

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.”



First Sunday of Christmas

with Holy Communion

December 29, 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

Gathering

P- On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind.

C- Let the peace of Christ dwell in our hearts and let the word of Christ dwell in us richly.

P- We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a Savior!

C- Let the peace of Christ dwell in our hearts and let the word of Christ dwell in us richly.

Gathering Hymn – O Come, All Ye Faithful ELW 283

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

2 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! **[Refrain]**

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: **[Refrain]**

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: **[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

Children's Time – Young Teacher

Jesus is a great teacher, and we hope we'll always be willing to
Learn from him. But don't forget your teachers, too!

Readings

1st Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Lector – *Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service,
Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband, Elkanah,*

come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel gathers favor in the sight of all.

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD”; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people. Here ends this reading.

Psalm 148 – *Read responsively.*

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens,

and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for he commanded and they were created.

He established them for ever and ever;

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!

Colossians 3:12-17

Lector – Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ. Paul writes to the Church in Colossae:

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must

forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Here ends this reading.

Prayer of the Day

As you are able, please stand.

P- Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God,

C- and open our minds to the knowledge of your word through 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 2:41-52

P- Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission,

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for

him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor. The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Special Music – Men's Choir

Message – Jesus Asserted His Independence

Offering Hymn – Good Christian Friends, Rejoice ELW 288

**1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ was born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!**

**2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**

**3 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!**

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

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 – Angels, from the Realms 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]**

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 – Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ELW 272

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

2 Isaiah had foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens ev'ry load.

4 O Savior, child of Mary,
who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory,
who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven
and into endless day.

Pastor Jer's phone number – 402-404-0494
jkgil1979@yahoo.com
Karen's number – 402-661-9362
Email [-jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com](mailto:jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com)

Helping out Today

- 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

Vital Statistics for Last Sunday

Sunday Service	123	Giving	\$ 16,449.11
Sunday School	NO	Giving	\$ none
Christmas Eve	576	Giving	\$ 2641.00
Christmas Day	73	Giving	\$ 1542.00

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today- offering 5th Sunday Offering to the Cemetery

No Sunday School - No BKF Club - No Adult SS
10 am Worship/Men's Choir/Communion

Friday

Pastor & Karen gone for family funeral on Saturday

Next Sunday

8:45 am Sunday School
9:00 BKF Club/Adult SS
10 am Worship/Baptism/Communion

The Council & WELCA will take down decorations and tree today after the service

Helping out Sunday

Pastor.....	Jerry Gilbreath
Organist.....	Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes.....	Brogan Ideus Aiden Hanshaw
Lector.....	Jenny Busboom
Greeters.....	Council
Special Music.....	
Serve Breakfast Club.....	Hannah Hrenchir

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 30 – Justin Hippen Captain, Gary
Gronewold-tractor, Stan Lenner-tractor, Mark Buhr, James
Lenner, Billy Harms, Larry Gronewold, Dale Zimmerman, Luke
Ideus.

For the week of Jan 6th – Mike Busboom – Captain, Dean
Zimmerman – tractor, Russ Wallman – tractor, Greg Dorn, Paul
Remmers, Craig Ideus, Terry Gronewold, Alex Buhr, Bob Freeman

For the week of Jan 13th – Jason Lovitt – Captain, Les Lieneman
– tractor, David Meints – tractor, Matt Meints, Gary Wiese, Andy
Schoen, Perry Jurgens, Kenny Jurgens, Josh Nelson, Jeff Nelson

For the week of Jan 20th – Steve Oltman – Captain, Eric Parde –
tractor, Chris Fossler – tractor, Jordan Busboom. Greg Robinson,
Hunter Blackwell, Keith Parde, Kyle Schlake

For the week of Jan 27th – AJ Wiese – Captain, James Meints –
tractor, Alan Wiese, Kenny Newman, Paul Jurgens, Gerald Ideus,
Todd Bohlmeier, Brian Garton, Josh Gronewold

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
December 29th will go to the Cemetery.

The Church Council and WELCA/Volunteers will take down the Christmas decorations and Christmas tree **next Sunday** following Church. All ladies welcome to help!

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

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.



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**.



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)

Please take your poinsettia plants home today after worship if you haven't already.

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!

Thank you's

Thank you on behalf of our residents for your generous gift of \$221.62 This will be used to purchase small gifts so our residents have something special on Christmas. It truly means so much! Blessings!
Our Homes in Lincoln

Thank you to the Parish Ed for all you work through the year and the Christmas Eve Christmas program! It's so fun to watch the kids sing and dance to the music and to see the confirmation kids reenact the reason for the season!



Poinsettia List for 2025

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

Alex, Beth, Emmitt & 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

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

