

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



Nineth Sunday after Pentecost

August 10, 2025

Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

Prelude & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Gathering (*As you are able please stand*)

P - Implant within our hearts, O God, a fiery zeal for justice.

C - Give us the courage of Queen Esther.

P - Let her story of bravery inspire us today.

C - And fill us with the zest of valor.

Gathering Hymn - Now Thank We All Our God ELW #840

1 Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2 Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Prayer of the Day

**O God of bold hearts and whispering wisdom,
Plant in us the defiance of Queen Esther,
Who dared to risk everything for her people's hope.
Grant us spirits fierce as fire, and tender as new blossoms,
That we may stand tall in the face of fear,
And speak truth into the halls of power with your love on our lips. Amen. (*Please be seated*)**

Reading of the Scripture

First Reading – Esther 4:14–17

What if you don't say anything at this time? Then help for the Jews will come from another place. But you and your family will die. Who knows? It's possible that you became queen for a time just like this." Then Esther sent a reply to Mordecai. She said, "Go. Gather together all the Jews who are in Susa. And fast for my benefit. Don't eat or drink anything for three days. Don't do it night or day. I and my attendants will fast just as you do. Then I'll go to the king. I'll do it even though it's against the law. And if I have to die, I'll die."
So Mordecai went away. He carried out all Esther's directions.

Psalms 27:1–5 (Please read responsively)

The Lord is my light, and he saves me.

Why should I fear anyone?

The Lord is my place of safety.

Why should I be afraid?

My enemies are evil.

They will trip and fall

when they attack me

and try to swallow me up.

Even if an army attacks me,

my heart will not be afraid.

Even if war breaks out against me,

I will still trust in God.

I'm asking the Lord for only one thing.

Here is what I want.

I want to live in the house of the Lord

all the days of my life.

I want to look at the beauty of the Lord.

I want to worship him in his temple.

When I'm in trouble,

he will keep me safe in his house.

He will hide me in the safety of his holy tent.

He will put me on a rock that is very high.

Second Reading - James 3:13–18

Is anyone among you wise and understanding? That person should show it by living a good life. A wise person isn't proud when they do good deeds. But suppose your hearts are jealous and bitter. Suppose you are concerned only about getting ahead. Then don't brag about it. And don't say no to the truth. Wisdom like this doesn't come down from heaven. It belongs to the earth. It doesn't come from the Holy Spirit. It comes from the devil. Are you jealous? Are you concerned only about getting ahead? Then your life will be a mess. You will be doing all kinds of evil things. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is pure. That's the most important thing about it. And that's not all. It also loves peace. It thinks about others. It obeys. It is full of mercy and good fruit. It is fair. It doesn't pretend to be what it is not. Those who make peace plant it like a seed. They will harvest a crop of right living. Here ends this reading.

Gospel - Luke 18:1–8 *(Please stand as you are able)*

Jesus told his disciples a story. He wanted to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said, "In a certain town there was a judge. He didn't have any respect for God or care about what people thought. A widow lived in that town. She came to the judge again and again. She kept begging him, 'Make things right for me. Someone is treating me badly.'

"For some time the judge refused. But finally he said to himself, 'I don't have any respect for God. I don't care about what people think. But this widow keeps bothering me. So I will see that things are made right for her. If I don't, she will someday come and attack me!'"

The Lord said, "Listen to what the unfair judge says. God's chosen people cry out to him day and night. Won't he make things right for them? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, God will see that things are made right for them. He will make sure it happens quickly. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find people on earth who have faith?"

Sing Response – To the tune of (ELW #473)

C - Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.

My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, God.

(Please be seated)

Children's Message

Sing Response - Jesus Loves Me – Verse 1 + Refrain

Jesus loves me, this I know,

for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong;

they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Message - Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

Offering Hymn - (Tune: We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder)

We will follow Esther's courage,

We will follow Esther's courage,

We will follow Esther's courage,

Sisters, brothers, all.

Here we seek and find our story,

Here we seek and find our story,

Here we seek and find our story,

Sisters, brothers, all.

On and on the circle's moving,

On and on the circle's moving,

On and on the circle's moving,

Sisters, brothers, all.

(Please stand as the offering is brought forward.)

Sing Response – to the tune of (ELW # 422)

C- We bring this offering to our God Divine,

for works of justice, so that love may shine.

Bless us today and let our lives entwine,

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Offering Blessing

P - Holy One,

C - we lift up these gifts, knowing that you stirred courage in Queen Esther's heart, lit wisdom in the minds of peacemakers, and poured strength into those who cry for justice. Let this offering nourish the weary, embolden the timid, and ripple outward with your truth. As surely as you are our light and salvation, may these gifts become seeds of peace and acts of bold compassion. Amen.

(Please be seated)

Prayers of the Church – (*When the pastor says, “Lord in your mercy” please respond with “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 (Please be seated)

Sending Hymn - Lift Every Voice and Sing ELW # 841

1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet

come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

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!

DeAnn Oltman - Council President 402-223-0561

Michele Kolm – Church Office number 402-806-3601

Email -jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com

Helping out with Worship Today

Pastor:Dr. Rev. Renae Koehler

Organist:..... Shirley Gronewold

Acolytes:..... Presleigh Borgman

Carson Hanshaw

Lector:..... Connie Thornburg

Greeters:Kim & Connie Thornburg

Alex & Beth Buhr

Coffee Fellowship by Joy Circle

August Altar Guild:

Carrye Meints, Linda Blackwell, Denise Ideus, Cheryl Folkerts, Danelle Evers

August Table Troop: Alex Buhr (Leader), Duane Zulauf, Stan & Mary Lenners, Alan Wiese, Doug Parde, Jeff Busboom, Steve Gronewold, Mark Buhr

Vital Statistics for last Sunday

Worship 88 Giving \$2,331.00

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

9:00 am Worship/Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

Coffee Fellowship by Joy Circle

Wednesday

1:30 Grace Circle meeting @ Gold Crest

Next Sunday

9:00 am Worship/Communion/Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

Coffee Fellowship by Joy Circle

Helping out next Sunday

Pastor:Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

Organist:..... Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes:..... Konnor Kolm
Hunter Grone

Lector:..... Dorothy Trauernicht

Greeters:..... Kristen & Tony Hoffman
Craig & Jess Ideus

Coffee Fellowship by Joy Circle

This week's bulletin is sponsored by Art & Sharon Schuster who will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on August 15th. Congratulations!

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.



5th SUNDAY OFFERING

The 5th Sunday in August (8/31/25) will be designated to the Audio/Visual Improvement Fund.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! A Warm Welcome to all our visitors. We would love to have you visit again! We ask 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 Fellowship Hall or place it in the offering plate. We are so glad you are here!



Another option for giving is available for our Zion members.

Simply scan the QR Code to the right to access Zion's Venmo account and submit your offering. Offering envelopes and online giving

Zion Lutheran Church
@Zion68422



venmo

Scan this code to pay

via Vanco are still available to members as well. **Any members with questions regarding these options can reach out to a church council member.**

YOUTH ATTENDING SUMMER CAMP

Any youth attending confirmation camp or a summer Christian based camp, may qualify for reimbursement of 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.



LWR-SCHOOL KIT UPDATE

NEW GOAL 150 Bags

To reach this we only need 230 black/ blue pens

Amazing isn't it?

Thanks to Linda Blackwell for writing the Thrivent grant and a huge thank you to those of you who have contributed!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Trip & Amya Cornelius who welcomed son, Donovan Elias on Friday, August 1st.



8/27/2025 – 6-7 p.m. Student & Parent Confirmation Orientation meeting followed by acolyte training for 7th graders.

It's a new year of confirmation and a significant step in our youth's faith journey. The goal is to help 7th and 8th graders grow spiritually as well as connect them with our church family.

Students & parents, please plan to attend. We will discuss the confirmation year ahead of us and distribute the confirmation schedule and information. 7th & 8th grade youth and parents or guardians will meet in the fellowship hall from 6 to 7 pm. For the 8th grade families, we will look at the year ahead as these youth prepare for their confirmation in the spring. For the 7th grade families, we will discuss confirmation requirements and align on a week to attend camp together during the summer of 2026.

Confirmation classes will begin on Wednesday, September 3rd, 6 to 7 PM.



PRAYER QUILT

In the hallway leading from the church to the fellowship hall, please take a moment to stop by the PrayerQuilt hanging on the west wall. The Prayer Quilt is for our Church as we pray to find a new minister. Please tie a knot and pray for God's intervention and discernment for our Call Committee & Church Council. This quilt

was made by Karen Gilbreath & given to us as we pray for a new minister. The number of knots tied, reflects your prayers for Zion.

ONLINE SERVICES ON FACEBOOK UPDATE

If there are any online services you would like to keep from Facebook, please personally download and save the service. Effective September 6, 2025, Facebook plans to delete all live streamed videos over 30 days old. After September 6th, the church will save the most recent services within the last 3 months & older services will be deleted on a rolling basis.



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

Homestead House - Anora Schoen, Rosanna Miller

Our Homes Assisted Living – Randy Oltman

Bailey Pointe – Vivian Schuster