

Peace  
on  
Earth

The image features the phrase "Peace on Earth" written in a highly decorative, cursive script. The word "Peace" is rendered in a dark blue color and is the largest element, with a large, elegant flourish extending from the top of the letter 'P'. The word "on" is smaller and positioned below "Peace", rendered in a grey color. The word "Earth" is also in grey and is positioned below "on", with a large flourish extending from the bottom of the letter 'E'. A bright yellow, multi-pointed starburst is placed between the words "on" and "Earth", overlapping the letter 'o' in "on" and the letter 'E' in "Earth". The entire graphic is set against a plain white background.

ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

IN JESUS' NAME WE WELCOME YOU!

First Sunday After Christmas

December 31,

2023

**WELCOME TO ZION.** It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will strengthen your faith and fill your heart with the peace only God can give and the joy we have in believing that JESUS CHRIST is our Savior from sin.

**WORSHIP FOCUS:** Christ is the Savior – the only Savior there is – for all people. In him we have peace; for him we live.

**LITURGY: Service of the Word**

*CW pg. 38*

**OPENING HYMN:** *CW 77*

**“In His Temple Now Behold Him”**

PRESENTATION

77

## In His Temple Now Behold Him



1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him; See the long - ex -  
2 In the arms of her who bore him, Vir - gin pure, be -  
3 Je - sus, by your pres - en - ta - tion, You who did for



pect - ed Lord. An - cient proph - ets had fore - told him;  
hold him lie, While his a - ged saints a - dore him  
us en - dure, Let us see your great sal - va - tion,



God has now ful - filled his Word. Now to praise him,  
Ere in faith and hope they die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Seal us with your prom - ise sure, And pre - sent us



his re - deem - ed Shall break forth with one ac - cord.  
Al - le - lu - ia! See th' in - car - nate God most high!  
in your glo - ry To your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.

**P:** The grace of our Lord (✠) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**HYMN:** *CW 71*

**“The Old Year Now Has Passed Away”**

## 71

## The Old Year Now Has Passed Away



1 The old year now has passed a - way; We thank you,  
 2 We pray you, O e - ter - nal Son, Who with the  
 3 Take not your sav - ing Word a - way, Which lights and  
 4 Oh, help us to for - sake all sin, A new and  
 5 Where - in as Chris - tians we may live Or die in



O our God, to - day That you have kept us  
 Fa - ther reigns as one, To guard and rule your  
 cheers our souls each day. A - bide with us and  
 ho - lier life be - gin! For - give the old year's  
 peace that you can give, To rise a - gain when



through the year When dan - ger and dis - tress were near.  
 Chris - ten - dom Through all the a - ges yet to come.  
 keep us free From er - ror and hy - poc - ri - sy.  
 sins, and bless The new year with true hap - pi - ness,  
 you will come And en - ter your e - ter - nal home.

6 There shall we thank you and adore  
 With all the angels evermore.  
 Lord Jesus Christ, increase our faith  
 To praise your name through life and death.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

*The minister says the Prayer of the Day.*

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

<sup>6</sup>The priests brought the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim, <sup>7</sup>for the cherubim were spreading their wings over the place for the ark, so that the cherubim covered the ark and its poles with their wings. <sup>8</sup>The poles were so long that the ends of the poles could be seen from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from outside. They are there to this day. <sup>9</sup>There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets, which Moses had placed there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel when they came out of the land of Egypt. <sup>10</sup>When the priests came out from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the House of the LORD. <sup>11</sup>The priests were not able to take their positions to minister in the presence of the cloud, because the Glory of the LORD had filled the House of the LORD. <sup>12</sup>Then Solomon said, “The LORD has said that he dwells in thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I have truly built a majestic house for you, a place for you to dwell forever.” (EHV)

## Psalm 111

CW pg. 106

*Refrain*

Sing to the Lord a new song, for  
he has done mar - vel - ous things.

*Psalm tone*

\*

Great are the works of the LORD;\*  
they are pondered by all who delight in them.

Glorious and majestic are his deeds,\*  
and his righteousness endures forever.

He has caused his wonders to be remembered;\*  
the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

*Refrain*

The works of his hands are faithful and just;\*  
all his precepts are trustworthy.

He provided redemption for his people;\*  
he ordained his covenant forever.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;\*  
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

**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.**

### *Refrain*

Refrain Tune: J. Robert Carroll. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## **Second Lesson**

## **Colossians 3:12-17**

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as God's elect, holy and loved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against anyone else. Forgive, just as Christ forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And, in addition to all these things, put on love, which ties things together in perfect unity. <sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ control your hearts, to which you were also called, in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And everything you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (EHV)

### **VERSE OF THE DAY**

Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia. (Colossians 3:15a)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**GOSPEL**

**Luke 2:22-40**

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> (As it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male will be called holy to the Lord.”) <sup>24</sup> And they came to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary according to the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him into his arms and praised God. He said, <sup>29</sup> Lord, you now dismiss your servant in peace, according to your word, <sup>30</sup> because my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared before the face of all people, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel. <sup>33</sup> Joseph and the child’s mother were amazed at the things that were spoken about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Listen carefully, this child is appointed for the falling and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.” <sup>36</sup> Anna, a prophetess, was there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She had lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then she was a widow of eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple complex, since she was worshipping with fasting and prayers night and day. <sup>38</sup> Standing nearby at that very hour, she gave thanks to the Lord. She kept speaking about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup> When they had accomplished everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town, Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God’s favor was on him. (EHV)

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *CW 41*

**“Let All Together Praise Our God”**

## 41

## Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his  
 2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
 3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's  
 4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our  
 5 He serves that I a lord may be— A great ex -



high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And  
 in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
 form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who  
 flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His  
 change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me To



gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.  
 in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
 heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.  
 maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.  
 help me in my need, To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door  
 Of paradise today.  
 The angel guards the gate no more;  
 To God our thanks we pay,  
 To God our thanks we pay.

SERMON THEME:

## DEPART IN PEACE

## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,



was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

P: I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

**C: Every day I will praise you and extol your name.**

P: It is fitting, O Lord, in the closing days of this year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

**C: You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.**

P: You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

**C: You know what we need, and you give us all good things.**

P: Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself—all these come to us from your generous hand.

**C: We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.**

P: We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

**C: Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

P: Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

**C: We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

HYMN: CW 78

“O Light of Gentile Nations”

PRESENTATION

78

## O Light of Gentile Nations



1 O Light of Gen - tile na - tions, O  
2 Dear Lord, your ser - vants meet you In  
3 Lord, when life's trou - bles touch us, You  
4 Let us, O Lord, be faith - ful Like



Sav - ior from a - bove, Drawn by your Spir - it's  
ev - 'ry ho - ly place Where your true Word has  
seem to hide your face, And through our tears we  
Sim - eon to the end So that his prayer ex -



lead - ing, We come with joy and love In -  
prom - ised That we should see your face. To -  
of - ten Can scarce - ly sense your grace. Then  
ul - tant May from our hearts as - cend: “O

to your ho - ly tem - ple And wait with  
 day you still al - low us Who gath - er  
 be our joy and bright - ness, Our cheer in  
 Lord, now let your ser - vant De - part in

rev - 'rent mind As Sim - eon once had  
 round you here In arms of faith to  
 pain and loss, Our sun in dark - est  
 peace, I pray, Since I have seen my

wait - ed His God and Lord to find.  
 hold you As did that a - ged seer.  
 ter - ror, The glo - ry round our cross.  
 Sav - ior And here be - held his day."

**CLOSING PRAYER**

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

**BENEDICTION**

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look on you with favor and (✠) give you peace.

C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

**CLOSING HYMN:** *CWB 950 (set to the tune of CW 215)*

**“Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace”**

- 1. Lord, bid your servant go in peace, you word is now fulfilled.  
These eyes have seen salvation’s dawn, this child so long foretold.**
- 2. This is the Savior of the world, the Gentiles’ promised light,  
God’s glory dwelling in our midst, the joy of Israel.**
- 3. With saints of old, with saints to come, to you we lift our voice;  
to Father, Son, and Spirit blest be honor, love and praise.**



Officiants

Accompanist: Kayla Liechty

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Nate Fager

## 2023 Christmas Poinsettias

### In Memory of . . .

In memory of our parents, Russell & Madeline Vitale, and Roland & Frances Hoenecke  
from Russ and Mona Vitale

In memory of loved ones from Jim and Kathy Vanisacker

In memory of loved ones from Ken and Gail Heusman

In memory of David C. Holsen and Arvin Schneck from Bryan and Deanna Schneck

In memory of Kenneth and Margaret Pitcher from Carol Pitcher

In memory of loved ones from Bari and Wendy Waltz

In memory of Hazel (Birdie) Duby from Mark and Paula Kipf

In memory of Gary Nied from Beth and family

In memory of Dannie Younglove and all family members gone from Lee A. Younglove

In memory of Larry Miller and Tim Miller from Annette Miller and family

In memory of our parents: Frank & Evelyn Tomczak and Roger & Della Premo  
from Frank and Kris Tomczak

In memory of Nora & Henry Kiiffner and Anne & Andy Bober from Alan and Dottie Bober

In memory of Bob McLaughlin from Nancy McLaughlin

In memory of Lloyd & Audrey Miller and Elijah Gedelian from Jim and Denise Miller

In memory of Rita Raasch from Howard Raasch and Juergen and Lorrie Koenig

In memory of loved ones from Carol Eshelman and family

In memory of parents Leonard and Leona Selvidge and brother Robert Selvidge  
from Linda C. Selvidge

In memory of our parents from Ray and Melanie Palmatier

In memory of Ernest & Margaret Howerton and Urban & MaryJane Trowbridge  
from Robert and Joyce Trowbridge

In memory of Peggy Lanagan from Barbra Krueger

In memory of Lyle Kull, Kevin Kull, Kristie Fultz, and Billie Duvall from Maxine Kull

### For Blessings Received . . .

Beth and Bryce Mueller

Ray and Brenda Chandonnet

Marv and Jean Baumann

Larry and Deb Sachs

The blessing of our 3 grandchildren & the coming of 2 more in mid 2024  
from Mark and Sherry Fuerstenberg

## Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Greg Sitzman: 734-309-7877; [gsitzman@zionmonroe.org](mailto:gsitzman@zionmonroe.org)

Principal: Bryan Schneck: 907-331-7761; [bschneck@zionmonroe.org](mailto:bschneck@zionmonroe.org)

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**VOTER'S MEETING**— A new call meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. after the voter's meeting.

**OFFERING PLATE:** The Elders and Council have decided that as of Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> we are going to return to passing the offering plate.

**FRIENDS IN FAITH:** A special event is coming in January. Friends In Faith is sponsoring a "baby shower" for our Pregnancy Care Center that is located in Redford, Michigan. Our "baby shower" will be **Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>** in the gymnasium. There is a wish list from the Pregnancy Care Center and sign-up sheet to attend the shower in the west foyer.

### **Ushers Needed:**

Dear Members of Zion,

Zion is currently in need of ushers to be added to existing ushering teams. To be an usher you simply need to be a confirmed member of Zion. Ushers typically arrive 20 - 30 minutes prior to service, make sure the hymn boards are updated, candles are lit, etc. There is a list of "usher duties" so don't worry about having to remember it all. We are simply looking for any confirmed member, male or female, willing to serve on an Ushering team. It's a great way to meet more of your Zion family and help our worship services run smoothly.

Willing and interested? Awesome! Please reach out to Rob Krueger, Stewardship chairman at 734-770-1149 or talk with Mark Kipf, Elders chairman at church.

Thank you for considering using your gift of Time!

Board of Stewardship

**TUITION FUNDS FOR ZION SCHOOL** – There have been many questions recently regarding the Tuition Funds at Zion School. There are two separate funds:

- 1) "Zion Members Tuition Fund" – This is for members of Zion who send their children to Zion school but need assistance with their tuition.
- 2) "General Tuition Fund" – This is for students who attend Zion but are not members at Zion. This is to help them with the cost of attending school at Zion,

Individuals who are seeking assistance do have to apply for the help and provide information regarding why they have a need for assistance. If you would like to give to either of the funds at any time just indicate which fund on your church envelope. Thank you in advance for considering these funds.

## Coming up at Zion ....

- Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
 NO Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class
- Tuesday NO Adult Bible Class
- Wednesday 8:00 a.m. Classes Resume  
 7:00 p.m. Worship Service (IC)
- Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship Service (IC/CC)  
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class

## January Volunteers

	Dec. 31	Jan. 3 & 7	Jan. 10 & 14	Jan. 17 & 21	Jan. 24 & 28	Jan. 31 & Feb. 4
Altar Guild			Kathy	Vanisacker		
Live Stream Helpers	Rob Krueger	Ryan Roth	Steve Sordahl	Miller Sordahl	William Robinson	Rob Krueger
Ushers	<u>Dec. 31</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier	<u>Jan. 3</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier  <u>Jan. 7</u> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Mathew Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson	<u>Jan. 10</u> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Matthew Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson  <u>Jan. 14</u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach McCormick Zach Turner	<u>Jan. 17</u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach McCormick Zach Turner  <u>Jan. 21</u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling Russ Vitale	<u>Jan. 24</u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling Russ Vitale  <u>Jan. 28</u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger	<u>Jan. 31</u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger  <u>Feb. 4</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier
Communion Helpers		<u>Jan. 3</u> Mark Kipf  <u>Jan. 7</u> Erich Freiny Steve Sordahl		<u>Jan. 17</u> Ken Vagt  <u>Jan. 21</u> Jeremy Robinson Rob Krueger		<u>Jan. 31</u> Ken Vagt  <u>Feb. 4</u> Mark Kipf Jake Burke



Please join us for

A POTLUCK

# BABY shower

for our

Pregnancy Care Center

14  
JAN

12:00 noon  
Zion Auditorium

More Information and Sign-up  
in the West Foyer