



# B.A.S.I.C. Newsletter

Brothers and Sisters in Christ at  
Zion Lutheran Church of Mondovi



## January 2025

### *January – and New Beginnings*

At this time each year people get excited about doing an ordinary thing – we replace our old calendar with a new one, starting a brand new year. When I look back on 2024 coming to a close, I am thankful! God has blessed us abundantly this again this year, by His merciful grace! He has blessed our church family at Zion in many ways too. There have been unexpected changes and challenges, but our gracious God has been at work among us and doing many good things.

I'd like to say ***“Thank You!”*** to the members of Zion for all of your support and encouragement while I've been serving as your Vacancy Pastor the last 6 months, and to all of our church leaders, officers and workers for their efforts and service. Thanks are due to many volunteers who shared their time, talents, and resources to help us serve our Lord and each other.

Thanks also to all who inspired us this Advent and Christmas season with their musical gifts, leading our Sunday School children and youth, and other acts of loving service. We look forward to continuing to serve our Lord together in the New Year ahead of us.

What a wonderful miracle we celebrate at Christmas! God, our Creator, became one of us - to be our Savior. He resisted sin, defeated the devil, and conquered death to set us free from those enemies forever. In Christ, God's new creation has begun! We who are joined to Him by faith are given a new beginning as God's sons and daughters.

For us, a new beginning is more than just turning the page on a calendar. Our life is wrapped up in our Lord Jesus who was born, lived, died, and rose again to give us a new beginning in God's grace each and every day. His mercies are “new every morning.”

How do you begin the New Year? By recalling the past? Looking forward to the future? We Christians begin by looking to our Lord as we gather to hear His Word and worship Him. We don't know what changes the New Year 2025 will bring. But we do know that our Lord Jesus is with us always. He is “the Alpha and the Omega” – the Beginning and the End – “Who is, and who was, and who is to come” (*Revelation 1:8*).

We know that just as surely as our past sins and failures are all forgiven in Christ, He is with us now, and our future is secure in His hands.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation” (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17-19).

If you have been given the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, say a prayer of thanks for that on this New Year’s Day. Your confidence and hope are in an eternal reality. As God has told us, He and His grace are “from everlasting to everlasting” (Psalm 90:2). His promises are secure. His love for you will never change. He will be our Emmanuel – “God with us” – throughout the New Year!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Mark Benning

## ***Parish News***

### **What’s going on in the Call Process?**

**On Sunday, December 1st** the congregation voted to call Pastor Kyle Castens. Pastor Castens is currently serving at Immanuel Lutheran Church in the Twin Cities of Festus & Crystal City, MO. We rec’d a letter from Pastor Castens, saying that he is giving this Call much prayer and consideration for both our congregation and his present congregation and “imploring” the Holy Spirit to guide him. He hopes to reach a decision just after the holidays. Please keep Pastor Castens, his family, Zion and Immanuel Lutheran in your prayers.

**Please continue to watch the bulletin for any updates.**

### **Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class**

In January we will begin a series called “*Patient Urgency.*” This series, developed by Lutheran Hour Ministries, will help us think about how we share Jesus with others. Using the Gospel of Mark, we will see how God’s Word works transformation in the hearts of His disciples and those they speak the Gospel to.

**Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!**

## Childrens Christmas Program Service



*His Name Shall Be Called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*



Confirmation Students also assisted in different ways with the Children's Christmas Service.

### ***A SAVIOR WHICH IS CHRIST OUR KING***

#### **Sunday School**

In January we will be learning about Hezekiah, the promised Messiah, Josiah and God's warnings to His people. We have classes for Pre-K through High School ages. We begin at 10:30 each Sunday morning with a group opening in the basement gathering space. We'd love to have you join us!

## Confirmation

During the month of January, we will continue our study of the Apostles' Creed. We will be looking at the second and third articles which focus on Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We will see that Jesus loves us so much he purchased us from all sins. We'll see how the Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel and keeps us in the one true faith. Continue to pray for our kids that they may grow in their faith walk.

## Senior High Youth

We have a few opportunities that will be popping up in January. Watch for information on our Butter Braid fundraiser. Also, watch for information on a "fun" activity this month. Watch your bulletins and email for more information.

## Senior High Youth Gathering

We have 10 (6 youth and 4 adults) who are planning to attend this year's LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. As they look at Hebrews 12:1-3, they will grow in what it means to endure. Pray for our youth as they prepare for this experience. Your support as a congregation is so important!



## The 2025 LCMS National Youth Gathering

will be held in New Orleans. Zion is in the planning stages for this coming summer's event. Held every 3 years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to be

encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

**The Mondovi Area Food Pantry** is searching for a Director. This is a volunteer position. A great team of volunteers run the Pantry, yet a Director is needed to oversee operations. The current Director will work with and assist the new Director. This position is available immediately.

*If interested* in a very fulfilling opportunity to give back to the Mondovi/Eleva/Gilmanton communities, please call 715-926-3115 and leave your name and phone number. Someone will call you back with more details and answer any questions you may have.

## **Zion Lutheran Ladies Society Thursday, December 12, 2024**

The Thursday, December 12 meeting of the Zion Lutheran Ladies Society was held in the fellowship hall. The meeting began at 10:30 a.m. in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen. No business meeting was planned for this the annual Christmas party where the Christmas bags are packed with cookies and gifts for shut-ins with lunch enjoyed by members at a restaurant (this year the restaurant was BUZZ's). But, with the joyful news that LaRae Grotzinger would accept the position of President and Robin Taylor the position of Vice President, a short business meeting was held. The minutes from the November 14 meeting were read and approved. Brenda McKissick gave a brief treasurer's report.

Old Business- The next serving group to serve a funeral is #1. Serving group chairmen were given the 2025 handbook to distribute to the members of there serving group. The Ladies thanked Diane Ashwell for her printing the handbook.

New Business- Jeanne Anderson made a motion to unanimously nominate and elect LaRae Grotzinger for the position of President and Robin Taylor for the position of Vice President, seconded by Deb Hill. Motion carried. With no meeting scheduled for January 2025, the installation of officers will take place at the Thursday, February 13, 2025 meeting. Peggy Waldbillig has accepted the birthday card chairwoman position. Mites were collected. A motion to adjourn. The Ladies filled cookie bags for the Christmas bags and twelve members gathered for lunch at BUZZ's Restaurant.

Respectfully submitted by, Elizabeth Leasum, Recording Secretary

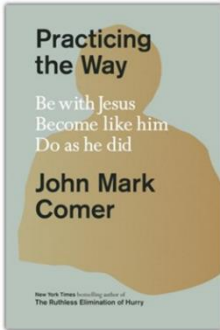


**Adult Choir** – Choir rehearsals will start back up on Thursday, January 9. We rehearse every Thursday from 6:30 – 7:30. Now is a great time to join this awesome group of people. We sing, we laugh, and we learn from God’s Word! We invite you to join us! If you have questions, please contact Jane Reineke or any of our singers.



### **Men of Zion- Saturday Men’s Group**

Our Saturday morning monthly study with breakfast will meet on Saturday, January 11.



We are continuing with the book we started in June - *Practicing the Way*. This is a very practical study on what it means to be an 'apprentice' of Jesus. We are providing this book for all who are interested and want to join us. Please let me know if you need a copy of this book. I will make sure to have one ordered and available for you.

David Reineke

### ***Zion Card Cart***



Oh the weather outside is frightful ☹️  
But puzzles are so delightful 😊  
As long as we find the piece-  
Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.

Brought to you by the Resource Room  
at no cost to you (or anyone). Please

take one home, enjoy, and then exchange for another!  
Don't forget... beautiful cards for all occasions also available.

**The next Church Council Meeting will be January 9, 2025  
at 6:00 p.m.**

**Garms Family Christmas Concert** was on Saturday December 7, 2024, presented by Zion's Evangelism Committee. Once again the Garms Family put on an amazing concert. Approximately 180 attended, filling



our church with love, fellowship, praises to God and beautiful music. Speaking with one of the Garms family after the concert, it was shared with us that they had seen a couple in the audience from Rice Lake. We also know of a couple from Bloomington MN., that joined us that evening, along with many from Eau Claire, Osseo and Durand.

Following the concert, the Evangelism Committee furnished delicious hot cocoa, coffee, meat and cheese with crackers and many sweets. The refreshments were provided by donations from Thrivent, Gunderson's Meat Locker, Eau Galle Cheese and Sam's Club.



The Evangelism Committee is already working on a booking for December 2026.

**Next Evangelism meeting:  
January 14, 2025  
6:00 p.m.**

## Treasurer News

In 2025, the financial reporting in the bulletin will reflect the previous week's offering plate (general and any specific funds). The Offerings EOM-YTD (end of month - year to date) will include offering plate, electronic, and misc. income. Expense EOM-YTD will reflect quarterly, monthly and misc. expenses. For a breakdown of expense categories regarding budget, quarterly reports are available at the Voter's meetings.



## Weekly Counters

It has been suggested that a Head Counter would be good to have when a counter is unable to count, to answer questions about counting situations, and to facilitate the training of any new counters. Let Beth or Deborah know if you have any thoughts on this or wish to volunteer.

Just a suggestion...





**Installation of All Officers**  
**Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday January 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**President:**

Dan Heike

**Vice President:**

Andy Heike

**Recording Secretary:**

Wendi Ashwell

**Treasurer:**

Deborah Deutscher

**Financial Secretary:**

Beth Segerstrom

**Board of Elders:**

Joe Osenga

Matt Mohn

Craig Loschieder

Galen Aase

Gene Schultz

David Reineke

**Board of Trustees:**

Dan Linse

Dan Nowaskey

Mike Ashwell

Joel Lewiston





**Confirmation Students** went caroling at the Washington Street Apartments on December 18<sup>th</sup>. The residents were very excited to see them and enjoyed the caroling and short fellowship time with the young teens.

### **Angel Tree**

Zion's Angel Tree was again a great success. We had 5 families that we, as a congregation, purchased gifts for, either by shopping ourselves or contributing money for the Christian Care Committee to do the shopping. Our Christian Care Committee also sent out Hansen's gift certificates for both Thanksgiving & Christmas 2024. Thank you for contributing in making someone else's Christmas special and showing God's love.



## January Birthdays

1-Dan Nowaskey  
1-Margaret Ronnei  
4-Elizabeth Leasum  
5-Levi Benning  
5-Darlene Gavin  
6-Nicole Fluekiger  
7-J.J. Accola Jr.  
7-Colter Dziekan  
7-Jeffrey Kacures  
7-Jon Seep  
8-Rebecca Lueloff  
9-Josh Parker  
11-Bob Grossell  
11-Meya Haigh  
11-John Switzenberg  
12-Laura Nowaskey  
13-Donna Gifford  
13-Chris Heike  
14-Julie Kacures  
14-Katina Schwartz  
15-Ricardo Aguilar  
16-Renee Weber  
18-Jim Hanestad  
20-Mike Ashwell  
23-Galen Aase  
23-Lynn Bechel  
23-Kaylah Cavit  
23-Bob Nick  
23-Al Parker

24-Juli Dobson  
24-Ava Heike  
25-Jeffrey Allison  
25-Heather Anderson  
25-Lyle Christopherson  
25-Shirley Hayden  
25-Barbara Moyer  
25-Andrew Sessions  
26-Darlene Stuber  
29-Pamela Loechler  
30-Lorraine Dehnke  
30-Jeannie Gums  
30-Tana Mann  
31-KLelly Damrow  
31-Mikinzie Hegg  
31-Craig Loscheider

## January Anniversaries

8-John & Mary Gehrke  
26-Tracy and Aydan Glaus

### Official Acts

Baptism of Maarja Halvorson  
on December 1,  
2024. We pray  
that our Lord wo  
uld richly bless  
Maarja in every  
way as she grows in faith!



### Project Luke 3:11

Once again we have a donation box located in our lobby area under the office window for anyone that has gently used items that they would like to donate to help the less fortunate in our community. This year they are once again asking for winter coats, boots, hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and blankets. The Huberts take their trailer loaded with these items to different places like the food pantries and other places in our area that people frequent to be available for others to get items that will help them through tough times. *“He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise” Luke 3:11*

# Growing in Faith

**Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study** at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us as we dig deeper into God's Word. Everyone is welcome to join us!

**Our Monday Night Bible Study** meets every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. Please feel free to join us.

**Men's Group** will meet again on January 11th. We enjoy breakfast, watch & discuss a video, and encourage one another as men of faith.

**Rachel Circle** is a women's Bible study that meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 1:30 pm. Feel free to join these ladies anytime.

*You are most welcome to Worship*

**Sundays - 9:00 a.m.**

**Wednesdays – 7:00 p.m.**



**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**264 East Main St., Mondovi,**  
**WI 54755**

(715) 926-3664,

Website: [zionmondovi.com](http://zionmondovi.com),

Email:

[office@zionmondovi.com](mailto:office@zionmondovi.com)