

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

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Communion



October 4, 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

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome

Call to Worship *(As you are able please stand)*

P - We are rooftop people

C - **We carry our friend on a mat woven of love and courage.**

P - We climb up on top of the house and begin chopping a hole in the roof

C - **Then we lower our friend down to Jesus**

P - The healing takes place, then and now

Gathering Hymn - Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer ELW #618

Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
where the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
shield me with your mighty arm,
shield me with your mighty arm.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises
I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.

Opening Prayer

P - Loving Christ,

C - You are glad that my friends lowered me down to you; I can see it in your face and I am glad that I was carried here, lifted up and lowered down. To feel your healing touch and hear you call me your beloved. Amen

Scripture Readings

First Testament: Numbers 21:8-9 Moses' serpent of bronze on a pole

And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Psalm 30:1-2

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.
O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.

Second Reading: Acts 28:1-10 Paul heals many on the island of Malta

After we had reached safety, we then learned that the island was called Malta. The local people showed us unusual kindness. Since it had begun to rain and was cold, they kindled a fire and welcomed all of us around it. Paul had gathered a bundle of brushwood and was putting it on the fire when a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. When the local people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "This man must be a murderer; though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live." He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. They were expecting him to swell up or drop dead, but after they had waited a long time and saw that nothing unusual had happened to him, they changed their minds and began to say that he was a god.

Now in the vicinity of that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained

us hospitably for three days. It so happened that the father of Publius lay sick in bed with fever and dysentery. Paul visited him and cured him by praying and putting his hands on him. After this happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured. They bestowed many honors on us, and when we were about to sail, they put on board all the provisions we needed.

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12 Jesus heals a paralytic lowered from the roof

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves, and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he said to the paralytic "I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your home." And he stood up and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Gospel Sung Response tune - (tune: Blessed Assurance)

Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine! Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of Christ spirit, washed in his love. This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long: this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long. (*Please be seated.*)

Children's Message

Sung Blessing for our Children Tune – (tune: Children of the Heavenly Father)

Chil-dren of the heav'n-ly Fa-ther safe-ly in his bo-som gath-er; nest-ling bird nor star in heav-en such a ref-uge e'er was giv-en.

Homily - Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

Offering Hymn - We Come to You for Healing, Lord ELW #617 vs 1-3

We come to you for healing, Lord,
of body, mind, and soul,
and pray that by, your Spirit's touch,
we may again be whole.

As once you walked through ancient streets
and reached toward those in pain,
come, risen Christ, among us still
with power to heal again.

You touch us through physicians' skills,
through nurses' gifts of care,
and through the love of faithful friends
who lift our lives in prayer.

(Please stand as the offering is brought forward.)

Sung Offering Response - (tune: For all the Saints)

**We bring this off-ring to our God di-vine; for works of just-ice,
so that love may shine. Bless us to-day and let our lives en-
twine. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!**

Offering Blessing

P - Healing Jesus,

**C - We are your rooftop people, participating in healing by
having a rope long enough for our friend to be lowered at your
feet. Heal us and use our money and friendships to heal
others. Amen**

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;**

through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
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.**

Holy Communion Liturgy

P - The Lord be with you.

C - And also with you.

P - Lift up your hearts.

C - We lift them to the Lord.

P - Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C - It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P - It is our joy, at all times and in all places to give God thanks and praise.

The Words of Institution

Holy Communion - All visitors are welcome at the Lord's Table with us.

Communion Hymn - The King of Love My Shepherd Is ELW #502

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth
and, where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me,
thy rod and staff my comfort still;
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Prayer After Communion

P - Gracious Christ,

C - Thank you for refreshing me at your table. Strengthen my faith, increase my love for others, and send me forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Benediction (responsively)

P- New life has bloomed here,

C - Jesus has healed us

P - Now the world calls us

C - To go and spread that love.

P - Alleluia

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 - Blest Be the Tie That Binds ELW #656

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.

P - Go in peace and serve the Lord.
C - **Thanks be to God.**

Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler - Interim Pastor 402-867-4044
Les Lieneman - Council President 402-223-0433
Michele Kolm - Church Office number 402-806-3601
Email -zionlutheranchurchpickrell@gmail.com

Helping out with Worship Today

Pastor:.....Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler
Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes:.....Ellis Freeman
Macy Oltmans
Lector: Les Lieneman
Greeters:.....Darwin & Susan Buss
Karla Carstens

October Altar Guild: Carol Young, Sandy Meints, Marcella Rademacher, Susan Newman

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

Vital Statistics for last Sunday

SS: 58 Giving: \$ 145.00

Worship: 165 Giving: \$3,626.05

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

8:45am – Sunday School

9:00am - BKF Club/Adult Bible Study

10:00am - Worship/Communion

Wednesday

1:30pm - Grace Circle

6:00pm - 7th/8th grade confirmation class service project

7:00pm - Committee Meetings

7:30pm - Council Meeting

Next Sunday Good Neighbor/New Member Sunday

8:45am – Sunday School

9:00am - BKF Club

10:00am – Worship/Kids of the Kingdom

Helping out next Sunday

Pastor:.....Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler
Organist.....Shirley Gronewold
Acolytes:.....Mason Hippen
 Mason Ideus
Lector: Pam Trauernicht
Greeters:.....Karla Holland
 Robert & Linda Ideus
Special Music:.....Kids of the Kingdom

THIS WEEKS BULLETIN IS SPONSORED BY: Patty Thomas & Doyle Scott in memory Shirley Gronewold's birthday October 7th.

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!

THANK YOU – Day One is Beyond Grateful for your donation of support in this ministry. These blessings help to keep the ministry going. The Holy Spirit is truly at work in your hearts. God loves a cheerful giver! Thank you – Day One Pat Jobman

BREAKFAST CLUB SIGN-UP - There is a sign-up clip board on the Welcome Center for the Breakfast Club – help feed our hungry high school students on Sunday Mornings.



GOOD NEIGHBOR & NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION

Sunday, October 11, 2026

We invite our church family to INVITE your neighbors & friends to worship that day. **INVITE & BRING those special people with you!** We will also be recognizing Zion's past year's new members this Sunday so come and make your presence felt!

If you are interested in joining Zion, please let Michele Kolm at the church office know or any council member.

YOUTH CAMP REIMBURSEMENTS - Any youth who attended confirmation camp or a summer Christian based camp during 2026, may qualify for reimbursement up to 75% of the camp cost based on the "Early Bird Discount" (if applicable). Funds are provided through the Willie & Anna Meints Endowment Fund. Applications are located on the Welcome Center in the fellowship hall. Application deadline is 12/1/26.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

October 18th – Lesson on Martin Luther. Learn about the reformation, and what it means to be ELCA Lutheran. Learn why people were in danger (Martin Luther,) or killed because they wanted to translate the Bible for the common people.

Come learn, pray, and grow in your relationship with God!

Sunday School Teacher Needed for the Upcoming Year!

We are looking for volunteers to help teach our Sunday School students this coming year!

Open Position:

*** 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!

GAGE COUNTY CROP HUNGER WALK -

The 57th annual Gage County CROP Hunger Walk is Scheduled for Sunday, October 11, 2026. It will start at 2:00PM at the trail in the northeast part of Hannibal Park, weather permitting, after a short on-site registration, orientation, and moment of commitment. Those able will walk 6 miles down to the river and back.

7th & 8th GRADE SERVICE PROJECT - The Confirmation kids will be walking roadside for trash pickup as part as there service project this Wednesday, October 7th from 6:00-7:00 pm. We will have pizza for the participants following in the parish hall. Family members are encouraged to join.

WELCA NEWS – NSWOs Autumn Renewal will be held Saturday, October 10, 2026 at St. Pauls' Lutheran Church in Grand Island. If you've not been to the Fall Gathering before, please consider attending. It's a fun day of women's fellowship, worship, and interesting speakers. The Fall Renewal Registrations and more information can be found on Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall.

SUPPORTING SAMMIE GARTON - Many within our church family have asked how they can support Sammie Garton as she continues her healing journey through leukemia. As we stand with Sammie and her family in prayer, we also recognize the significant financial burdens that often accompany ongoing medical treatments, travel, and time away from work.

For those who feel led to provide financial support, contributions may be mailed to:

**Adams State Bank
649 Main Street
Adams, NE 68301**

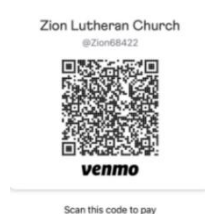
Please make checks payable to Adams State Bank and include "Sammie Garton" in the memo line. The memo is very important to ensure the funds are properly directed.

Most importantly, we ask that you continue to lift Sammie and her loved ones in prayer, trusting in God's faithfulness, comfort, and provision during this difficult journey.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2



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 - Rosanna Miller

Our Homes Assisted Living - Randy Oltman

Wilber Care Center - Marsha Zulauf