



December 2019 Newsletter

All the news that's fit to print from A to Zion

Zion Lutheran Church

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Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00am-2:00pm

Staff

Nathan Gragg
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Nathan@zionlexsc.com

Walt Hampton
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Education, and
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Walt@zionlexsc.com

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**Rooted in Christ
Growing in Faith
Reaching Out in Love**

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Waiting for the Day of the Lord

During the season of Advent we focus on the ways we Wait for the Lord, hoping for the time when God accomplishes all God has promised. On Sundays in Advent we will think together about that for which we hope.

Waiting for the Day when . . .

. . . Swords are turned into Plowshares

(based on Isaiah 2:4)

First Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 1

. . . the Wolf lives with the Lamb

(based on Isaiah 11:6)

Second Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 8

. . . Streams of Water break forth in the Desert

(based on Isaiah 35:6)

Third Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 15

Christmas Canticles – A Cantata of Carols Sunday, December 22

The Zion Choir presents a Cantata of classic carols and beautiful new songs. **ONE** worship service at 11:00am

First Sunday of Christmas Sunday, December 29

A Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas
ONE worship service at 11:00am

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT ZION
4:00pm and 8:00pm, see page 2 for details...

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT ZION

Tuesday, December 24

Joy

4:00pm – Family Christmas Worship, A casual and kid friendly time of worship for all ages will include Children's Sermon, favorite Christmas carols, Holy Communion, and interactive elements for wiggly little ones. Nursery provided.

Peace

7:30pm - The Music of Christmas, Pre-service music featuring handbells, vocal soloists, and instrumental offerings to bring joy to your heart and get you in the Christmas spirit. Come early to get a good seat and enjoy the music of Christmas.

Love

8:00pm - Christmas Candlelight Worship, Our festival Christmas Eve worship will include special music, favorite Christmas carols and hymns, Holy Communion, and candle lighting with the singing of Silent Night. Nursery provided.



Zion Family Christmas
Variety Show

Share your gifts with us! Zion Family Christmas Variety Show Sunday, December 15th at 4:00pm

Zion will again be hosting a Christmas Variety show this year. Start practicing now and let Jamie Hampton or the church office know what you are doing for our variety show this year.

If you missed out last year this is definitely worth marking in your calendar now. Last year we had singing from Zion family of all ages, comedy, storytelling, and a special story time for the kids. So share your talent with us or just come and enjoy being surrounded by the warm holiday cheer of your church family. A reception with cookies and hot chocolate will follow the show in the Narthex.

Office: 803-356-2297 - Jamie: jhampton229@gmail.com



Exciting News for Hilltoppers!

It's time for our Christmas Fellowship on December 11th! We will gather at 11 a.m. with devotions and Christmas carols. A Chinese gift exchange promises to be filled with laughter and a bit of naughtiness. Santa's special elf is honoring us with a catered lunch. We look forward to seeing everyone wearing their most festive Christmas sweater with a fun gift to exchange. Hilltoppers is a faith and fellowship ministry for our senior members, join us all are welcome! Questions? Contact Janice Sult (791-9692) or Mary Nell Panyard (796-8001).

Young Adult Bible Study will meet this month on Tuesday December 3rd and 17th at Jamie & Walt Hampton's House (1222 Maiden Lane Columbia 29205). Join us at 6:30pm for a light meal, fellowship, and bible study together. The group is focused on college age and recent college graduates. (But we're not limiting our group all are welcome!) Contact: Walt@zionlexsc.com



Youth Christmas Caroling Friday December 13th

Meet at Zion for Pizza at 5:15pm We will leave to carol by 6pm. Following caroling we will have a youth Christmas Lock-IN at the church. A lock-in is when the youth are "locked into" the church for the night. Together we will stay up too late, play games, do bible study, and eat junk food. Pickup will be Saturday morning.

I will need a head count beforehand so we can plan for enough vehicles to carol and food for the lock-in. Please let Walt know **by December 8th** if you will be joining us for caroling and Lock-in.

Please wear festive clothing that is warm enough for going in and outside, there will be a quiet space for those that want/need their sleep please bring sleeping bag/pillow. Questions? speak to Walt: walt@zionlexsc.com

PARENTS: If you'd like to help drive please let Walt know.



The Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm in the choir room. All are welcome!

Handbells meet each week at 6:15pm in the sanctuary. Come ring with us!

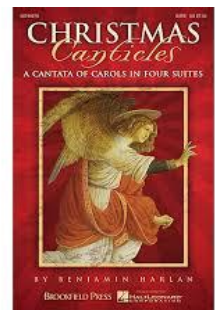
****There will be no rehearsals the week following Christmas.****

If you have any questions, or if you'd like to share your musical talents in some way, please contact Julie at julie@zionlexsc.com.

**My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast;
I will sing, yes, I will sing praises! Psalm 57:7**

It's Almost Time!

- On Sunday, December 22nd, during the 11:00am worship service, we will present *Christmas Canticles: A Cantata of Carols in Four Suites*. Please make plans to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!
- Musicians and singers, it's not too late to volunteer to provide special music for our Christmas Eve worship service. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Julie at julie@zionlexsc.com.



Fun Facts About Some Favorite Carols

- While we associate *Jingle Bells with Christmas*, the song was written by James Lord Pierpont to celebrate Thanksgiving.
- The first Christmas song to mention Santa Claus was Benjamin Hanby's *Up On The Housetop*. Written in 1864, Hanby was inspired Clement Moore's 1823 poem "A Visit from Saint Nicholas."
- *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* is one of the oldest Christmas hymns to still get airplay. Originally composed in Latin during the twelfth century, it was translated into English by John Mason Neale in 1851.
- Irving Berlin hated Elvis Presley's version of *White Christmas* so much that he tried to prevent radio stations from playing Presley's cover.
- In 1906, a violin solo of *O Holy Night* was the second piece of music to be broadcast to ever be broadcast on radio.
- *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* and *Joy to the World* are two of the oldest English language Christmas hymns, originating in the 1700s.



Merry Christmas!



Worship and Music

Serving This Month

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Acolyte Crucifer	Krystall Henwood Ainsley Ellisor	Hannah Elrod Caroline Beck	Bryleigh Tanner Kaylee Keisler	Conner Rhoden Shelton Rhoden	Addie Phillips Nolan Phillips
Assist. Minister	8:30 - Janice Sult 11 - Bridgett Ridgell	8:30 - Janice Sult 11 - Bridgett Ridgell	8:30 - Janice Sult 11 - Bridgett Ridgell	8:30 - Janice Sult 11 - Bridgett Ridgell	8:30 - Janice Sult 11 - Bridgett Ridgell
Communion Assistants	Burns Corley Sara Rymer	Carolette Turner Darlene Weight	Lee & Denise Caulder	Sue Anderson Eileen Leaphart	Susan Shumpert Jan Corley
Altar Flowers	Chrismon Trees	Chrismon Trees	Chrismon Trees	Chrismon Trees	Chrismon Trees
Reader	Anna Reeside	Steve Shumpert	Troy Fite	Ann Mohrmann	Will Reeside
Nursery Attendant	Betsy and Riley Burn	Donna Corley Emma & Layla B.	Evelyn Varn	Jan Corley	Abby & Tyler Beard
Children's Church	Nikki Harmon	Wendy Nesmith	Nikki Harmon	Jamie Hampton	Jamie Hampton
Coffee And Fellowship	Christian Education	Open Slot Sign Up Now!	Kathryn Barton Jill & Jeff Beck	Varns, Corleys, Wingards	Open Slot Sign Up Now!
Ushers	Dave McKinley, Chris Harmon, Joel Kleckley, Suzanne Riley Whyte				
Chancel and Sacraments	Darlene Weight, Althea Hendrix, Wanda Wingard				
Offering Counters	Russell Grant, Karyn Stoneberg, Bob & Laura McCombs				

Don't see your name? Interested in helping out?

We are always looking for Sunday servers as backup and to add to next year's schedule.
Please contact Walt if you'd like to help or know more.
Walt@zionlexsc.com 803-356-2297



In our Prayers

Current Needs

Roger Anderson
Barry Granda
Melba Ivey
Thomas Kleckley
Jane Langston
Ron Lindler
Warren Peebles
Rachael Rhoden
Sara Rymer

Homebound

Barbara Brown
Les Caton (Brian Center)
Bruce Corley (Carolina Gardens)
Nellie Drafts
Nila Keisler (Lex Extended Care)
Thelma Kleckley (Oakleaf)
Ben Linder (Generations Chapin)

Military

Brett Creasman (Army)
Burton Flake (Army)
Matt Mayer (Air Force)
Rhett Oliver (Army)
Chris Rauch (Army)
Zachary Willis (Navy)

Friends of the Congregation

Walter Baker (friend of Betty Baker)
Lynn Balch (health, wife of Craig Balch)
Janet Bentz (sister of Walt Hampton Sr)
Ronald Buff (health, cousin of B. Corley and E. Leaphart)
Shannon Catoe (heart surgery, relative of Betty Baker)
David Cole (leukemia, Lee Caulder)
Larkin Corley (heart health, brother of Eileen Leaphart)
George Marion Drafts (health, brother of Betty Shaw)
Doris Gardner (cousin of Betty Baker)
Natasha Gorham-Jackson (family health friend of D. Weight)
Noreen Hamm (liver transplant, friend of Geri Nilsestuen)
Arthur Holladay (heart health, uncle of Bonnie Phillips)
Pam Holladay (health, mother of Bonnie Phillips)
Colin Hungerpiller (health, friend of Stefanie Wingard)
Jessica Seriah Housley & family (cancer)
Sue Jaeckel (cancer, friend of Geri Nilsestuen)
Cynda Johnson (cancer, sister of Carol Hunter)
Shelly Koenig (cancer, daughter of Tom Panyard)
Lenita Krall (cancer, friend of Geri Nilsestuen)
Frances Link (Dementia, relative of Henry Phillips)
Elaine Davis Long (cancer, stepmother of Janet Phillips)
Margaret Mabe (friend of Ethel Riley)
Russell Meetze (cancer, family of Edith Clark)
Brooke Melton (cancer, friend of Janet Phillips)
Deanna Morrical (cancer, Hanna family)
Donna Riggins (cancer, sister in law of Rachael Rhoden)
Holly Roberts (health concerns)
Sylvia Ruff (cancer, aunt of Julie Branham)
Barney Weight (Alzheimer's, Darlene Weight)
Sarah White - (cancer, girlfriend of Clayton Hendrix)
John Whiteside (cancer, friend of the Shaws)
Patty Wingard (cancer, mother of Greg Wingard)
Sue Zweig (health, mother of Jamie Hampton)

To ensure we have accurate information on our prayer list please let us know as prayer requests change. To make updates or additions to the prayer list, contact the church office at 356-2297.

Zion's weekly Bible Study and Prayer time, join now and explore your Faith!

Women's Prayer Breakfast—Monday's 9 AM at Saluda Point Chic-Fil-A
Men's Bible and Biscuit—Thursday's 7 AM at Zion in Cathedral Room
Youth High School Bible Study—Friday's 7 AM Lowes Foods on 378



Congregation Council

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES October 14, 2019

Chairman, Steve Hendrix, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Ten council members were present along with Pastor Nathan and Walt Hampton. Betsy Burn and Anna Wingard were absent.

Russell Grant opened with devotions.

Joys and Concerns were shared by council.

Secretary's Report: A correction was made to the September minutes. A motion was then made to approve the September minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report: A written report was submitted. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the report.

Executive Committee Report: Steve thanked council for assisting with the meal for Wednesday Night Live the previous week.

Pastor's Report: A written report was submitted to council. Thanked those who participated in Bearing Fruit & Growing.

Reports from Ministry Teams:

Christian Education (Dianne Richardson) – Looking at options for Wednesday Night Live in the spring.

Fellowship (Anna Wingard) – No report.

Inreach (Donna Corley) – Reported plans for Trunk or Treat at River Bluff.

Outreach (Betsy Burn) – No report.

Property (Sara Rymer) – Lighting (LED) changed by Dominion Energy. Bids being taken on painting the sanctuary. Looking for general contractor to oversee renovations. Parking lot to be paved the second week of October. Property will give report on repairs, etc. to congregation.

Stewardship (Heath Branham) – Bearing Fruit & Growing event on October 2nd went well.



Congregation Council

Technology (Craig Balch) – New mobile projector in Family Life Center.

Music & Worship (Sue Anderson) – Planning Christmas services. Will meet with ushers to go over duties. Golden Age Sunday with congregational meal well received. Choir will present a Christmas Cantata.

Youth (Walt Hampton) – 14 youth in attendance at Wednesday night youth group. Mardi Party will be held in the FLC on October 20th.

Mutual Ministry (Mary Nell Panyard) – Starr Corley, Financial Administrator, is retiring but will continue her duties until a replacement is found.

New Business

Opportunity for Zion to host live broadcast of Christmas Eve service. Motion made and seconded to host the telecast. After discussion, the motion was approved.

The Treasurer presented the 2020 proposed budget. Our Synod Benevolence will remain the same as 2019 however an extra effort will be made to give more than budgeted. Council reviewed the recommendations from the Finance Committee, made some minor changes and approved the budget as recommended. A motion was made to accept the revised budget and any extra funds received to be given towards the Synod Benevolence. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Nominating Committee submitted the following nominations for church council: Ernest Beck, Mary Nell Panyard, Sara Rymer, Lee Caulder, Kathryn Barton and Janice Sult. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

Annual congregational meeting will be held on November 10th. There will be a presentation on the Endowment Fund and the 2020 budget will also be presented. New council members will be elected. Pastor will also give a brief report. Steve will coordinate the meeting with Pastor Nathan. Donna to coordinate breakfast with help of council.

Items for council to discuss at December meeting: Name Hospitality Committee Chairman and Safety Committee recruits.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Corley



Congregation Council

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH LEXINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Statements of Operating Giving and Expenditures (Actual vs. Budget) Ten Months Ended October 31, 2019

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget through October 31, 2019</u>	<u>Actual vs. Budget Variance</u>	<u>Approved Annual Budget</u>
Giving:				
Offerings	\$ 405,790.61	\$ 441,857.50	\$ (36,066.89)	\$ 530,229.00
Interest and other income	<u>3,423.64</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,423.64</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 409,214.25	\$ 441,857.50	\$ (32,643.25)	\$ 530,229.00
Expenses:				
Debt payment:				
Monthly - principal	\$ 11,250.00	\$ 11,250.00	\$ -	\$ 13,500.00
Capital improvements	78,750.00	78,750.00	-	94,500.00
Employment expense:				
Salaries	144,055.60	147,810.00	(3,754.40)	177,372.00
Benefits and taxes	49,933.46	53,568.33	(3,634.87)	64,282.00
Utilities and telephone	24,544.53	30,583.33	(6,038.80)	36,700.00
Synod benevolence	34,478.00	34,145.83	332.17	40,975.00
Repairs and maintenance	15,307.89	19,791.67	(4,483.78)	23,750.00
Insurance	10,711.00	12,083.33	(1,372.33)	14,500.00
Office administration	13,467.87	16,083.33	(2,615.46)	19,300.00
Ministry:				
Learning	5,263.64	10,000.00	(4,736.36)	12,000.00
Service	1,422.47	3,750.00	(2,327.53)	4,500.00
Stewardship	2,146.65	2,416.67	(270.02)	2,900.00
Technology	5,792.11	8,958.33	(3,166.22)	10,750.00
Witness	281.89	416.67	(134.78)	500.00
Worship	3,154.52	5,333.33	(2,178.81)	6,400.00
Fellowship	3,517.78	2,750.00	767.78	3,300.00
Youth	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>4,166.67</u>	<u>(2,166.67)</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 406,077.41	\$ 441,857.50	\$ (35,780.09)	\$ 530,229.00
Giving in excess of expenses	\$ 3,136.84	\$ -	\$ 3,136.84	\$ -

Supplemental information:

As of October 31, 2019

Cash balance:

Undesignated	\$ (11,108.54)
Donor designated	63,415.41
Capital renovations	104,644.00
Constitutional reserve	<u>88,544.81</u>

Total cash balance **\$ 245,495.68**

Total Endowment **\$ 38,400.46**



Communications

December Birthdays

1st	Ginger Sox	20th	Callie Simpson
2nd	Kelsey Gorman	21st	Jeffrey Keene Tom Sox
	Huntington Cotten	22nd	Dale Driggers
4th	Peyton Grant	24th	Jonathan Gragg
5th	Ervin Shaw	26th	Bob Keene
	Landon Williamson	26th	Britt Dooley
6th	Amy Ellisor	28th	Kayla Drafts
	Todd Elrod	29th	Brent Wingard
10th	Kathy Corley	30th	Bryant Edsall
11th	Riley Raybon		
	Mary Hampton		
16th	Carolette Turner		
17th	Russell Wingard		
	Duane Smith		
19th	Thomas Boltjes		

December Anniversaries

4th	Bryant & Elizabeth Edsall
7th	Chris & Mary Beth Bigham
12th	Steve & Kelly Jo Swygert
20th	Warren & Donna Keisler
21st	Ron & Eileen Leaphart
29th	Charles & Dianne Richardson
30th	Rob & Kathy Bigham
31st	Gene & Rose Hendrix Don & Lisa Kelly

Enjoy your Special Day!

COMMUNICATION AT ZION

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS are inserted into the bulletin each week. Information should be submitted by **10 am on Wednesdays** to be included.

E-NEWS is e-mailed every Tuesday morning to those who have e-mail addresses on file with the church office and mailed to those who've requested it. Items for E-News are due in the church office by **2 pm on Mondays**.

NEWSLETTER is published monthly and e-mailed to those with e-mail addresses on file with the church office and mailed to those who've requested it. Information for the Monthly Newsletter is due in the office by **the 25th of each month**.

SCREENS IN THE NARTHEX on Sunday morning also contain important information of things that may have happened too late for the bulletin. This information is due by **2 pm on Wednesday**.

Technology and Scheduling requests at Zion Please call/email the office as soon as you know you need to reserve space. When you reserve space please request any technology you need, setup time needed if any, and accurate dates and times. When leaving a space please make sure it is clean and returned to the way it was beforehand, this includes any supplies, tables/chairs, technology equipment, etc. Thank you for your consideration and your ministry here at Zion!