

**Zion Lutheran Church – LCMS**  
20-141 County Road X – P.O. Box 37  
Ridgeville Corners, OH 43555  
**Education Hour 8:45 AM - Divine Worship 10:00 AM**  
**Communion First and Third Sundays**  
**Rev. Dr. Carl Rockrohr, Pastor**  
**Church: (419)267-3429 Email: pastor.zionrco@bright.net**

**Christmas Eve Worship Service, December 24, 2023**  
***“This is My Son”***

**Pre-Service Music**

*(Note: Please no photography during the service. Families can take photos after the service is over. Audio and video recordings of the service are available on request.)*

**Processional Hymn: O Come, Little Children**

1 O come, little children, O come, one and all,  
To Bethlehem haste to the manger so small.  
God’s Son for a gift has been sent you this night  
To be your Redeemer, your Joy, and Delight.

2 He’s born in a stable for you and for me;  
Draw near by the bright, gleaming starlight to see,  
In swaddling clothes lying, so meek and so mild,  
And purer than angels, the heavenly child.

3 See Mary and Joseph, with love-beaming eyes,  
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies;  
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love,  
While angels sing loud alleluias above.

4 Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,  
Lift up little hands now and praise Him as they;  
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,  
And join in the song of the heavenly host.

**Announcements / Welcome**

**Invocation & Responsive Reading**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: What great love the Father has given to us,

**All: That we should be called children of God!**

Pastor: He sent His Son to save us from death,  
**All: That we should be called children of God!**

Pastor: Jesus was born to take our place,  
**All: That we should be called children of God!**

Pastor: His work on the cross gives us new life;  
**All: And we are called children of God!**

**Children sing: Let's Take a Peek in the Manger**

**Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #357 (vs 1, 2, 4-7)**

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain:*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on  
high,  
Who orders all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in its ways to go.

*Refrain:*

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's  
tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy might power to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

*Refrain:*

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. *Refrain:*

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on  
high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to  
flight. *Refrain:*

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid all our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace.  
*Refrain*

**The Christmas Meditation: "I AM the Good Shepherd"**

**Solo:** Randy Miller "Joseph's Song"

## **“This is My Son” Presented by the Children** ***The Promised Son***

**Reading:** Diann Meyer Grieser

Our heavenly Father created a perfect, sinless world. He created people to love and care for. The first two people, Adam and Eve, were created perfect and sinless too. But they disobeyed God, and sin and death entered the world. Right away, God provided a plan. He would not let His children die eternally. He would send a Savior.

Thousands of years passed, and God’s children continued to disobey God. But God kept loving them, and He did not forget His promise. When the time was right, He sent His Son—His only Son—Jesus into the world. Jesus is the perfect Son who never sinned. He was born, He lived a perfect life, He died the death we should have died, and He rose again so we can have eternal life. God has called each of us to be His child through faith in His perfect Son, Jesus.

*See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. 1 John 3:1*

**Children Sing: Little Baby Jesus**

**Recitations: Jesus Was a Baby Boy**

**Barrett:** Jesus was a baby boy, came to earth to bring us joy.

**Leelynd:** God had promised us His Son, so that sin would be undone.

**Trevor:** What a gift our Father gave: Jesus Christ, who’s strong to save!

**Violet:** Thanks to Him, we are set free. We are in God’s family!

### **The Son in the Manger**

**Reading:** Pastor Rockrohr

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9:6*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name

Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” *Luke 1:26–33*

**Recitation:**

**Amelia:** God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary with great news to tell:

“Don’t be afraid, you’ll have a son! The King of kings, the Promised One.”  
In a manger He was born, the Son of God, on Christmas morn.

**Children and Adult Choir: In This Precious Baby Boy**

**The Son and the Cross**

**Reading:** Diann Meyer Grieser

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” *Genesis 3:8–13*

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that He take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live. *Numbers 21:4–9*

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. *John 3:14–15*

**Recitations:**

**Vivienne:** From ancient times, God set in place a plan to save the human race.

**Alexis:** The Savior would be lifted high and suffer on a cross and die.

**Emma:** We look to Jesus and we see the Son of God who set us free.

## Children Sing: Away in a Manger

### The Son in Our Hearts

**Reading:** Pastor Rockrohr

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn Son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 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. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. *Luke 2:1–20*

### Recitations:

**Leelynd:** The Father's promises are true;

**Trevor:** God sent His Son for me and you.

**Violet:** The angels sang of Jesus' birth;

**Barrett:** The shepherds witnessed God on earth.

**Alexis:** Some wisemen came from afar by following a bright new star.

**Emma:** Jesus fills my heart with joy and love,

**Emelia:** The Son of God, came from above.

**Vivienne**: O Bethlehem Star keep shining, give us faith and hope and love.

**Amelia**: Keep our thoughts forever turning to the Savior up above.

*Ushers will light a candle at each pew, please carefully have the person next to you light their candle, as the lights are dimmed.*

### **Congregational Hymn: Silent Night #363**

1 Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin, mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace

2 Silent night, holy night  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia  
Christ the Savior is born  
Christ the Savior is born

3 Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

### **Apostles' Creed:**

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.**

### **Responsive Reading:**

Pastor: For to us a child is born,

**All: To us a Son is given;**

Pastor: And the government shall be upon His shoulder

**All: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**Lord's Prayer:** [*sing*]

**Our Father  
Which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil,  
For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Pastor: We pray:

**All: Father in heaven, thank You for Your great love for us. Forgive us for the many times we disobey and stray from You. Thank You for sending Jesus to pay for our sins so that through faith in Him, we can live as Your children forever. In His name we pray. Amen.**

**Benediction:**

Pastor: Joy to the world, the Son of God, our Savior, has come! May the peace of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you today and every day. **Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn: Joy to the World #387**

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature  
sing.

2 Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and  
grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

*Please remain in your seats as the ushers will distribute bags of candy to the children, candles can be placed in the container by the door as you exit.*