

Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 am Sunday, December 12, 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.

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

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

Invocation

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

The Office of Confession of Sins and Absolution

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

[*Kneel*]

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

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

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

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

Introit



[Antiphon] *Rejoice in the | Lord al- way || and again | I will say, Re- | joice.*

Verse 1: **Blessed is he whose help is the | God of •Jacob•, || whose hope is | in the Lord his | God,**

Verse 2: *who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that | is in them, || who | keeps__ faith for- | •ever•;*

Verse 3: **who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food | to the •hungry•. || The Lord | sets the pris- •oners• | free;**

Verse 4: *the Lord opens the eyes | of the blind. || The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord | loves the right-__ | eous.*

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] **Rejoice in the | Lord al- way || and again | I will say, Re- | joice.**

Kyrie



Salutation

The Lord be with you.



Collect for the Third Sunday in Advent: *Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father 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 God** +

Old Testament Reading..... Zephaniah 3:14-20
[After the reading] *This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

Epistle of the Day Philippians 4:4-7
[After the reading] *This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

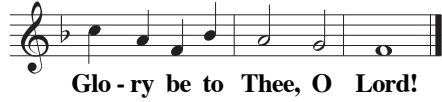
[Rise] **Alleluia Sequence**

[Deacon] *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia!*

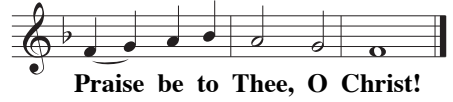


Holy Gospel St. Luke 7:18-28

[The Gospel is announced.]



[The Gospel is proclaimed.]



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 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Burgundy Hymn 345

[Rise for Stanza 5.]

Sermon

[Rise] **Prayer of the Church**

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

[After the final prayer]:..., one God, now and forever **Amen.**

[Be Seated] **Offerings, Voluntary**

[Rise] **Offertory Hymn Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God**





+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

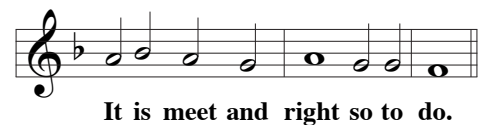
Preface

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

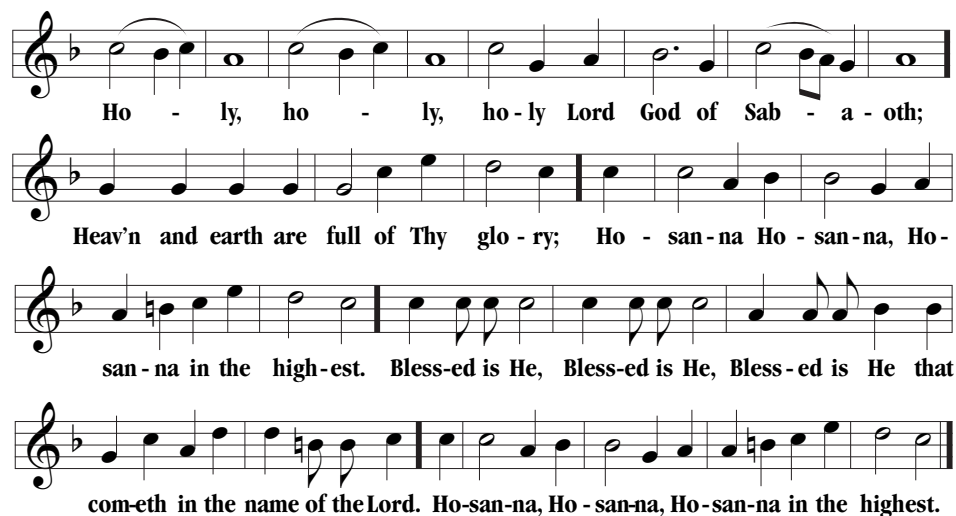


Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

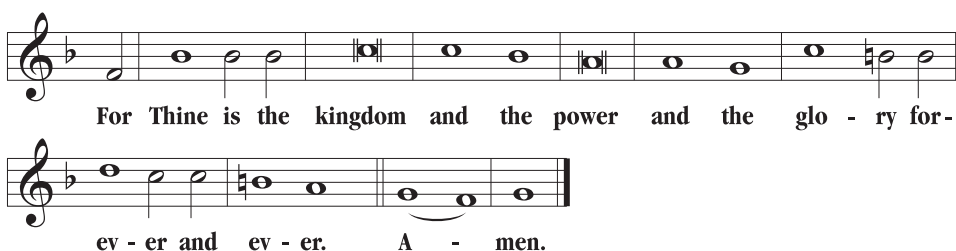


Proper Preface for Advent, Sanctus

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



[*Kneel*] **Lord's Prayer** [*Pastor chants:*] *Our Father who art ... but deliver us from evil.*




Words of Institution, Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

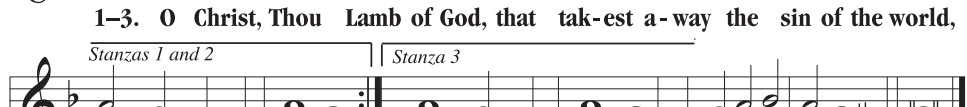


Agnus Dei



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

Stanzas 1 and 2 | *Stanza 3*



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

[Be Seated]


Distribution Hymns **Rejoice, Rejoice Believers** **Burgundy Hymn 515**
Lift Up Your Heads **Burgundy Hymn 341**

[Rise]

Eucharistic Benediction

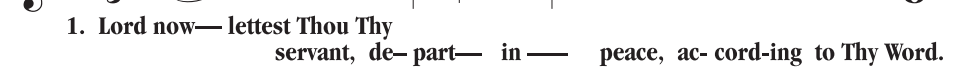
The Body and Blood of your Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting! ✠ Depart in Peace! Amen!

Post-Communion Canticle **The Nunc Dimittis**




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


2. For mine__ eyes have seen
Thy Salvation,
which Thou hast pre- pared__ be— fore the face of all__ people.



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



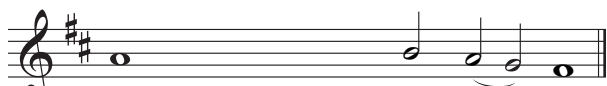
4. Glo— ry__ be to the
Father, and to__ the__ Son, and to the Ho- ly Ghost.



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

Post Communion Rite

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



And His mercy endureth for - ev — er.

Prayer of Thanksgiving ... now and forever.

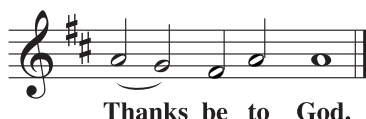


A — men.

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 ✠ 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 Hark the Glad Sound Burgundy Hymn 349

Postlude

Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly!

**Come join us at Zion Lutheran Church
as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.**

- Advent Services, Wednesdays at 7pm
- Christmas Eve Candelight Service of Lessons and Carols
Featuring Choir, Brass, and Organ
Prelude begins at 6:30pm • Service begins at 7pm
- Christmas Day Festival Service
Featuring Choir, Brass, and Organ
Prelude begins at 8:45am • Service begins at 9am



2313 South Hanna Street at Creighton

Telephone 744-1389

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 Third Sunday in Advent

The Old Testament Reading is Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.
The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.
I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.
Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

The Epistle is Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the

peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel is Luke 7:18-28

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

“‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

Hymns for the Third Sunday in Advent

LSB345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.

1. Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness, All you children of the day!"
 2. Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.
 3. See, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv'n;
 4. So, when next He comes in glory And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy And with words of love draw near.
- △ 5. Honor, glory, might, dominion to the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit While eternal ages run!

LSB515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Laurentius Laurenti

1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.
2. The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth as He approaches With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand.
3. The saints, who here in patience Their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory The Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him Their diadems of gold.
4. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption That sets Your people free!

LSB341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Georg Weissel

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.

2. A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.
3. How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.
4. Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!
5. Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

LSB349 Hark the Glad Sound

Philip Doddridge

1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.
2. He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.
3. He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name.

The Third Sunday in Advent



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

2313 Hanna Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46803 260-744-1389

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 Maresch, 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, Warren & Joan Messman, Maurice King, Ron Rastl, Marlow Hogan, and Jenny Hobby
- + 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
- + In remembrance of 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 Divine Service for the Third Sunday in Advent. The Cross Bowl and Altar Vases are given by Jennifer Manth in recognition of the past and present pastors and teachers of Zion. 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 12, 2021 thru December 18, 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.	5:00 PM	Call Committees	LSUS Campus
TUES.	9:30 AM	FW South Circuit	Shepherd's Hand
	7:00 PM	LSUS Christmas Service	Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
WED.	9:30 AM	Men of Zion	Conference Room
	5:45 PM	Advent Supper	Bauer Hall
	7:00 PM	Advent Evening Prayer	Church
THURS.	10:30 AM	Book of Concord	Conference Room
FRI.			
SAT.	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church

December 19, 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: paying for the repair of the speaker and elevator, and now the installation of new furnaces on the south side of the nave. The Congregational Assembly directed monies from the sale of Voigt's Retreat to the Endowment Fund, but we've not made the transfer yet. Can we tap them for these emergency repairs 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.

CHRISTMAS CHEER TO SHUT INS: Due to some of the COVID restriction at nursing homes we will not be doing fruit and cookies for the shut-ins. We all can, however, take time to send Christmas greetings to our brothers and sisters on the list in the bulletin. Thanks, Melvia.

REPORT ON IT'S TIME EFFORT: We reached our \$10,000 goal to CLHS, and so with the \$10,000 match from the anonymous donor, Pastor will soon deliver a \$20,000 check to Concordia High School. How wonderful! Thank you!

IT'S TIME ALSO: if you're receiving *The Lutheran Witness*, it is renewal time; or if you would like to start receiving it, please make your \$19 checks out to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. Deadline is December 31.

DO NOT forget about Advent midweek services at 7 PM with an Advent meal at 5:45 PM. Fieldworker Patrick Jackson is leading our prayers this Wednesday; Pastor Punke is preaching.

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. This week, however, I'm sure Allen County will turn red with the same two-metric score of 3.0. The county positivity rate is up to 16.6% today (it's still rising), and weekly cases per 100,000 residents of 682. 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 that they're not overwhelmed. The seven-day average daily deaths due to COVID is back down to 1 today. That's good. It's still the Delta variant affecting us at 96.6%. Still no Omicron variant in sight. Fear not. The percentages of breakthrough infections, hospitalizations, and deaths continue to increase slowly. They're now 2.264%, 0.045%, and 0.024%, 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 www.coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine/ for your eligibility and to schedule your vaccine or booster.

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE Part of Advent's message is repentance and bearing fruit in keeping with repentance. This week's memory verse fits that theme: Ephesians 5:1-2 — "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Last week's verse was Isaiah 53:6.

CLHS's annual "Christmas at the Embassy" Concert, "Go Tell It: Jesus Chris is Born," is this afternoon at 4:00 p.m., at the historic Embassy Theatre. Tickets may still be available at the Embassy Box Office and Ticketmaster. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. No reserved seats.

For the family of God's Priestly People at Zion

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

Morning Prayer

Luke 7:18-28

Revelation 1:1-20

Revelation 2:1-29

Revelation 3:1-22

Revelation 4:1-11

Revelation 5:1-14

Revelation 6:1-17

DAILY LECTIONARY

Third Sunday in Advent

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Evening Prayer

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 29:15-30:14

Isaiah 30:15-26

Isaiah 30:27-31:9

Isaiah 32:1-20

Isaiah 33:1-24

Isaiah 34:1-2, 8-35:10

THE DAILY PETITIONS OF THE CHURCH

[Daily] **O Lord, have mercy upon us. O Christ, have mercy upon us. O Lord, have mercy upon us.** Let us pray:

[S] For the joy of the Resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; for diligent preaching and hearing of God's Word of Law and Gospel; for our pastors; for the teachers and students of our Sunday School; for our Bible Class leaders and their students; for our catechumens; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[M] For workers; for the unemployed; for farmers; for seasonable weather; for businesses small and large; for our leaders, federal, state and local; for the economic welfare of the nations on earth; for peace in our world; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[T] For the tempted; for the addicted and despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; for the lonely; for the sick, the hospitalized, and the needy; Lord, in Your 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 Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

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

[Daily]

The Our Father

TO PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Micah 5:2-5a

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-56



What Doctor Luther Says:

About John's Work of Preparing for Jesus' Coming

1. *Behold, I will send My messenger.* ... Here the Lord promises one who would give his hearers a sound and secure mind in all their tribulations. He says, "I will send you the genuine Malachi [my angel], that is, a messenger, who is John the Baptist."

[To prepare] My way. These are Christ's words, even though He Himself quotes them differently. A prince who is about to enter a city sends messengers ahead to prepare for him whatever is necessary as well as others to clear a path for him lest he be hindered by thronging people. הַפֶּקֶד means to empty, to make room, or even to provide a reputation. John, therefore, will see to it that the appearance of the way would look beautiful and unencumbered. After all, there are many things which hinder the "way," that is, the work of the Lord. Those things must be removed, especially human reason, self-love, one's own wisdom, one's own righteousness, etc. That preparing, then, is to make humble and to arrange things so as to allow God to work in one. You see, the way of the Lord is where He Himself walks. The prophet mentions nothing about our ways except that we should abstain from them. After all, our works lie in His way, so that Christ cannot work or enter. John told all the Jews and those doing very fine works "Repent!" as if he were speaking to sinners. He is saying: "Let the Lord enter. He Himself will justify you and will do the will of the Lord. Neither you nor your works will do this." This is what it means to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, etc. Those who believe, then, are those who are prepared to meet the Lord and to receive Him. In them He is able to work, that is, in those who have been brought back to a knowledge of their sins.

Luther's Works, 18:408-9.



Order Your Poinsettia Plants for Christmas 2021!

PLEASE PRINT



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

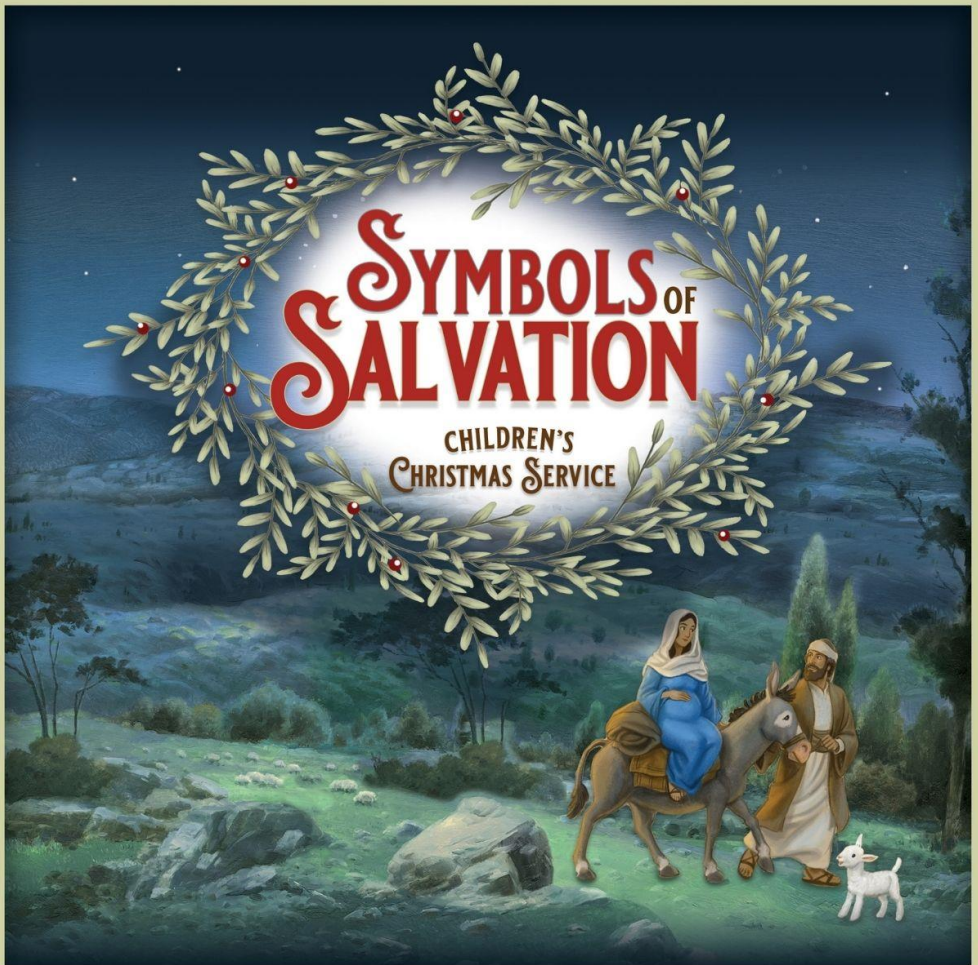
Return this form to the church office by **December 19th**
to have your dedication
printed in the bulletin.



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.

LSUS NOTES

Praying for You!

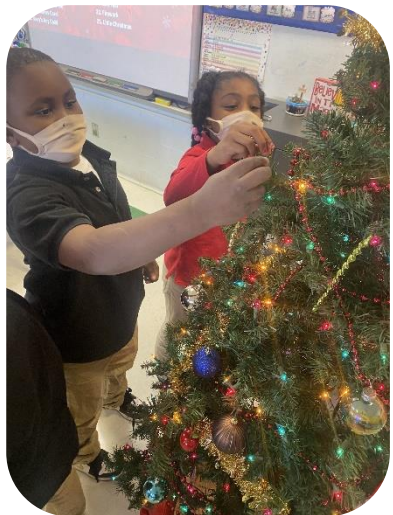
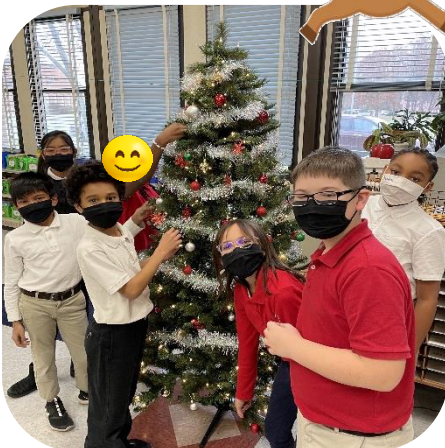


Please pray for these students/staff:

I'Mani Lawson-Reyes	Gaydoh Soe
Sirah Ochoa	Lay Ku
Hailey Horn	Martin Herrera
Jaylon Nettles	Marcus Herrera
Mia Antoine	

Deck the Halls!

LSUS is looking very cheery this December as the students get involved in decorating their own classroom.



Meet The Staff



The fourth grade teacher at LSUS is **Mrs. Meredith Tourney**. She attended LSUS from kindergarten through grade eight. Actually, when she attended, LSUS was known as Unity Lutheran School.

After attending grade school at Unity, Mrs. Tourney attended Concordia High School. She received her Bachelor's degree in elementary education with a reading endorsement from Purdue University.

For ten years Mrs. Tourney has been teaching. She has been at LSUS for the last two and a half years teaching third and fourth grade. Before this she taught at both Deer Ridge Elementary School (SWACS) and Westfield Schools.

She has been married to her husband Joe for four years. They attend church at St. Michael Lutheran Church. She loves gardening on the three acres that they own. Also, she loves to listen to is Christian music and country music. She is a member of the LSSI (Lutheran Social Services) board. In her spare time, she loves to exercise, hike and travel.

Encouragement Found in Scriptures:

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.— Isaiah 9:6

December
2021



lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

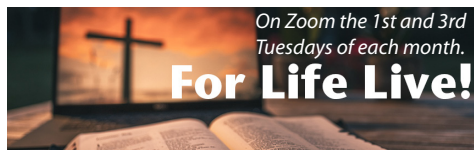
Good news ... Abortion clinics are closing at an “alarming rate,” according to the Abortion Care Network (ACN), a membership organization of independent abortion providers. In the organization’s most recently published report for 2021, ACN claims that 113 so-called “independent” abortion facilities (excluding 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*



On Zoom the 1st and 3rd
Tuesdays of each month.

For Life Live!



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