

**Lessons and Carols: 2pm Christmas Eve Service.
Gathering as God's People**

From back door declare the good news

Declaration of Good News

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. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:6-7

Processional Carol: O Come, All Ye Faithful (283 *ELW*) *we will process in with the cross bearer*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to
Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

2 The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,

born of a virgin, a mortal he
comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven
above!

Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

Call to Worship

Like the shepherds, we come to the stable, uncertain of what we have heard and seen, **longing to hear a word of peace and joy.**

Like the wise ones, we have journeys to make, gifts to offer, and hope in our hearts, **that this world can change for the better.**

Here, in the stillness of a winter's night, we gather to share the light of Christ, a light that shines in the nightfall. **We gather in the wonder of this night to share our joy and thanks for new life.**

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Advent, the season of preparing, is nearly over. Our waiting is nearly finished. Now is a time of fulfillment and celebration.

In the darkness of night, we give thanks for light.

We light a candle of hope: hope for ourselves, and for God's beloved world.

We light a candle of peace: peace in our hearts, and on earth.

We light a candle of joy: joy to the world, and within our whole being.

We light a candle of love: the promise of God's love for us, and for all creation.

And now the hour has come and the season is fulfilled.

We light the Christ candle, the light of the world, the light of possibility. Amen.

Sign of Peace

“Even as the heavens opened and angels spoke, the first word they sang was ‘Peace.’ Even as confused shepherds came from their hills and flocks, uncertain but hopeful, they greeted each other with ‘Peace.’ In the midst of our preparations and excitement, we take a moment to greet one another with a word of peace: peace in this place, peace in our homes, peace in this world...”

Peace be with you.
And also with you.

Anthem: Mens Choir - I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve, by Sveeggen and Knudsen

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Carol: Once in Royal David's City(269 *ELW*)

1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from
heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and
lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 And our eyes at last shall see
him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.
- 4 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory
crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

The First Lesson Luke 1:26–35

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."^[a] ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be,

since I am a virgin?"^[b] ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[c] will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

Carol: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (270 ELW)

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

The Second Lesson Luke 2:1–20

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to

whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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 for them in the inn.

Hymn 277 Away in the Manger

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down
his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked
down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on
the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look
down from the sky

and stay by my cradle till
morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask
you to stay
close by me forever and love
me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in
your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with
you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

The Third Reading

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[b] praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”^[c]

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory ELW 275*

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
..... once you sang creation's
story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and
worship,
worship Christ, the newborn
king.

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by
night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and
worship,
worship Christ, the newborn
king.

3 Sages, leave your
contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and
worship,
worship Christ, the newborn
king.

4 All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and
worship,
worship Christ, the newborn
king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4

Reflection Hopes and Fears

The peace of the new born Christ be with you all. The Nativity story is such that it offers not only the great gift of the arrival of Jesus for us but the faithful perspective of many other characters. Mary, Joseph, the Innkeeper, the Angels, the Shepherds, the animals in the stable, and eventually we will hear more about the wisemen.

They all have a different but important role. Tonight I want to talk a little bit about the shepherds. The shepherds were individuals that were held in low esteem. They were generally considered to be liars and thieves. They were religiously “unclean” and were even disallowed from testifying in court. So if anyone seems like an unlikely candidate for living a life of effective witness it is the shepherds. And yet, the angles appear to them to tell them to go to Bethlehem and see the Saviour. Unable to bring gifts they simply go and then go out into the world to proclaim the good news ... most likely to people of their own social status, the marginalized. They have gone from being fearful to not being afraid.

I am sure many of you recall the 1965 television Christmas special *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. (*If you haven't recently perhaps you should watch it again noting the Christian undertones.*) In the story, Charles Schultz makes a nice, if subtle, reference to the change in the shepherds. Linus takes his place on stage to recite the Christmas story from Luke. As always, he holds his security blanket that he is never without. When he speaks the words, “Fear not” he lets his blanket slip from his hand and tells the rest of the story, using that hand to be more expressive as he speaks. When he is finished and ready to exit, he picks up the blanket again; but later we see him with his friends now completely without it.

News of God-with-us in the holy child is meant to take away our fear; but our newfound fearlessness is mostly for the purpose of expressing it with great abandon. Like the shepherds the church we are called to be publicly, visibly and audibly expressive of our news and make known what we have been told.

Storyteller and author, Garrison Keillor posted an essay about the wonder of Christmas on the interactive internet magazine Salon. He wrote of “magic”. One young woman in New York responded by writing that she seldom went to church, but always did make a point to go at Christmas. She mentioned the magic about which Keillor wrote. She noted the kindness, the gentleness, the hospitality, the sweet generosity, and open welcome that so often rest in these special days. She said she adored it all, loved the carols

and trees, and candles, even the Christmas story itself. Finally she lamented, almost bitterly, that it was all too soon gone. In no time, she said, Christmas was over and New York City was back to usual-no magic, not so kind, never gentle, and anything but sweetly generous. “Christmas just doesn’t last she sighed.”¹

As Christmas is here now I invite you to imagine ways to carry some of the “Christmas magic” into the days beyond Christmas Day into all seasons of life. This is possible because Christmas does last. It may be hard to see when we are struggling still with this global pandemic. But know that the light of the Incarnation of God, Jesus, is all around us. Look for incarnation in the world around us, and live your life in the daring and transforming truth that the Incarnation is “not ‘back then” or “up there” but that God is God-with-us in every here and now.

Tonight, begins another celebration of Christmas in many homes. May you have the confidence of the shepherds to fear no one and tell the news of the great Christ child and the joy in experiencing the magic of Christmas with your families and your church families too. Christmas Blessings to you all. Amen.

¹ Garrison Keillor, “away in an Awesome Manger,” *Salon*, Dec. 5, 2007.

Hymn of the Day Joy to the World 267 ELW

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Joy to the world, the Lord is
 come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and
nature sing.</p> | <p>3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings
flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.</p> |
| <p>2 Joy to the earth, the Savior
reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks,
hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> | <p>4 He rules the world with truth and
grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his
love.</p> |

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Holy Baptism

PRESENTATION

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

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.

Sponsors for each candidate, in turn, present the candidates:

I present Adeline for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves:

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

Response: I do.

As you bring *Adeline* 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 *Adeline* 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 *Adeline* grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *Adeline* 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.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

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

We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.

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.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

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.**

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Water may be poured into the font before or during the thanksgiving. At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:

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.

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM. *Water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:*

Adeline, I baptize you in the name of the Father,*
and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The presiding minister continues:

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.

Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:

Sustain Adeline 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.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

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

Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:

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

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

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.**

Responding in Love

Prayers of the People

God of star and stable, you lead us to wonder and to hope. You gather us together to hear your promise of love. As we gather, we offer our concerns and our dreams, our hopes and fears... *(silence)*

Like the shepherds who sought the stable, we seek your promise of peace. We pray for your people broken by violence, those who live with fear, and those who live without hope. We remember them all, and we pray for your courage and peace... *(silence)*

Like the wise ones who dedicated their gifts, we remember those in need. We pray for those who are lonely, hungry, or forgotten; for those who are ill in body and in spirit; for those who are confused or afraid. We pray for your joy and love, for all your people, especially those we remember now... *(silence)*

Holy One, you came as a child, offering renewal of spirit and of living. May our prayers be a new beginning: for healing, truth, and trust. May we embody love that is forgiving, compassionate, and gracious. May we send back the angels' song of peace and joy. We pray these things in the name of Jesus who became the Christ, Amen.

Offering

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their
watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and
trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.
Refrain

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

Text: African American spiritual,
refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-
1925, stanzas, alt.

Offertory Prayer:

A. Let us pray. Lord of Christmas,

C. We are mindful of the supreme gift that you gave us in a manger at Bethlehem. Humbly we offer our gifts of service and possessions in joyful thanksgiving for the love you have shown us. Accept these gifts for the sake of your Son who was born to us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Blessing and Benediction

From this house to yours, may you share in the gifts of this season. May love, the promise of generations, attend you. Joy, the gift of life together, fill you. Peace, the desire of neighbour and nations, find you. Hope, the horizon of faith, sustain you.

And may a very Merry Christmas be yours. **Amen.**

Sharing the Christ Light

Hymn #279 – “O Little Town of Bethlehem” is sung as the Sextons and Ushers help us light our candles. After all the candles are lit and the lights in the Place of Worship are dimmed, we will sing **Hymn #281 “Silent Night”**, starting with a verse in German, which should surprise and delight the angels.

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem (279 ELW)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and
dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets
shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all
the years
are met in thee tonight. | 3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human
hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his
coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will
receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in. |
| 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the
angels keep
their watch of wond'ring
love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the
king,
and peace to all the earth! | 4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter
in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas
angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with
us,
our Lord Immanuel! |

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Carol: Silent Night, Holy Night (*ELW 281*)

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

GERMAN

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.

Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

ENGLISH

- 1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and
child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,

heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

- 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy
face,
with the dawn of redeeming
grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

Go in peace your light has come. Thanks be to God.
Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS

FLOWERS ON THE BAPTISMAL SHELF have been sponsored by the grandparents of Adeline Vandersleen in honor of her baptism today at the 2pm service. *"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."* Matthew 18:3

THE CHRISTMAS TREES HAVE BEEN DONATED BY

☆ The Property Committee of Zion

POINSETTIAS HAVE BEEN SPONSORED BY

- ☆ Edgar & Aileen Roesler, Gail Roesler, and Larry & Lorraine MacKenzie & family in thankfulness to God and the people of Zion for their prayers
- ☆ Larry & Gayle Seegmiller in thankfulness for our dedicated staff and all the volunteers who work so tirelessly here at Zion
- ☆ Debbie & Stan Sitkiewicz in thankfulness to God for having loving parents Ken & Vera Schizkoske

- ☆ Sheila Wendt in memory of a beloved husband Rick, and her parents, Elmer & Marion Hammel
- ☆ Peter & Patricia Wegner in thankfulness to God for many blessings and family

DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE GOOD SHEPHERDING FUND BY

- ☆ Angela Lubitz in honor of loved ones
- ☆ Todd, Karen, Aiden and Rachael Gauthier in memory of loved ones and in thankfulness to God for family

A DONATION HAVE BEEN MADE TOWARDS THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE BY

- ☆ Mae Schizkoske in thankfulness for everything that they have done for her

A DONATION HAVE BEEN MADE TOWARDS OUR STAINED GLASS WINDOW REPAIR FUND BY

- ☆ Marion Marshall in memory of her husband Dave and her parents Millie & Charlie Schiemann

A DONATION HAVE BEEN MADE TOWARDS CAMP LUTHERLYN LEGACY FUND BY

- ☆ Murray & Sandra Sell in thankfulness for the joy and love they receive from their grandchildren whom they love so dearly

DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF BY

- ☆ Mervin & Martha McKibbon in fond memory of their parents William & Lydia Stalkie & Beatrice McKibbon and sister Vera Hoffman
- ☆ Glenn & Ruth Johnston & family in loving memory of a dear son, father, uncle and grandfather, Tim Johnston and parents Hilda & John Klawitter
- ☆ Ruth Thom in memory of husband Roy & son Rick
- ☆ Cheryl Sack in thankfulness to God for knowing Pastor Stephen & Jan Scheidt and all the best in 2022

DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE BUILDING FUND BY

- ☆ Lloyd & Sandra Graham, Dean & Elizabeth Graham and family, and Dale & Tina Graham and family in memory of parents and grandparents Guenther & Dorothea Zadow
- ☆ Vera Krueger & family in loving memory of loved ones who have passed away

DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TOWARDS OUR GENERAL FUND BY

- ☆ Stephen Goltz in loving memory of his parents Elmer & Serena Goltz, and grandparents Harry & Ida Baker and Frank & Martha Goltz. *“We will be together again.”*
- ☆ Fred & Cindy Thrasher & Nicola Dupont in loving memory of Elmer & Serena Goltz, Lindsay & Martha Thrasher, Doris Laferriere, Harry & Ida Baker, Frank & Martha Goltz. *“Although our loved ones are out of sight, they are never out of mind. For they are cherished in the hearts of the ones they left behind.”*
- ☆ Robert Lindeman, Anne Schultz, Stephanie & Eric Hughson, Christopher Schultz & fiancé Meghan Burton in loving memory of Rodney Schultz and Fred Lindeman
- ☆ Jamie, Erica, Keanna & Nadia MacKinnon in thankfulness to God for family and friends. Also, in memory of loved ones especially in the recent passing of Ann MacKinnon, a wonderful Mom and Grandma who will forever be in our hearts
- ☆ Robert Brum in memory of Lorna
- ☆ Linda Henderson in loving memory of dear husband Alexander, and parents Ernest & Hilda Bimm & sister Sandra Maringer
- ☆ Robert Brum & Shirley Tennant in memory of Leona Hein
- ☆ Geraldine, Pat & Audrey Belore in memory of husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather Allen Belore, and also other family members – Iren, Fred and three brothers and their wives – Edgar & Eileen Wells, Helen, Kenneth & Geraldine Goldberg
- ☆ Bill MacKinnon in loving memory of his dear wife Ann MacKinnon

- ☆ Kevin & Jean Rutz in loving memory of their dear son Michael, who enriched their lives with his carefree personality, laughter and musical talents, and other loved ones, and in thankfulness to God for their grandchildren who light up their lives with their love and innocence

DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE ORGAN RESTORATION FUND BY

- ☆ Bob, Barb & Jennifer Schoof in thankfulness to God for His healing and many blessings over the years
- ☆ Dan & Brenda Dole in celebration of the 90th birthday of Martha Kodzynski on December 26th
- ☆ Edward & Rob Gorr in memory of Ellen Gorr & Brian Gorr and other relatives
- ☆ Larry & Gayle Seegmiller in memory of loved ones and in thankfulness to God for their family
- ☆ Lianne & Barry Pepper and Laretta Handke in memory of a dear husband and father Donald Handke, and son and brother Randy Handke, and in thankfulness to God for good health, good friends and family
- ☆ Pastor Dave & Elaine Metzger in memory of their parents Dora & Wes Metzger and Ellen & Vivian Bocking, who gave them many joyful Christmas memories
- ☆ Ruth Crigger in memory of loved ones
- ☆ Marilyn Kathen in memory of Burnell "Louie" Kathen, and in thankfulness for God's blessings
- ☆ Linda & Wayne Reiche & family in memory of the Hammel & Reiche family members that are no longer with us. Music was enjoyed by all of them and it fills our hearts with joy to hear the organ continue to bring us so many familiar songs even when we are in our home participating in services. Blessings to all this Christmas
- ☆ Jason, Karen, Haley & Lucas Godin in memory of Edith Gorr, a grandmother who passed away November 27, 2021

- ☆ Cheryl Sack in memory of her dad and mom – Fred & Edith Gorr, who passed away October 11, 1994 and November 27, 2021. They will celebrate Christmas together in heaven
- ☆ Dorothy Scheuneman in loving memory of a dear husband Lorne, and son and daughter-in-law David & Lisa Scheuneman
- ☆ Viola Hill in memory of her parents Bill & Esther Scheuneman, her husband Gordon and son Bruce
- ☆ Martha Kodzynski in thankfulness to God for Cheryl Sack who brings her to Sunday worship services
- ☆ Bill & Irene Kennedy & family in memory of loved ones and in thankfulness to God for many blessings
- ☆ Robert Tremblay in honor of Edith Gorr
- ☆ Joyce and Beverly in loving memory of their parents, Lorne & Anne Huebner and their dear sister Ann MacKinnon
- ☆ Lloyd & Sandra Graham in thankfulness for 50 years of marriage they recently celebrated and for the blessing of their children and grandchildren
- ☆ Lillian Michel in memory of deceased relatives and in thankfulness to God for His many blessings

MULTIPLE DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY

- ☆ Edith Brumm to the Organ Restoration Fund in thankfulness to God for her children who are always there to look after her when she needs them – done with much love – whatever they do. They have laughed and cried together, but are always there for one another. God bless you all from a very grateful mother – “Much Love Always.” And also a special thank you to Blaine and his choirs, and the wonderful recitals that he leaves us with every Sunday, and the wonderful group of singers that we have been privileged to hear on Sundays during this trying time. I say “Joy to the World” – continue to sing with the angels, and may the walls of our church continue to swell as we praise our father in heaven. Also to the Building Fund in thankfulness to God for the members of Zion – “brothers and sisters” for all the blessings and good wishes from them for her

health and wellness during her illness and even after. May God bless you all as we greet the birth of Jesus with prayers and song and love for one another. Blessings to you and your loved ones, at this Christmastime and always

- ☆ Nancy & Marcel Chaput, Cassie & Lucas Scheuneman, and Travis Wagner & Cynthia Neumann & Madison Wagner towards the Building Fund in loving memory of a dear dad, grandfather and great grandfather, Lorne Scheuneman, and to the Organ Restoration Fund in loving memory of a dear brother, dad, uncle and great uncle David Scheuneman, and a dear sister-in-law, mom, aunt and great aunt, Lisa Scheuneman
- ☆ Pam & Dan Duplessis in memory of Dan's mother Theresa Duplessis towards the Poinsettias, and also in thankfulness to God for their loving family to the General Fund

TO YOU AND ALL WHO HAVE MADE CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO OR THROUGH ZION – May the miracle of Christmas find you safe in the Peace of God and warm in the Light of Christ! *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17*

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News and Announcements

Please Pray for all travellers that their homecomings will be safe and joyous.

REMINDER – During the Christmas season, the office will be closed. It will open for regular office hours on Monday, January 3, 2022.

A WARM “THANK YOU!” to all who have prepared for this festive worship – those who decorated the chancel and nave, and those who worked in the office preparing bulletins, etc.; and all who assisted in worship leadership this evening – assistants, servers, sextons, ushers, greeters, altar guild, choirs, projector operators and counters of our gifts.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2022 are ready for pick up in the Parish Hall along the stage.

REMINDER – If you or any of your loved ones are in need of pastoral care or are admitted to hospital, please let the church office know, so prayers can be arranged. Thank you!

THANK YOU – The Godin family would like to express many thanks to the people of Zion who made donations to the Godin family – Jason, Karen, Haley & Lucas. It was much appreciated and also to the Social Ministry committee and Zion Lutheran Women. Jason is doing well. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

THE STAFF OF ZION wish to thank all of you for your special gifts, words of encouragement, and prayers during this Christmas season. May you all feel the warmth and peace that is the true meaning of the season.