

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.

1st Sunday of Christmas



December 28, 2025

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 - Today is Epiphany Sunday, which means we followed the star which brought us here.

C - **We stand among travelers and seekers, foreigners and friends, people of many paths and many questions.**

P - Here, no one is outside of the circle. Everyone is included.

C - **Wisdom is already rising from unexpected places. Insight is already speaking with a foreign accent.**

P - We are listening, and our hearts are open.

C - **We are following the light into justice, mercy, and joy.**

P - Let us worship God with gratitude and love.

Gathering Hymn – O Come All Ye Faithful ELW #283 vs 1 & 4

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]

Prayer of Opening our Hearts to God.

P - Almighty God,

C - thank you for leading me beyond what is familiar, and helping me discover that this is where grace lives. I am recognizing Christ in faces I once called foreign and in wisdom that arrives from unexpected places. Your welcome is widening my perspective. Your love is loosening my fear. Your light is making me wise. I am filled with the delight of your joy. Amen

(Please be seated)

Reading of the Scriptures

First Reading – Isaiah 56:6-7 God Welcomes Foreigners

And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in

my house of prayer.

Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.

Psalm 145:17-18 (Please read responsively.)

The Lord is just in all his ways

and kind in all his doings.

The Lord is near to all who call on him,

to all who call on him in truth.

Second Reading - Romans 10:11-13 God Saves Everyone

The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." *Here ends this reading.*

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 The Visit of the Wise Magi

(Please stand as you are able)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him

homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Gospel - Sing Response (To the tune: While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night.)

All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; send love on us from heaven to earth; begin and never cease, begin and never cease. (Please be seated.)

Children’s Message

Sing Blessing of our Children - Away in a Manger ELW #277 vs 3
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Homily - Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

Offering Hymn - As With Gladness Men of Old ELW #302 vs 1-3 *(Please stand as the offering is brought forward.)*

As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led by thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

Offering Sing Response (To the Tune: We Three Kings)

**Christ was born on Bethlehem's plain, gold we bring to crown
him again, king forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. O
star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy Perfect
light.**

Offering Blessing

P - Almighty God,

**C - Like the wise ones before us, we are placing our treasures
before love itself. Our gold is becoming hope. Our
frankincense is rising as prayer. Our myrrh is transforming
into compassion that is willing to be tender and brave. As you
bless these gifts, they are feeding the hungry, welcoming the
stranger, and lighting the way for those still searching the sky.**

Amen

(Please be seated)

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the holy spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He 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.**

**Epiphany Hymn - Songs of Thankfulness & Praise
ELW #310 vs 1 & 4**

Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
present in thy holy word;
grace to imitate thee now
and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee
at Thy great epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest,
God in flesh made manifest.

Benediction

Announcements in the Life of the Church

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

Sending Hymn - Good Christian Friends Rejoice ELW #288

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

P- Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C- Thanks be to God.

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

Vital Statistics for last Sunday

Worship	182	Giving	\$3,033.00
SS	NONE	Giving	\$ NONE
Christmas Eve	448	Giving	\$3,171.00
Christmas Day	43	Giving	\$ 881.00

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

10:00 - Worship

Next Sunday

8:45am – SS

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

10:00am - Worship/Communion

****Council/WECLA volunteers taking down tree & decorations right after the service**

Helping out next Sunday

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

Organist:..... Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes:..... Nolan Buhr
Hunter Grone

Lector:.....Cindy Parde

Greeters:.....Doug & Rhonda Dorn
Karla Holland

Special Music.....Men's Choir

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!

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.

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

THANK YOU to the Parish Ed for all your work throughout the year and organizing the Christmas Eve program! It's so fun to watch the kids sing and to see the confirmation kids reenact the reason for the season!

PLEASE TAKE your poinsettia plants home today after worship if you haven't already.

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**

Zion Lutheran Church


@Zion68422



venmo

Scan this code to pay

TREE OF WARMTH -



ZION'S
Tree of Warmth

December 1st - 31st

During the month of December, Parish Ed will be taking donations for new gloves, stocking hats, scarves and socks. Place your donations on our Tree of Warmth located in the church. All items will be donated to the Beatrice & Adams community.

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- Duane & Marsha Zulauf



Poinsettia List for 2025

Eddie & Lynette Dorn and James & Kelly Lenners and Families
in Memory of Ernest & Emma Meints and Dennis & Terry Meints

Keith, Arlan, Jeanette, Carol, Nancy and families in Memory of
Arnold & Lois Buhr

Betty, Carol, Connie & families in Memory of Walt & Angeline
Johnson, Roger Daubendiek, Roger Keller, & Dean Thornburg

Karen Buhr & family in Memory of Leonard & Bruce Buhr

Lynette Jurgens & family in Memory of Ernest & Anna Jobman,
Sarah Jurgens, & Marilyn Folkerts

Alvera Bade in Memory of Victor Bade, Emila & Margaret Wallman,
and Ralph & Neva Bade

Karla, Lexi, Macy & Faith Holland in Memory of Dave Holland

Marilyn Robinson & family in Memory of Kenneth Robinson

Kent & Jennifer Mahler & family in Memory of Cliff & Idella Mahler, Keith Mahler, & Lowell Rahe

Dennis & Rhonda Fossler, Justin & Heather Hippen, and Matt & Kelsey Fossler and families in Memory of Ernest, Marilyn, & Rodney Zimmerman and Harvey Fossler

Patty, Jeremy, Brittany Thomas & Doyle Scott and Larry & Macy Gronewold in Memory of Lawrence & Shirley Gronewold, George & Eleanor Wolken, Will & Ester Gronewold

Doug, Cindy, Lauren, Ashley & Trevor Parde in Memory of Edward & Bernice Parde

Devonna Primavera, Betty Schoen, and families in Memory of Elmer & Leona Trauernicht

Karla Carstens & family in Memory of Susie & Tayten Buhr and Gary & Judy Carstens

Tracy & Brooklyn Lidolph in Memory of Wayne & Dorothy Lidolph, Larry White & family

Caroline Ideus, Laurie, Craig & Jess and grandkids in Memory of Gary Ideus

Dorothy Trauernicht & family in Memory of Wayne and loved ones

Mark & Cerice Cornelius & family in Memory of Ron, Adeline, & Diane Cornelius

Chris & Renae Mason in Memory of George & Velma Ideus and boys & Louis and Tena Schoen