

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

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Baptism



August 9, 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 - Christ of this new day, we praise you with joy!

C - **Fill us with the wisdom that you gave to King Solomon.**

P - And refresh us with your spirit.

Gathering Hymn - Borning Cry ELW 732

I was there to hear your borning cry,

I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;

In a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."

"When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk 'till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your bawling cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

Holy Baptism of Solomon Gregory Frerichs

Prayer of Opening our Hearts to God

P - Christ Jesus,

C - show me the members of this congregation through a kaleidoscope. I see the unique personalities - many colored, and multi shaped, with fragments that focus and focus again, always in different patterns as I turn to the light of Your

presence. I love the patterns and the turning. I trust in the beauty of a wholeness that you are showing me. Amen

Reading of the Scriptures

First Reading - 1 Kings 3:5-13 Solomon asks God for Wisdom

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you.

Psalm 111:1-2 &10 *(Please read responsively)*

Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,

in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.

Second Reading - Acts 6:8-10 The Wisdom of Stephen

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. *Here ends this reading.*

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel - Matthew 7:24-28 Be a Wise Person

“Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!” Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching,
(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 - In Christ Called to Baptize

ELW #575 vs 1, 3, and 4

In Christ called to baptize,
we witness to grace
and gather a people
from each land and race.
In deep, flowing waters,
we share in Christ's death,
then, rising to new life,
give thanks with each breath.

In Christ called to witness,
by grace we will preach
the life-giving gospel;

God's love we will teach.
By grace may our living
give proof to our praise
in costly compassion
reflecting Christ's ways.

Unite us, anoint us,
O Spirit of love,
for you are within us,
around us, above.
Equip us for service
with gifts you bestow.
In Christ is our calling.
In Christ may we grow.

(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 Jesus,

C - Bless my offering and my ministry in this community, so that I
may truly serve your divine will on earth. May all I do delight your
heart. 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.**

Special Music - Breanna Pennisi

Benediction Litany (responsively)

P - May the Lord bless you and keep you

C - May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

P - May the Lord face shine upon you and give you peace.

C - Amen

Announcements in the Life of the Church

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

Sending Hymn - Blessed Assurance ELW #638

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long:

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

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

Vital Statistics for last Sunday

Worship: 110 Giving: \$4,486.24

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

9:00am – Worship/Baptism

**Women of Zion serving summer fellowship after service

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:.....Cash Harwood

Millie Garton

Lector:Sandy Meints

Greeters:.....Gerald & Denise Ideus

Robert & Doreen Ideus

THIS WEEKS BULLETIN IS SPONSORED BY: Irene Busboom in honor of her grandparents, John and Rena (Jurgens) Ideus. Their descendants are “Coming Home to Zion” for their annual reunion, being held today in the Parish Hall. Hosted by the Sadie (Ideus) Folkerts descendants.

John was born in Schirum, Ostfriesland, Germany in 1878 and died June 4, 1952. Rena was born in Gage County in 1884 and died August 11, 1967, 59 years ago. They had eleven children: Siebend, Henry, Sadie (Folkerts), Marie (Buhr), George, John, Martin, Anna (Siefkes), Edward and Thee & Frieda who died as infants.

Both of John and Rena’s parents immigrated from Ostfriesland, Germany and were members of Zion. Rena’s father, Henry T. Jurgens, was on the building committee for the current Zion church building and donated of the bells in the tower.

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!

FIFTH SUNDAY - Fifth Sunday offering for August has been designated to go to the Park Board.

WELCOME - To our newest member in Christ, Solomon Gregory Frerichs, on his baptism today. Son of Isaac & Riley Frerichs. Solomon was born on July 17, 2026. The sponsors are Adam & Morgan Frerichs and Tandon & Kayla Dorn. Grandparents are Greg & Kristi Dorn and Brad & Susan Frerichs.

CONGRATULATIONS - To Zac & Britan Meints on the birth of a baby boy, Tag Harvey Meints, on July 25th. He joins the brothers Burke & Kit. Grandparents are Neal & Barb Meints.

2026-2027 7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION MEETING –
August 26 @ 6:00pm will be a student/parent confirmation orientation meeting, followed by acolyte training for all 7th grades. Please plan to attend if your child is in 7th or 8th grade.

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!

LWR SCHOOL KIT UPDATE – All needed items to assemble 100 bags have been donated! If you have donated please have all donations to the fellowship hall table by Sept 6th. Bags will be assembled on Rally Sunday, September 13th. Thank you to all Zion Members that donated to this yearly project! You truly live generously!

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