

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.”



Baptism of Our Lord

First Sunday after Epiphany

January 12, 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

St. Paul’s poetic chapter on the depth and breadth of love stands at the center of this season’s readings and provides a keystone to hold the remainder of Epiphany and texts in place.

While the second reading throughout the season of Epiphany provides a sweeping time overview of Paul’s wisdom and counsel to the troubled church at Corinth, the gospel texts give us a glimpse into the early ministry of Jesus through Luke’s theological lens.

Gathering

P- Today’s festival rejoices in God’s blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God’s children, the gift of the Holy Spirit.

C- A voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

P- We are promised the company of almighty God when we “pass through the waters...the rivers...fire.” On this day the heavens open again for the assembly, and we receive the gift of God’s beloved Jesus.

C- A voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

Gathering 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!

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,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

C- Amen

P- Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P- God, our rock and refuge,

C- we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

**We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.**

Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

Restore us,

that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen

P- The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of + Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

C- Amen

Special Music: Kids of the Kingdom

Children's Time: Being Useful in God's Kingdom

The people who came to John to be baptized wanted to be useful in God's kingdom and not a pile of useless chaff.

Readings

Isaiah 43:1-7

Lector – Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the Lord delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you. Here ends this reading.

Psalm 29 - *Read responsively.*

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.
May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Acts 8:14-17

Lector – Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on the hands.

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then

Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Here ends this reading.

Prayer of the Day

As you are able, please stand.

P- Almighty God,

C- you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your Son. Keep all who are born of the water and Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, 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 3:15-17, 21-22

P- The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

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."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Message – From the Heart of God: A Servant

Jesus came to serve and not be served. How interesting that on the eve of the crucifixion, Jesus, not the disciples, will demonstrate servanthood by washing the disciples' feet—**Jesus** will be the one untying their sandals.

Offering Hymn – Songs of Thankfulness and Praise ELW 310

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,
manifested by the star
to the Magi from afar,
branch of royal David's stem,
in your birth at Bethlehem.
Anthems be to you addressed,
God in man made manifest.

2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme,
and at Cana, wedding guest,
in your Godhead manifest;
manifest in pow'r divine,
changing water into wine.
Anthems be to you addressed,
God in man made manifest.

3 Manifest in making whole
palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill:
Anthems be to you addressed,
God in man made manifest.

4 Grant us grace to see you, Lord,
mirrored in your holy Word.
May our lives and all we do
imitate and honor you
that we all like you may be
at your great epiphany
and may praise you, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

Offering Prayer

As you are able, please stand.

P- Blessed are you, Holy One,

C- for all good things come from you.

Meet us where we are at,

that we receive what you seek to give,

and follow your Son, Jesus,

in whose name we pray. Amen

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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

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.**

Announcements in the Life of Our Church

Blessing & Dismissal

As you are able, please stand.

P- God who names,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
+ bless you and remain with you always.

C-Amen.

P- Go in peace. You are God's beloved!

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

Sending Hymn – Let All Together Praise Our God ELW 287

Verse 1

Let all together praise our god
before the highest throne;
today God opens heav'n again
and sends the only Son,
and sends the only Son.

Verse 2

From God's right hand the Son descends,
is born an infant small,
and lies in poverty,
his bed a manger in a stall,
a manger in a stall.

Verse 3

O tender Child, you veil in flesh
the splendor of your might;
a servant's garb now wraps the one
who clothed the sky with light,
who clothed the sky with light.

Verse 4

Your mother feeds you tenderly,
sings you a lullaby,
while angels, hailing David's heir,
your glory magnify,
your glory magnify

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jkgil1979@yahoo.com

Karen's number – 402-661-9362

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Helping out Today

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

Vital Statistics for last Sunday

December 29th Sunday Service 115 Giving \$ 10,555.00

Sunday School none Giving \$ none

Last Sunday- January 5th - no worship due to weather

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today-

8:45 am Sunday School

9:00 am BKF Club / Adult SS

10 am Worship/Kids of the Kingdom

Monday

7 pm Men's Choir

Wednesday

DEADLINE for the annual reports!

6 pm 7 & 8 grade Confirmation

Thursday

Ladies Aid

Friday

Print bulletins and Annual Reports

Next Sunday- Annual meeting

8:45 am Sunday School

9:00 BKF Club/Adult SS

10 am Worship/Men's Choir/Communion

Helping out next Sunday

Pastor..... Jerry Gilbreath
Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes.....Presleigh Borgman
 Korbin Busboom
Lector.....Lynette Jurgens
Greeters.....Jim & Carol Young
 Steve & Rose Gronewold
Special Music.....Men's Choir
Serve Breakfast Club.....Jennifer Mahler

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 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.

Notice of Meeting

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

Reminder the Men's Choir will sing next Sunday!



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

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

