

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.”



Endless Hallelujah Contemporary Service

Third Sunday in Advent with Holy Communion

December 15, 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 Advent season is a very special time of year that sometimes gets lost in the bright lights of the Christmas season it precedes. The first day of Advent is the first day of a new Liturgical (or church) calendar and begins a four-week period of preparation for the nativity of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

Advent Gathering

P- Christ’s presence in our midst in the wonder of the sacraments is cause for singing. The nearness of God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing.

C- In our midst is the Holy One of Israel.

P- The coming of the “one more powerful: than John, even with a

winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved.

C- In our midst is the Holy One of Israel.

My Faith Story – Ivy Bloom

How does the season of Advent impact my vocation (work/ministry)?

Gathering Song – Do You Hear What I Hear

Verse 1

Said the night wind to the little lamb
Do you see what I see
Way up in the sky little lamb
Do you see what I see
A star a star dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite
With a tail as big as a kite

Verse 2

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy
Do you hear what I hear
Ringing through the sky shepherd boy
Do you hear what I hear
A song a song high above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea
With a voice as big as the sea

Verse 3

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king
Do you know what I know
In your palace warm mighty king
Do you know what I know
A Child a Child shivers in the cold
Let us bring him silver and gold
Oh let us bring him silver and gold

Verse 4

Said the king to the people ev'rywhere
Listen to what I say
Pray for peace people ev'rywhere
Listen to what I say
The Child the Child sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light

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,
who opens the heavens,
and draws near to us with salvation.

C- Amen

P- God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P- Everlasting God,

C- you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.

We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness.

**We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
We choose comfort over courage.
We are careless with creation's bounty.
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world. Amen**

P- Hear these words of assurance:
God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.
In tender compassion of + Jesus Christ
your sins are forgiven
God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.
C- Amen

Blessing of the Third Candle

P- Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow.
You bring water to a parched ground and life out of death.
Bless us as we light this third candle and send sorrow fleeing.
Give us strength and patience,
trusting that you are true to your promises.
C- Amen *Please be seated.*

Children's Time – Scolding the Snakes

We all do things that are wrong sometimes, but once we know what needs to be changed, we must really want to change it. We don't want to be sneaky and false like snakes.

Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Lector – *The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD. Here ends this reading.

Isaiah 12:2-6 - *Read responsively.*

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will
say on that day:

Give thanks to the LORD,
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Philippians 4:4-7

Lector – Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God’s joy and peace. Paul writes to the Philippian church:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry

about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Here ends this reading.

Prayer of the Day

As you are able, please stand.

P- Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God,

C- and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, amen.

Gospel – Luke 3:7-18

P- John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should

we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Special Music – Arden Dorn

Message – How WIDE is God's GRACE? *So WIDE it can't be measured...but only appreciated with an attitude of gratitude!*

Offering Song – Messiah

Verse 1

Someone's shouting from the desert
Someone's shouting from the sea
Someone's shouting from the mountain
Someone's shouting from the valley

Chorus
Messiah
Come and be our King
Messiah
Come and be our King

Verse 2
Someone's shouting from the city
I am young I am cold
Someone's shouting from the country
I am lonely I am old

Verse 3
Someone's shouting I am broken
Someone's shouting make me whole
Someone's shouting come and change me
Someone's shouting save my soul

Offering Prayer

As you are able, please stand.

P- God our provider,

C- by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your bounty.

Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people through Christ our Savior.

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 “O Lord, hear our prayer we offer up to you’ O Lord, 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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2021

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- All people are called to Christ's table.
Come, eat what is good!**

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 Song – What Child Is This (Greensleeves)

Verse 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

Verse 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

Verse 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

Silent Night (Stille Nacht)

Verse 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

Verse 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

Verse 3

Silent night holy night
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord at Thy birth
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

Jesus Name Above All Names

Verse 1

Jesus name above all names
Beautiful Savior glorious Lord
Emmanuel God is with us

Blessed Redeemer living Word

Verse 2

Jesus loving Shepherd
Vine of the branches Son of God
Prince of Peace Wonderful Counselor
Lord of the universe Light of the world

Verse 3

Jesus, Way of salvation
King of kings, Lord of Lords,
The way the truth and the Life,
Mighty creator, mine Savior and friend.

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- The God who calls us across the universe
and speaks in the the smallest seed
+ bless, keep and sustain you
now and to the end of the age.

C-Amen.

P- Go in peace. Share the harvest.

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

Sending Song – Bethlehem Highway

Chorus

There is hope on Bethlehem highway
For the ones who will journey there
And the hope is the Child in a manger
Bringing us love beyond compare

Verse 1

It's a lifeline for the needy
It's sight to those who can't see
It's a freedom for the faithful
In a Child of Prophecy

Verse 2

Let the angels go before us
Let the darkness become light
Now the Savior lives among us
Now truth has come to life

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

jkgil1979@yahoo.com

Karen's number – 402-661-9362

Email -jpszionlutheran@yahoo.com

Helping out Today

Pastor..... Jerry Gilbreath
Keyboard.....Janelle Ideus
Guitar.....Deric Bloom
Acolytes.....Karlee Riha
 Tavin Lieneman
Lector.....Doug Parde
Greeters.....Eddie & Lynette Dorn
 Doug & Rhonda Dorn
Special Music.....Endless Hallelujah
 Arden Dorn
Serve Breakfast Club.....Jennifer Mahler

Vital Statistics for Last Sunday

Sunday Service 202 Giving \$ 2750.22

Sunday School 61 Giving \$ 53.25

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

8:45 Sunday School

9 am BKF Club/Adult SS/Endless Hallelujah practice

10 am Worship/Communion/Arden Dorn & Endless Hallelujah

******Deadline today for the Camp reimbursement******

Monday

7 pm Men's Choir

Tuesday

Card Shower for Mildred Meints 95th Birthday

Wednesday

6:30pm-8:00 pm ALL Sunday School Students are here for Christmas program practice

Next Sunday

NO Sunday School

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

10 am Worship

Helping out Next Sunday

Pastor..... Jerry Gilbreath

Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes.....Kipton Lovitt

Alexis Folkerts

Lector.....Carrie Reed

Greeters.....Brian & Sammie Garton

Gary & Brenda Gronewold

Special Music.....

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

Snow Brigade

For the week of Dec 16 – Steve Oltman Captain, Eric Parde-tractor, Chris Fossler-tractor, Jordan Busboom, Greg Robinson, Hunter Blackwell, Keith Parde, Kyle Schlake.

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

This week the bulletin is sponsored by Karla Holland and the girls in memory of Dave. Dave's birthday is today. Happy heavenly birthday Dave – you are truly missed by **so** many at Zion and the community!

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.

Thank you Arden and also Janelle & Deric & Endless Hallelujah for your special music today!

Thank you to Ivy Bloom for sharing her Faith Story with us today!

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



Poinsettia Sign up

The clip board is on the welcome center in the Fellowship Hall - please list who is giving the plant and who it is in memory or in honor of so can be listed in the bulletin.

Please if at all possible do not bring them to Church until December 20th. It is hard to keep the poinsettias alive and looking pretty for the whole month of December!

**Card Shower in honor of Mildred Meints 95th Birthday,
December 17th. Mildred's address is:**

Gold Crest Retirement
200 Levi Lane
Room 416
Adams, NE 68301



Thank you to Mert Rademacher for ordering bulletins for our services. We have enough for a few more Sunday. So be on the lookout for new covers, new pictures from the 150th Anniversary. Also **thank you to Kristen Meyer and Janet Harms** for helping me with unloading and helping store them behind the organ. **Thank you to all our members & families** for sponsoring bulletins weekly!

CHURCH SECRETARY JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Church Council is looking to fill the church secretary position. This would be a 20-25-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)

Big Note of Thanks to other \$250Thrivent Grant Writers for the recent projects listed below:

-**Mickey Larkins** to Zion Hospitality Team for the Candlelight Service Fellowship

-**Lois Lawrence (Mert Rademacher's sister)** for the Mother to Mother Ministry Ham Give Away

This was done in conjunction with American Lutheran Church of Filley with Carol Frerichs coordinating the project

-Stan & Mary Lenners to the 5th Grade Sunday School class for their Holiday Shopping Spree for those in need. Items are selected from the wish list trees you see in Beatrice
-Karla Carstens to the REAL Moms group of the community served by Christ Community Church



Zion Sunday School

NOVEMBER PERFECT ATTENDANCE

LITTLE ANGELS Dorothy Freeman Ellie Grummert Micah Jensen	1ST GRADE Claire Freeman Coral Harms Emmalynn Blecha Lane Grummert	4TH GRADE Gus Garton McKenzeigh Ideus
PRE - K Carrick Eickhoff Henry Behrends	2ND GRADE Carson Behrends Chesleigh Ideus Everett Meints Lincoln Eickhoff Logan Hippen Madison Detert	5TH GRADE Austin Folkerts Brixton Coffin Ellis Freeman
KINDERGARTEN Jaxson Lane Rory Detert	3RD GRADE Brooks Coffin Emma Lane	6TH GRADE Ava Meints Bryleigh Ideus Jace Behrends

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