

Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 am Sunday, December 17, 2023

RECEIVING OF THE LORD’S SUPPER AT ZION

As intended by Christ and as practiced by the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church throughout her history, “Closed Communion” is observed in this congregation, in which the Lord’s Supper is distributed only to those:

- (a) who have been **baptized** in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- (b) who have been **instructed** in the truth of Holy Scripture as taught in the Lutheran Confessions, who have been **confirmed** in this Lutheran faith, and who now confess the same doctrines that are taught in this congregation, holding membership in a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod;
- (c) who **believe that in this sacrament the real body and blood of Christ are truly distributed to them and orally received by them**, bestowing on them the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation;
- (d) who **sincerely repent** of all their sins, and desire to receive God’s forgiveness in this holy meal.

Guests at our services, before receiving the sacrament, are requested to affirm these facts with one of our pastors. Thank you for honoring our practice. If you are looking for a church home, would like to be a member of Zion, or would like to learn more about the Christian Faith, please speak to one of our pastors about our membership classes.

✠ = *appropriate to make the baptismal sign of the cross*

When “rise” or “kneel” is indicated, it is appropriate to sit if needed

Greeting And Announcements: *The Lord be with you! And also with you!*

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

The Office of Confession of Sins and Absolution

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[*Kneel*]

Our help is in the name of the Lord Who made heaven and earth. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord. And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

O almighty God, merciful Father; I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

The Congregation rises, turns towards the entrance of the nave, and faces the Cross of Christ, the reminder of Christ’s promise to come and dwell among His people as they are gathered in His name.

Introit of the Day



[Antiphon] *Show us your steadfast | love, O LORD, || and | grant us your sal- | •vation•. ||
Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak, || for he will speak peace to his
people, to his saints; but let them | not turn back to | •folly•.*

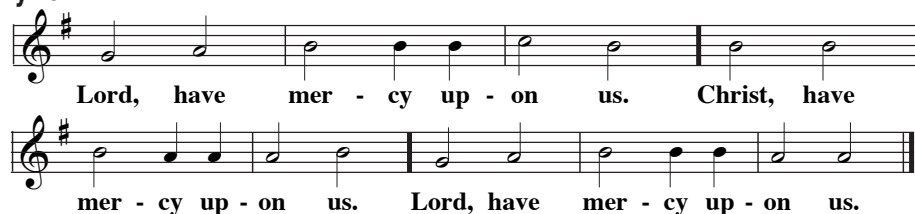
Verse 1: **Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear__ him, || that glory | may
dwell in our | land. || Faithfulness springs up | from the ground, || and righ-
teousness | looks down from the | sky.**

Verse 2: *Yes, the LORD will give | what is good, || and our | land will yield its | •increase•.
|| Righteousness will | go •before• him || and | make his •footsteps• a- | way.*

Gloria: **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son: || and | to the Ho- ly | •Spirit; || As it was
in the be- | •ginning•, is now, || and will | be for- •ever•. A- | men!**

[Antiphon] **Show us your steadfast | love, O LORD, || and | grant us your sal- | •vation•.
|| Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak, || for he will speak peace to
his people, to his saints; but let them | not turn back to | •folly•.**

Kyrie

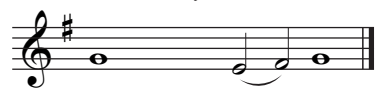


Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have

mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir— it.

Collect for the Third Sunday in Advent: *Lord, we implore You, give ear to our
prayers and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; who lives and
reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



A ——— men!

Collect for Advent: *Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we
may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliver-
ance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



A ——— men!

[Be Seated]

+ The Office of the Word of God +

Old Testament Reading..... Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

[After the reading] *This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

Epistle of the Day 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

[After the reading] *This is the word of the Lord.* Thanks be to God.

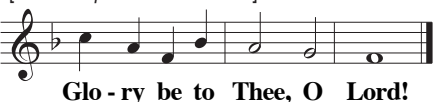
[Rise] **Alleluia Sequence**

[Deacon] *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'* Alleluia!

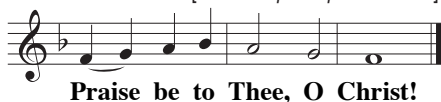


Holy Gospel St. John 1:6-8, 19-28

[The Gospel is announced.]



[The Gospel is proclaimed.]



Confession of Faith (The Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

[Bow] And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, And was made man;

And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sits at the right hand of the Father; And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen!

[Be Seated]

Hymn of the Day Hark! A Thrilling Voice Burgundy Hymn 345

[Rise for Stanza 5.]

Sermon

[Rise] **Prayer of the Church**

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs: [After each petition]:..., Lord, in Your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

[After the final prayer]:..., one God, now and forever **Amen.**

[Be Seated] **Offerings, Voluntary**

[Rise] **Offertory Hymn Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God**



take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of
Thy sal-va - tion; and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

Preface

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

And with thy spir - it. We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface for Advent, Sanctus

It is truly meet, right and salutary ever more praising You and saying:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry; Ho - san-na Ho - san-na, Ho -
san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is He, Bless-ed is He, Bless-ed is He that
com-eth in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na, Ho - san-na, Ho-san-na in the highest.

[Kneel] **Lord's Prayer** [Pastor chants:] *Our Father who art ... but deliver us from evil.*

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glo - ry for -
ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Words of Institution, Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

A - men.

Agnus Dei



1-3. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world,

Stanzas 1 and 2 | Stanza 3



have mer-cy up - on us. Grant us Thy Peace. A - - - men!

[Be Seated]

Distribution Hymns Once He Came in Blessing Burgundy Hymn 333
Arise, O Christian People Burgundy Hymn 354

[Rise] Eucharistic Benediction

The Body and Blood of your Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting! ✠ Depart in Peace! Amen!

Post-Communion Canticle The Nunc Dimittis



1. Lord now— lettest Thou Thy
servant, de- part— in — peace, ac- cord- ing to Thy Word.

2. For mine__ eyes have seen
Thy Salvation,
which Thou hast pre- pared__ be— fore the face of all__ people.



3. a Light to light- en the Gen- tles and the Glo- ry of Thy peo- ple Is - - - - ra- el.



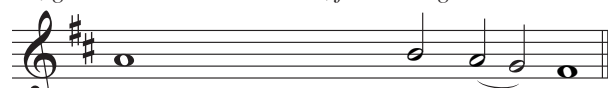
4. Glo— ry__ be to the
Father, and to__ the __ Son, and to the Ho- ly Ghost.



5. As it __ was in the
beginning, is
now, and e- ver shall be, world with- out end. A- men.

Post Communion Rite

Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.



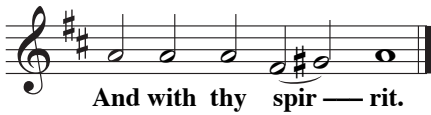
And His mercy endureth for - ev — er.

Prayer of Thanksgiving ... now and forever.



A — men.

The Lord be with you.



Bless we the Lord.



Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



During the Recessional, the Congregation turns and faces the Processional Cross, the symbol of Christ's promise to remain with and lead His people as they now go and live in the world in His name.

Recessional Hymn Hark the Glad Sound Burgundy Hymn 349

Postlude

Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly!

**Come join us at Zion Lutheran Church
as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.**

- Advent Services, Wednesdays at 7pm
- Christmas Eve Candelight Service of Lessons and Carols
Featuring Choir, Brass, and Organ
Prelude begins at 6:30pm • Service begins at 7pm
- Christmas Day Festival Service
Featuring Choir, Brass, and Organ
Prelude begins at 8:45am • Service begins at 9am



2313 South Hanna Street at Creighton

Telephone 744-1389

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Readings for the Third Sunday in Advent

The Old Testament Reading is Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations. ...
For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

The Epistle is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

The Gospel is John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ...

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Hymns for the Third Sunday in Advent

LSB345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.

1. Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! “Christ is near,” we hear it say.
“Cast away the works of darkness, All you children of the day!”
 2. Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.
 3. See, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heav’n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv’n;
 4. So, when next He comes in glory And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy And with words of love draw near.
- △ 5. Honor, glory, might, dominion to the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit While eternal ages run!

LSB333 Once He Came in Blessing

Johann Horn

Text: (sts. 2-3) © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

1. Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.
2. Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.
3. Soon will come that hour__ When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.
4. Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You Till in heav’n we bless You.

LSB354 Arise, O Christian People

Valentin Thilo

1. Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes you sins away.
To us by grace alone The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.

2. Prepare the way before Him; Prepare for Him the best.
Cast out what would offend Him, This great, this heav'nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing, His path, all even lay.
3. The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
Beneath His feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right, That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation—It is the Lord's delight.
4. Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You This blessed Advent-tide.
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing Your praises gladly And forth Your glory show.

LSB349 Hark the Glad Sound

Philip Doddridge

1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.
2. He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.
3. He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name.

The Third Sunday in Advent



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

2313 Hanna Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46803 | 260-744-1389

pastor@zionfw.org, church@zionfw.org | website: www.zionfw.org

Zion Lutheran Church is the body of Christ at Hanna and Creighton in Fort Wayne, Indiana that:

- Receives Christ's gifts in Word and Sacraments; and
- Responds to God's love in Christ by
 - Reaching out to those who do not know His love; and
 - Revealing His love in acts of kindness and mercy.

The Pastoral Ministry at Zion

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Douglas D. Punke, MDiv (341-5397)

Field Workers:

Paul Mroczenski, Matthew Harrison

The Teaching Staff at Lutheran South Unity

Principal:

Amber Bahr (744-0459; www.lsusfw.org)

Teachers:

Yvonne Schwantz (8th, ELA), Michael Cullen (7th, MS Science),

Chase Mertz (6th, MS Social Studies), Danielle Ramsey (5th), John Kuker (4th),

Abbey Zelt (3rd), John Fink (2nd), Hannah Maresh (1st),

Karen Koehlert (K-A), Rachel Wiegman (K-B), Natalie Reynolds (Art & Music),

Lizzy Hoham (Progress Partners Coach), Marcus Rush (K-5 PE)

The Support Staff

Organist and Director of Parish Music:

Michael Hollman, MM

Church Office Manager:

Melvia Culpher

PRAYERS FOR TODAY

- + For the church, especially those bearing the cross of persecution
- + For those who serve our Lord at home and abroad, especially our fieldworkers Paul Mroczenski and Matthew Harrison
- + For our nation; for our leaders; for our military, including James Hall; especially at this perilous time in our world
- + For our schools, especially Lutheran South Unity School, Concordia Lutheran High School, and Concordia Theological Seminary
- + For those who travel
- + For the aged and the homebound
- + For those who are on hospice care, including Kenneth Raber
- + For the ill, distressed, and those suffering affliction, including Connie Houser, Jason Kaiser, Ron Silvers, Janice Grim, Karen Coleman, Sarah Hollman, Debra Busche, Jessica Krause, Bill Weinrich, John Starks, Dwight Bieberich, Willodean Bates, Dick Hollman, Bob Ockree, David Evans, John A. Pless, Joe Harrison, Louisa Porter, Marlow Hogan, Gregory Hogan, Marissia White, Dwight Johnson, Sue Doepner, Blakely White, Joan Messmann, Ron Rastl, and Robert & Jenny Hobby
- + For God's blessing on all godly marriages, especially Anne & Roland Ziegler
- + For the gift of life and for length of days
- + For the gift of rebirth by water and the Spirit
- + For those who mourn the death of loved ones, including the Bryce Shull family, Estella & Hilario Ramirez and family, Nathaniel & Marie Bahr and family, and the Hazel Stockelman family
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed, including Vanessa Smith and Bryce Shull
- + For our communicants and for a fruitful use of the most Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood

IN THE SERVICE TODAY

Today is the Divine Service for the Third Sunday in Advent. The Cross Bowl is giving in loving memory of Vanessa Smith by DaVanna & David Seifert and family. The Altar Vases are given in celebration of the 20th wedding anniversary of Anne & Roland Ziegler. Please complete an attendance/communion card, including the names of all children, and indicate if you are communing. Non-members, please read the back of the card.

CALENDAR

December 17, 2023 thru December 23, 2023

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:30 AM	Education Hour	Various
MON.	3:45 PM	Jr. Catechesis	Conference Room
	9:30 AM	LSUS Rehearsal	Church
TUES.	6:30 AM	LSUS Christmas Program	Church
WED.	5:45 PM	Advent Supper	Bauer Hall
	7:00 PM	Advent Service	Church
THURS.			
FRI.			
SAT.	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church

December 24, 2023

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:30 AM	Education Hour	Various
	6:30 PM	Pre-service Music — Choral & Instrumental	Church
	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols	Church

ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDUCATION HOUR Dr. Voelz will conduct Adult Bible Class in Bauer Hall. As needed, Sunday School will meet in the Assoc. Pastor's Office.

THANKS to everyone who donated goodies for the shut-ins and to those who showed up to help get them ready to be dropped off. If you are able, please take a bag to deliver.

COMMUNICATION: we have a new way to communicate with members; our database can now send mass emails and text messages. We'll use it mainly for timely, need-to-know information, but we do need to know your email address and/or cell phone number. Therefore, please make sure that Melvia has them. Call the office to verify.

FLOWER CHART: Rosie will be hanging the flower chart soon; so keep an eye out for it, so that you can sign up for the dates you want.

NEXT YEAR'S OFFERING ENVELOPES are on table in the Great Hall. Please stop and pick yours up.

FYI: Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne and indoor drone footage will be featured on Worship Anew today. Worship Anew can be seen nationwide, on NewsNATION (WGN), TCT Network (DirectTV Channel 377 at 11:30am EST), worldwide on the American Forces Network TV, and on the new Worship Anew App found on Google Play, Apple App Store, and Roku SmartTV app.

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS: For the last couple of years we have had an anonymous donor that gifted the *Lutheran Witness* to Zion members. That gift is not continuing. Therefore, if you would like to continue receiving the Lutheran Witness, please submit a check in the amount of \$19 to Zion by December 31st.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT is here. Prepare for Jesus' comings first, by increased devotion to the Word; there are still Advent devotional booklet in the narthex; second, by coming to the Advent midweek Evening Prayer service, Wednesday, December 20, 7 PM; Advent supper is at 5:45 PM; Rev. Richard Lammert will preach; third by sharing of God's material blessings to others less fortunate; do that through the Cup of Kindness in the narthex.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY are only a week away. Next Sunday morning will be the Fourth Sunday in Advent; the evening will be Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols, 6:30 PM choir and instruments, and 7:00 PM Lessons and Carols. The Christmas Feast is Monday, December 25, 8:45 AM choir & instruments, 9:00 Festival Divine Service.

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE: Isaiah 40:1—"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God." Last week's verse was Revelation 22:20.

LIFE DEFENDERS TRIP TO THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE: College-aged and high school students are invited to join Right to Life of Northeast Indiana on a bus trip to the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. We leave the evening of January 17th and return home early morning on Saturday, January 20th. We want YOU on the bus with us for this life-changing experience! Learn more at www.ichooselife.org/dc or call our office at 260-471-1849.

THE CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH MEN'S CLUB is selling Christmas trees and wreaths this year to help fund the church and school. The tree lot is located at the Church-School, 4245 Lake Avenue. Christmas tree sales will begin on Saturday, November 18th. The lot is open 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturdays, and 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Sundays.

LISTEN TO LUTHERAN PROGRAMMING You can listen to Issues, Etc. live or on-demand at www.issuesetc.org or on the LPR mobile app or to KFUO at KFUO.org.

For the family of God’s Priestly People at Zion

God calls His own people a “Royal Priesthood.” God makes us kings and queens, princes and princesses who are bound together by the Holy Spirit in Baptism for the Christian benefit of each other. Priests **PRAY** -- They talk to God about their neighbor! Priests **TEACH** -- They talk to their neighbor about God! Priests **OFFER SACRIFICES** -- They offer to God the sacrifice of broken and contrite hearts; they offer their bodies and work as holy services to God for their neighbors. Join in this priestly work of prayer with your fellow members.

Morning Prayer

John 1:6-8, 19-28
Revelation 6:1-17
Revelation 7:1-17
Revelation 8:1-13
Revelation 9:1-12
Revelation 9:13–10:11
Revelation 11:1-19

DAILY LECTIONARY

The Third Sunday in Advent

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

Evening Prayer

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Isaiah 34:1-2, 8–35:10
Isaiah 40:1-17
Isaiah 40:18–41:10
Isaiah 42:1-25
Isaiah 43:1-24
Isaiah 43:25–44:20

THE DAILY PETITIONS OF THE CHURCH

[Daily] **O Lord, have mercy upon us. O Christ, have mercy upon us. O Lord, have mercy upon us.** Let us pray:

[S] For the joy of the Resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; for diligent preaching and hearing of God’s Word of Law and Gospel; for our pastors; for the teachers and students of our Sunday School; for our Bible Class leaders and their students; for our catechumens; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[M] For workers; for the unemployed; for farmers; for seasonable weather; for businesses small and large; for our leaders, federal, state and local; for the economic welfare of the nations on earth; for peace in our world; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[T] For the tempted; for the addicted and despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; for the lonely; for the sick, the hospitalized, and the needy; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[W] For fathers, mothers, and families; for those adults who must rear their children alone; the teachers and students of Lutheran South Unity School and Concordia Lutheran High School; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[T] For the Church and her pastors; for the training of ministers of the Word; for missionaries of the Church; for the leaders of the Church, including Matthew, our synod president, and Richard, our district president; for those who have not heard the Gospel; for the fruitful use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord’s Body and Blood; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[F] For the preaching of the Cross; for those persecuted for the sake of Gospel; the confession of the orthodox Lutheran faith in our community; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[Sat] For faithfulness unto life’s earthly end; for the revival of those who have withered in the faith or fallen away; for the dying; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[Daily] **The Our Father**

TO PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38



What Doctor Luther Says:

About the Year of the LORD'S FAVOR in Christ

2. To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. ... He calls the New Testament *the year of the Lord's favor* and a year of the Lord's will, because it is delightful. On the contrary, *the day of vengeance* of God is called terrible. Therefore we sinners and imprisoned should accustom ourselves to this saying, *the agreeable year*, because the terrible law does not apply to those who are Christ's, but rather the promise concerning sins does. Hence it is a great art rightly to divide the Word, to proclaim a hard message to the hard and a soft and gentle one to the afflicted. The despondent set terrible things before themselves, and then Satan comes and terrifies them. Those who are experiencing such affliction are to be consoled. The presumptuous, on the contrary, are forever flattering themselves and ascribing all manner of good and pleasant things to themselves, in such a way that they are always being hardened. They are to be terrified. As the psalm says (Ps.36:l f.), "There is no fear of God before his eyes. For he flatters himself in his own eyes." He turns the threats away from himself and applies the promises to himself. The conscience of the afflicted acts in the opposite way. Hence in the midst of good we must not forget the evil, and in the midst of evil we must not forget the good. We must always apply the one to the other, and then we will not become either presumptuous or despondent. Thus this passage concerning *the agreeable year* is of great help to the afflicted, but it serves the purpose of wounding the presumptuous. All consolations are addressed to the godly, because the Word of Christ consists in this, that in His time, when He will have come into the world, there will be nothing but the *agreeable year*, no terror, no law, no judge. *Luther's Works*, 17:333-4.



Order Your Poinsettia Plants for Christmas 2023

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

DEDICATION _____

___ 8 1/2 inch Poinsettia \$40 each

___ 6 1/2 inch Poinsettia \$17 each

___ 4 1/2 inch Poinsettia \$9.00 each

___ General Donation \$ _____

___ Pick up plant after Christmas Day Service

___ Give plant to a shut-in

Return this form to the church office by **December 17th**
to have your dedication
printed in the bulletin.





Zion's Shut-in Members



Mr. Everett Beck
10602 Knollton Run
Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Mrs. Estella Ramirez
3917 Reed Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Ms. Marsha Smith
Memory Unit
5700 Wilkie Dr.
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Mrs. James Lattimore
827 Colerick St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Mrs. Alice Padgett
4204 E. Tillman Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46816

Ms. Debbie Busche
5405 Fernwood Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46809

Mr. Stanley Goeglein
7785 A Jefferson Blvd W
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Mrs. Virginia Carnahan
6433 S. Derby Dr.
Columbia City, IN 46725

Mr. Robert Gonzalaz
2950 Lillie St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Mrs. Shirley Bohner
7317 Sageport Place
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Mrs. Marylou Graham
5273 Eastwick Dr.
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Mrs. Phyllis Tanner
2621 Clara Ave
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Mrs. Diane Turner
2112 E Fairfax Ave
Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Mr. Ron Silvers
5202 St. Joe Road #117
Fort Wayne, IN 46835

Mr. Larry Meyer
4416 S Hanna St
Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Ms. Rubbie Holliday
1320 E. Pontiac St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46803

Mrs. Cheryl Hogle
1503 E. Paulding Rd. #46
Fort Wayne, IN 46816

Mr. Bryce Shull
9210 Maysville Rd #22
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Summary of meeting of the Council of Elders, Dec. 7, 2023
(The following summary is being provided in accordance with the congregation's bylaws, §VIII)

Attendance:

Elders present: R. Lammert (chairman), A. Litke (secretary), F. Jackson, W. Krause, T. Muehl.

Elders absent: B. Scott, K. Vlot.

Pastor present: Pr. Punke

Pastor Punke led the elders in a devotion by reading Article II from both the Augsburg Confession and the Apology.

In his pastor's report, Pastor Punke reported on matters of health and other issues of members and friends of Zion, as well as items of interest from LSUS and CLHS.

With regard to the goal of increasing worship attendance ("Starting October 1, Zion will experience a 10% increase in average worship attendance by Dec. 31, 2023"), the elders reviewed the text of a postcard that will be sent to members who have not come back to services since the COVID pandemic. These members will be especially invited to attend the upcoming Christmas services.

To begin meeting the goal of training Zion's members in witnessing ("In the fall of 2023, Zion will commence an annual opportunity for providing resources and training for members to gain confidence in inviting neighbors to Zion"), the elders approved the motion to purchase the synod's "Everyone His Witness" program for use at Zion. The training, consisting of six one-hour sessions, will be held on successive Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., beginning on January 9, 2024. Bulletin announcements will provide more information.

The elders approved the purchase of two Zoll AED3 machines for placement at Zion.

The meeting was concluded with the praying of Compline.

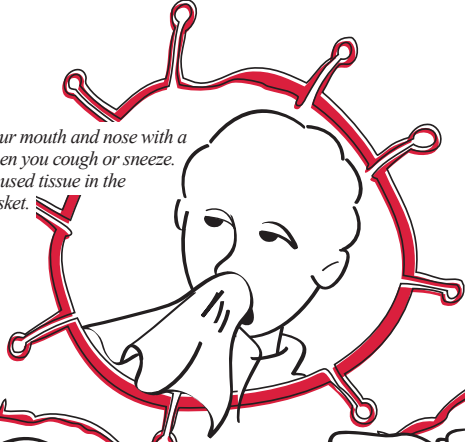
Respectfully submitted,
Arthur E. Litke, secretary

Preventing the Spread of Respiratory Viruses

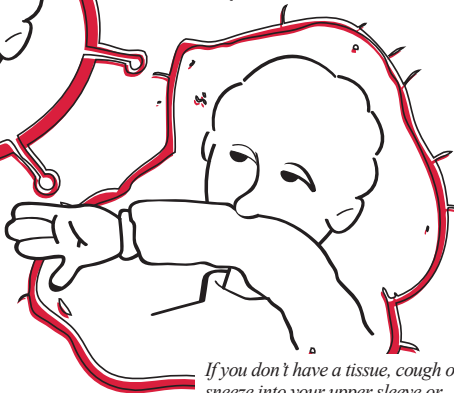
It's that time of the year again: influenza, colds, RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus), and perhaps COVID are spreading. We've been through this before; we know what to do to help slow the spread: 1) if sick, stay home and get treatment as necessary; 2) cover your cough — see below; 3) wash your hands often and well (20 sec with soap and water) or use hand sanitizer, especially after shaking hands . . . no fist bumps at Zion yet; 4) eat well and sleep well; 5) get your vaccinations as appropriate and recommended by your doctor.

Cover Cough


— Stop the spread of germs that can make you and others sick! —



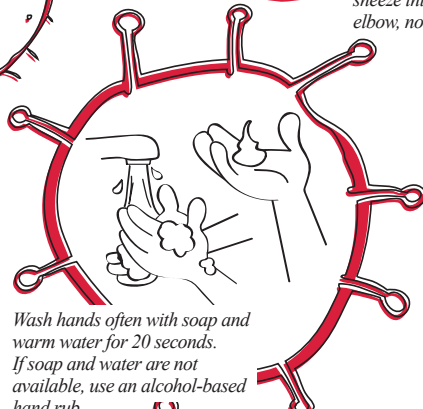
Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Put your used tissue in the waste basket.



If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.



You may be asked to put on a facemask to protect others.



Wash hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.



LSUS NOTES

Praying for You!



Please pray for these students/staff:

Myava	Max
Kyu Kyu	William
Ellie	Nalayah
Matthew	Miss Zelt
Grace	Mr. Antoine
Keiayla	Mrs. Benevides and Family

A look in the Classroom

The 2nd quarter and 1st semester are coming to a close. Students are working hard to close out 2023 on a good note with art projects, chapel partner activities, and a field trip to the FW Ballet and Gingerbread Festival!



Kindergarten ROUND UP

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 @ 6 PM

This event is for parents interested in enrolling in their student in Kindergarten in the Fall of 2024. (They must be 5 years old by October 1st, 2024)

- Meet the teacher and principal.
- Hear what a day in kindergarten looks like.
- You will be learning about school expectations.
- Participate in a scavenger hunt!

Register with
QR Code



LUTHERAN SOUTH UNITY SCHOOL

*This
is
My Son*

K-8 Christmas Service
Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023
6:30 PM

Zion Lutheran Church
2313 S. Hanna St.



Student Chapel Offerings

Thursday Chapel Offerings collected by our LSUS students and families make a big impact around the world! December through January offerings will go to The Rescue Mission and L.A.M.B.

(Lutheran Agency for Missions to Burmese). The Rescue Mission's mission is to provide, through the power of Jesus Christ, a home for the homeless, food for the hungry, and hope for their future. The Charis House is part of the Rescue Mission that focuses on women and children experiencing a homeless crisis. L.A.M.B.'s mission is to support and evangelize the peoples of Burma with the love of Jesus Christ by coordinating outreach missions.



THE Rescue Mission

CHANGING LIVES FOR GOOD™

Found in Scriptures:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.—John 14:27



DONATION FORM

Please complete the entire form; missing information may delay the receipt of your Indiana SGO State Tax Certification number.

PLEASE NOTE: Direct gifts to "The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana", not to the school.

Yes! I am donating \$ _____ to support scholarships in Indiana.

- Check Enclosed.
- Credit/Debit Online: www.LutheranSGO.org/Donate
- Credit/Debit Form: Complete the information below
- PayPal: www.LutheranSGO.org/Donate
- Appreciated Securities: _____
For instructions to donate appreciated securities, call us at 260-203-4509 or visit www.LutheranSGO.org/Donate
- Donor Advised Fund Distribution: _____
- IRA Distribution: _____
- Farming Assets: _____
- Crypto: _____
- I am interested in Monthly Giving; please contact me.
- Other: _____

I want our gift to be anonymous to the school (only the Department of Revenue will know).

Name: _____ Home Church: _____
 Address*: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Email*: _____ Phone: _____
 Card Number: _____ Exp: ____/____ CVC: _____

** If an email is provided, we will email your SGO tax code letter; if you prefer to receive the letter via U.S. Postal Service, mark this box:*

Please designate this gift to the following Indiana Non-Public School(s):

Name: _____ City: _____
 Name: _____ City: _____
 Name: _____ City: _____

Double your Support!

We accept Matching Gifts.

In Honor/Memory of: _____

Don't have a specific school? To direct your SGO gift to our General Fund for any student in need, mark this box:

I am interested in remembering scholarships & schools in my Estate Plans.

Submit by mail to:

The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana, Inc.
PO Box 5174
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46895

Or email to:

donations@LutheranSGO.org
We will send your unique School State Tax Credit Certificate Number with your gift acknowledgement.

Questions?

Contact us:

info@LutheranSGO.org
260-203-4509
www.LutheranSGO.org

The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation approved by the Internal Revenue Service to receive tax-advantaged contributions. Our Tax ID number is 45-4856406. We are also recognized as a "scholarship granting organization" under Indiana Code 20-51-1-7 for "school scholarship programs" certified by the Indiana Department of Education under Indiana Code 20-51-3-1. We are authorized to make application on behalf of the donor with the Indiana Department of Revenue for a tax credit for this contribution under Indiana Code 6-3.1-30.5. v. 2022