

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



*Pastor John Henry*



**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

*December 22, 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.  
Like Mary and Elizabeth, we share the anticipation  
of what God is birthing — through Jesus,  
and in all our lives always.*

**Opening Hymn**      *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*      **347**

**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.



the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.  
<sup>4</sup>They 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*



<sup>1</sup>*Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph | like a flock!\**

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

<sup>2</sup>*Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Ma- | nasseh,\*  
stir up your might*

***and come to | save us!***

<sup>3</sup>*Restore us, | O God;\**

***let your face shine, that we | may be saved!***

<sup>17</sup>*But let your hand be on the man of your | right hand,\**

***the son of man whom you have made strong | for yourself!***

<sup>18</sup>*Then we shall not turn | back from you;\**

***give us life, and we will call up- | on your name!***

<sup>19</sup>*Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts!\**

***Let your face shine, that we | may be saved!***

### Second Lesson

*2 Corinthians 4:7–18*

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

<sup>13</sup>Since 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, <sup>14</sup>knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup>For 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.

<sup>16</sup>So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup>as 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.

**Choir Sings**

*Holy Is His Name*

**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**

*John 1:19–30*

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

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

<sup>19</sup>And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup>So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup>He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” <sup>26</sup>John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

<sup>29</sup>The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’”

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

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

**Sermon Hymn**

*The Night Will Soon Be Ending*

337

**Sermon**

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

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

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* 686  
*What Hope! An Eden Prophesied* 342  
*Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* 516

### 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 King Shall Come When Morning Dawns* 348

#### Acknowledgments

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**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. SJL will practice after Sunday School until 11:30. Thank you.

**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!

### 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 God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**On Thursday, read**

*Isaiah 66:7-14*

**On Friday, read**

*Galatians 4:1-6*

**On Saturday, read**

*Luke 2:22-39*

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

**Hymn: 370 What Child Is This**



**Thank you** to the choir and Heidi Koeritz for sharing your time and talents with us this morning with special Christmas worship music.

**Condolences to the family of Dale Schwieger** who is celebrating our Savior's birth this year in heaven. Dale was called home to our Lord this past week, funeral services were held at Zion on Thursday.

**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!

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



**St James**

*Baptism Birthdays:* Lynn Petrowiak, Hailey Simpson, Jameson Wolter,  
Joseph Crissinger

*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:* Danielle Nelson, Connie Peymann

*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:* Norma Patsche, Violet Lueth, Yonsey Karasek, David Hinz

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



- **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.**

**Large Print Hymnals** are available at SJL on the right side of the bulletin boxes, and at ZION on the back table by the communion cards.

**The windows in the parsonage need to be replaced.** Donations toward the parsonage windows are welcome at this time and going forward, as the cost will be approximately \$42,000 with up to 50% required up front. Thank you.





**Christmas Eve:**

**Zion Sunday School Program 4pm  
 SJL Sunday School Program 7pm  
 Joint Candlelight Service 10pm @ Zion**

**Christmas Day:**

**Joint Divine Service 8:30am @ SJL**

Are you in need of help with meals? **St James Lutheran Stewardship Committee Meal-train** is for SJL members who wish to have some help with meals for a short time. This could be due to an illness, a hospital stay, a birth of a child, a death in the family, or for any other reason. Contact Jody Uttech (507-236-6456) if you wish to have a meal-train started for you and/or your family, or are willing to help by furnishing a meal for a meal-train family when it works with your schedule, please let Jody know.

“Merry Christmas! And may the certainty of God’s love for you in Jesus Christ give you strength, comfort, and confidence this day to face whatever comes tomorrow. For, nothing can overpower the persevering power and blessing of Christmas.” *Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Those Serving our Lord			
		Greeters	Acolyte
<b>SJL</b>	<b>12-22</b>	Webb & Dar Quade	Kimi Hansen
	<b>12-24</b>	Doug & Laurie Quinn <b>7pm</b>	————
	<b>12-25</b>	<b>Greg &amp; Deb Rabbe 8:30am</b>	————
	<b>12-29</b>	Dave & Kris Rode	Oakley Bohlsen
<b>ZION</b>	<b>12-22</b>	Mayson & Monica Sands	Harper Armbrust
	<b>12-24</b>	Kristen Schoen & Gavin <b>4pm</b>	————
		Dorie Schwieger <b>10pm</b>	————
	<b>12-29</b>	Lynn Schwieger & Braden	Luke Henry
<b>SJL Ushers:</b> Lee Baarts, Dereck Bartz, Paul Leimer, Joe Leimer			
<b>Elders:</b> Kevin (Z), Larry (SJ) <b>SJL AG:</b> Kay Vogt, Sandra Luhmann			



## 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](http://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.

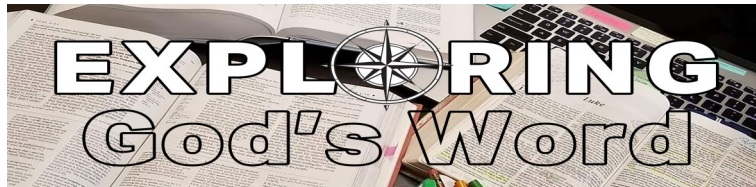
**Recycle your wireless phones, PDAs, iPods and printer ink cartridges (no toner).** A dropbox is available in the SJL Fellowship Hall next to the greeting card rack. Or you may drop them off at MLHS.

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.)



**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.**



### 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 in the church basement at Zion

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

#### **Issues, Etc.**

Sundays on **KSUM AM 1370 or FM 97.1 @ 9 am**

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

"Does It Matter If Jesus Is God?" Jesus sets a good example, but good examples can't help dead people. Only God's Son can make us alive again. (Luke 2:10-11)

*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](http://sjlnorthop.com) or [zionfraser.com](http://zionfraser.com), or through the [tithe.ly](http://tithe.ly) church app.*

<b>THIS WEEK WITH OUR LORD:</b>		<b>Dec 22 - 29, 2024</b>
<b>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Mon - Fri 8:00 AM - Noon</b>		
<b>Office phone: 436-5289 Pastor phone: 219-713-1604</b>		
<b>Email: sjlnorthrop@gmail.com Website: sjlnorthrop.com or zionfraser.com</b>		
<b>Sunday</b>	Divine Worship	<b>(SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM</b>
	Sunday School/Bible Class	<b>(Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM</b>
	Sunday School Practice	<b>(Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 10:30 AM</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
	Zion Sunday School Program	<b>(Z) 4:00 PM</b>
	SJL Sunday School Program	<b>(SJ) 7:00 PM</b>
	Joint Candlelight Divine Service	<b>(Z) 10:00 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
	Joint Christmas Divine Service	<b>(SJ) 8:30 AM</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>NO Adult Bible Class @ Zion</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>NO Morning Bible Study @ SJL</b>	
<b>Sunday</b>	Divine Worship	<b>(SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM</b>
	Sunday School/Bible Class	<b>(Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM</b>

<b>Reflecting our Stewardship – Zion</b>			<b>Dec 15, 2024</b>
Attendance	105 (HC 75)	Home	\$3,505.00
Loose Plate	\$124.00	Missions	\$200.00
Windows	\$230.00	SJL School	\$50.00
Advent II-OPC	\$570.00	Christmas Bags	\$55.00
<b>Parsonage Window Total Donations: \$18,055.00</b>			

<b>Reflecting our Stewardship – St James</b>			<b>Dec 15, 2024</b>
Attendance	86 (HC 62)	Home	\$3,190.00
Loose Plate	\$199.00	Tuition Angel	\$350.00
Online	\$2,096.70	SJLS Misc	\$250.00
Salary Reimb.	\$736.71	Tuition	\$1,500.00
Advent II-OPC	\$305.00	Memorials	\$55.00
<b>Average Monthly Fixed Expenses: \$47,046.00</b>			
October Totals:		Given \$37,668.95	Shortage (\$9,377.05)
November Totals:		Given \$31,169.23	Shortage (\$15,876.77)
December Totals:		Given \$34,781.51	Shortage (\$12,264.49)