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## ANNOUNCEMENTS – December 7, 2025

### This Week at Zion

#### Sunday, December 7 – Second Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. Classic Worship – Sanctuary / with communion

9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Youth and Adult Bible Study

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship – MMC

12:15 p.m. VBS Planning Meeting

#### Monday (12/8)

*[For ministers of the Word, they would be faithful to their calling.]*

7:30 p.m. Children's Ministry Team

#### Tuesday (12/9)

*[For the Church's missionaries.]*

10:00 a.m. Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

6:45 p.m. Men's Tuesday Night Bible Study

#### Wednesday (12/10)

*[For our government, that we might live peaceable and quiet lives]*

#### Thursday (12/11)

*[For parents, that they would see their role in raising children.]*

6:30 p.m. Elders Meeting

#### Friday (12/12)

*[For patience, as we wait for Christ's coming.]*

#### Saturday (12/13)

*[For those who mourn the loss of loved ones.]*

#### Sunday, December 14 – Third Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. Classic Worship – Sanctuary

9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Youth and Adult Bible Study

11:00 a.m. Cont. Worship – MMC / with communion

### From The 66...

#### Matthew 3:1–2

**"In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"**

John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus' ministry was complete and He was raised from the dead, He sent out His disciples to preach "repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 24:47). We never outgrow the need for repentance — for examining our lives, turning away from our sins and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive his forgiveness and strength for a renewed life of godliness

### & the book of numbers.

#### LAST WEEK:

##### God's People Assembled: (as of 11/30/2025)

Classic 8:30 am: 73

Contemporary 11:00 am: 118

Online: Facebook & Instagram; [www.zionlc.org](http://www.zionlc.org) (Worship Tab)

Children's Church Total: 15

Christian Education Youth: No Study

Adults: No Study

##### God's People Give with *Treasure* (as of 11/30/2025)

Offering: \$13,638.18

##### God's People's Response through August 2025:

Giving: \$361,704 Expenses: \$350,585

Budget: \$369,953

*To hit stewardship forecast for 2025: \$11,561/ week*

For ways to contribute please go to our website  
[www.zionlc.org](http://www.zionlc.org) and look under the "Give" tab.

Thank you for your continued support!

### Happy Birthday!

### Happy Anniversary!

For the safety of our members and friends we have blocked out this section. If you'd like a copy in full, please contact Zion, [office@zionlc.org](mailto:office@zionlc.org). Thanks!

"TAKING THE CROSS OF GRACE AND PEACE..."

## Looking Ahead. Giving Back. Noting an Opportunity.

Our staffed **Nursery** is for children ages 3 and under. The nursery is downstairs in the children's ministry area. Parents are welcome to keep their kids in the service, but if they have the wiggles, the nursery is for you. Would you like to help out in the nursery? If you would like to be on the sub list, contact Carolyn Remmele ([carolyn.remmele@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.remmele@gmail.com)).

**Sunday Bible Study** – In the season of thanksgiving, how do you find the time to give thanks? *Gratitude* is a study that explores ways to slow down, find the joy in the life, and reminders of God's grace. The study goes thru today, Dec. 7. - PJ

**Young(er) Parent Bible Study** – *Our Last Session is TODAY, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025.* Tony Evans' - "Raising Kingdom Kids" from RightNow Media.

**The Giving Tree** – We have shifted gears to Christmas! We will be supporting IPM Christmas drive. Take an ornament from the tree, bring it to church unwrapped, or order from amazon (use code on handouts in Narthex). GIFTS MUST BE TURNED IN BY DECEMBER 14. On December 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have new ornaments on the giving tree for A Caring Place.

**Young Adult Christmas Party** -- Put on your most festive clothing and join me and other young adults (18-30) on **December 12th at 6 p.m.** for a Christmas celebration! We'll enjoy food, fellowship, devotions, and more as we celebrate the birth of Christ! RSVP Here: <https://forms.gle/VKaHr4uMFX9MCQgg9>

**Advent Devos** – On table in the atrium. There are various ones for youth, children, and families (first come first served). There are two choices for adults. Blessed Advent! Portals of Prayer for January is also there! **November 23, 2025 – January 4, 2026 Advent Schedules** – Available on the *Information Table*.

**Christmas Poinsettias** – *Last Chance, Today, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, is the last chance to Order!* \$12.50 per poinsettia; They come in 6" pots with red & green foil. Red Ordering sheets can be found on the Information table.

**Zion Advent & Christmas Events** -- The Christmas season is upon us, and we have several upcoming fellowship opportunities to help us get into the Christmas spirit! \* **The final event** is one that we are bringing back to Zion this year - **Christmas caroling!** Join us for an evening of caroling at some local nursing homes and homes of Zion members on **Wednesday, December 17**. We will meet at Zion at **6 p.m.** and then head out to the selected locations. We will all meet back up at Graeters after caroling. Contact Halle Raicevich at 330-329-2338 if you are interested in joining.

**Sunday School Christmas Story** — The Sunday School will be presenting the Christmas Story on **Sunday, December 14, 9:45-10:45 a.m.** They will use costumes, song, and Scripture to tell the story of Christ's birth. The presentation will be in the fellowship hall. We hope you will be able to join us!

**Kids' Christmas Crafts** — Kids and their parents are invited to make Christmas crafts on Sunday, December 14, 9:30 a.m., at Zion before the worship service. Each child should be accompanied by a parent or guardian. **Please RSVP to Chris Graves ([cgraves@zionlc.org](mailto:cgraves@zionlc.org)) by December 10.** Friends are welcome! And ... there *might* be Christmas cookies, too!

**Sunday School Parents** — Kids will be practicing for the Christmas Story presentation today, **Sunday, December 7, 9:45-10:45 a.m.** On **December 14, please come to church by 9:30 a.m. so that they can get ready and get their costumes on.** If you have any questions or to let us know that your child will or will not participate, please contact Cindy Ripak ([cabauer99@gmail.com](mailto:cabauer99@gmail.com)).

**Community Service Day** -- Serve Christ and our community with fellow congregation members as we work with local organizations to complete three different service projects on **Saturday, January 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Register using the following link: <https://forms.gle/XSvCpEF4MRhQDn5UA>

**Youth Notes** — **Youth Quake, January 9-11, Holiday Inn Eastgate.** Registration info was sent to families. For middle school and high school youth. \*\* Save the dates: **Youth Lock-in** – January 30, **Spaghetti Dinner** – February 14, **OH District Jr. High Youth Gathering** – March 13-15 (watch for registration info soon!) \*\* **Camp Restore Detroit** servant event – June 21-27 – Additional details TBA. **Please RSVP for all events.** Contact Chris Graves with questions and RSVPs.

**Zion Photo Updates** -- Everyone loves to put a face with a name. Please, if you'd like, update your profile picture in the "Member's" directory on the Website. All you need to do is click on the gray profile icon...click "Choose File" to upload the image. After selecting a photo, click "Accept". If you have any questions or need any help, contact Nancy Shaffer at 513-231-2253 or [Businessmanager@zionlc.org](mailto:Businessmanager@zionlc.org).

Flowers given for the **Glory of God** are provided by Layne Flick, In Memory of Parents.  
If you happen to have a building-related issue, please contact: Larry Neack

**"TAKING THE CROSS OF GRACE AND PEACE..."**

# Praying. Asking. Seeking. Knocking.

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING; JOYS IN GOD'S +WORK AND WILL

We pray for...

- **The prayerful and preparatory work of the Advent Season.**
- **The busyness of the season.** God grant us energy, joy, and a lessening of distractions in this holy season.
- **Teachers, students, aides, helpers, leadership in local schools; colleges and universities.** May they learn Your world, Lord. May they also find ways – be given ways – to learn of You and Your love for them in Christ.
- **Medical and first responders** – all in our communities who make it work and thrive. **Those who protect and serve** in our lives (governmental, law enforcement, military, many more). For officers mourning the recent loss of one of their own and for peace for our community.
- **The mission of Immanuel Lutheran, Hamilton, OH.**

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS / PETITIONS

We pray for . . .

- **Those that are lost & separated from God's loving embrace. The forgotten, pushed aside, and marginalized.**
- **Those affected by natural and man-made disasters.** God, grant peace & resources they need for body/ soul.
- **A deeper appreciation for whole-life, God-gifted stewardship** – financial, relational, physical, and spiritual.
- Relief of pain, strength, and healing for **Karen Vollbracht, Linda Berlier, Larry Neack, Laura Mikow, Bill Spies, and Linda Jenkins and other family/ friends** in need of healing.
- **Those in Care Centers/ Those at Home:** Debbie Rose Howard, Bill Siegel, Janet Brunner, Vera Zimmerman, Anna Moynahan, Ty and Michele Arendall, Bob and Sharon Ruppel, Vida Musselman, Jody Wiebe.
- **All families walking through the valley of death's shadow.** Comfort and strength in *the* Resurrection.
- **Opportunities to grow in God's Word.**

## Telling the Stories

Five youth and two adults attended the Ohio District Sr High Youth Gathering the weekend before Thanksgiving, Nov 21-23. This was the first time the gathering had been held since the pandemic – a 5-year break. Prior to the pandemic the gathering had been held every year for at least twenty years.

The Bible studies were titled Caring Connections and were designed to help kids support one another in Christ. Many of their friends are not Christians or do not have a strong relationship with Jesus and the study helped the kids to understand that they can be a caring presence and bring the comfort of Jesus to their friends.

The studies were led by youth and adults from the Ohio District Youth Ministry Team, and one of those team members is our own Leah O'Grady, who began her service on the team shortly before the gathering. Leah is a blessing to our youth ministry leadership team here at Zion and now she is also serving teens throughout Ohio!

We did a service project of going to an assisted living home in the Columbus area. We had two jobs: wash doorframes and railings, and make a craft to give to the seniors to cheer them up. The craft item we made was a gnome. I don't know what the style of craft was, but it was very difficult (I am not crafty at all!), but the kids learned quickly and made a lot of cute gnomes to give away.

Kids met new friends from around the district, especially Jess, who was the only youth participant from her church. She spent a lot of time with our group, especially with the other girls, and they got to know each other very well and are already looking forward to next year's gathering.

On Saturday night, we had a devotion in the sanctuary by candlelight, giving everyone a chance to pause and reflect and connect with God through song, His Word, and prayer. The event closed with a communion service at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Columbus, OH, and was a great way to close the event – worshipping God together with other gathering participants and with the congregation that hosted the event.

We are looking forward to this event again next year, as well as getting the kids together through the many other activities that will happen between now and then.

Chris Graves

**"TAKING THE CROSS OF GRACE AND PEACE..."**

## Devoting Ourselves to the Word

### *2 Corinthians 7:1-10*

We are preparing our hearts and minds for Jesus' birth during this Advent season. In this epistle reading, Paul is comforted by the coming of someone else: Titus.

Titus was given a difficult assignment. He was to go to the Corinthians and bring a challenging message to them: they needed to repent of their immorality and division. Paul did not know how the Corinthians would respond to this message, but they responded favorably with repentance and eagerness to receive God's forgiveness and a restored relationship with God and also with Paul. Titus brought to Paul good news!

What about us? Do we judge others and put them down as a way to feel better about ourselves? Do we let others keep on sinning because we are afraid of being seen as judgmental? Who is "Titus" to you, calling you to repent? Who are you "Titus" for, calling them to repent and assuring them of God's unconditional love and forgiveness?

Titus accomplished Paul's mission to the Corinthians. Jesus came to earn for us God's forgiveness and salvation. In doing so, He accomplished God's mission. We can prepare our hearts and minds for baby Jesus by acknowledging our sinfulness, repenting (be truly sorry), and receiving God's unconditional love and forgiveness through Jesus.

Prayer: Lord, give us knowledge of Your Word and will, wisdom to know when we should speak to those we love, and hearts to speak and hear both Law and Gospel in love.

Chris Graves

## Letting the Little Ones Come to God (Draw us something)!

Drawing Prompt: *How can you prepare for Jesus?*

**"TAKING THE CROSS OF GRACE AND PEACE..."**