

## 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.**



## **2nd Sunday of Advent with Holy Communion**

**December 7, 2025**

**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**

### **Advent Candle Lighting Litany**

*(As you are able please stand)*

P - Today we light the Candle of Peace and re-light the Candle of Hope.

**C - May peace, soft as dawn and strong as stone, settle upon us and guide our steps.**

P - As these flames flicker, we remember the Holy One who speaks in dreams and visions.

**C - Teach us, O God, the way of dreams; lead us in faithfulness and truth.**

P - Just as Joseph became a father to Jesus, we are called to be guardians of all children

**C - Make us signs of hope and peace, protectors of innocence,  
and builders of safe places for every child.**

P - Come now, Light of Hope and Light of Peace.

**C - Shine in us and shine through us.**

**Gathering Hymn – Angels, from the Realms of Glory**      ELW #275

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the new-born king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant light. [Refrain]

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations,  
you have seen his natal star. [Refrain]

All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One. [Refrain]

## Prayer of the Day

P - Loving God,

**C - You sent an angel in a dream to Joseph of Nazareth and told him, “Do not be afraid;” Please take away our fear so that we too, may follow your divine plan of peace. Open our lives to your Advent work; that Christ may be born anew in our hopes, our choices, our families, and the children we raise together as a community of faith. Lead us in peace that is deep, hope that is steady, and love that is daring. Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

## Reading of the Scriptures

### **First Reading – Genesis 41:14-16 Joseph interprets pharaoh’s dream**

Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was hurriedly brought out of the dungeon. When he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” Joseph answered Pharaoh, “It is not I; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.”

### **Psalm: 25:8-10** (Please read responsively.)

Good and upright is the Lord;

**therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

He leads the humble in what is right

**and teaches the humble his way.**

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,

**for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

### **Second Reading - Romans 8:14-16 We are adopted by God.**

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you

received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God. *Here ends this reading.*

**Gospel: Matthew 1:18-48    Gabriel speaks to Joseph in a dream.** (Please stand as you are able)

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Gospel - Sing Response (To the tune: While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night.)

**All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; send love on us from heaven to earth; begin and never cease, begin and never cease.** (Please be seated.)

**Children's Message**

Sing Blessing of our Children - Jesus, What a Wonderful Child  
ELW #297

**Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child. Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild; new life, new hope the child will bring. Listen to the angels sing: Glory, glory, glory, let the heavens ring!**

**Homily - Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler**

**Offering Hymn - “Remembering Joseph” (To the tune: The First Noel)**

When Jos-eph lay sleep-ing in dark-ness of night, An an-gel ap-peared in a circle of light. “Fear not,” said the her-ald, “for God’s cho-sen plan; has come to your house-hold, O right-eous good man.”

*Refrain:*

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.*

Take Ma-ry to shel-ter, her sto-ry is true; The child she is bear-ing is God’s gift to you. The Spirit has formed Him, Em-man-u-el’s grace; through you He will enter King David’s own race.” *Refrain*

Then Jo-seph rose quick-ly and walked with her there, To Beth-le-hem’s hill-side through cold winter air. He guard-ed and kept them through labor and fear, and wel-comed the Sav-ior when heav-en drew near. *Refrain*

*(Please stand as the offering is brought forward.)*

Offering Sing Response (To the Tune: We Three Kings)

**Christ was born on Bethlehem’s plain, gold we bring to crown him again, king forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,**

**westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy Perfect light.**

### **Offering Blessing**

**P - Generous God,**

**C - Bless these offerings; coins, bills, and acts of kindness, that they may become bread for the hungry, warmth for the cold, and hope for those who wait for good news. As Joseph once offered his strength to guide and protect the Holy Child, use our gifts and our lives to guide and protect the vulnerable in our day. May our giving be a beacon of peace and a testament of our trust in you. Amen. (Please be seated)**

### **Special Music – Men’s Choir**

#### **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.**

## **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**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

With all of our loved ones who have died and now live as saints in heaven, and all of us living our mortal lives here on earth, we glorify God as we sing together:

**Sing Response** - (ELW #289 refrain of Angels We Have Heard on High)

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo**

## **Words of Institution**

**Communion Hymn – Once in Royal David's City ELW #269**

**Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and meek and lowly,  
lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heav'n above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
there his children gather round,  
bright like stars, with glory crowned.**

### **Prayer After Communion**

**P - Almighty God,**

**C - Strengthen us with your holy bread and wine. Create dreams of your plans to rise within us and call us to work for a world where every child is cherished, every neighbor is seen, and every broken spirit is mended by grace. For these gifts of love and life within your holy meal, we give you thanks. Amen**

### **Benediction**

### **Announcements in the Life of the Church**

**C - ZION... a place to belong, a place to believe, a place to become!**

**Sending Hymn - People Look East      ELW #248 vs 1 & 4**

People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.



### **December Altar Guild:**

Annette Wiese, Rhonda Fossler, Linda Ideus, DeAnn Oltman

### **December Table Troop:**

Alex Buhr (Leader), Duane Zulauf, Stan & Mary Lenners, Alan Wiese, Doug Pard, Jeff Busboom, Steve Gronewold, Mark Buhr

### **SNOW BRIGADE:**

**December 8<sup>th</sup>** - Kyle Schlake (Captain), Eric Parde (Tractor), Chris Fossler, Steve Oltman, Jordan Busboom, Greg Robinson, Hunter Blackwell, Keith Parde, Taiten Harms

**December 15<sup>th</sup>** - Josh Gronewold (Captain), Alan Wiese (Tractor), AJ Wiese, Kenny Newman, Paul Jurgens, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeier, Brian Garton

### **Vital Statistics for last Sunday**

Worship 101 Giving \$1,881.00  
SS 57 Giving \$ 79.16

### **THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION**

#### **Today**

8:45 - SS

9:00 - BKF Club/Adult Bible Study

10:00 - Worship/Communion/Men's Choir

6:00pm – Candlelight Service

#### **Monday**

7pm - Men's Choir Practice

#### **Wednesday**

1:30 Grace Circle at The Villa

6:30 - 7:30pm 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade program practice

6:30 - Budget Meeting for 2026

## **Next Sunday**

8:45am – SS/Gift Exchange

9:00am - BKF Club

10:00am - Worship/Endless Hallelujah/Kids of the Kingdom

## **Helping out next Sunday**

Pastor:.....Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

Piano:.....Janelle Ideus

Guitar:.....Deric Bloom

Acolytes:.....Cash Harwood  
Millie Garton

Lector:.....Pam Trauernicht

Greeters:.....Darwin & Susan Buss  
Karla Buhr

Special Music:..... Endless Hallelujah/  
Kids of the Kingdom

## **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** - To the generosity of Stan & Mary Lenners and a Thrivent Action Grant, the Beatrice Community Food Pantry received a donation of 27 – 4 pound hams to distribute to those in need!

**THANK YOU** - To the Alnora and the Men's Choir for providing special music today.

**THANK YOU** - Blessings all those who contributed to the November Food Pantry Drive! The third grade Sunday school class packed up 176 items + a \$40 cash donation! Groceries were also purchased thanks to a \$250 Thrivent Action Grant written by Dorothy Trauernicht!

**THANK YOU** - A special thanks to the Council for putting up the tree and all who helped decorate the church & fellowship hall for the Sundays leading up to Thanksgiving and Christmas. The church is beautiful! Your time and talents are greatly appreciated!

**OFFERINGS FOR DECEMBER** – The Candlelight Service offering for tonight will be designated to the Backpack Programs at Beatrice & Freeman Schools. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day offerings will go to the Heritage Room and repairs to the School House.



### **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE TONIGHT**

December 7th at 6:00 p.m.

We invite you to attend our annual candlelight service and experience the light of Christ along with the hope, peace and joy as we await the birth of Jesus. Plan for 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.

**PUPPY PARTY TODAY** - You are invited to Pastor Renae and Steve's home today to play with their 1 month old pure breed Vizula puppies. Stop in anytime between 1-2pm today. Their address is: 25255 S 54th Street, Firth. Location is west of Norris, (you can see Norris from the top of their long driveway.) There is a wagon by their driveway entrance that reads "Koehler Martin Farm." Text

Pastor 402.867.4044 if you can't make it today and would like to schedule a day to see them.

## **HOSPITALITY EVENT**



**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 19<sup>th</sup>. If they arrive too early, it is difficult to keep them watered and looking pretty during the remainder of the month.

**ALL ZION MEMBERS** – Please take a moment to complete the 2026 Time & Talent sheet prior to **December 21, 2025** and return to the church office, place in the offering plate, or give to a Council member. The time & talents of our members is what makes Zion such a special place to worship. What a perfect way to volunteer & give back to Zion! Sheets are located on the tables at each entrance & on the Welcome Center. Thank you!

## TREE OF WARMTH -



# ZION'S

## Tree of Warmth

**December 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>**

During the month of December, Parish Ed will be taking donations for new gloves, stocking hats, scarves and socks. Place your donations on our Tree of Warmth located in the church. All items will be donated to the Beatrice & Adams community.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL GIFT EXCHANGE -



# Sunday School

## Gift Exchange

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH**

A list of your Teacher's "Favorite Things" was sent home with each child during Sunday School.

**Bailey Pointe** – Vivian Schuster

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

**Good Samaritan** – Bob D. Ideus

**Homestead House** - Anora Schoen, Rosanna Miller

**Our Homes Assisted Living** – Randy Oltman

**Beatrice Health & Rehab-** Duane & Marsha Zulauf



**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**

Zion Lutheran Church  
@Zion68422



**venmo**

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