

Zion Lutheran Church Children's Christmas Program

December 17, 2017

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – The Joy Candle (The 5th Grade Class)

*O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling.*

*Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God. (Psalm 43:3-4)*



L: It's getting closer.

Congregation: We feel it!

L: The days are shorter, but the lights burn brighter.

Congregation: We're listening. We're eager to hear good news.

L: We've gathered together in the House of Joy.

Congregation: We're here to praise God with our voices.

L: We're here to praise God with beautiful music.

Congregation: We're here to praise God with all we have.

L: Today we light the candle of Joy. (Light the third candle.)

Congregation: We worship God with exceeding joy!

Advent Song:

**"Come, Emmanuel, Come"
Zion Adult Choir**

A Prayer of Confession:

God, Creator of all things,
You created the heavens and the earth, all plants and living creatures. You made the mountains and the oceans, and you paint the sky with sunrises and sunsets.
Congregation: You created Adam and Eve and me. But sin and evil came into this world.

Because of that evil, you chose to send your Son to come into this world to save us from the darkness of sin.

Congregation: Open our hearts to see the love that Jesus brought into the world. Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. With each day that passes, we draw ever closer to the celebration of your birth, dear Jesus. We know it won't be long. But in the busyness that we feel during this time, help us to take time to slow down and reflect on the joy the birth of the Christ Child brings. As we prepare for Christmas, open our hearts to your joy and peace. **Amen**

READINGS FROM THE BOOK OF JOHN AND THE PROPHET ISAIAH

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Isaiah 9:2- 6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

SONG



**“This Little Light of Mine”
Sunday School Children**

MESSAGE

“Best Story, Ever!”

SONG “SILENT NIGHT”

Sunday School Children

SONG “SHEPHERDS’ ECHO SONG”

Sunday School Children

READING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM THE BOOK OF LUKE

(This reading will be done responsively by the congregation and Pastor Erin. Please follow along in your bulletin or with the words on the screen. Some parts will be read by everyone, some by the men and some by the women.)

All: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

Men: All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David call Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

All: While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Pastor Erin: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

Women: But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

All: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Pastor Erin: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

Men: “Let us go now to Bethlehem and this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

Pastor Erin: So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

All: When they saw this, they made known what had been told about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SONG

**“What Can I Give to the King?”
Sunday School Children**

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

**“Some Children See Him”
Small Group Vocal Ensemble**

Offering Prayer *(please stand)*

God of creation, you created this beautiful world we live in. Accept these gifts we bring before you today, and use them to help share the good news of the gift you gave the world in your Son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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



John 1: 14
And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Blessing: May the glory of God illuminate your path. May the love of Jesus, the Christ Child, give you peace. And may you be filled with the Spirit, to share the Good News as the angels did when they appeared to the shepherds so long ago.
Amen

Sending Song: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"
(Congregation sings verses, children join on refrain)

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

Congregation:
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

Congregation:
The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

Congregation:
Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

O, Come let us adore Him



Preschool – Jennifer Wagemann

Assistant: Liz Schauer

Chloe Acosta
Orion Beusch
Chase Hawkinson
Carter Moser
Pippa Sahli
Cason Vilhauer

**Kindergarten – Shanae Wagemann
Elissa Dickey (Asst)**

Tehya Beusch
Harper Bretsch
Ernie Dickey

Tobin German
Aryanna Mountain
Katarina Sitter
Ashton Spitzer
Isabella Spitzer

**Grades 1 & 2 Jena German
Cassie Tolvstad**

Grade 1
Bentleigh Metz
Noah VanderWeyst
Coen Vilhauer



Grade 2
Skyler Sitter

Grades 3 & 4 - Rachel Mountain
(every other week)
Kelly VanderWeyst

Grade 3
Avery Efraimson
Cadynce German
Ella Kempf
Lauren Sahli
Eli Schauer
Carter Vilhauer

Grade 4
Brody Dinger
Abby Mountain
Isaac VanderWeyst

Sam Schauer – Assistant

**Grade 5 - Kathy Heffernan
Sally Isaacson**

Jack Dickey
Kaylee Efraimson
Hailey Fesler
Raegan Kempf
Zoe Kempf
Trey Otterstetter
Kaelyn Schutter
Brandon Schwan
Kyra Spitzer

Zion Lutheran Church Children's Christmas Program December 17, 2017



