

Zion Lutheran Church



***7 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship
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.

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

PRE-SERVICE SPECIAL MUSIC

Suite of Christmas Carols

Jim Moler, piano

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice - Stephen DeCesare

Aaron Moler, alto sax

Still, Still, Still - Cathy Moglebust

Chris Derr, handbells

KALENDA - The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

The Kalenda has been used by the Church as a way to place the birth event in the context of both secular and religious events.

P *The twenty-fifth day of December, when ages beyond number
had run their course from the creation of the world,
when God in the beginning created heaven and earth,
and formed man in his own likeness;
when century upon century had passed
since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood,
as a sign of covenant and peace;
in the twenty-first century since Abraham,
our father in faith, came out of Ur of the Chaldees;
in the thirteenth century since the people of Israel
were led by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt;
around the thousandth year since David was anointed King;
in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
in the year seven hundred and fifty-two since the foundation of the city of Rome;
in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus,
the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ,
eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence,
was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and when nine months had passed since his conception,
was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah,
and was made man: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.*

Please stand and face the cross at the rear of the church.

***OPENING HYMN**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283 (v. 1,3 & 4)

1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels: *Refrain*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain*

Refrain

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

***DIALOGUE AND GREETING**

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C **In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

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.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289 (v. 1)

C **Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

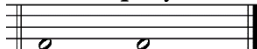
***PRAYER OF THE DAY**



P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray...



C A - men.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2–7

MUSICAL OFFERING

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
-Brian Childers

Stacey Black, flute; Chris Derr, handbells

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

*GRADUAL HYMN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270 (v. 1)

G Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

*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.

*GRADUAL HYMN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270 (v. 2)

G Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279 (v.1 & 4)

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

*NICENE CREED

☞ 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 INTERCESSION

After each petition, the pastor and congregation will respond by saying:

**☞ Lord in your mercy,
☞ hear our prayer.**

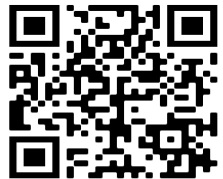
*PEACE

**☞ The peace of the Lord be with you always.
☞ And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*In the Bleak Midwinter
-Mark Hayes*

Chris Derr piano

C 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

A 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.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*SURSUM CORDA

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.

*PROPER PREFACE

P It is indeed right and salutary...join in the heavenly hymn:

***SANCTUS**




C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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**

P Glory to you, Lord God...We join our voice with angels and all the heavenly choir:

C **Glory to God in the highest!**

P Glory to you, Lord God, heavenly King...all honor and glory is yours almighty Father, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

***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.

AGNUS DEI



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, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion this evening. 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.

MUSICAL OFFERING

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Aaron Moler, alto sax

-Stephen DeCesare

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C 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!****

P The light shines in the darkness,

C **and the darkness does not overcome it**

P The word became flesh and lived among us,

C **and we have beheld Christ's glory.**

P To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C **In the Word was life, and the life was the light to all people.**

P Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C **Through word and sacrament you continue to reveal yourself to us so that, we might bear your light to all the world.**

***HYMN OF LIGHT**

Silent Night

ELW 281

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.

***CONCLUDING PRAYER**

P Let us pray. O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

C **Amen**

***BENEDICTION**

P May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

G Amen.

P May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

G Amen.

P May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

G Amen.

P And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

G Amen.

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

***HYMN**

Joy to the World

ELW 267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Christ is here!

G Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Joy to the World"

- Arr. William Bates



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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Website: www.zionmiddletown.org

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

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The Rev. Matt Day—Co-Pastor

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Deb Reichelt – Office Business Manager

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Matt Puziss - Director Contemporary Worship Team

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**Katelyn McClinton- Interim Director of Traditional
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Kirk Denton- Interim Organist

Emily Hopson – Children’s Choir Director

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