

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

Second Sunday after Epiphany with Holy Communion

January 18, 2026

Chaplain Sharon Schuster



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

Today’s gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus’ baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

Confession and Forgiveness

P - Mighty God,

C- lover of justice, you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.

We say the right words,

but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Gathering Hymn – Here I Am Lord

Verse 1

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Chorus

Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Verse 2

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? (To Chorus)

Verse 3

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? (To Chorus)

Prayer of the Day

P - Holy God,

C - our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (*Please be seated*)

Reading of the Scriptures

First Reading – Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations:
Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name. He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor." But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand, and my reward is with my God." And now the Lord says he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength he says, "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my

salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.” This is what the Lord says the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers, “Kings will see you and stand up, princes will see and bow down, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Psalms 40:1-11 (Please read responsively.)

I waited patiently for the Lord;

he inclined to me and heard my cry.

He drew me up from the desolate pit,

out of the miry bog,

and set my feet upon a rock,

making my steps secure.

He put a new song in my mouth,

a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear

and put their trust in the Lord.

Happy are those who make

the Lord their trust,

who do not turn to the proud,

to those who go astray after false gods.

You have multiplied, O Lord my God,

your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;

none can compare with you.

Were I to proclaim and tell of them,

they would be more than can be counted.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,

but you have given me an open ear.

Burnt offering and sin offering

you have not required.

Then I said, “Here I am;

in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

I delight to do your will, O my God;

your law is within my heart.”

I have told the glad news of deliverance

in the great congregation;

see, I have not restrained my lips,

as you know, O Lord.

I have not hidden your saving help within my heart;

I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;

I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness

from the great congregation.

Do not, O Lord, withhold

your mercy from me;

let your steadfast love and your faithfulness

keep me safe forever.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours, Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel: John 1:29-42 (Please stand as you are able)

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One." The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

Children's Message

Message – Chaplain Sharon Schuster

Offering Hymn – Christ Alone

Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

Verse 2

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness

Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

Verse 3

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

Verse 4

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

(Please stand as the offering is brought forward.)

Offering Blessing

P - God of majesty,

C - no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Please be seated)

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 "O Lord, hear our prayer we offer up to you' O Lord, 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.**

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

Words of Institution

Communion Hymn's –

Round the Table

Chorus

Come together round the table

Come and taste the wonder

A healing touch and a deep connection

From the living center of it all

Seeking meaning on the run you try and save the day
But all is ready will you come? Love invites the way. (Chorus)

Bring a friend or enemy or one you hold or blame
With each other we are one Here in Jesus name (Chorus)

Hear creation groan for life. Will Hate and hunger cease?
In the roar of violence, the world cries for peace. (Chorus)

King Of My Heart

Verse 1

Fill me I'm an empty vessel make me whole
King of my heart King of my heart
Fill me I'm an empty vessel make me whole
King of my heart King of my heart
You are Lord Lord
You are Lord and King of my heart (our hearts)

Verse 2

Bread of life blessed and broken make us whole
King of our hearts King of our hearts
Bread of life blessed and broken make us whole
King of our hearts King of our hearts
You are Lord Lord
You are Lord and King of our hearts

Verse 3

Sacred cup of our salvation make us whole
King of our hearts King of our hearts
Sacred cup of our salvation make us whole

King of our hearts King of our hearts
You are Lord Lord
You are Lord and King of our hearts

Jesus Name Above All Names

Verse 1

Jesus name above all names
Beautiful Savior glorious Lord
Emmanuel God is with us
Blessed Redeemer living Word

Verse 2

Jesus loving Shepherd
Vine of the branches Son of God
Prince of Peace Wonderful Counselor
Lord of the universe Light of the world

Verse 3

Jesus, Way of salvation
King of kings, Lord of Lords,
The way the truth and the Life,
Mighty creator, mine Savior and friend.

Prayer After Communion

P - Radiant God,

C - we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Benediction

Announcements in the Life of the Church

Sending Hymn – Shine Jesus Shine

Verse 1

Lord the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus Light of the World shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me shine on me

Chorus

Shine Jesus shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow river flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your word
Lord and let there be light

Verse 2

Lord I come to Your awesome presence
From the shadows into Your radiance
By the blood I may enter Your brightness
Search me try me consume all my darkness
Shine on me shine on me (*chorus*)

Verse 3

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me shine on me (*chorus*)

P- Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C- Thanks be to God.

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

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DeAnn Oltman - Council President 402-223-0561

Michele Kolm – Church Office number 402-806-3601

Email -zionlutheranchurchpickrell@gmail.com

Helping out with Worship Today

Pastor:.....Chaplain Sharon Schuster

Piano:.....Janelle Ideus

Guitar:.....Deric Bloom

Acolytes:.....Cash Harwood
Millie Garton

Lector:.....Lynette Jurgens

Greeters:.....Tony & Kristin Hoffman
Lynette Jurgens

Special Music:.....Endless Hallelujah

January Altar Guild:

Rhonda Fossler, Linda Ideus, DeAnn Oltman, and Annette Wiese

January Table Troop:

Josh Gronewold (Leader), Paul & Shellie Remmers, Les & Mert
Rademacher, Linda & Robert Ideus

Snow Brigade:

January 19th – Josh Gronewold (Captain), Alan Wiese (Tractor), AJ Wiese, Kenny Newman, Paul Jurgens, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeier, Brian Garton

January 26th – Luke Ideus (Captain), Gary Gronewold (Tractor), Stan Lenners (Tractor), Justin Hipppen, Mark Buhr, James Lenners, Billy Harms, Larry Gronewold, Dale Zimmerman

Vital Statistics for last Sunday

Worship: 156 Giving: \$3,256.55

SS: 53 Giving: \$ 185.75

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

8:45am - Sunday School

9:00am - BKF Club/Endless Hallelujah practice

10:00am - Worship/Communion/Endless Hallelujah

*****WELCA General Mtg following worship**

Monday

6:00pm - Men's Choir Practice

Wednesday

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

Next Sunday

8:45am - SS

9:00am - BKF Club

10:00am - Worship/Amigos

****Annual Meeting following worship**

Helping out next Sunday

Pastor:.....Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler
Organist:.....Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes:.....Tavin Lieneman
 Alexis Folkerts
Lector:.....Katelyn Bohlmeier
Greeters:.....Alex & Beth Buhr
 Art & Sharon Schuster
Special Music:.....Amigos

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.

THANK YOU - The Young family would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your support and kindness during this difficult time. You have all been a source of comfort and strength, and we are grateful for your words of sympathy and encouragement as we navigate our loss. ~Carol Young & family

OUR SYMPATHIES - To Pastor Renae and family on the passing of Renae's father William "Bill" Koehler on January 11th. Funeral services were held on Wednesday January 14th at St. Paul's U.C.C. Church, rural Tecumseh. Please keep Pastor Renae and family in your prayers.

THANK YOU - Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for the outpouring of love, prayers, and kindness you shared with me and my family after my father's death last Sunday. Your presence at his funeral, your cards, and the beautiful floral arrangement with the wooden angel all meant the world to me.

I am especially grateful to those who covered worship services and classes for me so that I could be fully present with my family. One of my greatest comforts is knowing that my father had the chance to come here to Zion Lutheran Church and see me so genuinely happy. He knew, before he passed, that I was where I belonged, surrounded by a community of love. ~ With deep gratitude, Pastor Renae Koehler

THANK YOU - To Janelle Ideus, Deric Bloom, and the Endless Hallelujah for providing special music today.

WILLIE AND ANNA MEINTS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Students attending college can apply for the scholarship for up to 4 years, following the start of the first college semester. Applications are located on the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall. Deadline to submit the application is February 15, 2026. Please make sure to read the qualifications listed on the application.

Committee members: DeAnn Oltman, Steve Oltman & Laura Fikar

ANNUAL MEETING - Next Sunday, January 25, 2026

Next Sunday our Annual Meeting will be held immediately after church. A copy of the Annual Report is available today for your review. They are located on the tables at each of the entryways. Reports will also be available next Sunday.

CEMETERY FENCE PROJECT – Our cemetery fence project is nearing completion. There are some small crosses that need to be installed. Thanks to all who contributed to making this project successful. ~Cemetery Board Members

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCA

invites you to attend our

Annual Soup Luncheon

Sunday, February 1, 2026

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Chili, chicken noodle, and vegetable beef soup will be served, along with desserts and a beverage.

Bring a friend—we're looking forward to seeing you there!

Free will offerings will be accepted.

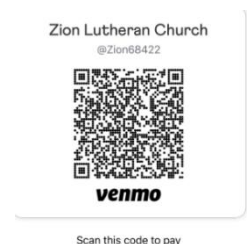


online
GIVING
easy. fast. effective.

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 member.



Bailey Pointe - Vivian Schuster

Gold Crest - Janice Jurgens, Doreen Wallman, Marilyn Robinson, Mildred Meints

Good Samaritan - Bob D. Ideus

Homestead House - Anora Schoen, Rosanna Miller

Our Homes Assisted Living - Randy Oltman

Beatrice Health & Rehab - Marsha Zulauf, Betty Daubendiek