

***“Bonded in Christ’s love, we teach, preach, and equip
God’s people***

for discipleship here and throughout the world.”

First Sunday in Advent

November 27, 2022



***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 – Bell

*The Hebrew word **ruach** means spirit, breath, and wind. The interconnectedness of these images is clear throughout scripture. In Genesis the Spirit/wind of God blows over the waters of creation, and God **breathes** into the created human being to give life/spirit.*

Who we are created to be is centered in our breathing, which connects us to the one who created us.

Gathering

P- The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today’s readings, both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake-up from our sleep, for we neither know the day nor hour of the Lord’s coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering.

C- Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Psalm 85:7

P- Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

C- Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Gathering Hymn – Rejoice, Rejoice Believers ELW 244

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.

2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
the marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
The bridegroom is at hand.

3 The saints, who here in patience
their cross and sufferings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
The Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold.

4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see

the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

Lighting the First Candle on the Advent Wreath

P- Praise to you, O God, our salvation is near.

You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.

You show up in our lives at unexpected times.

Bless us as we light this first candle to keep vigil for your arrival.

We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

C- Amen

Confession & Forgiveness

*As you are able, please stand. All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign that is marked at baptism, as pastor begins.*

P- Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

C- Blessed be God's name forever. Amen

P- Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confess our sins,

and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P- God of new beginnings,

C- we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire

and set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,

and welcome your coming among us. Amen

P- People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch,
a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
You have put on + Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C- Amen

Please be seated.

Children's Time – Beep! Beep! Beep!

When we hear the alarm clock, it calls us to wake up!

Special Music: Men's Choir "Ten Lepers"

Readings

Isaiah 2:1-5

Lector – *The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"*

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD! Here ends this reading.

Psalm 122 - Song of Praise and Prayer for Jerusalem *Read responsively.*

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"
Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together.
To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
For there the thrones for judgement were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

“May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls,

and security within your towers.”

For the sake of my relatives and friends

I will say, “Peace be within you.”

For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,

I will seek your good.

Romans 13:11-14

Lector – *Paul compares the advent of Christ’s coming to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in the light of Christ’s coming in the future. Paul writes to the church in Rome:*

Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Here ends this reading.

Prayer of the Day

As you are able, please stand.

P- Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

C- By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Gospel – Matthew 24:36-44

P- Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately asking what will be the sign of his coming and the end of the age. Jesus answered:]

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.” The Gospel of the Lord.

C- Praise to you, O Lord! *Please be seated.*

Special Music: Men’s Choir “Wonderful”

Message – The Thieving Christ and Advent

Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber wonders if “maybe we should make Advent lists—kind of like Christmas lists, but instead of things we want Santa to bring us, we write down what we want Christ to take from us.”

Offering Hymn – Hark the Glad Sound ELW 239

1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Offering Prayer

As you are able, please stand.

P- Eternal God,

C- you make the desert bloom

and send springs of water to thirsty ground.

Receive our gifts of time, talent and treasure,

**and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of healing and justice.**

We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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. *Please be seated.***

Announcements in the Life of Our Church

Blessing & Dismissal

As you are able please stand.

P- God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
+ bless us now and forever.

C-Amen

P- Go in peace. Christ is near.

C- Thanks be to God! ZION...a place to belong, a place to believe, a place to become!

Sending Hymn – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus ELW 254

1 Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Pastor Jer's phone number – 402-404-0494

Karen's number – 402-661-9362

Email -jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com

Helping With the Service Today

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath

Organist.....Alnora Dauendiek

Special Music..... Men's Choir

Acolytes.....Kyson Kolm

Avery Busboom

Lector.....Gerald Ideus

Greeter.....Kim & Connie Thornburg

Gerald & Denise Ideus

Breakfast Club.....Kelly Lenners

Vital Statistics for Last Sunday

Church Attendance 162 Giving \$ 4532.69
Sunday School 62 Giving \$ 36.34

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Monday

Men's Choir Christmas Caroling to Homestead House 5:20 pm
(Yes, 5:20 pm to sing at 5:30)
Quartet Practice 7pm

Wednesday

No Confirmation Due to program practice
7th & 8th grade Christmas program practice 6:30-7:30 pm

NEXT Sunday

Sunday School 8:45 am
Breakfast Club/Adult SS 9 am
Worship/Communion 10 am
Candle-light Service 6 pm

Helping out Next Sunday

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath
Organist.....Alnora Dauendiek
Special Music.....The Quartet
Acolytes.....Hudson Fikar
Henry Garton
Lector.....Brian Garton
Greeter.....Council
Breakfast Club.....Mert Rademacher

November Table Troop: Dave & Carrye Meints, Kenny & Janet Schuster, Larry Gronewold, Eddie & Lynette Dorn, Steve & Peggy Johnson, Gary & Brenda Gronewold

November Altar Guild: Denise Idesu, Cheryl Folkerts, Danelle Evers, Carrye Meints

December Table Troup: Stan & Mary Lenners, Al Wiese, Doug Parde, Jeff Busboom, Steve Gronewold, Mark Buhr, Alex Buhr, Duane Zulauf

December Altar Guild: Lynette Dorn, Doreen Busboom, Kelly Lenners, Christy Buhr, Karla Holland, Rhonda Dorn

Snow Brigade

Week of Nov. 28th **Gary Wiese * Council**, Matt Meints Captain, Les Lieneman Tractor, David Meints – Tractor, Andy Schoen, Perry Jurgens, Kenny Jurgens, Josh Nelson, Jeff Wiese, Jason Lovitt

Week of December 5th **Neal Meints *Council**, Jordan Busboom **Captain, Eric Parde Tractor, Chris Fossler Tractor, Duane Jurgens, Greg Robinson, Larry Johnson, Hunter Blackwell, Keith Parde, Steve Oltman, Donny Schuster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! Warm Welcome to all our visitors. We would love to have you visit again! We ask that you please sign a visitor card located in the pews and bring the information section of the card to the information center desk, located in the unity room. We are so glad you are here!

HANDICAP PARKING - We encourage you to reserve parking between the parsonage and the north doors for those joining us with mobility difficulties. Thank you! ~ The Church Council

Today's bulletin is sponsored by Vivian Schuster in memory of her husband Elmer. Elmer Passed away on November 28, 2012

The Candlelight Service offering has been designated to go to the Carolyn Scott Rainbow House located in Omaha. The Rainbow House is a 56-room guest house for out-of-town families who have a family member undergoing medical treatment at Children's Hospital. Some of our own Zion family members and relatives currently or in the past few years have been able to stay here.

God is Calling...will you Answer? Parish Ed is actively looking for 2 new members beginning January 2023. If interested in helping out contact one of the Parish Ed members.

Looking for two more volunteers: to be on the Hospitality Committee to replace two that would like to retire from this position. If interested, please contact VeAnn Jurgens.

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.

We will be ordering 2023 Offering Envelopes in December. Please contact Kristi Dorn (402-223-8161) if you would like to start receiving envelopes or if you would like to be removed from the distribution list.

PHOTO DIRECTORY IS STILL UNDERWAY:

If you had your photos taken by Camille Dorn Photography, they are available to be viewed in a photo gallery. You can find the gallery on our Zion Facebook page or log *into* <https://camdorn.passgallery.com/-churchdirectory>. At the end of church today, Brenda will be in the fellowship hall with a computer if you want to look at them today. You can let Brenda, Rhonda or Camille know the one you want for the photo directory or Camille will pick for you.

If you have you own photo for the photo directory, you can email it to camilledornphotography@gmail.com. If you are unable to send the picture electronically, you can give the picture to Brenda Gronewold or Rhonda Dorn to scan, and they will return the picture to you. We will accept pictures through 12/31/22.

Brenda Gronewold 402-520-0397

Rhonda Dorn – 402-520-1320

Camille Dorn camilledornphotography@gmail.com

The WELCA Yearbooks are printed and in your mailboxes. If there isn't one in your mailbox and you would like one or would like an extra one there are some on the Welcome Center.

The Poinsettia sign up sheets are on the Welcome Center. You are responsible for purchasing your poinsettia again this year. If you would like your name listed in the bulletin, please sign the sheet and list in honor of or memory of.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Willie and Anna Meints Scholarship applications are located on the Welcome Center. Students entering college can apply for scholarships for up to 4 years. **Applications must be received by January 15, 2023, following the start of the students first college year.** Applications received after the January 15, 2023; deadline will not be considered. **NOTE:** Please make sure to read through the qualifications listed on the application, as the students must be an active communing member of Zion Lutheran Church & a printout of the student's grades are needed upon completion of their 2022 Fall semester.

Committee Members: Doreen Wallman, Steve Oltman & DeAnn Oltman

Men's Choir will be Christmas Caroling to the Homestead House on Monday at 5:20 pm. Yes meet at the Homestead House at 5:20 to sing at 5:30 pm. Followed by pizza at Pizza Hut.

Opportunities to Give...

Accepting new as well as gently used coats to be given to the Community Coat Closet located at First Christian Church in Beatrice. Please hang up on the coat rack in the fellowship hall of the church and attach a tag to the zipper/buttons of each. Tags are located on a hanger there. We thank Mickey Larkins for writing a \$250 Thrivent Grant to support this project.

The annual Tree of Warmth will be set up once again in the back of church Please consider bringing hats, gloves, scarves, socks, and or mittens to donate. We thank Dorothy Trauernicht for writing a \$250 Thrivent Grant to support this project.

The 5th Annual Asher's Angels Donation drive will be held thru Dec. 11th by Tiffany Trauernicht in memory of Asher Daniel Harper 12/14/2017. Accepting diapers or cash donations. To be given locally to those in need. See Pam or Dorothy Trauernicht, or Danelle Evers if you have questions. We thank Dorothy Trauernicht for writing a \$250 Thrivent Grant to support this project.

Food or Cash Donations will be collected for the Community Food Pantry until the end of the year. We thank Elnora Lenners for writing a \$250 Thrivent Grant to support this project.

We'd also like to thank Stan & Mary Lenners for writing a \$250 Thrivent Grant to support the Sunday School Excursion for those less fortunate

And Mert Rademacher for writing a \$250 Thrivent Grant to support a holiday meal distribution through Mother-to-Mother Ministry in Beatrice. This project is done in conjunction with American Lutheran in Filley.

Thank you to Courtney Schlake who wrote a \$250 Thrivent Grant for the **Family Movie Night** for community involvement. The Grinch movie is on Dec 6th.

Thank you to Denise Schlake Ideus for writing a \$250 Thrivent Grant for batting, **material and sewing supplies for LWR and CASA.**

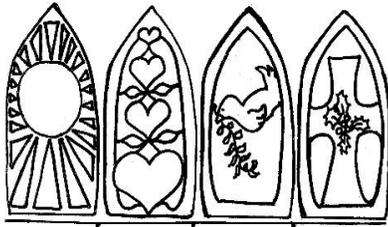
Thank you to Lynette Dorn for writing a \$250 Thrivent Grant for **Blanket sewing and supplies.**

Thank you to Carley Remmers for the \$250 Thrivent Grant for the **Minion Movie Night** this summer, the grant was written for the entrance for the first 50 participants, and then everyone was asked to bring food for the Food Pantry of Beatrice.

If you have any questions about Thrivent Grants, do not hesitate to ask someone on the Zion's Thrivent Team or if you have written a grant that hasn't been listed please let the team know.— Elnora Lenners, Dorothy Trauernicht, Denise Schlake Ideus, Doreen Remmers or Connie Thornburg.

The **flowers today** are from the Funeral of Elmyra Graham that was here on Monday, November 21st. Please continue to keep Ron, Sandy & Dan, Greg & Kristie, Julee & Mike, Lori & Jim and the rest of the family in your prayers.

The Flowers up by the altar pulpit side are given in memory of Alisa Knipe, Gerald Folkerts and Greg Folkerts by Marilyn Folkerts, Matthew, Michael & Eric Knipe.



Hope | Peace | Joy | Love

6 pm Sunday, December 4, 2022

An Advent Service of Candles and Carols

Zion Lutheran Church **welcomes ALL** to this **service of candles and carols**. Light and darkness are powerful metaphors for good and evil, truth and falsehood, life and death. In Genesis, chapter one verses 2 and 3, we read: "...the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. In the Gospel of John, chapter one, verses 3 through 5, we read: "Through him [Christ] all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

This worship resource emphasizes the classic Advent candle symbols of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. These are also the Advent banners in our worship space during the Season of Advent. Besides singing loved Christmas hymns from the ELW, we will also have a nice mix of choirs and soloists interspersed during this service. Please mark your calendars with this time and date **6 pm Sunday, December 4, 2022**, for Zion's **Advent Service of Candles and Carols!**



SHUT INS

Gold Crest-Mildred Meints, Marie Schoen

Homestead House- Thees Busboom, Elsie Zimmerman, Evelyn Meints

Our Homes Assisted Living-Randy Oltman