



**And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.  
Psalm 39:7**

November 30, 2025

### **Berea-by-the-Water Lutheran Church (LC-C)**

326 Gibbons St. Goderich, ON. N7A 3Z6

Office: (519) 524-2235 facebook: Berea Goderich

### **Zion Lutheran Church (LC-C)**

148 Frederick St. Dashwood, ON. N0M 1N0

Office: (519) 237-3548 facebook: Zion Dashwood

X : @ZionLccDashwood

e-mail: [bnz@hay.net](mailto:bnz@hay.net) Web site: [berea-zionlcc.ca](http://berea-zionlcc.ca)

Rev. John E. Trembulak III, (Pastor cell) 519 878-0327

Administrative Assistant, Cathy Skinner (Office) 519 237-3548

***Serving Christ 53 years in Goderich & 152 years in Dashwood***

A Member of  
Lutheran Church Canada



## **2025 THEME FOR BEREA & ZION**

### **COME AND SEE!**

*"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1*

Come and experience the faith that ties us together and keeps us at Berea and Zion. In a world of increasing uncertainty, you and I are encouraged to live and share the basics of our faith that keeps us here. It is vital, life and eternal life changing, to know Jesus, our Saviour who lived, suffered, died, and rose, for us, to set us free from the control of evil.

Our faith is grounded in the Good News that Jesus lives... the victory is won. Living the victorious life means that Jesus is an ever-present source of peace, comfort and hope in our lives. This year let's open doors for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts and minds of our families, friends and community by warmly inviting them to... "COME AND SEE"!

### ***BEREA & ZION GUESTS***

*At the end of worship we would like to invite you to please take a moment to sign our guest book in the foyer.*

### **WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

Welcome in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour! It's great to have you with us today! If you're here because you're looking for a church family to be a part of, we're always excited to unite brothers and sisters in Christ. Talk to Pastor John today.

## *As We Gather*

*In this first service in The Light of Grace series for Advent, we celebrate that Jesus is the Light of the World who shines on us with His amazing grace, and we focus on the gracious gift of HOPE exemplified in the life of Zechariah.*

### **WELCOME AND SHARING OF PEACE**

#### *Opening Hymn*

349 Hark the Glad Sound

**1 Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
The Saviour promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.**

**2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.**

**3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace  
To enrich the humble poor.**

**4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With Thy belovèd name.**

#### *Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Candles*

P: We come together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

*(One blue candle is lit on the Advent wreath.)*

P: Today we light the first of our Advent candles, the candle of hope.

C: **"O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You." (Psalm 39:7)**

P: Across the centuries, the people of God waited in hope for the promised Messiah, the Saviour. As the time came near for the promise to be fulfilled, the Lord sent an angel to tell the priest Zechariah that Zechariah and his wife would have a son. That son, to be named John, would announce the coming of the Messiah and prepare Israel to welcome the Saviour.

C: **"O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You."**

P: John would proclaim the dawn of hope for Israel. He would baptize people as a sign of repentance, preparing them for the Saviour, the Lamb of God, who was coming to take their sins away. When the right time came, God's promise was fulfilled in the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **"O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You."**

P: We have seen the promise fulfilled. The Saviour has come! He has died and risen to set us free. Now we wait in hope for His return on the Last Day. Jesus has promised, "Surely I am coming soon!"

C: **"O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You." AMEN!  
Come, Lord Jesus!**

#### *Confession and Absolution*

P: We confess our sins to God, trusting in His mercy for the sake of Jesus our Lord.

C: **Almighty God, you have called us to a living hope in Jesus. Yet so often we do not reflect that hope in our lives. We turn away from the promises of Your Word. We walk in our own selfish ways instead of following in Jesus' footsteps. We do not**

**love others as we should, and we are not always willing to share our hope with the people around us. Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

P: God has had mercy on us. He sent His Son to be our Saviour and for His sake forgives our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

**C "O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You."**

### *Prayer of the Day*

P: *We pray.* Almighty God, Advent is a time of hope and waiting. For centuries Your people waited in hope for the Messiah to come. Speaking through the prophets, You reminded them of Your promise to send the Saviour. Finally, when the right time came, Jesus the Messiah was born in Bethlehem. We have seen that hope fulfilled in Jesus' birth, in His saving death and triumphant resurrection. Yet now we too wait in hope. During this Advent season, we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth, but we also look forward to His Second Advent, His return on the Last Day. Lead us to live in hope and to share that hope with others so that they too may come to worship Jesus as Lord. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in Jesus' name.

**C: AMEN**

### *First Lesson*

Isaiah 51:1-5

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. For the Lord comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I

will set my justice for a light to the peoples. My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coast-lands hope for me, and for my arm they wait.

### *Epistle Reading*

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

### *Holy Gospel*

Luke 1:67-79

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

P: These are the Word of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## *Profession of Faith*

## 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**

*Hymn of the Day* 352 (vs 1-4) Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

***1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,  
Who has truly kept His word  
And at last to us did send  
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.***

***2 What the fathers most desired,  
What the prophets' heart inspired,  
What they longed for many\_a year,  
Stands fulfilled in glory here.***

***3 Abram's promised great reward,  
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—  
Him of twofold race behold—  
Truly came, as long foretold.***

***4 As Your coming was in peace,  
Quiet, full of gentleness,  
Let the same mind dwell in me  
Which is Yours eternally.***

## *Sermon*

### *The Offerings Are Gathered*

*(The Offertory Prayer is sung as the offerings are brought forward)*

***We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.***

***May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!***

### *Prayers of the Church*

**P:** Almighty God, Your people waited long in hope for the fulfilment of Your promise to send a Saviour. As the days drew near for the Messiah's birth, You told Zechariah and Elizabeth that their son John would prepare the way of the Lord. As we prepare to celebrate the Saviour's birth, with Zechariah and Elizabeth and all of the saints we rejoice in the fulfilment of Your promise. Our God and Saviour,

**C: Fill us with hope and guide us into the way of peace.**

**P:** Almighty God, Advent is a season of hope and a time of repentance, a time to remember our need for a Saviour. Even though we don't deserve Your love and mercy, in grace You sent Your Son to save us. Through His death and resurrection, we have forgiveness for our sins and the hope of eternal life in Your presence. All of Your promises find their "Yes!" in Jesus. Our God and Saviour,

**C: Fill us with hope and guide us into the way of peace.**

**P:** Almighty God, during this Advent season there are many people who feel no hope. They struggle with illness, grief and loss. We especially lift up... and all in our hearts. Bring them help and comfort through the promises of Your holy Word and, according to Your gracious will, bring them healing. Fill them with

confident faith and the certain knowledge that You always keep Your promises. Although earthly hope and promises may fail, in the birth of Jesus, Your Son our Saviour, we have hope that will not fail. Our God and Saviour,

**C: Fill us with hope and guide us into the way of peace.**

P: Almighty God, help us by Your Spirit to serve others in love and to share with them the hope that we have in Jesus. Lead us to true repentance and strengthen us through the study of Scripture so that we can then strengthen others with the sure and certain promises of Your Word. Our God and Saviour,

**C: Fill us with hope and guide us into the way of peace.**

P: Almighty God, as we prepare to celebrate our Lord's first Advent, His birth in Bethlehem, we also look forward to His Second Advent, His return on the Last Day. By Your grace through faith in our Lord, have the sure and certain hope of eternal life in Your presence. Jesus has promised, "I am coming soon!" With joy we anticipate the fulfilment of that promise. Our God and Saviour,

**C: Fill us with hope and guide us into the way of peace.**

P: Come, Lord Jesus!

**C: AMEN**

### *Lord's Prayer*

**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**

### *Benediction (Romans 5:1-2; Romans 15:13)*

P: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

P: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**C: AMEN**

### *Closing Hymn*

332 Saviour of the Nations, Come

*1 Saviour of the nations, come,  
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.*

*2 Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh—  
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.*

*3 Here a maid was found with child,  
Yet remained a virgin mild.  
In her womb this truth was shown:  
God was there upon His throne.*

*4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all  
From His pure and kingly hall;  
God of God, yet fully man,  
His heroic course began.*

*5 God the Father was His source,  
Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
Back then to His throne and crown.*

**6 For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.**

**7 From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.**

**8 Glory to the Father sing,  
Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be  
Now and through eternity.**

*Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546;  
(sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book,  
2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien,  
1973 Text (sts. 1–2): Public domain Text (sts. 3, 6–7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing  
House; (sts. 4–5, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB  
Hymn License no. 110006118*

### *Announcements and Dismissal*

**P:** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## **SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE**

### **BEREA**

Organist: Bill Irwin  
Altar Guild: Kevin & Heather Ball  
Elders: Kevin Ball, Chuck Becker  
For Prayer: Lilo 226 421-2436, Elizabeth 237-3622

### **ZION**

Organist: Joanne Maguire  
Altar Guild: N. Rader / J. Burton  
Elders: Ken Rader, Lorne Koch, Tom Hayter, Jeff Miller,  
Randy Bowers  
For Prayer: Nancy 237-3653, Brenda 237-3789