

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH PEMBROKE  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 4 2022  
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.  
**Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of new beginnings,

**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG *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.

### **GREETING (ELW p. 138)**

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 p. 138)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 2**

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

## **INSERTED MUSIC *He Came Down* (ELW 253)**

1 He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.

2 He came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.

Text: Cameroon traditional. Text: Public Domain.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 142)**

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**MEN'S CHOIR - THE KING OF GLORY** text is by, and ethnic origin of the music.... W. F. Jabusch, Israeli traditional

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,

and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 72:**

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>18</sup>**Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup>And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. AMEN

## **SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13**

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; <sup>10</sup>and

again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; <sup>11</sup>and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; <sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” <sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” <sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume 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>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY *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.

Holy Baptism

### **PRESENTATION**

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world. I present Gracelyn Dixon-Cole for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *your child* baptized into Christ?

**Response:** I do.

As you bring *Gracelyn* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with *her* among God's faithful people, bring *her* to the word of God and the holy supper, teach *her* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in *her* hands the holy scriptures, and nurture *her* in faith and prayer, so that *your child* may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help *your Gracelyn* grow in the Christian faith and life?

**Response:** I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *Gracelyn* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

**Response:** I do.

People of God, do you promise to support *Gracelyn* and pray for *her* in *her* new life in Christ?

**We do.**

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Congregation, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**Response:** I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

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*\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **BAPTISM**

Gracelyn, I baptize you in the name of the Father,\* and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.



Sustain Gracelyn with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Gracelyn, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

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## **WELCOME**

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation (*local examples may be named*). We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones *especially* Ann, Jason, Erna, Richard, Marilyn, Margaret, Martha, Elizabeth, Lani, Charlotte, Ella, Erica, Rhonda, Heather, Aileen, Sandra, Brenda, Ruth, Anneliese, Kaitlyn, Danita. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

### **PEACE (ELW p. 106)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **OFFERTORY HYMN *Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring* (ELW 691)**

1 Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring  
to place upon your table.

We do not worship as we ought  
but only as we're able.

3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares  
we lift in prayer before you.

Lord, by your grace now come to us,  
as humbly we adore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957. Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE (ELW p. 107)**

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 (ELW p. 108)**

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 (ELW p. 144)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 108)**

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.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

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 (ELW p. 112)**

**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**

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 112)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)**

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

**SONG DURING COMMUNION *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (ELW 272)**

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
as seers of old have sung,  
it came, a flow'r so bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half-spent was the night.

2 Isaiah had foretold it,  
the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
she bore to us a Savior,  
when half-spent was the night.

3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor  
the darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens ev'ry load.

4 O Savior, child of Mary,  
who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, king of glory,  
who dost our weakness know:  
bring us at length, we pray,  
to the bright courts of heaven  
and into endless day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4. Text: Public Domain.

**SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* (ELW 256)**

1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of peace!" So says our God.

Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow's load.  
To God's people now proclaim  
that God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever.

2 For the herald's voice is crying  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance,  
since the reign of God is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way.  
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;  
hills, bow down in humble favor.

3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that God's word is never broken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Text: Public Domain.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!* (MERTON) (ELW 246)**

1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding!  
"Christ is near," we hear it say.  
"Cast away the works of darkness,  
all you children of the day!"

2 Wakened by the solemn warning,  
from earth's bondage let us rise;  
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.

3 See the Lamb, so long expected,  
come with pardon down from heav'n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
one and all, to be forgiv'n;

4 So, when next he comes in glory  
and the world is wrapped in fear,  
he will shield us with his mercy  
and with words of love draw near.

5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing  
to the Father and the Son  
with the everlasting Spirit  
while unending ages run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878. Text: Public Domain.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.  
Thanks be to God.

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Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.

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## **Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special**

**Prayers:** Ann Beech, Jason Godin, Erna Handke, Richard Hubert, Marilyn Kathen, Margaret King, Martha Kodzynski, Elizabeth Kuehl, Lani Lange, Charlotte Layden, Ella Lehman, Erica Loevenmark, Rhonda Mau, Heather Miller, Aileen Roesler, Sandra Sell, Brenda Sperberg, Ruth Thom, Anneliese Trautrim, Kaitlyn Vaillancourt, Danita Wolfgram.

**Please Pray For The Newly Baptized;** especially this day we pray for little Gracelynn Dixon-Cole, her parents Alexia and Sean and her Godmother Brittanie Schwantz, that they may grow in God's love and grace.

## **News & Announcements**

### **CHRISTMAS DONATIONS**

If you wish to sponsor a poinsettia, or make a donation to a special fund in memory of a loved one, or in thankfulness to God for His many blessings, please make your **written** request on a donation form (*located at the entrances to the sanctuary*), and deposit it either in the offering basket, or place it in the office correspondence mailbox located on the steel office door by the elevator. Filling out one of these forms will ensure that your announcement will appear exactly as you wish. Your special Christmas donation may also be designated to one of the following funds: Building, Organ Restoration, Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), Good Shepherding, General, etc. **The last day to make this special request is December 20<sup>th</sup>.**

### **ZLW**

The ZLW meets this Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. The program in entitled Journey to Christmas and will presented by Susan Dupuis. Please bring your favourite finger food to share and Donations for the Food Bank.

### **GIFTS FROM THE HEART**

Give Gifts from the Heart this Christmas. Canadian Lutheran World Relief's new "Gifts from the Heart" catalogue has something to inspire and delight anyone on your list this year. It's full of meaningful, tangible gifts that will touch your loved ones and share God's love with the world! Copies are available at the entrances to the sanctuary, by emailing [clwr@clwr.org](mailto:clwr@clwr.org) or you can shop online at [clwr.org/GFTH](http://clwr.org/GFTH).



## **EASTERN SYNOD GUIDELINES**

Dear friends, colleagues and siblings in Christ,  
Since the very beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic we, as the body of Christ, have committed ourselves to doing whatever was necessary to protect the most vulnerable among us. This has been, and continues to be, a ministry of love and service to our neighbour for which I am so very grateful and proud.

In recent weeks Ministers of Health and individual Public Health Units across the territory of our Synod have begun to caution about the need for increased hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

For that reason, I am once again ***strongly recommending*** that all participants ***return to wearing a well fitting mask during in-person worship as well as during all indoor social events.*** It is also my strong counsel that Worship Leaders should be masked when they are not speaking and while presiding at the table/distributing communion.

As people of faith, we play a big part in the necessary collective action needed to protect the May God bless you and keep you in God's care!  
Bishop Michael Pryse

## **CONGREGATIONAL TABLE TALKS**

Just as Martin Luther sat around the table in a pub discussing theology with his students, we want you to join us. We will be gathering around tables with coffee and tea to talk about how you think your church Zion is called to do ministry. This is your chance to be heard. Come out after worship on January 8, 2023.

## **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SUNDAY AND POTLUCK**

Come to worship on December 18<sup>th</sup> to see the story of the birth of Christ re-enacted as you have never seen before! There will be a potluck to follow!

## **CHRISTMAS COFFEEHOUSE AND CAROL SING**

On Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 3:30pm-5:30pm, join us for an open mic afternoon! Bring instruments and voices, Christmas Carols, Local Musicians! Hot chocolate, cider, coffee, tea and juice will be served with sweets and appetizers.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

2:00pm – Family Service

4:30pm – Candlelight Service  
7:00pm – Candlelight Service

## **CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

During the month of December, Confirmation Classes will run from 6pm-8pm every Wednesday at the church.

**ADVENT OPEN HOUSE AT PASTOR SCOTT’S AND PASTOR SUE’S** on Saturday, December 17th at 7pm. All are welcome.

**Messy Church** is another alternative, in addition to Sunday School (not in place of), that is held in the evening once a month. It includes Food, Crafts, Games, Faith Talk, and Fun! It is for all individuals young and old. The next event is December 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

The **“Living Stones” worship** is cancelled in December due to Christmas activities. Our next service will be Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm.

**COME CHRISTMAS CAROLLING WITH THE YOUTH** – Join us for some caroling and hot chocolate on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. We will be visiting some members. Dress warm!

## **ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES**

Beginning Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and continuing every Wednesday until December 21<sup>st</sup>. The service will be longer this year with a combination of hymns, sermon and Holden Evening Prayer.

## **Today’s Scheduled Worship Volunteers**

**Worship Assistant:** TBD

**Sexton:** Koit Rull

**Projector Operator:** Ellen Vandersleen

**Video Recorder:** Daniel Reid

**Sound Operator:** Gerry Vandersleen

**Counters:** Diane Hammel, Pam Duplessis, Wilmer Verch

**Altar Care:** Diane Rull

**Ushers:** Amanda Campbell

**Coffee Hour:** Debbie Sitkiewicz, Pam Duplessis

## **This Week at Zion – December 5 - 11**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>5:30pm</b>	Messy Church
<b>Tues</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Tai Chi
	<b>10am</b>	Heritage Manor Service
	<b>7pm</b>	Worship & Music Cte. Mtg.
	<b>7pm</b>	Narcotics Anonymous
<b>Wed</b>	<b>12:30pm</b>	Staff Mtg.
	<b>2pm</b>	ZLW Mtg.
	<b>6pm</b>	Confirmation Class
	<b>6pm</b>	Mid Week Advent Service
	<b>7pm</b>	Men's Choir Practice
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Tai Chi
	<b>7pm</b>	Mixed Choir Practice
	<b>7pm</b>	Music Healing Vets
<b>Fri</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Youth/Congregational Carolling
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10am</b>	Worship Service with Holy Communion & Sunday School
	<b>3:30-5:30</b>	Christmas Coffee House & Carol Sing