

# THE MOSELEM MESSENGER

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## DO YOU SEE CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS?

What is your focus this Christmas? Are you striving for the perfect Christmas? In your mind, what is the perfect Christmas? Have we allowed the Hallmark movies to shape “a perfect Christmas” in our minds? Is this what we really want to see, or do we want to see a real Christmas with Christ being the focus?

So, was the first Christmas perfect? Each may have their own opinion, but I believe that there were some parts of that time that would not have met the criteria of a “perfect Christmas”.

First, how would you feel about being visited by an angel and being told “to fear not”. I for one, would have found those words from an angel a bit unnerving. Would a young lady at that time be upset about being pregnant and unmarried? Viewed as the provider of his family during that era, would Joseph have been upset by having to travel so far and then not being able to find suitable housing for the delivery of the baby? Then they were informed that, in fact, there is a threat to the life of their tiny son and they must pull up stakes and flee to Egypt. Certainly not the perfect time in their lives, in my opinion.

However, the birth of Christ is the perfect gift for each of us. We can see Christ in all the lights that illuminate the darkness, for Christ has come to be the light of the world. We can see Him in the triangular shaped Tannenbaum, for it can remind us of the Trinity – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We can feel Christ in the carols we sing as they warm our hearts making our hearts the perfect place for Christ’s love to germinate. There may have not been any room in the inn, but there is plenty of place in our hearts and interactions for Christ to be present and for his love to grow.

Just like Simeon of old, let us see Christ in that little babe, born in humble surroundings. Let us join the lowly shepherds and see Christ in His good works, and let our hands carry on those good works. Christmas can be seen with your eyes, but is it better seen with your heart?

Advent and Christmastide are seasons of preparation, rejoicing and celebration. Let’s remember, please, that we are preparing “the Royal Highway” for the greatest gift. The one gift that is a real cause for rejoicing and celebrating is the greatest gift ever given – the birth of Jesus who became flesh and walked among us.



## **RECIPES**

Have you submitted your recipes for our new cookbook yet? If not, please make sure to give them to Joanne Collins by December 28<sup>th</sup>. Give them to her when you see her, or you can simply mail them to her. Thank you to all those who already have given some of their family recipes to Joanne and we are looking for a lot more in the coming weeks.



**PLEASE NOTE:** Sassy Seniors has cancelled their New Year's Eve Gathering.

## **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**

Seeking a way to spark your holiday spirit? Need some uplifting times and some true holiday inspiration? Then please mark your calendars for December 10<sup>th</sup> (2pm – 7pm) and come to our 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ZION MOSELEM CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE. Please start your afternoon at our Sexton's home and after your tour there enjoy a free hot dog. Then, please, follow the directions provided to visit our own One Room Schoolhouse. Glean some church history there as you engage in conversation with our historian, Mr. Adams. While moving from place to place, you may hear some carolers as they stroll our grounds. Then enter our historic and beautiful Church all decked out in her Christmas finery. See all the different manger displays and view some of our old bibles. Enjoy some Seasonal Music wafting from our piano and two organs. Mayhaps you would like to sit and enjoy some light refreshments in our social area, or even chat with Santa Claus. We hope to see many of you enjoying this day here at Zion!



## **WERE YOU THERE?**

What a wonderful and inspiring day we had here at Zion on November 6<sup>th</sup>. We started our day with a beautiful worship service which included the baptism of angelic Peyton Lance, son of Tyler & Liz. So adorable. We also honored those that had passed into their heavenly homes over the past year.

Then in the afternoon we enjoyed a fantastic concert featuring our Tannenberg Organ and the Reading Liederkrantz Singers, directed by Prof. Mark Herr. Everyone present harmonized our voices in the singing of three favorite hymns – How Great Thou Art, What A Friend We Have In Jesus and I Love To Tell The Story.

The crowd was very enthusiastic and after the musicale we gathered in the Social area to enjoy a few munchies.

Many requested that we do a repeat of a program similar to this one sometime in the future, so watch your bulletins and newsletters for upcoming events involving our Tannenberg Organ.

## **OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

The Willing Workers desire to thank everyone who helped in any way to make our 2022 Holiday Bazaar a huge success. Whether you provided items for the raffle, purchased tickets, provided baked goods and/or gave of your time and talents to make this a great day, thank you so very much. We will be meeting in the near future to review our day and also to decided where we want to forward some of the profits. Many nonprofits have benefited from the gleanings of our annual bazaar in years past. Please note that you do not have to be a member of our church to belong to our group. If you are interested in becoming a member of our Willing Worker group, please speak with any of our members and they can certainly get you involved.

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## **ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

On October 30<sup>th</sup> we invited our children to come to a Halloween gathering during our coffee hour immediately after church. We were honored to have several children join us for a wonderful luncheon. Their costumes were fantastic and their childish voices added so much to our time here that afternoon. Each person present received a bag of treats (no tricks here) and feasted on our Covered Dish Luncheon.

November 12<sup>th</sup> found us gathered at the Rick Geisinger farm where we manned the food stand during his equipment sale. Thank you to all those who provided baked goods, soups and time for we had a very successful day. A special thank you to Rick and Lisa for extending the invitation to us.

We still are hosting Craft Sundays each month and greatly enjoy our times together. Please consider joining us in our upcoming afternoons. If you have any ideas or questions about our crafting times, please contact Joanne Collins or Darlene White.

If you are still seeking a very wonderful gift for someone, maybe you would like to consider one of our limited edition numbered 10 inch Dinner Plates depicting the Tannenberg Organ. This is the second in our pottery series and each plate cost \$40. There will be a new piece released each year for a total of a five-piece series.

We are looking forward to the release of our new Zion Moselem Cookbook which will be out in the new year. If you still haven't given us a recipe or two, please write down a favorite recipe or two or three and give them to Joanne Collins. We need all recipes by the end of December.

2023 will be another active year for our committee. If would like to help with our Designer Purse Bingo on April 30<sup>th</sup>, or would like to play along that day, please mark your calendars. This is a great family time and we share these profits with many charitable organizations both local and nationwide.

As this is an extremely active committee, we ask that you watch your bulletins, newsletters and website for all our updates. Come be a part of this committee and find your niche to enjoy your time spent with many others from Zion Moselem.

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## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

We invite everyone to come and join us for our beautiful and awe-inspiring service on Christmas Eve at 7pm. Come and join your voice with so many others as we sing carols to welcome in the Christ child and celebrate his birth in our Zion country church. Hear the

words of the joy of his birth from Pastor Kropa as she enlightens us all. Share the peace that He brings to the world and feel His love as we commune together.

Our Candlelight Service will include communion at the rail, or you may choose to remain in your seat and share communion with everyone by using a cup and wafer which can be obtained at the start of the service.

Come see our sanctuary ready to welcome the Christ Child to come among us and share His light with all therein.

Afterwards we invite you to join us for a cookie social that will be held in the Social Room. Extend an invitation to your friends, family and neighbors to join us on this very Holy Night.



### **NINETY YEARS YOUNG**

Congratulations to Pastor Kistler who shared his birthday celebration with us on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Please know that he did not know he was going to be doing this, as Zion threw him a surprise 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party. We all enjoyed his sermon that day as he led us in service and then when he got downstairs, informed him that he was the guest of honor at his own birthday celebration. We were so honored to have several members of his family with us and everyone enjoyed the day. Zion treated him to a day at Sight and Sound Theater as our way of showing him how much he means to us here at our church. Thank you to Mrs. Kistler for keeping our secret, to Pastor Kropa for informing us of this monumental milestone and for providing the beautiful birthday cake, and thanks to all those who helped provide the meal we shared that afternoon. Thank you, Pastor Kistler, for being a true man of God, for graduating from Seminary in 1957 and mostly for being the most wonderful man you are.



### **LOOKING TO 2023**

If you desire to sponsor bulletins or flowers in 2023, please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway. Also, we are seeking more people who would like to be assistants during our weekly church services. Do you want to be a reader of the word, a communion assistant or acolyte, please talk with anyone on Council or Worship & Music Committee.

**COUNCIL HAS VOTED** to not have services on Christmas Day since Christmas Eve is on a Saturday night. Thank you to our congregational members for sharing their desires with our council members that aided in this vote.

*A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMASTIDE TO YOU AND YOURS from your Zion Council!*