



ZION REFORMED

growing disciples who make disciples

December 1, 2019

ZionReformed.org

TODAY AT ZION

MESSAGE: "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, all around the world." At some point during the upcoming holiday season we will almost certainly hear those familiar lyrics on the radio, on a TV special, or at the mall. For many, Christmas means thousands of shimmering lights gracing trees, bushes, front porches, and sometimes entire houses, transforming the familiar landscape of our neighborhood into a cozy fantasy kingdom. Christmas means scented red candles, the shining eyes and flushed faces of children as they come alive to the wonder of the season, and mustering an attitude of "good cheer" as we all strive to create an aura of serenity, stillness, and peace on earth. But what do we do when Advent doesn't feel like Christmas? When life is not all warm and aglow with the joy of the season? This week, we remember Advent is not primarily about Christmas parties, but preparing for the coming of Jesus.

SERVING TODAY

Welcome Table: Ken & Sheila Johnson

Ushers: Troy and Jill Austin, Scot Gore

Greeters: Ken & Sheila Johnson

Coffee: Don and Marcia Osterink

IF YOU WOULD like an Elder to pray with you they are available as you exit the sanctuary following worship.

IF YOU WOULD like a copy of the worship service, contact Tom Verbrugge at verbrugge.family@att.net or in the balcony after the service. You can also find the weekly messages on our website.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Call to Worship: O Come, O Come Emmanuel with Reckless Love

Welcome & Greeting

Worship Songs: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Angels We Have Heard On High
The First Noel

Children dismissed to Sunday School

Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44

Message: When Advent Doesn't Feel Like Christmas: Are You Ready?

Offering: 1. General Fund 2. Thanksgiving Offering

Worship Songs: What Child Is This
 God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Parting Blessing

Closing Chorus: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Message by Pastor Greg Brower

A FAMILY ROOM where parents can feed their babies or sit with them during the worship services can be accessed by exiting through the front door on the west side (piano side) of the sanctuary. The Family Room is the first door on your left.

OUR SANCTUARY is equipped with a hearing loop for the hearing impaired. Turn your hearing aid to the T-Coil position to use this feature.

ZION KIDS ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILD CHECK IN: All children from birth through 3rd grade must be signed in at the Zion Kids Check-In Kiosk located by door D prior to participating in our kids ministries. **Check in Staff:** Justin and Amanda Vasquez

Nursery: Our nursery is located on the main floor in room 207.

Today's Staff: Ashley VanderWall, Amy & Sydney Mott

SUNDAY SCHOOL room assignments:

Nursery - Room 207

3 yr. olds - Room 208

4 yr. & young 5's - Room 206

Kindergarten - Room 203

1st grade - Room 204

2nd & 3rd grade - Room 209

4th & 5th grade - chapel

ZION YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHECK THE YOUTH WEBSITE <https://www.zionreformed.org/youth-group/> for announcements, upcoming events, fundraising info, etc.

Dec 1 - No Youth Group (Thanksgiving Break)

Dec 8 - Middle School Christmas Party (12pm - 4pm)

On Sunday, Dec. 8, we will be going to BAM! in Holland for our Christmas party (meet at Zion at 12pm). At BAM!, we will eat lunch, bowl, play laser tag, and have a white elephant gift exchange (see below for a description of a white elephant gift).

What to bring:

Cost: \$5 exact cash

White Elephant Gift

What is a White Elephant Gift?

Something that you have laying around in your house that you no longer have use for. It can be funny, old, a re-gift, or anything basically. Pick something, wrap it, and we will play a game to exchange them.

Dec 8 - No High School Youth Group (due to Middle School Party)



ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE NEED: If you have a pastoral care need or concern we encourage you to contact your elder (assigned by last name):

Matt Eling (A-D)

Josh Sanders (E-H)

Brandon Deiter (I-M)

Steve Boersma (N-R)

Todd Kempema (S-U)

Mike Knott (V-Z)

It's not always easy to tell who needs an encouraging helping hand. If you know of someone in our church family, or if you personally need some help, please contact our Chair of Deacons, Shanda VandePol, at 616-308-0700. Scripture encourages all of us to carry each others burdens (Galatians 6:2). You would bless us by letting us walk with you during this time.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Barb Overweg underwent a heart catheterization on Wednesday as a result of severe shortness of breath. Please pray for healing, peace and a full recovery. Continue to pray for those in our congregation who deal with ongoing health issues.

DONATIONS of the following items (full size - not travel size) are needed for the Personal Care Pantry:

Laundry Soap	Bar Soap	Dish Soap	Disposable Razors
Shampoo	Conditioner	Toothpaste	Paper Grocery Bags
Deodorant	Tampons	Maxi Pads	Paper towels (1 or 2 pack)
Toilet paper (1-4 pack)			

Donations can be placed in the box in the narthex marked "pantry donations".

HAND2HAND: Hand 2 Hand is in need of Granola Bars, Rice Krispie Treats, Fruit Snacks, and Belvita or Breakfast Bars. We are serving students from West Elementary, Grandview Elementary, and Grandville Middle School, providing students with a backpack full of food for the weekend.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE to get 2020 God's Creation Calendars (\$10) and Key Card Books (\$25)! You can pick them up today in the narthex or contact Jeremy or Connie in the church office if you would like to purchase either of these items to support our youth!

THANKSGIVING OFFERING: This year the deacons have designated our Thanksgiving Offering to support Good News Nepal, Forgotten Man Ministries for their folding machine, and the deacons will be shopping for local families for Christmas gifts. Thanksgiving offerings will be collected on November 24, 28 and December 1. We encourage you to give generously and prayerfully both to the Thanksgiving offering and our General Fund.

EVER THINK ABOUT GOING TO KENYA? We are in the early stages of planning a trip to Kenya in June of 2021. While there, we will see the progress on Jeremiah's church we have been supporting, have a project planned to work on, do some visiting and touring of Mahi Mahui where Jeremiah and Mary live, and finish off this trip with a Safari. If this sounds interesting to you, please contact Pastor Rick. Asante sana.



THIS WEEK AT ZION

WEDNESDAY

6:30PM Prayer Group meets

6:30PM Praise Team Practice

WEEKLY OFFERING: November 24, 2019

Weekly Budget: \$11,091.82 Year to Date Budget: \$288,387.32

General Fund: \$21,578.00 Year to Date Contribution: \$261,487.19

Thanksgiving Offering to Date: \$4,142.00

NEW GIVING OPTIONS: We have recently begun accepting donations to the General Fund and Building Fund online or via text. If you are interested in supporting the ministries of Zion financially, you can do so from our website www.zionreformed.org by clicking on "Give Online Now" or **text 1-616-219-2181** using one of the commands listed below:

- **Text 'give'** to be prompted on how much you'd like to give.
- **Text 'update'** to change the credit card or bank account you give from or to modify recurring gifts you've set up by text
- **Text '50 weekly'** to set up a weekly gift of \$50. Replace 50 with the amount you'd like to give. You can also replace 'weekly' with 'biweekly', 'monthly' or 'yearly'.
- **Text '50 fundname'** to give \$50 to a specific fund. Replace 'fundname' with the keyword **General or Building** to designate to specific fund. Replace 50 with the amount you'd like to give.
- **Text 'unlink'** to unlink your phone from the text giving service so that your phone is no longer authorized to make donations

