SCHULTZ		LINDA KETZLER
5TH	DAWN GASE		SARA WILLIAMSON		SANDRA MOSER
	SABRINA HELLER	16TH	CAROLYN JUENGEL		CHAD RANDEN
	ANNA WEIDLER		LINDA TUSSING		MICHAEL WITTWER
6TH	ROBERT BOGAN	17TH	BRIAN HILL	30TH	LINDSEY SAUER
	WILLIAM GRIFFITHS		THOMAS SCHEUMANN	31ST	RANDALL HORMANN
	KAYLEN SPRUNGER		DIANNA SMITLEY		AUTUMN KONKLE
	ANTHONY WAGNER		NOAH WHEELER		ALEC RIEHLE
7TH	MAKAYLA FRIEDT	18TH	JACOB VETTER		
	LESLIE HUNTER		JENNAFER VETTER		
	DANIEL MAHLAN	19TH	LAVERN BREWER		
	JAMES SCOTT		DEREK EGLEY	2ND	TERRY & ANGELA BULTEMEIER
	KIRK WITTWER		MARNIE GRIFFITHS	12TH	JOHN & LEANN MARBACH
8TH	STARLEY BAXTER	20TH	JAYLYNN ANDREWS	13TH	WALLACE & WANDA HERTEL
	JOHN HUNTER		KAYANA KRUECKEBERG	14TH	DARVON & JUDITH LIGHT
	COLBY JOHNSON		MORRIS KRUECKEBERG	16TH	ALFRED & JACQUELYN CONRAD
	DAVID QUINONES		CHEYENNE WILDER	22ND	BRUCE & DEBRA ROOP
	MELANIE WHITESELL		JANICE SWYGART	28TH	WAYNE & MARLENE ETZLER
9TH	MADELYN BLYTHE		SHARON ZIMMER		PAUL & BONNIE REIDENBACH
	LAYTON LARAMORE	21ST	ELAINE BRICKER		
	KEVIN KETZLER		SUZANNE CACIANO		
10TH	KELLY OUTMAN		RENEA MAHLAN		
	JAMES WILSON	22ND	NORBERT BLEEKE		
11TH	JEANNIE ADKISON		ABBEE BUONO		
	LAURA BAUER		BRADLEY BUSSE		
	MONET BOTELLO		JOSHUA HALL		
	BEVERLY WAGNER		NOELLE QUINONES		
12TH	DEBORAH BRACEY	23RD	ASHLYE SILVA		
	CORRINNE BUSSEL		NICHOLLE GROSE		
	BENJAMIN CALLOW		THOMAS ROSS		
	JOSHUA PORTER		TODD SHAFFER		
		24TH	REBECCA LEMASTER		
		25TH	CONNIE BREWER		
			SARAH REEF		

ANNIVERSARIES



ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL NOTES

“BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN HIS MIGHTY POWER”—EPHESIANS 6:10

Zion Lutheran School exists to offer a Christ-centered, child-focused, quality Lutheran education to all children, empowering them to be bold disciples of Jesus.

“I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High” (Psalm 17:7)

What do giving thanks and impatience have in common? If you spend time doing one, you seldom become occupied with the other.

Have you ever noticed that when you are focused on the awesome blessings of God in your life, you seldom find time or energy to be anxious, irritated, or impatient? The opposite is also true. When we neglect to acknowledge all of God’s rich blessings, we forget what has been given to us. Instead, we tend to complain and grumble about what we do not have.

This month take time to rejoice in all the blessings God has given to us. Spend time praising the Father for His creation, Jesus for His redeeming love, and the Holy Spirit for strengthening and keeping us in the one, true faith. Also, make a commitment to not isolate that kind of faithful activity to just the Christmas holiday. Do it every day. This will bring true peace and contentment.

Have a blessed Christmas!

December Calendar

4	Recycling 9:00-11:30 a.m.
6	Youth Christmas Party 6 pm
12	Agape Express Puppets 6 pm
15	Preschool Christmas Program 7 pm
16	K-8 Christmas Program 7 pm
21	Preschool Party
22	End of First Semester Preschool Party K-8 Parties 1:30 pm Class Spell-offs grades 5-8
23-Jan 4	Christmas Break



RECYCLING DAY—Zion Students will once again be collecting newspapers, magazines and aluminum cans from 9 am until 11:30 a.m. on *Saturday, December 4* at the Zion Parking lot. Also accepted are empty printer cartridges, old cell phones and pagers, Campbell’s Soup Labels, Community Markets/Our Family UPC labels and Box Tops for Education. Proceeds from recycling go toward the Washington, DC trip in May of 2012.

SCRIP- Cari Shaffer (724-7753) or Tina Augsburger (547-4610) are the Scrip contacts. Kroger cards may be reloaded at the store and gift cards purchased there with the Kroger card.

ZION'S SERVANT SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

Altar Guild	Lillie Bleeke, Joyce Witte				
Offering Cntrs.	Barb Frane, Jenny Sprunger, Pat Hoblet				
First Service – 8:00 AM					
Date	December 5	December 12	December 19	December 26	
Acolyte	Daniel Gunsett	Jenna Wittwer	A J Bienz	Makayla Green	
	Emily Gunsett	Courtney Schultz	Ben Fullenkamp	Rachel Girod	
Greeters	Jane Lengerich, Julie McKee, Walter & Lorna Kukulhan	Jane Lengerich, Walter & Lorna Kukulhan, Brittney Hammond	Dave & Krista Quinones & Family	Dave & Krista Quinones & Ffamily	
Elder	Norb Bleeke	Norb Bleeke	Norb Bleeke	Norb Bleeke	
Organist	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	
PA System	Norb Bleeke	Norb Bleeke	Norb Bleeke	Norb Bleeke	
Ushers	Paul Busse, Jr	Paul Busse, Jr	Paul Busse, Jr	Paul Busse, Jr	
	Ralph & Trent Busse	Ralph & Trent Busse	Ralph & Trent Busse	Ralph & Trent Busse	
	Will & Brad Busse	Will & Brad Busse	Will & Brad Busse	Will & Brad Busse	
	Dave Fuelling	Dave Fuelling	Dave Fuelling	Dave Fuelling	
	Aaron Thieme	Aaron Thieme	Aaron Thieme	Aaron Thieme	
Second Service – 10:30 AM					
Acolyte	Makayla Friedt	James Ungemach	Tony Busse	Cole Bussel	
	Taylor Andrews	Jeremy Razo	Joel Harvey	Conner Bussel	
Greeters	Randy & Loretta Hendricks, Paul & Amy Gunsett & Family	Dorothy, Cindy & Jenny DeLong	Dorothy, Cindy & Jenny DeLong	Jan, James & Michael Scott	
Elder	DuWayne Herman	DuWayne Herman	DuWayne Herman	DuWayne Herman	
Organist	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	
PA System	DuWayne Herman	DuWayne Herman	DuWayne Herman	DuWayne Herman	
Ushers	Jay Teeter	Jay Teeter	Jay Teeter	Jay Teeter	
	Steve Hill	Steve Hill	Steve Hill	Steve Hill	
	Luke & John Marbach	Luke & John Marbach	Luke & John Marbach	Luke & John Marbach	
	Brian, Matt & Patrick Monroe	Brian, Matt & Patrick Monroe	Brian, Matt & Patrick Monroe	Brian, Matt & Patrick Monroe	

***SERVE
THE LORD
WITH
GLADNESS!***

EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE, SHARING CHRIST

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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CHURCH@ZIONDECATUR.COM

**SUNDAY SCHOOL INCENTIVE PRO-
GRAM**

As you may know, our Sunday School rooms have been given a much needed facelift thanks to the many helpers, painters and artists who donated their time and energy. The Zion Sunday School Ministry is also going to implement an incentive program. Every Sunday that a child attends, he or she will receive a Zion Praysos that can be exchanged for a gift in our Sunday School. Those who attend Sunday School in grades 6-8 will be able to exchange their Praysos for iTunes cards, Walmart Cards for XBOX Live, Dairy Queen Coupons or Arnold's.



VOTERS' MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Voters' Meeting will be in February, 2010.