

Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE CIRCUMCISION AND NAMING OF JESUS

9:00 am Sunday, January 1, 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.

✙ = appropriate to make the baptismal sign of the cross

When "rise" or "kneel" is indicated, it is appropriate to sit if needed

[Rise] Invocation

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

The Office of Confession of Sins and Absolution

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

[Kneel]

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

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

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

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

Entrance Hymn See Amid The Winter's Snow Burgundy Hymn 373

Kyrie



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 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Burgundy Hymn 900
[All sing stanza 1 & 2; Men alone sing stanza 3; Women alone sing stanza 4; All sing stanzas 5 & 6.]

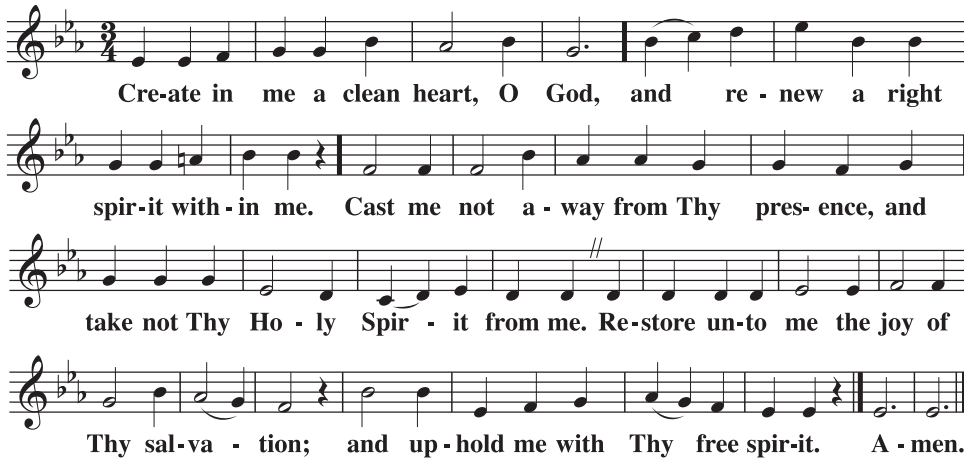
Sermon

[Rise] **Prayer of the Church**

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

[Be Seated] **Offerings, Voluntary**

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

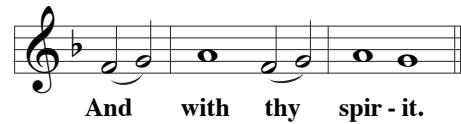


Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Thy pres- ence, and
take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of
Thy sal-va - tion; and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

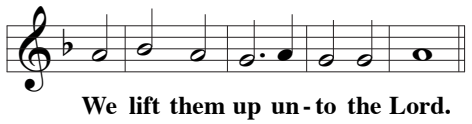
+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

Preface

The Lord be with you. *Lift up your hearts.*



And with thy spir-it.



We lift them up un-to the Lord.

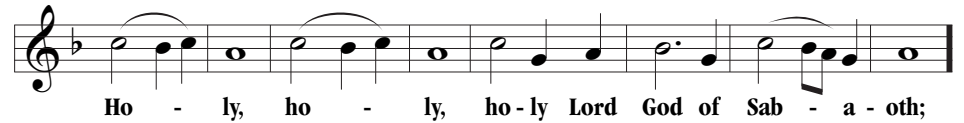
Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



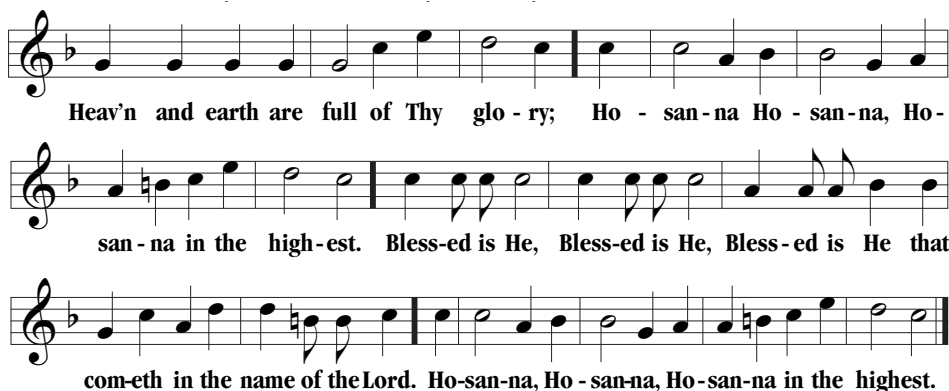
It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface for Christmas, Sanctus

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



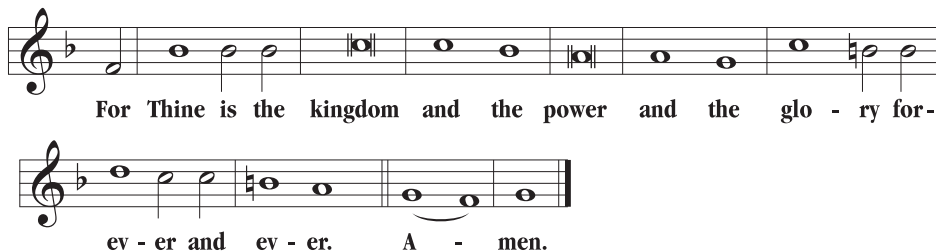
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry; Ho - san-na Ho - san-na, Ho -
san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is He, Bless-ed is He, Bless-ed is He that
com-eth in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na, Ho - san-na, Ho-san-na in the highest.

[Kneel] **Lord's Prayer**

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



For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glo - ry for -
ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

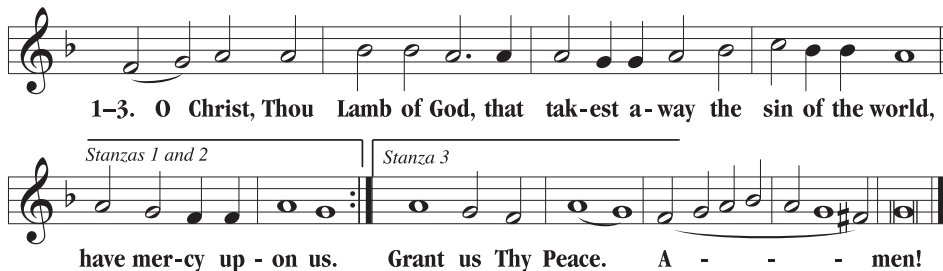
Words of Institution, Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always!



A - men.

Agnus Dei



1-3. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world,
Stanzas 1 and 2 Stanza 3
have mer-cy up - on us. Grant us Thy Peace. A - - - men!

[Be Seated]

Distribution Hymns O Little Town Burgundy Hymn 361

[Sung to the tune, "Forest Green".]

The Ancient Law Departs Burgundy Hymn 898

[Rise for stanza 5.]

Eucharistic Benediction

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

Post-Communion Canticle **The Nunc Dimittis**



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

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



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



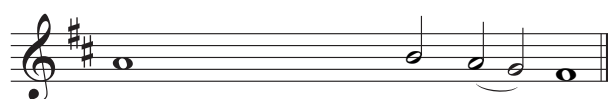
4. Glo— ry___ be to the
Father, and to___ the ___ Son, and to the Ho- ly Ghost.



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

Post Communion Rite

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



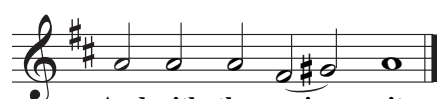
And His mercy endureth for — ev — er.

Prayer of Thanksgiving ... now and forever.



A — men.

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir — rit.

Bless we the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

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.



A - men, A - men, A - men.

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 Christians, Sing Out RED Hymn 100

Postlude



Readings for New Year's Day

The Circumcision and Name of Jesus

The Old Testament Reading is Numbers 6:22-27

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

The LORD bless you and keep you;

the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

"So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

The Epistle is Galatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

The Gospel is Luke 2:21

At the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Hymns for New Year's Day

The Circumcision and Name of Jesus

LSB373 See amid the Winter's Snow

Edward Caswall

1. See amid the winter's snow, Born for us on earth below,
See, the gentle Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years.

Refrain: Hail, O ever-blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

2. Lo, within a stable lies He who built the starry skies,
He who, throned in height sublime, Sits amid the cherubim. *Refrain*
3. Sacred Infant, all divine, What a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss Down to such a world as this! *Refrain*
4. Teach, O teach us, holy child, By Thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble Thee In Thy sweet humility. *Refrain*

LSB368 Angels We Have Heard on High

French

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Refrain
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Refrain

LSB390 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

German, 17th cent.

1. Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.
2. To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'ns fair homes We may reign in gladness.
3. We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.
4. Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us.

LSB900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

William W. How

1. Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Name all other names above,
Unto which must ev'ry knee Bow in deep humility.
2. Jesus! Name decreed of old, To the maiden mother told,
Kneeling in her lowly cell, By the angel Gabriel.
- M 3. Jesus! Name of priceless worth To the fallen sons of earth
For the promise that it gave, "Jesus shall His people save."
- W 4. Jesus! Name of mercy mild, Given to the holy Child
When the cup of human woe First He tasted here below.
5. Jesus! Only name that's giv'n Under all the mighty heav'n
Whereby those to sin enslaved Burst their fetters and are saved.
6. Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

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!
3. How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.
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!

LSB898 The Ancient Law Departs

Sebastian Besnault

1. The ancient Law departs, And all its fears remove,
For Jesus makes with faithful hearts A covenant of love.

2. The Light of Light divine, True brightness undefiled,
He bears for us the pain of sin, A holy, spotless child.
3. His infant body now Begins the cross to feel;
Those precious drops of blood that flow For death the victim seal.
4. Today the name is Thine At which we bend the knee.
They call Thee Jesus, child divine; Our Jesus deign to be.
- △ 5. All praise, eternal Son, For Thy redeeming love,
With Father, Spirit, ever one In glorious might above.

TLH100 Christians, Sing Out with Exultation

Benedict Pictet

1. Christians, sing out with exultation,
And praise your Benefactor's name!
Today the Author of salvation,
The Father's Well-beloved, came.
Of undefilèd virgin mother
An Infant all divine was born,
And God Himself became your Brother
Upon this happy Christmas morn.
2. In Him eternal might and power
To human weakness hath inclined;
And this poor Child brings richest dower
Of gifts and graces to mankind.
While here, His majesty disguising,
A servant's form the Master wears,
Behold the beams of glory rising,
E'en from His poverty and tears.
3. A stable serves Him for a dwelling
And for a bed a manger mean;
Yet o'er His head, His advent telling,
A new and wondrous star is seen.
Angels rehearse to men the story,
The joyful story of His birth;
To Him they raise the anthem—"Glory
To God on high and peace on earth!"
4. For thro' this holy incarnation
The primal curse is done away;
And blessed peace o'er all creation
Hath shed its pure and gentle ray.

Then, in that heav'nly concert joining,
O Christian men, with one accord,
Your voices tunefully combining,
Salute the birthday of your Lord!

The Circumcision and Name of Jesus



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 in this holy season
- + 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,
Jessica Krause, John Starks, Dwight Bieberich, Debra Busche, Bill Weinrich, Paul
Dolde, Willodean Bates, Gloria Gonzalez, Dick Hollman, 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
- + For the gift of rebirth by water and the Spirit
- + For those who mourn the death of loved ones
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed, including Fred Hill
- + 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 Circumcision and Name of Jesus. The Cross Bowl is given in memory of Fred Hill on the occasion of his birthday by DaVanna & David Seifert and family. Please complete an attendance/communion card, including the names of all children, and indicate if you are communing. Non-members, please read the back of the card.

CALENDAR

January 1, 2023 thru January 7, 2023

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service — New Year's Day	Church
	10:30 AM	8 th day of Christmas Party	Bauer Hall
MON.			
TUES.			
WED.	9:30 AM	Men of Zion	Conference Room
	5:30 PM	Wednesday Divine Service	Church
THURS.	7:00 PM	Council of Elders Meeting	Conference Room
FRI.			
SAT.	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church

January 8, 2023 Epiphany (transferred)

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:30 AM	Education Hour	Various
	2:00 PM	Prayer Room hosting	Electric Works

ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO EDUCATION HOUR TODAY It will resume next Sunday, January 8, 2023. On the other hand, are holding our 8th Day of Christmas party today in Bauer Hall after Divine Service. We'll have good food — more than a brunch, some games and sing some Christmas carols — not all sacred.

SAVE THE DATE: if you attended Zion Academy/School you don't want to miss this three-day reunion event June 9-11, 2023.

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 either 1) unused envelopes from last year putting the correct date on them; or 2) the envelopes in the pew rack, but **please** mark them as general fund and put your name on them. These actions will ensure that your offering will be recorded. We plan to enclose two envelopes in the January Voice for your use as well. Thank you for your patience.

APOLOGIES for the confusion on Christmas Eve. It was Zion, Woodburn (Bull Rapids) that cancelled Christmas Eve services. WPTA 21, however, didn't specify which Zion was cancelled (there are seven Zions in its viewing area), leading some to think it was Zion, Fort Wayne. I called them twice in an attempt to have them specify, but they did not get to it. Generally, Zion saints, I am loath to cancel any service. The main reason during bad weather would be that I cannot get there myself — not likely as my truck is four-wheel drive. We'll use other means to let you know, also, like Facebook and showing it on our zionfw.org calendar. It was still a glorious Christmas Eve service at Zion. Sorry if this caused you absence.

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 effort. We will be serving brunch. We need your attendance.

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." Mainly, you'll be asked to show visitors hospitality, but you could be asked to pray for or with someone. You'll want to be ready to do that. Quotes from *24/7 Prayer Room Hosting Instructions*. I've printed some highlighted copies.

PLEASE CONTINUE to support the Cup of Kindness during the Christmas season. Cup of Kindness is a ministry of Lutheran Social Service 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: Genesis 1:1 — "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Last week's verse was Luke 2:10-11

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/.

ONGOING SACRED MUSIC FOR THE SEASON: 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

Luke 2:21	The Circumcision and Name of Jesus	Numbers 6:22-27
Luke 2:1-20	Monday	Isaiah 62:1-12
Luke 2:21-40	Tuesday	Isaiah 63:1-14
Luke 2:41-52	Wednesday	Isaiah 63:15-65:2
Luke 3:1-20	Thursday	Isaiah 65:8-25
Luke 3:21-38	Friday	Isaiah 66:1-20
Romans 1:1-17	Saturday	Ezekiel 1:1-14, 22-28

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 Epiphany of Our Lord (transferred)

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12



What Doctor Luther Says:

Concerning Sacred Signs: Circumcision, Baptism, etc.

By presenting foolish, useless, disgraceful things to reason, ..., God pulls it away from the pursuit of profit, honor, and wisdom, teaching it to look only to the invisible divine wisdom, honor, and profit and gladly to suffer for them lack of temporal honor, profit, and wisdom and to be foolish, poor, insufficient, and disgraced for God's sake. Therefore, God was not concerned about circumcision, but about the humbling of proud nature and reason.

So, too, in the New Testament we have baptism, in which we must be immersed in water and believe that there we become cleansed of our sins and saved. Again, we believe that Christ's body is in the bread of the altar; again, we adore the crucified man as Lord and God. ... In all this God is looking only for humility, that man take captive his reason and be obedient to divine truth. Thus, this foolish rite of circumcision was given Abraham and his seed so that in this way they would give glory to God and permit him alone to be wise. Circumcision was an external sign, whereby God's people were recognized as different from other peoples, just as we see that every prince gives to his people and army his banner and password, whereby they recognize one another, and foreigners know to which lord they belong. God has never yet left his people without such signs or passwords, by which one should know externally in the world where his people are. The Israelites are recognized by circumcision; that was their divine password. Our passwords are baptism and the body of Christ. For this reason the ancient fathers called such signs *characteres*, *symbola*, *tesserae*, i.e., passwords or insignia; we now call them sacraments, that is, sacred signs. For where there is baptism, there are certainly Christians, wherever they are in the world.

Luther's Works, 52:150-51.

January
2023



Life NEWS

lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

Abortion pills took the lives of nearly 500,000 preborn babies in 2020, while sales from the deadly pill regimen made up an astounding 53% of nationally reported abortion numbers, according to updated data published by Guttmacher Institute researchers. The report entitled, “Abortion Incidence and Service Availability in the United States, 2020,” also found that between 2017 and 2020, the share of “medication abortions” increased for all facility types. Numbers published by the FDA through June of 2021 reveal that the abortion pill has ended the lives of nearly five million preborn human beings since its approval in 2000 ... Abortion reporting data is not required by federal law; therefore, the CDC relies solely on data from the states that individually require abortion reporting. Guttmacher gathers information differently, relying on responses to surveys it sends to abortionists; those overall numbers tend to be more comprehensive. “There were 492,210 medication abortions in 2020, a 45% increase from 2017,” Guttmacher Institute researchers wrote in a report published on November 20. “Medication abortion accounted for the majority of all abortions in 2020 (53%), compared to 39% in 2017,” noted authors Rachel K. Jones, Marielle Kirstein, and Jesse Philbin ... Guttmacher’s percent of national abortion pill numbers was slightly higher than what was reported by the CDC. (*Live Action News*, 11/23/22; *CLR LifeWire*, 12/8/22)

Speaking up For Life

“Friend of Jesus, no matter what painful or wonderful endings you marked in the past year, please watch for the early signs of new beginnings. Seize them as opportunities for you and God to develop together. Think about what the Bible teaches about life, appreciate God’s love for you, gather up bits and pieces of experience, and put them in a file named ‘Lessons Learned.’ Then keep it handy.” *Jason Nelson, Time of Grace*

“[E]very human life, no matter the size, level of development, environment, or degree of dependency, is indispensable in fulfilling God’s plans.” *Lynette Auch, former President of Lutherans For Life*

“You are not and never have been simply a number, a blob of tissue, or an invisible nobody. Rather, you are now and always have been God’s handcrafted gift to the world.” *Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life*

“The Lord called all things into being, from the greatest to the least, with His mighty mere Word. But He formed the human bodies with His own fingers and His very breath. He lovingly, intimately, and meticulously knits us together in our mothers’ wombs.” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life*

**Since 1973: 63,459,781
abortions in America**

Source: www.lifenews.com/2022/01/07/63459781-babies-have-been-killed-in-abortions-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973

SAVE THE DATE!

**2023 Lutherans For Life
National Conference • October 11-13**

Holiday Inn Cincinnati Airport | Erlanger, Kentucky
with visits to the

Ark Encounter and Creation Museum

Look for more information in early 2023!

SAVE THE DATE!



lutheransforlife.org/conference



**SAVE THE DATE!
2023 Lutherans For Life
National Conference
October 11-13**

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More details to come

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