



# The PEAL of Zion

Newsletter of Zion UMC: Batavia  
January 2025

Rev. Tshishinen Mpoyo  
262-225-2316

## **Happy and Blessed New Year, Beloved,**

As we step into the new year, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year and thanking God for everything He has blessed us with. The Lord has protected us, provided for us, healed us, and been with us throughout the year. With that in mind, we are grateful to enter into a new year with hearts full of joy and gratitude.

Looking forward to this new year, we approach it with hope, peace of mind, and joy, filled with great love for God and for others. For some, 2024 was a year of new experiences and abundant blessings. It was a year of graduations, weddings, newborn babies, first-time drivers, and witnessing the miraculous healing hands of God. For others, it was a year of significant financial growth.

However, for some, reflecting on the past year may bring different emotions. For some, 2024 was a year they would rather forget. Others around us have lost loved ones to illness, gun violence, wildfires, floods, tornadoes, overdoses, war, kidnapping. These are painful moments that are hard to move past. For some, this will be the first year celebrating Christmas without loved ones, and for others, it marks another year of absence.

As we enter this brand-new year, as Bishop Dan Schwerin said in his message to the congregations at the charge conference, this is “a year of grace.” We are called to live faithfully, deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ, grow our church’s vitality, and engage more in life-giving and life-changing ministry as the Spirit of God leads us. Let us encourage one another to grow spiritually, as we are instruments of God's grace.

I am profoundly grateful for our church leaders and volunteers who tirelessly dedicate their gifts in service to God. I thank God for your commitment to participate in worship and church’s ministry regularly. You have promoted a high level of discipleship among our church members, for which I am deeply thankful.

## **Scripture readings and sermon titles we will reflect on this month of January:**

January 5, 2025: Matthew 2:1-12, The Magi Visit

January 12, 2025: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22, The Baptism of the Lord

January 19, 2025: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Spiritual Gifts

January 26, 2025: Luke 4:14-21, The Fulfillment of Scripture

Let us rejoice in what God has opened for us this new year and anticipate with faith and joy what He will reveal in the days to come.

Wishing you a Happy and Blessed New Year and goodwill to all!

**Yours in Christ,**

**Rev Tshishinen Mpoyo**

## Upcoming Greeters / Ushers

Jan 5 Paul & Angie Hartmann  
Jan 12 Roy & Shelly Hartmann  
Jan 19 Ray & Tracy Hartmann  
Jan 26 Cliff & Joanie Hellmer

## Liturgists

Jan 5 Linda Gerlach  
Jan 12 Gwen Heimerman  
Jan 19 Larry Huiras  
Jan 26 Wendy Bemis

## Greeters & Liturgists

If you are unable to greet or read on your Sunday please try to switch with others or contact the office as early as possible.

## Zion's Upcoming Events

Jan 7 DOC meeting 6:30pm  
Jan 16 Trustee meeting 6:30pm  
Jan 21 Worship meeting 10:00am  
Ad Council meeting 6:30pm



## Birthdays

January 1 ~ Camila Tadeo  
3 ~ Marilyn Thornell  
4 ~ Marianne Bindrich  
5 ~ Emma Arndt  
Amie Wilson  
12 ~ Elijah McChain  
Brenda Eisentraut  
15 ~ Clayton Pomeroy  
19 ~ Dion Degnitz  
21 ~ Briggs Willegal  
22 ~ Scott Krahn  
28 ~ Robert Kilburn Sr  
29 ~ Jim McChain

## Anniversaries

January 6 ~ Dan & Jackie Kraemer  
7 ~ Don & Bev Schroeder  
30 ~ Tom & Shirley Dekker

**BELIEVE**  
**THERE IS**  
**GOOD IN**  
**THE WORLD**

Please let the office know if we missed your anniversary or birthday? Month, day, and year (which we never publish) helps when putting into our system.

# GOT MILK?

Zion is still supplying all of the funds for the purchase of milk through the Food Pantry. The demand is UP! Thank you to all who help fill this need. Please mail milk fund donations to Zion.

The Interfaith Food Pantry is located at 310 Center St, Adell, WI  
Call the Food Pantry at 920-447-2293 for an appointment.



## CHRISTMAS CHEER DELIVERED!

Due to the prayers and generosity of so many of our church members, Zion was able to provide every gift that was on the wish list of the 4 families at Bridgeway in Sheboygan. We delivered the gifts early, so the moms would have the joy of wrapping the gifts before Christmas. Lisa Stephen, who is the head of SCIO, expressed so much appreciation for our delivery! Let's continue praying for these 4 families, as they get assistance to learn how to live on their own and prepare to move to a safe environment where they can thrive.

## LOOKING TO 2025

*“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can”.*

These are the words of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, and this message is as timely today as it was in Wesley's lifetime (1707-1788). We can and need to be agents of change and goodness—Christians who do as much as possible to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and to do good in our communities.

As we look to the New Year, it is easy to get consumed by the world news, problems and budget concerns in our country, and issues in our own families and communities. Sometimes we simply need to rest our weary minds and put our faith in God. Prayer is our first line of defense! Talk to God! Be with God! Make Jesus part of your life!

Let us each be in prayer and know God's presence. May each of us do all the good we can, in all the ways we can in the coming year!

Happy New Year!!

Terri Yoho, Lay Leader

# Zion UMC Finance / Council Meeting Minutes

## December 17th, 2024

Present: Val Kilburn, Linda Gerlach, Larry Huiras, Shirley Dekker, Bill Yoho, Gwen Heimerman, Terri Yoho, Barb LaFleur, Wendy Bemis  
VIA ZOOM: Mark Leibham, Rev. Tshishinen Mpoyo

Linda opened the meeting with prayer.

Mark- Finance: At the moment, church finances look good. Have enough for expenses for the end of the year. Would like to know how much Zion should carry over into the next year. Last year Zion carried over roughly \$14,000. This carryover helps pay bills in short months and ensures bills are paid on time. \$8,208 has been paid year to date for apportionments. Another \$8,208 is in savings to pay toward apportionments. Total apportionments bill is \$27,360. Bill made a motion to send the saved apportionment dollars to pay the apportionments. Wendy 2<sup>nd</sup>. PASS. A \$2,500 gift was made to pay towards apportionments above 60%. This will put Zion's paid amount at \$18,916 or 69.1% of the total bill.

Stacy-SPRC: via Linda- Still looking for an Administrative Assistant. Advertising more widely now. May need to pay more or adjust hours. Still looking for an organist as well.

Shirley-ZUMY: Holiday boxes getting filled Saturday morning. 24 recipients this year.

Wendy- Worship: met with Pastor to discuss Christmas Eve and music. Would like to consider a variety of music/musician options in case a full-time organist cannot be found. In January want to look at camera and microphone needs and wants. Rev. Tshishinen's son Michele can help ZION figure out its needs.

Gwen- Has consented to be a representative to SCIO. Jesse Tree was very successful this year.

Barb- Trustees- Received a nice thank you from Zion Housing for the Christmas tree, gifts, milk vouchers and holiday boxes. Trustees finished weatherstripping the front door. The furnace company was called to fix a boiler issue. The dishwasher is also fixed.

Larry- DOC- Serving at the Sheboygan Food Bank February 11 10:30-2pm. Looking for 6 people to help. Next meeting is January 7.

Circuit- Brat Fry recently at Pig raised \$1,100. Rang bell Festival Foods Saturday 10am-9pm. Looking at having a Lay Servant Speaker training course in 2025.

Linda- Excited to see that 10 families are signed up for Directory Photos already. Photos will be taken April 4-5.

Rev. Tshishinen- Changing confirmation schedule to get through material by Confirmation Day on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Current program would have otherwise taken them through summer till September. Prayer group is going well. Would love more people to join. Would like to create a membership team to contact people and reach out to those Zion does not see very often. Looking for help for that mission.

Linda closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Valarie Kilburn