

Zion Lutheran Church
Thief River Falls, MN

New Traditions Worship
Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM Worship
December 11, 2022

Pre-service Music

Welcome & Announcements

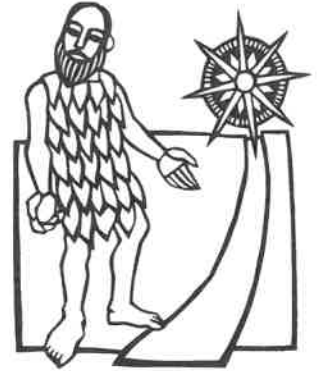
Call to Worship "Little Baby Jesus and Me"

God's Joy choir

Lighting of the Advent Candle -

Amanda & Marco Jeworrek family

Advent Song "Light One Candle" vs. 3 ELW #240



Gathering

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
the parent who rouses us from slumber,
the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain,
the deliverer who sets us free.

Amen.

Let us come before the living God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,
we open our hearts to you, O God.

Search us and know us.

Reveal all that we keep inside.

**To you, O God, we confess our sins,
known and unknown.**

**Forgive us, renew us,
and lead us in your ways of justice and peace.**

**Make us reflections of the radiant love
of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Beloved children of the Most High,
you are gathered before the righteous judge
who has mercy on all.

Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism,
where sin is washed away in the river of life.

Dwell peacefully in the loving arms
of the one who nurtures all creation.

Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven
in the name of the one who is coming and is already here,
Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Gathering Song “Joy to the World” ELW #267

Greeting

From the one who is and who was and who is to come,
and from Jesus Christ, the first fruits of the resurrection,
grace and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming,
that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

Children’s Sermon - Shawna Spears

Noisy Offering—Austin’s Hope

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, Word of Life...Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob ^l for their help,
whose hope is in the ^l LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that ^l is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to ^l those who hunger.
The LORD sets the ^l captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD ^l loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares ^l for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way ^l of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall ^l reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. ^l Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. *Word of God, Word of Life...Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Sermon **“IS HE OR ISN’T HE?”** PASTOR MARK HELGELAND

Hymn of the Day “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” ELW # 242

Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offering - *ushers bring offering forward*

Offertory “Sanctuary”

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you. (CCLI Lic. # 11095451)

Prayers of Intercession *response: Your mercy is great.*

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sending

Blessing

May God, who gathers us in love, lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice. May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves, lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom. May God, who fills us with good things, lead you in pathways of equity and abundance. The blessing of the holy Trinity, one God, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song "People, Look East" ELW # 248

Dismissal Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

Post-service Music

Announcements - December 11, 2022

2nd Sunday of Advent

WELCOME! ZION'S LAY MINISTRY/EVANGELISM BOARD SAYS A SPECIAL WELCOME TO YOU THIS MORNING AND MAY YOU BE FED SPIRITUALLY DURING THIS TIME OF WORSHIP.

OUR THANKS TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS/ASSISTANTS

Pastor: Mark Helgeland, Interim

Pianist: Laura Rude

Reader: Sally Mumm

Ushers: Aaron & Alissa Halvorson

Acolyte: Syver Bertilrud, Mikkel Bertilrud

Greeters: Brenna Alby, Maverick Iverson

ZION WORSHIP SERVICE ONLINE Sunday mornings you can listen to the 9:00AM service online. Go to: www.ziontrf.org. in the black banner click Listen Online, Click on the RED link to KTRF.

BROADCASTS today are sponsored in memory of Kory Joppru by Dean & Pam Joppru.

ZION'S WEBSITE for December is sponsored by Dick & Jan Haugen in memory of Family & Friends.

LISTENING DEVICES & LARGE PRINT bulletins are available from an usher.

PRAYER SHAWLS will not meet in December. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 5th at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

TODAY - All are invited to a Christmas Voice Recital presented by students of Laura Rude~ Sunday, December 11th @ 4:00. Zion students include Julia Rude, Andraya Bakken, Nora Fay & Hailey Halvorson.

WELCA "CHRISTMAS TEA" DEC. 13 All Zion ladies are invited to attend this festive event on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2:00 p.m. Each is asked to bring 10 cookies to share for our refreshments; extras will be donated to be used at the Christmas Train event on Dec. 15. A short program will be done and Christmas cards will be prepared for mailing to our congregation's shut-in's. Hostesses are Sharon Jorde and Sharon Wagner. Board meets at 1:00 p.m.

PARISH HEALTH will meet on Tues., Dec, 13th around 3:30 - 4PM, following the WELCA tea.

SARAH Circle will meet on Wed. Dec. 14th at 1:30pm in the lounge. Everyone bring treats to share.

POINSETTIAS If you wish to bring a poinsettia or flower to share for Christmas services you may bring them in the week of Christmas. If you are sharing the flower in memory or in honor of a loved one, please call or email the church office by Dec. 19th to have it listed in the Christmas bulletins.

Ushers Needed for Dec. 25 With many families gone for the holiday week end, we need volunteers to usher at the 9:00 service on Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25. Please call the church office if you are willing to usher that day; 681-3296.

ENVELOPE BOXES FOR 2023 are ready to pick up in the narthex. If you do not currently have envelopes and would like them contact the church office.

STEWARDSHIP (Envelopes/Vanco Electronic Giving/Silver Creek included in all totals)

Nov 28 -Dec 4 income: \$6,577.

Nov 1-30 income: \$ 30,348.

Dec 1-4 income \$ 6,040.

Jan 1- Dec 4 income: \$ 276,437.

2022 Budget \$324,553./ \$6,241. needed per week to meet budgeted expenses.

VANCO ELECTRONIC GIVING forms are on the table by the office. You can also set up contributions thru the link on Zion's website.

OUTDOOR ELECTRONIC SIGN Donations & Pledges: \$15,968. If you wish to contribute to this project you can drop off or mail to the church office. *Thank you for your continued donations!*

FALLS DELIVERED MEALS—if anyone is interested in driving the week of Jan. 16-20 please contact Koni Johnson at 218-681-1344 and 218-689-7746

Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars[®] Eligible Thrivent Financial members: Show your appreciation for Zion Lutheran Church by directing Choice Dollars. The individual recommendations you make through Choice Dollars directions can make a profound impact.

LSS RESPITE CARE - Thursdays, 12 Noon to 4:00 PM in the Lounge. For more info and to sign up please contact Julie Praska Moser at 218-686-6229

LSS CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP will meet on Thursday, Dec. 8th from 10-11:00 AM at Zion. All caregivers are welcome, you do not need to register. Please spread the word to those who can benefit from this group. More info Julie Praska Moser 218-686-6228

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Today, Dec 11: Advent 3

9:00 Zion Worship/God's Joy Sings/
Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF

10 Sunday School

10 Coffee Fellowship

10 January Sharing Servants meeting

10:30 Silver Creek Worship

12:00 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37

4 Laura Rude Voice Recital

Monday, Dec 12:

9 SAIL exercise

6:30 Scouts

Tuesday, Dec. 13:

9:30 Staff Meeting

9-12 Faith Community Nurse Hours today

1 WELCA Ex Board

2 WELCA Christmas Tea

3:30 Parish Health Committee

Wednesday, Dec 14:

1:30 Sarah Circle in lounge

5:15 Confirmation Supper

6 God's Joy Choir

6 Confirmation Community Event

7 Senior Choir

Thursday, Dec 15:

9 SAIL Exercise

Friday, Dec 16:

7 Men's Breakfast

Next Sunday, Dec 18: Advent 4

9:00 Zion Sunday School Program /

Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF

10 Sunday School

10 Food & Fellowship

10:30 Silver Creek Holy Communion Worship

12:00 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

4:00 Candlelight Worship at Zion

5:30 Worship at Silver Creek

10:00 Candlelight Worship at Zion
with Holy Communion

Christmas Day

9:00 Worship at Zion

No Worship at Silver Creek

Parish Health Notes...

Holidays are a good time to have honest conversations about your family wishes. Many of us put off the things in life that we know we should do, including advanced care planning. With the upcoming holidays, it can be a perfect time for you to bring up the subject with family members. It's a good time to catch up and unfortunately talk about some tough discussions. Advanced care planning is the process of making decisions about your future health care in the event you won't be able to make them because of an illness or trauma.

Having an advanced care plan helps your family and friends speak for you when you can't speak for yourself. It also lets you make your wishes known to health care providers so they can provide the level of care you desire. It can help your loved ones feel less stressed by taking the decision-making burden off of them. Talking about decisions now means they won't have to be made during a crisis.

Finding the right time and place to have a conversation about this is important. Make sure you're in a quiet place with no distractions. It can be helpful to start by mentioning a family friend or acquaintance who recently went through a difficult health circumstance or died. This can start a conversation where an adult child can ask their parent what they would want to happen in a similar situation. Being proactive with an advanced care plan allows you to tell your loved one how you want things handled. It helps them know where your heart is on important decisions and gives assurance that they're doing what's right for you.

Completing a plan is not complicated. There are some forms available in the Parish Health office if you'd like one to review or fill out. Your physician or clinic would be able to provide a form too. Once completed they want it to be scanned and added to your medical record.

When your advanced care plan is made, you'll need to choose a person to carry out your wishes. This is called a health care agent or proxy.

It is important to choose a person you trust who will be there for you when you get sick. The ideal person will be an advocate for you and follow your directives. Prioritizing advanced planning is one of the most caring things you can do for your family to take away some of the burdens and stress in a stressful situation. Please feel free to call the office if you have any questions.

Wishing you God's rich blessings, joy and perfect love! Parish Health



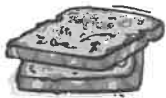
- Sunday School 10:00-11:00 AM
- **Noisy Offering** collected in December will go to **Austin's Hope**
- **2nd Annual Gingerbread House Contest will be held December 11th in the fellowship hall.**
- **December 18** - Little Lambs -5th Grade and Cornerstone Kids **Christmas Program** at the 9:00 Service. There will be Sunday School following worship!
- **December 25 and January 1** - No Sunday school

Parents: Are invited to stay for coffee fellowship in the basement following worship. **All are welcome!**

Muffin Makers: Thank you for providing treats for Coffee Fellowship! (proceeds go to youth funds) **(Please bring 2 dozen baked goods to the fellowship hall on or before Sunday morning.)**

Dec. 11: Chris & Kathy Olson, Chris & Missy Borgen, Chris & Nicky Ellison, Chrysi Gibson, C-Jay & Francesca Wojciechowski

Dec. 25: Colin & Maia Beger, Corey & Shannon Scott, Cori Bregier, Darek & Jennifer Gerzewski, Darin & Lisa Robson



FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP –December 18th

Come and enjoy a French toast breakfast! Free will donation.

2023 GOD'S CREATION

CALENDARS will be available for purchase during food & fellowship.

CALENDARS ARE \$8.00 each

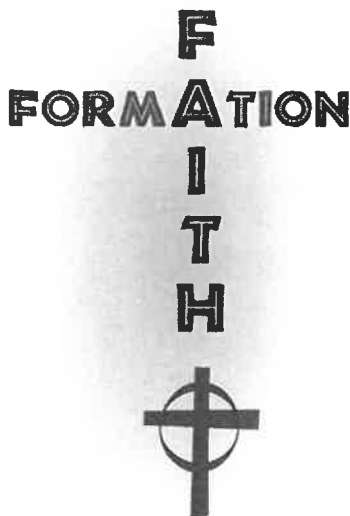
CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE -

December 14 - Confirmation classes out in the community!

Serving and spreading Christmas cheer!

December 21 & 28 -

No Classes Resume January 4



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS – CONFIRMATION EVENT

All are invited to help... see how below...

Zion Confirmation Classes have each chosen a special organization to help this Christmas.

8th Grade - Pennington County Christmas

9th Grade - Thief River Falls Food Shelf

10th Grade - Humane Society

Classes will be helping at these locations on Dec. 14th

They would love for you to help as well...How?

A cart will be set up for donations to the
Food Shelf and Humane Society.

Please help fill these carts with food items or pet supplies.
These items will be delivered on Dec. 14th.

Pennington Co Christmas will receive our November Noisy Offering of \$740.19

Help our kids help others!!

