

Zion Lutheran Church

Litchfield, Illinois

Rev. Fred Kraemer, Pastor 618-960-3328

Mr. John Schaff, Principal 309-868-3743

Church Office 217-324-2033 School Office 217-324-3166

www.zionlutheranlitchfield.com

First Sunday in Advent

Saturday, November 30, 2019

5:30pm

Sunday, December 01, 2019

8:00am, 10:30am

+++++

A WARM WELCOME to everyone on this first Sunday of Advent. In this holy season we remember that God keeps His promises. Rejoice with us in the covenant of God's love.

RECEIVING COMMUNION: In preparation, examine yourself by asking these questions to determine if you are 'worthy' of the Lord's Supper:

1. Am I truly sorry for my sins? **(YES)**
2. Do I believe I am forgiven because of Jesus' suffering and death? **(YES)**
3. Do I believe the Real Presence in the Lord's Supper? **(YES)**
4. Do I desire to be strengthened in faith to live a God-pleasing life and forgive others? **(YES)**

This is the faith we express within the LCMS and all those who are in fellowship with us. All who are members of an LCMS congregation may commune with us. If it is your first time with us, please speak to the pastor before communing.

THE BULLETIN THIS WEEKEND has been given by Raymond & Erma Johnson, in loving memory of their son Robert.

READY FOR A "NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION"? How about being a better witness? We're ready to help with your witnessing! This Sunday, **December 1st** (the first Sunday of Advent and beginning of the new Church Year), we are having a **Witness Workshop**. You will learn helpful ideas to help you witness to Christ with those closest to you. **Witness Workshop, December 1st from 2-4pm in the Parish Hall.**

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH and PARENTS - We will be having open gym nights on December 4th and 18th. The gym will be open after the advent service until 9:00pm. If you have any questions please call or text Sondra Brakenhoff at 217-313-0320.

GREETING OPPORTUNITIES: There are still some slots available this month to sign up for greeting! Available: December 22nd at 8:00am and 10:30am, December 29th at 8:00am and 10:30am.

Attendance Last Week: 5:30pm - 53 8:00am - 146 10:30 - 54
Thanksgiving Eve: 72

Weekend Offering: \$8,271.38
(weekly offering needed to meet budget: \$9,200.00)

Debt Reduction: \$2,199.00

LAST CALL FOR POINSETTIAS! Please call or come into the Church Office anytime Monday, the 2nd if you didn't get a chance to sign up, but would still like poinsettias. They will be supplied again by Petal Pushers for \$11.00, your choice of white or red. (Sign-up sheets are still in the hallway by the mailboxes and in the south narthex.) Make your check out to Zion Ladies Aid and take it to the office or put it in the wire basket above the mailboxes.

LADIES AID: December 3rd (note date change) Tuesday at 7:00pm, Ladies Aid Christmas meeting. There will be a Silent Auction for Mites, a Christmas devotion and a special game. Please bring an item for the silent auction if you are able - something that you no longer need, a Christmas decoration, or goodies from your kitchen. We will have a Mite collection and we will again collect cookies for our 1st Responders and our local service providers.

ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS – The youth will be hosting soup suppers on December 4, 11, and 18 before the Advent Services. We cordially invite everyone to come and enjoy fellowship and support the high school youth. Food will be served from 5:15-6:30p.m. The free will donation will go to the Youth Group Fund.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS: Practice has started for the Christmas program which will be presented on December 15th at 6:00pm. We will be working on this during the SS hour each week with special practices on Saturday, the 14th from 8:30-10:00am and Sunday the 15th at 9:15am. Please try to have your child at SS each week and at the special practices. If your child has a speaking part, please practice it with them. Thank you!

YOUTH AND PARENTS: Prayers have been answered! God was waiting for the right person to feel the call to serve as Youth Director, and we are thanking Him that He sent Sondra Brakenhoff to fill the need. She has experience in this area and is looking forward to the new responsibilities here at Zion. Please welcome her, encourage her, and help her when opportunities arise. Her contact number is 217-313-0320.

CHRISTMAS TREATS: The children look forward to getting the little bag of treats following the services on Christmas Eve. What a wonderful tradition to follow! Knowing that many of you enjoy helping to make this happen, door offerings will be taken next weekend, December 7th & 8th. If you would like to be a part of this and won't be able to be in worship, you can participate by leaving your donation in the office. Thrivent Financial is supporting this project, so there will be a coffee hour on Sunday between services. Please join us for this time of fellowship!

YOU'RE INVITED: "ANGEL! ANGEL!" is the title of the Christmas Program which will be presented on Sunday, December 15th at 6:00pm with a time of fellowship to follow in the Parish Hall. The children have begun practicing the songs and their parts and are looking forward to sharing this message of what Jesus' birth. Please join us!

GIVING WITH GRATITUDE: As November comes to a close, we ask that everyone in the congregation and friends of Zion to offer their gifts of gratitude and thanksgiving for God's gifts to us. Our goal is to reduce the line of credit and the Church's debt to the school. The School has loaned the Church \$21,000.00 to date to help offset the day to day operations and fulfill payroll. The Church also has a debt of \$67,000.00 on their line of credit. Our goal is to reduce these debts so that we can avoid the need to obtain a mortgage on the church to meet our weekly and monthly bills incurred in the operation of the church and school. Please prayerfully consider helping with this need. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. *2 Corinthians 4:15: "All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God"*

YOUTH GROUP PARENTS – The youth have agreed to host soup suppers on December 4, 11, and 18 before the Advent Services. We need two volunteers to bring 2 gallons of soup each week. There is a sign-up sheet on the youth bulletin board. Youth are also asked to bring a desert each week and help set-up, serve, and clean-up as much as they can. We ask that the soup arrive by 4:30p.m and youth volunteers arrive by 4:40p.m or as soon as they can. If you have any questions please call or text Sondra Brakenhoff at 217-313-0320.

SENIOR CHRISTMAS SERVICE: The WOW Bible Study group invites all Seniors and Shut Ins to a special Christmas Communion service on Saturday, December 14th at 11:00am. A luncheon will follow the service. Please note that this is not just for the shut ins but also for those who would enjoy a time of worship and fellowship with those folks. This has become a tradition which is a blessing in so many ways! Please contact the church office if you can join us for this special event.

The Learn by heart passage for the week beginning December 1

What is the Second Article? **And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

What does this mean? **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord**

Key Bible Verse – **1 Timothy 2:5**

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- SUNDAY** 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Studies
 2:00-4:00pm Witness Workshop (In the Parish Hall)
- MONDAY** School Resumes
- TUESDAY** 9:00am Sewing Circle
 6:00pm-7:30pm PTL Family Fun Night (In the Gym)
 7:00pm Ladies Aid (In the Parish Hall)
- WEDNESDAY** 8:30am Chapel
 5:15pm Soup Supper
 5:45pm Festival Bells
 6:00pm Midweek Class
 7:00pm Midweek Service
 8:00pm Adult Choir
 Approx. 8:00pm start-9:00pm Youth Open Gym
- THURSDAY** 9:15am Berean Bible Study
 7:00pm Elders
- SATURDAY** 5:30pm Worship -Traditional
- SUNDAY** 8:00am Worship -Traditional
 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Studies
 10:30am Worship - Contemporary - Communion

UPCOMING:

Dec. 14th:

8:30am - SS Christmas Program Practice

11:00am - Senior Christmas Service

Dec. 15th:

6:00pm - SS Christmas Program

Dec. 17th:

6:30pm - Day School Concert

SERVING US IN WORSHIP

Organist - Keith Marburger

Ushers 5:30pm - Steve Schwab, Carl Niemeyer
In 8:00am - Gary Meyers, Jerry Mehochko,
Tom Frerichs, Camron Frerichs
Dec. 10:30am - Roy Steinmann, Raymond Johnson, Dan Peters,
Harold Meyers

11/30-12/01

Elders: 5:30pm - Andy Frerichs
8:00am - Kyle Frerichs, Bud Helgen
10:30am - Abe Loveless

Acolytes: 5:30pm - Wade Schmidt
8:00am - Carly Favre
10:30am - Cassie Loveless

Greeters: 5:30pm - Dale & Pam Hull
8:00am - Elmer & Sue Fritzsche
10:30am - Valerie Belusko

12/07-12/08

Elders: 5:30pm - Doug Martin
8:00am - Brad Bowles
10:30am - Warren Benning, Abe Loveless

Acolytes: 5:30pm - Brenden DeWitt
8:00am - Amy Frerichs
10:30am - Leah Benning

Greeters: 5:30pm - Wanda Monke
8:00am - Allan & Tish Spelbring
10:30am - Nancy Hyam & Susie Gartner