

Christmas Eve 2020

Setting 4

**Prelude:**

**Welcome and Announcements:**

**CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENT** - The Christmas arrangement on the Baptismal shelf is placed by Pastor Scheidt in thanksgiving for the year we have shared together and for the kindness, compassion and gentle spirit that defines your life as a parish. Pastor Stephen & Jan also thank you for the many Christmas cards and gifts that have brightened our days during this season.

**SERVICE BROADCAST ON COGECO** - Cogeco Community Channel is now broadcasting Zion's services at 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon on Sunday mornings, a week later.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** – Please note that the offering envelopes for 2021 are ready and available to be picked up. They are located in the Parish Hall along the wall in front of the kitchen. Please ensure physical distancing when going into the hall to pick up your envelopes. As in previous years, please do not use these envelopes until 2021. Envelope numbers change from year to year, and it makes inputting donations a little harder when envelopes are not used for the current year. Thank you for your understanding.

**FAREWELL TO PASTOR STEPHEN & JAN** - Due to the province-wide lockdown, our scheduled farewell to Pastor Stephen & Jan will not be happening on Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. Please forward your best wishes to them both through mail or a phone call. We will plan a special farewell once we are able to gather together again. Susan Dupuis

**OUR INTERIM PASTOR** - We would like to announce that Pastor Leena Jensen will be serving as our interim pastor beginning January 1, 2021. Pastor Leena is presently working with St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church, Alice, Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Rankin and Bethlehem Ev. Lutheran Church, Woito. Due to the Covid-19 virus, these congregations are not holding in-person services and have graciously agreed to have Pastor Leena work with us. We thank God for giving us the opportunity to worship with your Pastor Leena. More information regarding Pastor Leena's responsibilities and contact information will be shared in January. Susan Dupuis, Church Council Chairperson

## **DECEMBER CLOSING**

It was announced on Monday, December 21st by the Ontario Government that the province will go into lockdown beginning December 26, 2020. We have recorded the first service today and it will be available for viewing later this afternoon. If you are unable to join us in person, please join us on-line.

After today, we will not be holding any in-person services until further notice. We will not be recording a service on December 27 but will begin in January. The office will also be closed as of today. We will be checking periodically for voice mail messages and emails.

We will post updates as to the reopening of in-person services once more information is available. Watch for this information on our church webpage [www.zionlutheran.ca](http://www.zionlutheran.ca), our Facebook page Zion Lutheran Church Pembroke and on our church voicemail 613-732-8792.

It is important that we all stay vigilant in our precautions to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Our celebrations of the birth of Christ will look very different this year. A quieter time with small numbers of family members will allow us time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Please continue to pray for all people alone this Christmas, for those who are ill and for our first responders. May Christ fill you with peace this Christmas and into next year.

Susan Dupuis, Church Council Chairperson

### ***SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS***

#### **THE CHRISTMAS TREES HAVE BEEN DONATED BY**

☆ The Property Committee of Zion

#### **POINSETTIAS HAVE BEEN SPONSORED BY**

☆ Debbie Sitkiewicz in thankfulness to God for Pastor Stephen & Jan. Thank you Pastor Stephen for the past year of being a great mentor at Zion, & Jan – thank you for working with Debbie delivering church bulletins

☆ Debbie & Stan Sitkiewicz in loving memory of Debbie's parents Ken & Vera Schizkoske

☆ Jan & Pastor Stephen Scheidt in loving memory of their fathers Mr. Jack House and Mr. George Scheidt

☆ Don & Elsolene Hoffman in memory of loved ones

☆ Richard & Debbie Faught in loving memory of Debbie's grandparents Con & Inez Lassman, and in thankfulness to God for the continued good health and happiness of their family and friends

☆ The Merredew & Remus families in memory of loved ones

☆ Erna Handke in memory of loved ones

**DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE BUILDING FUND BY**

- ☆ Vera Krueger & family in loving memory of their dear husband, father and grandpa, Wm. James Krueger, and other loved ones
- ☆ Marilyn, Tracy & Jason Kathen in loving memory of Burnell “Louie” Kathen
- ☆ Cora Weichenthal in loving memory of a loving husband, father and grandfather, Wesley Weichenthal
- ☆ Kevin & Jean Rutz in loving memory of their dear son Michael, and other loved ones, and in thankfulness to God for their 3 little blessings

**DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE ORGAN RESTORATION FUND BY**

- ☆ David, Joan & Lauren Lehman in loving memory of their dear mother and grandmother, Audrey Lehman
- ☆ Lori, Sean, Adam, Jessica, Izabelle & Jackson Roche in loving memory of David Roche & Murray & Audrey Lehman
- ☆ Larry & Gayle Seegmiller in memory of loved ones & in thankfulness to God for our ability to worship safely here at Zion
- ☆ Marlyn Grodde in thankfulness to God for the joy of belonging to such a wonderful congregation

**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
- ☆ Ruth Thom in loving memory of husband Roy & son Rick
- ☆ Ruth & Glenn Johnston & families in memory of John & Hilda Klawitter, brother Grant and son Timothy Johnston

**DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TOWARDS OUR STAINED GLASS WINDOW REPAIR FUND BY**

- ☆ Peter & Patricia Wegner in loving memory of their parents, Fred & Vera Potts and Roy & Rachel Wegner, and in thankfulness for their family
- ☆ Viola Hill in loving memory of her husband Gordon and son Bruce
- ☆ Margaret King in loving memory of her sister Esther Corrigan
- ☆ June Popke in thankfulness to God for her health, her family and all the blessings this past year
- ☆ Lloyd & Sandra Graham, Dean, Elizabeth & children, Dale, Tina & children, in loving memory of parents & grandparents Guenther & Dorothea Zadow
- ☆ Marcel & Nancy Chaput in thankfulness to God for the safe arrival of their first grandchild, Madison Ida Wagner, daughter of Travis Wagner and Cynthia Neumann

**DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TOWARDS OUR GENERAL FUND BY**

- ☆ Pastor Dave & Elaine Metzger in loving memory of Wes & Dora Metzger
- ☆ Geraldine Belore & her family, Pat & Audrey, grandchildren Nicole, Joshua & Keanda, and great grandchildren Alex,

Christopher, Markus & Myles thank God for their family members both past and present this Christmas season, and in thankfulness to God for Murray & Sandra Sell and all the assistance they have given her over the past months. God bless each one.

- ☆ In loving memory of Lorne & Ann Huebner from Joyce, Beverly, Ann & families
- ☆ Cheryl Sack as she remembers loved ones who passed away this year – Mary Brown, Arnold Kruschenske, Aunt Ellen Gorr, Hilda Klawitter – all were dear to her heart and will be celebrating Christmas in Heaven
- ☆ Murray & Sandra Sell in thankfulness to God for their many blessings during this stressful time of COVID
- ☆ Pam & Dan Duplessis in memory of loved ones
- ☆ Barry & Arlene Grosskleg in loving memory of Elmer & Vera Hoffman and Mervin Grosskleg
- ☆ Brenda & Dan Dole in thankfulness to God for Pastor Stephen, for Blaine, for Kevin & Jean and all of Zion's volunteers who have provided wonderful church services during this year of COVID! Blessings to you! Keep the Faith!
- ☆ Robert Lindeman, Anne Schultz, Christopher Schultz (fiancé Meghan Burton) & Stephanie & Eric Hughson in loving memory of Rodney Schultz & Fred Lindeman
- ☆ Flora Schrie & family in thankfulness to God for all His blessings over the past year
- ☆ 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.”

- ☆ Leona Hein in loving memory of a dear friend and loving companion, Arnold Kruschenske. Forever loved and always in my heart
- ☆ Charlotte & Wayne Christink & family in memory of Arnold Kruschenske, a loving, kind and caring man. Forever in our hearts.
- ☆ Linda Henderson in loving memory of husband Alexander and parents Ernest & Hilda Bimm & sister Sandra Maringer
- ☆ Karen, Jason, Haley, & Lucas Godin in thankfulness to God for Edith Gorr - a Grandmother and Great Grandmother - for all the good times and memories they have

**DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE GOOD SHEPHERDING FUND BY**

- ☆ Elizabeth Kuehl in loving memory of her husband Ellard Kuehl and daughter Bonnie
- ☆ The Lubitz Family in honour of Aranna & loved ones

**DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE FOOD BANK BY**

- ☆ Mona Zadow in thankfulness to God for her family, Pastor Stephen & Jan

**DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE ALTAR FUND BY**

- ☆ Ruth Crigger in thankfulness to God for family and loved ones

**MULTIPLE DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY**

- ☆ Gerry & Ellen Vandersleen to the new Railing and General Fund in loving memory of Gerry's father John Vandersleen, Ellen's parents Karl & Phyllis Gust and brother Harvey
- ☆ Dorothy Scheuneman to the Stained Glass Window Repair Fund in loving memory of a dear husband, Lorne and son & daughter-in-law David & Lisa Scheuneman; to CLWR in thankfulness to God for the safe arrival of her great granddaughter Madison Wagner on August 3, 2020
- ☆ Nancy & Marcel Chaput, Cassie & Lucas Scheuneman, Travis Wagner & Cynthia Neumann to the Building Fund in loving memory of a dear Dad and Grandfather Lorne Scheuneman, and to the Organ Restoration Fund in loving memory of a dear Brother, Dad, and Uncle David Scheuneman and a dear Sister-in-law, Mom, and Aunt Lisa Scheuneman
- ☆ Edie Brumm to the Building Fund in loving memory of a much-missed husband, Donald Brumm and sister Esther Corrigan, in thankfulness for her family who are always there when she needs them – Susan – as you know is at church much of the time, so she has no problem getting a drive, and Nancy who lives with her, so it's great when you are over 90, and very much appreciated. Thanks be to God for family. Also in thankfulness for the privilege of being able to go to her beloved church and to meet her church family with love. What a blessing! Also, in thankfulness, last but not least, she's thankful for our Pastor Stephen and his wife Jan for deciding to stay with us in Pembroke. We Love You and may God keep you well as you will worship with us now and together in the future. To the Organ Restoration fund in thankfulness for our wonderful organist and music leader in our church. He makes the walls swell with praise, as he leads our soloists in making

our beautiful hymns come to life, when we cannot sing ourselves. Under Blaine's leadership, they have sounded like angels, and sometimes like a whole choir. May God Bless you all!

☆ Blaine Sack & Robbie Tremblay to the Organ Restoration Fund in thankfulness to God for Pastor Stephen & Jan, and for the ministry and gifts they brought to Zion, and for the choirs and all singers, who sang praises during a very difficult year; and to the General Fund in thankfulness to God for the guidance and love of their grandmothers, Edith Gorr and Dorothy Poirier, and their mothers, Cheryl Sack and Maggie Tremblay

**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*

### **Our Staff / Worship Leaders**

**Presider:** Pastor Stephen Scheidt

**Musician:** Blaine Sack

**Administrative Secretary:** Jean Rutz

**Custodian:** Kevin Rutz

### **11 a.m. Service**

**Credit Researcher:** Diane Hammel

**Worship Assistant/Reader:** Susan Dupuis

**Videorecorder:** Ty Phannenhour

**Projectionist:** Rick Gerundin

**Counters:** Susan Dupuis, Gerry Vandersleen, Andrew Zadow

**Guides:** Vince & Emma Rabishaw

**Sexton:** Don Boldt

**Greeter:** Cheryl Sack

### **3 p.m. Service**

**Worship Assistant/Reader:** Ellen Vandersleen

**Projectionist:** Krista Grosskleg

**Counters:** Kathy Godin, Barry & Arlene Grosskleg

**Guides:** Arlene Grosskleg, Gerry Vandersleen

**Sexton:** Koit Rull

**Greeter:** Roseanne Campbell

### **7 p.m. Service**

**Worship Assistant/Reader:** Wayne Kirk

**Projectionist:** Ellen Vandersleen

**Counters:** Kathy Godin, Richard Faught, Debbie Wegner

**Guides:** Debbie Sitkiewicz, Denise Schizkoske

**Sexton:** Diane Hammel

**Greeter:** Debbie Wegner

**Gathering Hymn:** ELW 283 *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

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

**Kyrie and Glory to God:**

**Prayer of the Day:** Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **First Reading:** Isaiah 9: 2 – 7

A reading from Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

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.

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

**Psalm 97:** *“A Light Will Shine”*

## **Second Reading:** Galatians 4: 4 - 7

A reading from Galatians.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no

longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

**Song to Welcome the Gospel:** “*Away in a Manger*” - Allen Rose

**Gospel:** Luke 2: 1 - 20

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son, and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!”

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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

**Homily:** The writer of Saint Luke’s Gospel tells us a beautiful Christmas story, filled with adoring shepherds, sweetly singing angels, and a wonderfully peaceful moment with Mary and Joseph at the cradle which holds the Christ child. This is such an important story for Christians, one most of us heard when we were very young, and it speaks its warmth to our hearts.

The story becomes even more meaningful when we begin to understand what is happening as the story unfolds. This little baby was born in an occupied country as the subject of a fairly ruthless world power. He would become a refugee in Egypt, fleeing Herod’s persecution...according to Saint Matthew’s gospel...and he would live as one of the poor ones...according to the Gospel of Saint Luke.

Throughout his life, many of his own people would try to silence him and even kill him. To the Romans, who ruled his country, he was simply a disposable nuisance. If we are feeling the least bit irreligious today, or perhaps a bit cynical, we could accuse God of very bad judgment for making such lousy choices for the birth of Christ our Lord.

Which would be true, I suppose, except that God made a conscious choice to be born among us as one of the poor ones, into a very troubled, messy, chaotic and even sometimes hostile world and to share our life so that our life might become holy...touched by God, lived in the presence of God.

The birth of our Lord in Bethlehem shows us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Not even death will be able to do that because our feet are firmly set on the path of life by the one who is for us the way of life. The birth of Christ is God's refusal to let this world snuff out the holiness and sanctity of our life as the children of God and it is the source of the wonderful hope that is ours as the children of God. Wherever we go, whatever we do, whatever happens to us in our messy, imperfect, chaotic lives, God will be there as Emmanuel, now and forever because of this holy night in Bethlehem.

This Christmas, we once again have the joy of joining adoring shepherds and singing angels and to celebrate the greatest truth of our life ... that God is with us and we share Christ's life from here and into eternity...and nothing can take that away from us.

So rejoice this Christmas, for God is with us just as he was on that first Christmas – born into our messy, chaotic, sometime harsh and troubled world – holding us in mercy, surprising us with grace. The God of the cradle is also the God of the empty tomb, and this holy day is only the start of our wonderful life lived in the

presence of God, a beginning in our life with the God who loves us with an everlasting love, now and forever. Amen.

11:00 a.m. *“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”* – Sherri Phannenhour and Diane Wolfgram

3:00 p.m. *“Away in a Manger”* – Allen Rose

7:00 p.m. *“Ihr Kinderlein Kommet”* - Elva and Maria Merredew

**Prayers of the Faithful:** With the angels of heaven we proclaim your glory, gracious God. As the radiance of your presence lights up the heavens, we pray for enlightenment for your church on behalf of the whole world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all, in the birth of Christ your boundless love for your people shattered the power of darkness. Be born in us with that same love and light, that our song this Christmas Eve may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth to the glory of your holy name. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the blessing of your peace on earth and for goodwill among all people. Grant the leaders of the nations visions of peace and justice, and bless all who seek to be reconciled with one another. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are ill and for all who are troubled in heart, mind and spirit. Bring healing and wholeness to your beloved ones. Bless all who care for the ill and distressed. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, you heal the broken hearted. Comfort all who mourn and all who are living with the loss of loved ones. Surround them with your holy presence, bring peace to all troubled hearts. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the gifts and offerings we give in this holy season, that the work of the Church may flourish as we share what you have so generously given us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, gracious Heavenly Father. **Amen.**

*“O Holy Night”* - Scott Lange

Music as the Altar is prepared.

### **The Great Thanksgiving:**

P. The Lord be with you.

C. **And also with you.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. **We lift them to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P. It is indeed right...we praise your name and join in their unending worship:

C. **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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

Pastor prays the Eucharistic Prayer, ending with the Lord's Prayer.

Communion is received while you remain in your pews.

Music during communion.

**Prayer after communion:** Almighty God, you come to us as the true bread from heaven in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we, who have received this Sacrament, may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with his endless life, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Blessing:** May our Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us in the Risen Life of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Song:** ELW 281 "*Silent Night*" (first verse in German)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:**