Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

9:00 am Sunday, January 22, 2023

RECEIVING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AT ZION

As intended by Christ and as practiced by the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church throughout her history, "Closed Communion" is observed in this congregation, in which the Lord's Supper is distributed only to those:

(a) who have been **baptized** in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;

- (b) who have been instructed in the truth of Holy Scripture as taught in the Lutheran Confessions, who have been confirmed in this Lutheran faith, and who now confess the same doctrines that are taught in this congregation, holding membership in a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod;
- (c) who believe that in this sacrament the real body and blood of Christ are truly distributed to them and orally received by them, bestowing on them the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation;

(d) who sincerely repent of all their sins, and desire to receive God's forgiveness in this holy meal.

Guests at our services, before receiving the sacrament, are requested to affirm these facts with one of our pastors. Thank you for honoring our practice. If you are looking for a church home, would like to be a member of Zion, or would like to learn more about the Christian Faith, please speak to one of our pastors about our membership classes.

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

Invocation

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

The Office of Confession of Sins and Absolution

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

[Kneel]

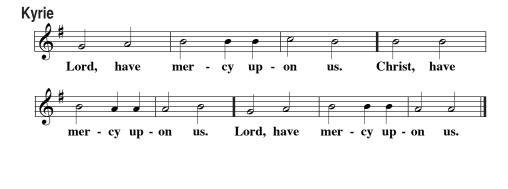
Our help is in the name of the Lord Who made heaven and earth. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord. And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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.



- [Antiphon] I will tell of your name to my | bro-___ thers; || in the midst of the congre- | gation I will | praise you: || All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the Lord, || and all the families of the nations shall | wor- ship be- fore | you.
- Verse 1: For kingship belongs | to the Lord, || and he | rules o- ver the | na- tions. || All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down | to the dust, || even the one who could not | keep him- self a- | live.
- Verse 2: Posterity | shall serve him; || it shall be told of the Lord to the | com-ing gener- | a- tion.|| they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people | yet un- born, || that | he has done_ | it.
- *Gloria:* Glory be to the Father and | to the Son: || and | to the Ho- ly | Spi- rit; || As it was in the be- | •ginning•, is now, || and will | be for- •ever•. A- | men!
- [Antiphon] I will tell of your name to my | bro-___ thers; || in the midst of the congre- | ga- tion I will | praise you: || All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the Lord, || and all the families of the nations shall | wor- ship be- fore | you.





Salutation



Collect for the Third Sunday after Epiphany: Almighty and Everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

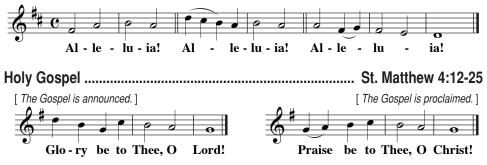


[Be Seated] + The Office of the Word of God +

Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 9:1-4
[After the reading] This is the word of the Lord	
Epistle of the Day	
[After the reading] This is the word of the Lord	Thanks be to God.

[Rise] Alleluia Sequence

[Deacon] Alleluia! Alleluia! From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Alleluia!



Confession of Faith (The Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

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

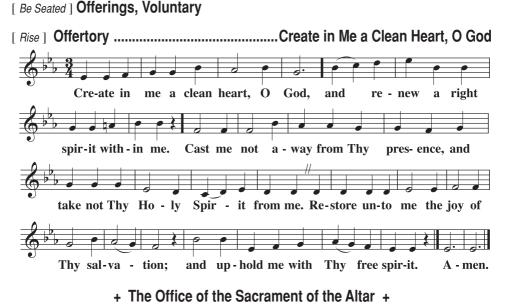
And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sits at the right hand of the Father; And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life + of the world to come. Amen!

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

Sermon

[Rise] Prayer of the Church



Preface

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.



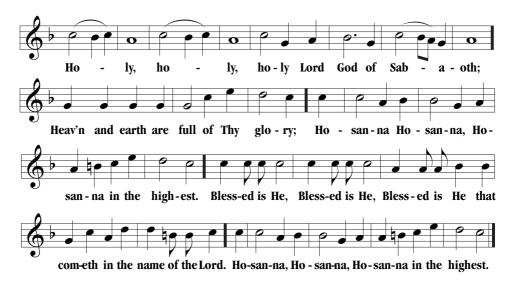
Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



It is meet and right so to do.

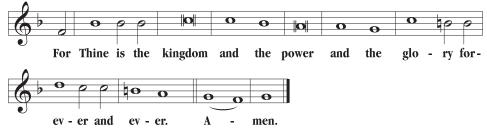
Proper Preface for Epiphany, Sanctus

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.



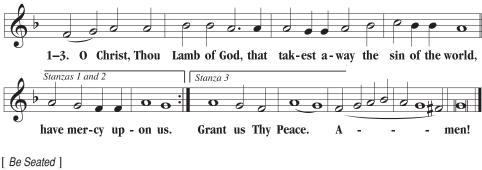
Words of Institution, Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always!



men.

Agnus Dei



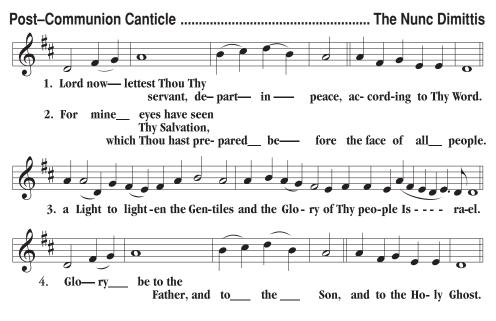
Distribution Hymns Praise the One Burgundy Hymn 849

The People That in Darkness ... Burgundy Hymn 412

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

Eucharistic Benediction

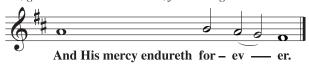
The Body and Blood of your Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting! + Depart in Peace! Amen!





Post Communion Rite

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



Prayer of Thanksgiving ... now and forever.



The Lord be with you.



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 I Want to Walk Burgundy Hymn 411

Postlude

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Readings for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany

The Old Testament Reading is Isaiah 9:1-4

There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

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.

The Epistle is 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Gospel is St. Matthew 4:12-25

Now when [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled

"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,

the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles-

the people dwelling in darkness

have seen a great light,

and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,

on them a light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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,
- 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.

LSB849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness Rusty Edwards Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co; Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

- Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light; Praise the One who frees the pris'ners Turning blindness into sight. Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev'ry dread disease, Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.
- Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle word; Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing two-edged sword. Praise the one who brings cool water To the desert's burning sand; From this Well comes living water Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
- Let us praise the Word incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place. Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done; Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.

LSB412 The People That in Darkness Sat

- The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
- To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness, The gath'ring nations come; They joy as when the reapers bear Their harvest treasures home, Their harvest treasures home.
- W3. To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is giv'n, And on His shoulder ever rests All pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
- M 4. His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord, The Wonderful, the Counselor, The God by all adored, The God by all adored.
 - 5. His righteous government and pow'r Shall over all extend; On judgment and on justice based, His reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end.
- △6. Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone, Who with the Father ever art And Holy Spirit, one, And Holy Spirit, one.

LSB533 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light Kathleen Thomerson Text: © 1970, 1975 Celebration; Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

I want to walk as a child of the light.
 I want to follow Jesus.
 God set the stars to give light to the world.
 The star of my life is Jesus. *Refrain*

Refrain: In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

- I want to see the brightness of God.
 I want to look at Jesus.
 Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*
- I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
 I want to be with Jesus.
 When we have run with patience the race,
 We shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

The Third Sunday after the Kpiphany



Zion Hvangelical 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: Field Workers: Rev. Douglas D. Punke, MDiv (341-5397) 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: Church Office Manager: Michael Hollman, MM 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, especially Josefa Schaper
- + 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 John Starks, Don Zettelmier, Jessica Krause, Marilynn Shafter, Dwight Bieberich, Debra Busche, Bill Weinrich, Paul Dolde, Willodean Bates, Gloria Gonzalez, Dick Hollman, John A. Pless, Bob Ockree, 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, especially Keiko Klein
- + 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 after the Epiphany. The Cross Bowl is given in celebration of the 90^{th} birthday of Arlene Punke and the 92^{nd} birthday of Keiko Klein by Pastor and Marge Punke. 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, 2023 thru January 28, 2023

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church	
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Study	Bauer Hall	
	10:30AM	Sunday School (little ones)	Assoc. Pastor's Office	
MON.	5:30 PM	CEA Board Meeting	CLHS	
TUES.	12:00 noon	Admin Council	Conference Room	
WED.	9:30 AM	Men of Zion	Conference Room	
	5:30 PM	Wednesday Divine Service	Church	
THURS.		-		
FRI.				
SAT.	9:30 AM	Junior Catechesis	Conference Room	
	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church	
January 29, 2023				
SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church	
	10:30 AM	Congregational Assembly, Brunch, and Congregational Creative Even		

ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDUCATION HOUR Dr. Voelz is out today, so we can take advantage of "Life Sunday" to talk more about that topic in Adult Bible Class. Pastor Michael Bahr will lead the study. Dr. Voelz will continue with Mark on February 5. Sunday school for the little ones is in the Associate Pastor's Office.

CONFUSED? No you're not. You're right, Pastor Punke and Marge were *not* supposed to be here today, but in Illinois celebrating Pastor's mother's 90th birthday. Unfortunately, she caught COVID and the birthday celebration had to be cancelled (she is doing okay). So, Pastor Punke is celebrating the Sacrament today, but thanks to Pastor Michael Bahr for preaching and leading the Adult Bible class.

GIVING STATEMENTS are at Julie's table. If not picked by today Melvia they will be mailing them to your home.

OUR ENVELOPES: No change of status on our contribution envelopes. Julie is checking again. As of Wednesday January 18, the last word we had was that the printer hopes to have them all out by out *sometime in January*. Until then, please feel free to use 1) unused envelopes from last year putting the correct date on them; 2) the envelopes in the pew rack or the envelopes we included in the Voice, but **please** mark them as general fund and put your name on them (these actions will ensure that your offering will be recorded); or 3) set up automatic giving through your bank. Dave Kaiser would be happy to help you set that up. Thank you for your patience.

DON'T FORGET: Next Sunday, 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 and brunch will be served. Hopefully, you got your RSVP in to Melvia. Rev. Tom Eggebrecht from the LCEF Ministry Clarity team will lead the Congregational Creative Event.

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE: John 6:27 — "Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." Last week's verse was 1 John 1:7

WARM A SEMINARIAN'S HEART by helping the Seminary Guild of Concordia Theological Seminary warm his meal. The Guild's adopted project for 2023 is to provide four industrial microwaves for the students – two for the Dining Hall and two for the Student Commons. Cost of this project is \$1,400. If you would like to contribute, please send your check, payable to Concordia Theological Seminary Guild, to Concordia Theological Seminary Guild, Box 8, 6600 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46825. Mark the memo line of your check "annual adopted project." Thank you for supporting this project, as you are able.

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 <u>www.clhscadets.com/employment</u>. Only applications with all materials, including the completed application, will be considered. The ROTC Army Instructor Application and Certification link is: <u>www.usarmyjrotc.com/application-certification/</u>.

NORTHEAST INDIANA MARCH FOR LIFE Join 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 in *Roe v. Wade*. Come celebrate the overturning of *Roe*, and learn about the future work we can accomplish together. Our keynote speaker this year is pro-life advocate and Hoosier, Katie Shaw! The Rally will take place on Sat., Jan. 28th at the University of St. Francis Performing Arts Center, 431 W Berry St, at 12 pm, doors opening at 11:30 am. The March will start after the Rally. Visit: <u>www.ichooselife.org/march</u> or call 260-471-1849 for more information.

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For the family of God's Priestly People at Zion

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

Morning Prayer	DAILY LECTIONARY	Evening Prayer
Matthew 4:12-25	The Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 9:1-4
Romans 11:25–12:13	Monday	Joel 2:18-32
Romans 12:14–13:14	Tuesday	Joel 3:1-21
Romans 14:1-23	Wednesday	Zechariah 1:1-21
Romans 15:1-13	Thursday	Zechariah 2:1-3:10
Romans 15:14-33	Friday	Zechariah 4:1-5:11
Romans 16:17-27	Saturday	Zechariah 6:1–7:14

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 praver. 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

1 Corinthians 1:18-31



What Doctor Luther Says:

About Gospel Nets That Seek Men

65 Therefore the treasures of the gospel are nets with which one formerly fished for men of wealth.

The Apostle said, "I seek not what is yours but you" [II Cor. 12:14]. And Christ said, "I will make you fishers of men" [Matt. 4:19]. This sweet word directs as it attracts the will; indeed, it makes a man surrender his will to Christ. Hence St. Peter, portrayed as a fisherman in the city [of Rome], says,

For my ship I steer the church, all the regions of the world are my sea, the Scripture is my net, man is the fish.

66 The treasures of indulgences are nets with which one now fishes for the wealth of men.

I believe this is clear from what has been said, for man does not become better through the remissions of punishments, nor is he drawn to God more because of them. Only the word of Christ can do that. Remissions of punishments are words of a man who grants exemption and release rather than of one who "catches" and binds. But if they "catch" anything, surely it is nothing except money, for they do not catch souls. It is not that I condemn this business of contributing money. Indeed, in my judgment, God's providence seems to watch over this business to the extent that, at least in this life, he will reward it with some money so that nothing will lack its reward, even though it is the most insignificant among the gifts and offices of the church and not worthy to be crowned with reward in the future life. However, in former times releases were granted free of charge.

Luther's Works, 31:232-3.

LSUS NOTES Praying for You!



Please pray for these students/staff:

KriShawn Stallings Zamara Niemeyer Vaeda Minkosky Hailey Hart Isabella Kingsley Mikah Edgell Jayden McGraw Yaronna Anderson Elijah Stanford-Manning Ms. Maresh Mr. Fink Mrs. Tourney

Winter Yoga for Kids

Winter Yoga for Kids is going great! Students have been learning yoga poses, practicing balance, breathing, positive affirmations, and much more!



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



"And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 28:2). Likewise, life ensues as a gift indicating God's grace and a privilege affirming His favor. A blessing means speaking, a promise humbly hidden in simple words. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29). Likewise, every life has promise and purpose, no matter what size, skills, or circumstances. Blessed amounts to more than being merely happy, healthy, attractive, affluent, or influential. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" (Matthew 5:6). Likewise, every human life exceeds just physical functions and emotional assessments.

A blessing comes from God and connects to Him.

"So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27). Likewise, every human being embodies God's creation, reflects His incarnation, and ensures His ongoing and increasing involvement.

A blessing implies multiplication and abundance. "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" (Genesis 22:17). Likewise, even at the beginning, every human person makes our heart bigger and our world better. Blessings often issue from loved ones of significant age and experience. "[Elizabeth in her old age] exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!'" (Luke 1:42). Likewise, every neighbor draws us beyond appearances and expectations.

Blessing consists not only of substance but of activity. "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them" (John 13:17). Likewise, life sets love in motion and puts joy into practice.

Life is what God blesses us with and what He blesses us for-life together and life forever!



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

lutheransforlife.org • info@lutheransforlife.org 888.364.LIFE (5433) • Item LFL1643BI



For abortion healing, a **Word** of Hope • 888.217.8679 word-of-hope.org

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