ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

STANDING STRONG + GROWING TOGETHER + REACHING OUT

The Fourth Sunday In Advent

December 20, 2020

AS WE GATHER

We stand at the threshold not only of an old and familiar story but also that of an old yet familiar mystery, the greatest mystery ever told. It doesn't appear on any list of greatest novels or plays written by earthly authors. It is the mystery of God. More specifically, it is the mystery of His love for the salvation of the world. But as we prepare to review the mystery of God—the Son of God becoming incarnate in our human flesh and born of the Virgin Mary—the greater mystery is that He, Jesus, looks over your shoulder now in the retelling and hearing of Christmas. The greater mystery is that you not only know the old, familiar story but also that you believe it. And believing brings about the best mystery of

all—that your sins are forgiven, that you have a new, eternal life, that you are forever a child, a son, a daughter born of God. The Gospel—the wisdom and mystery of God—is no longer a secret. For it is told by your own mouth singing of God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

"Noche De Paz" – "Silent Night" "En La Noche Los Pastores" Mariachi San Pablo

Pastor Stephen Heimer

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Joy to the World" v.1,3-4 Lutheran Service Book 387

Worshipers are invited to stand and face the processional cross Mariachi: Gozo, gozo, gozo al mundo; Cristo, Cristo es Emanuel All sina: 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her 3 No more let sins and grow Nor thorns sor - rows in - fest the 4 He rules the world with truth and And makes the grace na - tions King; Let ev 'ry heart pare Him pre ground; He make **H**is bless ings comes to -His prove The glo ries of righ teous -And heav'n and room And heav'n and na - ture sing, na - ture flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is ness And won - ders of His love. And won - ders of His And heav'n. and heav'n ture sing. sing, and na -Far found. found, far the curse is as. as love. And ders. ders of His love. won won

Mariachi: God is with us, Joy to the world; Jesus saves us, Joy to the world!



INVOCATION AND BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

- **P** In the Name of God,
- **G** The Everlasting Father.
- **P** In the Name of God,
- **G** The Prince Of Peace.
- **P** In the Name of God,
- **G** The Wonderful Counselor.
- **P** In the strong Name of the Holy Trinity,
- **C** The Father, The Son, + And The Holy Spirit. Amen.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

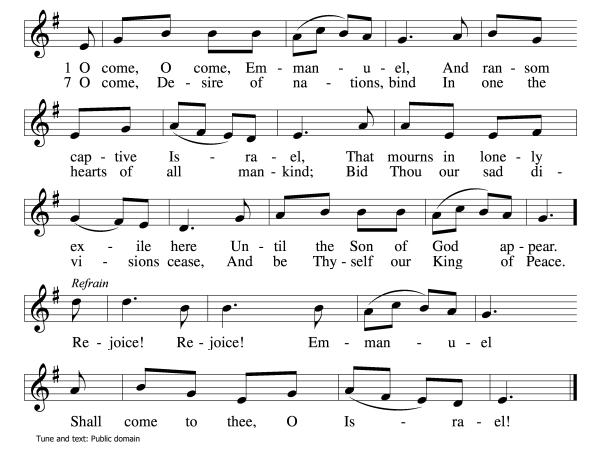
CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- That our eyes and our ears may be open to receive the mystery of God's love, let us first empty ourselves of everything that has closed our hearts to God, confessing our sin and need of forgiveness and life.
- At the Lord's own invitation and command, I confess all my sins to God, the very thoughts, words, and deeds with which I have offended Him and hurt my neighbor. I come now in the sincere hope and faith of the forgiveness of God made known to the whole world in the mystery of His Son, Jesus Christ, who has sacrificed His own flesh and blood for me. Remove my sin and guilt for His sake, and restore a right spirit within me. Amen.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" v.1,7 LSB 357



+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +



I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, for- | ever;*

with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all gener- | ations.

For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up for- | ever;*

in the heavens you will establish your | faithfulness."

You have said, "I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;* I have sworn to David my | servant:

'I will establish your offspring for- | ever,* and build your throne for all gener- | ations.'"





KYRIE - PRAYER FOR MERCY



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PRAYER OF THE DAY

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Strengthen Your gift of faith in us, and keep us by Your power to be Your own; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
 Amen.
- G Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

(The Lord's covenant with David)

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

LSB 805

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, 2 the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 8Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house....¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

(Glory to God who strengthens us through the mystery of Christ)

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

(The birth of Jesus foretold)

Luke 1:26-38

(Tune LSB 805)

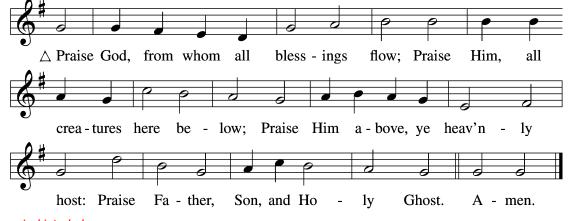
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- **G** Praise to You, O Christ.

CONFESSION OF FATIH



musical interlude

- 1 In God the Father I believe, Made heaven and earth and all we see. Loved He the world so that He gave His Son that we all may be saved.
- 2 In Jesus Christ, I do believe, God's Son the Spirit did conceive In Virgin Mary, born to die, Then rise to reign and judge on high.

musical interlude

3 In God the Spirit I believe, and all God's Holy Church are we. His "saints" by grace through faith we live, Forever in victry ovr the grave

SERMON

"Tell Our Great Family Story"

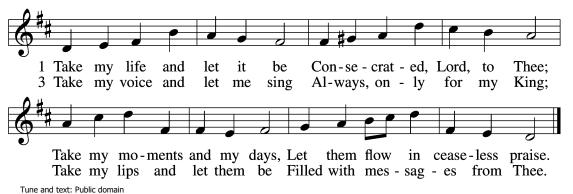
OFFERING

"Gloria en las Alturas - Glory in the Highest"

Mariachi San Pablo

OFFERTORY

"Take My Life" v.1,3 LSB 783



+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

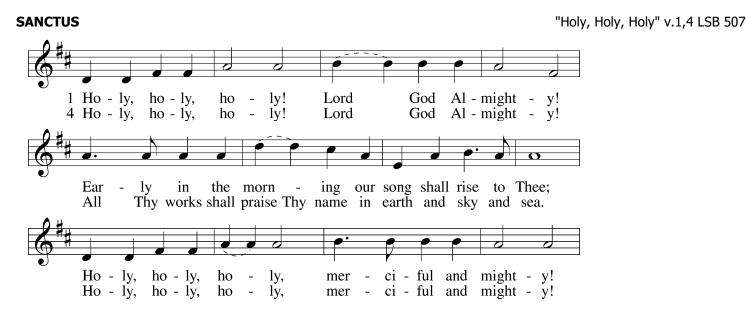
PREFACE

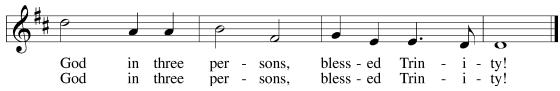
- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **G** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **G** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.





Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH AND LORD'S PRAYER

Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

O Our Father who art in heaven,

G hallowed be Thy name,

May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

G Thy kingdom come,

Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend ______ and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

C Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,

Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

Give us this day our daily bread,

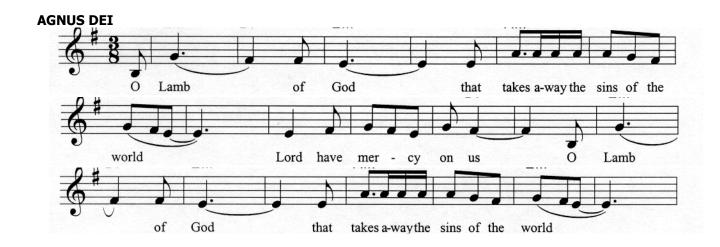
■ Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

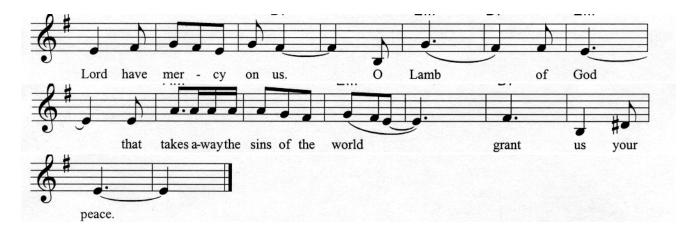
G Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;

■ Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

G Lead us not into temptation,

- And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **G** Deliver us from evil,
- P We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- **C** Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.





COLLECT

- Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the Virgin Mary. Grant us grace to put aside all earthly cares so that we may celebrate His coming among us with holy joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **C** Amen.

PAX DOMINI

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- **C** Amen.

BENEDICTION

- P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
- **G** Amen.

CLOSING HYMN OF PREPARATION "O Lord, how shall I meet You" LSB 334 v. 1,3-4 (sung to tune of LSB 644)

- O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright? Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight! O kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my breast To do in spirit lowly All that may please You best.
- 3 I lay in fetters, groaning; You came to set me free. I stood, my shame bemoaning; You came to honor me. A glorious crown You give me, A treasure safe on high That will not fail or leave me As earthly riches fly.
- Love caused Your incarnation; Love brought You down to me.
 Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.
 Oh, love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace
 In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race.

Text: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After the announcements, the Livestream comes to an end and the service of the sacrament continues. If you are unable to be present in the sanctuary due to health concerns but desire to receive the sacrament of the altar, Pastor Stephen and an elder will be available curbside on Birch St. between 12:30 and 1pm today that you might partake while remaining in your vehicle. As you wait curbside, pray aloud the prayers below in preparation for the sacrament:

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Here our Heavenly Father promises anew His unconditional love, renews His pledge of forgiveness in Christ, and offers His Holy Spirit as strength for daily faith and life. If you are a visitor to Zion, we invite you in the Name of Jesus to commune with us. However, since God reminds us that thoughtless or faithless reception of the Sacrament can incur His judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-32), the Scriptures call those who commune to personally examine themselves and in their communing publicly confess:

+ I am a baptized Christian and I trust in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

+ I am a sinner in need of God's forgiveness.

H I believe that Christ is truly present with His body and blood under the bread and wine offering me forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

+ Through His grace and strength, I will live to God's glory, in ministry with His people, in mission to His world.

For those communicants preferring it, a light-colored, non-alcoholic grape juice can be found at the center of each tray of wine (fruit of the vine). Children are invited to accompany parents to the altar for the blessing. We trust that your communion with Christ and His people will strengthen your faith, increase your love, and empower your witness to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have questions about your communing, please speak with the Pastor.

+ + +

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your onlybegotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. You once proclaimed Your saving promise through the prophets, and by the apostles and evangelists You published the good news of Your saving promise fulfilled in the birth and life, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that by Your Word our eyes, ears, and hearts be filled and strengthened with sure faith, that being instructed in the doctrine of the blessed prophets, apostles, and evangelists we faithfully eat the body and drink of the blood of our Lord Jesus and declare His salvation to all the world.

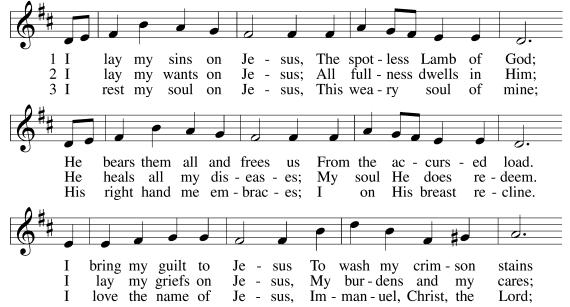
C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

DISTRIBUTION

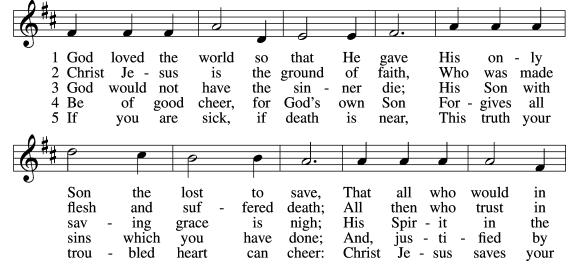
If you will be receiving the Lord's Supper today, please wait as ushers guide each household forward. Remain standing and the pastor will serve you the sacrament in plastic cups. Take those cups with you as you return to your seat, placing them in one of the baskets located at either side of the sanctuary.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: 606 I LAY MY SINS ON JESUS





HYMN: 571 GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO THAT HE GAVE



sts. 1-5



Bap - tism

is

the

Text and tune: Public domain

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Je - sus' blood,

soul from death;

NUNC DIMITTIS

1

"Lord, Bid Your Servant Go In Peace" LSB 937 (Tune: 744 "Amazing Grace") Lord, bid Your servant go in peace, Your word is now fulfilled.

est

of

good.

faith.

grants the high -

firm - est ground

- 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.

Your

That

∆ 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.

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POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

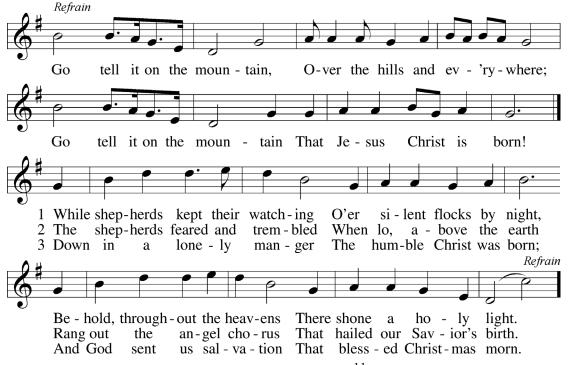
- A Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- С Amen.

BENEDICTION

- P The blessing of God almighty—the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you now and forever.
- С Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Go Tell It On The Mountain" LSB 388



POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The Poinsettias as a floral offering in our Sanctuary have been given TO THE GLORY OF GOD by:

Pat Wende, in memory of Charles Wende and Billie Sue Lillge

Jim Smith, in memory of Karma Smith

Fred Hulce, in memory of Nancy Hulce

Sharon Amastae, in memory of Jim and Betty Somppi

Mary Sanchez, in memory of Denise Herrmann and in honor of Delia Delgado

Barbara Laux, in memory of Raymond and Marcella Laux

Joe and Barbara Upsal

John and Lucille Williamson

Lydia and David Williams, in memory of our loved ones in their Heavenly home and in celebration of all God's Blessings

+ + +

Offerings

You can contribute offerings using three main methods:

Online donations: You can make a secure contribution from your credit card or bank account at www.zionelpaso.org. We use Vanco, a reputable agency which specializes in donations to churches and nonprofits. Your contribution can be set up to be recurring, such as each week or month, or as a one-time donation.

Mail donations: Mail your check to the Zion church office at 2808 Pershing Drive, El Paso, TX 79903. The mail is checked every day.

Donations via an app: If you prefer using your phone or tablet, you can download the Vanco Give Plus app. You can easily set up an account and donation through the app.

Your offerings and support are crucial to our congregation and we are very grateful for your support!

Thank you to Mariachi San Pablo for accompanying our service!

Join Us for Christmas Services! Indoor The outdoor Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00pm and the indoor service will be at 7:00pm. Here is our schedule of Christmas services:

5:00pm & 7:00pm: **Thursday, December 24** – "*The Word Dwelt Among Us"* 10:30am: **Friday, December 25** – "*We Have Seen His Glory"*

We are updating information for the 2021 Directory to keep our Zion community connected to each other, even when we are far apart! Be sure to send us a picture of the people in your household! Also, if you have changed your address or contact information in the past 12 months, please call the church office or email us at info@zionelpaso.org.

Sponsor a Poinsettia! You can honor a loved one, event, or anything else you would like by sponsoring a poinsettia this Advent season! We will include poinsettia sponsors in the bulletins for the following services:

- Sunday, December 20
- Thursday, December 24
- Friday, December 25
- Sunday, December 27

Each poinsettia will cost \$10. If you attend church in person, we can provide you with an envelope for your poinsettia offering. Otherwise, poinsettia offerings can be mailed to the church or sent online. You can also call the church office to provide us with the message you would like in the bulletin. You will be able to take your poinsettia home after the worship service on Sunday, December 27th!



2021 Offering Envelopes have arrived and are available to be picked up at the Zion office! The office is open from 10:00am to 3:00pm, Tuesday through Friday. If you have any questions or if you would like to have your envelopes delivered to you, please call the church at (915) 566-4667.

Eastside Bible Study group will be taking a break during the Season of Advent and will resume meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., on Zoom. We will be studying the CPH series: "Faith on the Edge: Science and the Savior". New members are always welcome and encouraged to join us! For more information, contact the church office or Lydia Williams at 915-630-2131.

Please Save the Date! Zion's LWML is hosting a Virtual Baby Shower for 2 of Zion's expectant Moms: Martha Sellers, due in May, and Erin Shimkus, due in February! The shower will be held on Zoom in the afternoon of Sunday January 24, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. and you are invited! We will be presenting a special Baby Shower Devotion focusing on various baby items, with the help of a Thrivent Action Grant, and will also be collecting Diapers (from sizes Newborn to Size 2) and Baby Wipes for the 2 Moms and their babies. You are also invited to join this "Diaper and Wipes Collection," which will be divided and shared with the 2 families. Please RSVP to Lydia Williams at (915) 630-2131 or the Church Office if you will be attending the shower, so we may send you the Zoom link closer to the shower date. Diapers and wipes will be collected in the Auditorium, in the designated spot, or may be dropped off at the Church Office. Members of LWML will also be happy to pick up these items from your home and/or shop for you. Please let Lydia or the Church Office know. Further information will be forthcoming. Thanks, in advance, for contributing to the collection for the babies! We hope to see you at the Virtual Baby Shower!

The Opportunity Center for the Homeless is in need of wheelchairs,

transport chairs and walkers. If you are able to donate any of the above equipment, or know of any possible resources, please contact Jason Cagann at 512.785.5563 or jcagann@ocelpaso.org OR call the church office at: 915.566.4667. Thank you!



+ + +

ZION STEWARDSHIP OF + TIME + TALENT + TREASURE

Preacher & Celebrant:	Pastor Stephen Heimer
Organist:	David Garcia
Elder:	Jim Smith
Acolyte:	Victoria Ochoa
Reader:	Lydia Williams
Camera Operator:	Jaden Heimer
Sound Director:	Brenna Rodriguez
Altar Guild:	Barbara Fourzan, Mary Sanchez
Offering Counter:	Ed Hamlyn

THIS WEEK AT ZION

12/24	Thursday	5:00 PM	Outdoor Christmas Eve Service (weather permitting)
		7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
12/25	Friday	10:30 AM	Christmas Day Service
12/27	Sunday	9:15 AM	"Exodus" Bible Study
		10:30 AM	Worship Service