

November 26, 2023



HEAVEN
AND EARTH
SHALL PASS AWAY

BUT MY WORDS
SHALL NOT
PASS AWAY

MATTHEW 24:35



MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

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Last Sunday of the Church Year

Pre-Service Personal Prayer: *Blessed Savior Jesus Christ, send Your Spirit from on high upon Your believing children everywhere that they may be true to the faith and at last receive the crown of everlasting life. May Your Word proclaimed to us this day continue to make us wise unto salvation and direct our lives to be fashioned more and more after Your image. In Your name we ask it, Amen.*

Today's Worship!

Greeting and Prayer

Opening Hymn 516 *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

**1 "Wake, awake, for night is flying," The watchmen on the heights are crying;
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"**

***Midnight hears the welcome voices And at the thrilling cry rejoices;
"Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?***

***The Bridegroom comes, awake! Your lamps with gladness take! Alleluia!
With bridal care Yourselves prepare To meet the Bridegroom, who is near."***

***2 Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.***

***For her Lord comes down all-glorious, The strong in grace, in truth victorious;
Her star is ris'n, her light is come.***

***Now come, Thou Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son, Hail! Hosanna!
We enter all The wedding hall To eat the Supper at Thy call.***

***3 Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee, Let saints and angels sing before Thee
With harp and cymbals' clearest tone.***

***Of one pearl each shining portal, Where, joining with the choir immortal,
We gather round Thy radiant throne.***

***No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might Of Thy glory;
Therefore will we Eternally Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!***

The Invocation

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

☩ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☩ Amen!

The Confession and Absolution of Sins

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

☩ 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 – Latin for “O Lord.” We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.

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

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis – Latin for “Glory in the Highest (to God).” A hymn glorifying and praising our God.

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to all peo-ple on
earth. Lord God, heav-enly king, al-might-y God and
Fa-ther: We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we
praise You for Your glo-ry. Lord Je-sus
Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God: You take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the
 Fa-ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the
 Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a-lone are the
 Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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 Epistle Reading: *James 5:7-11*

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

The Responsive Reading: *Psalms 146*

- P** Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!
- C** I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- P** Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.



- C** When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.
- P** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,
- C** Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;
- P** Who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;
- C** The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.
- P** The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
- C** The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.
Praise the LORD!

The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 24:29-35*

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. ³² "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

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

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! These words are
writ - ten that we may believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the
Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

The Apostle's 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 336 *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

*1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending, Once for ev'ry sinner slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of His train;
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.*

*2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him, Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, Shall their true Messiah see.*

*3 Those dear tokens of His passion Still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation To His ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!*

*4 Yea, amen, let all adore Thee, High on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory, Claim the kingdom as Thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!*

The Sermon: *Isaiah 35:1-10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then shall

the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Theme: WHEN THE RANSOMED OF THE LORD RETURN

- I. Then strength will replace weakness.
- II. Then a lush garden will replace desert wasteland.
- III. Then joy and gladness will replace sorrow and sighing.



The Offertory

Having heard God's Word, we ask Him to spiritually heal us, giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O
 God. 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 me with Your free Spir - it.

Hymn 673 Jerusalem, My Happy Home

**1 Jerusalem, my happy home, When shall I come to thee?
When shall my sorrows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?**

**2 O happy harbor of the saints, O sweet and pleasant soil!
In thee no sorrow may be found, No grief, no care, no toil.**

**3 Thy gardens and thy gallant walks Continually are green;
There grow such sweet and pleasant flow'rs As nowhere else are seen.**

**4 There trees forevermore bear fruit And evermore do spring;
There evermore the angels dwell And evermore do sing.**

**5 Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there Around my Savior stand;
And soon my friends in Christ below Will join the glorious band.**

**6 O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare For that bright home of love
That I may see Thee and adore With all Thy saints above.**

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 "Scmctzion". While the usher brings the offering plate forward we sing the following hymn verse

(788:1): **Lord, You love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and hand
Blesses freely, as a river That refreshes all the land.
Grant us, then, the grace of giving With a spirit large and true
That our life and all our living We may consecrate to You.**

Prayer of the Church – The Lord's Prayer

☩ 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)*

Closing Hymn 748:1 *I'm But a Stranger Here*

**1 I'm but a stranger here, Heav'n is my home;
Earth is a desert drear, Heav'n is my home.
Danger and sorrow stand Round me on ev'ry hand;
Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home.**

LIVESTREAM on  YouTube @MtZionLutheranChurch

SERMON PODCAST on  Spotify @TheWordFromMountZion

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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.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING is today following the service. LIFT is providing a light lunch beforehand. Hope you can stick around to help beautify our sanctuary for the Advent season!

DECEMBER MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES: *Advent* means “coming.” Advent season is the time when we look forward to the celebration of when Christ *came* into the world to begin His mission of redemption. Beginning next Wednesday, December 6 at 7pm, Mt. Zion will be holding three midweek advent services. These additional worship opportunities are a great way to look forward to the greatest of all Christmas presents: our Savior Jesus!

AN AFTER-CHRISTMAS PARTY is being planned by the Outreach Committee for Friday, January 19. Food, games, and a white elephant gift exchange! Everyone is welcome, so please mark your calendar.

MT. ZION UPCOMING CALENDAR

Thu. 11/30	3pm	UM Ann Arbor Bible Study (Shapiro Library)
	7pm	Board of Finance Meeting
	8pm	Board of Education Meeting
Sat. 12/2	10am	Board of Education Meeting (@Church)
Sun. 12/3	9am	Bible Class / Sunday School
	10am	Divine Worship Service
	4pm	Cleveland Area Worship Service
Wed. 12/6	7pm	1 st Midweek Advent Service
Tue. 11/12	7-9pm	Elders/Council/Trustees/Outreach Meetings

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

Last Sunday Service Attendance: Bible Class/Sunday School:

General Fund Offerings Budgeted YTD:	\$96,711.54	Bi-Weekly General Fund Offerings Budgeted:	\$4115.38
General Fund Offerings Received YTD:	\$100,497.82	Bi-Weekly General Fund Offerings Received:	\$4254.00
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 10% of GB & individual offerings):			\$10049.78
Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Memorial Fund:			\$84,261.99

SERVING US THIS MONTH:

Usher: Jim Lucas Church Cleaning: D’Onofrio

IN OUR PRAYERS <> ENCOURAGEMENT LIST

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

Jackie McGruder remains homebound as she continues to suffer from lupus. **Jay Sandeen** is deployed with his army unit in Kuwait. The **Naumanns** are expecting a baby in April. **CLC Pastor John Hein**, 56, Grace, Fridley MN, is being treated for thymic carcinoma cancer. **Kate Sauers**, wife of CLC pastor Rob Sauers, is being treated for lymphoma 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 Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran of Saginaw, MI, **has received** the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter’s Lutheran of Iron River, MI. <> Teacher Daniel Barthels of Gethsemane Lutheran School of Saginaw, MI has announced that he **is retiring** from the teaching ministry effective July 1, 2024. <> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Columbia, SC **has received** a call from Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN.

2024 CLC MISSION HELPER TRIP: Applications are now being accepted for the 2024 CLC Mission Helper Trip to Africa. Apply now so you can be part of this opportunity to spread the Gospel to children in either Kenya/Uganda, Tanzania, or Zambia for about three weeks. The application deadline is January 16th. Find more information and apply online at www.mht.lutheranmissions.org.

MARTIN LUTHER ADVENT CALENDAR: Pastor Daub of Prince of Peace, Hecla, will be sending out a “Martin Luther Advent Calendar” each morning Dec. 1-24 via e-mail. Each daily devotion provides a window into the Christmas season around the Luther household and how many of our own traditions find their roots in the Reformer’s passion to teach and live the Gospel. If you would like to be added to the e-mail list, contact him at: pastor_daub@hotmail.com

NOMINATION FOR ILC PROFESSOR AND ILC PRESIDENT: The Board of Regents announces the following nominations to fill the professorship vacated by the impending retirement of Professor Mark Kranz at the end of the 2023-24 academic year: Neil Bernthal, Jeff Karnitz, Joshua Ohlmann, Dan Roehl, Seth Schaller, Steve Sydow, Matthew Thurow, Paul Tiefel III, and Matthew Ude. In addition, the following and only person has been nominated for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College: Daniel Schierenbeck. The term of the ILC President’s call is for two years, extending to the end of Academic Year 2026. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these candidates are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight January 2, 2024 (letters postmarked December 23, 2023) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.