

# Historic Zion Lutheran Church

## DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 am ..... Sunday, December 14, 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*

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**Greeting And Announcements:** *The Lord be with you! ..... And also with you!*

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### 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 ] *Rejoice in the | Lord al- ways; || again | I will say, re- | joice. || But I will hope con- | tin- ual- ly || and will praise | you yet more and | more.*

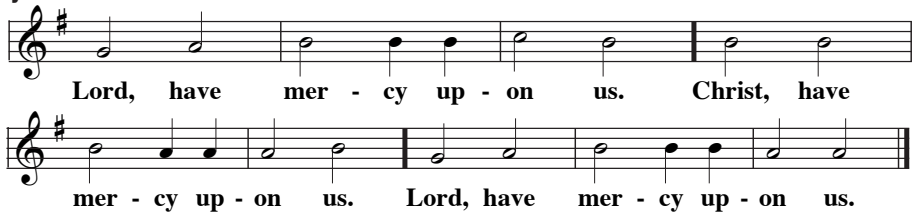
Verse 1: **My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation | all the day, || for their number is | past my know- \_ | ledge. || With the mighty deeds of the Lord God | I will come; || I will remind them of your | •righteous•ness, yours a- | lone.**

Verse 2: *O God, from my youth you | have taught me, || and I still pro- | claim your won- drous | deeds. || So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not | for- sake me, || until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power | to all those to | come.*

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!**

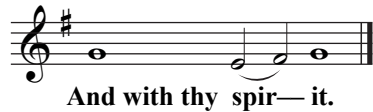
[ Antiphon ] **Rejoice in the | Lord al- ways; || again | I will say, re- | joice. || But I will hope con- | tin- ual- ly || and will praise | you yet more and | more.**

## Kyrie



## Salutation

*The Lord be with you.*



**Collect for the Third Sunday in Advent:** *Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



**Collect for 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.*



[ Be Seated ]                      + **The Office of the Word of God** +

**Old Testament Reading..... Isaiah 35:1-10**

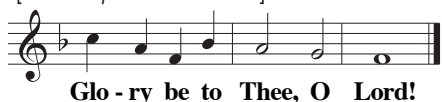
[ After the reading ] *This is the word of the Lord. .... Thanks be to God.*

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

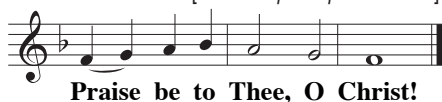
[ Deacon ] *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.” Alleluia!*



[ The Gospel is announced. ]



[ The Gospel is proclaimed. ]



**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* ]

[ *Rise for Stanza 5.* ]

[ *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.**

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





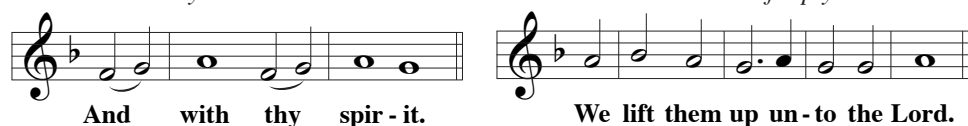
take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of  
Thy sal-va - tion; and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

**Preface**

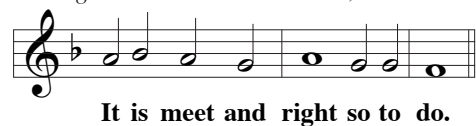
*The Lord be with you.*

*Lift up your hearts.*



And with thy spir - it. We lift them up un-to the Lord.

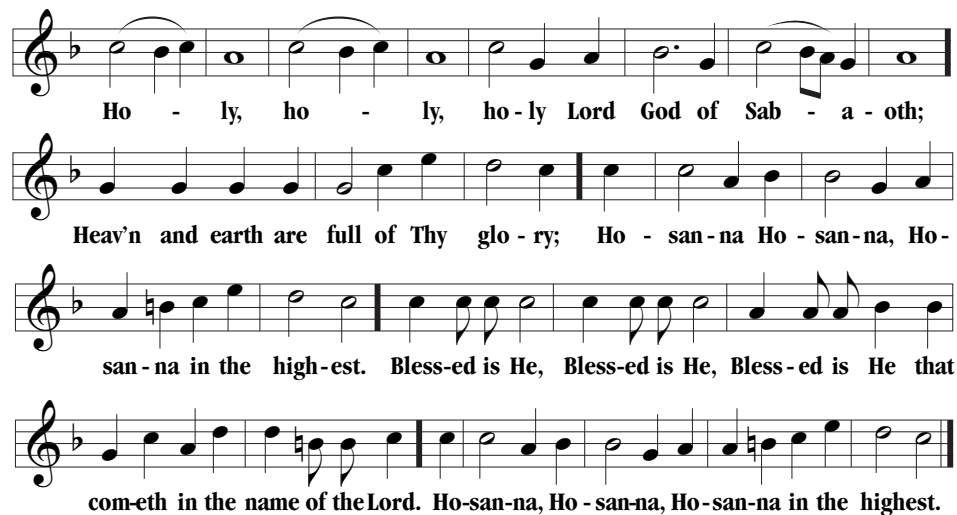
*Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.*



It is meet and right so to do.

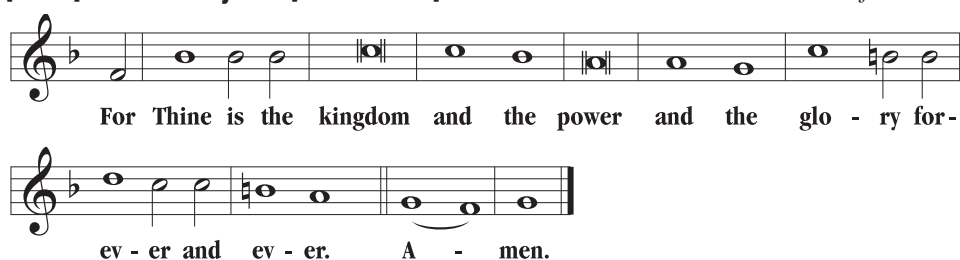
**Proper Preface for Advent, Sanctus**

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



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

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



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

**Words of Institution, Pax Domini**

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



A - men.

**Agnus Dei**

1-3. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world,  
Stanzas 1 and 2 | Stanza 3  
have mer-cy up - on us. Grant us Thy Peace. A - - - men!

[ Be Seated ]

**Distribution Hymns . When All the World Was Cursed .. Burgundy Hymn 346**  
**Arise, O Christian People ..... Burgundy Hymn 354**

[ Rise ] **Eucharistic Benediction**

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

**Post-Communion 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.*

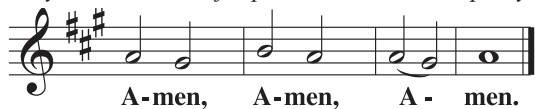


*Bless we the Lord.*



## **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 ✠ 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 ..... Hark the Glad Sound ..... Burgundy Hymn 349**

## **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 Third Sunday in Advent

### The Old Testament Reading is Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### **The Epistle is James 5:7-11**

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

### **The Gospel is Matthew 11:2-15**

When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

## Hymns for the Third Sunday in Advent

### LSB345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

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

1. Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! “Christ is near,” we hear it say.  
“Cast away the works of darkness, All you children of the day!”
2. Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.
3. See, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heav’n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv’n;
4. So, when next He comes in glory And the world is wrapped in fear,  
He will shield us with His mercy And with words of love draw near.
- △ 5. Honor, glory, might, dominion to the Father and the Son  
With the ever-living Spirit While eternal ages run!

### LSB346 When All the World Was Cursed

Johann Gottfried Olearius

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1. When all the world was cursed, By Moses’ condemnation,  
Saint John the Baptist came, With words of consolation.  
With true forerunner’s zeal, The greater One he named,  
And Him, as yet unknown, As Savior he proclaimed.
2. Before he yet was born, He leaped in joyful meeting,  
Confessing Him as Lord, Whose mother he was greeting.  
By Jordan’s rolling stream, A new Elijah bold,  
He testified of Him, Of whom the prophets told.
3. Behold the Lamb of God, That bears the world’s transgression,  
Whose sacrifice removes, The devil’s dread oppression.  
Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away our sin,  
Who for our peace and joy, Will full atonement win.
4. O grant, dear Lord of love, That we receive, rejoicing,  
The word proclaimed by John, Our true repentance voicing.  
That gladly we may walk, Upon our Savior’s way,  
Until we live with Him, In His eternal day.

## **LSB354 Arise, O Christian People**

**Valentin Thilo**

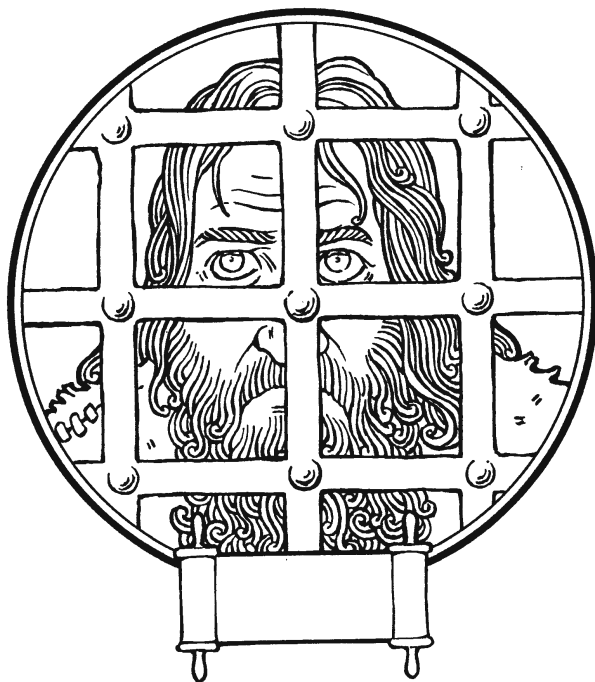
1. Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today;  
Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes you sins away.  
To us by grace alone The truth and light were given;  
The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.
2. Prepare the way before Him; Prepare for Him the best.  
Cast out what would offend Him, This great, this heav'nly guest.  
Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,  
The heights of pride abasing, His path, all even lay.
3. The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;  
Beneath His feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie.  
The heart sincere and right, That heeds God's invitation  
And makes true preparation—It is the Lord's delight.
4. Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,  
And help me to receive You This blessed Advent-tide.  
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;  
I'll sing Your praises gladly And forth Your glory show.

## **LSB349 Hark the Glad Sound**

**Philip Doddridge**

1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.
2. He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.
3. He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name.

# The Third Sunday in Advent



## Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

[pastor@zionfw.org](mailto:pastor@zionfw.org), [church@zionfw.org](mailto:church@zionfw.org) | website: [www.zionfw.org](http://www.zionfw.org)

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

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

### The Pastoral Ministry at Zion

Senior Pastor:

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

Field Workers:

Nathaniel Demlow, Joshua Fuchs

### The Teaching Staff at Lutheran South Unity

Principal:

Amber Bahr (744-0459; [www.lsusfw.org](http://www.lsusfw.org))

Teachers:

Yvonne Schwantz (8<sup>th</sup>, MS ELA), Michael Cullen (7<sup>th</sup>, MS Science),

Chase Mertz (6<sup>th</sup>, MS Social Studies), Danielle Ramsey (5<sup>th</sup>), Abbey Kohler (4<sup>th</sup>),

Rachel Wiegman (3<sup>rd</sup>), John Fink (2<sup>nd</sup>), Hannah Fink (1<sup>st</sup>), 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, and 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 James Teasdale, Estella Ramirez, Darryl Kirtz, Dick Hollman, Art Litke, Henry Williams, Debra Busche, Carl Albersmeyer, Connie Houser, Bill Weinrich, Dwight Bieberich, Al McFeter, Mike Ming, 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
- + For the gift of life and for length of days, for pregnant mothers 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 Third Sunday in Advent. The Cross Bowl and Altar Vases are given in recognition of the past and present pastors & teachers of Zion by Jennifer Manth. Please complete an attendance communion card, including the names of all children, and indicate if you are communing. Non-members, please read the back of the card.

## CALENDAR

### **December 14, 2025 thru December 20, 2025**

<b>SUN.</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Divine Service</b>	<b>Church</b>
	10:45 AM	Lutheran Identity study	Bauer Hall
	4:00 PM	CLHS's Christmas at the Embassy	Embassy Theatre
<b>MON.</b>	All Day	LSUS Christmas Program practice	Church/Bauer Hall
<b>TUES.</b>	9:00 AM	Weekday Bible Study	Bauer Hall
	6:30 PM	LSUS Christmas Program	Church
<b>WED.</b>	9:30 AM	Men of Zion	Conference Room
	5:45 PM	Advent Supper	Bauer Hall
	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Advent Evening Prayer</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>THURS.</b>	10:30 AM	Book of Concord Study	Bauer Hall
<b>FRI.</b>			
<b>SAT.</b>	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church

### **December 21, 2025**

<b>SUN.</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Divine Service</b>	<b>Church</b>
	10:45 AM	Education Hour	Various

## **ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**EDUCATION HOUR:** Dr. Voelz is gone for a couple weeks. Sem. Josh Fuchs will lead the combined adult class on Lutheran Identity in Bauer Hall.

**REMINDER** to you during this Advent season to remember those less fortunate. Please consider giving to the LSSI Cup of Kindness box on the back table in the Narthex.

**ADVENT SUPPER AND PRAYER:** Come for a light meal and for prayer this Wednesday, December 17, 5:45 PM and 7 PM. Sem. Benjamin Wessel is preaching.

**NOW IS THE TIME** to invite family and friends to Zion's Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols (Dec. 24, 7 PM) and Christmas Day Divine Service (Dec. 25, 9 AM). Of course, plan to come yourselves.

**ENVELOPES** are on a table in the Great Hall by Julie and are ready for pick up. Please help us save on the cost of their distribution by picking yours up. Also, Melvia has put out a 2025-2026 members directory.

**EVERYONE NEEDS A LITTLE JESUS ...** hiding about the building you will find about 30 little Jesus figurines (the operative word is "little"). The goal is to find them, take them, and place them in place that people wouldn't think of, like grocery stores, retail shops, doctor offices, etc. I've found a little Jesus at Walmart, Michael's, and even restaurants. So, during Advent I thought it would be a fun idea to place them in random places here at Zion, and let you place them out in the world wherever you go. Enjoy. Thanks, Melvia

**HELP NEEDED:** If you have a couple hours to spare every couple of months, the trustees would like your assistance to keep Zion beautiful, doing light cleaning and other chores as needed. Would you consider being added to our weekend rotation schedule? Talk to Kevin Leininger for more information 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. This is the week to have your fruit and cookies to church. Melvia will be packing shut-in bags on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at Noon. Get your donations to church by then, and come on Saturday to help assemble the bags.

**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.

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS:** CLHS's Christmas at the Embassy is today at 4 PM at the Embassy Theatre (you need tickets). And LSUS's Christmas Program is this Tuesday at 6:30 PM. It's free. Come hear the Good News of Jesus' birth "without price" (Isa. 55:1).

**MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE:** Zephaniah 3:17—"The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing." Last week's verse was Genesis 3:15.

**WE CAN FACE COMPETING PRIORITIES** when we think about planning our estates. As we wrap up this year long consideration, we must ponder whether we see our estate plan as an expression of our Christian faith or just giving up on life. Estate documents often read and sound very legal. They are. But it is possible for you to insert language in a will or trust that reflects your Christian faith to all who will be benefactors of your estate. Your LCMS Counselor can supply examples to get you going. Contact Mark Muehl at 260-241-4845 or [mark.muehl@lfnf.org](mailto:mark.muehl@lfnf.org).

**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN'S** Men's Club is still selling Christmas trees and wreaths, I believe, if you still need one. The tree lot is located at 4245 Lake Ave, and 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.

**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 closed for that trip. **Please note:** Saturday, January 31, 2026, is the annual **Rally and March for Life**. The Rally is at Parkview Field, 1301 Ewing St, Fort Wayne. The doors open at 12:00 PM; the Rally is 12:30-1:00 PM; and the March begins at 1:00 PM.

## 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 11:2-15

Revelation 3:1-22

Revelation 4:1-11

Revelation 5:1-14

Revelation 6:1-17

Revelation 7:1-17

Revelation 8:1-13

### DAILY LECTIONARY

#### The Third Sunday in Advent

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

### Evening Prayer

Isaiah 35:1-10

Isaiah 30:27-31:9

Isaiah 32:1-20

Isaiah 33:1-24

Isaiah 34:1-2, 8-35:10

Isaiah 40:1-17

Isaiah 40:18-41:10

### 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

#### Fourth Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 7:10-17

Romans 1:1-17

Matthew 1:18-25



# What Doctor Luther Says:

## About the Law vs the Inward Righteousness of Faith

15. *My mouth shall show forth Thy righteousness*, as if to say: “I add to all Thy praise in this way, that I proclaim Thy righteousness and invisible salvation, for according to what is seen everything appears unjust and lost. For we are struck down and killed, and yet we are saved by that very fact. And as we praise Thee while we are being struck in this way, we confess that this is for our benefit. Others, who praise only the good that they see, do not think so. Thus we are even regarded as unjust, and yet this is our righteousness. And so, always hopeful in evil times, we add praise to total praise.” What follows says the same thing: *Because I have not known learning*, as if to say: “I do not, like them, make my way in the letter and visible righteousness and the Law, which Moses, or a man, wrote. But I will enter, I will go inside, I will approach inwardly to spiritual righteousness, which is the strength of Christ, which cannot be written in letters like the law of Moses. And this is the whole reason why I am regarded by them as unrighteous, since they have only the letter and the written righteousness. But because of this, the more righteous I am, the more lost I am regarded by those who know only the literal and external salvation and who praise God only in it. But, this having been despised, I do not acknowledge it, and it does not please me. Therefore I will add to all this Thy praise, and I will enter into the power of the Lord.”

*Luther's Works*, 10:398-9.



# 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

# EVERY ONE HIS WITNESS

LUTHERAN EVANGELISM®



Learn how to naturally and genuinely share the Gospel with your friends and neighbors who have not heard the Good News. After this program, you will be more effective witnesses of Jesus in your everyday life!

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## LSUS NOTES

Praying for You!

**Please pray for these students/staff:**

All Students

Mr. Bolton

All Staff

Mr. Lee

All Faculty

Nurse Jordan



*To Us a Child  
Is Born*

**K-8th LSUS  
Christmas Service**

Tuesday, December 16

6:30PM

at Zion Lutheran Church

## You're invited: LSUS Christmas Service

We joyfully invite our Church families to join us for the K–8th Grade LSUS Christmas Service, “**To Us a Child Is Born.**” Come celebrate the birth of our Savior as our students share the message of Christmas through Scripture and song. We would be blessed by your presence as we gather together in faith and fellowship on **Tuesday, December 16 at 6:30 PM** at

Zion Lutheran Church. May this special evening fill your heart with the hope and joy of Christ’s coming!



## PHOENIX SPORTS CORNER



WEEK OF DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>



### GAME:



- Thursday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> @ St. Peters (FW)
  - 4:30pm Varsity only
- Saturday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> vs. Emmaus @ Bethlehem
  - 9:00am Varsity only

# 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