



Zion's Weekly Announcements

Sunday, December 11, 2022

The third Sunday of Advent focuses on **joy**. "Rejoice in the Lord always," says the apostle Paul (Philippians 4:4). With gladness, we welcome you to worship at Zion Lutheran Church! As God's children, let us rejoice and give thanks to Him!! – Pastor Matt

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear" ("Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"). Your coming gives hope to this troubled world, and to my heart, O Lord. Amen.

We have **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS** for those who have visual difficulty at the usher's table.

Please sign the **Fellowship Registry** book at the end of your pew. In addition, guests and visitors are welcome to sign our **Guest Registry** by the church mailboxes in the Fireside Commons. Thank you.

Join us for **Fellowship Time** after today's worship service. **Sunday Morning Bible Class** and Sunday School are in session!! Praise the LORD!

All members and visitors at Zion, you may wear your facemask if you so choose. If you are feeling sick, please stay home to rest and recover.

Need **prayers** for healing or any other concerns? Request the Pastor or elders to pray for you in public worship or privately as the needs arise (James 5:14-16.) Call the church office to contact Pastor Matt (507) 373-8609.



LUTHERAN HOUR

for December 11

at 6:00 PM

KATE Radio (1450 AM)



"Beauty We Can't See" Text: (Isaiah 28:5)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

We often feel our need for God's presence only when we see what it looks like when He's absent.

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ Brings True Rejoicing, Even Under the Cross

Sometimes life requires the astonishing patience of Job. Like him, we are to rejoice in the midst of affliction, be grounded in repentance under the cross of Christ, and hope relentlessly in His resurrection, that we might see *"the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful"* (James 5:11). In the promise of the Gospel, therefore, *"be patient"* and *"establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand"* (James 5:7, 8). Like St. John the Baptist, whatever your own kind of prison or suffering may be, call upon Jesus and receive the strength of His Word from those He sends to you. For as *"the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up,"* so is the Good News of Jesus preached to you also (Matt. 11:5). He comes and restores the fortunes of Zion, His Holy Church, so that *"sorrow and sighing shall flee away"* (Is. 35:10).

OUTREACH THOUGHT

Matthew 11:2-15: John the Baptist was put in prison for confronting the political leaders of his day with divine truth. While in prison, he was put to death by King Herod for his straightforward witness to the coming of the Lord, the true and righteous Judge. John, like our Lord's disciples, was happy to suffer for the name of Jesus. John's example encourages us also to be bold witnesses for Jesus as the One who came to bring light and salvation to

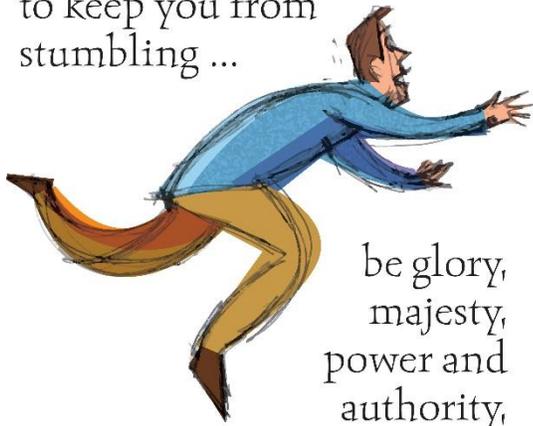
a darkened world. You may be the only Scripture some people hear. Give them the light of the Gospel in your words and actions and shed some light with the truth of Jesus.

STEWARDSHIP PONDERING

Isaiah 35:4 – “Say to those who have an anxious heart, ‘Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.’” The return of our Lord at the Last Day is a cause of joy and anticipation for us believers. We know our Lord and His love, and we look forward to His Second Advent. Indeed, how we live our lives here and now flows from our certain hope of resurrection and eternal life.

BIBLE VERSE OF THE WEEK

To him who is able
to keep you from
stumbling ...



be glory,
majesty,
power and
authority,
through Jesus Christ
our Lord, before all ages,
now and forevermore!

Amen

Jude 1:24-25, NIV

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Today, we will study “Silence before a Son.” Doubting the angel’s announcement of his coming son, Zechariah finds himself silenced until the boy’s birth. Upon writing “His name is John,” Zechariah regains his voice and prophesies concerning his son’s work.

The **memory gem** for today is: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people.” - Luke 1:68

We’ll gather at 10:20 AM in the Craft Room on the lower level of the Education wing of Zion.

CONFIRMATION (*Conference Rm. – 6:35 PM*)
“Samuel to King David” (*The Books of 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles and Psalms*) is our next session. We will learn about these important people: Hannah, the priest Samuel, King Saul, young David, and many more.

The memory work is:

The Ninth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor’s inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

Psalm 23:1

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Confirmation Class will be on Christmas Break December 21 and 29. Class will resume in the new year on January 4, 2023.

ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS

(*Conference Room – 10:20 AM*)

“Angles: Who are these messengers of God” is our study topic today. Join us for Bible study this morning with your coffee and cake. We hope to see you there! – Pastor Matt



QUOTES FOR THE DAY

“The Lord is coming, always coming. ... Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.” —Henri Nouwen

“The good news of great joy changed the course of every silent night to come.” —Alicia Bruxvoort

SYMBOLS OF THE SEASON



The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that

Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.

Holly is a popular decoration at Christmastime, not just for its beauty but also for its religious significance. Holly's thorny leaves and red berries symbolize Jesus' Passion and blood, reminding us of the fate awaiting the Christ child. According to old Christian legends, holly first sprang up under Christ's footsteps, and his cross was made from the wood of holly.

BIBLE QUIZ

Complete this Bible verse: "The (1) _____ (2) _____ in the (3) _____, and the (3) _____ has not overcome it."



- A. (1) Word; (2) speaks; (3) silence
- B. (1) light; (2) shines; (3) darkness
- C. (1) kingdom of God; (2) reigns; (3) world
- D. (1) Spirit of God; (2) shines; (3) world
- E. None of the above

Answer: See John 1:5

CHRISTMAS GIFTS DUE!!

Thank you to everyone who purchased Christmas gifts for the two Christmas families we are supporting this year. If you have a present yet to buy or drop off under the Christmas tree at Zion, please do it soon! The deadline for delivering the gifts is Thursday, December 15, at 10:00 AM. Thank you for making Christmas extra special for these families! God bless you all!



CHRISTMAS CRACKUPS

Enjoy these kid-friendly holiday jokes!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?
It's Christmas, Eve!

What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?
Cookie sheets.

What do you sing at a snowman's birthday party?
"Freeze a jolly good fellow!"

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy?
Ornamints.

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"?
Santa walking backward.

Why did Rudolph get a bad report card?
Because he went down in history.

What is an elf's favorite kind of music?
Wrap music!

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?
Nothing. It was on the house!

What kind of photos do Santa's helpers take?
Elfies.



PARENTS' HOLIDAY SHOPPING DAY

A huge **THANK YOU** to Toni Timm for a fabulous Family Day yesterday! It was a blast of Christmas fun! The kids enjoyed their lunch, made festive Christmas cards for Zion's shut-ins, and the Fellowship Hall was an indoor snowball fighting field! Some of the snowballs thrown by the little guy had sound effects! Thank you, Toni, for all you do for the youth and families at Zion! We celebrate your kindness and joy!



Advent and Christmas Theme: "The Voices of the Season"

Midweek Advent 3

Wed., December 14, 2022 – 11:30 AM & 6:00 PM
"Elizabeth: Rejoicing"

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 18, 2022 – 9:00 AM
"Joseph: Naming"

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2022 – 3:30 PM and 6:00 PM
"Angels: Resounding"

Christmas Day (Sunday)

Sunday, December 25, 2022 – 9:00 AM
"Shepherds: Telling"

The First Sunday after Christmas New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1, 2023 – 9:00 AM
"Herod: Ordering"



ZION CHOIR – CHRISTMAS EVE

Rehearsals:

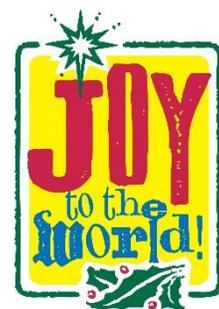
- Sunday, December 11 after the service
- Wednesday, December 14 TBA
- Sunday, December 18 after the service
- Wednesday, December 21 TBA

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by Pastor's Office door. If you have any questions, please speak to Eileen Nelson Ness.

A COLLABORATION ACROSS TIME AND PLACE

For Christmas Day worship, many churches use Psalm 98. It is fitting, then, that Isaac Watts, who interpreted 132 psalms as hymn texts, based a now-beloved carol on it.

Watts (1674-1748) was a student of language, religion and philosophy. He wanted to make Scripture more relevant to lay people and thought hymns could help. Watts composed more than 600 hymn texts, many still in use. But Psalm 98:4-9, "Joy to the World," needed music to fit its words.



Enter Lowell Mason (1792-1872), an American choir director. He came across Watts' Psalm 98 hymn text and sought inspiration for a melody from the famous oratorio Messiah by George F. Handel (1685-1759). Mason pulled musical phrases from sections of Handel's work, resulting in the tune we now recognize as "Joy to the World."

So it is that three men who lived across three centuries and never met — along with the composer of the original psalm more than two millennia earlier — together produced a hymn to the Christ-child, which millions have sung and continue to love.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Week of November 20, 2022

Worship Attendance	91
Communion Attendance	81
Adult Sunday Bible Class	11
Sunday School	7
Men's Bible Class	9
Thanksgiving Eve	56

Week of November 27, 2022

Worship Attendance	87
Communion Attendance	86
Midweek Advent 1	58 (17/41)
Confirmation	12

Week of December 4, 2022

Worship Attendance	98
Communion Attendance	90
Adult Sunday Bible Class	15
Sunday School	7
Midweek Advent 2	49 (one service)
Confirmation	12



The Lord's Supper is

celebrated in this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Those desiring to be guests at the Lord's Table must:

1. Believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord (John 3:16; 2 Cor. 1:20);
2. Believe that in, with and under the bread and wine they receive the true body and blood of Christ (1 Cor. 10:17; 1 Cor. 11:23-32);
3. Confess their sins, seek the assurance of forgiveness, and intend with God's help to amend their sinful life (1 John 1:8-9; Rm. 12:1).

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith, which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

Puzzle!

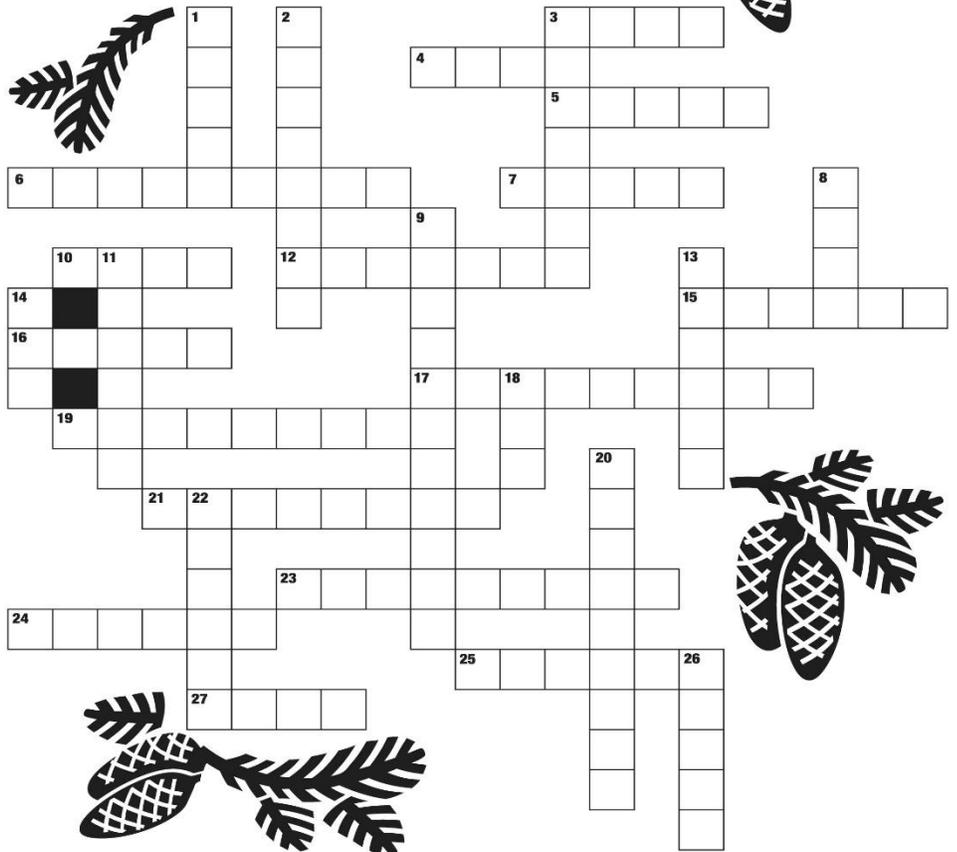
Take a break from Christmas preparations to complete this seasonal crossword.

DOWN

1. song
2. keeper of sheep
3. Anointed One
8. a gift of the magi
9. red plants
11. coming
13. Jesus _____
14. 12th month (abbrev.)
18. B&B
20. a form of holly
22. heavenly messengers
26. he ordered the slaughter of the innocents

ACROSS

3. wise men
4. author of the most famous Christmas account
5. red-suited gift-giver
6. of Ephrathah
7. presents
10. Gabriel came to her
12. has a red nose
15. "Messiah" composer
16. northern little helpers
17. patron saint of children
19. made flesh
21. home for Mary
23. tree decorations
24. crib
25. he was a carpenter
27. a nova



Answer: DOWN 1. carol, 2. shepherd, 3. Messiah, 8. gold, 9. poinsettias, 11. Advent, 13. Christ, 14. dec, 18. inn, 20. mistletoe, 22. angels, 26. Herod, ACROSS 3. magi, 4. Luke, 5. Santa, 6. Bethlehem, 7. gifts, 10. Mary, 12. Rudolph, 15. Handel, 16. elves, 17. Saint Nick, 19. incarnate, 21. Nazareth, 23. ornaments, 24. manger, 25. Joseph, 27. star

+ This Week's Calendar +

Sunday, December 11, 2022 – The Third Sunday in Advent

- 9:00 AM – Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 10:00 AM – Coffee and Christian Fellowship
- 10:20 AM – Christian Education Hour
- 6:00 PM – Lutheran Hour on KATE Radio (1450 AM)



Monday, December 12, 2022

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

- Church Office Closed
- 9:00 AM – Austin Circuit Meeting (St. John's, Wykoff)
- 6:00 PM – Church Council Meeting (Conference Room)

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

- 9:00 AM – Zion Quilters
- 11:30 AM – Midweek Advent 3 Worship
- 6:00 PM – Midweek Advent 3 Worship
- 6:35 PM – Confirmation Class (until 7:35)

Thursday, December 15, 2022

- 10:00 AM – Zion's Christmas Families Presents are DUE!!
- 6:45 PM – GA Meeting (Conference Room)

Friday, December 16, 2022

- Church Office Closed (Pastor's Day Off)

Saturday, December 17, 2022

- 9:00 AM – Communion Set-up (Flower and Altar)

Sunday, December 18, 2022 – The Fourth Sunday in Advent

- 9:00 AM – Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 10:00 AM – Coffee and Christian Fellowship
- 10:20 AM – Christian Education Hour
- 6:00 PM – Lutheran Hour on KATE Radio (1450 AM)



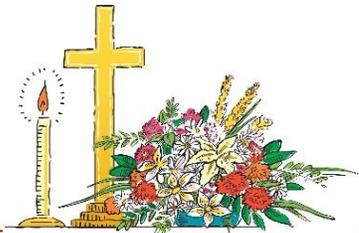
PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY: The appointed Scripture readings for **The Fourth Sunday in Advent** are Isaiah 7:10-17, Psalm 24, Romans 1:1-7, and Matthew 1:18-25. The sermon, "Joseph: Naming," is based on Matthew 1:18-25.



FAMILY PHOTO

An 8-year-old girl was showing her 4-year-old sister some pictures from her Bible. The younger sister was fascinated by a picture of Mary and baby Jesus. After examining it intently, she asked, "But where's Joseph?"

The older sister thought for a moment and replied, "He's taking the picture."



Altar Flowers

Flowers on the altar are in memory of Sylvia Kay Panzer and our granddaughter Maddison Noel Cornelius. Both died in the month of December. Sylvia in 2018 and Maddison in 2021.

– Roger Panzer and Family

In the chancel area, the Overland family gives two blue and one red poinsettia in loving memory of Dennis Overland.

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
and afternoon by appointment
Friday: Office Closed • Saturday: by appointment

Church Phone: 507-373-8609
Church Email: zionalbertlea@gmail.com

Pastor: Matthew L. Lehman
Email: lehman.mlr@gmail.com



ABOUT ZION . . .

Vision: All of Zion's members actively reaching out with God's love to connect the community with Jesus.

Mission: Zion exists to enthusiastically share the Good News of Jesus with all in our community by connecting people with the Word and serving others with Christ's love.

Mission Statement: Sowing the Good News of Jesus Christ.