

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



Introduction to the Day

The presence of the Lord "in your midst" in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

Welcome to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church!

If you are a visitor, please know that the restrooms are out the door in the back of the right side of the worship space, up the ramp to the left, across that room, and down the hall to the offices on the right side before you get to the offices.

If you need the nursery, go out the door in the back of the right side of the worship space, down the steps to the right, and through the door at the bottom of the steps to your right. It has a sign on it. There is a changing table and a rocker available there. The nursery is not staffed.

Communion Statement

The belief of this congregation is that participation in the Lord's Supper is the reception of "the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink" (Luther's Small Catechism, ELW p. 1166). We believe that "a person who has faith in these words, 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sin,' is really worthy and well prepared. However, a person who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, because the words 'for you' require truly believing hearts" (Luther's Small Catechism, ELW p. 1166).

Prayers for before worship and before receiving communion can be found on page 72 in the front of Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

At this service, communion is distributed at the foot of the chancel steps. You will be given a piece of bread to eat, then you will be given a small cup filled with wine to drink. When you are done with the small cup, please put it in the tray held by the next person you see, which will either be empty or have other empty small cups in it.

Prayers for after receiving communion and after worship can be found on pages 72 and 73 in the front of Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

May the Spirit bless our time of worship.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* arr. Purifoy

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

Amen.

Let us come before God in confession.

To you, O God,

we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of † Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG:
Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264)

**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:**

Refrain
**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! Refrain**

**3 Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: Refrain**

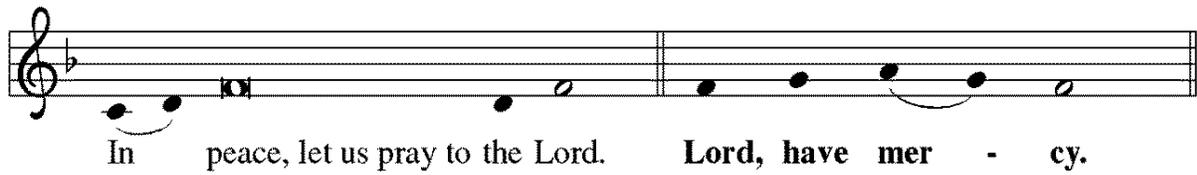
**4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: Refrain**

GREETING

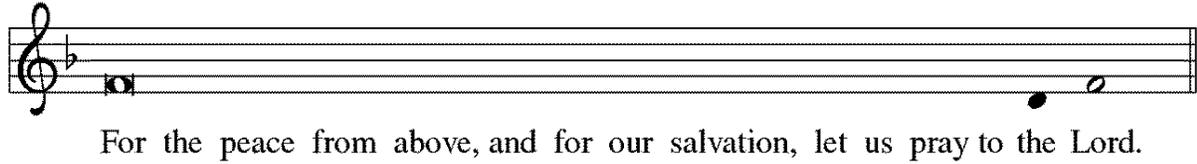
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

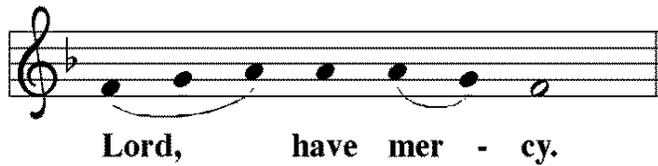
KYRIE



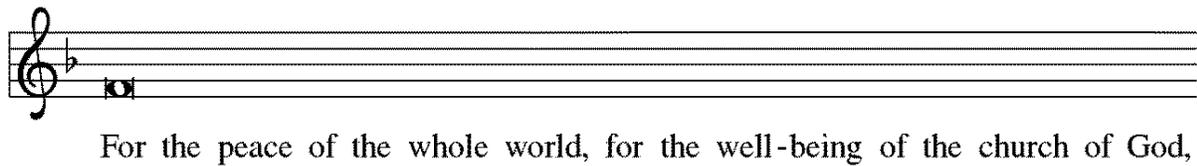
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



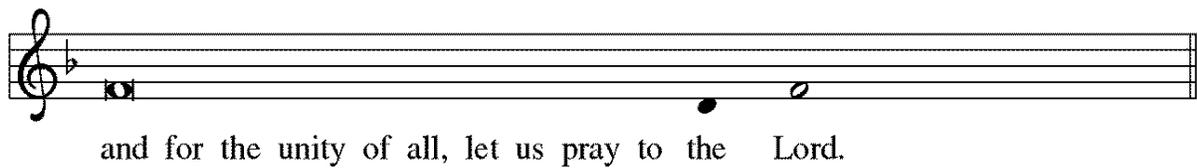
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



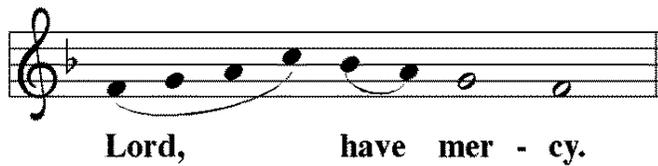
Lord, have mer - cy.



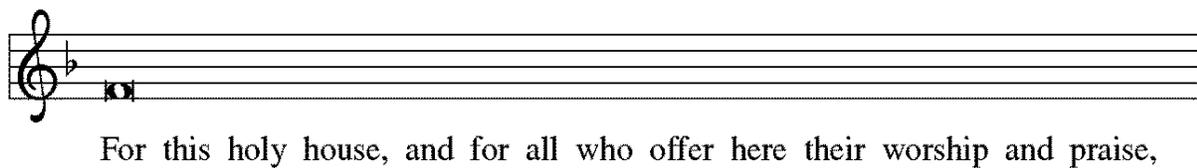
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



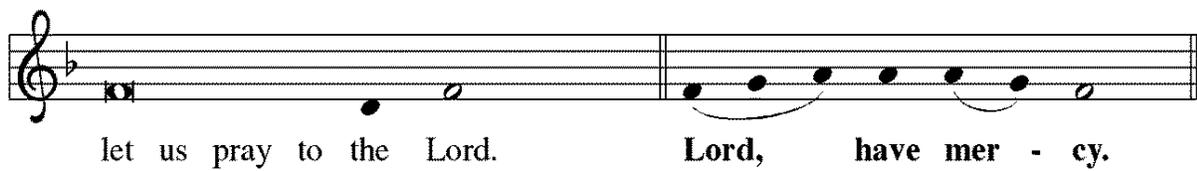
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



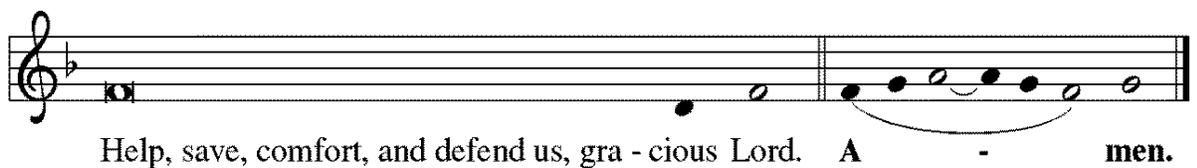
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Please be seated.

(10:30) CHOIR ANTHEM: *Will We Know Him?* Don Besig/Nancy Price

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

CONGREGATION: ***O Come Little Children***

**O come little children, O come one and all,
O come to the manger in Bethlehem's stall
And see what the Father in heaven so true
Has done to prepare a bright Christmas for you.**

**Behold, in the manger, that strange little bed,
A child, sweet and gentle is resting His head,
A Babe clad in garments so pure and so white,
And fairer by far than the angels of light.**

**On hay and on straw in the manger He lies;
Both Mary and Joseph, with fond loving eyes,
Are gazing upon Him and shepherds draw near,
While jubilant angels from heaven appear!**

**O kneel with the shepherds in worshipful prayer
And join the dear angels who also are there;
Sing glory to God in the heavens above
And thank Him for Jesus, the gift of His love.**

. . . she wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no guestroom available for them.

CHILDREN: *Away in a Manger*

. . . This is what you are looking for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger.

CHILDREN: *Oh, Do you Hear?*

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

CONGREGATION: ***On Christmas Night (ELW 274)***

- 1 On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring.
On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring:
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful king's birth.**
- 2 Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our redeemer made us glad?
Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?**
- 3 When sin departs before his face,
then life and health come in its place.
When sin departs before his face,
then life and health come in its place.
Angels rejoice with us and sing,
all for to see the newborn king.**

**4 All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night.
All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God in highest heav'n;
peace on earth, and goodwill. Amen."**

So the shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger just as the angel promised!

CHILDREN: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen which were just as they had been told. On the eighth day the baby was taken to the temple in Jerusalem and presented to God and he was named Jesus.

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ***Go Tell It on the Mountain (ELW 290)***

Refrain

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain***

**3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain**

Children exit down center aisle and join their parents.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayer concludes:

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERTORY: *In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. Purifoy

Please stand as the offering is brought forward.

OFFERING HYMN: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*
(ELW 240 V.3)

**3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

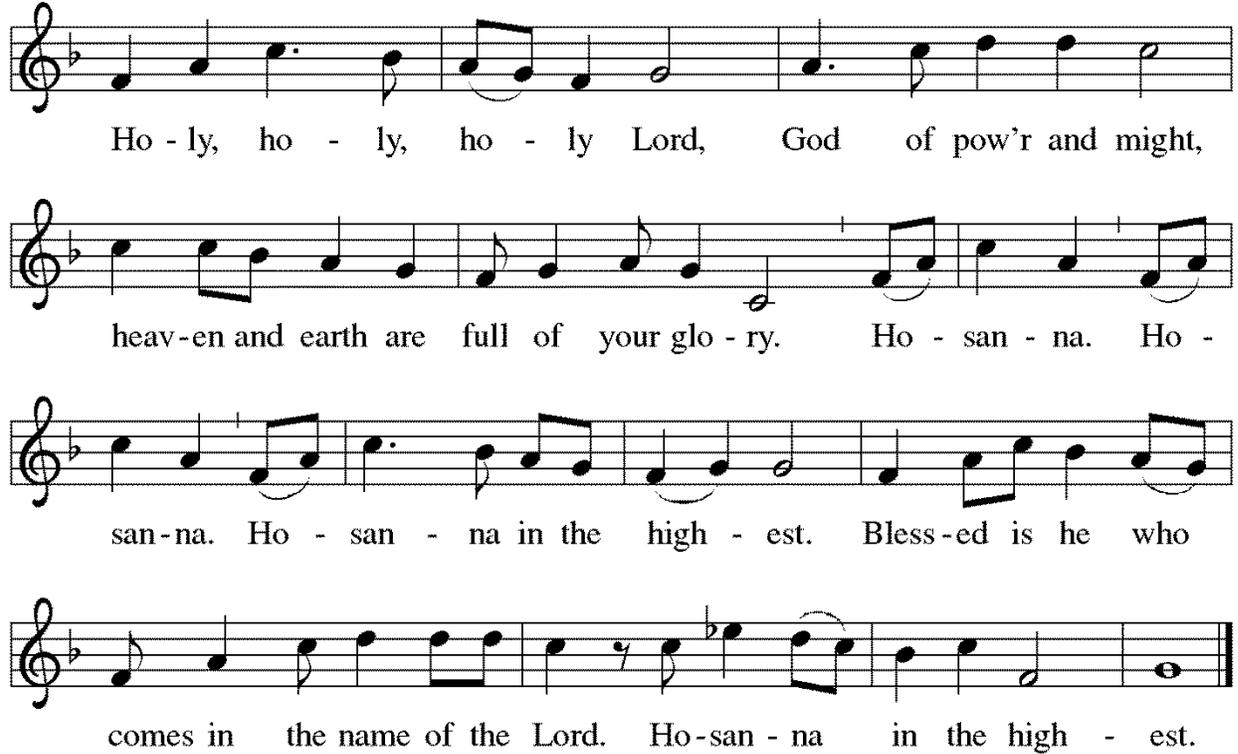
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation... Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S 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.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: *Wait for the Lord* (ELW 262)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

Please stand.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION:
Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise (ELW 204)

Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.

The image shows the first line of a musical score for a hymn. It features a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are written below the staff.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.

The image shows the second line of a musical score for a hymn. It features a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are written below the staff.

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with

The image shows the third line of a musical score for a hymn. It features a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are written below the staff.

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows the fourth line of a musical score for a hymn. It features a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are written below the staff.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: ***All Earth Is Hopeful (ELW 266)***

- 1 **All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.**
- 2 **People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.**
- 3 **Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**
- 4 **We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.**

VISION STATEMENT

From generation to generation,
we live as friends following Jesus.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Shepherds* arr. Held

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Prepare the Royal Highway

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

O Come Little Children

Text: Christoph von Schmid (1768-1854) 1840 translation:
unknown,

On Christmas Night

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.
Music English Traditional

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music Richard W. Hillert, b.1923
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Text: African American spiritual, refrain: John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: African American spiritual

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b 1954
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress

All the Earth is Hopeful

Text: Alberto Taule, b.1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Mashall, b.1946
Music: Alberto Taule

Wait for the Lord

Text: Taize Community
Music: Wait for the Lord, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taize. GIA Publications, Inc.
agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
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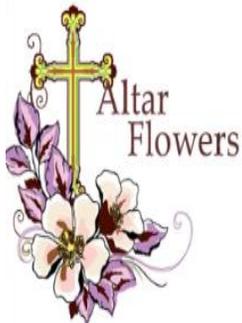
Attendance/Offering

December 8-9th (221) General Fund Offering received \$6,072.31

Midweek General Fund received \$2,561.50

Weekly budgeted amount \$7,480.77

Total General Fund amount received \$8,633.81



Both side vases are given by **Terry Gast** in loving memory of his wife, **Norma Jean Gast**. The center vase is given in memory of the wedding anniversary of **George & Mable Clements**.

Worship leaders today are:

Presiding Minister: Rev. Dr. Eric L. Bodenstab

Assisting Minister: Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt

Organist: Cathy Nye

Senior Choir: Ron Albert

Acolyte: (8:00) (10:30) Trey Schimmel

Prayers of the People: Karen Slater

Serving Bread: Carolyn Steinfeldt, ELCA Deacon

Communion Assistants: (8:00) Tom & Cindy Patterson

(10:30) Carla Mitchell & Lyle Marquardt

Sound Board: (8:00) Andrew Castello (10:30) Dan Willey

Ushers: (8:00) Jim & Jeanette Toft, Bruce Bravard, Abbey Lazzara,

Anna Lazzara, Cooter Patterson, Tom & Cindy Patterson

(10:30) Dean & Karen Slater, Chet Leser, and George &

Betty Bickley

Gathering Hosts: (8:00) Ron & Carol Albert

(10:30) Wendy Schonhardt & Judy Burrows

Greeters: Al & Juanita Mitchell

Altar Guild: Anna Johnson



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45

CARE & SHARE VOLUNTEERS FOR MONDAY, December 17th:

Michael & Hope Bailey and Roger & Barb Newton

Weekly Bulletin Announcement Deadline: Tuesday by Noon.

Zionews Announcement Deadline for January:

Monday, December 17th.



Meet and Greet with our December Adopt a Cop, Officer Erik Mohr, **today, following the 10:30 worship service.** Several of our Sandusky Police Officers will be joining him as well. Please stop by to say hello, thank them for their service, and give them your support and encouragement.

Advent Meditation and Luncheon:

Please join us on Wednesday December 19th at Noon as we share a time of reading and reflection followed by a light lunch in the Gathering Room. All are welcome!



Christmas Services:

- Saturday, December 22th: Fourth Saturday of Advent 6 p.m. Worship
- Sunday, December 23th: Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:00 am and 10:30 a.m. Worship
- Christmas Eve 7 p.m. Family Service
- Christmas Eve 11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service
Broadcast Live on WLEC
- Christmas Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.



All Youth are invited to a Youth Christmas Party at Zion on Wednesday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m.

We will have games and prizes! Bring your favorite holiday food/snack to share! Bring a pair of holiday socks filled with goodies to exchange! See Jenn Parkison for further details.



Monday December 17th: Caroling at Osborne and Meadows Nursing Home at 11 am for anyone who would like to brighten the faces of Osborne School children as well as the Meadow's residence and staff.

December Nehemiah Kids Cafe has been changed to **Dec. 20th** at 4:30pm. Anyone wishing to help is welcome. Also we are collecting Clorox wipes and Kleenex for staff. Please drop them in the office. Thank you.

There will be no Children of Zion on Sunday, December 23rd.

Lessons and Carols and Christmas Cheer

Please join us on December 30th between the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services. Bring your extra Christmas cookies to share and share your Christmas memories, traditions, and New Year plans with your fellow congregants.



If you get new shoes for Christmas, don't forget to save the shoe boxes for the kittens at the Humane Society. They can use all of your empty shoe boxes. Place them in the basement in the quilters' area.

The quilters will no longer be able to accept mattress pads for the inner linings. They still accept all sheets including flannel.

REMINDER: Annual reports are due by Dec. 28th. The earlier the better! Please email your Word document to Loriharris@zionsandusky.org.



Reminder: Beginning January 6th, the prayer list will be wiped clean and started anew. Please contact Lori Wobser in the church office to add names to the list. Please update the office when names can be taken off as the list does get quite lengthy. Let us know when there has been an answer to prayer as well. It is wonderful to rejoice in the answered prayers and offer God our thanks.

Thank you to the children for sharing the story of Jesus' birth with the congregation today. Thank you to the parents and grandparents who brought the children to practice. And, thank you to the Children of Zion staff/volunteers who assisted in the preparation and the worship this morning. They are: Tami Schultz, Marjorie Burton, Vicki Boesch, Greg Schultz, Virginia Lillian and Julie Kessler.

Our prayer for you is that you have a blessed Christmas!





To view the full calendar of events and the current weekly announcements please visit our website at Zionsandusky.org

Sunday, December 16

8:00/10:30 am Worship and Children's Christmas Program
9:15 am Adult Forum
11:45 am Adopt A Cop Meet & Greet

Monday, December 17 ***Zionews Deadline***

11:00 am Caroling At Osborne School
5:30 pm Temple Caretakers – Library
6:30 pm Shared Ministry Board Meeting–St. Paul
7:00 pm Troop 8 Scouts-Basement

Tuesday, December 18

9:30 am Christian Unity Service Planning Meeting-Library
1:00 pm Lectionary Study - Mr. Smith's Coffee House.

The quilters will not be meeting on Dec. 17th-18th, Dec. 24th -25th, and Dec. 31-Jan. 1st. Quilting will resume on Jan. 7-8th.

Wednesday, December 19

7:30 am Lectionary Study–Library
9:30 am Staff Meeting
Noon – Advent Meditation/Lunch Book Connection at Sandusky Yacht Club – Time TBA
6:30 pm Youth Christmas Party-Basement

Thursday, December 20

9:00 am Card Making-Room 205
5:30 pm Cherub Choir-Sanctuary
6:15 pm Bell Choir-Bell Choir Loft
7:00 pm Senior Choir-Basement

Friday, December 21

Saturday, December 22

6:00 pm Worship

Pastor, Eric. L. Bodenstab

Carolyn Steinfeldt, ELCA Deacon

503 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky, OH 44870

(419) 625-2112 zionelc@zionsandusky.org www.zionsandusky.org

Firelands Lutherans Active in Mission (FLAMe)

Our 10:30 a.m. service is broadcast each Sunday over WLEC 1450 AM