

November December 2021

Newsletter



# Zion

Lutheran Church

808 W. Porter Ave. Stockton, CA 95207

**Worship:**

**Sunday 9:00am**

**Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8-1pm**

**Phone 209-477-0259 or  
office@zlcstockton.org**

**www.zlcstockton.org**

**Weekly Activities:**

**Sunday**

9:00am

3:00pm

Sunday Worship

Christian Education Forum

**Monday**

6:00pm

Council Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)

**Tuesday**

7:00pm

Women's Bible Study

**Wednesday**

7:00am

Men's Breakfast

**Upcoming Events:**

|       |          |   |
|-------|----------|---|
| 10/27 | 6-7:30pm | Hymn Sing Night @ Zion                            |
| 11/11 | 6:00pm   | Church Council                                    |
| 11/24 | 7:00pm   | Thanksgiving Eve Service @ St. Anne's             |
| 12/01 | 6:30pm   | Evening Prayer @ St. Anne's                       |
| 12/08 | 6:30pm   | Evening Prayer @ St. Anne's                       |
| 12/09 | 6:00pm   | Church Council                                    |
| 12/15 | 6:30pm   | Evening Prayer @ St. Anne's                       |
| 12/19 | 10:00am  | Joint Lessons & Carols Service                    |
| 12/22 | 6:30pm   | Evening Prayer @ St. Anne's                       |
| 12/24 | 5:00pm   | Christmas Eve Eucharist Service                   |
| 12/25 | 9:00am   | Joint Christmas Morning Prayer Service @St. Annes |
| 01/06 | 7:00pm   | Joint Epiphany Eucharist Service @ St Anne's      |
| 1/30  | 10:00am  | Congregational Meeting                            |

**Council Members**

|                |                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| President      | Dianne Hooton<br>(209) 601-9022  |
| Vice President | Lauren Ahtye<br>(209) 986-3018   |
| Treasurer      | Chris DeRoos<br>(209) 915-3208   |
| Secretary      | Connie Eastwood<br>(209) 3925    |
| At-Large       | Sharon Carr<br>(209) 478-6032    |
| At-Large       | Deborah Griffin<br>(773-882-0592 |
| At-Large       | Ana Landa<br>(209) 993-9272      |

From the Pastor



## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2021

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds a time of intentional focus and preparation in the season of Advent. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and sacrament.

### Zion Lutheran Church

808 W. Porter Avenue  
Stockton, CA 95207

### Lessons & Carols

December 19<sup>th</sup>

10:00am joint Lessons  
& Carols Service at  
Zion Lutheran

### Christmas Eve

December 24<sup>th</sup>

5:00pm Christmas Eve  
Eucharist Service

### Christmas Day

December 25<sup>th</sup>

9:00am joint Morning  
Prayer Service  
at St. Anne's

### Epiphany

January 6<sup>th</sup>

7:00pm joint Eucharist  
Service at St. Anne's

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

December 1, 8, 15, and 22  
6:30pm joint Evening  
Prayer Service at St. Anne's

## **Letter from the President**

Dear Friends,

As the year comes to an end, so many things come to mind: Thanksgiving, Christmas, family, friends...the list goes on and on. Yet along with these special times and people, another should be added, church, for without it and how it helps us connect with God, our lives would be much emptier and less fulfilling.

Thus, I have a request of you. Please complete the paper with a pledge for next year. It does not have to be a lot; we simply need an idea of our general offering next year. Can you imagine being hired for a job in which you are not told how much you will be paid? For years, our church has only received about 1/3 of the pledges from our congregation, making it so hard to guess what our income will be. You do not need to worry if you cannot give as much as you pledge. I promise that unlike Dan Terry's friend who was sent a bill from his church at the end of the year for what he had not paid, that will never happen at Zion Lutheran Church! So please complete the form pledging whatever you feel you might be able to afford. It's simply an estimate, something that will make Chris DeRoos' s job as treasurer much easier as he plans next year's budget.

Next, masks and music. While I'd like to see less of one and hear more of the other, since it makes our lives safer, I support our present policies. Hopefully 2022 will bring a return to life like years past. Meanwhile, I appreciate what we have.

Bible study class: maybe an inconvenient time, but an amazing education. If 3:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons is bad for you, please give me ideas of when a more convenient time would be. Our committee decided not to offer class in the evening since many do not drive after dark. An hour before our service is too early, and having it after St. Anne's service at noon isn't good either. Your thoughts? Give 3:00 p.m. a try on Sunday afternoons when your football team isn't playing. I think you'll enjoy the subject, the kingdom of God.

As for another activity, the Canasta group I just joined is always looking for new members. No, you do not need to be an expert. Just ask Joyce, Shirley and Laverne who have done a wonderful job of tutoring me. In fact, ask them about the monthly gathering. We meet for lunch and an afternoon of Canasta, a great way to get to spend time together and get to know other members of our congregation. (Did you know Marge Hermance is a SF Giants fan and Brandon Belt is her favorite player? I almost called her when he broke his thumb when he was bunting and was hit by a pitch.)

Enough!

Love to all,

Dianne

## **Buildings and Grounds Report**

After a few bumps in the road, the painting of the exterior of our church has been completed. Extra work included sanding the remnants of ivy that were covered with layers of paint on the north wall of Grace Hall and the need for a special elastomeric coating plus five coats of paint on the tall eaves of our sanctuary. The gates and fences required three coats of paint plus primer, and all of the color consultations took extra time. Yet, the finished product gives our buildings a fresh new look that they so needed.

### **Repairs?**

The rain gutters will be repaired in front of and behind the office.

The rose-colored window with the bb gun hole behind the organ will be replaced.

### **Planned future projects?**

In January the painters will return to paint the narthex and to repair a hole in the ceiling of the women's bathroom and paint the room.

I would like suggestions of how to landscape the front of our grounds facing Porter Avenue. If you have ideas or are interested in helping with the project, please contact me.

Other projects? Please let me know your ideas.

Dianne

### **Treasurer Report**

As I write this article, I am getting a handle on the financial workings of Zion, and needless to say, it is a learning curve, where I still learn something new almost every day.

The Church has seen many challenges over the last couple of years, not the least of which includes dealing with COVID-19 and all of the hurdles the pandemic, as well as government restrictions on when, where and how many of us can gather to worship have thrown our way. Through all of it, your stewardship has helped immensely to helping keep the church on firm footing moving into next year, and if we can keep up the pace, we can see us not only meet the current year's budget, but hopefully do so again for 2022.

All of that being said, Stewardship can take many different forms. The Church will always need money to pay the salaries, utility bills and such – that much is a given. But please don't forget that there are many other ways one can contribute to the Church, be it volunteering one's time, skills or even donating food to our Food Closet or clothing to our new outreach program to help provide shoes and clothes to those in need.

However, you decide to give, be it money, time, etc., your gifts not only help Zion, but also help our fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ in need.

Let me close by wishing everyone a very Blessed and Happy Holidays, and a huge thank you to any and all gifts you can give to the Church!

Christopher DeRoos  
Treasurer, Zion Lutheran Church

### **Stewardship**

Thoughtful and generous giving to support the ministry of our church is a true expression of faith.

Thank you for your continued support over these difficult Covid months. Over the last few months, the stewardship committee has offered a few of the reasons why our church and church community are so important to us as individuals. It may be the music, the fellowship, the Christian Education program, the sermons, the outreach into the community, the opportunity to be a part of something larger than ourselves or just how all of these aspects come together to bring us closer to God.

We all know Zion Lutheran Church needs money to open its doors and run the church programs. The Stewardship committee asks you to look deep into your heart and let it guide you as to how much this church means to you and to what extent you can support it financially.

If everyone does their part individually, then as a whole, we can continue to fund the operations and programs of this church. We can let the world know GOD IS STILL SPEAKING, through the community at Zion Lutheran Church!

Sunday, October 3 is when we will kick off our Pledge Drive. Please complete the pledge card attached and return it by November 21, the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day, either in the offering plate or the church office.

Thank you for your faithful support!

The Stewardship Committee.

### **Fellowship Committee Report**

During the Fall and Winter seasons we still find COVID restricting our activities, however we are determined to find ways to celebrate and gather together as is possible.

The women had a wonderful retreat at Twain Harte in October. We thank Sharyn Carr for all her hard work to make it happen.

As we look forward to the Advent season, the fellowship committee will continue to provide coffee hour following all the services, and special surprises along the way.

We wish you all a very blessed holiday season

Your fellowship committee

### **Family Promise Update**

As of October 1st, 2021, Zion Lutheran Church signed a five-year lease with Family Promise of San Joaquin County. What a special day! Family Promise will provide their Day Care Program in the area formerly known as our Educational Wing.

There will be ongoing construction necessary to make this area workable for the FP Day Care Program. We are pleased to be sharing our facility for the nationally recognized organization that assist in helping homeless families become self-sufficient.

The completed plan and renovations will happen on a flow basis but the Day Care Program is hoping to start accepting families after the first of this year provided that there are no obstacles.

As liaison, I will be in connecting with Family Promise and keep you apprised of their programs and progress. It will be a joy to see activities around Zion.

In His Service-  
Lauren Ah Tye



### **Project Angel Tree**

Our congregation will be providing Christmas gifts to a very supportive foster family agency called New Dimensions. They are having local placements in San Joaquin County that need our Holiday support and attention.

We can assist the New Dimensions by shopping for items that will brighten foster children's lives. We will place a small Christmas tree in the Narthex with names and wishes. So, keep your eyes peeled and help us make this Christmas a bright one!

We will attempt to get the list of names and wishes out in early November.  
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Doreen Spohn or Lauren AhTye.

### **ST. Anne's Closet**

OUR MANDATE: FEED, CLOTHE, VISIT. We are busy sorting and organizing to be open November 2, 2021. We will continue to need new or gently used socks and underwear, tops and bottoms, towels, blankets, jackets for men and women. The dressiest clothes from St. Anne's Closet have gone to the thrift store which supports the women and children's shelter in Lodi. They also provide clothes to women who need them for job interviews as we will for men and women. For the time being we are still needing to use St. Anne's room 3 to sort and store clothes and we will organize it to move what we need each week to St. John the Evangelist Episcopal in Stockton at The Showers held there Monday through Friday. Laundry is available on Wednesdays. St. Anne's, Zion Lutheran, and Farmington United Methodist have been generous in collecting clothes, jackets,

blankets, shoes, tote bags, and towels. We will continue to need all of the above. Bring them to the church donation spots and they will be picked up on Sundays or bring them on a sorting day to St. Anne's room 3 to be announced. Saturday October 23 and 30 JoEllen will be sorting to get opened. You are welcome to join me from 10 am to 1:00 pm.

The St. Anne's Clothing Closet will be open on open Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 to Noon for regular hours at St. John the Evangelist on Miner and El Dorado in Stockton, unless there is a storm or a holiday. Please consider helping distribute clothes for a day or two a month, or come sort and fold, or help advertise for donations and clothes. Call Doreen Spohn or call JoEllen at 209 6078424 for information.

### **Women's Retreat October 8 to 10**

The women's retreat at Eagles Rest Christian Retreat House was attended by twelve. A few have shared it was a lovely experience. The topic was "Here I am Lord. Send me".



### **Friends and Family**

Margaret Colin has moved and she sends a friendly hello. If you would like to send a hello to her new home, her new address is: 3612 Candor Street, Lakewood, CA 90712.

Hymn Sing Night October 6



