

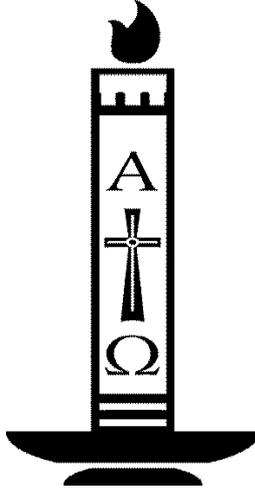
# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

360 CHESTNUT STREET EAST

ANNANDALE, MN 55302

(320) 274-5226

## The Candle



## December 2019

Rev. Thomas Queck, Pastor

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Like us on Facebook: Zion Lutheran Church

### Church Office Hours:

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Thursdays - 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

## **December 2019 Candle**

### **“From the Pastor”**

#### **What is a Christian?**

As Christians we know that Christmas is about Christ. It is to be entirely about Christ and only about Christ. But we also know how this has sadly changed. Christmas to many people is anything but about Christ. It also reveals a trend away from what it truly means to be a Christian. This is revealed when those who strongly support abortion, who strongly advocate the validity of the LGBT lifestyle also boldly claim to be Christian.

It is this trend away from Christ and what it truly means to be a Christian has been addressed with the Small Catechism we use to teach our confirmands. Way back when I was in confirmation the first topic covered was the Bible as the inerrant Word of God. Now the Catechism begins with a series of questions regarding the Christian faith and who is a Christian. It does so because the meaning of these two things has been corrupted by our societal [sinful] influences. So, we have the beginning questions as follows.

“What is the Christian faith? The Christian faith is the confession that Jesus Christ is the world’s only Savior and Redeemer.”

“What is a Christian? A Christian is someone who, by the power and work of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, believes in and confesses Jesus as Savior and Lord. Through Baptism, a Christian is adopted into the Father’s family, the Church.”

“What does it mean to confess Jesus Christ as my Lord? To confess Jesus as my Lord means that I trust Him in life and in death as my Savior and my God. His death and resurrection have atoned for all my sins and assured me of my resurrection to eternal life. I am His own and want to live for Him.”

In the questions and answers that follow a very important point is also added. That point is that a Christian lives by the word of the Bible, every word. It includes the Law that tells us how we should live and how we should not live, what is right and what is wrong. The problem today is that people do not want to be told this. They believe that what is right for them in their mind must be accepted by God also as right, and not wrong. That is not being a Christian. A Christian accepts God’s Law as valid and true. When it tells me something is wrong, I do not do it. If I do, then I can come in repentance to God and change my ways. God is not to change his ways.

And this is where the beauty of God comes to us. When I do confess my wrong, when I do change my ways, there is already prepared for me the forgiveness of my sin. That’s the Gospel. That’s Jesus Christ who was born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. But on the third day rose from the grave and lives and reigns to all eternity – for me. This is what makes him my Lord whose every word I accept as true for me and by whose word I live according to.

That’s what makes me a Christian. That’s what Christmas is also all about.

Pastor Queck

## November 11, 2019 Zion Council Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman Peter Minear at 7:07 p.m. with 10 members present. Pastor opened with devotions.
- II. Reports:
  - a. Secretary: Chairman Minear read the September 9, 2019 council minutes. There was one correction under board reports for education: From “SS purchased 6 new children study bibles @ \$40 each” To “SS purchased 6 new study bibles for teachers@ \$40 each”. M/S by Shelley Josephson/Mike Hemminger to approve the secretary’s report. Motion carried.
  - b. Treasurer: Chairman Minear read the October 2019 Financial report. M/S by Dan Fischer/Shelley Josephson to approve the treasurer’s report. Motion carried.
  - c. Pastor’s report was given for October 2019:
    - i. Worship Services: 4 with an average attendance of 146.
    - ii. Care Center Services: 2
    - iii. Weddings: 0
    - iv. Funerals: [Ruby Geisinger on 10/11]
    - v. Installation Service at Concordia-Fairhaven (10/26)
    - vi. Bible Classes: Sunday – 3, Thursday – 4
    - vii. Sacraments
      1. Baptisms: 0
      2. Communions:
        - a. Sunday: 374
        - b. Care Center: 11
        - c. Private: 7
    - viii. Administrative:
      1. Zion Meetings: 8
      2. Circuit/District: 1
  - d. Boards
    - i. Elders: Maddie Marshall’s (organist) house was struck by lightning and damaged. To provide assistance in helping the family recover, it was

determined to pay for the cost of replacing their damaged water heater. The funds will come from our social ministry account.

- ii. Trustees: No report.
- iii. Education:
  - 1. Shelley reported they are getting ready for the children's Christmas service on December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.
  - 2. We are looking into upgrading the Sunday school equipment with a smart TV for the downstairs classrooms. This can also be used to help the children practice their singing as much music accompaniment now comes in electronic files. The funds will come from our General Savings and Interest Fund. M/S Shelley Josephson/Myra Steere to approve up to \$400 for the purchase. Motion carried.
- iv. Stewardship: No report.
- v. Evangelism: No report.
- e. Old Business:
  - i. Parking lot resealing and striping are done.
  - ii. Chairman Minear raised the question of what we are to do about the remaining open council positions, especially chairman and elders. The consensus was that we have a mostly older core group of members that are active and we need to get a wider variety of members to participate. How do we inspire our younger members to want to become engaged?
  - iii. Follow-up from October quarterly meeting on the Mainstreet Living Sunday morning TV program: This is a LCMS worship service that is locally broadcast on 9.3 and designed for shut-ins. It costs \$1950 to sponsor one Sunday program. Discussed possibility of donating part of Thanksgiving offering. Put on hold until after Thanksgiving and will discuss at December meeting.

- f. New Business: Mark your calendars. We will be caroling at the Care Center at 6pm on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Further details will be coming.
- g. Adjournment: M/S by Shelley/Glenda Thurk to adjourn. Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melanie Klein, Acting Secretary

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### Notes of Thanks

I would like to thank all my church family for all the cards and also Pastor Queck for the prayers said for me. God bless, Joyce Nelson

- LWML collected \$422.00 for the Annandale Food Shelf for turkeys. Thank you to everyone for your contributions. - Shelley Josephson

### Share Your Christmas

Zion Lutheran Church will be a part of the Share Your Christmas Program again this year. On the bulletin board in the Narthex you will find a family number and a child (male or female and age) or a senior along with gift suggestions. Suggested amount per gift is \$15-\$20. Gifts need to be wrapped and securely tagged and brought to the church office by December 12. If you have any questions, please talk to Shelley Josephson or Kathy Vinkemeier.



**Children's Christmas Service**  
**Sunday, December 22 @ 9:00 a.m.**

The Sunday School children will be practicing their parts for the children service the coming weeks in Sunday School. A one-time practice for the service will be on Saturday, December 21 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. We are asking for parent's cooperation for these events to help our children make this a special service this Christmas.



**Christmas Caroling at the Annandale  
Care Center**

On Sunday, December 22, you are invited to join in to go caroling at the Annandale Care Center. We will meet at the church at 5:00 p.m. for a quick lunch and caroling at 6:00 p.m. Please sign up if you plan to participate. Bring some cookies to share!



**Schedule of Holiday Services**

Sunday, December 22: Children's Christmas Service @ 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25: Christmas Day Worship and Holy Communion @ 9:00 a.m.

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