Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

9:00 am Sunday, January 23, 2022

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!				
[Rise] Invocation				
In the name of the Father and of the \(\frac{1}{2} \) 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				
O almighty God, merciful Father,				
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				

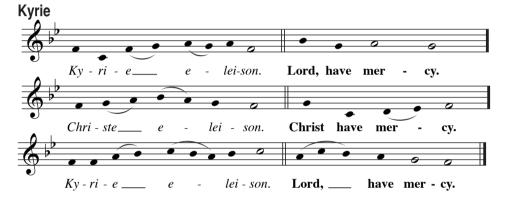
The Congregation rises, turns towards the entrance of the nave, and faces the Cross of Christ, the reminder of Christ's promise to come and dwell among His people as they are gathered in His name.

Introit of the Day

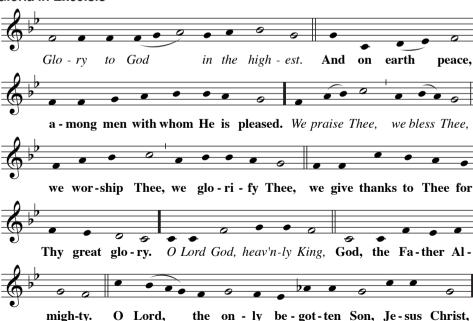


[Antiphon] But you, O LORD, are enthroned for- | ev-__er; || you are remembered through- | out all gen-er- | •ations•. || You will arise and have pity on | Zi-__ on; || it is the time to favor her; the ap- | point-ed time has | come.

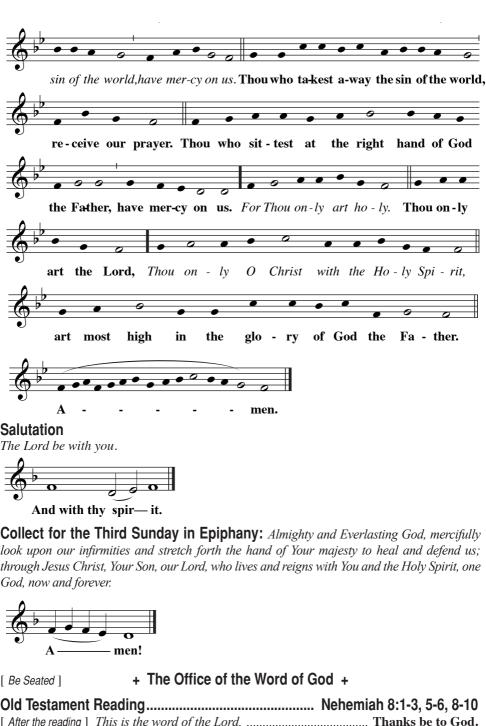
- Verse 1: Let this be recorded for a gener-| •ation• to come, || so that a people yet to be created | may__ praise the | LORD: || that he looked down from his | ho-ly height; || to set free those | who were doomed to | die,
- Verse 2: that they may declare in Zion the name | of the LORD, || and in Je- | ru- sa- lem his | praise, || when people | •gather• to- •gether•, || and kingdoms, to | wor-__ ship the | LORD.
- 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] But you, O LORD, are enthroned for- | ev-__ er; || you are remembered through- | out all gen- er- | •ations•. || You will arise and have pity on | Zi-_ on; || it is the time to favor her; the ap- | point- ed time has | come.



Gloria in Excelsis



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, who ta-kest a-way the



Epistle of the Day 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

[Rise] Alleluia Sequence

[Deacon] Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor." Alleluia!



Holy Gospel St. Luke 4:16-30



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;

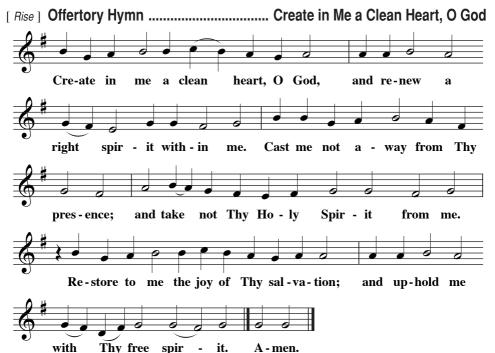
And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sits at the right hand of the Father; And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom will 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 \pm of the world to come. Amen!

[Be Seated] Hymn of the Day O Christ, our True Burgundy Hymn 839 Sermon

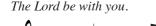
[Rise] Prayer of the Church

[Be Seated] Offerings, Voluntary



+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

Preface



And with thy spir - it.



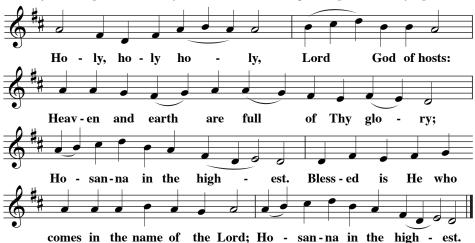
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Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



Proper Preface for Epiphany, Sanctus

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



[Kneel] Lord's Prayer

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



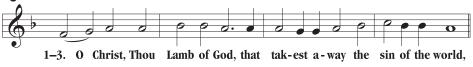


Words of Institution, Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always!



Agnus Dei





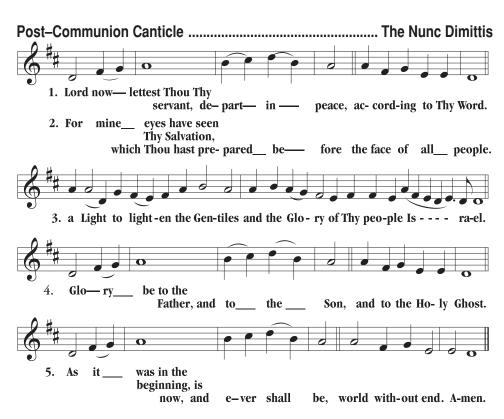
[Be Seated]

Distribution Hymns Hail to the Lord's Anointed ... Burgundy Hymn 398

From God the Father...... Burgundy Hymn 401

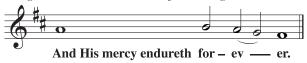
[All sing stanzas 1 & 2; Women alone sing stanza 3; Men alone sing stanza 4; All sing stanzas 5 & 6; Rise for stanza 6.]

[Rise] Eucharistic Benediction



Post Communion Rite

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

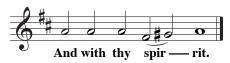


Prayer of Thanksgiving ... now and forever.



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 O God of God Burgundy Hymn 810

Postlude

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Readings for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany

The Old Testament Reading is Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. ...

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ...

They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

The Epistle is 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the

body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

The Gospel is Luke 4:16-30

[Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. But passing through their midst, he went away.

Hymns for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany

LSB839 O Christ, our True and Only Light

Johann Heermann

- O Christ, our true and only light, Enlighten those who sit in night; Let those afar now hear Your voice And in Your fold with us rejoice.
- 2. Fill with the radiance of Your grace
 The souls now lost in error's maze;
 Enlighten those whose inmost minds
 Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.
- 3. O gently call those gone astray
 That they may find the saving way!
 Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed
 In you find peace and heav'nly rest.
- 4. Shine on the darkened and the cold; Recall the wand'rers to Your fold. Unite all those who walk apart; Confirm the weak and doubting heart,
- 5. That they with us may evermore Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore And endless praise to You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

LSB398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

James Montgomery

- 1. Hail to the Lord's anointed, Great David's greater Son! Hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun! He comes to break oppression, To set the captive free, To take away transgression And rule in equity.
- He comes with rescue speedy To those who suffer wrong,
 To help the poor and needy And bid the weak be strong;
 To give them songs for sighing, Their darkness turn to light,
 Whose souls, condemned and dying, Were precious in His sight.
- 3. He shall come down like showers Upon the fruitful earth; Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, Spring in His path to birth. Before Him on the mountains Shall peace, the herald, go; And righteousness in fountains From hill to valley flow.

- 4. Kings shall fall down before Him And gold and incense bring; All nations shall adore Him, His praise all people sing. To Him shall prayer unceasing And daily vows ascend; His kingdom still increasing, A kingdom without end.
- 5. O'er ev'ry foe victorious, He on His throne shall rest, From age to age more glorious, All blessing and all-blest. The tide of time shall never His covenant remove; His name shall stand forever That name to us is Love.

LSB401 From God the Father, Virgin-Born Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.

- 1. From God the Father, virgin-born To us the only Son came down; By death the font to consecrate, The faithful to regenerate.
- 2. Beginning from His home on high, In human flesh He came to die; Creation by His death restored, And shed new joys of life abroad.
- W 3. Glide on, O glorious Sun, and bring The gift of healing on Your wing; To eve'ry dull and clouded sense The clearness of Your light dispense.
- M 4. Abide with us, O Lord, we pray; The gloom of darkness chase away; Your work of healing, Lord, begin, And take away the stain of sin.
 - 5. Lord, once You came to earth's domain And, we believe, shall come again; Be with us on the battlefield, From ev'ry harm Your people shield.
- △6. To You, O Lord, all glory be For this Your blest epiphany; To God, whom all His hosts adore, And Holy Spirit evermore.

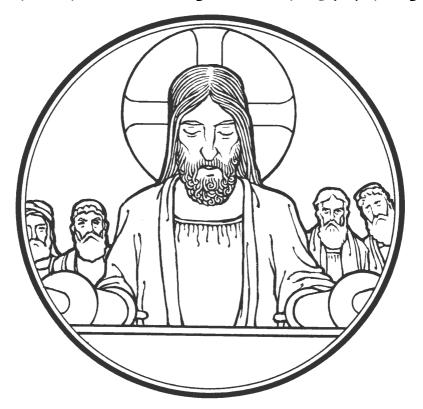
LSB810 O God of God, O Light of Light

John Julian

- 1. O God of God, O Light of Light,
 O Prince of Peace and King of kings:
 To You in heaven's glory bright
 The song of praise forever rings.
 To Him who sits upon the throne,
 The Lamb once slain but raised again,
 Be all the glory He has won,
 All thanks and praise! Amen, amen.
- For deep in the prophets' sacred page, And grand in poets' winged word, Slowly in type, from age to age The nations saw their coming Lord; Till through the deep Judean night

- Rang out the song, "Good will to men!" Sung once by first-born sons of light, It echoes now, "Good will!" Amen.
- 3. That life of truth, those deeds of love,
 That death so steeped in hate and scorn—
 These all are past, and now above
 He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.
 Lift up your heads, O mighty gates!
 So sang that host beyond our ken.
 Lift up your heads, your King awaits.
 We lift them up. Amen, amen.
- 4. Then raise to Christ a mighty song,
 And shout His name, His mercies tell!
 Sing, heav'nly host, your praise prolong,
 And all on earth, your anthem swell!
 All hail, O Lamb for sinners slain!
 Forever let the song ascend!
 Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign,
 All glory, pow'r! Amen, amen.

The Third Sunday after the Kpiphany



Zion Kvangelical 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 Worker: Erik Saunders, Patrick Jackson

The Teaching Staff At Lutheran South Unity

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:

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 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 (accreditation and call committees), 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, Cheryl Silvers, and Doris Yerger
- + For those who are near death, especially Helen Russell,
- + For the ill, distressed, and those suffering affliction, including Hailey & Aaleyah Horn, Tyler Muehl, LCMS First VP Peter Lange, Bill Weinrich, Willie Manning, Jeff Springer, Lucille Brandt, Susan Kaiser, Kathy Vlot, Willodean Bates, Julie Ganaway, Walt Ostermeyer, Paul Dolde, Sherry Freeman, Gloria Gonzalez, Dick Hollman, Mark Russell, Louisa Porter, Louise Petrillo, Marianne Billings, 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

10:30 AM

- + For the gift of rebirth by water and the Spirit, including Lillian Albersmeyer
- + For those who mourn the death of loved ones, especially Rachel & Tyler Muehl
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed especially Carl & Myrtle Albersmeyer and Byrle & Joyce Greenamyer
- + 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 after the Epiphany. The Cross Bowl is given in loving memory of Carl & Myrtle Albersmeyer and Bryle & Joyce Greenamyer. By Carl & Rosie Albersmeyer and family. The Baptismal Bud Vase is for the gift of life and faith for Lillian Albersmeyer on the occasion of her 19th birthday by Carl & Rosie Albersmeyer. 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 22, 2021 thru January 29, 2021

January 23, 2021 thru January 29, 2021			
SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class	Bauer Hall
	10:30 AM	Sunday School (little ones)	Assoc. Pastor's Office
	10:30 AM	Junior Catechesis	Conference Room
MON.	5:30 PM	CEA Board Meeting	
TUES.	12 NOON	Administrative Council	Conference Room
WED.	9:30 AM	Men of Zion	Conference Room
	5:30PM	Wednesday Divine Service	Church
THURS.		•	
FRI.			
SAT.	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church
		January 30, 2021	
SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church

Bauer Hall

Congregational Assembly

ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDUCATION HOUR: Adult Bible Class meets in Bauer Hall with Dr. Voelz teaching. Next Sunday is the Congregational Assembly, so no class. And the following Sunday, Art Litke will teach again as Dr. Voelz is out of town. Sunday School meets in the Assoc. Pastor's Office: Junior Catechesis meets in the Conference Room.

ZION'S FIRST SEMIANNUAL CONGREFGATIONAL ASSEMBLY of 2022 is scheduled for Sunday, January 30, in Bauer Hall after the Divine Service. Mostly reports, Deadlines for District Convention will soon be upon us: Overtures—Feb. 24; Lay Delegate Report—March 5; Nominations – April 22, Convention is June 23 & 24.

FLOWER CHART FOR 2022 is up and ready; so please feel free to stop and sign up for flowers. You may also talk to Rosie Albersmeyer or Carolyn Wallschlaeger.

ENVELOPES have been hidden away, but you may still pick up your envelopes. Please see Julie Ganaway for your envelopes.

GIVING STATEMENTS that have not been picked up will be mailed out on the 25th. Check with Julie Ganaway if you haven't gotten you statements yet.

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE At church, at home, at work, etc., let us heed Hebrews 13:15 — "Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name." Last week's verse was 1 Peter 1:3.

COME AND SEE "JOSEPH" AT CLHS Join CLHS for "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" on February 25 & 26 at 7:30 p.m. and February 27 at 2:00 p.m. One of the most enduring shows of all time, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" is the Biblical story of Joseph, his father Jacob, eleven brothers, and the coat of many colors. Preorder tickets at www.clhscadets.com/apps/pages/theatre-productions.

CLHS also seeks a qualified candidate to serve as the Head Football Coach. Experience coaching in an education-based athletic program is required, and a certified teacher preferred. To view the position description and responsibilities and to apply, please visit www.clhscadets.com/employment.

NORTHEAST INDIANA MARCH FOR LIFE Join Right to Life of Northeast Indiana this Saturday, January 29th, 2022, along with thousands of pro-life advocates from our region to show that you support life from conception to natural death. The March for Life is an annual pro-life rally held near the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. U.S. Congressman Jim Banks, IN-3 will keynote this event. The Rally will take place at University of St. Francis Performing Arts Center, 431 W Berry St, Fort Wayne, IN, at 12 pm, doors open at 11:30 am. The March will start after the Rally. Learn more at www.ichooselife.org/march or call 260-471-1849.

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. We're still red in Allen County this week and still pretty hot. Nevertheless, I see a bit of a slowing of the spread of the virus happening. The Seven-Day Positivity Rate is still high at about 32%. The Weekly Cases per 100,000 Residents is still high at 1,800, but that's down a bit. The Omicron surge is not over, but it may be slowing. As this surge has happened, District 3 hospitalizations, ICU bed usage, and deaths due to COVID have not likewise surged. That's good news. Omicron is very contagious but not so deadly. Omicron does seem to slip by the vaccine protections more easily, and the breakthrough cases reflect that. Breakthrough infections, hospitalizations, and deaths are now 4.364%, 0.069%, and 0.037%, respectively. I still encourage vaccinations if you haven't been and can. Visit www.coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine/ for your eligibility and to schedule your vaccine or booster.

LISTEN TO LUTHERAN PROGRAMMING You can listen to Issues, Etc. live or ondemand at www.issuesetc.org or on the LPR mobile app. Sign up for their podcasts to listen when you want. Similarly, you can listen to KFUO at KFUO.org. Programs also are archived at KFUO.org for 24/7 on-demand listening, streaming or downloading their podcast.

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 4:16-30	Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Romans 12:14-13:14	Monday	Joel 3:1-21
Romans 14:1-23	Tuesday	Zechariah 1:1-21
Romans 15:1-13	Wednesday	Zechariah 2:1–3:10
Romans 15:14-33	Thursday	Zechariah 4:1-5:11
Romans 16:17-27	Friday	Zechariah 6:1-7:14
2 Timothy 1:1-18	Saturday	Zechariah 8:1-23

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 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

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



What Doctor Luther Says:

About Listening to a Weak and Afflicted Apostle

Human reason is easily offended by the ugly shape of the cross. It regards as insane those who try to comfort, help, and care for others, or who boast about their great riches, righteousness, power, and victory over sin, death, and every evil, and about their happiness, salvation, and eternal life — when meanwhile these same people are needy, weak, sorrowful, and despised, and are mistreated and killed as enemies of the state and of religion, not only by the rabble but by people of quality in both the political and the ecclesiastical realm. Whoever kills them thinks he is offering service to God (John 16:2). And so when they promise eternal blessings to others while they themselves are perishing so miserably in the sight of the world, they are ridiculed and forced to hear (Luke 4:23): "Physician, heal yourself!" This is the source of the complaints throughout the Psalms (Ps. 22:6,11): "I am a worm, and no man. Be not far from me; for trouble is near, and there is none to help."

Therefore it is really a magnificent commendation of the Galatians that they were not offended by Paul's weakness and trial but received him as an angel of God, indeed as Christ Jesus. It is, of course, a great and outstanding virtue to listen to an apostle. But it is a greater virtue, and truly a heroic one, to listen to one who was as miserable, weak, and contemptible as Paul here admits that he was among the Galatians, and to receive such a one as an angel from heaven or to hold him in such esteem as though he were Christ Jesus, without being offended by his great weakness and his cross.

Luther's Works, 26:421.

God Chose You ... and that changes everything!





God Chose You ...

Choice is a divine gift to humankind.

That means choice isn't a right.

And death isn't a decision.

It's everyone's inevitable destiny.

You can't "choice" your way out of death.

We won't keep our own deaths from happening by making anyone else's death happen.

Thanks be to God Jesus displaces freedom **of** choice and replaces it with freedom **from** choice.

The choice we need is not a choice we make but the choice we are.

What saves, what gives life, is not choosing but being chosen.

The choice we can't make, the one that matters most, is the one we don't have to.

God chose you, and that changes everything.

No matter who's left you alone, the Almighty Maker chose you. No matter what makes you afraid, the Lord God chose you. No matter why you feel ashamed, the Heavenly Father chose you.

God chose you into existence. Your body proves it. You are a privilege. God chose you into forgiveness. Jesus' body proclaims it. He is a gift. God chose you into making a difference.

Every neighbor portrays it. They are your invitation.

You're not an accident or an afterthought, even in sufferings or difficulties. You're special. No human life is a joke or a mistake, not even in surprise pregnancies or terminal diagnoses. Each one's precious, from fertilization to forever. None of us is hand-me-down or half-hearted, not embryos, not impaired persons, not elderly ones. We're all priceless, whatever our ages, abilities, and appearances.

God chose you to embody and to enact the sanctity of human lives.

Christians advocate this kind of choice.

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit." (John 15:16)

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LSUS NOTES

Praying for You!



NaTika Rogan London Coleman Javier Antoine Mation Wiley Paingthu Hein Joey Bendit Stephanie Martinez Myante Williams Makhi Williams



Mrs. Reynolds captured this picture at chapel the other week during prayers.



Kindergarten through 2nd grade walked over to Bishop Luers to watch a preview of their play, "Goldie Locks on Trial" a few weeks ago.





Student Chapel Offerings

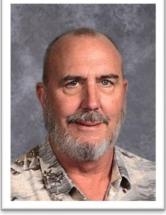
Thursday Chapel Offerings collected by our LSUS students and families make a big impact around the world! December/January offerings will go to The Rescue Mission and Charis House. The Rescue Mission's mission is to provide, through the power of Jesus Christ, a home for the homeless, food for the hungry, and hope for their future. The Charis House is part of the Rescue Mission that focuses on women and children experiencing a homeless crisis.



THE Rescue Mission







Mr. Barry Chrzan is the sixth grade homeroom teacher. He teaches math, science, religion, social studies, and PE to the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. Being engineered trained he also helps with maintenance issues that come up on a daily basis.

During his college career at Purdue he earned a Bachelor degree in mechanical engineering. He worked twenty-six years at Dana Corporation. Then he went back to school at Wesleyan University entered the Train to Teach program where he earned his teaching degree. At first he subbed for four years in the Allen County area. Then seven years ago he started teaching at LSUS.

Mr. Chrzan is married and has four children and three grandchildren with another one on the way. He loves to fish in his spare time. His wife has a dog named Frank. Mr. Chrzan and Frank are estranged. He and his wife are members of St. Michael Lutheran Church.



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Encouragement Found in Scriptures:

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. —Matthew 2:10-11