

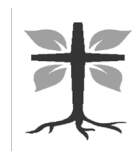
Zion & St. James Lutheran Churches of Martin County, Minnesota



Pastor John Henry

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2022



Regarding Membership and the Holy Communion:

We believe that, in the Holy Communion, the bread is truly Christ's Body and the wine is truly His Blood, given to us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. As we receive this gift individually, we profess that we are truly one body in Christ—that we are united in one faith and teaching (doctrine). Ordinarily, full participation in this Holy Communion is reserved for those who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. ***Any visitors or guests who desire to partake of the Body and Blood of Christ are asked to please speak with the Pastor or an Elder before the service.***

Opening Hymn *Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure* **533**

Invocation, Confession & Absolution

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
P ...I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Entrance Psalm

from Isaiah 45



Show, O heavens, | from above,
and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit;*
let the earth cause them | both to sprout.
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.***

Kyrie

sung; repeated five times. LSB pg. 204

P ...let us pray to the Lord:

C *Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!*

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might,
that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your
grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Lesson

Isaiah 61:1–4

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 80:1–3, 17–19



¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph | like a flock!*

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.

²Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Ma- | nasseh,*
stir up your might and come to | save us!

³Restore us, | O God; *
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

¹⁷But let your hand be on the man of your | right hand,*
the son of man whom you have made strong | for yourself!

¹⁸Then we shall not turn | back from you; *
give us life, and we will call up- | on your name!

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts! *
Let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 4:7–18

⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you.

¹³Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia & Verse

LSB pg. 205

C *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–19

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

¹⁶“But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates,

¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ ¹⁹The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon Hymn

Savior of the Nations, Come

332

Sermon “Are You for Real?”

Nicene Creed *inside the back cover of the hymnal*

The Prayers

Offering

Offertory for Advent

C *O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

The Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

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 Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary [...] evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB pg. 208

C *Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*

The Lord's Prayer *inside the back cover of the hymnal*

The Consecration

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

C *O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.*

Communion Hymns

What Hope! An Eden Prophesied 342

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come 358

Nunc Dimittis

LSB pg. 211

C *O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.*

*All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.*

Thanksgiving & Benediction

P Let us pray... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give ☩ you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

The Night Will Soon Be Ending

337

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

Larry & Annette Bremer are sponsoring the broadcast for the month of December, in thanksgiving for God's healing hand & for all the support they received from our friends at SJL & Zion. God bless your on-going health.

Christmas Eve Program Practice



ZION: Practice for the Christmas Eve Sunday School Program at Zion will be after the Sunday service and will last for one hour.

SJL: Practice for the Christmas Eve Sunday School Program at SJL will be right after Sunday School until 11:30AM.

Lutheran Schools in Martin County
St James Lutheran School, Martin Luther High School
All Schools and places of learning



St James

Baptism Birthdays: Chris Bartz, Warren Schultze, Edison Schuder,
Jay Juhl, Dustin Kosbab

Sick & In Distress: Mitchell Wagner, Marianne Hagen, Jeff Hagen,
Rochelle Franzen, Berniece Schultz

Homebound: Bev Graplar, Carl Luhmann

Zion

Baptism Birthdays: Doug Bicknase, Mike Sandersfeld,
Teresa Montgomery, Lynn Schwieger, Joseph Fitzgerald,
Danielle Nelson, Connie Peymann, Ramona Hansen

Seminary Student: Peter Preus

Serving our Country: Ben Peymann, Dalton Fette, Kory Brown,
Jesse Peterson

Sick & In Distress: Greg Wallace, Lynn Schwieger, Caleb Roiger

Homebound: Dale Schwieger, Lenore Wendt, Norma Patsche

Thank you to the anonymous donor at SJL for two new larger TVs and the converters needed to hook them up.

Donations for Christmas Bags on Christmas Eve can be given to an Elder at either church or placed into the offering plate earmarked "Christmas Bags". Thank you!

LYF Egg fundraiser will continue after many Sunday services at SJL. Lincoln & I have doubled the flock and we have EGGS, EGGS, & MORE EGGS! 100% of proceeds goes to LYF for expenses and future trips. In 10 months of sales, your generous donations have totaled over \$1,300 for LYF! Please keep returning cartons and just leave in the narthex. Can always call/text me at 230-2700 to get direct from the farm also — Lynn J Becker

Donations for Zion Church and Parsonage Repairs are welcome. Zion voting members recently approved nearly \$10,000 of improvements to be completed on the church and parsonage. Areas of the church and parsonage recently received a fresh coat of paint at a cost of \$6,620. The parsonage garage doors and openers will also be replaced at a cost of approximately \$3,300. Please consider donating to help us reach our goal of \$10,000 to offset these costs. Designate donations to "Zion Repairs".
- Zion Trustees



Remembering those in need this Advent Season we will be collecting non-perishable food items for Heaven's Table Food Shelf now through December 18th. If you would like to contribute items there is a table in the narthex to place your donations. Thank you!

Benefit for Myron Kietzer, from Willow Creek, will be held Saturday January 14th, 3-7pm at the Amboy Snowbirds Event Center, 224 Main Street, Amboy. They will be serving Pork Sandwiches, Chips, Pickles, Desserts and Beverages. Free-will donations to help with medical expenses. There also will be a Stretch Raffle with some great prizes. Snow date will be January 21st.

Offering Envelopes for 2023 are on the tables in the Narthex. Please do not use until next year, as some numbers have changed. Also, if you give exclusively online or do not want a box of envelopes in the future, please contact the office.

DEADLINE for January newsletter is December 20th.

ANNUAL REPORTS can be turned in to the church office or emailed to sjlnorthrop@gmail.com. Please have them submitted before Wed 1/4 for Zion, and before Wed 1/11 for SJL **Thank you!**

SJL Special Christmas Birthday Offering. The offering at the Children's service on Christmas Eve is an opportunity to thank God for the many years He has blessed you. Consider a thank you gift of one dollar (\$1.00) for every year our Lord has graciously bestowed upon you.



ADVENT IV: Wednesday December 21st @ Zion
NFL will be serving supper from **6-6:45PM**
Soups & Chili
7:00pm Advent Vespers

THANK YOU for all the generous donations of beautiful and delicious Christmas cookies and candies. We Sold Out! Also a big thank you for all those who volunteered to help set-up, clean-up, and work at the event.

LYF will once again be picking up live Christmas trees to raise funds for summer activities. Call/text Larissa Hillmer (236-2780) to schedule a pick-up time. They will be having a burning party on Jan 6th.

Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday morning Adult Bible Class.

Zion: 8:45am, Narthex. Please join us as we study topics in The Lutheran Witness. Please bring your Lutheran Witness magazine if possible. Extra copies are available.

SJL: 9:45am, Fellowship Hall. We will begin a study entitled, *“Walking with God in the Desert....Are you going through a difficult period of life? The loss of a loved one? Unemployment? A crisis of faith? During these desert times, it’s easy to think God has disappeared. Instead, discover that it’s only when we are totally dependent on Him that we find Him closer than ever and can experience God’s amazing grace and provision.”*

Friday Morning Bible Study is held at 8am in the Fellowship Hall at SJL. For the next few weeks we will be focusing on hymns of Advent and Christmas

CREST is in need of volunteers for our long distance transportation services. The need for services is rising. Gas cards are given to help off-set some of the cost. Please know that if we call & your busy, that’s ok. We’ll catch you next time.

We serve the aging population in Martin County. Please call 235.3833 or crest@crestvolunteers.org for more info.

CREST
Enhancing Quality of Life



Weather Related Announcements can be found on SJL Facebook page, or on KEYC (TV, website, Facebook page). If you are interested, KEYC has an option for notifications for any organization you chose. Download the **KEYC News Now** app on your phone, go to **Settings** and choose **Closings**, then scroll down to **St James Lutheran Church - Northrop or Zion/Fraser Lutheran - Fairmont.**



MARTIN LUTHER HIGH SCHOOL

Martin Luther High School is looking for Thrivent Members who are willing to apply for the Thrivent \$250 Community Action dollars to help supplement the various activities. Each Thrivent member can do two events in a year. Contact the MLHS office and we will match you with a project! We have many of them all year long! Thrivent members are also encouraged to direct their Thrivent CHOICE DOLLARS to MLHS also. For more information contact the school office at 507-436-5249.

Choice Dollars charitable grant funds can make a world of difference to Concordia High School. By directing Choice Dollars, eligible Thrivent members recommend where they feel Thrivent should distribute a portion of its charitable grant funds. Directing Choice Dollars is easy. Simply go to www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice to learn more and find program terms and conditions. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice".

You can give to Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School Ministry while you shop! Use **HyVee Cards**. (Or give them as gifts!) Available in \$10, \$25, \$50 and \$100. Purchase **KWIK TRIP cards** through MLHS. MLHS earns 5% on each Gas and Gift Card. Available in \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100, \$200 and \$500 increments. Give them as gifts also! They can be used at KWIK TRIP and KWIK STAR. Special KWIK TRIP Grocery Only cards are available in \$100 and \$200 which provides 15% to MLHS on in-store grocery purchases ONLY. ****Items not eligible to be purchased with Grocery Only include fuel, tobacco, alcohol, gift cards, lottery/lotto, and stamps. Both HyVee & KWIK TRIP cards can be purchased from the MLHS School Office during regular office hours. Please call 436-5249 and we will have them ready for you.*

Grocery Receipts for SJLS.

HyVee \$75,000 Fareway \$53,000
Receipts from HyVee can be grocery, gas or pharmacy

Remember to use Amazon Smile as you shop as another way to financially help the school. Talk to Heather if you have questions.





WORSHIP with us

DECEMBER	18	4 th Sunday in Advent	Divine Services	8:30AM (SJ); 10:00AM (Z)
	21	Z Advent Vespers Service IV		7:00PM (<i>Offerings: Options Pregnancy Center</i>)
	24	Z Christmas Eve Children SS Program		4:00PM (<i>Offerings: Day Schools</i>)
		SJ Christmas Eve Children SS Program		7:00PM (<i>Offerings: Birthday Offerings</i>)
		Z Candlelight	Divine Service	10:00PM
	25	SJ Christmas Day	Divine Service	10:00AM
	31	SJ NO New Years Eve Service		
JANUARY	01	New Years Day	Divine Services	8:30AM (SJ); 10:00AM (Z)
	06	Z Epiphany	Divine Service	7:00PM
	08	The Baptism of Our Lord	Divine Services	8:30AM (SJ); 10:00AM (Z)

****All Divine Services will have Holy Communion****



Those Serving our Lord		
	Greeters	Acolyte
SJL 12-18	Dave & Kris Rode	Bryce Borkenhagen
12-24	Kevin & Sherri Roforth	
12-25	Tom & Jean Schultz	Ashley Burkey
Zion 12-18	Marcus & Alisa Eytcheson	James Steuber
12-21	Juan Marroquin & Veronica Balderas 7P	
12-24	Brent & Jennie Oberdieck 4P	

THIS WEEK WITH OUR LORD: Dec 18 - 25, 2022
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday 8:00AM–Noon
Office phone: 436-5289 Pastor phone: 219-713-1604
Email: silnorthrop@gmail.com Website: silnorthrop.com or zionfraser.com

Sunday	Divine Worship	(SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM
	Sunday School/Bible Class	(Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:30AM
	Christmas Program Practice	(SJ) 10:30 AM, (Z) 11:00 AM
Tuesday	Deadline for January Newsletter	
	Chapel	(SJ) 8:40 AM
Wednesday	Confirmation Class (6th & 7th grades)	(SJ) 4:00 PM
	Confirmation Class (8th grade)	(SJ) 5:00 PM
	Supper - NFL	(Z) 6:00 PM
	ADVENT IV Vespers Service	(Z) 7:00 PM
Thursday	No School-Christmas Break 12/22-1/2/23	
	SJL Council Meeting	(SJ) 7:30 PM
Friday	NO Morning Bible Study	
Saturday	Christmas Eve	
	Zion Sunday School Program	(Z) 4:00 PM
	SJL Sunday School Program	(SJ) 7:00 PM
	Candlelight Divine Service	(Z) 10:00 PM
Sunday	Christmas Day	
	Joint Divine Worship	(SJ) 10:00 AM

Wednesday Dec. 7, 2022	
Jt Attendance	61



Reflecting our Stewardship – Zion			Dec. 11, 2022
Attendance	98 (HC 62)	Home	\$3,040.00
Missions	\$225.00	Loose Plate	\$24.25
MLHS	\$600.00	Christmas Bags	\$70.00
Zion Repairs	\$1,100.00	Kitchen Remodel	\$620.00
Advent II/Luth Hr	\$561.00	SJL School	\$50.00

Reflecting our Stewardship – St James			Dec. 11, 2022
Attendance	108 (HC 75)	Home	\$3,150.00
Loose Plate	\$249.00	Missions	\$30.00
Online	\$1,675.70	Advent II/Luth Hr	\$250.00
Memorials	\$95.00	Thanksgiving	\$100.00
Bulletins	\$90.00	SJLS Misc	\$50.00
Tuition Angel	\$250.00	Tuition	\$250.00