

# Historic Zion Lutheran Church

## DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

9:00 am ..... Sunday, January 5, 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**

*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 ..... As with Gladness Men of Old ..... Burgundy Hymn 397**

#### Kyrie

Ky - ri - e e - lei-son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chri - ste — e - lei - son. Christ have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e — e - lei - son. Lord, — have mer - cy.

### Gloria in Excelsis

Glo - ry to God in the high - est. And on earth peace,

a - mong men with whom He is pleased. We praise Thee, we bless Thee,

we wor - ship Thee, we glo - ri - fy Thee, we give thanks to Thee for

Thy great glo - ry. O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God, the Fa - ther Al -

migh - ty. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ,

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, who ta - kest a - way the

sin of the world, have mer - cy on us. Thou who ta - kest a - way the sin of the world,

re - ceive our prayer. Thou who sit - test at the right hand of God

the Father, have mer - cy on us. For Thou on - ly art ho - ly. Thou on - ly

art the Lord, Thou on - ly O Christ with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,

art most high in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

A - - - - - men.

## Salutation

*The Lord be with you.*



And with thy spir— it.

**Collect for the Epiphany of our Lord:** *O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same 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**..... **Isaiah 60:1-6**

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

**Epistle of the Day** ..... **Ephesians 3:1-12**

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

[ Rise and face the Processional Cross for the Gospel Procession. ]

**Sequence Hymn** ..... **O Savior of Our Fallen Race** ..... **Burgundy Hymn 403**

[ All sing stanzas 1, 2 & 3; SKIP stanzas 4 & 5; All sing stanzas 6 & 7. ]

**Holy Gospel** ..... **St. Matthew 2:1-12**

[ The Gospel is announced. ]

[ The Gospel is proclaimed. ]



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord!



Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

## Confession of Faith (The Nicene Creed)

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

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

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

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

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

[ Be Seated ] **Hymn of the Day**..... **O Morning Star** ..... **Burgundy Hymn 395**

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

## 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 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 Epiphany, Sanctus**

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly, Lord God of hosts:  
 Heav - en and earth are full of Thy glo - ry;  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
 comes in the name of the Lord; Ho - san - na in the high - est.

[ Kneel ] **Lord's Prayer**

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



For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r 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** ..... **Brightest and Best** ..... **Burgundy Hymn 400**  
**The Star Proclaims** ..... **Burgundy Hymn 399**  
 [ Rise for Stanza 5. ]

**Eucharistic Benediction**

*The Body and Blood of your Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting! ✠ Depart in Peace! ..... Amen!*

**Post-Communion Canticle** ..... **The Nunc Dimittis**



1. Lord now— lettest Thou Thy  
servant, de— part— in — peace, ac— cord— ing to Thy Word.
2. For mine\_\_ eyes have seen  
Thy Salvation,  
which Thou hast pre— pared\_\_ be— fore the face of all\_\_ people.



3. a Light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the Glo- ry of Thy peo-ple Is - - - ra-el.



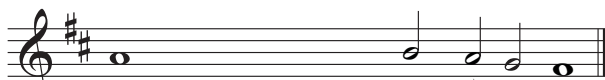
4. Glo— ry\_\_ be to the  
Father, and to\_\_ the \_\_ Son, and to the Ho- ly Ghost.



5. As it\_\_ was in the  
beginning, is  
now, and e— ver shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

## Post Communion Rite

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



And His mercy endureth for — ev — er.

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



A — men.

*The Lord be with you.*



And with thy spir — rit.

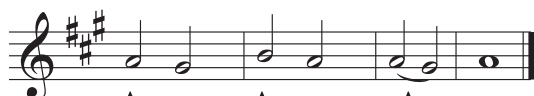
*Bless we the Lord.*



Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

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



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

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

## Recessional Hymn ..... What Child Is This? ..... Burgundy Hymn 370

## Postlude

# Readings for the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord

## The Old Testament Reading is Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.  
And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.  
Lift up your eyes all around, and see;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from afar,  
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and exult,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

## The Epistle is Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who

created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

### **The Gospel is Matthew 2:1-12**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.



## Hymns for the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord

### LSB397 As with Gladness Men of Old

William C. Dix

1. As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.
4. Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.
5. In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light;  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King.

### LSB403 O Savior of Our Fallen Race

Latin c. 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> cent.

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

1. O Savior of our fallen race,  
O Brightness of the Father's face,  
O Son who shared the Father's might  
Before the world knew day or night, Alleluia!
2. O Jesus, very Light of Light,  
Our constant star in sin's deep night:  
Now hear the prayers Your people pray  
Throughout the world this holy day. Alleluia!
3. Remember, Lord of life and grace,  
How once, to save our fallen race,  
You put our human vesture on  
And came to us as Mary's son. Alleluia!
6. And we are jubilant today,  
For You have washed our guilt away.  
O hear the glad new song we sing  
On this, the birthday of our King! Alleluia!

- △ 7. O Christ, Redeemer virgin-born,  
Let songs of praise Your name adorn,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore. Alleluia!

**LSB395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright**

**Philipp Nicolai**

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

1. O Morning Star, how fair and bright!  
You shine with God's own truth and light,  
Aglow with grace and mercy!  
Of Jacob's race, King David's Son,  
Our Lord and Master, You have won  
Our hearts to serve You only! Lowly, holy!  
Great and glorious, all victorious. Rich in blessing!  
Rule and might o'er all possessing!
2. Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,  
And deep within our hearts now shine;  
There light a flame undying!  
In Your one body let us be  
As living branches of a tree,  
Your life our lives supplying. Now, though daily  
Earth's deep sadness May perplex us And distress us,  
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.
- M 3. Lord, when You look on us in love.  
At once there falls from God above  
A ray of purest pleasure.  
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood  
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food.  
You are our dearest treasure! Let Your mercy  
Warm and cheer us! O draw near us! For You teach us  
God's own love through You has reached us.
- W 4. Almighty Father, in Your Son  
You loved us, when not yet begun  
Was this old earth's foundation!  
Your Son has ransomed us in love  
To live in Him here and above:  
This is Your great salvation. Alleluia!  
Christ the living, to us giving Life forever,  
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!

5. O let the harps break forth in sound!  
 Our joy be all with music crowned,  
 Our voices gladly blending!  
 For Christ goes with us all the way—  
 Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!  
 His love is never ending! Sing out! Ring out!  
 Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!  
 Great is He, the King of Glory!
6. What joy to know, when life is past,  
 The Lord we love is first and last,  
 The end and the beginning!  
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,  
 Transport us to that happy place  
 Beyond all tears and sinning! Amen! Amen!  
 Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness! We are yearning  
 For the day of Your returning!

**LSB400 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning**

**Reginald Heber**

1. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
 Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
 Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
 Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
2. Cold on His cradle the dew-drops are shining;  
 Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
 Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,  
 Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.
3. Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,  
 Fragrance of Edom and off'ings divine,  
 Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
 Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?
4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
 Vainly with gifts would His favor secure,  
 Richer by far is the heart's adoration;  
 Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
5. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
 Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
 Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
 Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

## LSB399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

Coelius Sedulius

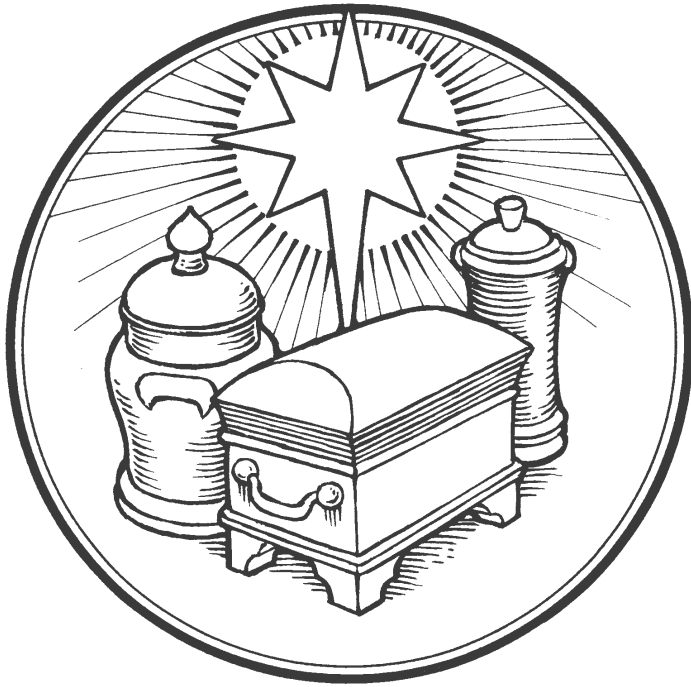
1. The star proclaims the King is here;  
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?  
For He who offers heav'nly birth  
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.
2. The eastern sages saw from far  
And followed on His guiding star;  
And, led by light, to light they trod  
And by their gifts confessed their God.
3. Within the Jordan's sacred flood  
The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood  
That He, of whom no sin was known,  
Might cleanse His people from their own.
4. And oh, what miracle divine,  
When water reddened into wine!  
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed  
In streams that nature ne'er bestowed.
- △ 5. For this Thy glad epiphany  
All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,  
Whom with the Father we adore,  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

## LSB370 What Child Is This

Juraj Tranovsky

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels  
sing; Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!
2. Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me,  
for you; Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!
3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

# The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord



## Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

2313 Hanna Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46803 | 260-744-1389  
pastor@zionfw.org, 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:  
Field Workers:

Rev. Douglas D. Punke, MDiv (341-5397)  
Matthew Harrison, Nathaniel Demlow

### The Teaching Staff at Lutheran South Unity

Principal:  
Teachers:

Amber Bahr (744-0459; [www.lsusfw.org](http://www.lsusfw.org))  
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:  
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 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 Ernestine Rogers, 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
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed, including Fred Hill
- + 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 Epiphany of Our Lord The Cross Bowl is given in loving memory of Fred Hill on the occasion of his birthday by DaVanna & David Seifert and family. Please complete an attendance communion card, including the names of all children, and indicate if you are communing. Non-members, please read the back of the card.

## CALENDAR

### **January 5, 2024 thru January 11, 2024**

<b>SUN.</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Divine Service</b>	<b>Bauer Hall</b>
	10:30 AM	Education Council	Conference Room
<b>MON.</b>		LSUS is back at school	
<b>TUES.</b>			
<b>WED.</b>	9:30 AM	Men of Zion	Conference Room
	<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>Wednesday Divine Service</b>	<b>Bauer Hall</b>
<b>THURS.</b>			
<b>FRI.</b>			
<b>SAT.</b>	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Bauer Hall
	12 NOON	No-Sew Blankets	Great Hall

### **January 12, 2024**

<b>SUN.</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Divine Service</b>	<b>Bauer Hall</b>
-------------	----------------	-----------------------	-------------------

## **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.

**THANK YOU:** First, thank you to the saints of Zion for the generous Christmas gifts to the Zion staff. Second, thank you to everyone who helped move hymnals, Bibles, etc., out of the pews last Sunday, and to those who were able to stay and move additional furnishings out of the chancel, the nave, and the narthex. Third, thank you to those who were able to help with the preparation of Bauer Hall for our services. It was all done most efficiently, and work has begun.

**ATTENDANCE AND COMMUNION REGISTRATION:** Since there is no place for attendance cards in the chairs, cards and pencils are on the table as you enter Bauer Hall. Please fill out a card, indicate who is here and who is communing, and place it in the offering plate.

**POINSETTIAS:** The remaining poinsettias were moved into Bauer Hall to beautify our temporary chancel, but they won’t last long there. Please take your poinsettia home today.

**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** are ready for pick up from Julie’s scrip table. Help us save on postage.

**NEXT YEAR’S ENVELOPES:** If you didn’t pick yours up, please see Julie or Melvia. Thanks.

**MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE:** Joel 2:32—“And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.” Last week’s verse was Matthew 1:21

**PUTTING AN ESTATE PLAN TOGETHER** presents many competing priorities around which to make decisions. Certainly, you wish to care for the family you love. Yet even families can present competing priorities. As you consider gifts to family (inheritance), is their need immediate, or is it in the future for something like college education for children? Would you like to begin figuring out God’s design for His gifts? Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Mark Muehl at 260-241-4845 or [mark.muehl@lfnd.org](mailto:mark.muehl@lfnd.org).

**SAVE THE DATE:** RLNI March for Life is Saturday, January 18, 12:30 PM. The Rally will be outside this year, at Tincaps Stadium, 1301 Ewing St, Fort Wayne, IN. Doors open at 12 pm, and the rally will begin at 12:30 pm. There’s also a different route for the March. A route map will be available soon. RLNI staff says, “Due to being outdoors for the entirety of the event, the rally will be shortened and we recommend dressing extra warmly!” Good advice. 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, worshiping, laughing, and connecting with other women during Lutherhaven’s annual Women’s Retreat on January 24-26, 2025. Let God’s Word lead and empower you for the year ahead. Check out [www.lutherhaven.org](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 KFUO at [KFUO.org](http://KFUO.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**

Matthew 2:1-12  
Luke 3:21-38  
Romans 1:1-17  
Romans 1:18-32  
Romans 2:1-16  
Romans 2:17-29  
Romans 3:1-18

**DAILY LECTIONARY**

**The Epiphany of Our Lord**

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday  
Saturday

**Evening Prayer**

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Isaiah 66:1-20  
Ezekiel 1:1-14, 22-28  
Ezekiel 2:1-3:11  
Ezekiel 3:12-27  
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32  
Ezekiel 33:1-20

**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 Baptism of Our Lord**

Isaiah 43:1-7

Romans 6:1-11

Luke 3:15-22





# What Doctor Luther Says:

## *About the Epiphany Star that Reveals Christ*

Let it suffice for the present that this star [that rose in the east] signifies oral preaching and the bright revelation of Christ, which shows him as hidden and promised in Scripture. Therefore whoever sees the star will assuredly recognize the King of the Jews, the newborn Christ. For the gospel teaches nothing but Christ, and therefore Scripture contains nothing but Christ. Whoever fails to recognize Christ may hear the gospel or he may indeed carry the book in his hand, but he lacks understanding, for to have the gospel without understanding, is to have no gospel at all. And to possess Scripture without knowing Christ, is to have no Scripture, which is nothing else than to let this star shine, and to fail to see it.

Such happens to these Herodists and to those who dwelt in Jerusalem: the star is above their country and above their heads, and they fail to see it. Similarly when the gospel arose over the Israelites as Isaiah writes in the Epistle [Isa. 60:1], they let it shine and yet did not recognize it. St. Paul speaks of this in II Corinthians 4[:3-4]: “If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who perish, among whom the god of this world (that is, the devil) blinds the hearts of the unbelievers, so that the light of the clear gospel of Christ may not shine in them.” From which we clearly see that unbelief alone is the reason for a blindness which fails to see the gospel, even though it shines and is preached without ceasing. For it is impossible that Christ and his gospel should be recognized by reason; faith alone is recognition here, and the seeing of the star signifies that same faith.

*Luther's Works, 52:207.*

## LIFE NEWS—JANUARY 2025



**LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE**

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



### Life Newsbytes

#### **62,000 Babies Older Than 15 Weeks Are Killed in Abortions Every Year –**

Although historically many doctors believed that unborn babies could not feel pain until the third trimester or even well after birth, the modern scientific literature shows that unborn babies can feel pain by 15 weeks gestation, and possibly as early as 12 weeks. The majority of abortions occur in the first trimester, but a substantial number are performed at 15 weeks or later on unborn babies who are capable of experiencing pain. Due to significant limitations with U.S. abortion data, the precise number of abortions after 15 weeks is unknown, but available data suggests that tens of thousands of abortions on unborn babies who feel pain are performed at 15 weeks or later each year.

*How many abortions take place in the U.S. at 15 weeks of gestation or later?*

2022 abortion data from the states and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate that approximately 6% of all reported abortions take place at or after 15 weeks of gestation. When applied to the Guttmacher Institute's most recent estimate of 1,032,150 abortions nationwide in 2023, this is approximately 61,900 abortions at 15 weeks or later each year. (Read more: [www.lifenews.com/2024/12/23/62000-babies-older-than-15-weeks-are-killed-in-abortions-every-year](http://www.lifenews.com/2024/12/23/62000-babies-older-than-15-weeks-are-killed-in-abortions-every-year))

### Speaking up For Life

"What is it that is essential for your life this New Year? What gifts do you cherish? Certainly, Jesus is the most precious gift we have! Let Him shine through your whole life this year. Take Him with you everywhere. Remember whose family you belong to! Cling to Jesus, our Father's Son, this New Year! Our Father goes with you and promises His blessings, now and forever!" *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota*

"Abortion has only ever represented a symptom. The sickness has always consisted of the deeper reality of sin. So, law never embodied the finish line or the prize. Our Savior's victory invites us to settle for nothing less than sharing life, abundant and everlasting, with each human being and receiving them all as gift and privilege. Let's press ahead with renewed enthusiasm!" *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life*

"As Christians, each one of us should be deeply steeped in God's Word. That is where the truth lies. We don't want to be 'right' for our own sake so we can boast in our 'right-ness.' We should want to be 'right' because God is revealing His truth to us, and we have been aligned with His truth. As we labor together in the life arena, let each one of us be so grounded in God's Word that we recognize God's truth and speak it in love." *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM, Lutherans For Life*

# Life Shines in Darkness

by Pastor Michael Salemink



"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).

The 1993 blockbuster film *Jurassic Park* didn't just spawn dinosaurs. It also gave us two of the most poignant sanctity of life affirmations in popular culture. Dr. Ian Malcolm, a chaos theorist played by Jeff Goldblum, laments that "Scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could, they didn't stop to think if they should." And the same character appreciates how "Life, uh, finds a way."

Nobody can deny that life issues involve difficulties. Surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis bring significant suffering. Bearing a child is hard. Injury, illness, and impairment hurt. They impose and deprive. Feeling afraid, ashamed, impoverished, abused, or abandoned sometimes complicates the circumstances. Even Jesus recognizes the reality: **"When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come"** (John 16:21). **"In the world,"** He goes on to acknowledge, **"you will have trouble"** (John 16:33). The Darkness is real, and it is deep.

It's just that it does not negate the light. The burdens do not cancel the blessings. The sorrows don't even equal the celebrations. God always makes life, and He always makes life worth it. The Good Giver of Life also accompanies each one as the Almighty Lord of **"my power is made perfect in weakness"** (2 Corinthians 12:9). The crucifixion forgiveness of Jesus Christ proves that He constantly populates the adversities themselves with delights.

However compromised—and we all are—every neighbor embodies a gift. However imperfect, every day comes as opportunity and privilege. They usually require patience and persistence, of course, and not a little bit of shared sweat and tears. But they turn out the sweeter for it. **"When she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world"** (John 16:21). **"Take heart; I have overcome the world"** (John 16:33)!





# 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.

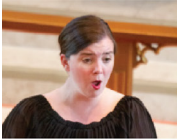


Koji Otsuki, Artistic Director

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

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

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

# HURRICANE HELENE UPDATE



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

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

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

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

## PRAYER

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

-----

## TO VOLUNTEER

Visit [lcms-1ert.org](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).

---

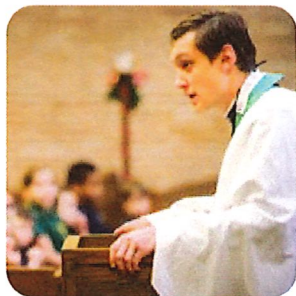
**THANKS**  
*be to*  
**God**  
for those  
who work in our  
congregations  
and schools!

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

---

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

---



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

---



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

  
**SET APART  
TO SERVE**