

Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 am Sunday, December 13, 2020

RECEIVING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AT ZION

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

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

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

✠ = *appropriate to make the baptismal sign of the cross*
When "rise" or "kneel" is indicated, it is *appropriate to sit if needed*

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

Invocation

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

The Office of Confession of Sins and Absolution

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

[*Kneel*]

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

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

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

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

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

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

And with thy spir— it.

A ————— men!

A ——— men!

+ Page 2 +

Epistle of the Day 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
[After the reading] *This is the word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

[Rise] **Alleluia Sequence**

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



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



Confession of Faith (The Nicene Creed)

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

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

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

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

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

[Be Seated]

Hymn of the Day Hark! A Thrilling Voice Burgundy Hymn 345
[Rise for Stanza 5.]

Sermon

[Rise] **Prayer of the Church**

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

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

[Be Seated] **Offerings, Voluntary**

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





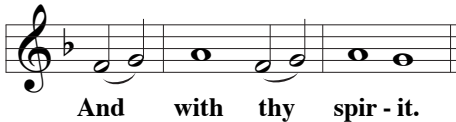
take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of
Thy sal-va - tion; and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

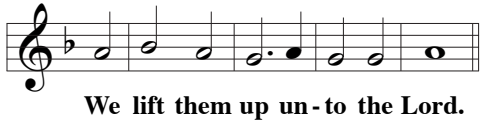
Preface

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.



And with thy spir - it.



We lift them up un-to the Lord.

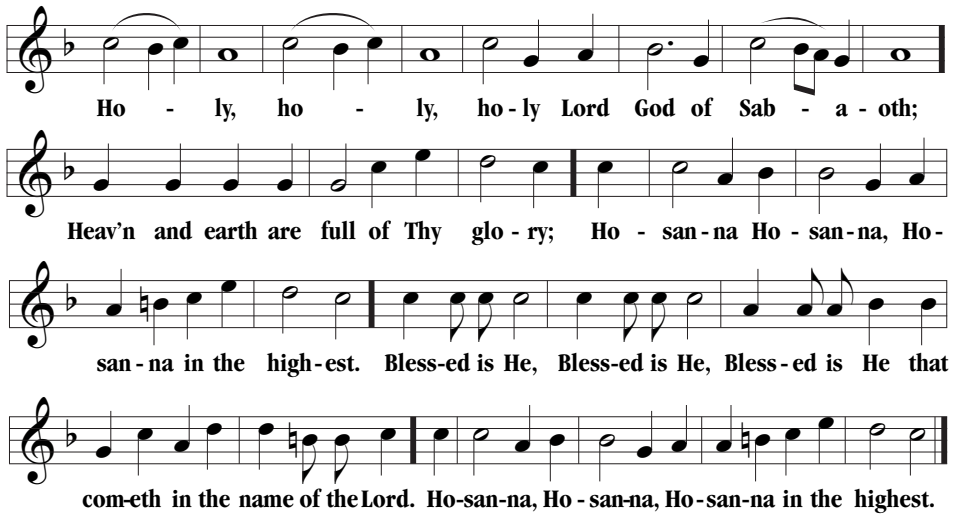
Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



It is meet and right so to do.

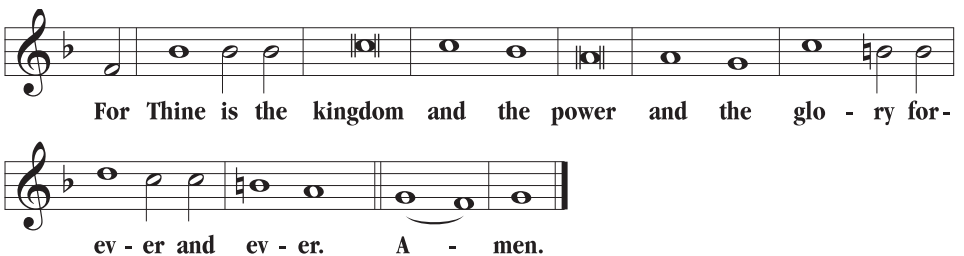
Proper Preface for Advent, Sanctus

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



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

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



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

Words of Institution, Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always!



A - men.

Agnus Dei

1-3. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world,
Stanzas 1 and 2 | Stanza 3
have mer-cy up - on us. Grant us Thy Peace. A - - - men!

[Be Seated]

Distribution Hymns **Once He Came in Blessing** **Burgundy Hymn 333**
Come, Thou Long-Expected **Burgundy Hymn 338**
Soul, Adorn Yourself **Burgundy Hymn 636**
[All sing stanzas 1 & 2; Women alone sing stanzas 3 & 5; Men alone sing stanzas 4 & 6
All sing stanzas 7 & 8.]

[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.

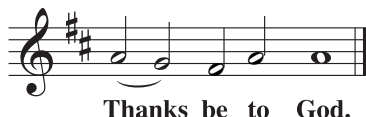
Prayer of Thanksgiving ...now and forever.

A — men.

The Lord be with you.



Bless we the Lord.



Benediction

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



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

Recessional Hymn Hark the Glad Sound Burgundy Hymn 349

Postlude

Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly!

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

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



2313 South Hanna Street at Creighton

Telephone 744-1389

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Readings for the Third Sunday in Advent

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

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

The Epistle is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hymns for the Third Sunday in Advent

LSB345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.

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

LSB333 Once He Came in Blessing

Johann Horn

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

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

LSB338 Come, Thou Long- Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley

1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev’ry nation, Joy of ev’ry longing heart.

2. Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

LSB636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

Johann Frank

Text: (sts. 1, 4-5) © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*; Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

1. Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight's splendor,
There with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded
This amazing banquet founded;
He, though heav'nly, high, and holy,
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.
2. Hasten as a bride to meet Him,
And with loving rev'rence greet Him.
For with words of life immortal
He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before Him,
Saying, as you there adore Him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You,
That I nevermore will leave You.
3. He who craves a precious treasure
Neither cost nor pain will measure;
But the priceless gifts of heaven
God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,
None could buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven,
And His blood, for you once given.
4. Now in faith I humbly ponder
Over this surpassing wonder
That the bread of life is boundless
Though the souls it feeds are countless:
With the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
Pledge and seal of my salvation!

5. Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding,
Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You;
Love incarnate, I adore You;
Worthily let me receive You
And, so favored, never leave You.
6. Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven,
For our good, Your glory, given.
7. Lord, by love and mercy driven,
You once left Your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish
And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness
And to shed Your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living,
Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.
8. Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
Let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited,
Be Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me
As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

LSB349 Hark the Glad Sound

Philip Doddridge

1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.
2. He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.

3. He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name.

For the family of God's Priestly People at Zion

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

Morning Prayer

John 1:6-8, 19-28
Revelation 2:1-29
Revelation 3:1-22
Revelation 4:1-11
Revelation 5:1-14
Revelation 6:1-17
Revelation 7:1-17

DAILY LECTIONARY The Third Sunday in Advent

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

Evening Prayer

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Isaiah 30:15-26
Isaiah 30:27-31:9
Isaiah 32:1-20
Isaiah 33:1-24
Isaiah 34:1-2, 8-35:10
Isaiah 40:1-17

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 Thy 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 Thy 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 Thy 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 Thy 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 Daniel, 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 Thy 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 Thy 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 Thy mercy,hear our prayer. Amen!

[Daily]

The Our Father

TO PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Fourth Sunday in Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

The Third Sunday in Advent



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

2313 Hanna Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46803260-744-1389

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

The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is to be the body of Christ gathered at Hanna and Creighton in Fort Wayne, Indiana to:

- Receive Christ's gifts in baptism, preaching, teaching, and the Eucharist;
- Reach out to those who do not know the love of God in Christ;
- Reveal Christ's love for the world through acts of kindness and mercy toward all.

The Pastoral Ministry At Zion

Senior Pastor

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

Field Workers:

Peter Wagner, Erik Saunders

The Teaching Staff At Lutheran South Unity

Sheila Nehrenz, Principal (744-0459)

Teachers:

Gene Koch, Yvonne Schwantz, Barry Chrzan,

Danielle Ramsey, Merideth Tourney, Dawn Gill

John Fink, Hannah Maresh, Cathie Wakeland, Natalie Reynolds

The Support Staff

Organist and Director of Parish Music:

Michael Hollman, MM

Church Office Manager:

Melvia Culpher

PRAYERS FOR TODAY

- + For the church and those experiencing persecution around the world
- + For those who serve our Lord at home and abroad, especially our fieldworkers, Peter and Erik
- + For our nation, under duress because of COVID-19, and racial and political strife; for our leaders, our military, and our health care workers
- + For our schools, especially Lutheran South Unity School, Concordia Lutheran High School, and Concordia Theological Seminary all back at school,
- + For those who travel
- + For the aged and the homebound, including MaryLou Graham, Juanita Moore, Everett Beck, Helen Russell, Jackie Schieferstein, Cheryl Silvers, and Doris Yerger
- + For those who are near death
- + For the ill, distressed, and those suffering affliction, including Ralph Beck, Marq Rogers, Jill Stokes, Frank Jackson, Nikki Wideman, Hadley Schumacher, Mark Hollman, Gloria Gonzalez, Willie Manning, Lucille Brandt, Donna Scott, Willodean Bates, Connie Meyer, Dick Hollman, Jerry Seifert, Maurice King, John Weber, Miranda Krider, Ron Rastl, and Marlow Hogan
- + For God's blessing on all godly marriages
- + For the gift of life and for length of days, including Greta Stoevers, daughter of Bethany and Caleb Stoevers
- + For the gift of rebirth by water and the Spirit
- + For those who mourn the death of loved ones, including the family of Mildred Bartels.
- + For the faithful departed, especially Mildred Bartels
- + 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 Third Sunday in Advent. The Cross Bowl and Altar Vases are given in recognition of the past and present Pastors & Teachers of Zion by Jennifer Manth.. Please complete an attendance/communion card, including the names of all children, and indicate if you are communing. Non-members, please read the back of the card.

CALENDAR

December 13, 2020 thru December 19, 2020

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Study	Bauer Hall
	10:30 AM	Junior Catechesis	Conference Room
MON.			
TUES.			
WED.	9:30 AM	Men of Zion Bible Study	Bauer Hall
	7:00 PM	Advent Evening Prayer	Church
THURS.	10:30 AM	Book of Concord Study	Bauer Hall
FRI.			Church
SAT.	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church

December 20, 2020

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Study	Bauer Hall
	10:30 AM	Junior Catechesis	Conference Room

ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDUCATION HOUR: As we continue to gather in Bauer Hall with an appropriate amount of distancing, we get to enjoy the teaching of Dr. Voelz delving into the Gospel according to St. Mark. Don't be shy. Come! Dr. Voelz is an engaging teacher.

CONGRATULATIONS to Caleb & Bethany Stoevers on the birth of their daughter Margaret (Greta) Vera Stoevers, born December 7th, 7 lbs. 14 oz, 21 inches long.

THE NEXT ADVENT MIDWEEK EVENING PRAYER is this Wednesday at 7 PM ... no Advent Supper. Sem. Tanner Post will preach this Wednesday on the Advent of our Priest. Let's continue to prepare in this holy season.

OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available for pick up in the Great Hall. See Julie Ganaway if you have questions. Also, Julie has some Zion postcards for purchase at her table. You get 10 postcards for \$5.

FYI: If you have a change of address please let Melvia know because giving statements will be ready on Sunday, January 10 all remaining statements will be mailed out by January 25th.

THIS IS THE LAST WEEK Zion will be collecting food and other hygienic items for the Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op. You can pick up a grocery sack in the Great Hall with the listed items on it. Ed & Janice Grim will deliver these items to the Co-op weekly. In addition to the grocery sacks for food items, there is a small box on the table, in which you may place a gift card or cash, if you prefer that way of giving.

COVID-19 UPDATE AT ZION: No change at Zion. Stay vigilant. Stay safe. The post-Thanksgiving surge in the state was not too bad and seems to be coming down. The lagging statistic of deaths, though, have risen dramatically. It's sad but not surprising, given the large number of persons hospitalized. Hospital census numbers are going down slowly. Allen County remains in the red, and most statistics are trending down. However, much like the state, the larger number of persons with COVID generally means we'll see a larger number of deaths. We are in the county. We've got a long way to go. Help is on the way, but vaccines for the general population are still months away. Don't lose heart.

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE How did you do on last week's challenge verse? This week's verse highlights the importance of turning from our self-centered ways and turning to the Lord in faith (an appropriate Advent theme)—Isaiah 30:15 "For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, 'In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.'" Last week's verse was Jeremiah 23:5-6.

EMMAUS COOKIE FAIR CANCELLED: The Emmaus Women's Guild is sorry to announce its annual Cookie Fair, scheduled for Saturday, December 12, has been cancelled. Because Allen County is in Covid Code RED, the guild thought it best to cancel the Cookie Fair, for our own and our community's safety. Thank you to those who have supported this event in past years.

LISTEN TO LUTHERAN PROGRAMMING You can listen to Issues, Etc. live or on-demand at www.issuesetc.org or on the LPR mobile app. Sign up for their podcasts to listen when you want. Similarly, you can listen to KFUE at KFUE.org. Programs also are archived at KFUE.org for 24/7 on-demand listening, streaming or downloading their podcast.

WATCH WORSHIP ANEW every Sunday on Fort Wayne, Indiana - WISE 33 (CW) channel - Sunday 6:30 A.M.

BOTT RADIO NETWORK airs the Lutheran Hour on Sundays at 9 am on FM 100.1 and at 3:30 pm on AM 1090 & FM 93.7.



What Doctor Luther Says:

About Pointing to the True Baptist and Purifier

John ... says here: "You are not saved by my purification. I must decrease, and Christ must increase." ... John wishes to say: "I call you to witness. I do not say that my Baptism saves, but I baptize you that you might accept Christ. For I am not the true Purifier; I am only the finger and the hand of the Messiah, who is the true Purifier. Whoever believes in Him and dies in that faith is saved. I did not purify Him, but I pointed to Him who purifies. I placed all my disciples and you, too, into His arms and bade you all abide with Him."

John's disciples say: "You baptized Him! Now everybody is flocking to Him." But John replies: "Did you not hear my words? He must increase, but I must decrease (John 3:30). I was a voice crying before the Lord and pointing you to Him" (John 1:23).

John is truthful; for he says: "I am not the Christ" (John 1:20), as the Jews supposed he was. ... John does not claim that he will purify you or forgive your sins. He says: "I am not the Christ." ... John might have said: "I am indeed a great man, ...; for Christ Himself said that I am greater than the prophets, since I was the angel who immediately preceded the advent of the Lord (Matt. 11:9-10). But in spite of all this my life and deeds will not aid you to obtain salvation. Even if I wear a leather girdle and a camel's hide, eat locusts, and dwell along the water, I am not purified thereby. Christ alone does this. For that matter, all stations are good; so is the Law of Moses, and the Turk also has commendable laws. But if any of this is to be applied to purification, it is the very devil. The purification of the jurists is good in its place, and it is also a fine custom that a bishop bears crosier and miter. However, these can never purify; nor can they destroy death. I am the true Baptist's predecessor; that is, I am he who points to the Baptist and Purifier." It is John's office to say: "I am not the Christ, but He is." And it is still the duty of all ... to point to Christ.

Luther's Works, 22:439-40.



Order Your Poinsettia Plants for Christmas 2020



PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

DEDICATION _____

___ 8 1/2 inch Poinsettia \$38 each \$ _____

___ 6 1/2 inch Poinsettia \$15 each \$ _____

___ 4 1/2 inch Poinsettia \$6 each \$ _____

___ General Donation \$ _____

___ Pick up plant after Dec 31

Return this form to the church office by **December 20th**
to have your dedication
printed in the bulletin.



Zion Stay-Safe Protocols

- ✿ Indiana positive cases are the highest they've been since the pandemic began. Let's do our part to keep each other healthy – you know how.
- ✿ If you are sick, GO/STAY HOME; go to the doctor.
- ✿ Those over 65 or immunocompromised are most vulnerable.
- ✿ Staged responses in the state are over; now it's county by county.
- ✿ Wear masks if you can, especially in the pews, because of
 - ✿ prolonged exposure there;
 - ✿ respiratory droplets expelled while singing and speaking.
- ✿ Spread out in church; do the recommended distancing (six feet); use the transepts; go to the balcony as necessary. Of course, families who reside together may sit together.
- ✿ Continue to wash your hands often and use hand sanitizer.
- ✿ Cough or sneeze into a tissue (then throw it away) or into your elbow.
- ✿ No handshaking. Fist bumps or forearm bumps, please.
- ✿ Limit your socializing after the service.
- ✿ Take your service bulletin and texts home after service or deposit them in the blue recycling bins. Hymns are in the hymnals.
- ✿ No offering plates are being passed. Place your offerings and communion registrations in the baskets in the narthex. Don't forget your bank's automatic bill pay as a method of tithing.
- ✿ Holy Communion will continue with stations until the virus is contained. Individual cups are offered for the blood of Christ.

LSUS NOTES

Praying for You!



Please pray for these students:

Leilani Pearson
Melvin Lesure
Adereon Easley
Preston Beck
Theresa Poe

De'Lyn Thomas
Aveyah Coker
Kamirrah Little
Khin Aung
Maurice King



Virtual Christmas Service

Here is a glimpse of the recording that took place for the virtual Christmas service. This presentation will be available by mid-December.

Third Grade

Mrs. Gill 3rd grade class created dioramas.

6th, 7th and 8th Graders

Used watercolors to depict the Star of Bethlehem!



They are beautiful! If you would like to see more visit our website. www.LSUSFW.org and go to the connections tab and visit "A walk through our hall"

LSUS NOTES continued

Proud of our Neighbors

Bishop Luers football
team lost by only one
point at the State
football game last Friday
evening!



Scriptural Encouragement

*For to us a child is
born, to us a son is
given; and the
government shall
be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be
called*

*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince
of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his
kingdom, to establish
it and to uphold it
with justice and with
righteousness from
this time forth and
forevermore. The zeal
of the Lord of hosts
will do this.*

~ Isaiah 9:6-7



COMING IN FALL OF 2020 | NEW BOOK FROM CONCORDIA PUBLISHING



FAITH IN THE SHADOW OF A PANDEMIC

JOHN T. PLESS | JACOB CORZINE

As Christians, we know how to address the tension between fear and hope. In the midst of our fears, Jesus Christ enters with hope and peace. Fear alone is paralyzing, but fear among the faithful may drive us to Christ. We are no longer paralyzed but rather freed and enabled to show love to our neighbors.