

Zion Lutheran Church



***4 p.m. Family Christmas Eve
December 24, 2024***

As a people of God, we share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.

On a long winter evening, we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Amid our broken world, we proclaim that the Prince of Peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh – in Christ’s body and blood – so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world. We welcome you to worship on this holy evening as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. The worship service liturgy is printed in the bulletin and also on the screen.

**Denotes Congregation is to stand, if able.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING SONG** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Worship Team

***DIALOGUE AND GREETING**

P Good news! Tonight a child is born.

G His name is Jesus.

P Good news! Emmanuel has come.

G God is with us.

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

G And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (R AMEN)**

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2–7

CAROL *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Worship Team

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

P The holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

***GOSPEL READING** Luke 2:1–20

After the reading of the gospel, the pastor and congregation will say:

P The Gospel of our Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE “He Came Down that We May have Love”

***CAROL** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Worship Team

***NICENE CREED**

G 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.

***PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

P Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the joy, healing, and comfort of all God's people.

P God we thank you for all the blessings you have given to us. Especially, we thank you, for our family and friends, both near and far. Bless them this day with your love and care.

C **Hear our prayers, Jesus.**

P God we pray for all those who are in need. Those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit; those who are without a home or a family; and those who are grieving or experiencing loss. May they experience the light and hope of this holy night.

C **Hear our prayers, Jesus.**

P God we thank you for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Help us to share the love and light of Christ with all we meet this Christmas and every day.

C **Amen.**

***PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING

The work and mission at Zion can only happen through your gifts of time, talent and treasure. We cannot do our work without your support. To give financially, please give either online or drop your offering in the plate as it comes by you in the pew. You can also scan the QR code to be taken to our online giving portal.



SPECIAL MUSIC

**☞ Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

☞ Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

☞ Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*SURSUM CORDA

☞ The Lord be with you.

☞ And also 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.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

☞ Father in heaven...the One who would save your people.

☞ We give you thanks, heavenly Father.

☞ We praise you this night... you have made us your children.

☞ Lord, thank you for this love.

☞ Father in heaven...the gift of your Son, we say:

☞ Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us; you rose from death; and you will come to us in glory.

☞ Heavenly Father... and filling the world with his love.

☞ With Jesus Christ and your Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, heavenly Father.

*THE 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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion this night. During communion distribution, an usher will invite your pew row to come forward. If you need the pastor to bring you communion, please let an usher know. When you come forward for communion, the pastor or assisting minister will say similar words: "The body of Christ, given for you," and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." Your response to each is "Amen." There is a gluten free and grape juice option available if you need this. Know that Christ is fully present in the bread and the wine. If you are only able to receive one kind (such as only the host or only the wine), know that you will receive the same benefits as receiving both. Return your empty glass to baskets in the windows. Children and those not ready to receive communion this day may receive a blessing.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Communion Song (Jonathan Stockstill)

Worship Team

CAROLS DURING COMMUNION

Away in a Manger

Angels We Have Heard on High

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER AND BLESSING (℣/Amen.)

*CANDLE LIGHTING

*Tonight, we celebrate the light of God coming into the world by joining in a time of prayer and candle lighting. ***It is very important that you do not tip your candle!****

*CAROL

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,

heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,

with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*PRESENTATION OF THE CHRIST CHILD

During the singing of Silent Night, the Christ Child will be placed in the manger.

*BENEDICTION (R/Amen.)

Please extinguish your candle and hold upright until the wax hardens.

*CAROL

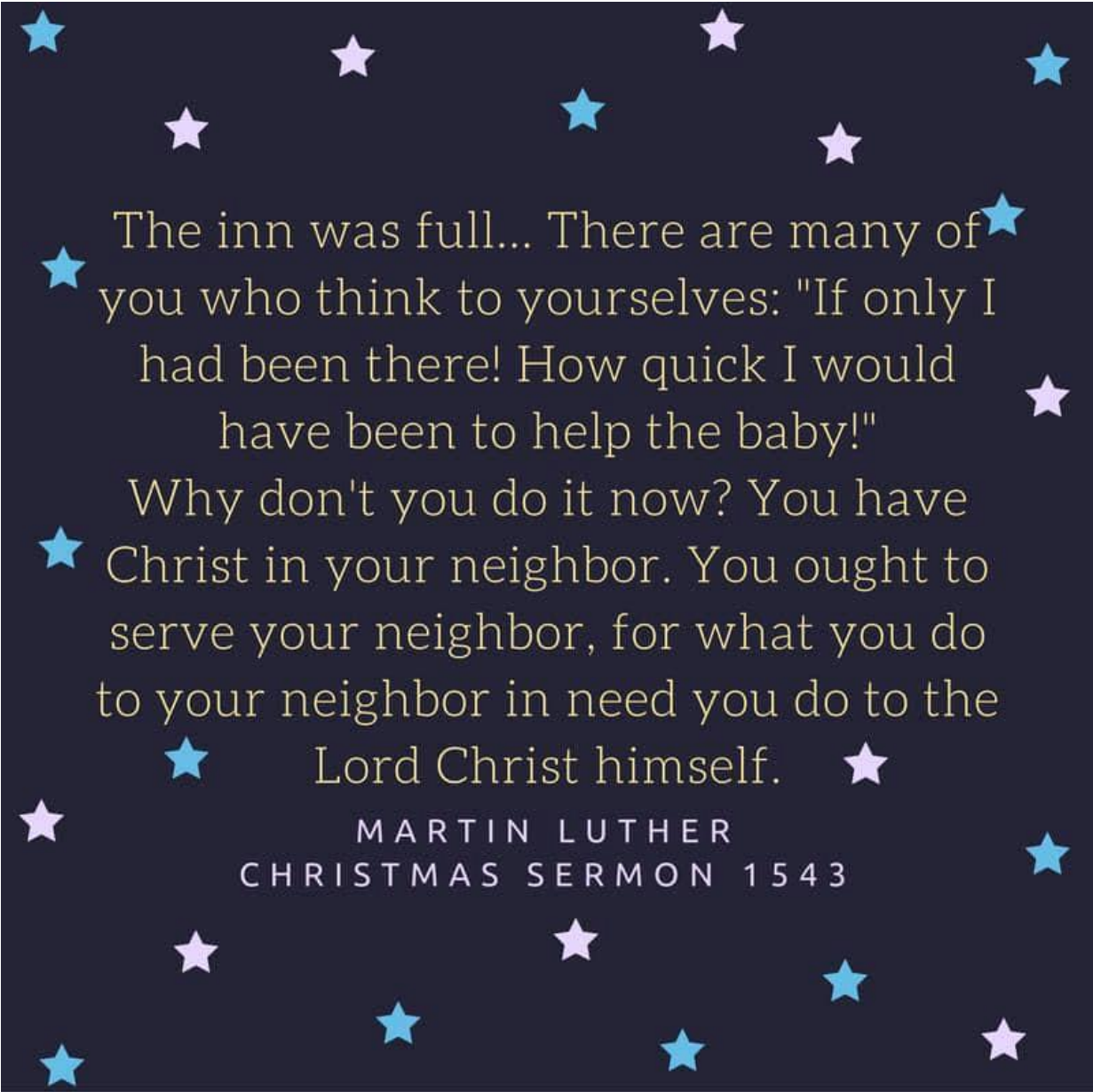
Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

Worship Team

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Love has come!

C Thanks be to God!



The inn was full... There are many of
you who think to yourselves: "If only I
had been there! How quick I would
have been to help the baby!"

Why don't you do it now? You have
Christ in your neighbor. You ought to
serve your neighbor, for what you do
to your neighbor in need you do to the
Lord Christ himself.

MARTIN LUTHER
CHRISTMAS SERMON 1543



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of our Lord and Savior’s birth given by Barry and Jo Ann Poffinberger.



Zion Prayer List 12-24-2024

Requests remain on the prayer list for 30 days unless requested otherwise.

Kathi Hayter, Junior Wiles, J. Richard Staples, John Rudy, Noelle, Beverly Bidle, Samn Huffer, Patricia Pettingall, Family of Dennison Plumbing, Grace Blumenauer, Ruth Ann Derr, Barry B., Gail G., Lucretia Reaves, Katana Lewis, Debby Knipple, Larry DiGiulio, Ken Young, Carol O’Brien, Mike Fath, Kris Marcantonio, John Lettiere, Jr., Ursula Powell, Pat Hansen, Jane Nalborczyk, Eric Kinna, Ronnie Kinna, Linda Stottlemeyer, Anita, Gary, Kay Wachter, Michael Easton, Tristan Vail, Beth Smith, Lorene Huffer, Bruce Albright, Marty Appleby, Judith Smith, Jackie Bello, Trish Tollefson, Skippy Zimmerman, Sarah Gladhill, Ruby Pyles, Addison Hopson, Kevin Kinna, Deb Kahihikolo

Deaths: John Brunner, Cheryl, Lori Webber

Please be sure the church is notified if you are hospitalized and if you wish to be placed on the prayer list or would like visitation.

Our Mission

As a people of God,
we share Christ's love,
grow in faith, and
serve others



Our Vision

At Zion we strive to provide a sanctuary for prayerful and Joyous worship within a respectful and welcoming environment and to meet the spiritual needs of our intergenerational congregation and community, using Christian ideas and values.



Zion Lutheran Church

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Middletown, MD 21769
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Website: www.zionmiddletown.org

*For emergency pastoral care or to schedule
an appointment, please call the church office
for additional information.*

The Rev. Diane Day—Co-Pastor

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The Rev. Matt Day—Co-Pastor

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Deb Reichelt – Office Business Manager

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Kaye Derr-Financial Secretary

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Matt Puziss - Director Contemporary Worship Team

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**Katelyn McClinton- Interim Director of Traditional
Music Ministry**

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Emily Hopson – Children’s Choir Director

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