

Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

“Bonded in Christ’s love, we teach, preach, and equip God’s people for discipleship here and throughout the world.”



Christmas Day with Holy Communion

December 25, 2024

For those who are hearing challenged, Zion has digital listening devices for your use during worship. Please ask an usher or council member for one and they will show you how to use it.

Prelude – Bell

The Good News of Christmas is all about conveying the wonder of God with us, not in splendor and majesty, but in swaddling clothes and a manger.

Christmas Day Gathering

P- As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the WORD illuminates the world, shining forth to bring all things into being.

C- This holy day has dawned and a great light has come upon the earth.

P- Today we celebrate the incarnate WORD, God becoming flesh and blood to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ.

C- This holy day has dawned, and a great light has come upon the earth.

Gathering Hymn – Angels from the Realm of Glory ELW 275

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born king.

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light. **[Refrain]**

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star. **[Refrain]**

4 All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One. **[Refrain]**

Confession and Forgiveness

*As you are able, please stand. All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign that is marked at baptism, as pastor begins.*

P- Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,

the WORD made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

C- Amen

P- Trusting in the good and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P- God of life,

**C- you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.**

We nurture hostilities and build barriers.

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace

and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen

P- Hear the Good News:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.

C- Amen

The God from whom Adam and Eve hid in their nakedness
comes to us hidden in the nakedness of a newborn.
God has come to us now in Jesus, “born of a woman...
to redeem those under the law,
so we might receive adoption as children” (Gal. 4:4b-5).

Hymn – Away in a Manger ELW 277

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Readings

Isaiah 62:6-12

Lector – *The prophet invites the people to give God no rest until God reestablishes Jerusalem. In turn, they will receive names full of promise: The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord, A City Not Forsaken.*

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.
You who remind the Lord,
take no rest,
and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.
The Lord has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have labored;
but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the Lord,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.
Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.
The Lord has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,
“See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.”

They shall be called, “The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the Lord”;
and you shall be called, “Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.” Here ends this reading.

Psalm 97 - Read responsively.

The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice;

let the many coastlands be glad!

Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;

righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Fire goes before him,

and consumes his adversaries on every side.

His lightning’s light up the world;

the earth sees and trembles.

The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,

before the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim his righteousness;

and all the peoples behold his glory.

All worshippers of images are put to shame,

those who make their boast in worthless idols;

all gods bow down before him.

Zion hears and is glad,

and the towns of Judah rejoice,

because of your judgements, O God.

For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth;

you are exalted far above all gods.

The Lord loves those who hate evil;

he guards the lives of his faithful;

he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

Light dawns for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

Titus 3:4-7

Lector – *God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is the God of mercy and salvation who graciously cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.*

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Here ends this reading.

Special Music – Les Lieneman

Prayer of the Day

As you are able, please stand.

P- Almighty God,

C- the coming of your light into our world has brightened the weary heart with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior

and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, amen.

Gospel – Luke 2:1-20

P- The world's dark night is shattered by the light of God's new day. The glory of God is revealed to poor shepherds who share the good news with others.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. The Gospel of the Lord.

C- Praise to you, O Lord! *Please be seated.*

Hymn – What Child is This ELW 296

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Christmas Day shows us that the birth of Christ,
the incarnation, God's radical solidarity with the human condition
as an act of pure love, is not some plan B but the intention of God
from the beginning, when God walked with our first parents
in the cool of the evening.

Message – The Light of God's New Day

Offering Hymn – Silent Night, Holy Night ELW 281

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,
heav'nly 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 your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Offering Prayer

As you are able, please stand.

P- God of abundance,

C- receive and bless these gifts we offer.

Join our hearts with the song of the angels,

**and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace, Amen**

Hymn – Hark the Herald Angels Sing ELW 270

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born king!”

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the ever-lasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, the incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! **[Refrain]**

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. **[Refrain]**

Nicene Creed

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

Prayers of the Church – *When the pastor says, “Lord in your mercy” please respond with “**hear our prayer!**”*

Words of Institution - Song of Consecration

Please join in singing the final verse in bold print.

The night of his betrayal, our Lord took bread.
He broke it as he blest it, and then he said,
“My body broken for you...is what this means;
remember now my children what you have seen!”

And then he took the chalice and raised it high,
“My blood is given for you, a full supply...
a covenant, a promise...a cleansing stream;
remember now my children what you have seen!”

**We share this food together, remem'bring Christ:
we share a common treasure and know the price;
we share it without measure...a gift of love;
we share our life forever, with God above!**

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John Ylvisaker c/o Fern M. Krueger, P.O. Box 321, Waverly, Iowa 50677

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.**

Invitation to Communion

P- Glory to God in the highest!

Come to the table of peace.

The ELCA and Zion Lutheran Church practices open communion. If you confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior you are welcome to

*come forward and partake in the bread and wine of communion.
Please fill out a communion card in the pew rack. Please hand your
communion card to the usher when you come forward.*

Communion Hymn – It Came Upon a Midnight Clear ELW 282

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3 And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow;
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Post Communion Prayer

P- We thank you, generous God,
For the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.

**C- Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
for the one who is the dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, amen.**

Announcements in the Life of Our Church

Blessing & Dismissal

As you are able, please stand.

P- God bless you and keep you,
+ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
send the Spirit peace upon your hearts
now and forever.

C-Amen.

P- Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim the Good News!

C- Thanks be to God! ZION...a place to belong, a place to believe, a place to become!

Sending Hymn – Joy to the World ELW 267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all 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 sin and sorrow 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.

Pastor Jer's phone number – 402-404-0494

jkgil1979@yahoo.com

Karen's number – 402-661-9362

Email -jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com

Helping out Today – Christmas Day

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath

Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes.....Pastor & Karen Gilbreath

Lector.....Karen Gilbreath

Greeters.....The Council

Special Music.....Les Lieneman

Vital Statistics for Last Sunday

Sunday Service 123 Giving \$ 16,449.11

Sunday School NO Giving \$ none

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

10 am Worship with communion – offering to the Backpack programs

Next Sunday – 5th Sunday Offering to the Cemetery

NO Sunday School

9 am **No** BKF Club/**No** Adult SS

10 am Worship/Communion/Men's Choir

Helping out Sunday – December 29th

Pastor..... Jerry Gilbreath

Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes.....Konnor Kolm

Millie Garton

Lector.....Gerald Ideus

Greeters.....Kyle & Michelle Kolm

Les & Mert Rademacher

Special Music.....Men's Choir

Serve Breakfast Club.....No Breakfast Club

December Altar Guild: Caroline Ideus, Dianna Andrew, Susan Buss, Patti Behrens, Lynette Jurgens

December Table Troop: Duane Zulauf, Stan & Mary Lenners, Al Wiese, Doug Parde Jeff Busboom, Steve Gronewold, Mark Buhr, Alex Buhr

January Altar Guild – Susan Buss (Leader), Patti Behrens, Lynette Jurgens, Caroline Ideus

January Table Troop – Don Schuster (Leader), John Gronewold, Paul & Shellie Remmers, Les & Mert Rademacher, Linda & Robert Ideus

Snow Brigade

For the week of Dec 23 – AJ Wiese Captain, James Meints-tractor, Alan Wiese, Kenny Newman, Paul Jurgens, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeyer, Brian Garton, Josh Gronewold.

For the week of Dec 30 – Justin Hippen Captain, Gary Gronewold-tractor, Stan Lenners-tractor, Mark Buhr, James Lenners, Billy Harms, Larry Gronewold, Dale Zimmerman, Luke Ideus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! A Warm Welcome to all our visitors. We would love to have you visit again! We ask you please sign a visitor card located in the pews and bring the information section of the card to the information center desk, located in the Fellowship Hall or place it in the offering plate. We are so glad you are here!

HANDICAP PARKING - We encourage you to reserve parking between the parsonage and the north doors for those joining us with mobility difficulties. Thank you! ~ The Church Council

IF INTERESTED IN SPONSORING A WEEKLY BULLETIN you may do so by contacting the Church secretary and making a check out to Zion Church for \$75.00.

Fifth Sunday Offerings & Special offerings for December

Christmas Eve and Day offerings will go to the Backpack programs

The 5th Sunday - December 29th will go to the Cemetery.

The Church Council and WELCA/Volunteers will take down the Christmas decorations and Christmas tree Sunday, January 5th following Church. All ladies welcome to help!

Exciting news and another option for giving is available for our Zion members.

A QR code has been added to the Sunday bulletins. Simply scan the QR Code to the right to access Zion's Venmo account and submit your offering.

Offering envelopes and online giving via Vanco are still available to members as well. **Any members with questions regarding these options can reach out to a church council member.**

Zion Lutheran Church

@Zion68422



venmo

Scan this code to pay

The Willie & Anna Meints scholarship applications are located on the welcome center located in the Fellowship Hall. Students entering college can apply for the scholarship for up to 4 years. Applications must be received by February 16, 2025 following the start of the student's first college year. Applications received after the February 16, 2025 deadline will not be considered.

Committee Members: DeAnn Oltman, Steve Oltman & Laura Fikar

HOLIDAY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES ...

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”



Beatrice Middle School & High School Mini Marts

Consider donating - sandwich/trash bags, dish soap, canned fruit/vegetables, canned soup, pudding cups, pop tarts, macaroni & cheese

Collection baskets are located in both hallways

Requested by: Amber Lovitt -CASA Executive Director

\$250 Thrivent Grant written by Bev Stokebrand (Mert Rademacher's sister)

Tree of Warmth

Consider donating - hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, socks

Requested by: Zion Parish Ed & Sunday School kids

\$250 Thrivent Grant written by Carley Remmers (daughter of Dennis & Doreen Remmers)

CHURCH SECRETARY JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Church Council is looking to fill the church secretary position. This would be a 16-20 hour per week position. The Council's intention is to fill this position by the end of January or the first of February, as Karen plans to retire at the end of April.



If you have an interest or would like additional information, **please reach out to DeAnn Oltman at 402-223-0561 or Carrye Meints at 402-520-6346.**

The Next Upcoming Hospitality Event

Join us for a fun and creative afternoon at our Handmade Card Party, where you'll make four unique cards—perfect for every occasion! Whether you're celebrating love, offering sympathy, wishing a happy birthday, or sending a simple note of encouragement, you'll leave with cards that are as personal as they are beautiful.

In this class, you'll create:

- A Valentine's Card to express your love and affection
- A Sympathy Card to offer comfort in times of loss
- A Birthday Card to brighten someone's special day
- A General Occasion Card with a supportive and encouraging theme.

All supplies and tools will be provided, so you can focus on enjoying the process! No previous crafting experience is required—just bring your positive vibes.

Details:

- Date & Time: February 2nd, 1:00 – 2:30 PM
- Location: Zion Lutheran Church hosted by the Hospitality Committee
- Cost: \$10 non-refundable supplies fee (via Venmo to Deb Rinne or cash).
- RSVP: Please reserve your spot by January 19th to ensure we have enough supplies for everyone. Contact: Deb Rinne (402-499-3420) Cash or Venmo: @Deb-Rinne

We can't wait to see you there and help you make beautiful, personalized cards for all of life's moments!

Gold Crest - Mildred Meints, Janice Jurgens, Doreen Wallman,
Marilyn Robinson,

Homestead House - Anora Schoen

Our Homes Assisted Living – Randy Oltman

Wilbur Care Center – Ernie Jurgens

Poinsettia List for 2025



Alvera Bade in Memory of Victor Bade, Emil &
Margaret Wallman, and Ralph & Neva Bade

Alex, Beth, Emmit & Nolen Buhr in Memory of
Dennis & Bev Buhr

Karen Buhr & family in Memory of Leonard, Bruce and loved ones

Lois Buhr & family in Memory of Arnold Buhr

Cornelius family & Harwood family in Memory of Ron, Adeline,
Diane Cornelius & Stephanie Morris

Betty, Carol, Connie & families in honor of Walt & Angeline
Johnson, Roger Daubendiek, & Roger Keller

Mike, Lindsay, Madison & Rory Detert in Memory of Richard
Newton

Eddie & Lynette Dorn & James & Kelly Lenners & Families in
Memory of Ernest & Emma Meints and Dennis & Terry Meints

Dennis & Rhonda Fossler & families in Memory of Ernest &
Marilyn & Rodney Zimmerman and Harvey Fossler

Shirley Gronewold & family in Memory of Ehme Gronewold

Karla, Lexi, Macy & Faith Holland in Memory of Dave Holland

Dale & Hannah Hrenchir in Memory of Thees & Alita Ehmen and
Pat & Gordan Madsen

Caroline Ideus & families in Memory of Gary Ideus

Robert & Doreen Ideus & families in memory of Ted & Irene
Busboom

Peggy, Janie, Nancy & Neal & families in Memory of Vernon &
Evelyn Meints

Lynette Jurgens & family in Memory of Earnest & Anna Jobman,
Sarah Jurgens, & Marilyn Folkerts

Don & Elnora Lenners in Memory of loved ones

Tracy & Brooklyn Lidolph in Memory of Wayne & Dorothy Lidolph
& Larry White & loved ones

Kent & Jennifer Mahler & family in Memory of Cliff & Idella
Mahler, Keith Mahler, Lowell Rahe

Mildred Meints & family in Memory of Lawrence Meints and loved
ones

Doug, Cindy, Lauren, Ashley & Trevor Parde in Memory of
Edward & Bernice Parde

Cheryl, Keith Parde, Glenda, Janet & Kent in Memory of Ernest
& Dorothy Parde

Marilyn Robinson & family in Memory of Kenneth Robinson

Betty Schoen, Devonna Primavera & families in Memory of
Elmer & Leona Trauernicht

**Patty, Jermey, Brittany Thomas & Doyle Scott & Larry and
Macy Gronewold** in Memory of Lawrence & Shirley Gronewold,
George & Eleanor Wolken, Will & Ester Gronewold

Dorothy Trauernicht & family in Memory of Wayne and loved
ones