



# Zionite newsletter

NEWSLETTER OF ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST DECEMBER 2020

## A Message From the Pastor

Dear Church,

What a year this has been - and not in a good way. I guess “living history” is less fun than we could have imagined! I know many of you, like me, have “decision fatigue”, we’re “zoomed out”, and we are ready for “normal” again! And my heart goes out to all of the healthcare workers. While the rest of us are making good (or bad) decisions, they’re busy caring for the sick on a daily basis.

But even with all of this chaos and sadness, the Season of Advent reminds us that there is hope. To tell you the truth, I think that this year, more than years before, we’re in NEED of Advent. Because Advent reminds us that even when life is difficult, God is good. Even when our hearts are broken, God gives us something to hope for. Even when we’re fatigued, in God there is comfort and rest.

Advent is a season where we wait with anticipation for the day when God will put an end to all of the perils in this world. It’s a reminder that one day Heaven and Earth will be reunited and all evil will be wiped away and only that which is good will remain.

While many years it’s hard to help people understand that Advent is more than just waiting for Christmas, this year I think almost everyone understands the true meaning of Advent.

So as we wait on the Lord this Advent, let’s find hope in the promise that God will never abandon us. Let’s find joy in any and every way that we can. Let’s remember God’s love and share God’s love with others. And let’s hold on to the promise of eternal peace that waits for us all.

May your Advent be blessed, my friends. May all of your words be filled with love and kindness. May you lift each other up and pray for each other daily. And may you all be blessed by the love of Christ that surpasses all human understanding.

In Christ,  
Pastor Elizabeth



# Mission: Christmas Cards!

Nursing home residents are especially lonely right now. We're asking all of our church members, kids and adults, to make/write Christmas cards with heartfelt notes that we can deliver to nursing homes. All cards can either be mailed to the church or dropped off in our mail slot (mail slot is in the kitchen door on the parking lot side). Please take a moment to participate in this so we can bless those who cannot receive visitors this season. All cards should be at the church by December 20th.

## Plymouth Crossroads

To help the homeless boys at Plymouth Crossroads this year, we are accepting gift cards on their behalf for Target and Amazon.

Please make sure all gift cards arrive to the church by December 18th at the latest.

All gift cards will be sent over to Plymouth Crossroads (home for homeless teen boys) to help them with Christmas Presents!

# Helpers Needed!

On the day after Christmas, Pastor Elizabeth needs the help of healthy volunteers!

**On Saturday, December 26th, volunteers will gather at the church to split into groups to do the following:**

-Individuals able to drive will deliver poinsettias and Christmas packages to our nursing home and home-bound Church members. With so many this year, Pastor Elizabeth will need help!

-Assuming it's safe enough on December 26th, we will have a drive-through Christmas dinner! Healthy volunteers are needed to cook and serve.



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST'S  
VIRTUAL  
**MEAT RAFFLE**



**Sat. December 12 @ 7 PM**  
First Spin: 7:15  
*Streamed Live via Facebook Event Page (#s posted morning of event)*

Pkg. #1	Pkg. #2	Pkg. #3	Pkg. #4
<b>\$85</b> 15 rounds + Finale (3 entries/round) + (3) 50/50 tickets	<b>\$45</b> 15 rounds + Finale (3 entries/round) + (1) 50/50 ticket	<b>\$20</b> (3) 50/50 tickets	<b>\$10</b> (1) 50/50 ticket

+ a chance to win  
a \$300 Pellicano's  
Gift Card!

**Meat Pick Up:**  
Wed. Dec. 16 | 5 - 7 PM  
Pellicano's  
3338 Niagara Falls Blvd  
N. Tonawanda, NY

**Payment Options:**  
Online via Credit Card by 12/7:  
<https://zionucc.breezechms.com/form/cd487e>  
or Send a Check by 11/28 to:  
15 Koenig Cir, Tonawanda, NY 14150

**Questions?**  
(716) 836-6220





JOIN US ONLINE AT [WWW.ZIONUCCTON.COM](http://WWW.ZIONUCCTON.COM)  
AND [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ZIONUCCTON](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ZIONUCCTON)

# Christmas Eve

AT ZION UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



## Christmas Pageant

*First Ever Virtual Christmas Pageant!*

***We're having a Christmas Pageant!***

All pageant roles for our FIRST EVER VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT have been assigned. IF your child did not receive a role, but they would like to be a part of the pageant, there are two ways they can do this.

1. Dress them up as an angel and take a video of them shouting "Glory to God!" and upload it here: <https://www.mediafire.com/filedrop/90c9eeb265d981570746c1c7b5b2d22a78790c>
2. If your child sings or plays an instrument, record them singing/playing a Christmas song (a religious Christmas song) and upload it to the link above.

Get ready for a SUPER CUTE Christmas Pageant which will be played during our 4th Sunday of Advent worship service (December 20th).

## Christmas Eve

We are still undecided about what we will do for Christmas Eve services. For the rest of Advent, we will continue to have pre-recorded services which will premiere on Sundays on Facebook live at 10am.

IF we do have in-person services on Christmas Eve, then we will have services at 5 and 7 (and 9 if we need to add a third) where people will sign up for the limited space worship services. They will also stream live on Facebook. **This is not a decision we will make until we can see the Covid numbers in our area closer to Christmas.** Look for information via email before. If you do not receive our emails, call for information the week of Christmas Eve.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to Nick Seth and his Boy Scout crew! Nick Seth, a local Boy Scout, did his Eagle Project by renovating all of the gardens around our church. They were in great need of TLC and not only did the Boy Scouts weed, mulch, and plant new shrubs, but they also cut back bushes to help them get ready for winter.

Thank you Nick and the Boy Scouts!



# Sunday School Materials

We have Sunday School materials available in an online folder. Click or copy the link address below to access it.

In the folder you'll find Christmas comics for kids to learn the story about Christmas, along with Sunday School activities. Download any of the items you would like to share with your Sunday Schooler.

[http://www.mediafire.com/folder/72vvzq32ejmd8/Sunday\\_School\\_Materials](http://www.mediafire.com/folder/72vvzq32ejmd8/Sunday_School_Materials)

## Helping Ella

Some of you may have heard that our own Ella Norris is receiving treatment for a severe eating disorder. All of the costs are not covered by insurance, so to help her family, there is a Go Fund Me page set up. If you would like to help, every gift is appreciated. Follow the link below to give.

<https://gf.me/u/ykppbx>

