

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



*Pastor John Henry*



**Second Sunday in Advent**

*December 8, 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 as we continue  
to prepare our hearts for the coming Messiah.*

**Opening Hymn**      *When All the World Was Cursed*      **346**

**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 62:11*



Say to the daughter of | Zion, \*  
“Behold, your sal | vation comes;  
behold, his reward is | with him, \*  
and his recompense be | fore him.”

**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,



## 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**      *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*      347

**Sermon**

**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**

**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

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i> | 338 |
| <i>Once He Came in Blessing</i>       | 333 |
| <i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>   | 359 |

### 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**

#### 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!

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



**St James**

*Baptism Birthdays:* Tyler Wiederhoeft, Cooper Steuber, Leslie Crissinger

*Serving our Country:* Sean McCroskey

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

*Homebound:* Carl Luhmann

**Zion**

*Baptism Birthdays:* Carol Bartz, Dorie Schwieger, Adley Nelson,  
Myrna Behrens, Wesson Morris, Jennifer Oberdieck, Pat Steuber

*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

**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.

**St John's Antrim Church** invite you to their annual Beef Commercial Dinner on Sunday, Dec 8th from 11:15-12:30. Take outs are available for this free will donation event. The Sunday School will also be holding a bake sale.

**St John's LWML of Sherburn** invite you to their Guest Day on Wednesday December 11th at 2pm for a program with music and desert luncheon.





**ADVENT II**  
**Wednesday December 11th @ SJL**  
NFL will be serving supper from **6-6:45PM**  
Hot Ham Sandwiches, Chips,  
Assorted Salads, Bars, Beverages  
**Advent Vespers Service @ 7:00pm**

The Ladies of St Paul's Lutheran Church of Wilbert invite you to their **Annual Christmas Social** on December 12 at 1:30 p.m. Join us for a program and salad luncheon. There also will be a table with baked goods and crafts. Help us celebrate the Reason for the Season, Christ's Birth.

#### **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:**

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.

**On Thursday, read**

*1 Samuel 2:1-10*

**On Friday, read**

*Philippians 4:4-8*

**On Saturday, read**

*Luke 1:39-56*

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

**Hymn: 332 Savior of the Nations, Come**



**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!

Everyone invited to a **Christmas Concert "Get a Handel on Christmas"** at Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School in Northrop on Saturday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. Elementary and high school band students will be performing and the high school choir will sing. Students are under the direction of Mr. Phil Schult. Admission is a free-will donation.

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.

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.)



Join us for our 6th annual

## *Cookie Walk*

Saturday December 14th 9-11am

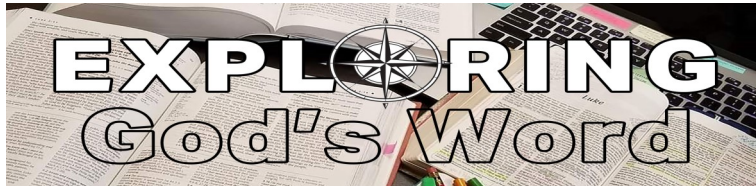
St. James Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall in Northrop.

Goods will be available for purchase by the pound!

An abundance 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.



**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**

- 12/08 The Hymn: “Hark A Thrilling Voice is Sounding - Pastor Will Weedon
- 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**

**"Completely Ordinary Human"** Everyone has a story to tell and yours can be one through which Jesus is working to make the world new again. (Malachi 3:7)

| <b>Those Serving our Lord</b>  |              |                                 |                  |
|--|--------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
|  |              | <b>Greeters</b>                 | <b>Acolyte</b>   |
| <b>SJL</b>   | <b>12-8</b>  | Jacob & Brooke Mortenson        | Christian Drayer |
|  | <b>12-11</b> | Dan & Lynn Petrowiak <b>7pm</b> | _____            |
|  | <b>12-15</b> | Ken & Rhonda Petrowiak          | Alex Egeness     |
| <b>ZION</b>  | <b>12-8</b>  | Kristi Prafke & Mitchell        | Gavin Schoen     |
|  | <b>12-15</b> | Cody & Morgan Roberts           | Max Wirth        |
| <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 |              |                                 |                  |

**THIS WEEK WITH OUR LORD: Dec 8 - 15, 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**

|                  |                                       |                            |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 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 |
|                  | NFL                                   | (SJ) 7:00 PM               |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Chapel                                | (SJ) 8:40 AM               |
| <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               |
|                  | Supper (NFL)                          | (SJ) 6:00 PM               |
|                  | Advent II Vespers                     | (SJ) 7:00 PM               |
|                  | Zion Trustees Meeting                 | (SJ) 8:00 PM               |
|                  | Choir Practice                        | (SJ) 8:00 PM               |
|                  | <b>Thursday</b>                       | Chapel                     |
|                  | Adult Bible Class                     | (Z) 7:00 PM                |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Morning Bible Study                   | (SJ) 8:00 AM               |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | Cookie Walk                           | (SJ) 9:00-11:00 AM         |
|                  | Christmas Concert                     | (ML) 7:00 PM               |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 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 1, 2024 |
|---|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Attendance                                    | 106 (HC 66) | Home           | \$3,710.56  |
| Loose Plate                                   | \$64.75     | Missions       | \$275.00    |
| Windows                                       | \$2,100.00  | MLHS           | \$700.00    |
| Thanksgiving                                  | \$670.00    | Christmas Bags | \$85.00     |
| Online  | \$1,627.20  |                |             |
| Parsonage Window Total Donations: \$17,705.00 |             |                |             |

| Reflecting our Stewardship – St James                     |             |              | Dec 1, 2024 |
|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Attendance  | 120 (HC 90) | Home         | \$9,182.48  |
| Loose Plate   | \$96.75     | Missions     | \$115.00    |
| Online  | \$588.25    | SJLS Misc    | \$300.00    |
| Salary Reimb.   | \$1,578.66  | Thanksgiving | \$810.00    |
| MLHS  | \$300.00    |              |             |
| 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 \$12,556.14 Shortage (\$34,489.86) |             |              |             |