



Good Tidings to Zion



Volume 6 Issue 4 December 2011

ADVENT - A TIME FOR MAKING A LIST AND CHECKING IT TWICE

Am I taking steps to Spiritual Renewal?

Olenko matkalla kohti hengellistä uudistumista?

Am I a Steward of Creation at a time when consumerism runs wild?

Kannanko huolta luonnosta aikana, jolloin kaiken kuluttaminen on vallalla?

Am I doing my chores? Matt. 25:40

Huolehdko minulle uskotuista asioista?
Matt. 25:40.

Am I preparing a way for the Saviour?

Olenko valmistamassa tietä Vapahtajalle?
Olenko valmis kuulemaan joulun kellojen sanomaa?

Am I ready to hear the bells of Christmas day?

Who we are.....	2
Office Hours	2
Zion online.....	2
Editor's Notes.....	2

CANTATA details.....	3
An anticipated musical event!	

WORSHIP FOR THE SEASON.....	3
From the Pastor's Desk.....	4
Pastorin Tervehdys	5

<u>Congregational News of Note</u>	6
Women on the Wild Side are Grateful	
Gifts of Serving Calendars	
Pauline's Place, Christmas Cheer	

New Envelope Numbers.....	7
---------------------------	---

TO DO LIST.....	7
-----------------	---

Steps to Spiritual Renewal.....	8
---------------------------------	---

PRAYER CHAIN RECRUITS.....	8
----------------------------	---

Calendars of Events.....	9
--------------------------	---

Projector to Enhance Worship.....	10
-----------------------------------	----

Turkey Dinner Details.....	10
----------------------------	----

Sunday School and Youth Report.....	11
-------------------------------------	----

A Green Christmas Tree.....	11
-----------------------------	----

<i>LEW</i> Report.....	12
------------------------	----

ELCIC Praise Appeal 2011-.....	12
--------------------------------	----

Bouquets of Thanks.....	13
-------------------------	----

A Christmas Lesson.....	14
<i>An original writings of a childhood memory</i>	

Christmas Memories From the Old Country ...	15
<i>An original Christmas Poem</i>	

Hiljaa, hiljaa

THE BELLS RING OUT!.....	15
--------------------------	----



ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
189 Upton Road, SAULT STE. MARIE, ON P6A 3W5
705 253-8703



A member of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

PASTOR JOUKO JYRKAMA

In office

Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday Afternoon 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Pastor may be reached at other times by calling
705 541-1170

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

[Helma Fleming, Office Manager](#)

To keep Sunday bulletin ANNOUNCEMENTS current, please, ensure that you advise office of events, and meetings by calling or sending an e-mail by Tuesday.

zionlutheran@bellnet.ca

705 253-8703

When no one is in the office, an answering machine takes messages and provides up-to-date details on worship opportunities, or special occasion changes.

ZION'S WEB SITE

<http://www.zionlutheran-ssm.org>

Find all the latest information.

- Pastor's Greeting and Sermon
- Upcoming Events and Newsletters
- Schedules of Serving
- Information on PAR (**Pre-Authorized Remittance**)
- Lutheran Weddings and Funerals at Zion

Editor's Notes

It is hard to believe that this is the fourth Advent edition of *Good Tidings* that I have had the honour of putting together. I trust scholarly readers have been able to see past the informality of the English and the errors that appear no matter how many sets of eyes look over the copy.

A special thank you to Pastor, my editor -in-chief, and my technician, Joe that come so readily to my aid. My dear husband Allan deserves the most appreciation for his understanding and patience when I become so absorbed making my deadline.

Blessings of the season to you and yours.

Elaine

NEXT SUBMISSION DATE

March 18, 2012

elainebrownsc@shaw.ca

705 256-7392

the **WINTER ROSE**

by Joseph M. Martin



This beautiful cantata will be presented by the Zion Choir and friends, and feature a children's chorus.

7:00 P.M.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11, 2011

Karin Kettles - Director

Nancy Huizing - Pianist

FREEWILL OFFERING

In support of Pauline's Place

And

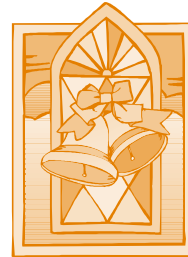
Zion's Fellowship Centre building Fund

Reception to follow.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

FOR

WORSHIP



DECEMBER 11

ONE SERVICE

10:00 A.M.

DECEMBER 24

GERMAN LANGUAGE -5:00 P.M.

FAMILY SERVICE - 7 :00 P.M.

CANDLELIGHT -10:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 25

NO ENGLISH SERVICE

Joulukirkko - 8:00 a.m.

AT ZION - 189 UPTON RD.

SUNDAYS IN 2012

English Language

Every Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

and

2nd and 4th Sunday - 8:30 a.m.

Finnish Language

1st and 3rd Sunday -1:00 p.m.

From The Pastor's Desk



Dear Friends,

Celebration of a new calendar year usually begins with firework displays , but that's not the case when the new church year begins on the first Sunday of Advent. Only the colour of the altar paraments change to blue and the first candle is lit on the Advent wreath. Even though these acts are very modest and small, they convey an important message. Blue as a liturgical colour is the colour of hope and the first Advent candle is called the candle of hope as well. Together they proclaim the good news, the message of hope, that despite all the restlessness and uncertainty that we see around in the world and as we look to the future, everything is safely in God's hands.

Even though the season of Advent is preparing us for the celebration of the birth of our Saviour, its main focus is still further in the future. It reminds us of the promises of the Bible that are still waiting for their fulfilment, that the Child that was born in Bethlehem will come again as the King of glory and establish his eternal kingdom of peace.

Despite all the grandiose New Year's celebrations many people are worried and even fearful of what the new year will bring. And certainly, in today's world there are enough issues to be worried about! But the message of Advent is reminding us that our future and the future of the whole world belongs to God and he has a plan for us. " For surely I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope", says God through his prophet (Jer 29:11).

May the hope that we have in the promises of God bring light and joy to this season of preparations in our homes and in our congregation and as we soon begin a new calendar year as well. As I welcome you to the many events and services that will take place at Zion during this season I would also like to wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Hope filled New Year 2012.

Pastor Jouko

Pastorin Tervehdys

Rakkaat Seurakuntalaiset

Kun uusi kirkkovuosi alkaa 1. adventtina, sitä ei juhlita suurin ilotulituksin ja näyttävin menoin, kuten tapahtuu uuden kalenterivuoden alkaessa. Adventtina vain alttarivaatteiden väri vaihtuu siniseksi ja ensimmäinen kynttilä sytytetään adventtikynttelikköön. Vaikka nämä kaksi asiaa tuntuvatkin perin vaatimattomilta, niihin kätkeytyy kuitenkin paljon suurempi viesti. Sininen liturgisena värinä on toivon väri, samoin ensimmäistä adventtikynttilää sanotaan toivon kynttiläksi. Yhdessä ne julistavat sanomaa toivosta, joka meille on annettu jo Vapahtajan Jeesuksen Kristuksen syntymässä tähän maailmaan, mutta, jonka lopullinen täytyminen on vielä edessäpäin. Vaikka adventtiaika osaltaan valmistaa meitä joulun viettoon, sen varsinainen tähtäyspiste on kauempana tulevaisuudessa. Se muistuttaa meitä Raamatun lupauksista Kristuksen paluusta ja Jumalan valtakunnan lopullisesta toteutumisesta. Hän, joka kerran syntyi lapsena Betlehemin seimeen tulee vielä kerran takaisin kunniassa ja kirkkaudessa.

Adventti julistaa meille toivoa siitä, että maailman tapahtumia - ja myös omaa elämäämme - ei ohjaa sokea sattuma, vaan Jumalan suunnitelma, joka on kulkemassa kohti täyttymystään.

Saakoon tämä toivon sanoma olla rohkaisemassa meitä valmistautuessamme viettämään Vapahtajan syntymäjuhlaa ja aloittaessamme pian sen jälkeen uuden kalenterivuoden. ”Minä annan teille tulevaisuuden ja toivon”, lupaa Jumala meille sanassaan (Jer 29:11).

Tervetuloa seurakunnan adventin ja joulunajan tilaisuuksiin, joista tarkemmat tiedot toisaalla tässä seurakuntaviestissä.

Siunattua joulun aikaa ja armorikasta Uutta Vuotta toivottaen,

Jouko Jyrkämä, pastori

**Toivo
Ilo**

**Rauha,
ja Rakkaus**

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS OF NOTE

Women on the Wild Side

The 8 women heading to Africa on safari, and in mission are pleased to report on the Congregation's involvement in their project. They would like to say thank you to the LCW ladies that have given such generous support as well as individuals.

Books have been gathered up to take as well as money for sewing machines by the WOW group members.

The community water filtration kits have arrived that were purchased from the donation box in the narthex. There were 5 extra in the box! This means the



trekkers now have 45 filter kits to bring to Africa in February. Each kit provides 200 gallons of clean water and can be used for 4-5 years....that's a lot of clean water!!

CALENDARS



FOR

GIFTS OF SERVING

Hard copies are available on white rack in the narthex for this time period.

Please pick-up. The green option will also be available. Just copy your turns from web-site calendars into your personal calendar.

CHRISTMAS

AT

PAULINE'S PLACE



As is the tradition, Zion's Manna Basket for December will brighten the Christmas of the young people at the youth shelter. Delivery for December will be on the 18th. Staff have asked for such treats as popcorn, chips, pretzels, and nuts rather than sweets. Toques, gloves, mitts, and even socks would be welcome.

Elvi Riutta, who co ordinates our Manna Baskets, reports staff and residents are always thankful for our donations. Young people express their gratitude as they help carry in the boxes.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

*Donate gifts, money for hampers

*Toy washing -Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m.
Sign-up sheet in cloakroom

*All hands on deck for distribution
from Zion depot - Dec. 20 at 9:30



Envelopes



#####

As you know, Church Council conducted a membership survey earlier this year and now our membership list has been up-dated. We have also installed a new computer program to keep track of offerings. This means that all personal information has to be put into the computer.

When the members of Ste. Mary’s Church joined us, I assigned them a special set of numbers. People making their offerings through PAR also were given a special set of new numbers since they no longer needed a box of envelopes. Now is the time to start with a fresh slate, so to speak.

EVERYBODY – except people contributing through PAR - will be given a new number. Names will be in alphabetical order and envelope numbers will start with #1 for the first name on our revised membership list, and then continue from there. PLEASE PUT ANY LEFT-OVER ENVELOPES IN YOUR BLUE BOX AND DO NOT USE THEM AFTER January 1, 2012.

Some people make monthly or infrequent offerings. These people will receive 10 envelopes with their new number stamped on it. It will help us to keep costs down by not giving them a box of envelopes.

If you have questions, please contact me or talk to any Council Member.

Karin Seidemann, Financial Secretary

705-253-8298, inka@vianet.ca

TO DO LIST

1. Volunteer to go on the counting schedule
CONTACT: Office or Karin Seidemann
2. Research history of Zion Lutheran CONTACT: Gerhard Strieck
3. Share in the preparation of a hot meal at Vincent Place.
CONTACT: Melanie Wheelan
4. Add name to sign-up sheet to assist with Christmas Services.
5. Help distribute Christmas Cheer from Zion Depot.
6. Pray, Pray, Pray.
Join Prayer Chain
Contact: Pastor
7. Shop for Christmas Cheer and Pauline’ Place

PRAY

read

WORSHIP

Study

TELL

Serve

Give

National Bishop, Susan Johnson has this year raised the call to spiritual renewal and deeper discipleship within our church, including: regular attendance at worship; daily prayer and scripture reading; yearly involvement in a program of study; regular service in the community (not just the congregation); regular and proportional giving similar to the understanding of the tithe found in scripture; and commitment to sharing the good news with those around us, beginning with our family and friends. The easiest way to remember these steps the Bishop has set out is with 7 words: **Pray, Read, Worship, Study, Serve, Give and Tell.**

During Sunday evening this fall a group from Zion, like others across the ELCIC, studied the 7 steps to spiritual renewal. Zion’s group discussed each step in turn. Scripture passages, individuals’ experiences and examples, and ideas from material provided all proved to be very thought provoking. Participants soon discovered that each step became a little more challenging leading to the last ‘tell’.

You too may answer the call to take steps to deeper discipleship. If you were unable to attend the group, the 7 steps guide with examples are all available to you on the ELCIC web site. Goal setting material and covenant forms for individuals, buddies, or groups are also available.

The literature provided for this study comes with a cautionary note. Answering this call to spiritual renewal is like beginning physical exercise. We are advised to start with one or two new practices and make them a habit before starting another.

Elaine Brown, reporting



The pray chains need more links. This is a mission you may accomplish in the comfort of your own home on your time. All you need is a willingness to add others to your daily prayers and a telephone to receive a request that will be delivered by Helma, the office Manager, or Pastor, and if you are comfortable as a middle link, you pass on the need, confidently, to the next link in your chain.

Please speak to Pastor of your wish to add your name to a chain.

December

Pauline's Place Manna Basket

It's Your Choice for Christmas

See page 6 for ideas

Worship

DETAILS FOUND ON PAGE 3

Sundays at 8:30 a.m. - 4th, 18th ONLY

4th - Tree Decorating at 6 p.m.

**10th - Men's Group - Boyz of Zion
Breakfast (potluck) Fellowship at 9:00 a.m.**

**11th - ZION FINNISH LADIES AID
Turkey Supper at 4 p.m.
355 Wellington W.**

11th CANTATA 7:00 P.M.

**18th - deadline for delivery
Manna Basket**

**18th - Kauneimmat Joululaulut
Carol Sing-along, performances
Refreshments to follow**

**20th - 9:15 a.m. Christmas Cheer Distribution
See cloakroom bulletin board for details**

21st, - Vincent Place Christmas Dinner

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11

January

Pauline's Place Manna Basket

Personal Items: Soap, toothbrushes, shampoo, razors, etc.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

English Language

Every Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

and

2nd and 4th Sunday - 8:30 a.m.

Finnish Language

1st and 3rd Sunday -1:00 p.m.

*Please turn in reports in for
Congregational Meeting as soon as
possible.*

6th -Epiphany

8th - First Sunday in Epiphany

**14th -- Boyz of Zion -9:00 a.m.
Breakfast (potluck)**

16th - LCW Meeting -7:00 p.m.

February

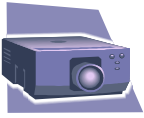
Pauline's Place Manna Basket

Treats: chips, puddings, pop, etc.

5th - MISSION SUNDAY

***Praise Chorus -tentative plans
to have African music in
honours of women leaving this
month on safari in Mission for
Others.***

22nd - ASH WEDNESDAY +



Projector Use for Worship

The Church Council purchased a projector this year to be used at our Sunday worship services. Council took this initiative following discussion after requests from some members of the congregation.

The projector is now installed and ready for use. Peter LaRue is to be commended for his initial work in setting up the program for the projector. We are thankful for his time and talents.

The ways the projector will be used to enhance our worship experience and to make it more welcoming for our visitors are still under development. Even though the order of the worship, the prayers, and the readings will be projected on the wall, there are no plans for the new system at this time to replace the printed bulletins. *The bulletins will still be available for those who wish to use them.* We are hoping, though, that once we get used to the projected screen the number of printed bulletins can be reduced. As the system develops, we will also be able to add the words of the hymns on the screen.

All suggestions and comments from the congregation are welcome as we try to develop the system. This feedback can be brought to the attention of Pastor Jouko or any members of the Church Council. *Pastor Jouko*

ADULTS
\$15.00

TURKEY DINNER
Sunday , December 11 at 4:00 p.m.
355 Wellington Street W.

UNDER 12
\$7.00



Skillfully prepared and served by the Finnish Ladies' Aid

Sunday School

If you happen to be downstairs after 10 a.m. you will be pleased to be party to Sunday School children ages 3 and up enjoying crafts, lessons, and music. You might even hear the walls of Jericho coming down or the electric keyboard leading children in song. As well, our Sunday School children are participating during worship singing songs they have learned and taking part in dialogues. Several of the children also are staying after lessons for Chorus practice and will be part of the cantata.



Confirmation

So far, 5 students are taking part in the Classes for 2011-2012. Pastor and Margaret Christenson are providing leadership meeting with students once a month on Sundays. The Mentoring Program will be ongoing.



ZELCS

The youth group continues to plan for attendance at National Youth Gathering in Saskatoon in the summer of 2012. To date, this fall, they have had a successful car wash, spaghetti supper, bake sale and Sunday Sundaes. As well the Boyz of Zion have given them the proceeds from their September BBQ for the travel fund. The teens and their leader appreciate the support the men's and women's groups have given the fund raising efforts. Leader, Sarah Hill may be reached regarding future events on Sunday morning.

Greener Christmas Tree

- LED lights
- decorated with popcorn garland to be recycled as food for birds.
- home make ornaments from recycled craft materials.
- traditional ornaments used for decades
- awaiting gifts in re-useable bags or wrapped in paper made from recycled material

- perhaps recyclable for heat or mulch

How will you reduce, recycle, reuse this Christmas?

Find ideas for a green Christmas online or at your local library.

Lutheran Church Women Reporting



At our October 17 meeting, we viewed the Canadian Lutheran World Relief video, "Then and Now" and saw the different ways CLWR has helped many counties over the years. LCW led the Praise Appeal Service on November 13. The financial support that we give will make a great impact on the lives of the world's most vulnerable people. Donations for this appeal were received until November 27.

On November 21, our guest was Jim Grant and his marxophone. It was also the in-gathering service for the fellowship of the least coin.

We welcome all women to attend our meetings. *Gloria Lang, secretary*



For Everything There is a Time is the theme of the inaugural ELCIC Praise Appeal which this year has given thanks for the ministry of women in the church, looking back on the ministry of Evangelical Lutheran Women Inc. (ELW) and looking forward to the new forms this ministry may take. The theme has been based on the text from Ecclesiastes 3:1-15.

As in the past the women's group at Zion, now called Lutheran Church Women, took on the leadership of a November worship service and promoted the special Praise Appeal that is now to be a national campaign of the ELCIC. The sermon for the day was written by National Bishop, Susan Johnson. In her message, the Bishop acknowledged that since 1986, the former ELW Praise Offering Service contributed over 2.5 million dollars in support of the ministry of the wider church. She cited this wonderful example of generosity as one that calls out to us now as we begin this new chapter with the ELCIC Praise Appeal.

The women of the LCW are proud to lead the ELCIC Praise Appeal at Zion. Our support in Praise Appeal envelopes in November means we as a congregation are having an impact on lives of the most vulnerable people around the world bringing hope to those that need hope the most. To maximize results the ELCIC partners with the Lutheran World Federation, Global Mission, and CLWR, all efficient and effective bodies with proven records of success.

BOUQUETS OF THANKS



Kiitos



Elvi Riutta, (and her right hand man, Allan) who is our contact and co-ordinator for Pauline's Place Youth Shelter. For several years now she has seen that Manna Baskets goods are delivered monthly.

Karen Kettles
For introducing the joy of choral music to the children's chorus.



The people of Zion that generously fill the Manna Basket each month.

Every person that joined with Melanie Wheelan to make the APPLE PIE PROJECT a success to fund Zion's hot meal at Vincent Meals.

To all the Sunday School Teachers and all who help with music leadership and extra hands.

Lyle Martineau
For the excellent sculpting of the grounds greenery.



All that donated to water filtration kits for Africa from the WOW Group.

Lisa Figures
our new Coffee Host co-ordinator.



Laurie Russell for once again coordinating the shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Linda Marasco
for coordinating collection of photos for the new picture directory. *Watch the Sunday bulletin for information on the congregational picture book in 2012.*

CHRISTMAS DINNER



AT



VINCENT PLACE

December 21, 2011

4:00 P.m.

Bob Schroeder
and the Stewardship of Creation Committee for arranging a number of tours over the year to keep us aware of Green projects in our city.

Check Sunday bulletin or contact Melanie for details at 705 942-5493. She is anticipating desserts like squares, and cookies will be needed. Thank you for helping.

A Christmas Lesson

In the years of the one room country schoolhouse, one joyous event always stood out as the most important and memorable of the whole year. That event was, of course, the annual Christmas Concert. On that one night of the year, family, friends, and neighbours would gather at the schoolhouse to see and hear the songs and carols of the season, the little recitations, and the plays especially put together for this festive occasion.

On this one particular year, the teacher planned a special treat for our concert. She had choreographed her own special dance/drill to be performed on stage before the live audience. Participation in this dance was mandatory as long as you could stand on two feet and move somewhat in time to the music. From my nine year old prospective, the dance was a wonderful idea until I realized one very important problem. I would be expected to dance with and even touch a female partner....no way!

As I mentioned, as far as the teacher was concerned the dance was mandatory and there would be no use seeking help from my parents because they would immediately side with the teacher. My hope was that someone would notice this droopy kid with two left feet and replace him with an up and coming Fred Astaire.

One month before the now dreaded event, the dance number was apparently going well and my only hope would be Divine Intervention. Three weeks to go, and now I had to make my move. Every Sunday morning, I'd heard from the pulpit about the power of prayer when help was needed; if I ever needed help now was the time. I prayed that I would not have to dance.

Two weeks to go and the dance number was even better, but a couple of kids were kept home because of illness. One week to go and a special announcement was made. Measles had hit two or three families in the community and the country doctor had made the crucial decision that the school would be quarantined and closed until after the Christmas break -no Christmas concert that year.



Author withheld to protect the guilty

Christmas Memories From The Old Country

Ice flowers on the window
Four red candles on the wreath
Smells of fir and wax and spices
Christmas Eve is here

Rustling noises in the parlour
The tree is being trimmed
Presents placed beneath its branches
Christmas Eve is here

Shadows in the corners
The day comes to an end
Church bells peal their message
Christmas Eve is here

Hear the ancient story
Sing the well loved songs
Light a candle at the tree
Christmas Eve is here

Flickers in the frosty night
A light brought to each home
Set ablaze the candles on the tree
Christmas Eve is here

Light to banish darkness
Song to lift the soul
Hope renewed by angels singing
Peace on Earth and Peace to All



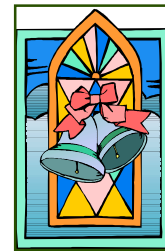
Hark, the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim;
And Heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved Name.

Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

The words above from the traditional and familiar hymn encourages us to let our heart prepare a throne for the Saviour. Time to check our Advent list one more time. Will are hearts be ready? Will we be in the right place in body and mind to hear the bells of Christmas that soon will be ringing out the message of the Saviour's birth?

Let it be our prayer this Advent to take time amid the hustle and bustle to see the beauty, the sights, and the sounds similar to those in Karin's beautiful poem, so that we find ourselves in a quiet place, - quiet to hear the bells ring out that Jesus has come.



***Hiljaa, hiljaa,
joulu kellot kajahtaa...
Jeesus tullut on!***

Karin Seidemann