

December 25, 2022



*How beautiful
upon the mountains
are the feet of him
who brings*

Good News

Isaiah 52:7 ESV



MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann
(248) 677-7242

mtzionlutheran.info



Christmas Day



WELCOME! to our celebration of God's greatest Gift – His Own Son and our great Savior, Jesus Christ the Baby of Bethlehem. We implore God the Holy Spirit to renew in our hearts this great Gospel message.

Oh, Come Let Us Adore Him!

Today's Worship!

Greeting and Prayer

Hymn 84:1,5 (TLH): *Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn*

**1. Christians, awake, salute the happy morn
Whereon the Savior of the world was born.**

*Rise to adore the mystery of love
Which hosts of angels chanted from above;
With them the joyful tidings first begun
Of God Incarnate and the Virgin's Son.*

**5. Oh, may we keep and ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind!
Trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
From His poor manger to His bitter cross,
Tread in His steps, assisted by His grace,
Till man's first heavenly state again takes 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!

P Praise God, our Gracious Father:

C Who in love sent His Son to redeem us!

P Praise God the Son, Jesus Christ our Savior:

C Who in love gave Himself to redeem us!

P Praise God, the Holy Spirit:

C Who in love has granted us faith to believe in Christ's redemption!

The Confession and Absolution of Sins

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

P Lord God, Heavenly Father, our hearts are filled with joy this day as we think upon the birth of your Son into the human race. We know that You sent Him for us to be subject to Your Law and to redeem us. The Angels announced the glad tidings meant for all men at His Birth, revealing that He was the Savior, Christ the Lord.

C We were helpless and powerless to save ourselves, and so you provided the remedy in your Son. We know from Your Law that we have sinned and are deserving of eternal punishment. We also believe from Your Gospel that those who trust in Your Son have forgiveness. Therefore, we come to you this day confessing our sins.

Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

Hymn 366:1,3 (LSB): *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

*1. It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.*

*3. All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the angels sing.*

P Indeed, the Prince of Peace has been born, as long foretold by our gracious God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a Virgin. He was perfect and pure, without sin. He lived a faultless life, which God demanded of you. He laid down His life as the atoning sacrifice for your sins. It is through faith in Jesus Christ, which is a gift of God the Holy Spirit, that you may lay claim to

God's forgiveness. Your sins are forgiven before God. May God also grant that you, by faith, show your thankfulness for this great mercy, by living with His strength, according to His Word.

C Lord, work in us with your grace that we both hear and do your will. Amen!

Hymn 94:2 (TLH): *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord.
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."**

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.

Scripture Reading: *Luke 1:26-33*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² 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, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."



Hymn 647:1-2 (TLH): *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**1. *O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy darkness shineth The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.***

**2. *For Christ is born of Mary, And fathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God, the King, And peace to men on earth.***

Scripture Reading: *John 1:1-14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.



Hymn: *Away in a Manger*

**1. *Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.***

**2. *The cattle are lowing; the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.***

**3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

The Sermon: Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."⁸ The voice of your watchmen--they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.⁹ Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Theme: GOD ROLLED UP HIS SLEEVES AT CHRISTMAS

- I. Hear the Good News
- II. See His Salvation
- III. Break forth in Song

Sermon Hymns

Hymn 76:1,4 (TLH): *A Great and Mighty Wonder*

**1. A great and mighty wonder. A full and holy cure:
The Virgin bears the Infant With virgin honor pure!**

Repeat the hymn again: "To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men!"

**4. Since all He comes to ransom. By all be He adored,
The Infant born in Beth'lem, The Savior and the Lord.**

Repeat the hymn again: "To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men!"

Hymn 707:1,3 (WS2000): *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*

**1. On Christmas night all Christians sing To hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth, News of our merciful King's birth.**

**3. From out of darkness we have light Which made the angels sing this night.
From out of darkness we have light Which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men Now and forevermore. Amen."**

Hymn 114:1-3 (TLH): *Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love*

- 1. *Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Name all other names above,
Unto which must every 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 sons of earth,
For the promise that it gave, "Jesus shall His people save."***

Hymn 87:1,4 (TLH): *Joy to the World*

- 1. *Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room-- And heaven and nature sing. (3x)***
- 4. *He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness-- And wonders of His love. (3x)***



The Offering of Thankful Hearts

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him. If you wish to give your church offering electronically, you can do so by using the CashApp on your mobile device. The church's Scashtag is "Scslcmzcion". While the usher brings the offering plate forward we sing the following hymn verse

- (127:3): **As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring Christ to Thee our heav'nly King!***

Christmas Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

- P** Dear Lord, we gather this morning to remember Your gift to us, Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.
- C** **We thank You, Father, for the remembrance of Your promise.**
- P** Help us to live each day remembering Your grace and generosity so that we might live as Your disciples and apply the power of forgiveness to the days of our lives.
- C** **We thank You, Father, for the remembrance of Your grace.**
- P** We thank You, Lord, for the care and love You lavish on us. For those of us who are ill or grieving, for those bothered by life's problems, give Your strength to face each day and rejoice in Your gift of the Savior.

C We thank You, Father, for the remembrance of Your strength.

P We pray for Your presence and grace that each day will create for us new memories of Your Gift of love.

C We thank You, Father, for the remembrance of Your promise. We praise Your name, for You always remember Your people. Amen. 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!

Closing Hymn 94:4 (TLH): *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**4. Come, Desire of nations, come, Fix in us Thy humble home;
Oh, to all Thyself impart, Formed in each believing heart!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**



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 Pastor about a free Bible study he offers to explain our beliefs and teachings. Where & when? Your convenience.

NO BIBLE CLASS/SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY AND NEXT SUNDAY: We are in recess for Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Our regular Sunday schedule will resume on January 8.

CHURCH OFFICER INSTALLATION NEXT SUNDAY: The following 2023 church officers will be installed during the Sunday worship service on January 8: President Carl Ryan (1yr); Vice President Matt Fobear (1yr); Secretary Randy Wittorp (1yr); Treasurer Nathan Fobear (1yr); Financial Secretary Ben Mueller (1yr); Trustee Nicholas Jakel (3yrs); Elder Dave Troyan (3yrs); Board of Finance: Jesse Wilke and Jim Lucas (1yr); Board of Education: Dave Troyan (1yr), Matt Fobear (1yr), and Randy Wittorp (2yr).

AN AFTER-CHRISTMAS PARTY is being planned for Friday, January 13. Pizza, snacks, a white elephant gift exchange and games! Everyone is welcome, so please mark your calendar.

THE 1st QUARTER VOTERS MEETING is scheduled for Sunday, January 15 at 11am. 2022 Board Chairmen are asked to please submit their 2022 annual reports to President Carl Ryan by January 8 so that he can compile the congregation's annual report for the meeting.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES AT MT. ZION

Sun. 1/1	9am	NO Bible Class/Sunday School (Holiday Recess)
	10am	Worship Service (w/ Communion)
Tue. 1/3	7pm	Board of Finance Budget Meeting
Tue. 1/10	7-9pm	Elders/Council/Trustees/Outreach Meetings
Fri. 1/13	6pm	After-Christmas Party
Sun. 1/15	11am	Q1 Voters Meeting
Fri. 1/20	2pm	UM Ann Arbor Bible Study Resumes
Sun. 1/33	4pm	Cleveland Area Worship Service

SERVING US THIS WEEK

December Usher: Carl Ryan Church Cleaning: Naumann

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL *Offering numbers are from 12/18/22*

Worship Attendance Last Sunday = 27; Bible Class/Sunday School = 15

Bi-Weekly Offerings Budgeted:	\$3307.69	Total Offerings Budgeted YTD:	\$82,692.31
Bi-Weekly Offerings Received:	\$2813.00	Total Offerings Received YTD:	\$75,130.16
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 10% of GB & individual offerings):			\$7533.02
Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Memorial Fund:			\$67,527.99

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. **Jay Sandeen** is deployed with his army unit in Iraq. **The Wittorps** are expecting a newborn baby in April. **Stephen Hughes** has been dealing with some heart issues and is waiting for test results. **CLC Pastor John Hein** (Grace Lutheran Church, Fridley, MN) is receiving treatment for stage 4 thymic carcinoma cancer.

CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

SYNODWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! Psalm 133:1

CLC CALL NEWS: Pastor Tim Daub of Prince of Peace, Hecla, SD, **has returned** the dual call to serve Redemption, Lynnwood, WA and Ascension, Tacoma, WA. + Pastor Andrew Schaller of Calvary, Marquette, MI has **received** the call to serve Luther Memorial, Fond du Lac, WI.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW CLC CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FUND: The "EduK8 Fund" is a new opportunity for CLC members to invest in the Christian education of our young people. Donations to this fund will be used to start and maintain Christian schools in the CLC. This fund was established last summer at convention and is administered by the CLC Board of Trustees at the direction of the Board of Education and Publications.

THE ILC BUILDING COMMITTEE has produced promotional materials for the new ILC Fieldhouse and Fine Arts Center project, which was approved by the 2022 CLC Convention. A PDF presentation can be seen at tinyurl.com/ilcbp-pres. An impressive video "walk-through" of the future facilities can be seen at tinyurl.com/ilcbp-walkthru. Additional publicity materials will follow, including an online presence and progress reports. Contributions toward this project should be identified as "ILC Building Project."