

Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 am Sunday, December 21, 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.

[*Antiphon*] Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down, || that the mountains
might quake | at your pres-__ | ence; || to make your name known to your
| ad- ver- •saries•, || and that the nations might tremble | at your pres-__ |
ence.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have
mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

And with thy spir— it.

A ————— men!

A ————— men!

+ Page 2 +

Epistle of the Day Romans 1:1-7

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

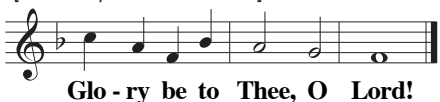
[*Rise*] Alleluia Sequence

[Deacon] *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”, which means, God with us. Alleluia!*

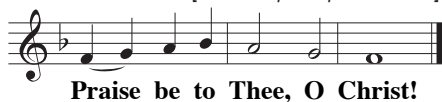


Holy Gospel St. Matthew 1:18-25

[The Gospel is announced.]



[*The Gospel is proclaimed.*]



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 Come, O Come Emmanuel Burgundy Hymn 357

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

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**





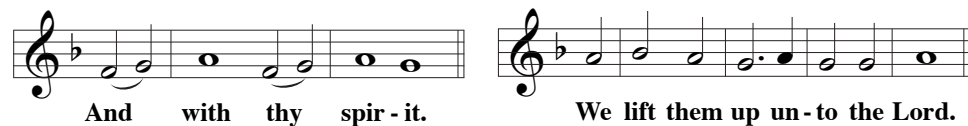
take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of
Thy sal-va - tion; and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

+ 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.

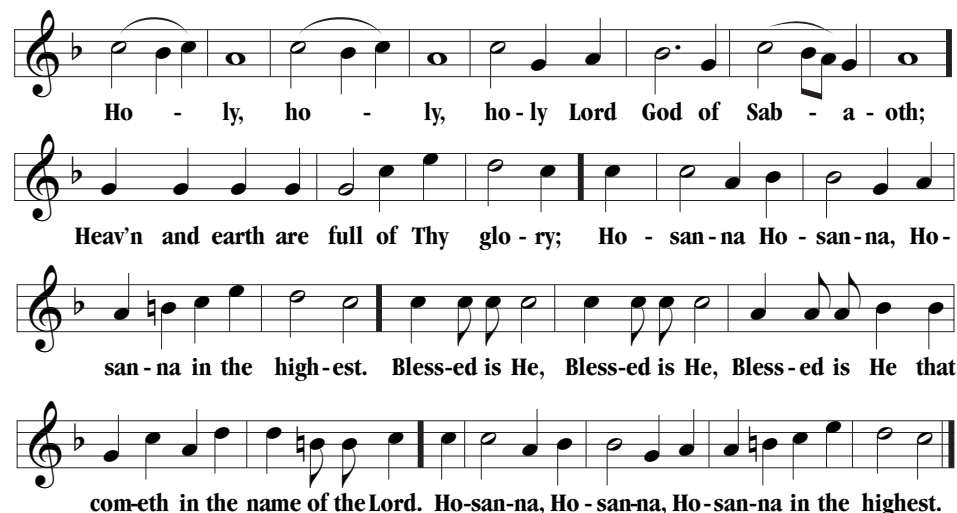
Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



It is meet and right so to do.

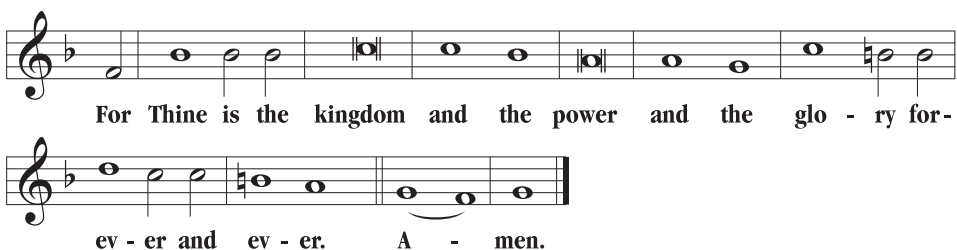
Proper Preface for Advent, Sanctus

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 The Night Will Soon Burgundy Hymn 337
Once He Came in Blessing Burgundy Hymn 333

[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.

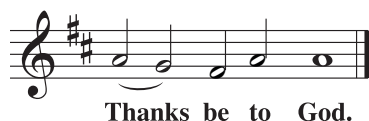
Prayer of Thanksgiving ... now and forever.

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 Lift Up Your Heads, Burgundy Hymn 339

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 Candlelight 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 Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Old Testament Reading is Isaiah 7:10-17

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

The Epistle is Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel is Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name

Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”
(which means, God with us).

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Hymns for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

LSB357 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Latin, c. 12th cent.

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*
- M 3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*
- W 4. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*
- M 5. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- W 6. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*
7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain.*

LSB337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending

Jochen Klepper

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1. The night will soon be ending; The dawn cannot be far.
Let songs of praise ascending Now greet the Morning Star!
All you whom darkness frightens With guilt or grief or pain,
God's radiant Star now brightens And bids you sing again.
2. The One whom angels tended Comes near, a child, to serve;
Thus God, the judge offended, Bears all our sins deserve.
The guilty need not cower, For God has reconciled
Through His redemptive power All those who trust this child.
3. The earth in sure rotation Will soon bring morning bright,
So run where God's salvation Glows in a stable's light.
As old as sins' perversion Is mercy's vast design:
God brings a new creation — This child its seal and sign.
4. Yet nights will bring their sadness And rob our hearts of peace,
And sin in all its madness Around us may increase.
But now one Star is beaming Whose rays have pierced the night:
God comes for our redeeming From sin's oppressive might.
5. God dwells with us in darkness And makes the night as day;
Yet we resist the brightness And turn from God away.
But grace does not forsake us, However far we run.
God claims us still as children Through Mary's infant Son.

LSB333 Once He Came in Blessing

Johann Horn

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1. Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.
2. Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.
3. Soon will come that hour__ When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.
4. Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

LSB339 Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors Stephen P. Starke

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LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

1. Lift up your heads, you everlasting doors, And weep no more!
Zion's daughter, sing, To greet your coming King;
Now wave the victor's palm And sing the ancient psalm:
"Lift up your heads, you everlasting gates!" Your King awaits!
2. Who is this King of great and glorious fame? What is His name?
Lord God of Sabaoth, Of whom the prophets wrote,
Whose chosen, humble steed Declares Him king indeed!
Hosanna, Lord! Messiah, come and save From sin and grave.
3. Who may ascend Mount Zion's holy hill To do God's will?
The One whose unstained hands Can meet the Law's demands,
Whose purity within Reveals One free from sin.
Come, praise this King who claims the cross as throne—Praise Him alone!
4. "Worthy is Christ!" The Lamb who once was slain Now lives to reign.
He rules our earthly ways As Lord of Ancient Days—
O join the endless song Sung by the ransomed throng:
"Worthy is Christ!" The Lamb be praised again! Amen! Amen!

The Fourth 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 Marty Thomas, Jim Teasdale, Estella Ramirez, Darryl Kirtz, Dick Hollman, Art Litke, Henry Williams, Debra Busche, Carl Albersmeyer, Connie Houser, Bill Weinrich, Dwight Bieberich, Jimmy Coffey, 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, especially Anne & Roland Ziegler
- + 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 Fourth Sunday in Advent. The Cross Bowl is given in celebration of the 22nd wedding anniversary of Anne and Roland Ziegler. 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 21, 2025 thru December 27, 2025

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:45 AM	Adult Bible Study	Bauer Hall
	10:45 AM	Lutheran Identity (Alt. Adult) study	Conference Room
MON.	5:30 PM	CEA Board Meeting	CLHS
TUES.	12 NOON	Administrative Council	Conference Room
WED.	6:30 PM	Christmas Eve Pre-service Music	Church
	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service	Church
THURS.	8:45 AM	Christmas Festival Pre-service Music	Church
	9:00 AM	Christmas Festival Divine Service	Church
FRI.			
SAT.	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church

December 28, 2025

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service (First after Christmas)	Church
	10:45 AM	Education Hour	Various

ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDUCATION HOUR: Dr. Voelz is back and will continue in the study of the Gospel according to St. Mark in Bauer Hall. Sem. Josh Fuchs will continue with the class on Lutheran Identity in the Conference Room.

THANK YOU to everyone who came last Tuesday evening to support the LSUS children in the presentation of the Nativity in their Christmas program. Job well done.

REMINDER to us all 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.

DON'T FORGET to invite family and friends to Zion's Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols (December 24, 7 PM, 6:30 PM pre-service) and Christmas Day Divine Service (December 25, 9 AM, 8:45 AM pre-service). Of course, plan to come yourselves. New Year's Eve Divine Service will be a week after that. Put that on your calendar.

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 have been packaged and are ready to be delivered. If you're going by any of the addresses listed on the insert, please pick up a bag, drop it off, and offer some Christmas cheer.

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: John 1:4—"In him was life, and the life was the light of men." Last week's verse was Zephaniah 3:17.

WE CAN FACE COMPETING PRIORITIES when we think about planning our estates someday. As we wrap up this yearlong consideration, we must ponder whether we see our estate plan as an expression of our Christian faith or just giving up on life. To provide continuity in the estate planning process, it is essential to speak with family about your plans, so they can see the blessing prepared. It is equally essential to express to ministry leaders the desires you have for the gifts that will flow to ministry, as you express your faith purpose behind the gift. Your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor can assist you in these conversations. Contact Mark Muehl at 260-241-4845 or mark.muehl@lfnd.org.

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. Go to www.ichooselife.org/march for more info. P.S.: Does someone want to create and have produced a "Life sign" for Zion?

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 1:18-25

Revelation 9:13–10:11

Revelation 11:1-19

Revelation 12:1-17

Matthew 1:1-17

Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew 2:1-12

DAILY LECTIONARY

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Evening Prayer

Isaiah 7:10-17

Isaiah 43:1-24

Isaiah 43:25–44:20

Isaiah 44:21–45:13, 20-25

Isaiah 49:1-18

Isaiah 49:22-26, 50:4–51:8, 12-16

Isaiah 51:17–52:12

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

First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-14

Galatians 4:4-7

Matthew 2:13-23



What Doctor Luther Says:

About Hoping in Christ's Word, Not Our Feelings

[F]aith is necessary everywhere. You receive as much as you believe. And this is what I understand it to mean when our teachers say that the sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, not because of the mere fact that the sacrament is performed but because it is believed, as St. Augustine contends and as I have said previously. So also here. Absolution is efficacious, not by the mere fact that it takes place, no matter who finally does it and whether he errs or does not err, but because it is believed. ...

According to the prophet we ought to place our hope in Christ's word, not in our penitence. The Psalmist did not say, "Remember my contrition to thy servant, in which thou hast made me hope," but "Remember thy word ... in which thou hast made me hope" [Ps. 119:49]. Again he says, "In thy word [certainly not in our own work] have I placed great hope" [Cf. Ps. 119:81]. In another psalm he says, "My soul is sustained by his word," etc. [Cf. Ps. 130:5]. And according to the Hebrew he says in Psalm 51 [:4], "Against thee, only, have I sinned, ... wherefore thou wilt justify me by thy word." Therefore it is neither the sacrament nor the priest, but faith in the word of Christ spoken through the priest and his office which justifies you. What difference does it make to you, if the Lord should speak through an ass, either male or female, as long as you hear that word by which you may hope and believe?

Luther's Works, 31:193-4.

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!

LSUS NOTES

Praying for You!

Please pray for these students/staff:

Marcellious	Max
Noel	Anthony
Yanuell	Jeremiah
Alexia	Mrs.Schwantz
Khloe	Mr. Bolton
Pla	



Student Chapel Offerings

Thursday Chapel Offerings collected by our LSUS students and families make a big impact around the world! December through January offerings will go to The Rescue Mission and L.A.M.B. (Lutheran Agency for Missions to Burmese). The Rescue Mission's mission is to provide, through the power of Jesus Christ, a home for the homeless, food for the hungry, and hope for their future. The Charis House is part of the Rescue Mission that focuses on women and children experiencing a homeless crisis. L.A.M.B.'s mission is to support and evangelize the peoples of Burma with the love of Jesus Christ by coordinating outreach missions.



THE Rescue Mission
CHANGING LIVES FOR GOOD™

Charis
HOUSE

The 
Lutheran Schools
PARTNERSHIP

The Lutheran Schools Partnership has formed an exploratory committee to learn more about how our Lutheran schools can best serve students with special education needs. We are first seeking to learn more about the needs of our community. If you are a parent or legal guardian of a child with special education needs, or an educator or church leader, we would value your input on this anonymous survey. Visit this site: <https://shorturl.at/jNmFm> to complete the survey. Thank you for your feedback!



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