

DECEMBER 2024

VOICE OF ZION

A Monthly Publication of
Zion Lippe United Church of Christ
9000 Copperline Rd E
Mt Vernon IN 47620
812 985-2437
website: zionlippe.org

Secretary email: zionlippesecretary@gmail.com

Secretary Hours:
Tues, Wed and Thurs 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Rev. Jeff Long, Pastor
Pastor cell: 812 306-4675
Pastor email: zionlippepastor@gmail.com

Sunday Family Worship at 10 am
Sunday School at 9 am

Worship Attendance

Date	In Person	Virtual (est.)
11/3	165	58 devices
11/10	142	38 devices
11/17	154	57 devices
11/24	159	55 devices

Sunday School Average Attendance

November: Adult = 19
Confirmation (7th & 8th grade) = 10
Youth (6-12th grade) = 2
Children = 9



With snow, ice, &/or other inclement weather... Should questions arise concerning if Worship/Sunday School will be held on a given Sunday, cancellations will be announced on WFIE, Facebook, and the church's website.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVE STREAMED and RECORDED FOR LATER VIEWING ON YOUTUBE !

You can always join us for Sunday worship wherever you might be. To easily view the live worship service simply go to our church webpage... www.zionlippe.org... and click on the "Watch Live" tab and you will be able to view the worship service when it goes live. For later viewing of recorded services, go to YouTube and search for Zion Lippe.



Greeter Schedule for upcoming Sundays:

Dec 1 – Ryan & Miranda Daugherty
Dec 8 – Larry & Jan Droege
Dec 15 - Marcia & Laura Droege
Dec 22 – Mark & Stephanie Duncan
Dec 29 – Josh & Maggie Dye

Jan 5, 2025 – Blake & Stephanie Elkins
Jan 12 – Carol Embrey
Jan 19 – Kelley Esche
Jan 26 – Keith & Marilyn Frank

We will have magnetic name tags available for our greeters, and hand-shaking is optional. If possible, please try to be here about 9:30 am or so. If you know ahead of time that you can't greet the Sunday you are scheduled, you can let Worship Chair, Rosie Bogard know – but if something comes up and you can't make it don't fret!



DECEMBER

In order to share in the joys and celebrations of our lives as a congregation we publish a monthly list of birthdays and anniversaries of members and friends of Zion. Numbers in () represent year.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

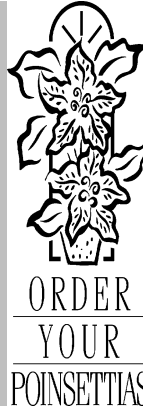
- 1 Jackson Kern
- 4 Sophia Starnes
- 5 Lukas Donner
- 6 Autumn Johnson, Kathy Barchet
- 7 Steve Reineke, Morgan Stierley
Rachel Hast
- 8 Greg Schmitt
- 9 Jamie Grabert
- 12 Emiley Chamberlain, Raymond Noelle
- 13 Julie Bullington
- 15 Russell Roehr, Shelby Conville
- 16 Lindsey Vaught, Toni Roberts
- 17 Peggy Mahrenholz
- 18 Brock Heneisen
- 19 Jeanette Hunter, Abigail Steinhart
- 20 Gabe Schroeder
- 21 Nancy deClaisse-Walford
- 22 David Simpson
- 24 Emma Schroeder
- 25 Theresa Juncker, Nancy Lewis
- 27 Teresa DeGiacomo
- 28 Grady Elless
- 29 Michelle Heneisen
- 31 Ryan Gleim, Molly McCutchan
Michael Patterson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 2 Bob & Janie Cummings (1977)
- 6 Warren & Karen (Dickhaut) Evrard (1975)
- 10 Steve & Debbie Reineke (1983)
- 18 Dennis & Judy (Garrett) Rueger (1971)
- 21 Dustin & Janelle (Uhde) Seitz (2013)
- 27 Scott & Suzanne Dougan (2003)
- 29 Jared & Shelby (Schweikhart)
Conville (2019)

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or not correct, please call the office at 812 985-2437 so we may update our records. Thanks for your help!

Zion Senior Citizen Dinner Thursday, December 19 11 a.m.



It will soon be Christmas and time to consider remembering someone special with a poinsettia or donation to a church fund of your choice. In either case please complete a form, found on foyer bulletin board, and place it along with your payment in the offering plate, or give to Rosie Bogard or drop off in church office **by Sunday Dec. 15.**

The poinsettias will come from the Green River Kiwanis Club, who use this sale as a fundraiser to support their community services.

Poinsettias are \$15 each and will be displayed in the sanctuary during this Christmas season. You may pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve service.



With Sympathy

We extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of James F. Droege. Jim passed away November 13, 2024 at the age of 74. Funeral services were held November 18 at Zion with burial in the church cemetery. We cherish many good memories of Jim.

December UCC Special Offering

Administered by the UCC Pension Board, gifts to the Christmas Fund helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income UCC retirees, emergency assistance to the families of clergy and lay employees, and Christmas Gift Checks to hundreds of annuitants. Please use the purple envelopes found at foyer bulletin board, or donate online at www.christmasfund.org

It may seem strange given this is the December Newsletter, but I would like to write briefly about Easter and its relationship to Advent. You may think maybe I have gone off the rails after all Advent relates to Christmas not Easter. Christmas, and the massive thing it has become culturally, has become the central event of the Christian year. It is certainly a time to celebrate. We celebrate the birth of our savior, but I also think we are celebrating much more. For example, whatever may have been worrying us a few months ago as the school year has settled into a routine. The kids, too, settle into that same routine. Even when it comes to the routine of gift giving during this season, which is never easy, at least we may begin to recognize what people in our lives need as we connect with them more deeply. So, you will never see me or hear me fighting over Christmas, I love it, in all its guises, and I love celebrating it in church.



It is important to note that if, as N.T. Wright says, you removed the Christmas from the Bible (and I am not suggesting we do,) you would lose one chapter in Matthew and two in Luke. If you removed Easter, you wouldn't have a New Testament.

Advent is surely a time of waiting, with our liturgical colors on full display, we know that as the color suggests, we are somewhere in between darkness and light. Advent belongs to the Old Testament as we await the birth of the one who will save us all. But while we wait for the spontaneous inbreaking of grace into the world in Jesus, we should not be afraid to take time and remember the fact that the grace experienced in the birth, life, ministry, words, death, and resurrection is always reflected in the church not simply when it celebrates the miracle of Christmas, but when it experiences God's justice rolling down like never ending waters.

That justice, brought to us in Jesus, is what we seek and is what begins at Christmas time, as we celebrate the ushering in of God's kingdom. This happens in small ways as well as large. It happens in the building of relationships, the integration of grief into our lives, the budding signs of hope in a broken world, and in the giving of a gift. The small, local experiences are just as capable of telling the world about our savior as any wide scale program or policy can do.

A Christmas birth leads us to Bethlehem, it leads to a cross, and an empty grave. It leads us to one another and new ways of living in hope, peace, love and joy. Wishing everyone a wonderful Advent season... and a very Merry Christmas too. *Pastor Jeff*



UGLY SWEATER/SUIT COAT SUNDAY - December 22nd!

We are inviting everyone to wear the ugliest Christmas sweaters, coats, jackets, slacks, etc. on **Sunday, December 22nd**. Come worship with us and please invite your friends and other family members to join us for this fun filled, right before Christmas worship celebration.



I don't know how to thank all of you enough. We received so much support over the past six months from so many people through visits, cards, messages, calls, food (ice cream and dark chocolate!) and prayers. Jim was able to take this final journey feeling surrounded by love. Many times I told people it was our church family that was carrying Jim and me and the rest of our family through. Every act of thoughtfulness and kindness was noticed and appreciated. A very special thank you goes to Pastor Jeff for his many visits and encouragement and guidance, but especially for the beautiful funeral service. Jim's family is missing him intensely, but we are aware that he's with Christ and that one day we will all again be reunited.

Thank you!

The family of Jim Droege



Many churches often host Blue Christmas services to make space for grief, loneliness and pain in order to nurture healing. Joining with others to remember and mourn can bring authentic support that is essential in moving forward on a journey to recapture the love, joy, hope and peace of Advent and Christmas.

This service creates a safe space, a place where it is okay to not be okay. Here we can shed tears with others who are grieving and set aside those masks for a while and find comfort and healing from being with those who understand your pain.

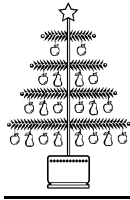
We invite you to join us for Zion's Blue Christmas service on the evening of **December 15th beginning at 5:00 p.m.** We will share in a quiet, contemplative service, then following the service a dinner will be served downstairs.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Tuesday - December 24th - 7:00 p.m.



We'd love for you to experience the connection and belonging that comes with joining us at church on Christmas Eve. On this special evening we will celebrate hope, peace, love, and joy through the recognition of the birth of Jesus Christ generations ago. It is always an uplifting experience to be surrounded by people sharing and celebrating together.

Worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be filled with your favorite Christmas hymns, choir music, candles, and an incredible time with our children. Please come early as seating in the sanctuary is normally filled to capacity this evening. We look forward to worshipping with you!



The Women of Zion

will have their annual Christmas Party on December 12 at 6 pm

The officers will provide the meat and rolls for the meal. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish or dessert. Secret Pals will be revealed, but anyone who has not participated in Secret Pals yet this year may bring a \$10 wrapped gift that night if they would also like to participate in a gift exchange.

All women of Zion are invited!

Hope to see everyone for a fun-filled evening!



Solar Project News

At our yearly Semi-Annual meeting this summer our congregation voted to move forward with our solar project. The Solar Committee team has been working to plan for upcoming fundraising events (see Cookie Walk info below!) that will engage and continue to keep the congregation up to date on progress of the project.

If you would like to support the project with a personal donation, there has been a fund set up in our church accounts. If you do choose to make a donation, please mark that designation "Solar Project" and it will be recorded properly.



CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK

On Sunday, December 15th, following worship, we invite everyone to our 1st Christmas Cookie Walk. ***All the proceeds from the cookie walk with be used for our Solar Project.*** All you need to do is make your way to the upstairs Sunday School hall following worship, browse through the dozens and dozens of cookies that will be available and make a donation when you are finished. There will be all sorts of cookies available... sugar, snickerdoodle, gingerbread, peanut butter, chocolate chip

If you would like to donate cookies to this wonderful event, please do so by either calling into the office or using the sign up sheet on table by elevator in the foyer. Please try to have your cookies at church before noon on Saturday Dec. 14. Thank you everyone for your incredible support!

Council Highlights Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 6pm – in person

Present: Bob, Andrea, Rosie, Stacy, Patrick, Jeff, Adam, Russ

Absent: Lauren, Carl

Worship – Rosie

Hanging of the Greens 11/24 after church
First Sunday in Advent with Communion is Dec 1
Poinsettia orders will start Dec. 1st

Education – Lauren

We would like to do a brief Christmas Nativity Play in December with the kids that includes some scripture readings and songs - Need to talk to Jeff about which Sunday works best for this

Recreation – Carl

Basketball court needs to be resealed – has to be put on hold until Spring
Have 70+ seats reserved at the Peppermint Pops for our Zion group. Will receive reservations till Nov 24. Plan to distribute tickets on Sunday, Dec. 1.
Also have reserved room at Hacienda for up to 20 people for a lunch before the Peppermint Pops. Will take reservations for lunch till Wednesday, Dec. 4.

Pastor – Jeff

Set Annual Meeting date – January 19th, 2025
Grief group beginning Nov.13th 6-7pm
Blue Christmas – having Dec. 15th 5pm

Solar project

Fundraising events – Dec 15th Cookie Walk

Mental Health

As shared, the Center for Congregations has accepted and is rewarding Zion with \$37k in grant funding for a series of events proposed to educate and draw awareness to mental health resources within our community.

Grant activities will begin in February 2025 and run throughout the calendar year

MHI committee to prepare article for Voice of Zion that outlines the approved events to start encouraging participation and initiative awareness

VII. Announcements/Questions

A. Next Council meeting December 10, 2024 – in person at 6pm

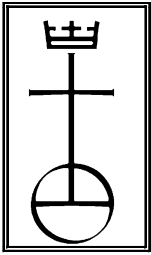
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COAT A KID - COAT DRIVE



The children of our church would like to invite everyone to bring extra winter coats and jackets to the church and place them in the big “Coat a Kid” box located in the church foyer. All coats will be collected each week and delivered to Don’s Claytons for cleaning and distribution. Let’s see if we can collect hundreds of coats like

we have the past few years. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Jeff.



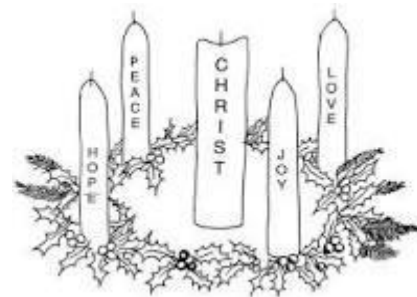
ZION LIPPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
9000 COPPERLINE ROAD E
MT. VERNON IN 47620

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Help make bed frames . .

Next Work day is Sat. Dec 14
8 am – noon at 1303 S Green River Rd
Evansville IN 47715

All ages are welcome. Let Pastor Jeff
know if you are interested or have
questions.



First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024

Communion

Hanging of the Greens