

## 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.**



# **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

## **December 14, 2025**

### **Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler**

## **Contemporary Service**

*For those who are hearing challenged, Zion has digital listening devices for your use during worship. Please ask an usher or council member for one and they will show you how to use it.*

**Prelude & Ringing of the Bell - Endless Hallelujah - Glory (Let There Be Peace)**

## **Welcome**

**Gathering our Spirits for Worship** *(As you are able please stand)*

**P -** Come, you shepherd souls, guardians of animals. For it was to people like you that angels first sang.

**C - We come with the shepherds to seek the Child who shelters among the poor.**

**P -** Bless all animals of earth and sky, great and small; the woolly, the feathered, and the furred; for the stable was their first cathedral.

**C - Blessed be God, who honors all creation and makes animals our companions.**

**P -** Come, Lord Jesus, Child of the Poor, Light of the Lowly. We open our hearts to your holy arrival.

**C - We are here to worship with joy and wonder, for in a feeding trough Love is born, and the world is turned right-side up.**

## **Gathering Hymn – What Child Is This**

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

Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding  
Good Christian fear for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading  
Nails spear shall pierce Him through  
The cross be borne for me for you  
Hail hail the Word made flesh  
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

## **Prayer of Opening our Hearts to God**

P - O Holy Child of Bethlehem's poor,  
C - **born among straw and starlight, we come to this sacred  
worship with shepherd hearts. We thank you for choosing the  
field-dwellers, the ones who smell of sheep and soil, to be the  
first witnesses of your glory. Bless all who live on the**

margins; the hungry, the unhoused, the lonely, and the weary. Bless the animals who live in our homes, barns, and pastures, who shared their breath and warmth with baby Jesus that first night and who remind us of the quiet wisdom of all creation. Open our eyes to the manger moments around us; to the small, the overlooked, the fragile places where you continue to be born. Amen  
*(Please be seated)*

## **Reading of the Scripture**

**First Reading - Deuteronomy 15:7-8 and 10-11    Laws concerning charity.**

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.'

**Psalm: 34:17-18** (Please read responsively)

When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears  
**and rescues them from all their troubles.**  
The Lord is near to the brokenhearted  
**and saves the crushed in spirit.**

**Second Reading – Acts 4:32-35 Believers share their possessions**

**Become the sign of God's work**

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but

everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. *Here ends this reading.*

### **Gospel - Luke 2:8-12 The Shepherds in the field** (*Please stand as you are able*)

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." (Please be seated)

### **Special Music – Kids of the Kingdom**

### **Children's Message**

#### **Away in a Manger (acapella) vs 1-2**

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

### **Homily - Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler**

### **Offering Hymn – Do You Hear What I Hear**

Said the night wind to the little lamb  
Do you see what I see  
Way up in the sky little lamb

Do you see what I see  
A star a star dancing in the night  
With a tail as big as a kite  
With a tail as big as a kite

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy  
Do you hear what I hear  
Ringing through the sky shepherd boy  
Do you hear what I hear  
A song a song high above the trees  
With a voice as big as the sea  
With a voice as big as the sea

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king  
Do you know what I know  
In your palace warm mighty king  
Do you know what I know  
A Child a Child shivers in the cold  
Let us bring him silver and gold  
Oh let us bring him silver and gold

Said the king to the people ev'rywhere  
Listen to what I say  
Pray for peace people ev'rywhere  
Listen to what I say  
The Child the Child sleeping in the night  
He will bring us goodness and light  
He will bring us goodness and light

*(Please stand as the offering is brought forward.)*

### **Offering Blessing**

P - Giver of Every Good Gift,

**C - as the shepherds brought only themselves and their  
humble devotion to the manger, so we bring these offerings**

**with grateful hearts. Bless what we give, that it may lift the poor, comfort the sorrowing, feed the hungry, and honor the creatures and creation that you love. Bless this offering so that the lowly are raised and every manger becomes a throne of grace. Use us as instruments of peace, justice, and joyful 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 “O Lord, hear our prayer we offer up to you’ O Lord, hear our prayer!”***

## **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.**

## **Benediction**

### **Announcements in the Life of the Church**

**C - Zion, a place to belong, a place to believe, a place to become!**

### **Sending Hymn – Bethlehem Highway**

#### *Chorus*

There is hope on Bethlehem highway  
For the ones who will journey there  
And the hope is the Child in a manger  
Bringing us love beyond compare

#### *Verse 1*

It's a lifeline for the needy  
It's sight to those who can't see  
It's a freedom for the faithful  
In a Child of prophecy



### **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 Pard, Jeff Busboom, Steve Gronewold, Mark Buhr

### **Snow Brigade:**

**December 15<sup>th</sup>** - Josh Gronewold (Captain), Alan Wiese (Tractor), AJ Wiese, Kenny Newman, Paul Jurgens, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeier, Brian Garton

**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.

### **Vital Statistics for last Sunday**

Worship	150	Giving	\$22,633.04
SS	53	Giving	\$ 86.60
Candlelight	190	Giving	\$ 1,558.73 (Proceeds to Backpack Program Beatrice/Freeman)

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

#### **Today**

8:45am – SS/Gift Exchange

9:00am - BKF Club

10:00am - Worship/Endless Hallelujah/Kids of the Kingdom

#### **Monday**

7pm - Men's Choir Practice

#### **Wednesday**

6:30 – 8:00 Little Angels-8<sup>th</sup> grade program practice

6:30 Hospitality Card Making Event – Parish Hall

## **Next Sunday**

8:45 – Little Angels-1<sup>st</sup> Grade (Parish Hall), 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> (Church)  
program practice

9:00 - BKF Club/Adult Bible Study

10:00 - Worship/Communion/Baptism

**\*\*\*Time and Talent sheets due\*\*\***

## **Helping out next Sunday**

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

Organist:.....Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes:.....,....Tavin Lieneman

Alexis Folkerts

Lector:.....Gerald Ideus

Greeter:.....Todd & Jeni Bohlmeyer

Billy & Janet Harms

## **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:** Kevin Buhr in honor of his grandfather Carl Buhr, grandmother Emma Buhr, and father Kenneth Buhr who were all baptized at Zion 110, 100, and 80 years ago.

**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 Janelle Ideus, Deric Bloom, Endless Hallelujah, and Kids of the Kingdom for providing special music today.

**THANK YOU** - A huge thank you to Kent and Jen Mahler and Alyssa Lieneman for all your help making the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Service Action experience run smoothly, and to Stan and Mary Lenners for writing the Thrivent grant that made this all possible. We are so grateful for your support and hearts for service! Our 5th grade class had an incredible shopping experience as they helped shop for two families in need in Beatrice. What an amazing opportunity for them to learn generosity, compassion, and the joy of giving back!

**OFFERINGS FOR DECEMBER** – Christmas Eve and Christmas Day offerings will go to the Heritage Room and repairs to the School House.

**MEN'S CHOIR PRACTICE** - Will meet tomorrow December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm for the last time in 2025 and practice will resume in January.

**POINSETTIA SIGN-UP** – The clipboard is located on the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall. Please list who is giving the poinsettia and who it is in memory or in honor of. Names will be listed in the bulletins and January newsletter. If possible, please do not deliver your poinsettia until December 19<sup>th</sup>. If they arrive too early, it is difficult to keep them watered and looking pretty during the remainder of the month.

**ALL ZION MEMBERS** – Please take a moment to complete the 2026 Time & Talent sheet prior to **December 21, 2025** and return to the church office, place in the offering plate, or give to a Council member. The time & talents of our members is what makes Zion such a special place to worship. What a perfect way to volunteer & give back to Zion! Sheets are located on the tables at each entrance & on the Welcome Center. Thank you!

# UPDATE FROM PARISH ED

## UPDATED SCHEDULE



<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 12/17	<b>Christmas Program Practice - ALL</b> 6:30 - 8:00 PM Little Angels - 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade in Church
<b>SUNDAY</b> 12/21	<b>Christmas Program Practice - ALL</b> 8:45 - 9:45 AM Little Angels - 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade in the Parish Hall 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade in the Church
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 12/24	<b>Christmas Eve Program</b> 5:30 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Arrive 5:45 All Others Arrive 6:00 Program Starts
<b>SUNDAY</b> 12/28 & 1/4	<b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> Winter Break

**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  
@Zion68422



venmo

Scan this code to pay

## TREE OF WARMTH -



**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