

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



*Pastor John Henry*

**Second Sunday in Advent**

*December 4, 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**      *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*      **338**

**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

Isaiah 62 & 30



Say to the daughter of | Zion,\*  
“Behold, your sal- | vation comes.”  
The LORD will cause his majestic voice | to be heard,\*  
and you shall have glad- | ness of heart.  
**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 our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## First Lesson

Isaiah 40: 1–11

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,  
that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the LORD’s hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

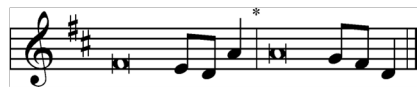
<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,  
 for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”  
<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry!”  
 And I said, “What shall I cry?”  
 All flesh is grass,  
 and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.  
<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades  
 when the breath of the LORD blows on it;  
 surely the people are grass.  
<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
 but the word of our God will stand forever.  
<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
 O Zion, herald of good news;  
 lift up your voice with strength,  
 O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
 lift it up, fear not;  
 say to the cities of Judah,  
 “Behold your God!”  
<sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
 and his arm rules for him;  
 behold, his reward is with him,  
 and his recompense before him.  
<sup>11</sup>He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
 he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
 he will carry them in his bosom,  
 and gently lead those that are with young.  
**P** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

# Psalm

Psalm 50:2–6



<sup>2</sup>*Out of Zion, the perfection of | beauty,\*  
 God | shines forth.*  
<sup>3</sup>*Our God comes; he does not keep | silence;\*  
 before him is a devouring fire,  
 around him a mighty | tempest.*  
<sup>4</sup>*He calls to the heav- | ens above\*  
 and to the earth, that he may judge his | people:*  
<sup>5</sup>*“Gather to me my | faithful ones,\*  
 who made a covenant with me by | sacrifice!”*  
<sup>6</sup>*The heavens declare his | righteousness,\*  
 for God him- | self is judge!*

## Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:17—6:2

<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>1</sup>Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

**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

Luke 3:1–20

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

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

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

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall become straight,

and the rough places shall become level ways,  
<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

<sup>7</sup>He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”

<sup>8</sup>Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” <sup>11</sup>And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?”

<sup>13</sup>And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.”

<sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

**[P]** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon Hymn**      *When All the World Was Cursed*

**346**

**Sermon**      “Masks of God”

**Nicene Creed**      *inside the back cover of the hymnal*

**The Prayers**

**Offering**

### Offertory for Advent

**C** *O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Si-  
nai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's  
tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er  
the grave.  
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

<i>Comfort, Comfort Ye My People</i>	<b>347</b>
<i>Once He Came in Blessing</i>	<b>333</b>
<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>	<b>359</b>

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

*Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*

350

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Bulletin & Broadcast Sponsors

- **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 ongoing health.
- **Tony & Gini Brummond** are sponsoring the bulletins at Zion in honor of Gini's birthday on Dec. 4th. May God bring you many blessings in the upcoming year.

Adult Choir Practice practices will be at Zion Advent Services. **We will sing on December 11th.** All skill levels are welcome! Come join the team!



**TODAY, Sunday 12/4,** Zion will have a short Voter's Meeting after the church service to discuss the kitchen project.

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



**St James**

*Baptism Birthdays:* Aaron Graplar, Dale Kosbab, Judi Polzin,  
Dawn Grefe, Tyler Wiederhoeft  
*Sick & In Distress:* Mitchell Wagner, Marianne Hagen, Jeff Hagen,  
Rochelle Franzen, Berniece Schultz  
*Homebound:* Bev Graplar, Carl Luhmann

**Zion**

*Baptism Birthdays:* Joshua Fitzgerald, Henry Murphy, Lucas Nelson,  
Carol Bartz, Dorie Schwieger, David Moeller  
*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, Arlene Darmer, Lenore Wendt,  
Norma Patsche

**Condolences to the Family of Janice Peterson**, who went to be with our Lord and Savior, Tuesday Nov. 29th. May God bring you comfort and peace.

**Christmas Eve Program Practice**



**ZION:** Practice for the Christmas Eve Sunday School Program at Zion will be after the Sunday service through the Advent season. Practice will last for one hour. Please let Debbie Wallace know if your child(ren) will not be able to attend.

**SJL:** All children ages 3 yrs - 8th grade are encouraged to participate in the Christmas Eve Program. Please contact Jody Uttech if your child(ren) will be participating 507-236-6456. Practice will be right after Sunday School until 11:30AM.

**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

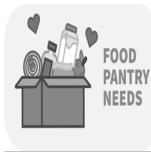




### **ADVENT II: Wednesday December 7th @ Zion**

**LYF** will be serving supper from **6-6:45PM**  
Cheesy Ham Sandwiches, Baked Beans, Chips,  
Dessert and Beverages  
**7:00pm Advent Vespers Worship**

**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!

### **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



## MARTIN LUTHER HIGH SCHOOL

The Martin Luther JR/SR High School Music Department invites everyone to "O Magnum Mysterium" a Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the Fairmont Opera House. Elementary and high school musicians in band and choir will perform under the direction of Mr. Phil Schult. Admission is a free will offering.

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. Thrivent members are encouraged to direct their Thrivent CHOICE DOLLARS to MLHS also. For more information contact the school office at 507-436-5249.

St Paul's Lutheran Church LWML of Wilbert will have their Christmas Social with a Program, Light Lunch and Bake & Craft Sale on December 8th beginning at 1:30pm.

St John's Lutheran Church LWML of Sherburn invite you to their LWML Guest Day on Wednesday December 14th @ 2pm. There will be a short program followed by Coffee & Dessert with a time of fellowship.



### Join us for our 4th annual **Cookie Walk**

**Saturday, December 10th 9am-11am**

**St. James Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall in Northrop**

**Goods will be available for purchase by the pound!**

**Lots of cookies, candies, etc. to choose from.**

**Containers will be provided, or  
bring your own if you wish!**

**Pre-boxed "giftable" cookie batches  
will be available as well.**

**Coffee and cider offered for a free will donation  
to enjoy your cookies with!**



**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.


**Grocery Receipts for SJLS.**  
**HyVee \$60,000      Fareway \$47,000**  
**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.*



**Caroling TODAY**, Sunday Dec. 4th. Both congregations and all ages are welcome. Meet at Zion @ 3pm. After caroling all are invited to Bob & Viv's house for supper, 732 Woodland Ave, Fairmont. (No longer at Pizza Ranch)

"Christmas is also a time to contemplate the gift of mortal LIFE through the miracle of birth. Christmas is the gift of LOVE that moms and dads shower on their children by saying yes to life—sometimes under very difficult circumstances. Regardless of the challenges, God has a perfect plan for each life that He brings into the world, and His will for them is to out-sparkle and out-shine any ornament." *Bradley Mattes, president of Life Issues Institute – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

		Those Serving our Lord	
		Greeters	Acolyte
<b>SJL</b>	<b>12-4</b>	Judi Polzin & Bryan Simmering	Hailey Simpson
	<b>12-11</b>	Doug & Laurie Quinn	Cedar Bohlsen
<b>Zion</b>	<b>12-4</b>	Maurice & Tina Gagnon	Caleb Meyer
	<b>12-7</b>	Sarah Glidden & Kayden <b>7pm</b>	
	<b>12-11</b>	Duane & Nancy Letcher	Jadyn Montgomery

**THIS WEEK WITH OUR LORD: Dec 4 - 11, 2022**  
**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday 8:00AM–Noon**  
**Office phone: 436-5289 Pastor phone: 219-713-1604**  
**Email: [sjlnorthrop@gmail.com](mailto:sjlnorthrop@gmail.com) Website: [sjlnorthrop.com](http://sjlnorthrop.com) or [zionfraser.com](http://zionfraser.com)**

<b>Sunday</b>	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
	Caroling, meet @ Zion	(Z) 3:00 PM
<b>Tuesday</b>	Chapel	(SJ) 8:40 AM
<b>Wednesday</b>	Confirmation Class (6th & 7th grades)	(SJ) 4:00 PM
	Confirmation Class (8th grade)	(SJ) 5:00 PM
	Supper - LYF	(Z) 6:00 PM
	ADVENT II Vespers Service	(Z) 7:00 PM
	Choir Practice	(Z) 8:00 PM
	Jt Elder's Meeting	(Z) 8:00 PM
<b>Thursday</b>	Chapel	(SJ) 8:40 AM
<b>Friday</b>	Morning Bible Study	(SJ) 8:00 AM
<b>Saturday</b>	Cookie Walk	(SJ) 9-11:00 AM
<b>Sunday</b>	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

*Online giving is an easy and reliable method to contribute to your church while you are out of town, or if you are interested in eliminating the need to remember your envelope on Sunday morning. You can make a one time donation or save time and schedule recurring contributions. This option is available for either congregation through the website; [sjlnorthrop.com](http://sjlnorthrop.com) or [zionfraser.com](http://zionfraser.com)*

Wednesday Nov. 23, 2022	
Jt Attendance	56 (HC 48)



Reflecting our Stewardship – Zion			Nov. 27, 2022
Attendance	111 (HC 79)	Home	\$3,092.70
Missions	\$275.00	Loose Plate	\$127.00
MLHS	\$600.00	Christmas Bags	\$20.00
Zion Repairs	\$1300.00	Thanksgiving	\$615.00

Reflecting our Stewardship – St James			Nov. 27, 2022
Attendance	102 (HC 96)	Home	\$2,537.00
Loose Plate	\$272.00	Missions	\$680.00
Online	\$571.37	MLHS	\$175.00
Tuition Angel	\$200.00	Thanksgiving	\$460.00