

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
264 East Main Street – Mondovi, WI 54755  
Vacancy Pastor Mark Benning  
Office (715) 926-3664

Vacancy Pastor Mark Benning: 608-387-9401

DCE: Jane Reineke 715-216-7935

dce@zionmondovi.com

Office Administrator: Diane Ashwell 715-579-0526

office@zionmondovi.com

Website: www.zionmondovi.com

Facebook Page: Zion Lutheran Church Mondovi, WI

## **Second Sunday in Advent** **December 8, 2024**

### **The Preaching of Repentance Prepares Us for the Coming of the Lord**

The preaching and Baptism “of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 3:3) prepare us for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. The historic work of John the Baptist was completed with the first advent of our Lord Jesus in the flesh, but the ministry of the forerunner continues in the preaching of Law and Gospel and in Holy Baptism. Through His messengers, the Lord calls people of all nations to “see the salvation of God” (Luke 3:6). Our haughtiness is removed and our mountains of pride are brought low, but the Lord humbles us in order to exalt us in His mercy. As the Lord has begun this good work of repentance in us, so also does He perfect it by His Word and Holy Spirit, and He “will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6). He purifies us to be His priestly people, precious in His sight and abounding in faith and love, so that we offer our very lives in righteousness to the Lord (Mal. 3:3–4).

**The Lord’s Supper is offered today at Zion.** Communicant members and members of our sister (LCMS) congregations are invited to commune at this altar. Please speak to our pastor if you have any questions about our communion practice. We would love to discuss the doctrine of the Lord’s Supper and joy of Christian fellowship. Please know the gifts of Jesus were given for you—but the proper spiritual preparation for communion is commanded by the Word of God (1 Cor 11:23-29). Those who do not yet commune here may come forward for a blessing (simply fold your arms over your heart to receive a Baptismal blessing) or you may remain in the pew during communion to join us in song and praise. There are no “offering” plates passed during the service. Rather, offering plates are set at the front pew. **You are invited to leave an offering of thanks to Christ on your way to communion** or any time during the first part of the service.

### **A PRAYER UPON ENTERING THE LORD’S HOUSE**

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that at His second coming we may worship Him in purity; He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

## **DIVINE SERVICE Setting One**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

**HYMN OF INVOCATION:** “The Advent of Our King!” *LSB #331*

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:** Page 151

### **Introit**

Psalm 81:8, 10–11, 13; antiphon: Luke 3:4b

*The voice of one crying in the wilderness:*

**“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”**

*Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!*

**O Israel, if you would but listen to me!**

*I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.*

**Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.**

*But my people did not listen to my voice;*

**Israel would not submit to me.**

*Oh, that my people would listen to me,*

**that Israel would walk in my ways!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY:** Page 156

**Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING:** Malachi 3:1-7b

**CHOIR SINGS:** “Advent’s Holy Light”

**EPISTLE READING:** Philippians 1:2-11

**ALLELUIA and VERSE:** Page 156

**HOLY GOSPEL:** Luke 3:1-14

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” *LSB #344*

**SERMON:** “Advent Prepares Us!” Luke 3:1-14

**APOSTLE’S CREED:** Page 159

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:** (See Prayer List on Page 6 of Bulletin)

**OFFERTORY:** Page 159

**SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT:** Page 160

**PREFACE:** Page 160

**PROPER PREFACE:** Page 161

**SANCTUS:** Page 161

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:** Page 161

**THE LORDS PRAYER:** Page 162

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD:** Page 162

**PAX DOMINI:** Page 163

**AGNUS DEI:** Page 163

**DISTRIBUTION:** *Choir:* “Advent Carol of Hope”

“Lift Up Your Heads” *LSB #341*

“Prepare the Royal Highway” *LSB #343*

**POST COMMUNION CANTICLE:** Page 164

**POST COMMUNION COLLECT:** Page 166

**BENEDICTION:** Page 166

**CLOSING:** “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” *LSB #338*

## Our Lord's Current Business

Welcome to worship today as we continue to prepare our hearts for the coming Messiah.

**On Sunday, December 1st** the congregation voted to call Pastor Kyle Castens. Pastor Castens is currently serving at Immanuel Lutheran Church in the Twin Cities of Festus & Crystal City, MO. He graduated with his MDIV from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 2000 and has been at his current parish since 2014. In describing his pastoral approach and practice he writes, "Love. Listen. Learn. Lead. In all things, bring people to Jesus." Pastor Casten's wife, Jennifer, is a Lutheran School Teacher. They have two adult sons. Please keep Pastor Castens, his family, Zion and Immanuel Lutheran in your prayers.

### Confirmation Corner

12/08 On Wednesday this week we will focus on the second article of the Apostles' Creed. In this article we will talk about who Jesus is. Students will come to understand that Jesus is our God and Lord, our Creator and Redeemer. The memory they will work with this week includes "I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

**The signup sheet for Christmas Poinsettias** is in the Resource Center. Please sign and note if it is given *in memory or in honor of* anyone. Poinsettias may be brought to the church after December 15<sup>th</sup> and placed on the table in the lobby.

**Please join the Men's Group** for Breakfast & Bible Study Saturday morning, December 14 at 7:30.

**Adult Choir** - We are practicing songs for Advent and Christmas. We meet Thursday's from 6:30-7:30. We would love to have you come! Questions? Please contact Jane Reineke.

**Sr. High Youth** – Christmas cookie decorating and games for the youth start at **11:00 today Sunday Dec. 8-** there will be a Bible study lesson from 10:30 - 11:00 (everyone is invited to that too) and then the games begin. The plan is games, cookie decorating, food and finishing by 1:30 so kids can attend the football award ceremony.

**Midweek Advent Services** - Join us this week as we explore Jesus' title "Mighty God." We will see that Jesus was and is God in human flesh. We will also learn why it is important for us to believe that Jesus was and is God in human flesh.

**Sunday School** - We are practicing for our Christmas service. The children will help lead our service on December 15 as we prepare to welcome our Savior Jesus. We meet at 10:30 in the basement gathering space for songs and learning.

**Sunday School Christmas Service** - On Sunday, December 15 our Sunday School children will be sharing the timeless truths of the Christmas story. We ask that Sunday School children are here at 8:30 a.m. to get into costume. Middle school students by 8:45. We look forward to worshipping with our children!

**Sunday Morning Adult Study** - Today we will look at "Mighty God" - a title given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. We will learn from Scripture that Jesus is more than a mere human who was a great teacher or popular hero. Jesus was and is God in human flesh. Join us as we explore this more.

**Sign up sheets for Sponsorship** of Bulletins or Altar Flowers for 2025 are in a blue folder marked as such in the Resource Center. Please put your name & who IHO or IMO on the sheet by appropriate date.

**Zion's Angel Tree** is up by the Parish Hall. We have 5 families we will try to help through the holiday season. Our Christian Care Committee will also send out Hansen's gift certificates for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. If you would like to help, choose an angel from the tree. On the Angel you will find ages and gift ideas. Please write your name and number in our book so we know who has each Angel. Please have wrapped gifts with attached Angel back to Angel Tree by Dec 15th. We also accept monetary donations to shop for any extra angels. Just address an envelope with Angel Tree. Thank you!!

**A LC-MS SCHOOL** in the Eau Claire area? Zion Lutheran Church, Cleghorn will be hosting a conversation about the possibility of a future Lutheran School in the area. This conversation is for those who feel that a future Lutheran School would be a blessing for area congregations and participating families. Rev. Preston Paul, Region C Vice President of the North Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod will present and facilitate the conversation. *The conversation will begin on Saturday, December 14th at 1PM at Zion Lutheran, E3720 County Rd HH, Eleva, WI.*

**Christmas Eve Services** will be at **4:00 & 7:00 p.m.** this year. Both will be candlelight services. There will also be a *Christmas morning* service at 10:00 a.m. *New Year's Eve Service* will be at 7:00 p.m.

**The Children's Christmas Program** is Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Come and hear the children proclaim the birth of our Savior Jesus.

**Sleep in Heavenly Peace** is in need of pillows to give with each bed. Please remember these children and their needs in your prayers and give a pillow or two if possible. Pillows can be dropped off at church office.

**Ladies Society** is meeting this Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. to visit shut-ins for Christmas with cookies. Following, they will be going out to lunch for their annual Christmas gathering.

## **Our Lord's On-Going Business**

**Beautiful boxes & individual Christmas cards** plus holiday napkins are on display in the Resource Center card display (along with many other types of cards as usual also). We are offering single Christmas cards at only 25 cents each rather than the usual 50 cents. Monies can be left with our AA Diane or put in the church "bank" on the card shelf or given to Brenda Mc.

### **ZION'S PRAYER LIST:**

**The call process** here at Zion for guidance on decisions being God's Will.

**For those seeking healing:** Bob Accola, Scott Anderson Julie Dobson, Jeff Kacures, Mary Rolandt, Stella, Luther Larson, Emily Woodworth, Susan Loomis, Ed Gunderson, Ron Laehn, Marge Linse, Peggy Waldbillig, Elsie Steinbach, Jackie, Shadie, Savannah Au, Donna Seltrecht, Marvin Stay, Lois Stay, David Bloss, Jean Fleming, Jean Sandberg.

**Thanksgiving for those celebrating birthdays:** Issaiah Hill, Lonnie Peterson, Ricky Sessions, Julia Heike, Sadie Horton, Vicki Denk, Randy Sessions, Crystal Groven, Julie Vollmer, Chris Gums.. **Thanksgiving for those celebrating anniversaries:** Margaret & Donald Ronnei.

*\*LaRae Grotzinger has volunteered to help coordinate our prayer chain. If you have any updates to this list, please contact her (.), the office, or Pastor. You may also utilize the prayer box found in the narthex.*



**OUR WEEK'S WORK**  
**December 9-15, 2024)**

MON.	Monday Night Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
TUES.	Circuit Pastors' Meeting	9:00 a.m.
	Rachel Circle at Roxie's	9:30 a.m.
WEDS.	Advent Service	11:00 a.m.
	Advent Meal	11:45 a.m.
	Advent Meal	5:15 p.m.
	Confirmation	5:30 p.m.
	Advent Service	7:00 p.m.
THURS.	Ladies Society	10:30 a.m.
	Choir Practice	6:30 a.m.
SAT.	Men's Group	7:30 p.m.
SUN.	Children's Christmas Program	9:00 a.m.
	Christian Education	10:30 a.m.



**SERVING THIS WEEK**  
**(December 4 & 8, 2024)**

Accom:	Mary Gehrke		
Elder:	Joe Osenga	Wed.	7:00 p.m.
	David Reineke	Sun.	9:00 a.m.
Usher:	Ken Blodgett	Wed.	11:00 p.m.
	Mike Ashwell	Wed.	7:00 p.m.
	John Schultz	Sun.	9:00 a.m.
Greeter:	Kathy Blodgett	Wed.	11:00 a.m.
	Diane Ashwell	Wed.	7:00 p.m.
	Julie Kacures	Sun.	9:00 a.m.
Acolyte:	Brailey Unser	Wed.	7:00 p.m.
	Izzy Winberg	Wed.	7:00 p.m.
	Keegan Hill	Sun.	9:00 a.m.
	Matt Triggs	Sun.	9:00 a.m.
Screen:	Jana Olson	Sun.	9:00 a.m.
Finance:	Chris Heike & Jeremy Anderson		
Altar Guild:	Betty Sessions & Julie Vollmer		



**A Stewardship Thought**

**Luke 3:4** – “As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” God makes long-range plans: Isaiah lived more than seven hundred years before St. John the Baptist preached by the Jordan River. Obviously, God sees farther into the future than we do! That’s yet another reason to trust Him when it comes to how He tells us to live our lives: He knows what’s coming and we don’t.



**SERVING NEXT WEEK SCHEDULE**  
**(December 11 & 15, 2024)**

Accom:	Mary Gehrke		
Elder:	Gene Schultz	Wed.	7:00 p.m.
	Galen Aase	Sun.	9:00 a.m.
Usher:	Richard Breion	Wed.	11:00 p.m.
	Butch Waldbillig	Wed.	7:00 p.m.
	Dennis Ring	Sun.	9:00 a.m.
Greeter:	Bev Brion	Wed.	11:00 a.m.
	Betty Sessions	Wed.	7:00 p.m.
	Cindy Ring	Sun.	9:00 a.m.
	Alli Hoffman	Sun.	9:00 a.m.
Acolyte:	Aubrey Wittig	Wed.	7:00 p.m.
	Arabella Wittig	Wed.	7:00 p.m.
Finance:	Margaret Ronnei & Brenda McKissick		
Altar Guild:	Betty Sessions & Julie Vollmer		



**OUR WORSHIP LAST WEEK**

Attendance: Weds. 74 Sunday 112  
Sunday School 18

General Offering:	\$	5230.00
TIM	\$	40.00
Labor of Love	\$	20.00
Youth	\$	10.00
Budget Year-to -Date:	\$	224,198.88
Offerings Year-to -Date:	\$	239,590.41
Expenses EOM-YTD	\$	217,193.00

*Pure and blameless for the day of Christ*  
*Philippians 1:10*