

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

# **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 19, 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** - God has given us this beautiful earth and all that grows and runs upon it.

**C** - **Thanks be to God.**

**P** - God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

**C** - **Thanks be to God.**

**P** - God has gathered us into a community of care and worship.

**C** - **We are here to worship God with love, thanksgiving and praise.**

**Gathering Hymn - Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty**

**ELW #533 vs. 1-3**

Open now thy gates of beauty,  
Zion, let me enter there,  
where my soul in joyful duty  
waits for God who answers prayer.

Oh, how blessed is this place,  
filled with solace, light, and grace!

Gracious God, I come before thee;  
come thou also unto me;  
where we find thee and adore thee,  
there a heav'n on earth must be.  
To my heart, oh, enter thou,  
let it be thy temple now!

Here thy praise is gladly chanted,  
here thy seed is duly sown;  
let my soul, where it is planted,  
bring forth precious sheaves alone,  
so that all I hear may be  
fruitful unto life in me.

### **Prayer of Opening our Hearts to God**

**P** - Faithful God,

**C** - you care for us with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit, nurture us that we may be rooted in the way of your son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

### **Reading of the Scriptures**

#### **First Reading - Isaiah 44:6-8 Do Not Fear**

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,  
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

I am the first, and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.

Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;  
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?

Let them tell us what is yet to be.

Do not fear or be afraid;

have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!  
Is there any god besides me?  
There is no other rock; I know not one.

**Psalm 86:11-17** *(Please read responsively)*

Teach me your way, O Lord,  
**that I may walk in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.**  
I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,  
**and I will glorify your name forever.**  
For great is your steadfast love toward me;  
**you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.**  
O God, the insolent rise up against me;  
**a band of ruffians seeks my life,  
and they do not set you before them.**  
But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and  
faithfulness.**  
Turn to me and be gracious to me;  
**give your strength to your servant;  
save the child of your maidservant.**  
Show me a sign of your favor,  
**so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,  
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.**

**Second Reading - Romans 8:15-17 Children of God**

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified

with him. *Here ends this reading. (Please stand as you are able)*

## **Gospel - Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43 Parable of Weeds and Wheat**

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen! *(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 - Pastor Arden Dorn**

**Offering Hymn - Almighty God, Your Word is Cast ELW #516**

*(Please stand as the offering is brought forward.)*

Almighty God, your word is cast  
like seed into the ground;  
now let the dew of heav'n descend  
and righteous fruits abound.

Let not the sly satanic foe  
this holy seed remove,  
but give it root in ev'ry heart  
to bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares  
the rising plant destroy,  
but let it yield a hundredfold  
the fruits of peace and joy.

So when the precious seed is sown,  
life-giving grace bestow,  
that all those souls the truth receive  
its saving pow'r may know.

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 - May these offerings become bread for the hungry, shelter  
for the weary, hope for the discouraged, and comfort for those  
who walk alone. May we continue to be generous people  
whose hands remain open to the needs of the world.**

**Transform what we bring into living acts of mercy, justice, and  
joy. 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 - Just As I Am ELW #592**

Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.



Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown  
has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

### **Prayer After Communion**

P - Gracious Christ,

**C - In this holy meal you gather us as one family across generations, across grief and celebration, across earth and eternity. Strengthen us through this mystery of grace, that we may leave this table healed in our bodies and carrying tenderness into our community. Amen**

### **Benediction Litany (responsively)**

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

**C - We go forth strengthened by love that never fails.**

P - The wisdom of God and the blessing of the Holy Spirit guide your path.

**C - We go in gratitude, mercy, and joy, to serve the world in love.**

### **Announcements in the Life of the Church**

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

**Sending Hymn - On What has now been Sown ELW #550**

On what has now been sown  
your blessing Lord, bestow;  
the pow'r is yours alone  
to make it sprout and grow.  
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise,  
And yours alone shall be the praise!

To you our wants are known,  
from you are all our pow'rs;  
accept what is your own  
and pardon what is ours.  
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive  
and to your word a blessing give.

Oh, grant that each of us,  
now met before you here,  
may meet together thus  
when you and yours appear,  
and follow you to heav'n, our home.  
E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!

**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](mailto:-zionlutheranchurchpickrell@gmail.com)**

## Helping out with Worship Today

Pastor:.....Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler  
Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek  
Acolytes:.....Tavin Lieneman  
                                Alexis Folkerts  
Lector: .....Connie Thornburg  
Greeters:.....Kim & Alan Folkerts  
                                Danelle & Brian Evers

**July Altar Guild:** Rhonda Fossler, Linda Ideus, DeAnn Oltman, Annette Wiese

**July Table Troop:** Lynette Jurgens (Leader), Steve & Peggy Johnson, Larry Gronewold, Eddie & Lynette Dorn, Gary & Brenda Gronewold, DeAnn & Terry Oltman

## Vital Statistics for last Sunday

Worship: 106    Giving: \$6,446.00

# THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

## Today

**9:00am – Worship/Communion**

**\*\*Grace Circle serving summer fellowship after service**

## Saturday

## \*\*\*Newsletter Printing Day

## **Next Sunday**

9:00am - Worship

\*\*Grace Circle serving summer fellowship after service

## **Helping out next Sunday**

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

Organist:.....Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes:.....Nolan Buhr

Millie Garton

Lector: .....Linda Blackwell

Greeters:.....Steve & Rose Gronewold

Dennis & Rhonda Fossler

## **THIS WEEKS BULLETIN IS SPONSORED BY:** Linda

VanEngen and her family in memory of her parents Arnold and Marie Schoen who both passed away in July.

**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!**

**THANK YOU** - Thank you to everyone who came out to help with the moving of the pews and the radiators this last Wednesday evening. The council truly appreciated the overwhelming response that they were able to get all done in just a few hours.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** - The family of Anora Schoen would like the church family to help extend birthday wishes to Anora which will be celebrating her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday Anora!

**FARM FRESH EGGS** - Farm fresh eggs are now available for purchase! Suggested price is \$3 per dozen and can be found on the Welcome Center. Proceeds will support various projects around the church. Eggs have been generously donated by Don Schuster—thank you for your kindness and support!

**📖 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 Teacher (will assist another teacher)
- \* 4th Grade Teacher (will assist another teacher)
- \* 8th Grade 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

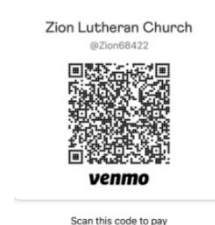
✉️ [zionparished20@gmail.com](mailto:zionparished20@gmail.com)

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



**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.**



**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