

3rd Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (ESV)

61 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁸ For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (ESV)

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil. ²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

John 1:6-8, 19-28 (ESV)

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." ²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.



Joy

December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday in Advent

Zion Lutheran Church, 17927 Dice Road, Hemlock, MI 48626

www.zionhemlock.org ~ Church Office 642-5909

✠ **In the Name of Jesus** ✠

As We Gather ~ This Is the Third Sunday in Advent. On this day we turn our thoughts to the manger scene as it points us to the reality of our Lord's incarnation. Our Lord's coming in flesh and blood is our occasion for joy and our source of confidence and comfort. Clothed in forgiveness and new life through the water and Word of Baptism, we rejoice in the Lord and in the hope of life eternal with Him.

ORDER OF SERVICE	Divine Service Setting Three	184
OPENING HYMN	<i>"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"</i>	344
SERMON HYMN	<i>"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"</i>	345
SERMON	<i>"Light"</i> John 1:6-8, 19-28	
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS	<i>"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"</i>	359
	<i>"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"</i>	380
	<i>"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"</i>	352
CLOSING HYMN	<i>"Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"</i>	347

Pastor	Larry Warsinski
Organist	Carolyn Laurenz
Elders	Paul Bohn and Dick Bluemer
Ushers	Dale Rohde and Kevin Ross
Altar Guild	Maxine Diener and Irene Kruth

Our Measure of Love and Gifts

Attendance last week – 71 Midweek Advent – 25 Needed for the Lord's Work ~ \$3,888 ~ Received \$3,527; Capital Projects \$40; God's Helping Hands \$355.

Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday: December 18- Madison Kumar; December 20- Nicole Miller; December 22- Doug Hollingsworth.

This Week's Memory Verse ~ "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God." Isaiah 40:1

Keep Christ is Christmas! Did you mean to order a Christmas sign for your yard or as a gift? There are 3 signs available yet. See Irene Kruth to get yours. Cost is \$12.

All are invited to join in a cookie exchange this morning in the fellowship hall following the worship service.

Midweek Advent Worship ~ Advent Midweek Service December 20, at 7:00 pm we will continue the theme of "One Christmas" going back to that first Christmas, looking at the people involved. This week we turn our attention to Joseph. Join us at worship and remember how Christmas began!

Stewardship/Evangelism Board has openings. If you are interested in serving on this board please contact President Laura Hollingsworth.

There is an updated homebound list in the narthex if you wish to send Christmas greetings to Zion members. If you have any additions or address corrections please let us know.

If you missed ordering from our annual fruit sale and are still interested, there is a limited amount available at Valley Lutheran High School. Please call Bill Ankoviak in the office at 989-790-1676 before December 20 if you would like to purchase any.

Christmas Eve Worship at 7:00 pm with Communion. Christmas Day Worship at 9:30 am. New Year's Eve Worship at 6:00 pm with Communion.

Recycle your Christmas lights ~ Have old Christmas lights? Don't throw them away! Indoor/outdoor string lights can be dropped off at the church office or the Richland Township office in Hemlock through January 15, 2021. Contact Mid Michigan Waste Authority with any questions at 989-781-9555.

Fellowship Brunch ~ Mark your calendar and plan ahead to join us for a brunch in the fellowship hall on Sunday, January 14 following the worship service. See Lynn Tessin or Lois Tessin with any questions.

Contributions you would like included in your 2023 tax year need to be at the church by December 31. Tax statements will be available in your bulletin box in the new year.