

# Historic Zion Lutheran Church

## DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 am ..... Sunday, December 1, 2024

### 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*

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

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*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 ..... All Who Believe and Are Baptized ..... (LSB 601)**

1. All who be-lieve and are bap-tized Shall see the Lord's sal-  
2. With one ac-cord, O God, we pray, Grant us Your Ho - ly  
va - tion; Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, They  
Spir - it; Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty Through  
are a new cre - a - tion; Through Christ's re-demp - tion  
Je - sus' blood and mer - it; Grant us to grow in  
they will stand A - mong the glo - rious heav'n-ly band Of  
grace each day By ho - ly Bap - tism that we may E -  
ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.  
ter - nal life in - her - it.

**The Rite of Holy Baptism ( The Lutheran Formula of 1526 )**

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

The Office of  
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism  
The Lutheran Formula of 1526

Noelle Sarah Muehl

*Daughter of Tyler Mark and Rachel Sarah Muehl  
Born November 22, 2024*

*Reborn into Christ this First Sunday in Advent  
December 1, 2024*

*Sponsors: Matthew & Courtney Harrison  
Village Lutheran Church, Ladue, Missouri*

**All who believe and are baptized  
Shall see the Lord's salvation;  
Baptized into the death of Christ,  
They are a new creation.  
Through Christ's redemption they will stand  
Among the glorious, heav'nly band  
Of every tribe and nation.**

**With one accord, O God, we pray:  
Grant us Your Holy Spirit.  
Help us in our infirmity  
Through Jesus' blood and merit.  
Grant us to grow in grace each day  
That by this sacrament we may  
Eternal life inherit.**

*Hymn text is in the public domain.*

## MARTIN LUTHER'S ADMONITION TO THE BAPTISMAL PARTY AND THE CONGREGATION

"In all Christian earnestness I would ask all those who administer baptism, who hold the children, or witness it, to take this wonderful work to heart in all its seriousness. For here, in the words of these prayers, you hear how meekly and earnestly the Christian church concerns herself about the little child and how he confesses before God in plain undoubting words that he is possessed by the devil and is a child of sin and wrath, and prays very diligently for aid and grace through baptism that he becomes a child of God. Remember, therefore, that it is no joke to take sides against the devil and not only to drive him away from the little child, but to burden the child with such a mighty and lifelong enemy. Remember, too, that it is very necessary to aid the poor child with all your heart and strong faith, earnestly to intercede for him that God, in accordance with this prayer, would not only free him from the power of the devil, but also strengthen him, so that he may nobly resist the devil in life and death.

I suspect that people turn out so badly after baptism because our concern for them has been so cold and careless; we, at their baptism, interceded for them without zeal. . . . See to it, therefore, that you are present in true faith, listen to God's Word, and earnestly join in prayer. For when the pastor says, "Let us pray," he is exhorting you to unite with him in prayer. And all sponsors and the others present should repeat with him the words of his prayer in their hearts to God, . . . carrying the little child's need before God most earnestly, setting themselves against the devil with all their strength on behalf of the child, and showing that they realize this is no joke as far as the devil is concerned. For this reason it is right and proper . . . to treat the matter with seriousness and true faith, lest the holy sacrament be made a mockery for the devil and an insult to God, who through it showers us with the abundant and infinite riches of his grace. He himself calls it a new birth by which we are being freed from all the devil's tyranny, loosed from sin, death, and hell, and become children of life, heirs of all the gifts of God, God's own children, and brethren of Christ.

Ah, dear Christians, let us not value and administer this unspeakable gift so indolently and indifferently; for baptism is our only comfort and admits to every blessing of God and to the communion of all the saints. To this may God help us! Amen!"

### + THE OFFICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

[ *The baptismal party gathers at the baptismal font during the Processional Hymn* ]

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

### + THE EXORCISM +

[The Lutheran Church retained The Exorcism from the historic baptismal rite because of the Biblical doctrine of original sin. "It is taught among us that since the fall of Adam all men who are born according to the course of nature are conceived and born in sin. That is, all men are full of evil lust and inclinations from their mothers' wombs and are unable by nature to have true fear of God and true faith in God."]

[ *To the candidate* ]

*Depart O unclean spirit and make room for the Holy Spirit! Receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your mind ✠ and upon your heart ✠ to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified..... Amen!*

[ To the congregation ]

*Let us pray: O Almighty eternal God, who according to Your righteous judgment did condemn the unbelieving world through the flood; and in your great mercy did preserve believing Noah and his family; and who did drown hardhearted Pharaoh with all his host in the Red Sea and did lead your people Israel through the same on dry ground, thereby prefiguring this bath of your baptism; and who through the baptism of Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, has consecrated and set apart the Jordan and all water as a salutary flood and a rich and full washing away for sins: We pray through Your same boundless mercy that You will graciously behold this **Noelle Sarah Muehl**, and bless her with true faith in her spirit so that by means of this saving flood all that has been born in her from Adam, and which she herself has added thereto, may be drowned in her and engulfed, and that she may be sundered from the number of the unbelieving, preserved dry and secure in the holy ark of Christendom, and serve Your name at all times fervent in spirit and joyful in hope, so that with all believers she may be made worthy to attain eternal life according to Your promise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. .... **Amen!***

[ To the candidate ]

*I adjure you, O unclean spirit, by the name of the Father ✠ and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit ✠ that you come out of and depart from this servant of Jesus Christ, **Noelle Sarah Muehl**. .... **Amen!***

### **+ THE WORD OF GOD +**

[God does bring blessings to those who are baptized, including infants: "It is taught among us that Baptism is necessary and that grace is offered through it. Children, too, should be baptized, for in Baptism they are committed to God and become acceptable to him."]

*The Holy Gospel of St. Mark..... **Glory be to You, O Lord!***

*And they were bringing children to [Jesus] that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them [Mark 10:13-16].*

*This is the Gospel of the Lord! ..... **Praise be to You, O Christ!***

### **+ THE OUR FATHER and THE BLESSING +**

[In Holy Baptism, God is at work. It is a Sacrament, a divine activity, through which He gives His blessing: "Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's Word."]

[ We pray together for God's blessing on the candidates ]

**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. Amen!**

[ To the candidate ]

*The Lord preserve your going out and coming in now and forevermore. .... **Amen!***

## + THE CONFESSION OF THE FAITH +

[Baptism is based on the command and promise of Christ, who causes Baptism to bring saving grace to the candidates by the power of the Word: "It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare."]

[ *To the sponsors, the parents, and the congregation* ]

*Because this candidate cannot answer for herself, we shall all, together with sponsors and parents, speak in testimony of the forgiveness of sin and the birth of the life of faith which God our Father bestows upon this candidate in and through Baptism:*

*Do you renounce the devil? ..... I do renounce him!*  
*and all his works? ..... I do renounce them!*  
*and all his ways? ..... I do renounce them!*

*Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?*

**Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

*Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?*

**Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?*

**Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

*Do you desire to be a baptized and forgiven person? ..... I do!*

## + THE BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF THE HOLY TRINITY +

[Through Holy Baptism poor sinners are adopted into God's family in the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit: "Without God's Word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the Word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit."]

*Noelle Sarah Muehl, I baptize you in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit! ..... Amen!*

[ *To the newly baptized and all the baptized here present* ]

*Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you new birth through water and the Holy Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting! ..... Amen!*

*Peace be with you! ..... Amen!*

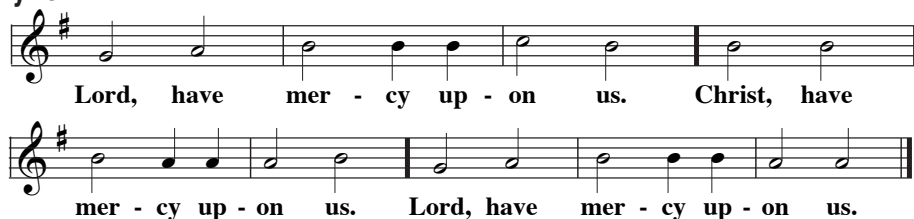
[ *The baptismal party returns to the pews* ]

## + A FINAL NOTE FOR BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS +

"What does such baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever."

[Explanatory notes contain quotations from two primary statements of what Lutherans believe, teach and confess: The Augsburg Confession, and Luther's Small Catechism.]

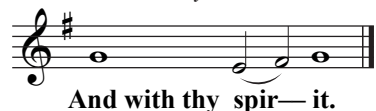
## Kyrie



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have  
mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Salutation

*The Lord be with you.*



And with thy spir— it.

**Collect for the First Sunday in Advent:** *Stir up Your power; O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



A ————— men!

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

**Old Testament Reading**..... **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

[ After the reading ] *This is the word of the Lord.* ..... **Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle of the Day** ..... **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

[ After the reading ] *This is the word of the Lord.* ..... **Thanks be to God.**

[ Rise ] **Alleluia Sequence**

[ Deacon ] *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia!*




Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!


**Holy Gospel** ..... **St. Luke 19:28-40**

[ The Gospel is announced. ]

[ The Gospel is proclaimed. ]



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord!



Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

[ Be Seated ]

**Hymn of the Day** ..... **Savior of the Nations, Come** ..... **Burgundy Hymn 332**

[ All sing stanzas 1 & 2; Women sing stanzas 3 & 5; Men sing stanzas 4 & 6;

All sing stanzas 7 & 8; Rise for Stanza 8. ]

## 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 Advent, 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 ... 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 Bride of Christ Rejoice..... Burgundy Hymn 335**  
**Come, Thou Precious Ransom .... Burgundy Hymn 350**

**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.

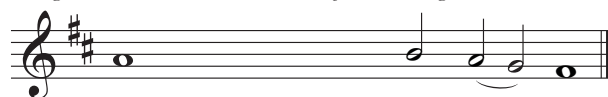
4. Glo— ry\_\_ be to the  
   Father, and to\_\_ the\_\_ Son, and to the Ho- ly Ghost.

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.*



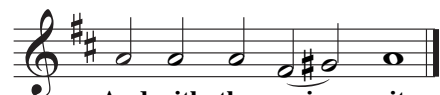
And His mercy endureth for — ev — er.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving ... now and forever.



A — men.

*The Lord be with you.*



And with thy spir — rit.

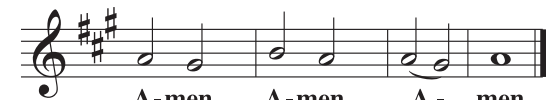
*Bless we the Lord.*



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 ..... Prepare the Royal Highway ..... Burgundy Hymn 343

## Postlude

# Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly!

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

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



2313 South Hanna Street at Creighton

Telephone 744-1389

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## Readings for the First Sunday in Advent

### The Old Testament Reading is Jeremiah 33:14-16

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

### The Epistle is 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

### The Gospel is Luke 19:28-40

When [Jesus] had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He

answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

## Hymns for the First Sunday in Advent

### LSB601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized

Thomas Hansen Kingo

See the service bulletin

### LSB332 Savior of the Nations, Come

Ambrose of Milan

Text: (sts. 4-5, 8) © 1978 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 3, 6-7) © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

1. Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
- W 2. Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh—Woman's offspring pure and fresh.
- M 3. Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild.  
In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.
- W 4. Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and kingly hall;  
God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.
- M 5. God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.
6. For You are the Father's Son Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.
7. From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.
- Δ 8. Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

### LSB335 O Bride of Christ, Rejoice

Danish, c. 1600

1. O bride of Christ, rejoice; Exultant raise thy voice  
To hail the day of glory Foretold in sacred story.  
  
*Refrain:* Hosanna, praise, and glory!  
Our King, we bow before Thee.
2. Let shouts of gladness rise Triumphant to the skies.  
Now comes the King most glorious To reign o'er all victorious.  
*Refrain*
3. A humble beast He rides, Yet as a King presides;  
Though not arrayed in splendor, He makes the grave surrender.  
*Refrain*

4. The weak and timid find How meek He is and kind;  
To them He gives a treasure Of bliss beyond all measure.

*Refrain*

5. Then go thy Lord to meet; Strew palm leaves at His feet;  
Thy garments spread before Him And honor and adore Him.

*Refrain*

**LSB350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come** Johann Gottfried Olearius

1. Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.  
Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.
2. Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly.  
Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my guest divine!
3. My hosannas and my palms Graciously receive, I pray Thee;  
Evermore, as best I can, Savior, I will homage pay Thee,  
And in faith I will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.
4. Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!  
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation,  
That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.

**LSB343 Prepare the Royal Highway**

Frans Mikael Franzén

Text: © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*; Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

1. Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story:  
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!
2. God's people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!  
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!
3. Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him!  
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

4. His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding:  
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

# The First Sunday in Advent



## Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

[pastor@zionfw.org](mailto:pastor@zionfw.org) | [church@zionfw.org](mailto:church@zionfw.org) | website: [www.zionfw.org](http://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:

Matthew Harrison, Nathaniel Demlow

### The Teaching Staff at Lutheran South Unity

Principal:

Amber Bahr (744-0459; [www.lsusfw.org](http://www.lsusfw.org))

Teachers:

Yvonne Schwantz (8<sup>th</sup>, MS ELA), Michael Cullen (7<sup>th</sup>, MS Science),

Chase Mertz (6<sup>th</sup>, MS Social Studies), Danielle Ramsey (5<sup>th</sup>), Abbey Kohler (4<sup>th</sup>),

Tiffany Scheurich (3<sup>rd</sup>), John Fink (2<sup>nd</sup>), Hannah Fink (1<sup>st</sup>), Rachel Wiegman (K-A),

Michelle Madden (K-B), Natalie Reynolds (Art), Open Position (Music),

Lizzy Hoham (Progress Partners Coach), Cathie Wakeland (Literacy Coach), Gary Arrington (PE, AD)

### 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, including Bishop Juhana Pohjola and Dr. Päivi Räsänen
- + For those who serve our Lord at home and abroad, especially our fieldworkers Matthew Harrison and Nate Demlow, and for Paul Mroczenski vicaring in Puerto Rico
- + For our nation; for our leaders currently serving and newly elected; for our military, including James Hall
- + 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
- + For those who are on hospice care, especially Janice Grim
- + For the ill, distressed, and those suffering affliction, including John Starks, Rick Meyer, Jane Porter Gresham, Richard Lammert, TruLaine Starks, Connie Houser, Mike Carson, Estella Ramirez, Kevin Leininger, Bill Weinrich, Debra Busche, Dwight Bieberich, Willodean Bates, Dick Hollman, Jerry & Elaine Seifert, Bob Ockree, Joe Harrison, Louisa Porter, Marlow Hogan, Marissia White, Elizabeth Lindsay, Gary Phillips, Dwight Johnson, Ron Rastl, and Robert & Jenny Hobby.
- + For God's blessing on all godly marriages, especially Rita & Mike Davies
- + 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, especially Bill Wallschlaeger
- + 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 First Sunday in Advent. The Cross Bowl is given in celebration of the 27<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Rita & Mike Davies. The Altar Vases are given by Carolyn Wallschlaeger in memory of Bill on the occasion of their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, December 5, 1964. 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 1, 2024 thru December 7, 2024**

<b>SUN.</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Divine Service</b>	<b>Church</b>
	10:25 AM	Education Council Meeting	Church
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Study	Bauer Hall
	2:00 PM	Messiah Sing-a-long	Queen of Angels Catholic Church
	2:30 PM	New Millennium Jazz Orchestra Concert	Church
<b>MON.</b>			
<b>TUES.</b>	12 NOON	Administrative Council Meeting	Conference Room
<b>WED.</b>	9:30 AM	Men of Zion	Conference Room
	<b>5:45 PM</b>	<b>Advent Supper</b>	<b>Bauer Hall</b>
	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Advent Evening Prayer</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>THURS.</b>	7:00 PM	Council of Elders	Conference Room
<b>FRI.</b>	5 – 9 PM	City of Churches Tour	See insert
<b>SAT.</b>	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church
	5:30PM	Feliz Navidad Gala	CLHS

### **December 8, 2024**

<b>SUN.</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Divine Service</b>	<b>Church</b>
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Study	Bauer Hall



## ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

**EDUCATION HOUR:** Dr. Voelz continues today with the study of the Gospel according to St. Mark. Sunday School is as needed. Parents of young children, let us know your needs.

**WE REJOICE** with Tyler & Rachel Muehl and family at the birth of Noelle Sarah on November 22, and her rebirth into the kingdom of God by Holy Baptism today.

**LUTHERAN WITNESS:** if you would like to renew or start getting the *Lutheran Witness*, please make your checks (\$19) out to Zion Lutheran Church before December 31, 2024.

**NEXT YEAR'S ENVELOPES** are in the Great Hall with your name and number on them. Please take them with you today.

**FYI:** Giving Tuesday is this Tuesday, and our Advent midweek services begin this Wednesday: 5:45–6:45 PM for supper and Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM. Let us prepare our hearts for Christ's coming.

**FOOD CO-OP:** Bags and a list are on the table in the Great Hall. Pick up some extra items at the grocery store and contribute them to the Food Co-op at the Seminary. It is the season of giving.

**SHUT-IN GIFT BAGS:** Plan to bring fruit (oranges, apples, bananas) and holiday cookies to church sometime in the week before December 21. A group will gather that Saturday to divide the treats into bags so that they can be delivered on December 22.

**DON'T FORGET,** we'll have a very brief Congregational Assembly before the Divine Service next Sunday to elect an alternate delegate to the District Convention. Kevin Leininger has agreed to serve as alternate. If anyone else has an interest in serving as alternate, let Pastor know.

**MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE:** Revelation 1:7-8—"Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.'" Last week's verse was 2 Corinthians 5:17.

**YOUR ESTATE PLAN** can enable you to express your Christian faith. Have you ever endeavored to express your faith and desire for your family to remain in the faith, in a short, succinctly written piece that you can share as a lasting testimony even after the Lord calls you home? Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you to initiate this project, including sharing some examples. For assistance, contact Mark Muehl at 260-241-4845 or [mark.muehl@lfnf.org](mailto:mark.muehl@lfnf.org).

**LIFE DEFENDERS TRIP TO THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE** College-aged and high school students are invited to join Right to Life of Northeast Indiana on a bus trip to the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. (January 22 – 25). It's a life-changing experience! Learn more at [www.ichooselife.org/dc](http://www.ichooselife.org/dc) or call the RLNI office at 260-471-1849. Registration ends Dec. 15. **ALSO, SAVE THE DATE:** RLNI March for Life is Saturday, January 18, 12:30 PM. The Rally will be outside this year, and there's a different route for the March. Visit [www.ichooselife.org/resources/events/upcoming-events](http://www.ichooselife.org/resources/events/upcoming-events) and look for Northeast Indiana March for Life 2025 for more details.

**CLHS: Priority Application Period – now to December 20th** Submitting your application during this period ensures that your student will receive their financial aid package by mid-February. Please go to the application page at [clhscadets.com](http://clhscadets.com) to apply!

**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH MEN'S CLUB** (4245 Lake Avenue) is selling Christmas trees and decorated wreaths. The lot is open 2–8 PM weekdays, 9 AM to 8 PM Saturdays, and 12 noon to 8 PM. Sundays. The proceeds from this fundraiser are used to support various projects and functions of the Concordia Church and school.

**A PART-TIME RESOURCE ROOM TEACHER** position with LSEM is open at Bethlehem Lutheran School in Ossian IN. If interested, please contact Richard Schumacher at (734) 748-5253 or email him at [rschumacher@luthsped.org](mailto:rschumacher@luthsped.org).

**EMMAUS COOKIE FAIR** Mark your calendar for the annual Cookie Fair at Emmaus Lutheran Church, 8626 Covington Road, on Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. A wonderful variety of homemade Christmas cookies, fudge, and other favorite Christmas treats will be sold for \$8.00 per pound. These homemade goodies make a wonderful gift and an easy way to do your last minute "Christmas baking!" Free decorative tins will be available to make "gift wrapping" easy! In addition to the Christmas treats, we'll have Rada Cutlery, a variety of homemade jams & jelly, and kitchen hand towels available to purchase. Come get some delicious homemade goodies and enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee or hot chocolate!

**For the family of God's Priestly People at Zion**

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

**Morning Prayer**

Luke 19:28-40  
1 Peter 4:1-19  
1 Peter 5:1-14  
2 Peter 1:1-21  
2 Peter 2:1-22  
2 Peter 3:1-18  
1 John 1:1 – 2:14

**DAILY LECTIONARY**

**The First Sunday in Advent**

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday  
Saturday

**Evening Prayer**

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Isaiah 8:9–9:7  
Isaiah 9:8–10:11  
Isaiah 10:12-27a, 33-34  
Isaiah 11:1–12:6  
Isaiah 14:1-23  
Isaiah 24:1-13

**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 Second Sunday in Advent**

Malachi 3:1-7b

Philippians 1:2-11

Luke 3:1-20



# What Doctor Luther Says:

## About Jesus the Christ, True God, the LORD

The name [Jacob called] the place, אֵל בֵּית־אֵל, [El Beth-El] is new and singular. For the אֵל [El] is placed in front, and this also occurs in the composition of the name בֵּית־אֵל [Beth-El] itself. Moreover, we have not retained the Hebrew proper names everywhere, but at times we have made them common nouns in the German translation. In this place, for example, the Latin translator renders it “house of God.” But we retain this word because it is very noteworthy on account of the addition אֵל. Although the place was previously called Bethel, he here calls it “God-Bethel.” It is very common in the Hebrew language for proper names to be joined with the name of God, names like Isaiah, Gabriel, Daniel, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah, “the exaltation of God.” In the German language we have few of these. In Greek there are more, like Theodosius, Theodorus, etc.

Now this place Bethel cannot be God, and yet it is called El-Bethel. Accordingly, we have a dispute with the Jews concerning names of this kind because of the passage in Jer. 23:6 and 33:16: “And this is the name by which He will be called: “The Lord our Righteousness.” From this passage we are eager to prove and demonstrate that it is necessary that the Branch of David, or the Messiah, to whom all concede this passage must be understood to refer, is true God. For he says: “This is His name, by which men call Him, ‘Lord,’” and the tetragrammaton יְהוָה [Yahweh] is used here, which belongs to God alone. Therefore we contend that Christ is true God who justifies us because He has a name which is assigned to God alone.

*Luther's Works, 35:248.*

Summary of meeting of the Council of Elders,  
November 7, 2024

(The following summary is being provided in accordance with the congregation's bylaws, §VIII)

Attendance:

Elders present: R. Lammert (chairman), A. Litke (secretary), F. Jackson, W. Krause, T. Muehl, K. Vlot.

Pastor present: Pr. Punke.

Pastor Punke led the elders in a devotion by continuing the reading of Article IV on justification from the Apology of the Augsburg Confession.

In his pastor's report, Pastor Punke reported on deaths, matters of health, and other issues of members and friends of Zion, as well as activities at LSUS and CLHS, and upcoming events (presentation by Tim Goeglein, the Bach Collegium performance at Zion, the congregational assembly, and Advent worship).

The elders reviewed Pillar 1, Goal #1: "Starting October 1, 2024, Zion will experience a 10% increase in average worship attendance by December 30, 2024." At the December meeting, the elders will review the telephone protocol for contacting members who have missed four consecutive weeks of worship, and begin contacting members from lists prepared by Melvia and reviewed by Pastor Punke.

The elders reviewed Pillar 2, Goal #1: "In January of 2025, Zion will commence an annual opportunity for providing resources and training for members to gain confidence in inviting neighbors to Zion." The elders will begin planning for this at their December meeting.

The elders reviewed Pillar 2, Goal #4: "The Council of Elders will conduct the CADDs survey before Lent 2025." The elders will address this goal and make plans to achieve it at their December meeting.

The council finished reviewing the manual for the Pastoral Support and Assistance Committee, and the manual was approved. The manual will now be available from the secretary of the congregational assembly to any congregation member, as per Zion bylaws §XIV.C.

Frank Jackson reported that there has been no progress on the training for CPR and on the use of the AEDs. The cost has to be dealt with. The Finance Committee will address it.

The council approved the appointment of Art Litke as the elders' representative to the Education Council.

The meeting was concluded with the praying of Luther's Evening Prayer and the pronouncement of the Apostolic Blessing by Pastor Punke.

Respectfully submitted,  
Arthur E. Litke, secretary



# Order Your Poinsettia Plants for Christmas 2024!



PLEASE PRINT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DEDICATION \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 8 1/2 inch Poinsettia \$42 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 6 1/2 inch Poinsettia \$18 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 4 1/2 inch Poinsettia \$10 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Pick up plant after Dec 31

\_\_\_ Give plant to a shut-in

Return this form to the church office by **December 15th**  
to have your dedication  
printed in the bulletin.



## LSUS NOTES

### Praying for You!

**Please pray for these students/staff:**

Josiah

Elijah H.

Noelle

Dante

Khloe

Annalysa

Owynn

Keiayla

Ximena

Gay Doh

Mrs. Ramsey

Mrs. Bahr

Mr. & Mrs. Fink (Married 11/22!)



## What's been happening at LSUS?

Check out what we have been up to these past few weeks at LSUS!

- Thursday, November 14th our band kids joined other



Lutheran school bands for their fall concert! Beginning band: Noah, Josue, Ivan, and August. Advanced Band: Paingthu and Caleb. Great job!



- Jared the Comfort Dog visited. Students learned about his important job and each classroom got to have some Jared time!



- 8th Grade visited Concordia Lutheran High School for Concordia Day. They got to see what classes and activities they offer.



## MudLove Bracelets for Sale:

LSUS is still selling MudLOVE bracelets to raise funds for the PTO (Parent Teacher Organization.) Bracelets are adjustable (one size fits most), waterproof, handcrafted in Indiana! They come in a variety of colors and have a variety of words or phrases.

**Cost: \$10 each**

See the office to purchase a bracelet during office hours.



## PHOENIX SPORTS



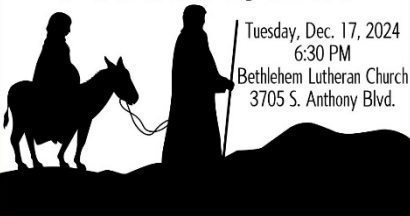
Monday, 12/2 5:45PM Boys JV  
Away Game @ St. John Emmanuel  
12912 Franke Rd. Monroeville, IN

Thursday, 12/5 4:30PM Boys JV  
& 5:45PM Boys Varsity  
Away Game @ Suburban Bethlehem  
6318 W. California Rd.

Saturday, 12/7 4:30PM Boys JV  
& 5:30PM Boys Varsity  
Away Game @ St. John Kendallville  
301 S. Oak St. Kendallville, IN

LUTHERAN SOUTH UNITY SCHOOL  
K-8 Christmas Service

## JOURNEY TO THE MANGER



## Encouragement Found in Scriptures:

“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!”

—1 Chronicles 16:34



LUTHERAN SOUTH UNITY SCHOOL  
K-8 Christmas Service

# JOURNEY TO THE MANGER

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024  
6:30 PM

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
3705 S. Anthony Blvd.





*The 8th Annual  
Fort Wayne  
City of Churches  
Tour*

FRIDAY,  
12/06/2024

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

5pm - 9pm • 1105 S Calloun St

St. John Lutheran Church

6pm - 9pm • 729 W Washington Blvd

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

5pm - 7pm • 2120 S Harrison St

Trinity English Lutheran Church

5pm - 9pm • 450 W Washington Blvd

Trinity Episcopal Church

5pm - 8pm • 611 W Berry St



FORT WAYNE  
CITY OF CHURCHES  
TOUR



For more information, scan the QR  
code or look us up on Facebook!



# Christmas at the Embassy

The Christ Child:

Our Confidence and Joy Shall Be

*At the Historic Embassy Theatre*

December 15, 2024 | 4:00 p.m.

\$15 - Students and Seniors | \$20 - Adults



Concordia Lutheran  
High School

Tickets available at the Star Bank Box Office or Ticketmaster Beginning October 25

# Light the Match

## A Northeast Indiana Matching Gift Challenge

*"The bottom line is that the SGO changes lives. It makes it possible for Northeast Indiana children in need to attend loving, faith-based schools where they can be known and chart a new path for their lives. We feel blessed to be able to support this work changing our community for the good." – Nate & Jodi Goltz, Leaders Staffing, LLC*

## Attention All New Donors: Discover the joy of giving through the SGO program.

For the calendar year 2024, any gift from a new donor, or a new business, including sole proprietorships, LLCs, and incorporated businesses, to one of the 22 schools in our family of schools in Northeast Indiana would be matched \$1 for \$1 up to \$10,000 for an accumulated total of \$75,000. Gifts from lapsed donors (3 or more years since their last gift) will also be considered for this match. This is a first-received, first-matched basis.

**WHY Give:** Receive a 50% credit to reduce or eliminate your Indiana State taxes.

**HOW to Give:** Donate to The Lutheran SGO via check, card, stock, PayPal, IRAs, or Donor Advised Funds.

**Your support will ensure that families in Northeast Indiana will receive a quality, Christian education.**



Matching Gift Challenge is open to all new donors and new businesses, including sole proprietorships, LLCs, and incorporated businesses.



All donations would be matched up to \$10,000 per business for an accumulated total of \$75,000.



New donors can choose to fund scholarships for students to attend 22 Christian elementary and high schools in Northeast Indiana that are part of The Lutheran SGO of Indiana family of schools.

**For more information, contact us at:**  
Call: 260-203-4509. Email: [info@LutheranSGO.org](mailto:info@LutheranSGO.org)  
Visit: [LutheranSGO.org](http://LutheranSGO.org)

THE  
LUTHERAN  
**SCHOLARSHIP**  
GRANTING ORGANIZATION

LIFE NEWS—DECEMBER 2024



LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE

[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)



## Life Newsbytes

The Abortion Pill Rescue Network (APRN) has saved 6,000 babies since its founding in 2008, according to a November 20 press release from Heartbeat International. Founded by Dr. George Delgado, APRN has been managed by Heartbeat International since 2018. The network has a 24/7 hotline that connects women in 93 countries with providers who can help reverse their chemical abortions. Women who have taken mifepristone, the first pill in a chemical abortion procedure, can reverse the abortion by taking progesterone. Progesterone is naturally produced by a woman's body and has been used safely during pregnancy since the 1950s. It is also used to prevent miscarriages in women with a history of pregnancy loss. Heartbeat International's website states that studies have shown that 64-68% of women who take progesterone after mifepristone are able to save their pregnancies, and their babies have no increase in birth defects and a lower premature delivery rate than the general population. Christa Brown of Heartbeat International said, "Today we celebrate 6,000 children ... Imagine what our world would have lost if just one of them were not here. We are thankful for each of them and their brave mothers who ... realized the value of the life they carried and wanted a new plan — and the APRN was there to help." (Source: *Grace Porto, LifeNews.com, 11/22/24*)

## Speaking up For Life

"You might not be impressive by the world's standards. You might be a third-shift worker, a nameless neighbor, or a sinner who messed up in very public ways. But the angel declared good news for all people, which logically must include you. So, rejoice today! A Savior was born to you!" *Pastor Mike Novotny, Time of Grace*

"I don't know what exactly you expect this Christmas. But I can tell you to set your expectations high as you listen to God's Advent call. Listen to His promises. Look in the manger. And you'll find hope and unity now and into eternity." *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota*

"This time of the year always fills us with cheer | But the reason we celebrate is not always clear | The cookies, the lights, the presents, the tree | The carols, the decorations, the family parties | But all of the delight and all of the fun | Does not mean a thing if we don't know God's Son | The tiny baby that was born to die | Can sometimes cause us to stop and ask why | Do we really deserve the sacrifice He made? | Are we worth the offering and the price that was paid? | In His eyes, we are, because He made us His own | And on the cross, the ultimate love was shown | So take joy in the season and spread His true love | But always remember the gift from above!" *Jerrod Nelson, Time of Grace*

## Essay Testimonies

by Pastor Michael Salemink



Every year, our annual LFL State Federations Essay Contest renews my joy and hope. Hundreds of junior high and high school students across the country participate. They declare profound truth and love in giving voice to the sanctity of every human life. Their testimonies affirm that you're raising and instructing them well. And they assure us that successive generations will carry our message and ministry forward. But you should hear it for yourself:

"In 2020, my family fostered two beautiful girls, Athena and Roseanne ... We fostered for 3.5 months. As time went on, I realized God's plan for these girls and why He placed them in my home. As my love for them grew, I realized what a blessing foster care is—not just for me but for these children as well. We provided a safe home and a chance for them to see Christ." *Ally, Illinois*

"Last December, I coordinated a Christmas piano program for a local nursing home. As the facility doors swung open, I was slammed with the pungent smell of antiseptics, incessant beep of medical equipment, and overall presence of suffering in the room. A veil of pain, fatigue, and confusion seemed to shroud the residents. When the first notes of 'O Come, All Ye Faithful' rang on the piano, that veil was lifted immediately. The residents' faces brightened. Most of them started singing along. Through the gift of music, the assembly was bathed in Christ's light of salvation. After the last hymn ended, they begged us to come again soon. The adults in that room may have lost the ability to walk and talk as they once could, but they will never lose the ability to enjoy God's radiant blessings." *Emma, Texas*

"When I walked into a dilapidated Dairy Queen to meet another possible child to foster, I met Wylynn. The whole time we talked to Wylynn, you could see the light of life inside her. Wylynn was one of our many missing pieces. I am so thankful her mother chose life instead of abortion because without her, I would not be who I am today. We were so glad that God gave us a chance to live out our faith by adopting Wylynn and supporting life. There is a light inside every single foster child out there, a light of hope!" *Gracelynn, South Dakota*

"One of my sisters has dyslexia and dysgraphia. Often, she says she is dumb because of what she has. She thinks that because of her dyslexia and dysgraphia, she will never be considered intelligent. Once she gets past that, however, she is as happy as ever, we just need to help comfort her. She is incredibly smart; things are just much more difficult for her than people realize. Everyone's life shines in darkness." *Maria, Kansas*

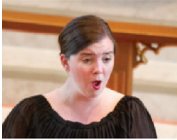
"God created every one of us to shine brightly in the world He made for us. Each person is a candle, sustaining His light to share with others. When a baby is aborted, his or her candle is extinguished. Clearly, that is not what God wants for us. None of us are unimportant to God; He cares about all of us, no matter our size, age, parents, gender, or disabilities. Every candle has a special purpose God designed." *Christina, Missouri*

Thanks be to God for His abundant ongoing faithfulness!

For tickets and more information visit  
[www.bachcollegium.org](http://www.bachcollegium.org)



## 2024-2025 Season



Sarah Shafer



Daniel McGrew



Edward Vogel



Ashlee Bickley



Brad Tatum



Leighann Daihl Ragusa

### Sun Nov 10 at 4 pm – Concert I Zion Lutheran Church, 2313 S. Hanna St., Fort Wayne

Ashlee Bickley, *mezzo-soprano*

Daniel McGrew, *tenor*

Edward Vogel, *baritone*

Leighann Daihl Ragusa, *flauto traverso*

Sung Lee, *oboe/oboe d'amore*

**J.S. Bach:** *Ich lasse dich nicht, du segnest mich den*, BWV 157

**J.S. Bach:** *Ich armer Mensch, ich Sündenknecht*, BWV 55

**J. Brahms:** *Warum ist das Licht gegeben dem Mühseligen*, Op. 74, No. 1 [a cappella]

**J.S. Bach:** *Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin*, BWV 125

### Sun Dec 1 at 2 pm – *Messiah* Sing-Along Queen of Angels Catholic Church, 1500 W. State St., Fort Wayne

The joy of singing *Messiah* is open for everyone in our annual *Messiah* Sing-Along, with **Thomas Remenschneider** directing. Bring your own score or borrow a copy we will have available. Holiday cookies will be served.

### Sun February 16 at 4 pm – Concert II Trinity Lutheran Church, 1636 St. Mary's Ave., Fort Wayne

Sarah Shafer, *soprano*

Ashlee Bickley, *mezzo-soprano*

Jonathan Busarow, *tenor*

Keith Brautigam, *baritone*

Brad Tatum, *cornò da tirarsi*

Sung Lee, *oboe/oboe d'amore*

Luke Conklin, *oboe/oboe d'amore/recorder*

**J.S. Bach:** *Herr, wie du willst, so schick's mit mir*, BWV 73

**J.S. Bach:** *Komm, du süße Todesstunde*, BWV 161

**A. Bruckner:** *Motets; selection* [a cappella]

*Zwei Totenlieder*, No. 1, WAB 47

*Vexilla regis*, WAB 51

*Zwei Totenlieder*, No. 2, WAB 48

**J.S. Bach:** *Christus, der ist mein Leben*, BWV 95

### Sun April 27 at 4 pm – Concert III Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 917 W. Jefferson Blvd., Ft. Wayne

Sarah Shafer, *soprano*

Ashlee Bickley, *mezzo-soprano*

Mark Vogel, *tenor*

Edward Vogel, *baritone*

Esteban Hernandez Parra, *viola*

Sung Lee, *oboe/oboe d'amore*

Jenni Kirby, *oboe/oboe d'amore*

**J.S. Bach:** *Wer da gläubet und getauft wird*, BWV 37

**J.S. Bach:** *Alles nur nach Gottes Willen*, BWV 72

**U.W.v. Wassenaer:** *Concerto armonico III in A major* [instrumental]

**M. Duruflé:** *Tantum ergo*, Op. 10, No. 4 [a cappella]

**T. Kverno:** *Corpus Christi Carol* [a cappella]

**J.S. Bach:** *Mein liebster Jesu ist verloren*, BWV 154

# HURRICANE HELENE UPDATE



**HURRICANE HELENE** made landfall near Perry, Fla., on Sept. 26 as a Category 4 storm. Since that time, it has left a devastating trail of death and destruction across the southeastern United States. The death toll is currently estimated at more than 180 people in six states.

On Sept. 30, the Rev. Dr. Ross Johnson, director of LCMS Disaster Response, departed for a multi-day visit to assess the damage, after which an initial response plan will be developed in cooperation with the districts affected. Other LCMS districts and Recognized Service Organizations are also assisting with the response.

While early reports seemed to indicate the damage would not be extensive, that quickly changed. In Florida, the Tampa and St. Petersburg areas sustained severe flooding, with multiple homes taking in water, making them currently uninhabitable. Meanwhile, south-central Georgia experienced significant tree damage, and western North Carolina — particularly Asheville — remains in dire conditions, with closed roads impeding transportation, and widespread power and cellular outages making communication difficult or impossible.

Johnson encourages everyone in the LCMS to take part in the response as they are able. First, and most important, please pray for those affected by the storms. Second, consider volunteering to assist with the response. Third, consider a gift to LCMS Disaster Response.

## PRAYER

*Lord of heaven and earth, we know that you hold all things and people in Your hands. In your mercy, provide for the needs of those who have been affected, in big ways or small, by Hurricane Helene. Work through the efforts of those who bring relief, aid and comfort, and protect all involved from any further harm. Most of all, help us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. In His name we pray. Amen.*

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## TO VOLUNTEER

Visit [lcms-1ert.org](http://lcms-1ert.org).

## TO GIVE

VISIT [lcms.org/givenow/](http://lcms.org/givenow/) disaster.

TEXT “LCMSDISASTERS” to 41444.

CALL the LCMS toll-free gift line between 8 a.m. and 4:10 p.m. Central time at 888-930-4438.

**MAIL** — Make checks payable to “The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod” (or “LCMS”). On the memo line, write “Disaster Response” and mail to the LCMS, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861.

*Gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law.*





*"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you* always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now," writes St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians (PHIL. 1:3).

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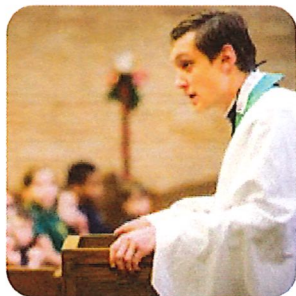
**THANKS**  
*be to*  
**God**  
for those  
who work in our  
congregations  
and schools!

**With this same gratitude**, we thank the more than 11,000 church workers who serve our Synod with the Word and mercy of Christ. Throughout this month, congregations and schools are encouraged to show their appreciation for all church workers.

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**For teachers especially** we give thanks, who teach God's Word to our children, dedicate countless hours to the classroom, who love the children of God they teach and who live a life of service to Christ and His church.

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**For all church workers**, from pastors to deaconesses to directors of Christian education, parish music, family life and outreach, who teach God's Word and point us to Christ. Tell them "Thank you!" this month for all they do!

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*Set Apart to Serve* seeks to create an intentional culture of church worker formation and recruitment in every LCMS congregation, school and entity. Visit [resources.lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve](https://resources.lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve) to learn more.

  
**SET APART  
TO SERVE**