

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



*Pastor John Henry*

**The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

*January 28, 2024*



**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.*

*Welcome to worship.*

*“Praise the Lord! ... He sent redemption to his people.  
... Holy and awesome is his name” (Psalm 111:1, 9, NRSV).*

**SJL Opening Hymn**     *Jesus is God's Living Vine*     (See insert)

**Zion Opening Hymn**     *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*     901

**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**

*Psalm 71:16*



<sup>16</sup>*With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD | I will come;\**  
*I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.*

**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**

*LSB pgs. 152-153*

*Repeated 4 times:*

**P** ...pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** *Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*  
**C** **Amen.**

**Gloria in Excelsis**

*LSB pg. 154*

**P** *Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.*  
**C** **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**  
*We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.*  
*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:*  
*You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.*  
*You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.*  
*For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,*  
*You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,*  
*in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And with your spirit.**  
**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**St. James School Kids Sing**

*St. James Only*



<sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of | trouble;\*  
**he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will lift me high up- | on a rock.**

### Second Lesson

*1 Corinthians 4:1–5*

<sup>1</sup>This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. <sup>2</sup>Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. <sup>3</sup>But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. <sup>4</sup>I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. <sup>5</sup>Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Alleluia & Verse

*LSB pg. 156*

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

### Holy Gospel

*John 9:17–34*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

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

<sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup>(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)

<sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.”

<sup>25</sup>He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” <sup>26</sup>They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup>He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” <sup>28</sup>And they

reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” <sup>30</sup>The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**Sermon Hymn**                      *Evening and Morning*                      **726**

**Sermon**

**Apostles' Creed**                      *inside the back cover of the hymnal*

**The Prayers**

**Offering**

**Offertory for Epiphany**                      *LSB pg. 537*

- C** *Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.*

*Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration  
Now and forevermore be Thine!*

**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. 161*

**C** *Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

**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**

*LSB pg. 163*

**C** *Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.*

**Communion Hymns**

<i>The Tree of Life</i>	<b>561</b>
<i>Amazing Grace</i>	<b>744</b>
<i>Abide with Me</i>	<b>878</b>

**Nunc Dimittis**

*LSB pg. 165*



**C** Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



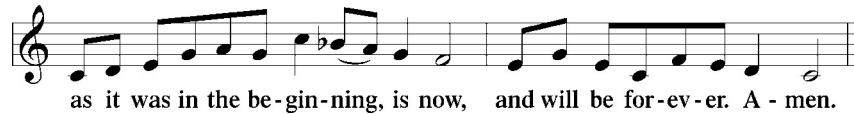
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.



### 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

*Jesus, Lead Thou On*

718

#### Acknowledgments

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



#### St James

*Baptism Birthdays:* Cameron Dressen, Craig Carrigan, Hudson Howe

*Sick & In Distress:* Rochelle Franzen, Marilyn Borkenhagen, Marianne Hagen,  
Tom Koeritz, Sandy Kurseth, Myla Roskop

*Homebound:* Carl Luhmann

#### Zion

*Baptism Birthdays:* Reegenn Moeller, Jady Montgomery, Lily Steuber,  
Bob Traetow, Ellis Thisius, Angela Brown

*Seminary Student:* Peter Preus

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

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

*Homebound:* Dale Schwieger, Norma Patsche, Violet Lueth, Yonsey Karasek

### A Guide for Daily Devotions

*On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, use this bulletin for daily devotions. On these days, pray the Collect of the Day each day, and reread the Lessons as follows: Monday, First Lesson; Tuesday, Second Lesson; Wednesday, Gospel Lesson. You may also want to pray or sing one of the hymns from the previous Sunday.*

*On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, follow this plan to prepare for the coming Sunday.*

**Each day, pray:**

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**On Thursday, read:** *Isaiah 29:18-23*

**On Friday, read:** *2 Corinthians 4:1-6*

**On Saturday, read:** *John 9:35-41*

*You may also want to pray or sing the Hymn of the Day for the coming Sunday:*

**Hymn** *Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower* **694**

**Bulletins are emailed weekly.** If you are not on the list and would like to be, please contact the office. **Bulletins can also be found on the website [sjlnorthrop.com](http://sjlnorthrop.com) or [zionfraser.com](http://zionfraser.com).** Contact the office if you have questions.

**You can sponsor the bulletins** (\$10 per congregation) or **online broadcast** (\$25) anytime throughout the year, in honor of a special event or giving thanks to God. Call the church office with your request.

**Kevin & Sherri Roforth** are sponsoring the bulletins and broadcast in celebration of the marriage of Kelynn Garlick to Eric Jensen on Saturday, January 27th. May God bless your marriage.

**Condolences to the family of LeNore Wendt** who went to be with her Lord on January 18th. Funeral services were held at Zion this past Thursday. May God be your source of comfort and peace at this difficult time.





**Pancake Breakfast to celebrate Lutheran Schools Week.**  
 Please join us after church at SJL today, Sunday January 28th (10-Noon) for Pancakes (Gluten-free available), sausage, applesauce & beverages. Free-will donations will support our bus replacement fund.

**LYF Egg fundraiser** continues. Eggs will be available at SJL after most services or you can call/text Lynn Becker at 230-2700 to arrange a pick up from the farm. 100% of proceeds goes to LYF for expenses and future trips. Please keep returning cartons and leave in the SJL narthex.

**SJL Eve Circle would like the names and addresses of our college students** for our yearly recognition project. You may give this information to Cindi Tomlinson or to Heather at the church office by Monday, February 19th.

**Please contact the church office (436-5289)** if your address/phone numbers are incorrect in the annual reports so that we can update our records.



**Weather Related Announcements** will again be available 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.**

**GROCERY RECEIPTS TOTALS**

*Keep receipts coming in, it's an easy fundraiser!*

***HYVEE: \$150,000      FAREWAY: \$35,000***

**HyVee receipts can be grocery, gas, or pharmacy**

**THANK YOU FOR SAVING YOUR RECEIPTS**

“The Holy Spirit teaches us and enables us to be more effective with our body language, to hold the hands of those who are afraid of walking alone, to hug the ones who are falling apart for whatever reason, to lift those who sinned against God and against their brothers. We do all this by sharing the forgiveness that is found in Christ.” *Rev. Dr. Hector Hoppe, guest speaker on “The Lutheran Hour” – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



## MARTIN LUTHER JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL SJL & Zion are full association members

### **Prayers are requested during the search for a new principal at MLHS.**

The committee is currently in the interview process with potential candidates. We pray for the committee and for the candidates. We pray that the transition will be a blessing to everyone involved and God's will be done, all to His Glory.

**The Class of 2026 will be holding a Waffle Feed** at Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School, Northrop on Sunday, February 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Cost is a free will donation to help with their Senior Class Trip.

**All 5th and 6th Grade Students** are invited to Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School for a fun day of brain busting, pizza lunch and a talent show on Friday, February 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. To RSVP please call 507-436-5249.

**Early bird enrollment discounts** are in effect until March 1 for new students enrolling for the 2024-2025 school year at Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School, Northrop. New families are invited to a **Getting to Know U KNIGHT** hosted by the Class of 2027 on Thursday, February 29th at 6:00 p.m. Students will give tours, a light supper will be served, and new families will have a signing opportunity with the MLHS Team. All students are welcome to enroll at MLHS. Interested families may call 507-436-5249 to set up a visit. [www.martinlutherhs.com](http://www.martinlutherhs.com).



**St James Lutheran School** is excited for our Accreditation Team to visit this week, January 31st -February 2nd. The BOCE, Pastor Henry, teachers and other committee members have put in numerous hours to prepare and submit all the required documentation. The visiting Accreditation team members are coming from other Lutheran Schools and SJLS is responsible for covering the costs of their transportation, meals, lodging and classroom substitutes. SJL Board of Christian Education is asking for donations towards these expenses, expected to be between \$1,700-2,000. Donations can be placed in the offering plate (clearly marked for accreditation), given to Pastor Henry, Paul Tomlinson or Kelsey Murphy. **Thank you!**



# SPIRITUAL EDUCATION

## 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. The adult Sunday morning Bible class is learning about the apostle Paul's ministry in Philippi and Thessaloniki. These are places we will most likely never visit, and even if we did, would we know what to look for, to understand how God built a foundation for his church? We visit these sites and many others, led by renowned Bible historian Ray Vander Laan, through the video series "That the World May Know" from Focus on the Family. Each lesson gives us a better understanding of God's plan to restore the family he paid such a high price to redeem. The lessons are truly enlightening and don't require any previous lessons to understand. Bring your coffee and join us. We wrap up at 10:30.

**Friday Morning Bible Study** at 8am in the Fellowship Hall at SJL.



### Issues, Etc.

Sundays on KSUM 1370AM - 9 am

**Jan 28** Witnessing to LGBTQ People - Dr. John Bombaro

**Feb 4** Your Unanswered Bible Questions - Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller and Pastor Brian Kachelmeier



### THE LUTHERAN HOUR TODAY:

Sundays on KSUM 1370AM- 11 am

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola

**"Forgiveness Is a Gift from Far Away"** Forgiveness is a gift Christ won for us on a cross, thousands of miles away and two thousand years ago. (Psalm 103:11-12)

Those Serving our Lord			
		Greeters	Acolyte
SJL	1-28	Greg & Lori Schock	_____
	2-4	Garrett & Haley Schock	_____
ZION	1-28	Cody & Morgan Roberts	Alex Pittman
	2-4	Ron Sandersfeld	Gavin Schoen

<b>THIS WEEK WITH OUR LORD:</b>		<b>Jan 28 - Feb 4, 2024</b>
<b>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:</b>		<b>Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - Noon</b>
<b>Office phone:</b> 436-5289		<b>Pastor phone:</b> 219-713-1604
<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:sjlnorthrop@gmail.com">sjlnorthrop@gmail.com</a>		<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://sjlnorthrop.com">sjlnorthrop.com</a> or <a href="http://zionfraser.com">zionfraser.com</a>
<b>Sunday</b>	Divine Worship	(SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM
	Sunday School	(Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM
	Pancake Breakfast	(SJ) 10:00 AM - Noon
<b>Tuesday</b>	Chapel	(SJ) 8:40 AM
<b>Wednesday - Friday SJL School Accreditation Team Visit</b>		
<b>Wednesday</b>	Chapel	(SJ) 8:40 AM
	Confirmation Class (6th & 7th grades)	(SJ) 4:00 PM
	Confirmation Class (8th grade)	(SJ) 5:00 PM
<b>Thursday</b>	Chapel	(SJ) 8:40 AM
<b>Friday</b>	NO Morning Bible Study	
<b>Sunday</b>	Divine Worship	(SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM
	Sunday School	(Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 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), or through the [tithely](https://tithely.com) church app.*



SJL Online Giving

Reflecting our Stewardship – Zion			Jan 21, 2024
Attendance	131 (HC 80)	Home	\$3,700.00
Loose Plate	\$140.00	Missions	\$325.00
SPL Fairmont	\$65.00	SJLS	\$100.00
Accreditation	\$100.00		

Reflecting our Stewardship – St James			Jan 21, 2024
Attendance	71 (HC 63)	Home	\$7,815.00
Loose Plate	\$90.00	Missions	\$10.00
Online	\$393.25	Tuition Angel	\$50.00
Tuition	\$4,100.00	SJLS Misc	\$1,608.79
MLHS	\$1,625.00	Bulletins/Broadcast	\$45.00
Accreditation	\$250.00		