

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

Nineth Sunday after Penecost

July 26, 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 - The Holy Fire is kindled among us, and the light is rising in our midst.

C - **We gather as lamps burning with mercy and truth.**

P - The salt of wisdom is seasoning life through our hands and hearts.

C - **We come to rejoice in the justice breaking forth like dawn.**

Gathering Hymn - Lift High the Cross ELW #660 vs. 1-3

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. [Refrain]

All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. [Refrain]

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. [Refrain]

Prayer of Opening our Hearts to God

P - O Breath of the Living Christ,

C - you have placed within us the savor of your goodness and the brilliance of your holy light. Your justice is unfolding among the broken places of this earth, your mercy is mending what was torn, and your freedom is loosening every chain. We are your vessels of healing, bearers of your brightness, and companions in your great work of love. May our lives reveal what is already shining within us: compassion without measure, courage without fear, and hope without end. Amen.

Reading of the Scriptures

First Reading - Isaiah 58:6-8 Call to justice

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

to loose the chains of injustice

and untie the cords of the yoke,

to set the oppressed free

and break every yoke?

Is it not to share your food with the hungry

and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter

when you see the naked, to clothe them,

and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Then your light will break forth like the dawn,

and your healing will quickly appear;

then your righteousness will go before you,

and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

Psalm 112:4-6 *(Please read responsively)*

They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;

they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

It is well with those who deal generously and lend,

who conduct their affairs with justice.

For the righteous will never be moved;

they will be remembered forever.

Second Reading - Acts 16:16-19 Exploited slave girl healed.

One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities.

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

Gospel - Matthew 5:13-16 You are Salt and Light.

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

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!

(Please be seated.)

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 - You are Salt for the Earth, O People

You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple:

Salt for the reign of God!

Share the fla-vor of life, O people:

Life in the City of God!

Bring forth the Reign of mer-cy,

Bring forth the Reign of peace;

Bring forth the Reign of justice,

Bring forth the Cit-y of God!

You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple:

Light for the Cit-y of God!

Shine so ho-ly and bright, O people:

Shine for the City of God! (Refrain)

You are a seed of the Word, O people:
Bring forth the Reign of God!
Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice,
Grow in the City of God! (Refrain)

We are a blessed and a pil-grim people:
Bound for the Reign of God!
Love our jour-ney and love our home-land:
Love is the City of God! (Refrain)

(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 - Holy Giver of all abundance,

**C - these gifts are seeds of your realm, planted in fertile
ground and bearing fruit for the hungry, the weary, and the
forgotten. What we place upon this altar is bread for the
journey, shelter for the vulnerable, and light for those walking
in shadow. Bless these offerings, and bless the hands that
have gathered them, for your generosity is flowing through us
like a river without end. 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.**

Benediction Litany (responsively)

P - Go now as the salt of the earth, preserving goodness and awakening justice.

C - **We go seasoned with grace and ready for holy work.**

P - Go now as the light of the world, shining where shadows still linger.

C - **We go radiant with love, for the dawn is rising through us.**

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

Helping out with Worship Today

Pastor:.....Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler
Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes:.....Nolan Buhr
 Millie Garton
Lector:Linda Blackwell
Greeters:.....Steve & Rose Gronewold
 Dennis & Rhonda Fossler

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: 101 Giving: \$2,414.00

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

9:00am – Worship/Communion

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

Thursday

Ladies Aide

Next Sunday

9:00am – Worship/Communion

**Women of Zion serving summer fellowship after service

Helping out next Sunday

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

Organist:.....Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes:.....Micah Hofstetter

Hunter Grone

Lector:Sandy Meints

Greeters:.....Hunter & Linda Blackwell

Darwin & LaDonna DeBuhr

THIS WEEKS BULLETIN IS SPONSORED BY: Mickey

Larkins in memory of her and Larry's 63rd wedding anniversary, today July 26th.

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!

CONGRATULATIONS - Riley and Isaac Frerichs on the birth of a baby boy on July 17th. His name is Solomon Gregory. Grandparents are Greg and Kristi Dorn, Brad and Susan Frerichs. Great-grandparents are Gerald Dorn, Donna Chumney, Phyllis Niles, Jim and Carol Frerichs, and Lucille Schaardt.

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

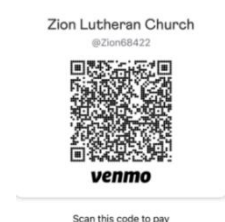
 zionparished20@gmail.com

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

KIWANIS PANCAKE FEED - to benefit BHS's FFA Chapter next Sunday, 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.**



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