



December 2024

Pastoral Ponderings from Pastor Phil....

It wasn't even Halloween yet, and as my wife and I walked through the store we saw decorations for Halloween, a few random Thanksgiving decorations, and Santa was already on the scene as an inflatable man who had a light in his center. The constant whirrrrr of the motors could be consistently heard throughout the store as the inflatables were kept inflated. I grumbled about how things are going, and Heather told me to give it a week and the Valentine's Day decorations will be out. As a society, we desire to keep the party going as much as possible... and businesses are pleased to oblige by having the next several holidays out for display.

Advent is a season of preparation. It is not a season of preparation that is glitzy and glamorous. Certainly, the Christmas season has taken this on, but this is where the Hallmark Holiday has overtaken the Divine. The season of Advent is to be a time of consideration. Lent is a season of consideration of our need for the Father, that He would send a Savior, as He repeats repeatedly through the Old Testament. It is a time of consideration of how Jesus comes to us, and an anticipation of that work He does. It becomes a time of preparation to receive Him anew on Christmas.

Advent becomes a quiet time, a meditative time, and it stands apart from the world that would seek to make everything a party. It is the pause of breath rejoicing that God keeps His promises. It's the comfort that comes in crisp air in anticipation of the joys that come with Christmas. It's being in worship rejoicing that the Father cares about each of us so much, that He promised us redemption while Adam and Eve were in the Garden and plotted the course of that redemption

Advent Services on
Wednesdays:
December 4, 11, and 18
@ 3:30 p.m.
And @ 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services
@ 7:00 & 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service
@ 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve
Service @ 7:00 p.m.

Join Us!



for all mankind as we come to the season of Christmas (the Mass of the Christ) where we identify the greatest gift that mankind has received. This year, through Advent, we are following LSB hymn #357 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel". We follow in the footsteps of faithful monks in centuries past as they would begin their meditation leading up to Christmas focusing each day on a various aspect of who the Messiah is to be. The themes are beautiful, they are vibrant, and they focus us properly. While the secular songs of the season are fun, hymns like this one orient us to seeing the baby in the manger, not the jolly fat man on the rooftop.

As we move through this Advent season, into the celebration of Christmas, I pray that each of you are surrounded by the warmth of the Spirit of God, and the love of the Father as we celebrate that our Savior is not far away, rather Jesus is Immanuel, He is God with us.

Blessed Holy Days,

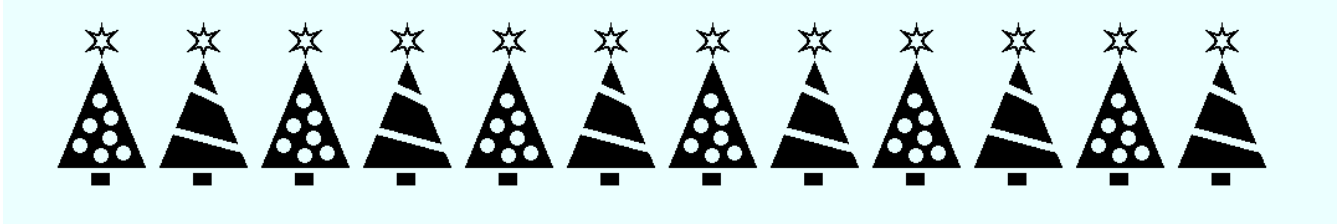
Pastor Phil



THOSE MIGHTY MITES!

Those coins and offerings that you gave in October for our Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday have made a huge difference in the lives of many, including the survivors of Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Your contribution for the October Mission Sunday totaled \$1,109.75. Thank you to all who gave. Keep saving your coins in your mite box and be ready in early December when we gather again to offer our help in times of need to our fellow humans across the globe.

The FOOD PANTRY (STAUNTON HELPING HANDS) is grateful for our church's involvement in the food pantry. Our contribution of Breakfast Items are collected in the plastic bins in the narthex of church, then delivered monthly to the food pantry. The folks at the food pantry want you to know that your good works do not go unnoticed. Thank you for your continued support.



TEA PARTY AT THE GLENWOOD

Our ladies of Zion (Ladie's Aid and LWML) partnered to hold their fourth semi-annual tea party at the Glenwood Assisted Living. . The following people pitched in to make the event fun for all. Gladys provided a Devotion. Ruth and Cheryl made the tea. Sondra handed out the invitations, purchased the party supplies, and led the Thanksgiving Trivia Contest. JoAnn helped with the set up and clean up. Sue provided the china tea cups and the music singalong. We were blessed to have the fellowship of Glenwood residents, Fran, Shirley, Del, Ruby and her cousins, Dee, Carmen, Dorcas, and of course, Ralph. We utilized a Thrivent Action Team to pay for supplies.

The Ladies Aid will be having their Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 11th, at 4:30 pm at R&B's Restaurant. At the dinner we will also have a Ladies Aid business meeting, a pay-your-own meal, Christmas cookies and carols for dessert. If anyone would like to join in on the festivities, please let us know by December 10th. Gladys (618.210.5906) or Sue (618.541.2266)

TBA: Possible Voter's Meeting

On Sunday

December 8, 2024

Questions? Ask Pastor Phil



Live Nativity

Free drive-thru nativity scene with live actors!

Advent Prayer Vigil

Church doors will be open!

Sunday December 1st 5:30pm-7:30pm



If you would like to volunteer for one of the two shifts (5:30-6:30pm or 6:30-7:30pm), please contact Barb Brackman or any member of the Board of Parish Education

Zion Lutheran Church
309 Elm St
Staunton, IL 62088
www.zion-luth.org



December 2024

Zion Lutheran Church



*And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

ISAIAH 9:6



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 & 10:30 Worship/Comm 9:30 SunSchool 5:30-7:30 Live Nativity & Prayer Vigil	2 Noon-2 Pr.Phil@ H.S.S. D.Q.FundRaiser	3 6:30 Council Mtg (makeup for November)	4 Advent #1 8:30 Chapel 9-12 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood Advent Services @3:30 & 7	5 8:30BibleStudy 10-noon H.S.S. 6:30 Trustees 7:30 Men'sClub	6	7 3P PubSchConfirmation 5p Worship/Comm
8 8 & 10:30 Worship/Comm 9:30 SunSchool 1:30-4:30Youth Bowling Outing	9 Noon-2 Pr.Phil@ H.S.S. 6:30 School Board	10 6:30 Elders' Mtg	11 Advent #2 8:30 Chapel 9-12 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood Advent Services @3:30 & 7 El Indio F.R.	12 8:30BibleStudy 10-noon H.S.S.	13	14 3P PubSchConfirmation 5p Worship/Comm
15 8 & 10:30 Worship/Comm 9:30 SunSchool 1:30Zion School Christmas Program	16 Noon-2 Pr.Phil@ H.S.S. 6p Evangelism	17 4:30 Stewardship	18 Advent #3 8:30 Chapel 9-12 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood 1:30HealRehab Advent Services Little Italy's F.R.	19 8:30BibleStudy 10-noon H.S.S.	20 9am School Christmas Program	21 3P PubSchConfirmation 5p Worship/Comm
22 8 & 10:30 Worship/Comm 9:30 SunSchool	23 School Break	24 Christmas Eve Services @ 7 & 10 pm	25 Christmas Day Service @ 10am Cafeteria Reserved Today	26 Church Office is Closed today	27	28 5p Worship/Comm
29 8 & 10:30 Worship/Comm 9:30 SunSchool	30 Noon-2 Pr.Phil@ H.S.S.	31 New Year's Eve Service @ 7pm	January 1 Church Office is Closed Today	Zion School Resumes Tuesday January 7	TBA Possible Voter's Mtg On Sunday Dec. 8	



Staunton Seasonal Spectacular

Merry Christmas and Happy Ho Ho Holidays! The Staunton Chamber of Commerce would like to invite you to this year's "Holidays in Staunton" with events starting on Friday, December 6, and lasting until Sunday, December 8.

The annual Holiday Walk will run from 4 to 8 p.m. on December 6 in Downtown Staunton and will feature local businesses and vendors lining main street; food trucks, restaurants and local bars will be hosting special deals. The annual lighting of Duda Park, as well as a live nativity within Duda park; the inaugural lighting of the new Staunton Christmas Tree and the presentation of Staunton's Citizen of the Year award will take place in the evening. Musical entertainment for the event will be provided by the Whiskey River Band.

On December 7 be sure to take part in the Holiday Hustle 5k at 9 a.m. sponsored by the Staunton High School Post Prom followed by Snack With Santa from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Santa himself will be making an appearance at the Oltmann Center along with the Grinch and many of your favorite characters appearing around downtown Staunton. Come visit and enjoy Christmas cookies with jolly St. Nick! Face painting will be available as well as the chance to partake in a ride in a real horse-drawn carriage. The Library will be hosting Story Time once an hour on the hour. Local businesses and vendors will be offering free items and sales! Register for prizes through our "Passports." Giant inflatables will be fun for the kids. All free of charge.

Rounding out the weekend on December 8, St. Paul United Church of Christ will be hosting a Community Christmas Concert at 3 p.m. featuring acts from: The Community Christmas Choir, St. Paul UCC Handbell Choir, Staunton High School Acapella Choir, harpist Aimee Showers-Linn along with several other guest instrumentalists. And if you're in the mood for an encore be sure to stop by the Staunton High School Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. that evening.

Come and experience this small town holiday tradition for yourself! Admission is free and all ages are welcome!

For more information please contact Dave Cisler, 618-781-1745 or Carrie Borgini, 618-635-3050

Hello fellow animal lover!

We are collecting for our shelter animals. All donations will benefit Metro East Humane Society, Care STL and Gateway Pet Guardians. Roosters, along with Clipping House and Hair Fashions Plus have agreed to be donation drop off centers.

We have a tree and a wreath decorated with a picture of the animals in need this holiday season. All you have to do is to pick a photo that speaks to you and bring back your donation to any of the three locations listed above. Donations can be food, treats, blankets, toys or anything you think the shelter animal will love. We will be collecting until December 31st.

You can also contact Wanda Hughes or Lori Masinelli Zenner thru Facebook to make a donation privately.

Animals deserve the same love as we do, won't you give some love this holiday season?

You may also Venmo your donation to

@Presents-for-Paws-STL

