

**Welcome to ZION Lutheran Church**

**LCMC ~ Lutheran congregations in mission for Christ**

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**Pastor ∙ Jeffrey Geske**

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Our MISSION:

***“SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS”***

**To Our Guests**

We are so glad that you have chosen to join us this morning! We pray that you will be refreshed and renewed as you come into God’s presence. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to the pastor and to those seated around you. Once again, we warmly thank you for worshipping with us this morning!

**Those Assisting in Ministry Today**

**December 25, 2022 ~ christmas day**

**Organist: Joseph extejt** **Greeters** : Ron Clark and All

**deacon:** Dwight Gilliland and Jim Hredzak

**SCREEN:** Nick Baumgartner & Jacob Geske

**Reader:** John Rittner

**Altar Guild:**  Shirley Clark and JoAnn VanSteenkiste

**Administrative assistant:** Sandy Brady 419- 410-9380 or skwiles2000@gmail.com

**LCMC ~ WHO WE ARE**

**Free in Christ + Accountable to One Another + Rooted in Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions + Committed to the Great Commission**

**Thoughts on our Readings ~ *(-- From the Sola Publishing Website)***

Christmas worship focuses on the Word who became flesh and lived among us. In him was light and life, and nothing came into being without him. In worship we encounter the very presence of the Lord, who pitched his tent and lived among us. As we gather around the written Word and the Holy

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**December 25, 2022**

**AS WE GATHER**

As Christians we believe there is a life after death. But do we turn into angels? Is our goal only that through death we will shed the physical body and live some sort of disembodied "spirit life"? No. "We look for the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting." Similarly, in Jesus, "the Word became flesh." After His sacrificial death for us and for our salvation, He rose again from the grave and ascended bodily into heaven. Jesus did not turn into a disembodied spirit but still has His human nature united to His divine nature. In other words, in Jesus, "the Word Became Flesh," never to give it up again! That "the Word remains flesh" is of great comfort because we know that to know God all you need to do is to look at Jesus. In Him we know how much God loves the world, and each person in it.

**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN LSB 379**  “O Come All Ye Faithful”

**INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,

**People: and the Word was God.**

Pastor: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

**People: and we have seen His glory.** *John 1:1, 14*

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Dearly beloved of God, we come together this day to hear of the great miracle that God became flesh and dwelt among us. Because He did this in order to free us from our sins, let us first consider our sinfulness and confess our need before God and one another. Together let us seek God’s grace and forgiveness, convinced of His love. For He not only became flesh for us at Christmas, but remains flesh for us, raising our humanity to fellowship with God and eternal life.

**People: Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life; for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: To all who receive Him, who believe in His name, He gives the right to become children of God. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**HANDBELL CHOIR** “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

**HYMN OF PRAISE** **LSB 393** “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

**Almighty God, grant that the new birth of your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set free all who are held in servitude under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**+ GOD’S WORD FOR US+**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Isaiah 52:7-10 (*All the earth sees the salvation of God*.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** Psalm 2 (*Serve the Lord with Fear”)*

**EPISTLE** Hebrews 1:1-6 (*God speaks by His Son*.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL** John 1:1-14 (*The Word became and remains flesh*.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the first chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

(*The Gospel is read.*)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN LSB 374** “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

**SERMON Jesus Came for Us ~ John 1:1-14**

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**OFFERING**

**HYMN LSB 386** “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

**PRAYERS**

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest. Glory to You, O God. Glory to You for the great gift of salvation in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Because He took on our flesh, all mankind takes on the divine hope of eternal life. Receive our heartfelt thanks and praise. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: As You took on our human flesh for our salvation, so may our Lord take on new flesh and blood, living in us, His people, that He may extend the touch of His salvation to all people in our world today. Bless Your Church to be the hearts and hands and voices of Your grace to all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: May all people over the whole world hear the Good News of Your love and salvation in Christ, and, hearing, be brought to faith and delivered from their sin. Cause Your Gospel to be preached and confessed with power and boldness everywhere. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: On this Christmas Day, hear our prayers for all who are alone, those who are sick or injured, and those suffering in body, mind, or spirit. Give health and healing and strength to all who look to You for help. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN LSB 367** “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

***Go In Peace and Sharing the Love of Jesus!***

***Merry Christmas to You!***

Announcements

**This Week at Zion** Includes:

**Today** – Worship at 10:00 a.m.

**Tuesday** ~ Food Pantry from 10:00 until noon.

**Next Sunday** – Bible Study at 9:00 a.m. Worship at 10:00 a.m. Choir at 11:15 a.m.

**OUR STEWARDSHIP ~** Weekly budget needs are $1,908.12*.* Attendance last weekend was 41. Offerings given totaled $1988.00. *Thank you for your support of our ministry!*

**IN OUR PRAYERS:**

1. **For our congregation members;** that they may be committed to our mission of sharing the love of Jesus.
2. **Pastor and Jacob** **Geske**
3. For **LCMC Congregation and Missionaries around the world.**
4. **President Biden, national leaders and our country**. Our nation’s military, especially our loved ones:
5. **For those who are sick, recovering, or in need of God’s grace at this time**. We include in our prayers: Loretta VanDyke, Susan Gaylord, Betty Vesey, Parker Reau, Marilyn Bexten, Fred and JoAnn VanSteenkiste, Joann Koester, Karen Keck, Duane Holtz and those dealing with Covid.

***Prayer List:****Please let us know when we can take the name off of the prayer list.*

*Thank you!.*

Services covered by CCLI: 1553677 ~ Lutheran Service Book Hymn License # **100014699 ~** Lutheran Service Book Liturgy License. # **000014699**

**Flowers on the Altar** ~ If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please sign up in the hallway. Let pastor or Sandy know if you are celebrating or remembering something special. Flowers today are given by Jim Hredzak.

**Pastor Geske Farewell ~** Join us Sunday, January 1 for our farewell for Pastor Jeff and Jacob. There will be a potluck meal served following the service.

Calendar

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