

Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 am Sunday, December 22, 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

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

Invocation

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

The Office of Confession of Sins and Absolution

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

[Kneel]

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

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.

Introit



[Antiphon] *My soul magni- | fies the LORD, || and my spirit rejoices in | God my Sav-__ |*
ior.

Verse 1: **My mouth derides my | e- ne- mies, || because I re- | joice in your sal- |**
•vation•.

Verse 2: *There is none holy like the LORD: for there is | none •besides• you; || there is |*
no rock like our | God..

Verse 3: **The barren | has borne •seven•, || but she who has many | chil- dren is for- |**
lorn.

Verse 4: *The LORD kills and | brings to life; || he brings down to She- | ol and rais- es |*
up.

Verse 5: **The LORD makes poor | and makes rich; || he brings | low and he ex- |**
alts.

Gloria: **Glorify be to the Father and | to the Son: || and | to the Ho- ly | •Spirit•;**
As it was in the be- | •ginning•, is now, || and will | be for- •ever•. A- |
men!

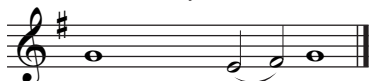
[Antiphon] *My soul magni- | fies the Lord, || and my spirit rejoices in | God my Sav-__ |*
ior.

Kyrie



Salutation

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir— it.

Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Advent: *Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



Collect for 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.*



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

Old Testament Reading..... **Micah 5:2-5a**

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

Epistle of the Day **Hebrews 10:5-10**

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

[Rise] **Alleluia Sequence**

[Deacon] *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia!*

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

Holy Gospel **St. Luke 1:39-56**

[The Gospel is announced.]

[The Gospel is proclaimed.]

Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord!

Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

Confession of Faith (The Nicene Creed)

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

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

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

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

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

[Be Seated]

Hymn of the Day **O Come, O Come** **Burgundy Hymn 357**

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

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 Little Town of Bethlehem Burgundy Hymn 361

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

When All the World Was Cursed .. Burgundy Hymn 346

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.

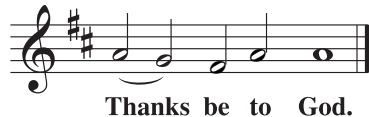
Prayer of Thanksgiving ... now and forever.

A — men.

The Lord be with you.



Bless we the Lord.



Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



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

Recessional Hymn Tell Out My Soul Burgundy Hymn 935

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 Candlelight 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 Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Old Testament Reading is Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

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

And he shall be their peace.

The Epistle is Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Gospel is Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and

blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Hymns for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

LSB357 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Latin, c. 12th cent.

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*
- M 3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*
- W 4. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*
- M 5. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- W 6. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*
7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain.*

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!

LSB346 When All the World Was Cursed

Johann Gottfried Olearius

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1. When all the world was cursed, By Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came, With words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal, The greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown, As Savior he proclaimed.
2. Before he yet was born, He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing Him as Lord, Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream, A new Elijah bold,
He testified of Him, Of whom the prophets told.
3. Behold the Lamb of God, That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes, The devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy, Will full atonement win.
4. O grant, dear Lord of love, That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John, Our true repentance voicing.
That gladly we may walk, Upon our Savior's way,
Until we live with Him, In His eternal day.

LSB935 Tell Out My Soul

Timothy Dudley-Smith

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

The Fourth Sunday in Advent



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:

Matthew Harrison, Nathaniel Demlow

The Teaching Staff at Lutheran South Unity

Principal:

Amber Bahr (744-0459; www.lsusfw.org)

Teachers:

Yvonne Schwantz (8th, MS ELA), Michael Cullen (7th, MS Science), Chase Mertz (6th, MS Social Studies), Danielle Ramsey (5th), Abbey Kohler (4th), Tiffany Scheurich (3rd), John Fink (2nd), Hannah Fink (1st), 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 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 Anne & Roland Ziegler
- + For the gift of life and for length of days, including Carl Albersmeyer
- + For the gift of rebirth by water and the Spirit
- + For those who mourn the death of loved ones, including Trulaine Starks and family
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed, including John Starks (visitation at Zion December 27, 2024, 9 am – 11 am; funeral 11 am)
- + 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 Fourth Sunday in Advent. The Cross Bowl is given in celebration of the 21st wedding anniversary of Anne & Roland Ziegler. The Altar Vases are given in celebration of the 85th birthday of Carl Albersmeyer celebrated on December 17th by his wife 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

December 22, 2024 thru December 28, 2024

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Study	Bauer Hall
MON.			
TUES.	6:30 PM	Christmas Eve Preservice Music, Choir and Instrumental	Church
	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols	Church
WED.	8:45 AM	Christmas Day Preservice Music, Choir and Instrumental	Church
	9:00AM	Christmas Day Festival Divine Service	Church
THURS.			
FRI.			
SAT.	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church

December 29, 2024

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	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. Please note that after December 29th with the start of our beautification project in the church, we'll take our "summer break" in January through March.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DIVINE SERVICE will be held in Bauer Hall, as will every service after that until the project is finished.

THANK YOU to everyone who brought in goodies for the shut in bags, who sent out cards, who helped put the bags together, and who will be delivering them.

GIVING STATEMENTS will be ready on January 5, 2025. You may pick yours up at Julie's scrip table.

LUTHERAN WITNESS: Don't forget. 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 yours with you today.

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE: John 1:1-3—"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made." Last week's verse was Philippians 4:4-5.

YOUR ESTATE PLAN can enable you to express your Christian faith. Many speak of estate planning from the perspective of "What legacy are you leaving behind?" If we are honest and think about those who have passed before us, their value is not in being remembered after they are gone, but in the impact they made on each of us during their life. If you would like to discuss this with your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor and how that translates into your estate plan, contact Mark Muehl at 260-241-4845 or mark.muehl@lfnd.org. May you have a very blessed Christmas!

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 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 and look for Northeast Indiana March for Life 2025 for more details.

SIDEWALK ADVOCACY TRAINING: Do you have a passion for helping women choose life? Join Right to Life of Northeast Indiana Thursday, January 9th for Sidewalk Advocate Training and learn how to save lives in Northeast Indiana. The training will take place at the RLNI Training Center at 3106 Lake Ave, from 9am- 12pm. Learn how to approach people outside our local Planned Parenthood peacefully, prayerfully, and lovingly and redirect them to life-affirming alternatives in our community. This one-day training will empower you to turn your passion into action. There is no cost to participate. Visit www.ichooselife.org/advocate or call 260-471-1849 to register.

CAMP LUTHERHAVEN: Are you ready to embrace the New Year with confidence? Spend time taking an "intentional pause" with other followers of Christ learning, worshiping, laughing, and connecting with other women during Lutherhaven's annual Women's Retreat on January 24-26, 2025. Let God's Word lead and empower you for the year ahead. Check out www.lutherhaven.org for more details and to register.

LISTEN TO LUTHERAN PROGRAMMING You can listen to Issues, Etc. live or on-demand at www.issuesetc.org or on the LPR mobile app or to KFUE at KFUE.org. Visit issuesetc.org/lutheran-public-radio-music for sacred music for the season.

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 1:39-56
Revelation 11:1-19
Revelation 12:1-17
Matthew 1:1-17
Matthew 1:18-25
Matthew 2:1-12
Matthew 2:13-23

DAILY LECTIONARY

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

Evening Prayer

Micah 5:2-5a
Isaiah 43:25–44:20
Isaiah 44:21–45:13, 20-25
Isaiah 49:1-18
Isaiah 49:22-26; 50:4–51:8, 12-16
Isaiah 51:17–52:12
Isaiah 52:13–54:10

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 First Sunday after Christmas

Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:22-40



What Doctor Luther Says:

About the Lord from Bethlehem: True God and Man

If now Christ was to be lord of the nation [of Israel], as of his own particular people, then his kingship could be neither temporal nor physical; rather it was necessary that he rule over the whole nation, past, present, and future. So it was necessary that he should be a lord forever; therefore his kingdom had to be a spiritual one. Since God gave him his very own dominion, he could not be purely man. It is impossible that God should give his honor, his dominion, his possession, his people to one who was not the real true God. As he declares through Isaiah 42[8]: “My glory I give to no other.” For that reason, too, the following is said in the prophet Micah immediately after the words that we have been considering: “And his origin is from of old, from ancient days” [Mic. 5:2]. It is as if he wanted to say: I announce the lord who will come from Bethlehem, but his origins do not lie there; he has been from the very beginning and since the foundation of the world, all the days, so that we cannot name any day, any beginning, that lies beyond his origin and dominion. Now nothing has ever been from of old, from ancient days, except the true, natural God. Therefore the origin from of old cannot refer only to one. An origin points to something from which it originates. So Micah compels us to infer that this lord must be God’s born, natural son who with him is one true God for all creatures eternally. Again, when he is announced as having his temporal origin in Bethlehem, he must be a true natural man. That is the chief article of the Christian faith.

Luther’s Works, 52:187-8.

A Call for Love in Deed

Beloved saints, thank you to all who gave last Sunday to help our LSUS family who experienced a tragedy recently ... a fire to their apartment, in which they lost everything. The school has asked for, and I pray we might respond with, help. They need it still. Gas cards and gift cards can be purchased at Julie's Scrip table. Get them to the office, and I will make sure that anything that is given gets to LSUS. I delivered the first tranche last Monday. Here is the information from Miss Cheng, the LSUS secretary:

I am forwarding information about one of our families that recently experienced a fire in their apartment. I believe Amber spoke with you briefly about the situation. I was able to get uniform clothes and a winter coat for her. Ariza is an 8th grader. This is the information from the mom:

Gas cards and bus passes plz. I think for Christmas just give gift cards to places so they can get what they want. They are still traumatized and still in shock that we lost everything. So they really kinda indecisive of what they want for Christmas.

Ariza

18-20 plus kids (clothes)if can't find that size she can wear a medium woman. 12 women pants Shoe size 11 and a half women. Under wear 16 (kids) deodorant(spray on) body wash, always period underwear, socks, pajamas, coat,hat gloves. Bra XXL kids

Dathan (brother)

18-20 plus kids if can't find that he can wear a small man. He wears sweat outfits. He really doesn't wear jeans. Shoe 10 man Underwear,socks,deodorant, body wash, pajamas, coat,hat,gloves,

Raven (mom)

Large women everything. I don't really wear jeans. I wear sweat pants or leggings.Shoe size 9 and a half women Dishes, toilet tissue, towels,hanger's deodorant, socks, hat, gloves, body wash, pajamas, period pads with the wings, underwear 8, sports bra 3X

Thank you,

--

Allison Cheng

Secretary

Lutheran South Unity School



Zion's Shut-in Members



Mrs. Marylou Graham
5273 Eastwick Dr.
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Mrs. Phyllis Tanner
2621 Clara Ave
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Mrs. Diane Turner
2112 E Fairfax Ave
Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Mr. Ron Silvers
5202 St. Joe Road #117
Fort Wayne, IN 46835

Mr. Larry Meyer
4416 S Hanna St
Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Ms. Rubbie Holliday
1320 E. Pontiac St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46803

Mrs. Cheryl Hogle
1503 E. Paulding Rd. #46
Fort Wayne, IN 46816

Willodean Bates
2924 Weisser Park Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Mrs. Estella Ramirez
3917 Reed Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Ms. Marsha Smith
5700 Wilkie Dr.
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Mrs. Phyllis Lattimore
827 Colerick St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Mrs. Alice Padgett
4180 Sage Bluff Crossing
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Ms. Debbie Busche
5405 Fernwood Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46809

Mr. Stanley Goeglein
7785 A Jefferson Blvd W
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Mrs. Virginia Carnahan
6433 S. Derby Dr.
Columbia City, IN 46725

Summary of meeting of the Council of Elders,
December 5, 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.

Elders absent: 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 the baptism of Noelle Muehl, on various health issues among our members, on the new camera/microphone system, and on the setup for worship in Bauer Hall (to begin on January 5).

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." On a weekly basis, Melvia will prepare a list of active members who have been absent from worship for four consecutive weeks. Pastor Punke will review the list and divide the names among the elders for making phone calls to those members.

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." *Every One His Witness* will begin on Sunday, January 26, the sessions taking place after worship in the conference room, with Pastor Punke as the facilitator.

The elders reviewed Pillar 2, Goal #4: "The Council of Elders will conduct the CADDs survey before Lent 2025." The CADDs survey will begin on February 9, with January being used to prepare congregational members for participating.

The elders began reviewing the document of the Council of Elders on Communion Procedure. The review will be continued in the January meeting.

The council approved the appointment of the following congregational members to their respective committees:

Pastoral Support and Assistance: George Lange
Stewardship Policy: Julie Ganaway, Dave Kaiser
Communication Policy and Practices: Melvia Culpher, Kevin
Leininger

These members will be installed during the Divine Service on
December 15 (as per the congregational bylaws, §VII.D).

The meeting was concluded with the praying of Responsive
Prayer 1.

Respectfully submitted,
Arthur E. Litke, secretary

LSUS NOTES

Praying for You!

Please pray for these students/staff:

Thomas	Lilliana
Jasmine	Larkin
Kyu Kyu	Camarion
Anastasia	Ariza
Le'Ana	Mrs. Fink
Sierra	Mrs. Kohler
Hailey	



Student Chapel Offerings

Thursday Chapel Offerings collected by our LSUS students and families make a big impact around the world! December through January offerings will go to The Rescue Mission and L.A.M.B. (Lutheran Agency for Missions to Burmese).

The Rescue Mission's mission is to provide, through the power of Jesus Christ, a home for the homeless, food for the hungry, and hope for their future. The Charis House is part of the Rescue Mission that focuses on women and children experiencing a homeless crisis. L.A.M.B.'s mission is to support and evangelize the peoples of Burma with the love of Jesus Christ by coordinating outreach missions.



Encouragement Found in Scriptures:

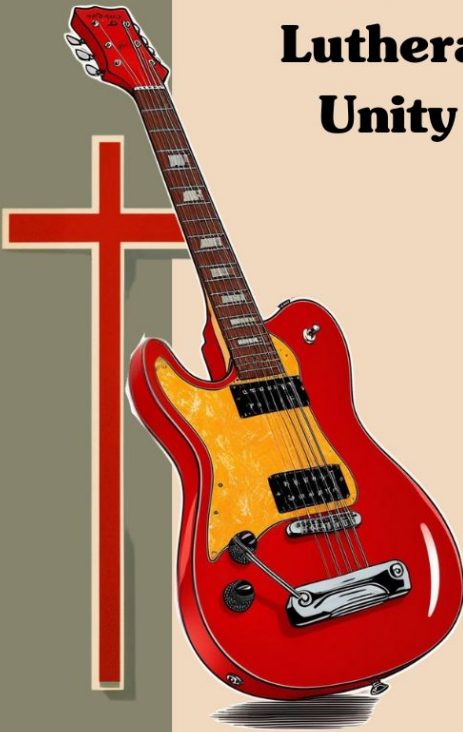
“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

-John 14:27

Rockin' *My Salvation*



Dinner Benefits
**Lutheran South
Unity School**



**Save the
Date!**

Feb. 22, 2025
Quimby Hall
1502 Bluffton Rd

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
Visit: LutheranSGO.org


**THE LUTHERAN
SCHOLARSHIP
GRANTING ORGANIZATION**



Everything Beautiful

Camp Lutherhaven Women's Retreat 2025

January 24-26, 2025

(Saturday Only Option Available)

Join other women for a weekend retreat at Camp Lutherhaven connecting around cozy fires, small group Bible studies, listening to engaging speakers, and campfire worship as we begin the new year together!

The retreat theme, *Everything Beautiful*, comes from Ecclesiastes 3:11, *"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."*

Throughout the weekend retreat guests will focus on the fact that in all seasons – beautiful, hard, confusing, joyful, waiting, grief, mountaintop, etc – God is creating something beautiful.

Keynote presenter, Heidi Meyers, is a retired educator with 40 years of experience and a widow, mother of 2, and Gaga to 3 boys. Teaching middle school and parenting is never a dull moment or for the faint of heart. She resides in Fort Wayne and loves Lutherhaven, swimming, coffee, (perhaps she has stock at Starbucks), time with friends, and her amazing family.

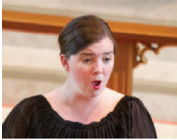
Come on your own, bring a friend, or a whole group of ladies from your church or small group for this weekend getaway!

Visit www.lutherhaven.org to register or for more information.

For tickets and more information visit
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.

TO VOLUNTEER

Visit lcms-1ert.org.

TO GIVE

VISIT 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.

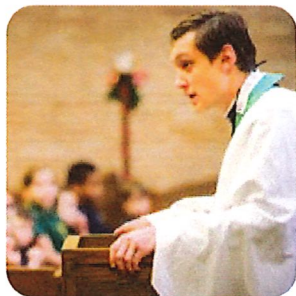


"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now," writes St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians (PHIL. 1:3).

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.

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.



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!



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 to learn more.


**SET APART
TO SERVE**