



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

December 31, 2023
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Setting 10

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Heidi Yahl

(Stand)

GATHERING SONG *"Angels We Have Heard On High"* #289

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Page 94

P In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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.

(Stand or Kneel)

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.

(Stand)

GREETING

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word who became
 flesh and dwelt among us; the love of the Father who
 created us in his own image; and the communion of the
 Holy Spirit, the giver of all good gifts, be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE



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

(Sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Insert

PSALM 111

Insert

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4-7

Insert

(Stand)

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 Luke the second chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

Insert

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Sit)

SERMON

Pastor Paul Gruetter

(Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Away in a Manger"

#277

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

Page 206

L Lord in your mercy...

C Hear our prayer.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

(Sit)

OFFERING

(Stand)

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.

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 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.

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. In wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we can not see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the 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.

(Sit)

COMMUNION

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

C Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Silent Night, Holy Night!"

#281

"What Child Is This"

#296

(Stand)

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L We give you thanks, O God that you have fed us with Christ's precious body and blood, forgiven us through this Sacrament, and given us a new beginning. Send us now into the world you love, to share Christ's sacrificial love with all we meet.

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

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

#282

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. God's Word has been fulfilled.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Memory Verse

Luke 2:40

*And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.
And the favor of God was upon him.*



Happy Birthday Savannah!

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of Savannah Slater's 20th birthday, given by her parents, Marion and Josie Slater.



Anniversary Flowers have been placed on the Chancel in honor of John & Sue Vogel's 57th Wedding Anniversary on December 30th.

Today, December 31*

- Acolytes:** 8AM: Maylee Fischbach
10:30am: Hunter Coldiron
- Communion** 8AM: Jody Slemmons
Assistants: 10:30AM: Ruth Hoenie
- Crucifer:** 8AM: Aiden Meinerding
10:30AM: Allison Ankerman
- Ushers:** 8AM: Jeanne Wurster, Rhonda Weaver,
Deb Henning, Doug Stetler
10:30AM: Dwayne Hoenie, Sandy Wierwille,
Mark & Connie Torsell
- Fellowship** 8AM: Deb Hennning
Table: 10:30am: Sandy Wierwille
- Greeters:** 8AM: Ed & Linda Yahl
10:30AM: Sandy Wierwille, Joni Immenschuh
- Readers:** 8AM: Dora McAfee
10:30AM: Stanley Brown

Calendar for December 31—January 14, 2023

S/31	8:00 a.m.	Worship+*
		No Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship*
M/1		Happy New Year/Office Closed
T/2	9:00 a.m.	Dorcas Quilting
W/3	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	12:30 p.m.	Bulletin Information Deadline
	1:00 p.m.	Book Club
	6:30 p.m.	Worship*
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Th/4	12:00 Noon	Middle School Bible Release Time
S/6	10:00 a.m.	Take Down Christmas Decorations
S/7	8:00 a.m.	Worship+*/Recognition of 2023 & Installation of 2024 Councils
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship*/Recognition of 2023 & Installation of 2024 Councils
M/8	7:00 p.m.	Women's Fellowship Group
	7:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
T/9	9:00 a.m.	Dorcas Quilting
	2:00 p.m.	Women's Council Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
W/10	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	12:30 p.m.	Bulletin Information Deadline
	6:30 p.m.	Worship*
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	7:00 p.m.	Holy Spirit Bible Study
Th/11	12 Noon	Middle School Bible Release Time
	2:00 p.m.	Holy Spirit Bible Study
S/13	9:00 a.m.	Men in Mission Bible Study
S/14	8:00 a.m.	Worship+

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
1:30 p.m. Creative Crafters

**Holy Communion*

**Livestreamed 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, Vicki Bishir, Emily Henkle, Vicki Homan, Lisa Suchland, Kelsey, Eileen Zimmerman, Family ofCarolynn 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, Analisa Bouscaren, Alan Bishir, Eden Tangeman, Margaret Miller, Mike Kittle, Donna Maynard, Family of Alma Kuffner 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.

Christian sympathy to the Family of Alma Kuffner. Her funeral took place this past week.

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 went toward Zion's current expenses.*

Snow Removal: Volunteers are needed to help with snow removal especially on Sundays and Wednesdays. Let the church office know (419/394-3115) or talk to Dana Cook, trustee, if you are able to help out.

Reminder! There will be no Sunday School today.

The church office will be closed on **Monday, January 1**. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 2, 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Help Needed: The Christmas decorations will be taken down on **Saturday, January 6**, at 10 a.m. Any help is appreciated.

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 Women's January council meeting has been rescheduled to **Tuesday, January 9**, at 2 p.m.

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 have received enough cake mix and frosting for their Birthday Bags for Agape. They will be putting bags together at our next workday, on **Thursday, January 18**, at 9 a.m.

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** and **February 4 & 18**.

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	52 Week Budget	52 Week Income	Received 12/24
\$6,133--Current	\$318,916	\$294,552	\$8,776
\$290--NALC Offering	\$15,080	\$12,443	\$135



May the New Year bring you peace, joy, and happiness. Wishing you and yours health and prosperity in the *New Year*.

Next Sunday, January 7*

- Acolytes:** 8AM: Cason Meinerding
10:30am: Colton Ankerman
- Communion Assistants:** 8AM: Jeanne Wurster
10:30AM: Allison Ackroyd
- Crucifer:** 8AM: Makenna Meinerding
10:30AM: Genevieve Brown
- Ushers:** 8AM: Ryan, Brandi, Eliza & Zaila Yahl
10:30AM: Dan Macklem, Stan & Deb Brown,
Dana Cook
- Fellowship Table:** 8AM: Nora & Harry Staunton
10:30am: Kathy & Craig Miller
- Greeters:** 8AM: Nora Staunton, Sandy Wierwille
10:30AM: Joni Immenschuh
- Readers:** 8AM: Kathy Langsdon
10:30AM: Debbie Brown

Information is correct at the time of printing, but is subject to change.

ATTENDANCE	Last Wednesday: 65
.....Sunday 8 a.m.:	70 , 10:30 a.m.: No Service , Total for the Day: 70
..... Christmas Eve: 7 p.m.,	190 & 11 p.m., 53 Total: 243
.....	Total for the Week: 378
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 LEADER.....	Heidi Yahl, heidiyahl@yahoo.com
PASTOR.....	William Maki, wlmaki@yahoo.com
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