

Zion's Weekly Announcements

Sunday, January 3, 2021



A Blessed Sunday morning to you all!

Merry Christmas!

Happy New Year! Welcome to worship, one and all. Please greet one another with the peace of Christ.

God of the Ages, I offer you my heart, anew with this new year. Help me love you and my neighbors all year long, one day at a time.

"For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice."
—T.S. Eliot

A word for the year

Every January, some people pray and ask God to provide a word for their year ahead. Friends have shared theirs with me, but I was hesitant to embrace the practice myself. I'd love to receive a word like *flourish*; then again, I might be like the friend who heard *health* and then faced many physical challenges that year.

But I tried it for 2020 and heard *prepare*. My first reaction was that the word wasn't very exciting, which possibly confirmed I hadn't orchestrated it. Indeed, 2020 ended up full of significant, unexpected change for our family, with careers, school, church and friends. *Prepare* reminded me that amid chaos, God had prepared me for each moment and continues to prepare me for what's next.

Give it a try! Regardless of the word you receive or what lies ahead, you can trust that God loves you and is ultimately in control for 2021 and beyond. —Janna Firestone

There will be **Drive-In Communion today, January 3**, from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM. An **ONLINE** service will be at **9:00 AM**. You can register for next Sunday's "In-Person" worship service on the church's website.

PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

The Church moves into the Epiphany season on January 6, the Epiphany of our Lord. The appointed Scripture readings for this First Sunday after the Epiphany, **The Baptism of Our Lord**, are Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11, and Mark 1:4-11. May we remember our baptism with gladness that we are the children of God in Christ Jesus!

LOOKING AT TODAY'S LESSONS – The Second Sunday after Christmas

The Lord Jesus Is Found in the Temple of His Church

The Lord Jesus "grew and became strong" (Luke 2:40); He "increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52). As His body grew and developed, His mind also increased in

knowledge and understanding. For as our brother in the flesh, that we might *"have redemption through his blood"* (Eph. 1:7), He lived by faith in the Word of His Father. Thus, He was catechized by His parents, who took Him up *"to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover"* (Luke 2:41); and when He was of age, He gave attention to the Holy Scriptures in His Father's house (Luke 2:46, 49). Christ Jesus is still found in His Church, in *"the word of truth, the gospel,"* by which we are adopted by His Father and sealed with His Spirit (Eph. 1:5, 13). Thus do we gain *"an understanding mind"* to go about our vocations, discerning *"between good and evil"* (1 Kings 3:9). And so do we also go up to Jerusalem, to stand *"before the ark of the covenant of the Lord"* (1 Kings 3:15), that is, in the Holy Communion of His body and blood.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Joel 2:32 - And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

OUTREACH THOUGHT

Luke 2:40-52: When Mary and Joseph finally found their lost child, they found Jesus at the Temple. "I must be about My Father's business," Jesus said. We too must be about our Heavenly Father's business. It is good that we are found in God's house today, for here is where we are strengthened, enabled by the Spirit and equipped to be His witnesses out in the world through the Word and Sacrament.

STEWARDSHIP PONDERING

1 Kings 3:4 – **"And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar."** Now that's a big sacrifice! But, of course, Solomon offered sacrifices in proportion to his wealth. The Lord had blessed him greatly, so his sacrifices were correspondingly large. Jesus also praised the widow's mite, a small amount of money, but a great sacrifice in proportion to her means.

+ Celebrating the Epiphany of Our LORD +

BIBLE QUIZ

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

1. "baby" - Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
2. "child" - when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
3. "youth" - Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
4. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.



EPIPHANY EPIPHANIES

Sometimes brief words of ancient wisdom can spark an "aha!" moment — a revelation of new insight about God or faith. Here are some epiphanies for the *season* of Epiphany.

"If we approach with faith, we too will see Jesus ... for the Eucharistic table takes the place of the crib. Here, the Body of the Lord is present, wrapped not in swaddling clothes but in the rays of the Holy Spirit." —St. John Chrysostom (347-407)

"So that we might also have the means to go, the one we were longing to go to came here from there. And what did he make? A wooden raft for us to cross the sea on. For no one can cross the sea of this world unless carried over it on the cross of Christ." —St. Augustine (354-430)

"You wish to see; listen. Hearing is a step toward vision." —St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

+ This Week's Calendar +

Sunday, January 3, 2021 – The Second Sunday after Christmas

- 9:00 AM – Online Service Available
- 9:00 AM – In-Person Service with Holy Communion
- 10:30 AM – Drive-In Communion Begins
- 1:00 PM – Drive-In Communion Ends
- 6:00 PM – Lutheran Hour on KATE Radio (1450 AM)

Monday, January 4, 2021

- 9:00 AM – Christmas Decoration Take-Down

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

- 7:00 PM – Elders Meeting

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 – Epiphany Day

- 6:00 PM – Confirmation on Zoom

Thursday, January 7, 2021

Friday, January 8, 2021

- Pre-work for service recording

Saturday, January 9, 2021

- Recording Worship Service

Sunday, January 10, 2021 – The Baptism of Our Lord

- 9:00 AM – Online Service Available
- 9:00 AM – In-Person Service with Holy Communion
- 10:30 AM – Drive-In Communion Begins
- 1:00 PM – Drive-In Communion Ends
- 6:00 PM – Lutheran Hour on KATE Radio (1450 AM)

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWER

Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)