

Zion Lutheran Church



**4 p.m. Family Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025**

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

Welcome to Christmas Eve Worship!

We extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to each of you as we gather on this sacred night to celebrate the miraculous birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Christmas Eve holds a special place in the hearts of believers, inviting us to pause, reflect, and rejoice in the wondrous gift of God's love made visible in the Christ Child. Whether you are a long-time member, a returning guest, or joining us for the first time, we are grateful for your presence.

*For your convenience, **restrooms** are located by exiting at the rear of the Sanctuary and going down the stairs. There are also restrooms located near where you came in by the ramp. Just follow the signs on the wall and you will find them.*

*Families with young children are invited to make use of **Marc's Room, our nursery**, which is available for infants and toddlers. Marc's Room is located by exiting at the rear of the Sanctuary, going down the stairs, and then following the signs. You can watch the service by turning on the television. Relax though, please! God put the wiggle in children. Don't feel like you have to suppress it in God's house. Just know Marc's Room is there if you need it!*

For communion this evening, we will have two stations. Communion will be distributed in the front of the sanctuary. We do have gluten free wafers and grape juice available if you need that. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive this night. If you would rather come forward and receive a blessing, just cross your arms over chest.

If you would like to learn more about our faith community, scan the QR code and leave us your contact information. We will be in touch with you after Christmas!

*Should you need any help or have questions during your time with us, our ushers and greeters will be pleased to assist you. We encourage you to feel at ease and to participate fully in this evening's service as we celebrate the holy night when heaven touched earth. May the joy of Christ's birth dwell richly in your hearts tonight and throughout the coming year. **Blessings to you and your family on this Christmas Eve!***



To help everyone fully participate in our Christmas Eve service, an assistive listening system is available. It is located at the front of the church near where the ushers stand and the baptismal front. We have both over the ear and loop systems available. Ushers are happy to assist you in finding a device to best meet your needs.

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

WELCOME

***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

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

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

***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 worshipped 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.

G 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.

G 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.

G Amen.

***PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G 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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL MUSIC

Mary, Did You Know?

Chris Derr, Piano

**☞ 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 are gluten free and grape juice options available if you need them. 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

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

P 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

Our Mission

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



Our Vision

Zion aspires to be a
church where all are
welcomed and loved;
God's purpose for each of
us is found; and lives are
transformed.

2025 Ministry Priorities

Leadership

Called by the Spirit to be transformed as God's loving people, the Council will continue to discern where God is calling Zion in its defining of vision. We will be open to new ways and opportunities God is calling us to serve beyond our building in sharing Christ's love. We will support one another in our ministries as we share cherished traditions and try new things.

Communication

Celebrating new tools we have learned to communicate information, we will hone and plan strategies to more effectively use them to share what God is doing at Zion. We will use these tools and new avenues to share how God's love is nurturing and changing us.

Relationship Building

With Jesus as our example and guide, we will grow in building relationships with one another and those beyond our building through practicing welcome and invitation. We rejoice and celebrate our generational diversity. We will practice grace and understanding as we make mistakes. We will focus on serving one another in love, especially those in need and who are often forgotten.

☀️ **Curious about our faith community? We'd love to connect with you! Scan the QR code to share your contact information, and we'll keep you updated on our events and activities. Join us in exploring a journey of faith, fellowship, and friendship. We look forward to welcoming you with open arms! ✨**





The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and to wish everyone a
“Merry Christmas” by Frank and Becky Ropp



Zion Prayer List 12-24-2025

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

Alexander Turner, Roben Hansen, Jo Ahalt, Diana Fath, Pat McIntosh, Shirley Hyssong, Grace Blumenauer, Ronnie Kinna, Carrie Basler, John Hughes, Linda Kinna-Engel, Dave Gouker, Richard Brandenburg, Ruth Brant, Vicki Ringwelski, Elsie Warnock, David Shupe, Meredith Kinna, George Engel, Glenn Little, Sandy Bidle, Catherine Brown, Tristan Swiney, J. Richard Staples, Pastor Diane Day, Beverly Smith, The Gunsallus Family, Samn Huffer, Pat Hansen, Eric Kinna, Linda Stottlemeyer, Anita, Gary, Bruce Albright, Marty Appleby, Judith Smith, Jackie Bello, Trish Tollefson, Addison Hopson, Kevin Kinna, Deb Kahihikolo

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.

BISHOP GOHL'S 2025 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory. —John 1:14

When the “wrong seems oft so strong;”

When division and partisanship supplant “peace, goodwill for all;”

When we become numb to violence, and human need “overwhelms;”

The Word still becomes flesh and dwells among us.

In your sacrifices and struggles, Jesus is born;

In your generosity and creativity, Jesus is born;

In your care for the most vulnerable and the often forgotten, Jesus is born;

In your ability to name and see those that are disappeared, erased, overlooked, and blend into the backgrounds of our lives, Jesus is born;

In your showing-up, speaking-out, and stepping-out in faith, Jesus is born;

While I too am struggling with sorrow and loss this Christmas; I also see you embody a God who still so loves this world; so much so, I can't help but experience the Word made flesh, dwelling among us, and shining with a simple, but resilient glory.

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, their great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

With my love and prayers for you and yours, at Christmas and as we cross the threshold into the year ahead,

The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Bishop

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Gohl". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "B" and "G".

Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA

"Hello!"

Can you all whisper back to me?

Whispers are quiet, gentle, almost like a secret. You have to lean in close to hear them. And I wonder if

it's possible for the heavens to whisper at Christmas?

One silent night, far away, in a town called Bethlehem, the stars twinkled brighter than ever. And the

angels were there, too. It was as if the whole sky was whispering: "Something wonderful is happening ..."

Let's all look up at the ceiling like we're looking at the stars.

Can you twinkle your fingers like stars?

Now let's whisper together, "Something wonderful is happening ..."

The heavens weren't shouting. They weren't making a big noise. They were whispering, because whispers make us stop, listen and pay attention.

And what was the whispering about? A baby. A tiny baby lying in a manger.

His name was Jesus.

Can you pretend to rock a baby in your arms?

The night Jesus was born, the shepherds heard the whisper in the sky when the angels sang. The Wise

Men sensed the whisper in the star that guided them. And Mary and Joseph felt the whisper in their

hearts: "This child is special. This child is God's gift."

Sometimes we think God only speaks in loud voices or through big miracles. But Christmas reminds us

that God often whispers. God whispers love and kindness and peace.

Can you think of one kind thing you could whisper to someone this week?

So, this Christmas, listen closely. The heavens are still whispering: "Jesus is here. God loves you.

Share

that love with the world."

Let's all whisper together: "Jesus is here."

Now say "God loves us" in a joyful voice!

Amen.



The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





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*For emergency pastoral care or to schedule
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