

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*A Service of Word & Sacrament*

*December 24, 2023*



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**85 E. Brandt Boulevard**

**Landisville, PA**

*Connecting with God; Connecting with others; Connecting others with God*

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**WELCOME TO ZION!** We are glad you have chosen to worship with us in-person or online today! For in-person worshippers, all words and parts of the service will be projected on the screen in the front of the sanctuary. If you prefer a printed bulletin, they are available on the table in the narthex by the entrance to the sanctuary. The service contains the four parts of the Lutheran liturgy (The Gathering, The Word, The Meal, and The Sending). If you have any questions concerning our service, please do not hesitate to talk with our pastor, Pastor Tim.

## **WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT ZION**

**IN-PERSON:** All are invited to join us for worship at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning.

**ONLINE:** Indoor worship services are live-streamed on the church YouTube channel: [http://bit.ly/Zion\\_Live](http://bit.ly/Zion_Live). If you are unable or prefer not to watch during the live-stream, the recording is available to view any time after the service concludes. When the service is held outdoors, there will be no live-stream.

## **FOR THOSE WORSHIPPING IN-PERSON**

- ❖ Restrooms are available by the front entrance of the church in the narthex and in the hallway off the back door. Infant changing tables can be found in the women's and men's bathrooms in the hallway off the back door.
- ❖ Children are welcome to be active participants in the worship service. There are bags located at the back of the sanctuary with quiet worship activities and goodies to take home. Currently, nursery care is not available but you may use the parlor as a cry room while also still being able to listen to the service.
- ❖ Ushers are located near the front and back of the worship area to direct people to seating, assist with other matters, and to answer questions.
- ❖ Mask wearing is optional for all who attend or participate in indoor gatherings, including worship, at the church.

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

*P: Pastor      A: Assisting Minister      C: Congregation (bolded)*

## † THE GATHERING †

### INTRODUCTION

*God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."*

### WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & GOD-SIGHTINGS

### PRELUDE

*Prelude on "Hyfrydol"*

**Mark Kellner**

*Please stand if you are able.*

### HYMN

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
By thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone;

dear de-sire of ev-ery na-tion, joy of ev-ery long-ing heart.  
by thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

**C:** Amen.

**P:** God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence for reflection.*

**P:** Everlasting God,

**C:** **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

P: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C: **Amen.**

## **KYRIE**

### *Refrain*

Kyrie Eleison, on our world and on our way.

Kyrie Eleison ev'ry day.

1. For peace in the world, for the health of the Church.  
For the unity of all;

For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
Let us pray to the Lord; let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain.*

2. That we may live out your impassioned response  
To the hungry and the poor;  
That we may live out truth and justice and grace,  
Let us pray to the Lord; let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain*

3. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,  
For friends and family;  
For life and for love, for our work and our play,  
Let us pray to the Lord; let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain*

4. For your spirit to guide, that you center our lives  
In the water and the word;  
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood,  
Let us pray to the Lord; let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain*

## **GREETING**

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

C: **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- P: Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **† THE WORD †**

### **2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

*The LORD's promise to David.*

- A: Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Luke 1:46b-55**

*Please read responsively.*

A: <sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, <sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**C: <sup>48</sup>for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

**Romans 16:25-27**

*The mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ.*

A: <sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*A Tiny Child Will Come*

**Don Besig and Nancy Price**

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING/CHILDREN'S CHAT

R: Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Pastor and R: Say it with us: Christ has come, Christ is coming, and Christ will come again!

**C: Christ has come, Christ is coming, and Christ will come again.**

R: Mark 5:43  
After Jesus raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead, "he strictly ordered them that no one should know this and told them to give her something to eat."

R: Why weren't Christ's disciples, Jairus and his family allowed to tell others what had happened? The girl who was dead was alive again! What's going on here?

P: Strange, isn't it? Jesus often tells us to keep his identity a secret, because he wants us to know how he is the Messiah before we tell others. People who know Jesus understand, "Anyone who wants to be first must be last and the servant of all."  
Notice: God chooses lowly Mary of Nazareth to birth the Son of God.

R: We light the Advent candles on this wreath with joy, because we know both who the Messiah is and how he is the Messiah, by becoming last and the servant of all! Let us pray. Come, Lord Jesus. Come quickly! Show us how you became last by being born in a manger and being visited by lowly shepherds. We love you.  
Amen.

**P & R:** We get to be last of all and servant of all together!

**All:** We get to be last and first together!

## ADVENT SONG

### *He Came Down*

**ELW 253**

4. He came down that we may have love;  
He came down that we may have love;  
He came down that we may have love;  
Hallelujah forevermore!

Text: Cameroon traditional  
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949  
Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications Inc.



*Please stand if you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***King of Kings***

**BB 69**

*(Sing twice thru.)*

King of kings and Lord of lords, glory, hallelujah!

King of kings and Lord of lords, glory, hallelujah!

Jesus, Prince of Peace, glory, hallelujah!

Jesus, Prince of Peace, glory, hallelujah!

**Luke 1:26-38**

*The angel appears to Mary.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: <sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*



## The Virgin Birth

*The angel announced:*

And now, you will conceive and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord will give him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom  
*there will be no end.*



Here I am, a servant of the Lord; let it be for me according to your word!

**The  
Virgin Birth**

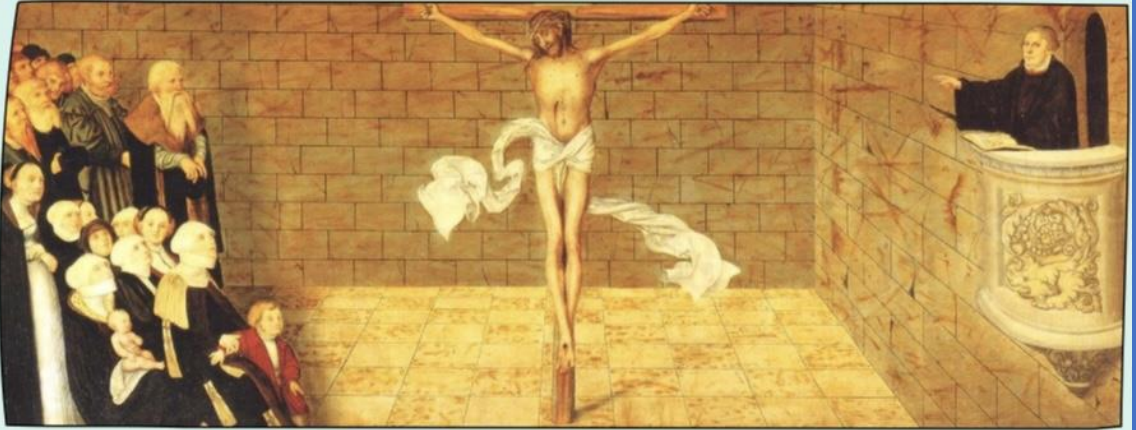
My soul  
magnifies the  
Lord, and my  
Spirit rejoices  
in God my  
savior!

### **The Virgin Birth**



**The hungry  
“losers”  
will be fed  
with good  
things!**





Christ comes **bodily** among us  
in his birth, life, death, and resurrection  
to gather the whole world in his hands,  
including you!

*Please stand if you are able.*

# SONG

## *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

ELW 265



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,





“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
“My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”  
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”  
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
“Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924  
Music: GABRIEL’S MESSAGE, Basque carol

## NICENE CREED

**P:** Let us profess our faith together.

**C:** **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

A: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration. You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill. Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and those in search of a safe and stable home. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy. Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Additional prayers may be lifted up by the congregation and/or pastor.*

P: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

C: **Amen.**

### **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

### **† THE MEAL †**

### **PRAYER**

A: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Abiding God, you made an everlasting covenant with your people, and when that covenant was jeopardized you sent your Son Jesus. In bread and wine, he reenacted your Passover promises, and became the Lamb of God that takes away our sin. Send now your Holy Spirit on us that we may hold fast to what is good and live in the freedom of being your children.

Send your Spirit upon this bread and cup that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, who at supper with his disciples, took bread, and gave it to them, saying, *“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”* After supper he took the cup. Again, he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying, *“Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

Great is the mystery of faith.

C: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: God of justice, send your Spirit upon your people in their wilderness. Bring good news to the oppressed and all who live with the chains of debt. Bind up the brokenhearted and any who languish in the slavery of another’s scheming or the exile of their own folly. Proclaim liberty to the captives and those who live under

the shadow of fear at home, at work, or in their neighborhood. Announce release to the prisoners and to all who are incarcerated by their own body or the travails of their own mind. Usher in the year of your favor and deliver your people from sin and guilt and addiction and shame. Provide for all who mourn that they may have a garland of ashes, and the oil of gladness instead of mourning. Show us your face, everlasting God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: We pray together.

C: **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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

*Please be seated.*

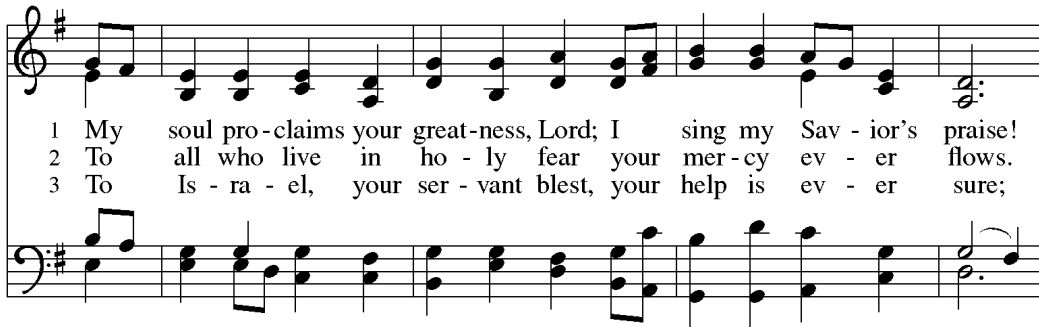
### **PARTAKING IN THE BREAD AND CUP OF SALVATION**

*All baptized Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament by coming forward to receive the elements. Those who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament may come forward and receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please let one of the ushers know and the pastor will come to you.*

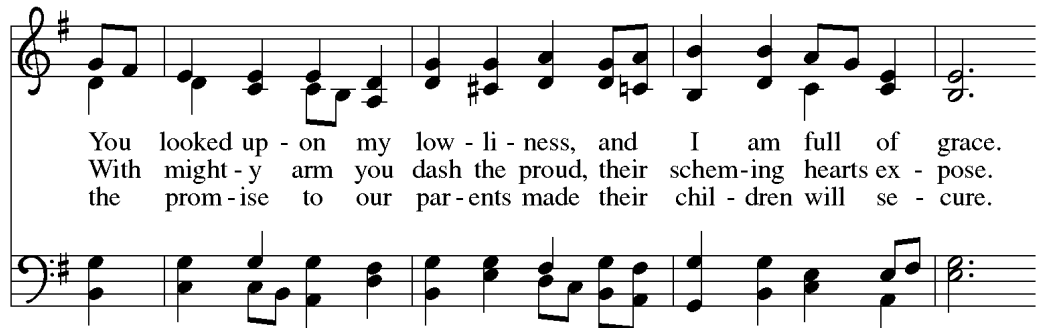
*For those not able to have red wine, there is grape juice in the outer circle of every tray. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers will say: "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you," to which you may respond: "Amen."*

*Please use this time for quiet reflection or join in singing the communion hymns until all worshippers have communed and have returned to their seats.*

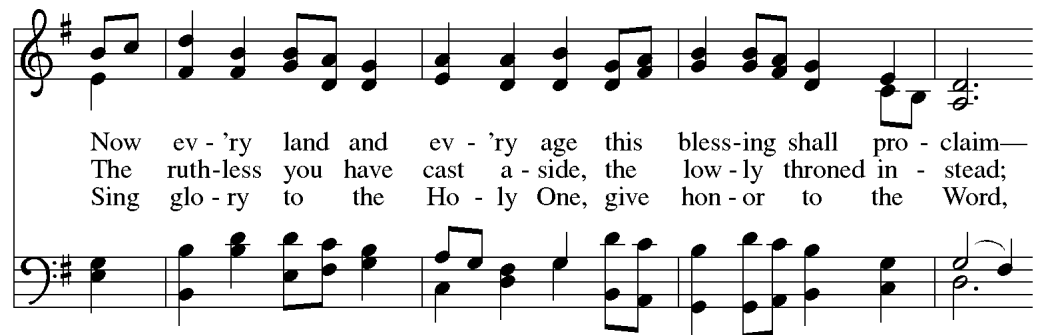




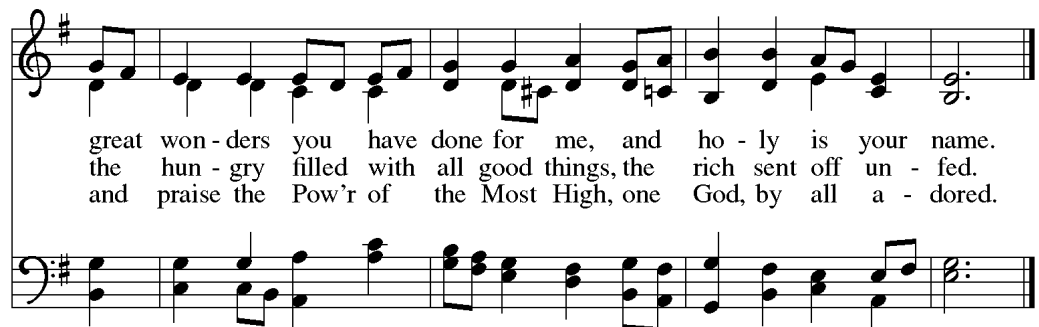
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

## *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

ELW 257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

*Please stand if you are able.*

### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

## † THE SENDING †

### BLESSING

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit † remain upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

### SENDING HYMN

### *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

ELW 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less





geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE



## **THIS WEEK AT ZION**

### **Sunday, December 24 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve**

*\* The flowers are sponsored by Nancy and Rodger Myers in celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!*

*\* The bulletins are sponsored by Dave and Sue Wise in honor of their grandson, Grant Matthew Barcaro.*

*\* The communion elements are sponsored by Diane and Al Ramer in celebration of Jesus' birthday!*

Worship – 9:00 a.m. (In-Person & Livestreamed/Recorded)

Livestream/Recorded Link

Adult Sunday School

Advent Study – 10:30 a.m. (Parlor)

No Wired Word Class

Christmas Eve Worship – 7:00 p.m. (In-Person & Livestreamed/Recorded)

Livestream/Recorded Link: [http://bit.ly/Zion\\_Live](http://bit.ly/Zion_Live)

### **Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day**

Food Pantry Closed

Office Closed

### **Tuesday, December 26**

Office Closed

### **Wednesday, December 27**

Food Pantry – 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

### **Thursday, December 28**

No Choir

### **Friday, December 29**

### **Saturday, December 30**

Model Club – 5 p.m. (Social Room)

### **Sunday, December 31**

Worship – 9:00 a.m. (In-Person & Livestreamed/Recorded)

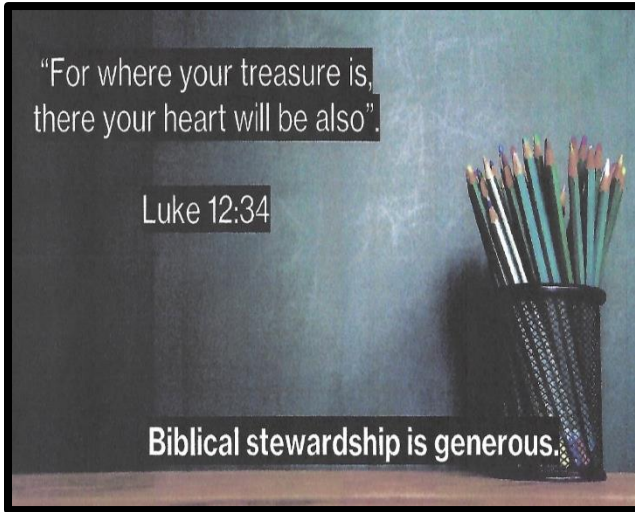
Livestream/Recorded Link: [http://bit.ly/Zion\\_Live](http://bit.ly/Zion_Live)

No Sunday School



## ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, & EVENTS

### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



*In the New Testament, Jesus talks a lot about money and possessions. He is blunt: "our hearts follow the money."*

*In this season of gifting and getting, are we relying on what is under the tree (or in the checkbook) to save us? Or are we listening to the voice speaking from the wilderness who points us back to the manger, not the market.*

*Where we invest our treasure determines where our ultimate loyalty will be.*

*As disciples, we seek to be generous so that our hearts will be loyal to Jesus.*

### 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

In the spirit of Zion's Stewardship Initiative and being generous followers of Jesus, be sure to pick up your offering envelopes in your church mailbox. *Please note that some envelope numbers have changed in 2024 from what they were in 2023. Make sure you use the correct box number!*

### FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Thank you, Zion, for contributing food items and financial donations to the Pantry!

In October, the pantry served a total of 1,956 people (544 children, 950 adults, 462 seniors, and 18 new families). Without the 40 volunteers who served over 600 hours, the pantry could not help all these individuals in the community!

In November, the pantry received 3,500 pounds of food from the Boy Scouts Scouting for Food drive and the Hempfield High School food drive collected 2,712 pounds.

Currently, Stauffers (Rohrerstown) is running a food drive for the pantry. *Even with the large amount of food the pantry received in the past months, the following items are still requested: Applesauce, Cereal, Canned Peaches, Canned Pears, Canned Mixed Fruit, Canned Mandarin Oranges, Strawberry and/or Grape Jelly.* Please note that the pantry prefers non-glass containers. Thank you!

# Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church



*Come celebrate the  
birth of Jesus!*

## Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24

9AM & 7PM

Prelude music begins at 6:30PM

Candle lighting at 7PM service

## New Year's Eve Worship

Sunday, December 31

9AM

Holy Communion at all services



R102568

*Bring a  
friend!*

**SPECIAL  
CHRISTMAS  
EVE  
PRELUDE  
MUSIC  
BEGINS AT  
6:30 p.m.**

Jamie Marrs Smith, cello  
Lisa Nelson, piano  
Lisa Nelson & John Landis,  
piano 4-hand duet  
John Landis, organ





## ADVENT BANNERS

As we prepare for the coming birth of Jesus, the anticipation builds as a banner in front of the Sanctuary is added each week. The 4<sup>th</sup> banner design has swirls ascending upward leading to a city with a heart in the middle and a star above. This banner illustrates the journey to Bethlehem. The 3<sup>rd</sup> banner design is of an angel holding a heart above its head with swirls ascending, extending upward to God and the heavens. The 2<sup>nd</sup> banner has a candle with a heart in its flame and a swirl rising upward symbolizing prayer and commitment to God. This banner represents our turning to God. The 1<sup>st</sup> banner has a large, open hand of God with a heart in the middle of the hand and a swirl descending to us. The idea is that God chooses us in grace and stirs our hearts in love and power.



*First Banner*



*Second Banner*



*Third Banner*



*Fourth Banner*

### ***A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT THE ADVENT BANNERS***

*These special banners were made by a group of Zion women at the Parish Resource Center during Pastor Rick Whitesel's time at Zion.*

*The ladies involved in this banner project were*

*Barb Gerke, Nancy Myers, Denise Haun, Diane Ramer, Sue Wise, and Millie Gundel. Thank you for your interest, time, & labor that you put in to learning how to create them.*

*These Advent banners are a treasure of Zion!*

*We are grateful to display them each Advent season!*



## **ANNUAL REPORTS: ATTENTION ALL MINISTRY TEAMS!**

Now that it's December, it is also Annual Report time! All ministry teams need to email your report about what was accomplished this year and what is on your to-do list for 2024 to Anne (adminzelc@comcast.net).

## **JOYFUL NOISE**

The Joyful Noise offering through December will go to Bethany Christian Services' Safe Families for Children program. For more information about this program, visit: <https://bethany.org/help-a-child/emergency-care/safe-families>.

## **OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTIONALS**

The December-February devotional booklets are available on the ushers' table in the narthex, on the window ledge in the back hallway, and on the kiosk across from the mailboxes. Advent devotionals are there as well.

## **COMFORTER MINISTRY**

The Comforter Ministry is still collecting colorful clean sheets and fabric! Please place any donations in the blue bin in the narthex!

## **2024 FLOWER, BULLETIN, AND COMMUNION ELEMENTS SPONSORS**

The sign-up sheets for all three of these sponsorship opportunities next year are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex across from the mailboxes. This is a great way to help offset the church's cost for these worship service expenses and a special way to honor, remember, and celebrate someone or an occasion! Cost is \$40 for flowers, \$40 for bulletins, and \$35 for communion elements.

## **FLOWER VASE DONATIONS**

Do you have any altar flower vases from the church? The Altar Guild (and Nancy M. in particular!) would love it if you could return them so they can use them to deliver arrangements to others! ALSO, if you have any clear vases with about a 6-inch diameter that could use a new home, the Altar Guild will be more than happy to take them off your hands! They thank you in advance! Questions about size or type? Talk with Nancy M.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

*\* The Wired Word class will not meet today or next Sunday.*

*\* The class that meets in the parlor will complete an Advent today and will not meet next Sunday.*



- To everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas... *Thank you! The worship space, narthex, and the outside of the church look beautiful and message-filled!*
- From Lutheran World Relief ... *Thank you for your recent generous gift of \$265.00 to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund! The kindness and love you show your neighbors in Christ is truly transformational. ... LWR is so grateful for the love you are bestowing on our neighbors around the world.*
- From Off the Streets ... *Thank you for the gift of \$107 from your Joyful Noise collection! This donation provides the security deposit for our clients to live in a home of their own. Your caring, consideration also enables a person to go from unbelievable living conditions to a life without the stigma of homelessness... Thank you, again, most sincerely. You have made a difference in someone's life.*
- To the anonymous donor in the community ... *Thank you for the very generous donation of your \$6,000 year-end bonus to help offset the cost of the food ministries and outreach at Zion.*

*\*Note: This is the third year that this individual has stopped by the church unexpectedly to give this donation. They do not have any known connections to Zion. Let this example of living in a Christ-like way be a model for us all.*

## ***PRAYER LIST***

### ***FOR HEALING***

Dave Wauls	Dick Olson	Cindy Blough	Bob Shirk
Jess Barcaro	Sam King	Bill Grove	Connie Alsedek
Joe Adams	Mary Zimmerman	Marvin Ruch	Kate Donnan
Judie Ingersoll	Joan Mays	Holly Hoover	Barb Williams
Kay Crawford	Tom Grzybowski	Dolly Overly	John Hay
Loma Slike (Mother of Sue Wise)		Ed Illick (Husband of Pastor Pam Illick)	
Brook Ross (Friend of Barb Williams)		William Hartman (Father of Deb Grube)	
Walter Thalgott (Brother of Thelma Pearson)			
Jeff Long (Nephew of Rick & Deb Long)			
Mike LaFata (Son-in-law of Bill & Julia Grove)			
Jack Taylor (4-year-old son of the niece of Deb Grube)			
Harmony & Family (Friends of Kim & Jim Paternoster)			

### ***FOR COMFORT, PEACE, STRENGTH, & SAFETY***

Thelma Pearson	Lucy Davis	Deb McCartney	George Potts
Ruth Burkett (Mother of Deb Long)		Arlene Wise (Sister-in-law of Dave Wise)	
Randy Miller and his family on the death of his father.			
Ed & Dotty Sites (Parents of Cathy Benedict)			
Jennifer Kready (Daughter of Dave & Donna Dumeyer)			
Peggy & Rick Dolly (Relatives of Barb Williams)			

### ***FOR PROTECTION FOR MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS***

Evan Benedict	Christopher Wright	Chris Andrew	Thom Whitesel
Ryan Stitzel	Doug Kautter	Justin Gorlaski	
Tyler Duke (Great Grandson of Jan Reeves)			
Corey Landis (Nephew of Jesse & Pat Landis)			
David Adams (Son-in-law of John & Kathleen Hay, and husband of Liz)			

### ***IN CELEBRATION***

#### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Today – Sue Wise, Holly Hoover	25 <sup>th</sup> – Dave Wauls, Mary Gerlach
27 <sup>th</sup> – Connor Donnan	28 <sup>th</sup> – Deb Grube, Judy Brady
30 <sup>th</sup> – Joan Mays	

## MINISTRY LEADERS

Ministers  
Pastor  
Music Director  
Parish Administrator  
Worship Technology Assistant  
Lay Ministry Assistant  
Council President  
Council Vice President  
Sextons

Members of the Congregation  
Rev. Timothy Seitz-Brown  
John Landis  
Anne Rankin  
David Albin  
Diane Gerlach  
Kim Paternoster  
Denise Haun  
Brian Bourassa (a.m.)  
Tom Miller (p.m.)

## WORSHIP, SUNDAY SCHOOL, & CONTACT INFORMATION

Worship	Sundays @ 9:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Worship	Sunday, December 24 @ 7 p.m.
Livestream & Recorded Link	<a href="http://bit.ly/Zion_Live">http://bit.ly/Zion_Live</a>
Advent Study Class (Parlor)	Sundays @ 10:30 a.m. (No class next Sunday)
Wired Word Class (Zone & Zoom)	Sundays @ 10:30 a.m. <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266</a> (No class Today or 12/31)
Morning Bible Study	Tuesdays @ 9:00 a.m.
Church Office	717-898-2911
Pastor	717-332-4216
Parish Administrator	717-945-4585
Council President	717-342-3796
Office Email	<a href="mailto:adminzelc@comcast.net">adminzelc@comcast.net</a>
Pastor Email	<a href="mailto:zion1517pastor@gmail.com">zion1517pastor@gmail.com</a>
Council President Email	<a href="mailto:krpkc@aol.com">krpkc@aol.com</a>
Music Director Email	<a href="mailto:zionlandisvillemusic@gmail.com">zionlandisvillemusic@gmail.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.zionhempfield.net">www.zionhempfield.net</a>
Facebook	Zion Lutheran Hempfield
Church Address	85 E. Brandt Blvd. Landisville, PA 17538
Office Address	75 E. Brandt Blvd. Landisville, PA 17538

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*\* The Stewardship slide is adapted from "A Litany Prayer for Aleppo" by Michael K. Marsh by Rev. Timothy Seitz-Brown.*