

Zion's Weekly Announcements

Sunday, December 27, 2020



A Blessed Sunday morning to you all!

Today we continue to celebrate Christmas — and God's lavish gift of love, Jesus. Merry Christmas!

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends!

The snowfall on December 23 made it feel more like Christmas in Minnesota. It is hard to believe that New Year's is around the corner. May 2021 be a year full of new and joyous blessings from the LORD!

There will be **NO "In-Person" worship service or Drive-In Communion today, December 27.**

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.

I am taking some needed vacation time this week, December 27-January 1. The church office will be closed. If you need any spiritual care, please contact your elder. Only call or text me if it is an emergency. If you have a prayer request for the prayers chain, contact Arlene Murray.

Elders

Dick Mucha
Bill Morris
Jason Panzer
John Domes
Ron Timm

Families/Individuals

Adams thru Estes
Fjelbrotten thru Johannsen
Johnson thru Nicolai
Oberg thru Solberg
Sorenson thru Yokiel

The appointed Scripture readings for **the Second Sunday after Christmas** are 1 Kings 3:4-15 Psalm 119:97-104; Ephesians 1:3-14, and Luke 2:40-52.

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

The Time Has Fully Come for Redemption and Purification through Jesus Christ, Our Lord

"When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son," born of the woman, *"to redeem those who were under the law"* (Gal. 4:4-5). Therefore, *"according to the Law of Moses,"* Mary and Joseph *"brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord"* (Luke 2:22). There He was received and taken up into the arms of Simeon, who was righteous and devout, *"waiting for the consolation of Israel"* (Luke 2:25). Simeon praised God and blessed the parents by confessing the cross for which this child was appointed. *"At that very hour,"* old and faithful Anna, who had watched, prayed and worshiped in the temple for so long, came up and *"began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem"* (Luke 2:38). The Lord causes *"righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations"* (Is. 61:11). We also *"greatly rejoice in the LORD,"* because this child has clothed us *"with the garments of salvation,"* covered us *"with the robe of righteousness"* and called us *"by a new name"* (Is. 61:10; 62:2).

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Matthew 1:21 - You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

OUTREACH THOUGHT

Luke 1:26-38: It can be easy for us to fall into the temptation of thinking that God couldn't possibly use us to share His Good News with others. God responds to our doubts of "I'm not a good enough speaker." or "I can't really make a difference." or "What if I say the wrong thing?" with – "For nothing will be impossible with God!" Our God – with whom nothing is impossible – promises to bless our faithful witness to Him!

STEWARDSHIP PONDERING

Luke 2:39 – "And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord..." The Law of God is good. Of course, it always shows us our sins, but that is good, too! We need to be driven back to the forgiveness of Christ. And the Law also shows us the truly blessed way to live. As Mary and Joseph found their joy in a godly life, so should we see the Law as a guide for Christian living and the roadmap for saying thank you to the Lord for all His grace and mercy to us.

+ This Week's Calendar +

Sunday, December 27, 2020 – The Fourth Sunday in Advent - Love

9:00 AM – Online Service Available (NO In-Person Service or Drive-in Communion)

6:00 PM – Lutheran Hour on KATE Radio (1450 AM)

Monday, December 28, 2020

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 29, 2020

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, December 30, 2020

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, December 31, 2020 – New Year's Eve

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, January 1, 2021 – New Year's Day

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, January 2, 2021

2:00 PM – Private Funeral Service for Bryan Willmert

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

9:00 AM – Online Service Available

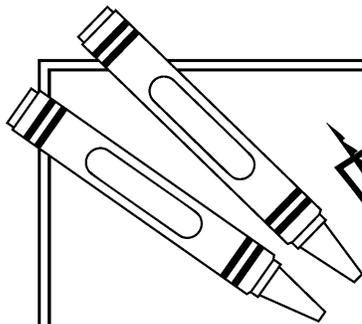
9:00 AM – In-Person Service with Holy Communion

10:30 AM – Drive-In Communion Begins

1:00 PM – Drive-In Communion Ends

6:00 PM – Lutheran Hour on KATE Radio (1450 AM)





PUZZLE

WHITE AS SNOW

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.



PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
for	give	come	together	around	after
self	into	settle	eternal	thanks	forgive
God	LORD	says	without	Christ	warmth
love	sins	scarlet	other	light	praise
red	star	white	snow	winter	peace



“ _____ now, let us _____ the matter,” _____ the
 _____. “Though your _____ are like _____,
 they shall be as _____ as _____”

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

Answer: Path 3; come, settle, says, LORD, sins, scarlet, white, snow

A SACRED SUMMARY



The simple shepherds
 heard the voice of an angel
 and found their Lamb;
 the wise men
 saw the light of a star
 and found their Wisdom.

—Fulton J. Sheen

