Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

9:00 am Sunday, January 3, 2021

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.

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

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.

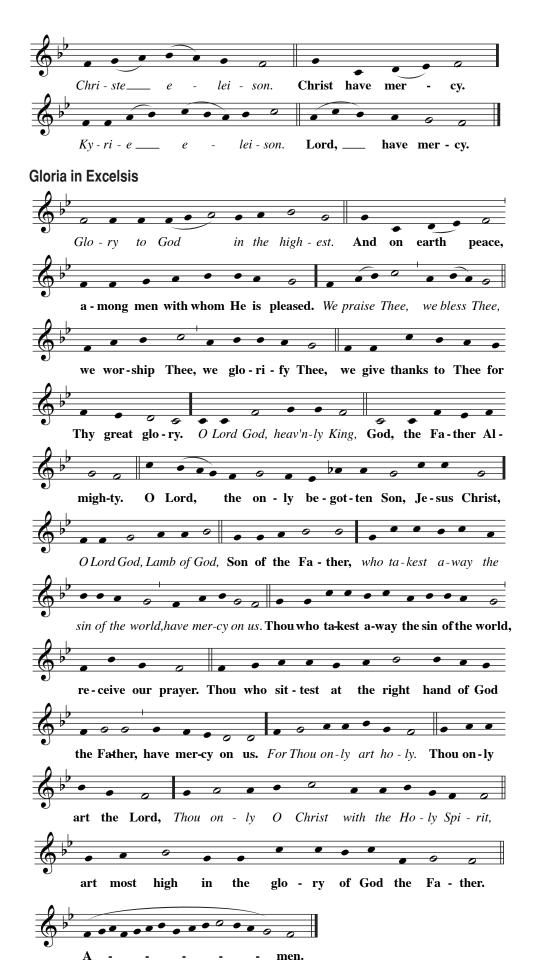
[Kneel]

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

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

Entrance Hymn As with Gladness Men of Old Burgundy Hymn 397





Salutation

The Lord be with you.



Collect for the Epiphany of our Lord: O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



[Be Seated]

+ The Office of the Word of God +

Old Testament Reading...... Isaiah 60:1-6 Epistle of the Day Ephesians 3:1-12

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

Sequence Hymn We Praise You, Jesus Burgundy Hymn 382 All sing stanza 1 & 2; Men alone sing stanza 3; Women alone sing stanza 4;

All sing stanzas 5, 6, and 7.]

Holy Gospel St. Matthew 2:1-12 [The Gospel is announced.]





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

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

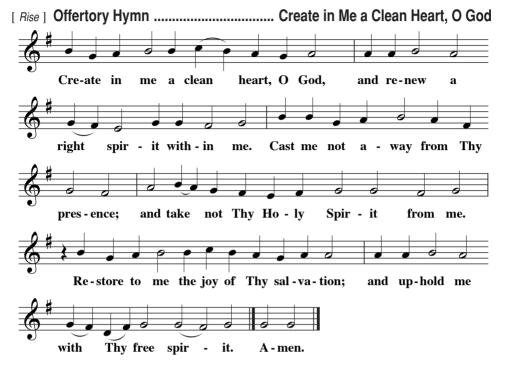
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission 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 O Morning Star Burgundy Hymn 395 [All sing stanzas 1 & 2; Men alone sing stanza 3; Women alone sing stanza 4; All sing stanzas 5 & 6.]

Sermon

[Rise] Prayer of the Church

[Be Seated] Offerings, Voluntary



+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

Preface

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

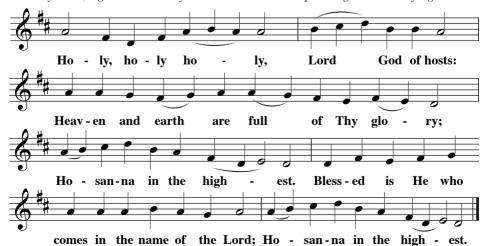


Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



Proper Preface for Epiphany, Sanctus

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





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



For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo ry



for - ev - er and ev A - men.

Words of Institution, Pax Domini

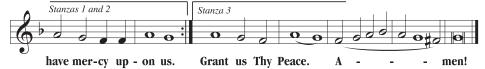
The peace of the Lord be with you always!



Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, that Christ, Thou 1-3. tak-est a-way the sin of the world,



[Be Seated]

Distribution Hymns Arise and Shine in Splendor.. Burgundy Hymn 396

A Great and Mighty Wonder Burgundy Hymn 383

The Star Proclaims Burgundy Hymn 399

[Rise for stanza 5.]

Eucharistic Benediction

The Body and Blood of your Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting! \(\frac{1}{2}\) 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.
- eyes have seen mine_ Thy Salvation,

fore the face of all__ people. which Thou hast pre- pared___ be---



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



Glo be to the — ry_

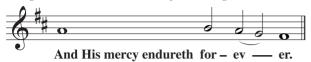
Father, and to__ __ the ___ Son, and to the Ho- ly Ghost.



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.



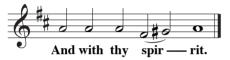
Prayer of Thanksgiving ... n

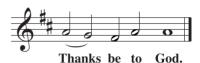
... now and forever.



The Lord be with you.

Bless we the Lord.





Benediction

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



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

Recessional Hymn Brightest and Best Burgundy Hymn 400

Postlude

Liturgical texts and musical settings: from Lutheran Service Book, copyright © 2006 by Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. License #000012381. Liturgical Setting: Matthäus Greitter, 1525; adapted by Wilhelm Loehe in 1844 for Congregations of the Lutheran Confession.

Readings for the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord

The Old Testament Reading is Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you,

and his glory will be seen upon you.

And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lift up your eyes all around, and see;

they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from afar,

and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and exult,

because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,

the young camels of Midian and Ephah;

all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,

and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

The Epistle is Ephesians 3:1-12

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

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

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

The Gospel is Matthew 2:1-12

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

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

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

Hymns for the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord

LSB397 As with Gladness Men of Old

William C. Dix

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

LSB382 We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth Text (sts. 1, 3, 5-7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; st. 2-7: Martin Luther

Text (sts. 2, 4): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

- We praise You, Jesus, at Your birth; Clothed in flesh You came to earth. The virgin bears a sinless boy And all the angels sing for joy. Alleluia!
- 2. Now in the manger we may see
 God's Son from eternity,
 The gift from God's eternal throne
 Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone. Alleluia!
- M 3. The virgin Mary's lullaby
 Calms the infant Lord Most High.
 Upon her lap content is He
 Who keeps the earth and sky and sea. Alleluia!

- W 4. The Light Eternal, breaking through,Made the world to gleam anew;His beams have pierced the core of night,He makes us children of the light. Alleluia!
 - 5. The very Son of God sublime Entered into earthly time To lead us from this world of cares To heaven's courts as blessed heirs. Alleluia!
 - 6. In poverty He came to earth
 Showing mercy by His birth;
 He makes us rich in heav'nly ways
 As we, like angels, sing His praise. Alleluia!
 - 7. All this for us our God has done Granting love through His own Son. Therefore, all Christendom, rejoice And sing His praise with endless voice. Alleluia!

LSB395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright Philipp Nicolai

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Service Book; Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

- O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
 You shine with God's own truth and light,
 Aglow with grace and mercy!
 Of Jacob's race, King David's Son,
 Our Lord and Master, You have won
 Our hearts to serve You only!
 Lowly, holy!
 Great and glorious, all victorious. Rich in blessing!
 Rule and might o'er all possessing!
- 2. Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,
 And deep within our hearts now shine;
 There light a flame undying!
 In Your one body let us be
 As living branches of a tree,
 Your life our lives supplying.
 Now, though daily
 Earth's deep sadness May perplex us And distress us,
 Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.

M 3. Lord, when You look on us in love.

At once there falls from God above

A ray of purest pleasure.

Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood

Refresh our souls with heav'nly food.

You are our dearest treasure!

Let Your mercy

Warm and cheer us! O draw near us! For You teach us

God's own love through You has reached us.

W 4. Almighty Father, in Your Son

You loved us, when not yet begun

Was this old earth's foundation!

Your Son has ransomed us in love

To live in Him here and above:

This is Your great salvation.

Alleluia!

Christ the living, to us giving Life forever,

Keeps us Yours and fails us never!

5. O let the harps break forth in sound!

Our joy be all with music crowned,

Our voices gladly blending!

For Christ goes with us all the way—

Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!

His love is never ending!

Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!

Great is He, the King of Glory!

6. What joy to know, when life is past,

The Lord we love is first and last,

The end and the beginning!

He will one day, oh, glorious grace,

Transport us to that happy place

Beyond all tears and sinning!

Amen! Amen!

Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness! We are yearning

For the day of Your returning!

LSB396 Arise and Shine in Splendor

Martin Opitz

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

- 1. Arise and shine in splendor, Let night to day surrender. Your light is drawing near. Above, the day is beaming, In matchless beauty gleaming; The glory of the Lord is here.
- 2. See earth in darkness lying, The heathen nations dying In hopeless gloom and night. To you the Lord of heaven—Your life, your hope—has given Great glory, honor, and delight.
- 3. The world's remotest races, Upon whose weary faces
 The sun looks from the sky, Shall run with zeal untiring,
 With joy Your Light desiring That breaks upon them from on high.
- 4. Lift up your eyes in wonder— See, nations gather yonder, From sin to be set free. The world has heard Your story; Her sons come to Your glory; Her daughters haste Your Light to see.
- 5. Your heart will leap for gladness When from the realms of sadness They come from near and far. Your eyes will wake from slumber As people without number Rejoice to see the Morning Star.

LSB383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

Germanus

1. A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure: The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure!

Refrain: Proclaim the Savior's birth:

"To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth!"

- 2. The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high, And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky. *Refrain*
- 3. While thus they sing your Monarch, Those bright angelic bands, Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands. *Refrain*
- 4. Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored, The infant born in Bethl'em, The Savior and the Lord. *Refrain*
- 5. All idols then shall perish And Satan's lying cease, And Christ shall raise His scepter, Decreeing endless peace. *Refrain*

LSB399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

Coelius Sedulius

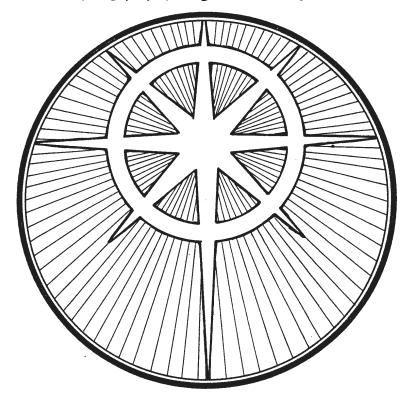
- The star proclaims the King is here; But, Herod, why this senseless fear? For He who offers heav'nly birth Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.
- The eastern sages saw from far And followed on His guiding star; And, led by light, to light they trod And by their gifts confessed their God.
- 3. Within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

LSB400 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning Reginald Heber

- Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid; Star of the East, the horizon adorning, Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
- Cold on His cradle the dew-drops are shining; Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall; Angels adore Him in slumber reclining, Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.
- 3. Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion, Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine, Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

- 4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation, Vainly with gifts would His favor secure, Richer by far is the heart's adoration; Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
- 5. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid; Star of the East, the horizon adorning, Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

The Kpiphany of our Lord



Zion Fbangelical 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)

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: Church Office Manager:

Teachers:

Michael Hollman, MM 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 Stephanie Brooks, Kristie Roberson, Marq Rogers, Jill Stokes, Nikki Wideman, Hadley Schumacher, Mark Hollman, Gloria Gonzalez, Willie Manning, Lucille Brandt, Donna Scott, Willodean Bates, Connie Meyer, Dick Hollman, Jerry Seifert, Maurice King, John Weber, Miranda Krider, Ron Rastl, and Marlow Hogan
- + For God's blessing on all godly marriages
- + For the gift of life and for length of days
- + 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 Epiphany of our Lord. Please complete an attendance/communion card, including the names of all children, and indicate if you are communing. Non-members, please read the back of the card.

CALENDAR

January 3, 2020 thru January 9, 2020				
SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church	
		NO Adult Bible Study		
		NO Junior Catechesis		
MON.				
TUES.	7:00 PM	Elders Council	Conference Room	
WED.	5:30 PM	Wednesday Divine Service	Church	
THURS		-		
FRI.				
SAT.	9:00 AM	Joint Council meeting	Bauer Hall	
	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church	
		January 10, 2020		
SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church	
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Study	Bauer Hall	
	10:30 AM	Junior Catechesis	Conference Room	

ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDUCATION HOUR: Dr. Voelz is gone today, so there will be no education hour, no Junior Catechesis. Dr. Voelz will be returning on January 10th, so be ready then to begin again.

POINSETTIAS Thank you to all who purchased poinsettias to adorn the chancel during the Christmas season. If you have not already done so, please take your poinsettia home with you today.

HELP WANTED: Altar Guild is looking for ladies to help out during the 2021 season. If interested, please contact DaVanna Seifert at 260-494-0803.

ZION COUNCILS please attend the joint council meeting January 9th at 9:00 AM as we get ready for the Semi-annual Congregation Assembly, on January 31, after Divine Service.

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

FYI: If you have a change of address, please let Melvia know, because giving statements will be ready on Sunday, January 10. Any remaining statements not picked up will be mailed out after January 25th.

COMMEMORATE BAPTISMS WITH A BUD VASE during a church service is an opportunity to remind us all of our own blessed event central to our spiritual life. Whether you remember the day or not, it is important to remember what God did for you by baptism and the words spoken at the baptismal font. This is a note to encourage those who are interested to write down the dates you want to do this, so Rosie can add it to the 2021 flower chart. The cost for a bud vase is \$5 for a carnation and \$7 for a rose. You can call Carolyn Wallschlaeger or Rosie Albersmeyer to order.

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: Allen County has returned to orange. Our metric is 2.5, so we can't let our guard down, even if we have made progress. Area hospital census is still too high for comfort. 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 to 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? Jesus' name tells us His objective: to save us — Matthew 1:21 "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Last week's verse was John 1:14.

LUTHERAN RADIO, 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.,

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

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

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	DAILY LECTIONARY	Evening Prayer
Matthew 2:1-12	The Epiphany of our Lord	Isaiah 60:1-6
Luke 2:41-52	Monday	Isaiah 63:15-65:7
Luke 3:1-20	Tuesday	Isaiah 65:8-25
Luke 3:21-38	Wednesday	Isaiah 66:1-20
Romans 1:1-17	Thursday	Ezekiel 1:1-14, 22-28
Romans 1:18-32	Friday	Ezekiel 2:1-3:11
Romans 2:1-16	Saturday	Ezekiel 3:12-28

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:

- [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!
- [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

First Sunday after Epiphany



What Doctor Luther Says:

About Knowing Christ Only through Revelation

"And they went into the house and found the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh" [Matt. 2:11].

These magi were carefully prevented from finding Christ by their own efforts or with the aid of men. They found him solely because of the prophet, written word, and the star that shone from heaven, in order that all natural knowledge and all human reason might be rejected and every enlightenment repudiated except that which comes through the Spirit and grace. For human reason boasts and claims arrogantly to teach truth and show the proper way, just as the blind men in the universities, of whom we spoke earlier, at present claim to be able to do. Here is determined for all time that Christ, who is the truth that brings salvation, will not permit himself to be taught or found through the teachings or aid of men. The Scriptures alone and the light of God must show him, as he says, Matthew 16[:17]: "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven." In this way Christ clearly condemns flesh and blood and revelation through them, that is, men and all human reason, which certainly cannot reveal Christ and therefore are surely nothing but darkness. ... Also, in John 6[:44] Christ says: "No one can come to me unless my Father draws him." In these words the presumption of our own reason and of all human reason, even as its ability to lead us aright, is condemned; all who follow it must of necessity go astray. God diligently and powerfully resists our natural pride everywhere; he wills us to recognize that we are blind and that we despair of our own light, giving only him our hand and letting him lead us on ways which reason can neither know nor follow.

Luther's Works, 52:194-5.

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.



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.