



ZION VISITOR December 2025

E-mail address: zionlc.midway@gmail.com

website: www.zlcmidway.org

Facebook page: Zion Lutheran

Phone number: 651-645-0851

**“Called by God’s grace to celebrate and share
the love of God in our neighborhood.”**

—Zion’s Mission Statement



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

1697 LAFOND AVE

ST PAUL MN 55104

Dear Friends,

The Advent/Christmas season has begun. Traditionally it begins with a call to awaken. As the Advent hymn declares: "Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn"--ELW 242. To what are we to awake? How? To what end? This is the season of incarnation, of God embodied in Christ and in us, Christ's body. In a world full of darkness, to be and bear light. Here is a reflection written for the first week in Advent. I think it relevant to our time.

When our daughter Charlie was little she would awake early, come into our bedroom, and if we were sleeping--or pretending to be--call out, "Wake up the eyes!"

Wake up the eyes.

Such a beautiful invitation. Sometimes accompanied with a startling hand slap on the mattress. It was impossible not to smile, even if we wanted more sleep. It was time to wake up.

It is common experience to live in an unawakened state, to remain asleep, even as we get up and go about our business (busy-ness) each day--habitually reacting, rather than being fully awake and alive.

The invitation is to wake up the eyes--*of our hearts*. To practice presence in the midst of everything that makes us want to close and harden our hearts. It is not complicated. Not hard to understand.

Try this. See if you can locate your fear or apprehension right now. What is it? What's it about? Maybe it is quite personal. You feel overwhelmed, inadequate, unprepared, unsafe, failing, disorganized, lonely, unloved or unlovable. These are unpleasant feelings we all experience from time to time. We don't like them and try to avoid or overcome them in some way.

Or maybe our fears are about the state of the world. A sense of outrage or doom.

What does it mean to awaken the eyes of the heart? There is truth in all these experiences, especially the most disturbing and distressing.

Yeshua, according to Matthew (24-25), warned his students about dark days ahead, full of destruction, betrayal, falsehood (even in his name), violence, and terror. It was accurate. *Is* accurate.

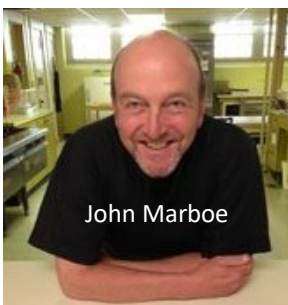
"Don't be led astray...Because of the growing lawlessness the love of many will grow cold. But those who endure to the end are saved," he said.

He offers no solutions, no happy ending, and no escape from any of this painful experience. What he clarifies is that it is all about love. Love gone cold, or love that keeps loving.

"Keep awake," Yeshua tells them, "to the end." Clearly this awakeness is indestructible love, the heart of all that matters.

The final analysis, often pictured poetically as a final judgement, is then pictured by Yeshua this way: All humanity is gathered. People are judged simply on whether they "welcomed the stranger/alien, fed the hungry, clothed the naked, cared for the sick, and visited the prisoner"--or did not.

Remarkably, those who showed compassion had no expectation or thought of reward. Instead, they were simply there for one another, saw value in--and identified with--their lowliest neighbors, and acted accordingly. With love.



To love does not *lead to or merit* salvation, it *is* salvation. When we surrender to love we surrender to truth and find life. Right here, right now, no matter what. We get up, we engage, we face the moment, and we do not lose heart, for Love continually wakes us from slumber calling, "Wake up the eyes!"



**Sunday services will continue in-person and via Zoom at 10 a.m.
Any with health concerns please stay home and join us on Zoom.**

First Sunday of each month:

December 7th — Coffee fellowship time



4 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24th

Third Sunday Bach Chorales

An opportunity to sing J.S. Bach once a month at Zion!
~ a 4 part Bach chorale to be sung on the third Sunday of each month.

We will send the music, including audio files of the chorale and individual voice parts to anyone interested in joining us. Paper copies are available at Zion. We will also be available to go over parts after the second Sunday service (11:10am).

As part of the service on the third Sunday, Tom and I will play and sing the parts, so there will always be at least one "voice" accurately singing each part. You can sing around the piano, or from the pews!

If interested, please contact Mira in person, or miratomkehoe@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome to participate!

Recordings of our Sunday worship services are available on-line. Zion's website: www.zlcmidway.org

Donation Options:

- Mail-in to church: (Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104)
- In person: during worship; or through the courtyard door mailslot
- Automatic bill pay from your bank using Zion's mailing address
- Donate button on Zion's webpage (3% fee for credit card service)

**FREE MEALS
& GROCERIES**
 1697 Lafond Ave in St. Paul
 Tuesdays 11-8
 Thursdays 1-3, 5-8



ALL ARE WELCOME!

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME
 AT
 ZION'S FOOD AND
 WELLNESS PROGRAM**

On Thursdays, Zion distributes food for our neighbors and friends.

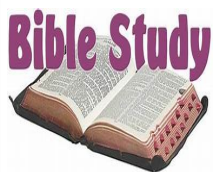
Please come between 1 and 3 p.m. to get your free bag of groceries and a lunch to take home or dine in with us.

***.Zion needs volunteers
 between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.***

Enneagram

Each week Zion offers a small group experience to explore the transformative possibilities of the Enneagram. The Enneagram is a method to explore one's own unique personality in relationship to others and to life itself. The basic idea is to reflect on our lives in light of nine ("ennea" in Greek) personality types (with infinite variations of course), as a lens to understand ourselves better and to grow. We meet via Zoom using the same meeting ID as our Sunday gatherings. Feel free to ask Pastor John, Janet Quarn, Phoebe Waugh, or Marlin Osthus for more details.

Thursdays 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.



CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

**December 29th; 1 p.m. in
 Conference Room**

**From the Gather Magazine from Sept/Oct/Nov
 "Generosity"
 Session 3**

**We remember the overwhelming generosity
 we have received from God.**

<https://www.gathermagazine.org/bible-study/upcoming-bible-studies/>



**Meeting will be via Zoom
 6 pm on Tuesday,
 December 16th**



Scripture Readings

December 7th - Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19 (7)

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

December 14th - Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalms 146:5-10 (8) or Luke 1:46b-55 (47)

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

December 21st – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 (7)

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

December 28th – First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalms 148 (13)

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23



Diane Olin — December 4th

Steve Youngquist — December 5th

Merlin Simon — December 17th

Jeremy Skaggs — December 20th

Duane Johnson — December 23rd

William Waugh — December 25th

Carol Haas — December 27th

November Financials

Income: \$13,068.00

(Does not include electronic giving)

Bills paid: \$13,030.65

Thanks to all for your generosity. There is still time to submit your Giving in Gratitude form. They are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

The budget we passed at the annual meeting last Sunday includes a 3% increase in salaries. It might be a convenient way to plan and increase in your giving. Give it some prayerful thought as we enter the season of the birth of Jesus, God's gift to the world.

Janet Quarn
Treasurer

**FINANCIAL
REPORT**



Love is nourishing.
Nourishment is love.

Remember,

You can
sit with
us.

**Every Tuesday
11am - 8pm**

All are welcome!

Zion Community Commons

1697 Lafond Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

Weekly Community Dinners

Eureka Compass Vegan Food
Vegan, gluten-free, nut-free, corn-free

We feed us!

Dine in or take out!

*Bringing your own containers is
always encouraged.*

WEEKLY EACH THURSDAY:

Open Market/Vegan
Meal from 5 — 8 p.m.

Preorder instructions:

- Send an email to eurekacompassveganfood@gmail.com
- Include a window of time for pick up and number of meals.
- Cash contributions accepted at time of pick up.
- Credit card? Just let us know the amount of your contribution; we'll email you an invoice prior to the date. Pay electronically through a prompt in the email.
- Walk-ins welcomed! (It's always best to preorder.)



<https://eurekacompassveganfood.com/community-dinner>

arts on lafond

4pm Sunday, Dec. 7
Joe Hagedorn and Leslie Shank
- classical guitar and violin duo

<https://www.kcb.org.rs/en-us/2025/08/shank-hagedorn-duo/>

The Shank-Hagedorn duo has been performing all over the United States, with concerts in Colorado, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Oregon, California and Mexico. They have recorded two CDs on the innova and Centaur labels. *Suggested donation: \$15-20*



7pm Sunday, Dec. 7
Pick, Buttons & Bow benefit concert
- traditional & contemporary Irish music



Suggested donation of \$10 for adults - 1/2 of all proceeds go to the Zion Lutheran Church's food drive!

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Pick-Buttons-and-Bow-61571881989634/>

7pm Thursday, Dec. 11
Experimental Jazz Series
- Avant-garde Acoustic

2nd Thursday each month
\$15 at the door; students \$10
https://www.instagram.com/kevinrhys_mn/



7pm Friday, Dec. 12
Tom Kehoe and Kevin Daley
Paul Christian - live visuals
- a creative, multi-genre improvisational adventure

Kevin and Tom have been playing and improvising together for over 30 years in a collaboration that has spanned many genres. You are invited to listen in on a deep and wide-ranging musical conversation between their instruments. With live visuals by Paul Christian, a designer of abstract immersive environments. *Suggested donation: \$15-20*



Arts on Lafond

1697 Lafond Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104

To donate online: Arts on Lafond <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z8XC/home>



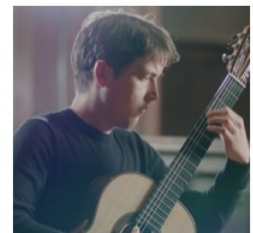
December Events

4pm Sunday, Dec. 14
Classical Guitar concert
Maja Radovanlija, Brent Weaver
and Guitar studio students

<https://cla.umn.edu/about/directory/profile/mradovan>
<https://dev.suzukiassociation.org/people/brent-weaver/>



6pm Wednesday, Dec. 17
Contemplative singing:
Songs and chants of the season
- led by Mira Kehoe & John Marboe
All are welcome to participate:
paperless singing



4pm Sunday, Dec. 21
Xavier Jara - solo classical guitar
<https://www.xavierjara.com/>

Suggested donation: \$15-20

An American guitarist of international acclaim, in 2016, Xavier won the coveted First Prize of the Guitar Foundation of America International Concert Artist Competition: a sixty-concert tour of the US, Canada and So. America. A native of Minnesota, he moved to Paris, France in 2011 to study with Judicaël Perroy, receiving a Bachelor's Degree at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris.

He has received 1st place in a number of international competitions. In May 2020, Xavier earned his Master's degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He continues to perform around the world, and joined the United States Guitar Orchestra as a soloist in 2022 on their tour of Spain.



7pm Tuesday, Dec. 30
Soundbath with Marc Anderson

Suggested donation: \$15-20

<https://www.marcanderson.org/sound-baths>

* No wheelchair accessibility.
artsonlafond@gmail.com

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:30 a.m. —Quilting 11 am to 8pm— Vegan Community Meal	3	4 11:15 a.m. — Enneagram via Zoom 1-3 p.m. — Food & Wellness Program 5-7 p.m.— Open Market	5	6
7 10:00 a.m.— Zion's Worship & on Zoom 11:30 a.m. —2 p.m.— New Generation Service 4 p.m.—Concerts: Joe Hagedorn & Leslie Shank— guitar & violin & 7 p.m.—Pick, Buttons & Bow benefit—Irish music	8	9 9:30 a.m. —Quilting 11 am to 8pm— Vegan Community Meal	10	11 11:15 a.m. — Enneagram via Zoom 1-3 p.m. — Food & Wellness Program 5-7 p.m.— Open Market 7 p.m.— Experimental Jazz Series	12 7-8:30 p.m.— Concert with Tom Kehoe & Devin Daley, With Paul Christian	13
14 10:00 a.m.— Zion's Worship & on Zoom 11:30 a.m. —2 p.m.— New Generation Service 4 p.m.— Classical Guitar Concert	15	16 9:30 a.m. —Quilting 11 am to 8pm— Vegan Community Meal 6 p.m.—Church Council Meeting	17 6-6:45 p.m.— A Quiet Place	18 11:15 a.m. — Enneagram via Zoom 1-3 p.m. — Food & Wellness Program 5-7 p.m.— Open Market	19	20
21 10:00 a.m.— Zion's Worship & on Zoom 11:30 a.m. —2 p.m.— New Generation Service 4 p.m.—Concert: Xavier Jara Solo classical guitar  Today is the 1st day of Winter Winter Greetings	22	23 9:30 a.m. —Quilting 11 am to 8pm— Vegan Community Meal	24 4 p.m.— Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27
28 10:00 a.m.— Zion's Worship & on Zoom 11:30 a.m. —2 p.m.— New Generation Service	29 1 p.m. Circle Bible Study	30 9:30 a.m. —Quilting 11 am to 8pm— Vegan Community Meal 7 p.m.—Soundbath with Marc Anderson	31			

arts on lafond

Classical Guitar Series

December 7 - Joe Hagedorn & Leslie Shank

- classical guitar and violin duo

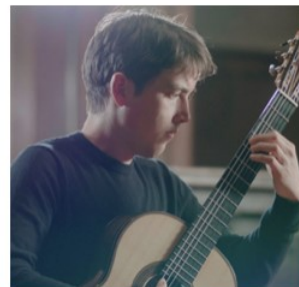
<https://www.guitarchambermusicpress.com/joe-hagedorn/>

<https://www.kcb.org.rs/en-us/2025/08/shank-hagedorn-duo/>



The **Shank-Hagedorn duo** has been performing all over the US, with concerts in CO, MN, WI, IN, OR, CA and Mexico. They have recorded two CDs on the innova and Centaur labels.

Joe Hagedorn earned a BM degree from Cornell College and a MM degree from the U of M. He has served on the music faculty of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls since 1988, and his solo and concerto appearances have taken him to more than 25 American cities and Canada. A founding member of the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet, Joe performed with the group from 1986 until 2023, touring extensively throughout the US and the world. In 1990, he was the first prize winner at the Guitar Foundation of America International solo competition.



Leslie Shank was a member of The SPCO for 30 years, 24 of them as assistant concertmaster. She has performed at leading festivals, including Aspen, Grand Teton, Mainly Mozart, and Marlboro. Shank earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from The Juilliard School. Ms. Shank is a founding member of the Isles Ensemble, composed of many of the Twin Cities' foremost chamber musicians; she plays both violin and viola in the group.

December 14

Maja Radovanlija, Brent Weaver

and Guitar studio students

<https://www.majaradovanlija.com/>

<https://dev.suzukiassociation.org/people/brent-weaver/>



Maja Radovanlija

Maja Radovanlija is a versatile guitarist and musical explorer. Born in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, she brings nearly two decades of classical guitar training from University of Belgrade and Jacobs School of Music, where she earned her MM and DM degrees. Her musical path has been defined by a rich tapestry of collaborations that traverse diverse genres, from Balkan traditional music to Early music, jazz, and intuitive free improvisation. Radovanlija is an active member of multiple distinguished ensembles. Her innovative approach to music-making reflects a deep commitment to cross-cultural musical dialogue and creative expression.

Brent Weaver has a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from California State University, Sacramento. In 1996, Brent received his Master of Music in Music Education degree with a Kodaly emphasis from Holy Names College in Oakland, California. Soon after, he moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota where he taught for 24 years at MacPhail Center for Music. Currently he teaches traditional classical and Suzuki guitar at the Midway Guitar Studio in St Paul. Brent has studied with Jose Rey de la Torre, John Majors and Jim Flegel. He has appeared in master classes with many distinguished artists most recently with Eduardo Fernandez, Carlos Perez and Alieksey Vianna.

December 21 - Xavier Jara

- classical solo guitar

<https://www.xavierjara.com/>

Xavier Jara is an American guitarist of international acclaim. In 2016, he won the coveted First Prize of the Guitar Foundation of America International Concert Artist Competition, which awarded him a sixty-concert tour. The tour covered North and South America, including a concert at Carnegie Hall.

A native of Minnesota, Xavier studied with Alan Johnston at the MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis until 2011, when he moved to Paris, France, completing his Bachelor's Degree at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris. He received 1st place in a number of international competitions including the Viseu International Competition (2014), the Boston Guitarfest (2014), the Gargnano, Italy Competition (2015), the Ciudad de Coria Competition (2015), and the Tokyo International Competition (2016).

In 2016, Xavier returned home to the United States to win the GFA's prestigious Rose Augustine Grand Prize, and in 2020, Xavier earned his MM from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He continues to perform around the world and joined the United States Guitar Orchestra as a soloist in 2022 on their tour of Spain. As a teacher, he previously served as the Adjunct Professor of Guitar at California State University Fullerton, and recently taught the Spring 2022 semester at the University of Louisville, conducting and performing in Javier Farías's Arauco with the U of L guitar ensemble.

To donate online: Arts on Lafond

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z8XC/home>

Arts on Lafond


1697 Lafond Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55104

artsonlafond@gmail.com

* No wheelchair accessibility.

facebook.com/artsonlafond



arts on lafond

Tom Kehoe, piano & *Kevin Daley*, guitar and guitar synths
with
Paul Christian, live visuals



Friday
December 12, 2025

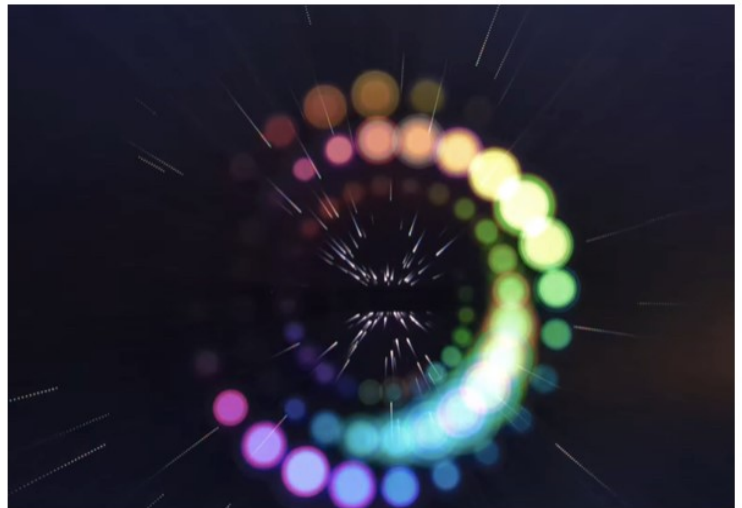
7 - 8:30pm
No intermission

A creative, multi-genre improvisational adventure

Suggested donation \$15 - 20
All are welcome

Arts on Lafond
1697 Lafond Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

Kevin and Tom have been playing and improvising together for over 30 years in a collaboration that has spanned many genres.



You are invited to listen in on a deep and wide-ranging musical conversation between their instruments; spontaneous visuals by Paul Christian, a designer of abstract immersive environments.



*QR code to Soundcloud audio files to
get a taste of what awaits you!*

Would you like to receive periodic emails from Arts on Lafond? Send your email to artsonlafond@gmail.com to get on our list!

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1697 Lafond Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
artsonlafond@gmail.com
facebook.com/artsonlafond

* No wheelchair access.



arts on lafond & Zion Lutheran Church

A Quiet Place

*join us in singing
contemplative songs and chants of the season*

The candlelit space will be open beginning at 5:30pm for self-reflection and quiet time.
At 6pm, all will be invited to gather for 40 minutes of paperless singing.
This is not a performance, but rather a space where you can be in stillness; all are welcome.

*In these darkening days, share peaceful, contemplative singing with us
as we enter the season of winter.*

~ led by Mira Kehoe & John Marboe



Wednesday
6 - 6:45pm
December 17, 2025

Zion Community Commons
1697 Lafond Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

Would you like to receive periodic emails
from Arts on Lafond? Send your email to
artsonlafond@gmail.com to get on our list!

Arts on Lafond
1697 Lafond Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
artsonlafond@gmail.com
facebook.com/artsonlafond

ANGELS
 CANDY CANES
 CHIMNEY
 COMET
 DONNER
 FROSTY
 IVY
 NOEL
 PRANCER
 SNOWFLAKE
 TINSEL
 YULETIDE
 BELLS
 CARDS
 CHRISTMAS
 DINNER
 COOKIES
 ELVES
 GARLAND
 JACK FROST
 MANGER
 NORTH POLE
 PRESENTS
 SCROOGE
 SNOWMAN
 TOYS
 BLITZEN
 CAROLS
 CHRISTMAS
 LIGHTS
 CUPID
 FAMILY
 MERRY
 NUTCRACKER
 REINDEER
 SEASON

G M E R R Y J I N G L E B E L L S L A H K G D B O D Y Z Q B
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 L E S F K S S N O W M A N T I N S E L B P U R M P D E A F N
 Q L V N S P T O O Q C A R O L S M K H E V O P Q F G N R M R

Christmas

SPIRIT
 VIXEN
 BOW
 CHEER
 CHRISTMAS
 TREE
 DANCER
 FESTIVE
 HOLIDAYS
 JINGLE BELLS

MISTLETOE
 ORNAMENTS
 RIBBON
 SLED
 STOCKINGS
 WINTER
 CANDLES
 CHESTNUTS
 DASHER
 FIREPLACE

HOLLY
 JOLLY
 NATIVITY
 PEACE
 RUDOLPH
 SLEIGH
 WREATH
 SANTA CLAUSE
 GINGERBREAD MAN