

BLESSED IS THE CHILD YOU WILL BEAR**Preservice Music****Band**

The Reason is the Season
Christmas Joy
A Gift of Carols
A Christmas Canon
A Christmas Proclamation

GATHERING RITE

The Advent Gathering Song is written in the spirit of Taizé, with a refrain sung continuously by the congregation as the choir sings superimposed verses.

ADVENT GATHERING SONG

Gently *mp* James J. Chepponis

Come, come Emmanuel.

Come, Emmanuel.

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Choir: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: May the ruler of Israel

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: He will shepherd his flock and

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Let us turn to the Lord and

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: By the will of God he has

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: For the son of Mary will

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Trust the word of the Lord and

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

The music continues softly as we speak the invocation, confession, absolution and prayer of the day.

Stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Morrison Zion
Evangelical Lutheran
Church
 Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



Our mission is to
Glorify God
as we help people
Grow in the
Gospel
and
Go with the
Gospel

Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We humbly acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.



M: Beloved in the Lord: 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 us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: 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.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

As the music grows louder the congregation again sings the refrain continuously as the choir sings the superimposed verses.

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us and

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Christ, have mercy upon us and

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us and

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

M: We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

C: **We remember Jesus whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

M: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

C: **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

Four Advent candles are lit.

Be Seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Genesis 4:1, 2, 6-8, 25-5:5

Death reigned in the children of Adam and Eve because of sin. From the death of Abel to Christ's coming again, the bell tolls in every generation: "and he died." A different child was needed. One who was God and man whose life, death, and resurrection changes all of that for eternity. In Adam every generation tastes death, yet in Christ all will be made alive.

⁴ Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man."² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?"⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

⁸ Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

²⁵ Adam lay with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him."²⁶ Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh.

At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD.

⁵ This is the written account of Adam's line.

When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.² He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them "man."

³ When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.⁴ After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters.⁵ Altogether, Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.

Psalm 85 (CW page 97)

Second Lesson

Revelation 12:1-6

A great and wondrous sign appeared: A child was born who is God and man to work the salvation of all mankind. John's vision of Christmas is the only account in which we see things from God's point of view. How fiercely Satan fought to devour God's grace in Christ. Thanks be to God that Christmas spelled doom for Satan and blessing for all generations.

¹² A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.² She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads.⁴ His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born.⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.⁶ The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

The Gospel

Luke 1:39-55

The exclamation of Elizabeth, the leaping of baby John, and the song of Mary are all Spirit-were al reactions to the imminent fulfillment of God's promised deliverance. We join Mary in marveling at the great things done by the Mighty One. The contrast of judgment for the wicked and deliverance for the faithful illustrates the depth of God's mercy to every generation in Christ.

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea,⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!"⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

⁴⁶ And Mary said:
 “My soul glorifies the Lord
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has been mindful
 of the humble state of his servant.
 From now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
 holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
 from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
 he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
 but has lifted up the humble.
⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
 but has sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
 remembering to be merciful
⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
 even as he said to our fathers.”

Hymn of the Day

CW 23

CHOIR

Carol for Advent

Piano: Beverly Leiterman, Flute: Carrie Cappelle

Amid the winter's cold embrace, clothed in a shroud of white,
 an anxious world in silence waits through the dark of night.
 As the lonely song of a dove echoes across the sky above,
 we can feel the moment is near; soon the Child of peace will appear.

What child is this the world awaits with quiet expectation?
 When will He come, the promised one, to bring us peace and salvation?
 Raise, raise your prayers on high. Prepare His way, the time is nigh.
 Come, come Emanuel, O Child of Love and Peace.

The air grows colder, the light grows dim with dark'ning sky above us.
 But soon the chill of the winter wind will warm with God's gift of love.
 And a star will brighten the sky; songs of joy will echo on heav'n on high!
 We will know the moment is here; the Child of Love and Peace will appear.

God Whispers Love

Piano: Beverly Leiterman

God whispers love and Mary greets an angel.
 God whispers love and shepherds see the light.
 God whispers love, His Son is now among us.
 God whispers love this silent, holy night.
 Receive His gift which comes upon the midnight.
 Receive His gift, this gift of love and light.

The Word made flesh, Emmanuel is with us.
 The Word made flesh, God now in human form.
 The Word made flesh, as promised by Isaiah,

The Word made flesh, the King of kings is born.
Receive His gift which comes upon the midnight.
Receive His gift, this gift of love and light.

Christmas is here, prepare your heart for Jesus.
Christmas is here, a precious baby boy.
Christmas is here; a lowly manger holds Him.
Christmas is here; It brings us hope and joy.
Receive His gift which comes upon the midnight.
God whispers love and gives to us His light.

Mary, Did You Know?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water?
Mary did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you.

Mary did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kissed your little baby, then you kissed the face of God.

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again;
the lame will leap, the mute will speak the praises of the Lamb.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding, is the great, the great "I AM!"

One Small Child

Piano: Beverly Leiterman, Flute: Hannah Ihlenfeldt

One small child, one tiny child sleeping in a lowly manger.
Oxen and sheep all gather 'round to warm the one small child.

One bright star, one shining star dancing in the winter heaven.
Trav'lers search through the long, cold night to find the one small child.
Gloria, Gloria, a song is in the air.
Gloria, Gloria, it echoes ev'rywhere!

One new life, one special life bringing all the world together.
Peace on earth has come this night in the love of one small child.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, the angels loudly sing.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, the joyful news they bring!

One great gift, one precious gift filling all our lives with wonder.
Share the joy which comes this night in the love of one small child.

Christ Child Noel

Piano: Beverly Leiterman

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the Babe is Lord of all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe;
this gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.

What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease;
my Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

Noel! Noel! Noel! Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

In Christ alone, my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease;
my Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

Noel! Noel! Noel! Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Infant holy, infant lowly, Noel. Noel. Noel. We sing Noel.

SENDING

Offering

Musical Offering

And the Angels Sing

Band

Stand

Prayer of the Church for Advent

Page 123

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.

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: (sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.

Be Seated

Closing Hymn

CWS 705:1-2

Postlude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Band

Our Stewardship of the Means of Grace:

Worship: 305 **Communion:** 200 **Advent Worship:** 174 (109, 65)
Bible Class: 77 (1, 31, 20, 12, 13) **Youth Study:** 15

Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	7:00 p.m.	Book Study, Zephaniah church
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Children's Christmas Program
	7:00 p.m.	Children's Christmas Program
	11:00 p.m.	Christmas Candlelight Worship
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Festival Worship, communion
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	New Life in Christ Class
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Adult Christ Light Class, church
	9:00 a.m.	Worship, communion
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School

Thank You to all our choir members and band members for leading us in worship this morning. Thank you also to Brenda Kuchenbecker, our choir and band director, for all her work in preparing this service.

Refreshments are available in the basement after worship today. Please join us in the basement!

Sunday Book Study will look at the book of Zephaniah this evening. Read through the book, find the historical background and context of the book and come with any questions or comments you found in your reading. Join us at 7:00 p.m.!

Children's Christmas Program is at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Monday.

Christmas Candlelight Worship is at 11:00 p.m. on Monday. The theme of our worship is *Here in the Dark*. This service is a quiet, reflective service that focuses on the birth of our savior. Please join us!

Christmas Festival Worship will be at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday. Communion will be a part of worship. Please join us!

Tuesday Bible Class will not meet this week.

New Life in Christ Class will meet on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday at 8:00 a.m. this week. We will look at Part 1 of *The Christian and God's Will*.

Adult Christ Light Bible Class will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Bible Study room in the church basement. In this class we will look at Bible Stories from the New Testament. Join us and bring the family!

Book Study Beginning on January 6 we will discuss the book *Connecting Sinai To Calvary: A Guide to the Old Testament* by John C. Jeske. The cost of the book is \$15. If you are interested in purchasing a book sign up on the sheet in the church basement.

Poinsettias There is a sign up sheet in the basement for purchasing the poinsettias that are in the front of church. The cost is \$7. The money above the cost of the plants is used by the worship committee for its various projects to enhance our worship life

Church Cookbooks are available every Sunday in the library in the church basement from now until Christmas. They make great gifts!

NIV Daily Bible There are 19 NIV Daily Bibles available. The Bibles are free! They contain a daily reading from the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the book of Psalms or Proverbs. They are arranged in daily readings so that one year from the day you begin you will have read the entire Bible. The Bibles are a gift from Paula and Randy Ott to the first 19 people that sign up in the church basement.

New Year's Worship New Year's Eve worship will be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 31. New Year's Day Worship will be at 9:00 a.m. January 1. Communion will be a part of both services. Please note that New Year's Eve worship is at 7:00 p.m., not 7:30 p.m.

4th annual **Men of His Word Conference** will be at the Oshkosh Convention Center on Saturday, February 16, 2013. registration will be online at www.menofhisword.org starting on November 1.

Questions/Comments about Zion? Contact:

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Principal Brian Humann	864-2349
President Erv Zeamer	660-1161
Elders: David Wegner	864-2526
School Board: Curt Nushart	864-7355

Today's Organist: Brenda Kuchenbecker

School Faculty: Joan Wegner, Brenda Kuchenbecker, Brian Humann, Tim Pingel, Rick Muchka

Congregation Website: www.mzluth.org **Synod Website:** www.wels.net

Custodian: Beverly Leiterman 864-2355

Church/School Secretary: Nancy Pantzlaff 864-7334

Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service (WELS counseling)
Appleton, Kathleen Jasman, Administrator, 731-9798

Living Hope Counseling Ministries De Pere (WELS counseling)
Dr. John Johnson, Director, 338-8699