

# Historic Zion Lutheran Church

## DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

9:00 am ..... Sunday, December 29, 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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#### [ Rise ] **Invocation**

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

### The Office of Confession of Sins and Absolution

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

[ Kneel ]

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

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

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

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

**Entrance Hymn ..... Come, Your Hearts ..... Burgundy Hymn 375**

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

## Kyrie

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

**Gloria Hymn ..... Angels We Have Heard on High ..... Burgundy Hymn 368**

## Salutation

*The Lord be with you.*

And with thy spir— it.

**Collect for the First Sunday after Christmas:** *O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

A— men!

[ Be Seated ]

+ **The Office of the Word of God** +

**Old Testament Reading..... Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15**

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

**Epistle of the Day ..... Colossians 3:12-17**

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

[ Rise ] **Sequence Hymn ..... We Praise You..... Burgundy Hymn 382**

[ Sing stanzas 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7 only. Omit Stanzas 4 and 5. ]

**Holy Gospel ..... St. Luke 2:22-40**

[ 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 ..... Let All Together Praise ..... Burgundy Hymn 389**

[ All sing stanzas 1 & 2; Men alone sing stanzas 3 & 5;  
Women alone sing stanzas 4 & 6; All sing stanza 7; Rise for 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 Christmas, Sanctus**

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

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

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

[ *Kneel* ] **Lord's Prayer**

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

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

**Words of Institution, Pax Domini**

*The peace of the Lord be with you always!*

A - men.

**Agnus Dei**

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

[ *Be Seated* ]

**Distribution Hymns** ..... **Come, Thou Long** ..... **Burgundy Hymn 338**  
**In His Temple** ..... **Burgundy Hymn 519**

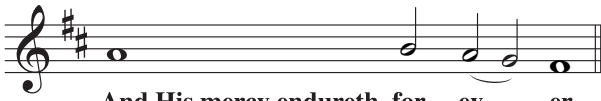
[ *Rise* ] **Eucharistic Benediction**

*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 Hymn** ..... **In Peace and Joy** ..... **Burgundy Hymn 938**

## Post Communion Rite

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



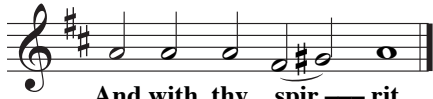
And His mercy endureth for — ev — er.

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



A — men.

*The Lord be with you.*



And with thy spir — rit.

*Bless we the Lord.*



Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

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



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

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

**Recessional Hymn ..... Christians Sing Out ..... RED Hymn 100**

## Postlude



## **Readings for the First Sunday after Christmas**

### **The Old Testament Reading is Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15**

The LORD said to Moses, “Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. ...

“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD’s. Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

### **The Epistle is Colossians 3:12-17**

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### **The Gospel is Luke 2:22-40**

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present

him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation  
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.



# Hymns for the First Sunday after Christmas

## LSB375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

Paul Gerhardt

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1. Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing His love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.
2. Christ, from heav'n to us descending And in love our race befriending;  
In our need His help extending, Saved us from the wily foe.
- W 3. Jacob's Star in all its splendor Beams with comfort sweet and tender,  
Forcing Satan to surrender, Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.
- M 4. From the bondage that oppressed us, From sin's fetters that possessed us,  
From the grief that sore distressed us, We, the captives, now are free.
5. Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing,  
And to You we come confessing, That Your love has set us free.
6. Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us Till we join Your choir above.

## LSB368 Angels We Have Heard on High

French

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.  
*Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
*Refrain*
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
*Refrain*

## LSB382 We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth

Martin Luther, et al.

Text (sts. 1, 3, 6-7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (st. 2) © 1978 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

1. We praise You, Jesus, at Your birth; Clothed in flesh You came to earth.  
The virgin bears a sinless boy And all the angels sing for joy.  
Alleluia!

2. Now in the manger we may see God's Son from eternity,  
The gift from God's eternal throne Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone.  
Alleluia!
3. The virgin Mary's lullaby Calms the infant Lord Most High.  
Upon her lap content is He Who keeps the earth and sky and sea.  
Alleluia!
6. In poverty He came to earth Showing mercy by His birth;  
He makes us rich in heav'nly ways As we, like angels, sing His praise.  
Alleluia!
7. All this for us our God has done Granting love through His own Son.  
Therefore, all Christendom, rejoice And sing His praise with endless voice.  
Alleluia!

### **LSB389 Let All Together Praise Our God**

**Nicolaus Herman**

Text (sts. 1, 3-7): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

1. Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne;  
Today He opens heav'n again, To give us His own Son,  
To give us His own Son.
2. He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne Is born an infant small;  
And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall,  
Lies in a humble stall.
- M 3. Within an earthborn form He hides His all creating light;  
To serve us all He humbly cloaks The splendor of His might,  
The splendor of His might.
- W 4. He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our mortal frame;  
And in return gives us His realm, His glory, and His name,  
His glory, and His name.
- M 5. He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery!  
How strong the tender Christ-Child's love, No truer friend than He,  
No truer friend than He.
- W 6. He is the key and He the door To blessèd paradise;  
The angel bars the way no more To God our praises rise,  
To God our praises rise.
- △ 7. Your grace and lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore.  
We praise You evermore.

## **LSB338 Come, Thou Long- Expected Jesus**

Charles Wesley

1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
2. Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

## **LSB519 In His Temple Now Behold Him**

Henry J. Pye

1. In His Temple now behold Him, See the long-expected Lord;  
Ancient prophets had foretold Him, God has now fulfilled His word.  
Now to praise Him, His redeemed Shall break forth with one accord.
2. In the arms of her who bore Him, Virgin pure, behold Him lie  
While His aged saints adore Him Ere in perfect faith they die.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Lo, •the in•- carnate God Most high!
3. Jesus, by Your presentation, When they blessed You, weak and poor,  
Make us see Your great salvation, Seal us with Your promise sure;  
And present us in Your glory To Your Father, cleansed and pure.

## **LSB938 In Peace and Joy I Now Depart**

Martin Luther

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1. In peace and joy I now depart Since God so wills it.  
Serene and confident my heart; Stillness fills it.  
For the Lord has promised me That death is but a slumber.
2. Christ Jesus brought this gift to me, My faithful Savior,  
Whom You have made my eyes to see By Your favor.  
Now I know He is my life, My friend when I am dying.
3. You sent the people of the earth Their great salvation;  
Your invitation summons forth Ev'ry nation  
By Your holy, precious Word, In ev'ry place resounding.
4. Christ is the hope and saving light Of those in blindness;  
He guides and comforts those in night By His kindness.  
For Your people Israel In Him find joy and glory.

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

# The First Sunday after Christmas



## 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 Rick Meyer, Richard Lammert, TruLaine Starks, Connie Houser, 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, David Groth, Dwight Johnson, Ron Rastl, and Robert & Jenny Hobby.
- + For God's blessing on all godly marriages
- + For the gift of life and for length of days
- + For the gift of rebirth by water and the Spirit
- + For those who mourn the death of loved ones, including Trulaine Starks and family
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed, including John Starks
- + 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 after Christmas. 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 29, 2024 thru January 4, 2024**

<b>SUN.</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Divine Service</b>	<b>Church</b>
	10:45 AM	Adult Bible Study	Bauer Hall
	Noonish	Take down Christmas decorations & set up Bauer Hall	All over church
<b>MON.</b>		Beautification Project begins	
<b>TUES.</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>New Year's Eve Service</b>	<b>Bauer Hall</b>
<b>WED.</b>		<b>New Year's Day – Office Closed</b>	
<b>THURS.</b>	7:00 PM	Elders Council	Conference Room
<b>FRI.</b>			
<b>SAT.</b>	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church
	9:00 AM	Joint Council Planning Meeting	Great Hall
		<b>January 5, 2024 (The Epiphany – transferred)</b>	
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Divine Service</b>	<b>Bauer Hall</b>
	10:30 AM	Education Council	Conference Room

## ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

**EDUCATION HOUR:** Please note that after today with the start of our beautification project in the church, we'll take our "summer break" in January through March.

**TODAY AFTER DIVINE SERVICE,** if you are able, please grab Bibles and hymnals, cards and pencils out of the pews and bring them to the narthex. There should be boxes there in which you can deposit them.

**ALSO,** if you can come back to help us move chancel furnishings out of the chancel this afternoon, that would be greatly appreciated.

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

**POINSETTIAS:** Thank you to everyone who bought poinsettias to beautify our chancel during Christmas. Please take your poinsettia home today. Any that are left, we'll move into Bauer Hall.

**ATTENTION LADIES:** on January 11, 2025 at 12 Noon, Melvia will be making "No-Sew Blankets" for the Hope Center. If you would like to join in, please let her know.

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

**LUTHERAN WITNESS:** Last chance ... 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. The table will be taken down after Wednesday.

**MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE:** Matthew 1:21—"You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Last week's verse was John 1:1-3.

**YOUR ESTATE PLAN** can enable you to express your Christian faith. The end of the year is a time to reflect and consider what has transpired during these last days. It often focuses on an end and then a new beginning. For Christians, we always live with a deep expectancy of living out eternity in God's Kingdom because of Jesus. Let that be your resolve this year: to weave that confidence into your estate plan. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor would be happy to help. Contact Mark Muehl at 260-241-4845 or [mark.muehl@lfnf.org](mailto:mark.muehl@lfnf.org).

**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.

**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](http://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, worshipping, 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](http://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](http://www.issuesetc.org) or on the LPR mobile app or to KFUE at [KFUE.org](http://KFUE.org). Visit [issuesetc.org/lutheran-public-radio-music](http://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**

**DAILY LECTIONARY**

**Evening Prayer**

Luke 2:22-40	<b>The First Sunday after Christmas</b>	Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15
Luke 1:26-38	Monday	Isaiah 58:1-59:3, 14-21
Luke 1:39-56	Tuesday	Isaiah 60:1-22
Luke 1:57-80	Wednesday	Isaiah 61:1-11
Luke 2:1-20	Thursday	Isaiah 62:1-12
Luke 2:21-40	Friday	Isaiah 63:1-14
Luke 2:41-52	Saturday	Isaiah 63:15-65:7

**THE DAILY PETITIONS OF THE CHURCH**

[Daily] **O Lord, have mercy upon us. O Christ, have mercy upon us. O Lord, have mercy upon us.** Let us pray:

[S] For the joy of the Resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; for diligent preaching and hearing of God's Word of Law and Gospel; for our pastors; for the teachers and students of our Sunday School; for our Bible Class leaders and their students; for our catechumens; Lord, in Your mercy,..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[M] For workers; for the unemployed; for farmers; for seasonable weather; for businesses small and large; for our leaders, federal, state and local; for the economic welfare of the nations on earth; for peace in our world; Lord, in Your mercy, ..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[T] For the tempted; for the addicted and despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; for the lonely; for the sick, the hospitalized, and the needy; Lord, in Your mercy, ..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[W] For fathers, mothers, and families; for those adults who must rear their children alone; the teachers and students of Lutheran South Unity School and Concordia Lutheran High School; Lord, in Your mercy, ..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[T] For the Church and her pastors; for the training of ministers of the Word; for missionaries of the Church; for the leaders of the Church, including Matthew, our synod president, and Richard, our district president; for those who have not heard the Gospel; for the fruitful use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood; Lord, in Your mercy,..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[F] For the preaching of the Cross; for those persecuted for the sake of Gospel; the confession of the orthodox Lutheran faith in our community; Lord, in Your mercy, ..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[Sat] For faithfulness unto life's earthly end; for the revival of those who have withered in the faith or fallen away; for the dying; Lord, in Your mercy, ..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[Daily] **The Our Father**

**TO PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

**The Epiphany of Our Lord (Transferred)**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12





# What Doctor Luther Says:

## *About the Offering of Isaac, a Type of Christ*

Abraham had thought that his son Isaac would marry and beget children at the place where he was at that time. All this falls through, for here is God's command that he should kill his son. ...

These trials of the saintly patriarch have been set before us in order that we may be encouraged in our own trials and say with Abraham: "Though my son Isaac dies, nevertheless, because he believes in God, the very grave in which his ashes will lie will not be a grave but will be a bedchamber and a sleeping room." ...

[God said,] "Take not a male servant or a female servant, not Ishmael, but your only son, Isaac, whom you love."

Thus God strengthens His command and makes it harsher and more painful, as though He were saying: "After this you will not be the father of such a son, and you will not have him whom you love so much; for I want you to offer him to Me, not like the other firstborn, who were kept [Ex. 13:1, 15], but to kill him." Accordingly, Abraham has now nothing more, so far as the promise is concerned, than he had before Isaac was born; and yet, because of God, he is ready to give up not only his son, Sarah, his inheritance, his house, and his church but even his own life. Isaac's death included all this, inasmuch as the promise was attached to Isaac.

The text says nothing about Sarah, whether she was aware of this command or not. ... For it is harsh when the text says: "You shall offer your son," not as a gift or as a thanksgiving, as the first-born in Israel used to be offered, but as a burnt offering, so that he is simply reduced to ashes, and the hands of the father had to be defiled with the blood of his son.

*Luther's Works*, 4:97-8.



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

In loving memory of Willie Manning  
by Rose Manning

In honor of Robert & Loretta Manth, Albert & Caroline Manth,  
Ferdinand & Henrietta Bornkamp, and Mrs. Clara Tegtmeyer  
by Jennifer Manth

In loving memory of our parents Walter & Georgianna Ostermeyer  
“Savior of the nations, come!”  
by their thankful children Karen, David, Kim, and Kirk

In loving memory of my father John A. Pless  
by Rev. John T. Pless

“Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!”  
In loving memory of our parents Darwin & Arlene Punke  
and Earl Klein  
by Pastor & Marge Punke

In loving memory of my parents Albert A. & Emma B. Dirks  
by Marilyn Shafter

In loving memory of my wife Jill Stokes, my parents David & Savannah  
Stokes, and my sister and nephew Artis & Michael Barksdale  
by Clarence Stokes

“O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!”  
by André Woodard

In memory of beloved parents Manfred and Lore Ziegler  
by Rev. Dr. Roland & Anne Ziegler



In loving memory of  
Elizabeth Hope Bahr  
by Rev. Michael & Amber Bahr

In loving memory of William Bengs and Walter & Adeline Bengs  
by Clarann Bengs

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

In loving memory of our parents Paul & Esther Bieberich and  
Paul & Hilda Menze  
by Dwight & CarolLu Bieberich

To the Glory of God  
by Mike & Rita Davies

In memory of Eileen Porter  
by Julie Ganaway

In loving memory of my mother Virginia Hollman  
and grandparents Frank & Hulda Sonne  
by Beth Hollman

In memory of my beloved wife Virginia Hollman  
by Richard Hollman

In loving memory of Ralph & Doloris Beck  
by Connie Houser

In loving memory of our parents  
Alonzo & Ora Edmonds and Alma Jackson  
by Frank & Alanza Jackson

In loving memory of Spiro & Anne Kostoff  
and Karen Kostoff Wood  
by the family

“To honor the Christ Child”  
by Rev. George & Lois Lange



# 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.

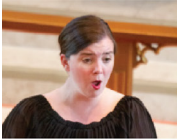
Come on your own, bring a friend, or a whole group of ladies from your church or small group for this weekend getaway!

Visit [www.lutherhaven.org](http://www.lutherhaven.org) to register or for more information.

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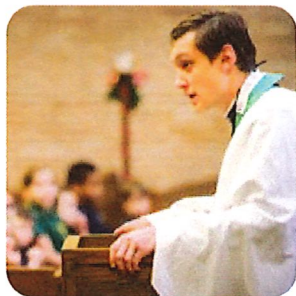
**THANKS**  
*be to*  
**God**  
for those  
who work in our  
congregations  
and schools!

**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**