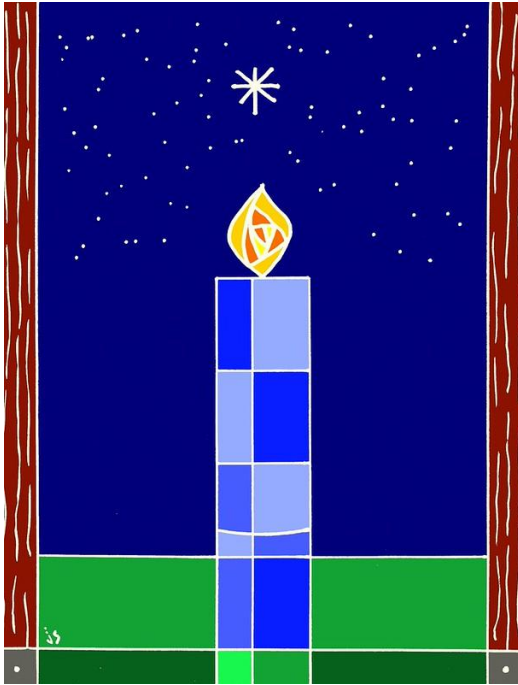


First Sunday of Advent

Hanging of the Greens

November 30, 2025



The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.



ZION
Ministries Under the Cross

959 SE 6th Avenue • Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
(954) 421-3146 • www.zion-lutheran.org

Welcome to Zion!

“All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,’ which means, ‘God is with us.’” (Matthew 1:22-23)

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we’re glad you’re here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God’s goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

Get Connected at Zion

The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook and Instagram), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Children in Worship

Children are God’s gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Playground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

Giving

We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



Livestreaming

Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

We Gather

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITANY OF THE GREENS

How can we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the King?

With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus,
the eternal Christ?

**With wreaths of pine and fir,
whose leaves are ever living, ever green.**

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus,
our Savior?

**With arrangements of holly and ivy,
symbolizing His passion, death and resurrection.**

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus,
the Son of God?

**By hearing again the words of the prophets
who foretold the saving work of God.**

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,
but that the world through Him might be saved.

All Glory to God in the highest!

GATHERING HYMN

ELW Hymn #438

“My Lord, What a Morning”

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

ELW Hymn #157

The assembly joins with the refrain, and the Minister sings the verses.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together...**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

We Hear & Respond to God's Word

PARAMENTS

A reading from Isaiah: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low... Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together." (Isaiah 40:3-5)

We place the Advent paraments, which are blue, a color of hope and expectation, but also comfort, reminding us that our hope is in Jesus who is coming soon. And so we cry in this Advent season: "Come, Lord Jesus!"

ADVENT WREATH

A reading from Jeremiah: "The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'" (Jeremiah 23:5-6)

The Advent Wreath is a vivid symbol of preparation. The lighting of a new candle each of the four weeks before Christmas reminds us that something is happening, but more is yet to come. The circle of evergreens reminds us of the everlasting covenant offered in the birth of Jesus. The four candles symbolize **hope, peace, joy, and love**. Today, we light the first candle as a symbol of Christ, our hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation.



WREATHS

A reading from Isaiah: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

From ancient times, evergreens have been considered a symbol of eternity, a sign of God's everlasting nature. Isaiah tells us that there will be no end to the reign of the Messiah. Therefore, we hang wreaths shaped in circles as a sign of everlasting life. These are symbols of Christ's gift of eternal life and of the celebration of Christmas itself.

POINSETTIAS

A reading from Numbers: “I see him but not now; I behold him but not near—a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel...” (Numbers 24:17)

The poinsettia speaks to us symbolically in several ways. The star shaped formation of ten leaves calls to mind the star which shone that first Christmas. In a less joyous sense, the color of the flower is blood red, reminding us of the male infants killed because King Herod wanted to eliminate any threat to his throne. We sometimes forget this part of the story, which made it necessary for Mary, Joseph, and the Christ Child to flee to Egypt.

Hymn: “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” (Hymn #272, Verses 1 & 4)

MANGER

A reading from Luke: “While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.” (Luke 2:6-7)

The manger, or crèche, is placed as a reminder that Jesus Christ was born in the humblest of places, because humankind would not make room in their heart to hold the Son of God. Jesus, who was born in this most modest beginning, has compassion on all God's children—from the humblest to the richest.

Hymn: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (Hymn #276)

CAROLING

A reading from the Psalms: “O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord; bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised...Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.” (Psalm 96:1-4a, 6)

We are a singing church. Martin Luther believed that, next to the Word of God, music deserved the highest praise. The singing of carols is one of the greatest joys of the season.

Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (Hymn #283, Verse 1)

EVERGREEN TREES

A reading from Micah: “But you, O Bethlehem...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days...And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure...and he shall be the one of peace. (Micah 5:2, 4-5)

In ancient times the cedar was revered as the tree of royalty. It also signified immortality and was used for purification. We have placed these trees in the sanctuary as a symbol of Christ, who reigns as King forever, and whose coming will purify our hearts.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

A reading from John: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it...The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:1-5, 9-14)

As our final preparation for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, we will light the evergreen trees. Whenever you see a lighted tree, let it call to mind the One who brings light into our darkness, healing to our brokenness, and peace to all who receive him. May these trees remind us of the life-giving cross, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts.

Hymn: “Joy to the World” (Hymn #267, Verses 1 & 2)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SHARING OF PEACE

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

OFFERTORY HYMN & PRAYER

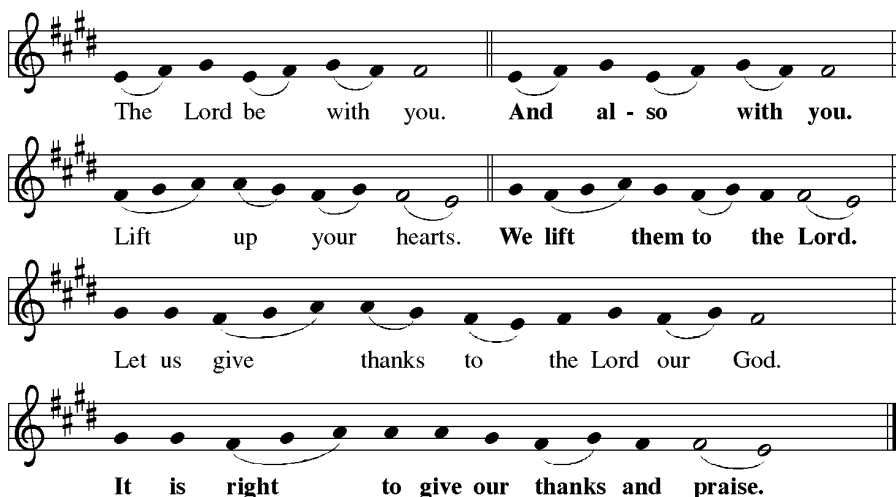
ELW Hymn #247

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

Let us pray together...**Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

We Feast at the Lord's Table

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



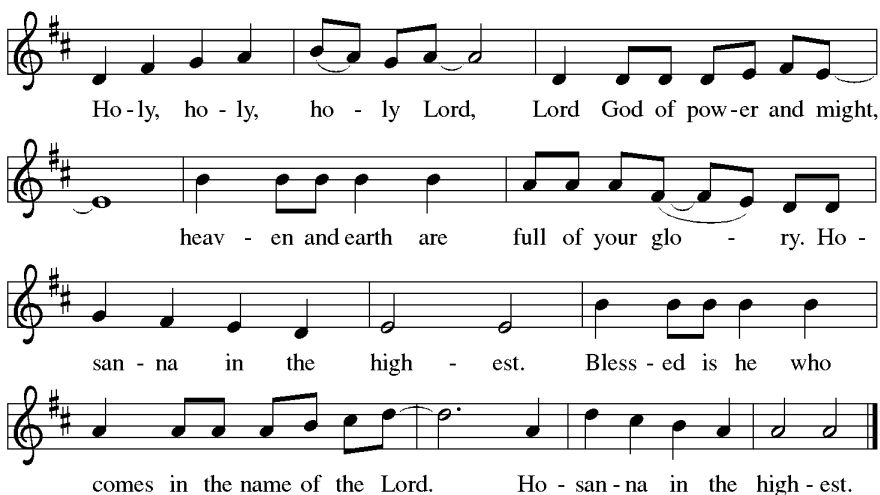
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, we give thanks for your creation, fragile, yet fruitful, enough for all. We give thanks that you call us into community where love and justice may flourish, enough for all. We give you thanks for sending us Jesus, God-with-Us, whose life, death and resurrection have become for us the Way to find you, to know you, to join with you in creating your new heaven and new earth.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Come now, Holy Spirit—As you were present at creation, be present now, and let these gifts of bread and wine become for us the bread of life and the cup of blessing. As you were sent by Jesus to accompany us on our journey of faith, be present now, and transform this community into one body in Christ.

Gather us, O God, into your Advent hope—into watchfulness, wonder, and joy. Strengthen us by this meal to love and serve in the world you so love, until the day when all are fed at your table of grace, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:



will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven, on earth as it is in hea-ven.
 Give us to-day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our
 sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for-give those who sin a -
 gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from
 e - vil, de - liv - er us from - e - vil. For yours is the
 king-dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry, for - e - ver and e - ver, for
 e - ver and e - ver. A - men, a - men. A - men.

SHARING THE MEAL

“He Came Down”

ELW Hymn #253

“Keep Your Lamps”

ACS Hymn #949

We Are Sent into the World

BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ comfort, strengthen, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together...**God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Hymn #439, Verse 1

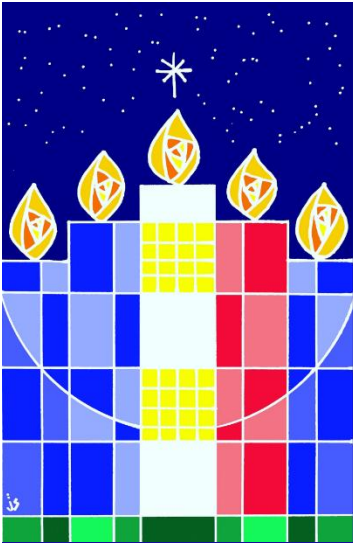
“Soon and Very Soon”

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace. Christ is coming soon. **Thanks be to God!**

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7th Annual Reverse Advent Calendar

Week 1 November 30 th – December 6 th Instant Oatmeal (8-count) Instant Grits (10-count)	Week 2 December 7 th – 13 th Granola Bars & Pop Tarts Individual Cereal Variety Packs
Week 3 December 14 th – 20 th Instant Mashed Potato Boxes 24-ounce Bottles of Vegetable Oil	Week 4+ December 21 st – January 9 th Boxes of Cookies Boxes of Crackers

Items can be brought to the Evergreen Academy Office, individual classrooms, or worship on Sunday morning. Alternatively, you can give using the online giving platform or the QR code and we will do the shopping.



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL

Thursday, November 27th at 2:00 p.m.
Katie Luther Chapel

Zion will provide a turkey, an alternative turkey, paper goods, and drinks. Sign up on Sunday mornings or text Gail at (954) 254-7430 to RSVP and share what you'll bring!



Hanging of the Greens

An Advent Liturgy

Sunday, November 30th at 11:00 a.m.
Church Sanctuary

We will decorate the church sanctuary after worship on Sunday, November 23rd to prepare for this liturgy.



Wednesdays in Advent

December 3rd, 10th, and 17th in Katie Luther Chapel

5:30 p.m.

Potluck Dinner (bring sides and desserts)

6:00 p.m.

Conversation & Study

"Being Faithful to Jesus in a Fractured World"

7:30 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer



Annual Meeting and Potluck

Sunday, December 7th
12:30 p.m.
Katie Luther Chapel



2025 Christmas Program

Thursday, December 18th at 6:30 p.m.
Church Sanctuary



CHRISTMAS EVE

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2025

4:00 p.m. – *Family Service*

8:00 p.m. – *Candlelight*

5th Annual Casual Christmas

Sunday,
December 28, 2025
11:00 a.m.
(in person only)



EPIPHANY

Taking Down the Greens

Sunday, January 4, 2026
11:00 a.m.

