

Zion Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 22, 2024 9:00 AM



PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

INVOCATION

We gather in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

We confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

We confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

We confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,

in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

THE SHARING OF PEACE

Please speak a word of God's peace to one another.

GATHERING HYMN **"My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" #251**

BLESSING OF ADVENT

Song of Light **Tune "O Holy Night"**

Truly He teaches, "love one another";
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, his light will shine forever,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,
For soon will break a new and glorious morn!
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
O light shine here, O advent light, shine here!
O light, O advent light, O light, O advent light!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law),

⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO THE CHILDREN **“Jesus Loves Me”**

SERMON ON THE STEPS **Shawna Spears**

NOISY OFFERING

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,
⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” [

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Pastor Kristin Ostercamp

HYMN OF THE DAY “What Child is This?” #296

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is Great.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars. We thank you for all shared in your name. Teach us to live in expectation of the advent of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LORDS PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG **“The Bells of Christmas” #298**

DISMISSAL

Go into the world knowing Christ and making him known. **Thanks be to God.**

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Announcements - December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Advent

WELCOME MAY YOU BE BLESSED DURING OUR WORSHIP TOGETHER.

OUR THANKS TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS/ASSISTANTS

Pianists: Laura Rude, Jenna Von Holtum

Organist: Marie Longo

Greeters: Loren & Lisa Pittman

Ushers: Barb Bohm, Glenice Johnson

Acolytes: Farryn Fain

Reader: Amanda Hawk

Advent Readers: Bakken Family



The Lord has founded Zion, and the needy
among his people will find refuge in her.
Isaiah 14:32

**OUR PRAYERS TO ALL GOD'S CHILDREN STANDING IN
THE NEED OF PRAYER.**

Those under a doctor's care, especially Glenice Johnson,
Jed Nelson, Dan Bartsch, Diane Sundby, Patty Dicken.

Those who mourn: Joannie Minks on the death of her
mother, Rose Liimatainen.

Those baptized this week: Lainey Mundell, Mia Helm &
Rooney Isaak

**Contributions for 2024 are due in the church office
no later than 12 noon Dec. 31 to be credited in 2024.**

**THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING ZION**

Dec 9-15: \$9,065.

Dec 1-15: \$23,823.

Weekly Goal: \$ 6,523.

YTD: \$304,817.

Scan to Give



Thank you for your generosity!

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Financial members: Show your appreciation for Zion
Lutheran Church by directing Choice Dollars. The
individual recommendations you make through Choice
Dollars can make a profound impact. *Thank you to all
who have directed dollars!* YTD: \$2,115.

ZION WORSHIP SERVICE ONLINE 9:00 AM

Go to: www.ziontrf.org in the black banner
click Listen Online, Click on the RED link to KTRF.

BROADCASTS today are sponsored by Zion Memorials

9:00 AM Cable 3/ KTRF Radio/Noon Cable 37

WEBSITE sponsor for December is Zion Memorials

ANNUAL REPORTS are due in the office January
8th. The Financial Review will be on January 9th.
Please have all financial books in the office by this
time for review.

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Today: Sunday, Dec. 22:

9 Zion Worship

No Sunday School/ Cornerstone

10 Fellowship

11 Silver Creek Worship

3:30 Baptism

Monday, Dec. 23:

No SAIL Exercise today

Tues., Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

4 PM Zion Candlelight Christmas Worship

5:30 Silver Creek Christmas Worship/ communion

10 PM Zion Candlelight worship/ communion

Wednesday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day

Merry Christmas to all!

Offices are closed

Thursday, Dec. 26:

No SAIL Exercise today

Next Sunday, Dec. 29:

9 Zion Service of Carols

No Sunday School/ Cornerstone

10 Fellowship - Cookie Potluck

No Silver Creek Worship

PARISH HEALTH NOTES

Praying that you and your loved ones experienced all the peace, joy, and wholeness that is Christmas! As we reflect on God's great gift to us, there are many gifts we can give ourselves. We can give ourselves the gifts of time to worship and meditate on the incarnation, forgiveness, and healthy lifestyles. Another gift is the **Gift of Humor**.

"A Cheerful Heart is Good Medicine..." (Proverbs 17:22)

What is the relationship between humor and healing? Humor is indeed a very powerful medicine for all that we suffer from! Norman Cousins in his book Anatomy of an Illness as Perceived by the Patient described how his recovery from a serious degenerative disease was made possible by self-prescribed laughter. Among the positive, healing effects of laughter are:

It activates healing chemicals (endorphins) within the body

It has an anesthetic (pain-killing) effect

It is a stress reducer

It serves as a release of built up tension

It enhances our will to live and fight

It is an internal aerobic work-out

What can we do to enjoy more humor in our life?

First, we can **thank God for the gift of humor**. All good things (including a hearty laugh) come from Him.

Second, we can **not take ourselves or others too seriously**. Sometimes, our lack of 'good humor' is based on not being able to relax and appreciate our own gifts as well as our limitations. In reality, everything is not balanced on our backs, even though that is how we often feel.

Third, we can **make time everyday to enjoy humor and laughter**. Once we begin to look for situations in life which are humorous, we can suddenly acquire a new balanced perspective. We may need to practice thinking about funny thoughts (others of us need no such experience).

May the Lord bless all of you with a glad heart and Merry Christmas! Parish Health

PARISH EDUCATION NOTES

Schedule for Muffins/treats for 10AM Fellowship:

Dec. 22 & 29: No Sunday School

Jan. 5: Tyler & Jenna Holen, Aaron & Ashley Holtan, Jon & Erica Hruby, Alicia Hunt

DECEMBER NOISY OFFERING will be taken on the 8th & 22nd

The Offering is taken for: Austin's Hope -Austin's Hope is a local organization that raises scholarship funds for graduates who are seeking studies in the mental health field. It is given in honor of Austin Kalsnes and Austin Martell.

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING Wed., Jan. 8 from 1-3 pm.

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

10th grade Confirmation; Sunday, January 5 at 6pm

8/9 grade Confirmation, Wed., January 6, 15, 22 at 6 pm

LOOKING AHEAD

Dec. 29: Carol Service/ Cookie potluck/ Sweater Contest

Dec. 31: Dinner Church 5 PM

Jan. 5: Epiphany: Star Words

CONTACT:

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David Lee / Tiffany Lee, Custodial