

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



Pastor John Henry

First Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 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.*

*Merry Christmas — yes, still!
As the church continues to celebrate Christ's birth,
we invite you to bask in the goodness of God.
Welcome!*

Opening Hymn *Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn* **391**

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 O almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
P ... in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Entrance Psalm

Psalm 106:47



⁴⁷*Save us, O LORD our God,
and gather us from among the | nations,*
that we may give thanks to your holy name
and glory | in your praise.*

Gloria Patri

LSB pg. 186

C *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-
out end. Amen.*

Kyrie

LSB pg. 186

C *Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord,
have mercy upon us.*

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB pgs. 186-189

P *Glory be to God on high:*

C *and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy
upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Salutation and Collect of the Day (Sung)

P *The Lord be with you.*

C *And with thy spirit.*

P *Let us 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.

C *Amen.*

First Lesson

Isaiah 66:7-14

⁷“Before she was in labor
she gave birth;
before her pain came upon her
she delivered a son.
⁸Who has heard such a thing?
Who has seen such things?
Shall a land be born in one day?
Shall a nation be brought forth in one moment?
For as soon as Zion was in labor
she brought forth her children.
⁹Shall I bring to the point of birth and not cause to bring forth?”
says the LORD;
“shall I, who cause to bring forth, shut the womb?”
says your God.
¹⁰“Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,
all you who love her;
rejoice with her in joy,
all you who mourn over her;
¹¹that you may nurse and be satisfied
from her consoling breast;
that you may drink deeply with delight
from her glorious abundance.”
¹²For thus says the LORD:
“Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river,
and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream;
and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip,
and bounced upon her knees.
¹³As one whom his mother comforts,
so I will comfort you;
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.
¹⁴You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;
your bones shall flourish like the grass;
and the hand of the LORD shall be known to his servants,
and he shall show his indignation against his enemies.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 70



¹Make haste, O God, to de- | liver me!*

O LORD, make haste to | help me!

²Let them be put to shame and confusion
who | seek my life!*

**Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor
who de- | sire my hurt!**

³Let them turn back because | of their shame*
who say, “A- | ha, Aha!”

⁴May all who seek you
rejoice and be | glad in you!*

**May those who love your salvation
say evermore, | “God is great!”**

⁵But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, | O God!*

**You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do | not delay!**

Second Lesson

Galatians 4:1–7

¹I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ²but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

LSB pg. 190

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22–39

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the second chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²²And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation
³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

¶ *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

☩ *Praise be to Thee, O Christ.*

Sermon Hymn

What Child Is This

370

Sermon

Nicene Creed

inside the back cover of the hymnal

The Prayers

Offering

Offertory

LSB pgs. 192-193

- C** *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.*

The Preface (Sung)

- P** *The Lord be with you.*
C *And with thy spirit.*
P *Lift up your hearts.*
C *We lift them up unto the Lord.*
P *Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.*
C *It good and right so to do.*
P *It is truly good, right, and salutary [...] evermore praising You and saying:*

Sanctus

LSB pg. 195

- C** *Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.*

The Lord's Prayer

inside the back cover of the hymnal

The Consecration

Pax Domini (Sung)

- P** *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*
C *Amen.*

Agnus Dei

LSB pg. 198

- C** *O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.*

Communion Hymns

<i>O Savior of Our Fallen Race</i>	403
<i>God Loves Me Dearly</i>	392
<i>Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten</i>	914

Nunc Dimittis

LSB pgs. 199-200

C *Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Thanksgiving & Benediction (Sung)

- P** *O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good.*
- C** *And his mercy endureth forever.*
- 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 thy spirit.*
- P** *Bless we 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, amen, amen.*

Closing Hymn *Angels from the Realms of Glory* 367

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.

Larry & Linda Becker are sponsoring the bulletins and broadcast today in thanksgiving for their 57th wedding anniversary on the 31st. May God continue to bless your marriage.

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



St James

Baptism Birthdays: Sharon Kusick, Heather Wiederhoeft

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: Brian Steuber, Evan Oberdieck, Tony Brummond,
Duane Letcher, Nancy Letcher, Gini Brummond

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

Condolences to the family of Rollo Kosbab who was called home to our Lord this past week, funeral services were held at SJL on Saturday.

We received word that Rev. David Franzmeier (pastor here from 1976-1981) passed away December 1th. His obituary and contact information for his wife, Linda, can be found in the January newsletter.



**2025 Installation of Officers
will be on Sunday, January 5th.**

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

We will **celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord with a Divine Service at 6pm on Monday, January 6th at Zion.** Following the service, we will burn the Christmas greens in the Zion parking lot, and then enjoy time together in the fellowship hall. Feel free to bring your Christmas trees, wreaths, garlands, and greens (real!--no plastic!) to add to the bonfire, and also bring any leftover-but-still-fresh Christmas baked goods to share. For a free will donation to LYF, our youth would also be happy to pick up your Christmas tree and bring it to Zion for you! Contact Pastor Henry to arrange pick-up.

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:

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

On Thursday, read

Proverbs 8:22-32

On Friday, read

1 John 2:12-17

On Saturday, read

Luke 2:41-52

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

Hymn: 403 O Savior of Our Fallen Race



ANNUAL CHURCH VOTER'S MEETINGS

ZION: Jan 8th @ 7:00 (Supper provided by the LWML @ 6:00)

SJL: Jan 15th @ 7:00

Become a Church Voter. All adults (age 18+) can be voters and help make decisions for your church. Members from all generations are needed to ensure the future of our congregations continue forward in faith. Contact an elder if you have questions.



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**.

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.



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

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.

The Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School Student Body and Staff will be attending the **March for Life at the Minnesota State Capitol** on Wednesday, January 22nd. Buses will leave at 7:30 a.m. and return at approximately 4:00 p.m. We will attend the worship service at the Cathedral of St. Paul and then march to the state capitol. Limited seating is available for those who would like to join us. Please call MLHS at 507-436-5249 before January 15 to reserve a spot. Bring a sack lunch.

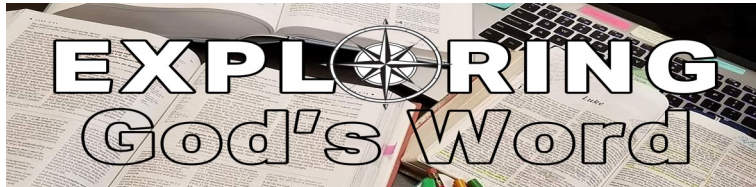


- **Have you moved? Changed your phone number? Cancelled your landline?** Please contact the office with your updated contact information.
- **Annual Reports** will be due soon. In order to have them ready for the Annual Voter's Meetings in January please submit your reports to the office no later than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

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.



The LWML would like to thank everyone who donated gifts for the ladies at Healing Hearts Housing. They were delivered to Cheri Frank to on Christmas Eve. Cheri was going to put together the gifts for the ladies. She sends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated. She has posted a picture of the gifts on the Healing Hearts Facebook page. That picture does not show all the gifts delivered as I was still bringing some in. Thank you again for your generosity. God's Blessings



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

12/29 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

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies

"No Getting Better Than This" The Good Life--what is it? Pastor Chad Lakies says life is truly good when it's life the way God meant it to be. (Colossians 3:12-17)

Those Serving our Lord			
		Greeters	Acolyte
SJL	12-29	Dave & Kris Rode	Oakley Bohlsen
	1-1	Kevin & Sherri Roforth	_____
	1-5	Garrett & Haley Schock	Christian Drayer
ZION	12-29	Lynn Schwieger & Braden	Luke Henry
	1-5	Alex & Hailey Schliesmann	Lydia Murphy
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 29 - Jan 5, 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
Wednesday	New Years Day	
	Joint New Years Divine Service	(SJ) 6:00 PM
	Joint Elders Meeting	(SJ) 7:00 PM
Thursday	NO Adult Bible Class @ Zion	
Friday	NO Morning Bible Study @ SJL	
Sunday	Installation of Officers	
	Divine Worship	(SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM
	Sunday School/Bible Class	(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 or zionfraser.com, or through the tithe.ly church app.

Reflecting our Stewardship – Zion			Dec 22, 2024
Attendance	108 (HC 68)	Home	\$3,060.00
Loose Plate	\$126.00	Missions	\$150.00
Windows	\$5,300.00	SJL School	\$100.00
Advent III-SJLS	\$891.00	Christmas Bags	\$100.00
MLHS	\$65.00	Memorial	\$100.00
Parsonage Window Total Donations: \$23,355.00			

Reflecting our Stewardship – St James			Dec 22, 2024
Attendance	148 (HC 114)	Home	\$8,080.00
Loose Plate	\$225.02	Missions	\$20.00
Online	\$550.00	Transportation	\$122.85
Bulletins	\$100.00	Tuition	\$100.00
Advent III-SJLS	\$575.00	MLHS	\$175.00
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 \$43,959.38	Shortage (\$3,086.62)