

**ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH PEMBROKE  
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 8 2024  
SETTING 12 ALL CREATION SINGS (ACS)**

**PRELUDE  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (ACS p. 10)**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  
✠ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING SONG** *Prepare the Royal Highway* (ELW 264)

**1** Prepare the royal highway;  
the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory,  
foretold in sacred story:

### **Refrain**

Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

**2** God's people, see him coming:  
your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you! **Refrain**

**3** Then fling the gates wide open  
to greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
its tribute too may bring.  
All lands will bow before him;  
their voices join your singing: **Refrain**

**4** His is no earthly kingdom;  
it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
for kindness so abounding: **Refrain**

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

## **GREETING (ACS p. 30)**

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 (ACS p. 31)**

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

### **Second Week of Advent**

*P:* Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

O people of hope, come,

**let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.**

## **Hymn *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (ELW 240 verses 1-2)**

**1** Light one candle to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel,

God fulfills the promise.

**2** Light two candles to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,

gently lead them homeward.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954. Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 33)**

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC – MEN’S CHOIR - *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning***

Text and music African American spiritual

### **FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4**

A reading from Malachi.

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM HYMN *Blessed Be the God of Israel* (ELW 250)

**1** Blessed be the God of Israel  
who comes to set us free  
and raises up new hope for us:  
a Branch from David's tree.  
So have the prophets long declared  
that with a mighty arm  
God would turn back our enemies  
and all who wish us harm.

**2** With promised mercy will God still  
the covenant recall,  
the oath once sworn to Abraham,  
from foes to save us all;  
that we might worship without fear  
and offer lives of praise,  
in holiness and righteousness  
to serve God all our days.

**3** My child, as prophet of the Lord  
you will prepare the way,  
to tell God's people they are saved  
from sin's eternal sway.  
Then shall God's mercy from on high  
shine forth and never cease  
to drive away the gloom of death  
and lead us into peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79. Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

## SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ACS p. 33)

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. The first staff is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It contains three measures of music with lyrics underneath: "Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia." The second staff is also in G major and 4/4 time, showing a continuation of the melody with the instruction "Repeat alleluia" written above it.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-18**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, <sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?” <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is

more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup> So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 34)**

**HYMN OF THE DAY *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* (ELW 249)**

**1** On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!

**2** Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.

**3** We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

**4** Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more;  
oh, let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.

**5** All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Text : Charles Coffin, 1676-1749 ; tr. Composite. Text : Public Domain.



## **NICENE CREED**

*LET US CONFESS OUR FAITH USING THE WORDS OF THE NICENE CREED*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering (*especially Jason, Martha, Ella, Rhonda, Heather, Anneliese, Joan, Judy, Larry, Garnet, Betty, Lily, Karl, Ingrid, Elva, Clarence, Eva, Barbara, Inga, Marcella, Patricia, Amy, Edie, Freda, Otilia, Kirk*). Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 35)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING *We Are Waiting for Jesus* (ACS 905 verses 1 and 2)**

**1** We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

Sun of justice, shine upon us;

we are trusting in your promise.

We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

**2** We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

Loving Shepherd, walk beside us;

stir our hearts, and gently guide us.

We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b 1957. Text © 2013 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

**OFFERING PRAYER (ACS p. 35)**

Let us pray.

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

**Amen.**

# **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

## **DIALOGUE (ACS p. 36)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

## **PREFACE (ACS p. 36)**

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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ACS p. 36)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW P. 110)

### *OPTION C: Advent—Epiphany of Our Lord*

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER (ACS p. 39)**

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

**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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 40)**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

### **COMMUNION (ELW p. 40)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

### **COMMUNION SONG (ACS p. 40)**

**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.**

## COMMUNION HYMN *There's a Voice in the Wilderness* (ELW 255)

**1** There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

**2** O Jerusalem, herald good tidings,  
ascend to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their king.  
Like flow'rs of the field we perish,  
like grass our works decay;  
the pow'r and the pomp of nations  
shall pass like a dream away.

**3** But the word of our Savior is faithful,  
the arm of our God is strong,  
who stands in the midst of the nations  
and soon will right the wrong.  
Lord, feed your flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs so gently hold;  
in pastures of peace now lead them,  
and bring them to your fold.

Text : James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt. Text : Public Domain.



## COMMUNION HYMN *As the Dark Awaits the Dawn* (ELW 261)

**1** As the dark awaits the dawn,  
so we await your light.  
O Star of promise, scatter night,  
loving bright, loving bright,  
till shades of fear are gone.

**2** As the blue expectant hour  
before the silv'ring skies,  
we long to see your day arise,  
whole and wise, whole and wise,  
O lucent Morning Star.

**3** As the moon reflects the sun  
until the night's decrease,  
may we your healing light release,  
living peace, living peace,  
unto your holy dawn.

**4** Shine your future on this place,  
enlighten ev'ry guest,  
that through us stream your holiness,  
bright and blest, bright and blest;  
come dawn, O Sun of grace.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1953-2021. Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ACS p. 41)

Let us pray.

Living God, as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ. Through this meal may we be strengthened to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## SENDING OF COMMUNION (ELW p. 41)

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick and homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING (ACS p. 41)**

The peace of God,  
which surpasses all understanding,  
keep your hearts and your minds  
in † Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG *Hark, the Glad Sound!* (ELW 239)**

**1** Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.

**2** He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

**3** He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.

**4** Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

Text: Phillip Doddridge, 1702-1751. Text: Public Domain.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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**ATTENDANCE: Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup> - 121**

## **ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: December 9-15**

Monday:	8:30 am	Pickle Ball
	1:00 pm	Senior Exercise Class
	6:00 pm	Pickle Ball
	7:00 pm	Worship & Music Mtg.
	7:00 pm	Healing Vets
Tuesday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	6:30 pm	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Mixed Choir
	7:00 pm	Church Council Mtg.
Wednesday:	10:30 am	Mid Week Service
	1:00 pm	Senior Exercise Class
	6:15 pm	Confirmation Class
	7:00 pm	Men's Choir
	7:15 pm	Advent Book Study
Thursday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	6:00 pm	ALPHA Program
	7:00 pm	Healing Vets
Friday:	1:00 pm	Senior Exercise Class
	6:00 pm	Intergenerational Christmas Caroling at the Church
Sunday:	10:00 am	Worship Service & Holy Communion

## **TODAY'S SCHEDULED WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Scott Schellenberger
Worship Assistant:	Michael Lange
Music Director:	Blaine Sack
Sexton:	Hunter Denney
Projector Operator:	Ellen Vandersleen
Video Recorder:	Ryan Schmidt
Sound Operator:	Noah Schmidt
Counters:	Lisa Campitelli, Kathy Hoffman, Christine Booth
Altar Care:	Jean Rutz
Ushers:	Amanda Campbell & Ryan Parcher
Coffee Hour:	Denise & Barry Schizkoske

## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please pray for those who are ill, in hospital, or requested special prayers: Jason Godin, Martha Kodzynski, Ella Lehman, Rhonda Mau, Heather Miller, Anneliese Trautrim, Joan Lehman, Judy and Larry Blais, Garnet Miller, Betty Kuehl, Lily Kubiseski, Karl Hausser, Ingrid Trautrim, Elva & Clarence Gagne, Eva Hagenah, Barbara Schoof, Inga Latiok, Marcella Kuehl, Patricia Zohr, Amy Markus-Burgess, Edie Brum, Freda Kathen, Otilia Saldana G, Kirk Weichenthal.

*If you know of anyone in hospital, in need of a visit or are recently deceased, please inform the church 613 732-8792 or Pastor Scott 705 313-0333.*

### **DONATIONS**

A donation has been received from Robert Brum in memory of his dear wife Lorna.

A donation has been received from Shirley Tennant and Robert Brum in memory of their dear Aunt Leona Hein.

### **THANK YOU!**

A big thank you to Carol and Melissa Boldt for making and donating the new Advent banner. It looks great. It replaces one that had been in use for many, many years. Thanks again!

### **GUEST MUSICIAN**

On Sunday, Dec. 15th, special music will be shared by Zion's very own Maria Merredew. She will be singing two solos, one in German, both accompanied on organ, as part of our Third Sunday in Advent.

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC** will meet **Monday December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.**

**CHURCH COUNCIL** meeting to be held on **Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.**

**ADVENT BOOK STUDY** Advent Book Study continues on **Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 pm.**

**MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICE** at Zion will be held on **Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am.**

**ALPHA PROGRAM** group will meet on **Thursday December 12 at 6:00 pm.**

**INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING** on **Friday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.** We will meet at the Church.

## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**“CANDLES AND CAROLS”** Join us for a Christmas Sing-along **Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** at Zion. Donations of non-perishable items and cash donations to go to the Food Bank.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DONATIONS** If you wish to make a donation towards the Christmas poinsettias or any other cause in the church please make your request known by filling out the form found at the entrances to the church by **December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**MORNING SOCIAL** Please join us for our next Morning Social on **Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.** Come share coffee, tea and goodies along with fellowship and conversation.

### **SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS**

Join us for our exercise class on Mondays Wednesday and Fridays! The next classes are **Monday December 9<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup> and Friday December 13<sup>th</sup> 2024.**

Please note that the last exercise class for the year will be on **Friday December 20<sup>th</sup> 2024** and will resume on **Monday January 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.**

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSAL** will be on **Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am.**

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 am worship service.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES with Communion** will be on **December 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm.**

### **MENS & WOMENS WINTER BOOTS DONATIONS**

Maybe you are getting yourself some new winter boots but your old ones are not worn out and could benefit someone in need, or maybe they have been sitting in your closet waiting for a new pair of feet to keep warm! People that go to The Grind, St Vincent de Paul's soup kitchen and the Food Bank could really use these boots. Men's sizes 10-13 and women's 7 ½-10 are most in need but any and all donations help. A box marked "Winter Boots" will be beside the food bank donation box for contributions and will be picked up by Cheryl Sack, who thanks everyone for their donations.

## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ZION'S COMMUNITY GARDEN** Zion has been growing fresh produce for St Joseph's Food Bank for 5 years. It has been a wonderful way to support the people in our community who need good healthy fresh food. We all know the cost of fresh produce. The prices have been rising steadily and we have been very pleased to be able to help those who need it. The problem is that we need more volunteers to help in the garden. This past year 2-3 members have been doing most of the work except for the tilling of the garden in the spring when we had extra help with that. Thank you! Following much discussion, it was decided that unless a new committee of volunteers can step forward to take this project on, we will disband. It has become too much for too few. It is a perfect location with lots of sunshine. There is so much possibility. Another way that we could help the food bank is in the spring when planting our own gardens, we could plan to plan a row of beans or a couple of extra tomatoes or extra cucumber plants which could be dedicated to the food bank. They could be brought into the church, and we could get them to the food bank on the Monday morning. There are many creative possibilities to reach out and help. Let us think outside of the box for new ways to help our neighbours. We would love to hear from you. Is God calling you? *Your Social Ministry Committee*

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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