

One new year custom in Scotland is an interesting one. Each year, some Scottish families try to ensure that the new year will be a good one. The idea was that the first person who entered your house in the new year would set the tone for the new year.

According to that idea, many households will go to great lengths to make sure the first person in the house in a new calendar year was a “good”



person. Some even arrange it so that a happy, cheerful person would bring a gift for the family. That would supposedly guarantee good fortune and happiness in the new year.

It’s an interesting concept, one which we might do well to imitate / remember ourselves. When we are planning, dreaming and setting goals for a new year, usually we think of the physical things in life. We strategize for success in our occupations, we structure our children’s lives to give them the greatest opportunities to be successful. We plan ways by which we can be better off physically or financially by the end of the new year.

And in all that planning, we often forget about who really should be the first one to enter our house in the new year... Jesus.

We remember him at the end of the calendar year because we celebrate Christmas, but by the time the new year rolls around, he gets lost and forgotten amongst all our plans and dreams.

When we remember *why* Jesus entered this world however - to pay for our sins, thus ensuring our eternal future - we can’t help but be moved to put him first in every aspect of our lives.

In the parable of the rich fool in Luke 12, Jesus reminds us of the same truth. He tells us that all the planning and preparation is worthless if we are not rich toward God first.

In this new year of 2021, make sure that the first one who enters – and remains – is your Savior. Be rich toward him and you’ll be ready to tackle this new year.

**Zion News**

**Sunday School** Winter lessons have begun and are available in the conference room in the fellowship hall. Lessons are clearly marked, so parents, please stop by and pick up your child(ren)’s materials according to their class level. From those who are using the program, they appreciate the opportunity to spend time with their child(ren) watching the videos and completing the lesson with parents take an active part in training of their children they Church will be blessed!



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**In Person Sunday School?** Sunday School children, you received an e-mail at the end of outlining the plan to slowly transition back to face to face learning. That will begin on January 10<sup>th</sup> with an alternating schedule between grades 1-4 and 5-8. As noted in the e-mail, this may be inconvenient for some, but

Parents of should have December

**Bible Studies** We’ve experienced a downturn in attendance for our adult bible studies after starting back up this past fall. In an effort to increase that attendance and to help plan for the future, we would like to get member input on whether a different day or time would work better for people. Would you attend a virtual bible study held over the computer? Maybe a weekday morning bible study at church or a different venue? We know faith grows from hearing God’s Word. If there is a better way we can serve our members, please contact the pastor.

**Council Update** At its last meeting, the Council okayed the reallocation of the 2020 VBS budget (we did not host a VBS due to Covid this past summer) to be used toward the purchase of some new Sunday School, confirmation and worship equipment. A laptop computer, software, projectors, a screen, and a portable speaker will enable us to use video clips to aid in our teaching and in worship services. Thanks to the Tim and Tracy Herman and Keith and Bonnie Herman families for additional donations to be able to complete the purchase and construct the needed equipment.

**Basement Update** December saw a flurry of activity in the basement, from painting, to some finish electrical work, painting, three new sets of stairs, finish carpentry, etc.... Thanks to a TON of member volunteers who have given a TON of hours to the project. If we tried to list everyone to say thanks, we'd forget someone, so for all who have helped in any way – you know who you are – thank you! For just re-starting in September, more has been accomplished than could ever have been expected. Take a look downstairs when you have time.



**Budget Update** We haven't had a Council update since mid-December, but it seems that we will have ended the year comfortably in the black as far as our budget is concerned. Time to pat ourselves on the back and say "Good job!" with our sacrificial giving even during a pandemic....even when church was not being held? No. Rather it's time to first fold our hands in prayer and offer our thanksgiving to a God who promises "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you." We thank God for every member who was moved – even when we didn't come to church – to willingly offer some of what God has blessed back to him.

**KML Sunday with choir** What comes around every 3 years, adds a lot of volume and beauty to our worship services, and sounds a little like heaven? **Answer:** The KML Traveling Choir. The choir is planning to be with us on January 17<sup>th</sup> in both of our worship services that day. Come and worship our newborn King, led by the KML Traveling Choir!

**Winter Weather Closing** It's very rare, but once in a while the weather conditions are such that it's not a good idea to be out on the roads. If one of those days falls on a church day (Thursday evening or Sunday morning), you can either call the church office (629-5914 or 262.483.0407) or check our facebook page to see if the service has been cancelled, or simply tune into the major radio / TV stations, which will have the latest closings.

**Winter Weather** During the often messy winter weather, please try to clean your shoes off before you come in so we can keep God's house as clean as possible.

**Social Media** Would you like to help us spread the word about our church on social media? Go to facebook and search "Zion Lutheran Church, Allenton, WI and "like us." Not only will you help to connect Zion to other social media users, you'll also be treated to some great historical photos of Zion, be reminded of the latest going on at church, etc... Like us!!



## Start the New Year Right

The best way to start a new year includes regular time in God's Word. The best way to ensure that happens is with a daily bible reading plan. Even if you've never tried it, you're never too old to start. If you already are reading the *Meditations*, maybe expand on that with an additional devotion or a plan to read through your Bible in a year or two. Yes, we're already a little into the year, but it wouldn't take that much to catch up a week or two. On the next page there are just a few suggestions for you to consider.



- ✓ *Forward in Christ* – Devotions, editorials, stories of faith, and the study of God's Word are all part of this newly redesigned periodical. You'll find them on the cabinets in the entryway.
- ✓ <https://wels.net/serving-you/devotions/> - A wide variety of

- ✓ regular devotions, some intended specifically for teens, women, those in the military, etc...you can even sign up to get them delivered to your inbox!
- ✓ [www.timeofgrace.org](http://www.timeofgrace.org) – Here you'll find a treasure trove of 1-minute written devotions, 5-7 minute video devotions, or 30 minute sermons on a variety of topics...also deliverable to your inbox.
- ✓ [www.whataboutjesus.com](http://www.whataboutjesus.com) – This excellent web site answers any number of questions about Christianity, God, the Bible, worship, and much more.
- ✓ Want to read through your bible in 3 years? Think you could do it in 1 year? How about 90 days (for those of you who are retired or have extra time during the week)? How about only week days each week? You'll find something that fits your schedule at [www.ligonier.org/blog/bible-reading-plans/](http://www.ligonier.org/blog/bible-reading-plans/)

Have you ever thought about our own Bible study on Sunday mornings? You'll get to know some of the members of your church family a little better while you get to know God's Word a little better. We are just finishing the life and times of the apostle Paul and plan to Join us at 8:45 a.m. Sunday mornings – you can start anytime!

## Invitations, Events, Etc...

**Ask the Experts** Christian Family Solutions is providing resources for individuals, families, and anyone in the community who supports mental health and wellness. This is your opportunity to meet some of our compassionate and caring team members who are experts in their fields.



Through the series, we'll address mental wellness for children, teens, and adults. You have the opportunity to listen in and "ask the expert."

The final part in this series of presentations will take place on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. noon (CST). This will be a panel discussion with four experienced counselors who will be taking questions and offering counsel on a wide variety of topics.

**After Christmas Sale** Save up to 40%\* on a wide variety of NPH titles, children's Christmas books, ornaments, and more while supplies last. Don't wait! This sale ends on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. See the full list of discounted items at [nph.net](http://nph.net).

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Percussion Invitational Concert** On Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., you are invited to KML to hear the ensembles of Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School and Kettle Moraine Lutheran Elementary Schools. The concert will be livestreamed at [www.kmlhs.org/stream](http://www.kmlhs.org/stream)

**Marriage Moments** If you're looking for positive improvements in this new year, try something for your marriage. Every marriage has its "moments." That's why marriages sometimes need moments of



encouragement and refreshment. "Marriage Moments" are short, weekly videos highlighting one biblical marriage thought accompanied by a discussion question. Couples may subscribe to receive the videos in a weekly email. You can watch a video introduction and subscribe

to receive the videos directly to your email address when you visit [www.congregationalservices.net/marriagemoments](http://www.congregationalservices.net/marriagemoments).

**KML Job Openings** Help is needed at KML for the following positions:

- Part-Time Janitor: 3 days/week, 4-5 hours/day, 6:00 PM start time, wages start at \$11.00/hour. No experience required.
- Assistant to the Food Service Manager: 3 days/week, 4 hours/day, wages start at \$11.00/hour.

For additional information or to apply, please contact KML Business Manager, Mr. Jody Hansen at [jody.hansen@kmlhs.org](mailto:jody.hansen@kmlhs.org) or 262-677-4051 x1109.

**Get to Know WELS** Have you visited wels.net lately? Do you ever wonder how your Sunday offerings help support the work of WELS? Go to wels.net to discover stories about the many WELS world and home mission fields; explore which ministries can support you and your congregation; enjoy daily devotions and Bible readings; and subscribe to stay up to date on the latest news from your synod. All of this and more is available on wels.net. Visit us online today and save us as a favorite or a bookmark!

## Epiphany Quiz

The season of the church year we are in during from January 6<sup>th</sup> through the end of February is called Epiphany. The word literally means “manifestation” or “appearing”. Epiphany is the season in which Jesus “manifests” himself as the true God. See if you can answer some questions from some of the Gospel accounts we’ll be hearing during this season.

- Who was NOT present at the stable soon after Jesus was born?**  
 a) shepherds b) Wise Men c) Herod d) Simeon & Anna
- What event does the holiday of Epiphany commemorate?**  
 A) Resurrection of Jesus b) visit of the Magi (Wise Men)  
 c) birth of Mary c) baptism of Jesus
- What did the Wise Men follow to meet Jesus?**  
 a) the star of Bethlehem b) a meteor  
 c) Garmin DriveSmart 61 d) Rand McNally Middle East map
- Which was not a gift the Wise Men gave to Jesus?**  
 a) old b) silver  
 b) myrrh d) frankfurters
- When King Herod planned to destroy the newborn Messiah, an angel sent Joseph, Mary & Jesus to what country for safety?**  
 a) Arabia b) India c) Egypt d) Patmos

- Why was Jesus baptized?**  
 a) to fulfill all righteousness b) to remove his original sin  
 b) as a symbol of forgiveness c) he needed more power
- Jesus’ disciples included which pair of brothers?**  
 a) James and Joseph b) Peter and Andrew  
 b) Matthew and Mark d) Bartholomew and Nathanel
- In his sermon on the mount, Jesus compares believers to**  
 a) salt b) steak c) light d) a narrow door e) a & d  
 f) a & c g) a & e

