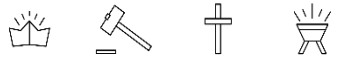


# Zion News December 2022

## He's coming – Get Ready!

If you want to really appreciate Christmas and be serious about celebrating Christmas, you'll get serious about Advent. It's been said that Advent is the practice before the big game, the dress rehearsal before the curtain goes up, the farm club where we get ready for the big leagues.



Come, Lord Jesus!

And it has absolutely nothing to do with shopping, decorating, baking, sending cards or wrapping packages. Not that there is

anything wrong with doing those things...as long as they don't obscure the true preparation we need to have an incredible Christmas.

John the Baptist put it this way, *"Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him...Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."* He knew how to prepare for Christmas - we start by straightening out our lives, by recognizing our sins and repenting of them, trusting that the coming Savior came to forgive them once and for all.

Advent is necessary to prepare us for Christmas. It enables us to understand the true significance of Christmas. For Advent allows us to see that because of what Christ did when he came the first time, believers need not fear when he comes again. Instead, we yearn for it. Come, Lord Jesus...as our King, our Judge, our Messiah, and our Immanuel!

ADVENT  
*A Season of Preparation*

## Congregational News

**Sunday School Christmas Practice** On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> our Sunday School will be practicing for the Christmas Eve service. Practice



each week runs from 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. It's extremely important that the Sunday School children attend these practices so they will be ready to "preach the Gospel" on Christmas Eve. Parents, please make every attempt to have them there each of those Saturdays.

**Christmas Season Worship** Christmas is one of the few times during the



year when you have the opportunity to worship on several occasions within a short span of time. It's due to the fact that Christmas is essential to God's plan of salvation. Join us this season for any number of worship opportunities...

- ✓ Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m. Advent service (6 p.m. Soup Supper and New Member welcome)
- ✓ Dec. 4 / 11 / 18 Remaining Sundays in Advent (regular church times)
- ✓ Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 5 p.m. Christmas Eve carol - sing
- ✓ Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve (Sunday School) service
- ✓ Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 10 p.m. Christmas Candlelight service
- ✓ Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. Christmas Day
- ✓ January 1st 9 a.m. New Year's Eve with Holy Communion

**Christian Education** Parents, if you are planning to send your child(ren) to one of our sister parochial schools (St. Lucas, Good Shepherd, etc...) or secondary education schools (KML or LPS, etc...), please contact Pastor Bode or one of our Council members to let them know. We will be putting next year's budget together in the next month and need to know how many of our members will be attending.

**Greeters Needed** It's been great to have new faces as greeters to greet worshipers as we enter church. You can be a part of it by going to our

website ([www.zionallenton.org](http://www.zionallenton.org)) and clicking on the link. Our church family would love to see your family welcome the members and guests of Zion. If you have any questions, please talk with Mark Pamperin or Bonnie Herman.

**Cookbooks** There are a number of Ladies' Aid cookbooks that were found a couple of months ago and are available for purchase. You can find them on the cabinets near the coat rack with the payment envelope in the top row of the church mailboxes. Get them before they're gone as a Christmas present or as a keepsake from church.

**Church Envelopes** Church envelopes for 2023 are available in the fellowship hall. If for some reason you can't find your box or if there is a question, contact Gene Salzman at 262.323.1990.



With a new year around the corner, many people try new things. If you'd like to save your checks, Zion offers an auto-withdrawal offering option that some of our members have taken advantage of and have come to appreciate. Simply go to [www.zionallenton.org](http://www.zionallenton.org) and click the green "online giving" button or ask Gene for more information.

**Audio – Visual Committee** For the past couple months, we've been taking a comprehensive look at our audio – visual needs for worship in both our church proper and the fellowship hall. We've had an organ fund for several years, knowing that it's basically a computer and is getting to the end of a typical organ life span. More recently, we realize that we could do a better job with recording our services so that those who can't worship with us in person can worship at home with decent sound and video quality. Instead of piecemealing things together we're trying to get the full picture of our needs. You'll hear more about the progress at the annual meeting in January.

**Invite them for Christmas!** We have many church members who are

members in name only right now. Maybe you have relatives or friends who belong to Zion but you haven't seen them for some time. Christmas is a good opportunity to contact them and invite them back. Families are often together during this time of year. That uncle who refuses to go to church will often listen to an invitation from his niece who's going to be part of the children's service. Even some who have become detached from the church will often return for sentimental reasons. If / when you see someone out and about whom you haven't seen in a while, invite them for one of our Christmas services. If / when you see them in church, welcome them back like the patient father Jesus described in the parable of the prodigal son!

**Free Advent Devotions** This Advent, discover how the Gospels of John the Elder and Luke the Historian record the details of the incarnation— God becoming man— in our booklet, *Word Made Flesh: The Historical*



*Reality of Christmas.* Each of the 25 devotions is prompted by a question about the historical accuracy of the Christmas account. Each reminds us that Christmas is not a sweet children's story or fairy tale. It is a historical event. In our skeptical times, John and Luke help us reaffirm the objective reality of Christmas. We hope

these devotions will remind you that we need more than just a spiritual idea or inspiring story. We need a real flesh-and-blood Savior, one who stepped into human history, changing it—and us—forever. Pick your copy up from the cabinets in the entryway.

**Voters' Meeting** Please note that the date for our voters' meeting has been set for January 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We only have two regularly scheduled voters' assembly meetings per year...please make the time to attend. As mentioned earlier, along with the normal "state of the congregation" reports, you'll hear about long – range plange, maintenance challenges, etc...



## Christmas Concerts

Living in the area that we do, we are blessed with many schools which put on beautiful Christmas concerts each Christmas season. They're beautiful not only in the sense that they prepare us for the true meaning of Christmas, but also beautiful in their quality of presentation. Below is a list of area groups which have Christmas concerts coming up. If you need directions to any of them, call Pastor Bode.



- 11-27 2 & 4:30 p.m. Lutheran Chorale – St. John’s, MKE
- 12-2&3 7:30 p.m. Wisconsin Lutheran College
- 12-9 7 p.m. Crown of Life Orchestra - Hubertus
- 12-10 3 & 7 p.m. Crown of Life Orchestra - Hubertus
- 12-4 2:30 p.m. Wisconsin Lutheran College
- 12-5 4 p.m. MLC livestream [mlc-wels.edu/streams](http://mlc-wels.edu/streams)
- 12-9 7 p.m. Joyful Witness – St. Paul – N. Fond du Lac
- 12-10 2 p.m. Joyful Witness – St. Paul – N. Fond du Lac
- 12-11 3 p.m. Luther Prep School – Watertown
- 12-11 3 & 7 p.m. Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary = Mequon
- 12-20 7 p.m. Winnebago Lutheran Academy – FdL
- 12-21 1 p.m. Winnebago Lutheran Academy – FdL
- 12-15 10 a.m. Luther Prep School - Watertown
- 12-17 6:30 p.m. Kettle Moraine Lutheran – Jackson

## Christmas IQ Quiz

The birth of Jesus is not a fairy tale, fable, or a sentimental story passed down through the generations. It was a real event, embedded in history.

Even the way we view time based on this important day in history (up until recently, historians divided between events that happened *before* Christ’s

## The Christmas Story

birth – B.C. and *after* Christ’s birth – A.D. = anno domini = in the year of our Lord). Take the following quiz to see how much you know about what Christmas is really about. Better yet, join us in church

this month and review the good tidings of great joy for yourself.

1. As long as Christmas has been celebrated, it has been on Dec. 25  
a) true b) false
2. Joseph was from...  
a) Bethlehem b) Jerusalem c) Nazareth d) NENNO
3. How did Mary travel from Bethlehem?  
a) camel b) donkey c) walked d) we don’t know e) bus
4. Mary and Joseph were married before Mary became pregnant.  
a) true b) false
5. Mary and Joseph were married when Jesus was born.  
a) true b) false
6. Mary was a virgin when she delivered Jesus.  
a) true b) false
7. What did the innkeeper tell Mary and Joseph?  
a. "There is no room at the inn." b) "There’s a 3 night minimum."  
c) "I have a stable out back." d) both a & c e) none of the above
8. Jesus was delivered in a...  
a) stable b) manger c) cave d) barn e) unknown
9. A manger is...  
a) a barn for domestic animals b) a wooden storage bin  
c) a feeding trough d) container for collecting milk
10. Which animals does the Bible say were present at Jesus' birth?  
a) cows, sheep, goats b) cows, donkeys, sheep

- c) sheep and goats d) miscellaneous barnyard animals
- e) none of the above

11. How many angels spoke to the shepherds?
  - a) one b) three c) "a multitude" d) none of the above
12. What sign did the angels tell the shepherds to look for?
  - a) "This way to the baby Jesus" b) a star over Bethlehem
  - c) a baby that doesn't cry d) a house with a Christmas tree
  - e) a baby in a stable f) none of the above
14. What did the angels sing?
  - a. "Joy to the world!" b) "Alleluia." c) "Unto us a child is born"
  - d) "Glory to God in the highest" e) "Glory to the newborn king."
  - f) "My sweet Lord."
14. There was snow that first Christmas...
  - a) only at Bethlehem b) all over Israel c) nowhere in Israel
  - d) probably some places in Israel e) Mary and Joseph only
  - "dreamed" of a white Christmas
15. The baby Jesus cried...
  - a) when the little drummer boy started in on his drums and woke him up
  - b) just like other babies cry c) He never cried

## News, Invitations & Announcements

**Youth Marching Band** Information for the 2023 season of the Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin (LVW), a WELS summer high school marching band, has been posted to its website. The season will begin with a rehearsal camp on January 7-8 to be held at Fox Valley Lutheran High School. LVW is open to all WELS members in grades 8-12. The summer schedule,

cost, registration procedures, and more can be found at [lutheranvanguard.org](http://lutheranvanguard.org). Contact KML's band director, Angela Hohenstein ([angela.hohenstein@kmlhs.org](mailto:angela.hohenstein@kmlhs.org)) with any questions.



**Young Adult Conference** Young adults and professionals ages 18-28, we are excited to announce that *Awake and Alive 2023* will be back this



January at the Mayo Clinic Event Center in Mankato, MN! This three-day event brings young people from around the region and the country together to enjoy Christian community, interviews, discussions, devotions and breakout topics. If you are in your late teens to late 20s, mark your calendars and start making plans to join us for three days of growing in your relationship with Jesus and with your generation at *Awake and Alive 2023!* Reasonable rates include conference materials, snacks, breakfast, and lunch on Saturday, and entertainment by Comedy Sportz on Saturday evening. See [www.awakealive.com](http://www.awakealive.com) for the full details and registration information.

