



Second Sunday *of* Advent

ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

IN JESUS' NAME WE WELCOME YOU!

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

WELCOME TO ZION. It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will strengthen your faith and fill your heart with the peace only God can give and the joy we have in believing that JESUS CHRIST is our Savior from sin.

WORSHIP FOCUS: Christ is coming soon; let us always be prepared to meet him.

This is the Second Sunday in the season Advent. In Advent the Word of God bids us prepare for the coming of Christ. The readings for Advent have this urgency to them: Since he is surely coming again in judgment, we desperately need for him to come to us first in grace. For without that coming in grace we will perish at his coming in judgment. The blue paraments are used to remind us that Jesus will come again in the sky; therefore repent & prepare, as John the Baptist reminds us.

Liturgy: Service of the Word

CW pg. 38

OUR FAMILY AT WORSHIP

BATHROOMS are located in the back of church, just down the hall toward the school. Please ask an usher for help finding them.

HEARING ASSISTANCE EQUIPMENT is available as part of our sound system. Individual hand-held units are available. Please check with an usher if you would like a unit for today's worship service.

VISITORS are asked to please sign our fellowship registry in the back of church so that we will have a record of your visit. Thank you for joining us today!

For most of you, putting on perfume, cologne, or aftershave before coming to church is just routine. But for a growing number of us in the congregation, those smells will lead to nausea, headaches, shortness of breath, and migraines. We are asking if you could please re-evaluate your use of fragrances before you come to church, especially during the winter months when the enclosed heated space will magnify the effects of the fragrances. If you could wait until you get home from church to spritz on the smells, it would be greatly appreciated!

ADVENT

4 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates



1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be -
 2 The King is born in pov - er - ty, His
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make
 5 Re - deem - er, come! I op - en wide My



hold, the King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is
 char - iot is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is
 Christ the rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and
 it a tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for
 heart to you; here, Lord, a - bide! Oh, en - ter with your



draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here.
 ho - li - ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress.
 hap - py homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes!
 heav'n's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 sav - ing grace; Show me your kind and friend - ly face.



Life and sal - va - tion he will bring; There -
 The end of all our woe he brings; There -
 The cloud - less sun of joy is he Who
 So shall your Sov - 'reign en - ter in And
 Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on Un -



fore re - jice and glad - ly sing. To God the Fa - ther
 fore the earth is glad and sings. To Christ the Sav - ior
 comes to set his peo - ple free. To God the Spir - it
 new and no - bler life be - gin. To God a - lone be
 til our glo - rious goal is won. E - ter - nal praise and



raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 praise For word and deed and grace!
 fame We of - fer to your name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: MILWAUKEE (88 88 88 66) August Lemke, 1820–1913.

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

P: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image. Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

C: **But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death. We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

P: However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

Genesis 1:26; Romans 6:23

ALL:

O, come, O, come, Em-man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Un-til the Son of God ap-pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

P: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven. In view of God's mercy, today we light the *peace* candle. Jesus tells us, "Peace I leave with you; my *peace* I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid"

C: **Since we have been justified by faith, we have *peace* with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Galatians 4:4,5; John 14:27; Romans 5:1

Advent Candle is lighted

ALL:

O, come, our Peace, who auth - ors faith, Per-féct our trust in
you by grace. As-sure us by your gen - tle Word
That in true faith we all en-dure. Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

P: In the peace of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

C: God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

ALL:

Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

Refrain



Psalm tone



Lift up your heads, O you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,*
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?*
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,*
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?*
The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Richard Proulx. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Second Lesson

Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, ⁵because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. ⁸Yes, God is my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. ¹⁰ This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (EHV)

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4, 6 cf. NIV)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene— **2** during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. **3** He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **4** Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: A voice of one calling in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight. **5** Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth. **6** And everyone will see the salvation of God.” (EHV)

ADVENT

16 On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -



es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,
 nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our
 uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we
 us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on
 vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, st. 1-3, alt.; composite, st. 4-5.
 Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin melody, 15th century, adapt.

SERMON THEME BASED ON PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11:

The Lord is Coming to Finish His Work in You

OFFERING: (Sunday only) *The collection of the offering in the service is an opportunity for the members of Zion to give back to God a small portion of what he has given us in order to support the Gospel ministry of Zion Lutheran Church and School and of the WELS throughout the world. If you are a visitor today, while we appreciate an offering from you, please do not feel obligated to give.*

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.**

ADVENT

11

Comfort, Comfort All My People



1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; Speak of peace,"
 2 All their sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out
 3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing In the des -
 4 Straight - en out the crook - ed high - way; Make the rough -



so says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,
 each dark mis - deed; All that well de - serve his an - ger
 ert far and near, Call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance
 er plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



Groan - ing from their sor - rows' load. Speak to all
 He no more will see or heed. They have suf -
 For the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn -
 Read - y for his ho - ly reign. For the glo -



Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
 fered man - y a day; Now their griefs have passed a - way.
 ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er,
 God will change their ach - ing sad - ness
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken



That their war - fare now is o - ver."
 In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 And the hills bow down to greet him.
 That his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: FREU DICH SEHR (87 87 77 88) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.

mer - cy, Of free - dom and re - lease; God shall
her - ald, Fore - run - ner in the way, The proph -
pil - grims A - long the paths of peace. Oh, bless
ful - fill his prom - ise And bring his peo - ple peace.
et of sal - va - tion, The har - bin - ger of day.
our God and Sav - ior With songs that nev - er cease!

Text: Michael A. Perry, b. 1942, alt. © 1973 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188).
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: ELLACOMBE (76 76 D) *Gesang-Buch . . . der Herzogl . . . Hofkapelle*, Württemberg, 1784, alt.



Officiants

Accompanist: Deanna Schneck

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Greg Sitzman

*ALL CHURCH SERVICE AND MUSIC ITEMS ARE PRINTED UNDER ONE LICENSE – A-717618.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Pastor Greg Sitzman: 734-309-7877; gsitzman@zionmonroe.org
Principal: Bryan Schneck: 907-331-7761; bschneck@zionmonroe.org

CALL UPDATE—The Members of Zion and St. Paul extended a call to Pastor Eric Hansen. He has returned the call. The next joint call meeting is going to be today at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's church.

STEWARDSHIP GIFT OF TIME OPPORTUNITY: Zion is in need of members who would be willing to input the attendance information into Church 360 following the service each week. Training will be provided and this is something that can be done from home. We hope that if we get five or six people to help it would have to be done once every month to month and a half. If interested, please reach out to Rob Krueger at 734-770-1149.

THANK YOU:

FRIENDS IN FAITH would like to thank everyone who contributed and purchased baked goods at our recent bake sale. We received donations totaling \$765.00. These donations will help fund the purchase of artificial lilies to beautify our church over the Easter season. We look forward to a beautiful and scent-free church!

Thank you to everyone who came to help with the Happy Birthday Jesus and with decorating our sanctuary for the holiday. We are so blessed to have such a giving and helpful congregation. Thank you again.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE BUILDING: We are planning another fun family event for **Saturday, December 14th at 10 a.m.** Bring a gingerbread kit and your decorations. Please see the back table for a flyer with more details.

PAULA'S HOUSE: Once again this year Zion Church and School is supporting the women and children who are staying at Paula's House. The giving tree is in the school hallway with gift tags. Please have the gift wrapped with only the tag from the tree on the package. Please have the gift returned to the school by Monday, December 16th. If you would like to come help us sort the gifts for delivery, we are planning on sorting Tuesday, December 17th after morning coffee at the Oasis (in the Zion gym). Thank you in advance for all the support.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: on Sunday, December 22nd at 10:15 a.m. we are planning on going out to 2 nursing homes and do some Christmas caroling. There will be coffee and donuts before going out. We expect to be gone only an hour or so.

SPECIAL VOTER'S MEETING: There is a special Voter's meeting being held on Sunday, December 8th at 11:30 a.m. to discuss the circle drive parking lot.

CHURCH ENVELOPES OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2025 are available in the west foyer. The envelopes will be in alphabetic order. If you don't see your envelopes, please contact the office.

2024 CONTRIBUTIONS - The financial secretary will close the books for 2024 on December 31, 2024. To receive credit for 2024, all contributions must be received by that date.

ALTAR GUILD FOR 2025 — There is a sign-up sheet in the west foyer for Altar Guild volunteers for 2025. We really do appreciate all the help we get through the year with this service of love. If you haven't ever done Altar Guild, please consider helping out. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office.

FRIENDS IN FAITH: In the East foyer Friends in Faith is now selling greeting cards for \$1.00 each. There are different occasion cards available. The money raised from the sales is going towards future Friends in Faith projects, such as the Kleenex box ministry project and other shut in projects they do throughout the year.

NEWS FROM MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY:

MLS Christmas Concert – Join us at MLS on Friday, December 20th at 7 p.m. for our annual Christmas concert, “Worship Christ, the Newborn King.” The choirs and instrumentalists will share new and familiar carols that will surely enrich your Christmas celebration.

Coming up at Zion

Sunday	9:00 a.m. Second Advent Worship Service
	10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class, Youth Group and Sunday School
	11:30 a.m. Special Voter's Meeting
	2:00 p.m. Joint Call Meeting at St. Paul's
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
	1:30 p.m. Worship Service (IC)
	5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting
Wednesday	7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship Service (IC)
Saturday	10:00 a.m. Gingerbread House Decorating
Sunday	9:00 a.m. Second Advent Worship Service (IC/CC)
	10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class, Youth Group and Sunday School
	1:00 p.m. Jesus Cares Worship Service

December Volunteers

	Nov. 28 & Dec.1	Dec. 4 & 8	Dec. 11 & 15	Dec. 18 & Dec. 22	Dec. 24, 25, & 29
Altar Guild		Linda Selvidge	& Diane Affholter		
Live Stream Helpers	Nov. 28 – Rob Krueger Dec. 1 – Ryan Roth	Steve Sordahl	Ryan Roth	Dec. 18- Steve Sordahl Dec. 22 – William Robinson	Dec. 24 – Steve Sordahl Dec. 29 – Erich Freiny
Ushers	<p><u>Nov. 28</u> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Matthew Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson</p> <p><u>Dec. 1</u> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Matthew Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson</p>	<p><u>Dec. 4</u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger Matthew Loos Zach Turner</p> <p><u>Dec. 8</u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger Matthew Loos Zach Turner</p>	<p><u>Dec. 11</u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach McCormick</p> <p><u>Dec. 15</u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach McCormick</p>	<p><u>Dec. 18</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier</p> <p><u>Dec. 22</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier</p>	<p><u>Dec. 24</u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling</p> <p><u>Dec. 25</u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling</p> <p><u>Dec. 29</u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling</p>
Communion Helpers	<p><u>Dec. 1</u> Jake Burke Mark Kipf</p>		<p><u>Dec. 11</u> Ken Vagt</p> <p><u>Dec. 15</u> Erich Freiny Jeff Heusman</p>		