

December 25, 2023



And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

LUKE 2:10-11, ESV



MT. ZION

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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

Opening Hymn 373 *See amid the Winter's Snow*

*1 See amid the winter's snow, Born for us on earth below,
See, the gentle Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years.*

*[Refrain]: Hail, O ever-blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

*2 Lo, within a stable lies He who built the starry skies,
He who, throned in height sublime, Sits amid the cherubim. [Refrain]*

*3 Sacred Infant, all divine, What a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss Down to such a world as this! [Refrain]*

*4 Teach, O teach us, holy child, By Thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble Thee In Thy sweet humility. [Refrain]*

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!

First Responsive Scripture Reading

A Christmas selection from John 1:1-4

P In the beginning was the Word,

C And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him,

C And without him was not any thing made that was made.

P In him was life,

C And the life was the light of men.

Hymn Verse (362:1 O Sing of Christ)

*O sing of Christ, whose birth made known, The kindness of the Lord,
Eternal Word made flesh and bone, So we could be restored.
Upon our frail humanity God's finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity, The icon of His grace.*

Second Responsive Scripture Reading

A Christmas selection from Romans 5:12-18 and Galatians 4:4

- P** Death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam,
- C** **Who is a type of Him who was to come.**
- P** Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation,
- C** **Even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.**
- P** For when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son,
- C** **Born of a woman, born under the law,**
- P** To redeem those who were under the law,
- C** **That we might receive the adoption as sons.**



Hymn Verse (362:2 O Sing of Christ)

*2 What Adam lost, none could reclaim, And Paradise was barred
Until the second Adam came, To mend what sin had marred.
For when the time was full and right, God sent His only Son;
He came to us as life and light, And our redemption won.*

Third Responsive Scripture Reading

A Christmas selection from John 1:10-13

- P** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him,
- C** **And the world did not know Him.**
- P** He came to His own,
- C** **And His own did not receive Him.**
- P** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God,
- C** **To those who believe in His name:**
- P** Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man,
- C** **But of God.**

Hymn Verse (362:3 O Sing of Christ)

**3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not received;
Yet still through Him God's glory shone, And some His name believed.
To these He gave the right to be, The heirs of heav'n above,
Born not of human ancestry, But born of God in love.**

Fourth Responsive Scripture Reading

A Christmas selection from Philippians 2:5-8 and 2 Corinthians 8:9

- P** Let this mind be in you,
C Which was also in Christ Jesus,
P Who, being in the form of God,
C Did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,
P But made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a
bondservant,
C And coming in the likeness of men.
P And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and
became obedient to the point of death,
C Even the death of the cross.
P For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He
was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor,
C That you through His poverty might become rich.

Hymn Verse (362:4 O Sing of Christ)

**4 Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell, Among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel, To bring this holy birth.
Though rich, You willingly became, One with our poverty,
That we might share Your wealth and name, For all eternity!**

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.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide

the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.



Epistle Reading: *Titus 2:11-14*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Christmas Creed

We boldly confess what we believe.

☐ I believe in God the Father Almighty, who sent His Son to be my Savior.

And I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, my Lord, the long-promised Messiah, Who came as foretold, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshipped by the shepherds, adored by the Wise Men, Who lived to suffer, die, and rise again, to free me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who has brought me to faith in my Savior, and by whose work in my heart I rejoice in my salvation, walk in Christ, show forth His praises, and will one day live and reign with Him in all eternity.

Amen.

Hymn 380 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

[Refrain]: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

**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! [Refrain]**

**3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. [Refrain]**

The Sermon: Luke 2:8-14 NKJV

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Theme: WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

- I. Great Fear Tamed!
- II. Great Joy Obtained!
- III. Great Glory Proclaimed!



Hymn 368 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**1 Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.**

[Refrain]: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? [Refrain]**

**3 Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]**

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 "Scscmtzion". 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.
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 387 *Joy to the World*

***1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King:
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.***

***2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.***

***3 No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.***

***4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.***



LIVESTREAM on  **YouTube** @MtZionLutheranChurch

SERMON PODCAST on  **Spotify** @TheWordFromMtZion

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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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! It is our prayer that the Christmas gospel will strengthen God's gift of faith in our hearts. Faith that trusts in His greatest gift of all – Jesus Christ, His Son and our Savior.

SPECIAL CLC MISSIONS SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY: CLC Missionary Bruce Naumann (Arusha, Tanzania) is stateside for the holidays and will be guest preaching for Mt. Zion next Sunday, December 31. Missionary Naumann will begin the special Sunday service with a 20-minute slideshow presentation updating us on his work in Tanzania. We will then proceed with an abbreviated worship service, with Missionary Naumann offering the sermon. We hope you can join us!

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.

NICHOLAS JAKEL HELP FUND: The Church Council met Dec 12 and established a "Help Fund" for Nicholas Jakel. Being a self-employed landscaper, Nicholas is facing serious financial difficulty due to the car accident he was involved in Dec 8. The Church Council is asking the congregation to please consider donating to this fund in order to help Nicholas with his accident-related expenses. He is facing 1-2 weeks of lost wages, an Emergency Room fee, and the loss of his GMC Sierra Pickup (which also doubled as his work truck). If the Lord moves you to contribute to this fund, please make checks payable to "Mt. Zion Lutheran Church" with the memo "Nicholas Jakel Help Fund". CashApp donations can be sent to \$clcmztion with the subject line "Nicholas Jakel Help Fund." *Galatians 6:10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

MT. ZION UPCOMING CALENDAR

Sun. 12/31	9am	NO Bible Class/Sunday School (Holiday Recess)
	10am	Special CLC Missions Worship Service (Guest Preacher: Missionary Bruce Naumann)
Tue. 1/9	7-9pm	Church Meetings (Elders/Council/Trustees/Outreach)
Thu. 1/11	8pm	Board of Ed Meeting
Fri. 1/12	3pm	UM Ann Arbor Bible Study Resumes
	5:30pm	Friday Night Bible School
Sun. 1/14	11am	Q1 Voters Meeting
Fri. 1/19	5:30pm	After-Christmas Church Party
Sun. 1/21	11am	LIFT Meeting

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL *Offering numbers are from 12/10/23

Last Sunday Service Attendance: 31 Bible Class/Sunday School: 13

Wednesday Advent Service Attendance: 13

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

SERVING US THIS MONTH:

Usher: Carl Ryan Church Cleaning: Troyans

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

ILC CHRISTMAS CHORAL SERVICE REPLAY: A replay of the Immanuel Lutheran Christmas Choral Service *The King in the Cradle* from December 15, 2023 is online. The strings, flute choir, and band play the first portion. The choral service begins at the 47-minute mark. A copy of the program booklet is available. The video is located at: bit.ly/23ccs

NEW LINK FOR ILC MORNING CHAPEL: Immanuel Lutheran College morning chapel services provide daily edification for the ILC family. It has also served people across the CLC through an email subscription service. Unfortunately, the previous email delivery service is no longer viable. Another more reliable service has been set up, but previous users will need to re-subscribe. If you would like morning chapel sent to your email each day, simply go to <https://ilc.edu/faith-worship/chapel-list/>, scroll to the bottom, and sign up with your email address.