



**ZION  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH • SCHOOL**  
**COLOGNE, MN**

14745 Co. Rd. 153  
Cologne, MN 55322

[www.zion-cologne.org](http://www.zion-cologne.org)

**January  
2021**

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**Mission Statement**  
Zion Lutheran Church, Cologne, MN is a branch of Christ's family saved by grace alone, rooted in God's love, and growing in faith through worship, teaching, fellowship, and service as we reach out to others with the good news of Jesus.

## Now Released, in Peace

**Peace be with you, dear friends in Christ.**

**The "Song of Simeon" is on my mind.** Perhaps you recall the story, told in Luke's Gospel, chapter two. Simeon is in the temple, waiting for the baby Jesus to arrive. He has been informed by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had seen "the Lord's Christ." In the Temple, Simeon sees the baby Jesus in the arms of his mother Mary and breaks out in this hymn of praise to God:

*"Lord, now let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel."*

**The whole event is a blessing of God.** God's Spirit informs Simeon that he would see Jesus, the gift of salvation to the world. Having seen the Christ Jesus, he is moved by God's Holy Spirit, to prophesy about this child. Simeon's message is like that of the angel that had spoken to the shepherds: unto you is born a child...who is Christ, the Lord.

**Simeon's Song is the song of the Christian,** because every believer in Christ has been moved by God's Holy Spirit to have faith in Jesus. Faith is the gift of salvation. We worship Christ in song, because he IS our Savior--the one whose death and resurrection has delivered us from the destructive force of sin, death, and the power of the devil. So, we rejoice in the hearing of God's Word; we rejoice in our baptism; we rejoice in Holy Communion; we rejoice in our fellowship and in our church gatherings; we rejoice in hearing that our sins are forgiven; we rejoice to forgive the sins of others. The Christian has a lot to sing about, because God has brought us peace; even though trials and tribulations abound, the Christian has peace--and joy.

**You may recognize Simeon's Song** as the song we sing after communion: the *Nunc Dimittis*, the Latin name, given from the opening words "Now dismiss, O Lord, your servant." What a fitting way to leave worship, rejoicing in what we have received.

**Simeon's Song is often sung at the end of a person's life,** as we give thanks to God for the salvation of that person's eternal life in Christ. The person is dying; but the gift of God is eternal life, through Christ. Some people will recite this song at bedtime, as a fitting way to close out the day, going to sleep in peace.

**Leaving the year 2020,** we ask that the Lord would deliver us from the threat of the infamous Covid virus, along with all the protocols and hardships and fears that attend this viral scourge. But we also rejoice in God, our Savior; for despite the limitations of our life, including lost time, employment, finances, and opportunities--and despite possible loss of health and life-- we have the assurance that our life is always secure. We have peace.

**O Lord, I rejoice in seeing the promised Christ, my Savior:** *I have seen Jesus and know Him. I am cleansed by him and am clothed in his righteousness; I receive him as nourishment for my soul. I have joy and peace. Bless me and fellow Christians, as I leave this year behind and meet the future with confidence and hope. Bless us as we share this message with others, that they may leave their fears behind and move forward in faith: loved and forgiven by you, their lives settled with joy and peace. Amen!*

In Christ, Pastor Eric Zacharias

# I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

By Tom Marcisak

**As many of you know, I enjoy trivia.** I especially enjoy learning about the origins of sayings, songs, and customs. This article was shared with me on Facebook. If you've already read it, I apologize. In addition to giving us the inspiration for Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's Christmas hymn "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," it gives us a message of hope for this time in which we live.

**The hymn began as a poem.** Longfellow wrote the poem three years after the tragic death of his wife, Fanny. In 1861, Fanny Longfellow was fatally burned in a freak accident. While attempting to preserve a lock of her daughter's hair with sealing wax, a breeze redirected the candle's flame from the wax to her dress. Within moments she was engulfed in flames. Fanny died the next day.

**Henry was devastated.** He later wrote in his journal about that difficult time. "How inexpressibly sad are all holidays. I can make no record of these days. Better to leave them wrapped in silence. Perhaps one day God will give me peace. 'A Merry Christmas' the children say, but that is no more for me."

**Three years after his wife's death,** as he was listening to church bells, Longfellow wrote the poem, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" You can hear his deep grief. Look at Verses One and Three.

V. 1

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men

V. 3

And in despair I bowed my head:  
"There is no peace on earth," I said,  
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

**Longfellow expresses the reality of the lives we live.** As the busy Christmas season comes to its close, Christmas church services, whether in person or virtual, come to an end. Family festivities conclude, and we turn on the news. What greets us? Peace on earth and good news? Hardly. The world is full of hatred and tragedy even at Christmastime.

**But look at Verse Four.** You can still hear Longfellow's despair, but also the affirmation that God is NOT dead. There IS hope. This is the real message of Christmas.

V. 4

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men."

**God entered this world, this world filled with hatred and tragedy, and He redeemed it.** God sent His Son, born of a virgin to live a perfect life and die an innocent death for US to save US from our sins. God is NOT dead nor is our Lord Jesus. He LIVES! The messages of Christmas and Easter go together to proclaim God's love and salvation. The wrong shall fail. The right shall prevail. There is PEACE in Christ Jesus!

**Happy New Year!**

## COOK POSITION AVAILABLE

Our school's wonderful cook, Betty, is retiring at the end of this school year. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please contact Mr. M at office@zion-cologne.org or 952-649-1717.

## THANK YOU

**Thank you** to everyone who so thoughtfully remembered us this Christmas season. Your generous gifts and heartfelt good wishes are greatly appreciated.

-The staff of Zion Lutheran Church and School

**Thank you** to everyone at Zion who remembered me with their thoughts, prayers, cards, gifts and words of encouragement following my recent surgery and during my extended stay in Rochester. They were very much appreciated and will never be forgotten. A special thank you to Jan and my family for all the things they did for me while I was gone. God bless you all.

-Jim Latzke

**Thank you** to the members of the flower committee and the many "little helpers" that they recruit. Their efforts beautifying the church all year long, but especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas time, do not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Also, if you are wondering about the little singing angels in front of the church doors-- you may thank Juliene Klaustermeier. Thank you also to Lori and Brian Borchardt, Martha Molnau, and John Henschen for hanging the many ornaments on the trees in front of church. All your efforts are greatly appreciated.

**Thank you** to Dave Bingham (A1 Stripes) for repainting the lines on the parking lot. It looks great!

## FINANCES

### Salary:

Beginning Balance (1/1/20)	-\$49,498.96
YTD Income	\$504,189.71
YTD Expenses	-\$439,799.38
Current Balance (12/31)	+\$14,891.37

### Missions:

YTD Total (12/31)	\$5,535.00
Budgeted	\$5,535.00
Non-budgeted	\$0.00
2020 Pledged	\$6,500.00
2020 Goal	\$15,000.00

### LHS:

Year to date total (12/31)	\$25,657.66
2020 Commitment	\$22,715.00
Per communicant member	\$55.00

### Building/Repair Fund:

Account Balance (12/31)	\$3,487.18
Suggested household contrib.	\$550.00

## ANNUAL REPORT

If you are a secretary or a treasurer of a Zion organization, you will need to provide an Annual Report to the office. Financial reports are needed from each treasurer. **All reports should be submitted to the office by the 15<sup>th</sup> of January.** Thank you, in advance, for your help.

## USHER SCHEDULE

January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Konrad Breeggemann
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	Brooke Sauter Evan Dietzel
January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Alison and Grace Dose
January 24 <sup>th</sup>	Maia and Hannah Klaustermeier
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Anna and Lydia Brueggemeier

### LWML/Ladies Aid Notes

Happy New Year to you all! Due to Covid concerns, our LWML did not meet in December or host the Congregational Potluck or hold its annual Cookie Sale. Likewise, our group will not meet in January. Women can pick up their LWML Quarterly in Zion's narthex (lobby), along with the current edition of WOM, our publication for the MNS District.

Our Zion Ladies' Aid and LWML will meet next on February 4 at 1:30pm for its annual Prayer Service, with covid precautions and protocol in place. We invite all ladies of the congregation to join us!

**Zion Lutheran Church and School – Cologne, Minnesota**  
**An Overview of 2020**

January	5 Installation of Officers 13 Council Meeting 20 Voters Meeting 26 Funeral: Paulina M. Gutzke, 96 (10/30/1923 - 1/22/2020) 27 Lutheran Schools Week
February	15 Funeral: Charles Campbell Woolery, 99 (2/15/1920 – 1/29/2020) 16 Death: Wayne Paul Panning, 83; interment pending (7/16/1936 – 2/16/2020) 23 Baptism: Grace Norma Way, b. 2/6; Joshua & Jessie (Reidiger) Way 26 Ash Wednesday – Theme: Eyes on Jesus 28 Annual Fish Fry
March	15 Covid-19 Cancellations begin – including the Annual ZEL Breakfast & Auction 22 Baptism: Hank William Rolf, b. 2/20; Ryan & Jill (Thaemert) Rolf 29 Baptism: Wesley James Nielsen; b. 1/23; Kyle & Mary (Henschen) Nielsen
April	5 Holy Week—Church Services broadcasted on Facebook 9 Maundy Thursday, 10 Good Friday 12 Easter Sunday 21 Interment: Don Allen Harms, 61 (12/11/1958 - 4/18/2020)
May	31 Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday: family-only service (35) and communion (Confirmands: Anna Brueggemeier, Danica Dietzel, Austin Kehr, Sam Klaustermeier)
June	7 Trinity Sunday – Church resumes, with communion served every sunday in June 22 VBS packs delivered for individual instruction
July	7 Funeral: Bernette Ann (Buetow) Sauter, 87 (1/15/1933 – 7/2/2020) 12 Baptism: Olivia Ruth Perry, b. 3/20; Tom & Sarah (Miller) Perry 19 Baptism: Sophie Marie Spector, b. 6/29, Vlad & Tonya (Marcsisak) Spector 20 Voters Meeting 23 Baptism: Riley Tucker Behn, b. 5/20; Adam & Krista (Herrmann) Behn 25 Funeral: Muriel Matilda (Smith) Ische, 94 (1/20/1926 - 7/17/2020)
August	9 Baptism: Sawyer James Traver, b. 7/7; Dean & Anne (Burnett) Traver 15 Wedding* Brett & Samantha Pexa, at Apex, North Carolina
September	8 School year begins at Zion, 2020-2021 13 Re-dedication of Zion's teachers
October	5 Council Meeting 12 Voters Meeting 24 Funeral: David George Gnan, 81 (11/2/1938 - 10/12/2020) 30 Zion's Annual "Trunk or Treat" held, without concessions
November	8 Silent Auction – postponed in March, with Covid-shutdowns 26 Thanksgiving Day Service 28 Wedding: Brian & Molly (Hartman) Buetow 29 Baptism: Mabel Margaret Bierstedt, b. 11/10; Brad & Theresa Bierstedt
December	16 Death: Michael Henry Harms (10/ 24/1945 – 12/16/2020) 24 Christmas Eve Children's Service – produced & broadcasted, due to Covid caution Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, held at 5 pm & 7pm

# MEMBERSHIP NOTES

## BIRTHDAY LIST

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p>1 Gary Bierstedt<br/>Lisa Brueggemeier<br/>Sophia Morschen</p> <p>3 Beverly Ulrich</p> <p>4 Vivian Buetow<br/>Robert Gennrich<br/>Mark Melcher</p> <p>6 Carley Ulrich</p> <p>8 Addison Dietzel<br/>Kendra Rhodes</p> <p>9 Nissa Klostermeier<br/>Marlin Melcher</p> <p>11 Olivia Buetow</p> <p>12 Janice Pechonick</p> <p>14 Justin Brueggemeier<br/>Christina Vinkemeier<br/>Brenda Worm</p> <p>15 Kevin Rolf</p> <p>17 Bradley Bierstedt<br/>Joan Johnson</p> | <p>18 Emma Buetow<br/>Jennifer Buetow</p> <p>20 Dennis Vinkemeier</p> <p>21 Kevin Gennrich</p> <p>22 Sydney Haller</p> <p>23 Edwin Brueggemeier</p> <p>25 Eben Karnitz<br/>Thad Karnitz</p> <p>26 Karen Brockoff<br/>Jane Ische<br/>Whitney Olson</p> <p>28 Christopher Buetow<br/>Charles Dietzel, Sr.<br/>Barbara Henschen<br/>Wesley Rolf</p> <p>29 RoNaye Gnan<br/>Jeffrey Rolf<br/>Lori Zacharias</p> <p>30 Joycelyn Rolf<br/>Emily Miller</p> <p>31 Rodney Boelke<br/>Sydney Bruesehoff</p> |  |
|--|---|--|

## VISITATION LIST

- Belle Plaine**  
Marjorie Wolter  
Norma Woolery  
Arllys Panning
- Cologne**  
Gloria AmEnd
- Norwood Young America**  
Herman Gennrich  
Arnold and Barb Scholz  
Henry Krueger  
Joycelyn Rolf  
Donald Herrmann
- Waconia**  
Harold Bruesehoff  
Darrell Knorr

## REMEMBERING OUR

### SOLDIERS

- John Michael Bones  
Eben Karnitz  
Eddie Karnitz

## 2021 JANUARY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	01	02
					New Year's Day  No School	
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Church Service 9:30 AM	School Resumes		Confirmation 6:15 PM		Chapel 8:10 AM	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Church Service Communion 9:30 AM			Confirmation 6:15 PM		Chapel 8:10 AM	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Church Service 9:30 AM	Council Meeting 8 PM		Confirmation 6:15 PM		Chapel 8:10 AM	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Church Service Communion 9:30 AM	<b>National Lutheran Schools Week</b>					
	ZEL Meeting 6:30 PM Voter's Meeting 8 PM		Confirmation 6:15 PM		Chapel 8:10 AM	



Zion Lutheran Church

14745 Co. Rd. 153  
Cologne, MN 55322

*Return Service Requested*

*Happy  
New Year*

## **SHARE THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT ZION!**

Zion Lutheran School's Mission Statement reads: "Feed My Lambs...through the teaching of Christian faith and guidance in the Christian life for personal growth and development." Here at Zion, we do not just train children academically. With God's Word as our guide, we also focus on their spiritual development as well-- equipping them to live their lives in a way pleasing to God.

**SO...**

If you have a three or four-year-old who is ready to take that big step into preschool...**CHECK US OUT!**

If you have a student ready to take that next big step into Kindergarten...**CHECK US OUT!**

If your child is attending school somewhere else, and you're wondering if there may be a better fit...**CHECK US OUT!**

If you know someone who may fall into any of these above categories, encourage them to...**CHECK US OUT!**

**YOUR RECOMMENDATION MEANS A LOT!**