



# THE MESSENGER

December  
2021



## PASTOR'S PAGE

“At this time we invite the children to come forward for the children’s message” the pastor announced one Sunday morning. As the children came forward he took out paper and pen and drew a large circle. When finished he asked, “How do you like my person?” With puzzled looks on face, the children studied the picture. No one said a thing. “What’s missing?” Pastor asked. With that the light came on - boys and girls began to respond. You need two eyes – You need a mouth – Don’t forget the ears. After the missing parts were added, the pastor asked them, ‘OK, what’s the meaning of the message?’ Once again, no one said a thing. “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” ~ 1 Corinthians 12.27

The human body is an amazing, incredible machine; a vast array of parts. Together they form one body, designed to work as one. The parts don’t choose their jobs. God does that, assigning and equipping the members and their function, working together as one. When all parts are working, it’s great! But when some are not working, like when we get sick, injured, or careless . . . things don’t go so well. Like many people, I have hearing loss, especially severe loss in my left ear.

## O Come Let Us Adore Him

It’s very frustrating for me and (sorry to say) for others too. But God is good. He wisely created us with two ears. And not just that, given we are His body, created with different parts to work together, problems like hearing loss become opportunity for others to make up the difference.

As with our bodies, so also the church, there are many different parts. That’s what Paul writes in Ephesians 4, “And He gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, pastors and teachers – all to equip the church for ministry.” God gave prophets in the Old Testament, Apostles in the New Testament – to receive and write down the Scriptures, so that the Body of Christ might carry out His mission. But the mission given is not always the mission followed. Back in the days of St. Paul, the church in Corinth was a mess. There was bickering and fighting, ungodly and unloving conduct, false teaching, and impious worship. As a result, the mission and the church itself were in peril. One by one, St. Paul addressed their issues in his letter. Paul appealed to them to repent and return to being the people God gave them to be in Christ.

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PASTOR'S PAGE

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“Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.” Whether its teaching, serving, cleaning, planning, leading or caring, the question is, Where do you fit in the picture, as part of His body here at Zion?

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” We’ve only begun to scratch the surface . . . but it’s time to wrap this up. Speaking of wrapping things up, are you ready for Advent? Notice I didn’t ask, ‘ready for Christmas’? Advent itself is a beautiful means to prepare to celebrate (as only His Body the church can do) our Lord’s birth. But what about those

who are unable to come to our Lord’s Divine service at church? How will God deliver His gifts of word and sacrament and fellowship to them? Well . . . think about the Magi. Like the Magi, we are blessed with the high privilege and honor of bringing our gifts to God; an obvious application. But don’t forget, God also gives gifts to us, not to be kept in our possession, but to be given away. Not you, nor me, nor any of our neighbors need miss out on Christmas this year.

O COME LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD! Blessed Advent and Christmas!



## Youth Group News & Events

### Christmas Quilt Raffle

Youth group is selling raffle tickets for a Christmas quilt. Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10. The drawing will be held on Saturday, December 4. You can expect to be contacted on December 5.

### Chic-fil-A Sandwich Sale - Christmas Walk, December 4th

Youth group will be selling Chic-fil-A sandwiches at the Christmas Walk on Saturday, December 4. We will be set up in front of City Hall AND in front of Zion. The eighth grade class will be selling chips and drinks to raise money for the 8th grade trip next summer. Come visit us before or after you see Santa and support the youth group and 8th graders by buying some yummy sandwiches! Please help us to determine how many sandwiches to order by pre-ordering the number of sandwiches you would like to purchase. All pre-ordered sandwiches should be picked up from Zion. Sandwiches will be sold for \$6 each or combos with chips and a drink for \$8. Please text (618)972-5239 or email Kristi.Cook@zion-school.org.

Please also stop by the school gym from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. for the Festival of Trees. Organizations in our community will be decorating trees (including our school children from Zion). You will have the opportunity to vote for your favorite. First, second and third places will be awarded. It will be \$1 per person to walk through and vote. The proceeds will benefit the youth group.

### From Better Together Sunday

God’s grace & blessings for Zion were fully recognizable last weekend as we observed Better Together Sunday. The purpose of the special day was to highlight the many ways that God is working at Zion to accomplish His will & bless His people. Those who attended the worship service and dinner all expressed their delight in the total experience. The worship service was well-prepared and inspiring. The table settings and centerpieces created a banquet-style atmosphere. The dinner catered by R & B Restaurant and Blackbird Bakery was well-planned and delicious. The Zion School students sang beautifully. The messages conveyed by the speakers were spot-on as they highlighted many evidences of God’s work at Zion. The stewardship response of those prior to the dinner and of those present was bountiful. We are blessed in many ways at Zion, especially when we worship together, receive God’s gifts together, fellowship together, and serve together. Many thanks to those who participated behind the scenes to plan this special day at Zion. We are **BETTER TOGETHER!**

## From Our Board of Stewardship: “A Zion Stewardship Moment” The Second to Last Hymn

Greetings Zion Family! I pray that you are all doing well as we enter this holiday season. And what a joyous time it is, to see our loved ones gathering again, under God’s care. Actually...gathering is the focus of this message and I hope that you enjoy it.

At Zion, we have a beautiful church & school. Our school is full of seats and those seats are full of children who are eager to learn and share in God’s Word. Likewise, our church is full of pews...but lately...those pews are not full of God’s children. Since the advent of COVID, in-person attendance at church has dropped significantly. Perhaps some for fear of illness itself, but have some become hardened by sin in their time away from church? I hope that this is not the case. We are the body of Christ; we must gather in His house to receive encouragement and to encourage others. So that we may stir up one another to love and good works!

Where else can you witness miracles every week? Such as baptism, confirmation, confession, the prayer of the church, our offering and of course the Holy Communion. There is nothing quite as enjoyable as watching God’s children participate in this sacrament. Saved souls, that you can share in eternal life with, lining up for the communion rail, while their brothers and sisters sing hymns to the Lord. It is such a reassuring and uniting time in our service!

But, do you know what I really miss? The second to last hymn. You know, which one I am talking about. It is always labeled clearly on each corner at the front of the sanctuary, just before the closing hymn. I always place a ribbon at that page when I get to church, in anticipation for it. It’s usually a good one, one of those hymns you just want to belt out. And it should be, I mean this is the hymn we sing at the culmination of all our parishioners sharing in the Lord’s Supper. The problem is...I cannot remember the last time we sang the second to last hymn together, it is so rare these days.

My prayer is that you will come and join your family at Zion very soon. Come to the Lord’s House and rejoice in your eternal salvation while we all sing the second to last hymn together! And remember...The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable. (1 Corinthians 12:21-22). The church body has a need for YOU, and YOU are indispensable!

With that, I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Be safe! God’s Blessings to you and yours,

~ Quenton  
quentonbartony@gmail.com

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

Romans 12:1

**Budget Voters’ Assembly meets after the 10:30 service on Sunday, December 12th.  
Election of 2022 officers to takes place at the Men’s Club Meeting on Dec. 2nd, 7:30 pm.**

# DECEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> 8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 10:30am Glenwood 3:30pm Catachism 7pm Advent Service	<b>2</b> 8:15am Catachism 10am Bible Study	<b>3</b> 8am-6pm Children's Gift Shop	<b>4</b> 10am-2pm Festival fo Trees, Youth Chic-fil-A Fundraiser 5pm Worship w/C
<b>5</b> 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Catechism 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C 2-4pm Youth Group 5:30-7:30 Live Nativity	<b>6</b> 3-7pm Blood Drive 6pm G.S in Cafeteria	<b>7</b> 3:30pm Catachism	<b>8</b> 8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 10:30am Glenwood 7pm Advent Service	<b>9</b> 8:15am Catachism 10am Bible Study 6:30 Trustees 7:30 Men's Club	<b>10</b> 6pm Home Boys BBall	<b>11</b> 5pm Worship w/C
<b>12</b> 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Catechism 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C 1-2pm Youth Christmas Party  <b>VOTERS MTG AFTER 10:30 Service</b>	<b>13</b> 6pm G.S in Cafeteria 6pm Home Boys BBall	<b>14</b> 3:30pm Catachism 7pm Admin. Council	<b>15</b> 8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 10:30am Glenwood 7pm Advent Service	<b>16</b> 8:15am Catachism 10am Bible Study 6pm Shipmates	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5pm Worship w/C
<b>19</b> 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Catechism 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C 2pm School Christmas Program TBD	<b>20</b> 6pm G.S in Cafeteria	<b>21</b> 3:30pm Catachism 7pm Elders	<b>22</b> 8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 10:30am Glenwood	<b>23</b> 8:15am Catachism 10am Bible Study 7pm Alumni & Friends	<b>24</b> 7pm Christmas Eve Service 11pm Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> MERRY CHRISTMAS! 10am Christmas Day Service
<b>26</b> 10:00am Worship w/C	<b>27</b> 6pm G.S in Cafeteria	<b>28</b> 3:30pm Catachism 7pm Parish Ed.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7pm New Year's Eve Service	<b>1</b> NO Saturday Service  10am-4pm Cafeteria Rented