

December 10, 2023



For I am  
*not ashamed*  
of the gospel,  
because it is the  
*power of God*  
that brings  
*salvation*  
to everyone who  
*believes.*

ROMANS 1:16, NIV



# MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann  
(248) 677-7242

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



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

**Pre-Service Personal Prayer:** *Lord God, heavenly Father, send Your Son into our hearts by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that we, being strengthened by the Sun of Righteousness, may walk before You in fervent faith and all holy obedience. Watch over our little flock, and by Your Word strengthen our faith and renew in us a rejoicing spirit in our Advent and Christmas worship. Amen.*

### Today's Worship!

#### Greeting and Prayer

#### Opening Hymn 332:1-7 *Savior of the Nations, Come*

**1 Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.**

**2 Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God  
Was the Word of God made flesh— Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.**

**3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild.  
In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.**

**4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and kingly hall;  
God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.**

**5 God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.**

**6 For You are the Father's Son Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.**

**7 From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.**

#### 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:

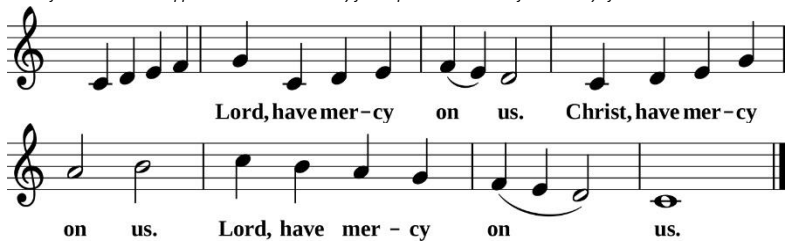
**C** Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer: we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive 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 – Latin for “O Lord.” We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.*



## The “O” Antiphons *(Hymn 357:2-3 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)*

*Advent means “coming.” During the Advent season, we pray for the Messiah Jesus to come and make His home with us.*

*These hymn verses are a part of the “O” Antiphons—ancient chants which formed the basis for “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”*

**C**  *O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord'rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*



## 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: *Jeremiah 33:14-18*

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.' <sup>17</sup> "For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, <sup>18</sup> and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever."

## The Responsive Reading: *Psalms 50 Selected Verses*

- P** The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- C** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
- P** Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest.
- C** He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:
- P** "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"
- C** The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge!
- P** Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High,
- C** And call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."



## The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 11:25-30*

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for

such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

**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 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 342** *What Hope! An Eden Prophesied*

- 1 *What hope! An Eden prophesied Where tame live with the wild;  
The lamb and lion side by side, Led by a little child!*
- 2 *A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem, A branch from David's line,  
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem: The fruit of God's design.*
- 3 *As banner of God's love unfurled, Christ came to suffer loss,  
That by His death a dying world Would rally to the cross.*
- 4 *Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord, Lost Paradise restore;  
Lead past the angel's flaming sword — Come, open heaven's door.*

## The Sermon: Romans 1:16-20 NKJV

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

## Theme: DO NOT BE EMBARRASSED TO TELL THE TRUTH

- I. God reveals His wrath against our unrighteousness.
- II. God reveals His love through Christ's righteousness.

*Guest Preacher: Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN*



## 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 580 *The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace*

**1** *The Gospel shows the Father's grace, Who sent His Son to save our race,  
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died That we might thus be justified.*

**2** *It sets the Lamb before our eyes, Who made the atoning sacrifice,  
And calls the souls with guilt oppressed To come and find eternal rest.*

**3** *It brings the Savior's righteousness To robe our souls in royal dress;  
From all our guilt it brings release And gives the troubled conscience peace.*

**4** *It is the pow'r of God to save From sin and Satan and the grave;  
It works the faith which firmly clings To all the treasures which it brings.*

**5** *It bears to all the tidings glad And bids their hearts no more be sad;  
The weary, burdened souls it cheers And banishes their guilty fears.*

**6** *May we in faith its message learn Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;  
May we in faith its truth confess And praise the Lord, our righteousness.*

## 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 \$cashtag is "Sc1cmz10n". 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

**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 Service of the Sacrament

*Now we approach the second high point of the liturgy, the Sacrament, in which the Lord comes to bless us with His very body and blood. We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration.*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up to the Lord.

**P** It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and

everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the Messiah, the very Lamb, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory; Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying...

## Holy, Holy, Holy

*The Sanctus – Latin for “Holy.” We join our voices to the angels who sing, “Holy, Holy, Holy” around His throne.”*

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho-  
 san - na in the high-est, ho - san-na in the high est.  
 Blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-  
 san - na in the highest, ho - san-na in the highest

## Words of Institution

*The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His sacramental body and blood for all time.*

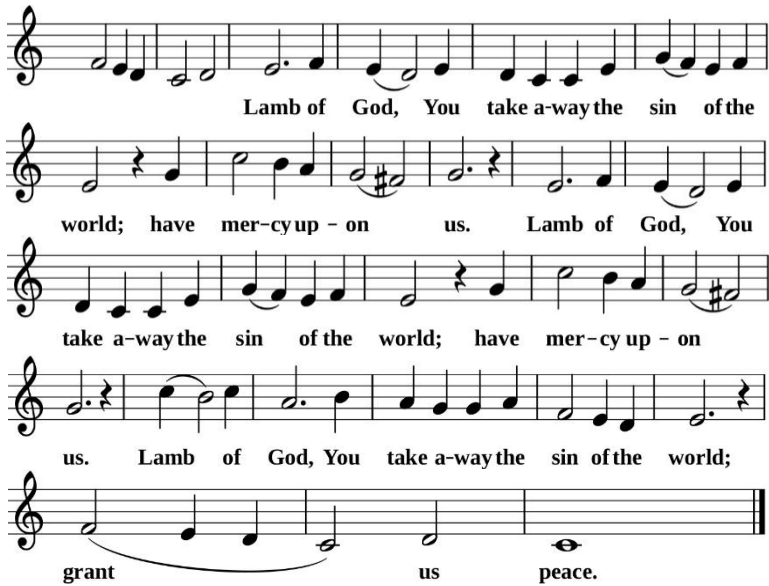
- ☐ Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, “Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, “Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

# Lamb of God

The Agnus Dei – Latin for “Lamb of God.” As we approach the Table of Forgiveness, we want to be thinking about the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for us on Calvary’s cross.



Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cyup - on us. Lamb of God, You  
take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy up - on  
us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.

## Distribution of the Sacrament

### Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon the Bible passages listed below. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, you'll want to find out if our church teaches what the Bible does! The pastor would be happy to discuss this with you at your convenience!

**1 Corinthians 1:10** "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

**1 Corinthians 11:26-30** "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."



# Thanksgiving

*We give thanks and praise the LORD for the forgiveness of sins received in the Sacrament.*



Thank the Lord; sing His praise; tell ev'ry one what  
He has done. Let all who seek the Lord re-joyce and  
bear Christ's ho - ly name. Thank the Lord;  
sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.  
Send us with Your prom-is - es, Lord; lead Your peo - ple  
forth in joy with shouts of thanks - giv-ing. Thank the Lord;  
sing His praise; tell ev'ry one what He has done. Al-le - lu - ia, alle-  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

# 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 332:8 *Savior of the Nations, Come***

***8 Glory to the Father sing,  
Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be  
Now and through eternity.***



**LIVESTREAM** on  **YouTube** @MtZionLutheranChurch

**SERMON PODCAST** on  **Spotify** @TheWordFromMountZion

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## *Worship at Mt. Zion*

We have a singular goal in our worship: “Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools.” (Ecc. 5:1 NKJV)

Our service follows the historic Biblical style of using a liturgy. The liturgy is meant to give order and structure to the worship service. We try to keep our worship respectful in order to foster an atmosphere which allows us to focus on the power of God’s Word. Our service is also meant to be reflective so that each individual can hear, understand, and meditate upon the wonderful works of God! (Acts 2:11)

The Bible teaches that God creates and sustains faith in a person’s heart through the power of His Word: Romans 1:16: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” In our fast-paced society, meditative and reflective worship is sometimes considered outdated, irrelevant, or boring. Yet, God Himself says, “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of God” (Romans 10:17). God has not changed His method of reaching people with the hope of forgiveness simply because our society has changed. He remains the same and His Word remains powerful.

If the worship service seems strange to you, don’t give up right away! Stick with it, try to learn something new each week, and develop a habit of being present in God’s house. The ability to quietly listen and learn is an acquired skill that takes time and practice. Our prayer each week is that we grow in our ability to listen to God’s Word and thereby increase our faith in Jesus. We hope you will continue to join us!

## **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.

**THANK YOU** to Pastor Joe Naumann for bringing us the Gospel message today. Pastor Joe is Pastor Tom's older brother and serves Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato, MN. May God bless his ministry and grant safe travel to his family on their trip home.

**MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES:** A password is a word that helps you get INTO the place you want to go. This is the time of year when a lot of us are beginning to "get into" Christmas. As we "get into" Christmas this year, our theme "Advent Passwords," will help us unlock the true meaning of the season. Join us the next two Wednesdays at 7pm!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Sermon Text &amp; Theme</b>
<b>Dec. 6</b>	Pastor Mike Wilke	1 John 4:9-11 <i>Password: Love</i>
<b>Dec. 13</b>	Pastor Tom Naumann	Psalm 130:5-8 <i>Password: Watch</i>
<b>Dec. 20</b>	Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld	Matthew 1:18-24 <i>Password: Trust</i>

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES SCHEDULE:** Because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, the voters have decided to forego the regular Sunday morning service. Which leaves us with just the two special Christmas services:

**Christmas Eve Service**, Sunday, December 24 at 4:00pm (See announcement below)

**Christmas Day Service**, Monday, December 25 at 10:00am

May the LORD bless our meditation throughout these days as we celebrate God's greatest gift—His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope you will join us!

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** Sunday, December 24 at 4pm, we will be holding our traditional Christmas Eve Service. All are invited to this special service where, with the help of the congregation's children, we will be reading through the Biblical Christmas account, singing favorite Christmas carols, and celebrating the birth of 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**

<b>Tue. 12/12</b>	7-9pm	Elders/Council/Trustees/Outreach Meetings
<b>Wed. 12/13</b>	7pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Midweek Advent Service
<b>Sun. 12/17</b>	9am	Bible Class / Sunday School
	10am	Divine Worship Service
<b>Tue. 12/19</b>	7pm	Board of Finance Meeting
<b>Sun. 12/24</b>	10am	NO Sunday Service
	4pm	Children's Christmas Eve Service
<b>Mon. 12/25</b>	10am	Christmas Day Service

**SERVING US THIS MONTH:**

Usher: Carl Ryan Church Cleaning: Troyans

**OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL**

Last Sunday Service Attendance: 32 Bible Class/Sunday School: 15

General Fund Offerings Budgeted YTD:	\$100,826.92	Bi-Weekly General Fund Offerings Budgeted:	\$4115.38
General Fund Offerings Received YTD:	\$104,060.08	Bi-Weekly General Fund Offerings Received:	\$3563.00
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 10% of GB & individual offerings):			\$10406.08
Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Memorial Fund:			\$84,326.99

**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, **is still considering** the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI. <> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Columbia, SC **is still considering** a call from Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. <> Michaela Winters, lower grade teacher at Messiah Lutheran in Hales Corners, WI **is resigning** at the conclusion of the current school year to spend more time with her infant daughter.

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN COLLEGE** will present its Christmas Choral Service, "The King in the Cradle," on Friday, December 15, 2023 at 7:30 pm CST at Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. The service will be live-streamed and recorded. The stream will be accessible via [youtube.com/ilcvideos](https://www.youtube.com/ilcvideos) and [ilc.edu/tv](http://ilc.edu/tv)

**WALK WITH THE APOSTLE PAUL (GREECE AND TURKEY TRIP):** A group trip to Greece and Turkey is planned for May 27-June 5, 2024 with a possible three day extension to Rome for those who are interested. The trip will include visits to Athens, Corinth, Berea, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Ephesus and much more. It will include visits to the traditional sites of many of the cities and churches the Apostle Paul visited as recorded in the Book of Acts. We will be reminded of the zeal and spread of the early Christian church. The extension to Rome will include visits to the Sistine Chapel, Basilica of St. Peter, Catacombs, Colosseum, St. Paul's Church, and more. A video of a similar trip can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ul-o6E47MMw>. If you would like more information about this trip, please contact Nathanael Mayhew ([nnmayhew@sleepyeyelutheran.com](mailto:nnmayhew@sleepyeyelutheran.com)). Brochures with additional trip details are available upon request.