

Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 am Sunday, November 30, 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!*

Invocation

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

The Office of Confession of Sins and Absolution

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

[Kneel]

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

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

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

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

Introit of the Day



[Antiphon] Behold, your king is | •coming• to you; || righteous and having sal- | va-__ tion is | he.

Verse 1: Save us, we | pray, O Lord! || O Lord, we | pray, give us suc- | cess!

Verse 2: Blessed is he who comes in the name | of the Lord! || We bless you from the | house_ of the | Lord.

Verse 3: The | Lord is God, || and he has made his light to | shine up- on__ | us.

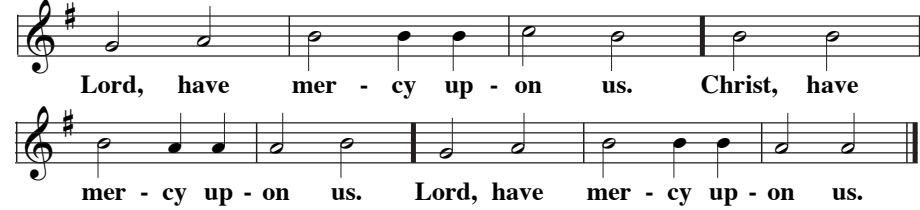
Verse 4: Bind the festal sacri- | fice with cords, || up to the horns | of the al-__ | tar!

Verse 5: You are my God, and I will give | thanks to you; || you are my God; I | will ex- tol__ | you.

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

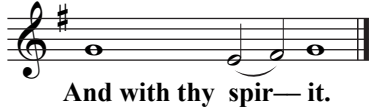
[Antiphon] Behold, your king is | •coming• to you; || righteous having sal- | va-__ tion is | he.

Kyrie



Salutation

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir— it.

Collect for the First Sunday in Advent: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A ——— men!

Collect for Saint Andrew: Almighty God, by Your grace the apostle Andrew obeyed the call of Your Son to be a disciple. Grant us also to follow the same Lord Jesus Christ in heart and life, 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 2:1-5

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

Epistle of the Day Romans 13:8-14

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

[Rise] **Alleluia Sequence**

[Deacon] Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia!



Holy Gospel St. Matthew 21:1-11

[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 Savior of the Nations, Come Burgundy Hymn 332

[All sing stanzas 1 & 2; Women sing stanzas 3 & 5; Men sing stanzas 4 & 6;

All sing stanzas 7 & 8; Rise for Stanza 8.]

Sermon

[Rise] Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs: [After each petition]:..., Lord, in Your mercy: Hear our prayer.

[After the final prayer]:..., one God, now and forever Amen.

[Be Seated] Offerings, Voluntary

[Rise] Offertory Hymn Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Thy pres - ence, and



take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of



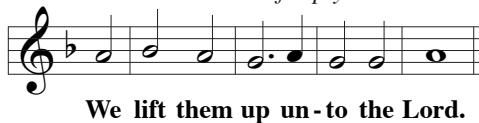
Thy sal - va - tion; and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

Preface

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

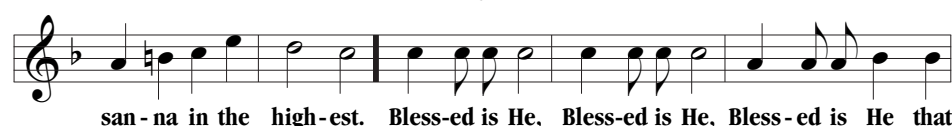


Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

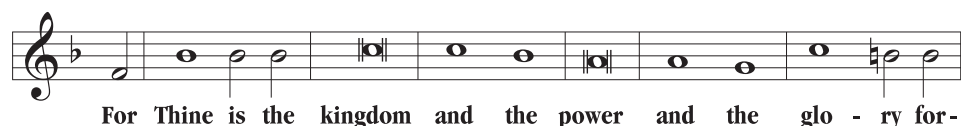


Proper Preface for Advent, Sanctus

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



[Kneel] **Lord's Prayer** [Pastor chants:] *Our Father who art ... but deliver us from evil.*

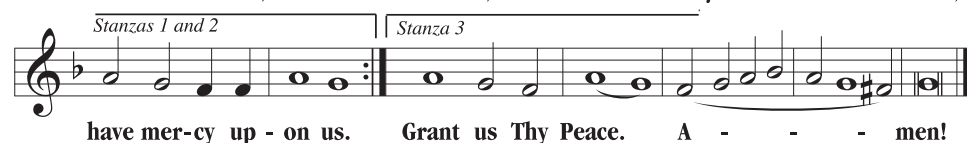
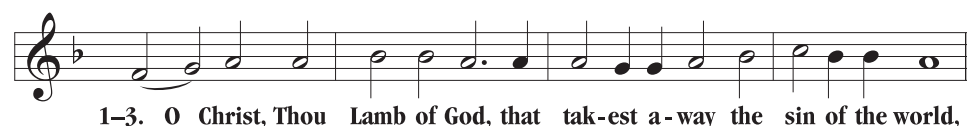


Words of Institution, Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always!



Agnus Dei



[Be Seated]

Distribution Hymns ... O Lord, How Shall I Meet You Burgundy Hymn 334
Come, Thou Precious Ransom ... Burgundy Hymn 350

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.



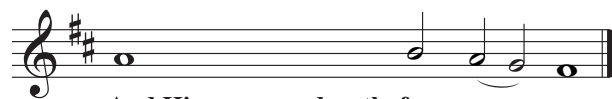
4. Glo— ry__ be to the
Father, and to__ the __ Son, and to the Ho— ly Ghost.



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.



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 Prepare the Royal Highway Burgundy Hymn 343

Postlude

Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly!

**Come join us at Zion Lutheran Church
as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.**

- Advent Services, Wednesdays at 7pm
- Christmas Eve Candelight Service of Lessons and Carols
Featuring Choir, Brass, and Organ
Prelude begins at 6:30pm • Service begins at 7pm
- Christmas Day Festival Service
Featuring Choir, Brass, and Organ
Prelude begins at 8:45am • Service begins at 9am



2313 South Hanna Street at Creighton

Telephone 744-1389

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Readings for the First Sunday in Advent

The Old Testament Reading is Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

The Epistle is Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast

off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Gospel is St. Matthew 21:1-11

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

Hymns for the First Sunday in Advent

LSB332 Savior of the Nations, Come

Ambrose of Milan

Text: (sts. 4-5, 8) © 1978 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 3, 6-7) © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

1. Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
2. Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—Woman's offspring pure and fresh.
- W 3. Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.
- M 4. Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.
- W 5. God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.
- M 6. For You are the Father's Son Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.
7. From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.
- △ 8. Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

LSB334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Paul Gerhardt

1. O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly All that may please You best.
2. Your Zion strews before You Green boughs and fairest palms;
And I too will adore You With joyous songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom forever For You with praises new
And from Your name shall never Withhold the honor due.
3. I lay in fetters, groaning; You came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning; You came to honor me.
A glorious crown You give me, A treasure safe on high
That will not fail or leave me As earthly riches fly.

4. Love caused Your incarnation; Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.
Oh, love behond all telling, That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race.
5. Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Cannot His love erase;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by His grace.
He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing Eternal life in heav'n.
6. He comes to judge the nations, A terror to His foes,
A light of consolations And blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so cheering, And guide us safely home.

LSB350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come Johann Gottfried Olearius

1. Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.
2. Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my guest divine!
3. My hosannas and my palms Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can, Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.
4. Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.

LSB343 Prepare the Royal Highway

Frans Mikael Franzén

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1. Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!
2. God's people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

3. Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him!
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!
4. His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

The First Sunday in Advent



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

2313 Hanna Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46803 | 260-744-1389

pastor@zionfw.org, church@zionfw.org | website: www.zionfw.org

Zion Lutheran Church is the body of Christ at Hanna and Creighton in Fort Wayne, Indiana that:

- Receives Christ's gifts in Word and Sacraments; and
- Responds to God's love in Christ by
 - Reaching out to those who do not know His love; and
 - Revealing His love in acts of kindness and mercy.

The Pastoral Ministry at Zion

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Douglas D. Punke, MDiv (341-5397)

Field Workers:

Nathaniel Demlow, Joshua Fuchs

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), Rachel Wiegman (3rd), John Fink (2nd), Hannah Fink (1st), Michelle Madden (K), Natalie Reynolds (Art), Elisa Sawall (Music), Lee Buxton (PE), Cathie Wakeland (Literacy Coach), Arianna Blake (LSEM), Melissa White (FWCS) & Sarah Wheaton (EACS) (Title I Tutors)

The Support Staff

Organist and Director of Parish Music:

Michael Hollman, MM

Church Office Manager:

Melvia Culpher

PRAYERS FOR TODAY

- + For the church, especially those bearing the cross of persecution, including Bishop Juhana Pohjola and Dr. Päivi Räsänen (case being decided by the Finnish Supreme Court)
- + For those who serve our Lord at home and abroad, especially our teachers as they start of another academic year, our fieldworkers Nate Demlow and Josh Fuchs
- + For our nation; for our leaders; for our military, including James Hall & Thaddeus Cody
- + 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 or nearing death, especially Bob Ockree
- + For the ill, distressed, and those suffering affliction, including Estella Ramirez, Darryl Kirtz, Dick Hollman, Art Litke, Henry Williams, Debra Busche, Carl Albersmeyer, Connie Houser, Bill Weinrich, Dwight Bieberich, Mike Ming, Kent & Angela Becker, Earl Marcel Sisson, Elaine Seifert, Joe Harrison, Louisa Porter, Gary Phillips, David Groth, Gary Castle, Ron Rastl, Robert & Jenny Hobby
- + For God's blessing on all godly marriages, especially Rita & Mike Davies
- + For the gift of life and for length of days, especially for pregnant mothers Jennifer Wessel, Hannah Fink, and Rachel Wiegman
- + 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
- + For our communicants and for a fruitful use of the most Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood

IN THE SERVICE TODAY

Today is the Divine Service for the First Sunday in Advent. The Cross Bowl is given in celebration of the 28th wedding anniversary of Rita & Mike Davies. 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

November 30, 2025 thru December 6, 2025

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:45 AM	Adult Bible Study	Bauer Hall
	10:45 AM	Lutheran Identity study	Conference Room
MON.			
TUES.	9:00 AM	Weekday Bible Study	Bauer Hall
		Giving Tuesday	
WED.	5:45 PM	Advent Supper	Bauer Hall
	7:00 PM	Advent Evening Prayer	Church
THURS.	7:00 PM	Council of Elders Meeting	Conference Room
FRI.			
SAT.	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church
	5:00 PM	Cadets in Cadence Dinner/Auction	CLHS

December 7, 2025

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:45 AM	Education Hour	Various
	1:30 PM	LWML Advent Tea	Bethlehem

ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDUCATION HOUR: Dr. Voelz is back and continues today in the Gospel according to St. Mark, in Bauer Hall. Sem. Josh Fuchs is leading the alternate adult/teenage class on Lutheran Identity, in the Conference Room.

HELP NEEDED: If you have a couple hours to spare every couple of months, the trustees would like your assistance to keep Zion beautiful. Because some of our volunteers are no longer physically able to do light cleaning and other chores as needed, we are looking to add people to our weekend rotation schedule. If you're willing and able to help or need more information, talk to Kevin Leininger or call him at 615-9896. Thanks.

SHUT-IN HOLIDAY GOODIES: A list of shut-ins is included in the bulletin. If you are able to send a Christmas card to them, they will surely appreciate it. Melvia will be packing shut-in bags on Saturday, December 20th. To donate cookies or fruit, please have them to church by then.

LUTHERAN WITNESS: if you are interested in receiving the Lutheran Witness, please make a check out to Zion for \$19 (put Lutheran Witness in the memo line) before the end of the year. Also, if you would like to renew your subscription, please get your check to Melvia.

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE: Micah 7:7—"But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for God of my salvation; my God will hear me." Last week's verse was Revelation 2:10.

INGATHERING FOR SEMINARY FOOD CO-OP continues until December 7th. As you are able, please purchase suggested items and bring them to church, and Pastor or Melvia will get them to the seminary. Thank you for supporting the students and their families.

WE CAN FACE COMPETING PRIORITIES when we think about planning our estates someday. The big decision to make is whether an estate plan is merely a legal/financial activity or is it an activity of faith. For much of our life, we view our occupations as ways to gather resources necessary to support this life, all blessed by the Lord. Often attached to that "gathering" is a sense to protect what we have gathered. Sometimes, the gathering and protecting distract us from the place where true grace filled blessing is found, in the use of God's gifts, to reflect Jesus. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you keep this grace filled focus. Contact Mark Muehl at mark.muehl@lfnd.org or 260-241-4845.

CADETS IN CADENCE DINNER AUCTION: CLHS's Cadets in Cadence Dinner Auction will be held on December 6 (doors open at 5 PM), and now is the perfect time to get your tickets! This year's theme, *Beneath the Stars, Beside the Waves*, promises an evening of elegance, fun, and fellowship. Visit www.CadetsInCadence.com for more information, to purchase tickets, or to explore sponsorship opportunities. Don't wait, tickets often sell out quickly! We look forward to seeing you at this year's Cadets in Cadence Dinner Auction.

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH'S Men's Club are selling Christmas trees and wreaths again this year. The tree lot is located at the Church-School, 4245 Lake Ave. The lot is open 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturdays, and 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Sundays. A selection can be made from Scotch Pine, Douglas Fir, Fraser Fir, and Blue Spruce. Decorated wreaths are also available. The proceeds from this fundraiser are used to support various projects and functions of the Concordia Church and school. Please assist us in this effort by purchasing your Christmas tree from the Concordia Men's Club. Your patronage would be greatly appreciated.

RLNI is sponsoring a trip to the National March for Life in Washington DC, January 21st-24th, 2026, open to high school and college-age students who want to grow in their understanding of the pro-life movement, explore the nation's capital, and stand with hundreds of thousands of others who believe every life deserves protection. Registration is due by December 10; sign up or learn more at ichooselife.org and click on "Upcoming Events." You can also call 260-471-1849 or email Phoebe@ichooselife.org.

COOKIE FAIR: Emmaus Lutheran will host its annual Cookie Fair on Saturday, December 13 from 9 am to Noon. Cookies and fudge will be \$9/lb. Other treats include homemade jams, kringle and Rada cutlery. Emmaus is located at 8626 Covington Road. Call the church office at 459-7722 with any questions.

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 21:1-11

1 Peter 3:1-22

1 Peter 4:1-19

1 Peter 5:1-14

2 Peter 1:1-21

2 Peter 2:1-22

2 Peter 3:1-18

DAILY LECTIONARY

The First Sunday in Advent

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Evening Prayer

Isaiah 2:1-5

Isaiah 7:10-8:8

Isaiah 8:9-9:7

Isaiah 9:8-10:11

Isaiah 10:12-27a, 33-34

Isaiah 11:1-12:6

Isaiah 14:1-23

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

Second Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12



What Doctor Luther Says:

About the Vanity of Raging against our Crucified King

1. *Why do the heathen conspire, and the peoples meditate in vain?*
2. *The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and His Christ. ...*

The psalmist says “in vain,” and in this word he summarizes nearly the whole subject of the psalm [Psalm 2]. For the prophet wishes to show that Christ is a King ordained by God the Father and that many great Gentiles and Jews, kings and rulers, have not been able to hinder His kingship with their counsels, oppositions, strivings, and rages. They spent everything so fruitlessly that they made a mockery of themselves; the more they resisted, the more they promoted the kingdom of Christ. It is as though the psalmist wished with this psalm to provide an illustration for what he said in Ps. 1:3: “Whatever he does, shall prosper,” insofar as this applies to Christ. The words of Ps. 45:4 are related to this: “Increase in Thy splendor and beauty, prosper and rule.” And Ps. 118:25f.: “O Lord, give us success! Blessed be He who enters in the name of the Lord.” For the prosperity of Christ, as I have said, is not of this world or of the flesh, but of the spirit. Is there anyone who, while Christ was suffering, would not have thought that He would never become even the lowest of men or live again, much less be King over all things? Who would not have believed then that the meditations of the people were confirmed and not in vain, when they gloried in the fact that they had condemned Him to the curse of the cross by the authority of God Himself and thought that their meditations were secure for eternity? What is more, faith and hope are always necessary in the works of God, requiring not only a submission but an understanding; for His works are fulfilled contrary to all sense and beyond all comprehension.

Luther's Works, 14:313, 315-16.



Order Your Poinsettia Plants for Christmas 2025!



PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

DEDICATION _____

___ 8 1/2 inch Poinsettia \$42 each \$ _____

___ 6 1/2 inch Poinsettia \$20 each \$ _____

___ 4 1/2 inch Poinsettia \$10 each \$ _____

___ General Donation \$ _____

___ Pick up plant after Dec 31

___ Give plant to a shut-in

Return this form to the church office by **December 14th**
to have your dedication
printed in the bulletin.





Zion's Shut-in Members



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Stanley Goeglein
7833 West Jefferson Blvd.
Apt. #221
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

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

LSUS NOTES

Praying for You!

Please pray for these students/staff:

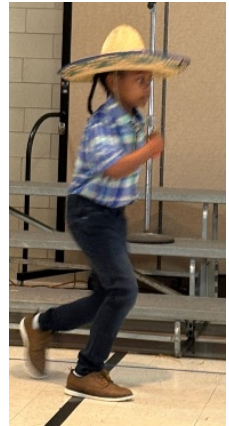
Chance	Corinne
Grayson	Keiayla
Artez	Music
Corlesiya	Mr. Lee Jordan
King	Nurse Jordan
Than	Mr. Bolton



Fall Fun Takes Over LSUS!



LSUS hosted a lively Harvest Fest on November 15th, filling the afternoon with fall-themed fun for the whole family. Students and parents enjoyed activities like pumpkin bowling, sucker gourd pulls, face painting, the duck pond, and "Pin the Nose on the Jack-o'-Lantern," along with raffles, food trucks, and even a video-



gaming truck. Families had a wonderful time moving from station to station, laughing, playing, and celebrating our school community.

The talent show brought extra excitement as students showcased a variety of performances, including dancing, singing, and even stand-up comedy. Each act brought smiles and cheers from the crowd, and our performers did an outstanding job shining on stage.





Congratulations to our 1st and 6th grade classes for winning the schoolwide photo contest! We also extend a heartfelt thank-you to our sponsors, our amazing volunteers, and the Pearson's for helping make this year's Harvest Fest such a joyful and memorable event.

*To Us a Child
Is Born*

**K-8th LSUS
Christmas Service**

Tuesday, December 16
6:30PM
at Zion Lutheran Church

Save-The-Date:

Join us at Zion to celebrate
the birth of Jesus!

**Encouragement
Found in Scriptures:**

GIVE THANKS
— TO THE —
LORD
— FOR HE IS GOOD —
HIS LOVE
— ENDURES —
FOREVER
1 CHRONICLES 16:34

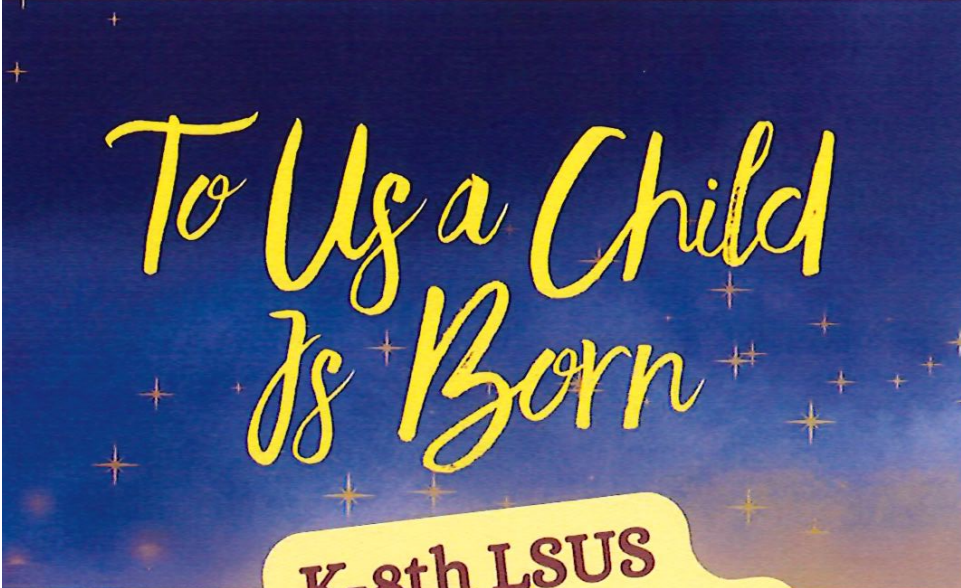
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
JESUS!



December 6th, 2025
10:00am

JOIN US FOR THE FUN OF THIS CLASSIC CHILDRENS
BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS
THINGS TO DO: GAMES, CRAFTS, TREATS,
PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: NATIVITY SCENE AND SANTA

Martini Lutheran Church
333 Moeller Road, New Haven, IN 46774



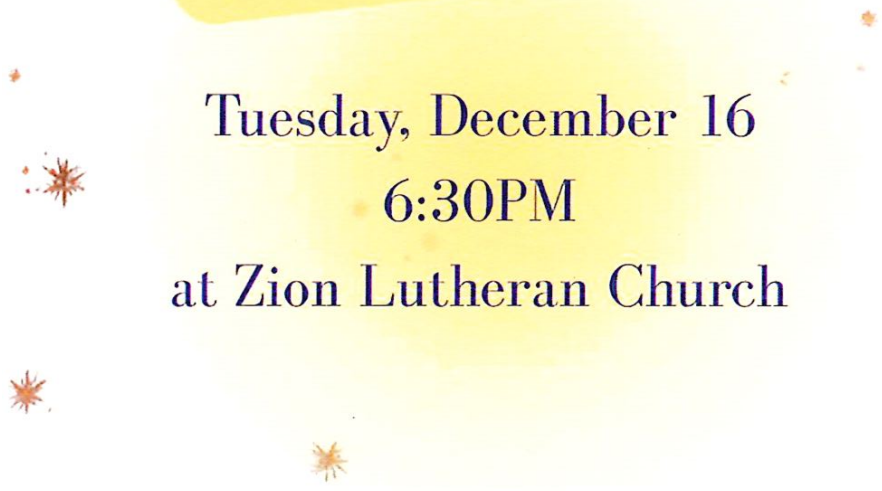
*To Us a Child
Is Born*

**K-8th LSUS
Christmas Service**

Tuesday, December 16

6:30PM

at Zion Lutheran Church



Christmas at the Embassy

Christ is Born:

The World in Stillness Lay

At the Historic Embassy Theatre

December 14, 2025 | 4:00 p.m.



Concordia Lutheran
High School



December Event Schedule

FACEBOOK: BRIDGE 20/30 GROUP FT. WAYNE

2

DEC 2025

ADVENT SERIES "WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?"
WITH PASTOR CHAD VANMETER

7 PM THE GREENHAUS
3504 N. ANTHONY BLVD

9

DEC 2025

ADVENT SERIES "WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?"
WITH PASTOR CHAD VANMETER

7 PM THE GREENHAUS
3504 N. ANTHONY BLVD

16

DEC 2025

ADVENT SERIES "WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?"
WITH PASTOR CHAD VANMETER

7 PM THE GREENHAUS
3504 N. ANTHONY BLVD

23

DEC 2025

UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER PARTY

7 PM THE GARDEN
3308 N. ANTHONY BLVD

30

DEC 2025

MEETUP: ICE SKATING @ HEADWATERS

7 PM 333 S. CLINTON STREET
HEADWATERS PARK
ADMISSION: \$7 SKATES: \$4

LIFE NEWS—DECEMBER 2025



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

In Canada, where abortion remains legal at any stage of pregnancy without restrictions, healthy babies are routinely killed in the third trimester for reasons as simple as changing one's mind about parenthood. That's according to undercover investigations and abortion clinic admissions revealed in recent years. A 2023 undercover operation by pro-life advocate Alissa Golob, co-founder of the group RightNow, exposed what she described as a stark contradiction to claims that late-term abortions are reserved for dire medical emergencies. Posing as a pregnant woman seeking to end her third-trimester pregnancy, Golob visited abortion clinics in Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver. The resulting videos, edited from hour-long conversations, captured staff discussing options without requiring proof of fetal or maternal health risks. "You can tell the clinics anything, and they will accept it as a valid reason to abort a third-trimester viable baby," Golob said in reflections on the investigation ... "But there doesn't have to be a reason. It could just be, 'I don't want to be pregnant,'" said a Vancouver social worker ... Later-term procedures, defined by the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada as after 20 weeks, persist without legal barriers. (Source/read more: www.lifenews.com/2025/11/24/healthy-babies-are-killed-in-late-term-abortions-in-canada-for-birth-control)

Speaking up For Life

"Do you ever doubt the love of God? Perhaps you are just 'looking for love in all the wrong places,' if you'll pardon the expression. Don't look to your own feelings and emotions, which can change with the wind, but look to Bethlehem and the manger. See God's love in this: that His only begotten Son was sent to be humbled and to die for you. Understand that at Christmas, 'God so loved the world that He gave ...'" *Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan*

"If heaven had been our home, would we have wanted to enter a world of grief and pain, of evil and death? Yet enter it Jesus did to give us His home to be ours forever. So, He loved us in undeserved grace. And so will we sing in the heavenly Jerusalem a refrain like that of our choirs: Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn, Sing through all Jerusalem: 'Christ is born in Bethlehem.' Alleluia." *Richard Gurgel, President, Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota*

lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-quotes



word-of-hope.org

Y4Life.org



Order LFL
Resources



at.cph.org

THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE

2026 Lutherans For Life Essay Contest

Our 2026 LFL Essay Contest Theme: That They May Have Life

Our theme verse: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

The Lutherans For Life Council of Federation Presidents sponsors an essay contest each year for students in two grade categories: 6-8 and 9-12.

- This contest is available for students in all states who attend a Lutheran school or a Lutheran church.
- State essay contests precede the national essay contest. State essay winners in the two grade categories will be entered into the national contest. Note: Individual state rules may vary slightly, so be sure to access those rules through the state links and listings below.
- Some states have LFL State Federations. If you are a student in a state without a federation, you can participate through the Non-Federation Essay Contest.

We look forward to students across the nation participating in our contest and letting their voices be heard through their life-affirming essays!

Questions? Please contact Michele Hartshorn at mhartshorn@lutheransforlife.org.

lutheransforlife.org/2026-lutherans-for-life-essay-contest

You can watch and learn more about our 2025 winners at the link above.