**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Third Sunday of Advent, December 12, 2021**

**\*If you are listening in your car, please tune your radio to FM 87.7\***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRELUDE**

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: JOY**

Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, and we lit the candle of Peace, remembering God’s dream of a peaceful world. Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy.

In Advent, we are in a time of waiting. Like the Israelites who wandered through the Wilderness, waiting to come into the Promised Land, we wait for the coming of the Joy of Ages. We wait for the day where we can join our voices with the angels to sing “Joy to the World, the Lord is come!” We wait for the day when everlasting joy will be on each of us. We light this candle in Joy.

**On this day, we remember the Spirit who breathes joy into our lives.**

(Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah Instrumental)

**OPENING PRAYER**

Stir up our hearts, O God, to prepare a pathway for your Christ. By his coming speak peace to your people and turn our hearts toward you, that your saving grace and splendid glory may dwell in all the earth; through Jesus Christ, whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who looks upon us in compassion,

forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Have mercy, O God,

**against you, you alone, we have sinned.**

**In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt.**

**Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit.** **Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God’s compassion for you.

As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God’s love for you.

As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

**Blessed be God forever.**

**Gathering Song“Joy to the World” ELW 267**

Diagram, schematic

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**GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray together.

**Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**First Reading**    **Zephaniah 3:14-20**

A reading from Zephaniah.

14Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
  shout, O Israel!  
 Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
  O daughter Jerusalem!  
 15The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,  
  he has turned away your enemies.  
 The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
  you shall fear disaster no more.  
 16On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
 Do not fear, O Zion;  
  do not let your hands grow weak.  
 17The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
  a warrior who gives victory;  
 he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
  he will renew you in his love;  
 he will exult over you with loud singing  
  18as on a day of festival.  
 I will remove disaster from you,  
  so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
 19I will deal with all your oppressors  
  at that time.  
 And I will save the lame  
  and gather the outcast,  
 and I will change their shame into praise  
  and renown in all the earth.  
 20At that time I will bring you home,  
  at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised  
  among all the peoples of the earth,  
 when I restore your fortunes  
  before your eyes, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6**

2Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not **|** be afraid,  
  for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become **|** my salvation.  
 3**With joy you | will draw water**  
  **from the wells | of salvation.**   
 4And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call **|** on God’s name;  
  make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations; proclaim that this name **|** is exalted.  
 5**Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done | gloriously;**  
  **let this be known in | all the earth.**  
 6Shout aloud and sing for joy, O **|** royal Zion,  
  for great in your midst is the Holy **|** One of Israel.

**Second Reading**   **Philippians 4:4-7**

A reading from Philippians.

4Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia**

**Gospel** **Luke 3:7-18**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

7John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”  
  10And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” 11In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” 12Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” 13He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” 14Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”  
  15As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”  
  18So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Hymn of the Day “Borning Cry” ELW 732**

Schematic

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**prayers of Intercession**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God’s presence.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians. With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace. By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering & Offering song**

Timeline

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**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray. God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

**Amen.**

**HOLY BAPTISM**

Children:  Brooks and Sofie

Parents:  Kayla and Andrew Cole

Brooks’ Sponsors: Nick and Samantha Bite

Sofie’s Sponsors: Russell and Nicole Cole

Godmother: Karen Heise

**PRESENTATION**

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

*Sponsors:* We present Brooks and Sofie to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

In Christian love you have presented Brooks and Sofie for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring them to the services of God’s house, and teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As they grow in years, you should place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for them instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

**I do.**

**THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here to be baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

**I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen**

**BAPTISM**

Brooks and Sofie, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Brooks and Sofie: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

**Amen**

Brooks and Sofie, children of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen**

*A lighted candle may be given to each of the baptized (to the sponsor of a young child) by a representative of the congregation who says:*

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the father and mother of these children. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their children.

Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their children the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**WELCOME**

Through Baptism God has made this new brother and sister members of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

**We welcome you into the Lord’s family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Lord’s Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good. You may receive your communion elements.

**BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in His grace.

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**Blessing**

God, the Source of glory, God, the Word of life, God, the Spirit of truth

☩ bless you all, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending SonG “People Look East ” ELW 248**

A sheet of music

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**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVED TODAY:**

**Presider: Pastor Becky Ebb Speese**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Elder: Dan Utterback**

**Trustee: Jerry Engle**

**Offering Counters: Doug Mackenzie & Mike Johnson**

**Safety Person: Jerry Engle**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* There is no potluck today after service! The original newsletter calendar was incorrect.
* **Men’s Coffee:** Wednesday morning men’s coffee will not meet again until after the New Year.
* **Heating:** Now that we are in the heating season, please close all the doors to the sanctuary and fellowship hall when they are not in use. The Sunday School classroom doors need to stay open, as does the door from the Fireside Lounge to the Sunday School area. Thank you.
* **Thank you!** Terry and I wish to thank the congregation for the beautiful memorial gift to remember our dear Foxy. ~Pastor Becky & Terry
* **Thank you** to all who helped with our annual ZLCW Thankoffering service. Also, thank you so much for the generous donations. We collected a total of $441.The donations will be sent, in a couple of weeks, to the Women of the ELCA for their programs.  If anyone wishes to receive a tax receipt for their donation, see Carol Engle, the ZLCW treasurer.

**This week at Zion:**

* Pastor’s Conference 11 AM, Tuesday, December 14
* Council Meeting at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, December 14
* Longest Night Service at 1 PM and 7 PM, Wednesday, December 15
* Women’s Book Study 6:30 PM, Thursday, December 16

**Save the date**

* Dec 24: Christmas Eve service at 7 PM, in person, drive in and live-streamed