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.



First Sunday in Advent with Holy Communion

November 29, 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

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Lighting of the first Advent Candle *(As you are able please stand)*
P - Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which means "waiting" for the arrival of baby Jesus.
C - As we light our first Advent Candle, we prepare ourselves to receive the light of Christ.
P - Go and reflect the light of Christ to everyone you meet.
C - We rejoice that Christ comes to give us the birthday of life and hope.

Gathering Hymn - O Come, All Ye Faithful ELW #283 vs. 1-3
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: [Refrain]

Opening Prayer
P - We give thanks, Emmanuel,
C - for this community of the faithful and for spiritual gifts found – not under garland laden trees; but in the hearts of friends. Help us not only to light the candles and carol the traditions of the Bethlehem revelation, but to wait for the startling new revealing of Christ in our lives. Amen

Scripture Readings
First Testament: Malachi 3:8-10 Give gifts to God
Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, “How are we robbing you?” In your tithes and offerings! You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in

my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.

Psalm 112:4-5 and 9

They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.
It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.
They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever;
their horn is exalted in honor.

Second Reading: Acts 4:32-37 Sharing possessions

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. There was a Levite from Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. *Here ends this reading.*

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel: Mark 12:41-44 The widows offering
He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

Gospel Sung Response tune - (tune: Angels we have heard on high)
Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing; come adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Gl-or-ia, in Excelsis Deo, Gl-or-ia, in Excelsis Deo.
(Please be seated.)

Children’s Message

Sung Blessing for our Children - Away in a Manger ELW #278 vs. 1
Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Homily - Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

Offering Hymn - As Saints of Old ELW #695

As saints of old their first-fruits brought
of orchard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good,
the source of bounteous yield,
so we today first-fruits would bring,
the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home,
of mind and heart and hand.

A world in need now summons us
to labor, love, and give;
to make our life an offering
to God, that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love;
all life in Christ made new.

In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

(Please stand as the offering is brought forward.)

Sung Offering Response - (tune: “As with Gladness, those of Old”)
As with gladness, those of old, did the guiding star behold; As they offered gifts most rare, at the manger, plain and bare. All our costliest treasures bring, Christ to You from whom they spring.

Offering Blessing
P - Loving Christ,
C - Bless us with Christmas holiness in our homes and here at Zion church. May our offering open a room at the inn for the stranger, the lonely one, and the child. 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 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW #257
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. [Refrain]

O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. [Refrain]

O come, O Branch of Jesse,
free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. [Refrain]

O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. [Refrain]

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. [Refrain]

O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. [Refrain]

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. [Refrain]

Prayer After Communion
P - Gracious Christ,
C - A feeding box for animals was your holy bed. The manger that held you, was normally used for feed. And now, you have fed us this holy communion. We thank you for the healing power that is rushing through our bodies and blessing us for this holiday season. Amen

Benediction (responsively)
P- Stand under the light of the star and feel it illuminate the corners of your life.
C - I will not treat Advent as a counting off of days, with things to do and gifts to buy.
P - Instead, you will enter the circle of holiness.
C - Where my body, soul and spirit are embraced by the wild peace of Christ's coming.
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 - Deck the Halls
Deck the halls with boughs of holly,
Fa la la la la la la la!
'Tis the season to be jolly,
Fa la la la la la la la!
Don we now our gay apparel,

Fa la la la la la la la!
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol,
Fa la la la la la la la!

See the blazing yule before us,
Fa la la la la la la la!
Strike the harp and join the chorus,
Fa la la la la la la la!
Follow me in merry measure,
Fa la la la la la la la!
While I tell of Yuletide treasure,
Fa la la la la la la la!

Fast away the old year passes,
Fa la la la la la la la!
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses,
Fa la la la la la la la!
Sing we joyous all together!
Fa la la la la la la la!
Heedless of the wind and weather,
Fa la la la la la la la!

P - Go inpeace and serve the Lord.
C - Thanks be to God.

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Les Lieneman - Council President 402-223-0433
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Helping out with Worship Today

Pastor:……..Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler
Organist……..……Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes:…….....Ellis Freeman
Mason Ideus
Lector: ……..…..DeAnn Oltman
Greeters:……DeAnn & Terry Oltman
Wes & Sandy Meints

November Altar Guild: Karla Holland, Rhonda Dorn, Lynette Dorn, Doreen Busboom, Kelly Lenners, Christy Buhr
November Table Troops: **Lynette Jurgens (Leader),** Steve & Peggy Johnson, Larry Gronewold, Eddie & Lynette Dorn, Gary & Brenda Gronewold, Dave & Carrye Meints, DeAnn & Terry Oltman

December Altar Guild: Janet Harms, Peggy Johnson, Rose Gronewold, Cindy Jurgens, Carrie Reed
December Table Troops: Mark Buhr (Leader), Alex Buhr, Stan & Mary Lenners, Alan Wiese, Doug Parde, Jeff Busboom

Snow Brigade

November 30th - Les Lieneman (Captain) - Tractor, David Meints (Tractor), Jason Lovitt, Matt Meints, Gary Wiese, Andy Schoen, Perry Jurgens, Kenny Jurgens, Josh Nelson, Jeff Wiese

December 7th - Eric Parde (Captain) - Tractor, Chris Fossler, Steve Oltman, Jordan Busboom, Greg Robinson, Hunter Blackwell, Keith Parde, Taiten Harms, Kyle Schlake
December 14th - Alan Wiese (**Captain)** -Tractor, AJ Wiese, Kenny Newman, Paul Jurgens, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeyer, Brian Garton, Josh Gronewold
December 21st - Gary Gronewold (Captain) -Tractor, Stan Lenners (Tractor), Justin Hippen, Mark Buhr, James Lenners, Billy Harms, Larry Gronewold, Dale Zimmerman, Luke Ideus
December 28th - Dean Zimmerman (Captain) - Tractor, Russ Wallman (Tractor), Dan Jurgens, Greg Dorn, Paul Remmers, Craig Ideus, Terry Gronewold, Alex Buhr, Mike Busboom

Vital Statistics for last Sunday

SS: 62 Giving: $ 154.40
Worship: 140 Giving: $2,852.18

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

8:45am - Sunday School
9:00am - BKF Club/Adult Bible Study
10:00am - Worship/Communion

Monday

7:00pm – Men's Choir Practice

Tuesday

Camp Reimbursement Deadline

Wednesday
6:30pm - 7th/8th grade Program Practice
7:00pm - Committee Meetings
7:30pm - Council Meeting

Next Sunday
8:45am - Sunday School
9:00am - BKF Club/Adult Bible Study/Endless Hallelujah practice
10:00am - Worship/Communion
6:00pm - Candlelight Service

Helping out next Sunday
Pastor:……..……....Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler
Organist……..…....Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes:…….....Macy Oltmans
Mason Hippen
Lector: …….Kenny Reed
Greeters:……Gary & Annette Wiese
Dean & Karen Zimmerman

THIS WEEKS BULLETIN IS SPONSORED BY: None

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OFFERING – The offering on November 29th will be designated to the Endowment Fund.

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!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY -

All adults are welcome to join in these classes led by Pastor Renae at 9AM in the fellowship hall.
December 6th - The Genealogy of Jesus
December 20th - A deep look into the Christmas stories from the Gospels of Luke & Matthew
Come learn, pray, and grow in your relationship with God!

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE – New Phone App, Online Giving, and Updated Website coming soon! We're teaming up Subsplash to create a new church app, update our website, and introduce a fresh way to give online. Starting **November 1, 2026**, we will no longer use Vanco or Venmo for giving. Please scan the new QR here or go to the webpage https://subsplash.com/u/-5WBGMS/give to give today. Offering envelopes are still available to members as well**.**
Any members with questions regarding these options can reach out to a church council member.

PEW REMOVAL - Church Council plans to permanently remove the front pew by the new sound system cabinet. Anyone interested in purchasing the pew, please contact a council member.

BREAKFAST CLUB SIGN-UP – Please consider helping with providing breakfast for our high school youth on a Sunday morning. Use the link or the QR code to sign-up

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D44AFAD2FA0FEC52-66766232-breakfast.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - We invite you to attend our annual candlelight service, December 6th at 6:00p.m. and experience the light of Christ along with the hope, peace and joy as we await the birth of Jesus. Plan on an inspirational evening, as many of our members will share their musical talents. The Hospitality Committee will host a hot cocoa bar and cookies following the service.

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 18th. If they arrive too early, it is difficult to keep them watered and looking pretty during the remainder of the month.

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.



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