

**December 10, 2023, Second Sunday of Advent
Traditional Worship Service**



Zion
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

*Zion matters to the
community by
showing the love of
Jesus Christ.*

**STAFFED CHILD
CARE**

Available during
worship service.
Infant thru
Kindergarten.

WIFI = Zion Guest
No password required

www.zion-nc.com

Like us on Facebook
[@zionnorthcanton](https://www.facebook.com/zionnorthcanton)

The Advent Wreath

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress

Welcome from Presiding Minister (PM)

*Please stand as you are able
Turn to follow the cross as it processes through the worship space*

Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Congregation responses are in bold print

Two candles are lit as the following prayer is read

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, and none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

Amen

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,
 as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
 Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen

Let us pray,

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

A reading from Isaiah:

(Isaiah 40:1-11, Pew Bible, New Testament, page 517)

The reading concludes with:

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Psalm Paraphrase
(Read responsively
the indented lines)

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Paraphrased by Pastor William



Photo by analogicus at Pixabay.com

Lord, you blessed your creation,
you continue to bless your people.
You forgive our prejudices,
released us from the harm we cause.

God is going to speak – listen up!
God talks of peace and love,
peace between all people,
love for all people
turn your hearts to God.

The faithful will be rescued;
from fear and despair,
their country belongs to God.

True love and honesty reside there,
right living and caring are united.

Loyalty springs forth from the ground,
justice pours down from the sky.

All that God gives is good,
we will prosper and benefit others.

God pours love across the land,
and makes a path to walk with us.

A reading from 2 Peter:

(2 Peter 3:8-15a Pew Bible, New Testament, page 186)

The reading concludes with:
Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God

Please stand as you are able

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?". The second staff contains the melody for "You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.".

The holy gospel according to St. Mark
Glory to you, O Lord

(St. Mark 1:1-8, Pew Bible,
New Testament, page 27)

The reading concludes with:
The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

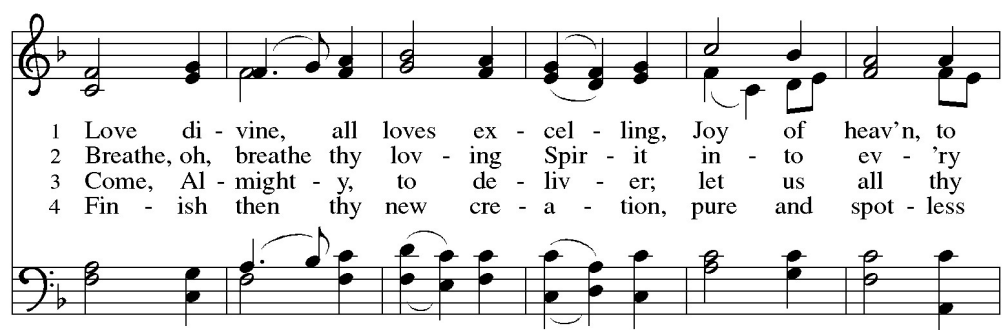
Please be seated

Children's Time with Pastor


Sermon

Please stand as you are able

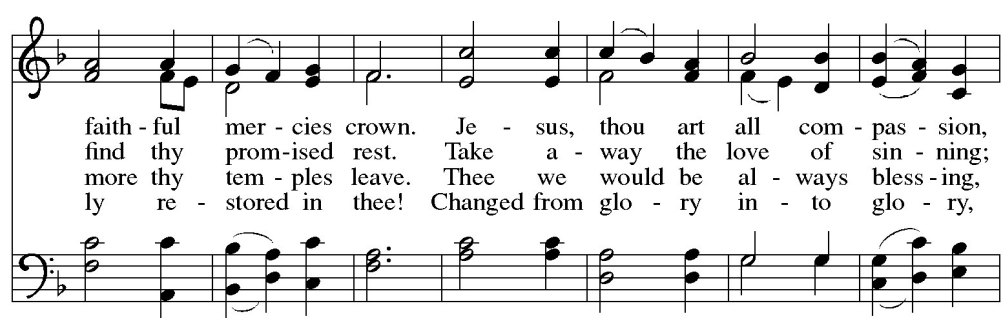
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

AM: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence for personal prayer

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Thank you for the life of our birthday siblings,
Doug Roman and Adrienne Santiago

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.
Amen.

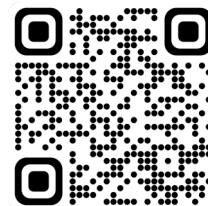
The Offering of our tithes, gifts and sacrifices is gathered for the mission of Christ's church, including the care of those in need.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Scan QR code for mobile giving

PC = <https://onrealm.org/ZionLutheranChurchNC/give/now>

Smartphone = <https://abundant.com/ZionLutheranChurch/MobileGiving>



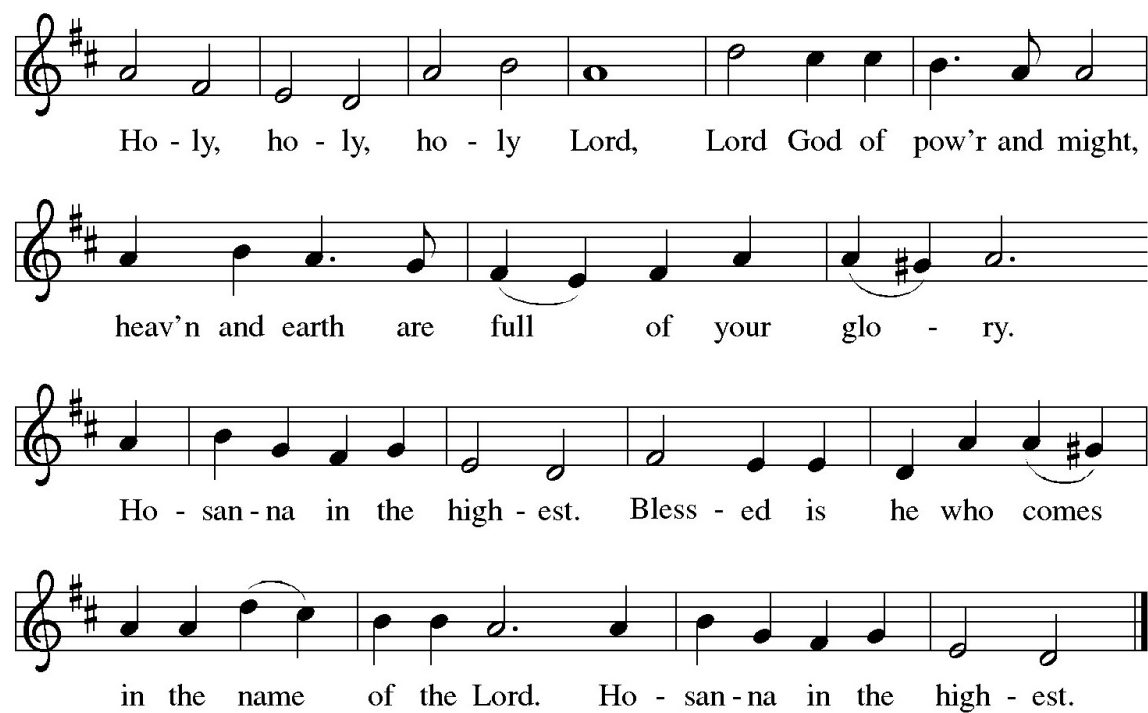
AM: Let us enthusiastically pray our prayer of stewardship, Holy Lord,
I gladly return, for your work, a portion of your abundant provision to me. All that I have is yours alone, entrusted Lord, to my care. Amen.

PM: The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.
We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.
We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.
We thank you, O God.

Words of Institution - Please look up, Pastor will be speaking these words

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

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.

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together, Come Take your place at the table.

Thanks be to God!

The Lord's Supper (Communion) at this congregation is practiced as an open table – all are welcome. Jesus said this is his body and blood given and shed for you; come receive the loving grace God provides for you.

Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing, for all are loved by God. Children who commune at their home congregation are encouraged to commune here today too.

Gluten Free wafers available. Request at time of receiving communion.

Please be seated

Communion Music: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

by: Winifred Lamb Winans

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

AM: Let us pray,

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

PM: Let us enthusiastically commit to our mission as we pray,
Lord, my hope and strength come from you. Open my eyes and heart to become the person you want me to be; a person who cares for the widows and orphans, feeds the hungry, clothes the naked, frees the oppressed, and visits the sick and imprisoned. Give me and this congregation a vision to make a difference in our community. Enliven me to spread the good news of your Son. I pray this all for Jesus's sake. Amen.

The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you, now and forever.
Amen.

*Turn to follow the cross as it processes through the Worship Space.
Then follow it out to join in God's work.*


How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

Continued on next page



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,
who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
Music: FOUNDATION, Early American


Go in Peace. Keep Awake.
We will with God's help.

Please join in fellowship with coffee and donuts immediately following!

Postlude: *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

by: Joachim Neander &
Anna Laura Page

Mark 1:1-8
Stewardship Moment from Pastor William



Stewardship in the Gospel
Today's gospel reading identifies the purpose of the whole Gospel of Mark; to tell the good news (gospel) of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The good news Jesus brings is that God loves us, every one of us! There is an overflowing abundance of God's love.

Stewardship in our Community
Too often, we tend to act out of a sense of scarcity; a sense that there is not enough. That thinking leads us to consider our own needs as being superior to the needs of the whole. God's good news of abundant love should move us to act in a way that benefits the greater good.

Stewardship in practice
The good news of God's abundant love can sustain us in times of doubt, concern, worry and fear. Focusing on the benevolent God of love can shift our focus and help us see opportunities to love others. This week, take some time to reflect on how God's love is making a difference in your life. Then ask for strength and courage to share God's depth and abundance of love with others.

Today's Worship Leaders

Assisting Minister: Beth Heller
 Acolyte: Ben Keith
 Accompanist: Steve Moore
 Audio/Visual Technicians: Paul Bagocius and Linda Weidenbach
 Chancel Guild: Jayne Schrader and Sally Bunyan
 Child Care Attendant: Amelia Milek
 Presiding Minister: Rev. William C. Weidenbach Jr.
 Reader: Jayne Schrader
 Trustees: Randy Elsass and Darlene Milavickas
 Flowers by: Cindy and Paul Bagocius in loving memory of Dick & Steven Hudson

December 17, 2023 Worship Leaders

Assisting Minister: Cindy Bagocius
 Acolyte: Ben Keith
 Accompanist: Steve Moore
 Audio/Visual Technicians: Linda Weidenbach and
 Chris Thompson
 Chancel Guild: Jayne Schrader and Sally Bunyan
 Child Care Attendant: Amelia Milek
 Presiding Minister: Rev. William C. Weidenbach Jr.
 Reader: Renee Keith
 Trustees: John Long and Darlene Milavickas

		
All Teas	\$3.50	
All Candy Bars	\$3.00	<p>SPECIAL Costa Rican Inspired Drip Coffee Tower \$25.00 with Choice of Coffee Handcrafted by Ken Reinoehl Orders Taken</p>
Chocolate Chips	\$4.00	
Cocoa		
Baking	\$6.00	
Hot Drink Mix	\$6.00	
Coffee		
Single Serve	\$7.00	
Regular Ground	\$8.50	
Regular Whole Bean	\$8.50	
DeCaf Ground	\$8.50	
Congo Regular	\$10.00	
Congo Whole Bean	\$10.00	

**Food Pantry
 Needs for
 Christmas
 Giveaway**

**Laundry
 Detergent**

**Toilet paper
 and Kleenex**

Mark 1:1-8
 Gospel Message from Pr. William

Photo by JillWellington at pixabay.com



Our reading starts by identifying the purpose of this whole book; to tell the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The good news that God has something to say to us. The good news that God longs to kindle the relationship between God and us. The good news that God chooses to not remember the things we do to break our relationship. The good news that we are loved by God simply because we belong to God. This is all good news to us and to the whole world. Share the good news.





This week we pray for:
 Wernle's kids, staff, and
 organization, Knox, Noa,
 Navie, Mark, Sandy, Tricia,
 George, Rhea and those
 affected by wars.
 Submit your prayer
 requests to
 Jayne Schrader at
 Prayer@Zion-NC.com

The Weekly News of Zion Lutheran Church

December 21 - 3pm

*Blue
 Christmas
 Service*

TIME TO SIGN UP!

BLOOD DRIVE

December 17
 10am - 2pm

COFFEE AND DONUT
 SOCIAL ~ SUNDAY
 AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE

**Growing
 In
 Faith** The Diakonia Program

Courses for **lay
 people** who want
 to be more deeply
 rooted and ground-
 ed in love.

Intro to the Old Testament
 Thursdays - 6:00-9:00pm / Dec. 14 - Jan. 25

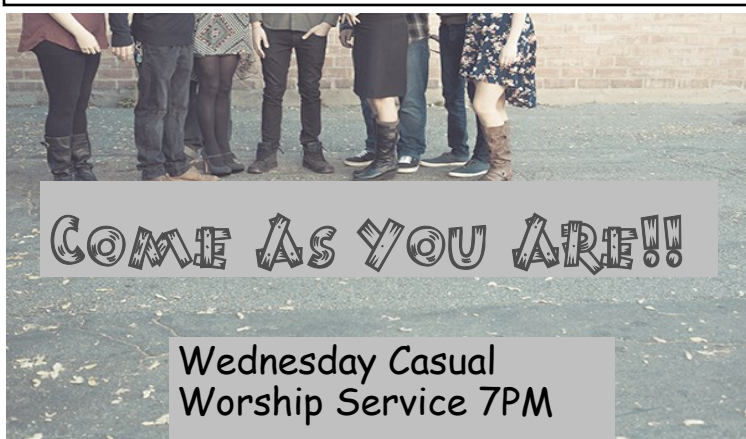
The course runs for 5 weeks and the cost is **\$65/course**.
 For more information visit:
<https://www.neos-elca.org/growing-in-faith.html>

Sewing for comforters
 Every Monday 10:00 am to noon
 Contact office for more info on how to join!

FILL US ALL WITH
Peace



The Weekly News of Zion Lutheran Church, continued



Please support the
Adopt-A-Family

North Canton Jaycees
Collection program.

NEW Toys, clothing
items and gift cards!

Donation box located
in Coffee Bar Area!



Bird suet will be available
(while supplies last) after
church to anyone who'd like
to take some



PROJECT PRAYER

Our best defense against **anything** is prayer!

The goal is for a year but we hope and prayer it will be forever.

We are asking each member of Zion to pray every day whether you set aside a specific time or say a prayer on the run. Please pray for one or more of the following and more.

Make time once a day to prayer

For our pastor

For our congregation

For all churches

For an attitude of gratitude for everything

For a movement that will enliven us to do more

Pray for peace in the world

Pray for the Ukrainians-soldiers and civilians

Pray for the Russians-soldiers and civilians

Pray for North Korea

Pray for China

Pray for Africa and all its wars

Pray for our leaders in government



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
HOLIDAY SERVICES 2023**

ADVENT SUNDAY SERVICES

December 3, 2023	9am	Worship Service
December 3, 2023	5:30pm	Advent Meal
December 3, 2023	6:15pm	Worship Service
December 10, 2023	9am	Worship Service
December 10, 2023	5:30pm	Advent Meal
December 10, 2023	6:15pm	Worship Service
December 17, 2023	9am	Worship Service
December 17, 2023	5:30pm	Advent Meal
December 17, 2023	6:15pm	Worship Service
December 24, 2023	9am	Worship Service

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

December 21, 2023 3pm

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24, 2023	7pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service
December 25, 2023	9am	A Service of Lessons and Carols

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Every Wednesday in December—7pm

NEWS YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

December 31, 2023 9am Worship Service

**Zion Lutheran Church
349 Lindy Lane Ave. NW
North Canton, Ohio 44720
330-499-3909**