

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
December 18, 2022
4th Sunday of Advent

LOVE



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Staff

Dale Schaefer, Interim Pastor; Bill Jones & Susie Gray, *Choir Directors*;
Lori Sebastian, *Organist*; Jessica Dorn *Christian Education Director*
Linda Short, *Office Manager*; Sue Rambeau, *Treasurer*; Tina Putnam, *Sexton*

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION!

Thanks for coming to be with us at Zion Lutheran Church. If this is your first visit, or if you worship here regularly, we are delighted that you chose to share with us. We worship together on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. If you have a “prayer request” or a “praise report”, please let the pastor know. God bless you on your journey of faith.

INTRODUCTION

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *No Wind at the Window* Arr. Portman

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Candle of Love

HYMN Red hymnal #257 (verse 7.8) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

C: Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of new beginnings,

C: we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

P: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on + Christ and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C: Amen.

HYMN Red hymnal #248

People Look East

GREETING / PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people. Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray . . .

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHANCEL CHOIR Director: Susie Gray *Prepare for the Coming of the Lord!*
Composer: Lloyd Larson

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

R: ¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

R: ¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received

grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Red hymnal page 103

C: **Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.**

HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel is **Matthew 1:18-25**

C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

P: ¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON Kristen Zimmann

HYMN Purple hymnal ACS #906

No Wind at the Window

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Let us confess our faith,

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Response after each petition)

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer . . .

OFFERING—Invitation—God's Work Continues

OFFERING SONG #815 (verse 1)

C: I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus

Refrain In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER / WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (*All who confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior and believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament are invited to receive Holy Communion.*)

BLESSING

P: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, + bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN **Purple hymnal ACS #901**

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

DISMISSAL

P: What is the mission of Zion Lutheran Church?

C: **The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is:
“Serving Christ through serving others.”**

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Christ Be Our Light

Arr. Raabe

In Helpful Service

Guest Speaker	Kristen Zimmann
Greeter	Randy & Debbie Turner
Reader	Chris Frame Communion Assistant
Ushers	Matt Sauls

Prayer concerns for Zion's prayer chain may be submitted using a `Prayer Request' card from the pew rack.

The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God by Wayne Fronczak & Felicia Young in memory of Evelyn Fronczak's (Wayne's mother) birthday.

Total Attendance 12/10 & 12/11: 137

OFFERING: Total Unified: \$5,537.00

Total Building: \$ 207.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU to the Lopez Family for lighting the Candle of Love this morning.

F.Y.I.

Pastor Dale and Ginger are in Ashland, Ohio today supporting their grand daughter Emma **as she performs with the Ashland Ballet Company, The Nutcracker.**

OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the back of the church. Please pick up your box of 2023 envelopes as you leave worship. **Please do not use these envelopes until Sunday, Jan. 1 and Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023.**

MISSION OF THE MONTH / DECEMBER: Good Samaritan Fund assists individuals with utility bill help, rental assistance, gas, an emergency hotel stay, etc. No cash is given to the individual. We help in the form of a check to the a utility or rental company. A gas card only good for fuel is given when needed by an individual. For a hotel stay we work out an agreement with the person in charge. For food assistance we refer them to the Food Pantry. We do keep a list of individuals and their request in order to control repetitive requests.

FLOWER CHART

The 2023 Flower Chart has been posted. Please write you name under “presented by”. You may also write a message to go in the bulletin (in memory of, in honor of, in celebration of . . . anniversary, birthday, graduation, special event etc.) on the chart. Altar flowers are ordered from Always Blooming Flowers of Tipp and are \$40.00 for two vases. Color preference may also be requested. Payment can be put in your offering envelope (please designate under other “altar flowers”).

THIS WEEK AT ZION:

Sunday, Dec. 18	10:00 am	Worship
Monday, Dec. 19	11:00 am	Quilting
Tuesday, Dec. 20	10:00 am	Quilting
Wednesday, Dec. 21	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, Dec. 24	5:00 pm & 7:30 pm Worship—Christmas Eve	
Sunday, Dec. 25	No Worship Merry Christmas	
Monday, Dec. 26-30	Office Closed	
Saturday, Dec. 31	5:00 pm	Worship
Sunday, Jan. 1	10:00 am	Worship Happy New Year
Monday, Jan. 2	Office Closed	