

# Historic Zion Lutheran Church

## DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

9:00 am ..... Thursday, December 25, 2025

### 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*

#### [ Rise ] Invocation

*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.*

**Processional Hymn ..... Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful ..... Burgundy Hymn 379**

[ Be Seated ]

**Choral Kyrie ..... setting by J. Brudieu**

[ Rise ]

**Gloria in Excelsis ..... Hark! the Herald Angels Sing ..... Burgundy Hymn 380**

#### Salutation

*The Lord be with you.*



**And with thy spir— it.**

**Collect for Christmas Day:** *Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



**A ——— men!**

[ Be Seated ]

**+ The Office of the Word of God +**

**Old Testament Reading..... Isaiah 52:7-10**

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

**Gradual Hymn ..... Rejoice, Rejoice ..... Burgundy Hymn 391**

**Epistle of the Day ..... Hebrews 1:1-12**

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

[ Rise and face the Processional Cross for the Gospel Procession. ]

**Alleluia Sequence ..... Oh, Rejoice, Ye Christians ..... Burgundy Hymn 897**

[ Sing the Twelve-fold Alleluia below and stanzas 1 & 2 BEFORE the Gospel.

Stanzas 3 & 4 will be sung after the Gospel is proclaimed. ]

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**Holy Gospel ..... St. John 1:1-18**

[ The Gospel is announced. ]

[ The Gospel is proclaimed. ]

Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord!

Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

**Hymn ..... Oh, Rejoice, Ye Christians ..... Burgundy Hymn 897**

[ Sing stanzas 3 & 4. After singing stanza 4, sing the Twelve-fold Alleluia below. ]

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**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.

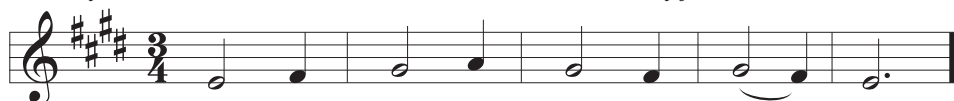
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission 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 ..... Of the Father's Heart Begotten

Words by Prudentius (c. 348–413)

Melody from *Piae Cantiones* (1582)



- [ Choir ] 1. Of the Fa - ther's heart be - got - ten,  
 [ Choir ] 2. By his word was all cre - a - ted;  
 [ All ] 3. He as - sumed this mor - tal bo - dy,  
 [ Women ] 4. O how blest that won - drous birth - day,  
 [ Men ] 5. This is he, whom seer and sy - bil  
 [ All ] 6. Sing ye heights of heav'n, his prais - es;



Ere the world from cha - os rose, He is  
 He com - mand - ed and 'twas done; Earth and  
 Frail and fee - ble, doomed to die, That the  
 When the Maid the curse re - trieved, Brought to  
 Sang in a - ges long gone by; This is  
 An - gels and arch - an - gels, sing! Where - so -




Al - pha: from that Foun - tain All that  
 sky and bound - less o - cean, U - ni -  
 race from dust cre - a - ted Might not  
 birth man - kind's sal - va - tion, By the  
 he of old re - veal - ed In the  
 e'er ye be, ye faith - ful, Let your



is and hath been flows; He is O - me -  
 verse of three in one, All that sees the  
 pe - rish ut - ter - ly, Which the dread - ful  
 Ho - ly Ghost con - ceived; And the Babe, the  
 page of pro - phe - cy; Lo! he comes, the  
 joy - ous an - thems ring, Ev' - ry tongue his



ga, of all things Yet to come the  
 moon's soft ra - diance, All that breathes be -  
 Law had sen - tenced In the depths of  
 world's Re - deem - er, In her lov - ing  
 pro - mised Sa - viour; Let the world his  
 name con - fess - ing, Count - less voi - ces



mys - tic Close, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 neath the sun, Ev - er - more and ev - e - more.  
 hell to lie, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 arms re - ceived, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 prais - es cry! Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 an - swer - ing, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

**Sermon**

**+ The Office of Confession of Sins and Holy Absolution +**

*Having heard the Word of God, and as we prepare for the great gift of the Holy Sacrament of Christ's body and blood, let us confess our sins and receive God's 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!*

[ 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**  
**Choral Voluntary ..... For Us a Child Is Born ..... J. S. Bach**  
*[ from the Christmas Cantata: BWV 142 ]*

[ Rise ] **Offertory Hymn ..... Break Forth ..... Burgundy Hymn 378: St 1**  
*[ Sing stanza 1 only. ]*

**+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +**


**Preface**

*The Lord be with you.*




And with thy spir - it.

*Lift up your hearts.*



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 Christmas**

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

**Sanctus Hymn ..... Let All Mortal Flesh ..... Burgundy Hymn 621**  
*[ Choir alone sings stanza 1; Men alone sing stanza 2; Women alone sing stanza 3; All sing stanza 4. ]*

[ Kneel ] **Lord's Prayer**

[ Pastor chants: ] *Our Father who art in heaven; . . . . . 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 .... Gentle Mary Laid Her Child ..... Burgundy Hymn 374**

**From Heaven Above ..... Burgundy Hymn 358**

[ OMIT Stanzas 1-7; All sing stanzas 8 and 9; Men alone sing stanzas 10 and 12;  
Women alone sing stanzas 11 and 13; All sing stanzas 14 and 15. ]

[ 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**

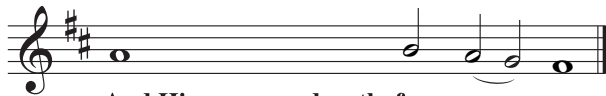
1. Lord now— lettest Thou Thy  
servant, de- part— in — peace, ac- cord-ing to Thy Word.  
2. For mine\_\_ eyes have seen  
Thy Salvation,  
which Thou hast pre- pared\_\_ be— fore the face of all\_\_ people.  
3. a Light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the Glo- ry of Thy peo-ple Is - - - ra-el.  
4. Glo— 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.*



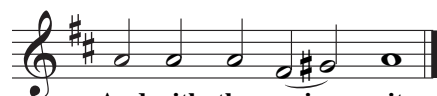
And His mercy endureth for — ev — er.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving ... one God, now and forever.



A — men.

*The Lord be with you.*



And with thy spir — rit.

*Bless we the Lord.*



Thanks be to God.

## 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.*



A-men, A-men, A - men.

*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 ..... Joy to the World ..... Burgundy Hymn 387**

**Postlude ..... From Heaven Above ..... J. S. Bach**



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*The hymn, Of the Father's Heart Begotten, and the Twelve-fold "Alleluia" are in the public domain.*

# Readings for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

## The Old Testament Reading is Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,  
who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."  
The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

## The Epistle is Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
"You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,  
"I will be to him a father,  
and he shall be to me a son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,  
"Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,  
"He makes his angels winds,  
and his ministers a flame of fire."

But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.  
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;  
they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like a garment,  
like a robe you will roll them up,  
like a garment they will be changed.  
But you are the same,  
and your years will have no end.”

## **The Gospel is John 1:1-18**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

# Hymns for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

## LSB379 O Come All Ye Faithful

John F. Wade

1. O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him Born the king of angels;

*Refrain:* O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!

2. Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*
3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God In the highest: *Refrain*
4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

## LSB380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain:* Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*
3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

## **LSB391 Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn**

**Birgitte Katerine Boye.**

1. Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn, A Savior unto us is born,  
The Christ, the Lord of glory!  
His lowly birth in Bethlehem The angels from on high proclaim  
And sing redemption's story!  
My soul, extol God's great favor; Bless Him ever For salvation;  
Give Him praise and adoration!"

## **LSB897 O Rejoice, Ye Christians Loudly**

**Christian Keimann**

*Twelvefold Alleluia:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1. O rejoice, ye Christians, loudly, For our joy has now begun;  
Wondrous things our God has done.  
Tell abroad his goodness proudly, Who our race has honored thus,  
That He deigns to dwell with us.

*Refrain:* Joy, O joy, beyond all gladness, Christ has done away with sadness!  
Hence, all sorrow and repining, For the Sun of Grace is shining!

2. See, my soul, thy Savior chooses Weakness here and poverty;  
In such love He comes to thee.  
Neither crib nor cross refuses; All He suffers for thy good  
To redeem thee by His blood. *Refrain*

*The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

3. Lord, how shall I thank Thee rightly? I acknowledge that by Thee  
I am saved eternally.  
Let me not forget it lightly, But to Thee at all times cleave  
And my heart true peace receive. *Refrain*
4. Jesus, guard and guide Thy members, Fill them with Thy boundless grace,  
Hear their prayers in ev'ry place.  
Fan to flame faith's glowing embers; Grant all Christians, far and near,  
Holy peace, a glad new year! *Refrain then Twelvefold Alleluia*

## **Of the Father's Heart Begotten**

**Prudentius**

Printed in Service Bulletin

## **LSB378 Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light**

**Johann Rist**

1. Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light, And usher in the morning.  
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, The day of grace is dawning.  
This Child, though weak in infancy, Our confidence and joy shall be,  
The pow'r of Satan breaking, Our peace with God now making.

## **LSB621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence** Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.

Choir  
only

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand  
Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.
- M 2. King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture, In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.
- W 3. Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way  
As the Light of Light descending From the realms of endless day,  
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish As the darkness clears away.
4. At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

## **LSB374 Gentle Mary Laid her Child**

**Joseph Simpson Cook**

1. Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undefined, To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.
2. Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.
3. Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undefined But no more a stranger.  
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;  
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!

8. Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,  
Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
You came to share my misery  
That You might share Your joy with me.
9. Ah, Lord, though You created all,  
How weak You are, so poor and small,  
That You should choose to lay Your head  
Where lowly cattle lately fed!
10. Were earth a thousand times as fair  
And set with gold and jewels rare,  
It would be far too poor and small  
A cradle for the Lord of all.
11. Instead of soft and silken stuff  
You have but hay and straw so rough  
On which as King, so rich and great,  
To be enthroned in royal state.
12. And so it pleases You to see  
This simple truth revealed to me:  
That worldly honor, wealth, and might  
Are weak and worthless in Your sight.
13. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A quiet chamber set apart  
For You to dwell within my heart.
14. My heart for very joy must leap;  
My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
15. Glory to God in highest heav'n,  
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.

## LSB387 Joy to the World

Isaac Watts

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King:  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love.

# *The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord*

*December 25, 2025, 9:00 AM*



*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen  
his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace  
and truth. John 1:14*



In loving memory of all our family  
members, who are now with Our Lord  
by Rosie & Carl Albersmeyer and family



In loving memory of my parents  
Donald & Berniece Allen  
by Bruce Allen

In loving memory of Beth Bieberich  
by Don Bieberich

In loving memory of our parents Paul & Esther Bieberich and  
Paul & Hilda Menze  
by Dwight & CarolLu Bieberich

In loving memory of our mother Sandy Cunningham  
by her children Ebony Vanderveer & James Cunningham

To the Glory of God  
by Mike & Rita Davies

In memory of Don Ganaway & Bryce Shull  
by Julie Ganaway

In loving and honor of Stanley & Shirley Goeglien  
– Blessed Christmas!  
By Tim, Jenny, Tim and Paul Goeglein

Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel  
by Joyce Gottschalk

In loving memory of all my family members who have passed on  
by Marylou Graham

In loving memory of my mother Virginia Hollman  
and grandmothers Hulda Sonne & Alma Hollman  
by Beth Hollman

In memory of my beloved wife Virginia Hollman  
by Richard Hollman

In loving memory of Alma Jackson, Amanda & Gerald Stewart, and  
Alonzo & Ora Edmonds  
by Alanza & Frank Jackson



In loving memory of  
Lois & Richard Kaiser,  
Eric & Virginia Hoffman and  
Sandra Kaiser  
by David & Janeen Kaiser and  
Robert & Shelly Kaiser



In loving memory of Spiro & Anne Kostoff  
and Karen Kostoff Wood  
by the family

“To honor the Christ Child”  
by Rev. George & Lois Lange

In loving memory of  
Dr. Robert & Katherine Leininger  
and Fred, Betty, Teresa, & John Beckman  
by Kevin & Maribeth Leininger

In loving memory of Willie Manning  
by his wife Rose Manning

In loving memory of our parents Georgianna & Walter Ostermeyer  
“Gloria in Excelsis!”  
by their thankful children Karen, Kim, David and Kirk

To the “little child of lowly birth,” “the joy of all the earth.””  
In loving memory of our parents  
Darwin & Arlene Punke and Earl Klein  
by Pastor & Marge Punke

In loving memory of Marcile Keck  
by her children

To our blessed Savior  
by Carolyn Wallchlaeger

“Glory to the newborn King”  
by André Woodard

In loving memory of my mother  
by Charlene Young

# Celebrate The Birth Of Christ

## **Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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

[pastor@zionfw.org](mailto:pastor@zionfw.org), [church@zionfw.org](mailto:church@zionfw.org) | website: [www.zionfw.org](http://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:

Nathaniel Demlow, Joshua Fuchs

### **The Teaching Staff at Lutheran South Unity**

Principal:

Amber Bahr (744-0459; [www.lsusfw.org](http://www.lsusfw.org))

Teachers:

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

Chase Mertz (6th, MS Social Studies), Danielle Ramsey (5th), Abbey Kohler (4th),

Rachel Wiegman (3rd), John Fink (2nd), Hannah Fink (1st), Michelle Madden (K),

Natalie Reynolds (Art), Elisa Sawall (Music), Lee Buxton (PE), Cathie Wakeland (Literacy Coach),

Arianna Blake (LSEM), Melissa White (FWCS) & Sarah Wheaton (EACS) (Title I Tutors)

### **The Support Staff**

Organist and Director of Parish Music:

Michael Hollman, MM

Church Office Manager:

Melvia Culpher



# What Doctor Luther Says:

## *About Leaving the Beauty and Kingdom to Christ*

“Beauty” is every adornment in a person because of which he is honored and glorified. Therefore, when glory is without beauty, it is empty. But in Christ alone there is beauty. Therefore outside of Christ all glory is empty. He has “clothed Himself with beauty” (Ps. 93:1) and “is crowned with glory and honor” (Ps. 8:5). But it behooves us to be clothed with disgrace instead of glory, shame instead of honor, ugliness instead of beauty.

Hence, when the psalm says, “The Lord reigns, he is clothed with beauty” (Ps. 93:1), what do you think is being said to you, except that you leave the beauty and the kingdom to Him and put on ugliness and become a servant, and instead of the honor of dominion you be mindful of the shame of your most wretched slavery? Again, when he says, Ps. 45:3, “with Thy comeliness and Thy beauty, etc.,” what else do you hear but that you should give to Christ the foreign beauty which you snatched prematurely, and walk and go down and withdraw in disgrace and shame? And so with similar matters.

*Luther’s Works*, 11:387.



Beloved in Christ,

You know the tender story of Christmas: Mary and Joseph make their way to Bethlehem to be registered for the census by Caesar Augustus. And while there Mary gives birth to her firstborn son amidst ox and ass and laid Him in a manger.

They named this son Jesus as she and Joseph had been instructed.

This is all true ... history. But knowing all this is not yet faith as Luther explains: "faith does not merely consist in believing that this story is true, as it is written. For that does not avail anything, because everyone, even the damned, believe that. Concerning faith, Scripture and God's word do not teach that it is a natural work, without grace. Rather the faith that is the right one, rich in grace, demanded by God's word and deed, is that you firmly believe Christ is born for you and that his birth is yours, and come to pass for your benefit. For the Gospel teaches that Christ was born for our sake and that he did everything and suffered all things for our sake, just as the angel says here: 'I announce to you a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day a Savior who is Christ the Lord' [Luke 2:10-11]. From these words you see clearly that he was born for us.

"He does not simply say: 'Christ is born,' but: '*for you* is he born.' Again, he does not say: 'I announce a joy,' but: '*to you* do I announce a great joy.' Again, this joy will not remain in Christ, but is for all people. ...

"Christ has a pure, innocent, holy birth. Man has an impure, sinful, damned birth, as David says in Psalm 51[:5]: 'Behold, in sin am I fashioned in the womb, and in sin did my mother conceive me.' There is no remedy for this except through the pure birth of Christ. ... Christ takes to himself our birth and absorbs it in his birth; he presents us with his birth so that we become pure and new in it, as if it were our own, so that every Christian might rejoice in this birth of Christ and glory in it ..." (*Luther's Works*, 52:14-15).

God grant us grace to find joy in the pure birth of Jesus Christ, God's Son, born for you. Zion's staff and I pray that you may live in the peace and hope that only Christ gives. God grant you also a blessed New Year. Glory to God in the highest!

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Puntke*