

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



Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 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 doors are closed, yet Christ stands beside you in radiant glory.

C - **I feel the breath of Christ’s peace moving within me now.**

P - Your unique authentic self is not hidden; Each of you shine with holy light.

C - **I now see love alive where I thought life had ended.**

P - Blessed are you, who have not seen and yet have come to believe.

C - **For Christ is here, and I am blessed.**

Gathering Hymn - Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing! ELW #389

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.

The cross stands empty to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring.

Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching ev'ry place and time.

In ev'ry insult, rift and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and ev'ry age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Prayer of Opening our Hearts to God

P - Living Christ,

C - You arrive without knocking, already present within the rooms we thought were sealed. You breathe your Spirit into us even now, and we are awakening as your beloved community; a people of courage, peace, and living faith. Amen. (*Please be seated*)

Holy Baptism of Ledger Leroy Frost

Baptism Sung Response - Baptized in Water ELW #456 vs 3
Bap-tized in wa-ter, shealed by the Spir-it, marked with the sign of
Christ our king; born of the Spir-it, we are God's chil-dren; joy-ful-ly
now God's praise we sing.

Reading of the Scriptures

First Reading - Proverbs 3:1-2 & 9-10 Trust and honor God

My child do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you. Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

Psalm 139:13-16 *(Please read responsively)*

For it was you who formed my inward parts;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;

that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you,

when I was being made in secret,

intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written

all the days that were formed for me,

when none of them as yet existed.

Second Reading - Revelation 1:12-13 & 17-18 A vision of Christ

Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last and the Living One. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever, and I have the keys of Death and of Hades. *Here ends this reading.*

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel - John 20:19-29 Jesus appears to the disciples and Thomas.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Gospel - Sing Response #361 vs 3 The Day of Resurrection
Now let the heav'ns be joy-ful, let earth its song be-gin, the round world keep high tri-umph and all that is there-in. Let all things, seen and un-seen, their notes of glad-ness blend; for Christ the Lord has ris-en, our joy that has no end! (Please be seated.)

Children's Message

Sing Blessing of our Children - Now All the Vault of Heaven
Resounds ELW #367 vs 1

**Now all the vault of heav'n re-sounds in praise of love that still
a-bounds; "Christ has tri-umphed! He is liv-ing!" Sing, choirs
of an-gels, loud and clear! Re-peat their song of glo-ry here;
"Christ has tri-umphed! He is liv-ing!" Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-
le-lu-ia!**

Homily - Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

**Offering Hymn - That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright
ELW #384 vs 1-3**

That Easter day with joy was bright;
the sun shone out with fairer light
when, to their longing eyes restored,
the apostles saw their risen Lord!

O Jesus, king of gentleness,
with constant love our hearts possess;
to you our lips will ever raise
the tribute of our grateful praise.

O Christ, you are the Lord of all
in this our Easter festival,
for you will be our strength and shield
from ev'ry weapon death can wield.

(Please stand as the offering is brought forward.)

Offering Sing Response - #365 vs 4 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
Sing we to our God a-bove, Al-le-lu-ia! Praise e-ter-nal as his love; Al-le-lu-ia! Praise him, all you heav'nly host, Al-le-lu-ia! Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. Al-le-lu-ia!

Offering Blessing

P - Generous Spirit,

C - These gifts we give are celebrations of the fullness we are living into now. As these offerings move outward, they are already becoming healing, justice, and love in action. We see your presence multiplying through every act of giving. Bless our offering and shape us as vessels of your radiant generosity. 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.**

Benediction Litany

P - Carry the peace of Christ into every place you go.

C - **I am alive with courage, compassion, and holy imagination.**

P - Blessed are you who believe without seeing.

C - **I am already seeing with the eyes of the soul.**

P - Go now as the living Body of Christ.

C - **I go as peace, love, and resurrection joy!**

P - You are blessed in the name of the Creator, Christ and Comforter.

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 - Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! ELW #377 vs 1-3

Chorus

Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
give God the glory! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Walking the way, Christ in the center,
telling the story to open our eyes;
breaking our bread, giving us glory:
Jesus, our blessing, our constant surprise.

Jesus the vine, we are the branches;
life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
gift of the future now flowing to me.

P - Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.

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 & Doyle Scott in Memory of Lawrence Gronewold's birthday, April 11th.

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 Kids of the Kingdom & Shirley and the Quartet for providing special music today.

Welcome to our newest member in Ledger Leroy Frost

Son of Hayden & Madison Frost born on October 27, 2025.

Sponsors are Lindsey Hesterman and Zach Auch. Grandparents are Dave & Tina Frost and Andy & Autumn Walford.

Sympathy – Our deepest sympathy to the family of Duane Schuster. Duane passed away on April 6th and funeral service were on April 10th at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Beatrice. Please keep Don & Gayle Schuster and family in your prayers.

Recognition Sunday is May 17th. Please get your graduates

information to the church office (402-806-3601 or zionlutheranchurchpickrell@gmail.com) if you would like your family member who is graduating either high school or college recognized.



2026 BACCALAUREATE SERVICE - Adams Lutheran Church is hosting the Freeman Baccalaureate Service at 7pm on Wednesday, May 13th. All are welcome to attend to honor our church graduates & others graduating this year.

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!

PLANT BINGO – Want some new plants. Come play plant BINGO! April 19th from 2-4:00pm at Envision Landscape's in Beatrice. Cost is \$20 per person. Refreshments will be provided. Limited seats available so text VeAnn Jurgens at 402.223.9237 to reserve yours ASAP.

SEALED BIDS BEING ACCEPTED - The Council is accepting sealed bids for the sale of a Roland Fantom-G8 electric piano (Model: Fantom-G8, Serial No. Z3A9026). All bids must be received by **May 15th** and may be submitted to any Council member. The item is being sold as-is, with no warranties expressed or implied. For additional information or to arrange inspection of the equipment, please contact any council member.

SHEETS UPDATE – We are so grateful to everyone who dropped off sheets for the blankets! We will let you know when we need more sheets. Thank you!

EASTER BREAKFAST APPRICATION - A sincere THANK YOU to all those that helped in the kitchen by setting up, serving, cleaning up, and everyone that provided food and drink. Also can't forget to thank the before Easter help, our table troop and table decor gals. Your time is appreciated too! It is always a well-attended fellowship and greatly appreciated by all!

THANK YOU - to the high school youth that participated in leading worship and presenting the Easter Story for the sunrise service! Also, a special thanks to Endless Hallulujah, Janelle, Derick, and Pastor Renee for your participation in the special service. What a great tradition to share in the Easter message together at sunrise!

Please reach out to Courtney Schlake, Jordan Freeman, Sarah Bartlett or Kate Meints if you are interested or want to learn more!

VBS COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

COMMITTEE DETAILS

- Two Volunteers Needed
- 3 Year Term
- Meet in March, April & May
- Help Plan & Organize VBS
- Set Up VBS
- Assist during the week of VBS

If you enjoy planning, organizing, or just want to help make VBS special for our church kids, we'd love to have you join the team!

AMERICA 250 -

The Nation's upcoming birthday July 4, 2026, honors the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America, with a focus on gratitude, religious freedom, and service. As part of the "America 250" we are planning to commemorate this historic moment in our nation's history here at Zion. On Sunday morning, **June 14th**, we will gather to celebrate and honor America. As this event

is still in the planning stages, we do have a plan to include a display of Quilts of Valor from our present and past Zion members. We are also hoping to award a Quilt of Valor. **At this time, we are looking for “Quilts” of Valor that have been presented to service members or veterans that attend or have attended Zion. We are also seeking names and contact information for service members or living veterans who may be eligible to receive a Quilt of Valor. As there is a protocol to nominate a candidate, this information is needed in a timely manner. Please contact Denise Schlake-Ideus or Marcia Busboom with any of the above information or if you would like to help with planning this celebration.** We are grateful to be collaborating with Quilts of Valor organizations through Quilt Stitches in Beatrice and “Piecemakers” in Firth.

****The Mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover Service Members and Living Veterans touched by war with a comforting and healing Quilt of Valor.*



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