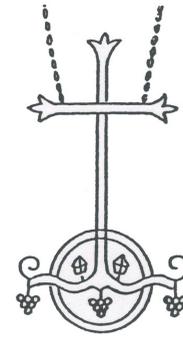


Zion Lutheran Church

PO Box 323  
Scotland, SD 57059

God's Work, Our Hands



# Zion Lutheran Church Messenger

*Zion Lutheran Church Welcomes all to worship with us and work together to do God's word.*

December 2020



321 Stafford St PO Box 323 Scotland, SD 57059

Phone: 605-583-2931

Secretary email: [scotland@gwtc.net](mailto:scotland@gwtc.net)

Website: [www.ScotlandLutheran.org](http://www.ScotlandLutheran.org)

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Vicar email: [scotlandzion@gwtc.net](mailto:scotlandzion@gwtc.net)

# Zion Lutheran Church Women News

Due to lingering concern's with Covid there will be no December Bible Study, Birthday Fellowship or Family Advent night. Happy Birthday to all those with Birthdays in December!

Wednesday, December 2nd our Luther League and ZLCW will be making cheer plates. If you wish to help please bring 1 dozen cookies to church by 5pm.

The Good Samaritan Center Birthday Party will be December 18th at 2:30pm. Mary Circle will be in charge.

Anyone wishing to make changes in the ZLCW yearbook, such as circles, prayer chain, Altar guild or if we forgot your name let Diana know by December 13th.

A big Thank You to the quilting ladies for making 148 quilts and thanks to everyone who donated sheets, fabric, thread, sewing machines and batting. 85 school bags were put together too. Thanks to everyone who donated school supplies and our Luther League for helping Deb Mehrer in putting them together.

Thank you to the kitchen committee (Deb Dean, Karen Rettedal and Colleen Jerke) for keeping our kitchen cleaned and organized.

## COOKBOOK SALE \$4.00

We still have cookbooks for sale, they are only \$4. They make good Christmas gifts, Birthday gifts, Shower gifts or just to say thank you to someone who did a kind deed for us during this COVID pandemic, cheaper than a card!

Anyone who has a Thrivent Insurance policy remember you have \$500 you can use for church, school, food pantry or fundraiser etc. If you need help Colleen Jerke is willing to help you. In 2021 let us report to Colleen to see what you did with your Thrivent money, if you don't care to use your name that is ok. Would be interesting to know how much was done with Thrivent money in our community.

A big Thank you to Heather Friederich for accepting the position as our new ZLCW president, Congratulations!

Thank you to our returning ZLCW officers Erin Odens Vice President, Ruby Fischer Secretary, Janine Baker Treasurer, Deb Mehrer Stewardship. With the combined leadership the ZLCW will go forward. Hopefully more women will become more active to keep our ZLCW going. If we all do a small part, much can get done. We only have 4 meetings a year so please come.

Thanks everyone for your support during my four years in office. I couldn't of done it without your help.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! Diana Jerke

# December



<u>Date</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Offering Counter</u>
6	Kyliah Bjorum	Church Choir	Jackie Bietz
13	Brittney Rueb	Parker & Cole	John Haase
20	Trinity Bietz	ZLCW	Seth Jerke
27	Sophie Schott	Sophie & Trinity	Dean Friederich

## Altar Guild:

Colleen Jerke

## Ushers:

Bruce Kepplinger

Jared Diede

James Streyle

Nicholas Fischer

## Communion Deacon (s):

## **Financial Update:**

2020 Mission Plan	General Giving	Expenses	Surplus (Deficit)
Oct	\$4,524.96	\$6,731.42	\$(2,206.46)

**Electronic Giving:** Zion offers Electronic Giving for your convenience. You can do this by using the Give Plus App or direct deposit.

## **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, you know every decision I need to make and every challenge I face. Please forgive me for the times I try to figure this life out on my own. I need you. I need your Holy Spirit to give me strength, wisdom, and direction. Amen

## Zion Classifieds



**Church Cookbooks** Are for sale for \$4 They make wonderful graduation, shower and wedding gifts. You may pick one up in the narthex.

**ZLCW boxed greeting cards** are for sale on the spinner rack in the Fellowship Hall. Payments can be put in the wooden box on the Cabinet. Thank you for supporting ZLCW projects.



## Scotland Area Food Pantry

**Food pantry:** See the Giving Calendar attached or inside your newsletter. Let us all remember the reason for the season and give unto others!



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Congregational Meeting– Dec 13th following worship.**

### Help Center:

**Alzheimer's & Dementia** family caregiver support group will meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at Grace Lutheran in Menno. If you are interested in attending please RSVP to Pastor Jacobsen at 605-387-5196. More information is available on the flyer in the Narthex.

**Stephen Ministers:** Do you know of a church member who is having a difficult time due to grief, illness, etc? Referrals can be made to Mary Hertz or Deb Mehrer

**SD Helpline Center:** 1-800-273-8255, sdsuicideprevention.org Avera Farmer Stress Hotline 1-800-691-4336



Joy? Where do I find it?

I read this article the other day and it made a great point that I was trying to find the words for.

“After hastily opening the wrapped package and making the obligatory thank you, it certainly didn’t take long to turn away from the thoughtful gift as something ho-hum.

Just then a little girl came along and stopped by the discarded item and exclaimed, “Oh my what a beautiful gift! Is that yours? You must be so happy!”

Have you ever felt like you needed more joy? That is so often true this time of the year when we find one reason or another to be Scrooge. There are so many indications telling us we should be more joyful. Lights and decorations going up, soon Christmas music will be filling the air.

Christmas joy fills our hearts as we excitedly go about our holiday shopping, baking, and planning. Yet deep down we know the joy wont last. Planning becomes overwhelming, schedules fall apart, and decorating is tiresome. Above all that we know that there will be no joy when we don’t have enough money to get that perfect gift or the credit card payments are due. “I need more joy! Something that lasts” we might cry out.

Christmas brings us joy that does last and true joy only found in Jesus.

With a love that we cannot comprehend, God gave his only Son to be born our Savior. Then he took every single bad though and evil word and evil deed that we have to the cross. True joy is the forgiveness of sins that is ours through faith in Jesus. “

I do think that with distance between families, the pandemic and even some families ruined due to other differences joy is hard to find. We have been so distanced for so long that it seems like the new norm. Sally was watching some TV show the other night and the actors had masks on, I get that they are portraying life but sometimes we watch “our shows” to get away from life, forget about our problems. It all takes the fun and joy out of watching.

As we enter this Christmas season among our social distancing, finding it hard to find joy focus on Jesus being born in the manger. Think about the words the angels spoke to the Shepherds “Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born. He is Christ the Lord” May the Holy Spirit fill you with joy that never ends.

Peace, Love, Joy, Vicar Andrew Bueber

## Presidents Report

Greetings fellow members of Zion,

It has been a while since I have written one of these, so I want to start off by thanking all of you for the support, while my mom and I were up in Minneapolis. Thank you for all the prayers and all the cards and the financial support. At the amount of encouragement was overwhelming, my words cannot express my gratitude, so once again thank you.

On to council news, as you hopefully know, Andy plagiarized, and now he is being disciplined by the synod. We are having a congregational meeting to give you all the details and answer any questions on December 13. This all started when someone sent an anonymous letter to the bishop stating what Andy had done. Then a month after we met with the bishop, sent Veryl and I a letter. The council would prefer if you have any concerns to come to one of the council members first, and they can bring it before council. That is what we are here for, we don't enjoy getting surprise visits from the bishop, on stuff that we are not aware of. Luckily Andy is honest and a great guy, and told us about it before hand, even when he wasn't supposed to, so we weren't caught totally off guard. We also are not going to take anonymous letters to seriously, you can tell one council member and ask that they keep your identity hidden. We want someone on the council to be able to follow up with the person bringing up the issue, letting them know how we are addressing it.

Andy has apologized and I know he is sorry for what he has done. The council has forgiven Andy and he still has our full support. I am not going to lie, I am tired of talking about this subject, but we want the congregation to be fully aware of it and answer any questions. Then hopefully we can get back to what the church is supposed to be focusing on. Matthew 28:18-20 <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Because I think we all can agree the world could use a lot more Jesus right now.

Your brother in Christ,

Nick Fischer



Pam Keppen	2
Laura Haase	3
Kevin Varilek	5
Andrew Mehrer	7
Dorothy Bietz	7
Max Roth	7
Ron Sudbeck	8
Julie Stevens	10
Ray Keppen	11
Darlene Mehrer	14
Theresia Neuman	15
LeRoy Jerke	17
Victor Settje	19
Blake Danelson	20
Nathan Fischer	21
Michael Mehrer	21
Michael Millsap	23
Richard Fischer	23
Kelli Fischer	24
Christy Mogck	24
Mary Jo Bauder	25



Richard & Julie Fischer	11
Joe & Rhonda Bouza	19
Thomas & Mary Hertz	19
Lester & Shirley Muehlbeier	27



*The Eternal Candle is  
In Memory of  
Helmuth Fischer  
by  
His Family*

## Luther League Participants (Grades 9-12) & Confirmation

Luther League we will be:

- ⇒ Meeting December 2nd at 6:30pm; food will be available starting at 6pm
- ⇒ Bring your 1 dozen bars for the Cheer Plates on Dec 2nd as well.
- ⇒ Also meeting December 23rd to prepare for Christmas Eve Service

A big “Thank You” to the Luther League for helping again pack school kits for Lutheran World Relief.



**Stephen Ministers:** Do you know of a church member who is having a difficult time due to grief, illness, etc? Referrals can be made to Mary Hertz or Deb Mehrer.

Reprinted from Lutheran World Relief

## Humanitarian aid for refugees, feared destroyed in Beirut explosion, found intact

John Rivera Sep 24, 2020

BALTIMORE, Sept. 24, 2020 — Three 40-foot shipping containers filled with humanitarian aid that included thousands of handmade quilts and baby-care items, which were reported as destroyed in the August 4 explosions at the port of Beirut, Lebanon, have been found intact and are ready to be distributed victims of the blast and refugees.

Authorities assumed the containers were lost in the historic blast that killed more than 200 people and laid waste to parts of the city. It took several weeks for longtime Lutheran World Relief partner Anera to gain access to the port, locate the containers and check their contents.

While other Anera shipping containers were heavily damaged, the three containers of quilts and kits were apparently stored behind a concrete block building that helped spare them from the blast. A fourth container, which was on a ship offshore when the explosion occurred, has since been delivered.

The contents of all four containers have been transferred to a warehouse and will be distributed to families displaced by the explosion, as well as to refugees living in Lebanon, principally from Syria and the Palestinian territories.

Anera provides humanitarian assistance and sustainable development to advance the well-being of refugees and other vulnerable communities in the Middle East. Its representatives [took this video](#) of the remarkably intact boxes of aid.

“It’s been a roller coaster for all of us, and especially our quilters and kit-makers,” said Melanie Gibbons, deputy director for outreach and engagement at Lutheran World Relief. “First, grief over the loss of items so carefully made and prayed over, followed by determination to keep quilting and making kits. Then joy over the news that the items not only survived but are able to be distributed!”

“It’s an incredible blessing to realize that now these items are in exactly the right place at the right time,” she said.

In addition to distributing the quilts and kits, Lutheran World Relief is also working to address immense shelter needs in the wake of the explosion, helping poorer families to repair and return to their homes.

HOW TO HELP

**Donate online:** <https://lwr.org/beirut>

**Donate by Phone:** +1 (800) 597.5972

**Donate by Mail:** Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061

# December 2020

Congregational Meeting– Dec 13th following worship.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9am-3pm Vicar's Office Hours 6:30 pm Luther League & Bible Study Confirmation & Cheer Plate Construction 7:00 pm Advent Service 5:30 pm-7:30pm Secretary in Office	3	4 9am– 1pm Vicar 's Office Hours	5
6 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School Church Council	7 9am– 1pm Vicar 's Office Hours	8	9 9am-3pm Vicar's Office Hours 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Advent Service 5:30 pm-7:30pm Secretary in Office	10	11 9am– 1pm Vicar 's Office Hours	12
13 9:30 Worship Snack Pack Donation 10:30 Congregational Meeting Sunday School	14 9am– 1pm Vicar 's Office Hours	15	16 9am-3pm Vicar's Office Hours 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Advent Service 5:30 pm-7:30pm Secretary in Office	17	18 9am– 1pm Vicar 's Office Hours	19
20 9:30 Worship/ Sunday School Progam	21 9am– 1pm Vicar 's Office Hours	22	23 9am-3pm Vicar's Office Hours 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:30pm Luther League Practice 5:30 pm-7:30pm Secretary in Office	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candle Light Service by Luther League	25 <i>Christmas</i>	26
27 9:30 Worship	28 9am– 1pm Vicar 's Office Hours	29	30 9am-3pm Vicar's Office Hours 5:30 pm-7:30pm Secretary in Office	31		