

Zion Lutheran Church
210 North Wayne Street
Saint Mary, Ohio 45885

December 17, 2023
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Setting 10

PRELUDE *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* Hamilton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG *"Prepare the Royal Highway"* #264

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTNING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS Page 94

P The days are coming, says the Lord, when God's promises to Israel and Judah will be fulfilled. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship, in the name of the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. (Jeremiah 33:14)

C Amen.

P The Lord proclaimed, "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me." Let us take this time to examine ourselves, asking for forgiveness for the things which we have done that are not pleasing to the Lord and the things which we have neglected. (Malachi 3:1)

P Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and
worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and
deed, by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God,
 Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
 and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
 As a called and ordained minister of the church of
 Christ, and by his authority,
 I therefore declare to you
 the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
 in the name of the Father,
 and of the + Son,
 and of the Holy Spirit

C Amen.

GREETING

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ for whom we wait, the
 love of the Father who will never let us go, and the peace
 of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

Page 203



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.

2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.

3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!



1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;
 2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"
 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re-ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;
 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
 "Wor - thy the Lamb,"our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"
 and bless-ings,more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
 of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Insert

FIRST READING

Isaiah 661:1-4, 8-11

Insert

PSALM 126

Insert

SECOND READING

1Thessalonians 5:16-24

Insert

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Page 205



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P The holy gospel according to Saint John the first chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Insert

P The gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Bill

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Comfort, Comfort Now My People* #256

NICENE CREED

Page 104

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified,
who 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

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L Lord in your mercy...
C Hear our prayer.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you.

OFFERING

Choir: *Light One Candle*

*Christ
is Coming!*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE HYMN

#182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

L Let us pray.

Loving God, we give you thanks for the generous gifts you have first given us. May that which we offer to you, come joyfully from our hearts and be pleasing in your sight.

C Amen.

DIALOGUE

Page 206

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**


- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE


P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Page 112

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.

COMMUNION SONG



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION

P The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#257

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L God of mercy and grace, we thank you for feeding us with the sacrament of Christ's body and blood —that which strengthens us in faith and assures us of new life now and in eternity. As we wait and watch for the return of the Messiah in these last days, continue to feed us with the life-giving bread and the cup of salvation.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P As you go from this place, remember that with God, nothing is impossible. May God the Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit go before you, beside you, and with you wherever you go. (Luke 1:37)

C Amen.

SENDING

"Hark, the Glad Sound!"

#239

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Postlude for Full Organ

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Memory Verse

Isaiah 61:10

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.



The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Keith & Pam Fledderjohann in honor of Jesus' birth, they wish the congregation a Merry Christmas.

Today, December 17*

- Acolytes:** 8AM: Noah Torsell
10:30am: Maylee Fischbach
- Communion** 8AM: Jody Slemmons
Assistants: 10:30AM: Ann Maki
- Crucifer:** 8AM: Jake Ackroyd
10:30AM: Calianna Bond-Awls
- Ushers:** 8AM: Rhonda Weaver, Jeanne Wurster,
Doug Stetler, Deb Henning
10:30AM: Dwayne Hoenie,
Mark & Connie Torsell, Dana Cook
- Fellowship**
Table: 8AM: Jody & Marilyn Slemmons
10:30am: Stanley & Debbie Brown
- Greeters:** 8AM: Amy & John Hesse
10:30AM: Dwayne & Ruth Hoenie
- Readers:** 8AM: Linda Yahl
10:30AM: Debbie Brown

Next Sunday, December 24*

- Acolytes:** 8AM: Zoey Lampert
Ushers: 8AM: Judy Schultz, Deb Henning,
Bob Hinschlager, Jody Slemmons
Fellowship Table: 8AM: Pastor Bill & Ann
Greeters: 8AM: Judy Schultz, Vic Von Blon
Readers: 8AM: Steve McAfee

*Subject to change, correct as of time printed

ATTENDANCELast Wednesday: 59
.....Sunday 8 a.m.: 56, 10:30 a.m.: 38, Total for the Day: 94
.....Total for the Week: 153
PIANIST..... Miriam Johns
DIRECTOR OF BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION
.....Mindy Thiebeau, zionbpe@gmail.com
CONGREGATION PRESIDENT..... Neal Brady
OFFICE MANAGER..... Kathy Bishir, kbishir@hotmail.com
OFFICE ASSISTANT..... Ann Maki, annmmaki@yahoo.com
LAY LEADERHeidi Yahl, heidiyahl@yahoo.com
PASTOR.....William Maki, wllmmaki@yahoo.com
MINISTERS..... All Members of Zion
CHURCH WEBSITEwww.zionstmarys.org
CHURCH OFFICE.....419-394-3115

Calendar for December 17-31, 2023

S/17	8:00 a.m.	Worship+*
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Christmas Party
	10:30 a.m.	Worship*
	1:00 p.m.	Auditorium In Use
	6:30 p.m.	The Underground
T/18	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop #360
T/19	9:00 a.m.	Dorcas Quilting
W/20	12:30 p.m.	Bulletin Information Deadline ⁴
	6:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Advent Service*
Th/21	11:30 a.m.	Middle School Bible Release Time
S/24	8:00 a.m.	Worship
		No Sunday School
		No 10:30 a.m. Worship
	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship*
	11:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship*
M/25		Merry Christmas/Office Closed
T/26	9:00 a.m.	Dorcas Quilting
W/27	12:30 p.m.	Bulletin Information Deadline
		No Wednesday Service
S/31	8:00 a.m.	Worship+*
		No Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship*

**Holy Communion*

⁴Livestreamed on www.zionstmarys.org & on WCSM 96.7 Radio



We invite you to include the following people in your daily prayers: Janet Dicke, Judy Von Blon, Brent Paulus, Sandi Deerhake, Alma Kuffner, Michael Moore, Tom Kaster, Ann Morris, Darlene Henkener, Margaret Moore, Ronald Suchland, Don Diers, Linda Diers, Ruth Schreffler, Vicki Bishir, Emily Henkle, Alan Bishir, Mike Kittle, Donna Maynard, Kristin Hemmelgarn, Mary Willmann, Judy, Dana Kittle, Vicki Homan, Lisa Suchland, Kelsey, Eileen Zimmerman,Carolynn Sidey, Markham Hodge, Forrest Cooper, Janet, Mark Torsell, Michael Gardner, Jamie, Sharon Lhaman, Family of Sandy Minturn, Bill & Carolyn Slemmons, Bob Hinschlager, Bob Suchland, Janet, Eden Tangeman, Barb, Adam, Don, Lonnie Hietkamp, and the people of Israel.

Please pray for Sean Lawler, Andrew Johnson, Michael Carroll, Nathan Adams, Jacob Yahl, Jason Gross, Daniel C. Lukac IV, Michael Franklin and Kyle Schmehl who are in the service. Please pray for them, their family, and their safe return home.

Our loose offerings each Wednesday and Sunday for the month of December are earmarked to support the Institute of Lutheran Theology. The Institute of Lutheran Theology is a private Lutheran seminary in Brookings, South Dakota. It provides distance education online and at its campus in Brookings. For more information on this Institute, check out the December newsletter. *The loose plate offerings for Christmas Eve will go toward Zion's current expenses.*

Thank you to Teresa and Nora for their help wrapping the Christmas gifts for our congregation last Saturday. We were able to wrap 27-30 packages. Thanks to all and Merry Christmas from the Creative Crafters.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me and made the 40 years here special to me. Thanks to each of you for your gift of friendship and kindness. Also, thanks to all who attended the recognition dinner, planned the dinner and made the day special. Thank you for the cards, gifts and greetings. *–Kathy*

Our annual Shop-Til-You Drop shopping spree at Walmart, Celina, was held. We collected \$2,500 to spend for gifts for the children in our area, who may not receive presents this year. We were able to purchase 204 toys for the annual Marine Corps, Toys for Tots. Goodfellows in our community will wrap and distribute the toys by Christmas Eve.

Our last Midweek Advent Service will be held **Wednesday, December 20**, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Reminder! There will be no Sunday School on **Sunday, December 24** or **Sunday, December 31**.

We will not have a second service on Sunday morning, **December 24** (only the 8 a.m. service).

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight worship services will be held on **Sunday, December 24**, in the Sanctuary, at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Holy Communion will be served at each service. We invite you to bring your family and friends with you to worship.

The church office will be closed on **Monday, December 25**, and **Monday, January 1**.

Women's Fellowship will resume on Monday, January 8, 2024. A new study will begin; *The Life of Martin Luther, An Historical Journey and Bible Study*, by the Rev. Steven E. King. All women of Zion are welcome to attend! Please notify the church office by **Tuesday, December 26**, if you wish to attend and to order a study guide. Cost is \$13 for the study guide. Contact Pam Fledderjohann if you have any questions, 419-953-2334.

The church office will have limited hours, beginning on **December 26 through December 29**. For that week the office hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

NO Wednesday night worship service on **December 27**.

The recognitions of our 2023 Congregation Council and Women's Council and installation of the 2024 councils will take place at both services on **Sunday, January 7**. If you were a member of council and are a newly elected council member, please plan to attend one of the worship services on that day. See you there!

The Fellowship Table could use more people on the schedule (especially for the late service). If you are able to help with this ministry, please mark your "I Worshiped Today". Treats do not need to be homemade. If you have any questions, speak to Sandy Wierwille.

Birthday Bags: The women are once again putting together Birthday Bags for Agape. We will be collecting box cake mixes and frosting for 30 bags (a month's supply for Agape's food recipients). Please place your donations in the tub by the elevator. This is one of our local community projects. Thank you for participating. We will be putting bags together in January at our workday.

Coats for those in need will be given away at Agape until the end of February 2024. If you feel inclined to bring in coats to Agape for One Warm Coat campaign, when dropping them off just tell them that they are for the one warm coat drive and they will go to the right building.

The 2024 Flower Chart for the first 6 months is on the bulletin board by the alley entrance. We invite you to select the date you wish to provide flowers. On the Tuesday before the date you selected, order your arrangement from your favorite florist, and *contact the church office, 419-394-3115*, to let us know what information you would like included in the bulletin. Upcoming dates: **January 7, 14, 21 & 28.**

We have installed equipment for livestreaming of our worship services. The worship services can be found on our Facebook page. Volunteers are needed to help with recording each of the services. Please contact the church office, 419-394-3115, or Pastor Bill about this ministry.

Our 8 a.m. worship service is broadcast live on WCSM radio 96.7 FM. Thank you to our primary sponsor of our WCSM radio broadcast—St. Marys Chrysler. Volunteers are needed to help with the sound board. No experience needed! Anyone interested in running the sound board during worship will be trained. We would like to have more people for rotation purposes. Contact the church office, 419-394-3115, or Pastor Bill if you can help.

Weekly Budget	50 Week Budget	50 Week Income	Received 12/10
\$6,133--Current	\$306,650	\$275,152	\$4,590
\$290--NALC Offering	\$14,500	\$12,191	\$110

Council Organization 2023

President: Neal Brady

Vice President: Cheryl Macklem

Secretary: Jeanne Wurster

Assistant Secretary: Genevieve Brown

Treasurer: Stanley Brown

Assistant Treasurer: Andrew O'Bryan

COUNCIL AT LARGE: Pete Ackroyd, Stan Brown, Thelma Kellermeyer, Cheryl Macklem, Andrew O'Bryan, Doug Stetler

BOARD OF DEACONS: John Hesse, Dwayne Hoenie, Dan Macklem, Judy Schultz, Jody Slemmons, Dianne Uhlenhake, Rhonda Weaver, **Jeanne Wurster***, Ryan Yahl

BOARD ELDERS: Darl Bishir*, Kathy Lampert, Brandy Yahl

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Dana Cook*, Ed Flora, Eric Langsdon, Kurt Rodeheffer

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION: Alexa Coldiron, Karrie Hughes, Ann Maki, **Sandy Wierwille***

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION DIRECTOR: Mindy Thiebeau

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE: Genevieve Brown

MEMBERS TO THE TRUST FUND: Darl Bishir, **Doris Cook***, Rick Green, Bill Kellermeyer, Marion Slater

**Chairperson*

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Third Sunday of Advent — December 17, 2023

“Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’”

– Psalm 126:2 –

If you do an internet search of images of Jesus, you will find pictures from many completely different perspectives. One picture from Latin America shows Jesus on a wanted poster. A Korean painting shows Jesus with Korean features carrying the cross. A painting from the Philippines shows the crucifixion in the style of the cubists. Some of the images portray the raw emotion of a violent and horrific death on the cross. Others show Jesus in relationship with the people around him, depicted as people from the artists’ native lands. There are images that show Jesus in every emotion and in every situation we see in the scriptures.

One picture from Latin America that has been reproduced in many and various ways is called “The Laughing Christ.” It shows Jesus with a huge smile on his face, as if he had just heard the best joke. He is happy and he isn’t afraid to show it. His laughing face reflects the words from the psalm above.

Of course, there are times when we have reason to be serious. Life can be difficult, confusing, and grievous. King Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes that sorrow is better than laughter. Laughter is often seen in a negative light; sometimes we go about life and faith with a lack of seriousness.

But in today’s Psalm, we are reminded that there is joy in what God has done for his people. Remember, Miriam danced when the Israelites made it across the Red Sea. David danced when the Ark of the Covenant arrived in Jerusalem. You can’t dance in celebration and joy without laughing! Joy comes from God, and when we know the joy of the Lord, it is impossible not to laugh.

We have good reason to laugh: Jesus played the most incredible joke on the devil. Satan thought he’d have control once Jesus died, but in three days Jesus was raised to new life and we now have everlasting life by his grace. We joyfully look forward to the life we will share with him forever. The devil can’t take that from us. Let’s rejoice so that the world will see how God’s promises have been fulfilled through Jesus!