

Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

9:00 am Sunday, January 4, 2026

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.*

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.

Entrance Hymn As with Gladness Men of Old Burgundy Hymn 397

Kyrie

Ky - ri - e e - lei-son. Lord, have mer - cy.

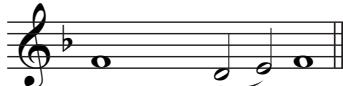
Chri - ste e - lei - son. Christ have mer - cy.
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

Glo - ry to God in the high - est. And on earth peace,
a - mong men with whom He is pleased. We praise Thee, we bless Thee,
we wor-ship Thee, we glo - ri - fy Thee, we give thanks to Thee for
Thy great glo - ry. O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God, the Fa - ther Al -
migh-ty. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ,
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, who ta - kest a - way the
sin of the world, have mer - cy on us. Thou who ta - kest a - way the sin of the world,
re - ceive our prayer. Thou who sit - test at the right hand of God
the Father, have mer - cy on us. For Thou on - ly art ho - ly. Thou on - ly
art the Lord, Thou on - ly O Christ with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,
art most high in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
A - - - - - men.

Salutation

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir— it.

Collect for the Epiphany of our Lord: *O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, 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 60:1-6*

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

Epistle of the Day *Ephesians 3:1-12*

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

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

Sequence Hymn *O Savior of Our Fallen Race* **Burgundy Hymn 403**

[All sing stanza 1 & 2; Men alone sing stanza 3; Women alone sing stanza 4;
All sing stanzas 5, 6, and 7. Rise for stanza 7.]

Holy Gospel **St. Matthew 2:1-12**

[The Gospel is announced.]



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord!

[The Gospel is proclaimed.]



Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

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 \ddagger of the world to come. Amen!

[Be Seated] **Hymn of the Day.....** *O Morning Star* **Burgundy Hymn 395**

[All sing stanzas 1 & 2; Men alone sing stanza 3; Women alone sing stanza 4; All sing stanzas 5 & 6.]

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**

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a
right spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from Thy
pres-ence; and take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it from me.
Re-store 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 Epiphany, Sanctus

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

Ho-ly, ho-ly ho-ly, Lord God of hosts:
Heav-en and earth are full of Thy glo-ry;
Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord; Ho-san-na in the high-est.

[*Kneel*] **Lord's Prayer**

[Pastor chants:] *Our Father who art in heaven; but deliver us from evil.*

Words of Institution, Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp. It contains six notes: a whole note, a half note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. A brace under the first five notes spans from the whole note to the last quarter note. Below the staff, the lyrics "A - men." are written in a bold, sans-serif font.

Agnus Dei

1-3. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world,
 have mer-cy up - on us. Grant us Thy Peace. A - - - - men!

[*Be Seated*]

Distribution Hymns Arise and Shine

The Star Proclaims Burgundy Hymn 399

[Rise for Stanza 5.]

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

A musical score for a single melodic line. The key signature is two sharps (F major). The time signature is common time. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes, with a few grace notes indicated by small vertical strokes. The notes are distributed across three measures, with a slight pause or rest in the middle of the first measure.

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 prepared be before the face of all people.

A musical score for a two-piano piece. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in common time. The key signature is two sharps. The music consists of two measures of music, with each measure containing eight notes per staff. The notes are primarily eighth notes, with some sixteenth notes and quarter notes interspersed.

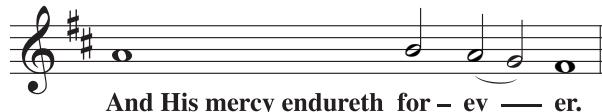
3. a Light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the Glo- ry of Thy peo-ple Is - - - - - ra-el.

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 ...now and forever.



A - men.

The Lord be with you.

Bless we the Lord.



And with thy spir - rit.



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 Brightest and Best Burgundy Hymn 400

Postlude

Readings for the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord

The Old Testament Reading is Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

The Epistle is Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who

created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

The Gospel is Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.””

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Hymns for the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord

LSB397 As with Gladness Men of Old

William C. Dix

1. As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.
4. Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.
5. In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King.

LSB403 O Savior of Our Fallen Race

Latin c. 5th-10th cent.

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1. Savior of our fallen race,
O Brightness of the Father's face,
O Son who shared the Father's might
Before the world knew day or night, Alleluia!
2. Jesus, very Light of Light,
Our constant star in sin's deep night:
Now hear the prayers Your people pray
Throughout the world this holy day. Alleluia!
- M 3. Remember, Lord of life and grace,
How once, to save our fallen race,
You put our human vesture on
And came to us as Mary's son. Alleluia!
- W 4. Today, as year by year its light
Bathes all the world in radiance bright,
One precious truth outshines the sun:
Salvation comes from You alone. Alleluia!

5. For from the Father's throne You came,
His banished children to reclaim;
And earth and sea and sky revere
The love of Him who sent You here. Alleluia!
6. And we are jubilant today,
For You have washed our guilt away.
O hear the glad new song we sing
On this, the birthday of our King! Alleluia!
- △ 7. Christ, Redeemer virgin-born,
Let songs of praise Your name adorn,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore. Alleluia!

LSB395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Philipp Nicolai

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1. Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's race, King David's Son,
Our Lord and Master, You have won
Our hearts to serve You only! Lowly, holy!
Great and glorious, all victorious. Rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!
2. Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,
And deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying!
In Your one body let us be
As living branches of a tree,
Your life our lives supplying. Now, though daily
Earth's deep sadness May perplex us And distress us,
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.
- ℳ 3. Lord, when You look on us in love.
At once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure.
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food.
You are our dearest treasure! Let Your mercy
Warm and cheer us! O draw near us! For You teach us
God's own love through You has reached us.

W 4. Almighty Father, in Your Son
You loved us, when not yet begun
Was this old earth's foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in Him here and above:
This is Your great salvation. Alleluia!
Christ the living, to us giving Life forever,
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!

5. let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gladly blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending! Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!
Great is He, the King of Glory!

6. What joy to know, when life is past,
The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place
Beyond all tears and sinning! Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness! We are yearning
For the day of Your returning!

LSB396 Arise and Shine in Splendor

Martin Opitz

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

1. Arise and shine in splendor, Let night to day surrender.
Your light is drawing near. Above, the day is beaming,
In matchless beauty gleaming; The glory of the Lord is here.
2. See earth in darkness lying, The heathen nations dying
In hopeless gloom and night. To you the Lord of heaven—
Your life, your hope— has given Great glory, honor, and delight.
3. The world's remotest races, Upon whose weary faces
The sun looks from the sky, Shall run with zeal untiring,
With joy Your Light desiring That breaks upon them from on high.

4. Lift up your eyes in wonder— See, nations gather yonder,
From sin to be set free. The world has heard Your story;
Her sons come to Your glory; Her daughters haste Your Light to see.
5. Your heart will leap for gladness When from the realms of sadness
They come from near and far. Your eyes will wake from slumber
As people without number Rejoice to see the Morning Star.

LSB399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

Coelius Sedulius

1. The star proclaims the King is here;
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For He who offers heav'nly birth
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.
2. The eastern sages saw from far
And followed on His guiding star;
And, led by light, to light they trod
And by their gifts confessed their God.
3. Within the Jordan's sacred flood
The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood
That He, of whom no sin was known,
Might cleanse His people from their own.
4. And oh, what miracle divine,
When water reddened into wine!
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed
In streams that nature ne'er bestowed.
- △ 5. For this Thy glad epiphany
All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore.

LSB400 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

Reginald Heber

1. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
2. Cold on His cradle the dew-drops are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

3. Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,
Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?
4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure,
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
5. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

The Epiphany of our Lord



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:

Nathaniel Demlow, Joshua Fuchs

The Teaching Staff at Lutheran South Unity

Principal:

Amber Bahr (744-0459; 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

PRAYERS FOR TODAY

- + For the church, especially those bearing the cross of persecution, including Bishop Juhana Pohjola and Dr. Päivi Räsänen (case being decided by the Finnish Supreme Court)
- + For those who serve our Lord at home and abroad, especially our teachers as they start of another academic year, our fieldworkers Nate Demlow and Josh Fuchs
- + For our nation; for our leaders; for our military, including James Hall & Thaddeus Cody
- + 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 or nearing death, especially Bob Ockree
- + For the ill, distressed, and those suffering affliction, including Marty Thomas, Jim Teasdale, Estella Ramirez, Darryl Kirtz, Dick Hollman, Art Litke, Henry Williams, Debra Busche, Carl Albersmeyer, Connie Houser, Bill Weinrich, Dwight Bieberich, Jimmy Coffey, Al McFeter, Mike Ming, Earl Marcel Sisson, Elaine Seifert, Joe Harrison, Louisa Porter, Gary Phillips, David Groth, Gary Castle, Ron Rastl, Robert & Jenny Hobby
- + For God's blessing on all godly marriages
- + For the gift of life and for length of days, for pregnant mothers Hannah Fink, and Rachel Wiegman
- + For the gift of rebirth by water and the Spirit
- + For those who mourn the death of loved ones
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed
- + 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 Epiphany of our Lord. 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 4, 2025 thru January 10, 2026

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:45 AM	Education Hour	Various
MON.			
TUES.		LSUS resumes school	
	9:00 AM	Weekly Bible Study	Bauer Hall
WED.	5:30 PM	Wednesday Divine Service	Church
THURS.	7:00 PM	Elders Council Meeting	Conference Room
FRI.	6:00 PM	LSUS Parents Game Night	Bauer Hall
SAT.	9:00 AM	Joint Meeting of Zion's Councils	Bauer Hall
	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church

January 11, 2025

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:45 AM	Education Hour	Various

ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDUCATION HOUR: Josh Fuchs continues with the class on Lutheran Identity in the Conference Room. And the Adult Class will take up St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians led by Pastor Punke and our field workers.

THANK YOU to all who helped take down Advent/Christmas decorations on Friday. Your decorations at home can stay up another day (until January 6). At church, we're celebrating the Epiphany of Our Lord today, so we took them down a bit early.

GIVING STATEMENTS: will be ready to pick up after church service on January 11.

A JOINT MEETING of Zion's Administrative Council, Council of Elders, and Education Council will be held this Saturday at 9 AM in Bauer Hall. All council members are invited to attend this planning meeting.

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDARS ... Zion's semi-annual Congregational Assembly will be held at 10:45 AM on Sunday, January 25th. You will hear reports from the pastor, treasurer, trustee, councils, and LSUS. Items of business include making nominations for Synod President, First Vice-President, and Regional Vice-President, offering up overtures to the Synod Convention, and electing our congregational lay elector (for Synod President). Plan to attend.

THE FLOWER CHART is filling up fast. Rosie has put up the 2026 flower chart. Please mark those special days you would like to adorn our altar with flowers in the Cross Bowl and/or Altar Vases. Thanks.

LAST CHANCE: if you are interested in receiving the Lutheran Witness, please make a check out to Zion for \$19 (put Lutheran Witness in the memo line) before the end of the year. Also, if you would like to renew your subscription, please get your check to Melvia.

UPDATE ON THE ORGAN CONSOLE: The replacement organ console should be delivered this week, and work will be done to get it all hooked up. We should have pipes again, soon!

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE: Psalm 37:23-24—"The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand" Last week's verse was Luke 2:10-11.

WE LIVE IN AN "I CAN DO IT MYSELF" CULTURE. That has been cultivated by our access to technology. Yet the question is, "Do I need help to create my Christian estate plan?" This month we consider that your estate plan represents the biggest collection of decisions with far more impact than any other decisions in life. To begin with, a good estate plan will include a good attorney, who can take your goals and put them down into carefully crafted, precise documents. Without an attorney, you risk allowing your will to be contested, or making mistakes that could leave something out you wished to do. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can get you ready to meet with your attorney. Contact Mark Muehl at 260-241-4845 or mark.muehl@lfd.org.

RLNI is sponsoring a trip to the National March for Life in Washington DC, January 21st–24th, 2026, open to high school and college-age students who want to grow in their understanding of the pro-life movement, explore the nation's capital, and stand with hundreds of thousands of others who believe every life deserves protection. Registration is closed for that trip. Please note: Saturday, January 31, 2026, is the annual **Rally and March for Life**. The Rally is at Parkview Field, 1301 Ewing St, Fort Wayne. The doors open at 12:00 PM; the Rally is 12:30–1:00 PM; and the March begins at 1:00 PM. Go to www.ichooselife.org/march for more info. *P.S.: Does someone want to create and have produced a "Life sign" for Zion?*

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

Matthew 2:1-12

Luke 3:1-20

Luke 3:21-38

Romans 1:1-17

Romans 1:18-32

Romans 2:1-16

Romans 2:17-29

DAILY LECTICIONARY

The Epiphany of our Lord

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Evening Prayer

Isaiah 60:1-6

Isaiah 65:8-25

Isaiah 66:1-20

Ezekiel 1:1-14, 22-28

Ezekiel 2:1-3:11

Ezekiel 3:12-27

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32

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 Baptism of Our Lord

Romans 6:1-11

Isaiah 42:1-9

Matthew 3:13-17



What Doctor Luther Says:

About the Son of God like No Other

[T]he evangelist sets the only-begotten Son of God apart from all the other children of God and from the saints by saying: “We have beheld His glory.” He was not like the other children of God, who have only a measure of grace and truth. He alone, the evangelist wants to say, is “full of,” or is, sheer grace and truth “as of the Only-begotten of the Father.” For He manifested Himself as different from, and far more glorious than, all other sons and children on earth. Therefore He ranks high above all God’s adoptive children. His is a peculiar and special glory from the Father, since He is separated from, and preferred above, all other children and sons. In Ps. 45:7 we find this corroborated: “Thou lovest righteousness and hatest wickedness. Therefore God, Thy God, has anointed Thee with oil of gladness above Thy fellows.” His whole life demonstrated that He was not one of the ordinary children.

On the occasion of His Baptism God the Father testified from heaven that this was His beloved Son, with whom He was well pleased; and the Holy Spirit descended and alighted on Him in the form of a dove (Matt. 3:16-17). For this reason He is not a son of God in the sense in which Abraham and David are sons of God. He is the Exemplar, the Head of all the children of God, and the only-begotten Son of God, as we confess in the articles of our Christian Creed: “I believe in Jesus Christ, the only Son of the Father.” The word “only” separates Him from all other sons.

Luther’s Works, 22:117.

EVERY ONE HIS WITNESS

LUTHERAN EVANGELISM®



Learn how to naturally and genuinely share the Gospel with your friends and neighbors who have not heard the Good News. After this program, you will be more effective witnesses of Jesus in your everyday life!

ADULT BOARD GAME NIGHT

HAVE SOME FUN. ENJOY GETTING TO KNOW
THE LSUS TEACHER & PARENT. BRIDGING THE
GAP BETWEEN THE CHURCHES AND PARENTS

Food & Drinks
will be provided



FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026
6:00 PM

2313 S. Hanna Street

TEACHERS, PARENTS & CHURCHES

LSUS NOTES

Praying for You!

Please pray for these students/staff:

Arosa	Karla
Eliza	Shar
Jade	Paingthu
Layla	Faculty
Callen	Staff
Josue	



To Us a Child is Born:

Our Christmas service was held on Tuesday, Dec. 16th at Zion Lutheran Church, as we joyfully celebrated the message *"To Us a Child Is Born."* Through scripture, song, and student participation, we rejoiced in the birth of Jesus and gave thanks for God's greatest gift to us. A heartfelt thank you to our students for all of their hard work and to our dedicated faculty and staff for guiding and supporting them every step of the way.



Christ is Born



**PHOENIX
SPORTS CORNER**

WEEK OF DEC. 29TH - JAN. 10TH

CHEERLEADING

BOYS BASKETBALL

GAMES:

Monday, Jan. 5th vs. Emmaus
4:30pm Varsity @ Bethlehem

Wednesday, Jan. 7th vs. Holy Cross
4:30pm Varsity @ Bethlehem

Thursday, Jan. 8th vs. Concordia
4:30pm Varsity @ Bethlehem

Encouragement Found in Scriptures:

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
— Luke 2:10-11



The Lutheran Schools Partnership has formed an exploratory committee to learn more about how our Lutheran schools can best serve students with special education needs. We are first seeking to learn more about the needs of our community. If you are a parent or legal guardian of a child with special education needs, or an educator or church leader, we would value your input on this anonymous survey. Visit this site: <https://shorturl.at/jNmFm> to complete the survey. Thank you for your feedback!

Symposia Series

MUSIC EVENTS

Tuesday, January 20 | Kramer Chapel

5:00 p.m. Vespers and Organ Recital

Dr. Craig Sproat, Concordia University Wisconsin

Wednesday, January 21 | Kramer Chapel

5:00 p.m. Hymn Festival

Seminary Schola Cantorum

Thursday, January 22 | Kramer Chapel

5:00 p.m. Epiphany Evening Prayer with the Kantorei

Seminary Kantorei



These events are free and open to the public.

CTSFW.EDU/SYMPOSIA

Livestream at ctsfw.edu/daily-chapel.

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

6600 N. Clinton St.

LIFE NEWS—JANUARY 2026



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

For the fourth year in a row, the number of abortion clinics in America continues to decline. In 2021, just before the fall of Roe, Operation Rescue's annual survey revealed the highest number of abortion clinics in five years, counting 718 across 50 states. At the close of 2025, that number is 657 across just 37 states, an 8.5% decrease in just four years. Operation Rescue President Troy Newman comments, "That 8.5% may seem a small number; however, our opponents know it represents the strong and steady progress of the pro-life movement. Inch by inch, we are winning solid ground for children in the womb. Small numbers over time can have a significant impact. And, right now, 26% of the United States is abortion free." This progress is made even more evident in the comparison of clinics that existed in 1991, numbering 2,176 across the nation, to the number that remains today. A total count of 657 abortion clinics in 2025 shows a whopping 70% decrease in less than forty years. In the last five years alone, 245 abortion clinics have closed. 2025 in focus: A record 54 clinics closed or halted abortions this year, the highest number of closures since 2022, when Operation Rescue verified 88 closures following the fall of Roe. Of those 54 closures, 36 (67%) were pill-only clinics, and 18 (33%) were surgical clinics. (Read more: lifenews.com/2025/12/22/number-of-abortion-centers-in-america-has-declined-4-years-in-a-row)

Speaking up For Life

"Let the peace of Christ change how you live—clothing yourself with godly virtues reflecting a thankful heart. Carry this peace that the angels proclaimed and Simeon saw. It sets the tone for the coming year, another year you get to live as God's child in the peace of Jesus." *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota*

"From the moment you were being knitted together in your mother's womb (Psalm 139:13), God's began His careful construction of His chosen jewel of redemption." *Rev. Adam Osier, Dean, Free Lutheran Bible College, Plymouth, Minnesota*

"No amount of scientific progress can defeat death. No political ruler can promise eternal life. Only Jesus can make and keep that promise. The promise of hope and life is ours to proclaim. It is the promise that a world without hope needs to hear. In Jesus we have hope for the future, the living hope of life in His presence forever." *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries*

lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-quotes



Order LFL
Resources



at cph.org

LOVE, COMPASSION, AND PROTECTION

BY REV. DR. ARIC FENSKE



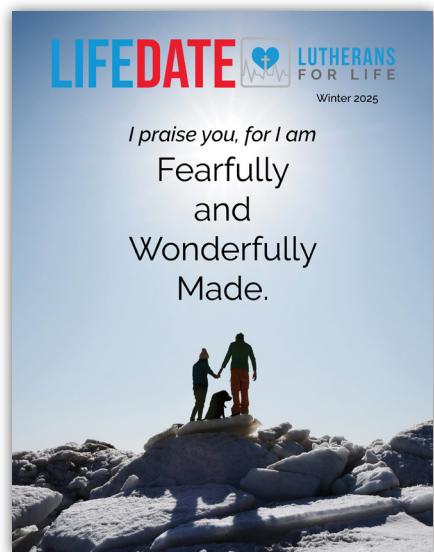
David uses an interesting illustration to describe his creation by the hands of God. He paints the picture of God knitting him together in his mother's womb as a skilled artisan would knit together a beautiful piece of clothing or a colorful tapestry. When I hear these words, I can't help but think of my grandmother, carefully and painstakingly knitting one of the blankets that were scattered throughout my childhood home.

As a young boy, I didn't fully appreciate just how special those blankets were. But now that I am older, and my grandmother is with Jesus, I understand what a treasure those blankets are. Handmade items usually are a treasure. And not because they cost more to produce. In fact, homemade items are usually cheaper than store bought items. The value of a handmade item comes from the one who made it. Hours of carefully planning and then creating a homemade project reveals not only the skill of the maker but also the love that was needed to see the project through. My grandmother would not have spent hours and hours making those blankets for us if she didn't love us dearly. Those blankets aren't simply a memento—they are a lasting snapshot of her talent and her love for us. And that is why we treasure them.

So it is with every single human being. Every person has been carefully knit together by God in their mother's womb, each with our own unique traits and personalities. And even though sin has corrupted every one of us, we can still see within every person a living revelation of the love and wisdom and skill of our God, who has fearfully and wonderfully made each and every person.

It is this loving and careful knitting together that imbues us all with an inherent value beyond our description. That value does not come from something inside of us, as if we were nothing more than the sum of our parts. No, our value comes from the One who loved us enough to make a plan for each one of us (down to the number of hairs on our heads; see Matthew 10:30), long before He uttered the first **"Let there be"** (Revelation 13:8).

God treasures each person from the moment He begins to knit them together, if not even long before. And so should we. From fertilization to forever, and at every stage in between, regardless of nation or race, size or ability, each person is a treasure worthy of our love, compassion, and protection.





JANUARY EVENT SCHEDULE

FACEBOOK: BRIDGE 20/30 GROUP FT. WAYNE | INSTAGRAM: THEBRIDGE2030

6
JAN 2026

LINE DANCING LESSONS - ALL TYPES

7 PM THE FORT WAYNE BALLROOM COMPANY - 3127 CARROLL RD
\$5/PERSON- CHECK IN AT 6:45 PM

13
JAN 2026

THE PORCH NIGHT: SERIES ON VANITY: A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

7 PM HOLY CROSS YOUTH CENTER 3420 N. ANTHONY BLVD

20
JAN 2026

DEVOTION ANCHOR NIGHT WITH BRIAN LOESL FOLLOWED BY CARDS & GAMES

7 PM THE GARDEN 3308 N ANTHONY BLVD

27
JAN 2026

MEETUP - RACK & HELEN'S TRIVIA | TACO TUESDAY

7 PM T525 BROADWAY STREET NEW HAVEN