

December 14, 2025



Be patient...
until the
coming of
the Lord.
JAMES 5:7



MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann
(248) 677-7242

mtzionlutheran.info



3rd 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 Order of Service

Greeting and Prayer

Opening Hymn 354 *Arise, O Christian People*

1 *Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes you sins away.
To us by grace alone The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.*

2 *Prepare the way before Him; Prepare for Him the best.
Cast out what would offend Him, This great, this heav'nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing, His path, all even lay.*

3 *The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
Beneath His feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right, That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation-- It is the Lord's delight.*

4 *Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You This blessed Advent-tide.
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing Your praises gladly And forth Your glory show.*

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:

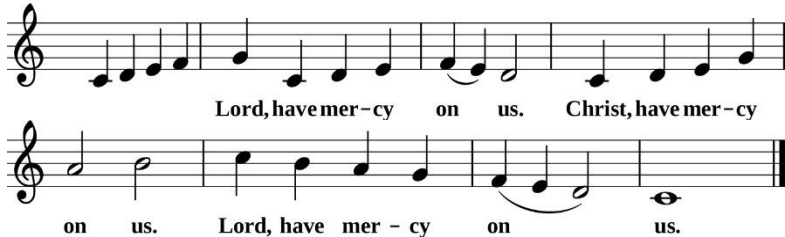
C Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer: we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive 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.




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

The “O” Antiphons *(Hymn 357:5-6 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 Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery..
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
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: *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.

The Responsive Reading: *Psalms 146 Selected Verses*

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 11:2-11*

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴ And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" ¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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 348 *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*

1 *The King shall come when morning dawns And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills And life to joy awakes.*

2 *Not as of old a little child, To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun That lights the morning sky.*

3 *Oh, brighter than the rising morn When Christ, victorious rose
And left the lonesome place of death Despite the rage of foes.*

4 *Oh, brighter than that glorious morn Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes And we shall see His face.*

5 *The King shall come when morning dawns And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: Come quickly, King of kings!*

The Sermon: *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.

THEME: IT TAKES FAITH TO BE A FARMER

- I. Patient faith in what the Lord Jesus *has* done. (7-9)
- II. Steadfast faith in what the Lord Jesus *will* do. (10-11)

Sermon Worksheet:

What two events do Christians of today live “in between”?

What is the Scriptural sense of the word “patient”? (3x in v.7-8)

What sin can be particularly destructive to Christian congregations? (v.9)

How did Jesus display perfect patience during His earthly life?

How does Jesus' first coming inspire our faith to be patient?

What is the Scriptural sense of the word "steadfast"? (2x in v.11)

What Old Testament prophet is given as an example of faith? (v.11)

What was especially remarkable about his faith?

How was he able to persevere through such terrible suffering? (Job 19:25ff)

Finish the sentence: Whenever God tells us in His Word not to worry or be afraid, He always _____.

So how can you establish your heart?

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 333 *Once He Came in Blessing*

**1 Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.**

**2 Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.**

**3 Soon will come that hour When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.**

**4 Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You Till in heav'n we bless You.**

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

**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 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.

☩ The Lord be with you.

☩ And also with you.

☩ Lift up your hearts.

☩ We lift them up to the Lord.

☩ 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 - nain 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.

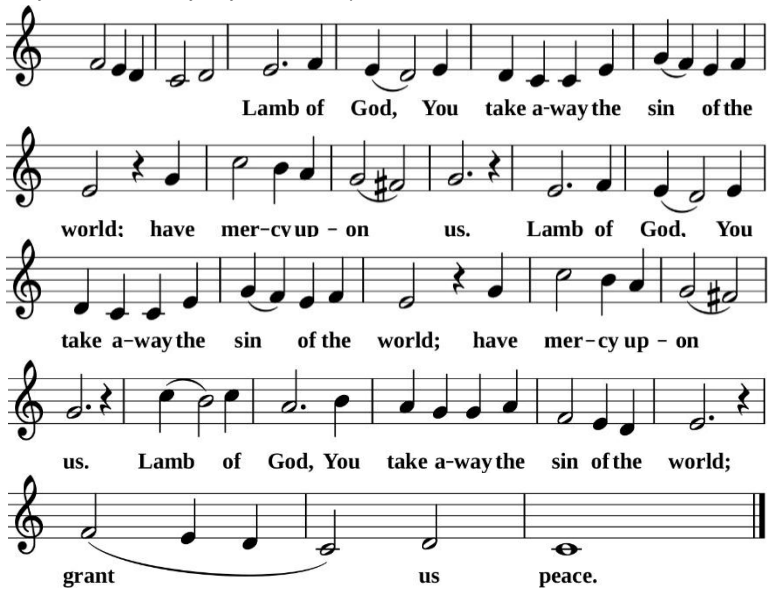
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, “Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

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-cy up - 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-joice 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 ioy with shouts of thanks - giv-ing. Thank the Lord;
sing His praise; tell ev'ry one what He has done. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le-
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.

G Amen!

Closing Hymn 340:1 *Life Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.

The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.

Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.

To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.

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!

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.

- † Restrooms are located to the left after you exit down the main aisle.
- † A Parents Room is located in the back of the sanctuary.
- † If you are visiting with us today, please sign the Guest Book in the back.
- † If you are looking for a church home, ask Pastor Tom about a free one-on-one Bible study for new people. Where & when? Your convenience.

SALE CLOSING ON NORTHEASTERN PROPERTY: This Thursday at 2pm, representative of Mt. Zion will be meeting with the buyers and title company to close the sale on our Northeastern Property. We thank the LORD for leading us to this point and we request prayers that everything go smoothly! Feel free to talk to any voter about sale price, etc.

THIRD MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE AND SOUP SUPPER: This Wed. December 17 is our third and final midweek Advent service at 7pm. There will again be a soup supper (two soups, bread, and dessert) at 6pm. All are welcome! Our midweek Advent theme this year is *God's Christmas Trees*. Join us for this extra opportunity for fellowship and God's Word!

Date	Preacher	Sermon Text and Theme
Dec. 6	Pastor Tom Naumann	Revelation 22:1-2 <i>The Tree of Life</i>
Dec. 10	Pastor Mike Wilke	Psalms 1:1-3 <i>The Tree of the Believer</i>
Dec. 17	Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld	Galatians 3:10-13 <i>The Tree of the Cross</i>

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: There are Christmas Service invitations on the bulletin table in the back of church. Please share with your friends and neighbors!

Children's Christmas Eve Service: Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00pm. 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!

Christmas Day Service: Thursday, December 25 at 10:00am. All are invited to our traditional Christmas Day service where we will praise God for our Savior's birth in Word and song.

A POST-CHRISTMAS PARTY is being planned by LIFT for Friday, January 9 at 5:30pm. Food & games! Everyone is welcome, so please mark your calendar.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

Tue. 12/16	8pm	Compensation Committee Meeting
Wed. 12/11	6pm	Soup Supper (see the bulletin board signup sheet)
	7pm	2 nd Midweek Advent Service (Pastor Sonnenfeld)
Thu. 12/18	2pm	Closing sale on Northeastern Property
Sun. 12/21	9am	Bible Class/Sunday School
	10am	Divine Worship Service: 4 th Sunday in Advent
Wed. 12/24	4pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service (Children's Program)
Thu. 12/25	10am	Christmas Day Worship Service
Fri. 1/9	5:30pm	Post-Christmas Church Party
Sun. 1/18	11am	Q1 Voters Meeting

SERVING US THIS WEEK:

Usher: Randy Wittorp **A/V Coordinator:** Randy Wittorp **Church Cleaners:** Voelzke

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

Last Sunday Attendance = 30 Bible Class/Sunday School = 22

General Fund Offerings Budgeted YTD: \$116,846.38	Weekly General Fund Offerings Budgeted: \$2,384.62
General Fund Offerings Received YTD: \$112,476.00	Last Week's General Fund Offerings Received: \$1,628.00
Building Fund Offerings Received YTD: \$22,740.00	School Fund (Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Fund): \$67,290.68
Building Fund Balance: \$8,274.45	Missions Offerings YTD: \$5,813.00

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. **Dave and Peggy Green** remain homebound as Dave continues to suffer from a very debilitating form of Parkinson's disease. **Our congregation** continues to pray for a buyer for our old church property at 26689 Northeastern Hwy.

CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION SYNODWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CALL NEWS Pastor Emeritus David Schierenbeck has **accepted** the call to serve as Assistant to the Pastor at Berea Ev. Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, MN, after he concludes serving as vacancy pastor of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN, at the end of January. <> Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD, has **received** the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has **returned** the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has **received** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Terrel Kesterson of Ascension Lutheran Church, Batavia, IL, has **returned** the part-time call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN.

2026 CLC MISSION HELPER TRIP: The CLC Mission Helper Program is making preparations for another Mission Trip to Africa for the summer of 2026. The main focus of this trip will be presenting the Gospel, through a series of child evangelism lessons, to member and non-member children in village congregations. Possible areas of evangelism include the CLC-Tanzania, CLC-Kenya, CLC-Zambia, and CLC-Uganda. CLC members are welcome and encouraged to apply. For more information and to apply, visit www.mht.lutheranmissions.org.

ILC CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The choirs of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will be presenting Light Born From Light (O Nata Lux de Lumine) on Friday, December 19, 2025 at Messiah Lutheran Church, 2015 N Hastings Way, Eau Claire, WI 54703. The evening will begin at 7:00 p.m., with the strings, band, and flute choir presenting several songs prior to the choral service. It is open to the public and admission is free. The service will also be streaming live at youtube.com/ilc.videos

NOMINATION FOR ILC PROFESSOR AND ILC PRESIDENT: The Board of Regents announces the following nominations to fill the professorship vacated by the resignation of Professor David Schaller prior to the 2025-26 academic year: Paul Krause, David Reim, David Schaller, Dan Sullivan, and David 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 2028. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these candidates are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight January 17, 2026 (letters postmarked January 7, 2025) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; [email:ieb6217@yahoo.com](mailto:ieb6217@yahoo.com).