

# Historic Zion Lutheran Church

## DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

9:00 am ..... Friday, December 25, 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*

#### [ Rise ] Invocation

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

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

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

[ Be Seated ]

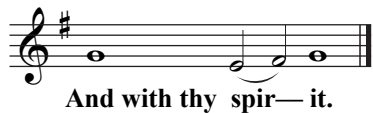
**Kyrie ..... Intonation for Celebrant and Organ ..... setting by S. Scheidt**

[ Rise ]

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

#### Salutation

*The Lord be with you.*



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



[ Be Seated ]

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

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

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

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

**Epistle of the Day ..... Hebrews 1:1-12**  
[ After the reading ] *This is the word of the Lord.* ..... Thanks be to God.

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

**Alleluia Sequence ..... Oh, Rejoice, Ye Christians ..... Burgundy Hymn 897**  
[ Sing the Twelve-fold Alleluia below and stanzas 1 & 2 BEFORE the Gospel.  
Stanzas 3 & 4 will be sung after the Gospel is proclaimed. ]

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

**Holy Gospel ..... St. John 1:1-14**  
[ The Gospel is announced. ] [ The Gospel is proclaimed. ]

Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord! Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

**Hymn ..... Oh, Rejoice, Ye Christians ..... Burgundy Hymn 897**  
[ Sing stanzas 3 & 4. After singing stanza 4, sing the Twelve-fold Alleluia below. ]

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

**Confession of Faith (The Nicene Creed)**

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

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

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

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

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

[ Be Seated ]

Hymn of the Day ..... Of the Father's Heart Begotten

Words by Prudentius (c. 348–413)

Melody from Piae Cantiones (1582)



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



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



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



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



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

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

## Sermon

### [ Rise ] + The Office of Confession of Sins and Holy Absolution +

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

[ Kneel ]

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

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

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

### [ Rise ] Prayer of the Church

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

### [ Be Seated ] Voluntary

[ Rise ]

**Offertory Hymn ..... Break Forth ..... Burgundy Hymn 378: St 1**

[ Sing stanza 1 only. ]

### + The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

#### Preface

*The Lord be with you.*

*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.

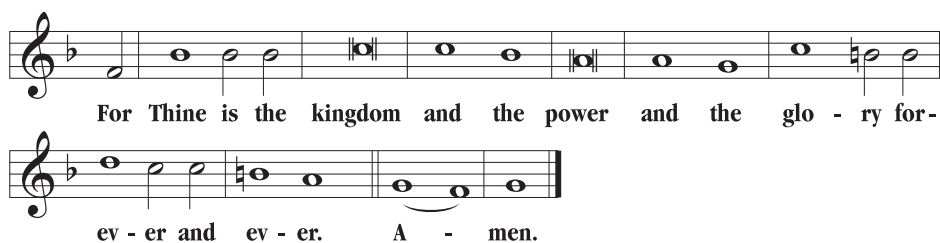
#### Proper Preface for Christmas

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

**Sanctus Hymn ..... Let All Mortal Flesh ..... Burgundy Hymn 621**

[ 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!*



**Agnus Dei**



[ Be Seated ]

**Distribution Hymns .. O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is .... Burgundy Hymn 372**

**Now Praise We Christ ..... RED Hymn 104**

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

**Eucharistic Benediction**

*The Body and Blood of your Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting! ✠ Depart in Peace! ..... Amen!*

**Post-Communion Canticle ..... The Nunc Dimittis**



1. Lord now— lettest Thou Thy  
servant, de— part— in — peace, ac— cord—ing to Thy Word.

2. For mine\_\_ eyes have seen  
Thy Salvation,  
which Thou hast pre— pared\_\_ be— fore the face of all\_\_ people.



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



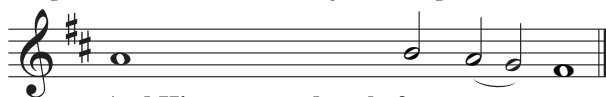
4. Glo— ry\_\_ be to the  
Father, and to\_\_ the\_\_ Son, and to the Ho— ly Ghost.



5. As it — was in the beginning, is now, and e-ver shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

## Post Communion Rite

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



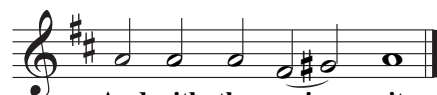
And His mercy endureth for — ev — er.

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



A — men.

*The Lord be with you.*



And with thy spir — rit.

*Bless we the Lord.*



Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

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



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

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

## Recessional Hymn ..... Joy to the World ..... Burgundy Hymn 387

## Postlude ..... Alleluia (from the Christmas Cantata, BWV. 142) ..... J. S. Bach

*We regret that this year due to concerns related to COVID-19 and our desire to limit socializing due to the virus, the brass ensemble will not be playing Christmas carols in the Great Hall following the service. Nevertheless, our Christmas joy is not dampened. Christ the Savior is born!*



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

# Readings for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

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

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

## The Epistle is Hebrews 1:1-12

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

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

Or again,

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

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire."

But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,

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

And,

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Hymns for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

## LSB379 O Come All Ye Faithful

John F. Wade

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

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

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

## LSB380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley

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

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

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

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

**Birgitte Katerine Boye.**

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

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

**Christian Keimann**

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

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

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

*The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

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

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

**Prudentius**

Printed in Service Bulletin

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

**Johann Rist**

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

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

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

## **LSB372 O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is**

**Paul Gerhardt**

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1. O Jesus Christ, Thy manger is  
My paradise at which my soul reclineth.  
For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word  
Made flesh for us; herein Thy grace forth shineth.
2. He whom the sea And wind obey  
Doth come to serve the sinner in great meekness.  
Thou, God's own Son, with us art one,  
Dost join us and our children in our weakness.
3. Thy light and grace Our guilt efface,  
Thy heav'nly riches all our loss retrieving.  
Immanuel, Thy birth doth quell  
The power of hell and Satan's bold deceiving.
4. Thou Christian heart, Whoe'er thou art,  
Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move thee!

For God's own Child, In mercy mild,  
Joins thee to Him; how greatly God must love thee!

5. Remember thou What glory now  
The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.  
The angel host can never boast  
Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.
6. The world may hold Her wealth and gold;  
But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true treasure.  
To Him hold fast Until at last  
A crown be thine and honor in full measure..

### **TLH104 Now Praise We Christ, the Holy One**

**Coelius Sedulius**

1. Now praise we Christ, the Holy One,  
The blessed virgin Mary's Son,  
Far as the glorious sun doth shine,  
E'en to the world's remote confine.
2. He who Himself all things did make  
A servant's form vouchsafed to take  
That He as man mankind might win  
And save His creatures from their sin.
- M 3. The grace and pow'r of God the Lord  
Upon the mother was outpoured;  
A virgin pure and undefiled  
In wondrous wise conceived a child.
- W 4. The noble mother bore a Son—  
For so did Gabriel's promise run—  
Whom John confessed and leaped with joy  
Ere yet the mother knew her Boy.
5. Upon a manger filled with hay  
In poverty content He lay;  
With milk was fed the Lord of all,  
Who feeds the ravens when they call.
6. The heavenly choirs rejoice and raise  
Their voice to God in songs of praise.  
To humble shepherds is proclaimed  
The Shepherd who the world hath framed.

- Δ 7. All honor unto Christ be paid,  
Pure Offspring of the favored maid,  
With Father and with Holy Ghost,  
Till time in endless time be lost.

### **LSB387 Joy to the World**

**Isaac Watts**

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

# *The Feast of the Nativity*

*December 25, 2020*

*9:00 AM*



*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."*

*John 1:1, 14*



In loving memory of our parents Carl & Myrtle Albersmeyer,  
Byrle & Joyce Greenamyer  
by Carl & Rosie Albersmeyer

In loving memory of Walter & Adeline Bengs and Bill Bengs  
by Clarann Bengs

In loving memory of our parents  
Paul & Esther Bieberich and David & Agnes Shutt  
by Don & Beth Bieberich

In loving memory of Donald Ganaway  
by Julie Ganaway

In loving memory of our wife, mother and Baba Shirely Goeglein:  
A blessed Merry Christmas to all!  
by Stan, Tim, Jenny, Tim & Paul Goeglein

Oh come, let us adore him  
by Joyce Gottschalk

In loving memory of Donald Ganaway  
by Beth Hollman

In honor of Our Family  
by Frank & Alanza Jackson

In loving memory of Anne Kostoff & Spiro Kostoff,  
Karen Kostoff Wood, Ralph Thomas, Shelley Thomas Sein  
by Karl Kostoff and Marty & Judy Thomas

To Honor the Christ Child  
by Rev. George & Lois Lange



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

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Manth  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Manth  
Mr. & Mrs. Ferdinand Bornkamp  
and Mrs. Clara Tegtmeier  
by Jennifer Manth

In loving memory of our fathers, Earl Klein and Darwin Punke  
“Glory to God in the highest and  
on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased” (Luke 2:14)  
by Pastor & Marge Punke

In loving memory of my parents Albert & Emma Dirks  
by Marilyn Shafter

In loving memory of our parents Earl & Helene Hayes  
and Roy & Coraine Voelz  
by Jim & Judy Voelz

To Our Infant Savior  
by Bill & Carolyn Wallschlaeger

With thanks to God for His grace for my parents who gave me life,  
and for my Savior who gives life eternal.  
“O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!”  
by André Woodard



# Celebrate

## The Birth Of Christ

### *Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*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.*

2313 Hanna St., Ft. Wayne, IN 46803  
744-1389 Fax 744-2421

#### **The Pastoral Ministry At Zion**

**Senior Pastor:**  
**Field Workers:**

**Rev. Douglas D. Punke, MDiv (341-5397))**  
**Peter Wagner, Erik Saunders**

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

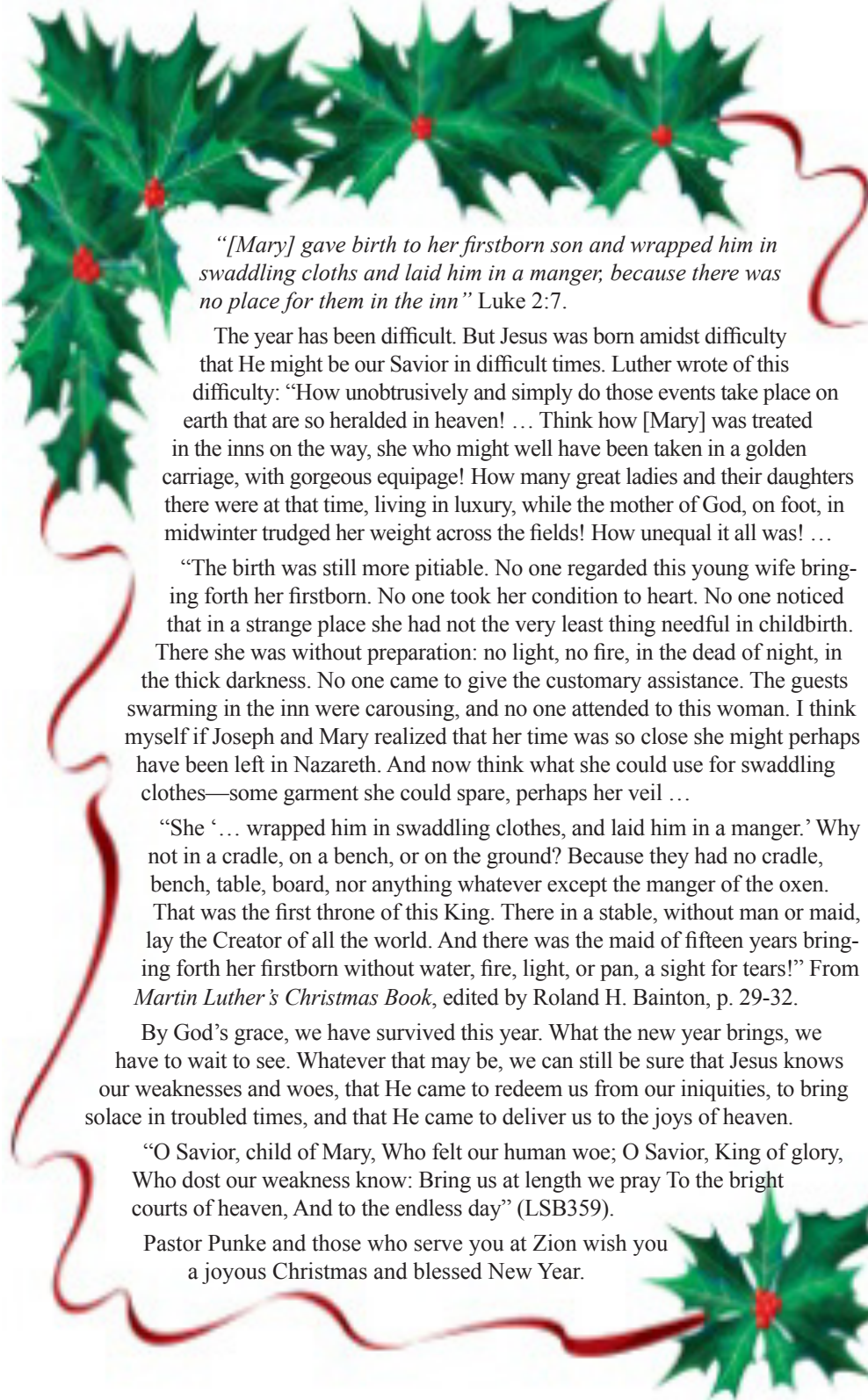
**Teachers:**

**Sheila Nehrenz, Principal**  
**Barry Chrzan, Gene Koch, Yvonne Schwanz, Danielle Ramsey, Merideth Tourney,**  
**Dawn Gill, Hannah Maresh, John Fink, Cathie Wakeland, Natalie Reynolds**

#### **The Support Staff**

**Organist and Director of Parish Music:**  
**Church Office Manager:**

**Michael Hollman, MM**  
**Melvia Culpher**



*"[Mary] gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" Luke 2:7.*

The year has been difficult. But Jesus was born amidst difficulty that He might be our Savior in difficult times. Luther wrote of this difficulty: "How unobtrusively and simply do those events take place on earth that are so heralded in heaven! ... Think how [Mary] was treated in the inns on the way, she who might well have been taken in a golden carriage, with gorgeous equipage! How many great ladies and their daughters there were at that time, living in luxury, while the mother of God, on foot, in midwinter trudged her weight across the fields! How unequal it all was! ...

"The birth was still more pitiable. No one regarded this young wife bringing forth her firstborn. No one took her condition to heart. No one noticed that in a strange place she had not the very least thing needful in childbirth. There she was without preparation: no light, no fire, in the dead of night, in the thick darkness. No one came to give the customary assistance. The guests swarming in the inn were carousing, and no one attended to this woman. I think myself if Joseph and Mary realized that her time was so close she might perhaps have been left in Nazareth. And now think what she could use for swaddling clothes—some garment she could spare, perhaps her veil ...


"She '... wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.' Why not in a cradle, on a bench, or on the ground? Because they had no cradle, bench, table, board, nor anything whatever except the manger of the oxen.

That was the first throne of this King. There in a stable, without man or maid, lay the Creator of all the world. And there was the maid of fifteen years bringing forth her firstborn without water, fire, light, or pan, a sight for tears!" From *Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, edited by Roland H. Bainton, p. 29-32.

By God's grace, we have survived this year. What the new year brings, we have to wait to see. Whatever that may be, we can still be sure that Jesus knows our weaknesses and woes, that He came to redeem us from our iniquities, to bring solace in troubled times, and that He came to deliver us to the joys of heaven.

"O Savior, child of Mary, Who felt our human woe; O Savior, King of glory, Who dost our weakness know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright courts of heaven, And to the endless day" (LSB359).

Pastor Punke and those who serve you at Zion wish you  
a joyous Christmas and blessed New Year.





# What Doctor Luther Says:

## *About the Person of Christ, Both God and Man*

The statement: “The Word became flesh” (John 1:14) permeates John’s entire Gospel. All he ever preaches is that Christ, the very and eternal Son of God, is also true man, born of the Virgin Mary. And he unites wonderfully the two natures in the one Person of Christ. Although it is not the work of the Son of man to save, to deliver from death, and to confer eternal life — a work that is not appropriate to man at all but to God alone — John declares that the Son of man was lifted up that all who believe in Him might have eternal life. Thus he does not separate the two natures here. He does not say: “Whoever believes in the Son of God has eternal life”; but “Whoever believes in the Son of man.” The two natures are united in the single Person of Christ, and this Person is both God and man. The two natures, deity and humanity, are found in one Person; and the attributes of each nature are imputed to the other, so that whoever believes in the Son of man believes not only in a human being but also in God. Otherwise the man Christ could not save anyone. ... But of this Person it is said that He can save. For the two natures are so united in His one person and essence that he who believes in the Son of man also believes in the Son of God. Whoever comes in touch with the man Christ also comes in touch with the Son of God. In fact, the whole Trinity is found in this Man.

*Luther’s Works, 22:346.*

# **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

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# **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.