



ZION PROCLAIMER

December 2023

"DOSE OF WISDOM"

PEACE CAME TO EARTH

Peace is our common pursuit. As Advent leads us to Christmas, we are especially seeking a distinct season of peace. We need a quiet place to rest during this restless time. Year after year, with each Advent season, we wonder if this year will bring a peace that endures. We crave the reassurance that God knows all our needs and will provide for them, not just for these short weeks but for every season.

Often, we grow impatient as we seek peace. Despite knowing the promises of God to provide for us, we might try to find peace on our own. We then define peace according to the ways we seek it. We might imagine that peace comes when we finally have enough of all the things we plan to buy. Or we might look for the perfect place where peace is undisturbed solitude, the cabin beside a still lake. We might seek peace by escaping memories of the past. Or peace might be an elusive future where everyone does exactly what they should. These are our many ways of defining peace, but sadly, each of these directions could go on and on without ever being fulfilled.

To illustrate both our pursuit of peace and God's plan for us, our Advent series this year uses a five-point star for each sermon and children's message. Each message will emphasize a different point of the star. Overall, the star reminds us of the Christmas star of Matthew 2 and that wonderful light that guided the Wise Men to find Jesus. Their long journey ended with the blessing of lasting peace. Just as the Wise Men followed the star, so we will go to each point in this Advent star. We will find God meets us at each point of the star, knowing our needs and bringing us the peace we are seeking.

Since the five-point star will guide our journey, picture yourself drawing such a star. Start in the bottom left corner and draw up to the top center point. Stop and draw downward to the bottom right corner, then upward to the middle of the left side. Draw across to the right, and back to the bottom left corner, eventually reaching each point. Every point goes a certain distance but then is stopped. In the same way, each of our paths to peace could go on and on, never being fulfilled. There won't be enough possessions or perfectly calm places to give us lasting peace. God knows the many ways and directions by which we seek peace. As we journey, God meets us, halts our endless pursuits, and gives us a new understanding of His gift of peace. That peace comes always through the birth of Jesus, the Word become flesh who steps into the world and fulfills our desire for peace.

In the end, we find our lasting peace and treasure. God's peace doesn't send us on an impossible search. God's peace is not an invisible needle buried in a haystack. God's peace is a treasure laid in the straw of the manger. God's peace is the priceless Son of God, born in the stable and laid in plain view for us all. He is the diamond found in the manger's straw. As the Prince of Peace, He is the peace that we seek.

Come and join us this Advent season, December 6th, 13th, and 20th at 7:00 pm. Divine Services at 10:00 on Sundays. Christmas Eve Services at 10:00 am, 5:00 pm, and 10:00 pm. Christmas Day will be at 9:00. New Year's Eve Divine Service at 10:00 am. Peace Came to Earth this Advent and Christmas Season. Enjoy this peace with us.

*Christ's Advent and Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Dose*

Wednesday	Dec 07	6:30	Midweek Advent Service
Wednesday	Dec 14	6:30	Midweek Advent Service
Saturday	Dec 24	4:00:	Sunday School Children's Service
	Dec 24	10:00	Candlelight Service/HC
Sunday	Dec 25	9:00	Christmas Day Worship/HC
Sunday	Jan 01	9:00	Divine Worship/HC

(No Sunday School or Bible Classes on 12/25 & 1/1)

December Duties

USHERS

Doug Schuette Merle Witt
Dan Wittrock Doug Ehlers
Jeremy Ehlers Paul Ehlers

PARISH CIRCLE

Deb Owen

CHANCEL CIRCLE

Carm Thiedeman & Melissa Ehlers & Diane Witt

MIDWEEK SERVERS

6th: Madison Stork
13th: Grant Wilken
20th: Tyler Middleton

ACOLYTES

3rd: Kendyl Riesbert & Kash Riesber
10th: Cara Schuette & Audre Hill
17th: Grant Wilken
24th: Lacy Middleton & Tyler Middleton
31st: Marissa Schrad & Macie Schrad



Christmas Worship Schedule

Wednesday	Dec 06	7:00pm	Midweek Advent Service
Wednesday	Dec 13	7:00 pm	Midweek Advent Service
Wednesday	Dec 20	7:00 pm	Midweek Advent Service
Sunday	Dec 24	9:00 am	Sunday School
		10:00 am	Divine Worship
	Dec 24	5:00 pm	Children's Service
		10:00 pm	Candlelight Service/HC
Monday	Dec 25	9:00 am	Christmas Day Service/HC
Sunday	Dec 31	10:00 am	New Years Eve Worship/HC



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Our Sunday School will again be sharing the joyous message of our Lord's birth through a special Worship Service on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm.

Christmas program practices will be held on Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:45 am (during our Sunday School Time) The Christmas Eve service will be at 4:00 pm. We are requesting all children to be at church by 3:45 pm.

The Sunday School staff would like to wish all our students and there families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as be celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.



We would like to say Thank You to everyone who helped in any way with the Annual Harvest Supper on October 29th Without everyone's help with donating food, money, time and work, we would not be able to pull off such an event.

In looking back our first Harvest Supper was held on October 19, 1991. After expenses we profited \$5,500

Also thanks for all the donations for the Food ingathering that was held on November 13-20th All items were taken to New Opportunities in Carroll.



H O P E
P E A C E
Love Joy



Remember My Birthday?

As you well know, we are getting closer to my birthday. Every year there is a celebration in my honor and I think that this year the celebration will be repeated. During this time there are many people shopping for gifts, there are many radio announcements, TV commercials, and in every part of the world everyone is talking that my birthday is getting closer and closer. It is really very nice to know, that at least once a year, some people think of me

As you know, the celebration of my birthday began many years ago. At first people seemed to understand and be thankful of all that I did for them, but in these times, no one seems to know the reason for the celebration. Family and friends get together and have a lot of fun, but they don't know the meaning of the celebration.

I remember that last year there was a great feast in my honor. The dinner table was full of delicious foods, pastries, fruits, assorted nuts and chocolates. The decorations were exquisite and there were many, many beautifully wrapped gifts. But, do you want to know something? I wasn't invited. I was the guest of honor and they didn't remember to send me an invitation.

The party was for me, but when that great day came, I was left outside, they closed the door in my face..... and I wanted to be with them and share their table. In truth, that didn't surprise me because in the last few years all close their doors to me.

Since I was not invited, I decided to enter the party without making any noise. I went in and stood in a corner. They were all drinking; there were some who were drunk and telling jokes and laughing at everything. They were having a great time.

To top it all, this big fat man all dressed in red wearing a long white beard entered the room yelling Ho-Ho-Ho! He seemed drunk. He sat on the sofa and all the children ran to him, saying : "Santa Claus, Santa Claus"... as if the party were in his honor ! At 12 midnight all the people began to hug each other; I extended my arms waiting for someone to hug me and do you know no one hugged me.

Suddenly they all began to share gifts. They opened them one by one with great expectation. When all had been opened, I looked to see if, maybe, there was one for me. What would you feel if on your birthday everybody shared gifts and you did not get one ? I then understood that I was unwanted at that party and quietly left. Every year it gets worse. People only remember to eat and drink, the gifts, the parties and nobody remembers me.

I would like this Christmas that you allow me to enter into your life. I would like that you recognize the fact that almost two thousand years ago I came to this world to give my life for you, on the cross, to save you. Today I only want that you believe this with all you heart. I want to



share something with you. As many didn't invite me to their party, I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a spectacular party.

I'm still making the final arrangements. Today I am sending out many invitations and there is an invitation for you. I want to know if you wish to attend and I will make a reservation for you and write your name with golden letters in my great guest book. Only those on the guest list will be invited to the party. Those who don't answer the invitation, will be left outside.

Do you know how you can answer this invitation? it is by extending it to others whom you care for... I'll be waiting for all of you to attend my party this year... See you soonI love you !

- Jesus

DON'T
FORGET
THE



There will NOT be a January newsletter due to the Annual report.

The Annual Voters Meeting will be held on Sunday January 14th following worship service

Offering Envelopes



The 2024 Offering Envelopes will be available for pickup during the later part of the month of December. Please stop by the table in the entry way to pick yours up. If you cannot locate yours, please let the office know.

DAYCARE **PROVIDED**

The LYF will be offering a
“Parent’s Day Out”
Sunday, December 3, 2023
11:30-1:30 pm

All youth ages 3 to the 5th grade are welcome

They will be hosting a day of
Lunch
(hot dogs, mac & cheese & juice)
Cookie Decorating
Games
Candy cane hunt
Hot chocolate bar
Movies

Parents: you can enjoy an afternoon of shopping, baking,
Holiday errands, or just taking a nap. Let the LYF take care
of the kids.

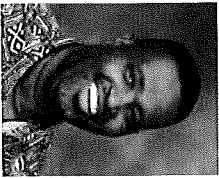


On a Mission
to Support
Christ's Mission!

December 2023

409 Kenyon Road, Suite B — Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501
515-576-7666 Fax 515-576-2323 www.idwlcms.org
Contact email: sue@iowadistrictwest.org

Birds Set Free



A pastor once met a young boy in front of the sanctuary carrying a rusty cage in which several birds fluttered nervously. The pastor inquired, "Son, where did you get those birds?" The boy replied, "I trapped them out in the field." "What are you going to do with them?" "I'm going to play with them, and then I guess I'll just feed them to an old cat we have at home." "When the pastor offered to buy them, the lad exclaimed, "Wister, you don't want them; they're just little old wild birds and can't sing very well."

The pastor replied, "I'll give you \$2 for the cage and the birds." "Okay, it's a deal, but you're making a bad bargain." The exchange was made, and the boy went away whistling, happy with his shiny coins. The Pastor walked around to the back of the church property, opened the door of the small wire coop, and let the struggling creatures soar into the blue. The following Sunday, he took the empty cage into the pulpit and used it to illustrate his sermon about Christ's coming to seek and save the lost paying for them with His own precious blood. "That boy told me the birds were not songsters," said the pastor, "but when I released them, and they winged their way heavenward, it seemed to me they were singing, 'Redeemed, redeemed, redeemed, redeemed!'"

This is Advent. And the message of these times is the song of those wild birds. It's the song sung in every carol this season: Redeemed! The meaning behind every gift given under the tree: Redeemed! It's the Word the shepherds heard: Redeemed! It's the assurance Mary received: Redeemed! It's the star the Wisemen followed: Redeemed! You and I have been trapped by sin, but Christ has purchased our pardon. We have been redeemed!

Rev. B. Keith Haney, Assistant to the President
keith@iowadistrictwest.org

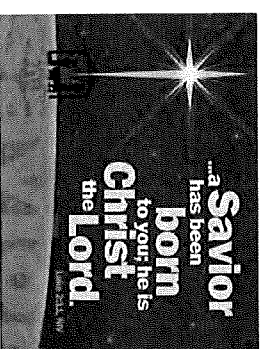
IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (ILSTO)
If you have an RMD on your own account or an inherited account and you do not need the funds, donating to ILSTO is a great option. Your required withdrawal will be included in your taxable income and cannot be rolled into other tax-deferred accounts. However, donating your RMD to ILSTO is a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). In addition to this, you will receive a 75% tax credit on your Iowa taxes! To get more information for donating to the ILSTO go online to www.iowalutheransto.com or call Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991.

Need an organist?

Do you need an organist? Church Music Solutions produces and provides high quality organ music to support congregational singing in churches where an organist is unavailable. If you would like organ music assistance on a rare, occasional, or regular basis, we encourage you to visit our website at www.churchmusicsolutions.com or call us at (800) 651-7497. You can also contact a regional representative, Rosie Adle of Imperial, Nebraska, at rosiea@churchmusicsolutions.com or reach her on her direct line (314-591-7313). This video shows how Church Music Solutions can help your congregation keep singing:
www.churchmusicsolutions.com/video.html.

Rebuilding my Office: Organizational Lessons from Nehemiah

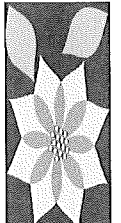
This one-day workshop will combine Bible study (Rev. Haney), self-examination, and practical tips to get you on track to an organized and functional office space. Go to www.iowadistrictwest.org for more information and to register to attend on Saturday, January 20 from 9:30am-3:30pm at the district office in Fort Dodge. Contact Jill Davis (515-576-7666) at the district office with questions.



Calendar of Events

December 22-26...Christmas, District Office Closed

For more information on Iowa District West activities,
view *The Messenger* at www.idwlcms.org/publications.php



DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <i>Tammy Letting</i>	2 <i>Doug Hansman Brooks Rahland Diane Schroeder</i>
3	4 <i>Pam Kock Jaylee McNelly</i>	5 <i>Joey Peplinski Mark & Kristi Hoffman Tom & Marjearn Lipton</i>	6 <i>Abby Klink Randy Neumann Katie Schurke Rachel Winey</i>	7	8 <i>Landon Kraus</i>	9 <i>Madison Stork</i>
10 <i>Bonnie Cornelius</i>	11 <i>Bernice Vetter</i>	12 <i>Melissa Ehlers Blake & Samantha Liechti</i>	13 <i>Andrew Gallagher Eliza Witrock Sutton Witrock</i>	14 <i>Cameron Schmitz Jeff Segebart</i>	15 <i>Rylee Kramer Marjearn Lipton</i>	16 <i>Jordan Hanson Danielle Schrad</i>
17	18 <i>Ron Cleveland</i>	19 <i>Hensley Hagge Gene Thiedeman</i>	20 <i>Wade Ragaller Chad & Shawna Witrock</i>	21	22	23 <i>Cale Dirks</i>
24 <i>Kyle Lenz Janet Rose</i>	25 <i>Cooper Anderson</i>	26 <i>Gary Vetter</i>	27	28 <i>Brynlee Bass Keely Kramer Mark & Denise Ragaller</i>	29 <i>Justin Hunter Terry Koch Al Mumm</i>	30
31 <i>Leigh Thiedeman</i>						

December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC	4	5	6 4:00 Midweek	7	8	9
10 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC 11:00 Council Meeting	11	12	13 4:00 Midweek	14	15	16
17 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC	18	19	20 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Worship/HC	21	22	23
24 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC	25	26	27 4:00 Midweek 7:00 Advent Wor	28	29	30
31						

USHERS

Dan Wittroke Merle Witt
 Doug Ehlers Jeremy Ehlers
 Gene Thiedeman Rob Klink

MIDWEEK SERVERS
 12/6 Madison Stork
 12/13 Grant Wilken
 12/20 Tyler Middleton

PARISH CIRCLE

Deb Owen

CHANCEL CIRCLE
 Carm Thiedeman
 Melissa Ehlers
 Diane Witt

Acolytes:

12/3 Kendyl Riesberg & Kash Riesberg
 12/10 Cara Schuette & Audrey Hill
 12/17 Grant Wilken
 12/24 Lacey Middleton & Tyler Middleton
 12/31 Marissa Schrad & Macie Schrad

Zion Lutheran Church
118 W Tracy St
Box 59
Arcadia, IA 51430
712/689/2441
Zionluth@netins.net

Non-Profit Organization
Arcadia, IA 51430
Standard mail

FRIENDS WHO CARE

<i>Christian Education</i>	<i>9:00 am</i>
<i>Divine Worship</i>	<i>10:00 am</i>
<i>Christmas Eve—Sunday School Program</i>	
	<i>5:00 pm</i>
<i>Christmas Eve Candle Light /HC</i>	<i>10:00 pm</i>
<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>9:00 am</i>

