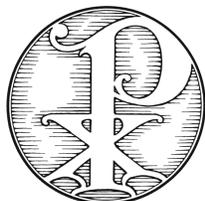


**A Prayer  
Upon Enter-  
ing Church**  
Eternal God,  
who makes all  
things new,  
and abides  
forever the  
same: Grant  
us to begin  
this year in  
Your faith,  
and to con-  
tinue it in  
Your favour;  
that, guided in  
all our doings,  
and guarded  
all our days,  
we may spend  
our lives in  
Your service,  
and finally, by  
Your grace,  
attain the  
glory of ever-  
lasting life,  
through Jesus  
Christ our  
Lord. Amen  
~ Elizabeth  
Goudge



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## First Sunday after Christmas

December 30, 2018 + 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

**Welcome to the Lord's Day.** God met the world in weakness when He became an infant. He would meet the world in weakness still when He was crucified at Jerusalem. A man named Simeon proclaimed this truth shortly after our Lord's birth, taking the little One into his arms and prophesying His death and resurrection. So it goes still today: God comes in weakness, hidden under the humble things of this world, to forgive, heal, and strengthen you.

### **Sharing God's Blessings Today**

- Sunday's Radio Broadcast is sponsored in loving memory of Shirley Riedl on the occasion of her birthday (December 30). Shirley was mother and best friend to her daughter Barb Ziebell, and grandma of Chad, Shawn, Leah, Noah, Asher and Rachel Ziebell, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
- The poinsettias are received from the Christmas Decorating Fund. A special insert, listing those who contributed to the Decorating Fund, was included in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins. Extra forms are on the tables in the narthex and reception area.
- Today's bulletins are sponsored by Delores Kottke in memory of Orlin Kottke.

### **No List, No Checking Twice, No Naughty and Nice**

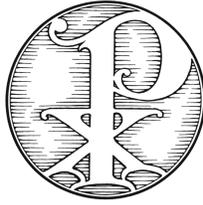
The Messiah whom Jesus' contemporaries expected – and likewise any and all of the messiahs the world has looked to ever since (even, alas, the church's all-too-often graceless, punishing version of Jesus' own messiahship) – are like nothing so much as religious versions of "Santa Claus is coming to town." The words of that dreadful Christmas song sum up perfectly the only kind of messianic behavior the human race, in its self-destructive folly, is prepared to accept: "He's making a list; he's checking it twice; he's going to find out who's naughty, or nice" – and so on into the dark night of all the tests this naughty world can never pass...

He is not, thank God, Santa Claus. He will come to the world's sins with no lists to check, no tests to grade, no debts to collect, no scores to settle. He will wipe away the handwriting that was against us and nail it to the cross (Col. 2:14). He will save, not some miniscule coterie of good little boys and girls with religious money in their piggy banks, but all the stone-broke, deadbeat, overextended children of this world whom He, as the Son of man – the holy Child of God, the Ultimate Big Kid, if you please – will set free in the liberation of his death... He tacks a "Gone Fishing" sign over the sweatshop of religion, and for all the debts of all sinners who ever lived, He provides the exact change for free. How nice it would be if the church could only remember to keep itself in on the joke.

~ Robert Farrar Capon, *The Parables of Grace*

### **Announcements**

Parish announcements may be found in the weekly newsletter, *For You*, provided by the ushers after worship.



## PRELUDES

- "Of the Father's Love Begotten" ... Ore  
"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" ... Manz  
"Let All Together Praise Our God" ... Ore

*Please stand and turn toward the cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" green hymnal #50

## GREETING

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## KYRIE

**P:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



☐ Lord, have mer - cy.

**P:** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



☐ Lord, have mer - cy.

*You have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Cleanse me from every stain of flesh and spirit. Teach me to fulfill holiness in fear of You, that having the testimony of my own conscience clean, and having communion of Your holy things, I may be united with Your Body and Blood and may have You to dwell and abide in me, with the Father and Your Holy Spirit.  
~ Basil the Great (330-379 A.D.)*

What is the glory of God? The majesty that had nowhere to lay its head; the grandeur that was meek and lowly; the beauty that had neither form nor comeliness that anyone should desire Him; the splendor of a lonely Wanderer, weary and footsore, with nails through His hands and feet...I have found in and through Him all the God I want. Nothing less than that. All that I know of God, I do not say that I have learned it from Him; I saw that I have seen it in Him . . .

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the holy Church, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

A - men

## GLORIA

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:

We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your

glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God: You take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer-cy on us. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the  
 Fa - ther; re-ceive our prayer. For you a -  
 lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

**SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

☐ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray . . . O God, our maker and redeemer, you wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in him who made himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

*Please be seated.*

*. . . And when I celebrate the day of His birth, I celebrate the day when God made Himself so manifest that [people] have not been able to get away from Him.  
 ~ Paul  
 Scherer,  
Love is a Spendthrift*

**OLD TESTAMENT** Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.” <sup>3a</sup>Then Moses said to the people, <sup>11</sup>“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, <sup>12</sup>you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD’s. <sup>13</sup>Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. <sup>14</sup>And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. <sup>15</sup>For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’ ”

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 111**

L: Hallelujah! | I will give thanks to the LORD with 'my whole heart,\*  
in the assembly of the upright, in the 'congregation.

**C: Great are the deeds 'of the LORD!\***  
**They are studied by all who de'light in them.**

L: His work is full of majes'ty and splendor,\*  
and his righteousness en'dures forever.

**C: He makes his marvelous works to 'be remembered;\***  
**the LORD is gracious and full 'of compassion.**

L: He gives food to 'those who fear him;\*  
he is ever mindful 'of his covenant.

**C: He has shown his people the power 'of his works\*  
in giving them the lands 'of the nations.**

L: The works of his hands are faithful'ness and justice;\*  
all his command'ments are sure.

**C: They stand fast forev'er and ever,\*  
because they are done in 'truth and equity.**

L: He sent redemption to his people; |  
he commanded his cove'nant forever;\*  
holy and awesome 'is his name.

**C: The fear of the LORD is the begin'ning of wisdom;\*  
those who act accordingly have a good understanding. |  
His praise en'dures forever.**

**All: Glory 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**

**EPISTLE** Colossians 3:12-17

<sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever

*It takes great heroism to devote one's life to others in a situation which is frustrating and unsatisfactory, and in which one's sacrifice may even be, in large measure, wasted. But here above all, faith in God is necessary. He sees our sacrifice, and he will make it fruitful, even though in our own eyes there is nothing apparent but futility and frustration. When we accept this grace, our eyes are open to see the real, unsuspected good in others, and to be truly grateful for our Christian vocation.*  
~ Thomas Merton  
Life and Holiness

*Invisible in his own nature he became visible in ours. Beyond our grasp, he chose to come within our grasp. Existing before time began, he began to exist at a moment in time. Incapable of suffering as God, he did not refuse to be a man, capable of suffering. Immortal, he chose to be subject to the laws of death.*  
 ~ Leo the Great,  
 400-461  
 A.D.,  
 Epist. 28 ad Flavianum

you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Please stand.*

**VERSE**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup>And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is 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, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And 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>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup>"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." <sup>36</sup>And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



No one can  
celebrate a  
genuine  
Christmas  
without being  
truly poor.  
The self-  
sufficient, the  
proud, those  
who, because  
they have eve-  
rything, look  
down on oth-  
ers, those who  
have no need  
even of  
God – for  
them there  
will be no  
Christmas.  
Only the  
poor, the hun-  
gry, those  
who need  
someone to  
come on their  
behalf, will  
have that  
someone.  
That someone  
is God, Em-  
manuel, God-  
with-us.  
Without pov-  
erty of spirit  
there can be  
no abundance  
of God.  
~ Oscar  
Romero,  
1978 A.D.

## NICENE CREED

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for ☩ the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen**

*Please be seated.*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** (9:00 a.m.)

*There is no Sunday School today. It will resume next Sunday, January 6.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“Let All Together Praise Our God” green hymnal #47

## SERMON

“Ahead of Time”

*Please kneel.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Trusting in our Lord Jesus Christ, the everlasting God and Son of Mary, let us pray.

P: . . . O King of Kings,

C: **receive our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERING

*While the offerings are received, please pass in your row the **Friendship Register**, and add your name(s). If you are a guest or visitor, please include your address.*

## VOLUNTARY

“From Heaven Above”

... Burkhardt

*Please stand.*

*How did his mother Mary become pregnant? Although it is a great miracle when a woman is made pregnant by a man, yet God reserved for him the privilege of being born of the Virgin. Now how does the Mother come to this? She has no husband and her womb is entirely enclosed. Yet she conceived in her womb a real, natural child with flesh and blood. Is there not more of a miracle here than in the bread and wine? Where does it come from? The angel Gabriel brings the word: "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son," etc. . . .*

## OFFERTORY "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

**C: Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
To gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**P:** Blessed are you, heavenly Father, for the priceless gift of your Son, sent into our flesh to redeem the creation. Grant that we may now so eat of his flesh and drink of his blood that we may ever dwell in him, and he in us.

**C: Amen**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P:** The Lord be with you.



**☐ And al - so with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.



**☐ We lift them to the Lord.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**☐ It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### SANCTUS ("Holy")

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

In the same way also he took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me.

. . . With these words Christ comes not only into her heart, but also into her womb, as she hears, grasps, and believes it. No one can say otherwise, than that the power comes through the Word. She thus becomes pregnant through the Word . . . And so it is in the sacrament also. For as soon as Christ says: "This is my body," his body is present through the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit. If the Word is not there, it is mere bread; but as soon as the words are added they bring with them that of which they speak.  
~ Martin Luther

*In this sacrament he offers us all the treasure he brought from heaven for us, to which he most graciously invites us in other places, as when he says in Matt. 11:28, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will refresh you." Surely it is a sin and a shame that, when he tenderly and faithfully summons and exhorts us to our highest and greatest good, we act so distantly toward it, neglecting it so long that we grow quite cold and callous and lose all desire and love for it . . .*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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**

## ACCLAMATION

P: The Word was made flesh

C: **and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

## AGNUS DEI ("Lamb of God")

☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Please be seated.*

The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. If you cannot use the steps to the altar, you may either ask an usher to have Communion brought to you, or you may go to the altar in the side (west) chapel. Those not communing may cross their arms over their chest for a blessing.

Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His body and blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.

The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.

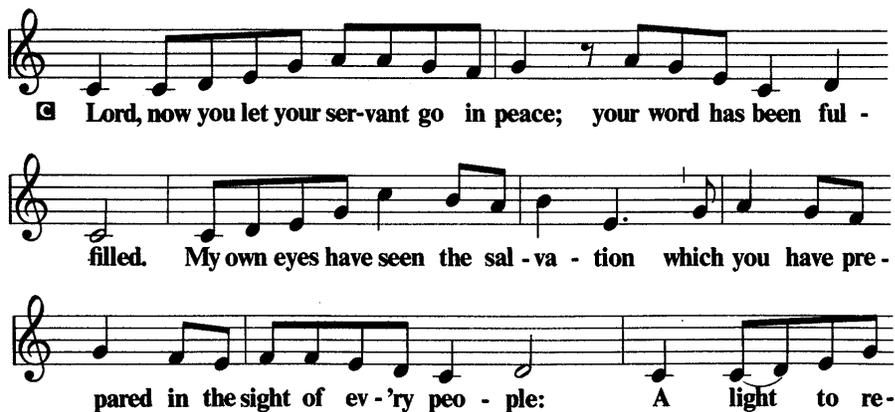
## COMMUNION HYMNS

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” green hymnal #41

“Away in a Manger” green hymnal #67

Please stand after all have received the sacrament.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (“Nunc Dimittis”)

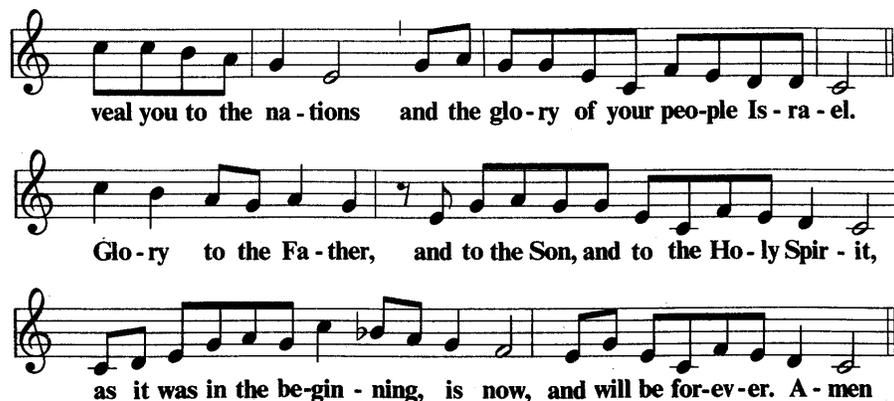


Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been ful -  
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -  
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -

... We must never regard the sacrament as a harmful thing from which we should flee, but as a pure, wholesome, soothing medicine which aids and quickens us in both soul and body. For where the soul is healed, the body has benefited also.  
~ Martin Luther, Large Catechism

## A Prayer as You Go

Father, You revealed Your Son to the nations by the guidance of a star. Lead us to Your glory in heaven by the light of faith. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen



veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

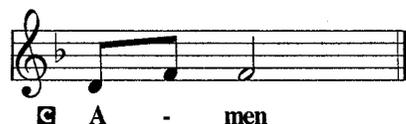
## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. O God of wonder, we have tasted your goodness, and beheld your presence in the Word made flesh. Shine forth his light in all we say and do, and fill the earth with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

## BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



A - men

*Please turn toward the cross as it is carried out of the sanctuary.*

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Joy to the World" green hymnal #39

## SILENT PRAYER

## POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World"

... Langlois

**+ Soli Deo Gloria +**  
*To God alone be glory*

## Serving at Worship

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde

Assisting: Vicar Joseph Pinzl

Organist: Rod Riese

Lector: (9:00) Bob Hochberger

(11:00) Paul Henning

Radio Announcer: (9:00) Scott Schubring

Acolytes: (9:00) Lilith Christoffersen; Ashtyn Fernstaedt;

Olivia Fernstaedt

(11:00) Sam Schubring

Elder: (9:00) Robb Halverson

(11:00) Gordon Schalow

Communion Assistants:

(9:00) Grace Mueller; Steve Zeinemann

(11:00) Rob Kittel; Cheryl Plautz

Altar Guild: Sally Christoffersen; Bonnie Waack

## **Acknowledgements**

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## **Zion Lutheran Church**

**Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403**

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion,  
which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

**Church Telephone: 715-848-7286**

**Senior Pastor** Steven K. Gjerde  
**Associate Pastor** Christopher S. Johnson  
**Pastoral Assistant** Joseph C. Pinzl  
**Kantor** Irene Beethe  
**Children's Catechist** Ivan Beethe  
**Parish Nurse** Lenore Grosinske  
**Office Manager** Pam Gabriel  
**Secretary** Anna Mae Zeinemann  
**Custodian** Michael Renken

**To contact us by email:**  
[zion@dwave.net](mailto:zion@dwave.net)

**To visit our webpage:**  
[www.zionlutheranwausau.com](http://www.zionlutheranwausau.com)

**Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour**  
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or  
click "Listen Live" at [www.wsau.com](http://www.wsau.com))

**Member Congregation of Lutheran Core**  
[www.lutherancore.org](http://www.lutherancore.org)