

Zion Lutheran Church



December 13th, 2020
Third Sunday in Advent



Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool!

Thank you for joining us in worship of the Lord. We would love to get to know you, and for you to learn more about our church family at Zion. We cordially invite you to talk with Pastor Grimenstein, our Elders, or any of our church members to learn more about our fellowship. At our website -- zlcb.org – you can find out more about the many worship, Christian education, and fellowship opportunities at Zion.

Communion Statement

We believe that in the Lord's Supper, Christ's physical body and blood are present in the bread and wine (1Cor. 11:23-25). We also believe receiving the Lord's Supper is an act of church fellowship. Scripture cautions that those who receive without recognizing Christ's body and blood will bring judgment upon themselves (1 Cor. 11:27-29). Therefore, out of love to our guests, we invite to our altar those who are baptized, confirmed, repentant members of Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod congregations or sister congregations. Visitors desiring to commune are asked to please announce their intentions to an elder or pastor. Everyone is welcome to sing the hymns during communion as we contemplate Christ's mercy to us.

In preparation to receive the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner please consider reading "Christian Questions with their Answers" on Page 329-330. If you are interested in exploring membership, please talk with Pastor Grimenstein after the service, or call the church office.

Opening Hymn – Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

#341



1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the
 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee; His character
 3 How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the
 4 Flung wide the portals of your heart; Make it a
 5 Redeemed, come and open wide My heart to



King of glory waits. The King of kings is drawing
 is humility, His kingly crown is holi-
 ruler is confessed! O peaceful hearts and happy
 temple set apart From earthly use for heav'n's em-
 Thee; here, Lord, abide! O enter with Thy grace di-



near; The Savior of the world is here. Life and sal-
 ness, His scepter, pity in distress. The end of
 homes To whom this King in triumph comes! The cloud-less
 ploy, Adorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
 vine; Thy face of mercy on me shine. Thy Holy



vation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
 all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
 Sovereign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
 Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.



To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
 To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.
 To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.
 To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!
 Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit



P Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,
and grant us your sal- | vation.

C Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his | people.

Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,
that glory may dwell | in our land.

Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,
and our land will yield its | increase.

Righteousness will go be- | fore him
and make his foot- | steps a way.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

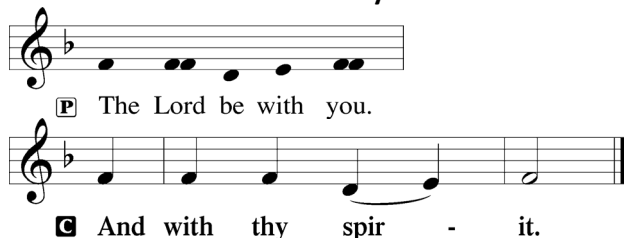
P Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,
and grant us your sal- | vation.

Kyrie



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading -- Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations. . . .
For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Men's Choir – *Savior of the Nations Come* (8 am)

Choir – *Advent Comfort* (10:30 am)

Epistle Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are

you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day – Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding #345



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
 △ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Faith Bell Choir – *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* (10:30 am)

Prayer of the Church

P ... Lord in your mercy.

C ... Hear our prayer.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



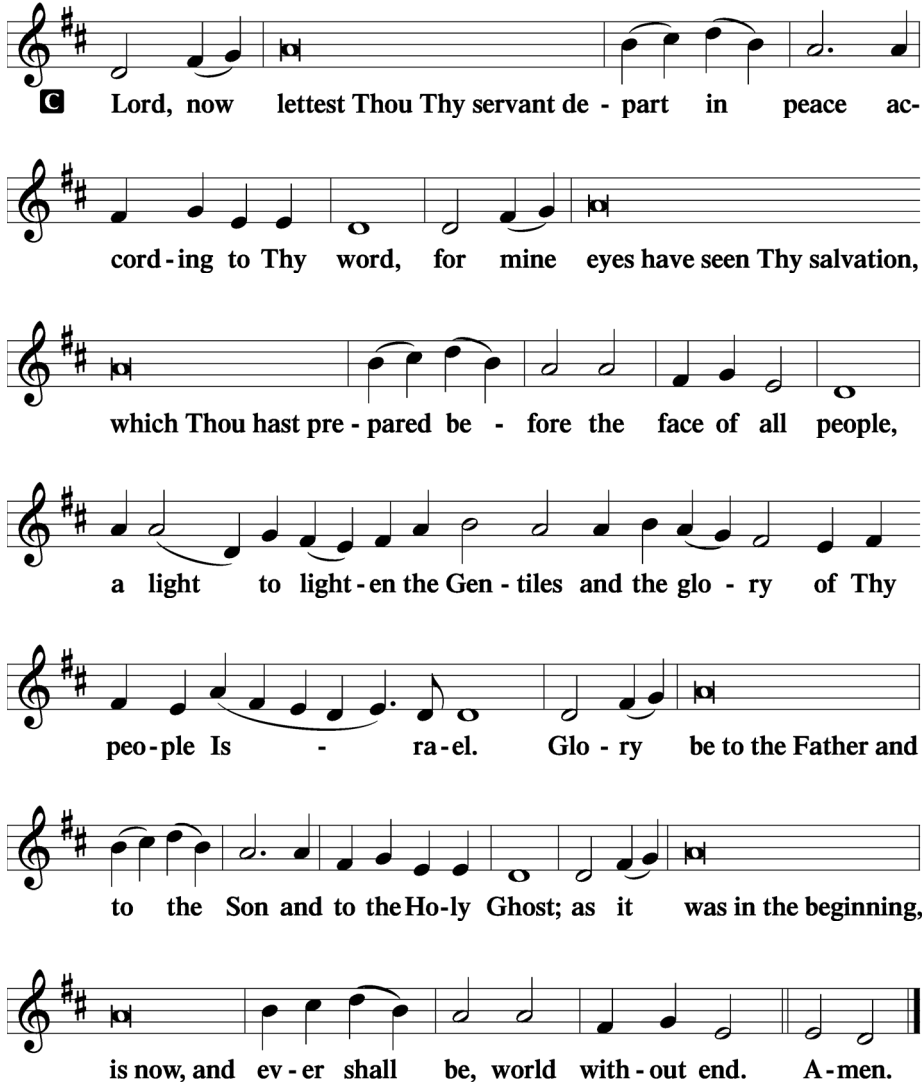
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Distribution

Distribution Hymns

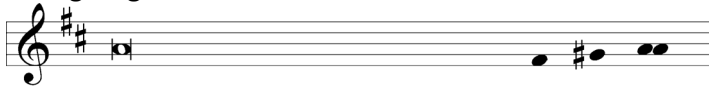
When All the World Was Cursed	#346
Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness	#563
Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness	#636

Nunc Dimittis

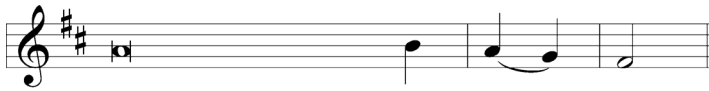


Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

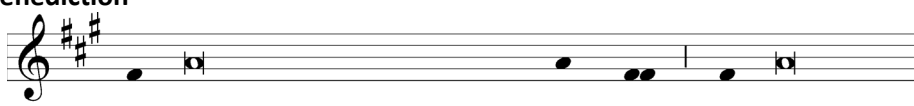


A Bless we the Lord.

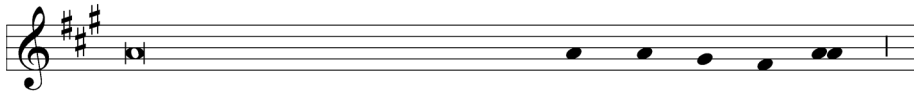


C Thanks be to God.

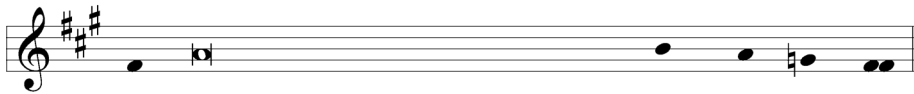
Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.



Closing Hymn – Hark the Glad Sound

#349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Tune and text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Prayer Requests for Family & Friends

The Church:

-**For our homebound members:** Tom Bicusky, Florence Boehme, Lois Dittmer, Dolores Preaux, Joan Cisko, Lois Sauro, and Dottie Heslop.

-**Healing for:** Iva Molinari, Jim Neill, Pastor Wayne Hoffman, Jean Walker, Debra Green, Peter Fisher, Natalia Gonzalez, Mamie Papeaka, Carol Wuerthele, Ruth Rostron, Patti Neill, Judy Graziano, Alyssa Mance, Shannon Mance, Darlene Pirmez, Elias Kazas, Janet Hickey, Marian Siek, Joyce Wood, Don and Deana Thielet, Dave Hutula, Ron Valentino, Norma Dyson, Mabel Granke, Mary Reihing, and Jennifer Meyer.

-**For our missions/missionaries,** especially Pastor Wokoma and The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society.

-For all who care for loved ones with illnesses.

-For the ministry of Zion Lutheran Sunday School and Preschool.

The World:

-For an end to the pandemic, and for the safety of all who are fighting it.

-For an end to abortion and human trafficking.

-For the youth in our community.

Our Nation:

-For our leaders and government officials.

-For those in foster care and those looking to adopt.

-For the disabled, unborn and aged.

-For those whose work it is to protect us.

-For godly care of the earth.

† *Service Participants* †

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Edward Grimenstein
Music Director:	Mark Killinger
The Organist:	Sandy Quinlan
The Elders:	John Gielarowski, Mike Wallace
The Acolyte:	Decklan Pasquini (8:00) Sam Bishop (10:30)
Altar Guild:	Janet & Marian Oelschlager
Ushers:	Bill & Ken Schrag Shane Bryant, Tim Sheldon (8:00) Mike Kozak, Anna Gresh John Lemonovich, Susie Bishop (10:30)

ALTAR FLOWERS are given by the Klemash family in honor of loved ones; and by Paul & Theresa Hayes in honor of the Triune God.

ETERNAL LIGHT is given by Bernice DeBoe in memory of the birthday of her father, Roman Rybarski.

OUR LAST MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICE is this Wednesday at 7 pm. Join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of our Savior!



2021 MEMBER CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES & SPONSORSHIPS FOR ALTAR FLOWERS/ETERNAL LIGHT are available on the long table in the back of the sanctuary. Please be sure to take your envelopes, as well as those of any family members or friends who may not be attending church at this time!

Last Week in Worship

Sunday Worship Attendance (12/6) – 31 (8 am); 48 (10:30 am)

Advent Mid-Week Worship Attendance (12/9) – 40

Saturday Worship Attendance (12/5) -- 15

Sunday Offering (12/6) – \$4002 Online Offering – \$2615

The Week Ahead at Zion

SUNDAY 12/13	8:00 AM – Worship w/ Communion 10:30 AM – Worship w/ Communion Sunday School Christmas Video showing following both services <i>Children’s Sunday School Meets via ZOOM</i>
MONDAY 12/14	6:00 PM – 1 st year Confirmation Class 6:15 PM – Grace Bell Choir 7:00 PM – 2 nd year Confirmation Class 7:15 PM – Adult Choir 8:15 PM – Faith Bell Choir
TUESDAY 12/15	
WEDNESDAY 12/16	7:00 PM – Advent Worship Service – Week 3
THURSDAY 12/17	
FRIDAY 12/18	
SATURDAY 12/19	10:00 AM - Small-Group Service of Prayer & Preaching w/ Communion. RSVP at www.signupgenius.com or call Susie at 412-977-9066.
SUNDAY 12/20	8:00 AM – Worship w/ Communion 10:30 AM – Worship w/ Communion

**RESPONSIBLY FAITHFUL:
Church Guidelines During the Pandemic**

December 2020 COVID Update

On Thursday, Gov. Wolf issued “limited-time-mitigation” efforts to combat Covid-19 which will go into effect Saturday December 12th and last thru January 4th. The section pertaining to churches is as follows:

Section 3: Indoor Gatherings and Events

A. Indoor gatherings and events of more than 10 persons are prohibited.

B. Churches . . . are specifically excluded from the limitations set forth above during religious services . . . other gatherings that may be sponsored or held by these religious entities that are not the actual worship service are required to comply with this Order.

In an effort to honor Governor Wolf’s recent Covid-19 mitigation efforts, the *Board of Elders* has approved the following updates/reminders of our ongoing Covid-19 response at Zion Lutheran.

1. **Worship.** In person worship will continue as normal for Wednesday evening, Saturday morning, and both Sunday services (8:00 & 10:30am).
2. **Bible Study/Sunday School.** *Adult Bible Study* will be suspended immediately. We will resume Esther in person on January 10th. The *Sunday School* will continue to meet virtually with updates being provided by a child’s respective teacher, or the Sunday School Superintendent. In person *Sunday School* will resume on January 10th.
3. **Confirmation.** Classes will continue to meet in person.

4. **Choirs/Bell Choirs.** The choirs & bell choirs will continue their practice as normal by wearing masks while singing and remaining socially distant during practice and while performing during worship.

5. **Church Meetings.** All church meetings may continue so long as no more than 10 persons are in attendance.

6. **Advent/Christmas Worship.** Worship during the season of Advent and Christmas will continue as planned with Midweek Advent Services being held every Wednesday at 7:00pm. Christmas Eve services will continue to be held at 3:00pm & 7:00pm, Christmas Day worship will be held at 10:00am.

7. **Current Practices.** The current practices the *Board of Elders* have put in place such as: the wearing of masks while worshipping (except during communion), distancing of pews, disinfecting of pews following worship etc will remain in place for the duration of the pandemic.

The Board of Elders would like to give thanks to all the members of Zion Lutheran. During this pandemic, we have continued to worship together either in person, or from our own homes. We are grateful that Christ continues to connect us together into His one body here on earth.

The Lord be with you,

Pastor Grimenstein

The Board of Elders



Christmas Eve at Zion

In an effort to provide a Worship Service for those with pre-existing medical conditions and those who are unable to drive at night, we are offering a 3:00pm Christmas Eve service with limited seating (70 persons max). This will be in addition to our regularly scheduled 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

On Monday, December 7th we sent an email link to the Sign Up Genius page for this 3:00 pm service. Congregation members who meet these guidelines are invited to sign up using the link through today. If there are still slots available, other members may sign up for this service starting tomorrow, December 14th. Thank you for allowing members with these challenges the opportunity to sign up for the 3:00pm service first ... doing so affords them a greater opportunity to worship on Christmas Eve.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS VIDEO TODAY!!

The video will feature our children sharing the story of Christ's birth through the reading of scripture. It will also feature photos, artwork and the Nativity. The short, 5-minute video will be shown directly **AFTER BOTH WORSHIP SERVICES TODAY**. After each service we'll take a special offering to benefit Zion's Sunday School program.



KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

The Advent of Christ

As you may remember, the word Advent means “coming.” During the season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. But that is not the only coming of Jesus that we hear about in the Advent story.

What is the rest of the Advent story?

The Advent of Christ has three parts. God’s Word tells us that Jesus not only came to earth as a man at Christmas, but that He comes to be with His church through His Word and Sacraments. Finally, God’s Word reminds us that He will return in judgement on the Last Day. If you think about it, there sure are a lot of great things to remember and look forward to during the season of Advent!



Parents:

When Holy Communion is offered, allow your children to attend the altar with you. Remind them that Jesus is truly present here in the Sacrament, and that we will see Him face to face on the Last Day!



