Historic Zion Lutheran Church divine service for the third sunday after the epiphany

9:00 am ...... Sunday, January 21, 2024

#### **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!

#### [ Rise ] 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.

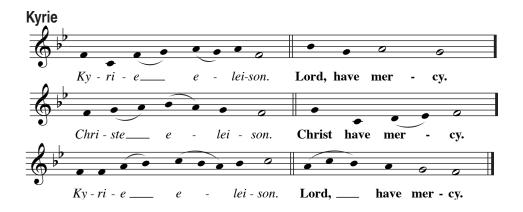
[Kneel]

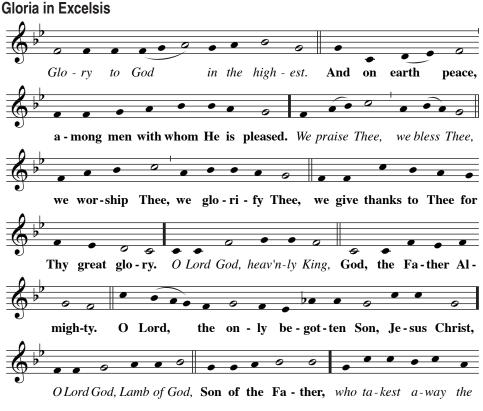
Our help is in the name of the Lord ...... Who made heaven and earth. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord. ...... And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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.



- [Antiphon] From the rising of the sun | to its •setting•, || the name of the | LORD is to be | praised! || The LORD is high a- | bove all •nations•, || and his | •glory• a- bove the | •heavens•!
- Verse 1: Praise | the\_\_ LORD! || Praise, O | ser- vants of the | LORD, || praise the name | of the LORD! || Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth | and for- ev- er- | more!
- *Verse 2: He raises the poor* | *from the dust* || *and lifts the needy* | *from the ash\_* | *heap,* || *to make them* | *sit with •princes•,* || *with the* | *princ- es of his* | •*people•.*
- *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] From the rising of the sun | to its •setting•, || the name of the | LORD is to be | praised! || The LORD is high a- | bove all •nations•, || and his | •glory• a- bove the | •heavens•!









**Collect for the Third Sunday after Epiphany:** Almighty and Everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



[ Be Seated ]

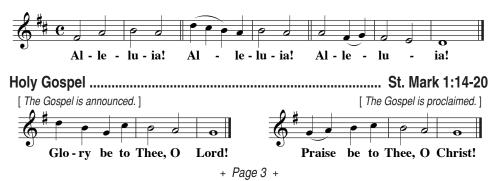
#### + The Office of the Word of God +

 Epistle of the Day
 1 Corinthians 7:29-35

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

#### [ Rise ] Alleluia Sequence

[Deacon] Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Alleluia!



#### **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...... O Christ, our True ...... Burgundy Hymn 839

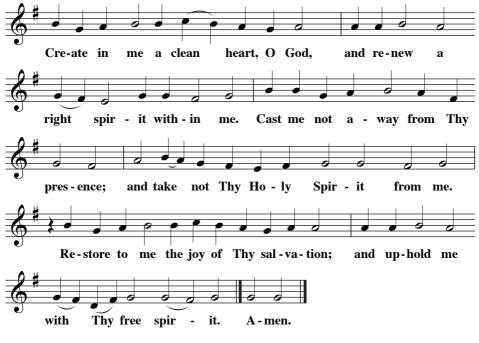
#### Sermon

#### **Rite of Reception of New Members**

#### [ Rise ] Prayer of the Church

[ Be Seated ] Offerings, Voluntary

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



+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

#### Preface

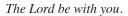




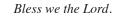
#### [ Rise ] Eucharistic Benediction

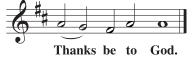












#### **Benediction**

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 ...... Almighty Father ...... Burgundy Hymn 923

#### Postlude

Liturgical texts and musical settings: from Lutheran Service Book, copyright © 2006 by Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. License #000012381. Liturgical Setting: Matthäus Greitter, 1525; adapted by Wilhelm Loehe in 1844 for Congregations of the Lutheran Confession. Psalm Tone for Introit and Alleluia Verse: from The Anglican Chant Psalter, copyright © 1987 by The Church Hymnal Corporation; used by permission.

#### **Readings for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

#### The Old Testament Reading is Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. ...

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

#### The Epistle is 1 Corinthians 7:29-35

This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

#### The Gospel is Mark 1:14-20

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

### Hymns for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany

#### LSB839 O Christ, our True and Only Light

Johann Heermann

- O Christ, our true and only light, Enlighten those who sit in night; Let those afar now hear Your voice And in Your fold with us rejoice.
- Fill with the radiance of Your grace The souls now lost in error's maze; Enlighten those whose inmost minds Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.
- O gently call those gone astray That they may find the saving way! Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed In you find peace and heav'nly rest.
- Shine on the darkened and the cold; Recall the wand'rers to Your fold. Unite all those who walk apart; Confirm the weak and doubting heart,
- That they with us may evermore Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore And endless praise to You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

## LSB685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus Sigismund von Birken

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship; Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

- Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure, Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure. Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above, Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding. Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.
- Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross. Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss. Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy; All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter. Jesus, here I share You woe; Help me there Your joy to know.

- Let us gladly die with Jesus, Since by death He conquered death, He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath. Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin; And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven. Jesus, here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
- 4. Let us also live with Jesus, He has risen from the dead That to life we may awaken, Jesus, You are now our head. We are Your own living members; Where You live, there we shall be In Your presence constantly, Living there with You forever. Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.

#### LSB688 "Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake Johann Scheffler

- "Come, follow Me," the Savior spake, "All in My way abiding; Deny yourselves, the world forsake, Obey My call and guiding. O bear the cross, whate'er betide, Take my example for your guide.
- "I am the Light, I light the way, A godly life displaying; I bid you walk as in the day; I keep your feet from straying. I am the way, and well I show How you must sojourn here below.
- "My heart abounds in lowliness, My soul with love is glowing; And gracious words My lips express, With meekness overflowing. My heart, My mind, My strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call.
- 4. "I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your soul's salvation, Your heart from ev'ry guile to free, From sin and its temptation. I am the refuge of the soul And lead you to your heav'nly goal."
- 5. Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, And take the cross appointed And, firmly clinging to His Word, In suff'ring be undaunted. For those who bear the battle's strain The crown of heav'nly life obtain.

#### LSB923 Almighty Father, Bless the Word

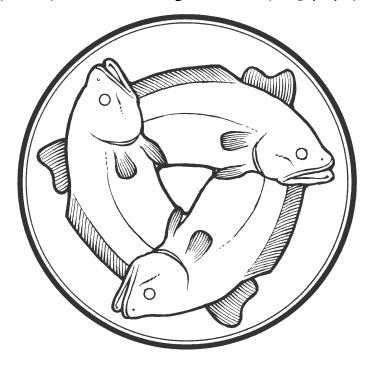
 Almighty Father, bless the Word Which through Your grace we now have heard. Oh, may the precious seed take root,

Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!

2. We praise You for the means of grace As homeward now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here May all at last in heav'n appear. Thomas Ken

 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## The Third Sunday after the Epiphany



## Zion Hvangelical 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: Field Workers: Rev. Douglas D. Punke, MDiv (341-5397) Paul Mroczenski, Matthew Harrison

#### The Teaching Staff at Lutheran South Unity

Principal: Amber Bahr (744-0459; <u>www.lsusfw.org</u>) Teachers: Yvonne Schwantz (8<sup>th</sup>, ELA), Michael Cullen (7<sup>th</sup>, MS Science), Chase Mertz (6<sup>th</sup>, MS Social Studies), Danielle Ramsey (5<sup>th</sup>), John Kuker (4<sup>th</sup>), Abbey Zelt (3<sup>rd</sup>), John Fink (2<sup>nd</sup>), Hannah Maresh (1<sup>st</sup>), 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: Church Office Manager: Michael Hollman, MM 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
- + For the ill, distressed, and those suffering affliction, including Sarah Hollman, Jessica Krause, Connie Houser, Bill Weinrich, Jason Kaiser, Janice Grim, Debra Busche, 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
- + For the gift of life and for length of days, especially Keiko Klein and Arlene Punke
- + For the gift of rebirth by water and the Spirit
- + For those who mourn the death of loved ones, including Rex Bohner and the family of Shirley Bohner, the Paul Herrmann family, and the Sue Doepner family
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed, including Shirley Bohner, Paul Herrmann, and Sue Doepner
- + 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 after the Epiphany. The Cross Bowl is given in celebration of the 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday of Keiko Klein and the 91<sup>st</sup> birthday of Arlene Punke by Marge & Pastor Punke. 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**

#### January 21, 2024 thru January 27, 2024

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church	
	10:30 AM	Education Hour	Various	
MON.	3:45 PM	Jr. Catechesis	Conference Room	
	5:30 PM	CEA Board Meeting	CLHS	
TUES.		Pastor out of town throug	gh Friday	
	7:00 PM	Everyone His Witness	Conference Room	
WED.	5:30 PM	Wednesday Divine Ser	vice Church	
THURS.				
FRI.				
SAT.	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church	
	12:00 noon	Rally for Life	USF Performing Arts Center	
	1:00 PM	March for Life	Performing Arts Center to the	
			E. Ross Adair Federal Building	
January 28, 2024				
SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church	
	10:30 AM	Congregational Assemb	bly Bauer Hall	

#### **ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**EDUCATION HOUR:** Adult Bible Class meets in Bauer Hall with Dr. Voelz teaching the Gospel according to St. Mark. As needed, Sunday School will meet in the Assoc. Pastors Office.

**ATTENTION:** Pastor & Marge will be out of town this week (Tuesday through Friday). If you need any pastoral care, please contact Melvia at the office and she will get an Elder for you.

**NO ADMIN COUNCIL** meeting this Tuesday. It will be held next Tuesday, January 30 at noon.

**PLAN TO ATTEND** our semi-annual Congregational Assembly next Sunday after Divine Service. We meet in Bauer Hall. This meeting is mainly a meeting for reporting.

**ENVELOPES** are on Julie's table. This is the last day to pick them up. Unclaimed envelopes will be moved to the basement.

**LSUS** is looking for club leaders! Spring clubs will run for 6 weeks. They will take place the weeks of Feb 19-23, Feb 26-Mar 1, Mar 4-8, Mar 11-15, Mar 18-22, and Mar 25-29. If you are interested in hosting an after school club, you can choose the day of the week, topic, age level, and number of kids. More information can be found on the sign up link here: <u>bit.ly/LSUSclubs</u>. If you're interested in doing a club, fill out the sign up no later than Feb 9. Questions should be emailed to Danielle Ramsey at <u>dramsey@lsusfw.org</u>.

**MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE:** 1 Timothy 2:5-6 — "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time." Last week's verse was Romans 6:3-4.

**CROSS CONNECTIONS COUNSELING MINISTRIES** is currently hiring for Part Time Receptionists. Responsibilities will include maintaining confidentiality, answering phones, scheduling, greeting clients, supporting counselors, minor bookkeeping, general hospitality and miscellaneous clerical duties 20-28 hours a week, weekday hours. Pay varies based on experience. Knowledge of QuickBooks, accounts payable & receivable is a plus. Send résumé to <u>kirkreber@crossconnectionscounseling.com</u> or call 260-260-373-0213 ext. 105.

**RLNI:** The Rally and March for Life begin at noon this Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at the University of St. Francis Performing Arts Center, 431 W Berry St, Fort Wayne. Doors open at 11:30 am. State Senator Liz Brown, a stalwart defender of life in the Indiana General Assembly, is the main speaker. Also, the **2024 LEGISLATIVE FORUM** will be February 17<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 9:00a with the event running from 9:30a-11:30 at the Historic Woman's Club at 402 W Wayne St, Fort Wayne. There will be an all-new format. You will hear from legislators and organizations on where we stand on LIFE in Indiana. Breakfast is being served at a cost of \$5. Register for the Legislative Forum at <u>ichooselife.org</u>. **LASTLY**, if you have a passion for helping women choose life, join RLNI on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> for Sidewalk Advocate Training and learn how to save lives in Northeast Indiana. The training, provided by Sidewalk Advocates for Life, will take place at our Training Center at 3106 Lake Ave, from 9am-noon. Learn how to approach people outside our local Planned Parenthood peacefully, prayerfully, and lovingly, and redirect them to life-affirming alternatives in our community. There is no cost to participate. Snacks provided. Questions? Please send an email to <u>rlni@ichooselife.org</u>.

**LISTEN TO LUTHERAN PROGRAMMING** You can listen to Issues, Etc. live or ondemand at <u>www.issuesetc.org</u> or on the LPR mobile app or to KFUO at <u>KFUO.org</u>. KFUO is the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, sharing Christ for you anytime, anywhere via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find those programs on demand at <u>kfuo.org</u> or wherever you get your podcasts.

#### 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.

<b>Morning Prayer</b>	DAILY LECTIONARY	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
Mark 1:14-20	The Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Romans 11:1-24	Monday	Joel 2:1-17
Romans 11:25–12:13	Tuesday	Joel 2:18-32
Romans 12:14–13:14	Wednesday	Joel 3:1-21
Romans 14:1-23	Thursday	Zechariah 1:1-21
Romans 15:1-13	Friday	Zechariah 2:1-3:10
Romans 15:14-33	Saturday	Zechariah 4:1-5:11

#### 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:

[Daily]

#### The Our Father

#### TO PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

1 Corinthians 8:1-13



# What Doctor Luther Says:

About Contrition & Threats, Consolation & Promises

[Rome teaches] that contrition takes precedence over, and is far superior to, faith in the promise, as if contrition were not a work of faith, but a merit; indeed, they do not mention faith at all. They stick so closely to works and to those passages of Scripture where we read of many who obtained pardon by reason of their contrition and humility of heart; but they take no account of the faith which effected this contrition and sorrow of heart, as is written of the men of Nineveh in Jon. 3 [:5]: "And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, etc." Others again, more bold and wicked, have invented a so-called "attrition," which is converted into contrition by the power of the keys, of which they know nothing. This attrition they grant to the wicked and unbelieving, and thus abolish contrition altogether. O the intolerable wrath of God, that such things should be taught in the church of Christ! Thus, with both faith and its work destroyed, we go on secure in the doctrines and opinions of men, or rather we perish in them. A contrite heart is a precious thing, but it is found only where there is an ardent faith in the promises and threats of God. Such faith, intent on the immutable truth of God, makes the conscience tremble, terrifies it and bruises it; and afterwards, when it is contrite, raises it up, consoles it, and preserves it. Thus the truth of God's threat is the cause of contrition, and the truth of his promise the cause of consolation, if it is believed. By such faith a man "merits" the forgiveness of sins. Therefore faith should be taught and aroused before all else. Once faith is obtained, contrition and consolation will follow inevitably of themselves. Luther's Works, 36:84.

## LSUS NOTES

Praying for You! Please pray for these students/staff:

Braylee Blay Layla I'Mani Kennedy De'Lyn Van Conor Keh Ter Re Jabron Ms. Koehlert Mr. Mertz



### 5th grade Math and Baking

One way that the 5th graders celebrated the holidays here at LSUS was to make sugar cookies. They practiced multiplying and dividing fractions with some special guests! After they did the math, they got to make COOKIE DOUGH using their calculations! Of course, some flour didn't make it in the dough. Mrs. Ramsey baked each dough and the kids got to decorate and try them the next day. Were their calculations correct? Would you dare to try one to see?









LUTHERAN

## LUTHERAN SOUTH UNITY SCHOOL



**Encouragement Found in Scriptures:** 

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. —Matthew 2:10-11



#### 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



**NUPTIALS WITHOUT DETAILS:** Hannah Maresh announced to the students last week that she and Mr. Fink (John) are engaged to be married (Mr. Fink was sick on the day she announced it). Congratulations to Hannah and John.

**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL** 





## Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne - Kramer Chapel Martin Luther Dr. Fort Wayne, IN 46825

teoncordia

1601 St. Joe River Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46805 www.clhscadets.com

## Just As ... I AM

LFI

186 Just As I Am

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10) **Charlotte Elliott** wrote the familiar hymn "Just As I Am" in 1834. Born in 1789, a severe illness at age 32 left her unable to care for herself. Charlotte thereafter lived with her younger brother, Henry.

The parish he pastored in the resort town of Brighton, England, decided to hold a bazaar. Its proceeds would fund a school building and scholarships for underprivileged children.

Charlotte felt herself useless because she could not assist with preparations.

This hymn's stanzas embodied her cries in answer to the despair. She then offered it as encouragement in a collection she called *The Invalid's Hymnbook* (1836). **Just As I Am** ... its beloved lines memorably testify to the sanctity of every human life. Almighty God does "receive, welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve" each member of our race with the heart of a Heavenly Father and the arms of a Gracious Savior. No ages, appearances, or abilities, no impairments or illnesses, not even guilt and grief can exclude from a place in His kingdom and a part in His family. We get to rejoice in our own lives and in our neighbors as gift and privilege. If our Lord's forgiving favor can overcome sinful failures, then His lavish love will more than make up for human limitations.

"Just" has become an especially precious word for Lutherans. Its verb "justify" occupies the heart of the Gospel. The Holy One Himself gives the reason for every existence by declaring humankind righteous for the sake of Jesus Christ. "Just" means "worthy," but it also means "barely."

Any humanity from fertilization to final breath amounts to enough.

God's creating work, redeeming labors, and calling activities never come up short. Persons undergoing surprise pregnancy, experiencing disability, or suffering terminal diagnosis matter as much as you and me. Indeed, they matter as much as the Son of Man, since Jesus incarnates all of our conditions and carries every sorrow. Even when human mouths cannot utter "I am," Lord God lends them His own likeness and proclaims, "I AM!"

We Lutherans love life because He first loved all.



Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life lutheransforlife.org • info@lutheransforlife.org 888.364.LIFE (5433) • Item LFL1644BI

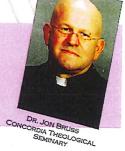
## SHEPHERD OF THE CITY LUTHERAN CHURCH'S

## **16TH ANNUAL**



## HYMN FEST 2024

## Epiphany: God Manifested for You



#### SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 11 | 4PM 1301 S. ANTHONY BLVD. FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF 16 YEARS OF HYMNODY IN FORT WAYNE & 54 YEARS OF SHEPHERD OF THE CITY.

Please Join us as we worship our Lord Jesus Christ during this special event, which celebrates both 16 years of hymnody and the 54th Anniversary of Shepherd of the City. Hunter Kinnison, a first-year seminarian at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN, studied Parish Music at Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW), where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Parish Music in 2023. At CUW, he studied organ under Dr. James Freese and Dr. Craig Sproat focusing most of his study on service playing and the use and development of hymnody in the Lutheran church.

Dr. Jon Bruss is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and is considered an authority on the history of the Christian church.

- A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW THE SERVICE. - THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. - FREEWILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN TO SUPPORT THE RESTORATION OF OUR HISTORIC SANCTUARY.



**32 RANK KILGEN PIPE ORGAN**