



ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2020



*O LORD, you will ordain peace for us, for indeed,
all that we have done, you have done for us.*

Isaiah 26:12 (New Revised Standard Version)

ADVENT 2 – PEACE

Peace is a big word. It can take on a personal meaning, like when we find comfort in a stressful time. On a grander scale, it is used to describe the resolution of conflict between enemies. In matters of the Spirit, peace comes from the removal of that which separates us from God. Today, peace by any of those definitions seems elusive. Political and religious leaders harness resentment to scapegoat

the disfavored. Millions die worldwide from a disease that had no name before 2020. Nations fight over disputed territories. Natural disasters displace thousands. Celebrating our Savior's birth, we read passages mentioning peace. Isaiah's words speak of a peace that is yet to come. He is assured by faith it will be established, just as he believes God provided in the past. History reminds us that a lack of peace is nothing new. During the Civil War, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote a poem titled "Christmas Bells." Later set to music under the title "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," it has become a familiar carol. Longfellow lamented the division of his time, yet the bells reminded him that God was still present and active in the world.

Prayer focus: Take time to notice where you feel God's presence in the world and how that can bring you peace.

P.J. Hinton – Cohort 1: Inspire. Ignite. Invite.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN

Announcements

We will still be decorating the Sanctuary during Advent & Christmas for our livestream. We would love to have poinsettias displayed in honor or memory of loved ones. If you are interested, you can either purchase a red/ white Poinsettia & drop off to the church or make a donation and we will purchase them for you. Make sure you give us your name, the number of poinsettias and the name for whom you are offering the tribute. You may do this anytime between now and Dec. 20th. Thank you !

Amid the spikes in COVID cases Daniel's Place has implemented new procedures. Please make sure we keep everyone safe by following their and Zion's Guidelines.



Ponder Anew...what the Almighty can do!

O Holy Night

O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks
A new and glorious morn

CHORUS:

Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born



When I was growing up in a new mission congregation, we did not have a building of our own. Sometimes we worshiped in Luke's Barn, a converted barn on the fairgrounds outside of Toledo, used for special events. Later, we worshiped in a union hall. Eventually, we built our own building. Even with that nice, new building, I always preferred Luke's Barn for Advent and Christmas. It brought home the expectations, the waiting, the story of the birth of Jesus.

Because it was not our permanent space, we had to create traditions that were easily moved or adjusted. One of those was Bob Freeman singing *O Holy Night*. Bob had a lovely voice but he was not a professional. However, to hear him sing that on Christmas Eve was something special, even to a little kid. I can still hear him in my memory. The other day, I heard it playing in a store. I usually am not one for Christmas before Thanksgiving- I don't like that we plan for more before we give thanks for what we have. But this time, the words struck me. Especially the phrase, *A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices For yonder breaks A new and glorious morn*. Hope, for this weary world. Yonder breaking a new and glorious morn! With or without COVID. With or without our family and friends beside us. With or without masks and distancing. No matter how weary we are or the cause of our weariness, the birth of our Savior offers a thrill of hope and the breaking of a new and glorious morn! We don't have to wait till this is all over, that life changes back into something we recognize. Already, here and now, Christ breaks into our existence. So much so that we fall on our knees, hear the angel voices and celebrate the night when Christ was born and the time when he will return. Though it will look very different, may you have a blessed Advent Season and a Holy Christmas.

Blessings to each of you as together we share Jesus Christ for Life, albeit in a different way!

Pr. Amy

Daniel's Place

In these tough and uncertain times, Daniel's Place remains open. Open for the families who still work everyday because they have to. For those who are essential. We are open for families with loved ones who need a safer, smaller community to learn and grow in. We are open for the community that doesn't understand why everyone is wearing a mask and why they can't go to school anymore. We are open to try to give some peace to family members trying to stay safe and pay their bills at the same time. We are open to give our community some sense of normalcy, even if it is drenched in hand sanitizer and covered by a mask. We are open because we are essential to the families we serve. We are open with hope in our hearts and a smile under our masks. We love what we do and what it gives the families we care for. We are dedicated, hardworking, and willing to do everything we can to keep our kiddos safe. We are open and trying our best, just like everyone else in a pandemic.

- A DSP at Daniel's Place.



Show your support one of the following ways below:
Even \$5 can give families an hour of care in this time of uncertainty.

You can donate at www.daniels-place.org/donate or by sending cash or check to 113 W Main St. North Manchester, IN 46962



Scripture for December

December 6

Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, 1:1-8

December 13

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126 (Ps. 126:3), Luke 1:46b-55, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28A

December 20

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:46b-55, Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 (Ps. 89:1), Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

December 27

Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40



Report from Council

In- Person Worship As you know by now your Church Council has decided to suspend our in-person worship until further notice. This was not an easy decision. While our in-person attendance in recent weeks was extremely low, it still provided a sense of normality. It was good to sit, safely distanced and masked, in the sanctuary and worship with other folks, even though few in number. However, given the significant spike in the number of COVID cases in our county and area, we feel it is in everyone's best interest to suspend in-person worship and return to our virtual option. We all agreed that things are only going to get worse given the anticipated spike following Thanksgiving family gatherings. We also decided we must offer a virtual worship experience for Christmas Eve. We could not arrive at a safe solution for having folks gather for a traditional service. We regret this. Christmas Eve at Zion is a valued tradition for so many.

Our plan is to offer an exceptional and meaningful virtual service for everyone to experience as we gather together -in spirit- to celebrate the birth of our Savior, in the safety and comfort of our homes. Our healthcare system is getting overwhelmed. Our vital healthcare workers are approaching their physical and emotional limits. Altering our worship experience is a small way we can be a part of the solution. Please be a part of the solution, individually, by wearing a mask, socially distancing and practicing good hand hygiene. We want you all to stay well. Your Church Council continues to thank all of you for your patience and understanding as together we face the significant challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Financial Matters Good news and bad news. Our expenses are running below budget this year. That's good. Unfortunately our revenue is also under budget. That's the bad news. We anticipate a year-end deficit that exceeds our budgeted deficit. This is a challenge that many churches are facing. Fortunately, unlike many congregations, we have reserves to sustain us through this difficult time. But, your Council isn't taking this lightly. We are, and will be, good stewards of Zion's financial blessings. As we approach the end of the year, we respectfully ask you to fulfill your intended giving and help Zion meet the financial obligations of our ministry and mission support.

Council Terms Mary Chrastil and Amy Neild are completing two terms of service on the Council. We are looking for their successors. I will be contacting some of you to ask you to consider serving in this important role. We hope you will give this prayerful consideration. Cheryl Working and I are completing our first terms on the Council and we have agreed to serve another three-year term. The remaining members of the Council are Teresa Pattison, Carol Miller, and Sally Krouse. All are thanked for their service.

Thanksgiving We want to thank David Neild and Jack Vineyard for their leadership and faithful service to the Community Meal program. They, along with their spouses, Amy and Deb, and Pastor Amy, are Zion's essential workers for the program. Their cooperation, with other congregations and organizations, has allowed this important ministry to the community to continue. Unfortunately, the current COVID situation may cause the program to be suspended in the new year. We'll keep you informed.

The Council is grateful for your ongoing support of Zion and our ministries.

Dave Lawrenz, Council President



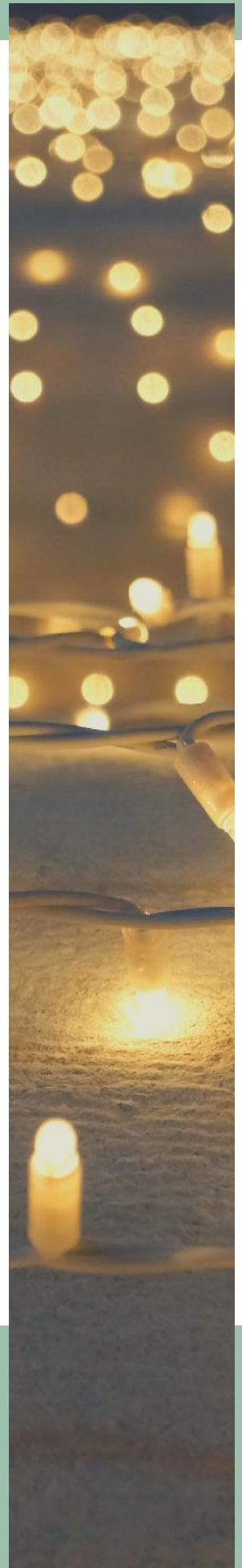
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow
with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

A friend of mine gave me his Chalice Hymnal, and to thank him I wrote a note using as many hymn titles from it as possible. Here's a portion:

In this time of pandemic, I come to the garden alone and I wonder as I wander,
What is this place? We are living, we are dwelling in such a strange time,
longing for For health and strength. All earth is waiting. How long, O God, how
long? When the storms of life are raging, When pain of the world surrounds
us, and When our confidence is shaken, we must Give thanks Out of need and
out of custom For the beauty of the earth, for Lovely star in the sky, For beauty
of meadows, for Mountain brook with rushing waters where Brilliant spring
paints beauteous landscapes. For it is within The peaceful realm, With the
vision in our minds, that we find the strength to endure until The strife is o'er.
Ours the journey Out of the depths and Through it all. The storm is strong, but
Why should I feel discouraged? We shall overcome. We are walking Day by
day toward a time Filled with joy and gladness. O for a world where We gather
together and say, "Here am I, come Stand by me!" We will be A cheering,
chanting, dizzy crowd, and we will Lift every voice and sing Alleluiah! Alleluiah!
Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn! This is the day, Come, be glad! Clap
your hands, Sing and rejoice, for Joys are flowing like a river. This is a day of
new beginnings! Morning has broken, and There's a song in the air! Here in
this place, the new light is streaming; therefore In loving partnership Let all
things now living, All people that on earth do dwell, Write these words in our
hearts. I want to be Together, but until that is possible, This is my song: The
lord bless you and keep you. God be with you till we meet again.
Blest be the tie that binds. Shalom to you now; Go in peace.

Alan Chambers

*"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.'" – Luke 2:10*



Pray for one another

Current: Robert & Lois Dowd, Clayton Marcum, Becky Oden, Nancy Jamerson, Dean McKinley, Jayden Plotner, Lynn Losby, Amy, Haley, John, Janet, Dale, Kathy Sipes, the Rapley family, Bill Leonhard, Patty Price.

Ongoing: Jon Perkins, Linda Rager Hampton, Peggy Gilbert, Mara Joy Nelson, Owen Vannoster and his family

Homebound: Marie Betten-Niccum, Bo & Joanne Boettcher, Nancy Coble, Betty Hamlin, Ruth Hauser, Betty Lawrenz, Vada Lee Nixon,

Conference/ Community Churches: Epiphany, Faith, and Gethsemane Church in Ft. Wayne, Grace Church in Columbia City, and Liberty Mills Church of the Brethren.

Community Meal: Carol, Steve, Paul, Margie, Yvonne, Todd & Amanda, Bud & Judy, Barbara, Ronny, JoAnn & Family, Amy & Family, Lynn, Marcy, Barbara Stewart, Sandy, Dawn & Doug, Jim Braden Darlene, Jo Niccum, Macy's Family, Kevin Snyder and Family, Margaret, Mike, Sprigg Family, Joe, Elder's Family, 1st Responders and hospital workers, Schools that are open, Peace and Harmony in our Country, our Nation, Sickness in the World, Cure for COVID

Inspire. Ignite. Invite. Congregations: Grace & Glory, Goshen, KY; Bethany, Indianapolis; Zion's, Pershing, IN; Calvary, Cromwell, IN; Grace & Peace, Evansville; Gethsemane, Indianapolis

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

12/3 Graham Groombridge
12/3 David Lawrenz
12/11 Charles Morgan
12/12 Emily Grant
12/13 Tony Miller
12/21 Daniel Working
12/24 Teresa Pattison
12/25 Jeff Hawkins

NOVEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

12/2 Audrey Bradford
12/15 Jane Airgood
12/16 Dawn Eads
12/16 Terry Rosenbarger
12/16 Marlene Eads
12/17 Tony Miller
12/21 Nancy Nisbet
12/21 Andrea Betten
12/24 Bradley Miller
12/27 Zach Hawkins

Why did Noah have
to discipline the
chickens on the Ark?



Because they kept
using fowl language!



The Lord is calling Zion to live out its calling to belong to Jesus Christ and to each other by virtue of our baptism, to believe in Jesus Christ by virtue of our faith given as a gift of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament; to be sent by Jesus Christ as ambassadors of the gospel in our homes, workplaces, communities and to the ends of the earth.

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