

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



Pastor John Henry



Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 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!

*Isaiah declares: "With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation" (12:3).*

May we be nourished by God's gift of salvation as we worship.

Opening Hymn

In Thee Is Gladness

818

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

Philippians 4:4-5



⁴*Rejoice in the Lord | always; *
again I will say, | Rejoice.*

⁵*Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone. *
The Lord | is at hand;*

***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.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Lesson

1 Samuel 2:1-10

¹And Hannah prayed and said,

“My heart exults in the LORD;
my strength is exalted in the LORD.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in your salvation.

²“There is none holy like the LORD;
there is none besides you;
there is no rock like our God.

³Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
for the LORD is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed.

⁴The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble bind on strength.

⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.

The barren has borne seven,
 but she who has many children is forlorn.
⁶The LORD kills and brings to life;
 he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
⁷The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
 he brings low and he exalts.
⁸He raises up the poor from the dust;
 he lifts the needy from the ash heap
 to make them sit with princes
 and inherit a seat of honor.
 For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's,
 and on them he has set the world.
⁹“He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,
 but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness,
 for not by might shall a man prevail.
¹⁰The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces;
 against them he will thunder in heaven.
 The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;
 he will give strength to his king
 and exalt the power of his anointed.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 96:1–2, 11–13



¹*Oh sing to the LORD a | new song;**
sing to the LORD, | all the earth!

²*Sing to the LORD, | bless his name;**
tell of his salvation from | day to day.

¹¹*Let the heavens be glad, and let the | earth rejoice;**
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹²**let the field exult, and every- | thing in it!**

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

¹³*before the LORD, | for he comes, **

for he comes to | judge the earth.

*He will judge the world in | righteousness, **

and the peoples in his | faithfulness.

Second Lesson

Philippians 4:4–8

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

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 1:39–56

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

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

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;
⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.
⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn

Savior of the Nations, Come

332

Sermon

Nicene Creed

inside the back cover of the hymnal

The Prayers

Offering

Offertory for Advent

C *O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
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

Veni, Jesu

1 Corinthians 11:26, Revelation 22:20

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

*Joy to the World 387
Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord 352
Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure 533*

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 \dagger you peace.
- C** Amen.

Closing Hymn

My Soul Rejoices

933

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A Guide for Daily Devotions

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, use this bulletin for daily devotions. One 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:

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.

On Thursday, read

Isaiah 61:1-4

On Friday, read

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

On Saturday, read

John 1:19-30

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

Hymn: 337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending

Paul & Cindy Wolter are sponsoring the bulletins during the month of December in thankfulness to God as they celebrate 31 years of marriage on December 4th. May God continue to bless your marriage.



Sunday School Christmas Program Practice at Zion will be during Sunday School hour starting at 8:45. Zion will also have a special practice on Saturday 12/21, 9-10:30 in order to practice in the church. SJL will practice after Sunday School until 11:30. Thank you.

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



St James

Baptism Birthdays: Jaxen Garlick, MaryJo Hartmann, Chris Bartz,
Warren Schultze

Serving our Country: Sean McCroskey

Sick & In Distress: Rochelle Franzen, Tom Koeritz, Myla Roskop,
Bryce Grefe, Jeff Roskop, Webb Quade, Ronald Schultz,
Bethany Petrowiak

Homebound: Carl Luhmann

Zion

Baptism Birthdays: Sarah Wirth, Doug Bicknase, Teresa Montgomery,
Lynn Schwieger

Seminary Student: Timothy Schleusener

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

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

Homebound: Dale Schwieger, Norma Patsche, Violet Lueth,
Yonsey Karasek, David Hinz

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!

Remembering those in need this Advent Season.

- * **SJL** will be collecting non-perishable food items and personal care items such as shampoo, soap, body wash, toothpaste, etc. for **Heaven's Table Food Shelf**, now through December 15th.
- * **Zion** will be collecting for **Healing Hearts Housing in Sherburn** until December 15th. They are requesting gifts for under the tree for the ladies since they may not be able to celebrate with their families. Ideas: Bath & Body Works items, meditation journals with nice covers, day planners, hair brushes, flat irons and curling irons, perfume, makeup (neutral colors), gift cards. There are 6 ladies, ages 31-44.

If you would like to contribute any of these items there are tables in the narthex to place your donations. Thank you.



ADVENT II

Wednesday December 18th @ SJL

PTL will be serving supper from 6-6:45PM
Cheesy Hashbrowns with Ham, Green Beans,
Applesauce, Deserts, Beverages
SJL School Program @ 9:00am & 7:00pm

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.

LYF will once again be picking up live Christmas trees to raise funds for summer activities. Contact Pastor Henry to schedule a pick-up time. There will be a burning party after the Epiphany service on Jan 6th, everyone is invited to join in the fun!

LYF Informational Meeting for parents and students on Monday Dec. 16th, 7pm @ SJL. We will be discussing the upcoming HIGHER THINGS conference for this coming summer, July 8-11 @ Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska. Eligible students are those finishing 7th grade in 2025 through 2025 high school graduates.



- ☉ **Have you moved? Changed your phone number? Cancelled your landline?** Please contact the office with your updated contact information.
- ☉ **Annual Reports** will be due soon. In order to have them ready for the Annual Voter's Meetings in January please submit your reports to the office no later than Thursday January 2nd for Zion, Wednesday January 8th for SJL.
- ☉ **2025 Contribution Envelopes** are available in the Narthex. **Please do not use until January.**
- ☉ **DEADLINE for January newsletter is December 17th.**

Merry Christmas from all of us at Thrivent. Please join us for a Christmas Open House on Thursday, December 19, 2024, from 3 to 6 pm at 301 Downtown Plaza, Fairmont. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. We will be collecting monetary donations for the "Healing Hearts Housing, LLC" in Sherburn. You can check out their website at HealingHeartsHousing.org to find out more information. We hope to see you on the 19th!



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

Give while you shop! You can support the Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School Ministry by purchasing **HyVee or KWIK Trip Gift Cards** from the school office. Just give us a call at 507-436-5249 and we can have them ready for you. MLHS receives a portion of every card used---at no cost to you!

The Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School Yearbook Staff is selling **RADA Cutlery** online. To order online go to www.martinlutherhs.com and click on the Special Events tab. Orders will be shipped directly to you. Manufactured in Waverly, Iowa; these products make great Christmas gifts.

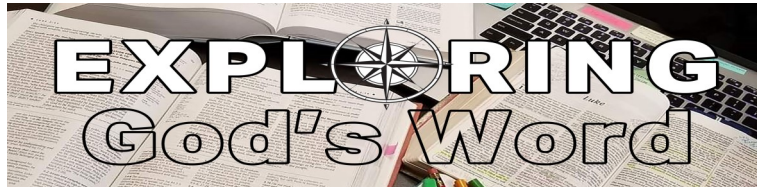
Recycle your wireless phones, PDAs, iPods and printer ink cartridges (no toner). A dropbox is available in the SJL Fellowship Hall next to the greeting card rack. Or you may drop them off at MLHS.

The Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School PTL is hosting a information seminar "**Gen Z Mental Health Strategies for Parents, Adults and the Gen Z'er**" lead by Kathleen von Kampen, MA, LMFT, LMHP, DCE Gracepoint Ministries Therapist & Professor of Psychology at Concordia University NE on Wednesday, January 15th at 7:00 p.m. It is free and open to the public. Babysitting will be provided with prior reservation by calling 507-436-5249 by January 10th.

All families are invited to a **Family Winter Carnival** sponsored by the Student Council and National Honor Society students of Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School, Northrop on Sunday, January 26th from 1-3 p.m. in the gym. There will be a Bouncy House, lots of inside games, prizes, snacks and a parents' lounge. Cost is \$5/child or \$15/family (parents are free.)

The Parent/Teacher League of Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School, Northrop is sponsoring a history presentation entitled "**The Great Northfield Bank Raid-- Minnesotans Foil the James/Younger Gang**" by historian Arn Kind on Tuesday, January 28. Presentations are grades 5-8 at 9:00-11:15 a.m. and grades 9-12 at noon-1:15 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

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; sjlnorthop.com or zionfraser.com, or through the tithe.ly church app.



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, Sanctuary. Bring your coffee and join us as we use the “That the World May Know” video series to discover how God guides His people to a specific place to impact the world, both in ancient times and today.

Thursday Adult Bible Class at 7pm for Men & Women at Zion.

Friday Morning Bible Study at 8am in the Fellowship Hall at SJL. Everyone is welcome to join us as we discuss Church & State.

 **Issues, Etc.**

Sundays on KSUM AM 1370 or FM 97.1 @ 9 am

- 12/15 The Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful - Pastor Will Weedon
- 12/22 The Hymn: “O Little Town Of Bethlehem” - Dr. Arthur Just
- 12/29 The Hymn: “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” - Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller



THE LUTHERAN HOUR TODAY

Sundays on KSUM AM 1370 or FM 97.1 @ 11 am

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

"Sorrow Welcomed Here" The church welcomes people, but does it also welcome their problems? Dr. Michael Zeigler says the church should be a place that makes room for both joy and sorrow. (Zephaniah 3:14-20)

| Those Serving our Lord | | |
|--|------------------------|-----------------|
| | Greeters | Acolyte |
| SJL 12-15 | Ken & Rhonda Petrowiak | Alex Egeness |
| 12-22 | Webb & Dar Quade | Kimi Hansen |
| ZION 12-15 | Cody & Morgan Roberts | Max Wirth |
| 12-22 | Mayson & Monica Sands | Harper Armbrust |
| SJL Ushers: Lee Baarts, Dereck Bartz, Paul Leimer, Joe Leimer | | |
| Elders: Kevin (Z), Larry (SJ) SJL AG: Kay Vogt, Sandra Luhmann | | |

THIS WEEK WITH OUR LORD: Dec 15 - 22, 2024

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Mon - Fri 8:00 AM - Noon

Office phone: 436-5289 **Pastor phone:** 219-713-1604

Email: sjlnorthrop@gmail.com **Website:** sjlnorthrop.com or zionfraser.com

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sunday | Divine Worship | (SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM |
| | Sunday School/Bible Class | (Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM |
| | Sunday School Practice | (Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 10:30 AM |
| Monday | LYF Higher Things Info Meeting | (SJ) 7:00 PM |
| Tuesday | January Newsletter Deadline | |
| | Chapel | (SJ) 8:40 AM |
| Wednesday | SJLS Christmas Program | (SJ) 9:00 AM |
| | Confirmation Class (6th & 7th grades) | (SJ) 4:00 PM |
| | Confirmation Class (8th grade) | (SJ) 5:00 PM |
| | Supper (PTL) | (SJ) 6:00 PM |
| | SJLS Christmas Program | (SJ) 7:00 PM |
| | Choir Practice | (SJ) 8:00 PM |
| Thursday | Chapel | (SJ) 8:40 AM |
| | Adult Bible Class | (Z) 7:00 PM |
| | BOCE Meeting | (SJ) 7:00 PM |
| Friday | Morning Bible Study | (SJ) 8:00 AM |
| Saturday | Zion Sunday School Program Practice | (Z) 9:00 AM |
| Sunday | Divine Worship | (SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM |
| | Sunday School/Bible Class | (Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM |
| | Sunday School Practice | (Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 10:30 AM |

| Reflecting our Stewardship – Zion | | | Dec 8, 2024 |
|---|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Attendance | 120 (HC 76) | Home | \$4,325.00 |
| Loose Plate | \$54.97 | Missions | \$150.00 |
| Windows | \$120.00 | SJL School | \$50.00 |
| Advent I-MLHS | \$287.00 | Christmas Bags | \$25.00 |
| Parsonage Window Total Donations: \$17,825.00 | | | |

| Reflecting our Stewardship – St James | | | Dec 8, 2024 |
|--|-------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Attendance | 102 (HC 76) | Home | \$8,005.00 |
| Loose Plate | \$124.00 | Missions | \$85.00 |
| Online | \$540.00 | SJLS Misc | \$2,500.00 |
| Salary Reimb. | \$736.71 | Tuition | \$275.00 |
| Advent I-MLHS | \$110.00 | Christmas Bags | \$50.00 |
| SJLC Misc | \$2,500.00 | Copies | \$236.25 |
| Average Monthly Fixed Expenses: \$47,046.00 | | | |
| October Totals: | | Given \$37,668.95 | Shortage (\$9,377.05) |
| November Totals: | | Given \$31,169.23 | Shortage (\$15,876.77) |
| December Totals: | | Given \$26,809.10 | Shortage (\$20,236.86) |