Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 am Sunday, December 5, 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.

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

Invocation

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

The Office of Confession of Sins and Absolution

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

[Kneel]

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

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.

Introit	
	0 0 0 0 0
[Antiphon]	The voice of one crying in the wil- der- ness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."
Verse 1:	Hear, O my people, while I ad- mon- ish you! O Israel, if you would but •listen• to me!
Verse 2:	<i>I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the</i> <i>land of</i> • <i>Egypt</i> •. <i>Open your mouth wide,</i> <i>and I will fill</i> <i>it.</i>
Verse 3:	But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not sub- mit to me.
Verse 4:	<i>Oh, that my people would</i> <i>•listen• to me,</i> <i>that Israel</i> <i>would walk in my</i> <i>ways</i> !
Gloria:	Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Ho- ly •Spirit•;
	As it was in the be- •ginning•, is now, and will be for- •ever.• A- men!
[Antiphon]	The voice of one crying in the wil- er- ness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."



Salutation

The Lord be with you.



Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that at His coming we may worship Him in purity; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Collect for Advent: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



[Be Seated]	+ The Office of the Word of	of God +
Old Testament I	Reading	Malachi 3:1-7b
	This is the word of the Lord	
Epistle of the D	ay	Philippians 1:2-11
	This is the word of the Lord	

[Rise] Alleluia Sequence

[Deacon] Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!





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 On Jordan's Bank Burgundy Hymn 344 [Rise for Stanza 5.]

Sermon

[Rise] Prayer of the Church

[Be Seated] Offerings

Voluntary





+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +



It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface for Advent, Sanctus

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





Words of Institution, Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always!



Agnus Dei



[Be Seated] Distribution Hymns Comfort, Comfort Burgundy Hymn 347 Once He Came in Blessing Burgundy Hymn 333

[Rise]

Eucharistic Benediction

The	Body and	Blood of your	· Lord Jesu	s Christ	strengthen	and p	preserve	you in	body a	and
soul	to life eve	rlasting! 🕂 De	part in Pe	ace!					Am	en!



Post Communion Rite

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







Benediction

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



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

Recessional Hymn Arise, O Christian People Burgundy Hymn 354

Postlude



Liturgical texts and musical settings: from Lutheran Service Book, copyright © 2006 by Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. License #000012381. Psalm Tone for Introit and Alleluia Verse: from The Anglican Chant Psalter, copyright © 1987 by The Church Hymnal Corporation; used by permission.

Readings for the Second Sunday in Advent

The Old Testament Reading is Malachi 3:1-7

"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord.

Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them."

The Epistle is Philippians 1:2-11

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

The Gospel is Luke 3:1-20

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall become straight,

and the rough places shall become level ways,

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.""

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

Hymns for the Second Sunday in Advent

LSB344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

- 1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh; Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2. Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God within, And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.
- 3. We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward; Without Thy grace we waste away Like flow'rs that wither and decay.
- 4. Lay on the sick Thy healing hand And make the fallen strong to stand; Show us the glory of Thy face Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.
- \triangle 5. All praise, eternal Son, to Thee Whose advent sets Thy people free. Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore.

LSB347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Johann Olearius

- "Comfort, comfort ye My people, Speak ye peace," thus saith our God; "Comfort those who sit in darkness, Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load. Speak ye to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her sins I cover And her warfare now is over."
- 2. Yea, her sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed; All that well deserved His anger He no more will see or heed. She hath suffered many a day, Now her griefs have passed away; God will change her pining sadness Into ever-springing gladness.
- Hark, the herald's voice is crying In the desert far and near, Calling sinners to repentance, Since the Kingdom now is here. O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way; Let the valleys rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
- Make ye straight what long was crooked; Make the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits His holy reign. For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad, And all flesh shall see the token That His Word is never broken.

LSB333 Once He Came in Blessing

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

 Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing; Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy; Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.

Johann Horn

Charles Coffin

- 2. Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given, Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.
- 3. Soon will come that hour___ When with mighty power Christ will come in splendor And will judgment render, With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.
- 4. Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us. Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving, Ever may confess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

LSB354 Arise, O Christian People

Valentin Thilo

- Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today; Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes you sins away. To us by grace alone The truth and light were given; The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.
- Prepare the way before Him; Prepare for Him the best. Cast out what would offend Him, This great, this heav'nly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising, The heights of pride abasing, His path, all even lay.
- 3. The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high; Beneath His feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie. The heart sincere and right, That heeds God's invitation And makes true preparation—It is the Lord's delight.
- 4. Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside, And help me to receive You This blessed Advent-tide. From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me; I'll sing Your praises gladly And forth Your glory show.





Zion Hvangelical Autheran 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 Field Worker: Rev. Douglas D. Punke, MDiv (341-5397) Erik Saunders, Patrick Jackson

The Teaching Staff At Lutheran South Unity

Teachers:

Sheila Nehrenz, Principal (744-0459) Gene Koch, Yvonne Schwantz, Barry Chrzan, Danielle Ramsey, Merideth Tourney, 3rd vacant John Fink, Hannah Maresh, Cathie Wakeland, Natalie Reynolds

The Support Staff

Organist and Director of Parish Music: Church Office Manager: 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 Erik Saunders and Patrick Jackson
- + For our nation; for our leaders, our military, including Trevor Manning and James Hall, and our health care workers
- + For our schools, especially Lutheran South Unity School, Concordia Lutheran High School, and Concordia Theological Seminary
- + For those who travel
- + For the aged and the homebound, including Jackie Schieferstein, Juanita Moore, Everett Beck, Helen Russell, Cheryl Silvers, and Doris Yerger
- + For those who are near death
- + For the ill, distressed, and those suffering affliction, including Hailey & Aaleyah Horn, Lucille Brandt, Susan Kaiser, Kathy Vlot, Willodean Bates, Kevin Leininger, Julie Ganaway, Paul Dolde, Walt Ostermeyer, Sherry Freeman, Jeff Springer, Gloria Gonzalez, Willie Manning, Dick Hollman, Louisa Porter, Louise Petrillo, Marianne Billings, Maurice King, Ron Rastl, Marlow Hogan, and Jenny Hobby
- + For God's blessing on all godly marriages, especially Carolyn & Bill Wallschlaeger
- + 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
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed, including Ralph "Tubby" Beck
- + 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 Divine Service for the Second Sunday in Advent. The Cross Bowl is given in celebration of the 57th wedding anniversary of Carolyn & Bill Wallschlaeger. The Altar Vases are given in loving memory of Ralph "Tubby" Beck birthday by Connie Houser and family. Please complete an attendance/communion card, including the names of all children, and indicate if you are communing. Non-members, please read the back of the card.

CALENDAR

December 5, 2021 thru December 11, 2021				
SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church	
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Study	Bauer Hall	
	10:30 AM	Junior Catechesis	Conference Room	
	10:30 AM	Sunday School (little ones)	Assoc Pastor's Office	
MON.	5:30 PM	CEA Special Board meeting	CLHS	
	6:30 PM	LSA Board meeting	LSUS	
TUES.	7:00 PM	Elders Council	Conference Room	
WED.	9:30 AM	Men of Zion	Conference Room	
	5:45 PM	Advent Supper	Bauer Hall	
	7:00 PM	Advent Prayer	Church	
THURS.			Church	
FRI.				
SAT.	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church	
		December 12, 2021		
SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church	
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Study	Bauer Hall	
	10:30 AM	Junior Catechesis	Conference Room	
	10:30 AM	Sunday School (little ones)	Asst Pastor's Office	

ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDUCATION HOUR: Dr. Voelz continues in the Gospel according to St. Mark in Bauer Hall. Junior Catechesis meets in the Conference Room. Sunday School for the little ones meets in the Associate Pastor's Office in the office area.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY will be held right after Divine service on Sunday, December 19th. One item of business to discuss: can we use monies from the sale of Voigt's Retreat for the elevator repair (it's working again!!) with the remainder going into the Endowment Fund?

ENVELOPES are in the Great Hall, ready for pick up. Please see Julie Ganaway for your new number and envelopes.

DO NOT forget about Advent midweek services at 7 PM with an Advent meal at 5:45 PM. Sem. Erik Saunders will preach this Wednesday.

THANK YOU: A hearty thank you to all who have contributed to the Seminary Food Co-Op. Thus far, we have collected 34 sacks for the students. There is still time to contribute food items and gift cards to help the students and their families enjoy their holiday season. We will collect these items until Wed., Dec. 15th. A brown paper bag and list are on the table for your convenience.

COVID-19 UPDATE AT ZION: Please read this update if you want information on COVID. I'm not making oral comments regarding COVID unless some protocol needs changing. The state website is tardy again. Nevertheless, I'm sure Allen County will remain in orange with the same two-metric score of 2.5. The county positivity rate is up to 14% today (and rising), and weekly cases per 100,000 residents of 503. The hospital census is now up to December 2020 levels. It's mainly for the sake of our hospitals and hospital workers that we want to keep the positivity rate low — so they're not overwhelmed The seven-day average daily deaths due to COVID is up to 3 today. It's still the Delta variant affecting us at 95.6%. No Omicron variant in sight. Fear not. The percentages of breakthrough infections, hospitalizations, and deaths continue to increase slowly. They're now 2.081%, 0.042%, and 0.023%, respectively. These numbers probably underestimate the number of breakthroughs, but even if that's so by half, the vaccines are still very effective, and there is little evidence of side effects. If you haven't done so, please consider being vaccinated and/or boosted. Visit <u>www.coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine</u>/ for your eligibility and to schedule your vaccine or booster.

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE This week's memory verse is a good reminder for Advent, for Jesus came to take on our sins: Isaiah 53:6 — "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." Last week's verse was 1 Corinthians 1:18.

CLHS seeks qualified candidates to serve as custodians. Multiple positions are available. Minimal experience is necessary. To view the full position description and responsibilities and to apply, please visit <u>www.clhscadets.com/employment</u>.

CLHS will also be holding their annual "Christmas at the Embassy" Concert, "Go Tell It: Jesus Chris is Born," on Sunday, December 12 at 4:00 p.m., at the historic Embassy Theatre. Tickets will be on sale beginning Nov. 12 at the Embassy Box Office and Ticketmaster. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. No reserved seats.

IF YOU NEED A TREE, consider Concordia Lutheran's Christmas tree sale, 2 - 8 PM weekdays, 9 AM to 8 PM Saturdays, and Noon to 8 PM Sundays.

CROSS CONNECTIONS: IT'S BACK!! The annual fundraiser held during the Army-Navy football game to provide free Biblical counseling. Join us at The Fraternal Order of Police Lodge, 2125 Olladale Dr. between 2:30 and 6:30 (Dec. 11) as we give back to those who have given so much of themselves to protect our freedoms, health, safety, and children. Admission is \$40 per person for an all-you-can-eat buffet provided by our friends at the Jefferson Pointe Chick-fil-A. Beverages must be purchased from the FOP lodge. Space is limited, so please RSVP by calling Cross Connections 260-373-0213, ext. 101 - or reserve your spot by purchasing your ticket online at <u>www.crossconnectionscounseling.com</u> on our donation page

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
Luke 3:1-20	Second Sunday in Advent	Malachi 3:1-7b
2 Peter 3:1-18	Monday	Isaiah 14:1-23
1 John 1:1-2:14	Tuesday	Isaiah 24:1-13
1 John 2:15-29	Wednesday	Isaiah 24:14–25:12
1 John 3:1-24	Thursday	Isaiah 26:1-19
1 John 4:1-21	Friday	Isaiah 26:20-27:13
1 John 5:1-21	Saturday	Isaiah 28:14-29

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 Church and her pastors; for the training of ministers of the Word; for missionaries of the Church; for the leaders of the Church, including <u>Matthew</u>, our synod president, and <u>Daniel</u>, our district president; for those who have not heard the Gospel; for the fruitful use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood; Lord, in Your mercy, <u>hear our prayer. Amen!</u>

hear our prayer. Amen!

[Daily]

The Our Father

TO PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Third Sunday in Advent Philippians 4:4-7



What Doctor Luther Says:

About John—the Transition from Law to Grace

The beginning of the eternal kingdom of Christ and the New Testament are coincident with the time of John the Baptist. And simultaneously the regime of Moses, of the prophets, the priests, and the Levites terminated. ...

When the divine majesty manifested Himself over [Jesus] during His Baptism in the Jordan, this showed that He had not only an inner and private call into the office with which He had been invested before the foundation of the world but also a public and a visible call. The eternal Father made Himself known on that occasion with the words: "This is My beloved Son" (Matt. 3:17). The Son was standing in the water, and the Holy Spirit descended in the physical form of a dove, alighting on Him. This was to usher in a great and remarkable transformation, not unlike the transformation of the old world into a new one through the Flood. For the Law, the Jewish priesthood, and the kingdom were to be abolished; and a new world was to be established through the Gospel. Henceforth not only the Jews but all the nations on the face of the earth were to be people of God and were to be known as such. John was to initiate this new reign. God gave him command and office to preach and to baptize, as Luke the Evangelist relates at length (Luke3:1-20): when the Word of the Lord came to John, the son of Zacharias, then the change came. The Old Testament ends and the New begins with John. He no longer preaches the Law of Moses; he proclaims the grace which is to come through Christ. And soon he began to baptize on the basis of this grace.

Luther's Works, 22:38-40.



Order Your Poinsettia Plants for Christmas 2021!



NAME
DEDICATION
8 1/2 inch Poinsettia \$38 each \$

____ 6 1/2 inch Poinsettia \$16 each \$ _____

____ 4 1/2 inch Poinsettia \$8.50 each \$_____

____ General Donation \$_____

____ Pick up plant after Christmas Day Service

____ Give plant to a shut-in

Return this form to the church office by **December 19th** to have your dedication printed in the bulletin.





YOU ARE INVITED TO: LUTHERAN SOUTH UNITY SCHOOL'S

Christmas Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH 7 P.M.

MOUNT CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH 1819 RESERVATION DRIVE-across from Miami Middle School



Join us as the students share the message of Christmas through symbols, scripture, and song.

The New Millennium Jazz Orchestra

Presents their

2021 Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 11th At 2:30 pm

Zion Lutheran Church 2313 South Hanna Street

A Free Will Offering Will Be Collected

Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life



lutheransforlife.org

Life Newsbytes

Good news ... Abortion clinics are closing at an "alarming rate," according to the Abortion Care Network (ACN), a membership organization of independent abortion providers. In the organization's recently published report most for 2021, ACN claims that 113 so-called "independent" abortion facilities (excluding Planned Parenthood facilities, hospitals, and physician offices) have closed since 2016. In addition, as of November of this year, ACN claims 20 independent abortion clinics (IACs) have been shuttered, an increase from the 14 closures in 2020. Since 2012, independent clinics in the U.S. have decreased by 30 percent, the ACN claimed. "When Abortion Care Network started tracking clinic closures in 2012, we had identified 510 independent abortion clinics open in the U.S. As of November 2021, ACN identified 358 open independent clinics," ACN wrote. "Since 2016, Abortion Care Network has identified 113 independent abortion clinic closures," they added. "Twenty-two independent clinics closed in 2016; 17 closed in 2017; 13 closed in 2018; 27 closed in 2019; 14 closed in 2020. As of November 2021, we have confirmed 20 independent clinic closures in 2021," the report also states. (Live Action News, 11/19/21; CLR LifeWire, 11/23/21)



Speaking up For Life

"This Christmas, let us continue to pray for mothers who are afraid and aren't sure where to turn when they discover they are unexpectedly pregnant. Let us pray that, like Mary, they may find the courage to bring life into the world." *Right to Life of Michigan*

"Will you be without loved ones this holiday season? Will you be struggling with illness or discouragement? Will you feel the pressure to make the holiday season great? You are not alone. You are not on your own. Read John 10, a great chapter about a Good Shepherd. Listen to His voice comfort and strengthen you." *Rev. John Boeder, Martin Luther College*

"The slaughter of the innocents continues in our time ... done not out of anger, but because the arrival of these little ones is deemed inconvenient or too expensive or sometimes simply because they are not the 'right' sex. We, like Rachel, weep over our lost children. But mourning their loss does not mean that we do not fight to end this assault on the sanctity of life. The holy birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, which has transformed the world for the good in so many ways, gives us hope that abortion, too, can be ended." *Steven Mosher, Population Research Institute*



For those who have had an abortion—a **Word of Hope**.

888.217.8679 • word-of-hope.org



LIFE WEEK 2022: GOD CHOSE YOU January 16 – 22, 2022

Build excitement For Life in your home, church, school, and community! FREE For Life resources & online events for each themed day!

Since 1973: 62,502,904 abortions in America

Source: www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/2021/01/roes-legacy-more-than-62-5-million-lives-lost