

# The Tidings

Zion Lutheran Church

December 2024



Normally, by the time you are reading this December Tidings, you will be frantically gift shopping, putting up decorations, and watching the little ones anticipating Santa Claus. Christians around the world will be observing the liturgical season of Advent, or at least they should be. Advent comes from the Latin word “coming” and it is a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of Christ. Remember, however, that it is a preparation and anticipation season of His second coming for us and not as the child born of a virgin. There was an advent of the Messiah fulfilled with Jesus coming as a child, who saved all humankind. We remember His past incarnation as the baby Jesus, but look in the future because our Advent is His promised second coming as Christ Triumphant. In the Lutheran Church there have been many traditions observed during Advent that help Christians to both prepare for and anticipate His coming at this time. Martin Luther encouraged families to observe Advent as a time for them to teach their children about the coming of Christ.

Advent is the beginning of our church year, so on the first day of Advent we also celebrate our new year. Advent always starts on the Sunday closest to St. Andrew’s Day (November 30th) and continues for four Sundays until Christmas. We at Zion will have our church adorned in blue which is the color of anticipation and hope, but some churches will show the color of violet to recognize Advent as a time of preparation and repentance.

Christians in many countries have adopted various traditions of lighting candles during Advent to observe this as the time of the coming of Christ who is the light of the world. One widespread tradition is the use of an Advent wreath both in the church and the home to mark each Sunday in the Advent season. While the origin of this as an Advent tradition dates back to the Lutheran church following the Reformation, the current form commonly used today was developed more recently and is used in many other Christian churches throughout the world. The wreath is made out of evergreens in the shape of a circle to represent eternal life. It consisted of four candles originally: three purple or blue candles to match the liturgical colors and one pink candle lit on the 3rd Sunday in Advent. This 3rd Sunday is known as Gaudete Sunday, meaning “rejoice” in Latin and comes from Philippians 4:4. Lighting this 3rd candle, Christians relax the fast to rejoice that the promised Messiah is coming soon. Many Advent wreaths also have a 5th candle, the Christ candle, which is lit during the time of Christmas, symbolizing that Christ, the light of the world, has entered the darkness.

Another tradition, is the observance of special commemoration days during the season of Advent, namely St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra on December 6th and St. Lucia, Martyr on December 13th. I am sure you recognize St. Nicholas, though most of the world knows him as: Santa Claus now. Regardless of how you celebrate Advent, just make sure you do. Make sure it is not just the lead up to Christmas, because we will have the Christmas Season in all its glory as well. This is a time though to prepare ourselves and others around us for the truth that, Christ our Lord will return. The day and hour should not concern us because we will be prepared at whatever time it might be.

During this very special season, God bless you and your families. Happy Advent, and a very Merry Christmas.

-Pastor Caleb



# Contact us!

**Website:** [www.zionkerrville.org](http://www.zionkerrville.org)

## Staff:

Pastor- Caleb Williams  
Assistant Pastor- John Onstott  
Office Secretary- Brittney Compton  
Financial Secretary- Diane Hartjen  
Children, Youth, and Family- Jonathan & Gloria Shim  
Choir Director/ Organist- Judy Johnson  
Organist: Helen Steele  
Choir Accompanist- Jonathan Shim  
Contemporary Service Director- Dan Stisser  
Music Ministry Assistant- Murphy Heal  
Bell Choir Director- Jim Abbatiello  
Children's Center Director- Jessica Russell  
Nursery Attendant- Baylor Duarte  
Custodian- Freddy Ortegon

## Staff Emails:

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Children's Center: [children@zionkerrville.org](mailto:children@zionkerrville.org)

## *Church Council Officers*

President- Jim Motheral  
Vice President- Leslie North  
Secretary- Debby Jascur  
Treasurer- Carol Green

## *Representatives*

Children's Center- Larry Cattran  
Property- Joel Johnson  
Outreach- Patty Putnam  
Worship & Music- Tammy Myers

## October Attendance

October Attendance: 895  
October Growth: 2.23% Decrease  
Year to Date Total: 9,484

## From Pastor John

### THE HOLY WORK OF CHRISTMAS

May I ask you, what is the Holy work of Christmas? Let's turn to the gospel of St. Luke for the answer: "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, as it had been told them." Luke 2: 20. The Holy Work of Christmas is as it always has been since the beginning: to glorify God!

It is not only pastors who can glorify God, not only laypersons who can glorify God on Sundays, not just missionaries, ministers, priests, rabbis or women of the Bible that can glorify God. How many of us would be shut out from any opportunity of magnifying the Most High if this were the case. No! The shepherds went back to the sheep-pens and pastures glorifying and praising God.

Beloved, it is not the office or position that qualifies one to glorify God-it is earnestness! God is most surely glorified in the stall where the farrier does His work with horses while humming a hymn of the Savior's love. That is far more than a pastor's office where official religiousness performs its duties. The name of Jesus is glorified by the person who gives of their time, talent and treasure as much as any learned theologian.

The shepherds were not educated men. They didn't have books. But if your heart is right you will want to glorify God. Shepherds glorified God and so may you! Remember there is one thing the shepherds had over the Wise Men-the Wise Men wanted a star to guide them, but the shepherds did not. The shepherds went straight to Bethlehem. Simple minds sometimes find a glorified Christ where highly educated people sometimes miss Him.

The way in which the shepherds honored God is worth noticing. They did it by praising Him! Let us think more of sacred songs than we sometimes do. After all, the Angels appeared to them and sang the Gloria!

What is the great goal of all Christian effort? To glorify God! How? "The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me." says the Lord (Psalm 50:23). Let us sing then, my brothers and sisters in Christ! Luther's translations of the Psalms were as much service as his discussions and controversies.

Sing more and murmur less, sing more and gossip less, sing more and complain less, sing more and mourn less.

May God grant us, this Christmas and beyond, as the shepherds, the desire and determination to glorify God by praising Him! Let us each perform the Holy Work of Christmas!

# Worship and Music Notes

## Judy Johnson

My father once asked his congregation, “In worship, who is the director, who are the actors, and who is the audience?” One might say God is the director; pastors, readers, musicians, liturgists, etc. are the actors; and the congregation is the audience. But...in actuality, worship leaders are the directors, those in the congregation are the actors and God is the audience!

A recent article in my devotion book told of Kyle Speller, Team Chaplain of the Denver Nuggets, whose rip-roaring voice announced championship NBA games. As he often said, he was “just doing everything for an audience of One.”

In Colossians 3:23-24, Paul wrote:

***Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,  
as working for the Lord, not for human masters,  
since you know  
that you will receive an inheritance from the  
Lord as  
a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.***

To be honest, this is an issue that musicians sometimes struggle with. I ask God before every service to be with me as I play and help me not to make any mistakes! I have to push aside my pride and give it all to Him. Of course, I want to do well and a lot of rehearsal is necessary; but in the end, God is my audience and I’m glad He is merciful! The Advent/Christmas season is upon us and it’s a very busy time for worship leaders and musicians. I’m praying to keep Christ as my focus, and do everything for an audience of One.

A very blessed and joyful Christ-mas to my Zion family!

# New Members

## Bernadine Dittmar

### Patti Glass

“My husband and I sold our home along with most of our belongings in 2017 to full-time RV. Buckhorn Lake RV Park was our “homebase” and we fell in love with Kerrville. We bought a home here in late 2019 and don’t want to be anywhere else. I have two grown sons; Travis 43 and Cullen 40. Cullen and I are joining Zion together which means a great deal to me. Travis and his family live in Marble Falls; I am blessed with an amazing daughter-in-law Beverly and three healthy, happy, grand children, Charlie 11, Lilly 8, and Hannah 5. I work for the Silver Sneakers Fitness program and have been a remote employee for over 20 years. I love spending time with family and friends, cooking, reading and watching any sports! I feel blessed to have found a “family” to worship with at Zion!”

## A Message from Mark Bigott

Zion Family,

Sharon and I are so grateful for our Zion Family. As many of you know, Sharon has been dealing with serious heart ailments while struggling with Lupus. Our Zion Family has been with us every step of the way! Pastors providing visits, communion, and prayers; Zion Cares providing meals, visits, and flowers; Zion Family members providing food, visits, phone calls, letters, hugs and even money. The list goes on and our hearts overflow! This is what God has called us to do, and we are forever blessed by Zion answering, “The Call”. Thanks also to all those who covered for us in our extended absence in the Kitchen (Fellowship Sunday Morning), Safety Committee, Children’s Message, etc. It’s nice to know our Family has our back, we didn’t even have to think about it! Deepest Love and thanks,  
Mark & Sharon Bigott

Matthew 25:35-36 NIV

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

# Child, Youth, & Family December Edition

**2 TIMOTHY 1:5** “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

**HOSEA 10:12** “Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for *it is* time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.”



As we come together to celebrate the hope, peace, joy, and love throughout the season of Advent leading to the Feasts of The Nativity of Our Lord and Epiphany of Our Lord, Let us be reminded everyday to seek The LORD with all of our hearts in all that we do. As God pours His love on us, we are called to pour that love again upon others. Zion Lutheran Church is blessed to be a refuge for youth of all backgrounds in our community.

**We are looking forward to working with all of the music and worship ministries at our church to present our 2024 Christmas Program  
*Born is The King!***

## **Family Movie & Campfire Fellowship Night**

December 06, 2025 @ 06:30PM

**ABIDE Young Adult Retreat (18+) at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp (Milford, Iowa).**

January 03-05, 2025

**LCMC Texas District 5 Mid-Winter Youth Gathering**

in Victoria - Firm Dates TBA

**LCMC Youth Growth & Leadership Retreat at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp (Milford, Iowa).**

9th-12th grade January 31-February 2nd, 2025

**LCMC Texas Youth Gathering**

July 2025 in Victoria - Firm Dates TBA



# *Born is The King*

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 2024

FIRST SERVICE 9:00AM

FEATURING: CHILDREN OF ZION, BELL  
CHOIR, CHANCEL CHOIR, PRAISE TEAM,  
SPECIAL INSTRUMENTS, AND MORE!

# WOMEN of the WORD

Women of all ages who attend Zion Lutheran Church are members of Women of the Word. Zion's Women of The Word is a Christ centered fellowship for spiritual growth and service to the church and community. Please come join us!

**EVENTS:** Thanks to all women who participated in the WOW Thank Offering Services last month. Special thanks to our speaker, Gloria Shim! Also, thanks to all who helped make our November "Sip and Paint" a success! We will continue selling raffle tickets on Sundays and the winner will be drawn on December 8th.

All ladies are invited to our Christmas High Tea on December 7th at 2:00 pm in the fellowship hall. If you are interested in bringing finger food or cookies, there will be a sign-up list in the narthex. This year WOW will donate new preschool books to the children at Zion Lutheran Children Center. Our goal is 80 books. Please bring your new, unwrapped books to the Christmas High Tea. The children will be delighted to receive a new book!

The WOW board will not meet in December. The next meeting will be on Monday, January 13th at 11:30 am in the conference room. All Zion ladies are welcome to visit.

**Tuesday, December 3rd- Mary/Martha Circle** will meet at noon in the conference room. They will continue with a Joyce Meyer study. Please text Brenda Abbatiello at (830) 496-6608 for more information.

**Thursday, December 5th-Ruth/Rebecca Circle** will meet at 9:30 in the conference room. Their study is [A Women Jesus Can Teach](#) by Alice Matthews

**Thursday, December 12th- Deborah Circle** will meet at 2:00 in the conference room. Their study is [Honesty with God, Learning to pray from the PSALMS](#) by Dan Schaeffer.

**Madalene Circle, and evening circle, meets on the first and third Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm in the conference room.** Their study is A Journey through Time and Faith! They will study the lives of six remarkable women who served the Lord with unwavering faith and courage.

Fellowship Breakfast Group meets on the second Monday each month at 9:00 at Cracker Barrel.

**Zion Cares Ministry:** If you know of someone who might benefit from a casserole or has other needs, please contact Pastor John.

# ZMOB

Zion Men of the Bible have enjoyed a busy month in November. In addition to great food, fellowship, and Bible study during our regular Tuesday meetings, our talents were put to use doing maintenance work on "The Yellow House," which you can see to the right of the parking lot as you exit the church. Projects included painting, refinishing hardwood floors, moving previously stored appliances, cleaning up the backyard, including additional lighting, to use for various events, cleaning out the garage, and finding a new home for several "dormant" items being stored with no other future purpose in mind.

ZMOB meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month in the fellowship hall at 6:30pm. The 1st Tuesday is usually "sandwich night," where each person brings their own sandwich for dinner. A full meal is prepared for the meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The next meetings are scheduled for December 3rd and 17th. Men of all ages are invited to attend and enjoy fine food and fellowship. For more information, please contact John Nielsen at [jwnielsen2014@icloud.com](mailto:jwnielsen2014@icloud.com) (mailto:[jwnielsen2014@icloud.com](mailto:jwnielsen2014@icloud.com)) or 830-928-6758

## Updates

- **Sound/Media Training:** Dec. 5th @ 5PM (open to all)
- **Slide training:** Dec. 5th @ 5PM (open to all)
- **In search of Sunday School teachers-** if interested please contact Gloria Shim

# December 2024

Every Sunday

8:30 Prayer Cell

9:00 Traditional Worship

10:10 Sunday School

11:00 Contemporary Worship

All activities are subject to change

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Advent 1</b> 9 & 11 Communion 6:00 NA	<b>2</b> 9:00 LWR Quilting 12:00 WM AA	<b>3</b> 10:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA 12:00 Mary/Martha Circle 6:00 Magdalene Circle 6:30 Men's Group 6:30 ACA	<b>4</b> 10:00 ZLCC Chapel 10:00 Sistah's Bible Study 11:30 Prayer service 12:00 Womens AA 5:00 Prayer/Advent service 5:00 R.O.C.K. Group 5:30 PotLuck 6:00 Hanging Of the Greens 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Men's Bible Study 7:00 Choir Practice 7:00 AA	<b>5</b> 9:00 LWR Sewing 9:30 Ruth/Rebecca 10:00 LBC 11:00 Foundations Chapel 12:00 NA 5:00 Media Training 5:00 Slide Training 6:00 Praise team rehearsal 7:00 Zion Recovery	<b>6</b> 5:30 AA 6:30 Zion Family Movie/Campfire Night 7:00 Speaker Mtg	<b>7</b> 10:00 AA 10:00 NA 2:00 WOW Christmas High Tea
<b>8</b> <b>Advent 2</b> 9 & 11 Service 6:00 NA	<b>9</b> 9:00 LWR Quilting 9:00 Fellowship Breakfast Group 10:30 Service Juniper Village 12:00 Womens AA 5:00 Zion Cares Mtg	<b>10</b> 9:00 Holy Casserollers 11:30 Staff Lunch 12:00 AA 5:30 Council Mtg	<b>11</b> 10:00 ZLCC Chapel 10:00 Sistah's Bible Study 11:30 Prayer service 12:00 Womens AA 5:00 Prayer/Advent service 5:30 Bring your favorite Soup Potluck 6:00 Christmas Dress Rehearsal 6:30 Men's Bible Study 7:00 Choir Practice 7:00 AA	<b>12</b> 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 LBC 11:00 Foundations Chapel 6:00 Praise team rehearsal 7:00 Zion Recovery	<b>13</b> 5:30 AA 6:00 Family Campfire Fellowship 6:30 ZLCC Christmas Program 7:00 New Member Dinner 7:00 Speaker Mtg	<b>14</b> 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
<b>15</b> <b>Advent 3</b> 9:00 Christmas Program 11:00 Communion 6:00 NA	<b>16</b> 8:00 Quilt Guild 9:00 LWR quilting 10:30 Service Juniper Village 11:30 ZLCC Board Meeting 12:00 Womens AA	<b>17</b> 8:00 Quilt Guild 10:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA Meeting 5:30 Council Mtg 6:00 Magdalene Circle 6:30 Men's Group	<b>18</b> 9:00 Mo Ranch Chapel 10:00 ZLCC Chapel 10:00 Sistah's Bible Study 11:30 Prayer service 12:00 Women's AA 5:00 Prayer/Advent service 5:00 R.O.C.K. Group 5:30 Bring your favorite Soup Potluck 6:00 Caroling 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Men's Bible Study 7:00 Choir Practice 7:00 AA	<b>19</b> 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 LBC 2:00 Deborah Circle 6:00 Praise team rehearsal 7:00 Zion Recovery	<b>20</b> 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	<b>21</b> 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
<b>22</b> <b>Advent 4</b> 9 & 11 Service 6:00 NA	<b>23</b> 9:00 LWR quilting 10:30 Service Juniper Village 5:00 Zion Cares Meeting 12:00 WM AA	<b>24</b> <b>5:30 &amp; 8:00 Christmas Eve Candle light Services</b>	<b>25</b> <b>11:00 Christmas Day Service</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b> 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	<b>28</b> 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
<b>29</b> 9 & 11 Service 6:00 NA	<b>30</b> 9:00 LWR quilting 10:30 Service Juniper Village 12:00 WM AA	<b>31</b> 10:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA	<b>Jan. 1</b> 10:00 ZLCC Chapel 10:00 Sistah's Bible Study 11:30 Prayer service 12:00 Women's AA 5:00 Prayer service 5:00 R.O.C.K. Group 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Men's Bible Study 7:00 Choir Practice 7:00 AA	<b>Jan. 2</b> 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 LBC 6:00 Praise team rehearsal 7:00 Zion Recovery	<b>Jan. 3</b> 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	<b>Jan. 4</b> 10:00 AA 10:00 NA



# Zion Cares

Zion Cares is busy representing our Lord and our Church! We now have new ministries being offered. In addition to the food that we deliver, (thanks to the Holy Casserolers), we now have a flower ministry and a music ministry. Karen Jones heads up our flower ministry and each Monday, flowers left over from the altar flowers or from the Rose Shop, are arranged and delivered to those who are home-bound, hospitalized, as well as our members who participate in the work of God's kingdom, so don't be surprised if you receive flowers! If you know someone who would like a floral offering, please call me or Karen Jones. Another new ministry offered by Laura Veale is one of music. Laura will be visiting folks with her guitar and songbook, playing for them, singing and encouraging them to sing along. Laura, as you know, is part of our outstanding Contemporary Music group and now assists you through Zion Cares. Additionally, we're through the letter T with the privilege of sending "We Care" cards to every one of our members. It is our goal to complete this by December 31st. Laura is also in charge of getting these cards delivered with the help of Brittney in the office. Recently, Zion Cares purchased Bibles for a school Fellowship of Christian Athletes group of 30 kids who didn't have Bibles. Pastor John went to the school and gave them information on how to use their new Bibles and a short history of the Canon of Scripture.

If you need any of the services Zion Cares provides or know of someone who does, even if they're not members of our congregation, please let one of the Zion Cares members or Pastor John know so we can help them in Jesus' name.

Blessings,  
Pastor John

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## Flower Ministry

### With Sincere Thanks and Gratitude

The Zion Cares Flower Ministry is deeply appreciative of the combined effort of the people here at Zion to get this Ministry into "full bloom".

Whether you volunteered to be a driver, flower arranger, donated bud vases or offered your lovely altar flowers to us, together, we have touched the lives of many people both in our church and in our community!

As of November 11th, this Ministry has delivered flower arrangements to 45 people in various walks of life. Some were facing various challenges, some were to show appreciation and some were delivered to let the recipient know that they are being thought of. Guaranteed, if even for a few moments, happiness was delivered and equally as much to those doing the deliveries!

We are always in need of bud vases! If you have any that you would like to donate, please call Karen Jones at (518) 366- 2856. Thank you, again, for your continued support of this ministry .

# Special Events

## SCHEDULE

12|04

5:00 ADVENT SERVICE  
5:30 POTLUCK  
5:45 UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER CONTEST  
6:00 HANGING OF THE GREENS

12|11

5:00 ADVENT SERVICE  
5:30 BRING YOUR FAVORITE SOUP POTLUCK  
6:00 CHRISTMAS MOVIE IN THE CHAPEL  
6:00 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DRESS REHERSAL

12|13

6:30 ZLCC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

12|15

9:00AM BORN IS THE KING  
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

12|18

5:00 ADVENT SERVICE  
5:30 BRING YOUR FAVORITE SOUP POTLUCK  
6:00 CAROLING

12|24

5:30 PM & 8PM CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE  
SERVICE

12|25

11AM CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

# December Worship Assistants

**Ushers:** 9:00 a.m. Suzanne and Franke Wehmeyer, Joe and Debbie McLerran  
11:00 a.m. Bruce and Donna Jenschke, David and Sharon Turlington  
Bob Wilke, Hank Johnson

**Liturgists:** Brenda Abbatiello, Beth Taylor, Carol Greene, Kimber Rhoads

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<b>December 1st</b>	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>Reader:</b> Mark Bigott <b>Reader:</b> Patty Putnam <b>Altar Flowers:</b> <b>Children's Message:</b> Mark Bigott
<b>December 8th</b>	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>Reader:</b> Linda Mann <b>Reader:</b> Amy Jones <b>Altar Flowers:</b> Katy Kappel <b>Children's Message:</b> Shelby Balser
<b>December 15th</b>	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>Christmas Program</b> <b>Reader:</b> Donna Shirley <b>Altar Flowers:</b> Ward Jones <b>Children's Message:</b> M/M Shim
<b>December 22nd</b>	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>Reader:</b> Fran Turner <b>Reader:</b> Helen Johnson <b>Altar Flowers:</b> Poinsettias <b>Children's Message:</b> Shelby Balser
<b>December 29th</b>	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>Reader:</b> Henrietta Keener <b>Reader:</b> Katy Kappel <b>Alter Flowers:</b> Poinsettias <b>Children's Message:</b> M/M Shim

If you would like to provide altar flowers on any Sunday, please sign up on the flower chart in the narthex or call the office at 830-257-8411.

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## Happy Birthday!

12/02 Jill Lucas	12/11 Steven Gloria	12/20 Blayre Harrison
12/03 John Nielsen	Betty Houston	12/21 Jerry Gold
12/04 Bobbie Lee Neuman	12/12 Diane Hemmert	Ricardo Martinez
Jesse Tompkins	12/13 Brendan Flowers	David Van Winkle
12/06 Vicki Bauer	12/14 Debbie Balser	12/23 Richard Queller
12/07 Jean Anderson	Buddy Bell	12/25 Gerard Wolf
12/08 Cathy Bressler	Julia Garza	12/26 Henrietta Keener
Keith Griffin	Hunter McDowell	12/27 Ute Rohleder
Charlotte Newport	12/16 Jim Behrens	12/28 Roland Michel
12/09 JoAnn Falkenberg	12/17 Paige Dittmar	12/30 Cami Feldman
Margaret Tompkins	Donna Shirley	Tinley Moose
	12/19 Jennifer Guthrie	Rebecca Wolf

# What's Happening at Zion Lutheran Children's Center

ZLCC is an outreach ministry of Zion Lutheran Church; serving the Kerrville Community by providing Quality Education in a Nurturing Christian Environment.

## December Birthdays

Zyrah  
Leona  
Analise  
Alexandra  
Jazmyn  
Jacob  
Ms. Brianna J.  
Ms. Sadie  
Ms. Heather



### Special Days in December:

1st- Advent  
21st- Winter Solstice  
24th- Christmas Eve  
25th- Christmas  
31st- New Year's Eve



## Curriculum

Week 1: Holidays Around the World  
Week 2: The Sights of the Holidays  
Week 3: The Sounds of the Holidays  
Week 4: Tastes and Smells of the Holidays



### Bible Focus

Week 1: Happy Birthday, Jesus  
Week 2: The Angels Speak  
Week 3: Away in a Manger  
Week 4: The Wisemen

# Merry Christmas

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, so that whosoever believeth in Him shall have everlasting life.  
John 3:16

ZLCC will be closed December 24th through the 27th.

Merry Christmas



You are cordially invited to Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday Services:

9:00 a.m.

And

11:00 a.m.

Sunday School is at

10:00 a.m.

All are welcome.



Merry Christmas

# Foundations Christian Academy

As we enter the joyful season of Advent, we reflect on the hope, peace, and love that Christmas brings. At Foundations Christian Academy, we are grateful for the blessings of this year and the opportunity to grow in faith together. This month, students will explore the true meaning of Christmas through lessons and carols, embodying the spirit of the season. As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we pray that each family experiences the warmth of His presence and the joy of the season. May God bless you with peace, joy, and love this Christmas and always!

## Important Dates:

- ★ 12/17 Baylor's Birthday
- ★ 12/19 Christmas Party
- ★ 12/19 Pajama Day
- ★ 12/20 No school
- ★ 12/24 Christmas Eve
- ★ 12/25 Christmas
- ★ 12/31 New Years Eve

*"Christmas is not as much about opening presents as opening our hearts."* –Janice Maeditere



## Student Spotlight

For always lending a helping hand and putting others above herself

Krystal Makin

Contact Information for the School  
Email: [faofkerrville@gmail.com](mailto:faofkerrville@gmail.com)  
Phone number: (830)370-1828



## English:

Middle/High School will be finishing their current novel unit and practicing writing letters  
Elementary will be continuing to expand vocabulary and begin Spelling Tests

## Math:

Middle/High School will continue graphing linear equations and begin working on geometric proofs.  
Elementary will begin long division

## History:

Middle/High School will be comparing the American and French revolutions  
Elementary will be talking about pangea and continental drift.

## Science:

Middle/High School will begin studying the periodic table  
Elementary will be talking about our 5 senses.

## Bible:

All students will be taking a look at the first Christmas. We will be discussing why we have the different family traditions we do, and how Christmas would look throughout the different ages. We will also be learning and teaching each other some of our favorite Christmas Carols.

Christmas Break information!

There will be no school between  
12/20/2025 - 1/7/2025



# Mission Moment

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Director of Mission Growth



## Cheering on a Comeback

Like most sports fans, I love a good comeback! There's nothing quite like when a team mounts a comeback after falling hopelessly behind. It is thrilling to experience how the players, coaches, and fans rally to support one another and celebrate each step along the way just to get back into a position to potentially be victorious!

Recently, my wife and I came back: After a six-month absence from the church we attend when in town, we were finally able to come back to worship on a Sunday morning this month. Life and ministry commitments had us on the road since Easter and we truly missed the church that had become family to us. But the comeback we experienced was not personally thrilling for me. Instead, I sheepishly walked through those doors, wondering what people were thinking of us after all this time. I even found myself saying "the prodigals have returned" to one of my friends.

As I began to process it, my experience really bothered me. Why did I feel this way? No one was judgmental at all. Not one person asked, "where have you been?" Many greeted us with joyous expressions of welcome. So why did I, a minister of the Gospel who should definitely know better, feel such guilt and shame? And if I had this intense struggle, for how many others might similar feelings be an obstacle to coming back to church?

As we approach Advent and Christmas, we are more likely to encounter people who may not be in the pattern of attending church regularly. Many may be struggling with intense feelings of guilt and shame even thinking about returning to worship. Some of these feelings may get projected onto other church members, like my thinking we would be judged or looked down on. Other feelings might be more of an internal spiritual battle. Regardless, it is mission-critical for the church to cheer on the comeback.

If you haven't been active in church lately, I want my experience to be an encouragement for you. While the devil will use every trick he can to keep you away from the life-giving experience of a faith community gathered around word and sacrament, trust that God desires your presence and participation. I am confident that you will encounter a loving, welcoming reception by your church family who will celebrate your presence.

If you are a regular worshipper, please enthusiastically support and encourage any and all comebacks! Begin to pray daily for the Holy Spirit to gather those whom the Lord calls to come back to worship. Pray for God to bring to mind specific people to pray for and encourage. Perhaps God is leading you to reach out to someone. Be mindful to not inadvertently contribute to any feelings of guilt or shame. Instead, take an interest in them out of genuine love. Offer to meet for coffee or lunch. Find out what's going on in their lives and how you can pray for them. Consider inviting them to a special event, small group, or service project that gives the opportunity for casual, relational connection. And most importantly, when you see someone new or that you haven't seen for some time, warmly welcome them and simply let them know you are so happy to see them. These simple actions can make a difference as we cheer on a comeback!

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