

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



First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 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 - In the beginning, a river flowed out of Eden to water the earth.

C - **In the end, there is a river, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God.**

P - In a pool called Bethesda, the sick were healed when they entered the stirring of water.

C - **Today, we are here at the River of Life.**

P - Come, all you dreamers and wake the nations

C - **Let the river flow through us.**

Gathering Hymn – Morning Has Broken ELW #556

Morning has broken

Like the first morning,

Black bird has spoken

Like the first bird.

Praise for the singing!

Praise for the morning!

Praise for them springing
Fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall
Sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall
On the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
Of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness
Where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning.
Born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
Praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation
Of the newday!

Prayer of Opening our Hearts to God

P - Bright as crystal, O Christ,

**C - let the water from your throne run through this sanctuary,
through my bones, and through the deserts of this community.
I can feel your river rising within me, not only as a trickle of
comfort but as a glad and fearless flood; Making me a stream
that loosens what is bound, bringing everything to life again.**

Amen. *(Please be seated)*

Special Music – Amigos

Reading of the Scriptures

First Reading - Genesis 2:9-10 Rivers in Eden

Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches.

Psalm 46:1-4 (Please read responsively.)

God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.

Second Reading - Revelations 22:1-2 A River in Heaven

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. *Here ends this reading.*

Gospel - John 5:1-9 Healing in the pool of Bethesda

(Please stand as you are able)

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed people. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him,

“Do you want to be made well?” The ill man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way someone else steps down ahead of me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a Sabbath.

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Gospel - Sing Response to the tune: Be Still My Soul

**Be still my soul the Lord is on thy side
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain
Leave to thy God to order and provide
In every change He faithful will remain
Be still my soul thy best, thy heavenly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end**
(Please be seated.)

Children's Message

Sing Blessing of our Children (To the tune of Go, My Children, with My Blessing ELW #543)

Go, my children, with my blessing, closer to me. Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. Here my Spirit's power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you. Go, my children, with my blessing, joyful and free.

Homily - Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

Offering Hymn - Shall We Gather At the River ELW #423

Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day. [Refrain]

Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown. [Refrain]

Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. [Refrain]

(Please stand as the offering is brought forward.)

Offering Sing Response (To Be Your Presence ELW #858 vs 4)
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!

Offering Blessing

P – Almighty God,

C - everything we have placed upon this altar, first flowed from You. Thank you for blessing our offering and multiplying our gifts. We know that our time, talent and treasure are already healing those who are hurting, bringing gladness to our

community, and courage to those who are weary. Multiply our gifts and let all these blessings flow. 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,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.**

Benediction Litany

P - From the river in Eden, we are sent.

C - From the river in Heaven, we are healed.

P - Go now as trees planted by living streams.

C - We will go as rivers in a thirsty land.

P - In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Announcements in the Life of the Church

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

Sending Hymn - My Life Flows On in Endless Song ELW #763

My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain:

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

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

February Table Troop: LeAnn Fossler (Leader), Doug & Rhonda Dorn, Duane & Janice Parde, Gary Wise, John & Marcia Busboom

Snow Brigade:

February 23rd - Josh Gronewold (Captain), Alan Wiese (Tractor), AJ Wiese, Kenny Newman, Paul Jurgens, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeier, Brian Garton

March 2nd - Luke Ideus (Captain), Gary Gronewold (Tractor), Stan Lenners (Tractor), Justin Hippen, Mark Buhr, James Lenners, Billy Harms, Larry Gronewold, Dale Zimmerman

Vital Statistics for last Sunday

Worship: 138 Giving: \$10,587.75

SS: 52 Giving: \$ 1,639.25

Ash Wed:130 Giving: \$ 1,204.00

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

8:45am - Sunday School

9:00am - 9:00am - BKF Club

10:00am - Worship/Amigos

Monday

Men's Choir Practice

**Newsletter Printing Day

Wednesday

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

7:00pm – Lenten Service

Thursday

Ladies Aide

Next Sunday

8:45am - SS

9:00am - BKF Club/Adult Bible Study

10:00am – Worship/Communion/Quartet

Helping out next Sunday

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

Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes:.....Tavin Lieneman
Alexis Folkerts

Lector:.....Katelyn Bohlmeyer

Greeters:.....Paul & Cindy Jurgens
Les & Mert Rademacher

Special Music:.....Quartet

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!

THIS WEEKS BULLETIN IS SPONSORED BY: Patty Thomas and Doyle Scott in memory of Heather Currie's birthday February 21st.

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.

THANK YOU – To the Amigos for providing special music today.

THANK YOU - The Meints family would like to extend our deepest gratitude for all the wonderful prayers, messages, food, flowers and plants during the loss of our mother! We especially want to thank Pastor Renae for her visits to mother and the wonderful service. The music added a special touch, so thank you Shirley for playing the organ. Also, thank you to the Zion Ladies group for the delicious lunch served. We all feel so blessed to be a part of the Zion Church family!



5th GRADE PARENTS, mark your calendar for a new chapter in your journey of faith and worship with the lord, First Communion.

Sandy Meints will teach First Communion instruction during Lent prior to Wednesday evening services. These classes will lead to your First Communion during Maundy Thursday evening services on Thursday, April 2nd. The 5-week session will begin on Wednesday, March 4th from 6:00 - 7:00pm. The last session will be on Wednesday, April 1st.

The Parish Ed Committee highly encourages each child to be accompanied by a parent or family member. Student attendance is required in order to Commune with the class on Maundy Thursday. If you have any conflicts, please contact a Parish Ed member in advance.

SPRING & SUMMER CAMPS – There are several options for Spring and Summer camp for our youth. If interested, you can find more information now displayed on the Welcome Center.



AUDITED BOOKS - The Auditing Committee has completed their audit of the church records. Please pick up your reports and statements in the Church office today. Thank you to Jordan Freeman, Mary Lenner, Cindy Lieneman and James Lenner for completing the audit.

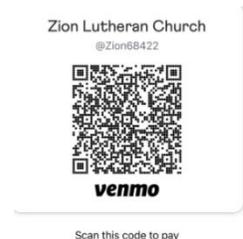
2025 OFFERING STATEMENTS - The 2025 offering statements were mailed out on Friday. Once you have received yours, please contact Kenny Reed (402)720-5656 with any questions. Your patience and understanding is appreciated.



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 (**New Phone# 402-484-9104**)
Gold Crest - Janice Jurgens, Doreen Wallman, Marilyn Robinson
Homestead House - Anora Schoen, Rosanna Miller, Marsha Zulauf
Our Homes Assisted Living - Randy Oltman