

First Sunday After Christmas
Isaiah 63:7-14 ESV

⁷ I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. ⁹ In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰ But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. ¹¹ Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, ¹² who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³ who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴ Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

Galatians 4:4-7 ESV

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you

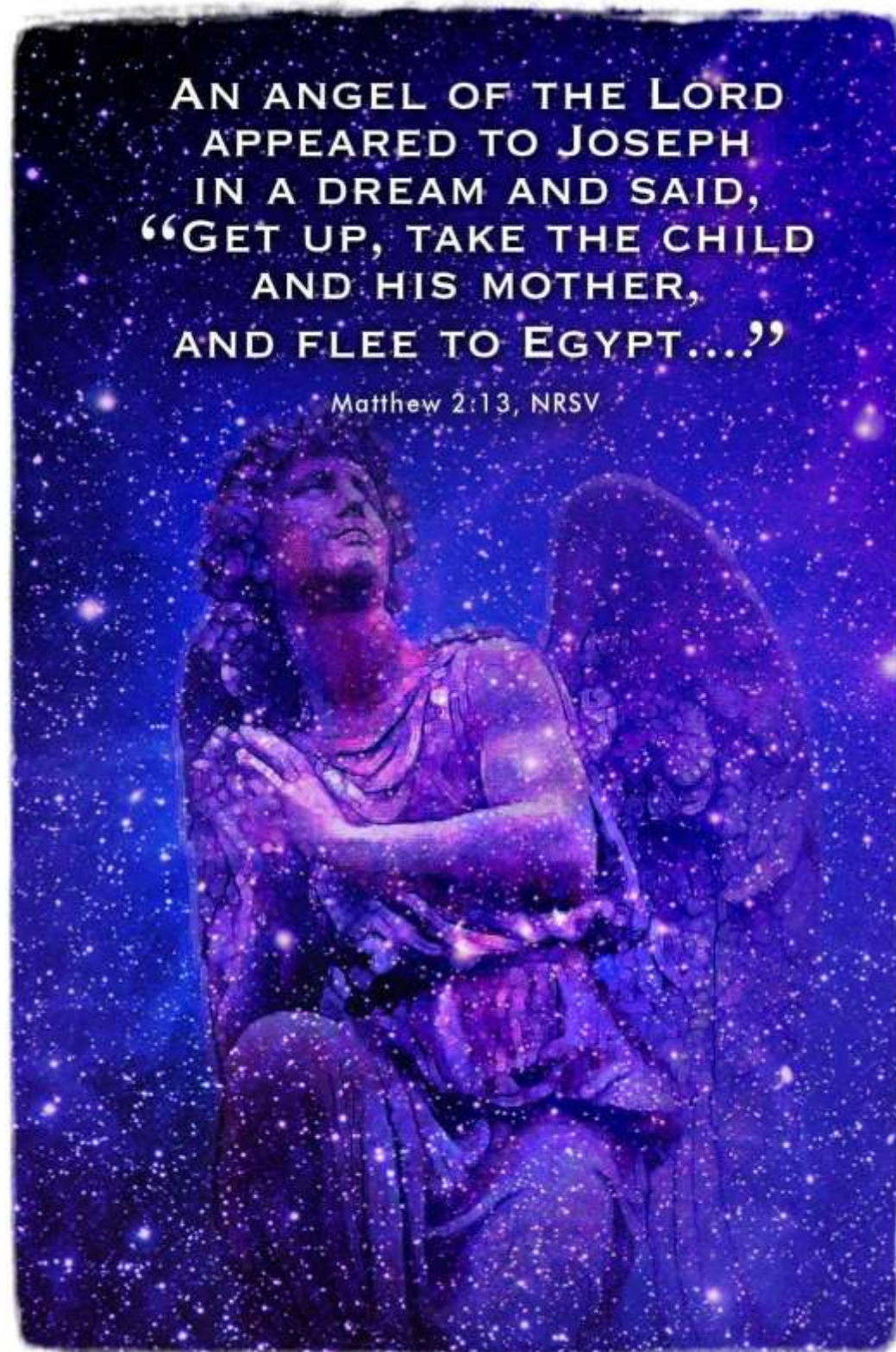
are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Matthew 2:13-23 ESV

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." ¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." ¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

**AN ANGEL OF THE LORD
APPEARED TO JOSEPH
IN A DREAM AND SAID,
"GET UP, TAKE THE CHILD
AND HIS MOTHER,
AND FLEE TO EGYPT..."**

Matthew 2:13, NRSV



December 28, 2025
First Sunday after Christmas
Zion Lutheran Church, 17927 Dice Road, Hemlock, MI 48626
www.zionhemlock.org ~ Church Office 642-5909

✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠

As We Gather ~ The Lord Jesus Undergoes a New Exodus in Order to Save His People from Their Sins. Herod's efforts to destroy the little Lord Jesus anticipate the cross for which He was born. In response to Herod's edict, Joseph must "take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt" (Matt. 2:13). But the Lord does not abandon the Holy Family there. He brings about salvation for all people, just as He "had spoken by the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I called my son'" (Matt. 2:15). With might and strength, God accompanies His people, causing "his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses" (Is. 63:12). Now through Jesus, even our afflictions are borne by Christ on the cross. "He redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them" (Is. 63:9). All of this is accomplished by God's might so that we, too, are claimed as members of His family. For we "receive adoption as sons" in the only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, even as He became like us by His conception and birth of the woman. Thus redeemed by Christ, no longer slaves of sin and death but beloved children and heirs of God, we pray in Jesus' name: "Abba! Father!" (Gal. 4:4-6).

ORDER OF SERVICE Divine Service Setting Four	203
OPENING HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem"	361
SERMON HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"	380
SERMON "God's Plan"	Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
CLOSING HYMN "Go Tell it on the Mountain"	388

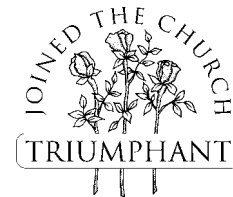
Pastor	Larry Warsinski
Organist	Carolyn Laurenz
Elders	Dave Little and Dave Hutfilz
A/V	Mark Richardson
Ushers	Dale Rohde and Paul Bohn
Altar Guild	Irene Kruth

Our Measure of Love and Gifts

Attendance last week – Christmas Eve 134; Christmas Day 22 Needed for the Lord's Work at Zion ~ \$4,316 ~ Received for the Lord's Work \$4,554; God's Helping Hands \$60; God's Helping Hands -\$12,095 (Gerstacker Foundation, Harvey Memorial Foundation, Merrill Caring Sharing, Jerald Blank)

Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday: December 29 - Margery Greskowiak; January 1- Cheyenne Baccary, Jake Rossow; January 2- Kathleen Case, Roger Kade; January 3- Janet Kilgore.

Today's Memory Verse ~ "And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people., For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11



Our brother in Christ, Roger "Bud" Parker, faithful member of Zion died December 22, 2025. Roger "Bud" Bigelow Parker, was born January 19, 1939 in Merrill, Michigan, the son of the late Omar and Margarette "lone" (Trombley) Parker. Bud married Mildred "Millie" Stenzel on September 21, 1957 at Zion Lutheran Church, Hemlock. He is survived by his wife, Millie; his grandchildren Tera (Ian) Pilak, Erik Parker, Ryan (Mariana) Parker; four great grandchildren, Everly Pilak, Robyn Parker, Mya Parker, and Michael Parker; his brother Robert Parker; his sister-in-law, Elenor McDonald; many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. He was predeceased by his son, Michael B. Parker; his parents Omar and lone Parker; his sister Shirley (Edward) Kalahar; his sister-in-law Darlene (Clair) Keel and his brother-in-law, Bill McDonald. "I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Blessed indeed, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!'" (Revelation 14:13 ESV).