

## 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.**

## Christmas Day



**December 25, 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

**Litany of Lighting of the Advent Candles and Christ Candle (As you are able please stand)**

P - On this Christmas Morning, the lights of our advent wreath are full!

**C - The candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and the center Christ Candle are lighting up our lives this Christmas morning!**

P - We are here to worship God and give thanks for the birth of Jesus.

**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]

### **Christmas Litany**

**P** - On this dawn-soaked morning, when heaven brushes the earth with newborn light, we gather; awake, amazed, and full of wonder.

**C** - **Blessed be this Holy Day, shimmering with starlight and angel-song.**

**P** -The Child has come, wrapped not in wealth but in wonder; cradled not by kings but by creatures, straw, and hope.

**C** - **We welcome You, O Christ; tiny traveler from eternity, bearer of peace for all creation.**

**P**- Let every breath be a carol. Let every heart become a candle. Let our very lives be straw laid gently before the manger.

**C** - **Our hearts this morning have become Bethlehem; open, warm, humble, and ready.**

**P** - Let us rejoice! The Holy One has arrived, disguised as a baby.

**C** - **Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest, and peace to everyone on earth! (*Please be seated*)**

### **Hymn - Go Tell It on the Mountain! ELW #290 vs 1 & 2**

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,

behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

### **Unison Christmas Prayer**

P - O Holy Child of Christmas Morning,

**C - be born again in the rough barns of our hearts. Lay Your peace in our anxious places, your laughter in our weariness, and your courage in our tenderness. As shepherds once ran to You with their breath steaming in the cold night, so we run to You now; bringing what we have, offering what we are, trusting that You will make of us a blessing. Let this day be radiant with Your presence and let our lives echo Your song of joy. Amen.**

### **Hymn - What Child Is This ELW #296 vs 1 & 3**

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;

joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

**Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-21 The Birth of Jesus** (Please read responsively)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.** Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, **“Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, **“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, **“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. **When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered**

**them in her heart.** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them. When the eighth day came, it was time to circumcise the child, **and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.**

**Gospel Sing Response – Away in a Manger ELW #278 vs 1 & 2**  
(Please be seated)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.

**Unison Prayer of Bethlehem Gratitude**

**P - O God of Mangers and Miracles,**

**C - on this bright Christmas morning, we thank You for the strange and beautiful way You enter the world; in smallness, in softness, and in vulnerability. Make us attentive to Your quiet arrivals, awake us to Your hidden glory, and alive to Your whisper of peace. May our homes be stables of welcome, our hands be gifts of kindness, and our days be filled with holy wonder; this morning, and always, Christ, be born in us.**

**Amen.**

**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.

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 Sung Response - (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 – Loving God,

**C - receive these gifts from the labor of our hearts. Bless  
these offerings that they may become nourishment; for the  
hungry, the lonely, the weary, and the hopeful. Let our giving  
be a Christmas miracle, our sharing a witness to Your  
goodness, and our lives a Christmas gift of compassion.**

**Amen.** (Please be seated)

### **Hymn - Angels We Have Heard on High ELW #289 vs 1 & 2**

Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song? [Refrain]

### **Litany of Holy Light**

P - Today a divine light has risen like the sun over the hills of our hearts.

**C - We welcome Jesus, Light of the World; to illuminate our lives with brilliance.**

P - Jesus is looking into the shadows and fears that linger inside of us.

**C - And then he heals us and fills us with joy.**

P - Where hearts are hardened by sorrow or disappointment;

**C - Jesus kindles the warmth of compassion.**

P - Where the world groans under burden and injustice;

**C - Spark courage in Your people.**

P - Holy Child, bright as the Bethlehem star, guide us today and always.

**C - Let Your light be our path, your love our shelter, and your peace our song. Amen.**

### **Hymn - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ELW #270 vs 1 & 2**

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born king!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the ever-lasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, the incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! [Refrain]

### **Litany of the Nativity Road**

P - Now, all of us have joined the holy caravan; shepherds with wind-chapped faces, angels with wings still shining, and wise ones following the ancient pulse of a star.

**C - Lead us, God of the Bethlehem Road; we are dedicated to this holy journey.**

P - We bring our gifts: our doubts wrapped in hope, our grief tied with trembling ribbon, and our joy dancing like fire.

**C - Child of wonder, receive our whole lives as a gift and make each of us a blessing for this community.**

P - May the road ahead be lit with the star of Your presence.

**C - May we walk as bearers of good news, keepers of kindness, and companions of peace.**

P- Let Christmas be not just today, but a path we walk with Jesus who taught his disciples to pray saying...

### **The 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.**

**Sending Hymn - Joy to the World ELW #267 vs 1 & 2**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

**Sending Litany**

**P-** Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**C - Thanks be to God and Merry Christmas to All!**



**Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler – Interim Pastor 402-867-4044**  
**DeAnn Oltman - Council President 402-223-0561**  
**Michele Kolm – Church Office number 402-806-3601**  
**Email [-zionlutheranchurchpickrell@gmail.com](mailto:-zionlutheranchurchpickrell@gmail.com)**

**Helping out with Worship Today**

Pastor:.....Council  
Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek  
Acolytes.....Council  
Lector.....Council  
Greeters.....Council

**December Altar Guild:**

Annette Wiese, Rhonda Fossler, Linda Ideus, DeAnn Oltman

**December Table Troop:**

Alex Buhr (Leader), Duane Zulauf, Stan & Mary Lenners, Alan Wiese, Doug Parde, Jeff Busboom, Steve Gronewold, Mark Buhr

**SNOW BRIGADE:**

**December 22<sup>nd</sup> - Luke Ideus (Captain),** Gary Gronewold (Tractor), Stan Lenners (Tractor), Justin Hippen, Mark Buhr, James Lenners, Billy Harms, Larry Gronewold, Dale Zimmerman, Luke Ideus.

**December 29<sup>th</sup> - Mike Busboom (Captain),** Dean Zimmerman (Tractor), Russ Wallman (Tractor), Dan Jurgens, Greg Dorn, Paul Remmers, Craig Ideus, Terry Gronewold, Alex Buhr

**Vital Statistics for last Sunday**

Worship 182 Giving \$3,033.00  
SS 34 Giving \$ 6.00

## **THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION**

### **Today**

10:00am - Christmas Day Service

### **Friday**

Newsletter Printing Day!

### **Next Sunday**

No Sunday School

10:00am – Worship

### **Helping out next Sunday**

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

Organist:.....Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes:..... Micah Hofstetter  
Sadie Gronewold

Lector:.....Les Lieneman

Greeters:.....Les & Cindy Lieneman  
Dean & Karen Zimmerman

## **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.

**OFFERING FOR TODAY** – Christmas Day offerings will go to the Heritage Room and repairs to the School House.

**MEN'S CHOIR REMINDER** – No practice December 29<sup>th</sup>. Practice will resume on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**The Church Council and WELCA/Volunteers** will take down the Christmas decorations and Christmas tree Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> following Church. All help is welcomed!

**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  
@Zion58422



venmo

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## **TREE OF WARMTH -**

A green graphic for 'Zion's Tree of Warmth' featuring illustrations of winter clothing: a blue and red striped beanie, a pair of red mittens, a pair of green and red socks, and a green sweater with a red and yellow patterned collar. The text 'ZION'S Tree of Warmth' is written in red and white, with 'December 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>' in a red rounded rectangle. Below is a paragraph of text.

**ZION'S**  
Tree of Warmth

**December 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>**

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 Lenner 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