



December 2024

G RACELINES

Zion Lutheran Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SCHEDULE

Worship 8:30am In-Person
&
Live-streamed on YouTube
Posted to Facebook after
Worship.

Church Office Hours:

Mon - Fri 9:00am - 1:00pm

Contact Zion:

Church Office: 235-7045

Pastor Erika: 319-504-2630

Please leave a message
and we'll get back to you.

Email Addresses:

Church Office:
office.zionluthwaterloo
@gmail.com

Pastor Erika:
pastor.zionluthwaterloo
@gmail.com

Web Page:

www.zionluthwaterloo.com

Facebook Page:

[https://www.facebook.com/
zionluthwaterloo](https://www.facebook.com/zionluthwaterloo)

YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/
@zionlutheranchurchwater-
loo5011](https://www.youtube.com/@zionlutheranchurchwaterloo5011)

Zion Lutheran Church
810 Kimball Ave
Waterloo, IA 50702

If you're like me, I feel like I've been passing myself going in recent days. These final weeks of the year always seem the busiest. Maybe there is a reason why God chose this time to announce, "Peace on Earth". We just need to be still and wait for the Lord. Waiting is one of the major themes of Advent; and we're not very good at waiting! I am sure that you have heard the desperate prayers, "Give me patience, Lord, and right now!"

Anyone who knows me knows that I have a hard time sitting still, I have a hard time waiting too. What makes it worse is that we live in a time when instant gratification is common. Hungry? There are 24-hour drive throughs. Want to watch a movie, there is Redbox or Netflix or Hulu. I send a text message to a friend, and they see it almost instantly. We can turn on the news channels and get breaking news as it happens. When we post something on Facebook, we quickly get feedback on how cute our kid's pictures are, or whether or not someone agrees with our words. Waiting is tough, being forced to wait is even tougher.

The Psalmist writes, "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?" (Psalm 13:1) But, it is also written, "Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently" (Psalm 37:7a), and "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in God's word I hope." (Psalm 130:5) God is always out ahead of us, God has the answer to our prayers long before we even pray. As much as it might irritate us, it is actually in the waiting that God is working in us!

The Israelites waited for centuries for deliverance from exile in Babylon and centuries more for the promised Messiah. When Jesus finally came, they didn't recognize him, indicating that they weren't really waiting for the Lord all the time, but rather they were too busy with their own agenda. Advent only makes us wait four weeks; yet are we any better at recognizing Jesus? Are we too busy with our own agenda and our society's celebration of the holidays to wait for the Lord and actually allow him to work in us during this Advent time of waiting?

Advent means coming, and Jesus tells us at the end of the bible, "Surely I am coming soon!" We have to wait! It can be difficult, but the One for whom we wait makes all the difference in the world.

"Amen. Come Lord Jesus!"

Pastor Erika

Study

December 1

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

December 8

Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm: Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 15

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 22

Micah 5:2-5a
Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14

December 29

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

Pray

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

December Calendar

Sunday, Dec. 1

8:30am - Worship

NO Youth Sunday School

9:30am - Worship Meeting

Monday, Dec. 2

Newsletter Articles Due

Wednesday, Dec. 4

12:00pm - Brown Baggers

6:00pm - Bell Choir

7:00pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, Dec. 5

9:00am - Coffee & Conv. @ Fat Cup

Saturday, Dec. 7

11am-5pm - Member Use (Upper Basement)

Sunday, Dec. 8

8:30am - Worship

9:30am - Youth Sunday School

Wednesday, Dec. 11

12:00pm - Brown Baggers

6:00pm - Bell Choir

7:00pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, Dec. 12

9:00am - Coffee & Conv. @ Fat Cup

Friday, Dec. 13

6:00pm - Council Meeting

9:30am - Mahjongg (Fireside)

8am-9pm Goodwill Christmas

Staff & Client Parties

Sunday, Dec. 15

8:30m - Worship

9:30am - Youth Sunday School

9:45am - Mission Meeting -

(Last day to collect for Adopt-A-Families)

Wednesday, Dec. 18

9:30am - Book Club

12:00pm - Brown Baggers

6:00pm - Bell Choir

7:00pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, Dec. 19

9:00am - Coffee & Conv. @ Fat Cup

Saturday, Dec. 21

Winter Begins

Sunday, Dec. 22

8:30am - Worship

NO Youth Sunday School

Christmas Eve Worships

Zion - 5:00pm

St. Ansgar - 7:00pm

Wednesday, Dec. 25

Office Closed for Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 29

8:30m - Worship

NO Youth Sunday School

Tuesday, Dec. 31

New Year's Eve

Wednesday, Jan. 1

Office Closed for New Year's Day

Thursday, Jan. 2

9:00am - Coffee & Conv. @ Fat Cup

Celebrating our Church Community

December Birthdays

1	Randee Camarata
2	Brianne DeMaris
5	Kenneth Pike
10	Hailey Boileau Diane Pike
11	Noah Barnett
12	Logan Odekirk
13	Dylan Cutsforth
15	Jordan Kirchhoff
16	Glee Kidder
17	Timothy Davis
18	Jeff Ketels
19	Lori Heidt-Johnson
20	Dante DeMaris
21	Patti Harken Deb Ketels
22	Mike Grimson
27	Kimberly Graves
28	Isaac Graham
29	Emily Guetzlaff
30	Norma Ottesen Connie Stroh
31	Anthony Camarata

Happy 30th Anniversary to Bob & Michele Peck!!

Your Zion family wishes you a
Happy Anniversary on December 17th.

If you'd like to send them a card,

their address is:

4323 Charm Drive,
Waterloo, IA 50701.



Wedding Anniversaries this Month

5	Dave and Teri Hook
17	Bob and Michele Peck
28	Bill & Debra Williamson
31	Brandon & Kayla Reyes

Happy 85th Birthday to Larry Jepsen!!

Your Zion family wishes you a
Happy Birthday on December 14th.
If you'd like to send Larry a birthday card
and wish him a Happy Birthday,
his contact information is:
2001 Heath St., Apt. #316,
Waterloo, IA 50703.



Happy 91st Birthday to Norma Ottesen!!

Your Zion family wishes you a Happy Birthday
on December 30th. If you'd like to send Norma
a birthday card and wish her a Happy Birthday,
her address is:
3720 Village Place, Apt. #6207,
Waterloo, IA 50702-5843.



Happy 80th Birthday to Connie Stroh!!

Your Zion family wishes you a Happy Birthday
on December 30th. If you'd like to send Connie
a birthday card and wish her a Happy Birthday,
her address is:
425 Beverly Hills Street,
Waterloo, IA 50701.



Being the Church

Our Mission Ministry this month is:

The Mitten Tree & The Adopt-A-Family

The Mitten Tree is up in the Coffee Area and ready for children's mittens, gloves and hats.

These will be distributed at Lowell School in Waterloo during the winter months.

Pick a tag(s) on the Christmas Tree in the Coffee Area. Please print your name on the



correct family page so we know who took that tag. Please return your wrapped gift and place in the Fireside Room in the correct Family box.

You are important to our church family!

If you need prayer, or have suffered a family loss, please contact the church office at (319) 235-7045. All requests will be treated with confidentiality, and information will be forwarded appropriately.



The PRAYER TREE contacts are:

Sheila Gardiner - gardinergarry28@gmail.com (319) 291-8404,
Deb Grimson - hrgbear@mchsi.com (319) 233-2179,
Kathy Jones - kltjones@mchsi.com (319) 231-4278,
and Jen Wedeking (church office) - (319) 235-7045
office.zionluthwaterloo@gmail.com.



The Zion Office will be Closed on Wednesday, December 25th.



The Zion Office will be Closed on Wednesday, January 1st.



Please place items in the SHOPPING CART by the Mission Cross in the sanctuary.

We will be collecting for the NEIA Food Bank for the month of:

December Your Choice



Zion Book Club

Next meeting December 18th @ 9:30am.

All are welcome!



Upcoming Dates & Books:

Dec. 18th - "The Violin Conspiracy"
by Brendan Slocumb

Brown Baggers - Wednesdays at Noon

Bring your own lunch or snack (if you want) and join us for an hour or so of conversation and study of the scripture readings for the coming Sunday. Discussions are held in the Coffee Area.



Caffeinated Conversations

Every Thursday morning from 9-11am
Fat Cup Coffee (37 Fletcher Ave.).

This is a time of open discussion about the church, faith, life, whatever you want.



Being the Church

Christmas Cookie Exchange

Zion is invited to St. Ansgar on **Sunday, December 8th** after their Worship at 11:00am to join in the Cookie Exchange. Bring your best cookies, for a Christmas cookie exchange. Sign-up sheet is on the Bulletin Board in the Coffee Area.



Make 1 to 3 dozen cookies to exchange. Don't forget to bring containers.

Should you have questions, please call Tina at St. Ansgar (319) 232-2733.



Zion's Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service will be held on **Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00pm.**

If you need a ride for the Christmas Eve Service at **Zion**, the van will be available.

Please call the office at (319) 235-7045 to let us know.



St. Ansgar will have Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service at **7:00pm.**
All are welcome!



ADVENT BEGINS
SUNDAY, December 1st!

Zion will not be ringing bells this year as a congregational activity but you can still ring the bells.

Schedule your time of ringing on their website:
<https://www.registertoring.com/>



Our Savior's Lutheran Church is hosting a Ladies Christmas Tea Saturday, December 14th at 10:00am.

See the Bulletin Board for more information.



Supporting the Church

FINANCIAL UPDATE (as of November 26, 2024)

TOTAL OFFERING TO GENERAL FUND	MISSION PLAN YEAR-TO-DATE	ACTUAL YEAR-TO-DATE
	\$119,475.00	\$120,619.00
Total General Fund Expenses	Mission Plan Year-to-Date \$141,589.00	Actual Year-to-Date \$136,833.00

Support the Church

You may provide financial support to Zion:

- In-person Giving
- By Mail
- Online: - Tithe.ly OR - VANCO

Offering Contributions for November

November 3

Total General Fund: \$2,525.25

November 10

Total General Fund: \$1,599.00

November 17

Total General Fund: \$9,713.00

November 24

Total General Fund: \$1,570.99

TOTAL OF ALL GIVING: \$15,408.24

Council Minutes and complete Treasurer reports are available on the bulletin board in the Coffee Area and in the Church Office upon request.

Serving in
December

Sundays	1	8	15	22	24	29
<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>	Jackie Shatzer and Kathy Jones					
<u>VAN DRIVERS</u>	Dave Hamilton	Mike Simbric	Mike Grimson	Craig Hawker	TBD	Tim Davis
<u>GREETERS</u>	Kathy Tarr	Joann Mackin	Diane Solberg	Janet Keister		Tim Sprengeler
<u>Lectors</u>	Eleanor Meyerhoff	Sherry Crowley	Bruce Barnett	Brad Shatzer		Joann Mackin
<u>Advent Candle Light Lectors</u>	Davis Family	DeMaris Family	Council Committee	Missions Committee		