



The Zion Messenger

January 2024

Using Our Gifts Together and Sharing God's Grace

Greetings Saints of God, and Happy New Years!

We have seen 2023 to the door, and welcomed in 2024. We say, "Out with the Old," and, "In with the New!" We celebrate. We look forward to what this year will bring. And we are reminded about all the resolutions we will make, and how many of those we will break.

And in the same breath, we are reminded that we have a God that continually makes all things new. That New Years for God will also be New Day, or even New Hour! God is constantly making things new, and for that I am eternally grateful.

Knowing that I will break resolutions I make at the beginning of the year doesn't mean I stop making them. And if I break a resolution, it doesn't mean that I don't take a step out again to reclaim and reshape the resolution. This is so important that some have renamed the action of making a resolution as one of living life with intention. We take a step out in faith, with the intention to follow through.

Now, there is a chance that you have had a particular phrase come to mind. That when I mention that word, "intention," you couldn't help but have this saying arise from the recesses of your memory. Perhaps the phrase, "The road to Hell is paved with good intentions" rings loudly in your ears.

Oh, I get it. Intentions and Resolutions remind us all that there are so many times we fail.

BUT...

But...

but... What if we are reminded that we are given a chance to try again. Reminded that we are being made new by our God, which allows us to step out in faith, once again?

And... What if, instead of failing, we succeed. What if, instead of falling, we fly? Happy New Years to you, my friends. We are stepping into 2024 in Faith, with the hope and trust that nothing separates us from the love of God, found in Christ Jesus! (Thank you, Paul). We are stepping into 2024 trusting that God walks with us, and that our failures do not mean that we are a failure.

We are human. We are messy. And, dear friends, We are Loved!

Living in the Amazing Grace of God,

Pastor John

Rev. John W. Stevens, Pastor

720 Jefferson St ~ Oregon City, OR 97045 ~ 503.656.4437 ~ www.zionlutheranelca.org

Worship: Hard to believe that Christmas Eve is right around the corner. This week is our last midweek service. We will also have a joint "Blue Christmas" service on Thursday, December 21st, which is also known as "The Longest Night." 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve both fall on Sunday. Christmas Eve Service is at 6:30 p.m., with Music and Meditation to start.

I will be in Montana the week after Christmas. Pastor Chris Nolte will be preaching and presiding at the table. The service will be a service of Lessons and Carols.

10@10: We continue to have 10@10, and during Advent, I have been reading the scripture and daily devotional that I wrote for the season.

Lutheranism 101: Lutheranism 101 continues. We are using Dan Erlander's book, "Baptized, We Live: A Lutheran Way of Life." We will continue the class after the new year, and plan to finish up in 2 (or 3) classes.

Bible Study: Tuesdays and Thursdays we have Bible Study. Tuesday at church, 11:30 am, and Thursdays online, 7:00 pm. We recently moved our evening bible study from Wednesday to Thursday because choir is back rehearsing on Wednesdays. With the beginning of the New Year, Bible Studies will be back on, as we took a break during Christmas.

Mary Woods Worship: December 3rd, I helped with worship and communion at Mary Woods. This will be my last Sunday service until next year.

Advent by Candlelight: December 2nd was Advent by Candlelight. Thanks to all who made this a possibility. Joey Kyne, my stepson, ended up plaything special music by himself, as the quartet dwindled down to a solo. I think it went very well, and look forward to next year.

Visitations: I visited Susan Lamb in the Hospital and at her new room in Occupational Rehab. I stopped by to see Helen Dixon, right as she was getting ready to go to Dialysis. Fred Bialis had a pacemaker put in, and I talked with him, and he is doing very well.

Personal: Thank you for the concern and care that was shown to my family, as we traveled to Alexandria, Virginia for Sharon's mom's funeral. The service was nice, and fitting for her mom. We took time before and after the service to see sights in Washington DC.



Zion Lutheran Council Minutes

December 19, 2023

(Draft to be approved at January Meeting)

Present: Pastor John, Susan Arterberry, Lis Horton, Eileen Wiedrich, Diane Berreth, Lorilee Cronn, Gudrun Hartfeil, Susan Lamb, Jane Arterberry

Absent: Cheryl Steinhebel, Deb Bartel

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Susan.

Devotions: Lorilee shared a reading entitled, *Happy Birthday, Jesus*. The gifts we can give to our Lord are obedience, praise, and sacrifice.

Secretary Report: November minutes were approved as written.

Financial/Support: November's spending exceeded income by almost \$6000. It was noted that we had large expenses due to the main waterline break and repairs. Overall, income exceeds expenses for the year by almost \$5000.

Pastor's Report: The entire report is posted in the newsletter.

Old Business::

The main waterline has been replaced. The excavator donated his time to make the two day repairs, and B and B coordinated all of the repairs to both piping and sidewalk repairs. We are still waiting for the bill for the concrete repair, but the plumber has been paid. We are very blessed to have this repair done at a low cost thanks to the connections of B and B.

We still need to get the finance office computer up and running and purchase the latest Quickbooks update. A new payroll program is being researched to be used in the future.

The new program for recording financial givings and membership will replace Revelations in the main office starting in January.

The constitution updates will be completed and sent to the ELCA office.

New Business:

Two piano recitals were held in the sanctuary during the month of December. Both groups were extremely appreciative of our beautiful facility and piano.

Kraxberger Hall had an electrical shortage recently. After an electrical company repaired the shorts in the light fixtures, it was determined that the area needs rewiring to prevent future issues or possible fire. The bid came in at \$3500 to rewire all light fixtures in Kraxberger Hall.

Council voted to proceed with the repairs and cover the expenses using Memorial Funds.

It was suggested that while doing these repairs dimmer switches should be added.

The annual meeting will be January 28, 2024 after the service and then followed by a council meeting. The meeting is a week later than usual because Pastor will be attending a youth extravaganza on Sunday the 21st.

Committee Reports:

Worship: There are two services on Sunday, December 24. The 10 am service is the 4th Sunday in Advent, and the evening is the Christmas Eve Service.

Sunday, December 31 will be a Lessons and Carols service led by Pastor Nolte while Pastor is on a family vacation.

Service: The elevator maintenance has been completed. Furnaces have been maintained and filters cleaned and replaced.

The balcony attic has been fogged for insects.

The light fixture outside of the elevator on the main floor needs to be replaced and/or repaired.

Council Minutes continued on following page

Learning: The Christmas Program was held on December 17.

Flights will be purchased in January for the National Youth Gathering in July. Five students and two adults will be attending.

Witness: The sanctuary was decorated with the new Tree, wreath and window decor. Thanks to all who helped beautifully decorate the sanctuary. Decorations and tree will stay up through Epiphany Sunday.

Newsletter deadline is Thursday, December 21.

Good of the Order: *Fill a Stocking* was part of *God's Work, Our Hands* in September. 2145 filled stockings were delivered to families recently and Zion was part of this mission.

A large thank you to the congregation for their response of gifts for Foster's Kids. The presents were a blessing both to the children receiving them as well as the case workers delivering the gifts.

A special thank you to Lis Horton, Gudrun Hartfeil, and Susan Lamb who are leaving council after serving 3 full 2 year terms. They have provided faithful service for six years!

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm and followed by The Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: January 28 after the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eileen Wiedrich



Zion's Annual Congregational Meeting, January 28, 2024
following worship service!
Council Meeting Following .

Community Giving — January 2024

Lutheran World Relief

Founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of World War II, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience, Lutheran World Relief tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being.

We work with people based on need, regardless of race, religion or nationality and we do not evangelize.

We provide aid in emergencies and help families restore their lives. We partner with communities to build and grow rural economies. We break the cycle of poverty, so families and communities can thrive.

Our goal is to help people build self-sufficiency and create new community-owned approaches to problem-solving that will last long after our projects end.



Your donations make a difference!

Donations can be given throughout the month.

Make checks payable to Zion, or donate through



**A special thanks to those providing poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary
his Christmas Season.**

Poinsettia Given by:

Jeanette Kmetc in memory of loved ones.

Janet Oleson in memory of Ray & Edna Pudwell.

Carmen Schmit in memory of Anna Wessel.

Phyllis Heagle in memory of loved ones.

Barbara Beaird in memory of loved ones.

LaVonne Priester & Eileen Wiedrich in memory of Ben & Irene Wiedrich.

Jeffery & Lorilee Cronn in memory of Melanie Cronn.

Teresa Yankey in memory of Lessie.

Vi Neilsen in memory of Tad Hyman & Arlen Zecha.



LUTHERAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION

EPIPHANY

CONCERT

Sunday, January 7, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church

2201 N. Rosa Parks Way

Portland





Thank you for the donation of food and personal hygiene items that the congregation and friends of Zion Lutheran Church donated to the Methodist HOPE Food Pantry last week. The donation weighed out at 107#.

We appreciate the support we have received during the year and especially during these times when the need is so great.

We wish you all a very Blessed Christmas Season.

Sharon and the entire volunteer staff at OCUMC HOPE Pantry

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,
I wanted to personally reach out and thank you for your generosity.
Gifts like yours allow us to make a positive impact on the lives of those living unsheltered.

Since January 1, 2023, we have:

- *Housed 92 hotel participants
- *66 individuals sheltered in program (as of 12/6/23)
- *Housed 12+ households in group housing or sober living as an alternative to hotel shelter.
- *and recently housed 6+ households of 2 or more people using Rapid Rehousing money.

Sincerely,
Brandi Johnson
Executive Director
The Father's Heart
Street Ministry & LoveOne

**LOVE
ONE**



Thanks to all who provided Christmas gifts for Clackamas County Foster Kids. What a wonder act of love and support for those less fortunate right here in our neighborhoods.



A Prayer for Welcoming the Future

Lord, I fight against change so often.
Settle into what's comfortable and what's known.
But I know You are doing something new.
Thank You that even when everything changes around me,
you always remain the same —faithful, true, trustworthy,
and full of grace.
Please help me to know where to go and what to do.
Show me when to say goodbye to the old and how to
welcome new seasons and opportunities.
Please remind me of your presence and help me be strong
and courageous, knowing that You are with me.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

—Heather C King

For those who use Offering Envelopes: Your 2024 Offering Envelopes are available and can be picked up in the upper narthex.

Readings for the month

Sunday, January 7, Baptism of Our Lord
Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 14, Second Sunday after Epiphany
1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 21, Third Sunday after Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5,10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 28, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm: 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28



Are you or someone you know experiencing grief?
Do you feel like Charlie Brown?
We are starting a grief ministry that you might find helpful.
Individually focused - Walk at your own pace.

Contact Pastor for more information. |

Grief Ministry - "Journey Through Grief"

Our "Journey Through Grief" ministry is a part of Stephen Ministries and is very well written. It is a personal journey that each person reads in the privacy of their own home, at their own pace. You will receive four small books, one every three months. The books are written in a very caring, helpful, friendly manner and are very inspirational. They lead each person through their grief journey emphasizing that no two journeys are the same.

Duane and I, Bev Hirsch lost Duane's younger brother a year and a half ago. We both read and reread the books individually, at our own pace. It is a private, personal journey. We didn't talk much about the books, we just meditated on the thoughts and steps the book walked us through. We would encourage anyone who has lost a loved one in the past or more recent to read these books. They were very comforting and helpful. We have passed them on to be read by others.

Contact Pastor John or LaVonne if you would like to begin receiving these books.

People of Zion Book Club

Our next meeting will be January 13, 2024 at 10am in the Wuest Room. We are excited to read a book written by a Lutheran friend titled "The Stories of the Lutheran Ladies Circle: Plucking One String". You can get this book through Amazon/paperback, or Kindle, written by Kris Knorr.

Should you have any questions, please call Mary Downen at 503-997-2319.

Reminder: Join us for our weekly gatherings:
 Sunday worship service is held in the Sanctuary and being
 live streamed on **Facebook and Youtube.**



Topic: Church Service

Time: 9:50 AM Pacific Time

or Dial by your location 1 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: 811 2851 1393 Password: 97045



**REMEMBER: WE DON'T WORSHIP
 THE LORD ON SUNDAYS ONLY!**



WE WORSHIP HIM EVERYDAY!

**Pastor John is doing daily studies online at 10AM.
 "10 at 10" with Pastor John. Live on facebook and YouTube,
 Monday through Thursday.**

**Tuesday Bible Study will resume January 9th:
 11:30am, in Wuest Room. Topic: following Sunday Gospel Lesson**

**Bible Study will resume January 11th : Pastor John is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom
 meeting, Thursday, 7pm. Topic: following Sunday Gospel Lesson**

Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 817 7889 8995 Passcode: bible

Have you remembered
 Zion in your Will?



Can you find the hidden Fish?

Somewhere in this newsletter is the fish symbol. It
 could be large or small, a picture or article. See who in
 your family can locate it first!!



Zion Lutheran Church - Financial Report as of November 30, 2023

NOVEMBER Offering received	\$15,876	
<i>Other Income received</i>	<u>955</u>	
Total Income		\$16,831
NOVEMBER Expenses		(22,813)
(Admin of staff-(\$12,086)		
(Expenses) over Income		<u>\$(5,982)</u>
YEAR TO DATE (Jan-Nov) Offering	\$197,724	
<i>Other Income received</i>	<u>8,916</u>	
Total Income		\$207,640
Expenses Year to Date		<u>(201,292)</u>
<i>(Admin. Of Staff (136,164)</i>		
NET Income - 1/1/23-11/30/23		<u>\$ 6,348</u>

Notes:

COMMUNITY GIVING:

NOVEMBER = \$ 553

Year to Date = \$4,715

Prepared by Terri Hammond; questions:
markterrih@gmail.com or (503)349-9654



Advent by Candlelight
"On the Road to the Manger"





Advent by Candlelight



PEOPLE OF ZION

All are invited! Our meetings are scheduled for the first Saturday, every other month. We will convene at 9:30 in Kraxberger Hall & adjourn by no later than 11:00. Hope you can join us for a light continental breakfast, community outreach, & fellowship.

January 6, 2024

Planning for April Focus: Easter Primroses & Cards

March 2, 2024

Planning for June Focus: TBD

May 4, 2024

Planning for August Focus: TBD

July 6, 2024

Planning for October Focus: Silent Auction Event

September 7, 2024

Planning Session for December Focus: Advent by Candlelight Event

November 2, 2024

Planning for February Focus: TBD



"Just A Little Christmas"

A Christmas Pageant



The Cast



Narrators: Daphne Schmit and Presley Berreth

Joseph: Lane Cronen

Mary: Adeline Berreth

Angel: Harper Berreth

3 Kings: Ruby Dowling

Piper Dowling

Jameson Marmion

Shepherd: Dylan Bartelli and Wellington Bennett

Caesar Augustus/King Herod: Cole Cronen



ADOPT A SPACE:**1st Quarter 2024 Workers**

**Please consider signing up individually or as a family
for the 1st quarter, January– March 2024.
The 2024 sign up sheet is located in the upper narthex.
Questions: Contact Eileen Wiedrich—503-657-4055**

Wiedrich/Dowen, Schnell	Sanctuary & Balcony	Vacuum, dust, clean (as needed)
Horton, Hartfeil	Office & Office Narthex	Vacuum, dust clean, garbage (weekly)
Stevenson, Bialas	Main Floor Men's Bathrooms	Clean toilets, mop, sink, garbage (weekly)
Stevenson, Bialas	Main Floor Women's Bathroom	Clean toilets, mop, sink, garbage (weekly)
Bill & Judy Heerdt	Wuest Fellowship room	Vacuum, garbage, straighten up (bi-monthly)
Phyllis' Crew	Main floor hallway & stairs	Sweep, mop, vacuum mats (bi-monthly)
Needed	Kraxberger Hall	Vacuum (as needed)
Jana LaGrange	Downstairs bathrooms (3)	Clean toilets, mop, sink, garbage (weekly)
Bill & Judy Heerdt	Elevator	Sweep and dust (as needed)
Vi Neilsen	Kraxberger kitchen	Sweep & mop floor (monthly)
Bartelli	Downstairs hallway & stairs	Sweep/mop, vacuum mat (bi-monthly)

**Oregon Synod Lay School of Theology presents
the Winter 2024 Course,
*"Wrestling with God:
Encountering the Divine in the Hebrew Scriptures"***

Eight Thursdays, January 4-February 22, 2024, 6:30-8:00pm on Zoom

Join us for an eight-week course digging into the Hebrew Scriptures! We'll explore names and images for God, including female imagery for the Divine, and offer ways to use this imagery in your spiritual practice. Like Jacob wrestling with the Divine, we'll wrestle with texts. How do we make sense of difficult stories- God's anger that leads to violence? Genocide in Joshua? How does God make Godself known in the natural world, in events, through other nations? What wisdom can we wrestle from these texts to help us live more faithfully? What might we learn, and what might we need to unlearn?

As always, this course will provide opportunities for relationship-building, critical thinking and spiritual practice.

Presenters are Sister India Jensen Kerr (St. Andrew Lutheran, Beaverton), Pr. Jesse Christopherson (Milwaukie Lutheran) and Pr. Emerson Remy Remmers (Grace, Corvallis). Pastor John Reutter-Harrah is the host.

Course participants and/or their congregations are encouraged to offer a financial donation as they are able. A gracious giving range of \$20-\$160 is a way to support the course, and an \$80 donation covers presenters and administrative costs. With four or more from the same congregation, we encourage a congregational donation of \$250. Any donation is appreciated!

To register: Contact LaVonne in the office and she will send you the link.

Prayer Requests: Susan Lamb, Chris Nolte, Murv Stone, Diane Green, Richard Jennings, Helen Dixon, Dee Hanson, Heidi Stevens, Katie O'Donnell, Sharin Little, Carol Gronbeck, Cheri Smith, Fern Haugh, Cathy Dawson, George Myers, Zander, Emee Bradley (3yrs old diagnosed with Leukemia), Leslie Ford, Daniel Morris, Daryl Cronen, Rhonda, Hazel Broderick, Kim & baby boy.

Prayers for Zion's Homebound Members: Esther Betts, Lavon Edwards, Donna Ronning, Verna Fuson, Dorothy Krueger, Ellie Woodford, Ron & Dorothy Cole, Caroline Ritter-Swartz, Jack Dace.

RAISE THE ROOF WEDDING CHALLENGE is still going!!

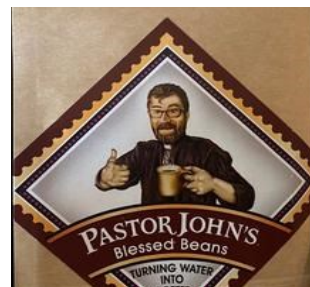
Send the tax deductible donation to the church office along with **your names** and **wedding date**.

It will be interesting to find out who was married at Zion throughout the years.



I have created a coffee blend which I am calling, **Raise the Roof!"**

It is \$15 a bag, and \$5 of that will go toward the Roof Fund.

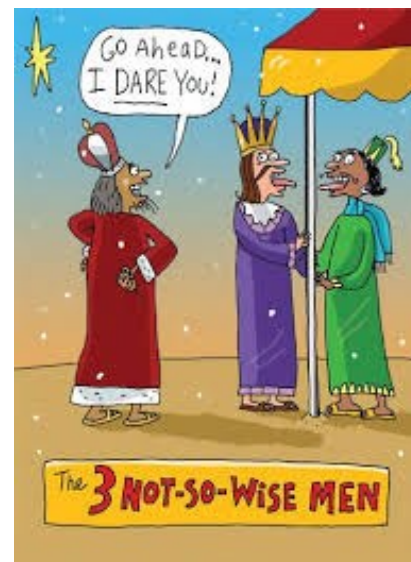


Address Changes

Patrick & Ashley Bennett
844 Nicole Ct
West Linn, OR 97068



A bit of Lutheran Humor



A note from the church secretary:

For New Years—
Ring out the false,
ring in the True!



Worship Helpers



January	7	14	21	28
Ushers	Ryan LaGrange Jana LaGrange	Elyjah McFarland Ashley George Eileen Wiedrich Patti Anderson	Allen Fawcett Dick Keefer Richard Patterson	Chuck Krieger Cathy Krieger Roger Stevenson
Readers	Nancy Combs	Denise wells	Lori Fawcett	Deb Bartel
Acolytes	Presley Berreth	Daphne Schmit	Presley Berreth	Daphne Schmit
Communion Assistants	Cheryl Steinhebel	LaVonne Priester	Pam Bloom	Bill Fox
Flowers				
PowerPoint Operator	Lori Fawcett	Cheryl Steinhebel	Jeanette Kmetic	Eileen Wiedrich
Computer Streaming	Lori Fawcett	Lis Horton	Ashley George	Lorilee Cronn
Altar Guild	Phyllis Heagle LaVonne Priester	Phyllis Heagle LaVonne Priester	Phyllis Heagle LaVonne Priester	Phyllis Heagle LaVonne Priester
Yard Care/ Mowing	Mike McFarland Elyjah McFarland	Logan Schmit	Ron Rohde	Carston Berreth John Wicklund

God's blessings to our members celebrating birthdays!

If your birthday is not listed or is incorrect, please call the office at 503-656-4437. Thanks.



1/1 Audrey Keller
1/3 Lis Horton
Chris Nolte
1/4 Piper Dowling
1/5 Nancy Hargitt
1/15 Bryan Rygh
1/16 Caroline Ritter-Swartz
1/20 Logan Schmit
Kelly Arterberry
1/22 Pastor John Stevens
1/23 Karl Gustafson
1/24 Candy Wakeman

1/26 Janet Peschka
1/29 Kristi Werner
Denise wells



1/25 Leo & Gudrun Hartfeil



Roof Fund Progress Report

Our roof fund is steadily climbing towards our \$100,000.00 goal. We have raised over \$80,000! Thanks to everyone who's participated so far.

Thanks, Deb Bartel. You can reach me at barteldeb@yahoo.com or 503-522-1601 if you have any questions or suggestions for fun ideas.

January 2024

Zion Lutheran

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed 	2 10@10	3 10 @ 10 7PM Choir	4 “10@10” 6:30 “Wrestling with GOD” on Zoom 7PM Bible Study	5	6 9:30AM POZ meeting
7 8:15 Lutheranism 101 10:00AM Worship, in Sanctuary & Live Streamed Sunday School Coffee Hour	8 10@10	9 “10@10” 11:30 Bible Study in Wuest Room	10 “10@10” 7PM Choir	11 “10@10” 6:30 “Wrestling with GOD” on Zoom 7PM Bible Study	12	13 10AM POZ Book Club
14 8:15 Lutheranism 101 10:00AM Worship, in Sanctuary & Live Streamed Sunday School	15 Office Closed 	16 10@10 11:30 Bible Study in Wuest Room	17 “10@10” 7PM Choir	18 “10@10” 6:30 “Wrestling with GOD” on Zoom 7PM Bible Study	19	20
21 8:15 Lutheranism 101 10:00AM Worship, in Sanctuary & Live Streamed Sunday School	22 10@10	23 10&10 11:30 Bible Study in Wuest Room	24 10@10 7PM Choir	25 “10@10” 6:30 “Wrestling with GOD” on Zoom 7PM Bible Study	26	27
28 8:15 Lutheranism 101 10:00AM Worship in Sanctuary & Live Streamed Sunday School Annual Meeting Council Meeting follows	29 10@10	30 10@10 11:30 Bible Study In Wuest Room	31 10@10 7PM Choir			

Zion Lutheran Church
720 Jefferson St.
Oregon City, OR 97045

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Oregon City, Oregon
Permit No.3

Return Service Requested
TIME MATERIAL
January 2024



Zion Lutheran Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 8:00AM - 1:00PM

Pastor John available via text, email or leave a message with LaVonne at the church office.
503-656-4437

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, January 18th

2023 Zion Church Staff

Phone: (503) 656-4437
Pastor: Rev. John W. Stevens
Admin.Assist: LaVonne Priester
Minister of Music: Karl Gustafson
Website: www.zionlutheranelca.org
Email: office@zionlutheranelca.org

2023 Zion Church Council

President:	Susan Arterberry	Service:	Cheryl Steinhebel
Vice President:	Lis Horton	Support:	Eileen Wiedrich
Secretary:	Eileen Wiedrich	Learning:	Eileen Wiedrich
Worship:	Diane Berreth		Susan Arterberry
	Deb Bartel		Lis Horton
	Lorilee Cronn		Jane Arterberry
Witness:	Susan Lamb		
	Lis Horton		
	Diane Berreth		
	Gudrun Hartfeil		