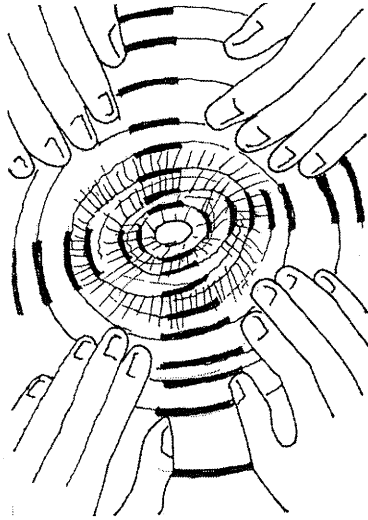




The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church



Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? -- Isaiah 43:18-19a

It begins with January, but it doesn't end there.

Remember as a child the first time your parents allowed you to stay up to "see the New Year in." Eagerly you went to the window or the front door and looked out. You watched and waited. Nothing happened. You didn't know what you expected to see, but you could not see the New Year's arrival. You went back to bed.

Looking in this newsletter at all the events that seem to be "same old, same old," we still know that each meeting is a new opportunity for the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to see the new year arriving.

The prophet reminds the people of Israel that the God who created and called them by name will be with them forever. The way would not be easy; but a Savior would walk it with them. Through waters and rivers, through fire and flames, the Holy One would go with them into their future. Why? Because God was doing a new thing. It was happening even when they did not see it. No bells, no bulbs, no tinsel. Just God causing the new to spring up when they least expected it.

That promise is for us, too. We are urged not to get stuck in the past, or drag the old into the new. We are not to miss the promise because we are looking into the same old dark of night.

God has come! The old is gone. The light shines in the dark. Do we not see it?

Some special events for the month include:

- January 13th - **Chi-Rho Retreat**
- January 21st - **Mystery Dinner** for Jr. Hi. Youth Quake - 4:30 p.m. downstairs
- January 27th - **Early Communion Instruction** for second graders and up - 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the church
- January 28th - **Annual Meeting** - one worship service at 9:30 a.m., with meeting immediately following the service

