

Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

9:00 am Sunday, December 27, 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!**

[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 Let Us All Burgundy Hymn 390

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

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

Salutation

And with thy spir— it.

A ————— men!

A ————— men!

+ The Office of the Word of God +

Old Testament Reading..... Isaiah 61:10-62:3

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

Epistle of the Day Galatians 4:4-7

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

[Rise] Sequence Hymn Let Our Gladness Burgundy Hymn 381

Holy Gospel **St. Luke 2:22-40**

[The Gospel is announced.]

[*The Gospel is proclaimed.*]

Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord!

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 of the world to come. Amen!

[Be Seated]

Hymn of the Day Let All Together Praise Our God ... Burgundy Hymn 389

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

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 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.

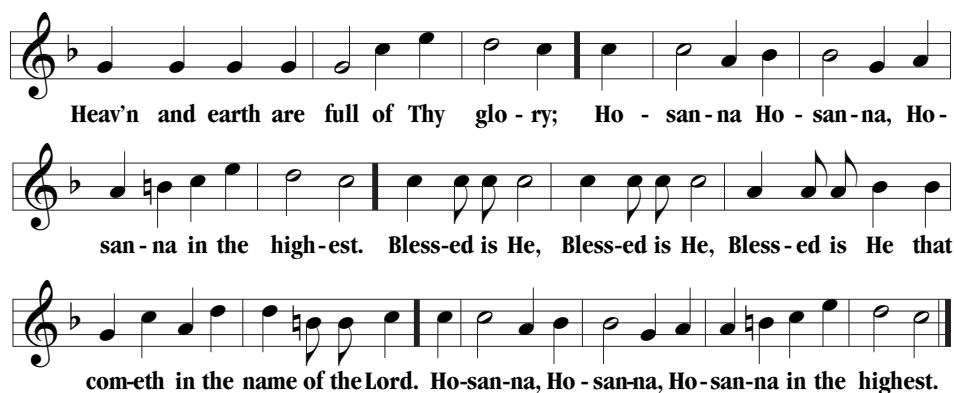
Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface for Christmas, Sanctus

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

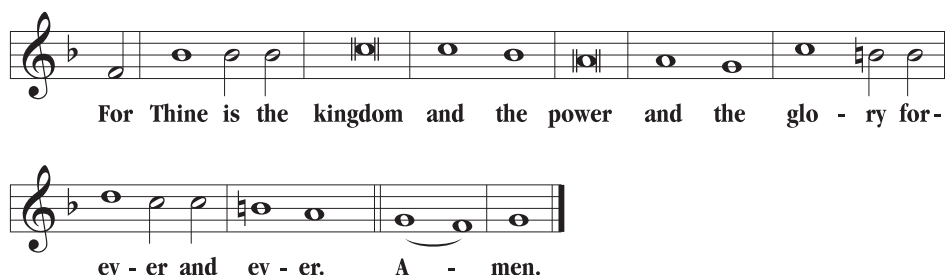
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
+ Page 3 +



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

[Be Seated]

Distribution Hymns Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Burgundy Hymn 393

All My Heart Again Rejoices Burgundy Hymn 360

In His Temple Burgundy Hymn 519

[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 Hymn In Peace and Joy Burgundy Hymn 938

Post Communion Rite

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

Musical notation for Post Communion Rite in G major (one sharp). The melody consists of a half note G, followed by a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a half note G. The lyrics "And His mercy endureth for – ev — er." are written below the notes, with a long dash under "ev" and a double bar line at the end.

Prayer of Thanksgiving ... now and forever.

Musical notation for Prayer of Thanksgiving in G major. The melody consists of a half note G, followed by a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a half note G. The lyrics "A — men." are written below the notes, with a long dash under "A".

The Lord be with you.

Musical notation for "The Lord be with you" in G major. The melody consists of a half note G, followed by a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a half note G. The lyrics "And with thy spir — rit." are written below the notes, with a long dash under "spir".

Bless we the Lord.

Musical notation for "Bless we the Lord" in G major. The melody consists of a half note G, followed by a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a half note G. The lyrics "Thanks be to God." are written below the notes.

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.

Musical notation for Benediction in G major. The melody consists of a half note G, followed by a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a half note G. The lyrics "A-men, A-men, A - men." are written below the notes.

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 From East to West Burgundy Hymn 385

Postlude

Readings for the First Sunday after Christmas

The Old Testament Reading is Isaiah 61:10–62:3

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.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.
The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Epistle is Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

The Gospel is Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout,

waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Hymns for the First Sunday after Christmas

LSB390 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

German, 17th cent.

1. Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.
2. To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'ns fair homes We may reign in gladness.
3. We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.
4. Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us.

LSB367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

James Montgomery

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth:
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines His Infant Light. *Refrain*
3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. *Refrain*
4. Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. *Refrain*

- Δ 5. All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son.
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

LSB381 Let Our Gladness Have No End

Bohemian, 15th cent.

1. Let our gladness have no end, alleluia!
For to earth did Christ descend, alleluia!

Refrain: On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us;
Christ, His Son to save us.

2. Prophetied in days of old, alleluia!
God has sent Him as foretold, alleluia! *Refrain*
3. See, the loveliest blooming rose, alleluia!
From the branch of Jesse grows, alleluia! *Refrain*
4. Into flesh is made the Word, alleluia!
He, our refuge and our Lord, alleluia! *Refrain*

LSB389 Let All Together Praise Our God

Nicolaus Herman

Text (sts. 1, 3-7): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

1. Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again, To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.
2. He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne Is born an infant small;
And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.
- M 3. Within an earthborn form He hides His all creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.
- W 4. He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our mortal frame;
And in return gives us His realm, His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.
- M 5. He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ-Child's love, No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.
- W 6. He is the key and He the door To blessèd paradise;
The angel bars the way no more To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.
- Δ 7. Your grace and lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore.
We praise You evermore.

LSB393 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish

1. Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, Angels singing,
Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!
2. Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

LSB360 All My Heart Again Rejoices

Paul Gerhardt

1. All my heart again rejoices
As I hear Far and near Sweetest angel voices.
“Christ is born!” their choirs are singing
Till the air Ev’rywhere Now with joy is ringing.
2. Hear! The Conqueror has spoken:
“Now the foe, Sin and woe, Death and hell are broken!”
God is man, man to deliver,
And the Son Now is one With our blood forever.
3. Should we fear our God’s displeasure,
Who, to save, Freely gave His most precious treasure?
To redeem us He has given
His own Son From the throne Of His might in heaven.
4. See the lamb, our sin once taking
To the cross, Suff’ring loss, Full atonement making.
For our life His own He tenders,
And His grace All our race Fit for glory renders.
5. Softly from His lowly manger
Jesus calls One and all, “You are safe from danger.
Children, from the sins that grieve you
You are freed; All you need I will surely give you.”

6. Come, then, banish all your sadness!
One and all, Great and small, Come with songs of gladness.
We shall live with Him forever
There on high In that joy Which will vanish never.

LSB519 In His Temple Now Behold Him

Henry J. Pye

1. In His Temple now behold Him, See the long-expected Lord;
Ancient prophets had foretold Him, God has now fulfilled His word.
Now to praise Him, His redeemed Shall break forth with one accord.
2. In the arms of her who bore Him, Virgin pure, behold Him lie
While His aged saints adore Him Ere in perfect faith they die.
Alleluia, alleluia! Lo, •the in• carnate God Most high!
3. Jesus, by Your presentation, When they blessed You, weak and poor,
Make us see Your great salvation, Seal us with Your promise sure;
And present us in Your glory To Your Father, cleansed and pure.

LSB938 In Peace and Joy I Now Depart

Martin Luther

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1. In peace and joy I now depart Since God so wills it.
Serene and confident my heart; Stillness fills it.
For the Lord has promised me That death is but a slumber.
2. Christ Jesus brought this gift to me, My faithful Savior,
Whom You have made my eyes to see By Your favor.
Now I know He is my life, My friend when I am dying.
3. You sent the people of the earth Their great salvation;
Your invitation summons forth Ev'ry nation
By Your holy, precious Word, In ev'ry place resounding.
4. Christ is the hope and saving light Of those in blindness;
He guides and comforts those in night By His kindness.
For Your people Israel In Him find joy and glory.

LSB385 From East to West

Coelius Sedulius

1. From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev'ry heart awake and sing
The holy child whom Mary bore, The Christ, the everlasting king.
2. Behold, the world's creator wears The form and fashion of a slave;
Our very flesh our maker shares, His fallen creatures all to save.

3. For this how wondrously He wrought! A maiden, in her lowly place,
Became, in ways beyond all thought, The chosen vessel of His grace.
4. And while the angels in the sky Sang praise above the silent field,
To shepherds poor the Lord Most High, the one great Shepherd, was revealed.
- Δ 5. All glory for this blessed morn To God the Father ever be;
All praise to You, O Virgin-born, And Holy Ghost eternally.

The First Sunday after Christmas



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 Kristie Roberson, Marq Rogers, Jill Stokes, Nikki Wideman, Gloria Gonzalez, Willie Manning, Lucille Brandt, Donna Scott, Willodean Bates, Connie Meyer, Dick Hollman, Rick Ganaway and family, 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
- + For the gift of rebirth by water and the Spirit
- + For those who mourn the death of loved ones
- + For 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 First Sunday after Christmas. 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 27, 2020 thru January 2, 2020

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service NO Adult Bible Study NO Junior Catechesis	Church
MON.			
TUES.			
WED.	5:30 PM	Wednesday Divine Service	Church
THURS	7:00 PM	New Years Eve Divine Service	Church
FRI.		New Years Day Office Closed	
SAT.	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church

January 3, 2020

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service NO Adult Bible Study NO Junior Catechesis	Church Bauer Hall Conference Room
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ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDUCATION HOUR: We're taking a break over the season of Christmas. Due to continued COVID precautions, we're not having our usual Christmas party on the nth day of Christmas (this year it would be the Third Day of Christmas). And Dr. Voelz is gone on January 3rd. Thus, this Sunday and next, there will be no Education Hour. Go home after Divine Service. Then, make a New Year resolution to dedicate yourself to studying God's word with your brothers and sisters, and start on January 10.

THANK YOU: the staff would like to thank everyone for the love, support, and gifts this year. May you have a blessed New Year to come.

THE LSUS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM is available on the lsusfw.org website or on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/b7mRVsnUFUo>.

CHRISTMAS AT THE EMBASSY is available to watch by going to clhscadets.com and clicking on the "Christmas at the Embassy" banner that comes up. They're asking for donations to help defray the cost.

FYI: Rosie has replaced the flower calendar. Please sign up for flowers on your special occasions in 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Rosie at 260-747-2684.

OFFERING ENVELOPES can still be picked up. The table has been moved to the basement, so you may have to see Julie Ganaway to pick yours up.

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

ZION COUNCILS, put Saturday, January 9th, 9 AM, on your calendar for our joint council meeting. It prepares us for our semi-annual Congregational Assembly, January 31, after Divine Service.

PARENTS WITH LITTLE ONES, there are booster seats available for you in the old narthex (entryway). Ask or pick one up for your toddler to help them sit and see.

COVID-19 UPDATE AT ZION: Woohoo! Allen County has returned to orange. Our metric is 2.5, so we can't let our guard down, but I needed to celebrate a little; we have made progress. Area hospital census remains high and ICU bed availability is below 20%. Those are of concern. The state continues to make progress, too. We continue to give thanks to God for the vaccines, and pray that most people will be able take the vaccine soon. We've done a good job of staying safe in church — no one to my knowledge has contracted the virus while at church. Members have followed the protocol well, including staying home if sick. Kudos to this point. The finish line is in sight. Let's run the race to the finish with both ourselves and our neighbors in mind.

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE How did you do on last week's challenge verse? We confess it at the incarnation; here is the verse—John 1:14 "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." Last week's verse was Galatians 4:4-5.

CLHS seeks a qualified candidate to serve as the Director of Development and Marketing. To view the position description and responsibilities and to apply, please visit www.clhscadets.com/employment. Only applications with all materials, including the completed application, will be considered.

LUTHERAN RADIO, Issues, Etc. and KFUO online will have special Christmas programming during the Twelve Days of Christmas. You can listen to Issues, Etc. live or on-demand at www.issuesetc.org or on the LPR mobile app or to KFUO at KFUO.org.

For the family of God's Priestly People at Zion

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

Morning Prayer

Luke 2:22-40

Matthew 2:13-23

Luke 1:1-25

Luke 1:26-38

Luke 1:29-56

Luke 1:57-80

Luke 2:1-20

DAILY LECTIONARY

The First Sunday after Christmas

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Evening Prayer

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Isaiah 52:13-54:10

Isaiah 55:1-13

Isaiah 58:1-59:3, 14-21

Isaiah 60:1-22

Isaiah 61:1-11

Isaiah 62:1-12

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

The Epiphany of our Lord (transferred)

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12



What Doctor Luther Says:

About Making the Good Confession of Jesus Christ

It is decided (so speaks St. Paul) that in Jesus Christ the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily [Col. 2:9] or personally, in such manner that whoever does not find or receive God in Christ shall nevermore and nowhere have or find God outside of Christ, even though he should go beyond heaven, below hell, or outside of the world. For here I will dwell (says God), in this humanity, born of Mary the virgin, etc. If you believe this, then good for you; if not, then have your own way, but your lack of belief will change nothing herein. And Christ will indeed remain in spite of you, together with all his believers, as he has remained heretofore, against all the power of the devil and the world.

On the other hand, I have also noticed that all error, heresy, idolatry, offense, misuse, and evil in the church originally came from despising or losing sight of this article of faith in Jesus Christ. And correctly and clearly, all heresies do contend against this dear article of Jesus Christ, as Simeon says of him, that he is “set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against” [Luke 2:34]. And Isaiah [8:14] long before proclaimed him a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling. For whatsoever stumbles, certainly stumbles on this stone, which lies in everyone’s way and is rejected by the builders, as he himself shows in the one hundred eighteenth Psalm. ...

Some have attacked his deity, doing this in various ways. ... Some have attacked Christ’s humanity, and how strange their antics have been! ... The devil has not been able to find any peace where our dear Christ is preached according to the first symbol, i.e., that he is God and man, who died and rose again for us. This is the woman’s seed, who crushes his head and whose heel he bites [Gen. 3:15]. Therefore the enmity will not cease until the last day.

Luther’s Works, 34:207-9.

Zion Stay-Safe Protocols

- ✿ Indiana metrics are getting better. Vaccines will soon be available for us all. Don't let your guard down!
- ✿ It's a county by county response to the virus. Allen County is back in the orange!
- ✿ If you are sick, GO/STAY HOME; go to the doctor.
- ✿ Those over 65 or immunocompromised are most vulnerable.
- ✿ Wear masks if you can, especially in the pews, because of
 - ✿ prolonged exposure there;
 - ✿ respiratory droplets expelled while singing and speaking.
- ✿ Be aware; 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.



Issues, Etc.

Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio

Talk Radio and Podcasts for the Christmas Season

December 23-January 1

Early Church Fathers on the Birth of Christ

Rev. Will Weedon of “The Word of the Lord Endures Forever”

The Birth of Jesus Foretold in Micah

Dr. Jason Soenksen of Concordia University Wisconsin

Holiday Depression

Dr. Beverly Yahnke of Doxology

The New Year Hymn “Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year”

Dr. Arthur Just of Concordia Theological Seminary

The Top Religion Stories of 2020

Terry Mattingly of GetReligion

Listen at www.issuesetc.org



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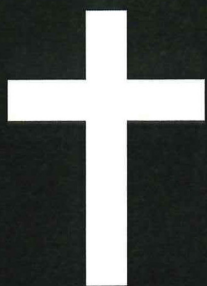
Sacred Music for the Christmas Season

Christmas music returns Christmas Eve

at

WWW.LUTHERANPUBLICRADIO.ORG

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.