

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. ~Galatians 4:4-7

Will Christmas ever get here? That's a question asked by children. I used to ask it, but now December is so busy that when Christmas arrives, I ask, "Christmas already?" On the television program, Cheers, Sam once said, "Christmas seems to come earlier every year." Woody replied, "I think you'll find that it's always on December 25."

It makes me wonder what God's Word means when it says, "When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son." What made that particular time the right time? Some would say that it was because of the Roman empire: travel was easier that it ever had been, and much of Europe, Asia, and Africa had a common language. That was helpful for the spread of the early Christian church. Some would say that the spiritual climate in Israel was right: the combination of the oppression living under the Jewish leadership and the Roman empire made people long for a savior.

I won't know the answer to that until I'm in heaven. But I do know that Jesus came to "redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." I'm under the law and you're under the law and we are all sinners. Christ came for us. He came to make us His sons.

Because Jesus came, we are no longer slaves to sin but sons of God. That's not a sexist term, the idea is that sons inherit, so all of us, male or female, inherit God's gifts of forgiveness and eternal life in heaven.

He didn't come because His people are so good that we deserve a visit. He came because we are sinners. He came to buy us back from sin, death, and the devil. He came to assure us of our wonderful inheritance.

Thank God that He came when the time was right. Have a blessed Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas.

Pastor Neppa

*Lion Lutheran Church
410 Main Street South
Pine City, MN 55063*



HE WILL BE CALLED
Wonderful Counselor
Mighty God
Everlasting Father
Prince of Peace

ISAIAH 9:6





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Endowment 6:00pm Evangelism 7:00pm Confirmation (At Zion) 4pm	2 Bible Study 9:00am Community Choir Practice 7-8pm	3 Advent Worship 1pm & 7pm	4	5	6 Community Choir Practice 2-3pm
7 Worship/ Comm 8:00am <i>Jastram D.O.</i> Education Hour 9:30am	8 Elders 6:00pm Council 7:00pm Confirmation (At Zion) 4pm	9 Bible Study 9:00am Community Choir Practice 7-8pm	10 Advent Worship 1pm & 7pm	11  CHRISTMAS PARTY LMWL Christmas Party @ Timber Pines 11:30am	12	13  Christmas Concert 7:00pm
14 Worship/ Comm 8:00am <i>Food Shelf D. O.</i> Education Hour 9:30am	15 Confirmation (at LBLC) 4pm	16 Bible Study 9:00am	17 Advent Worship 1pm & 7pm	18 LWML Meeting 1:00pm	19	20
21 Worship/ Comm 8:00am <i>A Place For You D.O.</i>	22 Confirmation (at LBLC) 4pm	23 Bible Study 9:00am	24 Christmas Eve Worship 5:00pm *7:00pm Worship in North Branch	25 Christmas Day Worship 10:00am 	26	27
28 Worship/ Comm 8:00am	29	30 Bible Study 9:00am	31 No Worship Service			



DECEMBER

1	1Ch 29	Mic 6	2 Pe 3
2	2Ch 1	Mic 7	1 Jn 1
3	2Ch 2	Nah 1	1 Jn 2
4	2Ch 3-4	Nah 2	1 Jn 3
5	2Ch 5:1-6:11	Nah 3	1 Jn 4
6	2Ch 6:12-42	Hab 1	1 Jn 5
7	2Ch 7	Hab 2	2 Jn 1
8	2Ch 8	Hab 3	3 Jn 1
9	2Ch 9	Zph 1	Jude
10	2Ch 10	Zph 2	Rev 1
11	2Ch 11-12	Zph 3	Rev 2
12	2Ch 13	Hag 1	Rev 3
13	2Ch 14-15	Hag 2	Rev 4
14	2Ch 16	Zech 1	Rev 5
15	2Ch 17	Zech 2	Rev 6
16	2Ch 18	Zech 3	Rev 7
17	2Ch 19-20	Zech 4	Rev 8
18	2Ch 21	Zech 5	Rev 9
19	2Ch 22-23	Zech 6	Rev 10
20	2Ch 24	Zech 7	Rev 11
21	2Ch 25	Zech 8	Rev 12
22	2Ch 26	Zech 9	Rev 13
23	2Ch 27-28	Zech 10	Rev 14
24	2Ch 29	Zech 11	Rev 15
25	2Ch 30	Zech 12:1-13:1	Rev 16
26	2Ch 31	Zech 13:2-9	Rev 17
27	2Ch 32	Zech 14	Rev 18
28	2Ch 33	Mal 1	Rev 19
29	2Ch 34	Mal 2	Rev 20
30	2Ch 35	Mal 3	Rev 21
31	2Ch 36	Mal 4	Rev 22

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday, December 11th at 11:30 A.M.

LWML Christmas party will be held at Timber Pines at 11:30 a.m. on December 11th. Any women of the church may attend this event.

Questions, contact Verna



Finish your bible this month! Here are the readings for December!

SERVANTS OF ZION

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Kleppe,
Katy & Julia Ovick

OFFERING COUNTERS

Verna Carpenter	12/1
Barb Carlson	12/8
Dallas Carpenter	12/15
Stephany Lotz	12/22
Karen Meyer	12/29

USHERS

Chad Fedder
Corben Fedder
Larry Anderson
Keith Strehlo

ELDERS

Scott Ovick	12/7
Jeremiah Slama	12/14
Chad Fedder	12/21
Jerry Lotz	12/28



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

**None in December*

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jeremiah Slama	12/2
Darrell Williamson	12/2
Sylvia Hippen	12/5
Barb Carlson	12/10
Jan Althoff	12/11
Heidi Pogones	12/17
Janet Sundermeyer	12/19

*If any information is incorrect or missing please let the office know. We might be missing that information. Thank you!



Thanksgiving Worship



Wednesday, November 26th @ 7p.m.

Worship is at Living Branch

*Pie & Refreshments to follow worship.



Sweet Potato Prep

For Community Thanksgiving Dinner



Sweet potato prep for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church will be on **November 26th at 5p.m. at Zion.** There is a sign-up sheet in the lower level. If you have questions, see Verna, Thank you.



WOMEN'S *Christmas* BRUNCH



Saturday, December 6th, 2025 10:00 am

AT LIVING BRANCH LUTHERAN CHURCH
6486 ELM ST; NORTH BRANCH, MN 55056

Fabulous Fellowship; Wonderful Worship & Delicious Food!

BRING A CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT OR DECORATION TO EXCHANGE
OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY: Bring a pair of mittens or gloves to be donated to area schools.

Hosted by the Living Branch Women's Ministry Group

*A group of Zion Women are attending please let the office know if you need a ride.

Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 10th, 2025

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Members Present: Pastor Kleppe, Keith Strehlo, Karen Althoff, Jerry Lotz, Jeremiah Slama, Steve Corey & Larry Anderson.

Members Absent: Chad Fedder, Tom Martini, Scott Ovick & Dallas Carpenter.

Devotion & Prayer: Pastor opened with devotion from Isaiah 40:1-2- [1] Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. [2] Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. Pastor Kleppe followed devotion with prayer.

Secretary's Report: Secretary's Report was shared electronically prior to the meeting. No questions or corrections. Motion by Larry to accept the report, seconded by Keith, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Karen provided printed copies of the financial reports. Income for the month was \$12,206.71, expenses were \$19,734.59 showing a net loss of \$-7,527.88 for the month. Checking Account balance is \$17,259.54. Motion by Steve, seconded by Larry to accept the Treasurer's Report, motion passed.

Pastor's Report:

*Our YouTube channel is Glen Kleppe. We continue to put services on the channel every week. It is accessible directly or through our church website, zionpinecity.org or through our Facebook page. I'm on WCMP on the second Sunday of the month, 9:00 a.m. We have also added announcements to the YouTube channel. We show them on Sunday morning or you can look at them online.

*My Fall midweek Bible Study will end next week.

*There are old choir robes and children's program costumes in the sacristy that I would like to get rid of or move. (Council supported getting rid of some of these, saving some and moving those up to the closet where the carillon is.)

*Advent services will be at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

*The crying room needs a new speaker.

*The large refrigerator needs to be defrosted.

Upcoming Dates:

***November 26th**- Thanksgiving Worship at Living Branch

***December 3rd, 10th & 17th**- Advent midweek Worship

***December 13th**- Christmas Concert

***December 24th**- 5:00 p.m. at Zion, 7:00 p.m. at Living Branch

***December 25th**- 10:00 a.m. at Zion

-Motion by Keith, seconded by Steve to approve Pastor's Report, motion passed.

Committee Reports:

*Evangelism- Celebrated Veteran's Day, Continue to serve at A Place For You.

*Endowment- Printed copies of the Endowment report were provided. Request for the interest funds from Endowment accounts has been completed and checks have been received.

*LWML- Had their Fall Rally which went great and was well attended.

*Preschool- Had their Chili Fundraiser which went well and raised over \$3000. Class continues to be full.

*Men's Group/Women's Group- Nothing to report.

*Dual Parish/Personnel- Nothing to report.

*Trustee's Report-

*Question regarding the bell chord at the top of the step, would like to wind up the bell chord as when used there has been dirt, insulation mess that comes from the hole where the cord is. Larry will take care of this.

*Motion by Steve, seconded by Pastor Kleppe to approve Committee Reports, motion passed.

Old Business:

*Snow Removal- approved at the last meeting, we have hired the James family for snow removal at \$90/time. Need to give them a key to the building & shed (to access shovels and salt.) Pastor Kleppe said he would get this to them.

New Business:

*New Endowment Committee Member- discussed possible interested individuals. We will follow up more with them and make a decision in December.

*Church Audit- Discussion on when this was last done. It has been quite some time. Audit handled in house by members. Steve & Jerry will do the Audit.

*Tentative Family Event Plans- Marsha Olson shared that she will be doing a cookie bake and bible study the first Saturday in December. She applied for and received a Thrivent Grant to pay for supplies. She is also going to work on scheduling a Bowling outing for January. She wanted to make us aware of these plans. We thank her for taking the lead on these events.

*Removal of old desk from the basement- these desks are no longer used. Asked if we could get them out of the basement as they are in Sunday School rooms taking up space. Steve Corey said he would work on getting these out of the basement.

*Karen brought up the new Minnesota State Law regarding Paid Leave starting in January. Employers can choose to have employees pay the tax for this out of each paycheck or the employer can pay the tax. The total cost for this would be \$368 for two Preschool employees, the Janitor and Secretary. Motion made by Pastor Kleppe that Zion pay the \$368 for the four employees but ask that the Preschool reimburse Zion for their half \$184. Motion seconded by Steve, Motion passed.

*Next Council Meeting- Monday, December 8th, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

*Motion by Keith, seconded by Larry to adjourn the meeting, motion passed.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

*Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

***Minutes typed and Submitted Respectfully by Jerry Lotz



Join Us For Our Advent Midweek Series:

Every Heart Prepare

Advent is the church's season of preparation for Christmas, for the coming of the Lord. This Advent season, as part of our preparation, we reflect upon three common Christmas decorations and how they help us see Christ and prepare for His coming: evergreens, lights, and the creche. Then on Christmas we will focus on the decorated presents which point us to the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

**Worship is Wednesdays on
December 3rd, 10th & 17th
1:00 & 7:00 p.m.**

WORSHIP *With* US

Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 24th at 5:00pm



Christmas Day Worship Service

Thursday, December 25th at 10:00am