

**December 3, 2023, First Sunday of Advent
Blended 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

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[@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*

COME, NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP

BY BRIAN DOERKSEN

*Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God. Come.*

*One day every tongue will confess You are God.
One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
who gladly praise You now.*

*Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God. Come.*

*One day every tongue will confess You are God.
One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
who gladly praise You now.*

*Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God. Come. Come...*

Congregation responses are in bold print

One candle is lit as the following prayer is read

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

A reading from Isaiah :

(Isaiah 64:1-9, Pew Bible, New Testament, page 538)

The reading concludes with:
Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Psalm Paraphrase
(Read responsively
the indented lines)

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Paraphrased by Pastor William

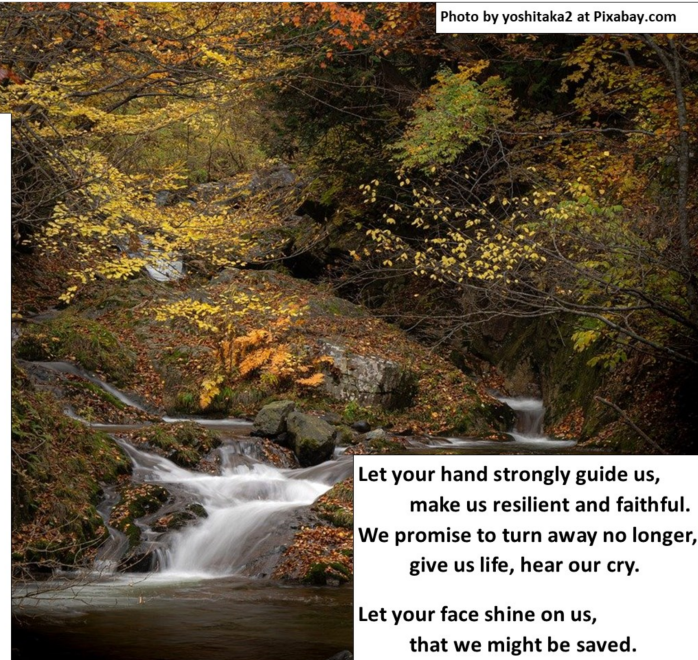
Photo by yoshitaka2 at Pixabay.com

O Great Shepherd
we beg you to hear us.
You guided your people of old,
Moses, Joseph, and Israel.
Gather your hosts of heaven,
come save us now.

Let your face shine on us,
that we might be saved.

You cared for your people of old,
but remain angry at us.
How long must we suffer,
suffer from our wrongs,
endure the scorn of others,
how long O Lord, how long?

Let your face shine on us,
that we might be saved.



Let your hand strongly guide us,
make us resilient and faithful.
We promise to turn away no longer,
give us life, hear our cry.

Let your face shine on us,
that we might be saved.

Open Our Eyes Lord

17 O - pen our

21 eyes, Lord, we want to see
D . . .

25 Je - sus, To reach out and

29 touch Him, and say that we

love Him. O - pen our

ears, Lord, and help us to

lis - ten, O - pen our
2nd time to Coda ♪

eyes, Lord, we want to see

Je - sus.

A reading from 1 Corinthians:

(1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Pew Bible, New Testament, page 127)

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

Musical score for the hymn "Thanks be to God". The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "O - pen our eyes, Lord, we want to see Je - sus, To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him. O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to lis - ten, O - pen our eyes, Lord, we want to see Je - sus. O - pen our eyes, Lord, we want to see Je - sus." The score includes measure numbers 17, 21, 25, 29, 53 (CODA), and 59 (molto rit.).

Please stand as you are able

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

(St. Mark 13:24-37, Pew Bible, New Testament, page 38)

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

Give Thanks

Words and Music
HENRY SMI

5 *mp* 70
Give thanks with a
grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One; Give
thanks be - cause He's giv - en Je - sus Christ, His
12
Son. Give thanks with a
grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One; Give
11
thanks be - cause He's giv - en Je - sus Christ, His
14 *mf*
Son. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the
10 17 20
poor say, "I am rich" be - cause of what the Lord has
done for us; And now let the
24 25 26
weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am

Continued on next page

rich" be - cause of what the Lord has done for—
 us; Give thanks, give—
 thanks.

Change My Heart, O God

Words and Music by
 EDDIE ESPINOS

Gently ♩ = 84 *mp*

Change my heart, O God, —
 make it ev - er true. —

3rd time to Coda ⊕
 Change my heart, O God, — may I be like You. —

1.
 Change my heart, O God, —
 make it ev - er true. —

3rd time to Coda ⊕
 Change my heart, O God, — may I be like You. —

2. 12 13 14
 You are the Pot - ter, I am the
 clay. Mold me and make me,
 18 this is what I pray. — Change my heart, O God
 D.S. al CODA
 make it ev - er true. —
 3rd time to Coda ⊕
 Change my heart, O God, — may I be like You. —

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

Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief. Deliver all in any need. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Thank you for the life of our birthday siblings,
Larry Genara, Arnie Givler, Ben Keith and Anna Erbland

You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence. 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.

Je - sus, O Je - sus, come and fill Your lamb.

31 Je - sus, O

33 Je - sus, come and fill Your lamb.

37 Change my heart, O God, *mp* make it ev - er true.

3rd time to Coda ♪ Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.


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>



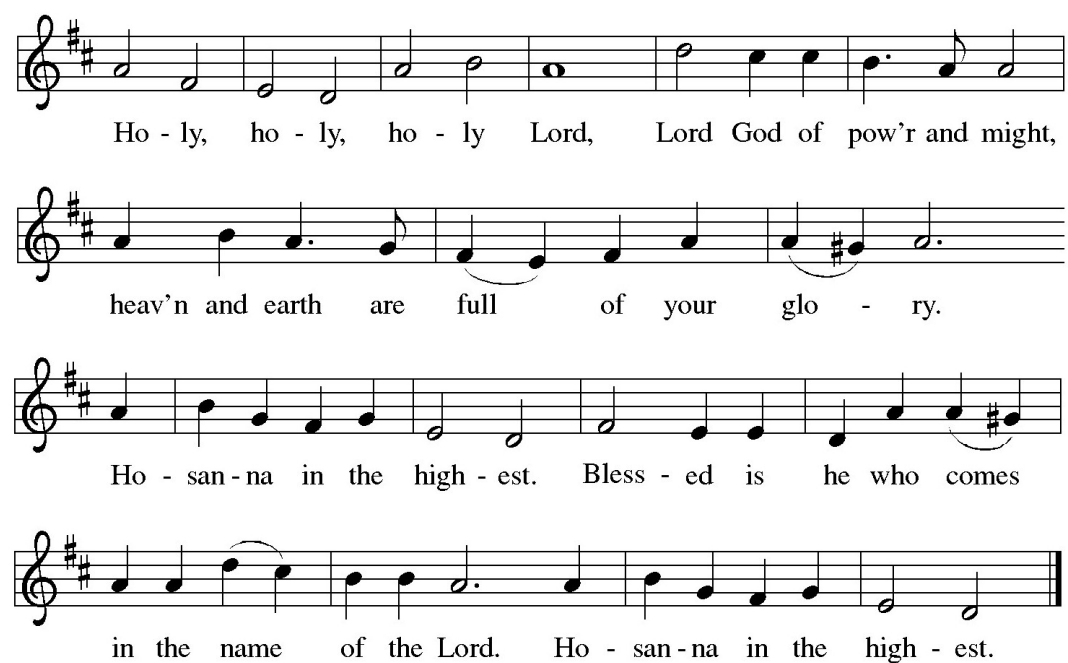
AM: Let us enthusiastically pray our prayer of stewardship, Holy Lord,
I gladly return, for your work, a portion of your abundant provision to me. All that I have is yours alone, entrusted Lord, to my care. Amen.

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!

Please be seated

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.

Communion Music: *As the Deer*

by: Marty Nystrom

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.*

Blessed Be the Lord God Almighty

Words and Music by
BOB FITT

4 *mp*

Bless - ed be — the Lord God Al -

6
might - y Who was and is — and is to

8
come; Bless - ed be — the Lord God Al -

10
might - y Who reigns for - ev - er - more.

12
Bless - ed be — the Lord God Al -

14
might - y Who was and is — and is to

16
come; Bless - ed be — the Lord God Al -

18
might - y Who reigns for - ev - er - more.

17
Fa - ther in Heav - en, how we love — You; — We

19
lift Your name — in all the earth. — May Your

king - dom — be es - tab - lished in our prais - es, — (take 3rd ending) as Your

21
peo - ple — de - clare — Your might - y — works. Bless - ed be — the

Continued on next page

6
 Lord God Al - might - y Who
 was and is — and is to come; Bless - ed be — the
 Lord God Al - might - y Who

11
 reigns for - ev - er - more. —

12
 Fa - ther in Heav - en, how we love — You; — We
 lift Your name — in all the earth. — May Your
 2nd time to Coda ♪
 king - dom — be es - tab - lished in our prais - es, — as Your

25
 peo - ple — de - clare — Your might - y — works. Bless - ed be — the

27
 Lord God Al - might - y Who

29
 was and is — and is to come; Bless - ed be — the

31
 Lord God Al - might - y Who

35
 reigns for - ev - er - more, — Who

Continued on next page

reigns for - ev - er - more, Who *mp*

reigns for - ev - er - more. *ad lib. on repeat*

39 *70* *End*

Go in Peace. Keep Awake.

We will with God's help.

Please join in fellowship with coffee and donuts immediately following!

Postlude: *He is Exalted*

by: Twila Paris

Mark 13:24-37
Gospel Message from Pr. William

Photo by GuentherDillingen at pixabay.com



Jesus gives warnings about being ready for his return. He warns that we will not know the day or the time – so stop trying to figure it out. He warns that the moment of his return will be quite obvious – so stop looking for signs of his coming return. He instructs us to be like the household servants who are entrusted to care for the household (Christ's Church) while the household head (Christ) is temporarily away. We are to be busy doing the work of Christ's Church; feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, freeing the oppressed, visiting the imprisoned, and spreading the good news.

Mark 13:24-37
Stewardship Moment from Pastor William



Stewardship in the Gospel

Jesus warns us to be busy doing the work of his church while we wait for his coming return. Just as he was a servant of all, last of all, and willing to die for all. This "for all" speaks to the generosity and inclusivity of God.

Stewardship in our Community

Today's society seems to be obsessed with exclusion and separation – the opposite of what Jesus came to show us. Jesus' good news of inclusivity and unity are needed more than ever. The Good News of Jesus is that there is a God who loves and cares for all of God's creation and creatures. "All" means ALL.

Stewardship in practice

We followers of Jesus need to act more like Jesus. We need to serve all people – not just give money or food, but give people meaning and purpose. We need to be willing to suffer for all people – speaking up against oppression and bullying. We need to die to our own needs in order to help others lead a meaningful and servant life themselves.

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**

Today's Worship Leaders

Assisting Minister: George Miller
Acolyte: LJ Brown
Accompanist: Carol McKimm
Audio/Visual Technicians: Chris Thompson, Paul Bagocius and John Rhodes
Chancel Guild: Darlene Milavickas
Child Care Attendant: Amelia Milek
Presiding Minister: Rev. William C. Weidenbach Jr.
Reader: Mark Denman
Trustees: Rob Frock and Scott Gross
Flowers by: Linda Smith and Vicki & Clarence Givler in loving memory of Wilbert Givler

December 10, 2023 Worship Leaders

Assisting Minister: Beth Heller
Acolyte: Ben Keith
Accompanist: Steve Moore
Audio/Visual Technicians: Linda Weidenbach and Paul Bagocius

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



Food Pantry Needs for Christmas Giveaway

Laundry Detergent, Toilet paper, and Kleenex

SUNDAYS - 10:15AM





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

The Weekly News of Zion Lutheran Church

Bible Discussion with Pastor
 Thursday's at 9 am via Zoom.
 Contact office for more info

TIME TO SIGN UP!

BLOOD DRIVE

December 17
 10am - 2pm

**COFFEE AND DONUT
 SOCIAL ~ SUNDAY
 AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE**

ACME Fresh Market Community CASH BACK

EARN 5% CASH BACK
 For Your Local Non-Profit Group!

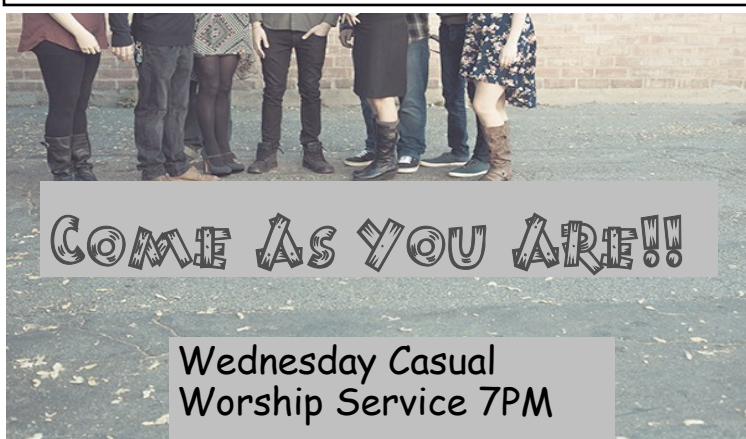
Time to turn in your Acme Receipts!
 Dated August 1, 2023-February 14, 2024!
 Collection jars in Equal Exchange & narthex

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

Stop by for excellent tea, coffee and sweets at an excellent price!!



The Weekly News of Zion Lutheran Church, continued



Christmas Giving Tree and Collection Box will be located in Coffee Bar Area this Sunday!

Please be generous!



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

