

**Mt. Zion Ev. Lutheran Church**

**320 Mt. Zion Dr.**

**Ripon, WI 54971**

***The Sheppard’s Pen***



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**December, 2021**

**Good Tidings of Great Joy.**

Did you hear the news? Did you see the headline? The birth of a child comes with great joy. Family and friends may gather around to see the newborn and to congratulate the parents. Families may post on social media the addition to the family. Pictures are shared and joy is expressed. The infant newly born to the famous family, a movie star or a royal, might receive a headline announcing the child’s birth to the world.

Our Savior was not born to a wealthy or famous family. His human ancestry included kings, but he was not born in a palace. In a stable in Bethlehem the child Jesus was born. His heavenly father did not leave his birth unannounced. He had foretold through the prophets that the virgin would be with child. He was to be born in Bethlehem. Long before his birth, his coming was announced.

On that night, our Savior’s birth was announced. Glad tidings of great joy were given. News was spoken by the angels, a message from the Father. The shepherds saw an angel who terrified them. But the news being brought by the angel was good news - great news - news that would bring joy for all the people. The little child wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger is the Christ-child. This child fulfills the prophecy. This newborn infant will bear the sins of the world. This innocent child came to redeem the world. Good news for all the world. Good news for us. For this reason Christmas is a joyful season.

Other tidings compete with this joyful news. The negative things which occur in the world that are printed in headlines compete. The busyness of the Christmas season, buying gifts, planning vacations and time off from work or school, and many other things, fill our minds. Praising the Christ-child and the heavenly Father who sent him are clouded by these other concerns.

Again we rejoice! We offer hymns of praise to God our Father and to his Son whose birth we celebrate. We gather at church to worship the newborn king. We, like the shepherds, go on our way praising God for all that we have heard. We praise the one who came to endure the suffering that our sin has earned. We rejoice in God our Savior, Immanuel.

*7And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. 8And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.*

*10And the angel said unto them,*

*Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

*13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,*

*14Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.* (Luke 2:7-14, KJV)

**General Announcements**

Since there will be a few different people putting the newsletter together in the coming months, please either give news/articles to Jo Meeker, or email them to the church office at [**mountzionripon@gmail.com**](mailto:mountzionripon@gmail.com)**.**

**Online Offerings**

The app for online giving has changed. Instead of the GivePlus app, those who wish to donate online with a smartphone will need to download a new app called *Vanco Mobile* from either the Google Play Store or Apple App Store. Your login credentials will remain the same with the new app. The GivePlus app will no longer be supported after January 31, 2022; however, **any recurring gift that you have already scheduled will continue to be made without interruption. It appears that members will no longer be asked to cover a fee for each offering.**

You may also continue to donate from the church website using the DONATION button.

**Online Streaming**

We are livestreaming on Facebook Live Sundays at 9:00am. Services will also be uploaded to Rumble (Mt. Zion’s channel is ***mtzionripon***) and the link will be posted on the church website in the VIDEOS subheading under the MEDIA tab. Services will still be available on DVD. Please feel free to contact Pastor Sheppard with questions.

**Clavinova Piano**

Clavinova Piano: We are starting to raise funds for a new Clavinova piano. Our present one is quickly wearing out. The total cost for it is $9,934.00. If you would like to donate towards the instrument, please mark that on your envelope so it goes in the right account. There has been a dedicated account set up for any donations.

**Hook Rug**

A hook rug of the Last Supper has been donated to the church by Kathy Sprague. It belonged to Carol Kapp, who finished almost half of it. If you are interested, let Jo Meeker know when you would like to come in and work on it, and she can arrange for an open door. This could be a nice group project. The rug is in the old 3rd grade Sunday School room by the elevator.

**Poinsettias**

Poinsettias are now available for purchase to help beautify our church again this year. The price is $10.99 and the plants were grown in Wisconsin. A sign-up sheet is on the wall by the flower chart. Also, you may designate a plant as a memorial if you wish. Checks should be made out to Webster’s and given to Marilyn Ninneman. Cash is also acceptable. Any questions, please call her at 748-6474.

**Helping Hands**

If you are interested in helping someone with technology, helping give rides to appointments in Ripon, Berlin, Oshkosh, or Fond du Lac, please let Joanne Gregor know. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please contact Lisa Tremore at 920-229-1297, Tammy Niemuth at 920-299-0240 or Joanne Gregor at 920-896-1518. **If you need assistance of any kind, please do not feel like you are imposing; this is why Helping Hands exists!**

**LWMS**

LWMS Update on contributions to Second Impresssions Thrift Store in Fond du Lac WI. From the Beaver Dam LWMS Circuit President Lois Zellmer: It was very heartwarming to deliver all the donations and check for $930 to Second Impressions.  They were so grateful that we had chosen them as our service project.  Thank you to all the congregations that make up the LWMS Circuit. God Bless!

**Private Communion**

Pastor Sheppard is happy to offer private communion to those who prefer it; simply email him ([revmikesheppard@gmail.com](about:blank)) or call him (920-745-0883) to schedule a time.

**Bible Studies**

For the Sunday study we are watching the first season of the series “The Chosen” and discussing. Monday's study will continue in the book "More Prepared to Answer." Please join us!

**Ladies Aid**

The church cleaning list is now posted on the bulletin board by the office. All members are invited to sign up for tasks to complete at their convenience, and check them off when completed. Thank you for helping with this project!

**New Member**

A person smiling in front of a brick wall

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We are very happy to welcome into our Mt. Zion family, John Biniok.  John is a very friendly young man who actually lives in Mukwonago and works in Milwaukee. John works for Badger Mutual Insurance as a software developer.  He will graduate from college in December from Waukesha Tech.  He did his internship at Badger Mutual and has been hired full time.  John lives with his parents and younger brother in Mukwonago.  What has drawn John to our congregation is his friendship with a current member, Alexee Nitzke.

  John is a big football fan, both on video and in reality. He watches the Packers but is really a fan of the Patriots.  What drew him to the Patriots as a young fan were the red, white and blue uniforms, as John loves his country.  In his spare time John loves to read.  Please take the time to meet this very nice young man and get to know him.

  Welcome to our Mt. Zion family John, and may God bless you.

**Christmas Cookies For Shut-ins**

**Cookies for Shut-ins:** Please bring 1 dozen cookies on December 12th for our shut-ins.  They will be delivered that week.

**Christmas Services**

**Peace:** Peace Lutheran School's Christmas Service is on Sunday December 12th at 3:00pm.

**WLA:** WLA's Christmas concert will be presented on Monday December 13th at 7:00pm and Tuesday December 14th at 1:00pm.

**Christmas at Mt. Zion**

Mt. Zion's Candlelight service will be on Christmas Eve at 6:30pm. There will be no separate children's service, but several children will be involved in the candlelight service.

Christmas Day service will be at 9:00am.

New Year's Eve service with communion will be at 6:30pm.

On the Lighter Side!

**Engaged**



Our member Nathan Tremore got engaged in October to Madyson Stellmacher. Congratulations and may God bless this happy couple!



Ken & Kari Hielke   12/3/1983   38 years

Dennis & Brenda Miiller   12/9/2000    21 years

Donald & Donna Mueller 12/13/1960   61 years

Donald & Joanne Gregor   12/28/1974   47 years

Nick & Caitlin Goeldi  12/31/2016   5 years

Tim & Mandy Kranz   12/31/2008   13 years

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Legrand Stibb 12/1/1939

Carter Samuelson 12/4/2014

Bob Reiser 12/6/1938

Adam Covach 12/8/1985

Tinsley Peoples 12/14/2020

Judy Robbert 12/14/1943

Don Roehl 12/16/1941

Robin Scott 12/16/1961

Dawson Niemuth 12/17/2004

Elijah TerBeest 12/17/2015

Steve Ohlrich 12/19/1952

Connor Isaac 12/21/2017

Patti Worm 12/21/1949

Danica Anderson 12/22/2001

Nick Niemuth 12/23/1985

Dennis Scott 12/23/1959

Nathan Tremore 12/24/1997

Donna Mueller 12/25/1941

Remington Mueller 12/25/2002

Carl Mueller 12/26/1960

Nick Sanchez 12/26/1989

Darla Weber 12/28/1945

Ellie Kantorowicz 12/30/1929

Sally Ehrenberg 12/31/1940

Travis Koch 12/31/1984

Michael Wichman 12/31/1986

Curt Laper

Nathaniel Revels

Renee Schwark

Diagram

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Mt. Zion Messenger

December, 2021

Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

320 Mt. Zion Dr. Ripon, WI 54971

Pastor Michael Sheppard

**Church Email: mountzionripon@gmail.com**

Church Website: [www.mtzionripon.org](about:blank)

Pastor’s Office: 920-748-9734

Pastor’s Email: [revmikesheppard@gmail.com](about:blank)

**Since there will be more than one person assembling the newsletter, please email the church office with news/articles.** Deadline for articles for the January edition is December 23rd, 2021.

***We are always looking for human interest news from our members! If there is any incorrect information, please let us know that as well.***