

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

7:00 pm Thursday, December 24, 2020

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.

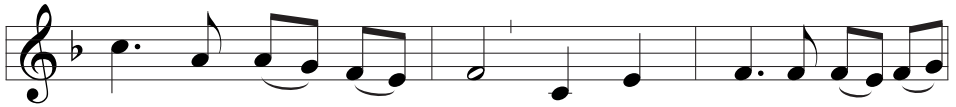
Invocation

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

Processional Hymn Once in Royal David's City



- [Solo] 1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty Stood a
[Women] 2. He came down to earth from hea - ven Who is
[Men] 3. And through all His won - drous child-hood He would



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a mo - ther laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
ho - nor and o - bey, Love and watch the low - ly



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed. Ma - ry
sta - ble, And his cra - dle was a stall; With the
maid - en In whose gen - tle arms He lay. Christ - ian



was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle Child.
poor and mean and lowly Lived our Sa - vior pure and •holy•.
child - ren, washed in Him, By His life stand pure from sin.

- [All] 4. Our High Priest who knew our childhood,
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

- [All] 5. But our eyes at last shall see him
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav'n above,
As he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

- [All] 6. Not in that poor lowly stable
With the oxen standing by,
But then at the Resurrection,
We shall see our Lord most high,
When like stars his children, crowned,
All in white, his praise shall sound!

Bidding Prayer, Lord’s Prayer

*Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Eve...
These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ Himself hath taught us:*

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with His grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all..... Amen

[Be Seated]

Carol Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



[All] 1. Hark! A thrill- ing voice is sound- ing, "Christ is near," we
[Men] 2. Star- tled at the sol- emn warn- ing Let the earth- bound
[Women] 3. See, the Lamb, so long ex- spect- ed, Comes with par- don
[All] 4. Of His grace we may be cer- tain, For this eve' He
[All • Rise] 5. Hon- or, glo- ry, might do- min- ion To the Fa- ther



hear it say! "Cast a- way the works of dark- ness,
soul a- rise; Christ, its sun, all sloth dis- pel- ling,
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor- row,
came to earth. Fore- taste of His fi- nal bless- ing,
and the Son With the ev- er- liv- ing Spir- it



all you child- ren of the day."
Shines up- on the morn- ing skies.
One and all, to be for- giv'n;
Giv- ing all men joy and mirth.
While e- ter- nal a- ges run!

[Be seated]

**+ The Word of God for the People of God +
Seven-fold Lessons and Carols for Christmas**

First Lesson Genesis 3:8–15

Yahweh announces in the Garden of Eden that the Seed of the Woman shall bruise the serpent’s head.

[Following the reading] *This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!*

Carol O Sing of Christ Burgundy Hymn 362

Second Lesson Genesis 22:15–18

Yahweh promises to Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

[Following the reading] *This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!*

Carol Sing Praise to the God of Israel Burgundy Hymn 936

Third Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by the prophet, Isaiah.

[Following the reading] *This is the Word of the Lord.* Thanks be to God!

Carol It Came Upon the Midnight Clear Burgundy Hymn 366

Fourth Lesson Micah 5:2-4

A ruler long-promised shall come out of Bethlehem.

[Following the reading] *This is the Word of the Lord.* Thanks be to God!

Carol Angels We Have Heard on High Burgundy Hymn 368

Fifth Lesson Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel announces the birth of a son to the Blessed Virgin Mary .

[Following the reading] *This is the Word of the Lord.* Thanks be to God!

Carol Now Praise We Christ



1. Now praise we Christ, the Ho - ly One,
2. He who Him - self all things did make
3. The grace and pow'r of God the Lord
4. The no - ble mo - ther bore a Son
5. Up - on a man - ger filled with hay



The bless - ed vir - gin Ma - ry's Son,
A ser - vant's form vouch - safed to take
Up - on the mo - ther was out - poured;
For so did Ga - briel's pro - mise run, -
In pov - er - ty con - tent He lay;



Far as the glo - rious sun doth shine,
That He as man man - kind might win
A vir - gin pur and un - de - filed
Whom John con - fessed and leaped with joy
With milk was fed the Lord of all,



E'en to the world's re - mote con - fine.
And save His crea - tures from their sin.
In won - drous wise con - ceived a child.
Ere yet the mo - ther knew her Boy.
Who feeds the ra - vens 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.

[Rise]

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.

[Be Seated]

Sixth Lesson **Luke 2:1-14**
Saint Luke proclaims the birth of Christ.

[Following the reading] *This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God!**

Carol **Away in a Manger** **Burgundy Hymn 365**

Seventh Lesson **Luke 2:15-20**
The shepherds go to visit the Child announced by angels.

[Following the reading] *This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God!**

Carol **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** **Burgundy Hymn 380**

Sermon

Organ Voluntary **What Child Is This** **arr. Richard Purvis**
[*The Organ Voluntary serves as the introduction to the following Carol.*]

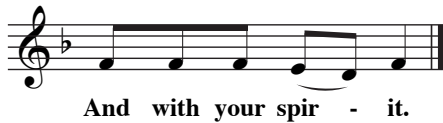
Carol **What Child Is This** **Burgundy Hymn 370**

+ The Prayers of the People of God Before the Throne of God +

[Stand]

Salutation

The Lord be with you.



And with your spir - it.

Collect for Christmas Eve: *O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth, we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



A - men.

Collect for Peace: *O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



A - men.

+ CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY +

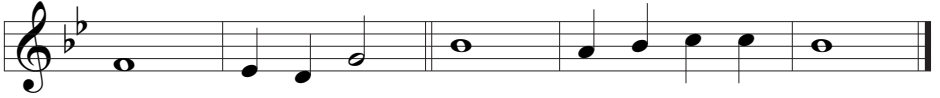
[The light for the candles is distributed during the Solo.]

[The lighted candle will remain upright. Please tip your unlighted candle to the flame for lighting.]

Solo Douce Nuit

Douce nuit, sainte nuit, Dans les cieux, l'astre luit. Le mystère annoncé s'accomplit, Cet enfant sur la paille endormi, C'est l'amour infini, C'est l'amour infini.

Proclamation of the Light of God



1. The people who walked in darkness have seen . . a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on | them has light ____ shined.
2. For unto us a . . child is born unto us a son is •given•.
3. In Him was life, and that life | was the light of men.
4. The light shines | in the •darkness•, but the darkness has not . . . ov- er come ____ it.
5. And the Word •became• flesh and dwelt among us, | full of grace and truth;
6. We have be— held His •glory•, glory as of the only Son | from the Fa- ____ ther.

Hymn Silent Night, Holy Night



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Your ho - ly face



Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild, Sleep in hea - ven - ly
Hea - v'nly hosts ____ sing, "Al - le - lu - ia!" Christ, the Sav - ior, is
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord at Your



peace, ____ Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! ____ Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth, ____ Je - sus, Lord at Your birth.

Benedicamus

Let us bless the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

Benediction

May He, who by His Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost ✠ be upon you and remain with you always.



A - men.

[The candles are extinguished]

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

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

Postlude From Heaven Above J. Hermann Schein

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!



THE DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Tomorrow, Christmas Day, at 9:00 a.m.

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Lessons for the Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

[The man and woman] heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

on them has light shone.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
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.

Fourth Lesson

Micah 5:2-4

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.
And he shall be their peace.

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she 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.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymns for the Eve of the Nativity of our Lord

LSB376 Once in Royal David's City

Cecil F. Alexander

Text: (sts. 2-4, 6) alt by Robert W. Schaibley; © 1986 Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Printed in Service Bulletin

Printed Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.

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Printed in Service Bulletin

LSB362 O Sing of Christ

Stephen P. Starke

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1. O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kindness of the Lord,
Eternal Word made flesh and bone So we could be restored.
Upon our frail humanity God's finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity, The icon of His grace.
2. What Adam lost, none could reclaim And Paradise was barred
Until the second Adam came To mend what sin had marred.
For when the time was full and right God sent His only Son;
He came to us as life and light And our redemption won.
3. He came to that which was His own, But He was not received;
Yet still through Him God's glory shone, And some His name believed.
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n above,
Born not of human ancestry, But born of God in love.
4. Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell Among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel, To bring this holy birth.
Though rich, You willingly became One with our poverty,
That we might share Your wealth and name For all eternity!

LSB936 Sing Praise to the God of Israel

Stephen P. Starke

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1. Sing praise to the God of Israel! Sing praise for His visitation!
Redeeming His people from their sin, Accomplishing their salvation,
Upraising a mighty horn within The house of His servant David.
2. God spoke by the prophets long ago, His promise an oath recalling—
To Abraham made in former years; Of vanquishing foes appalling,
That those He delivered from their fears Might gladly and truly serve Him.

3. You, child will go before the Lord As prophet, His way preparing;
To speak on behalf of God Most High, His counsel of truth declaring;
Rich mercy and grace for all whereby Iniquity is forgiven.
4. O, bright, rising Sun, now shine on us In need of illumination;
Come scatter the shades of sin and death And shatter their domination.
Be guiding our footsteps on the path In peace, in Your presence dawning!

LSB366 It Came upon a Midnight Clear

Edmund H. Sears

1. It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its babel sounds The blessed angels sing.
3. All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the angels sing.
4. For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth God’s ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.

LSB368 Angels We Have Heard on High

French

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
- Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song?

Refrain

3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

Printed in Service Bulletin

LSB365 Away in a Manger *Little Children's Book (sts. 1-2); Vineyard Songs (st. 3)*

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

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*

LSB370 What Child Is This**Juraj Tranovsky**

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

2. Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!
3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

LSB363 Silent Night

Franz Joseph Mohr

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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 Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2020

7:00 PM



*“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the
clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in
Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.” Micah 5:2*



In loving memory of our parents Carl & Myrtle Albersmeyer,
Byrle & Joyce Greenamyre
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

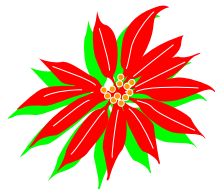
Oh come, let us adore him
by Joyce Gottschalk

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.*

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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

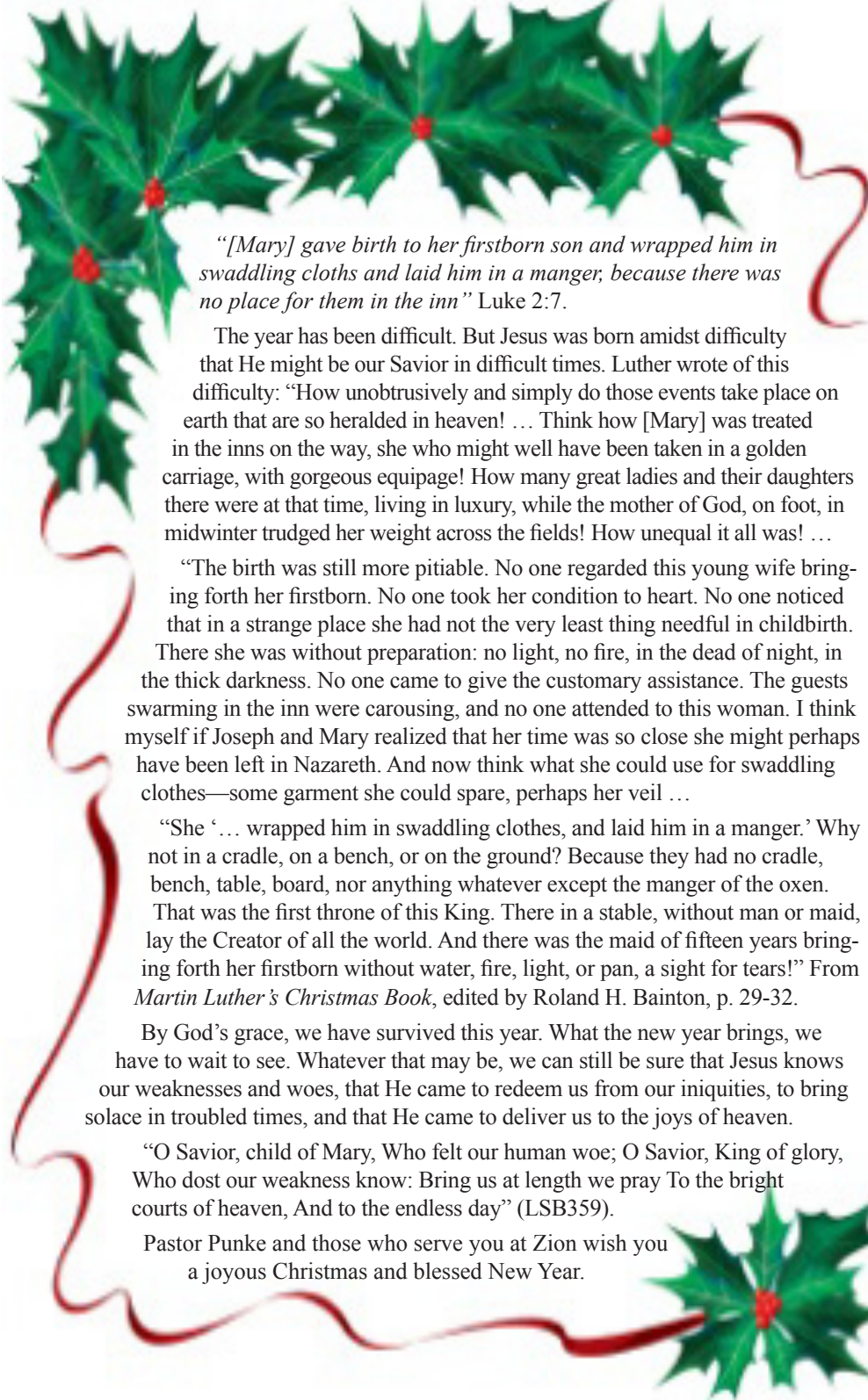
Teachers:

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.



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



**LUTHERAN
PUBLIC RADIO**

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.