

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

7:00 pm Saturday, December 24, 2022

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

Invocation

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

Processional Hymn Once in Royal David's City



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



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



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



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

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

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

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

Bidding Prayer, Lord's Prayer

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

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

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

[Be Seated]

Carol Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



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



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



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

[Be seated]

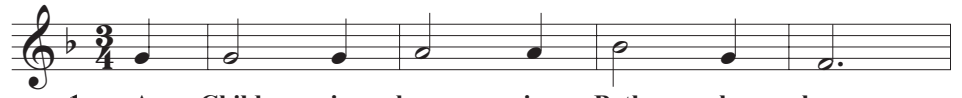
**+ The Word of God for the People of God +
Seven-fold Lessons and Carols for Christmas**

First Lesson Genesis 3:8–15


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

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


Carol A Child Is Born in Bethlehem



1. A Child is born in Beth- le- hem,
2. With- out the ser- pent's an- cient stain,
3. Our sin- ful flesh and His are one,
4. Like to Him- self He mak- eth us,
5. And so for this most joy- our birth,



1. Beth - le - hem. _____ Where - fore re -
 2. an - cient stain. _____ Yet of our
 3. His _____ are one, _____ Yet in Him
 4. mak - eth us, _____ Nor in our
 5. joy - ous birth, _____ Praise we the



1. joice, Je - ru - sa - lem! Al - le - lu -
 2. blood He doth re - main. Al - le - lu -
 3. of our sin is none. Al - le - lu -
 4. sin for - sak - eth us. Al - le - lu -
 5. Lord of heav'n and earth. Al - le - lu -



1. ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 5. ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Second Lesson Genesis 22:15–18

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

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

Carol Let the Earth Now Praise The Lord Burgundy Hymn 352

[All sing stanza 1; Men alone sing stanza 2; Women alone sing stanza 3;

All sing stanza 4. OMIT stanzas 5 & 6.]

Third Lesson Isaiah 9:2–7

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

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

Choral Anthem Unto Us A Child Is Born arr. D. Willcocks

Fourth Lesson Micah 5:2-4

A shoot comes forth from the stump of Jesse.

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

Carol O Little Town of Bethlehem Burgundy Hymn 361

[Sing stanzas 1, 2, & 4; OMIT stanza 3. Sung to the tune of "Forest Green".]

Fifth Lesson Luke 1:26–38

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

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

Carol Tell Out My Soul Burgundy Hymn 935

Sixth Lesson Luke 2:1-14

Saint Luke proclaims the birth of Christ.

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

Carol Away in a Manger Burgundy Hymn 365

Seventh Lesson Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds go to visit the Child announced by angels.

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

Carol Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Burgundy Hymn 380

Sermon

Offerings

Choral Voluntary Wexford Carol arr. J. Rutter

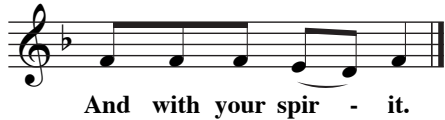
Hymn From Heaven Above to Earth I Come ... Burgundy Hymn 358

[All sing stanzas 1 and 2; Women alone sing stanzas 3 and 5;
Men alone sing stanzas 4 and 6; All sing stanza 7.]

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

[Stand] **Salutation**

The Lord be with you.



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



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

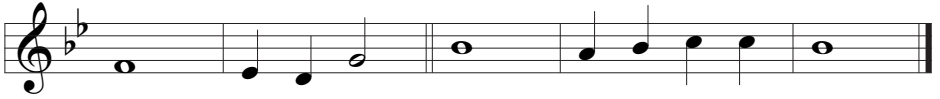


+ CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY +

[The light for the candles is distributed during the organ improvisation.]

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

Proclamation of the Light of God



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

Hymn Silent Night, Holy Night



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



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



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



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

Benedicamus

Let us bless the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

Benediction

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



A - men.

[The candles are extinguished]

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

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

Choral Postlude From the Christmas Cantata: Alleluia J. S. Bach



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

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Lessons for the Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

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

The LORD God said to the serpent,

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

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

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

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

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

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

on them has light shone.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Fourth Lesson

Micah 5:2-4

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

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

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

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

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

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

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-14

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, “Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.” And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Hymns for the Eve of the Nativity of our Lord

LSB376 Once in Royal David's City

Cecil F. Alexander

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

Printed in Service Bulletin

Printed Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.

Text: (st. 4) © 2018 Rev. Dr. James W. Voelz; Used by permission.

Printed in Service Bulletin

Printed A Child Is Born in Bethlehem

Traditional English

Printed in Service Bulletin

LSB352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

Heinrich Held

1. Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
- M 2. What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many a year, Stands fulfilled in glory here.
- W 3. Abram's promised great reward, Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—
Him of twofold race behold—Truly came, as long foretold.
4. As Your coming was in peace, Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me Which is Yours eternally.

LSB361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks

1. O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

LSB935 Tell Out My Soul

Timothy Dudley-Smith

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1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His Word;
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.
2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.
3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!
Pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forevermore!

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

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

LSB380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

2. Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*
3. Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

LSB358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Martin Luther

1. “From heav’n above to earth I come
to bear good news to ev’ry home:
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:
2. “To you this night is born a child
Of Mary chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.
- W 3. “This is the Christ, our God Most High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.
- M 4. “He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us His glory share.
- W 5. “These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav’ns and earth were made.”
- M 6. How glad we’ll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.

7. Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.

LSB363 Silent Night

Franz Joseph Mohr

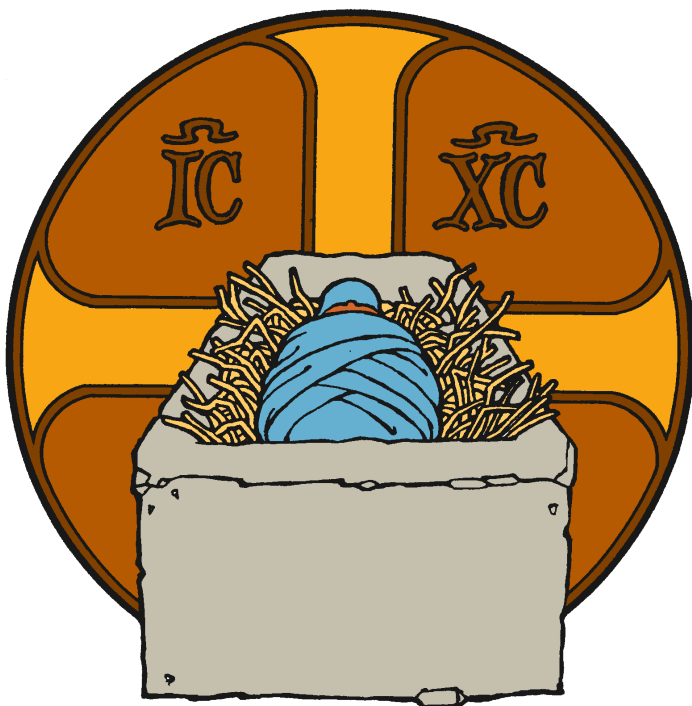
1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ,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

LSB387 Joy to the World

Isaac Watts

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King:
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love.

The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

pastor@zionfw.org, church@zionfw.org | website: www.zionfw.org

Zion Lutheran Church is the body of Christ at Hanna and Creighton in Fort Wayne, Indiana that:

- Receives Christ's gifts in Word and Sacraments; and
- Responds to God's love in Christ by
 - Reaching out to those who do not know His love; and
 - Revealing His love in acts of kindness and mercy.

The Pastoral Ministry At Zion

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Douglas D. Punke, MDiv (341-5397)

Field Workers:

Peter Wagner, Patrick Jackson, Paul Mroczenski

The Teaching Staff At Lutheran South Unity

Principal:

Amber Bahr (744-0459)

Teachers:

Yvonne Schwantz (8th), Abigail DeForest (6th), Anyssa Scaer (MS History),

Allison Wims (K-8 Technology & MS Health), Marcus Rush (MS PE),

Danielle Ramsey (5th), Meredith Tourney (4th), Abbey Zelt (3rd), John Fink (2nd),

Hannah Maresh (1st), Abby Springer (K), Natalie Reynolds (Art & Music)

The Support Staff

Organist and Director of Parish Music:

Michael Hollman, MM

Church Office Manager:

Melvia Culpher

PRAYERS FOR TODAY

- + For the church, especially those bearing the cross of persecution
- + For those who serve our Lord at home and abroad, especially our fieldworkers Patrick Jackson and Paul Mroczenski
- + For our nation; for our leaders, our military, including James Hall, especially at this perilous time in our world
- + 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 Everett Beck and Doris Yerger
- + For those who are nearing death, including Willie Manning
- + For the ill, distressed, and those suffering affliction, including Marilyn Shafter, John Starks, Dwight Bieberich, Debra Busche, Bill Weinrich, Paul Dolde, Willodean Bates, Gloria Gonzalez, Dick Hollman, Joe Harrison, Louisa Porter, Louise Petrillo, Ron Rastl, Marlow Hogan, Gregory 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, especially the families of Pastor Schaibley and Pastor Spira
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed, including Pastors Schaibley and Spira
- + 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 Nativity of Our Lord. Please complete an attendance/communion card, including the names of all children, and indicate if you are communing. Non-members, please read the back of the card.

CALENDAR

December 24, 2022 thru December 31, 2022

SAT.	6:30 PM	Pre Service Instrumental and Choral Music	Church
	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols	Church
SUN.	8:45 AM	Pre Service Instrumental and Choral Music	Church
	9:00 AM	Festival Divine Service — Nativity	Church
MON.		Church Office closed	
TUES.	12 NOON	Admin Council Meeting	Conference Room
WED.	5:30 PM	Wednesday Divine Service	Church
THURS.			
FRI.			
SAT.	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church

January 1, 2023 New Year's Day

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:30 AM	8 th Day of Christmas Party	Bauer Hall

ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO EDUCATION HOUR on Christmas Day. Nor will we hold Sunday School or Bible Class next Sunday, New Years Day. It will resume on January 8, 2023. On the other hand, we will hold our 8th Day of Christmas party after Divine Service next Sunday (January 1). Plan to stay and bring some Christmas goodies and sweet bread to share. We'll have some games and sing some Christmas carols — not all sacred.

GIVING STATEMENTS will be ready on January 8th. If you do not pick them up by Sunday, January 22nd, they will be mailed to your home. If any of your contact information has changed, please let Melvia in the office know.

OUR ENVELOPES: Our contribution envelope provider has had several problems that have delayed their customers' envelope printing and shipping. (They have not done a good job of keeping us informed.) They hope to have them all out by the second week of January. Until then, please feel free to use the envelopes in the pew rack, but **please** mark them as general fund and put your name on them so that your offering can be recorded. We plan to enclose two envelopes in the January Voice for your use as well. Thank you for your patience.

THANKS to everyone who helped prepare and serve Advent suppers.

SAVE THE DATE: January 29, 2023, right after Divine Service, we will have a Congregational Assembly in Bauer Hall. It will include congregational input on our Ministry Clarity. We will be serving brunch. We need your attendance.

NO NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE this year. New Year's Day is a Sunday, and we'll have a Divine Service on January 1, 2023. Remember, our 8th Day of Christmas party will follow.

PASTOR ROBERT SCHAIBLEY was Senior Pastor at Zion from 1986 to 1995. The funeral will be on Wednesday, December 28, at Faith Lutheran Church and School in Plano, Texas. Mike is flying down to Texas to play for the funeral. As with all the saints who die in the Lord, we rejoice that Pastor Schaibley has realized his victory, but we grieve with the family.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2 PM is Zion's hour to host the Prayer Room on the Electric Works campus. It's at 1626 Broadway St, Suite 135. The Prayer Room is intended to be "a tangible expression of unity, hosted by individuals [Christians], [Christian] churches, and [Christian] ministries of all denominations. Agreement with the Apostles' Creed, naming the basics of historic Christian faith, will serve as the common bond." That was important to me that we might participate. "The prayer room is dedicated exclusively for prayer and prayer in the form of worship" (worship is only at specified times). "Hosts of the prayer room have two primary responsibilities: to pray, and to welcome those who come to pray." Quotes from *24/7 Prayer Room Hosting Instructions*. More next week.

PLEASE CONTINUE to support the Cup of Kindness during the Christmas season. Cup of Kindness is a ministry of Lutheran Social Services that provides "a connection to the hope that lies in Christ." You'll find the "Cup" on the table in the narthex. Dave will get the donations to LSSI.

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE: Luke 2:10-11—"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born is this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'" Last week's verse was Genesis 3:15.

RIGHT TO LIFE OF NORTHEAST INDIANA is signing people up to go to Washington D.C. for the National March for Life. Visit www.ichooselife.org/lddc to register for the Life Defenders Bus trip; or visit www.ichooselife.org/nationalmarch to register for the Family trip. You can also call RLNI at 260-471-1849.

CLHS is seeking an English teacher, a Physical Education teacher, and an LROTC Instructor. To view the position description and responsibilities and to apply, please visit www.clhscadets.com/employment. Only applications with all materials, including the completed application, will be considered. And the ROTC Army Instructor Application and Certification link is: www.usarmyjrotc.com/application-certification/.

SACRED MUSIC FROM LUTHERAN PUBLIC RADIO: If you're tired of listening to the endless loop of Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You," you can listen to sacred music for the season 24/7 by going to issuesetc.org/lutheran-public-radio-music/ and clicking on the "Click here to listen to our Sacred Music stream" link.

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

John 1:1-18

The Nativity of Our Lord

Isaiah 52:7-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Monday

Isaiah 49:22-26; 50:4-51:8, 12-16

Matthew 2:1-12

Tuesday

Isaiah 51:17-52:12

Matthew 2:13-23

Wednesday

Isaiah 52:13-54:10

Luke 1:1-25

Thursday

Isaiah 55:1-13

Luke 1:26-38

Friday

Isaiah 58:1-59:3, 14-21

Luke 1:39-56

Saturday

Isaiah 60:1-22

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 Richard, 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

The Circumcision and Naming of Jesus

Numbers 6:22-27

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 2:21

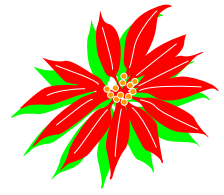


What Doctor Luther Says:

About the *Gloria*, the Song of the Angels

[W]e must explain the song of the angels which we use daily in the mass [Divine Service]: *Gloria in excelsis deo*, etc. They enumerate three things in this song: honor, peace, and good pleasure or good will. Honor they give to God, peace to the earth, and good pleasure to men. Good will or good pleasure might be understood as the divine good will and good pleasure which God has toward men through Christ. But we prefer to leave it as the good will which men have from this birth, the sense which is given by the words which read *anthropis eudokia, hominibus beneplacitum* [Luke 2:14]. The first item is the honor of God. This is where one should begin, in order that in all things the glory and the honor be given to God, i.e., to him who does, gives, and has all things, so that nobody may attribute anything to himself or assume anything. For the honor is due nobody except God alone; it cannot be shared with anybody or become common property. ... The second item is peace on earth. For just as there must be absence of peace where there is not honor of God ... in the same manner, where there is honor of God, there must be peace. ... The third item is the good will of men. Good will here does not refer to that which brings forth good works, but to the good pleasure and peaceful heart which permit man to be pleased with everything that happens to him, be it good or bad. For the angels knew very well that the peace of which they sing does not extend farther than among those who truly believe in Christ; these certainly have peace with each other. But the world and the devil take no rest and they grant no peace to them: they persecute them to death, as Christ says, in John 16[:33]: "In me you shall have peace, in the world you will have tribulation." For this reason the angels were not satisfied to sing of peace on earth; they also sang of the good will of men, i.e., that they should be pleased with everything and praise and thank God, considering God's ways and dealings with them to be right and good.

Luther's Works, 52:27-8.



In loving memory of our beloved parents Carl & Myrtle Albersmeyer,
Byrle & Joyce Greenamyre
by Carl & Rosie Albersmeyer and families

In loving memory of our parents
Paul & Esther Bieberich and David & Agnes Shutt
by Don & Beth Bieberich

In memory of Donald Ganaway
by Julie Ganaway

In honor of our beloved grandparents Shirley and Stanley Goeglein
by Tim and Paul Goeglein along with their loving grandchildren

To the Glory of Christ
by Ed & Janice Grim

In loving memory of our mother Virginia Hollman
by Mark & Beth Hollman

In loving memory of my beloved wife of 63 years Virginia Hollman
by Richard Hollman

Dedicated to Jayden Jackson and Carter Brown
by Alanza Jackson

In loving memory of Sprio & Anne Kostoff and Karen Kostoff Wood
by Karl Kostoff, Judy & Martin Thomas

To Honor the Christ Child
by Rev. George & Lois Lange

In loving memory of Dr. Robert & Katherine Leininger
and Fred, Betty, John, & Teresa Beckman
by Kevin & Maribeth Leininger



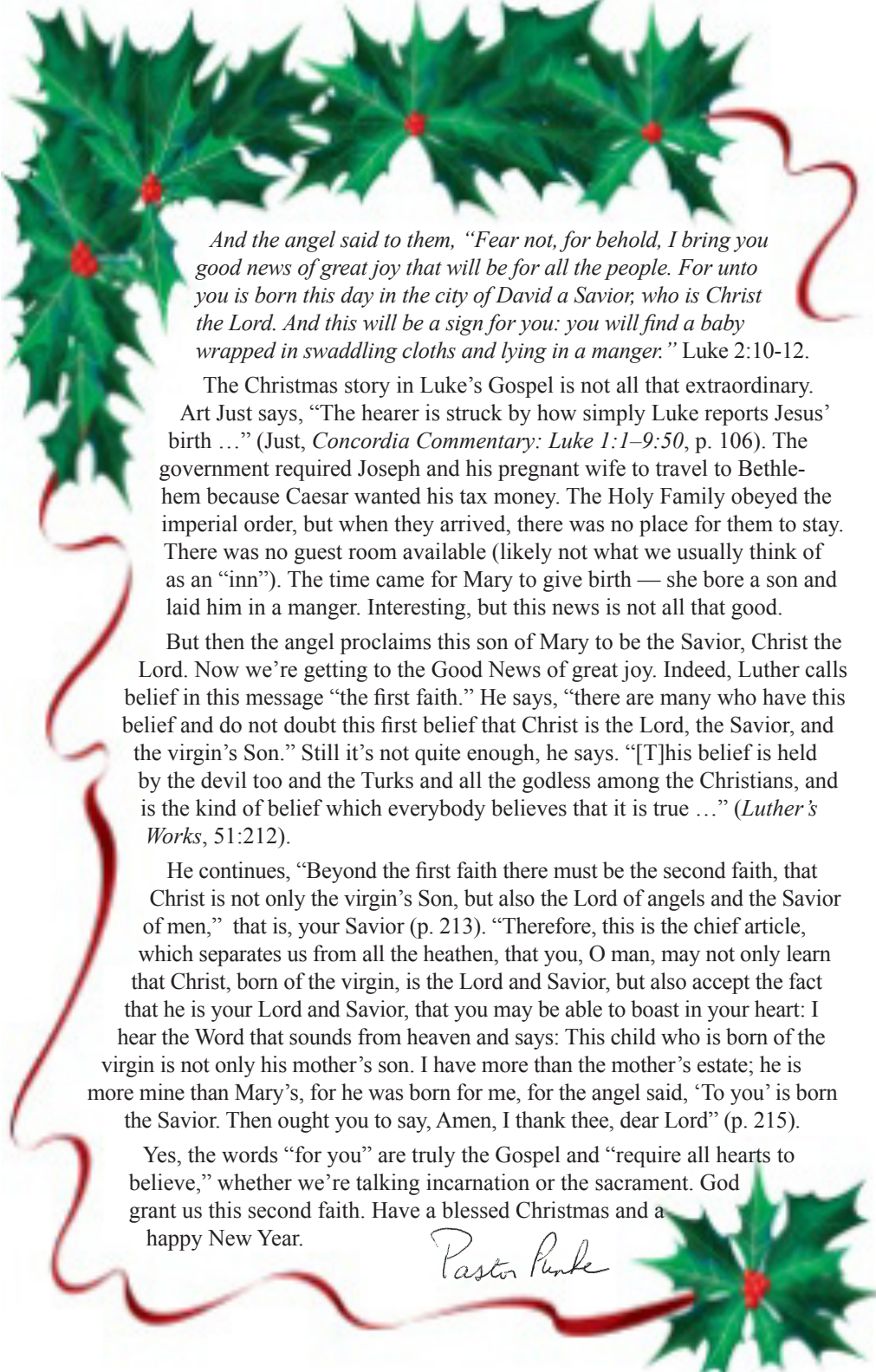
In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Manth
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Manth
Mr. & Mrs. Ferdinand Bornkamp
and Mrs. Clara Tegtmeier
by Jennifer Manth

Honoring on bended knee the coming of the Word made flesh.
by Pastor & Marge Punke

In loving memory of David & Savannah Stokes, Sister Aritis Barksdale
and Brother Henry Chapman
by Clarence “Bo” Stokes

To the Glory of our new born Savior
by Jim and Judy Voelz

Thanks to God for sending us our Savior.
“O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!”
by André Woodard



And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:10-12.

The Christmas story in Luke's Gospel is not all that extraordinary. Art Just says, "The hearer is struck by how simply Luke reports Jesus' birth ..." (Just, *Concordia Commentary: Luke 1:1-9:50*, p. 106). The government required Joseph and his pregnant wife to travel to Bethlehem because Caesar wanted his tax money. The Holy Family obeyed the imperial order, but when they arrived, there was no place for them to stay. There was no guest room available (likely not what we usually think of as an "inn"). The time came for Mary to give birth — she bore a son and laid him in a manger. Interesting, but this news is not all that good.

But then the angel proclaims this son of Mary to be the Savior, Christ the Lord. Now we're getting to the Good News of great joy. Indeed, Luther calls belief in this message "the first faith." He says, "there are many who have this belief and do not doubt this first belief that Christ is the Lord, the Savior, and the virgin's Son." Still it's not quite enough, he says. "[T]his belief is held by the devil too and the Turks and all the godless among the Christians, and is the kind of belief which everybody believes that it is true ..." (*Luther's Works*, 51:212).

He continues, "Beyond the first faith there must be the second faith, that Christ is not only the virgin's Son, but also the Lord of angels and the Savior of men," that is, your Savior (p. 213). "Therefore, this is the chief article, which separates us from all the heathen, that you, O man, may not only learn that Christ, born of the virgin, is the Lord and Savior, but also accept the fact that he is your Lord and Savior, that you may be able to boast in your heart: I hear the Word that sounds from heaven and says: This child who is born of the virgin is not only his mother's son. I have more than the mother's estate; he is more mine than Mary's, for he was born for me, for the angel said, 'To you' is born the Savior. Then ought you to say, Amen, I thank thee, dear Lord" (p. 215).

Yes, the words "for you" are truly the Gospel and "require all hearts to believe," whether we're talking incarnation or the sacrament. God grant us this second faith. Have a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

Pastor Pienke





ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL/ ACADEMY



ALL CLASS REUNION SAVE THE DATES JUNE 9-11, 2023

More details to come

2313 S. Hanna St.

Fort Wayne, IN 46803

