

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

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Communion



August 2, 2026

Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

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

Prelude & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Gathering our Spirits for Worship (*As you are able please stand*)

P - Some of us are dealing with grief or hurting bodies.

C - **Some with fear or pain**

P - Some of us are in a place of joy, excitement and hope.

C - **So, we bring a harmony of our lives and a rainbow of feelings.**

P - We are here as a community of mutual support and profound worship.

Gathering Hymn - A Mighty Fortress is our God

ELW #505 vs 1-3

A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe

does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

Prayer of Opening our Hearts to God

P - Living Christ,

C - we give you thanks for August with its tall corn and ripe tomatoes, for all that is green and alive and growing, for children getting ready to go back to school. We enjoy our faith that is beyond the changing of the seasons – for the promise of forgiveness and grace, our trust in eternal life, and for the gospel story of your love. Bless us this morning as we open our souls to you. Amen

Reading of the Scriptures

First Reading - Joshua 4:20-24 Joshua erects 12 standing stones.

Those twelve stones that they had taken out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal, saying to the Israelites, "When your children ask their parents in time to come, 'What do these stones mean?' then you shall let your children know, 'Israel crossed over the Jordan here on dry ground.' For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you crossed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we crossed over, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty and so that you may fear the Lord your God forever."

Psalm 18:1-3 & 46 *(Please read responsively)*

I love you, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,

my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,

my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,

so I shall be saved from my enemies.

The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock,

and exalted be the God of my salvation

Second Reading - Acts 17:22-24

Stone monument to an unknown God.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands. *Here ends this reading.*

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel - Matthew 3:4-10 John the Baptist

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume 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 ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

(Please be seated.)

Gospel Sung Response tune - Darwall's 148th #893

Rejoice, give thanks and sing: your Sovereign God adore! The scripture has been read to guide us evermore. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice again, I say Rejoice!

Children's Message

Sung Blessing for our Children - Go, My Children, with My Blessing
ELW #543 vs 1

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own. In my love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever. Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Homily - Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

Offering Hymn - Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones ELW #424 vs 1-3

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,
raise the glad strain: "Alleluia!"
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, pow'rs,
archangels, virtues, angel choirs:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O higher than the cherubim,
more glorious than the seraphim,
lead their praises: "Alleluia!"
Thou bearer of the eternal Word,
most gracious, magnify the Lord:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
ye patriarchs and prophets blest:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!"
Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong,
all saints triumphant, raise the song:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

(Please stand as the offering is brought forward.)

Sung Offering Response tune #841 Lift Every Voice and Sing
Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring; ring with the blessings of our offering. Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listen-ing skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Offering Blessing

P - Loving Christ,

C - through the offering of these gifts may we become a more open people – open minded in hearing your wisdom, open hearted in healing our neighbors, and open handed in heeding your call for compassion and enacted love. With thanks for all good gifts, we present a portion of our money and the whole of ourselves. Amen (*Please be seated*)

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."***

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.**

Holy Communion Liturgy

P - The Lord be with you.

C - And also with you.

P - Lift up your hearts.

C - We lift them to the Lord.

P - Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C - It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P - It is our joy, at all times and in all places to give God thanks and praise.

The Words of Institution

Holy Communion - All visitors are welcome at the Lord's Table with us.

Communion Hymn - Rock of Ages ELW #623

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood
from thy riven side which flowed,

be of sin the double cure;
cleanse me from guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring;
simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Prayer After Communion

P - Gracious Christ,

C - Thank you for this holy meal as it is already within me
healing my body, strengthening my faith, and increasing my
love for others. Let me show forth your praise in the way I live
my life. Amen

Benediction Litany (responsively)

P - Go now in the peace of Christ, upheld by the everlasting arms of divine compassion.

C - We go in gratitude, mercy, and joy, to love others as we want to be loved.

Announcements in the Life of the Church

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

Sending Hymn - Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee ELW #836

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,

ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

P - Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.

Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler - Interim Pastor 402-867-4044

Les Lieneman - Council President 402-223-0433

Michele Kolm - Church Office number 402-806-3601

Email -zionlutheranchurchpickrell@gmail.com

Helping out with Worship Today

Pastor:.....Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

Organist:.....Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes:.....Micah Hofstetter

Hunter Grone

Lector:Gerald Ideus

Greeters:.....Hunter & Linda Blackwell

Darwin & LaDonna DeBuhr

August Altar Guild: Patti Behrens, Lynette Jurgens, Caroline Ideus, Susan Buss

August Table Troop: Mark Buhr (Leader), Alex Buhr, Stan & Mary Lenners, Alan Wiese, Doug Parde, Jeff Busboom

Vital Statistics for last Sunday

Worship: 80 Giving: \$3,555.39

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

9:00am – Worship/Communion

**Women of Zion serving summer fellowship after service

Wednesday

Grace Circle

7:00pm - Committee Meetings

7:30pm - Council Meeting

Next Sunday

9:00am – Worship/Baptism

**Women of Zion serving summer fellowship after service

Helping out next Sunday

Pastor:.....Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

Organist:.....Shirley Gronewold

Acolytes:.....Grayson Borgman

Korbin Busboom

Lector:Gary Gronewold

Greeters:.....Craig & Jess Ideus

Gary & Brenda Gronewold

THIS WEEKS BULLETIN IS SPONSORED BY: Patty Thomas and Doyle Scott in honor of Deb Wolken's birthday yesterday August 1st. Happy Birthday Deb!

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.

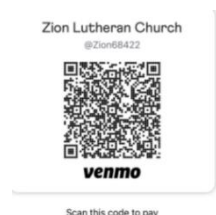
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! A Warm Welcome to all our visitors. We are so glad you are here & would love to have you visit again! Please sign a visitor card located in the pews and place the information section of the card in the offering plate. We hope to see you again!

KIWANIS PANCAKE FEED - to benefit BHS's FFA Chapter next today, August 2nd, 7:30am - 1:00pm at the Veteran's Club, 701 Dorsey St, Beatrice. Students will be helping! Adults \$10.00, children (to age 12) \$5.00 at the door. Children 3 & under eat free.

online
GIVING
easy. fast. effective.

GIVING OPTION - 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.**

Sunday School Teachers Needed for the Upcoming Year!

We are looking for volunteers to help teach our Sunday School students this coming year!

Open Positions:

- * 2nd Grade Co-Teacher**
- * 4th Grade Co-Teacher**
- * 7th Grade Co-Teacher**

Teaching Sunday School is a wonderful opportunity to share God's Word and help nurture the faith of our children and youth. If you are interested or would like more information, please reach out to a member of the Parish Education Committee.

Contact:

 Courtney Schlake – 402-239-4628

 zionparished20@gmail.com

Thank you for helping make a difference in our Sunday School program!

Bailey Pointe - Vivian Schuster

Gold Crest - Janice Jurgens, Doreen Wallman, Marilyn Robinson

Homestead House - Anora Schoen, Rosanna Miller, Marsha Zulauf

Our Homes Assisted Living - Randy Oltman



**Lutheran
World Relief**



*God's work.
Our hands.*

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH SCHOOL KIT

1



FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose leaf paper

2



ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

3



ONE pencil sharpener

4



ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

5



FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band

6



FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band

7



ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons

8



ONE 2 1/2" eraser

9



ONE sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)



*Thank you for
helping a child
learn and dream!*



**A TABLE IS SET UP
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
FOR DONATIONS.**



*Together, we can make
a world of difference!*

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE. ♥