

January 21, 2024



TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

*... his face shone
like the sun,
and his clothes became
white as light.*

MATTHEW 17:2, ESV



MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

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Transfiguration Sunday

Pre-Service Personal Prayer: *Lord Jesus Christ, at the height of Your Epiphany You revealed Your great power and glory to the disciples, eyewitnesses of Your transfiguration. Send now Your Holy Spirit to us through Your Word. Work in us repentance of sins and the assurance of Your forgiveness. Hear us for Your own sake, Amen.*

Today's Worship!

Greeting and Prayer

Opening Hymn 415 *Jesus on the Mountain Peak*

**1. Jesus on the mountain peak Stands alone in glory blazing;
Let us, if we dare to speak, Join the saints and angels praising. Alleluia!**

**2. Trembling at His feet we saw Moses and Elijah speaking
All the prophets and the law Shout through them their joyful greeting: Alleluia!**

**3. Swift the cloud of glory came: God proclaiming in its thunder
Jesus as the Son by name! Nations, cry aloud in wonder: Alleluia!**

**4. This is God's beloved Son! Law and prophets sing before Him,
First and last and only One. All creation shall adore Him! Alleluia!**

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 We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will!

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, we give you thanks and praise; Of
Lord Je-sus Christ, the Fa-ther's on-ly Son, You
A-lone, O Christ, You on-ly are the Lord, At
heav'n-ly joy and peace on earth we sing. We wor-ship
bore for us the load of this world's sin. O Lamb of
God's right hand in maj-es-ty most high: Who, with the
You, to You our hearts we raise, Lord God, al-
God, Your glo-rious vic-t'ry won, Re-ceive our
Spir-it wor-shipped and a-dored, With all the
might-y Fa-ther, heav'n-ly King.
prayer, grant us Your peace with-in.
heav'n-ly host we glo-ri-fy.

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: *Exodus 3:1-14*

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned."⁴ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."⁶ And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings,⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.⁹ And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.¹⁰ Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"¹² He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."¹³ Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

The Responsive Reading: *Psalm 2 Selected Verses*

- P** Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
- C** **The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,**
- P** "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."
- C** **He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.**
- P** Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,
- C** **"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."**
- P** I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.
- C** **Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession."**
- P** Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.
- C** **Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**



Epistle Reading: *2 Peter 1:16-21*

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- 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 523 *O Word of God Incarnate*

- 1 O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
 O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
 We praise You for the radiance That from the hallowed page,
 A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.*
- 2 The Church from You, dear Master, Received the gift divine;
 And still that light is lifted O'er all the earth to shine.
 It is the chart and compass That, all life's voyage through,
 Mid mists and rocks and quicksands Still guides, O Christ, to You.*
- 3 O make Your Church, dear Savior, A lamp of burnished gold
 To bear before the nations Your true light as of old!
 O teach Your wand'ring pilgrims By this their path to trace
 Till, clouds and darkness ended, They see You face to face!*

The Sermon: Matthew 17:1-9

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³ And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵ He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸ And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. ⁹ And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

Theme: THE TRANSFIGURATION LEAVES NO DOUBT!

- I. No doubt about WHO Jesus is.
- II. No doubt about WHO Jesus saves.

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, 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 414 *'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here*

**1. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy glory fills the night;
Thy face and garments, like the sun, Shine with unborrowed light.**

**2. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy beauty to behold
Where Moses and Elijah stand, Thy messengers of old.**

**3. Fulfiller of the past, And hope of things to be,
We hail Thy body glorified And our redemption see.**

**4. Before we taste of death, We see Thy kingdom come;
We long to hold the vision bright And make this hill our home.**

**5. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain;
But since Thou bidst us leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.**

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 Sčashtag is "Sclcmztion". 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 417:1 *Alleluia, Song of Gladness*

**1 Alleluia, song of gladness, Voice of joy that cannot die;
Alleluia is the anthem Ever raised by choirs on high;
In the house of God abiding Thus they sing eternally.**

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.

THE AFTER-CHRISTMAS PARTY: Thanks to everyone who attended the Christmas party this past Friday evening and to the Ryans for hosting. Much fun for all!

LIFT MEETING (Ladies In Fellowship Together) is today following the service. All women of the congregation and invited and encouraged to attend.

A CLEVELAND AREA WORSHIP SERVICE is next Sunday at 4pm in North Olmsted, OH. Speak with Pastor for more details.

2024 CHURCH CLEANING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Those who are willing and able to serve the Lord in this way are asked to please inform Michelle Ryan or Susan Fobear. A monthly schedule will be created and posted on the bulletin board by the end of January. Thank you for your much needed service.

Q1 VOTERS MEETING SUMMARY (Last Sunday): Opened with prayer at 11:30am... In attendance: Pastor Tom Naumann, Ben Mueller, Carl Ryan, Dave Troyan, Nicholas Jakel, Jeremiah Rosen, Mason Dzakowic, Jesse Wilke, Randy Wittorp (remote)... Excused: James Lucas and Matt Fobear... 2023 Q4 minutes read and approved... **2023 Annual Reports:** Pastor's report read and accepted (no membership matters)... Treasurer's, Financial Secretary's, Board of Trustee's, Board of Education's, Outreach Committee's, and President's reports all read and accepted... **Old Business:** None... **New Business:** MMC to establish a property search committee. The search committee is tasked to expand the property search beyond leases and to be creative with their recommendations and criteria of properties. Questions and requests from the congregation about the property search are to be directed to the committee... Appointment of 2024 committees for 1-year terms: • Outreach committee: Jesse Wilke, Jeremiah Rosen, Mason Dzakowic, Andrea D'Onofrio, Michelle Ryan • Constitution Committee: Carl Ryan • Tech Committee: Matt Fobear • Property Search Committee: Danielle Wittorp, Dave Troyan, Nicholas Jakel, Jesse Wilke... MMC to report weekly offerings rather than bi-weekly in bulletin... MMC to implement the 2024 usher schedule as presented by the Elders and adopt the updated 2024 usher guidelines... MMC to elect delegates for: GLDC (June 3-4) and CLC Convention (June 20-23): Jeremiah Rosen, Carl Ryan, Nicholas Jakel, Randy Wittorp... MMC to adopt 2024 IRS mileage rate of 67¢... MMC to adopt a 2024 Parsonage Housing Allowance of \$15,200... MMC to adopt 2024 Annual Budget as proposed by the Board of Finance... MMC to contribute \$28,000 from General Fund to Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Fund... MMC to adopt Q1 calendar as presented... Q2 meeting date set for April 7... **Meeting adjourned** at 2:17pm and closed with singing of the doxology.

MT. ZION UPCOMING CALENDAR

Today	11am	LIFT Meeting
Fri. 1/19	3pm	UM Ann Arbor Bible Study Resumes
Sun. 1/28	9am	Bible Class & Sunday School
	10am	Divine Worship Service
	4pm	Cleveland Area Worship service
Sat. 2/3	10am	Board of Education Meeting at Church
Fri. 2/9	5:30-8pm	Friday Night Bible School
Tue. 2/13	7-9pm	Church Meetings (Elders/Council/Trustees/Outreach)
Wed. 2/14	7pm	Ash Wednesday Midweek Service

SERVING US THIS MONTH:

Usher: Carl Ryan Church Cleaning: Naumanns

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

Last Sunday Attendance = 30 Bible Class/Sunday School = 18

General Fund Offerings Budgeted YTD:	\$4769.23	Weekly General Fund Offerings Budgeted:	\$2384.62
General Fund Offerings Received YTD:	\$3038.00	Weekly General Fund Offerings Received:	\$2257.00
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 10% of GB & individual offerings):			\$303.80
Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Memorial Fund:			\$114,921.99
Nicholas Jakel Help Fund:			\$2740.00

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. **Denise Troyan's** sister, Amy, is battling cancer. The **Naumanns** are expecting a baby girl 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 Thomas Schuetze of St. Paul, Lakewood, CO *is still considering* the calls from Calvary, Marquette, MI and St. Peter's, Iron River, MI. <> Mr. Dan Roehl *is still considering* the call to be the new professor at Immanuel Lutheran College, Eau Claire, replacing retiring Professor Mark Kranz.

ARTS CAMP 2024 will be held March 22-24 at Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church in Mankato, Minnesota. This is an amazing opportunity for creative fun and learning with other young Christians. There will be a variety of sessions including things like music, theater, crafts, and more! This camp is open to students in 5th-8th grade. Registration opens February 5th. Please contact Amber Casto with any questions: artscamp@immanuelmankato.org.