Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

9:00 am Sunday, February 2, 2025

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!				
[Rise] Invocation				
<i>In the name of the Father and of the</i> *\ 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.				
Our help is in the name of the Lord				
O almighty God, merciful Father,				
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 4 Son and of the Holy Spirit				

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 of the Day

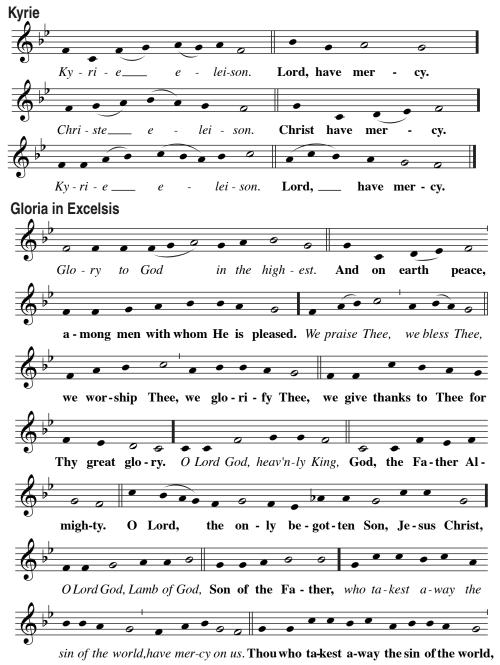


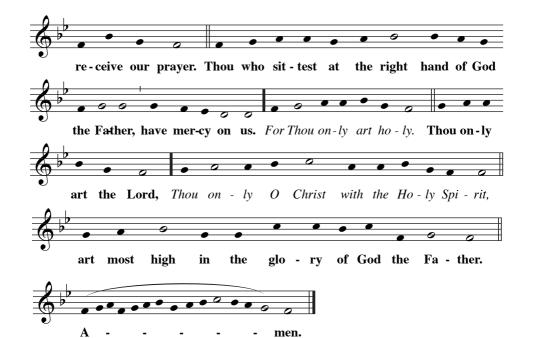
[Antiphon] Arise, O Lord; O God, lift | up your hand; || for- | get not the af- | •flicted•. || The Lord is king for- | •ever• and •ever•; || the nations | per- ish from his | land.

Verse: O LORD, you hear the desire of | the af- offictedo; || you will | strength__ en their | heart; || you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and | the op- pressed, || so that man who is of the earth | may strike officeroor or or of more.

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

[Antiphon] Arise, O Lord; O God, lift | up your hand; || for- | get not the af- | eflictede. || The Lord is king for- | eevere and eevere; || the nations | per- ish from his | land.





Salutation

The Lord be with you.



Collect for the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany: Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



[Be Seated]

+ The Office of the Word of God +

[Rise] Alleluia Sequence

[Deacon] Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." Alleluia!



Holy Gospel St. Luke 4:31-44



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

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...... Son of God Burgundy Hymn 842

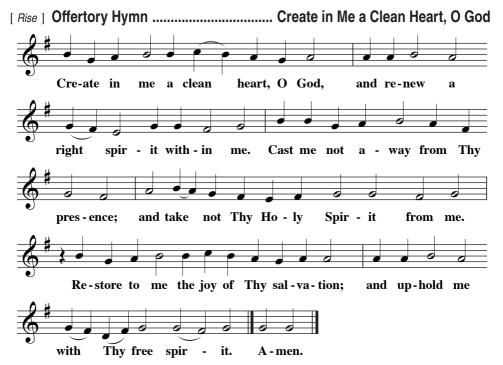
Sermon

Rite of Reception of New Members

[Rise] Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to [After the final prayer]:..., one God, now and forever Amen.

[Be Seated] Offerings, Voluntary



+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

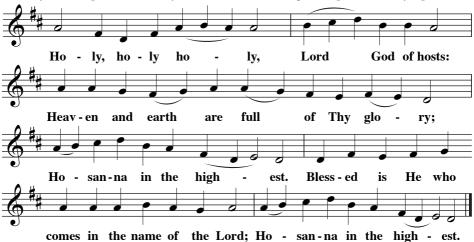
Preface





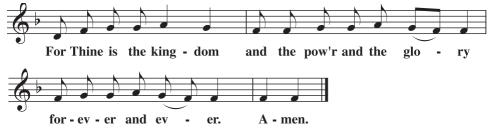


It is truly meet, right and salutary ever more praising You and saying:



Lord's Prayer

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

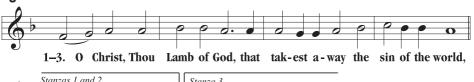


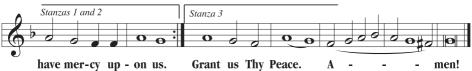
Words of Institution, Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always!



Agnus Dei



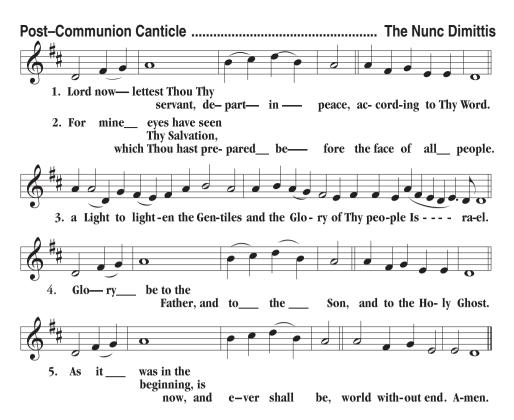


[Be Seated]

Distribution Hymns We Praise You Burgundy Hymn 941
O Love, How Deep Burgundy Hymn 544

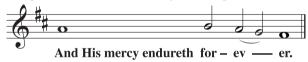
[All sing stanzas 1 & 2; Women alone sing stanzas 3 & 5; Men alone sing stanzas 4 & 6; All sing stanza 7; Rise for stanza 7.]

Eucharistic Benediction



Post Communion Rite

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

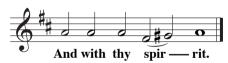


Prayer of Thanksgiving ... now and forever.



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 Φ 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 Praise the One Burgundy Hymn 849

Postlude

Liturgical texts and musical settings: from Lutheran Service Book, copyright © 2006 by Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. License #000012381. Liturgical Setting: Matthäus Greitter, 1525; adapted by Wilhelm Loehe in 1844 for Congregations of the Lutheran Confession. Psalm Tone for Introit and Alleluia Verse: from The Anglican Chant Psalter, copyright © 1987 by The Church Hymnal Corporation; used by permission.

Readings for the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

The Old Testament Reading is Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19

Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you;

I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord GoD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a youth';

for to all to whom I send you, you shall go,

and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

Do not be afraid of them,

for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD."

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me,

"Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant." ...

"But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them. And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land. They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the LORD, to deliver you."

The Epistle is 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

I will show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The Gospel is Luke 4:31-44

[Jesus] went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Hymns for the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

LSB842 Son of God, Eternal Savior

Somerset T. C. Lowry

- 1. Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race, You our Head, who, throned in glory, For Your own will ever plead: Fill us with Your love and pity, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
- 2. As You, Lord, have lived for others, So may we for others live. Freely have Your gifts been granted; Freely may Your servants give. Yours the gold and Yours the silver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stewards of Your bounty Held in solemn trust will be.
- 3. Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of Love and Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and passion, Bid its cruel discords cease. By Your patient years of toiling, By Your silent hours of pain, Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, Stem our selfish greed of gain.
- 4. Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race: By your praying, by Your willing, That Your people should be one, Grant, O grant our hope's fruition; Here on earth Your will be done.

LSB941 We Praise You and Acknowledge YouStephen P. Starke Text: © 1999 Stephen P. Starke; admin. Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

- We praise You and acknowledge You, O God, to be the Lord, The Father everlasting, by all the earth adored.
 To You all angel powers cry aloud, the heavens sing, The cherubim and seraphim their praises to You bring: "O holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Your majesty and glory fill the heavens and the earth!"
- 2. The band of the apostles in glory sing Your praise;
 The fellowship of prophets their deathless voices raise.
 The martyrs of Your kingdom, a great and noble throng,
 Sing with the holy Church throughout all the world this song:
 "O all-majestic Father, Your true and only Son,
 And Holy Spirit, Comforter—forever Three in One!"
- 3. You, Christ, are King of glory, the everlasting Son, Yet You, with boundless love, sought to rescue ev'ryone: You laid aside Your glory, were born of virgin's womb,

Were crucified for us and were placed into a tomb; Then by Your resurrection You won for us reprieve— You opened heaven's kingdom to all who would believe.

4. You sit in splendid glory, enthroned at God's right hand, Upholding earth and heaven by forces You command. We know that You will come as our Judge that final day, So help Your servants You have redeemed by blood, we pray; May we with saints be numbered where praises never end, In glory everlasting. Amen, O Lord, amen!"

LSB544 O Love, How Deep

Thomas à Kempis

- 1. O love, how deep, how broad, how high, Beyond all thought and fantasy, That God, the Son of God, should take Our mortal form for mortals' sake!
- 2. He sent no angel to our race, Of higher or of lower place, But wore the robe of human frame, And to this world Himself He came.
- W 3. For us baptized, for us He bore His holy fast and hungered sore; For us temptation sharp He knew; For us the tempter overthrew.
- M 4. For us He prayed; for us He taught; For us His daily works He wrought, By words and signs and actions thus Still seeking not Himself but us.
- W 5. For us by wickedness betrayed, For us, in crown of thorns arrayed, He bore the shameful cross and death; For us He gave His dying breath.
- M 6. For us He rose from death again; For us He went on high to reign; For us He sent His Spirit here To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- △ 7. All glory to our Lord and God For love so deep, so high, so broad; The Trinity whom we adore Forever and forevermore.

LSB849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness Rusty Edwards

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- Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;
 Praise the One who frees the pris'ners Turning blindness into sight.
 Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev'ry dread disease,
 Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.
- 2. Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle word; Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing two-edged sword. Praise the one who brings cool water To the desert's burning sand; From this Well comes living water Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

3. Let us praise the Word incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place. Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done; Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.

Hymns for the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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The Fourth Sunday after the Kpiphany



Zion Kbangelical 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

- Receives Christ's gifts in Word and Sacraments; and
- Responds to God's love in Christ by

that:

- 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: Church Office Manager: Michael Hollman, MM 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; 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 & Jerry Seifert
- + For the ill, distressed, and those suffering affliction, including Carl Albersmeyer, Sarah Hollman, Richard Lammert, TruLaine Starks, Connie Houser, Estella Ramirez, Bill Weinrich, Debra Busche, Dwight Bieberich, Willodean Bates, Dick Hollman, Elaine Seifert, Bob Ockree, Joe Harrison, Louisa Porter, Marlow Hogan, Marissia White, Gary Phillips, David Groth, Gary Castle, Ron Rastl, 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, especially Ron Silvers and the family of Roger Silvers, and Kurt & Kathy Vlot and family at the death of Betty Hossman, Kathy's mother
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed
- 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 after the Epiphany. The Cross Bowl is given in tribute of past and present pastors of Zion by Jennifer Manth. Please complete an attendance communion card, including the names of all children, and indicate if you are communing. Nonmembers, please read the back of the card.

February 2, 2025 thru February 8, 2025

CALENDAR

r ebruary 2, 2025 tillu i ebruary 0, 2025				
SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Bauer Hall	
MON.	5:30 PM	CEA Board meeting	CLHS	
TUES.		-		
WED.	9:30AM	Men of Zion	Conference Room	
	5:30 PM	Wednesday Divine Service	Bauer Hall	
THURS.	7:00 PM	Council of Elders meeting	Conference Room	
FRI.				
SAT.	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Bauer Hall	
	12 NOON	No Sew Blankets	Great Hall	
	2-6 PM	Karen Cultural Night	Southwest Lutheran	
		February 9, 2025		
SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Bauer Hall	

ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDUCATION HOUR is on "summer break" during our beautification/renovation project in church. We hope to be able to pick things back up in April, after the Easter feast.

WELCOME: Today we welcome to our fellowship Samuli & Māra Siikavirta and daughter Lidia. They come to us from Helsinki, Finland. Brother Samuli has been called to teach at the Concordia Theological Seminary. They live on campus. We're delighted to welcome you.

DON'T FORGET: Ladies, if you would like to help make "No Sew Blankets" on February 8th, please get with Melvia. She is hoping to have them all done and ready by February 27th so that she can deliver them to the Hope Center.

ATTENDANCE AND COMMUNION REGISTRATION in being done the Great Hall. Please fill out a card, indicate who is here and who is communing, and place it in the offering plate.

LSUS REGISTRATION PACKETS for 2025/26 are on the Welcome Table. If you know someone who might be interested in LSUS, take a packet and share it with them!

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE: 1 John 1:7—"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood if Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." Last week's verse was Ephesians 5:25b-27.

WE CAN FACE COMPETING PRIORITIES when we think about distributions from our estates someday, even as we consider gifts that will support ministry. The thought might arise, "If I support ministry with my estate, I'll be taking away from my family inheritance." Take a step further back and begin asking yourself why the Lord gave you these financial assets to manage in the first place. Pray fervently. Have conversations with fellow believers. Strive to discern God's will. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can be one of these supportive people. Contact Mark Muehl at 260-241-4845 or mark.muehl@lfnd.org.

LUTHERAN SPECIAL EDUCATION MINISTRIES is looking for a full-time resource room teacher for a position at Lutheran South Unity School. Applicants must hold a current Indiana Teaching License and have a special education certification/endorsement. Interested applicants looking for more information or wishing to submit a resume are asked to contact Richard Schumacher at (734) 748-5253 or email him at rschumacher@luthsped.org.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 4900 Fairfield Ave., is in need of an accompanist for its Adult Choir. This is a paid position. The choir rehearses every Thursday evening from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m., and sings approximately every other Sunday from after Labor Day until Memorial Day. The position is open immediately. Please contact the church office at 260-744-3869, or the director, Gary Gerke, at 260-348-9171.

RLNI: Right to Life of Northeast Indiana will begin its spring 40 Days for Life campaign on Tuesday, March 4th at 5:30 PM in front of Planned Parenthood with a brief prayer and message Planned Parenthood is located at 2930 Lake Ave, Fort Wayne, IN 46805. Parking is available at the Right to Life office at 3106 Lake Ave. The spring campaign runs from March 4th to April 13th. For more info, please visit www.ichooselife.org/40days or call 260-471-1849.

CLHS BAND AND ORCHESTRA TOUR, FEBRUARY 6–10 The CLHS Band and Orchestra will be on tour from February 6 through 10. They have three stops on their tour which include Trinity Lutheran Church in Elkhart, Ind. on February 6 at 6:30 p.m.; Trinity Lutheran Church in Lisle, Ill. on February 8 at 7:00 p.m.; and they will return home to Fort Wayne on February 10 for their concert at St. Michael Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m. All concerts are open to the public and free to attend.

THE BACH COLLEGIUM'S next concert is Sunday, Feb. 16, 4 PM, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1636 St. Mary's Ave, featuring works of J. S. Bach and A. Bruckner.

SHEPHERD OF THE CITY is hosting its annual Hymn Fest at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23. The worship service, highlighting hymns that celebrate the Word of God, will feature distinguished organist Audrey Partipilo and numerous talented guest accompanists. The featured preacher for the service will be the president of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, the Rev. Dr. Jon S. Bruss. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this FREE fundraising event.

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 4:31-44	The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19
Titus 2:7–3:15	Monday	Zechariah 14:1-21
John 1:1-18	Tuesday	Job 1:1-22
John 1:19-34	Wednesday	Job 2:1-3:10
John 1:35-51	Thursday	Job 3:11-26
John 2:1-12	Friday	Job 4:1-21
John 2:13-25	Saturday	Job 5:1-27

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!

[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!

[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,

[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 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



What Doctor Luther Says:

About Plucking Up the Righteousness in Us

[I]n the church we should not merely teach that our righteousness and wisdom are nothing and that therefore we should not exalt them in our boasting or celebrate them in a false imagination, even though the Gospel teaches (Matt. 5:15): "Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house," and (Matt. 5:14): "A city set on a hill cannot be hid"; I say, we should not teach this but rather that our righteousness and wisdom be broken down and plucked up in our hearts and in our inner self-satisfaction before our very eyes. For when we consider them base in our own eyes, it will be easy for us not to worry about the criticism and praise of others, as God tells us through Jeremiah (Jer. 1:10): "To pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow," namely, everything that is within us (that is, everything that pleases us because it comes from ourselves and lies within us), "to build and to plant," namely, everything that is outside of us and is in Christ. ... God does not want to redeem us through our own, but through external, righteousness and wisdom; not through one that comes from us and grows in us, but through one that comes to us from the outside; not through one that originates here on earth, but through one that comes from heaven. Therefore, we must be taught a righteousness that comes completely from the outside and is foreign. And therefore our own righteousness that is born in us must first be plucked up.

Luther's Works, 25:136.

KAREN CULTURAL NIGHT



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH

OPEN HOUSE 2-6PM
CULTURAL PRESENTATION 3-5PM
SOUTHWEST LUTHERAN CHURCH, 5120 HOMESTEAD ROAD

EXPERIENCE TRADITIONAL DANCE, ART, STORIES, AND FOOD CELEBRATE THEIR HERITAGE & JOURNEY TO AMERICA

LISTEN TO THE PERSONAL STORIES OF KAREN REFUGEES, HEAR KAREN MUSIC, DISCOVER THE MEANING IN TRADITIONAL CLOTHING AND TATTOOS, EXPERIENCE THE DON DANCE AND OTHER DANCES, VIEW PHOTOS AND ARTIFACTS OF THE KAREN PEOPLE OF BURMA, SPEAK WITH IMMIGRANTS THEMSELVES, AND TASTE SOUTHEAST ASIAN FOODS.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE OPEN HOUSE AND CULTURAL PROGRAM FOR FREE.

DELICIOUS KAREN, THAI, AND BURMESE FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE. ONE MEAL TICKET (\$20) WILL FEED TWO ADULTS, OR PURCHASE ITEMS A LA CARTE.

DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED, AND PROCEEDS
RAISED WILL SUPPORT THE WORK OF LUTHERAN AGENCY FOR MISSION TO THE
BURMESE (LAMB) AND THE OUTREACH MINISTRY OF PASTOR SOE MOE

LSUS NOTES

Praying for You!

Please pray for these students/staff:

Brayden Key'Vontay
Elijah R. Nathan
Holly Bella
Azariah Daylen
Callen Cynthia





This past week we celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week! This year's theme was **ENDURE**, based on the Bible verse: Hebrews 12:1-3. Every

day students dressed up in a different theme: PJ Day, sunglasses and beach wear day, Phoenix wear day just to name a few. Students participated in various activities throughout the week: pep rally, all school movie, and making prayer chains.

We also started a **PENNY WAR** this week! Students can bring in pennies and \$5-20 bills to add points and silver coins and \$1 bills to subtract points from other classes. The class with the most points by Friday (2/7) will win a prize! All funds raised will go toward sensory paths on the playground.

PHOENIX SPORTS

Congrats to our Phoenix teams!

Our JV boys' basketball and girls cheerleading teams competed in the Hoenick Hoopfest Tournament at Concordia Lutheran School last weekend.

Our girls cheer team placed 3rd and the boys basketball team placed



Encouragement Found in Scriptures:

This God-his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him. —Psalm 18:30





Thursday, March 6th, 2025 @ 6 - 7 PM

Where: Lutheran South Unity School

5401 South Calhoun Street

What to Expect: Children welcome to come!

- Kindergarten scavenger hunt
- New Families tour of the school
- Repeat families meet with kindergarten teachers and principal learn about the program.

We look forward to hearing from your family! RSVP by phone or use the QR code to LSUS today!





HOW TO CREATE A TECH-READY HOME

Free event for Parents & Caregivers

THURSDAY, FEB. 13 7:00-8:30 PM

AT CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL **AUDITORIUM**

All parents and caregivers are strongly encouraged to attend an upcoming presentation by national speaker Chris McKenna from Protect Young Eyes.



REGISTER







TOPICS INCLUDING

- Understand how young, developing brains are impacted by today's technologies.
- Learn how to use hardware and software to keep your children safe.
- Discover ways to ensure your family is prepared, balanced, and protected online.





LIFE NEWS—FEBRUARY 2025



lutheransforlife.org

Life Newsbytes

New Poll Shows 67% of Americans Want Limits on Abortion | The 2025 Knights of Columbus-Marist Poll results, released January 23, show that 67% of Americans support placing legal limits on abortion, and that 60% support limiting abortions to, at most, the first three months of pregnancy. This survey, conducted by the Marist Poll and commissioned annually by the Knights of Columbus, also found that, for the second consecutive year, 83% of Americans support pregnancy resource centers, which offer support to mothers both during their pregnancy and after their baby is born. Additionally, the poll found that 62% of Americans believe healthcare professionals with religious objections to abortions should not be legally required to perform them, while 82% of respondents believe that laws can protect both the mother and her unborn child. "This year's survey results show that Americans are once again firm in their belief that abortion should be significantly limited, yet laws should include exceptions for rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother." says Dr. Barbara L. Carvalho, Director of the Marist Poll. "This consistent year over year trend found in the annual Knights of Columbus-Marist Poll has continued, now nearly three years after the Supreme Court's landmark Dobbs decision." (LifeNews.com, 1/23/25)



Speaking up For Life

"Please rejoice in knowing prayer works and keep praying for the states who still haven't banned abortions and for those states trying to ward off those who want to bring it back. We are not done praying and never will be. God is on our side, and He has a plan. We need to stand firm and, with faith, never give up praying. God controls the power of prayer, and He is amazing." Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life

"We live dripping with the promise of Baptism. We live fueled by the fire of God's Word. We live created on the sixth day and recreated by God's grace to be followers of Jesus seven days of the week until that great eighth day, called eternity, when we will sing praise in His presence forever. We live and we love and we are loved in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, sin forgiven, shame erased, status: all very good." Rev. Dr. John Nunes, guest speaker on "The Lutheran Hour"

"Our Heavenly Father remains active and almighty, especially in the difficult circumstances that life issues involve. In joining Himself to us with His incarnation, wisdom, power, atonement, and resurrection, Jesus makes every human life blessed—and a blessing! He lovingly and ably handles decisions about welfare and affliction, life and death, so that we don't have to do it on our own." Pastor Michael Salemink

Carrying Our Message Forward

by Pastor Michael Salemink



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

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

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

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

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

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

 $Find \ out \ more \ at \ luther ansfor life.org/2025-luther ans-for-life-essay-contest.$



For tickets and more information visit www.bachcollegium.org



oji Otsuki, Artistic Director



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

2024-2025 Season

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 Mühlseligen, Op. 74, No. 1 [a cappella]

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



Daniel McGrew

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.



Edward Vogel

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, corno da tirarsi

Sung Lee, oboe/oboe d'amore Luke Conklin, oboe/oboe d'amore/recorder

J.S. Bach: Herr, wie du willt, 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



Brad Tatum

Sun April 27 at 4 pm - Concert III Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 917 W. Jefferson Blvd., Ft. Wavne



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



Leighann Daihl Ragusa

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 Icms-lert.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.



for those who work in our congregations and schools!





"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).

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-opart-to-serve to learn more.

