

December 29, 2024



*But when  
the fullness  
of time  
had come,*



*God sent his  
Son....*

*Galatians 4:4*

# MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann  
(248) 677-7242

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



# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

**Pre-Service Personal Prayer:** *Dear Child of Bethlehem, our Lord and Savior, use us as witnesses of Your salvation. Accomplish this great work with our family, friends, and close neighbors, then, as you have commanded, to all the world. Keep You and Your cross at the center of every message we bring, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Amen.*

## Today's Order of Service

### Greeting and Prayer

#### Opening Hymn 367:1-4 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

**1 Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth:  
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth.**

**Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**2 Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines His Infant Light. [Refrain]**

**3 Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star. [Refrain]**

**4 Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear. [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.

### 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-shiped 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.

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## 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: *Micah 5:2-4*

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

## The Responsive Reading: *Psalms 89:1-8*

- P** I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.
- C** For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."
- P** You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:
- C** 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"
- P** Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!
- C** For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,
- P** A God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him?
- C** O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you?



## Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:33-40*

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign

that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." <sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

**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 369 *Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*

**1** *Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,  
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;  
But there is room and welcome there for me. (2x)*

**2** *In that unlikely place I find him as they said:  
Sweet newborn Babe, how frail! And in a manger bed:  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me. (2x)*

**3** *How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,  
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me. (2x)*

**4** *Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned  
It's way into my heart—unasked, unforced, unearned,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me? (2x)*

### **The Sermon:** *Galatians 4:4-7*

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,<sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.<sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"<sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

### **Theme: JESUS IS THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING**

I. Redemption. II. Adoption. III. Inheritance.

#### Sermon Worksheet:

*What does the phrase "fullness of time" mean?*

*Why is it important that Jesus is God's Son AND "born of a woman"?*

*What does "redeem" mean?*

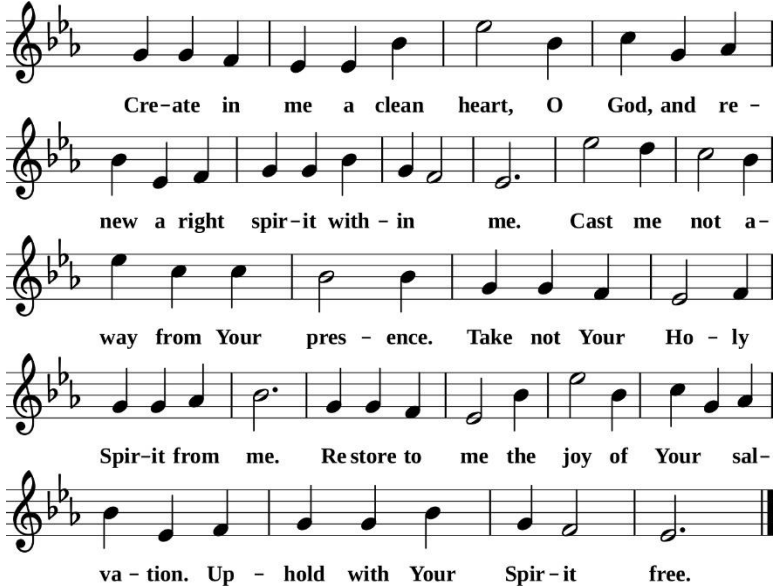
*In what way is adoption a greater form of love?*

*What inheritance awaits God's sons?*

*What comfort do Christ's gifts of redemption, adoption, and inheritance offer for your life? How can you apply these truths in times of hardship?*

## The Offertory

*Having heard God's Word, we pray for spiritual healing through 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 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!  
Singing 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 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 "Scmctzion". While the usher brings the offering plate forward we sing the following hymn verse*

**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!**

## 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 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 367:5 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

***5 All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son.  
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.***

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.

**ROBERT CAVANAUGH—WITH THE LORD:** As you all know by now, Robert (Bob) Cavanaugh was murdered on Christmas Eve at his trailer park here in Madison Heights. Although not officially a member of Mt. Zion, Robert regularly attended our services for the past 4 years. Despite his sometimes-strained relationship with our congregation, Robert was a very friendly man, always teasing and joking with the kids and doing a lot to help care for the church property. Our little congregation is pretty shaken up by the news. I personally spent many hours counseling and visiting with Robert, directing him to God's Word and grace to help with his problems. He was a dear friend. I will miss him.

Eyewitnesses state that Robert was attempting to defend an abused dog when the man who was beating the dog turned on Robert and bludgeoned his head until he died. The suspect has been arrested and is awaiting charges pending the official cause of death from the medical examiner.

I think that the brutality of the murder combined with the fact that Robert was defending an animal, and it happened to be Christmas Eve have contributed to the story's national attention. However, most of the news reports that I have watched and read are perhaps a bit over-sensationalized and highly sentimental. Indeed, Robert was a kind and compassionate man. But he would be the first to tell you that he was a sinful man in need of a Savior. Thankfully, God blessed Robert with saving faith in his Savior and he trusted Him for forgiveness and salvation. So while we are shocked and horrified by his sudden death, we rejoice that Robert is now and forever with the Lord. Just as God promised, He has worked out even this tragedy for good--the eternal good of Robert's soul.

The funeral will be taking place here at Mt. Zion sometime in the New Year. Arrangements will be made after Robert's body is released from the medical examiner. Please keep Mt. Zion, Robert's family, and me in your prayers.

**CHURCH OFFICER INSTALLATION NEXT SUNDAY:** The following 2025 church officers will be installed during the Sunday worship service on January 6: President Randy Wittorp (1yr); Vice President Ben Mueller (1yr); Secretary Jesse Wilke (1yr); Treasurer Carl Ryan (1yr); Financial Secretary Dave Troyan (1yr); Trustee Matt Fobear (3yrs); Elder Randy Wittorp (3yrs); Board of Finance: Mason Dzakowic and Peter Voelzke (1yr); Board of Education: Randy Wittorp (3yr).

**THE Q1 VOTERS MEETING** is Sunday, January 12 at 11am. 2024 Board/Committee Chairmen are asked to please submit their annual reports to 2024 President Randy Wittorp by January 5 for the congregation's annual report.

**THANK YOU** to the members of Mt. Zion for the monetary Christmas gift to the Naumanns. We are humbled once again by your great generosity. We could not ask for a better church family. Your love for the LORD is made evident by your love for us. A love that we certainly return in kind. Serving Christ with you, Pastor, Ashley, Aurora, Jed, Gabe, and Cassidy.

**MT. ZION UPCOMING CALENDAR**

<b>Sun. 1/5</b>	9am	Bible Class/Sunday School
	10am	Sunday Service
<b>Fri. 1/10</b>	5:30-8pm	Friday Night Bible School
<b>Sun. 1/12</b>	11am	Q1 Voters Meeting

**SERVING US THIS MONTH:**

Usher: Nathan Fobear    Church Cleaning: Trojans

**OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL**

Last Sunday Attendance = 30; Bible Class/Sunday School = 16  
 Christmas Eve Service = 30; Christmas Day Service = 28

General Fund Offerings Budgeted YTD: \$121,480.62	Weekly General Fund Offerings Budgeted: \$2,384.62
General Fund Offerings Received YTD: \$111,961.00	Last Week's General Fund Offerings Received: \$1,590.00
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 10% of GB & individual offerings): \$12,290.00	
Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Memorial Fund: \$129,700.86	

**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. We continue to search for a **new building** for our church and future school. **Robert Cavanaugh** was murdered on Christmas Eve.

**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 Del Maas of Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN has **received** the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Pastor George Dummann of Salem Lutheran Church, Eagle Lake, MN has **received** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.