

12/13 email

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM this Sunday in 10:30 am worship. Our children will help lead the worship as we begin with their special gift to the congregation.

GOOD NEWS: Friends of Jesus Preschool reopens in Fall 2023! Registration begins January 1. We need your help in recruiting families to be part of this wonderful ministry!!!! Here is a brief message from our new Director, Jen LaPorte. She and her family are active members of Zion.

" I am very excited to be the director of Friends of Jesus Preschool! I was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago and graduated from Benedictine University with my bachelor's degree in elementary and special education. I taught preschool and early elementary in Akron, Ohio, where I met my husband, Vince, and we welcomed our two wonderful children, Daniel (5) and Shea (3). I became a stay-home-parent, and we moved to Michigan in 2019, when Vince accepted a job as a principal in Sturgis. In my free time, I love to do crafts and read. I am greatly looking forward to seeing the excitement of learning and sharing about Christ at Friends of Jesus!"

ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP this week! Noon and 6:30pm. The messages this year will involve themes from the original Disney Movie "Pinocchio." Make time on your schedule to prepare for the real gift of Christmas!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

**5pm family worship ... readings and carols
6:30 and 8pm carols and Holy Communion**

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

10 am (ONE service only!)

These services are wonderful opportunities to invite neighbors and friends to come with you for worship. Many are looking for a place to celebrate and you might help lead them to a deeper relationship with their loving God!

December 17th from 4-6pm we have rented out Great Skate in Portage for all of our education ministries! This includes Playdates, Family Min, Sunday School, Middle School, High School, and Young Adults. If you don't fit into any those categories and still want to put on some skates, join us! This will be a wonderful "Christmas Party" across all the age groups, we hope you'll be able to celebrate with us. Call the office or Aaron to let us know if you are coming. You can still join if you don't call but knowing how many are coming will help with concessions and such. (Friends and family are welcome too!)

We have been blessed with a number of guests and visitors over the past few months! Please introduce yourself to anyone you don't know! Help everyone (even fellow members) to feel welcome and special enough for you to talk to.

A wonderful, six-part Advent/Christmas series by Max Lucado is available through Zion's subscription to Right Now Media. Link is below. (If you need help with login information, contact Marta or Aaron here in the office.)

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/308931>

Wednesday Soup Supper at 5:15. Join us for soup and stay for Advent worship. Soups this week are: Texas Black Bean and Corn Chowder

Lutheran Hour Ministries has daily Advent devotions to download or read online
<https://www.lhm.org/advent/>

WEEKLY FOOD GATHERING for LOAVES and FISHES! We continue to feed the hungry in our community through Loaves and Fishes. Any canned and boxed food items are accepted, but the greatest need in **December is: Cooking Oil**

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2023 are in the hallway by the office! Please pick yours up when you're in.

Thank you to all who supported our Helping Hands Christmas Ministry which this year will support eight needy families in the community with gifts and clothes.

SYMBOL IN THE WINDOW: The designer of the window included the four individuals in the Bible who most frequently viewed the concept of Zion as the City of God. They are Zechariah and Isaiah from the Old Testament and Matthew and John from the New Testament. You will see these four at the very top of our window.

COMING EVENTS:

Zions Women's Book Group - Enjoy reading, lively and thoughtful discussions... come join us the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2:00p.m. Upcoming books: 12/20 "A Christmas Carol" – Charles Dickens

Leona VanAntwerp's birthday is Dec 31st - Her birthday was inadvertently cut off at the bottom of Harbinger birthday list.

Adult Choir practices on Thursdays, under direction of Roxanne Nieboer. Come when you are able, we are always looking for more voices. Call Roxanne or church office for more info.

Coffee and donuts Sundays at 9:15am in BLENDS. A couple more volunteers to assist with this would be helpful. Contact Bev Snow at cakepan34@charter.net to learn more.

Year-end tax planning! Check with your tax advisor, but appreciated stocks, and qualified IRA distributions for your contributions to Zion might lower your taxes. Another way to support ministry at Zion and practice good stewardship.

Weekly meditations continue to be posted most Mondays and Fridays on Zion's Facebook page!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MINUTES are posted each month on bulletin board.

Worship and Class Schedules!

Saturday 5:30 pm / Sunday 8am / Sunday 10:30 am

Classes for all ages at 9:15am

Pastor Seeber's Classes:

Sunday 9:15 am Gathering Space / relating Genesis stories daily lives

Saturday Men's study 8:00 am (zoom) / real world issues and the Gospel of John (contact Pastor Seeber for Zoom address should you wish to log in)

* Class on JOB will resume in January!

Pastor Brelje's Class -- Book of Romans

Tuesdays 10am in Gathering Space

Church Office hours:

Mon - Thurs 9am to 4pm

382-2360 / zion@zionkazoo.org

For pastoral assistance:

Pastor Seeber 501-3624 / Pastor Couch 598-8167A

Aaron 271-2848 / Pastor Brelje 330-9538

Thank you for your financial support. Our members continue to be faithful in supporting our ministry and mission! Any additional, regular support would be greatly appreciated. Thank you also for your prayers and the many other ways you are involved in and support our ministry!

To make an online donation, or to set up regular online giving, follow this link:

<https://www.kindridgiving.com/app/giving/zionkazoo>

If you have been hospitalized, are newly confined to home or a residence facility, or have a new address or phone number, or email address, please call the church office and let us know!

Weekly Ministry: Altar Ministry

Prayers: Amy Johnston, Mary Sperti, Pete Wilkins