

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

7:00 pm Tuesday, December 24, 2024

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.

Invocation

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

Processional Hymn Once in Royal David's City



[Solo] 1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty Stood a

[Women] 2. He came down to earth from hea - ven Who is

[Men] 3. And through all His won - drous child - hood He would



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a mo - ther laid her

God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a

ho - nor and o - bey, Love and watch the low - ly



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed. Ma - ry

sta - ble, And his cra - dle was a stall; With the

maid - en In whose gen - tle arms He lay. Christ - ian



was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle Child.

poor and mean and •lowly• Lived our Sa - vior pure and •holy•

child - ren, washed in Him, By His life stand pure from sin.

[All] 4. Our High Priest who knew our childhood,

Day by day like us he grew,

He was little, weak and helpless,

Tears and smiles like us he knew;

And he feeleth for our sadness,

And he shareth in our gladness.

[All] 5. But our eyes at last shall see him

Through his own redeeming love,

For that child so dear and gentle

Is our Lord in heav'n above,

As he leads his children on

To the place where he is gone.

[All] 6. Not in that poor lowly stable

With the oxen standing by,

But then at the Resurrection,

We shall see our Lord most high,

When like stars his children, crowned,

All in white, his praise shall sound!

Bidding Prayer, Lord's Prayer

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Eve...

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ Himself hath taught us:

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. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with His grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all..... Amen.

[Be Seated]

Carol Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



- [All] 1. Hark! A thrill- ing voice is sound- ing, "Christ is near," we
- [Men] 2. Star- tled at the sol- emn warn- ing Let the earth- bound
- [Women] 3. See, the Lamb, so long ex- pect- ed, Comes with par- don
- [All] 4. Of His grace we may be cer- tain, For this eve' He
- [All • Rise] 5. Hon- or, glo- ry, might do- min- ion To the Fa- ther



hear it say! "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness,
 soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
 down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
 came to earth. Fore- taste of His fi - nal bless - ing,
 and the Son With the ev - er - liv - ing Spir - it



all you child - ren of the day."
 Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 One and all, to be for - giv'n;
 Giv - ing all men joy and mirth.
 While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

[Be Seated]

+ The Word of God for the People of God + Seven-fold Lessons and Carols for Christmas

First Lesson Genesis 3:8–15

Yahweh announces in the Garden of Eden that the Seed of the Woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

[Following the reading] *This is the Word of the Lord.* Thanks be to God!

Carol Let the Earth Now Praise The Lord Burgundy Hymn 352

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

Second Lesson Genesis 22:15–18

Yahweh promises to Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

[Following the reading] *This is the Word of the Lord.* Thanks be to God!

Carol He Is Born the Divine Christ-Child

Refrain

He is born the di - vine Christ - child, Sound forth the o - boes with
 pipes re - ply - ing; He is born the di - vine Christ - child,
 Sing we praise to the in - fant mild.

Stanzas

1. More than four thou - sand years on earth,
 2. O what beau - ty and charm are Thine,
 3. In a man - ger Thou deignst to be,
 4. Je - sus, King, whom we bow be - fore,
 Seers His ad - vent were pro - phe - sy - ing;
 Heav'n - ly grace to our hearts sup - ply - ing;
 Straw the bed where - on Thou art ly - ing;
 Yet an in - fant all pow'r de - ny - ing;
 More than four thou - sand years on earth,
 O what beau - ty and charm are Thine,
 In a man - ger Thou deignst to be,
 Je - sus, King, whom we bow be - fore,
 Man a - wait - ed this joy - ous birth. *Refrain*
 O what sweet - ness Thou Child di - vine! *Refrain*
 For a God, what hu - mi - li - ty! *Refrain*
 Rule our hearts now and ev - er - more. *Refrain*

Third Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by the prophet, Isaiah.

[Following the reading] *This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God!**

Choral Anthem Unto Us a Child Is Born J. Clemens non Papa

Fourth Lesson Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot comes forth from the stump of Jesse.

[Following the reading] *This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God!**

Carol Let Our Gladness Have No End Burgundy Hymn 381

Fifth Lesson Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel announces the birth of a son to the Blessed Virgin Mary .

[Following the reading] *This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God!**

Carol The Angel Gabriel Burgundy Hymn 356

Sixth Lesson Luke 2:1-14

Saint Luke proclaims the birth of Christ.

[Following the reading] *This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God!**

Carol O Sing of Christ Burgundy Hymn 362

Seventh Lesson Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds go to visit the Child announced by angels.

[Following the reading] *This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God!**

Carol Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Burgundy Hymn 380

Sermon

Offerings

Choral Voluntary Gaudete Anon.

Hymn From Heaven Above to Earth I Come ... Burgundy Hymn 358

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

+ The Prayers of the People of God Before the Throne of God +

[Rise] **Salutation**

The Lord be with you.



And with your spir - it.

Collect for Christmas Eve: *O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth, we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



A - men.

Collect for Peace: *O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



A - men.

+ CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY +

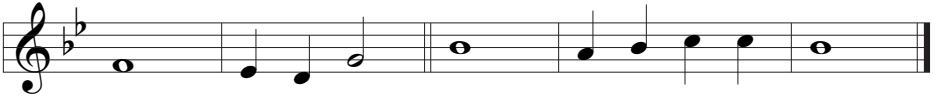
[The light for the candles is distributed during the Solo.]

[The lighted candle will remain upright. Please tip your unlighted candle to the flame for lighting.]

Solo **Douce Nuit**

Douce nuit, sainte nuit, Dans les cieux, l'astre luit. Le mystère annoncé s'accomplit, Cet enfant sur la paille endormi, C'est l'amour infini, C'est l'amour infini.

Proclamation of the Light of God



1. *The people who walked in darkness have seen . . . a great light;* *those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on | them has light ____ shined.*
2. **For unto us a . . child is born unto us a son is •given•.**
3. *In Him was life,* *and that life | was the light of men.*
4. **The light shines | in the •darkness•, but the darkness has not . . . ov- er come ____ it.**
5. *And the Word •became• flesh* *and dwelt among us, | full of grace and truth;*
6. **We have be— held His •glory•, glory as of the only Son | from the Fa- ____ ther.**

Hymn **Silent Night, Holy Night**



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light Ra - dian't beams from Your ho - ly face



Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild, Sleep in hea - ven - ly
Hea - v'nly hosts ____ sing, "Al - le - lu - ia!" Christ, the Sav - ior, is
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord at Your



peace, — Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! — Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth, — Je - sus, Lord at Your birth.

Benedicamus

Let us bless the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

Benediction

May He, who by His Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost ✠ be upon you and remain with you always.



A - men.

[The candles are extinguished]

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 Joy to the World..... Burgundy Hymn 387

Choral Postlude ... From the Christmas Cantata: Alleluia J. S. Bach



THE DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Tomorrow, Christmas Day, at 9:00 a.m.

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Lessons for the Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

[The man and woman] heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The LORD God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

on them has light shone.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-14 (KJV)

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:15-20 (KJV)

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Hymns for the Eve of the Nativity of our Lord

LSB376 Once in Royal David's City

Cecil F. Alexander

Text: (sts. 2-4, 6) alt by Robert W. Schaibley; © 1986 Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Printed in Service Bulletin

Printed Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.

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Printed in Service Bulletin

LSB352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

Heinrich Held

1. Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
- M 2. What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many_a year, Stands fulfilled in glory here.
- W 4. As Your coming was in peace, Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me Which is Yours eternally.
5. Bruise for me the serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith, Safely kept through life and death.

Printed He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child

Traditional French Carol

Printed in Service Bulletin

LSB381 Let Our Gladness Have No End

Bohemian, 15th cent.

1. Let our gladness have no end, alleluia!
For to earth did Christ descend, alleluia!
- Refrain:* On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us;
Christ, His Son to save us.
2. Prophetesied in days of old, alleluia!
God has sent Him as foretold, alleluia! *Refrain*
3. See, the loveliest blooming rose, alleluia!
From the branch of Jesse grows, alleluia! *Refrain*
4. Into flesh is made the Word, alleluia!
He, our refuge and our Lord, alleluia! *Refrain*

LSB356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Basque, c. 18th cent.

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!
2. “For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

LSB362 O Sing of Christ

Stephen P. Starke

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1. O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kindness of the Lord,
Eternal Word made flesh and bone So we could be restored.
Upon our frail humanity God’s finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity, The icon of His grace.
2. What Adam lost, none could reclaim And Paradise was barred
Until the second Adam came To mend what sin had marred.
For when the time was full and right God sent His only Son;
He came to us as life and light And our redemption won.
3. He came to that which was His own, But He was not received;
Yet still through Him God’s glory shone, And some His name believed.
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav’n above,
Born not of human ancestry, But born of God in love.
4. Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell Among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel, To bring this holy birth.
Though rich, You willingly became One with our poverty,
That we might share Your wealth and name For all eternity!

LSB380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

2. Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*
3. Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

LSB358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Martin Luther

1. “From heav’n above to earth I come
to bear good news to ev’ry home:
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:
2. “To you this night is born a child
Of Mary chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.
- W 3. “This is the Christ, our God Most High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.
- M 4. “He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us His glory share.
- W 5. “These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav’ns and earth were made.”

- M 6. How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.
7. Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.

LSB363 Silent Night

Franz Joseph Mohr

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

LSB387 Joy to the World

Isaac Watts

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King:
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love.

*The Eve of the
Nativity of Our Lord
Service of Lessons and Carols*

December 24, 2024, 7:00 PM



And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Luke 2:7



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



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 Tegtmeier
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

Celebrate

The Birth Of Christ

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



Beloved in Christ,

I shared with you from Dr. Luther last year. Here is a bit more, juxtaposing Jesus as the Son of God and the fleshly Son of Mary: “She ‘... wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.’ Why not in a cradle, on a bench, or on the ground? Because they had no cradle, bench, table, board, nor anything whatever except the manger of the oxen. That was the first throne of this King. There in a stable, without man or maid, lay the Creator of all the world. And there was the maid of fifteen years bringing forth her firstborn without water, fire, light, or pan, a sight for tears! What Mary and Joseph did next, nobody knows. The scholars say they adored. They must have marveled that this Child was the Son of God. He was also a real human being.

... He was a true baby, with flesh, blood, hands, and legs. He slept, cried, and did everything else that a baby does only without sin. ...

Mary was not only holy. She was also the mother of the Lord. With trembling and reverence, before nestling him to herself, she laid him down, because her faith said to her, “He will be the Son of the Highest.”...

[Yet] I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify man. Inexpressible majesty will crush him. That is why Christ took on our humanity, save for sin, that he should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor he should console and confirm.

... To me there is no greater consolation given to mankind than this, that Christ became man, a child, a babe, playing in the lap and at the breasts of his most gracious mother. Who is there whom this sight would not comfort? Now is overcome the power of sin, death, hell, conscience, and guilt, if you come to judge this gurgling Babe and believe that he is come, not to judge you, but to save.” From Martin Luther’s Christmas Book. In fact, both of these identities is what makes Christmas so special. In Jesus, the transcendent Son of God becomes the immanent Savior of the world.

God grant you the peace which passes all understanding in God’s Son, born for you. And God grant you a blessed New Year. Glory to God in the highest!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Punke

