

December 20, 2020



"FOR  
*nothing*  
WILL BE  
*impossible*  
WITH GOD."

*Luke 1:37*



**MT. ZION**

Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann  
(248) 677-7242

[mtzionlutheran.info](http://mtzionlutheran.info)



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

**Pre-Service Personal Prayer:** *Lord God, heavenly Father, watch over our little flock, and by faith make us ready at all times for the second coming of Jesus. Forgive us our sins, strengthen our faith, and renew in us a right spirit in our Advent and Christmas worship. Amen.*

### Today's Worship!

#### Greeting and Prayer

**Hymn 702:1-4,7 (WS2000):** *As Angels Joyed with One Accord*

**1.** *As angels joyed with one accord  
Upon the advent of our Lord,  
So laud we all and bless the name  
Of Him who from the Father came.*

**2.** *He came, not clothed in majesty  
Nor pow'r that suits His deity.  
In lowly sate He walked till He  
In dying set us captives free.*

**3.** *This done, He soared  
to God's right hand,  
Yet orphaned not His chosen band,  
For He, not bound in grace and pow'r,  
Attends His own each day and hour.*

**4.** *In ev'ry age-- let praise abound--  
He comes; we hear His voice resound.  
His glorious gospel does not cease  
To bring us comfort, joy, and peace.*

**7.** *Lift up your heads! All grief and pain  
Shall vanish when He comes again.  
Where we shall see Him face to face,  
There joy alone shall have a place.*

**The Invocation** *We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen!

#### The Confession and Absolution of Sins

*We come before our Holy God admitting that we are sinful and need His forgiveness.*

**P** Beloved of God: Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant forgiveness:

**C** Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer: we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have

mercy on us, and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

**P** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

## Gloria in Excelsis *(TLH 62:1-2 Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel)*

1 Oh, come, Oh, come, Em-man - u - el, And ran-som cap-tive  
2 Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jes - - se, free Thine own from Sa-tan's  
Is - - ra - el That mourns in lone-ly ex - - ile here Un-  
tyr - - an - ny; From depths of hell Thy peo - ple save And  
til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re-joyce! Em-  
give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re-joyce! Em-  
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.  
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.

## The Prayer for the Day

*The main thoughts for the day are collected together in this prayer.*

**P** Let us pray. . . through Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## The Old Testament Reading: *2 Samuel 7:8-16*

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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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, <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> 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, <sup>15</sup> but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. <sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

## The Responsive Psalm Reading: *Psalms 89:1-5*

**P** I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;

**C** With my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

**P** For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever;

**C** In the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

**P** You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

**C** I have sworn to David my servant:

**P** 'I will establish your offspring forever,

**C** And build your throne for all generations.'"

**P** Let the heavens praise your wonders,

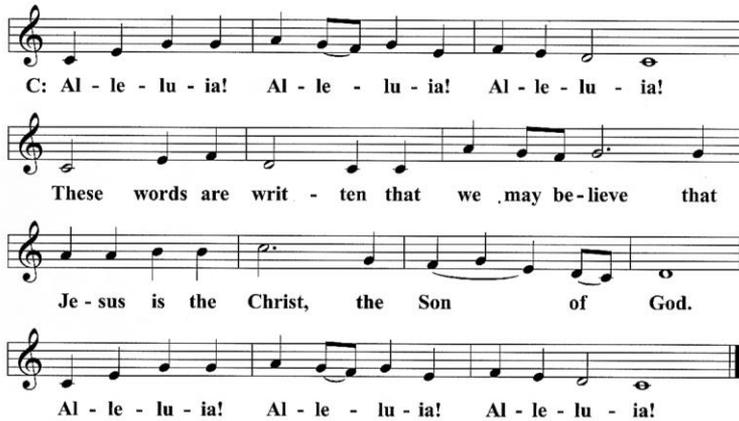
**C** O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!



## The Epistle Reading: *Romans 16:25-27*

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup> but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

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

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## The Apostles' Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven; And is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Hymn 59:1-4 (TLH): *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

*1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
Great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression,  
And rule in equity.*

*3. He shall come down like showers  
Upon the fruitful earth,  
And joy and hope, like flowers,  
Spring in His path to birth.  
Before Him on the mountains  
Shall peace, the herald, go  
And righteousness, in fountains,  
From hill to valley flow.*

*2. He comes with succor speedy  
To those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy  
And bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing,  
Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
Were precious in His sight.*

*4. Arabia's desert ranger  
To Him shall bow the knee,  
The Ethiopian stranger  
His glory come to see;  
With offerings of devotion  
Ships from the isles shall meet  
To pour the wealth of ocean  
In tribute at His feet.*

### **The Sermon:** *Luke 1:26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

### **THEME: A Simple Faith Simply Says, "Yes!"**

- I. Yes! To the Impossible Made Possible: a virgin birth and a dual nature
- II. Yes! To the Unsolvable Made Solvable: the problems of sin and death

## The Offertory



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me  
not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly  
Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

### Hymn 712 (WS2000): *What Child Is This*

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>1. What Child is this who, laid to rest<br/>On Mary's lap is sleeping?<br/>Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,<br/>While shepherds watch are keeping?<br/>This, this is Christ the King,<br/>Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;<br/>Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,<br/>The Babe, the Son of Mary.</b></p> | <p><b>2. Why lies He in such mean estate,<br/>Where oxen now are feeding?<br/>Good Christians, fear, for sinners here<br/>The silent Word is pleading.<br/>Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,<br/>The cross He'll bear for me, for you.<br/>Hail, hail the Word made flesh,<br/>The Babe, the Son of Mary.</b></p> |
| <p><b>3. So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,<br/>Come peasant, king, to own Him;<br/>The King of kings Salvation brings,<br/>Let loving hearts enthrone Him.<br/>Raise, raise the song on high,<br/>The virgin sings her lullaby.<br/>Joy, joy for Christ is born,<br/>The Babe, the Son of Mary.</b></p>            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## Prayer of the Church – The 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 Benediction

*The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26)*

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

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C** Amen!

## Hymn 65:4 (TLH): *When Sinners See Their Lost Condition*

*When Jesus comes, --O blessed story!--  
He works a change in heart and life;  
God's kingdom comes with power and glory  
To young and old, to man and wife;  
Through Sacrament and living Word  
Faith, love, and hope are now conferred.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*“If the LORD wills, we will do this or that.” James 4:15*

**WELCOME EVERYONE!** We pray that God’s Word and our worship today will help you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus. We ask our visitors to please sign our guest book. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you’ve found it with us. Ask our Pastor about a free Bible study he offers to explain what we believe, teach, and practice. Where and when? Your convenience.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** Thursday, December 24 at 7pm, we will be holding our Christmas Eve Service. All are invited to this special service where we will be reading through the Biblical Christmas account, singing favorite Christmas carols, and celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus!

**ALTAR POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE:** Mt. Zion has the tradition of decorating the altar/chancel with Poinsettias for Christmas Eve and the following Sunday. If you would like to share a poinsettia or two for the service, please bring it Thursday night!

**ONLINE BIBLE CLASS** is set to resume on Wednesday, January 6 at 7pm remotely on Google Meet.

**OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT:** The normal collection of the offering has been omitted from this service. If you have an offering that you wish to contribute, please deposit it in the gold plate on the shelf in the back of church. If you wish to give your church offering electronically, you can do so by downloading the CashApp on your mobile device. The church’s \$cashtag is “\$clcmztion”. Please direct questions to Financial Secretary Nathan Fobear.

**CLC CALL NEWS:** Pastor Sam Rodebaugh, Immanuel, Winter Haven, FL has **returned** the call to Living Savior, Eden Prairie, MN. <> Pastor David Ude, Living Hope, Appleton, WI has **received** the call to Redeemer, Cheyenne, WY. <> Pastor Emeritus John Klatt has **received** and **accepted** the vacancy pastor call to Redeemer of Bowdle and Zion of Ipswich, beginning in 2021. Pastor Timothy Daub, the current vacancy pastor, will conclude his service to those congregations with the arrival of Pastor Klatt in January. <> Pastor Michael Eichstadt, Messiah, Hales Corners, WI has **received** the call to Living Savior, Eden Prairie, MN. <> Teacher Matt Thurow, Berea, Inver Grove Heights, MN. has **returned** the call to teach grades 4-8 and serve as principal for Holy Trinity Lutheran School, West Columbia, SC. <> Teacher Quinn Sprengler,

Redemption, WA, has **received** the call to serve as principal and upper grade teacher at Faith, Markesan, WI. <> Teacher Paul Tiefel III, Messiah, Eau Claire, WI, has **received** the call to serve as principal and upper grade teacher at Messiah, Hales Corners, WI.

**OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL**

In-Person Attendance Sunday 12/13 = 18  
 In-Person Attendance Wednesday 12/16 = 14

Bi-Weekly Offerings Needed:	\$2,692.31	Total Offerings Needed YTD:	\$67,307.69
Bi-Weekly Offerings Received:	\$2,875.00	Total Offerings Received YTD:	\$76,667.56
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 4% of GB & individual offerings):			\$3,188.70

**SERVING US THIS WEEK**

December Usher: Nathan Fobear <> Church Cleaning: Ryans

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES AT MT. ZION**

<b>Thu. 12/24</b>	7pm	Christmas Eve Service
<b>Fri. 12/25</b>		Christmas Day (no service)
<b>Sun. 12/27</b>	10am	Worship Service
<b>Wed. 1/6</b>	7pm	Online Bible Class Resumes
<b>Tue. 1/12</b>	7pm	Elders Meeting
	7:30pm	Church Council Meeting
<b>1/19</b>	7pm	Outreach Meeting
<b>1/24</b>	1pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Voters Meeting

**IN OUR PRAYERS <> ENCOURAGEMENT LIST**

*Ephesians 6:18 "Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."*

**Jackie McGruder** remains homebound as she continues to suffer from lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease that attacks tissues and organs. **Jay Sandeen** (at-distance member in Columbus, OH) is currently serving with his Army National Guard unit overseas in Kuwait. **Pastor Naumann's** mother, **Desirae Naumann** of Clarkston, WA, has stage four brain cancer and is under home hospice awaiting the Lord's good timing to take her home.