

# *The Mountain Top* Messenger

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 12 Zion Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod DECEMBER 2013

Grace peace and mercy to you from God, our Father, and Jesus Christ His Son.

December, it is upon us. Kind of a strange year, deer season going all the way into December, only three Wednesdays in Advent, it all seems to be happening so fast. Advent and the new church year start on Sunday, December 1. I wanted to take a moment to remind everyone of our Wednesday night services during Advent, we will be doing a series on the names given to our Savior by Isaiah in chapter 9 verses 1-7. There are five names given there, we will do one each Wednesday of Advent, one on Christmas Eve and the final one on Christmas Day. Please join us for all of them.

Since the last newsletter we have had two members called home by our Lord, Ken Philaja, November 6<sup>th</sup> and Al Piff, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Our prayers go out to their families, as well as all the other families who had loved ones pass away this year. This holiday season know that our prayers are with you all.

I want to keep you posted on my SMP progress, I recently completed my first SMP class, 'Introduction to Pastoral Theology', it was a very good class and I learned a great deal about both myself and what it means to be a pastor. Seven more classes to go until ordination. I start the second class, 'The Master Narrative' on December 2.

A reminder we will be starting a new Bible Study on Sunday mornings called "The Great Deceiver", it is a four part study that explores the most diabolical of Bible characters: Satan. Please join us starting Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> following our worship service, there will be goodies.

Blessings on your Christmas Holiday and may God our Father, Jesus Christ His Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you always.

Rick Williams, Vicar

# Zion's Ministry Staff and Church Officers

E-Mail: [zionashland@hotmail.com](mailto:zionashland@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.zionashland.org](http://www.zionashland.org)



Church Office 715-682-6075 (M/T/W 8am-12noon, Th-1-5pm)  
Vicar Rick Williams 715-209-0479 (M/T/W/Th 8:00-5:00)  
President, Chuck Chronis 715-682-0070  
Head Elder, Darryl Warren 715-492-0488  
LFOJ Child Care Center - Administrator, Karyn Leino 715-682-6075  
Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center 715-682-5185



\* \* \* \* \*

**Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 am**  
**Advent Wednesday Evening Worship 6:30pm Dec. 4,11,18**  
**Christmas Eve Services 4:00pm and 8:00pm**  
**Christmas Morning Service 9:00am**  
Sunday School 10:15am  
Bible Studies: Sundays 10:15am Mondays 10:00am

## Stewardship Thoughts

A great error committed in the teaching of stewardship over the years has been to be focused on the end result of stewardship. We have heard stewardship talks that have talked about the giver getting back a return on what was given to the Lord. This turns what should be a response of faithfulness into a standing in Scripture. It is bad stewardship of the Gospel.

Our stewardship flows from our restored relationship to our heavenly Father. As Romans 12 would indicate, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

## NEED A PRAYER?

Zion Lutheran Church has two active prayer chains—a daytime and an evening chain. If you would like to have the chain activated to pray for a specific need, please call Marge Douglas at 682-2160. If you reach the answering machine, please leave a message, but then call the church office at 682-6075 and give the request to the church secretary and the chain will be activated. The Prayer Chain members are asked to keep all prayer requests confidential and not discuss them with others, but caller discretion is advised.





# SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Perfect attendance for October:

Sophie Truchon, Ayeisha Deragon, Daniel Truchon, Cadence Williams, Lily Truchon, Logan Esala, Justin Esala

November 24th will be project Sunday along with the opening of practicing songs and going over individual memory parts. The project is a surprise and a snack will be served afterwards.

Happy Thanksgiving to All!

Lisa Guski and Lilly Harrelson have, again, agreed to lead the children's Christmas program. A reminder to parents and children the program is scheduled during the December 15th worship service at 9:00am. Our theme for the program is "Silent Night, Holy Night". The parts have been handed out so start memorizing! The songs will be practiced during the openings. We need EVERYONE there for the two weeks of practices, Dec. 1st and 8th. We will keep you informed of any other upcoming announcements by e-mail, phone, or notes. Please be looking for them.

This is great news! Luke Barker enjoys playing guitar for Sunday School students and has offered to do so in the future—thank you Luke, the kids will certainly enjoy it.

We received a letter from Woody at Camp Luther about "Congregational Day Camp" for 2014. We are currently "penciled in" for August 11-14 for 2014 VBS. First, we have to get the funding for it. Prayers be with us.

I would like to give a huge "thank you" to Lynn Ladd for donating to the Sunday School/Church a new VHS/DVD player since the player quit working when the classes were watching a movie. How fitting since Vicar Rick's previous sermon was on God answers prayers — sometimes sooner, sometimes later.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Katie Colgrove, Superintendant

# Scrapbooking and Projects Nights

Tuesdays

Dec. 10th and 17th

5:30pm

**Do you have that Christmas gift finished? Need some space or dedicated time to complete it?**

Join the group and spread out your project whether it be photos, quilting, making cards or whatever. There's plenty of room for everyone! Plus, it is fun time and you may get some new ideas. Please RSVP to Lilly Harrelson if you are interested in coming. *If there aren't enough able to make on an evening, it may get postponed.*

Contact Lilly at:  
Lillyc\_00@yahoo.com  
715-292-5699



## FYI - Special Announcements/ Requests

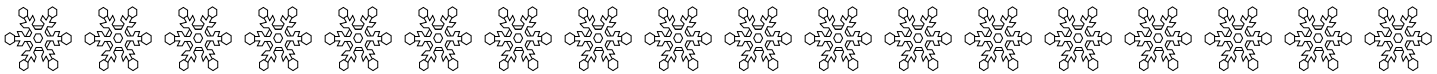
We receive many requests every week to post a notice about a meeting or a concert, a request for financial assistance or information of interest. These requests are from LCMS and its tributaries, and the community. We can't put all of these in the bulletin every week so they are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. We try to put in each week's bulletin what that week's requests were. So, please check out the bulletin board frequently, you never know what you will find.



### WEBSITE!

Have you checked out our Website? - [www.zionashland.org](http://www.zionashland.org)

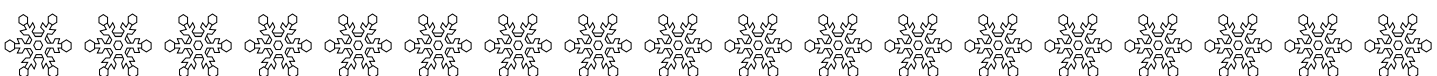
We're always looking for suggestions or comments. There is a link to the monthly newsletter and the calendar is a separate link.

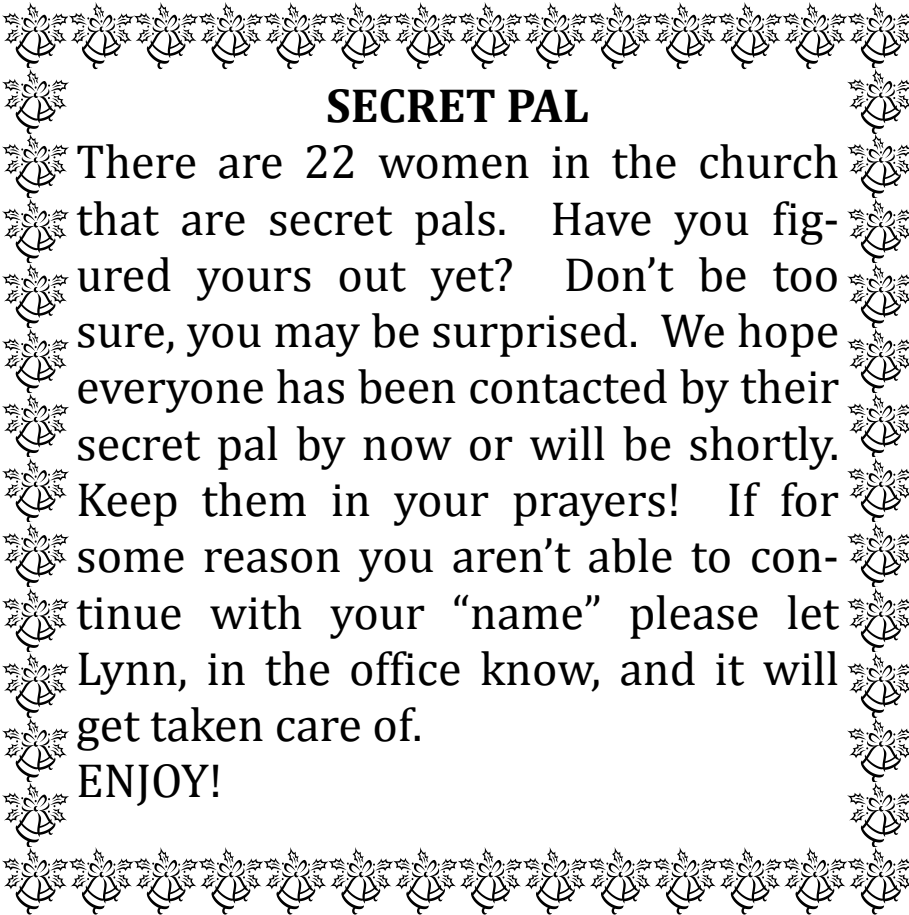


### White Flakes



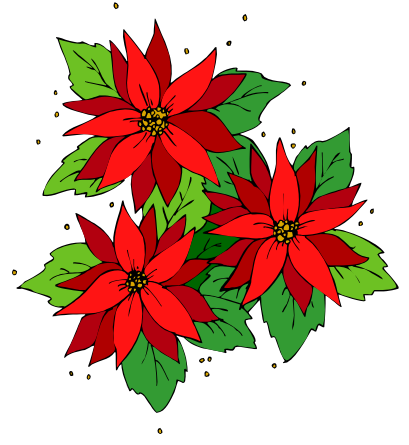
Yes, the white flakes of snow will be falling soon and we can always use some help with shoveling. Please let the office or a Trustee know if you would be available. Plus, there will be a snowblower on its way. Thanks!





## SECRET PAL

There are 22 women in the church that are secret pals. Have you figured yours out yet? Don't be too sure, you may be surprised. We hope everyone has been contacted by their secret pal by now or will be shortly. Keep them in your prayers! If for some reason you aren't able to continue with your "name" please let Lynn, in the office know, and it will get taken care of.  
ENJOY!



## Poinsettia Box

Donations for purchasing poinsettias will be in the Narthex starting Dec. 1st through Dec. 15th.

	<p><b>ADVENT</b>  <b>WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES</b>  <b>6:30pm</b>  <b>DECEMBER 4, 11, 18</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES—December 24th</b>  <b>4:00pm and 8:00pm</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE —December 25th</b>  <b>9:00am</b></p>
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Interpreting the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective.** There is no better way to keep up on what's new in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The flagship magazine of the LCMS, *The Lutheran Witness* offers synodical news, reports from Lutherans around the world, features, columns, Q&A's, a Bible study, and so much more. This is the premier magazine for Lutherans who want to be informed and stay informed!

A monthly publication, *The Lutheran Witness* speaks directly about what's important to today's Lutherans: Christian life, missions and ministries, and people of faith.

**LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTIONS** for home delivery are due by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Write checks out to "Zion", for \$21.65 in an envelope marked "LW" and drop off in the office. This is for a one year subscription.



# LFOJ HAPPENINGS

For Thanksgiving, LFOJ will closed Thursday (28th) and Friday (29th) and for Christmas Holidays, Dec. 25th and Jan.1st for sure and other days depending on enrollment for those weeks.

The LFOJ Christmas Program will be held at Zion on Thursday, December 19th at 6:30pm. Please join us.

**WISH LIST FOR LFOJ** - Below are some items that teachers have requested for their kids and classrooms:

## Infant Toddler Room

Chunky trucks, cars, vehicles (bigger than Hot Wheels)

Sets of toys (like Little People, Farm/Zoo sets, etc.)

New solid bookshelf

Plastic sweater boxes (for storage of toys)

## Learner Room

Hard-bodied dolls of multiple ethnicities

Doll clothes

Dress up clothes

Melissa and Doug sets (cut up foods, etc)

School-age scooters



**Kenneth Thomas  
Philaja  
Baptized at Zion  
10-20-2013  
Welcome, Ken !**

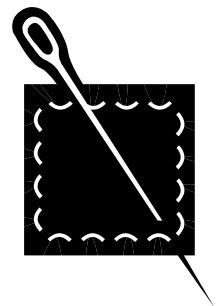


## **ATTENTION ALL QUILTERS!!!!**

The Sewing Circle meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM. More willing hands are always needed. No need to be a seamstress as this work can be done by anyone. So ladies please find a few extra hours twice a month to do the Lord's work.

Quilts made at Zion go to the Orphan Grain Train and also to local fire victims and baby quilts to babies baptized at Zion.

For more information on the Orphan Grain Train, pick up a brochure from the table in the narthex.



## Come to Bethlehem

Angels proclaimed the lowly birth  
A gentle lamb who came to earth.  
Shepherds ran with haste and joy  
To see the gift of a baby boy.



Diamond starlight paved the way  
Kings with gifts bowed to pray.  
Now is the time to hear His voice  
And set our hearts to sing... Rejoice!  
For heaven and earth joined as one  
When Perfect Love sent His Son.

-A. Ellis

## FLOWERS –

Anyone wishing to have flowers on the altar for a special occasion, such as a memorial to a loved one, an anniversary, special birthday, etc., please contact Ingrid. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. There are a few times during the year when flowers aren't placed on the altar but that should be noted.



**THANK YOU** - to all who have been helping out at the church. The ladies have been extremely busy in the kitchen the last few months, some requests for help have been filled and unexpected assistance has filled hearts.

*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17*



## Share Portals of Prayer with Everyone You Know!

Christmas is just around the corner—have you decided what to get for your friends and family yet? For a limited time, you can give the gift of Portals of Prayer for our lowest price yet! Simply renew your current subscription (or start one for yourself) to Portals of Prayer for one year and qualify to give a friend or loved one their very own subscription at half the regular price.

Plus, you can give as many gifts as you want of any size—so feel free to share God's word with everyone you know! Simply call 1-800-325-3040 (Concordia Publishing House) to place your order by December 20<sup>th</sup>; *You can order online at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org)—then click: "subscriptions"...'magazines'...'Portal of Prayer'*

A subscription covers four quarterly issues.

Pocket Size Portals of Prayer is \$13.00 per year

The New Digest-Size Edition is \$14.00 per year.

The Large-Print Edition is \$15.00 per year.

*The Church will continue to offer a limited supply.*

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Council Minutes**  
November 18, 2013

The November 18, 2013 meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President, Chuck Chronis. Vicar Williams opened the meeting with a devotion.

**ROLL CALL:** Chuck Chronis (President), Darryl Warren (Elder), Lynn Ladd (Education), Todd Vyskocil (Treasurer), Mary Koosmann (Financial Secretary), Penny Mattson (Stewardship), Becky Sapper (Secretary), Lori Hebert (Evangelism), Nick Jarvela (Trustees), Rick Williams (Vicar).

**MINUTES:** Motion by Ladd, second by Koosmann, to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2013 Council meeting as printed. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Motion by Jarvela, second by Ladd, to approve the Treasurer's Report as given. As of October 31, 2013 Zion had \$62,518.38 in checking, \$12,687.95 in savings and \$18,520.13 remaining on the loan. Motion carried.

**AGENDA:** Motion by Hebert, second by Mattson, to approve the agenda as printed with additions to new and old business. Motion carried.

**BOARD REPORTS:** Motion by Jarvela, second by Koosmann to accept the Board Reports as given. Motion carried.

***Vicar's Report:** Two baptisms and one funeral, bible studies and confirmation were conducted last week. Ashland Area Ministerial Association changed meeting time to accommodate Vicar Williams schedule, he will be preaching at area nursing homes every 7 weeks. The first term of schooling is completed for Vicar Williams, second term starts in two weeks. Advent and Christmas theme (Unto us a Child is Born) is planned. Vicar is continuing with LFOJ chapel and has started devotions with school aged children as well. The shut-in list is being updated (please share names of any shut-ins with the Vicar). Vicar Williams reviewed his past week with the Council and his days are very busy.*

***Evangelism:** Fourteen care packages for Zion's college students are being created to help them prepare for finals and flu season.*

***Trustees:** General monthly maintenance for Zion and LFOJ has been completed. Lawn mowers have been winterized and stored for the season. Church insurances have been renewed for 2014. Roof leaks have been repaired and scuppers have been cleaned of debris, heated traces have been turned on for the winter.*

**OFFICIAL ACTS:** Motion by Hebert, second by Vyskocil to accept the Official Acts. Motion carried.

**Baptisms:** Kennedy Jo Williams (11-16-13) and Cadence Rayne Williams (11-16-2013)

**Deaths:** Kenneth Walter Philaja (11-06-13)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Motion by Mattson, second by Jarvela to accept the slate of candidates for open Board positions submitted by the nomination committee. Motion carried. There are currently no candidates for Council Secretary.

B. Motion by Jarvela, second by Hebert to approve the 2014 budget to be presented to the membership on December 1, 2013. Motion carried.

C. Approval from Trustees on the amendment to the Sexual Harassment /Abuse policy, they will inform Guide One Insurance. Trustees will look over the policy to determine if there are areas of the policy that need action (annual training for volunteers).

*(continued on next page)*



**NEW BUSINESS:**

(continued)

A request was made for gas/food cards to be given in emergencies for individuals calling for financial assistance. It was agreed that all individuals should be referred to the BRICK and we should not provide additional dollars out for non-members.

Council will sponsor a brunch potluck for after the annual meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The agenda for the meeting will be provided the Sunday prior to the meeting, which will include Board Officer elections, 2014 Budget, Sexual harassment/Abuse policy, and Synodical vote on the name change of Circuit Counselor to Circuit Visitor.

Capital Projects Committee will begin meeting shortly to help provide a means for the congregation to make decisions on a list and prioritization of large expenses that are anticipated in the short-term and long-term.

Trustees are interested in purchasing a snow blower and installing a mailbox. No concerns raised by the Council for these two purchases.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Jarvela, second by Vyskocil to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**UPDATES are VITAL!**

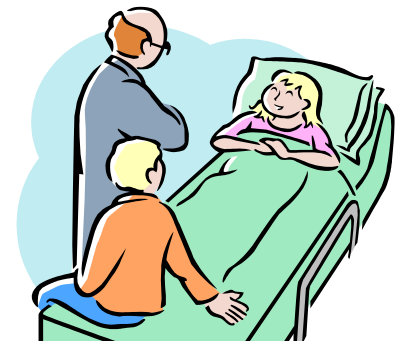
Please contact the office with any changes to mailing and e-mail addresses and phone numbers. We sure would like your e-mail address to add to our congregational list. We frequently send out reminders or information that we wouldn't want you to miss. You can include any new information or changes on the attendance pad in the pews, leave a note in the office or give us a call.

**HOLLY LEAF PROJECT  
Ashland Health and  
Rehabilitation Center (AHRC)**

We will be posting leaves to take on the bulletin board after Thanksgiving. Each leaf will have a gift suggestion that will be presented to one of its residents. You can either drop off the present directly at AHRC or then to the office by December 15th. *AHRC would like to thank all of those who have sent over gifts in the past!! The residents sure have big*

**Shut-in's/Inpatient Hospital -**

If you, yourself, or you know of someone who isn't able to make it to worship services due to health or other reasons, and would like a home/hospital visit, please contact the office or Vicar Rick.



**CAMP LUTHER** Camp Luther at 877-264-CAMP(2267) [www.campluther.com](http://www.campluther.com)

### **CAMP LUTHER GIFT CERTIFICATES!!**

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for your children or grandchildren? Consider a Camp Luther gift certificate. These certificates can be purchased for any amount and may be used for Camp Luther programs and at our canteen. Talk to MaryAnn to order yours today.

### **ORDER YOUR CAMP LUTHER 2014 CALENDAR NOW**

Visit our website to order our beautiful calendar for the new year. These are pictures selected from our 2013 photo contest. What a GREAT way to enjoy Camp Luther year round. They also make wonderful Christmas gifts!

**GIVE TO CAMP LUTHER** You play a vital role in the ministry of Camp Luther through your contributions. Your gifts make it possible for Camp Luther to enhance and expand programming, maintain care for wonderful facilities and property and reach out in love to those who couldn't afford to attend camp on their own. Thank you for your generous support of this important ministry that touches and transforms thousands of lives each year with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Visit [www.campluther.com/donate](http://www.campluther.com/donate) today.

### **WINTER YOUTH RETREATS AT CAMP LUTHER**

Get ready for some Camp Luther fun "winter-style" at our winter youth retreats. Join your friends for broomball, snowshoeing, tubing, devotions and lots more. Upcoming events include:

Jr. High "Big Chill" Jan. 10-12

Jr./Sr. High "Deep Freeze" Jan. 17-19

Sr. High "Sub Zero" Jan 24-26

"Middle School Meltdown" Feb. 28-Mar. 2

*Register with your youth group today!*

### **FAMILY FLURRY RETREAT (Jan. 31-Feb. 2)**

Bundle up and bring the family for a weekend of winter activities and growing together in faith. Families can join in our staff led activities or do things on your own. There is something for all ages. Activities include tubing, broomball, snow shoeing, x-country skiing, Bible study and devotions. Check out [www.campluther.com](http://www.campluther.com) for more information.

**COTTAGE RETREATS**--Enjoy a cottage retreat at Camp Luther this winter. Our cottages have everything you will need for a relaxing getaway in the midst of God's beautiful creation. You can spend time outside cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing, ice fishing, or tubing. When you are done for the day, settle in for a cozy evening next to the fireplace. Stay for a weekend or a week. Camp Luther is currently offering a special rate that is 30% off of our regular rate. Check out "Cottage Retreats" on our website.

**HERE WE GROW! REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP 2014!** An exciting summer is planned for children Pre-K through High School. Register early for your favorite dates and housing locations. NEW this summer are Guitar Camp and Parent-Child Kayak & Hike Trip. Camp Luther will begin accepting registrations January 1 through our newly updated registration system at [www.campluther.com](http://www.campluther.com), US mail or fax works, too. Send your children or grandchildren to Camp Luther and watch them grow!

***Camp Luther is a subsidiary ministry of the North Wisconsin District-LCMS. Our mission is to build up the Body of Christ for service to the church and witness to the world.***



# DECEMBER Servers for Worship Services

Our Servers for our Worship Service are very important. We ask that if you are unable to serve on your designated date, please find someone else to take your place. We really appreciate

## ELDERS

Dec. 1 Chuck Chronis & Darryl Warren  
Dec. 4 Mike Cashman  
Dec. 8 Don Pocernich & John Pruss  
Dec. 11 Chuck Chronis  
Dec. 15 Darryl Warren & Mike Cashman  
Dec. 18 Doug Warren  
Dec. 22 John Pruss & Chuck Chronis  
Dec. 24 (4pm) Doug Warren & Mike Cashman  
Dec. 24 (8pm) Darryl Warren  
Dec. 25 (9am) John Pruss  
Dec. 29 Doug Warren & Don Pocernich

## DECEMBER Acolytes

Dec. 1 Cooper Tamke & Mary Beth Barker  
Dec. 4 Jordan Thimm & Kaitlyn Dickrell  
Dec. 8 Annie Ylitalo & Jacob Graves  
Dec. 11 Sydney Vyskocil & Heather Dickrell  
Dec. 15 Eric Bochler & Kyle Sapper  
Dec. 18 Carolyn Gurske & Mary Beth Barker  
Dec. 22 Brooke Sapper & Taylor Vyskocil  
Dec. 24 (4pm) Cooper Tamke & Justin Esala  
Dec. 24 (8pm) Carolyn Gurske & Tia Warren  
Dec. 25 (9am) Brooke Sapper & David Ovaska  
Dec. 29 Sydney Vyskocil & Ashlee Moreland

## GREETERS FOR DECEMBER

*Greeters should arrive by 8:40am*

Dec. 1 Barker Family  
Dec. 4 Nick & Jule Jarvela  
Dec. 8 Pat & Katie Colgrove  
Dec. 11 Jim & Lori Hebert  
Dec. 15 Warren & Peggy Draeger  
Dec. 18 Herb & Alice Ellis  
Dec. 22 Jim & Lori Hebert  
Dec. 24 4:00 Ron & Brenda Schwiesow  
Dec. 24 8:00 Janet Houle & June Williams  
Dec. 25 Loren & Eleanor Munson  
Dec. 29 Rick & Sandy Nutt

## DECEMBER Ushers

*Ushers should arrive by 8:40am*

Dec. 1 Tim Bauer & Herb Ellis  
Dec. 4 Jim Hebert  
Dec. 8 Curt Harpster & Nick Jarvela  
Dec. 11 Nick Jarvela  
Dec. 15 Brian Klobucher & Don Moreland  
Dec. 18 Paul Osmak  
Dec. 22 Todd Vyskocil & Tate Warren  
Dec. 24 4:00 Henry Truchon & Luke Barker  
Dec. 24 8:00 Loren Munson & Scott Thimm  
Dec. 25 9:00 Ron Schwiesow & Andrew Pruss  
Dec. 29 Dakota Tamke & Randy Spangle

## OFFICIAL ACTS

**Death** - Ken Philaja 11-6-2013

**Baptism** -

Kennedy Jo Williams 11-16-2013

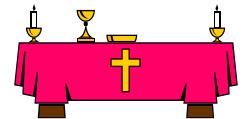
Cadence Rayne Williams 11-16-2013

## DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Karen Wahl 682-4766

Lisa Warren 209-8547

Shayla Warren 209-8547



## Our Prayer Concerns

DECEMBER

### Mission

Zion Lutheran Church  
Little Friends of Jesus Childcare Center  
Jordan Kroll Mission in China

### Thanksgiving

To all of you who have worked faithfully and joyfully to serve our Lord by serving others and often go unnoticed by all but our Heavenly Father.

### Illnesses

Patty Kegel Otto Rusch Riley Bretting  
Clarence Houle Marlene Kerr Matt Raspotnik

### Nursing Home & Assisted Living Resident

Ed & Elna Torkko Corrine Tolliver Sharon Johnson  
Otto & Dorothy Rusch Gloria Mills

### Shut-in's

Gordon & Marianne Vyskocil  
Clarence & Madge Houle Walt Schutte