**Children’s Christmas**

**Program**

**December 15, 2019**

**God Makes Promises**



**God Fulfills Promises**

**Written by Maggie Harlan & Pastor Clayton**

**Zion Lutheran Church**

**Mascoutah, IL**

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**Pastor: Rev. Kirk Clayton**

**Church Secretary: Robin Phillips**

**Choir Director Team: Josh and Nancy Peterson**

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**Find us at @ZionMascoutah on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram**

**Electronic Devices**

Please TURN OFF all cell phones, pagers, electronic devices, apps and games when entering the sanctuary for worship so those around you may focus on the Word of God without electronic distraction.  Thank you.

**No Flash Photo Request**

We ask that no flash pictures be taken during the service, but that you take pictures after the service if you desire them. Thank you.

**Prayer to Begin Worship**

We lift high our hearts before the eternal God, O Holy Spirit, Comforter of God’s people, for through You in the ever-present Christ the fainthearted find new courage, the weary discover the Burden-Bearer, and the broken discover healing and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Father are one God with dominion over us forever.

**Zion Lutheran Church**

**Mascoutah, IL**

**Children’s Christmas Program 2019**

**“God Makes Promises,**

 **God Fulfills Promises”**

**Prelude Partita on ‘Von Himmel Hoch’ Jacob Weber**

**Rite of Adult Confirmation for Amy Lin**

Throughout the program,

**Words in bold are sung by all,**

*Words in italics are sung by the children only*

*Stand*

**Processional O Come All Ye Faithful** *LSB 379*

**1. O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: Refrain**

**Refrain**

**O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
 Christ the Lord!**

**2. Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain**

**3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: Refrain**

**4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain**

Text: Public domain

*Sit*

**Promise One**

**God Would Send A Savior**

(Based on Genesis 3:8-15)

Maggie Harlan, Luke Morra, Brady Twenhafel, Cadence Dunn

**Hymn Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord** *LSB 352*

*(Stanzas 1, 2, 5, & 6)*

**1. Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner’s help and friend.**

**2. What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets’ heart inspired,
What they longed for many\_a year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.**

**5. Bruise for me the serpent’s head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.**

**6. Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.**

Text: Public domain

**Promise Two**

**The Savior Would Be a Descendant of**

**Abraham and David**

(Based on Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 15:1-6; 2 Samuel 7:1-2, 11-16)

Ezri Linnertz, Luke Morra, Luke Harlan, Mia Simon, Isaiah Clayton, Bjorn Peterson

**Hymn Once in Royal David’s City** *LSB 376*

**1. Once in royal David’s city
 Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
 In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**

**2. He came down to earth from heaven,
 Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
 And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**3. For He is our childhood’s pattern,
 Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
 Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.**

**4. And our eyes at last shall see Him,
 Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
 Is our Lord in heav’n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.**

**5. Not in that poor, lowly stable
 With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
 Set at God’s right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned,
All in white, His praise will sound!**

Text: Public domain

**Promise Three**

**The Savior Would Be Immanuel, God with Us**

(Based on Isaiah 7:3, 10-14)

Abby McDaniel, Max Lara, Luke Morra, Jake Lara, Brennan Dunn

**Hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** *LSB 357*

**1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain**

**Refrain:**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord’rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain**

**3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai’s height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain**

**4. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,
Free them from Satan’s tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save,
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave. Refrain**

**5. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain**

**6. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight. Refrain**

**7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain**

Text: Public domain

**Promise Four**

**The Birth of the Savior Would Bring Joy**

(Based on Isaiah 9:2-7)

Laith Fanous & Jake Lara

**Hymn The People that in Darkness Sat** *LSB 412*

**1. The people that in darkness sat
 A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
 In shades of death have been,
 In shades of death have been.**

**2. To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness,
 The gath’ring nations come;
They joy as when the reapers bear
 Their harvest treasures home,
 Their harvest treasures home.**

**3. To us a Child of hope is born,
 To us a Son is giv’n,
And on His shoulder ever rests
 All pow’r in earth and heav’n,
 All pow’r in earth and heav’n.**

**4. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
 The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
 The God by all adored,
 The God by all adored.**

**5. His righteous government and pow’r
 Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
 His reign shall have no end,
 His reign shall have no end.**

**6. Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
 And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
 And Holy Spirit, one,
 And Holy Spirit, one.**

Text: Public domain

**Promise Five**

**The Savior Would Be Born in Bethlehem**

(Based on Micah 5:2-5)

Heston Sink, Lauren Matthews, Luke Lara

**Children Sing O Little Town of Bethlehem** *LSB 361*

*(Congregation sings stanzas 1, 2, & 4; children sing stanza 3)*

**1. O little town of Bethlehem,
 How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
 The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
 Are met in thee tonight.**

**2. For Christ is born of Mary,
 And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
 Their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together
 Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
 And peace to all the earth!**

*3. How silently, how silently
 The wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of His heav’n.
No ear may hear His coming;
 But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
 The dear Christ enters in.*

**4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
 Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
 Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
 The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
 Our Lord Immanuel!**

Text: Public domain

**Promise Six**

**Kings Would Come to See the Savior**

(Based on Isaiah 60:1-6)

Ella Sax & Jake Lara

**Hymn As with Gladness Men of Old** *LSB 397*

**1. As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
 As with joy they hailed its light,
 Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee.**

**2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
 There to bend the knee before
 Thee, whom heav’n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.**

**3. As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
 So may we with holy joy,
 Pure and free from sin’s alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heav’nly King.**

**4. Holy Jesus, ev’ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
 And when earthly things are past,
 Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.**

**5. In the heav’nly country bright
Need they no created light;
 Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
 Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.**

Text: Public domain

**Promise Two Fulfilled**

**The Savior Would Be a Descendant of**

 **Abraham and David**

(Based on Luke 1:26-55)

Lola Simon, Rylan Ganey, Abigail Clayton, Lily McDaniel, Parker Roehrig, Phoebe Corey, Michael Ganey

**Hymn The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came** *LSB 356*

**1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady.”
 Gloria!**

**2. “For know a blessèd mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady.”
 Gloria!**

**3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady,
 Gloria!**

**4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady.”
 Gloria!**

Text: Public domain

**Promise Three Fulfilled**

**The Savior Would Be Immanuel, God with Us**

(Based on Matthew 1:18-25)

Bristol Sax, Dalton Wambold, Lilah Fanous, Jake Lara

**Children Sing/Hymn O Sing of Christ** *LSB 362*

*(Children sing stanzas 1-3; Congregation sings stanza 4)*

*1. O sing of Christ, whose birth made known
 The kindness of the Lord,
Eternal Word made flesh and bone
 So we could be restored.
Upon our frail humanity
 God’s finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity,
 The icon of His grace.*

*2. What Adam lost, none could reclaim,
 And Paradise was barred
Until the second Adam came
 To mend what sin had marred.
For when the time was full and right
 God sent His only Son;
He came to us as life and light
 And our redemption won.*

*3. He came to that which was His own,
 But He was not received;
Yet still through Him God’s glory shone,
 And some His name believed.
To these He gave the right to be
 The heirs of heav’n above,
Born not of human ancestry
 But born of God in love.*

**4. Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell
 Among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel,
 To bring this holy birth.
Though rich, You willingly became
 One with our poverty,
That we might share Your wealth and name
 For all eternity!**

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**Promise Four Fulfilled**

**The Birth of the Savior Would Bring Joy**

(Based on Luke 2:1-7)

Rosemary Peterson, Makena Suedmeyer, Brady Twenhafel, Cadence Dunn

**Children Sing Away in a Manger** *LSB 364*

*1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

*3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.*

Text: Public domain

**Promise Five Fulfilled**

**The Savior Would Be Born in Bethlehem**

(Based on Luke 2:8-20)

Luke Morra, Luke Harlan, Gianna Sink, Isaiah Clayton, Kindergarten Girls, Kindergarten - 1st Grade Boys, Bjorn Peterson

**Children Sing/Hymn Silent Night** *LSB 363*

*(Children sing stanza 1 in German)*

*(Congregation sings stanzas 1-3 in English)*

*1. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*

*Alles schläft, einsam wacht*

*Nur das heilige Elternpaar,*

*Das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war,*

 *Bei dem himmlischen Kind,*

 *Bei dem himmlischen Kind*

**1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace,
 Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
 Christ, the Savior, is born!
 Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

Text: Public domain

**Promise Six Fulfilled**

**Kings Would Come to See the Savior**

(Based on Matthew 2:1-12)

Jake Lara, Abigail Clayton, Ezri Linnertz, Mia Simon, Abby McDaniel, Max Lara, Laith Fanous, Luke Lara, Brennan Dunn

**Hymn We Three Kings of Orient Are**

**1. We three kings of Orient are;**

**Bearing gifts we traverse afar,**

**Field and fountain, moor and mountain,**

**Following yonder star. Refrain**

**Refrain:**

**O star of wonder, star of light,**

**Star with royal beauty bright,**

**Westward leading, still proceeding,**

**Guide us to thy perfect light.**

**2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,**

**Gold I bring to crown him again,**

**King forever, ceasing never,**

**Over us all to reign. Refrain**

**3. Frankincense to offer have I;**

**Incense owns a Deity nigh;**

**Prayer and praising, all men raising,**

**Worshiping God on high. Refrain**

**4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume**

**Breathes a life of gathering gloom;**

**Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,**

**Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. Refrain**

**5. Glorious now behold him arise;**

**King and God and sacrifice:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia,**

**Earth to heav’n replies. Refrain**

Text: Public domain

**Promise One Fulfilled**

**God Would Send A Savior**

(Based on Luke 23:33-35, 46 & Matthew 28:1-10)

Phoebe Corey, Lilah Fanous, Heston Sink, Lauren Matthews, Ella Sax, Lola Simon, Rylan Ganey, Parker Roehrig, Bristol Sax, Michael Ganey, Makena Suedmeyer, Gianna Sink, Heston Sink, Maggie Harlan, Lily McDaniel, Rosemary Peterson, Dalton Wambold

**Hymn** **Hark the Herald Angels Sing** *LSB 380*

**1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
 Peace on earth and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the\_angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Refrain**

**Refrain:**

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

**2. Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 Late in time behold Him come,
 Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the\_incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain**

**3. Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all He brings,
 Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. Refrain**

Text: Public domain

**The Christmas Meditation**

**Offering**

*[Please fill out a sheet in the attendance book. Visitors, please include your address. If you have a prayer request for the church prayer chain, please write it at the top of the sheet.]*

**Special Offering Music Christian Drinnon**

*Stand*

**Prayers**

P Eternal God, we thank You that in this fallen, faithless world, You are faithful.

C **Lead us, in faith, to see Your promises as sure and trustworthy.**

P As we search the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments,

C **Lead us to see that the point to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

P Remind us that not only were You faithful in Scripture,

C **You are faithful to us yet today.**

P Lead us to rely in full faith on Your promises

C **Knowing that You have never yet broken and promise to Your people, and You never will.**

P As we hear the good news of Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem,

C **Help us to see Your work of salvation for us.**

P Lead our focus from the manger to the cross and empty tomb

C **So that we may see the full story of Your salvation accomplished for us.**

P As we hear the good tidings of great joy from our children,

C **Give us a child-like wonder at Your love shown to us**

P And give us full and constant faith and trust that as You have fulfilled Your promises in Jesus Christ,

C **So we can trust You fully throughout our life and into eternal life with You.**

***WE GO TO THE LORD IN PRAYER FOR***

* Stefan Drinnon, Jennifer Hosler, Jacob McDaniel, Nick McDaniel, Ray McDaniel, Marlene Lockwood, Ryan Heck, and Nathan Stangle, as they celebrate their baptismal anniversaries.
* Our children, in thanksgiving for the opportunity they have to hear and share Your Word.
* Amy Lin, as she is confirmed today.
* Members of Zion’s Board of Trustees, Stewardship Committee, and Board of Finance.
* Faithfulness in support of world missions.

P Faithful God, Your promises are sure and certain. In the birth, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we see Your Word fulfilled. Give us the constant confidence to see Your work for our salvation as a guarantee of Your work to this day as You continue to preserve and sustain us. As we find joy and confidence in Your faithfulness, so lead others also to experience Your joy through us. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benediction

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

*Remain standing*

**Recessional Hymn Joy to the World** *LSB 387*

**1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
 Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room
 And heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and nature sing,
 And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.**

**2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3. No more let sins and sorrows grow nor thorns infest the ground;
 He comes to make His blessings flow
 Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,**

 **Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness**

 **And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,**

 **And wonders, wonders of His love.**

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**Postlude O Come, All Ye Faithful Kevin Hildebrand**

Acknowledgments

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**THANKS TO OUR STUDENT PARTICIPANTS**

Abigail Clayton-Gabriel, Narrator

Isaiah Clayton-David, Narrator

Phoebe Corey-Elizabeth, Narrator

Brennan Dunn-Ahaz, Narrator

Cadence Dunn-Eve, Narrator

Laith Fanous-Narrator, Herod

Lilah Fanous-Angel, Narrator

Michael Ganey-Joseph, Narrator

Rylan Ganey-Narrator, Roman Soldier

Luke Harlan-Abraham, Narrator

Maggie Harlan-Narrator

Jake Lara-Isaiah, Narrator

Luke Lara-Micah, Narrator

Max Lara-Chief Priest, Narrator

Ezri Linnertz-Narrator, Wise Man

Lauren Matthews-Roman Soldier

Abby McDaniel-Narrator, Wise Man

Lily McDaniel-Mary

Luke Morra-God, Narrator

Bjorn Peterson-Nathan, Narrator

Rosemary Peterson-Narrator, Mary Magdalene

Sven Peterson-Baby Jesus

Parker Roehrig-Narrator, Roman Soldier

Bristol Sax-Narrator, Roman Soldier

Ella Sax- Narrator, Roman Soldier

Lola Simon-Narrator, Roman Soldier

Mia Simon-Narrator, Wise Man

Gianna Sink-Angel, Narrator

Heston Sink-Narrator, Jesus

Makena Suedmeyer-Narrator, Angel at Tomb

Brady Twenhafel-Adam, Narrator

Dalton Wambold-Narrator, John

**ANGELS:**

Taylor Crismon

Kyrielle Corey

Claire Harlan

Mackenzie Krausz

Eliza Matthews

Savannah Murphy

Ava Sax

Hadley Sax

Beth Stein

Lily Stein

**SHEPHERDS:**

Samuel Clayton

Callan Crismon

Bennett Lewis

Grant Lewis

Reed Lewis

Austin Murphy

Ivar Peterson

Leif Peterson

Eli Sink

James Trame

Owen Wilbur

**LIFE AND LIVING ITEMS AT ZION**

****

**A SPECIAL THANKS…**

Thank you to all who helped make this Children’s Christmas Program possible today. If we have left out anybody who helped from this list, our apologies! A special thanks to Maggie Harlan (a 7th Grade student!) for writing the Children's Christmas Program this year. Last winter Maggie volunteered to write a program, and she and Pastor Clayton developed the theme of prophesy and fulfillment. Over the summer, Maggie submitted a list of 50 Messianic prophecies, which Pastor Clayton narrowed down to suggest the ones included in the program. Pastor Clayton then wrote a couple narrator paragraphs to give an example, and Maggie wrote the rest of the narrator/transitional portions of the program. Thanks to Maggie for her hard work to develop this program specifically for the congregation here at Zion! Thanks also to those who helped with bringing this program about. Thanks to Lori Clayton and Kelly Walsh-Harlan for directing the program, to Marianne and Abby McDaniel and Dawn and Rhiannon Corey for helping with costumes, to Pastor Clayton for helping with music, to Josh Peterson for constructing the backdrop, to Kelly Walsh-Harlan, and Bella and Maggie Harlan for helping with set/backdrop designs, and to the Sunday School teachers--Jean Kemezys, Amy Kolweier, and Dawn Corey--and parents including Jennifer Trame and Jenna Dunn for helping work with the students during rehearsals. Finally, thanks to our students for bringing dedication and great joy to sharing this program with us today.

**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

December is a busy month, but our focus should be preparing for the joyful news of our Savior's birth and preparing to meet Him when He comes again in glory. Among all the other December activities, make sure that worship and church activities are central. All of us need to make choices as to how we will spend our time. What will your choices be? Will they reflect what is truly most important and of eternal significance? Or will your choices indicate a priority of the temporary over the eternal? Choose how you spend your time wisely. We look forward to seeing you at Zion at every opportunity!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ZION'S NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS**

At the Voters Meeting held on Thursday, December 12th, the following people were elected to serve in leadership roles at Zion: Vice President, Dale Wehmeyer; Board of Elders, Randy Shorfheide; Trustees, Gadge Corey and Mike Twenhafel; Secretary, Rachel Bretz; Board of Finance, Deb Heck; Board of Education, Amanda Ganey; and Asst. Sunday School Superintendant, Jenna Dunn. We also want to thank those faithful servants whose terms are ending: Chairman, Bob Walter; Elder, Ray Kemezys; Trustees, Mike Segelhorst and Mike Ganey; Finance, Sharon Weier; and Board of Education, Alicia Suedmeyer. Please say a big "THANK YOU" both to those who have served the congregation in the past year and those who have been chosen to serve in the coming year.

**SECRET PAL PROGRAM**

This Sunday and next, we will draw Secret Pal names. You are to pray for this person and can send cards or leave cards or small gifts at church during the year. Names are revealed next December. See Glenda.

**LADIES AID CHRISTMAS POTLUCK -- THURSDAY**

All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us on Thursday, Dec 19, for our annual Christmas party and potluck (side dishes only, meat will be furnished). We eat at 6:00 and then will have a short program. **NOTE:** We are not doing the $5 gift exchange this year, but rather bringing several items for the Mascoutah Food Pantry; if you have a Secret Pal, that gift may be brought also. We will take a special collection for Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School. It’s a fun and special evening. Plan to attend. See Glenda for more details. **BABYSITTING** will be provided.

**ZION’S 140th ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOKS – GREAT GIFT IDEA!**

REDUCED PRICE! ONLY $10 EACH!

Zion has added many new members in the past eleven years; Get to know other members by their submitted recipes! . Have you looked through our cookbook? It contains more than 475 recipes, as well as some **history about Zion and some fun entries** as well. Don't forget our wonderful cookbooks as you look over your Christmas list. They make great gifts!

**CHRISTIAN-THEMED CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CALENDARS**

The Ladies Aid has beautiful Christian-themed 2020 calendars for sale. We still have a few left, so get yours now! They are $6 each. We also have a wide variety of Christmas Cards for sale at very reasonable prices. See the table in the hall outside the office to shop. See Candy or Glenda to pay.

**OLIVE BRANCH GERMAN CHRISTMAS SERVICE -- TODAY**

The Olive Branch German Christmas Service (Weihnachtsgottesdienst) will be today, December 15th at 3:00 PM. We are located at 11265 State Route 177 in Okawville. Rev. Darwin Schrader will preach. The text and sermon theme are Lukasevangelium  2: 10-11 and the theme “Fuerchtet euch nicht.  Es is Weihnachten wieder.” Rev. Arthur Eichhorn will be the organist for the service. Please stay after to enjoy German cookies and refreshments. All are welcome enjoy God's word in German!

**METRO EAST COMMUNITY CHORALE CONCERT -- TODAY**

Join us for the Metro East Community Chorale Concert today, December 15th at 3 PM at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Belleville. Angela (Braeutigam) Wilkerson and her husband Matt will be performing in the orchestra.

**HANDEL’S MESSIAH AT ZION, BELLEVILLE**

Zion’s Music and Ministry and Community will present Handel’s Messiah on Sunday, December 22, at 3:00PM at Zion, 1810 McClintock Ave, Belleville.

**ANNUAL TREE OF HOPE CAMPAIGN**

The Mascoutah Tuesday Women’s Club is excited to announce the annual Tree of Hope campaign. Donations will be used to provide Christmas gifts of shoes and clothes for the needy children of Mascoutah. Funds were also used to support the Mascoutah Township School Supply Drive through a donation of 100, $20 gift cards to provide shoes for children starting school. Thanks to the generosity of Mascoutah, donations totaling $10,580 for the Tree of Hope were received in 2018. We ask for your help again this year in order to fill the stockings of so many needy children. Please send your donation to: Tree of Hope, PO Box 244, Mascoutah, IL 62258. If you have any questions, call Rosalie Taylor at 618-566-2529.

**12TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeburg warmly invites you to a 12th Day of Christmas Music Festival on Sunday, January 5, 2020, at 3:00 PM. The music festival features organ, piano, handbell choir, brass, strings, flutes, and a large ensemble playing special arrangements of Christmas carols. The audience is invited to sing along on many familiar carols. A reception follows the music festival. There is no cost. Christ Our Savior is located at 612 North State Street in Freeburg. For more information, contact the church office at 618-539-5664 or email coslc@att.net.

**THE JOINT CIRCUIT 7 & 8 EPIPHANY SERVICE**

Join us on Monday, January 6th at 7:00 PM at Olive Branch Lutheran Church for a joint Epiphany Service. At 6:15 PM a joint Epiphany choir will gather to practice the choir anthem “In Thee is Gladness” by Scott Hyslop. All are invited to participate in the Epiphany choir. The Immanuel School Choir will also be singing in Divine Service. The offering will be going toward Christ the Vine Lutheran Mission. All are welcome to come and celebrate the coming of the magi!

**LISTEN TO WORLDWIDE KFUO AM850**

KFUO Radio, AM850, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on AM850 via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at [kfuo.org](https://kfuo.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=54af661ed49340a315983cb13&id=0283bf6005&e=0f60058984) and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUOradio on [Facebook](https://kfuo.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=54af661ed49340a315983cb13&id=50ff363847&e=0f60058984), [Twitter](https://kfuo.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=54af661ed49340a315983cb13&id=0f8e558972&e=0f60058984), and [Instagram](https://kfuo.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=54af661ed49340a315983cb13&id=979b2ef9e4&e=0f60058984). This week on KFUO AM850, tune in to Advent midweek service on Wednesday 12/18 at 12:00 p.m., hear sacred music for the seasons of Advent and Christmas from now until Epiphany, and study 1 & 2 Thessalonians on Sharper Iron's "Christ is Surely Coming" series (weekdays at 8:00 a.m.). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org.

**YOU CAN TEACH LAYPEOPLE THEOLOGY**

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken.  This week's teachings include: Adam & Eve, Katie Luther, An Introduction to the Book of Galatians, Holy Baptism and more.  You can tune in live weekdays from 3-5 p.m. on KFUO, 850 AM in St. Louis.  You can also listen at your convenience at [www.issuesetc.org](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001-bKwl9d3AEwTrkn9PtFUM6bZz6B_hvPgjcfTbrsvav4DMh1Ux8g45ID4dyf0ne9yOR46Lh15ST1-Y-Z30ifmFYsK10IMMTcT-NzpJqh2s0sljWIT-5Y-wkvMpdDAYTOarJMSwkN4ncDJp85DHmO7WvZCg3ggnzSzoe5YGFA8Lww=&c=L_bMSVSryt0Sm8OIAGur7L5bzublE8bGgDYBmy-VSIBYHpCsbCmhfg==&ch=ObxtkJMzHgnDwMwDntmPOW297ok0MyrcLqCZ-pWwXmRpwB5wI3S0AQ==) and on the LPR mobile app.

**Reverse Advent Calendar**

An Advent calendar is a special calendar used to count the days of Advent in anticipation of Christmas. Traditionally, this countdown is marked by opening a small door of a calendar and retrieving a small candy or toy from a hidden compartment. This year, instead of receiving, let us give back in thankfulness for the ultimate gift of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

**Directions:**Each day, add an item to a box. To keep this a mindful activity, this can be done in conjunction with your daily Advent devotional. On Christmas Eve, donate the contents to Mascoutah Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 - 12:00. You can also drop your box off at the church or call Beth Twenhafel (618-660-8872) for a pick up at your house.

December 1 - box of cereal

December 2 - peanut butter

December 3 - stuffing mix

December 4 - boxed potatoes

December 5 - macaroni and cheese

December 6 - canned tomatoes

December 7 - cream of mushroom soup

December 8 - canned tuna

December 9 - dessert mix

December 10 - jar of applesauce

December 11 - canned sweet potatoes

December 12 - cranberry sauce

December 13 - canned beans

December 14 - box of crackers

December 15 - package of rice

December 16 - package of oatmeal

December 17 - package of pasta

December 18 - spaghetti sauce

December 19 - chicken noodle soup

December 20 - tomato soup

December 21 - can corn

December 22- can mixed vegetables

December 23 - can carrots

**THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

Proclaimer: Rev. Kirk Clayton

Liturgist: Sem. Adam Wolfe

Liturgist: Sem. Don Stein

Organist: Nancy Peterson

Pianist: Johnathan Clayton

Ushers: Lee Harlan, Mark Hatcher, Carl Sherrill, & Buzz Kandler

Sound Tech: Mike Segelhorst

Video Tech: Mark Hatcher

Welcome Team: Mike & Angie Twenhafel

**THOSE WHO SERVE NEXT WEEK, DECEMBER 22**

Proclaimer: Rev. Kirk Clayton

Liturgist: Sem. Adam Wolfe

Liturgist: Sem. Don Stein

Organist: Nancy Peterson

Ushers: Ryan Heck, Tom Heck, Ray Kemezys, & Alan Kneschke

Sound Tech: Ken Frey

Video Tech: Mark Hatcher

Welcome Team: Matt & Emily Wambold

Acolytes: Cadence Dunn & Lilah Fanous

Altar Guild: Linda Hoskins

**THINGS WE ARE DOING AT ZION**

Sun. ***Children’s Christmas Program***

 Children’s Christmas Program Practice 8:45 AM

 Bible Class 8:45 AM

 Worship Matins 10:00 AM

Wed. Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM

 Third Advent Midweek Service 7:00 PM

Fri. Senior Meal Delivery 10:30 AM

Sun. Confirmation Class 8:30 AM

 SS & Bible Class 8:45 AM

 Worship DS I w/communion 10:00 AM

**ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 8:** Sunday: 172

Adult Bible Class: 22 High School: 6 Sunday School: 50

**ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 11:** Wednesday: 63