

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Mascoutah, Illinois**  
**December 31, 2023**  
*First Sunday after Christmas*



*In the Name of Christ Jesus our Lord, we bid you a warm welcome to this worship service. May your experience of worship and fellowship this morning be spiritually refreshing and ready you for the week ahead.*



**Pastor: Rev. Kirk Clayton**  
**Church Secretary: Robin Phillips**  
**Choir Director Team: Josh and Nancy Peterson**

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**Find us at @ZionMascoutah on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram**

## Electronic Devices

Please TURN OFF all cell phones, pagers, electronic devices, apps, and games when entering the sanctuary for worship so those around you may focus on the Word of God without electronic distraction. Thank you.

## A Prayer to Begin Worship

Glorious and gracious Christ, who knows the Father's judgment against us, who came to us to redeem us by dying on Calvary's cross, maintain that we may daily stand ready to die for You; who with Father and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever.

# LSB Divine Service Setting IV With Communion (p. 203)

## Confession and Absolution

Prelude

Away in a Manger

Van Denman Thompson

The Congregation will select hymns.

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### Invocation

LSB 203

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### Exhortation

LSB 203

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**  
**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**  
**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

### Confession of Sins

LSB 203

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

### Prayer for Forgiveness

- P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**C** Amen.

# Service of the Word

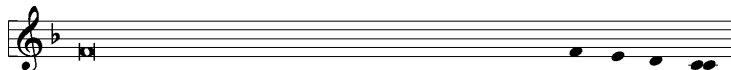
## Introit

*Ps. 93:1, 3–4; antiphon: Ps. 93:5, 2*

- L** Your decrees are very trustworthy;  
**C** holiness befits Your house, O LORD, forevermore.  
**L** Your throne is established from of old;  
**C** You are from everlasting.  
**L** The LORD reigns; He is robed in majesty;  
**C** the LORD is robed; He has put on strength as His belt.  
**L** Yes, the world is established;  
**C** it shall never be moved.  
**L** The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice;  
**C** the floods lift up their roaring.  
**L** Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea,  
**C** the LORD on high is mighty!  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.  
**L** Your decrees are very trustworthy;  
**C** holiness befits Your house, O LORD, forevermore.  
**L** Your throne is established from of old;  
**C** You are from everlasting.

## Kyrie

*LSB 204*



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

- A** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

- A** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

- A** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

**A** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For those who labor, those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**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.

*Sit*

### Old Testament Reading

*2 Samuel 7:1–16*

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build Me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for My dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?"' Now, therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over My people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over My people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to Me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but My steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

The Congregation will select hymns.

### Epistle

*Galatians 4:1–7*

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

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 205*

**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**C** These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

*Luke 2:22–40*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now 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. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And 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, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.” And His father and His mother marveled at what was said about Him. And 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 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And 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, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And 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.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him.

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

### Nicene Creed

**C** **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance**

with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

The Congregation will select hymns.

Sermon

Seeing Your Savior

Offering

*[Please fill out a sheet in the attendance book. Visitors, please include your address. If you have a prayer request for the church prayer chain, please write it at the top of the sheet.]*

*Stand*

Prayer of the Church

- P** O Lord our God, we praise You with our whole heart.
- C** You have sent redemption to all people in the form of the Babe of Bethlehem.
- P** You have revealed Your steadfast love by sending a Savior.
- C** When the time was right, You sent Your Son, born of a virgin, so that all who believe in Him might receive adoption as Your children and become heirs to Your salvation.
- P** Our hearts are filled with joy and gladness that by grace through faith in Jesus Christ we can now call You our Father.
- C** We confess, dear Father, that we are unworthy of this, the greatest of all Your gifts.
- P** To be released from the slavery of sin, to become Your sons and daughters is beyond our understanding.
- C** Marveling at Your great work, we recognize the gift of Your Son as undeniable proof of Your love toward us.
- P** We thank You for calling Him into Egypt in His infancy so that He could grow up as our brother and bring us salvation through His death and resurrection.
- C** Direct us, who know this infant Christ as our Savior, sanctify us, and govern us by Your Holy Spirit.
- P** Use us to bring Christ to the world's attention so that many others may experience Your divine goodness.

**WE GO TO THE LORD IN PRAYER FOR**

- $\dagger$  Sadie Orr, Jennifer Rueter, Joseph Rueter IV, Jenny Kneschke, and Blake Rowold, as they celebrate their baptismal anniversaries this week.
- $\dagger$  God's blessings in the new year, 2024.
- $\dagger$  All officers, board members, and committee members of Zion.
- $\dagger$  Faithfulness in reception of Word and Sacraments.

- P** May the spirit of peace on earth and good will toward men linger with us now and in the days to come.
- C** Make us the instruments of Your peace and good will toward all people.
- P** This we ask in the name of the Lord of lords and King of kings,
- C** Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

# Service of the Sacrament

## Preface

LSB 208

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**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 that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 208

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

**C** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you.



This do in remembrance of Me.”

- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\dagger$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### Pax Domini

LSB 209

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

**C** Amen.

### Agnus Dei

LSB 210

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Sit*

### Distribution

*During the Distribution, the camera will be focused on the cross at the front of Zion to allow for privacy for those who commune.*

*Zion Lutheran practices the policy of close communion, communing only those who share our common Biblical view of the Lord's Supper. If you are not a confirmed LCMS Lutheran, please confer with the pastor before communing.*

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

**Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

**Amen.**

### Hymn

### O God, Our Help in Ages Past

LSB 733

- 1** O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:

*Hymn continues on the next page.*

- 2 Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream  
Dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last  
And our eternal home!

Text: Public domain

Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367

- 1 Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. Refrain
- ref Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.
- 2 Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain
- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star. Refrain
- 4 Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear. Refrain

*Stand*

**5 All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the\_ternal Three in One. Refrain**

Text: Public domain

*Sit*

**Hymn**

**Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love**

*LSB 900*

- 1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Name all other names above,  
Unto which must ev'ry knee  
Bow in deep humility.**
- 2 Jesus! Name decreed of old,  
To the maiden mother told,  
Kneeling in her lowly cell,  
By the angel Gabriel.**
- 3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth  
To the fallen of the earth  
For the promise that it gave,  
"Jesus shall His people save."**
- 4 Jesus! Name of mercy mild,  
Given to the holy Child  
When the cup of human woe  
First He tasted here below.**
- 5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n  
Under all the mighty heav'n  
Whereby those to sin enslaved  
Burst their fetters and are saved.**
- 6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Human name of God above;  
Pleading only this, we flee  
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.**

Text: Public domain

**Hymn**

**Let Us All with Gladsome Voice**

*LSB 390*

- 1 Let us all with gladsome voice  
Praise the God of heaven,  
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,  
His own Son hath given.**
- 2 To this vale of tears He comes,  
Here to serve in sadness,  
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes  
We may reign in gladness.**

*Hymn continues on the next page.*

3 We are rich, for He was poor;  
Is not this a wonder?  
Therefore praise God evermore  
Here on earth and yonder.

4 Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,  
Be Thou ever near us.  
Grant us now a glad new year.  
Amen, Jesus, hear us.

Text: Public domain

*Stand*

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

### The Dismissal

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.  
Depart  $\text{✠}$  in peace.

**C** Amen.

### Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

**C** 1 O Lord, now let to Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

### Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **Benedicamus**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Benediction**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

**The Congregation will select hymns.**

## **Postlude**

### **Acknowledgments**

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## LIFE AND LIVING ITEMS AT ZION



### **2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES NOW AVAILABLE**

Please pick up your 2024 offering envelopes from the table in the narthex. Thank you, Finance Board.

### **COMMUNION FREQUENCY UPDATE**

The Elders have decided not to change the overall Communion frequency at Zion, with Communion being offered on the Second, Fourth and Fifth Sundays, along with Festivals such as Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, etc. Also, for the benefit of those in the congregation who desire more frequent Communion, we will be offering the Lord's Supper after the service on the First Sunday of each month, starting in January of 2024. On First Sundays, the service will progress through the Benediction and Postlude, and after the greetings in the narthex, those who desire Communion may either remain in the Sanctuary or return to the Sanctuary to receive the Lord's Supper.

### **MATTHEW CLAYTON INVOLVEMENT IN SERVICES**

Matthew Clayton is now in his third year of Pre-Seminary studies at Concordia University in Chicago. In this capacity, he is regularly assisting with leading worship and distributing the Lord's Supper as part of the chapel services on campus at CUC. He is also taking theology classes and studying Greek and Hebrew. In order to give Matthew additional experiences in preparation for serving as a pastor, the Elders at Zion have approved having Matthew Clayton assist at Zion when he is on break. This may include teaching Adult Bible Class and assisting with services throughout the Christmas season. His involvement in the services will include reading the Scripture readings and helping distribute Communion, similar to what he has been doing during services at Concordia University, Chicago.

### **FAMILY MOVIE – THIS SATURDAY**

The Men's Club will present Sing! for kids of all ages this Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. Threatened with foreclosure of his struggling theater, koala Buster Moon decides to hold a singing competition to earn the mortgage money. Crowds of animals gather to audition, and Buster selects his contestants: housewife and mother of 25 piglets Rosita; punk-rock porcupine Ash; teenage gorilla Johnny, son of a criminal gang leader named Big Daddy; street musician mouse Mike; exuberant dancing pig named Gunter; and teenage elephant Meena. The film features more than 60 songs by famous artists. Join us in the church basement for a free movie, soda, candy, and popcorn.

### **EPIPHANY SUPPER AND DIVINE SERVICE AT TRINITY, MILLSTADT**

Join with our fellow Christians to celebrate our Lord on Epiphany! This holy day celebrates that Jesus is the Light of the world for all people! As the Gentile magi traveled from afar to worship the Christ, we join the saints at Trinity in Millstadt on Saturday, January 6. There will be a preservice chili and soup potluck. Please bring a soup, chili, or side to share from 5-6:30. (Drinks will be provided.) The Divine Service will be at 7. Trinity is located at 503 E Washington St in Millstadt.

### **VILLAGE LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN'S RETREAT – LAST DAY TO REGISTER!**

Join us Saturday, January 13, 2024, for a day of fellowship and learning led by noted author Katie Schuermann. We'll celebrate our true "pew sisterhood" and discuss what it means to be a woman in the church. Katie's new book "The Saints of Whistle Grove" will be available to purchase and there will be time for the author to sign books. The Village Women's Retreat is open to all women (suggested age of 21+). Registration fee \$15 per person. A light breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack are provided. Simply register online at [villagelutheranchurch.org](http://villagelutheranchurch.org). Once we've received your online registration, you'll receive a confirmation email with payment information. Registration is confirmed and complete when payment is received. Contact Shanna Stewart at 636.578.8881 for more information. Registration closes December 31. Space is limited, so register today!

### **ACADEMY OF MUSIC SPRING SEMESTER OPENINGS**

The Academy of Music at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeburg has openings for private music lessons and for “Mini Music Makers” classes for the spring semester. Lessons are available for youth and adults. Weekly 30 or 60 minute lessons are offered on piano, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba, organ, and voice. To register, email [Hannah@TheAcademyOfMusic.org](mailto:Hannah@TheAcademyOfMusic.org) or call 618-353-3322. “Mini Music Makers” classes are offered on Monday or Tuesday morning. For more information about the “Mini Music Makers” classes, email Jenny Patterson at [jenny@TheAcademyOfMusic.org](mailto:jenny@TheAcademyOfMusic.org) or call or text The Academy (618) 353-3322. More information can be found online at [theacademyofmusic.org](http://theacademyofmusic.org).

### **SID JR. HIGH RETREAT AT CAMP WARTBURG**

The SID Jr. High Retreat is scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>. This retreat is specially crafted for youth in sixth through eighth grade, promising an unforgettable experience filled with exciting activities. Your youth can look forward to engaging in field games, indoor rock climbing, teamwork initiatives, a campfire, and much more! This year, our Bible study theme is 'Where is He?' We'll be exploring the concept that Jesus is everywhere, even within us. It's an opportunity for personal growth, reflection, and connection with others. We'd love for your youth to join us for this enriching and fun-filled retreat. The cost is \$99, and you can secure your spot by registering today at <https://campwartburg.com/>.

### **WANTED: CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE AT LCMS INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSIONARY ORIENTATION**

LCMS Missionary Winter Orientation is coming up at the International Center in St. Louis, Missouri and God has blessed us with a number of new missionary families! While the parents receive their orientation to prepare them for life as an LCMS Missionary, an age-appropriate orientation for the children is critical to a successful deployment. The LCMS International Center is looking for qualified individuals to serve our missionary families in the following capacities: Activity Coordinator, Day Care Lead Teacher, Day Care Assistant, and Middle School and Elementary Assistant Teachers. The Missionary Orientation Dates are January 29 – February 2 and March 18-22 with future dates over the Summer. The hours are 7:30 – 5:30 (morning and afternoon shifts available). Pay is provided at an hourly rate. If you are interest in serving, please contact Mark Wolfram, 314-556-7589, [Mark.wolfram@lcms.org](mailto:Mark.wolfram@lcms.org).

### **LISTEN TO WORLDWIDE KFUE AM850**

KFUE Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on [KFUE.org](http://KFUE.org) via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at [kfue.org](http://kfue.org) and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUEradio on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE AM850 & [kfue.org](http://kfue.org): Continue enjoying the Twelve Days of Christmas on KFUE Radio, with special Christmas music, Scripture, and greetings until January 6. Blessed Christmas! Christ is born!

### **STUDY GOD’S WORD IN 2024...**

LCMS Stewardship has encouraged Lutherans to spend 1% every day (14 minutes) in God’s Word and prayer. The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily, 15-minute, verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon is currently leading a study on the Book of Colossians. You can listen at [thewordendures.org](http://thewordendures.org), the LPR mobile app or your favorite podcast provider.

**THE FLOWERS ON THE LORD'S ALTAR**

The flowers on the Lord's altar are given to the glory of God by LaVonne Evers, in memory of Roland and Marcella Kniepkamp.

**THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

Proclaimer: Rev. Kirk Clayton  
Lector: Matthew Clayton  
Liturgist: Sem. Rob Laird  
Organist: Nancy Peterson  
Sound Tech: Gadge Corey  
Acolytes: Brady Twenhafel & Rylan Ganey  
Altar Guild: Becky Wachtman  
Elder of the Month: Jeff Fick

**THOSE WHO SERVE NEXT WEEK, JANUARY 7**

Proclaimer: Rev. Kirk Clayton  
Liturgist: Sem. Rob Laird  
Organist: Pinky Ahner  
Sound Tech:  
Acolytes: Dalton Wambold & Trey Harris  
Elder of the Month: Joe Bloomquist

**THINGS WE ARE DOING AT ZION**

|      |  |          |
|------|--|----------|
| Sun. | No Confirmation Class                        |          |
|      | Bible Class                                  | 8:45 AM  |
|      | Sunday School & Youth Bible Class            | 8:45 AM  |
|      | Worship DS IV w/communion                    | 10:00 AM |
| Mon. | <i>New Year's Day – Church Office Closed</i> |          |
| Wed. | Zion Service @ Brightly                      | 1:30 PM  |
|      | <i>No Choir or Hand Chime Rehearsal</i>      |          |
| Fri. | Senior Meal Delivery                         | 10:30 AM |
| Sat. | Family Movie                                 | 2:30 PM  |
| Sun. | Confirmation Class                           | 8:30 AM  |
|      | Bible Class                                  | 8:45 AM  |
|      | Sunday School & Youth Bible Class            | 8:45 AM  |
|      | Worship DS I no communion                    | 10:00 AM |
|      | Communion Service                            | 11:15 AM |
|      | Men's Club                                   | 6:00 PM  |

**ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 24:** Sunday: 128  
Adult Bible Class: 16 High School: 3 Sunday School: 3

**ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 24:** Christmas Eve: 209

**ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 25:** Christmas Day: 94