

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.”



Second Sunday of Christmas with Holy Communion & Sacrament of Holy Baptism

January 5, 2025

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- Within the gospel reading’s profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the WORD existed with God from the beginning of time we struggle.

C- We sing, O Lord, to your holy name.

P- The wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the WORD continues to dwell among us in this church family! In the Scriptures, the waters of baptism, and in the bread and wine Jesus exists.

C- We sing, O Lord, to your holy name.

Gathering Hymn – The First Noel ELW 300

1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. **[Refrain]**

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. **[Refrain]**

4 This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. **[Refrain]**

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon the knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh, and frankincense. **[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 Sacrament of Holy Baptism – Owen Michael Denny

Children's Time – God's Word

The words we speak are important! The words we speak about God and about others, and the words we speak to others are important.

Readings

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Lector – God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of the exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

For thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
'Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel.'

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.'
For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.
Here ends this reading.

Psalm 147:12-20 – *Read responsively.*

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

For he strengthens the bars of your gates;

he blesses your children within you.

He grants peace within your borders;

he fills you with the finest of wheat.

He sends out his command to the earth;

his word runs swiftly.

He gives snow like wool;

he scatters frost like ashes.

He hurls down hail like crumbs—

who can stand before his cold?

He sends out his word, and melts them;

he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob,

his statutes and ordinances to Israel.

He has not dealt thus with any other nation;

they do not know his ordinances.

Praise the Lord!

Ephesians 1:3-14

Lector – In Jesus, all God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation. Paul writes to the Church in Ephesus:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. 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 – John 1:1-18

P- John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God

the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Message – God's Word

The Word was, is and will always be the name of Jesus Christ!

Offering 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!

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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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 – Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. **[Refrain]**

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. **[Refrain]**

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. **[Refrain]**

Helping out Today

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

Vital Statistics for Last Sunday

Sunday Service 115 Giving \$ 10,555.00
Sunday School NO Giving \$ none

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today-

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

Monday

6:15 pm Quartet Practice
7 pm Men's Choir

Wednesday

6 pm 7 & 8 grade Confirmation

7 pm Committee meetings

7:30 pm Council

Next Sunday

8:45 am Sunday School

9:00 BKF Club/Adult SS

10 am Worship/Kids of the Kingdom

Helping out next Sunday

Pastor..... Jerry Gilbreath

Organist.....Shirley Gronewold

Acolytes.....Max Cornelius
Hunter Grone

Lector.....Jordan Freeman

Greeters.....Bob & Jordan Freeman
Dale & Hannah Hrenchir

Special Music.....Kids of the Kingdom

Serve Breakfast Club.....Mert Rademacher

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 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 Bohlmeyer, 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.

Today's bulletin is sponsored by Stan & Mary Lenners in honor of the baptism of their grandson Owen Michael Denny. Flowers under the hymn board are in honor of Owen's baptism by Mary and Stan.

Welcome our newest member in Christ today - Owen Michael Denny, son of Kevin and Natalie (Lenners) Denny. The sponsors for Owen are Blake Lenners and Kaitlin Chavez. Grandparents are Stan & Mary Lenners and Gary & Patty Denny. Great-grandparents of Owen are Donny & Elnora Lenners. Please keep Kevin, Natalie & Owen in your prayers.

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



Annual Meeting is January 19th following worship.
Annual Reports Due in the Church Office no later than January 13th please! I will be printing the reports on Friday January 17th.

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**

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

Please take your poinsettia plants home today after worship if you haven't already – they are out in the Fellowship Hall.

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.**

Thank you received

Mildred Meints would like to give a sincere thank-you to Pastor & Karen, family & friends for the visits, phone calls, and all the cards on her 95th Birthday. She was overwhelmed and blessed. God's Blessings to you all!

Notice of Meeting

Zion Cemetery Association Annual Meeting will be held on January 16th at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the church.

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