

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.



2nd Sunday after Christmas with Holy Communion

January 4, 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 - Implant within our hearts, O God,

C - The fiery zeal of Simeon, and the prophet Anna.

P - Stir our slumbering souls.

C - That we might sing a song of passion and devotion,

P - Happy with dancing joy as we recognize Jesus in our midst.

C - Filled with zeal and divine friendship with You, Our God.

Amen

Gathering Hymn – Arise, Your Light Has Come! ELW #314

Arise, your light has come! The Spirit’s call obey;

Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;

Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

Prayer of the Day

P - Almighty God,

C - we join with all citizens of this earth, all ages, races and creeds. We ask that you gift us with elasticity of mind and heart. Empower us to live in this world according to the design of your love and acceptance. Amen

(Please be seated)

Special Music – Men's Choir

Reading of the Scriptures

First Reading – Isaiah 42:6-7 A light to the nations

I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;

 I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,

 a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,
 to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,

 from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Psalm 92:12-15 (Please read responsively.)

The righteous flourish like the palm tree

and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

They are planted in the house of the Lord;

they flourish in the courts of our God.

In old age they still produce fruit;
they are always green and full of sap,
showing that the Lord is upright;
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

Second Reading - 1 Timothy 4:14-5:2 Old age is sacred.

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. Do not speak harshly to an older man, but speak to him as to a father, to younger men as brothers, to older women as mothers, to younger women as sisters with absolute purity. *Here ends this reading.*

Gospel: Luke 2:25-38 Simeon and Anna recognize baby Jesus.

(Please stand as you are able)

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is

destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed and a sword will pierce your own soul, too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Gospel - Sing Response (To the tune of ELW #728 Blest Are They)
Blest are we, to hear the scripture; we are the children of God.
Blest are we, to live God's teachings; and shine for all to see.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!
(Please be seated.)

Children's Message

Sing Blessing of our Children (To the tune of ELW #543 Go, My Children, with My Blessing)
Go, my children, with my blessing, closer to me. Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. Here my Spirits power filled you, here my ten-der comfort stilled you. Go, my children, with my blessing, joyful and free.

Homily - Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

Offering Hymn - O Lord, Now Let Your Servant ELW #313

O Lord, now let your servant
depart in heav'nly peace,
for I have seen the glory
of your redeeming grace:

a light to lead the nations
unto your holy hill,
the glory of your people,
your chosen Israel.

Then grant that I may follow
your gleam, O glorious Light,
till earthly shadows scatter,
and faith is changed to sight;
till raptured saints shall gather
upon that shining shore,
where Christ, the blessed day-star,
shall light them evermore.

(Please stand as the offering is brought forward.)

Offering Sing Response (To Be Your Presence ELW #546 vs 4)
**We are your heat, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve
your people is our call and choice, and in this mission we, the
church, rejoice. Alleluia!**

Offering Blessing

P - Generous God,
C - you have placed within my heart, your divine seed, and the
essence of all that you have created. I now express my joy in
your Spirit, as I invest my time and money, with love for you.
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.

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; therefore we join with the saints in heaven as we say;

C - Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

Words of Institution

Communion Hymn – Great Is Thy Faithfulness ELW #733

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

Prayer After Communion

P - Almighty God,

C - we thank you for the strength rising within us from your holy bread and wine. We rejoice in your reviving power taking place within us right now; healing us in the places where we were hurting. For these gifts of love and life within your holy meal, we give you thanks. Amen.

Benediction

Announcements in the Life of the Church

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

Sending Hymn - Praise to the Lord, the Almighty ELW #858

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriend you.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

P- Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C- Thanks be to God.

Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler – Interim Pastor 402-867-4044
DeAnn Oltman - Council President 402-223-0561
Michele Kolm – Church Office number 402-806-3601
Email [-zionlutheranchurchpickrell@gmail.com](mailto:zionlutheranchurchpickrell@gmail.com)

Helping out with Worship Today

January Altar Guild:

Rhonda Fossler, Linda Ideus, DeAnn Oltman, and Annette Wiese

January Table Troop:

Josh Gronewold (Leader), Paul & Shellie Remmers, Les & Mert Rademacher, Linda & Robert Ideus

Snow Brigade:

January 5th – Jeff Wiese (Captain), Les Lieneman (Tractor), David Meints (Tractor), Jason Lovitt, Matt Meints, Gary Wiese, Andy Schoen, Perry Jurgens, Kenny Jurgens, Josh Nelson

January 12th - Kyle Schlake (Captain), Eric Parde (Tractor), Chris Fossler, Steve Oltman, Jordan Busboom, Greg Robinson, Hunter Blackwell, Keith Parde, Taiten Harms

Vital Statistics for last Sunday

Worship 67 Giving \$3,323.00

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

8:45am - No Sunday School

9:00am - Adult Bible Study/Endless Hallelujah practice

10:00am - Worship/Communion/Men's Choir

****Council/WELCA volunteers taking down tree & decorations**

Monday

7:00pm - Men's Choir Practice

Wednesday

6:00pm - 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation

7:00pm - Committee Meetings

7:30pm - Council Meeting

Friday

*****Year end annual reports due to church office**

Next Sunday

8:45am - SS

9:00am - BKF Club

10:00am - Worship/Kids of the Kingdom

11:45am - Private Baptism

Helping out next Sunday

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

Organist:.....Shirley Gronewold

Acolytes: Grayson Borgman
Korbin Bushoom

Lector: Jordan Freeman

Greeters:.....Eddie & Lynette Dorn
Bob & Jordan Freeman

Special Music: **Bob & Jordan Freeman** **Kids of the Kingdom**

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!

THANK YOU – To Alnora and the Men's Choir for providing special music today.

OUR SYMPATHY to Marsha Zulauf, Steve Zulauf, Doug & Teresa Zulauf, Tammy Buresh and family on the passing of Duane Zulauf on Monday, December 29th. Duane's funeral was held here yesterday, Saturday, January 3rd. Please keep Marsha, all the Zulauf family in your prayers!

OUR SYMPATHY to Keith Parde, Glenda Knoche, Cheryl Meints, Erica Benash, & Emily Heiserman and families on the passing Kent Parde on December 30th. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 on Tuesday, January 6th with private family inurnment at the Zion Lutheran Cemetery.

ZION CEMETERY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING will be on Thursday, January 15th at 1:00pm in the fellowship hall.

WILLIE AND ANNA MEINTS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Students attending college can apply for the scholarship for up to 4 years, following the start of the first college semester. Applications are located on the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall. **Deadline to submit the application is February 15, 2026.** Please make sure to read the qualifications listed on the application.

Committee members: DeAnn Oltman, Steve Oltman & Laura Fikar

ANNUAL MEETING - January 25, 2026

The Annual Meeting is right around the corner. Please take note of the following dates & submit your year-end annual reports to the Church Secretary no later than Friday, January 9th. Reports can be submitted via email at: zionlutheranchurchpickrell@gmail.com

- **Friday, January 9, 2026** - Year-end reports are due from all committees
- **Sunday, January 18, 2026** - Annual Report will be available for members to review
- **Sunday, January 25, 2026** - Annual meeting immediately after church

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.



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



Bailey Pointe – Vivian Schuster

Gold Crest - Mildred Meints, Janice Jurgens, Doreen Wallman, Marilyn Robinson

Good Samaritan – Bob D. Ideus

Homestead House - Anora Schoen, Rosanna Miller

Our Homes Assisted Living – Randy Oltman

Beatrice Health & Rehab- Marsha Zulauf