

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

Thief River Falls, MN

Season of Advent

Holy Communion

December 3, 2023 9:00 AM



PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP “I Hear the Prophet Callin” Senior Choir

*(*Please stand as you are comfortable)*

***SONG** “We Light the Advent Candles”

**We light the Advent candles against the winter night
to welcome our Lord Jesus, who is the world’s true light;
to welcome our Lord Jesus, who is the world’s true light.**

Text: Gracia Grindal © 1999 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Today we begin our celebration of Advent. On these four Sundays leading up to Christmas, we will rejoice in the great gift that is ours in Jesus Christ.

We light the candles of the Advent wreath. The candles signify that Jesus is the Light of the World. The evergreens remind us that Jesus is life and brings life to us. All these are arranged in a circle because life in Christ has no end.

Each Sunday we light an additional candle. As we do, we remember that Christ has come to us. He is Immanuel...God with us. Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Hope.

Our hope is in God and the gift of Jesus Christ. He is the promised one who sacrificed himself for our sake. Through Jesus, God has promised to save and redeem the world.

We light this candle today to remind us that Jesus is our hope and the hope of the world. We thank God for the promises made to us and for the light brought into the world.

SONG “A Candle is Burning” *sung to the tune of “Away in a Manger”*

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright.

A candle of hope in December’s dark night.

**While angels sing blessing from heaven’s starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.**

Text © 1986, Sandra Dean

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.

Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender mercy of ✠ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph ¹like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, ¹and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and ¹come to help us.

³Restore ¹us, O God;
 let your face shine upon us, and we ¹shall be saved.
⁴**O LORD¹ God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your ¹people pray?
⁵You have fed them with the ¹bread of tears;
 you have given them bowls of ¹tears to drink.
⁶**You have made us the derision ¹of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh ¹us to scorn.
⁷Restore us, O ¹God of hosts;
 let your face shine upon us, and we ¹shall be saved.
¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at ¹your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong ¹for yourself.
¹⁸And so will we never turn a- ¹way from you;
 give us life, that we may call up- ¹on your name.
¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD¹ God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹shall be saved.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (p. 188)

Alleluia Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia...

***GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37**

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

P: The Holy Gospel...

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

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,
 the sun will be darkened,
 and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
 and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he
 will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to
 the ends of heaven.
²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its
 leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you
 know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away un-
 til all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not
 pass away. ³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the
 Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.
³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each
 with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—
 for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or
 at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what
 I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON PASTOR KRISTIN OSTERCAMP

HYMN OF THE DAY “Rejoice, Rejoice Believers” ELW #244

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Baptism of Kendall Lee Knutson

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of the saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Who is presented to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism?

Parents: *Kendall Lee*

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil and all his empty promises?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary, He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

The child is Baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Let us pray...God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to new life through this holy sacrament. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Kendall Lee the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

Kendall Lee, Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Parents, Sponsors, People of God, as Kendall Lee has been here baptized, you are now entrusted with these responsibilities: you should faithfully bring her to the services of God's house, and teach her the Lord's prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As she grows in years, you should place in her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for her instruction in the Christian faith, that living in the covenant in her Baptism and in communion with the Church, she may lead a godly life unto the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations? If so say, I do.

The candle is lit

Jesus says in Matthew 5:

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house." In the same way, Kendall Lee, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome our sister in Christ.

We welcome you into the Lord's Family. We receive you as a member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.

PRAYERS

During these weeks of waiting and expecting, where people live in fear of the unknown,
we pray for peace.

Where people are confused about your will for their lives or for the world,
we pray for clarity.

Where people doubt your presence and your word,
we pray for trust.

Where people are curious, and await the future with hopeful anticipation,
we pray for wonder.

Other petitions will be offered here.

Most of all, when the world longs for you,

we pray you help us respond with glad tidings of comfort and joy.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus, our long-expected Savior.

Amen.

***SHARING OF PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

***OFFERTORY “Your Little Ones, Dear Lord” ELW # 286**

1 Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.

2 Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,
and to us all your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart,
that we may hold you in our heart.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION (*Ushers will guide you forward*)

BLESSING

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “Blessed Be the God of Israel” ELW #250

DISMISSAL

Go into the world knowing Christ and making him known.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Announcements - December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent—

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

OUR THANKS TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS/ASSISTANTS

Pastor: Kristin Ostercamp Pianist: Laura Rude Organist: Marie Longo Reader: Charlie Cornell
Greeters: Landen Larson, Sophia Tougas
Ushers: Ron & Ruth Ostby Acolytes: Kayla Peterson Communion : Kittie & Charley Cornell

OUR PRAYERS TO ALL GOD'S CHILDREN STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER.

Especially: Those under a doctor's care, those who grieve, and all who are moving through a challenging season.
Tiffany Sterry & family on the death of her fiancé, Eric Rudnik.

TODAY WE WELCOME THRU THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM:

Kendall Lee Knutson, daughter of Samantha and Jacob Knutson.
Sponsors are Austin & Kelsey Tadman, Kaleb Sjulestad.

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 in memory of Herb & Joyce, Virgil & Dorothy sponsored by Tom & Kaylynn Wold

WEBSITE sponsor for December is Chris, Nicky, Caitlynn & Brianne Ellison sponsored in memory of Joe & Ginny Armstrong.

ADVENT WORSHIP Wednesdays - Supper will be served at 5:30 followed by worship at 6:30.p.m.
WELCA is serving supper Dec. 6 - All are welcome!

FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN “Called to Trust & Faithfulness” Everything belongs to God. It is our responsibility to look after and take care of this world and everyone and everything God has created. Being a steward means: God gives us responsibilities to look after and resources to manage. We trust in God’s faithfulness and mercy. We live into this promise by sharing what God has bestowed upon us. During Zion’s fall stewardship campaign, you are invited to consider the gifts of Prayer, Worship, Learning & Service, and Money. This morning we will take some time to reflect on God’s gifts to us and ways we are called to share our time, talent, and treasure.

SEEKING THE STAR

Where will you see the star? Keep your eyes open as a star travels through our building making its way into the sanctuary on Christmas Eve where it will shine above the altar.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK AND WITNESS!

Nov. 20-26 Offerings: \$5,973. Nov. 1-19 Offerings: \$26,879. Weekly Goal: \$6,547. Carpet donations: \$6,310.

VANCO ELECTRONIC GIVING –Sign up available on Zion’s website or contact the church office.

COMMITMENT CARDS FOR 2024 may be left in the drop box at the back of the church, or mailed or brought to the church office. Thank you!

DIRECTORIES are here for those who photographed. Pick up in the church office.

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 December 18th to have it listed in the Christmas bulletin.

Quilting on Dec. 7 Any one interested in helping assemble quilts for Lutheran World Relief is invited to join us on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 1:00 p.m. Also enjoy the fellowship, coffee and snacks. There will be NO quilting on Dec. 21

PARISH HEALTH NOTES - Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a type of depression that happens during a certain season of the year--most often fall and winter. There is no clear cause of SAD. Less sunlight and shorter days are thought to be linked to a chemical change in the brain and may cause seasonal affective disorder(SAD). Melatonin, a sleep-related hormone, also may be linked to SAD.

In general, nearly everyone with depression has ongoing feelings of sadness, and may feel helpless, hopeless, and irritable. SAD may be diagnosed after a careful mental health exam and medical history done by a psychiatrist or other mental health professional. Depression is most often treated with light therapy and in some cases antidepressants. If you or someone you know is struggling with symptoms of depression, tell someone and/or seek out help. Early treatment can make a big difference. Hoping your holiday season is merry and bright!!
God's Blessing and Peace.....Parish Health

Getting Through the Holidays When You’ve Lost a Loved One: Although the holidays can be a painful time after losing a loved one, they can also be a time to cherish fond memories and traditions. This *Care Note* guides you through the holidays and beyond so that your focus will be on your loved one’s life not their death. Please pick one up for yourself from the table in the Narthex. Grab another to share with a family member or friend. *Care Notes* are available in the Narthex and by the Offices on a variety of topics for all ages. They are provided by Parish Health.

Sharing the Peace - Due to the increase in COVID cases and the upcoming flu season, Parish Health would like to return to elbow bumping instead of hand shakes and only verbal messages for the Peace greetings during the church service. An increase in our hand washing is also strongly suggested. Thank You!

Sunday School— age 3 thru Grade 5 from 10-11 AM

Cornerstone Kids—Grade 6 & 7 meet from 10-11 in the youth room.

Christmas Program—December 17th during 9:00 worship.

Confirmation Students - are asked to attend Wednesday Advent Services. Regular Classes resume in January.

YOUTH NOTES:

Thank you to our families for providing treats for coffee following worship each Sunday.

Please bring 2 dozen baked goods on or before Sunday,

Dec 3: Deanna Alby, Desiree Iverson, Elizabeth Erickson, Eric & Teri Forsberg

Dec 10: Eric & Bethany Rwegayura, Garrel & Celeste Kinzler, Heather Blumer, Holly Maycock & Philip Nelson

NOISY OFFERING for December will go to **Austin's Hope** - Dec. 10th & 17th

God's Creation Calendars - 2024 Calendars are available \$8.00 each. Limited number available.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP - Join us for breakfast served after worship on Sunday, December 17th. Free-will donation goes to youth programming. Nov. breakfast will be served by 9th Grade students.

GIVE AWAY- Child size tables and chairs from the Sunday School rooms are available for anyone who would like to take them. Chairs are located in the room next to the youth office. For tables, contact Mike Spears.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Today: Sunday, Advent 1, Dec. 3:

9:00 Zion HCworship/Baptism/Broadcast ch. 3;
KTRF

10 Sunday School/ Cornerstone Kids

10 Coffee Fellowship

10 Blood pressure screening

11 Silver Creek Worship

12 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37

1 pm Diane Johnson Students Recital

Monday, Dec 4:

9 SAIL exercise

Tuesday, Dec 5:

9-12 Faith Community Nurse Hours

1:30 Parish Health committee

6:30 Public Relations Board

7:00 Parish Fellowship Board

Wednesday, Dec 6:

9 Bible study in lounge

5:45 God's Joy

5:30 Advent Supper

6:30 Advent Worship

7:15 Choir

Thursday, Dec. 7

9 SAIL exercise

12:30 Respite Care

1 Quilting

6 Foundation meeting

7 Exec. Council/Silver Creek meeting

Friday, Dec. 8:

8 Men's Breakfast

Next Sunday, Advent 2, Dec. 10:

9:00 Zion HCworship/Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF

10 Sunday School/ Cornerstone Kids

10 Coffee Fellowship

10 January Sharing Servants meeting

11 meet at Zion for Caroling

11 Silver Creek Worship

12 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37

3 Laura Rude Students Voice Recital