

Good News from ZION

"People of God gathering around Word and Sacrament"



Zion Lutheran Church of Metropolitan
W4703 Metropolitan Road
Felch, Michigan 49831

*December 2011
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Zion Community Preschool News

Zion Community Preschool needs your help. The fundraising event that was planned for November will be held on Saturday December 3rd from 3:00 – 6:00 pm at the Felch Community Center. ***Everyone is invited to participate in the...***

Spaghetti Feed Craft Sale Bake Sale Silent Quilt Auction

all rolled into one. Don't miss this! Cost for the spaghetti feed is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 5-12 years old, and FREE for those under five years. ***You can help out*** by donating handcrafted items and home-baked goods. Then come and bring your friends to shop and eat.



*Lucas Steinbrecher, Miles, Trenton, Spencer,
and Aunika displaying quilts*

Quilts for the silent auction are on display at Zion. Early bids will be accepted. ***All proceeds go to the Preschool!***

The Preschool also needs your time to volunteer as teacher aides during weekday afternoons. Call the church office at (906) 246-3456 if you are willing and able to help

out. A delightful opportunity to be with some of our community's youngest citizens.

Sunday School Program

Zion's Sunday School Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 11th at 10:15 am. We need your help in rehearsals and in setting up for the program. Please contact Carrie Siegler or call the church office at (906) 246-3456 if you are willing to help.

Santa Lucia

This traditional "festival of lights" will be celebrated at Zion this year after the service on December 18th. The history of this event



McKenna, Miranda, Martha in 2010

apparently contains two streams. One is from Italy, where a young maiden, who refused to marry a heathen, gave up her dowry to feed the poor. She died in 304. The other stream of history comes from Sweden, where one legend tells us that Lucia was the first wife of Adam. "Lucia night" (December 13 in almanacs of a much earlier time) was the longest night of the year and serving hearty breakfasts after such a night was all the more important.

By the twentieth century, the custom had evolved into the processions of white-clad singing girls serving food, an event that is seen throughout many Scandinavian countries in churches, hospitals, museums, and more. Processions of light and food-

bearing maidens anticipate the coming of the babe in Bethlehem.

(see www.Sweden.se for more info)

Christmas Eve Services

A Christmas Eve candlelight worship service will be held on Saturday, the 24th at 7:00 pm. We'll sing (lots!) and enjoy the light as we celebrate the birth of the Light of the World.

A service of prayer and lights will be held at 11:00 pm that same evening. Come and worship in a quiet, more contemplative manner, as we approach Christmas Day.

Poinsettias

If you wish to put poinsettias in the chancel for the Christmas Eve Service or during the Christmas season worship services, please contact the church office no later than Monday, December 19.



We need the information so a complete listing of flower memorials and donations can be included in our worship bulletins. The flowers can be placed in the conference room any time, but no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, December 23. Thank you for helping to beautify our church sanctuary for the celebration of Christ's birth.

Merry Christmas my Friends

Hi Everyone! I can feel the joy of the Christmas Season approaching with all of the preparations and planning going on all around the community and here at Zion. November was another busy month as families continued working together to help grow Zion's' ministry. Now Christians everywhere will engage in a time of ceremony and celebration in remembrance of the coming of the Christ Child born to all of His on earth.

This year, I am not going to talk about the candy canes and the cookie crumbs. Just because I know that I will have my share. But I want to briefly remind everyone regarding the needs of others; the food on their tables, the shelter over their heads; the longing for a missed loved one; the possibility of spending Christmas alone; and especially the hunger to learn and know more about the Christ child.

*I know what my plans are for the Christmas Season, and the other church mice have wonderful plans, too. How about you? Who needs a hug? Who needs an ear? Who needs help? Who might be cold or hungry? Think about these things and more. **Then just do.** I know that you will have a Very Merry Christmas indeed!*

Metro Mouse

The Young Bring on Advent

Young people led the worship service on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, at 10:15 am. These youth spent many weeks helping design and write the scripts and liturgies, selecting the music, and determining which portions of the "standard" liturgy were most important to them. They also brought their own sorts of

energy and styles to the worshiping environment. The idea of “waiting” for the Christ was carried throughout the planning.

Some songs that were new to many parishioners were sung, including “I’m Waiting” and “Amazing Love (I’m Forgiven)”, as well as some old favorites like “Amazing Grace.”

As part of the service, we heard an introduction to the Lord’s Prayer that included a conversation exposing portions of Luther’s Small Catechism. The Apostles’ Creed was presented in an energetic, give-and-take style between a soloist and a street chorus. The gospel text (Mark 13:24-37) was introduced by a brief skit at a campfire that encouraged its anxiety-ridden guests to sit and wait; and the same text was further exposed through a dialogue (sermon) of a reluctant believer, an English-woman (Martha), and her two faith-filled witnesses (Veronica and McKenna).

The service ended with the ancient hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”, sung by the congregation and accompanied by three trumpeters (Gabe, Hunter, and Jonas).



Julianne, AJ, Brogan leading



Sara and Brogan, readers



Preparing for an Advent service



Veronica rapping on the Apostles’ Creed



Tori singing



Hunter, Gabe waiting for Jonas



Haley, Veronica, Claire



Jacob and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor's Corner

A small task force has been studying this congregation's constitution and suggesting portions to be revised. One of the areas that may need work is the definition of a "member" of the congregation. The old constitution laid out criteria for membership, criteria like making a financial contribution or receiving Holy Communion at certain intervals. Probably this definition came from a time of more legalistic or pietistic practices—perhaps some of us are still in this boat? It's good to have clear and concise laws for driving on the highways, for keeping the peace on the streets, and for grading students in academics; but, what about defining membership in a congregation? The congregation is an earthly structure—a certain group of people that come together, to "congregate." But what constitutes a member? Anyone who has congregated at least one time? or is it once a month? or once a year? We end up laying down the law *somewhere* just for the sake of counting members and for determining privileges, like voting in certain meetings.

Besides an earthly body, the church is also a spiritual or heavenly structure, the *ekklesia* referenced by Jesus Himself (see Matthew 16:18) and by Paul many times (see 1 Corinthians 1:2, for example). Who is a member of this heavenly body of saints, those destined for all of time to be in communion with Christ? We are not the judges of who is, and who is not, a member of this body. When pressed, we pretty much agree with this.

But our energy and our attention often rests upon the earthly definition. We like our numbers and we like to have a definite population upon which we can convey the privileges of membership. We celebrate when we “take in” new members. We applaud ourselves for growing the congregation. And, unconsciously, we come in the back door with our judgment of who’s IN and who’s OUT, and, sadly, we often continue operating in that mode throughout our Christian lives.

Where does that leave the outsider? Outside, of course. Outside the fellowship of the church, outside of the means of grace, outside of the sonic spaces of hearing the Word, beyond the radar of even the most evangelical of churches.

What if a member of a congregation were defined as any person who simply *claimed* membership? The application for membership would ask just one question: “Are you a member? Yes or No.” A radical (some might say anarchic) approach? Perhaps. But, it is one that leaves the responsibility for determining membership at the feet of the candidate, rather than in the hands of the church body, a body which often has its own interests at heart. We all know that groups tend to attract and incorporate those who are of similar mindsets and worldviews, similar styles of dress, similar experiences of employment,

marriage, child rearing, etc. (How many different hair-styles do you see amongst the men and women and children of any particular congregation?)

The greatest beneficiaries of this self-appointed membership process may be the already members of the church. Any person is a possible (or actual) member of one’s own congregation. The Sunday morning worship is simply a one time gathering of a portion of God’s holy communion here on earth, and every encounter outside the church building is an encounter with a member (or potential member). Out of the same voice that came the reading of the Psalm comes the words of greeting to the stranger.

What about education? you say. What about adherence to a certain core set of beliefs? What about believing in the “right” things? Don’t we need to keep our strain pure by regulating those who enter our doors? But, who possesses the meter that measures this adherence, this believing? And who of us hasn’t been through times of faith the size of a mustard seed? Who of us hasn’t once or twice wondered about the whereabouts of the power of the Holy Spirit? How would you score in a meter-reading on such a day, or month, or year of your life? Probably a score similar to the Psalmist who declares, “O Lord, where is your steadfast love of old?” (Psalm 89)

We all gather as members of the body of Christ to benefit from the lavishing of God’s grace upon our sinful lives, our guilt-ridden hearts. Hallelujah! for the everlasting loving-kindness that God the Father blesses us all with through the blood of our Savior. See you in worship. Leave any credentials you think you may need at home.

Pastor Joel

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences for parents of confirmation students are being scheduled. This is an important activity for parents and teachers to collaborate with each other as we as a church support these students in their faith journeys. Call the office to schedule. We look forward to hearing from you.

Children's (?) sermons

We all listen up (some in our own way) during the time for "children." Zion is blessed with puppets (thanks Mike and Amber) who come onto the stage at least once a month, its members who cheer them on (see Steve below leading the charge), and a helpful pair of acolytes (Haley and Claire) who serve as costume coordinators in the demonstration of 1 Thessalonians 5:8.



Puppets presenting the Gospel



Pauline, Steve, Ken, Edna, Vernice



Many things to look at!



The helmet and the breastplate

Fortune Lake Camp Events

December 11: 2nd Sunday folk dance

January 8: 2nd Sunday Folk Dance

January 9: Senior Adult day

January 27-29: Winter Wonderland retreat

Youth event in Tomah, WI



March 9-11, 2012 are the dates for the upcoming LCMC district youth event (grades 6-12) at the Three Bears Lodge in Warrens, WI (near Tomah). Peder Eide is

the worship leader, speaker, and musician. Also, catch some Bible study, concerts, mission projects, and more.

First Communion

Fifth-graders completed their five-week series of classes, taught by Becky Nord, and participated in their First Communion at the altar on October 30. We are grateful for these students and for Becky for her dedication and commitment to this process.



Becky Nord, Kaitlyn Cousineau, Emily Forstrom, Samantha Borvan, Alison Mattson, Dugan Mattson, Pastor Joel

Digging into Ephesians

Paul's in prison, but you wouldn't know it (except for a few off-hand references) by reading this short little letter to the church in Ephesus. A wide and cosmic view of the work of Christ throughout the "fullness of time" in the world, in the church, and in each believer, this reads almost like poetry. As we read and study together, discussion ensues. Please join us. No tests, no requirements to participate.

Stewardship News

"Religious formation" is different. Faith communities historically developed stewardship as a practice rooted in the value of social justice. In my experience, people of the new economy are often detached from the communal practice of faith. They are what I call "spiritual samplers," with highly individualistic forms of worship. A 1999 "Business Week" cover article was entitled "Religion in the Workplace." There is a good news/bad news aspect to that article. The good news is that religion is again finding its way into the workplace. The bad news is that spiritual longing, like most other aspects of people's lives, is defined in the workplace, not in the pews of mainline churches.

It isn't that the old story is bad, or no longer true or relevant. The problem is that the old story and new have not yet found a way to come together--not in ourselves, and not in the world. And, it's the new story that's generating most of the money. That story has to be included in the transformation of poverty. How might it happen?

*Re-printed with permission from "Giving".
("A New Story" by P. Y. Klainer)*

Birthdays in December

(Please notify us at the church office at (906) 246-3456 if we've inadvertently missed someone.)

- 1 Cheryl Cootware, Jim Harteau, Noah Boehmke
- 2 Sarah Watt, Randy Dixon
- 3 Tregan Lippens, Jordan Helms, Jacob Nurmi
- 4 Mathew Skogman
- 6 Rochelle Johnson
- 7 Cynda Davidson
- 8 Jessica VanOss, Sara Grenier
- 9 Michael Johnson, Jeanine Hunter

- 10 Kary Sheldon
- 13 Robert Nord
- 14 Miles Lindholm, Angelina Raether,
Samantha Wickman, Mary Blomquist
- 16 Robert Smith
- 17 Brenda Kramer
- 18 Kathy R. Mattson
- 19 Chance Wicklund, Emma Schoenborn
- 20 Logan Alto, Mike Christian,
Anne Cootware
- 22 John E. Mattson
- 23 George McGillivray
- 28 Lucille Stephan
- 29 Lucas Davidson, Taylor Steele,
Fran Hood, Grace Dynes
- 31 John E. Cootware

Janet Lee Dean Memorials

Loretta LaForest; Warren & Betty Wickman; Patricia, Ray & Maria Dean, Dean Ruohomaki, Chester & Betty Dawson; Roger & Pat Bomquist; Sharon Sheppard; Ben & Doris Smithson; Harold and Nina Johnson; David & Mary Lou Blomquist; Norma Anderson; Vernon & Janice Anderson; Arne & Mary Blomquist; Brian Anderson; Dale & Rose Siegler; Ruth Ann Wicklund; Merle & Michelle Gustafson; Leon & Kathy Grunlund; Herb & Carol Lantz; Blanche Lantz; Anna Wickman; Ruth Kouvelis; John & Cheryl Cootware; Glen & Gail Palmer; William Paulic & Family; Jack & Donna Cootware; Kathy Clemo; Krisanne Dennocenzo

Church Council highlights

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Vice-President Bob Mattson. Other members present were: Mark Anderson, Steve Anderson, John Anderson, Mary Jane Bloom, Paulette Holmes, Dick Lindholm, David Mattson, Dan Nurmi and Pastor Joel

Smeby. Absent were: David Grunlund, Dan Helms and Dorn Siegler. Pastor Joel opened with prayer.

- The Evangelism committee report prompted a discussion about costs to complete the member directory project and to order additional directories (to be distributed to new members, visitors, etc.).
- There was a brief discussion about renaming church committees (Worship and Music, Evangelism, etc.) “teams.” The task force on reviewing and revising Zion’s constitution is asked to consider this change.
- The Worship and Music committee reiterated the need for headset mikes rather than lapel mikes to improve sound transmission. They are working with Music Tree in Iron Mountain to determine next steps in improving our sound systems.
- There was a discussion about the Santa Lucia tradition at Zion, its origins, its placement within the service. Pastor will consult members of the congregation for their opinions before a decision is made.
- The definition of “member” in the existing Zion constitution was discussed at length. It was concluded that the task force reviewing and revising the constitution should focus first on the definition of “member” so that congregational voting at the annual meeting will be valid.
- A list of six candidates for the Zion Preschool Board of Directors (as defined in the bylaws recently approved the Council) was presented to the council. Those candidates recommended for the board were Cynthia Smeby, Michelle Mattson, Claude Siders, Karen Helms, Jolene Kramer and Pastor Joel. By voice vote, the council voted to accept these six as members of the Board. It was also

noted that the Director of the Preschool is to serve as *ex officio* member of this Board. A parent-teacher organization (PTO) is also being formed, led by Amber Lindholm, to continue the work of fund-raising, parent communications and input into the business of the Preschool.

- Pastor Joel requested that the Council encourage the congregation to come and support the upcoming service organized and led by Zion's young people, to be held November 27th, the first Sunday of Advent.

Serving in December

Lector: Dick Lindholm

Altar: Dayna Mattson; Erin Raether; Edna Mattson; Barb Edberg; Robin Strauss

Greeters:

December 4: Warren & Betty Wickman
 December 11: David & Amanda Grunlund
 December 18: Mike & Dominic Christian
 December 24: Mark & Tina Anderson
 December 25: Dan & Karen Helms

Ushers: Cheryl and John Cootware

Communion Ushers:

Kathy and Leon Grunlund;
 Cheryl Cootware and Karin Dixon

Communion Assistant: John Cootware



Haley and Claire up front

Acolytes and Bell Ringers:

December 4: Claire, Tori, AJ
 December 11: AJ, Hunter, Claire
 December 18: Martha, Veronica, Jacob
 December 24: Haley, Brogan, Julianne
 December 25: Cassie, Sara, McKenna

Home communion: Pastor Joel

Prayer Calendar

(Suggestions for daily prayers)

1 Thursday

Brad, Gail, Bradley, Cassie & Kylie Gustafson; PRINCIPE DE PAZ Church, Miami, FL, Rev. Dr. L. Gallardo

2 Friday

Esley, Kathy, John & Jacob Gustafson; Radiant Church: A Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ, Garden Grove, CA, Pr. J. King

3 Saturday

Kenneth Gustafson; those who attend the 'spaghetti feed plus' for the benefit of Zion's Preschool/Daycare program and the staff and children who participate in the program; Red Hill Lutheran Church, Tustin, CA, Dr. S. Britton

4 Sunday

Merle & Michelle Gustafson; Zion's Sunday School and Bible Study participants and leaders as they meet today; Zion's worship and music committee as they meet today; Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Des Moines, IA, Pr. R. Paulsen

5 Monday

Pat Gustafson; Zion's quilters as they meet today; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Estherville, IA, Pr. W. Baker

6 Tuesday

Dennis & Jo Hagey; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Owosso, MI, Pr. D. Woodby

7 Wednesday

Peggy Hamby; Zion's confirmation students, youth group and leaders as they meet this afternoon and evening; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Findlay, OH,

Pr. W. Geiger
8 Thursday
 Sandy & Dennis Hamby; Redeemer
 Lutheran Church, Fridley, MN,
 Pr. D. Glesne
9 Friday
 Doug & Emmy Lou Harder; Redemption
 Lutheran Church, Manhattan, KS
10 Saturday
 Jim Harteau; Reformation Lutheran Church,
 Midland, GA
11 Sunday
 Joe Harteau; Zion's Sunday School and
 Bible Study participants and leaders as they
 meet today; Rejoice Lutheran Church,
 Dundas, MN, Pr. D. Clites
12 Monday
 Tom Harteau; Zion's quilters as they meet
 today; Zion's evangelism committee as they
 meet tonight; Reserve Lutheran Church,
 Reserve, MT, Pr. J. Grefe
13 Tuesday
 Nick, April, Jessica & Jason Harwath;
 Resurrection Christian Community Church,
 Bluffton/Hilton Head Island, SC,
 Pr. L. Stubbs
14 Wednesday
 Marvin Hassenfeldt; Zion's confirmation
 students, youth group and leaders as they
 meet this afternoon and evening;
 Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church
 of the Western Reserve, Stow, OH,
 Pr. L. Bobb
15 Thursday
 Christian Helms; Resurrection Lutheran
 Church, Alpena, MI, Pr. S. Meier
16 Friday
 Dan & Karen Helms; Resurrection Lutheran
 Church, Mitchell, SD, Pr. J. Hansen
17 Saturday
 Shawna Hillock & family; Resurrection
 Lutheran Church, Springfield, OR,
 Pr. D. Vaughan
18 Sunday
 Ruth & George Hirn;
 Resurrection Lutheran Church of South

Central Minnesota, Mankato, MN,
 Pr. G. Lenz
19 Monday
 Allen, Vanessa, Steven & Grace Holmes;
 Zion's quilters as they meet today; Zion's
 Church Council as they meet tonight;
 Richland Lutheran Church, Richland, WA,
 Pr. S. Ernst
20 Tuesday
 Michael & Paulette Holmes;
 River's Edge Ministries, Mt. Airy, MD,
 Pr. K. Moorman
21 Wednesday
 Pauline Holmes; Zion's confirmation
 students, youth group and leaders as they
 meet this afternoon and evening; Rodnes
 Lutheran Church, Erskine, MN, Pr. P. Satren
22 Thursday
 Todd & Judy Hyland & girls; Romsdal
 Lutheran Church, Hudson, SD,
 Pr. N. Hanson
23 Friday
 Ai Ikeda; Rushford Lutheran Church,
 Rushford, MN, Pr. R. Michaelson
24 Saturday
 Norma Isaacson; Sacred Word Lutheran
 Church, Mobridge, SD, Pr. D. Westerlund
25 Sunday
CHRISTMAS DAY
 Pastor Bill & Melzee Jacobson; Saint Paul
 Lutheran Church, York, PA,
 Pr. P. Gausmann
26 Monday
 Jake Jacobson; Salem Evangelical Lutheran
 Church, Salisbury, NC, Pr. D. Hefner
27 Tuesday
 Karie, Jeff, Makenzie & Miranda Jacobson;
 Salem Lutheran Church of Oxford, North
 Branch, MN, Pr. M. Seel
28 Wednesday
 Gordon & Debbie Jacobson; Salem
 Lutheran Church of Roland, Roland, IA,
 Pr. D. Sandmann
29 Thursday
 Kevin, Krista, Kailey & Khloe Jayne;
 Scandinavia Lutheran Church, Scandinavia,

WI, Pr. M. Sabin

30 Friday

Amy Johnson; Scobey Lutheran Church,
Scobey, MT, Pr. P. Landeraaen

31 Saturday

Betty Johnson; Shalom Community
Lutheran Church, Starbuck, MN,
Pr. R. Worner

*(Please notify the church office at (906) 246-3456 if you'd
like to be part of Zion's prayer chain ministry.)*

Photo Album Update

The Evangelism Committee continues to work on the congregation's pictorial directory.

For those who did not have their picture taken but would like to submit a picture for the album, there are a couple things you need to know. First, if you are submitting a professional picture not taken by Olan-Mills, you must have a copyright release signed by the photographer or photographic company who took the photo. Olan-Mills will not print photos without the signed consent. You may obtain a copyright release form from the committee.

Secondly, if you are submitting your own picture, it should be the best quality ***glossy*** photo or ***digital image*** available. Write your name(s) on the back of your photograph lightly with a pencil or ball-point pen. Be careful not to damage the photograph by applying too much pressure with the pen or pencil. Matte finish photos do not reproduce well and instant camera photos as well as pictures made on a copier will not be accepted by the company.

Thirdly, we will need your name and address as you wish them listed in the directory. Some people choose to use their formal given name while others chose to use their more commonly used nickname. We

also need your phone number(s) unless you choose not to have them in the directory. You may submit any of these things to a committee member or simply turn it in at the church office.

Devotional Booklet Update

We missed the mark in gathering up enough devotions from our members and friends in order to compile a booklet for this season, ***but***, keep the devotionals and testimonials coming! We are hopeful that at some time in the near future enough devotionals will be submitted so that another booklet can be printed.

Angel Tree Prison Ministry

The Angel Tree program is affiliated with Prison Fellowship and is a national ministry to reach out to children of prison inmates. The Evangelism Committee is coordinating Zion's response to the needs in our area. We are purchasing and sending off gifts to children this Christmas season. You may check with any committee member to see if there are still names available. Also, one family on our list has a Cooks, Michigan address. Gifts are usually delivered in person, however, Cooks is a long distance to travel to deliver these gifts. If anyone would be traveling in that direction in the days before Christmas and would be willing to deliver these gifts, please let someone on the committee know (Edna Mattson, John Anderson, Kathy Grunlund, or Fran Hood).

Zion Preschool Thanksgiving Program

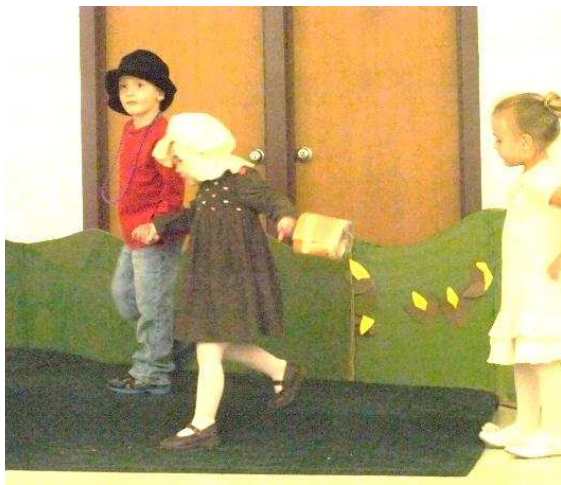
Zion's Preschool students entertained their parents and friends on Thanksgiving eve,

November 23 at the North Dickinson school facility. The theme of their presentations and song were nursery rhymes. Thanks to Anna Christian and the staff of the Preschool for their work with these children.

The Preschool's *Christmas* program is coming up on *Wednesday, December 21st at 6 pm* in the North Dickinson School Commons Area. Please join them. It will really put a smile on your face...and theirs.



Hailey, Mary Grace, Spencer, Trenton, Natalie



Jack (Miles) & Jill (Natalie Conery), Mary Grace.



Hey Diddle Diddle with Natalie, Miles, Mary Grace, Michael Wolfenberg



Trenton as a Little Dog who laughed.



Spencer as Old King Cole's Fiddler

Women of Zion (WOZ) update

- Serving groups: The Princeton group is being combined with the Felch, Foster City, Hardwood group, for the time being, in order to increase the numbers for those groups when asked to serve.
- The results of the Special WOZ Meeting held on Sunday, October 16th were discussed. The proposed bylaw amendments were passed. The following women were elected to office: Kathy Grunlund and Becky Nord, Co-Presidents; Cynthia Smeby, Recording Secretary; and Carrie Seigler, Nominating Committee.
- The type of information broadcast in the prayer chain was discussed. It was thought that the specific information that sometimes is included in the messages may represent an invasion of privacy and may potentially pose a liability risk for the church. After discussion, it was decided that only general information should be given out, e.g. “health problems”, “family loss”, etc. This decision will be disseminated to the congregation via usual means, including the Sunday bulletin and monthly newsletter.
- The *Family Ties* visit was held on Tuesday, November 16th at 12:30 pm at the adult day care center in the Crystal Lake Community Center. The theme for the day was “hunting” and all things “wild”. The ladies from Zion wore blaze orange and entertained the participants, and provided snacks, including venison sausage, cheese and crackers. Plans for the Christmas visit on Tuesday,

December 20th at 12:30 pm, include some caroling and gift-giving.

- December visitation plans and gifts for shut-ins were discussed. There were no persons yet assigned to do visitation for December at the time of this meeting. Loretta LaForest will take care of the Christmas gifts to shut-ins (and Family Ties), Loretta has accomplished this in the past and does a great job. She will be doing the shopping again this year.
- ***Coffee Hour Schedule***
December 4: Preschool/Noisy Offering
December 11: M69-I serves; Princeton, M69-II clean-up (alternatively coffee hour served by M69-I)
December 18: High School youth
December 25: (No coffee hour)
January 1: (No coffee hour)
January 8: M69-II
- NO QUILTING on Monday, December 26. Quilting will resume January 2.
- The next WOZ meeting will be held on ***Wednesday, December 14th at 6:30 pm*** in the church conference room. Tana will chair.

Christmas Bazaar at North Dickinson School

There will be a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 17th from 10 am-4 pm. Booth spaces (to sell food, crafts, quilts, baked goods, home products, business items, etc.) are still available for rent if you or your organization is interested. For more information, please contact ***Vicki Lindholm*** at 542-9281 (at School) or email ndholidaybazaar@gmail.com

Community happenings



Grace and Laurie

Laurie Balmes looks on as Grace Mattson finds a book to read in the newly remodeled library at North Dickinson School. Laurie works in the ND libraries assisting students in finding reading material as well as helping with the upkeep and maintenance of the library media. Grace is the daughter of David and Christy, granddaughter of Bob and Kathy Mattson.



Dickinson County Community Chorus (DCCC)

The DCCC celebrated the Christmas Season in a concert, "Sounds of Christmas 2011," on November 28 and 29 in the Kingsford High School auditorium. Area participants included Diane Mattson, Jeanne Johnson and Paul Schuiteman.

Dominic Christian was named recently as Mid-Eastern Conference Defensive Lineman of the Year. Brad Gustafson was chosen as kicker, Dillon Dario at tackle for the Offensive pick and Dominic at running back. Congratulations to all of the ND players on their success this past season.

Veterans' Day at ND School

Veterans' Day, November 11, was celebrated at North Dickinson schools in an afternoon program that was complete with color guard (led by Jacob Straus), the concert band, and chorus. The "Star Spangled Banner" was sung, theme songs of each branch of the military were played, gifts were presented to each veteran by fourth-graders dressed in military garb, poetry was read, cake (baked by Ruth Ann Nord) was eaten. Jim Edberg called off the names and dates of service for each of the veterans, a few of whom are seated below.



*Gordon Johnson, Steve Pittas, Carlton Cook
(Betty Cook, Blanche Lantz, Barb Edberg, too)*

"You ~~Can't~~ Can Teach an Old Dog New Tricks"

The Women of Zion invite you to an evening Christmas luncheon and program. The presentation will be provided by David and Mary Lou Blomquist and is offered to men and women of all ages. Special music will be provided by Clayton Dixon, along with a few Christmas Carols.

A portion of the program will be in tribute to Janet Lee Dean, who helped to plan the

program. A writing in her memory will be read by her daughter Krisanne. Bring a friend along for an evening of faith, fellowship, and refreshments on Wednesday, December 7th at Zion, beginning with a light lunch at 6:30 pm. The program will start at 7:00. Offerings will be donated to the Beacon House of Marquette, a private, non-profit hospitality organization that provides housing for patients receiving medical care and for their loved ones. Please join us.

News about Africa



In November, members from the African congregation of the Kijitonyama Lutheran Church visited Our Savior's Lutheran in Iron Mountain. Women from Zion had the privilege of presenting them with 30 of their famous "pillowcase" dresses and the visitors were very happy to take them back home with them. Kijitonyama Lutheran Church, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, is a sister church of Our Savior's.

*Dear Friends at Zion,
We have returned from a very good trip to Tanzania. We attended the graduation of over 1000 students at Tumaini University in Iringa and were given the opportunity to address the assembled thousands of students, faculty and families. We met with many of our friends from our years there, presented the pillow case dresses and other*

gifts to the children at the Huruma Lutheran Diocanal Centre (Lutheran Orphanage in Iringa), saw some of the sights the usual tourists see and had many other wonderful experiences. I have attached a picture of the



little girls in their dresses. They put them on over whatever they had on at the moment so they look a little bulky. One little girl was given a tee shirt and dress that were too big but refused to exchange them for something smaller because she liked them so much. We also bought shirts for the little boys who had patiently sat watching the girls get their dresses.



The second picture is of an event that happened when we visited with the Provost of Tumaini University, Professor Bangu. When Arne was provost, he was presented with a picture of his aunt, Gundhil Blomquist who was widely known as "THE MISSIONARY LADY". This was on the occasion of the dedication of the dormitory

funded by Zion Lutheran Church. Arne put the picture of "Aunt Gundy" on his wall. And as we found, the current Provost, provost since 2000, still has her picture on his wall. "Yes he said, she is still here." So he took Gundy down so he and Arne could have their pictures taken with her.

*Enjoy,
Mary and Arne Blomquist*

In Memoriam



Dorothy Overacker
March 7, 1921 – November 27, 2011

Dorothy E. Overacker, 90, of Felch, died Sunday, November 27, 2011 at Hyland Nursing Home in Iron Mountain. She was born on March 7, 1921 in Felch, the daughter of the late William and Esther (Hansen) Cook.

Dorothy graduated from Felch High School in 1938. She moved downstate to work at the Willow Run Assembly Plant during World War II. Dorothy married Stanley Overacker in Ann Arbor in 1944. He

preceded her in death in 1959. Following his death, Dorothy moved back to Felch.

She was the bookkeeper at the Felch Co-op for many years. Dorothy was a beautiful seamstress, sewing costumes for a ballet company, many wedding dresses and Baptismal garments for her church. She was an active and lifelong member of Zion Lutheran Church. Her mission activity included work with the Ladies Aid, as a Sunday school teacher, as a member of the church choir and as a Zion quilter. Dorothy also knitted items for soldiers and newborn babies.

*Dear Pastor Joel,
Dorothy Overacker has passed on to that place not made with hands eternal in the Heavens. This is a great loss to all of us at Zion.*

She was our seamstress and friend for many years.

Dorothy was so kind. It took her two years just to tell me that my favorite shirt was beyond repair. I could sense her pain when she had to tell me there was nothing left to put a needle through.

If ever God needed to create an especially kind and wonderful woman, Dorothy would be the perfect pattern.

Part of the character of our environs has been greatly diminished by her loss.

Those who come after will never know what a large contribution she provided to the heart of our community.

*Sincerely,
Alex & Sally Lukats*

*Zion Lutheran Church of Metropolitan
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