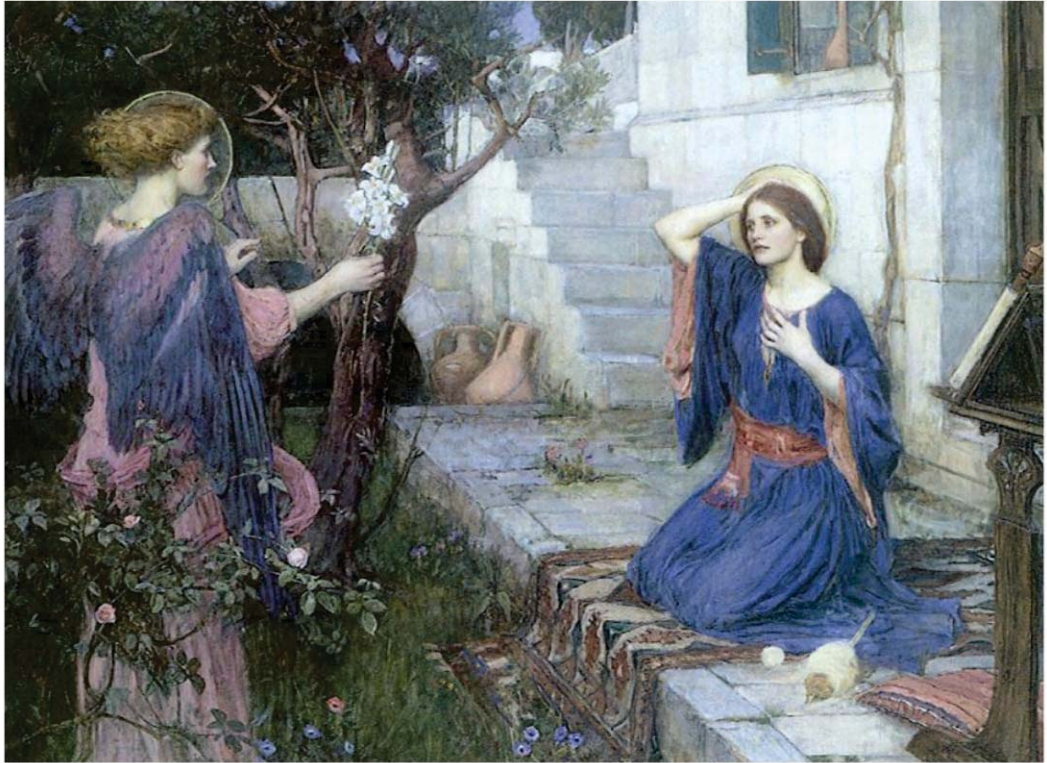


# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



*The Annunciation by J.W. Waterhouse, 1914*

*Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 18, 2011*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## December 18, 2011



The **Altar Flowers** have been given to the Glory of God by Elsie DallaPiazza in memory of her grandparents, Julia & Andrew Wagner and by Nancy Spotti in honor of her precious gift of Bob. Happy Birthday!

The **Eternal Light** is lit to the Glory of God by Megan Richards in memory of her mother, Luella Rilius.

**A Special Door Offering** will be taken **TODAY** for Rachael Quinlan, our college student studying for church work at Concordia College in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**The Sunday School Christmas Program and Dinner** will be this afternoon starting at 5:30 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$8.50 per adult and \$3.50 per child ages 5-11. Children under 5 are free.

The final mid-week **Advent service** will be December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm with dinner served in the undercroft at 6:00 pm. The choir will practice following the service.

We will be having services at 7:00 p.m. on **Christmas Eve** and **New Year's Eve**. We will also be having services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am on **Christmas Day** and **New Year's Day**. There will be no Sunday School or Bible Class on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

Junior high and high school youth are invited to AMF Mt Lebanon on Saturday, January 14 from 2-4 for **Youth Bowling!** Cost will be under \$10.00, including food. Please RSVP to [pastor@zlcg.org](mailto:pastor@zlcg.org) or [tharris@zlcg.org](mailto:tharris@zlcg.org).

Please remember to pick up your **2012 offering envelopes** from the table in the back. You may also sign up to sponsor the Eternal Light or Altar Flowers for 2012.

# *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

## *December 18, 2011*

### **Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!**

It's rare that we have things happen in our lives that we could not have planned for. You knew you wanted to be in church this morning, so you set your alarm clock to give yourself (and your family) plenty of time to wake-up, get dressed, eat and travel to church before worship (or Sunday School) began. We fill our car's gas tank before it runs dry. We cram the night before an exam. We floss before going to the dentist. Many of us bought evergreen trees in the last month.

But this week we encounter Mary as she receives news of a future event that she could not even begin to plan for. It's one thing to find out that you are going to be a parent. It's quite another thing to find out you are pregnant with the Son of God. We can only imagine what went through Mary's head during her pregnancy as she took the second person of the Triune God to term. Thoughts from: "how will I explain this to Joseph?" to "can I keep the deity confined to a crib?" to "will other people believe me when I tell them who my child really is?" must have kept Mary up late on many occasions.

When it comes to the things we cannot prepare for that happen in our lives, we can do one of two things. We can try to prepare for them retroactively and pretend that this was part of our plan all along. We can pretend we have the situation under control. "Don't help me, I'm fine." Or we can recognize that what is going on is part of a larger plan, God's plan; a plan that sometimes makes sense and results in praise, but sometimes makes no sense at all. When we find ourselves in these situations, we can reply like Mary did when she was found to be pregnant with the Son of God: "let it be to me according to your word."

-Pastor Duncan

**Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor**  
Pastor's Phone: 412-667-0967  
Website: [www.zlcb.org](http://www.zlcb.org)

**Darren Elikor, Pastoral Assistant**  
Office Phone: 412-221-4776  
Fax: 412-220-9741

# The Divine Service

## *The Prelude*

(Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance books. Thank you!!)

## *Introduction to Worship and Announcements*

### *Opening Prayer*

Pastor: Father in heaven, you sent the angel Gabriel to Mary and announced to her that she would have a son who would reign over an everlasting kingdom. Speak “good news” to us today, in this place. And allow us to, like Mary, respond with the praise of faith to what you have said.

People: **Amen**

*Opening Hymn:* The Church’s One Foundation 644

### *The Invocation*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

(Matthew 28:18-20)

### *Confession and Absolution*

(Hebrews 10:22)

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, before we listen to your Word and receive your body and blood in the Lord’s Supper, we confess to you that we have not been the holy people you have called us to be. We have served ourselves more than we have served you or our neighbor. We have worried about things beyond our control instead of trusting in you. We have been quick-tempered and hard-hearted, unforgiving and harsh.

People: **Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us for these and all of our sins. Restore us to a right relationship with you. Be patient with us, strengthen our faith and remove the temptations from us that we cannot overcome. Give us an increase of**

**the Holy Spirit, that we may bring glory to your name.  
Amen.**

(Luke 18:13)

***The Absolution*** (spoken by the Pastor)

**People: Amen.**

(John 20:19-23)

***The Hymn of Praise (8:00):*** Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng 813 vs. 1-7

***The Prayer of the Church***

**Pastor: ... Lord, in your mercy,**

**People: Hear our prayer.**

***The Baptism of Devan Sprague*** (10:30)

## **The Service of the Word**

**The Old Testament Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

*The Lord promises David's house will be established forever.*

Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"'

Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have

cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.... And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

### ***Choir Anthem*** (10:30)

### **The New Testament Lesson: Romans 16:25-27**

*St. Paul concludes his letter to the church at Rome by emphasizing the power of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**People:** **Glory to Thee, O Lord!**

### **The Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

*The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will have a son.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel

said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** (sing) **Praise be to thee, O Christ!**

(Please be seated)

### ***Children’s Message*** (10:30)

***The Sermon Hymn:*** The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came 356

### ***Sermon***

(Please stand)

### ***The Creed:*** Nicene Creed

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.

(Please be seated)

## ***The Collection of the Offering***

(Please stand)

## **The Service of the Sacrament**

**Pastor:** During this season of Advent, we remember and relive a period of waiting; waiting for God to send the Savior he promised by his prophets and to whom the sacrificial system, the temple and the priesthood pointed. This morning, we also wait; waiting for Christ to come to us with his body and blood, giving us his gift of forgiveness and giving us an opportunity to proclaim his death until he comes yet again. And so, as we await his coming here, at this altar, and as we look forward to his coming at the end of the age, may our Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray:  
People: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 Institution***

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

### ***The Sharing of the Peace***

### ***The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)***

163

*Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.*  
*Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.*  
*Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.*

(Please be seated until it is your time to commune.)

### ***The Distribution***

We welcome to the Lord's Table all who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God, can examine themselves spiritually and believe they receive the true body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and as a profession of their faith. If you hold a profession of faith that differs from that of our congregation, please speak to the Pastor before the start of the service before communing.

- We believe the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine.
- We believe Christ offers the forgiveness of sins in the Lord's Supper, but that the Lord's Supper is not necessary for salvation.
- We believe the Lord's Supper remembers the death of Christ and proclaims his death until he returns.
- We believe the Lord's Supper is a statement of unity in the body of Christ; we do not believe it creates that unity.

During the distribution, you are encouraged to sing the Distribution Hymns, pray, or meditate on the words "this is my body... this is my blood, given for you."

The cups at the center of the Individual Communion tray contain diluted wine for those with alcohol sensitivities.

### ***Distribution Hymns***

For All the Faithful Women	855 vs. 1,8,3,4
I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table	618
What Is This Bread	629
Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord	637

(Please stand)

***Post-Communion Canticle:*** My Soul Rejoices 933

### ***Benediction***

**Pastor:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People:** Amen!

***The Recessional:*** Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer 918

### **† *Service Participants* †**

The Officiant:	The Rev. Duncan McLellan
Pastoral Assistant:	Darren Elikor
The Organist:	Paula Gardner
The Elders:	David Hutula & Ken Wuerthele
The Acolytes:	TBA & Ryan Harris
The Greeters:	Ron & Judy Meier and Jim & Marylou Neill
The Ushers:	Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag, Janet & Larry Zreliak and Steve Gauger, Dan Harris, Loren Luedeman, & Jim Oelschlager
Altar Guild:	Janet, Marian, & Molly Oelschlager

# Nice Job Zion!

I received the following e-mail from the Business Manager of Faith Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. Our gift (of over \$1400) was given to the family of Ian Loewe last Sunday during a worship service where Dave (the father of Ian) was helping to lead worship. Ian is 15 years old and is now in his third battle against a very aggressive form of cancer in his spine.

*\*Mission accomplished! Andrea and Ian sat on the north side in the row in front of Tom and I. David and Isaac were sitting on the south side with One Accord. Pastor B called the family up front, after the sermon and before the prayers, for the presentation. They were in bewilderment at that moment. It wasn't until Andi and Ian sat down that it hit. Andi started crying and turned around to talk to me and I became a flood of tears! The coolest time was right before the closing song. David gave a heartfelt and very, very emotional testimony about the generosity of others. There wasn't a dry eye in the house!!! No one knows which sister LCMS congregation the money came from.\**

Your generosity will not only help this family make it through unimaginably difficult times, but gave an example to an entire congregation of Christian love and how we, the body of Christ, have been called to care for each other in the name of Jesus.

Thank you for being generous in your giving to this family.

2 Corinthians 9:11-12 says, "You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God."

All the best,  
In Christ,  
Pastor Duncan

PS- You can go to the following youtube page to watch a local news report on Ian: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IANIGqXwLOA>

## WEEK OF December 18-25, 2011

<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>12/18</b> <b>BAPTISM OF DEVAN</b> <b>SPRAGUE</b>	8:00 AM – Worship w/Communion 9:15 AM – Bible Class/Sunday School 10:30 AM – Worship w/Communion 5:30 PM – Christmas Party Dinner 7:00 PM – Sunday School Program
<b>MONDAY</b> <b>12/19</b>	6:00 AM – Men’s Bible Breakfast 6&7 PM – Confirmation 8:30 PM – Men’s Football @ Beez Restaurant
<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>12/20</b>	7:00 PM – Interaction Committee Meeting
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>12/21</b>	6:00 PM – Dinner in the Undercroft 7:00 PM – <b>Advent Service</b> Choir practice following the service
<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>12/22</b>	10:00 AM – Bible Study
<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>12/23</b>	6:30 PM – Bowling @AMF Mt Lebanon
<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>12/24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE!</b>	7:00 PM – Christmas Eve Service
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>12/25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY!</b>	8:00 AM – Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM – Worship w/Communion

<b>OUR ATTENDANCE:</b>	Advent Two 12/7	75
	Sunday 12/11	204
	Bible Class 12/11	61

<b>OUR OFFERINGS:</b>	Advent Two 12/7	\$611.00
	Sunday 12/4	\$6,020.50
	Year to Date	\$121,167.24