

Zion Lutheran Church, 9:00 AM
Thief River Falls, MN
Advent 2 — Holy Communion
December 4, 2022



PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP “Prepare Ye the Way” Senior Choir

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE Robert & Laura Fay family

ADVENT SONG “Light One Candle” vs. 2 ELW # 240

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

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. **Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***GATHERING SONG** “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” ELW #249

***GREETING** (p. 203)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***KYRIE** (p. 203)

Congregation: Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.

Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

*(*Please stand as you are able)*

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** (p. 204)

Congregation: Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to ¹the king's son;

²**that he may rule your ¹people righteously
and the ¹poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity ¹to the people,
and the ¹hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush ¹the oppressor.**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and ¹moon endure,
from one generation ¹to another.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon ¹the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷In his time may the ¹righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall ¹be no more.

¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the ¹God of Israel;
you alone do ¹wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious ¹name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Word of God, Word of Life... Thanks be to God.*

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (p. 205)

Congregation: Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

P: The holy Gospel...

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord...

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON “HALF-WAY TO CHRISTMAS”

PASTOR MARK HELGELAND

HYMN OF THE DAY “Prepare the Royal Highway” ELW # 264

***NICENE CREED**

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**

Congregational response: **receive our prayer.**

***PEACE**

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

OFFERING *Ushers will bring the plates forward at this time.*

OFFERTORY ELW #184

Let the vineyards be fruitful Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather the harvest of the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers, we offer now,
Grace our table with your presence and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING** ELW page 107

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION** ELW page 108

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

LAMB OF GOD ELW page 112

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: We give you thanks, most gracious God, that you have fed us with the bread of heaven and given us a foretaste of Paradise. Enliven us to be your body in the world and to serve those who are in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of peace, who creates all things and calls them good, who makes us alive in Jesus, and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope, † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG** “Hark, the Glad Sound” ELW #239

***DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Be a blessing in the world. **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements - December 4, 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: Charlie Cornell

Ushers: Karen & David Kirkeby, Tami & Charlie Lundgren

Acolyte: Gwen Wojcieszowski, Nora Bruggeman

Greeters: Maverick Iverson, Nora Bruggeman

Communion Assistants: Patty Schob, Vivian Knutston, Lucas Rantanen

OUR SYMPATHY to Alicia Hunt & family on the death of her father Harry "Sam" McCroy.

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 Ron Engen by Marie Engen.

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.

"THANK YOU" TO PIE AUCTION PARTICIPANTS Many thanks to all who donated baked items for the auction, to our auctioneer, Dale Svendsgaard, to the generous bidders who purchased the 32 delicious desserts and breads, and to those who contributed additional donations. A total of \$6,775 was raised for our Faith Fund/General Budget.

THANKSGIVING OFFERING to local food shelf was \$157.00 This was the loose offering from the community service. Thanksgiving offerings received thru envelopes go to ELCA World Hunger.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING will be held on Sunday, Dec. 4th in the lounge from 10-10:30.

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

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.

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. 21-27 income: \$3,351.

Nov 1-27 income: \$ 29,811.

Jan 1– Nov. 27 income: \$ 268,859.

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!*

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

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA Sunday, Dec 4th, 9:30 –1PM at the American Legion Post 117. Free will offering to Christmas in Pennington Co. Serving: Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee, juice, & cookies

PARISH HEALTH NOTES As we look towards our celebration of Christmas, many of our hearts are filled with warm memories and eager anticipation. For persons who have experienced a loss of a loved one, this can be a very difficult time. There are a few ways we can be a comfort to those who are grieving.

First, we need to remember that there isn't a right thing to do or say that will make the pain go away. We need to be willing to simply be a continued presence in our friend's life. It can be a comfort to just sit quietly. We can always be willing to listen. The pain of loss creates a deep and abiding loneliness, this is magnified when those grieving feel separated from others.

Second, we need to take our cues from our friend. If they need to cry and experience sadness, we need to be able to be with them without trying to "cheer them up". If they need reassurance of their worth, we need to be affirming. When they need to hear words of comfort from our Lord, we need to speak these to them.

Third, we need to remember them in our prayers and let them know we are praying for them. May we "comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (Cor.1:4) Wishing you God's rich blessings of peace, joy and perfect love. Have a Merry Christmas season and take time to enjoy as many of the holiday events you can! Parish Health

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Today, Dec 4: Advent 2

9:00 Zion Holy Communion Worship/Senior Choir sings/Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF;

10 Sunday School

10 Coffee Fellowship

10 Blood pressure screening in lounge

10:30 Silver Creek Christmas Program

12:00 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37

1 Diane Johnson Voice Recital

Monday, Dec 5:

9 SAIL exercise

6:30 Scouts

Tuesday, Dec. 6:

9:30 Staff Meeting

No Faith Community Nurse Hours today

Foundation Meeting

BOARD MEETINGS

Wednesday, Dec 7:

5:15 Confirmation Supper

6 God's Joy Choir

6 Confirmation

7 Senior Choir

Thursday, Dec 8:

9 SAIL Exercise

10 LSS Caregivers Discussion in lounge

Friday, Dec 9:

7 Men's Breakfast

Next Sunday, 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 Christmas Program

12:00 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37

4 Laura Rude Voice Recital



- 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. 4: Casey Leines, Casey Norris, Charity Welch, Charles & Tami Lundgren

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



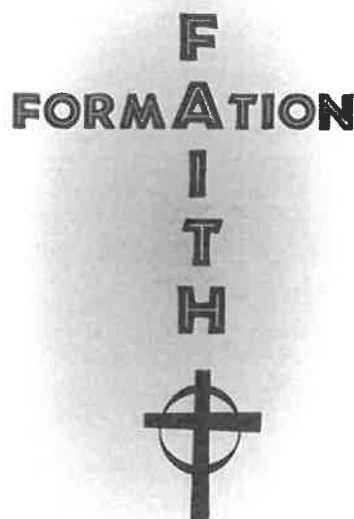
FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP –December 18th

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 7 - Appreciation night for Pastor Mark

Pizza and ice cream at 5:30

Lessons at 6:15

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!!



GOSPEL MESSAGE

December 4, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

An Impossible Vision?

Today's image from the Old Testament reading of a world at peace—a peace so full and universal that it extends to every living creature—may feel as comforting as it does unbelievable, at least by our logic (Isaiah 11:1-10). Wolves and lambs aren't friends. Lions don't eat straw. Children should not play with snakes. In the animal kingdom—and *we are animals*—there are predators and prey. Whether we take it literally or metaphorically, "Eat or *be* eaten" is how we've been taught to survive in the wilderness.

And yet here, on this wilderness morning, we hear the prophet telling us that it does not have to be this way—indeed, that it *will* not be this way forever. In the new world God is coming to bring, we won't need to tear each other apart just to survive. Somehow we will be able to live together in peace.

No wonder that of all the ways God could have revealed the depths of holy love and brought reconciliation to the world, God chose to come as a little child, a child no one thought possible, a branch from a tree that was seemingly long dead.

Beholding this child moves us to repentance, turning us from all the ways we demonize and hurt each other, and calling us instead to offer peace. Rather than taking the bait set to keep us fighting, we come together to eat the bread and drink from the cup set at the Lord's table.

In the new creation, our identity is no longer defined by our lineage or status, as those who came to be baptized by John imagined, or by being enemies, prey, or predator. Instead, in Christ's baptismal waters we are given a new life as beloved kin. With God all things are possible!

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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