



Lessons and Carols
The First Sunday of Christmas
Sunday, December 31
9:00 am

Zion Lutheran Church, ELCA, 505 Main Avenue North
Thief River Falls, Minnesota

INVOCATION

GATHERING SONG

There's a Star in the East



- 1 There's a star in the east on Christ-mas morn, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.
- 2 If you take good heed to the an-gel's words, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.



It will lead to the place where the Christ was born, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.
You'll for-get your flocks, you'll for-get your herds, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.



Fol - low, fol - low, rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.



Fol-low the star of Beth-le - hem, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: RISE UP, SHEPHERD, African American spiritual

DIALOGUE

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty
that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray... **Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. Amen.**

LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

Hymn: 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime ELW # 284 v. 1-2, 4

Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem ELW #279 v. 1-3

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

Hymn: “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ELW #272 v. 1, 4

Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Hymn: What Child is This ELW #296

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Hymn: Angels, from the realms of glory ELW 290 v. 1-3

Sixth Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

Hymn: The First Noel ELW #300 v. 1, 3-5

Seventh Reading: John 1:1-14

Hymn: Bright and Glorious is the Sky ELW #301 v. 1-2, 6

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger
to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger
to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger
to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life
cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

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.

4 Until at last we too proclaim,
with all your saints, your glorious name;
in paradise our songs renew,
and praise you as the angels do.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response Lord in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

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.**

BLESSING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.

We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

You are the angels announcing peace.

We live with joy and go now in peace.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG “Good Christian Friends Rejoice” ELW #288

DISMISSAL

Go into the world knowing Christ and making him known.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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Announcements - December 31, 2023

First Sunday of Christmas

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
Greeters: Lauren Johnson, Landen Larson, Bria Scheef Reader : David Lee

Acolytes:

Ushers: Glenice Johnson & Krista Johnson

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.

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 Milt Burstad & Janean Kalsnes by Della Burstad.

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER CHURCH, Sunday, Dec. 31, 4:00 PM in the Zion Fellowship Hall -

A dinner church is simply the church gathered around the dinner table. On New Year's Eve when the world as so many are rushing into the New Year, you are invited to gather for a meal with your church family. We fellowship with one another, hear scripture and meditate on the Word.

We will say our prayers and share in the Lord's Supper.

A main dish and bread will be provided. You are invited to bring a side dish or dessert. If you want to join and don't have the energy to do one more thing, there will be enough for all!

This is a festive occasion. Wear sparkles and sequins, pop on a bow tie, pull out a favorite hat or come as you are comfortable. All are welcome!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK AND WITNESS!

Dec. 18-24 Offerings: \$23,695. Dec 1- 24 Offerings: \$51,872. Weekly Goal: \$6,547.

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

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES - Offering envelopes are in the narthex for next year.

Those on Vanco electronic giving do not have envelopes. If you cannot find yours, contact the church office.

ANNUAL REPORTS are due in the church office by January 11th.

Reminder - any contribution intended for 2023 must be received by Monday, January 2nd to be included on 2023 giving. If you are mailing, please mail early as postmark does not guarantee it will be received by Jan. 2nd.

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!

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. *Thank you to all who have directed dollars!*

LSS Group Respite is a great place to bring your loved one to enjoy playing cards, bingo and reminiscing to their favorite music. Volunteers are also needed to socialize over coffee and interactive videos during Group Respite. Please contact Debi Retzlaff at 218.593.1333 or email at debi.retzlaff@lssmn.org for more information. Thursdays, 12:00 to 4:30 PM in the Lounge.

Pastor Kristin Ostercamp, pastorkristin@mncable.net

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Linda Hamrick, Office Manager ziontrf@mncable.net

David Lee / Tiffany Sterry, Custodial

Darlene Wiseth, Faith Community Nurse zionph@mncable.net

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Today: Sunday, Dec. 31:

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

No Sunday School/ Cornerstone Kids

10 Coffee fellowship

4PM Dinner Worship in the Fellowship Hall

Monday, Jan. 1: New Years Day

Offices Closed

Tuesday, Jan. 2:

No Faith Community Nurse hours

Board Meetings

Wednesday, Jan. 3

5 Parish Ed meeting

6 God's Joy Choir

7 Senior Choir

Thursday, Jan. 4

9 SAIL exercise

10 Prayer Shawl Ministry

12:30 Respite Care

1 Quilting

Friday, Jan. 5

8 Men's Breakfast

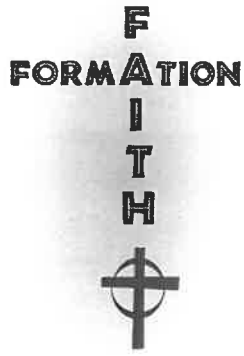
Next Sunday, Jan. 7:

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

10 Sunday School/ Cornerstone Kids

10 Blood pressure screen

10 Coffee fellowship



Sunday School/ Cornerstone resumes January 7th

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

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

NOISY OFFERING January 10 & 24 will go to **Prowler Pantry.**

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,

January 7: Jaime & Ashley Miramontes, Jared & Alyssa Vandestreek, Jared & Stephanie Kainz, Jason & Ashley Klaven

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

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP - Join us for breakfast served after worship on Sunday, January 21. Free-will donation goes to youth programming. Breakfast will be served by 6 & 7th Grade students.



Confirmation Classes resume January 10th

Supper served at 5:15

January Menu:

10: Tater tot hotdish

17: Chicken Alfredo

24: Spaghetti and meatballs