LADIES DEPARTMENT



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Women ín Míssíon - Zíon Lutheran Míssíon Valley



Bible Study times each month....

Esther Circle-2nd Tuesday of the Month-9 am Ladies Aid-1st Thursday of the Month-2 pm Rebecca/Ruth Circle-1st Monday of the Month-10 am. Each Bible study group or circle has ongoing activities they are involved in, such as the kits, quilts, Ladles of Love, etc. But to participate, you do not have to belong to a circle...



ESTHER CIRCLE



Esther Circle had their annual Christmas Party at the home of Calton & Sherilyn Arnecke on Saturday, December 6, beginning at 4:00 p.m. Stew and Chili were served along with Cornbread. Each member brought their favorite sweet or finger food. A blazing fire was lit in the fire pit where the men congregated until dinner was served. Ladies decorated the Christmas Tree. A Chinese Gift Exchange was held. The evening ended with the reading of the Christmas Story from the Book of Luke.

Esther Circle meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to join us on Tuesday, January 14, 2025! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sherilyn Arnecke, Secretary/Treasurer

REBECCA/RUTH CIRCLE



Rebecca/Ruth Circle had their Christmas Party on Monday, December 3rd, at Sky Restaurant with 11 members present: Denise Afflerbach, Seda Weaver, Gloria Buchhorn, Shelvy Schneider, Peggy Lee, Sheron Alex, Debbie Meyer, Sherri Bluhm, JoNell Martin, Sherita Miller, Winona Klacman.

We had a great time with fellowship, exchanged our secret pal's gifts finding out who our Secret Pals were for 2024 and the gifts were so neat. We will have Secret Pals again for 2025.

Door prizes were given away.

Denise read from a book written by Max Lucado and Charles Swindoll: **Glory of Christmas**. Christmas comes each year to draw people from the cold.

We sang Christmas Carols and also had a Cookie Exchange that members brought. We closed our party with The Lord's Prayer.

Will meet Monday, January 6th. Secretary Winona Klacman.

LADIES AID



Ladies Aid met for their Christmas Party at Church, Thursday, December 5th with lots of yummy snacks provided by Gail Woytasczyk, Priscilla Dornburg, Barbara Schmidt, Kay Lagal & Eva Cooke. We had lots of laughter & sharing of gifts.

We invite anyone to join us on the 1st Thursday of each month. Our next meeting will be January 2nd.



Elders are in charge of Ladles of Love in January. If you would like to participate in a group or form your own group, please talk to Sherilyn Arnecke.

Sherilyn Arnecke, Chairperson



Each month the ladies of the church are collecting a different item as one of their projects for Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry (VCAM). For the month of **January**, LWML is collecting **Canned Beans any kind (Pinto, Black, Lima, Navy, Ranch, etc.).** We are asking the congregation to help with this project. It would be very much appreciated. There is a box in the **Narthex near the Ladies**

Restroom for your donated item. Please help restock the shelves at VCAM. If any questions, contact Eva Cooke, project chairperson.

Want to thank everyone for contributing food for all these people in need.

Eva Cooke, Chairperson

Thank you, thank you. For the month of November, 83 lbs. Cans of Sweet Peas were collected for VCAM!



SEWING DAY

No Sewing Day in December. Our next Sewing Day will be **Tuesday, January 21**st at 9am in the multi-Purpose Room.

Eva Cooke & Irene Heinold, Chairpersons



LWML GENERAL MEETING

The LWML General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28th at 6:45pm. This organization is for **all women of Zion**, providing spiritual growth and instrumental on giving an insight, through God's Grace and to His Glory, of the good work that is accomplished for the Church and beyond. Please consider joining us. Our speakers are Denise Afflerbach and Hilary Lucas, Director of Community Outreach & Advancement of Hospice of South Texas.

Be sure to remember to bring your Mite Offering. Make your plans now to attend. Hostess will be Rebecca/Ruth Circle with Esther Circle having devotions.

Leaders of Servant Resources, Denise Afflerbach & Barbara Schmidt

<u>Women's Renewal |</u> Jan. 31-Feb. 2

Ladies, we are excited to invite you to our annual <u>Women's Renewal</u> retreat at Camp Lone in La Grange! This is the perfect opportunity to bring your friends, or come ready to make some new ones, and enjoy a life-giving weekend together. We'll take time to reflect on God's Word, connect with our sisters in Christ, and explore the beauty of His creation.

Get ready for a fun-filled weekend packed with adventurous Christ-centered experiences, including: hiking, archery, tomahawk throwing, arts & crafts, canoeing, star gazing, prayer walks, campfire devotions, conquering the climbing tower, and so much more!

Join us as we experience renewal both physically and spiritually, growing in our faith and deepening our relationships with new and longtime friends!

*Cost:

- <u>Retreat Center:</u> **\$229/participant**
- Cabins: \$149/participant

*Please note: Cancellations prior to Jan. 17, 2025 will receive a full refund minus a \$25 cancellation fee. Cancellations after this date will result in the forfeiture of all payments.

We hope you can join us!

If you have any questions, please contact our <u>Registrar</u> or call (979) 968-1657.





The new LWML 2025 Yearbook is ready to be picked up. If you did not receive a copy and/or find an error, please notify the church office. If you would like to become a LWML member, please contact Debbie Meyer, LWML president.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

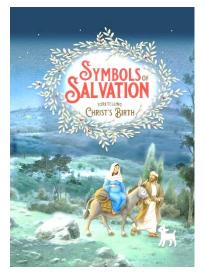




Classes will resume on Sunday, January 5, 2025. Please join us at 9am.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"Symbols of Salvation"



Thank you, thank you to Kathy Harryman for volunteering to be our Sunday School Christmas Director. This year's Sunday School Christmas was held on December 8th.

See insert.



LITTLE DISCIPLES

Little Disciples will resume again and is a program is for kids and their parents ages 4-10. Kids will learn to grow in their Faith and serve others through the "4 L's": Lunch, Lead, Learn, and Laughter.

We will meet after church on **Sunday**, **January** 12th. We'll provide a light lunch, or feel free to bring your own.



If your children have any news like school recognitions, honors, sports, achievements this year that you would like to share, please submit them to the church office. Throughout the year, please submit special happenings. We lve to hear about our children.

COMMITTEE NEWS



On Sunday, January 5, 2025, all new & present officers and board members of Council, LWML, circles, and Boards will be installed during Sunday Worship.





Calling all campers! If you are interested in going to Camp Lone Star, stay tune for more details. If have any questions, please call Ann Heller 361-772-4832.



Confirmation classes will resume on **Sunday**, **January 5, 2025, from 4:30-5:45pm.** We will meet in the Conference Room. If any questions, please contact Pastor Meyer.



ALTAR GUILD

Our semi-annual clean up meeting was held on Saturday, December 14th, at 8:30am. The date was changed this year from being in November to December so the Sanctuary would look more polished for our Advent and Christmas services. Unfortunately, this did not agree with everyone's schedule. The pews were all cleaned and polish as well as all the woodwork. Windows cleaned and door handles polished. I want to thank Bea Fuchs for coming and between the two of us we got it all done in a couple of hours. A short meeting was held on the discussion of buying new communion ware because the existing is getting "pitted" from the acid of the wine. We need to remember to WASH after use. Thanks again Bea.

Pauline Janak, Altar Guild Chairperson





1-r: Rinda Zimmermann, Brett Williams, Sheila Siepert, Marilyn Brown. Not pictured Judy Garman

On Sunday, December 15th, the Board of Fellowship welcomed new members with cake and punch.

Cook Off contest. We will provide chopped onions, shredded cheese, jalapenos, Frito corn chips, and some cornbread.

We plan to be entertaining and filling! Games afterward are an option. Some people might just want chili and a nap. **Don't forget to sign up so** we can prepare for all. Thank you! Outreach Committee

CONGREGATION NEWS





We welcome into our membership Judy Garman. Please introduce yourself to her. Her address is: 1219 St. Hwy. 72 W, Apt. 402, Cuero, Tx 77954



Rally-up for Chilifest 2025!!!! Outreach is planning another chili supper as a thank you to our congregation. We hope this to be another BIG DEAL so come on out! Entries for the chili contest are open and welcomed. Please sign up.

> When: Friday, Jan. 24, 2025 Where: Zion Fellowship Hall Time: Bring chili entries by 5:30pm Serving: begins after judging at 6:00 pm

Sign-up sheets in Narthex. Please indicate how many attending and additional cornbread or cookies. Also, please sign-up to enter the Chili



We welcome into our membership Sheila Siepert. Please introduce yourself to her. Her address is: 112 Buckskin Trail, Victoria, Tx 77904



We welcome into our membership Rinda Zimmermann. Please introduce yourself to her. Her address is: 624 Basswood, Victoria, Tx 77904



We welcome into our membership Brett Williams. Please introduce yourself to him. His address is: 1668 Bego Rd., Goliad, Tx 77963



We welcome into our membership Marilyn Brown. Please introduce yourself to her. Her address is: 305 Angus St., Victoria, Tx 77904



The Christmas card boxes are set up in the Narthex. Please check your folder until January 5th, and then they will be removed.

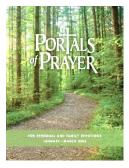


CHURCH ENVELOPES

The 2025Church envelopes have arrived and are assigned to those members who wish to use them. Please pick up your envelopes in the Narthex by the Christmas card boxes. **Please contact Teresa Boswell if you have not used them before but wish** to for the upcoming year. Also, let her know if you had envelopes last year, but do not want them in the future.

The statements for year 2024 will be distributed early mid-January.

funding Summer Camp in LaGrange. Pastor Meyer was unable to go to the luncheon in Point Comfort at the Formosa Guest House to receive the award but received by mail. We hope we can apply for future grants. There are strict stipulations that come with this grant and these conditions are required by IRS in order for the trust to retain its tax-exempt status under the IRS code. Now that we have these funds, please plan on attending the Camper's Meeting to register our campers by the end of January.



PORTALS OF PRAYER

January thru March small and large print Portals of Prayer are available in the magazine rack in the Fellowship. First come, first serve, if you want one, please help yourself. If you know of anyone who needs one, please take them one.



The new Flower Chart for 2025 is now hanging in the Narthex. If you would like to have flowers in church for any occasion, please sign up.



I have had several people speak to me asking about my next new member class. If you would like to learn more about what it is to be a Lutheran, to become a member of Zion, or just review for yourself what you learned a long time ago, please let me know! I would like to start this class as soon as possible! The class meets weekly for about 8 weeks. Any questions, please contact me. Pastor Meyer



Formosa Plastics Religious Trust has awarded a grant to Zion in the amount of \$1,000.00 to assist with



ZION PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Pictures for the 2025 Pictorial Directory will be taken on these dates:

Sunday, February 16th Sunday, February Sunday, March 2nd

Our directory is in the planning stage. We want to see your smiling faces there so please plan ahead and get ready on these dates. We can do this before or after service. Thanks. I will be there. Judy Faulkner



Thanks to Pastor Wagner for bringing God's Word to us on Sunday, December 29th while Pastor Meyer was on vacation.



CHURCH PARKING LOT

When you park at church, please keep in mind those who would benefit from parking closer to the doors of the church and fellowship hall. Consider parking on the north side of the parking lot or the south side of the church, saving the closer parking spots for others. If you need these spots, use them! If it's merely a convenience, save the spaces for those with mobility-related struggles. As a reminder, the spots marked "Handicapped" are reserved on Sundays with those who have handicapped tags on their cars. Thanks for helping care for the needs of others!



RECYLING INK CARTRIDGES

How do we get rewards for recycling ink

cartridges? As a Reward Member of Office Depot, the church gets \$2 back in program rewards for each ink cartridge that we recycle, up to 10 cartridges per month. Qualifying purchases include any product or service purchase made in store or online. All brands of ink qualify for recycling rewards. This helps with the rising cost of supplies for the church. There is a basket on a shelf in the Narthex between the Men's & Ladies' Restrooms for your cartridges.



MISSION VALLEY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

As the congregation knows Zion and Mission Valley School have experienced a long enduring partnership as "neighbors". We have shared such things as parking space and Fellowship Hall usage. Occasionally, it has been asked if our congregation can utilize the school's playground which is currently located on our leased property. Verification came from Randy Meyer VISD Deputy Superintendent on March 1, 2024, stating, "Zion Lutheran Church is welcome to utilize the campus playground after school hours and weekends. As with any public school property, the district cannot be held liable for injuries that happen on school property. VISD is pleased to be able to work together for the good of the Mission Valley community." So yes, you have permission to use the playground at your own risk.



Did you know Pastor podcasts his sermons on-line at <u>https://podpoint.com/woodencrosses</u>? You can listen on-line or download a sermon and listen later. If you prefer a written copy, he also blogs his sermons (and other miscellaneous writings) at

<u>https://crossesandwoodshavings.blogspot.com/</u>. Feel free to use and share these resources with friends and family!

Entire Service on: Zion's Facebook page <u>http://www.facebook.com/zionmissionvalley/</u>

*****We are trying to "boost" our social media (Facebook) and internet presence. If you are a Facebook user, go ahead and give us a "Like" at facebook.com/ZionMissionValley. We are posting several times a week with various memes, quotes, Q&A, and interesting articles. "Like" and share what you see, whether it's Sunday's service or a goofy meme! Also, be sure to click on the church webpage, <u>https://zionlutheranmv.org/</u> and let it load up. You don't even have to read it! It drives the algorithms to keep us closer to the top when people do searches for churches in the Victoria area.



Visit our website at: www.vcamvictoria.org or our Facebook page: <u>https://www.facebook.com/vcam.org/</u> for VCAM services or news.

Services Provided for November 2024

Households Served – 1557, Total Number in households – 4045, Food Boxes – 1428, Basic Needs – 1,057, Home Delivery – 25 Homeless Served – 150, Homeless Visits – 826, First-time VCAM clients Served – 163

Serving over 1,500 households is the new norm for VCAM. Over 100 first-time VCAM clients each month is also the new norm. Our ministry once served 1,000 monthly (our busiest months), as little as three years back. Where does it "level off" or do we decide to regularly increase our budget to continue to help our community put groceries in their kitchen?

Merry Christmas! Say farewell to 2024 & welcome in the New Year w/great abundance!

Blessings...Marc

Clients come on a once-a-month basis, while our homeless population is served on a daily basis. *All services are provided free.*

Please continue to refer those who require our services to VCAM & please continue to support.

"Providing hope when things seem hopeless..."



PRAYER LIST

To add another person's name to our prayer lists, you must be a member or active worshipping guest of Zion and identify yourself as the one requesting prayer for someone else. It is your responsibility to gain this permission! The church office reserves the right to edit prayer requests for publication.



REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS

- 1. Bill Lagal
- 2. Cole Ohrt friend of Zion
- 3. Holly Corey
- 4. Patricia Gonzales friend of Richard & Joy Alex
- 5. Loma Chandler Karen Wood's sister

- 6. James Morris, Sr.
- 7. JoNell Martin
- 8. Clemmie Cooley friend of Bettye Pribyl
- 9. Ann Pantel wife of Curtis Pantel
- 10. Doug Mendenhall Alexis Mendenhall's dad
- 11. Leonard Denton friend of Pastor Meyer's
- 12. Maudi Garcia friend of Jacki Cooke
- 13. Jeanette Laza cousin of Irene Heinold
- 14. Mary Lee friend of Cass Martignoni
- 15. Lisa Roman niece of Cass Martignoni
- 16. Kamryn McDavid granddaughter of Pribyl's
- 17. Mai Harwell
- 18. Dianne Laser Laura Meyer's friend
- 19. Rose Goebel
- 20. Derek Depine step-son of Terry Depine
- 21. Allie Faulkner Faulkner's granddaughter
- 22. Ken Sifford
- 23. Julie Heinold
- 24. Kay Lagal
- 25. Richard Bludau friend of Reinecke's
- 26. Alissa Blount
- 27. Jodie Schaefer friend of Barbara Schmidt
- 28. Dalhardt Goebel
- 29. Lynn Reiman friend of Irene Heinold
- 30. Becky Debore friend of Irene Heinold
- 31. Glennie Bednorz friend of JoNell Martin
- 32. Chuck Mueller friend of Gloria Buchhorn
- 33. Travis Weaver brother of Ronny Weaver
- 34. Ava Soliz Ann Heller's friend's daughter
- 35. Randy Kersten Peggy Polster's brother
- 36. Jim Krause
- 37. Priscilla Dornburg
- 38. Narmina Ibraghimova friend of Faulkner's
- 39. Pauline Janak
- 40. Emily friend of Ann Heller
- 41. Charles Krueger Cass Martignoni's brother
- 42. Gail Hogan Barbara Schmidt's cousin
- 43. Kenneth & Nancy Hahn Faulkner's friends
- 44. Kathy Lyssy Bancuch friend of Sherilyn Arnecke & Bea Fuchs
- 45. Cindy & Jennifer Henderson Randy Carter's sister & niece
- 46. Todd Kersten Peggy Polster's nephew



VISITATION

If you are in the hospital or would like a home visit, please call an Elder, Pastor or Church office.



Due to the privacy laws, hospitals no longer notify pastors when a member is admitted or treated. If you know of anyone being taken to the hospital (emergency or otherwise), or who is especially ill, please call an Elder, Pastor Meyer or contact the church office.



Please continue to keep our shut-ins in your prayers and enliven their lives through visits, letters, and cards or phone calls.

Dalhardt & Rose Goebel %Whispering Oaks Rehab & Nursing Home 105 Hospital Dr. Cuero, Tx 77954

James Morris, Sr. 3472 FM 447 Victoria, Tx 77905 Dan & Doris Nugent 5404 FM 236 Victoria, Tx 77905



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

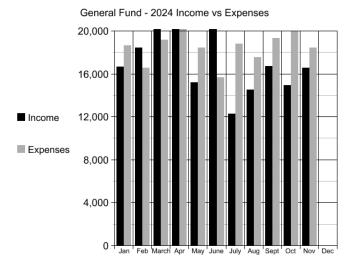
- January 2 Denise Afflerbach
- January 3 Spenser Lassmann, Anistyn Cain
- January 5 Chloé Blount
- January 6 Adalynn Woytasczyk
- January 8 Richard Woytasczyk
- January 10 Charles Lassmann
- January 12 Drake Brannan, Travis Reinecke
- January 13 Debbie Gras
- January 14 Ray Buchhorn, Mike Gras, Kern Harper
- January 16 Taylee Lester
- January 20 Henry Wood
- January 21 Michelle Wendel
- January 22 Paul Faulkner
- January 23 Heather Thomas
- January 24 Eva Cooke
- January 27 Travis Jaeger
- January 28 Sherry Hornstein
- January 29 Jonathan Meyer
- January 30 Lisa Harrell
- January 31 Brandon Dornburg



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES FOR JANUARY

- January 1 Adam Innes
- January 2 Johnathan Clay
- January 3 Elizabeth Clay
- January 6 Holland Bluhm, Conner Maroney
- January 9 Wendy Bishop
- January 10 Jacob Heller
- January 16 Casey Reynolds
- January 18 John Faulkner
- January 19 Stacy Hickman, Nathalie Burns, Gary Lassmann
- January 20 Richard Woytasczyk
- January 22 Gail Woytasczyk

CHURCH ATTENDANCE	
Sunday, November 24	107
Sunday, December 1	89
Wednesday, December 4	24
Sunday, December 8	153
Wednesday, December 11	22
Sunday, December 15	101
Wednesday, December 18	27
Sunday, December 22	72
Christmas Eve 24 th	226





ERRORS AND/OR OMISSIONS

The Messenger Staff wants to correct any errors and/or omissions. Please let the church office know promptly.



NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

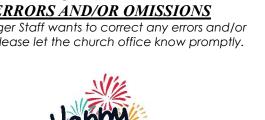
The eighth day of Christmas, the eighth day of Creation, the Next New Day, New Year's Day.

May every day be a new year's day for you: a chance to forgive and be forgiven, to start again. May you take courage to begin anew. ...

As you let go of the year past, may you ... in your free fall find yourself held by an eternal love that has come ages to be with you, and will carry you all the way to the end. ...

Every day may you trust your belovedness, your freedom from having to prove yourself, and receive the grace that is given to you.

May this year be a year of grace and hope.





ALL ABOUT ATTITUDE

"The way you say 'representative' to an automated system reflects the real you," a friend told me. After we laughed at that truth, I realized everything I say matters. Someone is always listening, whether the words and tone are positive or negative.

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) says our language shouldn't be "foul or abusive" but good, helpful and encouraging. Whether I'm peaceful, hurried, joyful, empathetic, frustrated, celebrating or hurting, I can carefully choose my words (and the attitude behind them). When I'm not ready to speak wholesomely, may God shut my mouth. When a friend needs encouragement, may I listen to God's prompting. When I need to confront, may I do so lovingly.

Changing how we think — that is, how we speak to ourselves — can be tough. But God wants to transform our reactions and motives, dispelling pride, a lack of confidence and anxiety. In this new year:

- I'm alone can become God is with me.
- I can't do this can become Anything is possible with God.
- I'm failing can become Just because I'm struggling, it doesn't mean I'm failing.
- I'm not enough can become I'm God's beloved child.
- I'm tired can become God will give me rest.

Don't stop there. Consider the concerns in your heart and let God give you new words and attitudes.

-Janna Firestone

-Steve Garnaas-Holmes, unfoldinglight.net



THE MEANING OF EPIPHANY

Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means "an appearance" or "a revealing." Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6, the 12th day after Christmas, to mark the revealing of Jesus as Christ to the wise men, who were Gentiles. Jesus' first followers were Jewish, so the revelation of the divine Christ to the non-Jewish magi reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save the whole world.

Symbols of Epiphany include light, a star, a crown (or three crowns) and a globe or stylized portrayal of the world. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity.

On the church calendar, the Epiphany season lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



NOAH'S ARK — The

image of an ark, or boat often shown with pairs of animals — recalls the story of Noah and the "Great Flood" in Genesis. The floodwaters represent God's

judgment on sin, while the ark reminds us of his gracious power to save and redeem. In this account, Christians see a foreshadowing of our baptism into Christ: "And baptism, which [God's rescue of Noah and his family] prefigured, now saves you ..." (1 Peter 3:21, NRSV)

FYI

CHURCH CONTACTS

Sunday School – Board of Education/Youth Lutheran Youth Fellowship – Board of Education/Youth Altar Guild, Pauline Janak Blood Drive, Church Office Leaders Of Compassion, Shelley Sharp Peggy Polster Ladles of Love, Sherilyn Arnecke Library, Sherita Miller Memorials, Seda Weaver LWML President, Debbe Meyer Esther, Iris Heller Ladies Aid, Eva Cooke Rebecca/Ruth, Debbie Meyer Worship/Music Bd., Hilbert Nagel Church Secretary, Seda Weaver Sound System, David Miller Kitchen Cartel, Darla Sifford Board of Elders, David Miller Board of Trustees, Pauline Janak Board of Outreach, Judy Faulkner Board of Education/Youth, Jacki Cooke Candice Clav Board of Fellowship, Priscilla Dornburg Security & Safety, David Pribyl

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

President, Pat Zmeskal Vice-Pres., Pauline Janak Secretary, Terry Depine Treasurer, Seda Weaver Financial Sec, Teresa Boswell Elder, David Miller Elder, David Pribyl