

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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TIOGA, ND 58852
PERMIT #3

Zion Lutheran Church
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Pastor ~ Richard Carr

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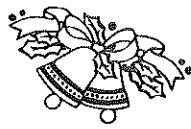
Church Website: www.zionfreelutheran.com

Youth Ministry: Ethan Kucera, Cell# ~ 218-324-3526

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



DECEMBER 2019



For many the celebration of Christmas is a rich tradition that reminds us of the importance of Jesus Christ taking on flesh, thereby fulfilling multiple Biblical prophecies, as well as marking the time when the Devil's evil plan for mankind began to crumble. It is an important holiday for Christians worldwide. Yet there are people who have made numerous claims that Christmas is in fact a pagan holiday, that it is actually rooted in the worship of a false god or gods, and that the various trappings of the holiday such as decorated Christmas trees, lights, and feasting are actually evil.

I want to briefly address some of the spurious claims about Christmas in this article, and help us to rest assured knowing that if we choose to celebrate Christmas, we can celebrate it with a clean conscience and jolly ole fun! First of all, Biblically it is neither wrong or right for a believer to set apart certain holidays to remember, or to celebrate an event such as the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Colossians 2:16-17 says, "Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ." (NIV)

God tells us in His Word that we can worship Him on Saturday (the original Sabbath day), Sunday (the day Christians began worshipping God on instead of Saturday shortly after the resurrection of Christ from the dead on Sunday), or on another day of the week because it fits better into our schedule. What's important is that we worship God. A further implication of this Scripture passage is that if we choose to set aside a special holiday to worship God, and others don't like that holiday we have created, it's no big deal. We don't need to be worried about being judged by others, nor do we need to judge individuals based on special holy days they decide to use to worship God.

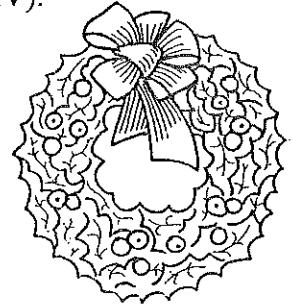
While we have the freedom to worship God in many different ways, and on different days on the calendar should we worship God on Christmas if it really has it's roots in pagan mythology? Before you answer that question, more information should be revealed on this issue. A belief that has gained traction fairly recently is that Christmas was actually celebrated long before Christ came to earth and took on flesh. It has at it's roots an Egyptian Sun god named Horus who was supposedly born of a virgin on December 25th and even raised men from the dead. This claim comes from the writings of Gerald Massey (1828-1907). Massey was heavily influenced by Darwin and believed that the Christian "idea" evolved from other spiritual writings that predated Christianity. Is the concept of Jesus Christ a reworked idea of an Egyptian god named Horus as Massey claimed?

Massey's claims were put to the test shortly after he published them. Leading scholars of ancient Egypt found no validity in any of his claims about Horus and Christ, and many denounced Massey as a hack. Massey further damaged his credibility when he claimed that the Biblical character of Herod the Great actually comes from a myth about an evil snake called "Herrut." Not only is Herod the Great mentioned in the Bible as a real person, many historical non-Biblical documents also reference Herod the Great as a real man. Despite Massey's claims being denounced as blatantly wrong and false, some today still reference the Horus myth in an attempt to destroy the real significance behind the Biblical Christmas event.

This Christmas season I invite you to worship God with great fervor and passion. Our church is beautiful, and the extra decorations help to remind us that truly this is a special season to enjoy and worship God. Enjoy your Christmas tree, garland, lights and eggnog. Attend the Christmas concerts, parties, and family events. Regardless of whatever new trend or secret knowledge that has "recently been unearthed" involving

the "truth" about Christmas, remember that we celebrate this season with Christ as the focal point. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6, NIV).

Pastor Joe



Christmas Q and A

Q. What do you get when you cross mistletoe and a duck?

A. A Christmas Quacker.

Q. What do you call Santa when he stops moving?

A. Santa Pause!

Q. Where does a snowman keep his money?

A. In a snow bank.

Q. Why do mummies like Christmas so much?

A. Because of all the wrapping!

Q. How do you scare a snowman?

A. You get a hair dryer!

Q. What do they sing under the ocean at Christmas time?

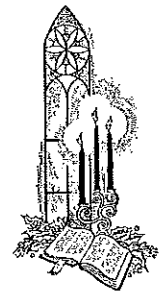
A. Christmas Corals!

Q. What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?

A. A rebel without a Claus.

Q. What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the regular alphabet?

A. The Christmas alphabet has NOEL.



Q. What is the name of a child's favorite Christmas King?

A. A stocking.

Q. What part of the body do you only see during Christmas?

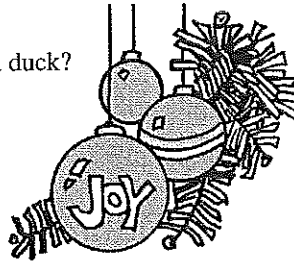
A. Mistletoe.

Q. What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?

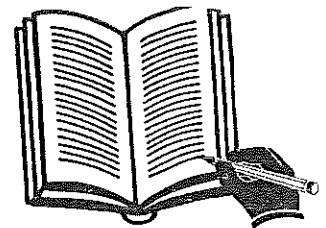
A. Claustrophobic

Q. What Christmas Carol is a favorite of parents?

A. Silent Night



God is never blind to your tears, deaf to your prayers or silent to your pain. God sees, God hears and God will deliver you!



Judging Others

A certain preacher had a method of dealing with those who were critical of others. He kept a complaint book in his desk. When a member would come to tell him of another's faults he would say, "Well, here is my complaint book. I'll write down what you say, and you can sign your name to it. Then I'll take it up with our brother."

Invariably the critic would stammer, backtrack, and insist that nothing be written or signed. In his forty year ministry that preacher opened his complaint book hundreds of times - **But never made a single entry.**

Joe R. Barnett



WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?

Is it just a day at the end of the year?

A gay holiday filled with merry good cheer?

A season for presents - both taking and giving?

A time to indulge in the pleasure of living?

Are we lost in a meaningless, much-muddled haze?

Have we closed our eyes to God and His love?

And turned our eyes from "the Bright Star above"?

Oh, Father in Heaven, renew and restore,

The real, true meaning of Christmas once more,

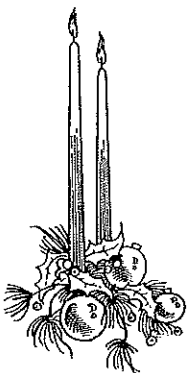
So we can feel in our hearts again,

That "peace on Earth, Good Will to men"

Is still a promise that man can claim,

If he but seeks it, in Thy holy name.

- Helen Steiner Rice





Youth News!

Video Game Night / Christmas Cookies! Friday, Dec. 6, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

- The Youth Group guys have been invited to Ethan's apartment to play video games and have pizza and chips as an opportunity for fun and fellowship!
- The girls have been invited to the church on the same evening at the same time to bake and decorate Christmas cookies with Leah Erickson (Ethan's Fiancé).

Youth Overnighter! Friday-Saturday, Jan. 10-11, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 a.m.



- The Church is going to open its doors for an all night event happening in January for students age 7th - 12th grade! We will play games and have food and enjoy fellowship together all night!

Young Adult Bible Study Meeting! Monday, December 9, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

- This may not sound like youth news but Ethan is inviting young adults (High-School Graduates - 30 y.o.) to attend this first meeting of a new bible study group that will focus on learning to be leaders in the congregation among other topics! We will have coffee and cookies available and can begin to discuss the future of the group at this meeting!

Thank you Zion for all the support that you have shown to the youth program even in my (Ethan) short time of being here! We have had some huge successes with our students and I look forward to seeing us continue to work together in the future! In November we celebrated Thanksgiving with a student led Thanksgiving banquet and Pie auction! Thanks to your attendance, prayer, and generosity, the students hard work was a great success! Keep an eye out for more of our events in the future!



Begin the Year with God

Let's talk about the New Year! There is no magic in the midnight. It would be nice if all the heartaches and worries of the year faded with the strike of twelve, but it won't happen. The dawn of a new year will not make old problems disappear. Millions who try to drown their heartaches on New Year's Eve will awake with headaches on New Year's Day. Even the many good resolutions made by well-meaning people will do little to change lives. Old habits are strong and most people will soon be back in the old way of life.

Discouraging? Yes! But it doesn't have to be this way. You can really have a New Year! To do so you must start with the New Birth. Jesus said: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." This new birth is available to you as a gift from God. The clearest verse in the Bible is given to explain the new birth. It is John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The moment you come to the Lord Jesus Christ in faith you become a new person. The Bible describes it this way: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17).

The New Years' Resolutions

A little less impatient with those we deem too slow;
 A little less arrogance because of all we know;
 A little more humility, seeing our worth is slight...
 We are such trivial candles compared to stars at night!
 A little more forgiving and swifter to be kind;
 A little more desirous the word of praise to find,
 The word of praise to utter and make a heart rejoice;
 A little bit more careful to speak with gentle voice;
 A little more true eagerness to understand each other;
 A little more high courage to help a ship-wrecked brother.
 A little more real striving to each task that must be done;
 These be our resolutions...and God help everyone!

*"Keep thy heart with all diligence;
 for out of it are the issues of life." Proverbs 4:23*



God is with us (*Matthew 1:23*)

All the Earth worships Thee (*Psalms 66:4*)

His name shall endure forever (*Psalms 72: 17*)

He is our God, the God of salvation (*Psalms 68:20*)

There shall come a Star out of Jacob (*Numbers 24:17*)

He will save His people from their sins (*Matthew 1:20-21*)

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given (*Isaiah 9:6*)

He said, "Thou art My Son; on this day have I begotten Thee" (*Psalms 2:7*)

We have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him (*Matthew 2:2*)

You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger (*Luke 2:12*)

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord (*Luke 2:11*)

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (*Isaiah 7:14*)

The Angels cried out, Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men (*Luke 2:14*)

He will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (*Isaiah 9:6*)

Amen.

God's Son, the reason for the season:

On the very first Christmas, Jesus was a tiny baby wrapped in rags and lying in a cow stall. But from the beginning, He was Lord of life and King of all creation.

Jesus' birth is reason to rejoice. But so is His death, for when He rose again, He conquered sin and its grip on our lives. If we believe, we're free!

Jesus is in Heaven, seated at God's right hand. He's with every believer on earth, too, through the miracle of the Holy Spirit. And He has promised to be with us always.

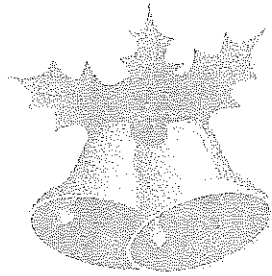
A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

"O God, our help in ages past
Our Hope in years to be" –
Look down upon this present
And see our need of Thee...
For in this age of unrest,
With danger all around,
We need Thy hand to lead us
To higher, safer ground...
We need Thy help and counsel
To make us more aware,
That our safety and security
Lie solely in Thy care...
And so we pray this Christmas
To feel Thy presence near
And for Thy all-wise guidance
Throughout the coming year...
First, give us understanding
Enough to make us kind,
So we may judge all people
With our heart and not our mind,
Then give us strength and courage
To be honorable and true,
And place our trust implicitly
In "unseen things" and "you."
And help us when we falter
And renew our faith each day.
And forgive our human errors
And hear us when we pray.
And keep us gently humble
In the Greatness of Thy love
So some day we are fit to dwell
With Thee in peace above.

Helen Steiner Rice



They laid him in a manger



SO SMALL A THING

So small a thing on which to build
A faith so firmly kept -
A babe born in a stable crude
Where restless cattle slept.
One bright star shining down upon
The place wherein He lay,
To guide the lowly shepherds there
And show great kings the way.

A simple tale, yet through the years
Its stark simplicity
Has taken on the richness
Of a priceless tapestry;
For man has woven into it
His hopes, his highest dreams,
His love, his fancy, his beliefs,
His own star's brightest beams.

And from that manger miracle,
The tapestry has grown -
The richest tale of miracles
The world has ever known
So small a thing on which to base
A whole world's peace and joy -
A bed of straw, a star, a song
And one small baby boy.

Helen Lowrie

CHRISTMAS IS A LOVING TIME

Christmas is a loving time,
God started it that way;
When He gave His only Son
On that first Christmas Day.

It seems the air is filled with love
The angels hover near;
Children laugh and old folks smile
For Christmas time is here.

It's God's love that makes us happy
For no greater love could be;
Than that which sent our Savior down
To die on Calvary.

THE CHRISTMAS LIST

Give a gift of laughter,
give a gift of song.
Give a gift of sympathy
to last a whole life long
Give a cheerful message,
give a helping hand.
Tell your sorry neighbor
that you understand.
Wash the supper dishes,
help to dust the room;
Give a smile to leaven
someone's hour of gloom!
Give a gift of sharing,
sweeten dreary days
For the lost and lonely,
give yourself ALWAYS!

AN ODE TO CHRISTMAS

'Twas the month before Christmas
and all through the house
Cookies and goodies crammed
me and my spouse.

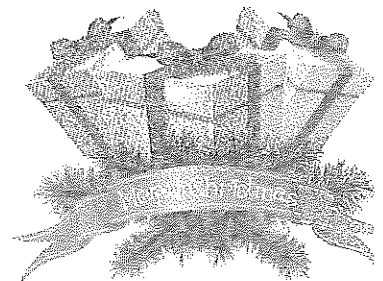
Food in the freezer, food in the fridge,
Under the bed and stuck in my bridge.

It began with Thanksgiving
and hasn't stopped yet.
At one pound a day, how fat can I get?

I've tried and I've tried to push fruitcake aside,
But as each piece goes by, I just open wide
And fill my sweet face with whatever's there.
At times like this, how can I care?

The office, the home, it's that time of year –
Just give me some eggnog, more holiday cheer.
I'd like to be good, and stay slim and svelte,
But the truth is, Santa, I need a new belt!

Mary Z. McHenry



THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God even stuck U in the name of His Son.
And each time U pray, you'll see it's true
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.

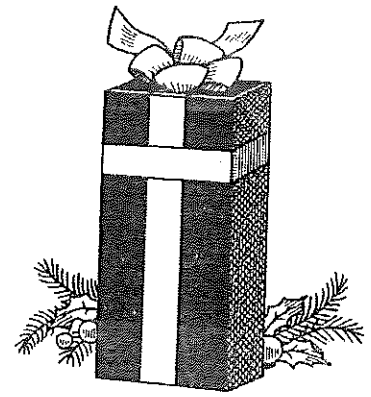
You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.
And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?
The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew.
And this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension,
He felt here was one thing He just had to mention.
"Go into the world and tell them it's true.
That I love them all – Just like I love U."

So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?
It all depends now on what U will do.
He'd like them to know, but it all starts with U.

Writer Unknown



Me

You tell me that I'm getting old
I tell you that's not so!
The "house" that I live in is all worn out,
And that, of course, I know.

It's been in use a long, long time
And weathered many a gale,
I'm really not surprised to find
It's getting somewhat frail.

The color is changing on the roof
And the windows are getting dim,
The steps by now, are quite well worn
It's appearance no longer trim.

The foundation is not as steady
As once it used to be.
Yes, my "house" is getting shaky,
But, my "house" isn't me!



A few short years can't make me old,
I feel I'm in my youth.
Eternity lies just ahead
A life of joy and truth.

I'm going to live forever there,
And I think it will be grand.
You tell me I am getting old?
You just don't understand.

The dweller in my little "house"
Is bright and young and gay,
Just starting out on a life
That lasts a great eternal day.

You only see the outside
Which is all that most folks see
You tell me I am getting old
You've mixed my "house" up with "me."

Selected

HEAVEN AND THE REDEEMED

I seem to think of Heaven more than I once used to do;
Perhaps because it's now the home of friends beloved and true.

I see them walk its crystal streets, breathe its celestial air,
And raise their voice in gladsome song with all the ransomed there.

To them no grief shall ever come, no tears shall dim their eye;
Their pilgrimage is overpast, they dwell with Christ on high.

Oh bright and blessed promised land, to thee my thoughts off turn;
I long to enter through thy gates, to be with Christ I yearn.

So swift the years are hurrying on, the hour is growing late.
Praise God, in Heaven He's built for me a home beyond death's gate.

And there among that happy throng in Heaven, redeemed and free,
I'll meet again those long-lost friends who've meant so much to me.

Dr. James McGinlay



Christ the Savior is born!

THE Wonder OF CHRISTMAS



DECEMBER 2019 BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>"Put your cares in God's hands and He will put His peace in your heart."</i>					
1 Teagan Lalim BreAnna Landsverk Leona Boline	2 	3 Don Sundhagen Jamie Eraas Angie Thompson	4 Marty Jorstad Malinda Ferguson Kathi & David Meland	5 Leah Schmidt	6 Amanda Ramberg	7 Chloe Carr Brennon Sabinash Tana Olson
8 Jordan Lalim	9 	10 Reness Nelson Karol Jean Wolla Gracia Livie	11 Dwight McMonagle Shelly Raan	12 	13 Laurie Rieniets Colin Vachal	14 
15 Valleri Beasley Wayne & Marilyn Foss Rick Wolla David & Regina Lalim	16 Ryan & Jenice Davidson Lori Molstre Taylor Seibel	17 Bethany Schmidt JoAnne Davis Cory Landsverk Dan Larson	18 Jace Iverson	19 Curtis & Monica Miller Darlean Hahn	20 Roger & Diane Auen Sarala Raan	21 Sophia Wolla
22 Judy Odegaard	23 Jody Schroeder Nancy Johnson Tricia Swanton Caitlyn Kucera	24 Brittany Wolla 	25 Happy Birthday Jesus! 	26 Delores Odegaard Jenna Christofferson	27 	28 Helene Olson Clara Moore
29 Wayne & Marguerite Grindy Vernon Knudson	30 McKenna Uhlich	31 Julia Rieniets Mark & Yvonne Schmidt			<i>"The flower that follows the sun does so even on cloudy days."</i>	



DECEMBER



DECEMBER 2019 ZION ACTIVITIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 <i>Mission Offering</i> <i>Sunday</i></p> <p>9 am Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service</p>	2	3	<p>4</p> <p>5:30 pm Confirmation 6 pm Christian Ed Meeting 6:30 pm Youth Meal – Chef/Yvonne Schmidt 7 pm Choir 7 pm Youth Group</p>	5	6	<p>7</p>  <p>6 p.m. Caroling at the Town Christmas Tree</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9 am Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 3 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Program. Refreshments served after.</p> 	9	<p>10</p> <p>7:45 am Devos with Chelsy at Red Moose</p> <p>7 p.m. Deacon/ Deaconess Meeting 7 pm Trustee/ Budget Meeting 8:15 pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Youth Meal – Chef/Shelly Raan 7 pm Choir 7 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>12</p> <p><i>Ladies Christmas Tea & Program</i> 6:30 pm Cider 7 pm Program <i>Come and bring a friend!</i> <i>(Zion ladies please bring a plate of cookies to share)</i></p> 	13	<p>14</p> 
<p>15 <i>Building Project</i> <i>Sunday Offering</i></p> <p>9 am Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service</p>	16	17	<p>18</p> <p>5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Youth Meal - Chef/Kim Landsverk 7 pm Choir 7 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:45 am Devos with Chelsy at Red Moose</p>	20	<p>21</p> 
<p>22</p> <p>9 am Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service</p>	23	<p>24</p> <p>5 p.m. Christmas Eve Service</p> 	<p>25</p> <p><i>Merry Christmas!</i></p> 	26	27	<p>28</p> <p><i>"When God measures a man, He puts the tape around his heart, not his head."</i></p>
<p>29</p> <p>9 am Adult Sunday school & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service</p>	30	<p>31</p> <p><i>New Year's Eve</i></p> 		<p>"YOUTH LOOKS ahead, OLD age LOOKS back, AND Middle age LOOKS tired!"</p>		



RADIO MINISTRY

Anyone who would like to sponsor a Sunday broadcast or contribute to the radio fund in memory of a loved one, please contact the church office, thank you! The radio broadcast is \$100 per Sunday. **Our radio broadcast can be heard on Sundays at noon on AM Radio Station KTGO 1090.**

USHERS THIS MONTH

DECEMBER HEAD USHER: Mark Schmidt

Bruce Lovdahl

Jim Smithberg

~Special Offering Baskets~

FIRST SUNDAY of each month is Mission Sunday.
THIRD SUNDAY of each month is New Building Project. We will have a basket in the back of the church on these two Sundays for special offering.

If your birthday or anniversary is missing from our Newsletter and you would like to be included, please call the church office

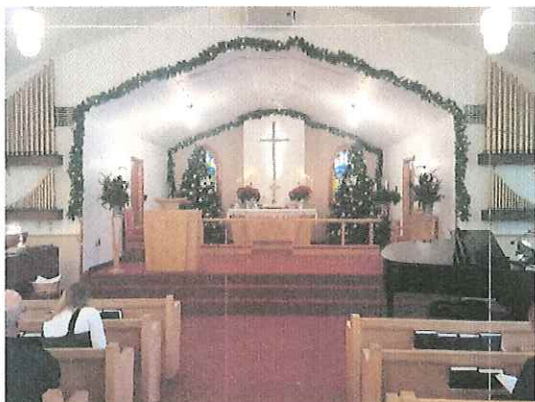
~CLOTHES CLOSET~

HOURS TO SHOP ARE:

MONDAY 2 - 7 P.M.

SATURDAY 9 - 12 NOON

IF YOU HAVE NEW OR GENTLY USED CLOTHES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE (PREFERABLY THAT GO WITH THE SEASON WE ARE IN) PLEASE DROP THEM OFF AT THE CHURCH. THANK YOU! VOLUNTEER HELP IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED!



Looking Ahead



Zion Sunday School Christmas Program
Sunday, December 8th - 3 p.m.
Refreshments served after the program.



Ladies Christmas Tea - 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 12th
Celebrating our Savior's Birth!



Christmas Eve Service 5 p.m.

Zion Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 2020 - Noon



~New Building Update~



The walls are being painted, tile is being installed in the bathrooms, progress continues to be made on the new church building! We praise God and are so very thankful for all the helpers who volunteer their time with various projects. Thank you to our youth worker, Ethan Kucera, who brought this crew of young people up one evening to help with scraping sheet rock mud off of the floor! Please pray with us for continued safety of the workers, wisdom for decisions being made, and continued gifts received to help complete this project, thank you!
"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:28-31

