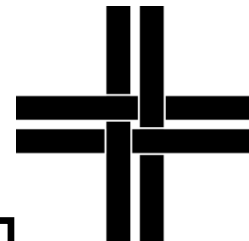


# The Sower



www.zionkearney.org  
308-234-3410

Zion Lutheran Church & School  
2421 Avenue C  
Kearney, NE 68847

## December 2015

### From the Pastor's Desk

As we transition to a new Church Year, we are also making several other transitions at Zion.

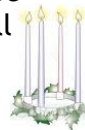
1. We have paid off our debt, which helped to fund Zion's ministry in the *past*. Now we are focusing on our *future* ministry as we seek to pre-fund a part-time pastor's position (please see the attached Q & A for how you can help).
2. The Board of Elders and Board of Stewardship are introducing "Worship Registration" cards. Everyone will be asked to fill out a card each week. We pray this helps us to become more familiar with the names of our fellow members, while also allowing us to greet our visitors by name. More details will be given when we are ready to make use of the cards.
3. For the sake of good order and efficiency the Board of Elders has voted to reinstitute ushering people out of their pews at the end of the service. If you need to leave immediately following the service for work or personal needs, then please feel free to do so.
4. Coming soon will be another option to use in order to give an offering at Zion. We have signed an agreement with Pushpay® to use their customizable phone app (downloadable at the App Store or Google Play) so that our members and visitors will have multiple ways to offer gifts to the Lord. Those who use their offering envelopes to put cash or a check in the offering plate are welcome to continue doing so. But for those who forget their envelope or do not carry cash or a checkbook, you will now be able to use Pushpay® to give using ACH payment (1%), debit card (2%), or credit card (3%). Please visit "paypal.com" for more information. More information will be given when all is set up to use this new app.

### Saturday Evening Divine Service

Saturday Evening Worship Services will not be offered during December. Please join us for our Advent Services.

### Advent Services

Special Wednesday evening Advent services will be held at 7 pm on Dec. 2, 9, & 16. Each service will be preceded by a meal in the fellowship hall beginning at 5:30.



### LWML

#### Concordia

Concordia will meet Thursday, December 3 at 2:00.

#### Mary Martha Guild

Mary Martha will have our Christmas Party on Monday, December 9 at 7 pm in the fellowship hall. Members are asked to bring a guest along, as well as a "finger food" to share. In lieu of a gift exchange, we are suggesting a \$5 donation to be used for goodies bags for children on Christmas Eve.

#### Christmas gifts for Men at the Crossroads Center

Mary Martha Peace Circle has an end-of-year Mission project for men's gifts at the Crossroads Mission Center in Kearney. Items needed are men's socks, gloves, underwear, shirts, pants and coats. Sizes needed are Med - X Large, items gifts should be in good condition. The Circle will deliver to Crossroads on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate the congregation's help on this project for the needy. There is a pine tree bough on the hallway wall with ideas of needs attached. Please consider taking one or two of the ornaments and bringing items back to the box located near the mailboxes before Dec. 17. Thank You



## Church Decorating

We will be decorating the Sanctuary on Saturday Dec. 5 beginning at 11:00 am. Please plan to come and help. It usually takes a couple of hours, but please feel free to come for as long as your schedule allows.



## Christmas Caroling

The choir and congregation will be Christmas caroling with our shut ins and those in nursing homes on Sunday, December 6. We will meet at Zion at 2:00 pm in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to join us.

## Senior Citizens

The senior citizens will meet Monday, December 14 at 12:00 noon for our monthly potluck dinner. The school children will sing Christmas hymns with us and we will treat them with Christmas cookies.



## Sleeping Mats

The sleeping mat group will not be meeting until January. Have a blessed holiday season.

## ZYGTIME

Youth please watch the Sunday bulletin for information about the ZYG Christmas Party.

## Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal

Sunday School children will rehearse hymns and speaking parts for our Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, December 5, 12, & 19, from 9-10:30.



## Official Acts - Zion Lutheran Church

### August-November 2015

#### Deaths

- **Marion Jean Ahrens** - Born August 7, 1931. Died July 27, 2015 in Kerrville Texas; Graveside services August 21 2015 at Hendley Cemetery in Hendley, Nebraska.

- **Donna Fitzke** - Born December 19, 1943 Died August 28, 2015; Graveside service at Minden Cemetery officiated by Pastor DeLoach September 26, 2015.
- **Lucille M. Fiddelke** - Born May 22, 1918 Died October 15, 2015 at Northridge; Funeral October 19, 2015 at Zion Lutheran, Burial at Riverdale Cemetery.
- **Arnold R. Gaunt** - Born December 13, 1925 Died October 22, 2015 at Northridge; Funeral October 26, 2015 at Zion Lutheran, Burial at Kearney Cemetery

#### Baptism

**Owen Michael Hodgson**

Born: July 29, 2015 Baptized: August 30, 2015

Parents: Matthew & Amy (Williams) Hodgson

Sponsors: Chad & Melissa Hodgson

#### Blessing of a Civil Union

**Dexter Higgins and Sierra (Schuessler) Higgins**

Oct. 24, 2015

#### Transfer In

- **Seth & Christina Long** from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church - Syracuse, NY
- **Ryan & Brienne Splittgerber & children Carter & Caden** from Trinity Lutheran - Fremont, NE
- **Kassidy Rixstine** from St. John Lutheran - Seward, NE
- **Brett Jagels** from St. Peters Lutheran Church - Davenport, NE
- **Kristin Jagels** from Trinity Lutheran Church - Bruning, NE
- **Sawyer Jagels** from St. Paul Lutheran Church - Austin, TX

#### Transfer Out

**Eileen Vickers** to Holy Cross, Kearney.

**Rev. Christopher Nuttelman**, to Crown of Life Lutheran Church, San Antonio, Texas.

#### Dropped from Membership

**Zach Vickers**

**NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

**CHAIR-ELECT:** Don Helmbrecht

**SECRETARY:** Kim Wilkens

**TREASURER:** Ellen Koopman

**ELDERS:** Nathan Gaunt, Keith Nuttelman

**EDUCATION:** Ryan Splittgerber, Julie Zobel

**EVANGELISM :**

**STEWARDSHIP:** Carol Florang, Don Engel, Seth Long

**TRUSTEES:** Reese Florang, Adam Helmbrecht, Todd Koopman, Jared Nuttelman

**YOUTH:** Kelly Eckhoff, Dawn Dulitz

	Adam Herrera	
7	Kelley Clark Leah Vogel	
8	Bret Ward	
9	Victoria Crow William Hansen Alexandra Splittgerber	
10	Hannah Zobel <i>David &amp; Kay Banner - anniversary</i>	
12	Hailey Walker	
13	Claudette Kelley	
14	Vaughn Albrecht	
15	Kasey Potter	
16	Karly Weller	
17	Marion Richmond	
18	Dawn Dulitz Sarah Fattig-Heidtbrink	
21	Thane Bauer <i>Dale &amp; Lynette Johnson - anniversary</i>	
22	James DeLoach	
23	<i>Douglas Wick</i>	
24	Alan Altwine Eric Hansen	
25	Brandon Fletcher Kaitlyn Kaufman	
26	Jana Flessner Lyn Hoffman	
27	Dyann Altwine Allison Wilkens	
28	Zachariah DeLoach Don Engel Jacquelyn Zehendner	
29	Chelsea Herrera	
30	Bryce Bauer	
30	Betty Mustard	

**School News**

There are several holiday pies available for sale. The flavors are pumpkin, pecan, caramel apple nut, fruits of the forest, strawberry rhubarb, peach, apple, cherry. Please stop by the office to purchase a delicious pie.

Please mark your calendar and make plans to join us for our Zion School Children's Christmas service, Sunday, Dec. 13 at 4:00 pm.



**December Radio Broadcast & Flowers**

Date	Radio	Flowers
6	Fiddelke	
13	A. Wenzlick	Gaunt
20	L. Johnson	
27	Oertwig	

**December Birthdays and Anniversaries**

1	Michael Dulitz Robert Schmidt Makenna Starkey	
2	<i>Charles &amp; Bertha Marienau - anniversary</i>	
4	Carson Richter	
5	Bailey Bates	

**SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP  
DURING ADVENT**

Dec. 2	7:00 pm 5:30	Advent Service- Meal by Splittgerber class
Dec. 9	7:00pm	Advent Service- Meal by ZYG
Dec. 13	4:00pm	School Christmas Service
Dec. 16	7:00 pm	Advent Service- Meal by Bd. of Ed.
Dec. 24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Dec. 25	10:00am	Christmas Day Worship

## The Gifts Christ Freely Gives

By His Holy precious blood and His innocent suffering and death, your Lord Jesus Christ accomplished your salvation and eternal life with Him in heaven. Your Risen Lord continues to shower you with those gifts that deliver His forgiveness and life to you—His Holy Word, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and Holy Communion.

**Question:** *What fruits are the Gifts Christ Freely Gives bearing among us?*

**Answer:** Christ's gifts have enlivened many of you to give sacrificially over the last several years to help Zion maintain a balanced budget. At our Octoberfest we celebrated paying off our *past* debt of over \$400,000 within a four-year span. Thanks be to God that He has helped us reach our first goal.

Our next goal is to better serve our congregation's *present* and *future* needs. Out of concern for Zion's pastor and members, our Board of Elders sees the need to call an Assistant Pastor and believes such a position would greatly benefit our congregation. Striving to be good stewards, we want to pre-fund this position *before* we ask our members to vote on whether or not they wish to call someone to serve in this capacity.

**Question:** *Why call an Assistant Pastor (Part 1)?*

**Answer:** Phase One: Our Present Need. Simply put, it is a great struggle for one pastor to sufficiently meet the needs of all of our *current* members. We need an Assistant Pastor to help with Word and Sacrament Ministry by assisting with:

- † Teaching Duties at Church & School
- † Leading Additional Bible Studies
- † Visiting the Sick and the Dying
- † Communing the Homebound
- † Contacting Inactive Members
- † Covering Emergencies
- † Occasional Preaching
- † Worship Services and Chapel
- † Supporting our Youth Group and Women's Ministry
- † Training Members to Help Care for Others in our Congregation and Community

**Question:** *Why call an Assistant Pastor (Part 2)?*

**Answer:** Phase Two: Future Benefits. By God's grace and depending on the generosity of our members, our Elders hope to expand this position so that our pastors can reach out to *potential* members through our church and school by:

- † More Interaction with our Unchurched Students and Families, particularly those Enrolled in our Early Childhood Classes
- † Engaging and Evangelizing the Unchurched in Our Community
- † Offering Adult Instruction on Sunday Mornings and Orienting New Members
- † Mentoring Zion's Members in their Vocations at Church, Home, and Work
- † Allowing Time for Strategic Planning to Assess our Needs, Define Solutions, and Coordinate the Work of our Church and School
- † Encouraging Greater Funding of Zion's Endowment to Help Support Present and Future Mission Work and Ministry
- † Providing Ongoing Training in Christian Stewardship, Evangelism, and Mercy Care
- † Better Serving our Sunday School, College Students, Young Adults, Men, and Senior Citizens

**Question:** *How Can You Help?*

**Answer:** As God freely provides for you, help us raise \$27,000 to \$40,000 (*beyond our regular offerings*) to support an Assistant Pastor for 12 to 18 months. When we reach our goal, we will bring a recommendation to the Voter's Assembly seeking their input and asking them for approval to proceed with the call process.

Please prayerfully consider giving money to fund this effort to better care for our *current* members and to minister to *potential* members. May God bless you as He works through you at Zion, in our community, and throughout the world.

If you have any questions or wish to contribute to this endeavor please speak with Pastor DeLoach at 308-627-5260.

<b>Time of Service</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Usher Captain</b>	<b>Announcer</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Book Nook</b>
<b>Wednesday, Dec 2</b> 7:00 p.m. Vespers	Alexis Wommer	Keith Nuttelman	Roger Riekenberg Bob Glanzer		Shirley Helmbrecht Bev Nuttelman	
<b>Sunday, Dec 6</b> 9:00 a.m. Divine Service	Bailey Bates	Keith Nuttelman	Fred Flessner Keith Nuttelman	Brooke Fisher	Shirley Helmbrecht Bev Nuttelman	Pauline Jacobson
<b>Wednesday, Dec 9</b> 7:00 p.m. Vespers	Abigail DeLoach	Keith Nuttelman	Fred Flessner Keith Nuttelman		Shirley Helmbrecht Bev Nuttelman	
<b>Sunday, Dec 13</b> 9:00 a.m. Divine Service	Madisen Eckhoff	Jeff Halvorsen	Marc Hoffman Steve Junge	Carol Kreutzer	Shirley Helmbrecht Bev Nuttelman	
<b>Wednesday, Dec 16</b> 7:00 p.m. Vespers	Hope Smith	Jeff Halvorsen	Marc Hoffman Steve Junge		Shirley Helmbrecht Bev Nuttelman	
<b>Sunday, Dec 20</b> 9:00 a.m. Divine Service	Cody Willers	Rich Kreutzer	Roger Riekenberg Bob Glanzer		Shirley Helmbrecht Bev Nuttelman	Lavonne Peterson
<b>Thursday, Dec 24</b> 7:00 Christmas Eve Worship	Masie Dulitz	Rich Kreutzer	All Captains		Shirley Helmbrecht Bev Nuttelman	
<b>Thursday, Dec 25</b> 10:00 a.m. Divine Service Christmas Day	Anthony Wilbur	Rich Kreutzer	Roger Riekenberg Bob Glanzer		Shirley Helmbrecht Bev Nuttelman	
<b>Sunday, Dec 27</b> 9:00 a.m. Divine Service	Gabe Bates	Ken Hockemeier	Dan Oertwig	Lavonne Peterson	Shirley Helmbrecht Bev Nuttelman	Carolyn Wilkens
<b>Thursday, Dec 31</b> 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Worship	Elizabeth Lange	Ken Hockemeier	Dan Oertwig		Shirley Helmbrecht Bev Nuttelman	

# December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00pm Board of Stewardship	2 8:25 Chapel 5:30 Advent Meal 5:45 Midweek 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Advent Service 8:00 Adult Choir	3 2:00 Concordia 7:00 Board of Ed.	4 Pastor's Day Off	5 9:00 Children's Christmas Rehearsal 11:00 Christmas Decorating
6 9:00am Divine Service 10:15am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 2:00 Congregational Christmas Caroling	7	8 7:00 Board of Elders 7:00 Board of Trustees	9 8:25 Chapel 5:30 Advent Meal 5:45 Midweek 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Advent Service 8:00 Adult Choir	10	11 Pastor's Day Off	12 9:00 Children's Christmas Rehearsal
13 9:00am Divine Service 10:15am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 4:00 School Christmas Service	14 12:00 Senior Citizens Potluck 7:00pm Mary Martha Christmas Party	15 7:00 Church Council	16 8:25 Chapel 5:30 Advent Meal 5:45 Midweek 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Advent Service 8:00 Adult Choir	17	18 Pastor's Day Off 3:30 Dismiss for Christmas	19 9:00 Children's Christmas Rehearsal
20 9:00am Divine Service 10:15am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School	21	22 Pastor's Day Off	23	24 Office Closed 7:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 10:00 Christmas Day Service	26
27 9:00am Divine Service 10:15am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School	28	29	30	31 Office Closed 7:00 New Years Eve Worship		